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OLD ROAN *Chronicle*

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Vivian Lawrence – Old Roan Association President 1996-97



The final number in "Stepping Out". Left to right: Geraldine Day, Beverley Connelly, Jocelyne Acky, Mandy Brown, Rae Hammersley, David Lane, Teresa Wilkins, Glynis Watson and Joan Stanbridge.

THE ROAN THEATRE COMPANY

The lunch scene in "You Never Can Tell". Left to right: Glynis Watson, Geraldine Day, Richard Rickson, Steve Hunt, Graham Johnson, David Lane, Alf Knott, Joan Stanbridge, Teresa Wilkins.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Whatever Happened to Malcolm Brown

I have to say I was pleased to be offered the job of President because if you join a sports club in 1967 and eventually allow yourself to be involved in its various committees then you should ultimately be prepared to take full responsibility - even if it is only for a year. In that time one should try to "do a few things".

What do I want from the job and what do I bring to the job? It would be beneficial for the club to attract more young people during my tenure and organise some family-oriented "fixtures" instead of the male dominated use it is put to. We are approaching the beginning of the third millennium and gentlemen's clubs are a thing of the past. Any female Old Roans, wives /partners who have any ideas about alternative uses that we could put the Club to will receive my full attention. Hurry up, I only have until next March!!!

I am currently a School Governor, John Roan Foundation Trustee, Cricket Club Committee member and now the President. There should be very little that I don't get to hear about within the School and the Club unless people are deliberately not informing me. So I can claim to be in touch with the outside forces that influence the future of the club and have the ear of the regular members.

There are a few Old Roans about whom I always wanted to know and will just mention their names in case anyone knows of their whereabouts: Bob Gilbert, a great admirer of Joe Grimond; John Fowler who read too much; and whatever happened to Malcolm Brown? He was one of the first pupils to speak to me when I came to the School in 1964. I was particularly pleased to hear about and read Mills's poem in the last magazine.

Most people who went to the Roan have their roots in the Greenwich area and it would be nice to see you at the Club anytime if you are visiting the area. It doesn't matter if you haven't paid your subs. Places like the Club are all the better when an old or young face pops in just to say hello. You will always be welcome. If you cannot come in person please drop me a line at the School Field.

I have to say something about the Old Roan Cricket Club which, contrary to popular opinion is alive and well. We had some problems with the wicket that have been ironed out simply by using two Old Roans to prepare the wicket instead of the regular groundsman. The cuts in school budgets inevitably affect sport and non-academic pursuits and therefore the allocation for the schoolfield has been reduced. This is, of course, an opportunity for the regular users of the field to contribute more and thereby have more influence. In addition to his role as Deputy President, Graham Lawrance is preparing our wicket with the assistance of Ian Daniels, the 2nd.XI captain.

The actual performance of the cricket teams will be mentioned elsewhere in the Chronicle. However I was pleased to see the names of T.R.Barry and J.Huntley appearing on the team sheets this season. I am sure that the facilities are now good and we plan to make them better so we can attract some of the most capable players in the area. Sadly, we are not able to rely on the school to produce young talent for us any more. Things must improve in education and I like to think we are taking care of these facilities until the system starts to send us young sportsmen again. There are lots of ideas as to how we use the facilities we have in the meantime.

There are individuals who would like us to keep the Old Roan Club as an exclusive club for old pupils and their invited friends, and equally there are others who would like us to "go open", with opinions in between. The truth of the matter is that the playing strength of the sports clubs are coming from a mixture of ex-pupils and outsiders which in the fullness of time will mean committee members are non-Old Roan and then the Club will not be what the name implies. I am sorry to bring this subject up, but it is one that needs airing and it would be nice to hear your views on it. Letters are welcome and will be discussed at committee.

I am hoping to see a lot of Old Roan "Girls and Boys" (that means you - Clive and Cherry) at the annual reunion in the autumn and even more at the dinner and dance at the Tudor Barn in the spring. We celebrated "40 years on" for the Pavilion in July and plan another Presidential "do" in the autumn.

Vivian Lawrence. July 1996

Where are they now?

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

Paul Angus ('65-'71)
Mrs.Burchmore (ex staff)
Janet Crawley (née Delieu '61-'68)
Peter Grindlay ('67-'74)
Paul Hofschroer ('67-'74)
Joan Lake ('47-'52)

Lesley Massey ('65-'71)
John Smith ('57-'64)
Michael Tyler ('56-'60)
Glyn Watkin ('60-'68)
Stuart P.White ('70-'77)

Secretary's Report

The figures for membership given at the annual general meeting were:

	1995	1994
Life Members	564	567
2nd instalment Life Membership		1
Fully paid Ordinary Members	369	349
Junior Members	17	39
Honorary Members	1	2
Associate Members	28	29
Honorary Members (Old Roan Club)	2	2
Fully paid Affiliated Club Members	70	63
	<hr/> 1051	<hr/> 1052

It is encouraging to note that ordinary membership has increased over the previous year. Analysis of the figures shows the increase is largely due to some Old Roans joining or rejoining after many years and paying by banker's order. Also a small number of younger members are paying by this method. However, it is clear that the trend of members joining straight from School is that they join for a year or two, use the Club facilities, but then drift away. It may not be a new problem and figures are not available to prove the point but I am sure that in years gone by far more leavers were retained for many years, often, but not exclusively, by involvement in the sports clubs. It was pleasing to hear from Jim Upton, who left Roan at Easter this year, after teaching there for some twenty years, to take up a position at Crompton House School in Oldham. He wishes to keep in touch through the Chronicle and as his associate membership ceased on leaving Roan is joining as an ordinary member.

The take up of life membership is virtually nil with only a last instalment being recorded in 1994. This was from Wilfred Hewlett who was at Roan from 1923 until 1931. Life member Ken Bishop ('34-'41) has been put back on the mailing list having been out of touch for more than forty years. To prove his membership he was able to supply a photocopy of his membership receipt dated 17th February 1942, signed by Wally Bullers. His record card confirmed this and showed him out of touch in December 1952. His particular request is to track down the Aristotelian Society minutes book containing details of a meeting held on a train between the South Coast and Wales (probably during the transfer of evacuees from Bexhill to Ammanford). He is writing an article for the Heart of Wales Line Travellers' Association and wishes to give "precision to what he writes". The School has been unable to assist and information regarding the minutes' possible whereabouts would be welcome.

The addresses of all members have been checked to the national postcode directories and many members will find minor changes to the labels on the envelope in which this Chronicle arrives. However, keeping track of members is always a problem and several magazines are returned each year because members have not informed me of their moves. Whilst on that subject, many of the committee have moved, including the Secretary and the Treasurer, and the new addresses are given on the inside front cover of the Chronicle. In my own case, having taken voluntary redundancy from Barclays Bank PLC, I am returning to 143 Lyme Farm Road which I never entirely left.

Sadly, we have lost two past presidents this year. Geoff Sawyer ('49-'54) was tragically killed in a road accident on 2nd May 1996. As well as being a player he ran the Football Club for many years and was involved with the Cricket Club. An obituary appears in this magazine. Whilst a major appeal for a memorial fund is not envisaged, many Old Roans have already donated to a suitable memorial which will be linked to his sporting interests and the Association. Anyone wishing to contribute and has not done so already may send a cheque payable to the Old Roan Association to me. On 24th March 1996 George Witten (Staff '36-'73) died. It may come as no surprise that the article in the 1957 Roan Magazine, the year he was our president, referred to his eccentricities and, amongst other things, to his mechanical means of transport. Although George lived in Lee, the solicitor handling the estate has advised me he has visited George's house in Hartlepool and describes it as a time capsule!

Our new President, Vivian Lawrence, is energetically and enthusiastically involved in his position and it appears his particular talents will be focused on events for Association members who no longer visit the Club regularly. Graham Lawrance, his predecessor, was a most hard working president and continues to be heavily involved with the Club and sports clubs. He organised several events including a hugely successful celebration football match and presentation in honour of Vic Brooker ('30-'35) who has been involved with Old Roan football for fifty years. The collection amounted to around £1,500 which Vic well deserved for the hours each week of every season of dedicated and consistent service he has provided.

Tony Slaney, June 1996

Treasurer's Report

The Association's accounts are almost a carbon copy of the previous year and probably seem very dull when compared to the dynamic trading activities of the Old Roan Club.

Subscriptions were up by 13% which is welcome news and careful "cash management" resulted in better interest received despite continuing low rates on deposit accounts. Repayment of one of our gilt stock investments at par provided a surplus of £227. The other such investment will be repaid in 1997.

Running expenses were contained at levels similar to recent years, with the loss carried forward being the lowest since 1990. Hence the Accumulated Fund reduced by a mere £16 to end the year at £11,326.

The accounts and balance sheet, which is little changed and shows a healthy position, were audited and presented at the Annual General Meeting where they were accepted and approved. Copies are available on request.

Neal S. Haslam, June 1996

Old Roan Club Report - 1995-96

As a result of a closer "hands-on" approach to the Club's affairs dating from 1994 and continuing through 1995 we have been able to achieve our most successful trading year ever. Due to this policy, and by careful cost containment in respect of the Club's running expenses, a gross profit of £13,317 was yielded (27.3%) on a turnover of £48,819. This was on target for the year with the trading surplus being up 17% to £12,599.

These results enabled us to continue putting the finishing touches to the refurbishment programme including the replacement of toilet windows and subsequent redecoration; time-switch thermostatic room heaters; additional rectangular tables and sturdy wooden bar stools. We were able to continue our financial support for the Children's Christmas Party, a Firework Night and the Association's Dinner/Dance.

Provided we are able to maintain our gross profit in % terms and achieve a steady sustainable turnover we plan to further upgrade the facilities by:

- relocate the ice-making machine to the cellar
- reorganise the glass-washer area of the bar
- provide a new bar floor
- consider purchasing dining tables for the Pavilion
- outside maintenance
- replace the carpet in the old bar

A fact to bear in mind is that the Club Management Committee runs the whole club not just the bar-trading and I personally feel that they have all worked very hard and done a good job to achieve these results. Please ensure that you keep supporting the Club so that we can continue to show improving liquidity on the balance sheet and enable us not only to make an ongoing contribution to our presence at the School Field but also fund our future plans for the premises.

Michael Titheridge, June 1996

Vivian Lawrence - Old Roan Association President 1996-97

I am probably the wrong person to have been asked for a tribute to Viv. I never thought he should have been made a Prefect let alone President of the Old Roan Association. His imaginative handling of the 1967 3H milk riot was to prove me wrong and I am sure he is going to surprise a lot of people this coming year.

There has always been a strange authority about Viv. For example in his captaincy of the Sunday seconds. How could anyone who runs like Forrest Gump possibly tell you where to field? But with Viv you accept it.

I heard the news of who the new Old Roan President was to be on the same day that I heard that Glen Hoddle was to be the new England coach. Somehow the two things seemed inter-related. The inventive free spirit at last achieving the high office his talent demanded. And Viv.

I've known Viv without really being able to shake him off for the best part of thirty years. My message to him is that the honour is much deserved and you will have a great year in office. My message to everyone else isjust do what he says and it'll fly past.

Good luck Viv.

Steve Rider ('61-'68)

News from the John Roan School

For two nights in December the packed hall at Maze Hill, decorated festively by Ms.Selves and the Art Department, resounded to the music of the John Roan School choirs, ensembles, soloists and orchestra. Over a hundred pupils took part supported by instrumental tutors and members of the teaching staff. Participating groups included the Brass Ensemble; the Lower School Choir; the Flute Ensemble (Ms.Viola and Mr.Lloyd); Ms.Oliver's Dance Group; Mr.Royle and the Saxophone Ensemble; the Senior Choir with Mr.Bowerman, Mr.Upton and Mr.Chaundry; the School Orchestra with Ms.Barry, Mrs.Gregory, Mr.Blezard and instrumental tutors; the Wind Ensemble with solos from Henry Davies on the guitar and Natalie Pope singing; and the Massed Choir. The choir gave Helen White, the school's voice-tutor and choir leader for the past seven years, a fine send-off. She will be furthering her career out of London. The smooth running of the celebration was helped by Ms.Viola and Mr.Chaundry, student teachers from Goldsmith's College, the BTEC Performing Arts students, and a hard-working backstage team. Special thanks are due to Ms.Pollino and Ms.Barry of the Music Department.

In the last week of November a large number of pupils from Years 8 and 9 took part in "Drink Water Week", a sponsored event for "Water Aid". The aim is to provide clean drinking water in developing countries in Africa and Asia and to build a safe water and sanitation system in Negal, where, for 60% of the villagers water is only available from heavily polluted open wells. The pupils could only drink water (they were allowed to eat!) for 24 hours or more. Ms.Flynn issued a challenge that she would also only drink water from Monday to Friday if 50 Year 8 pupils took part. Unfortunately for her, 75 pupils took part and so she had a very quiet week. Well over £200 was raised by Year 8, Year 9 and Ms.Flynn.

Twenty four John Roan pupils participated in the 1995 Great British Swim in aid of the National Asthma Campaign. Ms.Melly and Ms.Glynn were delighted that £373.82 was raised by the pupils swimming a total of 622 lengths of The Arches fitness pool.

The John Roan Association has been very generous again this term (Autumn 1995) with grants to various areas of the school. £500 has been allocated to the Dance Department for the purchase of a camcorder. This will allow the pupils to record, view and improve their work much more regularly. The History Department is spending £250 on reference books for the sixth-form students. This will help them in research for their A-level work. The Holiday Maths Competition Prizes will now be funded by the JRA and the Easter John Roan News "John Roan in Greenwich Search" competition will also have prizes from the JRA.

In the Summer term 27 Year 9 pupils went to the University of Greenwich at Avery Hill to take part in STEW (Science Technology Education Workshop). The aim was to provide students with a better understanding of the practice of science and technology by allowing them hands-on experience of technological problem-solving. Ruth Cartwright was in a group that looked at the maths and physics behind the design of fork-lift trucks. They then had to drive the truck and move a large roll of newsprint. Freddie Shaw worked on cybernetics by studying the behaviour of seven autonomous mobile robots. Other pupils worked on similar tasks including DNA and forensic testing of a person involved in a car accident, building and firing a rocket, what you would need if you were trapped on the moon. There were also talks on the medical ethics of animal research.

Mr.Lockett led the sixth form Art class on an intensive study day in November. They first visited the Whitechapel Art Gallery to see the "Seven Stories from Africa" exhibition. This focused on contemporary art in seven different African countries - Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, Sudan, South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana. Themes ranged from the tragedies of war to the hope of newly liberated South Africa. From Whitechapel they went to the Tate Gallery to see the Modern Collection as well as the controversial Turner Prize finalists. Starting with the "real" Turner of sea and landscape, they then went to see the winner of the Turner Prize - Damien Hurst's cow split in half - and discussed the question "Is it Art?" The day ended with a lecture concentrating on Picasso, Francis Bacon, and Gwen John, one of the few women painters in the collection.

Competition fever has swept through Year 7 with four recent competitions. The "Design a Christmas Card" competition was judged by parents attending the prospective parents' evening and was won by Rebekah Clough of 7AD and Charmaine Lawrence of 7MGN. "Design a Pizza", organised by Ms.Guest-Naharnowicz, was won by Shauna Edwards and Josh Smith, both of 7ADU, though Kelly Stork of 7MG attained the highest individual score. The games department organised a netball competition which was won by 7ADU while five sixth-formers on the GNVQ Sport and Leisure course organised a football competition which was won by 7ST. They will go on to play a match against the winners of a similar competition arranged at Blackheath Bluecoat School.

Mr.Hardcastle organised a visit to the school by the Bravo-Cyberbus in October for over 200 students from Years 11,12 and 13. The students were shown how to use the Internet and what information was available on it: they were able to access pictures direct from the Louvre, and from the NASA space centre in America. The system was easy to use and provided an excellent introduction into the world of cable TV, the Internet and fibre optic cable.

On Saturday 11 November, 27 Year 8 boys reported to the Maze Hill site at 8.30 a.m.! They were involved in filming an episode of "The Knock", a programme about the Customs & Excise Service. After being kitted out by "wardrobe" in grey, v-necked jumpers, ties and (itchy) blue blazers they were ready to be pupils of a boys' grammar school in Wimbledon. In between "takes" the boys relaxed playing football and stuffing themselves with sweets, hot drinks, fizzy drinks, cakes, a full cooked breakfast and lunch. Ms.Flynn reports that the boys had a tiring day and found that filming was not as exciting as they thought it would be. Lee Inglis (8ADE) and Alex Wilson (8MRG) both had small speaking parts, and everybody got £10 to spend on Christmas presents for their parents, carers or teachers (!). All except Jack McCulloch who broke his arm the night before and was unable to take part.

A group of Year 7 pupils met with Mr.Sayers to talk about their first impressions of the John Roan School. A lot of their initial concerns were about the size and layout of the building. Many thought they would get lost very easily. Some still do get confused with the corridors and rooms a bit but not very often now! Adam Zakaria is so confident he thinks he could get round the school blind-folded! Making new friends worried some pupils but again they soon got to know other pupils and many new friendships are blossoming. Bullying can often be a worry for young children but a number of pupils commented that bullying does not happen often and when it does it is dealt with quickly. Some pupils were worried about school dinners but they love them now. Meeting a large number of new teachers was a worry to some pupils but they soon got to know and like them, some even got merits from them if they worked hard.

On Friday 10th November the Upper School assembly remembered those who had died in wars. Francis Akushie read from "A Diary of a Child's Life in Sarajevo" and Ms. Farmer read a poem by Wilfred Owen. During the two minute silence Sam Turner and Navdeep Sanghara laid wreaths under the memorial plaques in the Maze Hill Foyer.

The Lower School Choir was busy in the Autumn term performing at the Trinity Hospital Carol Service, St.Mark's Community Centre and the BTEC Performing Arts Class in addition to the Annual Seasonal Celebrations at John Roan. A enthusiastic group of Year 10 students took part in a singing workshop on Fridays after school. The Music Department is employing a new tutor to teach singing in a range of popular styles of music from jazz to soul to pop to rock. Four John Roan Students were invited to Goldsmiths' College in November to take part in a seminar for music teachers called "The Boy's Changing Voice". Abu Siddiki, Sam Thurston, Nicholas Smith and James Cockle were asked to demonstrate the range of their new-found mens' voices from basso profundo to alto. Ms.Pollino was congratulated by Goldsmiths' College on the fine young men who represented the school so well.

On Wednesday 18th October John Roan School entered three teams in the Greenwich Schools' Cross County Championship at Avery Hill Park. Twelve schools took part with a total of 348 runners. The Year 9 Girls' squad repeated last year's victory with Carly and Gemma Hunt coming in together in joint first place, Joanne Archard tenth, Anetta Justice eleventh and Margaret Briggs twenty-fourth. The Year 7 and 8 Girls' squad and Year 9 Boys' squad also put in an excellent effort on the day, especially Dean Webb who came fifth overall in the Year 9 Boys' race.

