



SUSCEPTUM PERFICE MUNUS

THE OLD ROAN CHRONICLE

No. 8

July 1988

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No. 8

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, I reckon I could have made a few bob out of the Presidency if I'd had the foresight to offer the school staff and prefects of the early sixties long and attractive odds against my name ever being added to the Presidents' board (officially that is!)

I personally see my year of office as a singular opportunity to promote some new ideas and to encourage contact with the school in all its forms whether staff, pupils or parents.

The honour of being your president has been mine for just over two months now and a very busy time it's been too. At the AGM in March it was proposed and approved that the Old Roan Association and Club committees be merged to form a new general committee.

Committee meetings since then have been long and involved during which we have discussed and settled on the proposed make up of the new committee and produced a proposed new constitution both of which will be submitted to next year's AGM for approval.

As I've already mentioned, school liaison is of paramount importance to me and I've been along to both upper and lower schools and spoken to 1st and 5th year assemblies and I will do the same in the new academic year which, along with the usual approaches to the 6th form, will mean that four of the six school years will have some contact and knowledge of the activities of the Association and Club.

We have held football matches against the school and the staff in the last few months and these have resulted in members of both sides showing

interest in playing for us in the new season, an intake which may well prompt us into starting a seventh XI for the first time in many years.

Cricket has also enjoyed similar success due to a match against the school and at the moment three pupils and a member of staff are playing regularly for Old Roan sides who are still desperate for new members.

We shall also be holding, later in the year, a reunion of pupils who started at the school in 1978 which may encourage those who slipped through the net or went straight on to higher education to join us.

I'm very aware that we currently have very little to appeal to the female element of our association, with the exception of this magazine and the impeccable ladies toilets and show at the club!

However, we hope shortly to be starting a netball team on what should soon be a newly resurfaced court at the field and some of the ladies have held keep fit classes on Monday nights for about the last three years at the club. In addition of course, the tennis courts are available for use on club nights, the ORDS are always interested in new members, and the bar is there for socialising, so let's hope we see more of you.

To those of you who have moved away from London, many of you overseas, don't forget that the club and association are here for your use too. If you are coming back on a visit to Blighty, why not drop Tony Slaney or myself a line and I'm sure that we'll be able to furnish you with names and addresses of some contemporaries. You could do worse than arrange your own gathering at the Club (you can invite Tony and me if you like, we won't mind, honest!)

Reunions are always popular occasions and this year's is to be held at the club on the 21st October (Trafalgar Day, so quite apt as far as I'm concerned) do try to get along.

The annual dinner dance is being organised well in advance this year and is to be held on 25th March 1989 at the Yorkshire Grey's Harrogate Rooms (just a few minutes walk from the club). It's hoped that we shall be able to offer a good three course meal, cabaret and dancing for £15.00 per head and Shirley and I look forward to meeting all 1274 of you and your guests on that evening. Further details of this later, but rush out now, buy a 1989 diary and make the necessary note in it.

Finally, I would just like to send Old Roans everywhere my best wishes and hope that I see very many of you in the ensuing nine or ten months.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Out of some 200 members paying by Bankers' Orders, only 64 had not increased their subscription to £5 in time for the fees due in January 1987. I am pleased to say that revised orders have now been received from half of those, and the total received by this method in January this year was £865 plus a further £219 from regular life members' donations. Partly to recognise the fact that members under eighteen years old are sometimes using the Club new Junior Membership cards have been issued giving a warning about under age drinking. New enrolment forms have been produced, the first for many years. I have been using the same forms, suitably amended, which were in use when annual membership for boys had been ten shillings per annum.

As most of you will know, Gordon Brooks left the School to take up other activities in Norfolk. He provided a strong link with the School, not least of all in managing to get nearly all the sixth form leavers down to the Club at the end of the summer term, at which many of them joined the Association. Whilst we hope it was only a one year hiccup and despite attempts by the then President, Graham Johnson, such an evening did not take place in 1987, and this is reflected in the serious downturn in our number of members. Another reason could be the doubling of annual subscription fees.