It has been a long time since there was a whole-school production at the John Roan School. Judging by the reception of the audiences to "Snow White and the Seven Deadly Scenes" in the Spring term, the next one won't be anywhere near as long coming. The enthusiasm of the cast together with their obvious acting abilities made this an excellent example of pupils and staff working together. Pupils from all years from 7 to 13 worked for many evenings under the inspirational direction of Mr.Ballantyne and Ms.Mitchell, a student teacher, to give life to the words of Messrs.Hornblower and Hayes. All sixty pupils and ten staff deserved the wild applause and sincere congratulations that they received following both performances. It was a wonderful example of teamwork. Three pupils do, however, deserve special mention as representatives of the whole team: Katie Jamieson (11JO) who wrote the accomplished and well structured original music for the songs as part of her GCSE music coursework and also played the part of the mirror. Kay Hannaford (10JBU) who played Snow White so nauseatingly sweetly that nearly everyone in the audience wanted the Woodcutter to chop her head off until she turned on the smooth-talking Abanazer to reduce him to a quivering wreck. In contrast Judith Dove (11PV) showed a range of wickedness that none of her teachers could ever imagine, and when she was on stage the atmosphere was electric. Mr.Deane, as the Tin Man, showed his vast experience by not allowing his acting ability get in the way of his performance. Mr.Ballantyne already has ideas for his next production but at present he is keeping it a closely guarded secret.

Year 8 took to the ice at Streatham Ice Rink one Wednesday in March. Over fifty pupils and staff got the coach to Streatham and whirled their way round the rink for ninety minutes. Ms.Brown turned out to be an expert skater and, despite attempts by Gemma Murray (8ABR), Ms.Flynn remained upright for the whole session. There were some spectacular falls such as Vicky D (8MRG) who fell over and was laughing so much she couldn't get up again. Bambi eat your heart out! However, Tanya Collins (8ABR) was determined not to be outdone and crashed into the barrier head first at very high speed. Ms.Flynn and Ms.Brown accompanied her in the ambulance to Kings' College Hospital whilst the rest of the party returned to Blackheath on the coach. Luckily, Tanya had nothing worse than a severe headache.

Congratulations to Simon Pope and Nicholas King of 10AP and Jo Grice of 9MR who were selected to attend the 10th Pan American Scouts Jamboree in Mexico over the Easter break. The BTEC Intermediate Business group and employees of the Midland Bank have opened a bank at Maze Hill on Friday lunchtimes in Room 51. There has been much interest with many pupils joining to enjoy the benefits of a free sports bag, a book of vouchers, reduced cost driving lessons, and sound financial advice. A branch at the lower building is due to follow.

Gemma Harte and Kay Hannaford of 10JBU helped organise a collection after they heard about the tragedy that occurred at Dunblane. "We felt it was important to let the parents and children know that we were thinking about them". There was a collection at Friday's upper school assembly and after each night of the pantomime. Over £400 was raised which will be sent to the Dunblane Help Fund. Gemma and Kay would like to thank everyone who made a contribution, it was greatly appreciated. During assemblies the school stood in silence to remember those five and six year old children who died in such tragic circumstances.

To put minds at rest concerning beef and BSE, the assistant education officer of Greenwich has written to all school confirming that the council has not allowed the use of British beef for school meals since 1990. Since then there has also been no use of animal fats, gelatine or suet from any source, British or otherwise. In December 1995 it was agreed to stop serving beef burgers and beef sausages (which had used beef from Botswana, Brazil or Argentina) and no beef products of any kind have been used at John Roan since then.

The John Roan News is organising a competition for any pupil in the school. The aim is to find as many links as possible between the founder of the school, John Roan, and Greenwich - where he lived, where he worked, all the different places where the school has been sited since 1677, any buildings or streets with John Roan links etc. The JRA have kindly agreed to give £30 of book tokens to be shared between the best entries.

The John Roan School Music Department are planning a visit to Accra in Ghana, departing on July 14th 1997. The tour will mainly feature the Choir and the group of approximately 60 students and staff plan to stay as guests of the prestigious Achimota School.

The School are guaranteed 10 places for the London Marathon taking place on Sunday 13 April 1997. If any Old Roans wish to join the Headmaster and other staff in running the London Marathon and raising funds for a designated good cause please contact Trevor Bell at the John Roan School.

The John Roan School OFSTED Inspection Report - February 1994

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools sent a team of 12 inspectors to the John Roan School between the dates of 22 November - 3 December 1993. They inspected 177 lessons, 16 registrations, 7 assemblies, 5 small group activities and a range of extra curricular activities. The inspection was carried out under Section 9 of the Education (Schools) Act 1992 with the purpose of reporting on:

- The educational standards achieved in the school
- The quality of education provided by the school
- Whether the financial resources made available are managed efficiently
- The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The resulting document is long and detailed and a number of observations are noted.

The John Roan School is an improving school. In many respects it provides a satisfactory education for its pupils. Standards achieved by the pupils at 16+ are satisfactory. Public examination results are below national averages but they are on a par with or better than LEA averages and the overall entry rate for GCSE examinations is fractionally above the national average. Music is very good.

Pupils' achievement is limited by the opportunities presented to them. Across the curriculum insufficient challenge and differentiation was observed in the learning and teaching; teaching to match differentiated aptitudes and experience is underdeveloped, particularly in classroom work.

The school enjoys excellent leadership and management at senior level and in the majority of cases at middle management level. The governing body is supportive and actively involved in the school's development. The school is completing the last year of its three year development planning cycle which began when the present Head Teacher took up post. During this time the school has developed and strengthened systems and structures to support achievement and establish a positive ethos.

Financial management is sound and efficient. The school manages its budgetary responsibilities with consistency and direction provided by the priorities of the school development plan. The internal administrative systems are exemplary.

The ethos of the John Roan School is orderly and supportive. Its pastoral support for pupils is very good. Relationships are excellent; there are well worked out systems for monitoring achievement and recording progress. Rewards and recognition of achievement are valued by parents and pupils and enhance pupil motivation. There is a developed and broad understanding of equal opportunities issues which influence improving practice.

In 1993 the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more grades A-C is 26%; this is above the LEA average. Girls achieved well throughout. The performance of boys in English and in Science is unsatisfactory overall. The average point score for A/AS level examinations in 1992 was 5.7 compared to an average LEA of 8.4 and national average of 13.7. In 1993 the results at GCSE and at A level improved in relation to past performance, but remain unsatisfactory. The figures in 1995 (taken from "The Times") show A level points of 9.3 (LEA average 11.4 / national average 16) and % 5 or more A-C passes at GCSE of 24 (LEA average 28.3 / national average 43.5).

Classroom relationships between pupils and between staff and pupils are generally good. Pupils cooperate with each other; there were many instances of effective collaboration in small group and practical work involving all pupils in a class. Less able pupils feel confident that they can make progress particularly in science.

The organisation of the curriculum and the deployment of staff represent efficient use of the school's budget. Arrangements for managing resources for learning are satisfactory. In general the school gives satisfactory value for money.

Relationships between pupils are relaxed and happy. Pupils act in a well ordered and sensible way, helping one another and visitors. Pupils co-operate and communicate well with one another. Behaviour in formal situations such as assemblies is good. The school has established a clear code of conduct which is communicated effectively to parents and well understood by pupils. The school vigorously promotes good attendance and punctuality.

The various subjects are analysed in detail and largely address their remarks to results in the 1993 examinations. The achievement of girls in Science matches the national average. GCSE results in History are above the national average. Standards for Music in the sixth form are high and GCSE results are well above the national average. The work of the Music Department is highly praised. The quality of teaching in Physical Education is mainly good or satisfactory, with some very good aspects - though the time allocated to GCSE physical education is insufficient to enable pupils to fulfil the demands of the course. In general teachers show good knowledge of their subject and a developing understanding of the requirements of the National Curriculum. The length of the taught week at both key stage 3 and 4 is 24 hours. The LEA and national average is 24.2 hours. The school has recently adopted a ten day timetable to provide for the introduction of hour long lessons.

The school is well led and managed. Governors are very supportive of the school. The governors, head teacher and senior staff provide positive leadership to the school. The administrative work of the school office is exemplary. The school is adequately staffed. The pupil teacher ratio of 15.8 closely reflects the most recent national figure for comprehensive schools. Teachers are well qualified and, in most cases, suitably matched to the teaching undertaken. Staff are very experienced; they are not only more experienced than the national profile, but have also spent longer in their present school. 70% of staff have been at the school for 5 years or longer whilst 36% have been at the school for 11 years or more. Men outnumber women 3:2 amongst the full time teaching staff.

In most faculties there is a shortage of text books. The school is fortunate in having a library at each site. The two libraries are well organised. The school has its own residential outdoor activity centre at Braithwaite in the Lake District. This valuable resource is used for a range of curriculum and other purposes with all age groups. The school is based on two attractive sites in buildings which are generally well maintained. It has its own playing fields which are well used and managed and are situated a short distance from the school.

John Roan is a caring school. Relationships between pupils and staff with pastoral responsibility are good. Parents and pupils throughout the school express confidence that they can talk to staff if they need support. The staff show genuine interest in, and concern for, the welfare and guidance of the pupils.

The school is situated in the London Borough of Greenwich, a borough which is placed 23 out of 108 local education authorities in the Department for Education's ranking of additional educational need (the greatest need is ranked 1) with a high score for factors of ethnicity, lone parent and income support. Only 20% of the pupils at the school live in the relatively privileged ward, Vanbrugh, in which the school is situated. The majority of pupils come from neighbouring wards which have inner city characteristics. 39% are entitled to free school meals. About 22% of pupils are from black and ethnic minority families. 16% of pupils have English as an additional language; these students are predominantly in key stage 3 at present. Among them, pupils at John Roan have 23 languages other than English, with Punjabi having the highest number of speakers.

The ability of the intake is well balanced. The school has an imbalance of girls to boys of 5:4 overall but this is more even in the most recent two years' intake. The LEA has made statements of special educational need for 18 pupils; this is a number above average for maintained secondary schools in London authorities. The participation rate in education at age 16 for John Roan pupils was 52% in 1993; the average for inner London was 72%. The average teaching group size is 22.

Joanne Eddison

Old Roans will have been saddened to hear of the tragic death of Joanne Eddison, a Year 11 student of the school, who was murdered last May. Her death is the second tragedy at the school in recent months, following the death of a Year 7 pupil, Stacey Newey, who died after an accident in Greenwich Hospital.

Joanne joined the school in September 1991 as a year 7 pupil and it was my pleasure to be her Year Head for the 5 years she spent with us. Much comment is made, be it in the press or overheard in conversation, about "youngsters of today". In truth, they are no different from the "youngsters" of any generation and as far as Joanne was concerned, she was one of the best. Joanne was a quiet, unassuming young woman who always did her best in school. Her behaviour and attendance were unblemished and her attitude, perhaps the most important quality of an adolescent, was excellent. Her heart and values were in the right place and she was on the threshold of the next vital stage in her life when she died. She was well liked by both her peers and her teachers, many of whom commented on her application even though she found some subjects difficult.

Joanne was a credit to her parents, to her tutor group, to her school and, most importantly, to herself. She will be missed by all of us who knew her.

Bernie Turner, Head of Year.

Goodbye and Thanks for the Memories

Jim Upton and Erica Ryan met at John Roan and are leaving for Greater Manchester where Jim is taking up a new teaching post. These articles appeared in the March edition of the John Roan News.

Mrs. Lincoln is Dead . . . Long Live Mrs. Lincoln! by Erica Ryan

For all except my first year in 1989 at the John Roan School I ran a theatre club. It started with a group of students that I had taught in Year 9 and from the start we went to "educational" plays - old and new classics. Being a History teacher, I wanted appropriate plays, and the very first that we saw was Dario Fo's "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui", with Anthony Sher. Later on we started going to see the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican as well. After a year it seemed like the sort of thing that ought to have a name of its own and so it became Mrs. Lincoln's Theatre Club - something which was to occasionally cause some confusion: was I Ms. Ryan, Mrs. Upton or Mrs. Lincoln?

Over the last four years, we have been to a wide range of plays, and taken I don't know how many students with us, not to mention the occasional parent when we had spare seats. I think one of the nicest things was when a girl met us at Maze Hill station and said: "So what are we going to see then? I forgot to ask when I paid, but I knew it would be good".

What follows is a list of just some of the plays, in no particular order, except as I remembered them: "Women of Troy"; "Out of a House Walked a Man"; "Return to the Forbidden Planet"; "The Seagull"; "The Wind in the Willows"; "The Tempest"; "Broken Glass"; "A Christmas Carol"; "Macbeth"; "A Winter's Tale"; "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; "The Two Gentlemen of Verona"; "King Lear"; "Tamburlaine"; "Mother Courage and her Children"; "The Merchant of Venice"; "Pygmalion" and "Absence of Malice". We also went with a few students to "Cyrano de Bergerac" (a stunning performance by Robert Lindsay) at the Haymarket and "Sweeney Todd" at the Cottesloe - for this one the tables were turned, we had to get tickets on the day, and couldn't because we were teaching, so 3 post-GCSE students went to queue for them!

I think probably our most successful choice ever was Alan Bennett's adaptation of "The Wind in the Willows" at the National Theatre. We had four school trips to it (not all in the same year!) and what with one thing and another I ended up seeing it six times and never stopped thinking it was wonderful.

I shall be sorry to leave the theatre club behind, for the good company of the students who went, as much as the plays themselves, but the good news is that Mrs. Lincoln will carry on - after all the play's the thing. Mr. Hayes' wife has decided to take on the mantle and so those who have been to the theatre with us before, or those who think they might be interested should see Mr. Hayes for details. I hope you all have as much fun as I had.

Jim Upton

This is the last John Roan News that I shall edit before I leave John Roan and take up a post as Senior Teacher in a school similar to John Roan in Shaw, near Oldham. I shall be very sad to leave John Roan but I am looking forward to living and working very near to the hills of the Peak District.

In the twenty years since I started at Roan Boys' School I have met thousands of pleasant and interesting pupils and I have enjoyed the company of hundreds of pupils on school journeys, theatre trips, or in the school choir. Over the past nine years I have been Head of Mathematics and been proud to work with a team of hard-working, caring, and successful teachers. The teachers have put in a tremendous amount of effort to make the Maths Faculty the success that it is and I am sure they will give the new Head of Mathematics, Ms. Arthur, the same level of support and commitment that they have given me.

The Hope Memorial Trust, which runs the school's residential centre in Braithwaite in the Lake District, has been a very important part of my life while at John Roan. I was very privileged to be part of the team which rebuilt the centre to become one of the finest residential centres in the country.

It was at John Roan that I met my wife, Erica Ryan, and I was very pleased to be able to introduce our son Thomas to the school at my recent leaving assembly. It was a very pleasant opportunity to thank the pupils present, as representatives of all the pupils I have met, for the enjoyable experiences I have had here. Editing the John Roan News has allowed me to find out more about the many and varied successes in the John Roan School and it is these memories that I will take with me to Shaw.

Letter to the Editor

"I read with interest and not a little sadness that 'a number of Roan school leavers stay only one or two years as members of the Old Roan Association, then drift away'. Could it not be that tradition and family connections are now an issue which is not taken into account when children of Old Roans apply for places? This has happened in my family after a 35 year connection."

Mrs. Dorothy Pendergast
Greenwich. SE10

E. G. White

The article on E.G. White (pages 36-39) was written by Roslyn Wells in 1995 for the Ernest George White Society's Journal. A full Bibliography is available from the editor on request. If any readers require more information about the work of the Ernest George White Society please contact:

Dorothy Douse
Secretary
The Ernest George White Society
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South Willesborough
Ashford, Kent. TN24 ODD

Professor R. A. Chapman 1937 - 1995

Professor Reg Chapman, Professor of Physiology in the University of Bristol since 1985, died suddenly on 10 December 1995. He came to Bristol from a Readership at the University of Leicester, where he had established his scientific understanding through extensive work on the regulation of contraction of heart muscle cells.

In Bristol he set about building a research group to continue this research, supported principally by the Wellcome Trust and the British Heart Foundation (BHF), which culminated in the establishment here of the BHF Research Group in Cellular Cardiology. The Group's work expanded to include studies into the processes associated with heart muscle cell death following restriction of its blood supply and, more recently, the way in which certain amino acids make heart muscle cells more resistant to such damage.

His scientific work brought him wide recognition and he was frequently invited to give lectures at national and international conferences. In 1988 he was awarded the Dorenkamp-Zbinden Foundation Prize and this was followed in 1992 by election to membership of the European Academy of Science.

The students he taught, both undergraduate and post-graduate, will recall the breadth of knowledge and interest he brought to his teaching. Discussions with Reg were always lively and provocative and he managed to bring to his teaching the same enthusiasm he had for his research. Reg also made major contributions to the Physiological Society. He was elected to its Committee in 1983 and went on to serve as Honorary Secretary from 1985-91. Throughout his period of office he was instrumental in introducing many influential and beneficial changes to the workings of the Society.

His broad knowledge and expertise inevitably led to his advice being sought by other universities, editorial boards of scientific journals, and grant-awarding agencies. For example, he was a member of the Research Funds Committee of the BHF for nearly ten years and often acted as a scientific spokesperson on their behalf.

While remembering its own loss, the University will also want to remember Reg's family: his wife, Veronique, their two sons and their daughter.

Article by kind permission of the University of Bristol Newsletter (18.1.96)

A Service of Thanksgiving was held for life of Reg Chapman at the University Church of St. Paul, Clifton, Bristol on Wednesday 17th January 1996. The Service was conducted by the Reverend Tony Bryer, Vicar of St. Paul's who also attended the Roan School ('62-'68)

Mr. G. C. Witten - "George"

A shortened version of the magazine article in August 1972 by Lionel Berry marking George's retirement from Roan.

With the retirement of Mr.G.C.Witten - "George" to us all - we are parting with one of our most lovable and exuberant personalities and our one remaining link with the pre-war world. But our sadness at parting with him, after 35 years of unstinting service, is leavened with affectionate memories of an outstanding schoolmaster, an "old fashioned" schoolmaster in the best sense of the word.

Any appreciation of George is rendered difficult by his inherent shyness and modesty. One will never hear of his good deeds from his own lips. Hidden beneath his expansive personality - a personality which displays something of the larger-than-life quality of Falstaff, the benevolence of Pickwick, the eccentricity of Robert Morley and which demands a wide stage - and his old world courtesy, lies a generous concern for the happiness and comfort of others.