Figures as at 31st December 1987 were as follows:-

- 688 Life Members
- 5 Partly Paid Life Members
- 324 Fully Paid Ordinary Members
- 36 Members Paying £2.50 Bankers Orders
- 8 Junior Members (Under 18s)
- 23 Associate members (Staff)
- 2 Honorary members

1,051 Total

In spite of 34 members transferring from ordinary to life membership the number of life members reduced from 703 to 688, mainly through

members not advising me of their change of address. Regrettably the older the Association becomes the more deaths are likely to occur. As usual several publications have been returned as "not known" at the address in our records. One was marked "Please cease sending these envelopes here". There is no one at this address with that name, nor has been for many years." If you know the current address of the following please let me know. Please don't leave it to someone else. I would rather have many advisees than none at all.

Mrs. P. Barnes-Warden (nee Rudd '68-'74)	Miss J. Greeno D.E. Grimble ('56-'62)
Dr. E. Bellamy (nee Moody)	Mrs. L. Newman (nee Bedden)
Mrs. B. Bickerdike (nee Parks)	P.C. Noad ('72-'79)
A.D. Dossett ('68-'75)	J.L. Oram ('55-'61)
Miss K. Dunkerley	Mrs. P. Perrett (nee Hambelton)
N. Ganesh ('75-'82)	Mrs. O. Read (nee Bailey '44-'49)
G.W. Gillam ('11-'16)	Mrs. T. Robinson (nee Mills)
Mrs. D. Greeno (nee Massey '41-'46)	I.K. Whitelock ('65-'70)

On a more positive note a large number of school leavers did attend the Club after their prize distribution in December, though only a few actually joined the Association. However mainly through the efforts of Steve Nelson, several school boys and recent leavers are now playing football for us. As President, Steve is visiting the School regularly talking to each year extolling the virtues of the Association, and is the most active President for as long as this Secretary can remember.

Both the President and I have been invited to attend the John Roan Association Committee Meetings. We are still feeling our way to finding out how best we can help each other. One area where Old Roans have been asked to help is providing a list of those who can assist pupils in various ways. Examples are those who could give a talk on their work or hobbies, or could conduct mock interviews. Anyone who can help is invited to contact me, and I shall pass their names on to the John Roan Association. So far our only real positive work has been to assist at the School's Christmas Fayre by washing up glasses, but it is a step in the right direction to keep close to the School, particularly in these times when all manner of changes are going on. The John Roan Association held a race night in July last year and jointly we sponsored a horse. Several hundred pounds were collected for the School.

What else has happened? Well the Association held its customary annual dinner with usual success last October and the Dinner and Dance was, one hopes, enjoyed by those who attended at its new venue, namely the Club. The next Dinner and Dance will be held at the Yorkshire Grey, Eltham.

The "Chronicle" and "Newsletter" are very well received, particularly from members not in touch with the Club. Those at the Club should remember this is the vast majority of our members. Fritz Henning has had help from Hilary Haslam over recent editions, though how much spare time Hilary will have this summer is in doubt as she is expecting her second baby. I understand that should assistance be offered by anyone with time on their hands, their services would be welcomed.

Many of you will remember Bill Jordan, the groundsman at the field until Reg Lentle took over in 1969. Unfortunately Bill suffered a stroke about a year ago and never really recovered. He died peacefully on 15th January this year. In June last year the widow of Harry Icough died at the age of 98. Harry had been a Governor of the Schools for 50 years and Chairman for 35. He was President of the Association in 1970/71. Both he and his wife were deeply interested in the well being of the Schools and cared very much about them.

Some of the Girls will remember a lectern in memory of Mary Higgs and a cross in memory of Nellie Prior. These were rescued from Devonshire Drive by Hilary and Neal Haslam and last year were handed to the John Roan School.

As a result of last October's gales, (the weather people tell us it was not a hurricane) many trees were brought down in Greenwich Park. I conclude this report by letting you know that the School arranged, with donations given by the Association and other groups, to plant ten trees to replace some of these. They were planted by the Headteacher and representatives from the current pupils, teaching, support and past staff, School Governors, Old Roan Association (Graham Johnson, Phil Moore, Tony Slaney and Kay Wilkins), John Roan Association, Hope Memorial Trust and the I.L.E.A. on Sunday, 27th March, and are located just inside the wall opposite the Maze Hill Building.

Tony Slaney

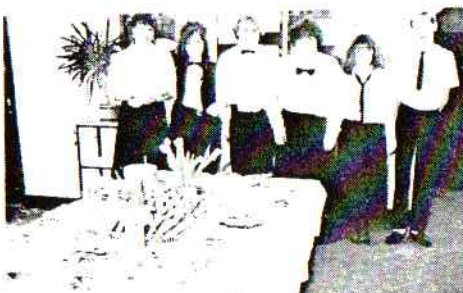
JOHN ROAN NEWS



Good Reflections

Grand Pink Champagne Reception

John Roan CPVE students and tutors entertained sixty guests at their grand pink champagne breakfast reception to celebrate the launch of the new CPVE mini enterprise - **Mirrors Cafe Bar**.



The venue has been completely redesigned and decorated in high-tech black and white complete with stunning wall to wall mirrors and plants by the full time members of the CPVE Retail & Distribution group based at John Roan. They have completed their imaginative project over ten weeks as part of their individual learning programme with the support and guidance of their tutors, John Jordan, Vickie Young, John Talbot and Tony Carter.

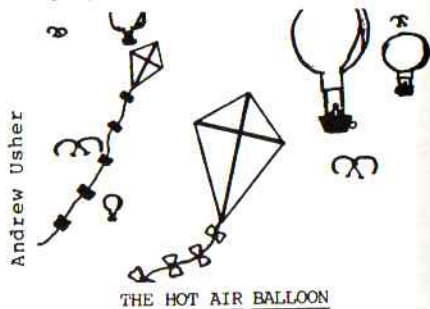
The new Breakfast Cafe Bar will open on two mornings a week: Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 - 8.45 from the beginning of the Summer Term. The team of students running Mirrors however will be in school at 7.30am!! 4th, 5th and 6th Form students and staff will be able to buy wholesome and varied breakfasts with a choice of exciting teas as well as fresh coffee and fruit juices. Freshly baked croissants and bread will be provided by the Blackheath Village Bakery and there will be a range of cereals and yoghurt, all served in a most pleasant and relaxed atmosphere. Customers are encouraged to choose their own music from a wide choice of tapes provided by the staff at Mirrors.

A lot of hard work and behind the scenes organization went into making the launch of Mirrors such a memorable event. Now its open for everyone to enjoy..... Bon Appetit!!

Poetry Corner

KITES

Kites soaring through the air
Fluttering falling then rising again on
the wind currents.
Suddenly it turns and plummets towards
the ground.
I break into a run the string tightens
and the kite rises majestically into the
air.
But my efforts are in vain and the kite
crashes into a nearby tree.
Eventually I untangle it and it is
swooping ducking once more.



Then there is a hot air balloon
Never stopping but rising slowly out
surely into the air

As light as a feather but graceful as a
ballet dancer
It rises like a red hot ball of fire
into the air

Soon it seems so high that if it was
flat the whole world could see it

Then the fire flickers and dies and the
hot air balloon falls slowly to the
ground

I found it the next morning lying in a
crumpled heap on the ground
But it's no use to me

Now that it has lost its former
divinity.

by Joshua Stott 1VF

Living History



On 23 October a group of us went up to the Maze Hill building to talk to an old person called Reg Wright. He was an old pupil who used to come to John Roan. He was 96 years old but he could remember almost everything about the school although he had left 79 years ago. He told us that the girls and boys were split up into different sections. The school was a little building on Eastney Street. We asked him if they used to wear uniform and he said that they didn't have enough money to buy a uniform so they wore what they could and he said their parents had to pay £100 a term so that they could go to John Roan. We said "Did you used to get sweets when you were young?" and he said, "My favourites were liquorice bootlaces, sherbet bags and gobstoppers." We asked him how many times he had got the cane and he said, "You don't want to know how many times I got the cane?" and we all said "YES, WE DO." "Oh I got the stick a few times but we were all scared stiff of our headmaster, Mr. Ridger. Mrs. Barber, the librarian found some old books and photos of the teachers and we found Mr. Wright's name in an old register. He started school at 12 and he left at 15. He told us that his most hated lesson was Latin but he liked Geography, so we took him to the computer room and one of the fifth-formers typed in Geography and there were some questions on Geography. He told us he used to live in Westcombe Hill. They didn't have any games fields so they used to play football or cricket in Greenwich Park and they used to play against other boys from other schools. When we were looking through the old books we found a poem sheet and there were poems that the children had written about the teachers.

Satinder Kalsi and
Wayne Tillman 1VF

Roan's oak

YEOMAN John Roan would have been proud to watch the planting of ten oak trees last week.

They were all planted in Greenwich Park by past and present members of the Blackheath School which bears his name, to replace some of those blown down in last October's storms.