He demands little worldly comfort for himself, but will take infinite trouble to create it for others. His unusual means of propulsion typify his own standards of comfort. With advancing years, he has certainly progressed from two wheels via three to the ultimate pleasure of four - all represented by character rather than comfort - from boneshaker, via decrepit motor-bike and sidecar, to a van which rumour suggests was purloined from Billy Smarts' circus clowns on Blackheath one dark night - and all ultimately destined for the Transport Museum.

Roan history has always had a nostalgic fascination for him, as witness his resuscitation of a discarded and collapsing armchair - originally presented to the staff room by Mr.Jackson's widow - and now a dangerous hazard for George's visitors. Likewise, his inaugurating the practice of "Beating the Bounds", which has become an annual O.R. event. For such an abstemious man, it is surprising how many local taverns in this itinerary have Roan associations. We understand that he does not intend entering the upholstery trade, nor offering the services of his pipe to Hollywood for producing Indian smoke signals in future Westerns. But, having recently acquired a garden of some size, we believe he intends, from the depth of the prairie which he loosely refers to as his lawn, to set up as a rival to Fred Streeter and hold forth on how to eliminate ground elder and create the perfect garden.

I once let his own inspiring guide speak for him: "A goodly, portly man, i'faith, and a corpulent, of a cheerful look, a pleasing eye and a most notable carriage, and, as I think, his age sime fifty". Since then the physical presence has become even more impressive, but how well the cheerfulness, the pleasing eye and the noble carriage have survived.

Both the school and the O.R.A. are the richer for his devotion. We think of him with affection and we shall always remember his name, so intimately woven into recent Roan history, with a very real gratitude.

Excerpt from George's message as Old Roan Association President in December 1957:

"I write to you in happy mood; I have just returned from the Middle Temple where, with all the traditional ceremonies, I have been entertained to dinner by our guest for Saturday 1st Feb., Mr.R.A.Snook. We have had a splendid evening and I am now looking forward to our own Dinner with the keenest pleasure...."

.....The Club continues to flourish and I must mention a pleasant theatre party and a lively Football Club Supper; for both of these the ladies provided the accompanying banquets, and what magnificent efforts they were! We were ushered into a Pavilion that had been transformed into a gastronomical paradise. I think our Old Roan Ladies are wonderful."



George Witten with Eric Geddes at the time of their retirement in July 1972.



George talking with Alf Knott in September 1991

George Witten - Reminiscences by Alf Knott

When I think of George, I see him in a series of shots taken from a film called "The Eccentric." There he is scratching his chest through his shirt using a propelling pencil; he drifts off to sleep while telling me why Hamlet is angry with Queen Gertrude, and goes on perfectly sensibly when woken by a passing car; his head is cocked to one side

as he tries to see around the clown's nose he has put on to play "She was only sixteen" on the piano for the first revue - he has painted a Beecham Pills box red and affixed it to himself with elastic bands; he plays the guitar or banjo and croons in a high-pitched voice - songs such as "The Campdown Races", "Poor Old Joe" and various Music Hall ditties; he sits on a terrasse in Paris with a glass of wine in his hand and allows the last smouldering scrap of tobacco to fall out of the end of the Woodbine stuck to his lip and burn another hole in his vest; he pours gravy over his lunch of ham salad; he puts on plays for the school: "Henry IV", "Macbeth", "The Importance of being Earnest", "1066 and all that" among them; himself on stage in "Adam's Apple" pointing imperiously at a large map of England and declaiming "Pontefract!", the explosion of saliva falling just short of the front row of the audience because he is standing at the rear of the stage; his after-dinner speech at the 50th anniversary O.R.dinner outshines Chris Chataway's, an accomplishment not to be missed.

Hundreds of John Roan's men are the better for having known him, enjoyed his kindness and generosity of spirit - some even developed an interest in literature and drama thanks to (some claim in spite of) his teaching. For thirty odd years he was the pillar of the school's very high reputation. I shall miss him.

G. J. Sawyer - An Appreciation

Geoff Sawyer, President of the Old Roan Association 1977-78, tragically died in a road accident on the A2 near Bexleyheath on Thursday morning 2nd May 1996, just a few weeks before his 58th birthday on D-Day, 6th June. Sadly, and ironically, he was on his way to watch Kent play Lancashire in the County Cricket Championship, which was a journey that he had made hundreds of times over the last 30 years.

After leaving the Roan School in 1954, Geoff worked in Tooley Street for dairy wholesalers specialising in the supply of cheese, with a break for National Service spent in Cyprus during the EOKA troubles. Graham Chambers tells of a suggested holiday to Cyprus some 15 years later to which Geoff declined - "I have spent too much time there sleeping on the pavements in battledress wondering if I would wake up in the morning". Geoff continued in the same business until 1984 when he decided to opt out of the "rat race" and with two other Old Roans, Trevor Puddifoot and Barry Thomas, set up their own stationary company - "The Supply Company". In 1990 Geoff became a "sleeping partner" which allowed him more time to indulge his pursuits of watching cricket and playing golf.

Geoff's whole life was sport, whether playing, watching, or administrating, and, if truth be told he had few other interests. As a Roan schoolboy in the early 1950s he was ever present at Charlton Athletic home games (then a leading 1st Division side) and some 30 years later could still recite all the teams of that period.

At 6'6" tall, Geoff was too tall to be a natural athlete but was fortunate to be blessed with considerable ball sense which enabled him not only to become a good footballer and cricketer but also to play snooker, golf and table-tennis to an excellent standard. Ron Evenden and Geoff were effectively the Old Roan Table-Tennis Club for about ten years. As with most keen sportsmen, Geoff had a passion to win sportingly, and not at all costs, but he definitely did not like to lose, even when supporting, and he hated Kent's bad days.

His love of Kent cricket was fostered, as with myself, by the matches at Blackheath when the school gave afternoons off. Geoff had already made an impact in school cricket and football earning colours at both sports, and made his debut for the Old Boys Cricket 2nd XI at the age of 16. A solid and orthodox batsman, he, as usual for tall players, scored most of his runs on the off-side, favouring the cover drive. In his younger days he was also a steady slow-left-arm bowler (16 wickets for the Saturday 1st XI in 1961 and topped the Sunday 2nd XI batting averages in the same year). The Old Boys 1st XI was very strong at that time and Geoff felt he was given limited opportunities. Through work connections he joined Parkside where he opened the batting with some degree of success. He returned to the Club in 1966 and played regularly for the 1st XI for two years until he decided that watching Kent full-time was the preferred option. In company with Len Groves and Mike Callaghan he went whenever possible (all Saturdays) and was delighted to see the County's successful years in the '70s. His initial enthusiasm for the Sunday League waned and Geoff often umpired for the Club. He was also an ever-present Isle of Wight tourist during the sixties and seventies (where were you on July 30, 1966? - Geoff and I were at Northwood Cricket Club on the Isle of Wight Tour).

It will, however, be his association and work with the Football Club for which Geoff will be best remembered. After his National Service he quickly established himself at left-back in the 1st XI and was instrumental in moving the side from the Southern Olympian League (which entailed much travelling) at the end of the '63-'64 season. The side joined the locally-based South London Alliance and immediately won promotion to the Premier Division with Geoff an ever-present in the side.

Surprisingly for a tall defender, Geoff rarely headed the ball and was not noted for his tackling. He did possess excellent positional sense and was adept at passing and taking dead-ball kicks - thus his regular appearance on the goal-scorers sheet from the penalty spot. Some considered him fortunate (or good at selection) in having two hard running and tackling half-backs (John Leach and Peter Duffield) in front of him. Further success followed with the winning of the League Cup in 1968 and Queen Mary Cup in 1970. During this period, Geoff at times appeared to be running the Club single-handed - manager, player, selector and representative at league meetings. He was also seen at the school field most Saturday mornings espying "talent" from the school sides and ensuring a continuous flow of good players into the Old Boys.

It was at this time - 1971 - that the School 1st XI won the English Schools National Championship and Barry Thomas (schoolmaster in charge of football) still pays tribute to Geoff for his major contribution in this success with his advice, his organisation of support from the Old Boys (Geoff was at every match), and, not least, fixing the celebrations after the Final victory. It should be added that all the winning squad were to play regularly for the Old Boys. After he retired from playing Geoff continued to manage until 1975 (with a further change of league in 1973 to the London Metropolitan Reserves Division One).

It is hardly surprising that Geoff was elected as Old Roan President in 1977/78 nor that the Presidential Dinner/Dance held at the Oval Banqueting Suite was one of the best attended. Not that Geoff was finished yet. He continued as Secretary for the Old Roan Football Club (which entailed the regular attendance at league meetings) through to 1986. During this time, and subsequently, he remained a loyal and regular supporter of the 1st XI, invariably travelling to away matches. It has been said that Geoff was saddened by the minimal input of players from the school and was seen less at the ground in recent years.

This was in part due to the considerable increase in time spent in looking after his elderly mother who had become housebound. Geoff lived with her and had to take responsibility for all domestic chores. His mother died in her 90s a year ago and released from this burden Geoff's death was even more untimely. He had already planned some holidays away which had not been possible in recent years.

Geoff never married and it must be said he was definitely not a "ladies man". One courtship will be remembered however - the lady being escorted to the Club on Saturday nights but leaving in time for Geoff to see "Match of the Day". As befits a sportsman Geoff enjoyed a drink, invariably beer, and was excellent company with a great sense of humour. In the days before the "breathalyser" I could relate countless tales of amusing celebrations of matches won (both played and watched) and of the many reminiscences recalled by Geoff covering our excursions with Len Groves, the "mischief" we played upon him and Len's insistence on buying fish & chips on the way home so as not to disturb his wife. Geoff and I only had mothers to worry about and they were always asleep! In the sixties no football was played at the Club on a Sunday with the exception of an annual football match against Old Shootershillians when Geoff played centre-half (I dislodged him from left-back) and Graham Johnson (the Kent cricketer), playing centre-forward, scored a hat-trick. As befits a rugby club opposition the post-match celebrations were long and hearty. Post-breathalyser Geoff was one of a rota of 4 drivers on a Sunday evening (one sober duty night every 4 weeks) which allowed some serious drinking to continue.

Over one hundred people (including very many footballing Old Roans from several generations) attended Falconwood Crematorium on 15th May 1996 to pay their last respects. We will miss you greatly.

Mike Callaghan, July 1996

Donald Keating, QC (1924 - 1995)

Donald Keating, QC, who has died aged 71, was the most distinguished advocate of the construction Bar. His most significant achievements in the field were his Keating on Building Contracts, a leading textbook on construction law which is now in its sixth edition, and his creation of a set of chambers, now 29 members strong, of construction contract specialists.

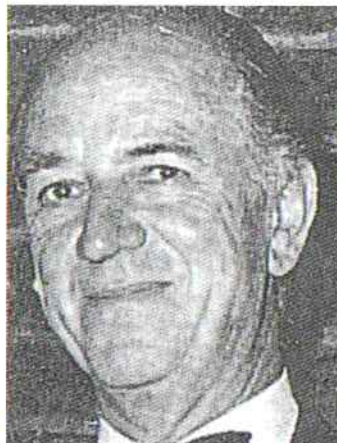
Donald Norman Keating was born on June 24 1924 and was educated at Roan School ('32-'40). He served in the RAF Volunteer Reserve from 1943 to 1946 and then read history at King's College, London. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1950 and joined the chambers of Stuart Horner at 11 King's Bench Walk, Temple. They were general common law chambers with a leaning towards divorce work.

In 1955 he published the first edition of his book on the Law and Practice of Building Contracts. It was immediately successful and went to a second impression the next year. Keating's initial single-handed practice in building contracts developed slowly but consistently over the next 10 years, and gradually the chambers became known for this fledgling speciality. He published further editions of his book in 1963 and 1969, by which time he was appearing as leading junior in landmark cases in the House of Lords. He was a forceful and skilful advocate, capable at once of mastering the law and complicated facts of construction contracts, and of presenting them effectively to judges and arbitrators.

Among his cases was the longest arbitration ever, which Keating won after a record 239 hearing days. He had begun that arbitration still as a junior. Inexplicably, and, as he and others thought, unfairly, he was not appointed Queen's Counsel until 1972, after five applications. In the same year he was appointed Recorder of the Crown Court.

He fought the later stages of the arbitration and then began work on the fourth edition of his book (published in 1978) under the intense personal strain of his first wife's long illness, from which she died in 1975. In that year he became head of his chambers, by then a flourishing set of mainly construction contract barristers. His own practice continued to be enormous and intensely demanding.

In 1979 he was elected a Benchler of Lincoln's Inn, where he enjoyed the intellectual stimulus and gave time to the Inn's administration. In 1985 his chambers moved from King's Bench Walk to commercial premises fitted out as barristers chambers at 10 Essex Street. His were the first chambers to venture outside the security of the Inns of Court and, cautious as ever, Keating was at first not sure if it was wise. But the move was a complete success.



Donald Keating was not, perhaps, a natural advocate. But by sheer determination and hard work he became a great one. His knowledge and understanding of the specialist law were outstanding and he had the instinct and tenacity to see and cling to the points which won cases. When he stepped down as head of chambers at 10 Essex Street in 1992, his chambers honoured him by commissioning a portrait by June Mendoza and by renaming themselves Keating chambers. He continued his busy practice as barrister and arbitrator.

Keating was a man of mature intellect and industry, and courage in adversity. He also had softer qualities: an impish humour, a pride in and care for his family, and a concern for the well-being of others. After the death of his first wife he married Rosamond Blundell-Jones, a barrister who has become a stipendiary magistrate. He had a daughter and two sons by his first marriage, and a son by his second.

By kind permission of the Daily Telegraph (16 August 1995)

A memorial service was held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Thursday 19 October, 1995.

Ronald William Seal (1923-1995) - An Appreciation

Those of you who read my article in last year's Chronicle will remember my recollections of Ron Seal - not only as a life-long friend but as a dedicated servant of the Association as General Secretary in the fifties and sixties.

I met Ron at Roan in 1934 (I had arrived a year earlier) in Lee's 111rds and we progressed through to Parker's Vth's and Matriculation when the war interrupted our school-days. Ron then joined the Civil Service where, after wartime services, he eventually became Minute Secretary to the Agricultural Research Council.

During the war our paths seldom crossed, but in 1945 I was happy to be best man at Ron's wedding to Eileen - we were, of course, still in the Forces. Ron was by then a sergeant in the R.A.O.C.

When Ron took over the Secretary's job from Wally Bullers in 1949 he served so many Presidents with such enthusiasm and energy that they all reckoned that he was the best successor to Wally they could have hoped for.

As for the man himself! He was not a sporting type and took the view that sport was something to be watched, or read about, but not partaken in (he was, after all, built for comfort, rather than speed!). To Ron the pen was mightier than not only the sword but the cricket bat and football boot as well.

Back to a personal note! I was happy to attend his Golden Wedding celebrations in June last year, not only as his former best man, but also as Godfather to his son Peter. We did not realise that within less than three months we would be attending his funeral. I am sure all vintage Old Roans will join me in offering our sympathy to Eileen and her family.

He served us well. He will, no doubt, still be saying "FLOREAT ROANA".

A.S.Berry, May 1996

Frank Baker (1910 - 1996)

Boyhood outings with his father in a pony and trap led to a lifelong love of Chislehurst for Frank Baker, who died in Orpington Hospital in March 1996 at the age of 86. He grew up vowing to make Chislehurst his home, and did so for more than 30 years, at the Chestnuts in St. Paul's Cray Road. He served for many years as a Commons Conservator and was an enthusiastic member of the local Probus group.

Born in Greenwich, the son of a bakery manager, and educated at the Roan School ('21-'27), he served in the fire service at Woolwich during World War II. During a long career with Barclays Bank, he had responsibility for equipping branches throughout the country with office machinery, including the introduction of the first note-counting machines. Joining the Catford branch in 1927, he rose through posts at Woolwich and The Strand, Central London, to become an instructor at the bank's Wimbledon training centre.

In 1954 he helped establish Barclay's overseas operation in Israel. He then spent the latter part of his career as the bank's mechanisation manager, based at an office in the City. He was involved in hospital voluntary service in Greenwich and Woolwich for more than 30 years, a role which included helping to found the Goldie Leigh Hospital Association.

He is survived by his wife, Doreen, who still lives in Chislehurst, and by two daughters and four grandchildren.

Article taken from the "News Shopper"

George Witten - A Remembrance by David A.P. ("Dap") Andrews

Although I had seen him probably only once since I left the school in 1971, George Witten played a significant role in my development, and I was therefore saddened to learn of his death.

George was my form master from the 2nd to the 5th year, and as I was a member of Nelson House, he was also my Housemaster; but my enduring memory of him goes back to my first lesson at the School (Spoken English) in September 1964, when George became the originator of my nickname. The forms in the intake year had been sorted alphabetically and I11W ranged from the beginning to the early "H"s. At the start of the lesson, George ran through the register to establish the identities of his pupils by reading out our surnames followed by our initials: Aitken G.L., Allcock M., Andrew R.W., Andrews D.A.P., Bain R., etc (Sorry if I've missed anyone!). When announcing me he made no comment but when he reached the end of the list, Hawkins D.L., he made a comment to the effect "Pity he hasn't a 'P', then we'd have a 'dap' and a 'dip'!" Henceforth, George always referred to me as DAP (always spelling it out) and I gained the alias by which most Old Roans know me.

I was grateful to be able to pay my last respects at his funeral on Monday, 1st April.

Green Ghosts in Devonshire Drive

So the former Roan School for Girls building has now been developed into luxury flats.

What was once a place for "endowed young ladies" (an accolade that produced many a snigger from boyfriends) is now the preserve of those endowed with something a little more tangible. Our school has gone the same way as the nearby former Royal Herbert Hospital on Shooters Hill highlighting, I think, the priorities of the 1990s. Back in Devonshire Drive, one wonders how many bowls of pot-pourri it will take to expunge the smell of Roan: polished wood, books, ink, gym kits, science lab experiments and the culinary creations of the cookery room which always began inexplicably in the first year with the washing of a pair of socks!

For the girls' school in the sixties was still very much the traditional grammar school. But the times they were a'changin'. It was Virgil, Maupassant and Shakespeare by day; the Beatles, Stones and Bob Dylan by night. We had Mary Quant, Sassoon and the mini Virginia Woolfe, Pythagoras and Classics. Hours after singing hymns in assembly or praising Old John Roan at Founder's Day, we'd be hitting the discos, clubs and rock concerts. Heady times indeed: there was a Labour government in power (can anyone remember that far back?), England won the World Cup, we led the world in music and fashion and there was no question of leaving school and not getting a job.

Mind you; when you left the girls' school then you were expected to go to university or teacher training college. When I announced to the careers' mistress after 'A' levels that I intended to go into journalism, the reaction was on a par with proposing a bordello in Streatham specialising in luncheon vouchers! During the sixties, form periods were introduced which were supposed to encourage open discussion. However, some teachers said they refused to discuss sex, politics or religion and since most of us had a passionate interest in the former, it was a wonder the idea ever got off the ground.

Other changes in the sixties included men joining the hitherto all female staff, a sixth form flat and garden and a relaxing of the school uniform rule for the UV1th which strangely enough most of us carried on wearing.

Despite the changes, none of us then had the slightest inkling that the old school itself would ever change. I for one am saddened by its new use. I can only hope that there'll be many a green ghost wandering amongst the stripped pine!

Diana Cordwell (née Montague, '62-'69)

The President invites all Old Roans to attend
the Annual Dinner at the School Field Pavilion
on the evening of Friday 1 November, 1996

Pre-War Traces

Not long after I got "Matric" in 1938, I left Roan Girls' to start work at the Times Book Club in Wigmore Street. I had to return that autumn to attend the prize giving ceremony. The prize I had come to collect was a leather-bound copy of *The Arabian Nights* - a choice that still mystifies me.

I had only the haziest of memories of that day, and none at all of what the distinguished visitor who distributed the prizes had to say. Over forty years later, not long before the school closed, I went back to find out more about the history of Roan Girls' while writing my book, *A Green Girl*. It was then that I not only recovered some forgotten memories, but also discovered quite a lot I had never known about the school.

In the first place, although I had no memory of the speech made by the distinguished visitor on the day I collected my prize, I was able all those years later to find out. And this was thanks to the diligence of sixth formers of the period who, in the subsequent edition of the bi-annual Roan Girls' Gazette, had recorded that the speaker - Miss M.G.Jones, vice-mistress of Girton College - had said, amongst other things:

(That) in her study of the history of education she had discovered the (Roan) foundation was one of the first to allow girls to use part of the endowment which had previously been available only for boys (and) showed what an important step this was by describing the inadequate education given to girls in the eighteenth century. The schools which taught the three Rs to the poorer girls and the expensive finishing schools which taught a few accomplishments to the richer were alike in giving only a very narrow education.

What she was describing was the situation in the first half of the nineteenth century, before grammar schools like Roan Girls' were opened to offer what Miss Jones went on to assert rather grandly was a "truly liberal education which, in Milton's words, fitted them to perform all the duties of life 'justly, skilfully and magnanimously'!"

It was some 60 years earlier, in May 1878, that Roan Girls' first headmistress, Miss Blackmore, set out to achieve these exalted aims, starting the new school in Devonshire Drive with 30 girls. Miss Blackmore was, typically of the comfortably placed women of the time, mainly self-educated. She had not expected to earn her own living, but was forced to do so when her father died leaving virtually no money and a mother and two sisters to support. It was this change in fortune that made her decide to open a private school, and led to her becoming later a form mistress at Bath High School and later still headmistress of Roan for its first 18 years.

Her achievement was remarkable, as on a subsequent occasion Miss Blackmore's successor pointed out:

It was a new thing, and in some ways unique. No one knew how the bold experiment ... would turn out. The situation of the handsome new buildings was excellent, the grounds were spacious and quiet, and the neighbourhood pleasant. ... Moreover, the admission, at half fees, of the daughters of residents in the Parish of Greenwich, provided they had attended a public elementary school for two years, introduced another element of social novelty and possible failure. ...

PHYLLIS WILLMOT was born and grew up in Lee, in south-east London, and was educated at the Road School, Greenwich. She served in the WAAF in the war, after which she trained as a social worker. Later she became a lecturer and researcher in social policy. She has written several books on the social services as well as three other autobiographical books: *Growing Up in a London Village* (1979), *A Green Girl* (1983) and *Coming of Age in Wartime* (1988).



Phyllis Willmot

Joys and Sorrows

FRAGMENTS FROM THE POST-WAR YEARS

Phyllis Willmot's previous three volumes of autobiography have been much acclaimed. In *Joys and Sorrows* the author writes of their life in the immediate post-war years, with all its personal ups and downs.

After leaving the WAAF she takes on various temporary jobs. At St. Thomas's Hospital, London, she cares for children; and she is then engaged as a relief warden in a hostel. This is followed by an intensive training course as a hospital social worker. During this time she meets Peter Willmot, then involved in charitable work. Their passionate affair and subsequent marriage are turning-points in both their lives.

Peter Willmot quits his student course at

Oxford to join his young wife when she becomes pregnant. After a spell of hackwork he is employed as a research assistant by the Labour Party at Transport House, a key stepping-stone in his career. Meanwhile the strains and stresses of life with little money and no secure home base persist.

Joys and Sorrows, like its predecessors, is a very personal book; its sharp insights and evocations bring into focus a private world in close-up. Friends, colleagues and families play their part, but it is Phyllis Willmot herself, sensitive, compulsively romantic yet serious minded, who keeps the reader enthralled. Admirers of her earlier books will relish this new one.

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A Green Girl

'A wonderful evocation of people, place and period' - *Sunday Telegraph*

There was no doubt that the school was an immediate and almost overwhelming success. The numbers flowed in and new class-rooms had to be got ready and new furniture hastily found. Miss Blackmore's efforts were before long rewarded in the academic achievements of the girls. As one old Roan girl later recalled:

Miss Blackmore's care for the educational interest of the girls soon made itself felt in the long lists of candidates for the Cambridge Local and other public examinations, and their remarkable successes. Indeed, the saying became current that *no girl ever failed*, and nobody knew what would happen to the first girl who did

The second headmistress, Miss Walker, took over in 1896. She stayed for 23 years, and introduced equally impressive developments in the school. It was in her reign that Roan girls were first entered for the matriculation examinations of the University of London. In addition, the first Roan Girls' Gazette appeared (in 1904), a new wing was built (in 1906), the Netball Association for London Girls' Public Secondary Schools was started (largely through Roan's initiative), and the first "foreign expedition" was made (to Cherbourg) with a party of "elder girls".

One particularly interesting historical memory of that Victorian world in which Roan had its roots we also owe to Miss Walker who, on revisiting the school some years after her retirement recalled:

That miserable, wintry Saturday afternoon, when a party of us (from Roan) stood together on an allotted space on Blackheath, and the aged Queen Victoria, in an open carriage, drove slowly past on her return from a visit to the wounded from South Africa at the Herbert Military Hospital. Some of us saw that the Queen was crying. Neither she nor we then knew what war meant . . . We were to know only too well ere long.

The Queen was crying, of course, about the wounded of the Boer War, but Miss Walker was looking ahead to the Great War. It was a year after that "war to end wars" ended that she made way for Miss Mary Kingsland Higgs, who became the third headmistress. She arrived in 1919, a time, as she perhaps too optimistically put it, when "the clouds of war were just lifting".

Miss Higgs was the distant and, although slightly built, awesome headmistress who was in mid-career when I got to Roan in 1933. By that time fewer girls than in its earlier years had fathers who were in professional occupations, and Roan Girls' had become a school largely catering for the daughters of the lower-middle class, about half of whom were fee-paying, and the rest on LCC scholarships or Roan Governors' "free places".

Although in those years Miss Higgs was always eager to emphasise the improved career opportunities for girls by then available, what she had to say at one prize-giving makes strange reading today. She said that she had recently heard Miss Margaret Bondfield (who, in 1929, had become the first woman cabinet minister) say that the parents and friends of secondary school girls should aim at two things:

First, to provide a supply of women who can reorganise domestic life, taking full advantage of the new developments in electric power, and secondly to train women for the higher and more responsible posts in business life.

Sadly, the Depression years made both aims more difficult to fulfil, but the efforts to persuade girls to stay on at school, pass exams and raise their sights continued, year on year.

In spite of these aspirations, however, it was never the intention of those like Miss Higgs, her predecessors or their dedicated staff to turn out tunnel-visioned bluestockings. To their great credit, what they wanted was a balanced and broad education that would produce girls who were physically as well as mentally active. From its early days, Roan girls had been encouraged to be physically fit, if not athletic. Looking back to Miss Blackmore's time, one old Roan girl commented:

It was not only with studies that Miss Blackmore kept abreast of the times; games were not neglectedRounders, touch football - a game of our own played without goal posts - jumping, swimming - all were encouraged.

As mentioned earlier, in Miss Walker's time, the Netball Association for London Girls' Public Secondary Schools was set-up largely through the efforts of Roan. When disbanded in 1931 (on the creation of the All England Women's Netball Association) Roan inherited the first Association's shield because of the key role they had played as pioneers.

A year or two earlier, in 1929, a visiting German teacher was dazzled by "A splendid performance of gymnasticsdone with quite an astonishing display of skill and strength, and with an exactness I have till now only seen from boys". By the 1930s, cricket was one of the games on offer. It was another pioneering effort - so much so that the Roan Girls' Gazette of 1934 had to report there had been no inter-school matches because no other girls' schools played. At the same time the hope was expressed that Roan Girls' example would "show that cricket is suitable for girls as well as boys".

Whether or not this hope was ever fulfilled, it was a game much enjoyed during my time at Roan even if, in the long-view, not one of the most lasting or memorable facets of those far away years in the school's history.

Phyllis Willmott, January 1996

THE 1997 "CHRONICLE" IS DUE FOR PUBLICATION IN JULY 1997.

*Please forward material to the Editor by
May 16th, 1997*



Richard Underwood Langworthy Edwards O.B.E. ('08-'12) celebrating his 100th birthday on September 30th, 1996. Photograph by kind permission of Michael Wheeler, Photographer, 62 Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RB.

Countdown to the Millennium

There can be very few readers who have not stood astride the Prime Meridian line by Wolfe's Statue in Greenwich Park nor been aware of its significance. It is because of its historic links with time and space that Greenwich will take centre stage during the celebrations to mark the dawning of the third millennium.

A key element of those celebrations will be a year long Millennium Exhibition situated at the tip of Blackwall Peninsula by the Blackwall Tunnel. In July this year, Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, gave the final go ahead for the Exhibition to be held at Greenwich. There had been strong competition from other locations, notably Birmingham, to host the Exhibition, but Greenwich was always the logical site.

Greenwich Council has fought long and hard to secure the Exhibition for the borough. It appointed Sir Bob Scott (of Manchester Olympic Bid fame) to spearhead its campaign. The Council also joined together in 1994 with Greenwich University, the National Maritime Museum, British Gas and others to promote Greenwich and progress ideas for the Millennium celebrations.

But why would anyone wish to have such an Exhibition on their doorstep? Surely the idea of thousands upon thousands of visitors each day for a year to an already over developed area can only cause further disruption and chaos. Nobody listening to traffic reports can fail to know that the area around the Blackwall Tunnel frequently gets gridlocked and that the traffic pollution in Greenwich is amongst the worst in London.

Perhaps the answer lies in the recent history of Greenwich. Many readers will recall the major manufacturing firms that lined the Thames all the way from Woolwich Arsenal in the east to Deptford Creek in the west. In the 1960's when the Old Roan Football Club first joined the South London Alliance we played many of these firms - Stones, RACS, Harveys, Johnson & Philips, RASRA, Metrogas, AEI etc. These firms no longer exist, yet in their heyday and up to the end of the 1960's they employed many thousands of people.

Those familiar with the riverside area now see one or two major firms and a number of small industrial estates housing a few service industries. They also see large tracts of contaminated land, poor transport infrastructure, ageing and deteriorating housing, unattractive town centres and untidy open spaces. Greenwich is not unique in suffering a decline in its manufacturing industries nor in seeing a deteriorating environment. Many inner city areas have suffered similarly.

But Greenwich is unique as the home of time and it is this which is being exploited to attract the Millennium Exhibition and with it the regeneration of the area. The monies being talked of are enormous: £700 million of investment in the Exhibition itself; the construction of the Jubilee Line extension with a station at "Greenwich Millenium"; the extension of the Docklands Light Railway to Greenwich and Lewisham; the development of the Gas Board lands on the Peninsula, one of the largest development sites in all of Europe; the development of Woolwich Arsenal. These are major schemes taking place in Greenwich now.

It has been estimated that up to 10,000 new jobs could be created from the regeneration benefits of holding the Exhibition at Greenwich. But it is not enough to secure new jobs. It is also necessary to ensure that local people and particularly young people have the education, skills and abilities to benefit from those jobs. A job for John Roan! This is a once in a thousand years opportunity for securing lasting benefits for the local community and reversing the decline of the area.

Whether we achieve all that we strive for remains to be seen. But I hope that Old Roans will return from both near and far to visit the Exhibition and their old haunts and will be pleased by what they see and experience.

Fritz Henning, July 1996

Fritz Henning ('56-'63) is responsible to the Council for the town planning aspects of the Millennium Exhibition. In addition he is working closely with former Roan teachers Ann Keely and Dave Newson amongst others - in attempting to bring long term Millennium benefits to Greenwich.

The Roan Theatre Company - "Stepping Out"

The Roan Theatre Company's December production, "Stepping Out", at the Tyler Theatre, Eltham Green, attracted excellent audiences throughout its run. Those who attended were rewarded with a compound of comedy and drama - and not a little choreographic skill.

Set in a North London church hall, this comedy by Richard Harris ("Outside Edge") requires a lot of disciplined tap-dancing to have any chance of success. This includes the very difficult task of convincing the audience you are totally bereft of any co-ordination whatsoever, whilst actually possessing a mastery of basic movement. The fact the cast achieved this is an acknowledgement of their hard work and dedication throughout rehearsals.

What makes Harris's comedy work are the gradual revelations that punctuate the simple tap-one, tap-two routines. As the evening progresses, we become increasingly aware of the deep-rooted problems eroding the defences of this little dance sanctuary. At times, the pressures explode into angry confrontations, yet the humour that threads through the story is always at or near the surface.

Mandy Brown as Mavis was commanding in her role as class instructor. She combined perfectly co-ordinated feet with a calm authority that suggested saint-like patience in dealing with a row of apparent no-hopers. This self-assurance contrasted effectively with the character's own vulnerability that was later revealed when she announced an unwanted pregnancy.

Mavis's ubiquitous pianist, Mrs. Fraser, was well played by Barbara Roe who, with a wonderfully lugubrious expression, captured the sullen personality beautifully. Teresa Wilkins, as Maxine, demonstrated, once again, how versatile an actress she has become. Every speech delivered was a walk down Petticoat Lane as she traded leotards and tops as skilfully as trading one-liners; it was all wrapped up in angular posturing and nasal monotonies.

By contrast, Vera, with her up-market, Mayfair vowels, introduced herself like a cold shower: suddenly, windows were cleaned, toilets disinfected, and everyone's inner secrets investigated by her overbearing inquisitiveness. Yet, once again, the veneer cracked to reveal a loveless relationship with the insensitive Lionel. Rae Hammersley gave a very professional performance in this part, balancing perfectly the many facets of a complex character.

David Lane as Geoffrey, with his nerdy pullovers and two left feet was a wonderful clown; particularly memorable was his agonising attempt to pick open a plastic sandwich box. His failure to master even this simple task perfectly summed up the inadequacies of the character. An interesting relationship between Geoffrey and Andy, equally shy and lacking in confidence, developed during the play. Glynis Watson played Andy with the right amount of self-doubt and uncertainty. One felt for the character as she made the first, tentative steps towards Geoffrey. Continually, her efforts were balked, intentionally or unintentionally, by other members of the group. Most prominent in this was Sylvia, played with delightfully effervescent vulgarity by Beverley Connelly.

Geraldine Day as Dorothy and Jocelyn Acky as Rose were both performing for the Company for the first time. Their competent acting is a good indication of the strength in depth the Company has at present. Finally, Joan Stanbridge, as Lynne, gave, as she invariably does, a thoughtful, intelligent performance.

Trevor Talbot is to be congratulated for his direction of this play. As usual, he persuaded the actors to develop the characters well, and created exactly the right balance of comedy and pathos in the production. He was ably supported by an excellent lighting and sound team (John Lewis, Rod Stanbridge and Tim Hawes), and Len Quaife's set gave the perfect atmosphere of a church hall starved of cash. This gave the ideal contrast to the finale with its shimmering back-drop and revolving chandelier ball.

Finally, congratulations are due to Wendy Gool for hair-styling; Vicki Collins and Jean Wilkins for choreography; Steve Hunt, Richard Rickson and Peter Laurie for stage management; and David Horsburgh and Pat Barnes for musical direction. Mention of all these names highlights the excellent teamwork that resulted in a thoroughly entertaining production.

The Roan Theatre Company at the Rochester Festival

At the 1995 Medway Little Theatre One Act Drama Festival, the Roan Theatre Company demonstrated the depth and strength of the present membership. They put on three plays: "Split Ends"; "Last Tango in Pratts Bottom"; and "Liberation".

"Split Ends" needed a very tricky piece of stage business concerning a wig, which went off perfectly at dress-rehearsal, so one might have expected that it would not "be all right on the night". As it was, Richard Rickson carried off the "you've been framed" situation with professional aplomb. Barbara Roe gave her best performance to date, her naturalness providing a subtle backcloth for Richard's lunacy. Mandy Brown, gluttonising so persuasively that we disregarded her trim figure, showed again how good and versatile an actress she is. Dave Lane won a commendation for his easy portrayal of "the ordinary and nicely dull" Norman - a very difficult part to play.

In "Last Tango in Pratts Bottom" there were good performances all round, well inspired by Teresa Wilkins who at her first attempt won the award for the best director. Len Quaife gave what I thought was his best performance to date; Rae Pasquali, a talented addition to the "good lookers" in the company gave a clear indication of the skills she would show in the "Stepping Out" performances. Geraldine Day moved from the prompter's corner and showed that she is perfectly at home on stage. One always expects a good performance from Graham Johnson and he duly won the best supporting actor award. It was how well they acted together - why Teresa won her award - that made the play so enjoyable.

The third play, "Liberation", gave Teresa Wilkins a chance to show how well she can act. She was very clever to hide her natural beauty in the pathos of the character. In the same way, Glynis Watson buried her natural niceness in the harsh malice of the woman she played. In direct contrast to the nasty Mrs. Chevely in the Wilde play, Mandy Brown won the award for best minor part with her portrayal of the sympathetic friend, Dave Lane showed his versatility in a highly charged part which was worth another commendation.

The back-stagers led by Trevor Talbot deserve our best congratulations - John Lewis, Tim Hawes, Wendy Cool, Guy Wilkins, Peter Laurie, Freda Goldberg and Jackie Nelson made what has been a weakness in the company a real strength and won the award for best set.

The whole evening was a great success - they will soon find it hard to follow their own act.

"You Never Can Tell" - Roan Theatre Company

In the 1890s, George Bernard Shaw found it difficult to stage his plays in Britain and this one, written in 1896, was published under "Plays Pleasant" with full stage directions to assist readers. Mandy Brown selected this uneven period piece to resurrect with the Roan Theatre Company at the Tyler Theatre at Eltham Green from June 5-8, 1996.