When John Roan died in 1643 he left money to build the John Roan school, and his badge and crest of stags and oak leaves.

He was a Yeoman of His Majesty's Harriers, which required him to act as a master game keeper.



Secondary Mathematics Individualised Learning Experience

If you walked into a 1st or 2nd year Mathematics lesson you would probably notice many things that have changed from your school days.

- Children working on different tasks.
- Children moving around the class.
- Children using equipment.
- Children enjoying their work.

Each child is given an individual programme of work (called a Matrix) usually consisting of 10 tasks and how they go about completing this is mainly up to them! This means that the children must quickly learn to co-operate with each other and the teacher to ensure that the classroom is a pleasant place to work in. A lot of responsibility is placed on the children to organise themselves and to make decisions about how they are going to learn.

When a Matrix has been completed the child does tests on the work covered to see if she/he has understood it. On the basis of these tests and the teacher's observations, the next Matrix is set. This should mean that some topics will be extended to a higher level while some areas may need further practice at the same level.

It is important to note that SMILE:-

- 1) Involves children working hard at their own level.
- 2) Is Good Maths
- 3) Is hard work for teachers and most importantly

Sports Report



Lorraine Hoey, our PE and Games teacher took part in the women's English football match against Finland on the 25th October.

Lorraine came on as a substitute in the game after 25 mins, replacing the injured full back Sue Law. After that England went on to beat Finland, the score was 2-1.

3ST interviewed Lorraine Hoey. These are some of the questions.

"Do you ever get any sexist comments?"

"Yes, quite often. You get them from men who've never seen women's football before - they're quite shocked that we can kick the ball, and they have to make funny comments about women chesting the ball. The typical one at the end of the game: "Do you change your shirts?"

"Did you find the training hard to get into the team?"

"Yes it's very hard. Your fitness is tested at the beginning of every training session and you have to keep a card on how many press-ups and sit-ups etc. that you can do in a minute. So yes, it's hard."

"What did you think about the team's performance?"

"It wasn't bad, considering. It was the first time that we'd played Finland so we didn't know what they were like and we were pretty steady - we went two goals up, and we threw it away a bit right at the end so that was a little disappointing. But not bad overall."

"How often do you practise?"

"I train twice with my club team in the week for 1 hour 30 minutes and 2 hours. I play on a Sunday and I fit in one training session on my own just for fitness."

"Could women footballers compete with men?"

"The very top ones - yes, they could compete with men. But we're not allowed to play mixed football. But not with the top men: they're a lot stronger than us. But skill-wise we could do just as well as the men. But when you're in an actual game because the men are that little bit stronger they'll knock you off the ball so that you don't get the chance to show your skills. We can compete with men but not, I don't think, to a really high level - like first division. Fourth division I reckon a lot of girls could live with, but not first division."

Farewells

Last term we lost two of the best-loved teachers in the school. Wynne Austin and Ade Lane will both be remembered for the uncounted hours that they gave to helping staff and pupils to have a happy and successful time at John Roan.

Wynne, as the Deputy Head in charge of the curriculum, was always on hand to smooth out difficulties with courses and the timetable and was never too busy to talk to anyone who needed her help. Wynne has left us for a well-earned retirement after thirty years of teaching (perhaps she will find more time for herself now!) and Ade to start a new and exciting life in Devon.



Ade was so enthusiastic and energetic that everyone found themselves caught up in what she was doing - whether it was preparing work for folders or display, doing "practical" English in the playground, or brightening up the Westcombe Park gardens.

We are all very lucky to have known them and to have benefited from their care, affection and expertise - we certainly won't forget them and look forward to hearing about what they are doing.

Do You Merit It?

The school has recently started to reward good effort and achievement in all areas by awarding merits. This has been generally favourably received by pupils. We are looking very carefully at the results and collecting comments about the system from staff, pupils and parents.

A pupil receives:
A Bronze award for 10 merits.
A Silver award for 20 merits.
A Gold award for 30 merits.

We are waiting for the first Bronze award and will let you know.



OLD ROAN CLUB REPORT - MAY 1988

Further to the brief report that was published in the last issue of the Newsletter, I am afraid that the trading results for the year ending 31st December 1987 were worse than had been expected. Despite the continuing efforts of the Bar Stewards, the Bar Executive Committee and the organisers of "Punch Promotions" we have failed to attract any appreciable increase in the level of support we have received from members at the various functions that have been arranged or on those occasions when the bar is opened for normal business. We are, as usual, continually pleading for more members to serve behind the Bar and this is particularly difficult on those evenings when we do have a large number of customers. The only factor that gives the slightest cause for optimism is that the Bar service has become more reliable due to the real effort made by the three Bar Rota Stewards namely Monty Smith, Mark Squire and Dave Andrews. Despite the inherent difficulties and general apathy they have succeeded in arranging cover for the great majority of our normal opening sessions.

In addition to the functions organised by "Punch Promotions" the Club Secretary, Dave Andrews, has arranged an annual "Trivia Quiz" competition which has evoked great interest and increased the Friday night "bar takings" considerably.

Turning now to the trading results the Bar Sales, at £25,516 are nearly £4,000 below the 1986 figure and the resultant gross profit is reduced from £6,880 to £4,987. The profit level, in percentage terms, is only 19% compared with 23% in 1986 and a budgeted figure of 25%. We must, in this context, take into account the fact that our running expenses have increased due, primarily, to 1987 being the first year in which the Club paid the full ground rental of £1,000 to the Roan Schools Foundation. As most members will know this amount is a contribution from the Old Roan Club to the Foundation Governors to assist in meeting the greatly

increased rental charged by Greenwich Borough Council for the lease of the "Paddock" football pitch and the area of ground on the far side of the "Quaggy". Further, our costs for cleaning and general maintenance have increased considerably and, resulting from all these factors, the Nett Trading Profit has been reduced from £2,437 to a mere £21. Profits from the Pool Table and the Fruit Machine gave us a surplus of £1,972 but even these receipts were affected by an increase in the Gaming Tax paid to Customs and Excise.

During the year the new toilet facilities, for the ladies, were completed although there are still minor problems outstanding in respect of this work. The new radiators in the Lounge Bar are not working properly but, hopefully, these problems will be resolved in the near future. Most of you will know that the Club premises were damaged by the storm, in October last, when the flat roof was broken and the room flooded. I am pleased to report that the reparation work has now been completed with the redecoration of the ceiling and the cleaning and re-laying of the carpet. The cost of all this reparation has been met by our Insurers. The Pool Table has been renovated and we have recently installed a new Fruit Machine. We have changed our previous policy of purchasing these machines outright and have decided to lease the new one on a trial basis. Initial assessment of this policy indicates that it is the most economical mode of operation.

Hopefully the recent re-arrangement of the Old Roan Association and the Old Roan Club Committees will encourage a greater degree of support from you all during the remainder of 1988 so that the level of profit may revert to that of previous years. At the same time we aim to keep the bar prices at a reasonable level and avoid any swingeing increases. In conjunction with these aims we have to consider that we wish to carry out considerable internal redecoration of the two bars and would like to be able to carry out this work during the present year. Whilst there is no immediate urgency we shall, in the not too distant future, have to spend money on up-dating some of the electrical wiring and installation and this is certainly going to be expensive. These are the problems that will face the Club management in the immediate future and they will call for very careful consideration and decisions.

In conclusion, and on behalf of all our members, may I thank all those who have helped to keep the Club alive, albeit somewhat ailing, during the past year. Thank you.

Frank Barnes



Steve Nelson
President Old Roan Association
1988-1989

OLD ROAN PERSONALITIES

GREAT NEWS! Steve Nelson - Old Roan President. There is no question that all Old Roans will echo this sentiment. This is the man who has struck fear into the hearts of many a centre forward and numerous small children at the Christmas party. Can this be the same person who helped me devise that famous family game we all know and so intimately love - Conga Gorillas - (for the uninitiated, a game where participants make odd animal noises and run around frightening the neighbours)? This surely is a popular choice with all those active Old Roans who are aware of his considerable feeling for the Club and Association.

Steve has been involved on various Committees for many years and more recently, to encourage new young blood into the Association (for this is the future) has persuaded a number of excellent bands to come down and play. This also of course brings much needed revenue to the Club. His interest in music is well known and particularly his penchant for jumping up on the stage at every opportunity and belting out a spot of rock and roll. We normally all leave at this point.