Glynis Watson with Richard Rickson

The many social concerns of the emerging middle-classes in late-Victorian Britain - socialism, social manners, feminism, parenthood, social mobility, conventions of marriage, law etc. - may better suit Shaw in the printed form. The audience were very grateful to Graham Johnson and Alf Knott, in particular, for rising above some very pedestrian and didactic writing to create memorable and enjoyable moments.

From the time Alf Knott arrives as the hard-hearted landlord with dental problems the overall performances relaxed and when the scene moves to the seaside hotel Graham Johnson takes full opportunity to turn his part as the waiter into an outstanding "tour de force". It was a most enjoyable performance and Graham capitalised on having, by far, the best lines.



Geraldine Day and Graham Johnson

Richard Rickson and Len Quaife made the most of their roles as contrasting representatives of the legal profession. Richard was relaxed as the former radical turned pillar of society and carried the "plot" forward with clarity. Len played the socially mobile QC with boldness and conviction. Steve Hunt and Geraldine Day also made the most of their roles as the younger children, brought up by their mother in Madeira to be free of the rigid conventions of late Victorian society. When given the chance their acting was a pleasure to watch. Glynis Watson brought elegance and aloofness to her part of the "free-thinking" mother.

The main problem of the play lay with Shaw's wish to deal with love and it fell upon Teresa Wilkins and David Lane to battle with several difficult scenes that would be problematic for any actors. Teresa, in particular, worked hard to lift something from some laboured and unconvincing writing. David Lane approached his difficult part of the "young lead" with a sure sense of the required gaucheness, priggishness and diffidence. Beryl Knott and Joan Stanbridge wisely chose to avoid the script and served the soup with style.

The costumes were good and the cast worked hard throughout. Some of the ensemble playing, particularly the lunch scene, worked very well but ultimately we were very grateful to Graham and Alf for their inspired contributions. Perhaps the reluctant producers of the 1890s were less concerned with Shaw's controversial ideas than the dramatic qualities of his early plays.

THE ROAN THEATRE COMPANY

"A Chorus of Disapproval"

(by Alan Ayckbourn) at the

Tyler Theatre, Eltham Green School - December 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1996

Ernest George White - Sinus Tone Production

The early years of E.G.White

Ernest George White was born in Lee, a suburb of South East London, on May 19, 1863. Although nothing is known of White's mother, his father, J.G.White, was an influential man of whom his son was very proud. White Snr. was a Justice of the Peace, Collector of the King's Taxes for the Ward of Walbrook; Managing Director of Mansion House Chamber, Parish Clerk, a Deputy of the City of London, (holding office in one of the Guilds or Livery Companies), and part-owner of a brush manufacturing company, also Organist and Musical Director at St.Swithin's Church for many years. Ernest George's uncle held the distinguished position of private Chaplain to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria.

The young White was provided with a fine education at the Roan School, Greenwich, and was later elected President of the Old Roan Association from 1923-24. After his schooling, White devoted his life to music, and followed in his father's spiritual and musical footsteps as a church organist and choirmaster. As well as the position of Musical Director at Blackheath and Lee as well as St. Olaves, Hart Street, he was a Past-Master of the Parish Clerks' Company, and composer of songs and music for the church services.

Although his family's influence undoubtedly helped to shape White's expectations and aspirations, the focus of his life's work came about through near-tragedy. As a young man he became the victim of what he considered to be the bad teaching of a singing teacher at the Blackheath Conservatory of Music and then two eminent London teachers at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, which resulted in the loss of both his speaking and his singing voice. White's intense distress started him on a quest for knowledge that lasted for the rest of his life.

The journey of discovery begins

For some time, White tried in vain to understand what had happened to his voice and to find a cure for his vocal problems. The turning point came when he met voice teacher, Hugo Beyer, who advised him to imagine the tone being created above the tongue - a new concept for White. He recounts that from the first lesson he was free of vocal problems, although he had received medical treatment for three years, with no permanent relief to show for it. He observed that normal vocal tone was restored when he actively avoided using the vocal cords, and he became convinced that the breath was flowing through the sinuses of his head. He deduced that tone was not created by the vocal cords, but from within the sinuses - the high notes created by the frontal sinuses, the middle notes by the ethmoid cells, and the low notes by the sphenoid sinuses - and that the function of the vocal cords was to act as breath governors which directed the air into the appropriate sinuses. From that moment on, E. G. White devoted the remaining years of his life to developing and promoting his theory - Sinus Tone Production (STP).

White also believed that a relaxed mind and body during speech and singing eliminated the need for any consciously imposed muscular manipulation which inhibited tone creation. He also contended that because notes were created horizontally in the sinuses, they had no vertical spatial relationship. Therefore, the idea of striving for "high" or "low" notes was eliminated. This approach subsequently earned the gratitude of many singers and public speakers over the years, as they learned to use their voices with ease.

White, the teacher

EGW - as he is affectionately called - developed methodical and thorough teaching practices, and gained certificates from both the Teachers Registration Council and the Royal Society of Teachers, and membership of both the Incorporated Society of Musicians and the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

His positive, encouraging approach and dry sense of humour made his pupils feel welcome, and his reliably well-structured lessons gained their confidence. He always started beginners off by showing them a human skull called Charlie, which was hinged so that the bone structure could be removed and the sinuses easily seen, and he described in detail his theory of where the creation of each sound took place. The student would then sit comfortably in a chair and hum whatever note they felt was easy for them. In this way the sensation and placement of the hum was established. As students became more proficient, White would produce an exercise chart with 45 exercises on it, from which chosen exercises would be hummed. When the position of the sound was established, the student would be asked to hum and open their lips to create an "ah" and then other vowels.

When White felt that the student was ready, he would introduce a song, which he accompanied on the piano. It was only when the student had mastered an easy, relaxed vocal outcome that White began to discuss the artistic and presentation elements of the song.

Sinus Tone Production gains recognition

White's reputation began to spread with the increase of his student population, and with the escalating popularity of his books, *Science and Singing*, *The Voice Beautiful in Speech and Song*, *Light on the Voice Beautiful*, and *Sinus Tone Production*. A number of newspaper headlines also caught readers' attention by describing how one man without vocal cords, and two others who had previously been voiceless, sang at a concert after studying with Ernest George White. In White's opinion, these phenomena added credence to his claim that the vocal cords could not be the creators of sound, if people could still sing without them.

In the meantime, White found disfavour with those who ascribed to the vocal cord theory (VCT), which maintained that tone was created by the vibration of the vocal cords as air from the lungs passed upwards between them. White himself confessed that he had some doubts to begin with, but as the increasing number of his successes confirmed and strengthened his belief in his technique, his doubts had completely vanished, and he became totally convinced that his theory would one day be proved to be correct. He remained faithful to his convictions to his dying day.

The charismatic and memorable teacher of Sinus Tone Production

With White, there were no half measures. He would not compromise any of his beliefs, and his relationships reflected his attitude. People either became his disciples, or his opponents, as records housed in The Ernest George White Archives at the University of Reading confirm. Although White's detractors experienced the "thorny" side of his personality, there is no doubt that his pupils were devoted to him, and that he inspired respect in others, who perceived him to be heroically fighting a lonely battle with an enduring sense of humour and without ever losing his dignity.

Whichever way feelings turned, White was never forgotten. Members of the Ernest George White Society have testified in their eighties and nineties that their lives were permanently changed by him more than fifty years before, sometimes by very brief contact.

A typical example is that of the late John Duffil, whose interest in STP stemmed from reading controversial articles in musical journals, and then White's books. Duffil had one lesson with White in 1939, and recalled him as a rather short, thickset man with thick white or grey hair. He was attracted by White's interesting and constructive ideas, which were in sharp contrast to other methods of that period, some of which Duffil found ridiculous. This one lesson made such an impact on Duffil that it instigated a life-long interest in STP. After the War he had lessons from other STP teachers, became an associate member of the Ernest George White Society, then a member. In due time he was elected to the Council and then became Chairman until his death in 1993.

C.Laurence West PhD, had two lessons with White, one in 1938 and the second within twelve months. Fifty-six years later, the octogenarian West remembered White as a man with a caustic sense of humour, and declared that those two lessons had inspired him during his entire life.

White's most dedicated surviving supporter, pupil and friend Arthur Hewlett, valued White for his brilliant mind, the originality of his ideas, his attention to detail with his research, the courage of his intellectual pursuits, and the critically enquiring spirit he retained, even after years of unrelenting hostility to his ideas from some quarters. Hewlett describes White's strongest personality trait as "tenacity" - the more White's theory was attacked, the more he became increasingly welded to his ideas.

The bitter sweetness of success

White's writings consistently support this observation. Although he made no attempt to alter his style of response to criticism, he was bitterly disappointed when he realized that his growing and obvious success was still rejected by a number of his colleagues. This stemmed from his naive expectation that other teachers were searching for "truth" as he was, and welcome being presented with any information that threw light on healthy voice teaching practices. When a colleague, Mr.Howard Fry, addressed the pupils at the Royal College of Music and admitted that although there were a number of successful pupils, some of the students at the College were failing their exams, White wrote to both Fry and the Principal of the College and offered to give free tuition to three of the failed pupils for a year. He offered to invite independent judges to re-examine the students at that point, to reassess whether they were still failures. Being confident of the outcome, White believed the teachers at the College would then accept and use his technique, having seen for themselves that it worked. He was therefore intensely disappointed when his suggestion was rejected, and the Principal refused to even discuss the proposition with him. In White's opinion, this proved that his colleagues' jealousy prevented them from letting him demonstrate his technique's superiority.

The parallel objectives of Sinus Tone Production and the Alexander Technique

Although White was quick to reject current vocal cord theories, he approved of the teachings of F.Matthias Alexander (1869-1955). The Australian had suffered from debilitating

hoarseness as a young actor, and like White, had developed his own technique for relaxing inhibiting muscular tension, to enhance healthy, and restore damaged vocal tone. White recognized the parallels in their work. Like White, Alexander developed a procedure that awakened an awareness of physical sensations, and taught a relaxed use and natural co-ordination of the whole body. White had recognized very early in his research that a relaxed mind and body were most likely to produce natural, non-intrusive muscular responses to the demands of speech and song. He therefore commended the Alexander Technique and Alexander's psychological approach, and agreed that by retraining the spontaneous, habitual reactions of the student to exclude striving and conscious muscular manipulation, the voice was permitted to flow without obstruction.

The greatest achievement - to serve God and humanity

White's writings bear testimony to his great faith in a loving and benevolent God, and his passionate belief that he was called to serve God and humanity. This idea that he was an instrument for the betterment of human life was strengthened when White observed that humming relieved physical symptoms that were caused by impacted mucous in the sinuses. The disclosure convinced him that he was following in the footsteps of the great researchers like Sir Ronald Ross who had discovered the spread of malaria by the mosquito, and saved millions of lives by promoting their eradication. White contended that the vibrations caused by humming cleared the sinuses of the stale mucous that harboured bacteria and germs that were every bit as destructive to human health as the malaria carried by the mosquito, and this gave him a sense of purpose and a belief that he was called to heal the sick.

His belief in the efficacy of his theory was powerfully strengthened by his conviction that hard work would be rewarded by God. Besides promoting good health, White saw it as his duty to lead the misguided and warring voice teachers out of ignorance, and to instruct them about God's truth regarding the natural muscular responses that were inherent in the employment of sinus tone control.

White ensures that his work is perpetuated

As he grew older, White recognized the necessity to perpetuate his teaching and scientific exploration in a formal way, and in 1933 he founded the Guild of the Voice Beautiful, later to be reformed as the Ernest George White Society. Membership was by invitation, and at the annual meetings, pupils sang to each other and strengthened the bonds of fellowship. According to the Kentish Mercury newspaper, by 1940 there were over three hundred members in the Guild. However, the meetings were suspended during World War II, and at the outbreak, the Whites moved to Somerset - the first time EGW had lived away from the environs of London.

In 1940, Ernest George White returned to his home, where he died after a short illness at the age of seventy-seven, leaving his wife, Edith, and three daughters by his first marriage, Mrs Margaret Clark, who had moved to America, Mrs.Monica Buys and Miss Edith White. He is buried in the older part of Lewisham Cemetery next to his first wife, Ethel.

His spirit lives on in the perpetuation of his technique through the members and teachers of the Ernest George White Society.

A Personal View of Life in the Roan School for Boys (Junior School) September 1937 - July 1939 by D.P. Merrett ('37 - '47)

On September 15th, 1937, fees having been duly paid, wearing my brand new uniform and with much trepidation, I reported for my first day at the Junior School. Aged 8 years and 9 months I was placed in Form 1 under Mr.J. (Joey) Amesbury, the Headmaster of the Junior School. Our form-room was located on the ground floor immediately to the right of the main entrance vestibule. At my tender years I was totally in awe of Joey's imposing figure with neatly trimmed moustache, dressed in gown, starched collar, immaculate suit and highly polished gentleman's laced-up boots. However I soon realised that our Form Master was a mild man and gentle teacher who nursed us through Mathematics (oh those dreaded long-divisions and square roots!), Scripture and Music. He taught us the two school songs - "Here's to Old John Roan", which he had set to music, and the Latin "Carmen Roanum" beginning Regno Regis Caroli, etc.

Other masters in the first year were K.S.(Ken) Binnie (English and History), L.E. Lee (Geography), T.(Tommy) Holt (Science), H.H.Pye (Craftwork), W.R.Dalzell (Art) and W.E.Ashworth (Gym). My two favourites were Ken Binnie who instilled in me a lifetime interest in history and W.R.Dalzell who used to broadcast on art regularly on the B.B.C.'s "Children's Hour".

As the youngest boys in the school, we were placed in the front rows at morning assembly looking up in awe at the stage at the Headmaster, Mr.W.J.Potter, and the Vice-Master, Mr.G.R.Parker, a very formidable figure indeed. Mr.Potter was soon to retire and be replaced by Mr.H.W.(Gus) Gilbert. Morning hymns were sung from our compact green-covered hymn books which fitted neatly into the top pocket of our school blazers.

I was quite proud of my green blazer and thought it smart with its black-braid edging, silver buttons and the silver-wired stag badge. In the Junior School, grey flannel shorts were mandatory year round - so there were some bare red knees in the winter. Our green school caps were sold without the metal silver stag badge and House button; these were sold separately and had to be attached by the parent. School caps had to be worn in the street and woe betide if you were caught capless by a master or prefect. At that time the full school uniform in the smaller sizes including pullovers, stockings and ties (silk or knitted) cost less than £3. The uniforms could be purchased either from Millers in Nelson Road, Greenwich or Chiesmans in Lewisham. Both stores are now defunct with Millers currently an off-licence - a sign of the times perhaps.

For me the highlight of the week during the Autumn and Spring terms occurred on the last two periods on Friday afternoons. Joey Amesbury would march us clutching our football gear to the park entrance opposite Vanbrugh Castle. There we would have our inter-form football match just inside the park. We would play in our white gym shorts pulled up over grey flannel shorts with our coats, shoes and satchels forming the goal posts. We had different teams each week which were picked during the Friday morning milkbreak. Joey, sipping his glass of hot milk, supervised the picking of the teams by the two appointed captains. The selected names were chalked on the blackboard over designated positions - always 5-3-2 in those days. He would also referee the matches himself, in dignified manner from the touchline, quite remarkable for a man close to retirement. His only concession to attire was to roll up his suit trouser bottoms. Oh, how I looked forward to those Friday afternoons! And I remember gazing anxiously skyward for any sign of rain before going to bed on the preceding Thursday nights.

During the Summer Term the Junior School was allowed to play cricket at the Kidbrooke playing fields, this time with access to all the correct sporting equipment. To miss games periods owing to weather or illness was a major calamity. I remember lying at home in bed with a temperature on a sunny afternoon cursing my luck that I was missing cricket.

My best friend at that time was K.A.(Ken) Smith. We both lived within walking distance of the school. Ken would call for me every morning and again after lunch when we would walk up Vanbrugh Hill together. Sometimes in bad weather my father would drive us and sometimes to our horror he would stop and offer a lift to one of the masters who walked the same route. That master was Mr.E.(Dickie) Durling and we boys would sit in silent reverence in the back of the car, but behind his thick-lensed glasses he was a very pleasant man. We, of course, were embarrassed at the thought that some of our form members might see us and we be accused of being toadies.

Walking home from school, depending on the season, Ken and I would dally over conker or marble contests which sometimes ended in dispute. A school satchel armed with homework books and pencil box provided an effective weapon, and I painfully remember a blow landing on top of my school cap depressing my metal Rodney House button into my scalp. However, I was always home in time to make a good start on my homework so that I would be allowed to listen to Children's Hour. Sometimes my late elder brother, F.B.Merrett ('24-'30), would help me over homework problems, but he would administer a smart clip around my ear if he thought I wasn't paying sufficient attention. My brother was at the school when it was moved from Eastney Street to Maze Hill in 1927.

The 1938 athletic sports took place on July 9th at the playing fields. I managed to reach the final of the 80 yards under-10 but was beaten into second place by R.Pritchard who, I believe, was one of the many Vanbrugh Castle lads sponsored at the Roan by the RAF Memorial Fund. It was perhaps poignant that those lads were quite distinguished as their dress code dictated that they wore boots to school whereas the rest of us generally wore shoes.

On the last Friday of the Summer Term we were assembled and marched down through Greenwich Park by Joey Amesbury to attend the annual Founder's Day Service at St.Alfege Church where the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Woolwich. Joey had carefully rehearsed us in the hymns and psalms to be sung at the service.

At the end of the 1937/38 school year Mr.W.(Billy) Mann retired. We in the Junior School did not take his subject (Physics) but he was well known because of his dapper appearance, always with a flower in his button-hole.

I still have all my Form 1 school reports which display Joey Amesbury's perfectly copper-plate handwriting where he notes I was "very promising at football" and that he "wanted me to persevere with the piano". I finished 12th out of a form of 25 in the year-end exams.

On September 14th, 1938 I became a member of Mr.S.D.(Mickey) Mitchell's Form 11. Until then my only encounter with him had not been a happy one. I was late for school only once in my first year, and Mickey happened to be the duty master sternly taking the names of the guilty latecomers, leading to the inevitable dreaded detention. Needless to say, I was

somewhat wary of him at first, taking extra care over his homework. He was a much younger man than the avuncular Joey Amesbury, but in time I realised that he too had our best interests at heart as he coached us through his two main scholastic interests - English and Athletics.

Other Form II masters were Mr.W.A.(Tubby) Allen who took Scripture, Geography and Mathematics while Ken Binnie, Tommy Holt and H.H.Pye continued teaching their respective subjects. Mr.W.R.Dalzell sadly moved on during that year and Mr.J.H.Peckham became our art master. Mr.Ashworth left at the end of the Autumn Term and our gym periods were taken over by Mr.J.Thorp and then Mr.P.Dyke. I well remember Mr.Ashworth's tearful speech to the school assembly accepting his retirement clock. However, he was soon to return in 1940 after the school had been evacuated and Mr.Dyke had joined the forces.

September 1938 saw the war scares culminating with the Munich Agreement with Mr.Chamberlain returning to London claiming "Peace in our Time". This respite was only temporary with Hitler invading Czechoslovakia in March 1939. This led to school evacuation preparations, and my parents grimly packed my knapsack with a groundsheet, blanket and emergency rations of tinned corned beef, condensed milk, Horlick's tablets, etc. To me, however, it seemed like an exciting adventure.

In spite of the war scares, life went on pretty much as usual. On my 10th birthday I was allowed to invite 10 of my form friends home to a party. It happened to be on the same day that we had broken-up for the school Christmas holidays and everyone was still in very high spirits. I distinctly remember a snowball being smuggled into the house during an indoor firework display. I am positive my mother was relieved when it was all over and my father and brother were driving the young party-goers home. I shall never forget the excitement of that day and still recall some of my boisterous guests:- Ken Smith, Ronnie Butler, Mike Woollet, Peter MacMillan and B.Swan.

A further distraction from international crises was the school's Dramatic Society's production of Henry V which I attended with my parents during the 1939 Spring Term. There had been a schoolwide competition to see which form could sell most tickets which proved successful in guaranteeing full houses. P.E.Andrews played the title role and the School Captain, K.H.Wheeler, played Pistol. The ubiquitous Mr.L.J.Berry was House Manager.

Mr.Mitchell encouraged his Form II members to attempt "Standard Times" over fixed athletic distances to earn points for our respective Houses. On certain days after school he would be available at the playing fields to time us. Points earned would count towards the House Championships at the School Athletic Sports. In 1939, these were held on July 8th on a rainy Saturday afternoon. Training for Standards helped me to win the final of the 100 yards under-11. P.Wedge was second. My parents took me into the Pavilion to celebrate over tea and cakes before I was presented with my silver medal by Mrs.Gilbert, the Headmaster's wife. I still have that medal in my possession. My disappointment that day was that Rodney was just pipped at the post by School in the House Championship.

My outside-of-school-activities included being a regular spectator at Charlton Athletic's First Division matches at the Valley where Don Welsh and Sam Bartram were the current heroes, both being selected for England. I believe my admission to the ground was sixpence. In the summer I remember travelling to the Oval by tram with my brother to watch

Len Hutton making 364 in the Test Match against Don Bradman's Australians. Adventure films at the cinema gripped my attention - films such as "Dawn Patrol" and the "Adventures of Robin Hood", both with Errol Flynn, and "Beau Geste" with Gary Cooper. The book "Beau Geste" was written by P.C.Wren, and I have a feeling that he was an ex-Roan boy - perhaps that can be confirmed? My own literary interests at that time were represented at best by the "William" books by Richmal Crompton and at worst by the blood and thunder adventure serials in comics such as Wizard, Hotspur and Rover.

Looking at my report for July 1939 I note that I finished 9th out of 32 boys in Form II. Mr.Mitchell, never one to damn with faint praise, penned that "the general level of his work is still rather low" while Mr.Pye was critical of my expertise in craftwork. This criticism was no doubt in part due to my accidentally cutting the palm of my co-worker's hand with a pair of scissors during one of the craft assignments. The boy's name was Gardner, and I was obliged to apologise to his parents who took the unfortunate incident rather well. Joey Amesbury again noted on my report that he "hoped I would persevere with the piano" - I regret to report that in later years I did not!

When the Summer Term ended on July 25th,1939, I did not realise that it would be another four years before I would truly be a Roan School boy again. By the time war was declared on September 3rd I had already been evacuated privately to relatives near St.Albans and later attended school there.

The Junior School was evacuated to Rye and I was amused to hear that Ken Smith's mother had sent him a bottle of port to keep his spirits up for the winter. I soon returned to London and to the Blitz, attending the Emergency Secondary Grammar school at Colfe's in Lewisham. I was there until September 1943 when the Roan School at last returned to Maze Hill, much to my great pleasure. It was ironic that Mr.Mitchell was again my Form Master as I rejoined the school in Remove B.

As I look back over nearly 60 years, some of the names I remember in Forms I and II, not already mentioned, were John Francis, John Watts, Derek Lippington, Ian Greig, Len Lee, Tony Dale, Douglas Shrimpton, Ian Saunders, B.Webb, J.Streatfield-James, J.Croucher, J.Arnold, Goddard, Dainty, Treadwell, Morris and Gibb.

Writing this article has been a nostalgic look-back over my two years in the Junior School which I am positive were the happiest years of my academic career, in spite of the war crises of 1938/9.

Dennis Merrett sat his Higher Schools Certificate in 1947 and spent the next two years doing military service, mainly in the Middle-East. On demobilization he attended Queen Mary College, London University, graduating with an honours degree in geology in 1952. The subsequent 37 years he spent in worldwide oil exploration, finally retiring to Calgary in 1989 where he continues to live with his wife, Ailsa, a native Calgarian.

The Old Roan Cricket Club. Season 1995

Saturday 1st XI

P19 W3 L13 D1 A2 Position in League: 15th

The season began, as last year, with a round robin cup competition. The captain decided that the best opportunity for a good start was to make himself unavailable! This was a wise decision and the team won. Unfortunately on his return this fine start ended and we did not progress beyond the first round.

The start of the league competition followed a similar pattern. Difficulties in selecting sides owing to non-availability made the captain's task difficult. Although we played with only 9 against Westerham the team managed to score 172-3 and forced the opposition to use all but 4 of their available overs to get the required 173 at a loss of 4 wickets. This match proved that there was still team spirit, and although 5 league games passed without a win, there was plenty to play for.

Our best game was played, four weeks later, on a hot, sunny day at Old Wilsonians. On a fast hard track we batted first and aggregated a score of 254-9. However, we also found it difficult to bowl on and Wilsonians soon began to score easily. At 128-5 they began to get on top but a mid-order crisis left them requiring 10 runs off the last over with only one wicket standing. Don Patterson, a new recruit, was given the task of bowling this last over. Fortunately, he was up to the task of keeping the runs down but unfortunately they did not lose their last wicket and the game was drawn.



Cricket Club representative side against the past players on July 28, 1995. Back Row: "DAP" Andrews, A.Jackson, L.Sales, K.Noble, J.Stickings, D.Moore. Front Row: I.Daniels, D.Sharp, L.DeHoog, M.Baxter, R.Prabhakar. Front: K.Barron.



Ian Daniels facing Dan Calnan from the Pavilion End. Roger Dale keeping wicket, John Cramp officiating and Mike Baxter watching.

With only 4 games left in the season the captain made probably his best decision all year. He delegated the responsibility of captaincy on match days to his vice-skipper, Derek Moore. Derek, who had captained the first game of the season, followed this with a victory against The Poly. This turned out to be our only league victory of the season.

Whilst all this effort was being expended on playing cricket, Graham Lawrance, who had broken his leg playing football the week before the start of the season, had been busying himself organising a Presidential cricket match to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Cricket Club. This turned out to be a splendid affair with many old faces turning up to play against the present eleven, some from as far afield as Luxembourg. The match ended in the only way possible - a draw! The day was a family celebration with many wives and children also present at the School Field. The children, and no doubt some of the adults, enjoyed the bouncy castle. The evening was finished off with a bar-b-que, band and disco. Well done Graham for all his hard work and many thanks.

Also off the field of play we carried out a lot of maintenance on the sight screens and scoreboard, and, for the first time, arranged for the preparation of the square ourselves. Thanks to all those who helped with this. These very important matters help make the Club worth playing for, and without them we will find it difficult to attract good new players.



Joe Broadfoot circled by an attacking field at the Tennis Court End



The majestic figure of the President remains ever alert to a straight drive from Ian Daniels.

Notable performances of the season:

Batting:

D.Calnan	53	v	Westerham (Cup)
D.Moore	53	v	Westerham (Cup)
	51	v	Bromley Town
	55	v	Metrogas
	133*	v	Old Colfeians
S.Morgan	56*	v	Westerham
F.Abbasi	51*	v	Westerham
K.Barron	70	v	Old Wilsonians
B.Patey	77	v	Lloyds Register

Bowling:

D.Calnan	4-48	v	Old Elthamians
D.Patterson			overall consistency in the 2nd half of the season
I.Stickings			overall consistency during the whole season

Postscript. The 1996 season started well with two wins and a draw from the first four matches. We did not progress beyond the first stage of the Cup. However, by early September it had turned into a mediocre season showing a slight improvement on last summer. We are not bottom and have shown the capability to bowl out sides. Too many players have been used, too many catches have been dropped and our more successful batsmen, including Kevin Noble, have not turned useful scores into good ones. One good sign is the emergence of Mark Calnan in the Saturday 2nds.

One very successful development was the introduction of a "Cricket Week" in late July that included another enjoyable match between current and former players. We include here photographs taken from the fixture in July 1995.



Tom Wallis ('26-'31) watches attentively from the Pavilion

The Old Roan Football Club. Season 1995-96

Old Roan 1st X1

Two words describe the 1st team's season: "Draw Specialists". We drew 11 and lost 4 out of 26 league games, highlighting the problem of not being able to score goals. After a bad start to the season, losing 3 games on the spin owing to important players unavailable through one reason or another, we then strung a run of 12 games unbeaten to take us to the top of our division. Although we stayed at or around the top for some time our misfortune of not scoring goals is not, unfortunately, championship material.

The low point of our season was, in my opinion, losing to Blackheath in the quarter-finals of the cup which we won last season. After dominating long periods of the game, only scoring once having had at least five golden opportunities, it was a bitter pill to swallow when they equalised in the third minute of injury time with only their second shot on target. They went on to score again in extra-time to win the game 2-1. The high point of our season was probably our midweek home league game against Blackheath. To say we were "up for this one" was an understatement after the abuse we received from their supporters during extra-time in the cup match and to win the game 3-0 was very satisfying, especially as it was their first defeat of the season.

We are all looking forward to next season to improve on our league position of 4th for the second successive season. With a little luck in front of goal and the right commitment from all the players I honestly believe we can go on and win the league for the first time.

2nd X1

League Position: 2nd Manager: Nicholas Barrington Green ("Parky")

A very successful season saw the side finish runners-up in the league, thus gaining promotion, and unluckily lose the Beckenham Hospital Cup in a penalty shoot-out after conceding an equaliser 30 seconds from the end of extra-time. Unfortunately Ian Daniels was unable to repeat his semi-final heroics in the shoot-out.

The team was built around a solid defence of Mart Muscat, Stuart Jackson, David Armstrong and Micky Gibbons and conceded only 23 goals in the league. David Nuttall had his best season for us so far and was a vastly improved player alongside Andy Harvey and Barry Corbyn. Up front saw the welcome return of Rob McCarthy who benefited from the hard work of Ashley Colyer and Mark Forman. Nicky Green deserves great credit for sticking with his squad whilst combining his duties as a "parky".

3rd.X1

League Position: 1st Manager: Jimmy Douglas

A highly successful season that saw the 3rd team win Division 3 of the South London Alliance. This was achieved with a fine 2-1 win against possible league winners Orpington on the last day of the season. As if the script has been written for him, Jimmy Douglas scored the winning goal. The team was particularly enhanced by the pace and enthusiasm of

Colin Thomas and Jeffrey Campbell. Player of the Year was undoubtedly Tony Sproul and in defence Chris Larkby was "rock solid" (and ever-present). In midfield, Roy Jones was as dependable as ever and assisted by young Joseph Searle, promoted from Graham Lawrance's youth team, who looks a fine prospect.

Next season sees Jimmy Douglas stepping down with Ray Jones taking over. A hard act to follow.

Old Roan Veterans

P	W	D	L	F	A
27	8	0	19	68	94

How many times have you heard managers across the land attributing their current run of bad form having nothing to do with the performance of the players or the spirit at the club, rather it is entirely due to a combination of wretched bad luck at critical moments and most of all INJURIES? Of course, your natural reaction is to think, well, he would say that, wouldn't he? Quite frankly, the Vets had an appalling run of injuries last season. And we should remember that these were injuries occurring to people who, at their time of life, perhaps take a little longer to recover than they used to (myself included!).

The season began in September with high anticipation that the success of the previous term would be repeated or indeed improved upon. Just three months later there was the very real possibility that the season would end there and then. That we managed to complete our fixture list was then the main priority and results tended to take a back-seat.

Early results were disappointing and then the rot began to set in. Availability started to become a problem and several players were being coerced into playing with niggling



Back Row: Len Sales, Keith Hedges, Bob Grimwood, Bill Palmer, John Stanford, Peter Osborne, John Lang, Robin Faithorn, Keith Mexter. Front Row: David Horsburgh, Tony Tobin, Mick Smith, David Hutley, Gary Barwell, Stuart Clay, "Mitch" and, front, James Hutley.

injuries that really needed a rest. Then, John Hardy, attacking the ball with typical gusto, received a horrific cut to the forehead and the following week, with no-one near me and on one of the best pitches we play on, I fell awkwardly and broke my ankle. The local hospitals and surgeons were kept busy as Jim Hardy's knee was subjected to some keyhole surgery and then 30 minutes into a last-minute guest appearance, Ray Mills did a "Gazza" and suffered severe cruciate ligament damage.

With various other "pulls and strains" abounding, a couple of games were postponed and a crisis meeting was held at the Club to decide whether the Vets could continue. Those that attended were resolute that we should - that there were less than eleven fit players present highlighted the problem. Jim decided, quite understandably, that he needed a break from the manager's role and so a Mick Smith / Dave Hutley combination (à la Gritt / Curbishley) was formed. A few old names were contacted and we saw the season through, sometimes with the bare eleven, although in the later games we had as many as sixteen on the day and some disappointed substitutes.

Results remained poor but the games were played in good spirit. There were of course some highlights - Nick Riley's five goals against Old Colfeians at Xmas; Oz's two in the first five minutes in the return match which we won 2-0; Neville Gaunt's heroics in goal in the 2-1 win against Charter Diamond. It was Neville's only appearance as, not wishing to be left out, he managed to pull a hamstring and miss the remainder of the season. Stuart Clay's 30 yard free-kick against the Met Police was perhaps the goal of the season, and John Stanford produced his fair share of excellent saves. Other contributions were appreciated from Keith Hedges, Keith Mexter, Bob Grimwood, Billy Palmer, Paul Davis, Gary Barwell, John Lang, Len Sales, Robin Faithorn, "Mitch", Dave Sears, Guy Wilkins, Gary Watson, Mickey Baxter and David Horsburgh. The season overall was a huge disappointment but there are encouraging signs of some "youngsters" being available next season.

In closing, there are, as always, a number of people to thank. Jim Hardy for his previous efforts in running the side; Keith Mexter for arranging the fixtures; Vic, of course, for making sure that the kit was always there (and almost big enough); Brian Hamer for his regular refereeing; and finally each and every player who turned out for the Vets and helped us through our difficulties.

Dave Hutley, June 1996

Footballing Memories of E.W.Dibblin ('35-'42)

The invitations to Vic's farewell brought a lengthy reply from Eric Dibblin, based for more than 40 years in Northumberland. He advised that, sadly, he would be unlikely to attend but, if he made it, he would appreciate a spell in goal.

Choosing the Roan School back in 1935 was a great decision. I'd happily live those years several times!!! I guess Peter Williams gave you my name. He probably remembers me as the left half-back of the school team in the Ammanford period of '40-'42.

Like all kids in South East London with any ball skills I "played" football and cricket every free hour from a very early age. Aided and abetted by my father who took me to watch Charlton Athletic for the first time at the age of 3. When I couldn't play with other kids in the streets I threw a ball against a house wall and caught it. Thump, thump, thump - must have driven occupants mad! I became enamoured of goalkeeping and still recall my first reaction save - pushing the ball around the post on St.Margaret's Common. Commencing at Roan in September '35 I immediately became Form goalkeeper and had plenty of practice because the Latin Third was markedly superior to us - and the German Third - and Third Thirds. Eventually I became the School's under-14 team goalkeeper. Grand days! - of course I know one remembers the sunshine and forgets the rain!

How or why I deserted that first love I cannot remember. Of course goalkeepers were not feted quite as much then. Also I could play a bit, wherever I was asked to play and after spending hours, days, weeks and months playing with only a plimsol on my right foot to become "two-footed" I was left-half by the time I was 16. Am I dreaming or can I distinctly remember a memorable match against the Ammanford boys immediately after a scurrilous letter from a Roan boy had been published by a (typical) editor in the local paper - and Peter Williams was in goal and I was as usual at left-half? Both teams kicked hell out of each other and left the field arm-in-arm.

A brief spell at Kings College, London University - evacuated to Bristol - saw me playing left-half for the college, but a longer spell at Northampton Polytechnic (now the City University) whilst training to be an RNVR engineer saw me play easily the best football of my life. We were taken for P.E. by an Army Sergeant Major who proved to be Arthur Rowe - the Spurs and England centre-half. He asked me to play for his army team who were all pre-war professionals. He played at centre-half and if you had any ability at all they just made you play to your full potential. Every pass was a rifle shot and the exhilaration was fantastic.

Naval service didn't include much sport, although I should say that I upheld the honour of the school when, in a spell at the Navy Engineering College at Manadon, near Dartmouth, I captained the cricket team!! After demob I returned to college and captained the team from centre-half, which was a daft position because though I was virtually six feet I was always pretty light and had to resort to all the tricks as I stood no chance of knocking them over! One day on a heavy pitch I "did a Carling" only worse and actually broke my ankle with no one anywhere near me. In those days treatment was a cold bandage and it effectively finished me. I played a bit after graduation but never really well.

Returning to 1941-42 I so well remember Don Anderson, Tommy Widdrington, Ginger Ems, Eddie Howse, Basil Dibben and others more hazily. I was shocked to only learn recently that Basil was killed whilst air training in Canada. It was Poyser who pronounced firmly in our first Third Form Maths lesson - "Hah! you're henceforth Dibbles and you're Dibbs". I have recently renewed contact with Michael McMenamin ('35-'39), Don Anderson and George Partridge (I think also '35-'39). The first result I look for is still Charlton's although for many years I've naturally supported Newcastle who cause me sleepless hours right now!

Fifty Years Ago - An Unbeaten Season

It is almost fifty years ago that Alfie Knott captained one of the School's more successful football teams. As I kept a note of the scores and teams, I thought I'd write a few words about it.