It goes without saying, that most know Steve best for his magnificent goal keeping prowess. This incredible talent first surfaced in the under 13's where, by using an extremely sophisticated form of hypnosis, he could make the opposing forwards shoot right at him. Steve would then extend the appropriate appendage in the direction of the ball and, without moving his body, divert it wide or over the bar for a corner. Because of his somewhat humorous approach to the game people tend to forget that he has, in his time been a very fine goalkeeper, brave in the extreme and capable of making almost impossible saves. He still plays in goal for the fifth team although it is hoped that very soon he will bring his own special brand of sporting acoutrements to the veterans.

I think it is true to say that although Steve invariably introduces humour in whatever he does, underneath he feels a great passion for many things. The Old Roan Club has always figured very highly on his agenda. Since the early days when we used to come down on Thursday nights and place our last tanners in the one-arm bandit, (even if we did not win someone would always buy us a pint) he has nurtured a great feeling for the Club. Currently he is fighting hard to keep it together and with his energy, good humour and effort together with the members support I have no doubt he will win.

Steve will bring to the exalted position of President a new approach, with, I believe, a continued attention to tradition, although I am sure things will not be the same after his reign. Is a year enough we should ask ourselves, to instigate the changes necessary for the healthy continuation of the Club and Association? If the right person is found to fill this role (and I believe that Steve Nelson is this man) and he is willing, then there is no question in my mind that his period of office should be extended to three years in order that he should have sufficient time to bring about the necessary changes in the best interests of the Club and Association.

Graham Townsend

WHAT THE BAKER SAID

After the spotlight turned on London's schooling
After the earnest vigil by the Thames' side
After the arguing in all the papers
The shouting and the voting
Bill-boards and badges and the faint suggestion
Of possible hope from their Lordships' stronghold;
That which was living is now dead,
We who are teaching are now waiting
With a little patience.

The last part of Eliot's 'Wasteland' (I'm sure you all remember it!) has long provoked argument as to whether his final vision is one of hope or of despair and the seemingly certain death of I.L.E.A. which, with its forerunner the L.C.C., has guided and nurtured London's education for so long, has left us with much the same debate. The Roan Schools have survived many changes in their long history (what ever happened to the Monitorial System?) and I'm sure we'll weather whatever storms lie ahead, but for the moment the future is unpredictable once more - just at a time when we hoped for a period of stability after the upheavals of the last decade.

But back to the present and coursework folders! The G.C.S.E. is nearing the climax of its first run and everywhere you turn there are folders of work, the results of the past two years' labours. In most subjects, the

terror of trial by the end-of-course exams alone - that sweaty, feverish, outpouring of desperately swotted facts in the intolerable heat of the exam hall (why is it always a heatwave at exam time?) has been complemented by the coursework component. This, in theory, allows the student calmly to produce her/his best work over the period of the course and does away with the traditional June panic. Human nature being what it is, however, the real scenario has been - "I can't manage your homework tonight, sir, I've got my Drama coursework to finish" - "Please, Miss, do you mind if I do my English folder your lesson - Mrs. Ballantyne will kill me if it isn't in!"

But now the folders are finished - neatly filed in cabinets or spilling over from carrier bags depending on the nature of the subject staff - the students are away preparing for the formal exams that remain - and the staff are the ones who are desperately rushing to meet marking and moderation deadlines. It's only fair, really I suppose. Why should the poor student be the only one to sweat? Anyway, endless discussions are in progress to ensure that we produce a rank-order that will satisfy the external moderators and that the folders satisfy the new exam's criteria. Once the initial panic has died down, it should all produce a much fairer system less dependent on "question-spotting" (It's two years since they asked anything about Lady Macbeth so I'd make sure you know all about her") and more dependent on steady effort. It'll be nice when we've had the first set of results through!

Another innovation is the London Record of Achievement. Now, as well as leaving the Fifth Form clutching one's hard-earned certificates, the pupil leaves with a file chronicling her/his achievements over the years. Perhaps the best feature of this is that it includes not only the school's judgment on the student but her/his own evaluation of the progress made over the years. It is, perhaps, one of the best changes that has occurred in recent times that increasingly children are encouraged to assess their own progress in various subjects (and they can often be more critical of their performance than we, as teachers, would be!)

What else is new? The Roan Oaks are now in place along the "School" wall of Greenwich Park, planted appropriately on a blowy Sunday morning with due ceremony - the silver spade glinting in the Spring sunshine.

After the success of last year's mini-Festival we are looking forward to a festival fortnight in early July which will give staff and students alike the chance to celebrate their talents in a wide variety of activities - more of that in the next issue.