Alfie says that he distinctly remembers my saying, after we had played only three times and had already conceded nine goals, that we would go on to win every match. It must have seemed an extraordinarily optimistic forecast, even though we'd scored eighteen goals in reply. However, we then apparently tightened up our defence, conceding only three goals in the next eight games while our forwards netted no fewer than sixty-three. Perhaps we then lost form, or perhaps our opponents were stronger, for in the remaining six games we scored only thirty-six and conceded as many as eleven. Anyway, I made an accurate forecast: we won all our seventeen matches, with 107 goals against 23.

I hope I offend nobody in saying that Alfie's team was an outstanding one but contained no really outstanding players. It was just fortunate that we happened to play well together. Team selection was no problem: ten of us were picked for every match except when briefly absent through injury or illness. An eleventh player would have done the same but for suffering a broken leg early in the fifth match - a break that was audible the length of the field.

The season began with the following team-sheet: Basing: Borrett, Taylor, Evendon, Knott, Horn, Merrett, Cutting, Cook, Dawtrey, Dobson. We played in a then conventional formation, that in today's parlance would be 3-2-2-3. So, with some juggling with the order of names that comes out as:

Borrett	Basing Knott	Taylor
	Evendon Cutting	Horn Dawtrey
Merrett	Cook	Dobson

After Cook was injured, Cutting became (in the quaint terminology of the time) our "centre-forward" and was replaced at "inside right" by Trew. Others who played were Billings (three times), Roe (twice) and Cody, Dolder and Red (all once).

Our most difficult match was the last one, which was against the Old Boys, who had strengthened their team for the occasion with star players brought in from other leagues. It was an all-ticket affair, with the proceeds going to the War Memorial Fund. Hundreds of tickets were sold in advance and doubtless many more would have been sold at the gate. As it happened, though, it poured with rain all day, and had done so throughout the previous day, with the result that (as far as I can remember) there were only three spectators, and all of them in the line of duty: the Headmaster; Mr.Milne, the master-in-charge of football; and Tom Carter, the groundsman (who supplied the goalkeepers with duckboards from which to make occasional forays into the mud). It was a close-run thing, but we held out to win by 3-2.

I'm afraid I was too self-absorbed to keep a record of who scored our 123 goals that season but I do remember who was letting them in at the other end.

Historical note:- A few months before our season began Charlton Athletic appeared at Wembley in the F.A.Cup Final. A few weeks after our season finished they were at Wembley again, this time winning the Cup. It makes one realise just how long ago this all was.

John Basing ('40-'48)

Vic's Farewell

Those of us who have known and loved Vic BROOKER over many years have heard tales of the "real men" of the Old Roan Football Club. The men who played in the days of brylcreem and bullet-hard leather balls with laces that tattooed your forehead and knocked you out when the rain made them solid. Not for them the modern plastic "beach" balls and soft leather "fancy" boots lacking the toecaps required for "gently playing the ball out of defence". These were the men who had lived through the war, survived the Services and been demobbed into a Britain of austerity and a successful Charlton Athletic. No luxury hot showers, soap-on-a-rope and hairdriers in the changing rooms for these men - a dustbin on Plumstead Common filled with cold water "if you were lucky!"

The last echo of those days into our era was Mike TITHERIDGE who turned up as late as the 1980's in a pair of boots that Ted Drake would have laid claim to. These men had names to match their reputations - Brewer, "Gus" Webber, Bartlett, Beadle, Brookes, Cutting, Brittain, Trew, Brooker - a litany that became more familiar than the Charlton Athletic side of 1947. Attitude with a grammar school accent. And none were more legendary than Bill "Tank" Brookes and Bill "49 goal" Brewer. Wherever the fixture or whatever the conditions Vic had a tale to tell of the fearless exploits of Brewer and Brookes. Each one a combination of Nat Lofthouse and Norman Hunter with the decency of Bobby Charlton.

On Sunday 28 April many of these legends from Vic's long past joined him at the Field. Faces that had launched a thousand sliding tackles. While the fitter members - youngsters such as Del DREHER ('49-'56), Mike TITHERIDGE ('51-'56), Doug WEAVER ('57-'59) and John LING ('56-'61) - played a match of three halves Vic spent the whole morning in animated discussion with these colleagues from the golden age of Old Roan football. As seasoned veterans that regarded weekly concussion from the footballs of that era as a suitable preparation for even heavier beer and occasional Woodbine they had aged surprisingly well. The turn out on that day was a wonderful tribute to Vic and showed the affection and gratitude that so many Old Roans feel for him. The list is long and included Peter WHITE ('33-'38), Ken BARTLETT ('32-'38), Dave BEADLE ('45-'49), Brian DAVIS ('44-'53), Dennis UPTON ('47-'53), Glen PULLEN ('45-'49), Geoff WEBB ('43-'47), Doug LAING ('41-'48), Glen CARR ('44-'47), Keith THOMAS ('59-'65), Fred JACOBS ('57-'63), Alf KNOTT ('43-'47) and many others such as Fred SPINK ('64-'71), Ray HUTCHINS ('57-'64) and Mike WEST ('58-'65) who have moved away from the area.



Vic receiving his portrait from the President.

Vic appeared delighted with the celebrations which continued at the Club well into the afternoon. Against all predictions Vic gave a lengthy speech full of anecdotes that stretched over six decades of Old Roan Football. Official thanks to Vic were expressed by Peter WILLIAMS ('38-'44) and the president, Vivian LAWRENCE ('64-'67) and overall thanks are due for the organising the event to Peter OSBORNE and Graham LAWRENCE. Vic would like to express his thanks to all those who came on the day, sent their regards and contributed so generously.



Vic shows the engraved shield whilst Peter Williams waits to present a cheque.

And Yes! Bill BROOKES ('33-'42) was there! Mellowed over the years, still fit, yet undeniably the same man whose exploits remain echoed in deserted dressing rooms and ghosted on darkening football pitches for as long as Old Boys football is played.

Sadly Geoff SAWYER, who had spent so many years working with Vic in the Football Club, was unable to make the day and visited Maidstone for a unique Kent cricket fixture. He died in a car accident the following Thursday. A very large gathering of Old Roans, and in particular representatives of the football teams managed by Geoff over the last thirty years, attended his funeral in Eltham and packed the chapel to overflowing on an emotional day. From a happy, carefree and nostalgic day to painfully sad days within less than a week.



Discussing old team photographs with Peter White, Alf Knott and Dave Beadle.

News of Old Roans

Jennifer GREEN (née Mudge '57-'64) has joined the O.R.A. and was pleased to receive names from the Secretary of her contemporaries in the Association. She is particularly pleased to read that the Girls' Schools has been converted into flats after years of neglect and decay. Jennifer Green is a chartered accountant living in Lincolnshire.

In answer to various queries on the whereabouts of items of historic value from Devonshire Drive the secretary has produced a letter from Kay WILKINS (née Gotts '58-'65) in 1984 that confirms the removal of the plaque opposite the hall; the plaque outside the Biology Laboratory; the framed tapestry opposite the main door; the book rest in memory of Miss Higgs; a copper netball shield; the cast iron umbrella stand beside the main door and the long framed photographs along the top corridor. The marble commemoration stone on the wall in the library was removed but not the Roan Exhibition Board which defied removal. Most items are at the John Roan School.

Jim UPTON (Staff '76-'96) moved at Easter from John Roan to Crompton House School in Oldham and has joined the Association to retain the links made over the twenty years at the school.

Several members wrote to the President in connection with the 40th Birthday Party of the Old Roan Club on July 14. John DENNIS ('64-'71) sent his best wishes to the President from Faversham in Kent. Lionel BERRY (Staff '23-'63) was unable to attend on the grounds of being rather ancient (95) but wishes for a happy occasion and reminded Viv of the work put into the Club by Frank and Pick BARNES. Val LOVELL ('27-'30) was made to feel quite old by the invitation and is pleased to see that the efforts put into the foundation of the Club have been built on so successfully over the years. Val and his wife, Wendy, send their kind regards to their friends at the Club wishing a pleasant evening and that the Club continues to prosper and be well supported in the years ahead.

Ann TONKIN (Head '85-'90) sent a fax to Viv wishing success for the next 40 years. She has just returned from a 3 week visit to South Africa, mainly to meet business friends and look at social projects but was also able to enjoy seeing game and scenery. The fax, sent from Chicago, had the intriguing transmission code of "Gurus & Wizards Unlimited".

Hugh DEED ('60-'67) was in the U.S.A. on business over the July 14th weekend. He continues to work for IBM based in their offices near Heathrow and lives in Farnborough, Hampshire. He is busy getting his own back on education as Chairman of Governors of a Community School and Chairman of Hampshire School Governors. He keeps out of the family's way on the other night of the week by being a member of a local Rotary Club.

Tom FLACK ('26-'30) is devoting more time to bowls since he lost his wife, Joan, two years ago. He hopes to call in the Club on July 14 for a drink at midday and is committed to a league game that afternoon with a high tea to follow. He agreed that the 40th birthday is indeed a momentous and auspicious occasion and a date to be remembered. Tom continues to live close to the Club in Crathie Road, Lee.

Several members supplied the editor with details on the death of Donald KEATING including obituaries printed in the Times and Telegraph. Simon PERRY ('56-'60) works in Brick Court Chambers and promises news of an Old Roan, a contemporary of his late father, called POMEROY who his mother met in Devon last year. Frank HOLLAND sent a copy of the Times with a letter in September, only weeks before his own death. Bill WEDGE ('32-'38) sent a copy of the notice in the Telegraph and, as a fellow member of the Poetry Society expressed his appreciation of the poems from Paul ANGUS in the last issue - though he is less certain of the merits of the piece by Alfie Knott! He also confirms that Lionel BERRY is remarkably well and "on the ball" even though his sight is now poor.

Tony SLANEY ('59-'66), Secretary, has taken early retirement from Barclays Bank and moved back to his old address in Lee from Wiltshire. With more time on his hands he fulfilled one important ambition - checking all the postal addresses of O.R.A. members for correctness including postcodes and finding telephone numbers. This involved many happy hours spent in libraries and a number of personal inspections. If in doubt please send your correct details to Tony and avoid the possibility of seeing him peering over your privet hedge checking that the sign on your door really does say "Xanadu". Significant moments in this pilgrimage confirmed that Cedric POTTER ('15-'21) had died some 18 months earlier and that Ron PARKER ('42-'47) now lives in Spain. Tony's report at the AGM also confirms one shocking piece of news - that as part of the flood precautions the Quaggy is to have its course altered slightly and to have its banks made shallow. The major consequence at the Field is that we will almost certainly lose the Quaggy football pitch. Floodlights over the tennis courts area have been erected and tested and final planning permission technicalities are being completed. The old floodlights on the "ping-pong" pitch are working again.

Marilyn CAMPBELL (née CROSS '64-'71) reports that following the article and photograph in the last magazine she received many responses and a wonderful evening was enjoyed at the Club in December. Nearly 30 old girls travelled from far and near to meet up again, in many cases for the first time in over 25 years. None of us felt old until we counted the missing years! Sue SWIFT travelled the furthest, from Milan. Carol PICKERING (née DOWLING) came from Sheffield and others from Huntingdon and Salisbury. Marilyn has a list of everyone's name, address and telephone number. If anyone not at the reunion would like a copy please call her on: 01474 814141. The evening passed far too quickly with non stop chat for several hours. Some had certainly achieved a lot over the years, combining motherhood with worthwhile careers, and best of all, everyone seemed to be enjoying life! We were all pleased to see Mrs. Fahey on the evening, who looked exactly the same as she did all those years ago!

Albert BERRY ('45-'50) made an occasional visit with his wife, Vera, to England in April from his home in Perth, Western Australia. He visited the John Roan School on April 29 and was warmly welcomed by the headteacher, Mr. Deane, and had a good chat in his office about times past and the school now. Although he was not in the school long he sensed a good tone to the place. He expected to see quite a bit of England before returning to Perth in Mid-June.

Ken FARRER ('55-'62) is pleased to receive Ron Parker's new address in the Canary Islands from the secretary. He had written to Ken at Christmas describing the pleasures of the Javea Golf Club but omitted to include his new address. A suitably abusive letter on the subject followed.

D.P.MERRETT ('37-'47) made contact with the Secretary during his visit to England from Calgary last October, whilst staying at the Star Inn in Alfriston, resulting in the article included in this issue. Richard CODY ('43-'47) continues to promise Alfie KNOTT an article for the Chronicle about this interesting transition period in the School's recent history. He enjoys receiving the magazine in Amherst, Massachusetts, and requested another copy after the Post Office mix up his first copy with an Italian language quarterly called "Probleme della Bioteca". The impressions of the recipient of the Chronicle in Italy have not been recorded and the Secretary awaits the request for membership.

Peter HALL ('58-'65) writes with news of his change of address within Lilley, nr.Luton. He encapsulates his 30 years in the big wide world as.....2 degrees, 3 jobs, 5 houses, 1 marriage, 4 daughters, 1 divorce and travelled the world.....dull it has not been. He is keen to hear from any other "30 year vintagers" for news over a pint. Telephone & fax: 01462 768465.

Brian FAIR ('45-'52) was saddened to learn of the death of his contemporary, Paul TURNER. He recalls his time in the Sixth Form as the happiest of his life and was a good friend of Paul in those years, sharing a love of music and membership of the Christian Union. They sang in the same choir, conducted by Mr.Trotman, and remembers a lunchtime trio of Mr.Trotman on flute, Mr.Winter (German & French teacher) on violin and "Sam" Beale (Latin and Modern Sixth Form Master) on piano. Together with James Watson (eldest of the gifted Watson brothers) and several others they set up an organisation uniting the Christian Unions of the then South East London Grammar Schools. The School Secretary, Mr.Peters, was also a Lay Baptist pastor at Brasted and on one Sunday evening Paul, James Watson and Brian conducted the service at the Brasted Church. In his school days Paul was a member of the Plymouth Brethren. He met Paul's future wife at a combined Roan Boys and Roan Girls Christian Union meeting in 1952 and notes that Paul was immediately attracted to her and their engagement was announced in the Telegraph soon after he left school. He remembers Paul as kind, friendly and cheerful in addition to being very academically gifted.

Tony WILLIAMS ('43-'48) runs the White Friars Hotel in Near Herstmonceux in East Sussex which amongst other virtues has an eight bedroomed annexe named Greenwich Cottage, each room named after an Astronomer Royal, complete with a portrait and potted history of each individual. The list sounds like a line from the old school song: Airy, Bradley, Dyson, Flamsteed, Halley, Maskelyne, Spencer Jones and Woolley. Reading the Chronicle brought back memories of the first post-war overseas visit when we camped on the cliffs overlooking Dieppe and then had a few days in Paris. We gazed in awe at the outside of the Folies Bergers and were frightfully intrigued by the work of the local "ladies". This was under the guidance of Bill Peddie and "Scruff" Milne. In 1948 a party of 14-15 of us under the wing of "Danny" Winter cycled through Belgium into Holland visiting Arnhem where the ravages of the war were still very evident. I recall the original Memorial Garden being planted and many names in the Chronicle bring back happy memories and some not so. Detention from Tommy Holt for not wearing a cap and many other cardinal sins. He also recalls Jack WHEELER as a very talented cricketer who he first met in 3A and Tony COOK who tripped him up when refereeing an Old Boys match. Kenneth BINNIE advised him against continuing into the 6th Form - I am absolutely certain that he was quite correct - and, through a relative of his wife, Betty, assisted Tony in gaining the only paid employment he ever had as a 16 year old management trainee with CAMDA MFC Co.

Roy BULLERS ('38-'47) advised the death in November of Ian SAUNDERS ('39-'48) after a long illness of cancer, bravely borne at his home in Mundingburra, Townsville, Queensland, Australia, aged 65, leaving a wife, Fay, a son and two daughters. Until his illness Ian had been a lecturer at the James Cook University, Townsville, a keen golfer and had acted as the Best man at Roy's wedding in 1959. Roy lives near Norwich and after leaving the Royal Air Force in 1989 after 36 years service joined the Norfolk Museums Service. Two years ago he became the Curator of a military museum in Norfolk devoted to the story of air defence radar.

Maurice GEORGE ('43-'52) has clarified for the benefit of the Secretary's records several anomalies relating to his address in Chipping Norton. After taking early retirement from AEA Technology at Harwell in 1992 he and his wife set up a small occupational safety consultancy at home - "George & George Safety at Work Consultants". He has few links now with South East London despite having been born near the foot of Vanbrugh Hill. He remains in contact with Ken PARIS and was saddened to hear of the early death of Paul TURNER who was joint vice-captain of the school with him. He recalls the pleasure Paul gave playing classical pieces on the school grand piano to a small group of fellow sixth formers. Their closest family friend is an ex member of staff, George HALL, who went on to take a senior post at George Green's where he had been a pupil. He is a very active 82 year old and is fellwalking.

D.I.HARMAN ('27-'33) asks for news of Derek ALLEN ('24-'31) and has sent a photograph of the the two of them taken in Dorchester whilst serving with the 257 Field Battery (65th Regiment). Derek Allen remains fit and well, lives in Lewisham and regularly attends the Reunion Dinner.

Edward GOULD ('54-'61) has joined the Association and writes from Ramsey on the Isle of Man. He has been sent a list of contemporaries by the Secretary and intends to contact David BRYDEN and Victor HARRIS. Two former pupils who he would particularly like to contact are Peter MOTTON and Michael WICKS, both 1954-61. Edward went through primary school with Peter and he was last heard of working for the World Health Organisation. He has been resident in the Isle of Man for six years and is a marine war risks underwriter dealing with Greek vessels. He advises that the Isle of Man offers far more than T.T.Races and has a rapidly expanding financial sector dealing with offshore banking and captive insurance which is a field in which his company specialises. After leaving Roan he joined the Royal Mail Lines where after a short period in the office he opted to join their sea staff and travelled to Canada, South America, the Caribbean and Europe. He came ashore in 1965 and took up a position with a firm of Cargo Superintendents where he remained until 1976 when he was asked to join a team to go to Saudi Arabia to advise the Saudi Government on the development of the port of Dammam. After working there for five years he returned to the U.K. in 1981 to join Thos.R.Miller & Sons who are his present employers. He lives with his wife, Marilyn, and has a daughter, a son and one granddaughter.

Edward Lionel DAY ('18-'24) sends best wishes to the secretary from Keswick and still finds the Chronicle of interest despite the fact that he left the Roan School in Eastney Street 72 years ago. He was introduced by Mr.Lee to the subjects of Geology and Mining which resulted in the study of Metallurgy at the Royal School of Mines. After graduation he joined ICI and in due course was appointed manager of the Ore Treatment Department and spent 37 years with them. It was a most interesting occupation and entailed numerous visits to mines in many parts of the world. He is grateful to Mr.Lee for this introduction which took him away from an earlier decision to study Chemistry. They maintained a strong friendship and Mr.Lee often used to say that he looked forward to Edward's retirement to Cumbria where they could enjoy geological outings. Sadly he died shortly before his retirement.