In line with financial cut-backs several staff are anxiously awaiting the answer to their applications for early retirement. Next year, in common with all London Schools, we shall be having to operate with less staff and a reduced budget - another challenge to our ingenuity.

This term we have welcomed Mr. Christopher Deane who replaces Wynn Austin as deputy head - he brings with him a wealth of expertise and already is part of the team.

Music and Drama are flourishing. We now have a large number of instrumental musicians whose performances are adding greatly to the life of the school - indeed the last assembly of the half term saw Miss Tonkin joining some of them revealing talents on the violin hitherto hidden! The G.C.S.E. plays won the fulsome praise of the external examiner.

Next year you will see the introduction of T.V.E.I. and a new integrated Humanities course in the first year. Despite the frustrations imposed from without I am sure there will be exciting and positive things to report on in our next review.

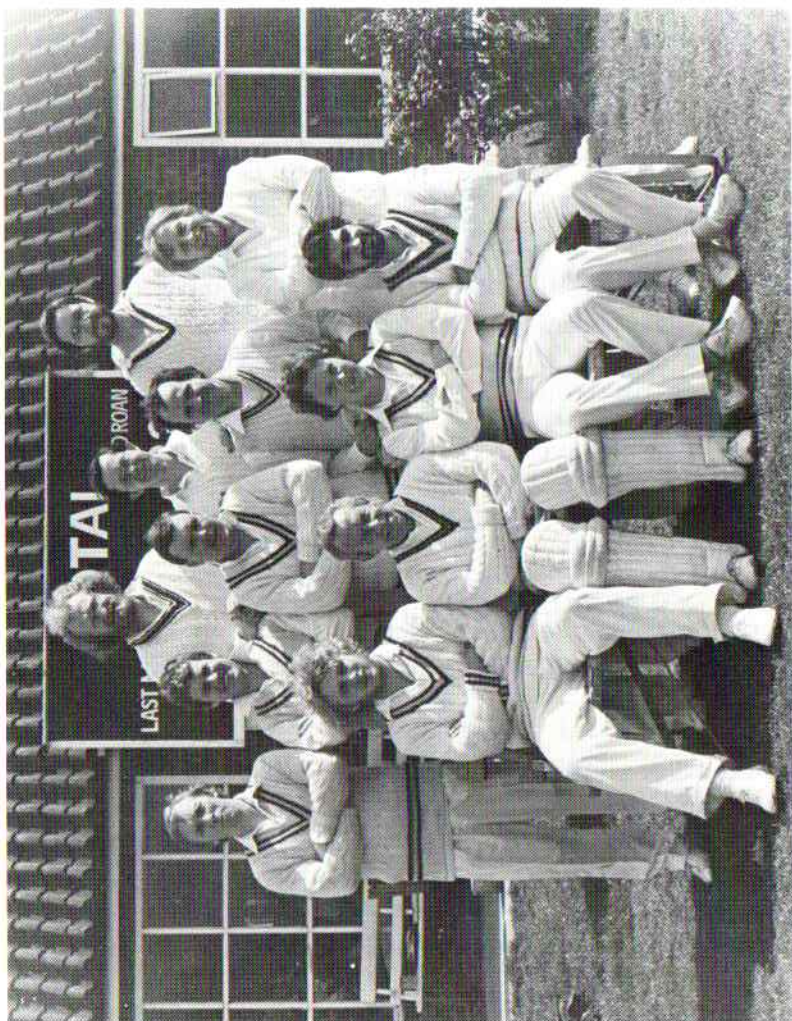
Nigel Ballantyne

OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB

(Hon. Secretary: Dave Andrews, Tenby Court, 5 Moreland Road, Croydon)

The Cricket Club has undergone a number of changes during the close season. Rod Stanbridge decided it was time to relinquish the purse strings and these have been taken up by Keith Barron. This meant we needed a replacement for Keith as General Secretary and this post has been taken by Dave 'The Finger' Andrews - it must be a long time since an umpire was secretary of a cricket club! This season the sides are being skippered by:-

■ Saturday	1st - Andy Wren
■	2nd - Les DeHoog
■ Sunday	1st - Len Sales
■	2nd - 'Spot' Hughes
■	3rd - Richard Thomas



1st XI 1981
 Brian Hamer, Roger Dale, Graham Lawrence Keith Calnan, Terry Barry,
 Fred Spink, Graham Townsend, Fritz Henning Mark Squire, Peter
 Williams, Chris Rodwell, Naz Khan

One change that is particularly pleasing to see is that for the first time for several years we have a number of lads from the School playing on both days.