A number of replies were received by the past-president following invitations to celebrate Vic Brooker's "big day" at the School Field in April. Keith SILCOX ('60-'68) was unable to make the journey from Wetherby but had checked his boots (not cleaned from his last game circa 1976!!) and considers himself still pretty quick over a yard and a half. He recalls that though the results may not have always been shining the kit was always immaculate, if occasionally damp. He reminds Simon PERRY that he still has the scars from a particularly unpleasant encounter with East Ham when Simon decided to liven up the proceedings by bellowing from the safety of the touchline "Come on Roan - we're Grammar School boys".

Val LOVELL ('27-'30) states what a sterling job Vic has done for the Football Club over the years. Val asked not to be selected for the Vets team on the basis that his last games for the Old Roans were in late 1939 and apart from the odd game in the services that was the last time he kicked a ball. He is pleased to advise that his wife, Wendy, is in a much better state of health than for some time and send best wishes to all his friends in the Association.

Mike WALKER ('51-'58) considered it a trifle hard to attend Vic's farewell and sends his best wishes from his home in Colac, Victoria, Australia. He remembers chatting with Vic back in the late sixties after a game in a dressing room, deserted apart from Vic and himself. Vic did most of the talking and remembers thinking that he was a bit old to play, even though he was only 50.

Graham CHAMBERS ('49-'54) also missed Vic's Day, otherwise engaged in the U.S.A. He enjoyed several years in the late fifties and sixties playing at the back alongside Vic. This was when Vic had stepped down a team or so. The back line in those days was Vic, John BAILES and Graham. Apart from Val CARR he cannot remember any forwards because they saw so little of them. Dave CUTTING and Glen PULLEN would operate in midfield and behind them rotated a series of nervous goalkeepers. Probably the most volatile was Jack (Gus) WEBBER. Whenever the ball approached their penalty area, a not infrequent occurrence, Gus would leap up and down like a dirvish shouting "I'm here - pass it back - pass it back!" In the event that anyone ever did, his face would go bright red in anger and he would scream "Not now you bloody fool". Then he would race towards the ball and take a running punt sending it anywhere (though usually where extra-cover would be under different circumstances), whilst continuing to berate the back-passer. We used to call that "working it out of defence". He sends his regards to Vic and asks if he remembers: lengthy trips in unreliable cars to Mill Hill; meeting under the clock at Waterloo; washing in dustbins filled with water at the top of Shooters Hill where early bathers had a distinct advantage.



Soft focus landscape of the "Pavilion with clouds" obscured by the strong profile of Bryan MARSH ('65-'70). Sunday 28 April 1996.

Alan WEIR ('36-'42) assisted the Editor with locating Ernest White's grave in the older part of Hither Green Cemetery and thereby gave the researcher for the Ernest White Society some unexpected information. Clarence NEARN ('14-'18) is now 93 and reminded the editor of his admiration for A.J. RONALD who looked after him on the Cadet Camp. We are pleased to hear from several Old Roans that Lionel BERRY (ex-Staff '23-'63) remains well and continues to live in Cranleigh. Arthur Donald HEWLETT ('14-'21) continues his busy schedule that includes the postal round of the annual chess problem championship; regular attendance at Quaker meetings and contributions for Quaker journals; completing a catalogue for his 3,000 colour slides; regular swimming; visiting Paris with the Oxford Society and spending three weeks in Switzerland. We are grateful to Arthur Hewlett for his support for the article on E.G. White.

Richard ALDRICH ('47-'55) writes from Sevenoaks with news of his brother, Philip ('50-'56) who has just taken early retirement from his post as a senior manager with the National Westminster Bank and lives in Failand near Bristol. Their uncle, Arthur "Squeaker" BARNES, who attended Roan in the 1910s and 20s and was a leading force in the organization of schoolboy soccer in South London until well into his eighties, died last year. Richard, still a regular attendee at the Valley, is professor and chair of the Department of History, Humanities and Philosophy at the University of London Institute of Education, and president of the International Standing Conference for the History of Education.

The service of thanksgiving for the life of Donald Norman KEATING, QC, barrister and author, was held on Thursday 19 October 1995 in Lincoln's Inn Chapel. Canon William Norman officiated. Mr. Giles Keating, son, read the lesson. Judge Roger Cooke read from "Three Men in a Boat". Mr. Roland Keating, son, and Mr. John Uff, QC, gave addresses.

Steve RIDER ('61-'68) is now one of the most regularly featured television presenters and showed his legendary calm professionalism when, as the early morning BBC anchor-man for the Atlanta Olympics on Saturday 27 July, the news of the bomb in Centennial Park broke. John REGIS ('84-'85) achieved the semi-finals of the 200 metres in the Atlanta Olympics. Brian "Arthur" SMITH ('66-'72) turns up regularly in most forms of the media - television, radio and journalism - and has now become a favoured celebrity of the travel show circuit. David HILLIER ('81-'86) is no longer a regular in the Arsenal first team but has started the new season with appearances in the Premier League.

Major Douglas G. GODDARD, RA (retd) ('33-'37) attended the tree planting ceremony at the school in May 1995 and has kindly sent the editor a copy of his article on the Battle of Arnhem published in the Arnhem based Friends of the Airborne Museum newsletter. He was privileged to have invitations to the splendid London VE events as well as running and addressing his own village service. These were impressive enough but he was particularly moved by the VJ service at Buckingham Palace and the march past the Queen in the Mall. He also went to the Horse Guards beating of retreat and the Sunset ceremonies on the Sunday. He felt that the veterans were half expecting a disinterested apathy from the younger generation and were overwhelmed by the wonderful reception they got from the hundreds of thousands of flag waving, cheering crowds of all generations that lined the routes as they marched. "We have an inbuilt sense of pageantry and military ceremonial as a nation, centred on our Monarchy, which generates a sense of pride and unity at these times. We survivors were wonderfully cared for at the QE Conference Centre that week-end by young servicemen and women with a courtesy, efficiency and almost reverence which stirred our enfeebled hearts for the test of endurance in the mid-day sun".

Stuart HORSBURGH ('66-'71) was involved with the organisation of the VE celebrations in his village, Monkton, in Kent. In all other respects it was the same as thousands of other events with the singular exception that their guest of honour, a resident of the village, was Lord Scarman - the last survivor of a small group that attended the signing of the surrender of Germany. Stuart is now Head of Music at the Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs.

The editor, David HORSBURGH ('62-'69) continued a professional interest in the Great War with his involvement with the music for the commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Somme on July 1, 1996 at the Thiepval Monument. The highlight of a successful concert in Albert the previous evening was the spontaneous musical contribution on stage by four veterans of the events on July 1, 1916. The youngest was aged 98.

W.L. HEWLETT ('23-'31) writes to admonish the Editor and correct the article in the last issue, taken from Jim Upton's report on the Braithwaite Camp referring to Arthur HOPE as the Headteacher of the Boys School in 1923. "I understand that at the present time that title is politically correct, but I assure you that the Antient was most certainly Headmaster of the school then. Please don't rewrite history!".

Edith McFARLANE attended the Girls' School in 1919 and was pleased to receive a copy of the last issue with the article by Grace WHITAKER ('19-'28). It brought back many pleasant memories of her years at the Roan Girls' School and when she lived with her parents in South Street, just round the corner. She recognised most of the faces in the photograph from the trip to Calais and recalls that they had a great time. Her mother went to Roan soon after the Girls' School was built and she always knew she would attend the school which she did aged nine. She now lives in Kensington and looks forward to future magazines.

Roger DALE ('61-'67) is now an IT Security Officer for the Home Office working on the Police National Computer. He has recently qualified as a Reflexologist and graduates in early September. M.S. "Monty" SMITH ('58-'65) retires from the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank Corporation in October after working for 31 years in the City and plans to devote his time to his many recreational interests. Les DeHOOG ('73-'79) and Michael SMITH ('71-'78) were both unavailable for sporting commitments on the first weekend in September due to either getting married in Dublin or honeymooning in Thailand.

It was rumoured at the Club on September 8 that Keith MEXTER ('58-'66) has retired from playing football. Alf KNOTT regards Keith as the finest sportsman seen in his time at the school, epitomising all of the finer virtues equated with the term "sportsmanship". An excellent athlete, true gentleman and outstanding example of the Corinthian ideals. If this rumour is, sadly, correct we hope for an article recording these qualities. Doug WEAVER ('57-'59) brought his boots but excused himself by saying he played on the Saturday. This leaves Paul DAVIS ('58-'64) as the elder statesman in the veterans and the last of his generation. Paul is in full training for his Black Belt in Judo and has taken to tennis this summer. Next in line for the honour are Keith HEDGES ('59-'65) and Bob GRIMWOOD ('60-'65) who marked their respective ninety minutes on the old boys pitch in the opening fixture with a headed goal and an outrageous but unsuccessful volley. The Vets have a new kit kindly donated by Vic BROOKER.

Peter WHITE ('33-'38) was one of several members checking that the Chronicle was late this year. Peter attended Vic's farewell in April and belied his quiet demeanor with tales of tackles and feuds in his years playing Old Roan football that sent several shivers through the reporter.

Mr. H.E. HUTTON ('20-'26) has missed recent mailings and asks that his address in Swaffham, Norfolk is checked by the secretary. He asked to have details of A.D. HEWLETT.

Constance BUTTLER (née MAY '19-'24) regrets that she did not join the Association when first leaving school but feels that it is too late to make up time now. She enjoyed the article by Vera PERKINS, a contemporary, in the 1994 issue and is most grateful for copies of recent magazines that featured her years at the school. She had contacted Phyllis WILLMOTT after discovering from her writings that she had attended Roan. So many of the mistresses she named were there in her time - Miss Higgs, Miss Talbot, Miss Massingham, Miss Richardson, Miss Hough, Miss Kirk and Miss Knight. She well remembers the swing garden which in her time had a fig tree in it, and the wall between the upper and lower playground where they used to sit and jump from. She was also a scholarship girl whose parents found the cost of school uniform a problem. She remains in close touch with two friends she made on the front doorstep on the first day at school and recommended "A Green Girl" to them. She continued her friendship with Miss Knight until well after getting married, and visited her and Miss Kirk in their cottage in Langton Matravers after they retired.

Phyllis WILLMOTT (née NOBLE '33-'38) has forwarded an article based on notes made in preparing the Appendix for her book, "A Green Girl". We also include details on her new book, "Joys and Sorrows", elsewhere in this issue. Mrs. Willmott, in her capacity as chairman of the Education Committee of the Family Welfare Association, has made contact with the John Roan Foundation.

Donald DURBAN ('35-'39) was a contemporary of Geoff THOMAS and his son was in the same year as Geoff's son at Roan. They saw quite a lot of Geoff and had lunch together last year when Derek AVERY ('35-'39) and his wife visited from the U.S.A. He thanks Brian THOMAS for his article on Geoff who died in May 1995. Donald asks for information on John SEYMOUR ('35-'39) who was a close school friend.

Mr. E.T. BARR introduces himself as an Old Roan, Eastney Street vintage, 1925-1928 and Maze Hill 1928-1932 who did not join the Association but has recently come across copies of Chronicles and Newsletters dating from 1985. This has prompted many memories to come flooding back and we hope to include a shortened version in the next issue. Mr. Barr lives in Kirkbymoorside in North Yorkshire.

John LONG ('32-'37) reports the sad death of Edwin PARNELL ('38-'45) on August 3rd whilst on holiday in Kent from Green Point, New South Wales, Australia. Edwin collapsed on the Saturday afternoon at a tea-room close to Rochester Cathedral, in the company of his friends and family, and despite attempts at resuscitation he died shortly afterwards. He is survived by his wife, Mary, three sons and five grandchildren.

P.J.BARNWELL ('23-'31) comments that the last of the oldest Cambridge Old Roans has gone: Canon Ronald Claude HOWARD ('16-'18), who was headmaster of Hurstpierpoint College in West Sussex. An obituary was included in the last issue. He notes that like the novelist P.C.Wren, and others, he kept his grammar school links secret. This is in contrast with the dietician Sir Jack DRUMMOND, who in his DNB notice, names both his London schools, Roan and Strand. He was murdered with his wife and daughter, camping in Southern France, the famous Domenici "mystery", in 1952. Howard was unmarried and listed his recreations as painting and collecting water-colours. P.J. Barnwell recalls a lecture to the Aristotelian Society by the younger HEWLETT on E.G.WHITE who also once talked very persuasively on ambidexterity. He is saddened to learn of the deaths of Peter PORTER, J.A.C.BECKWITH, "Tug" WILLSON and J.W.PERRY. He was pleased that a record of the Girls' visit to Calais was included and was unaware that the Girls' School was organising such visits at the time of their own Braithwaite and other foreign camp trips. The Editor is again reproached for allowing the term "headteacher" to be used in the context of A.H.Hope which in his time related only to primary schools.



Dave Beadle, Vic Brooker, Glen Pullen and Brian Davis

The Editor was pleased to meet with Mr.Barnwell during a visit to Cambridge in May and reports that he found him fit and well and disappointed with the quality of the cup final that afternoon. The articles and letters from regular contributors such as P.J.Barnwell, Lionel Berry, Phyllis Willmott and A.D.Hewlett are greatly appreciated and provide the link with the past that is so valuable to a publication of this kind.

As part of the family celebrations to mark the 100th birthday of Richard Underwood Langworthy EDWARDS ('08-'12) the Greenwich Local History Library sent a photograph of the Roan School in Eastney Street, details of its history and a photograph of T.R.N. Crofts, Headmaster (1910-15). He has lived alone in Tunbridge Wells since his wife died eighteen years ago, a quiet and studious Victorian gentleman. Until very recently he cooked his own Sunday joint and pudding in the traditional manner but now says that Marks & Spencers provide him with his main source of sustenance. He spends his days reading and writing (copperplate!) His mind is as alert as ever and retains a wonderful sense of humour. He will celebrate his birthday with his daughter, three sons and their families.

Frank TWITCHETT ('32-'37) writes from Leeds with the news that he and Bob BEARDSLEY ('32-'37) acted as two of the six veterans of the Battle of Britain escorting the serving RAF Officer carrying the Roll of Honour from the West Door, up the Nave, to the high altar, at the annual Battle of Britain Service in Westminster Abbey this year. They were both at the school from 1932-37 and, in the Battle of Britain, Bob flew Spitfires while Frank flew Hurricanes. A unique occasion for ex Roans!



Vic's Vets XI: Back Row: "Mitch", Gary Barwell, John Lang, Peter Osborne, Vic Brooker, John Stanford, Billy Palmer; Paul Davis, Don Patterson, Front Row: Keith Hedges, Tony Tobin, Stuart Clay, David & James Hutley, Tony Moss.

Vic's Day at the Field, Sunday 28 April, 1996.

Vic's XI (one of several permutations): Back Row: Vic Brooker, Bob Grimwood, Mike West, Fred Spink, Keith Thomas, Nick Riley, Derek Dreher, David Sears, Steve Nelson, Front Row: John Leach, John Ling, Gary Watson, John Hardy, Doug Weaver, Tim Fish, Richard Thomas, David Horsburgh.





Births

BERRY to Christine (née Forrester '71-'78), wife of Peter ('68-'75), a son, William James, on 7th May 1996

BLOYCE to Sally, wife of Andy ('71-'78), a daughter, Georgia Louise, on 27th February 1995, a sister for Thomas

BRYER to Sheila, wife of Tony ('62-'68), a daughter, Sophie Rachel Fiona, on 14th February 1996, a sister for Michael and Katherine

COPPITERS to Alice (née Pendergast '72-'79), wife of Lee, a daughter, Philippa, on 1st February 1996

HUGHES to Lesley, wife of Lawrence ('65-'72), a daughter, Alice Louise, on 7th October 1995, a sister for Lucy

Golden Wedding

Alfred W.Wood ('31-'36) and Doris L.Large were married at St.Margaret's Church, Lee on 20th July 1946 and celebrated their Golden Wedding this summer

Centurion

Richard Underwood Langworthy EDWARDS O.B.E. ('08-'12) on 30th September 1996

Marriages

DeHOOG - McCULLOUGH on 7th September 1996 at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Swinford, Co.Mayo. Les DeHOOG ('73-'79) to Aishling McCullough

SMITH - FLETCHER on 31st August 1996 at St. Alfege Church, Greenwich. Michael B. Smith ('71-'78) to Kay Fletcher

Deaths

ANDERSON, Mr.W.P. ('21-'28) on 2nd December 1995

BAKER, Mr.F.W. ('21-'27) in March 1996

CHAPMAN, Prof. R.A. ('48-'55) on 10th December 1995

COLLINS, Mr.J.B. ('35-'40) on 8th May 1996

DANIEL, Mr.C.W. ('14-'20) on 9th July 1995

FIELD, Mr.T.H.J. ('17-'25) on 24th September 1994

GARDNER, Miss J. ('29-'36)

GODLEY, Mrs.M. (née Midgley '35-'42) on 21st July 1994

HOLLAND, Mr.F.E. ('33-'39) on 17th October 1995

KALLENBORN, Miss M.W. (staff '53-'71) in 1992

KEATING, Mr.D.M. ('32-'40), Q.C. on 1st August 1995

PARNELL, Mr. E. ('38-'45) on 3rd August 1996

PAUL, Mr.D.F. ('39-'44) on 9th May 1996

PHILP, Miss D.J. ('29-'36) on 2nd February 1996

POTTER, Mr.C.H. ('15-'21) in 1994

SAUNDERS, Mr.I.N. ('39-'48) on 5th November 1995

SAWYER, Mr.G.J. ('49-'54, president '77-'78) on 2nd May 1996

SEAL, Mr.R.W. ('34-'39) on 17th September 1995

WITTEN, Mr.G.C. (staff '36-'73, president '57-'58) on 24th March 1996

Views from the boundary. Clockwise from top left: Rodwell lbw Stickings; Stickings to Broadfoot; a rare forward defensive shot by G.Townsend; Steve Nelson, Terry Barry, Graham Chambers & Joe Broadfoot; one of four missed stumpings by R.Dale; Ian Daniels in full flow.

The "Past-Players with some emerging talent. Back Row: Peter Williams, Dan Calnan, John Huntley, John Cramp, Graham Lawrance, Graham Johnson, Vivian Lawrence, Graham Chambers. Seated: Robert Barry, Terry Barry, Roger Dale, Joe Broadfoot, Chris Rodwell, Simon Perry. Front: James and Graham Townsend

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st November 1996	Annual Reunion Dinner at the Pavilion
9th November 1996	Firework Party at the School Field
31st December 1996	New Year's Eve Disco at the Pavilion
12th January 1997	Children's Christmas Party
20th March 1997	Annual General Meeting at the Pavilion
22nd March 1997	Annual Dinner Dance at the Tudor Barn, Eltham