Whilst it is too early in the season to give reports on the performances of the teams, there are some notable individual efforts than cannot pass without mention. Of these the first came at Britannic House when Roger Dale scored his maiden century for the Club with an unbeaten 110 on the way to Old Roan making a winning score of 195-3. (Another OR, Naz Khan, also scored a ton in this match, but it was for BHCC!) The other score was a 65 by Ray Mills in the 1st XI game against Old Elthamians. Ray was at the Club to watch that other sport and only stepped into the side at the last moment. It took a bit of effort to persuade Des that he normally plays in the 3rds. There have also been a number of scores above 40 by a number of players and our bowlers have been picking up quite a few wickets, so generally speaking, things bode well for the season.

One area in which I am particularly interested is umpiring and it is pleasing that we have been able to provide umpires for most of our matches so far, thanks mainly to Alan Weir standing for the Saturday 2XI and Geoff Sawyer for the Sunday 1sts. With Dave Andrews doing the Saturday 1s and Sunday 2s leaves only the 3rds without an umpire. Also cover is required for when the regulars are not available. Fritz Henning and Peter Williams have also stood this season and John Cramp has indicated his willingness to provide some cover, but we still need one or two more volunteers. Please contact Dave Andrews if you are prepared to spend an afternoon officiating, tea and beer is provided! In this connection, outline plans are in hand for the Club to act as hosts to the ACU's course in the autumn if required and details will be available from me nearer the time.

David Andrews

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Where are they now? The list of players on the following page was produced as a publicity (?) hand-out for the discerning spectator when the Isle of Wight Tour took place in 1975.

MEMBERS OF THE TOURING PARTY

Terry Barry

The party's most talented player and a regular touring member. Aggressive and stylish right-hand bat capable of match-winning innings. Gifted off-spin bowler and superb all-round cricketer. Occupation: Post Graduate Researcher.

Michael Baxter

Right-hand bat and left-arm medium pace bowler of considerable potential as yet unrealised. Excellent all-round fielder. Occupation: Civil Servant.

Joe Broadfoot

Ex-professional footballer with Millwall, Ipswich and Northampton forced to retire due to 'Compton knees'. Right-hand bat sometimes capable of 'murdering' all but the very best bowling. Occupation: Taxi Driver/Leisure Promoter.

Mike Callaghan

Senior touring member. Determined right-hand bat, under-used left arm bowler and specialist short-leg fielder. Occupation: General Manager (Shipping Agents).

Ian Clatworthy

Reliable left-hand batsman and reluctant right-arm bowler of leg-cutters/spin. Safe ground fielder. Occupation: Bank official.

Clive 'Fred' Fuhr

Right hand middle-order batsman and right-arm medium pace bowler. Enthusiastic fielder and safe catcher in all positions. Occupation: Local Government Officer.

Brian Hamer

Fast/medium right-arm opening bowler and hard-hitting right hand bat. Fields cover with fast/accurate throw. Occupation: Propellor Salesman. Aggressive competitor.

Phil Lancelotte

Fast left-arm bowler and right-hand batsman. Making first visit on an Island tour. Occupation: student.

Roger Larkin

Right-arm medium pace bowler and occasionally unorthodox quick-scoring right-hand bat. Another first time visitor to the I.O.W. Only touring member to bring his wife. Occupation: Insurance broker.

Nigel Potter

Also on his first tour. Competent right-hand batsman and excellent outfielder. Occupation: Advertising executive.

Chris Rodwell

Attractive stroke making right-hand opening batsman, bowls right-arm medium pace cutters. Can be suspect in the field. Occupation: Labourer.

Jimmy Russon

Forcing right-hand bat, has bowled right-arm off and leg breaks but now moulding himself on J. Thomson. Fine all-round fielder. Occupation: Factory worker/shop steward.

John Stanford

hard-hitting right-hand bat playing cricket on the Island for the first time. Will share wicket-keeping duties. Occupation: Sales Representative (Air Freight).

Terry Thurley

Right-hand bat with good record on the Isle of Wight. Justifiably only an occasional right-arm bowler. Specialist slip. Occupation: Trainee Chartered Accountant.

Brian West left-handed batsman, and right-arm medium pace bowler. Superb fielder in any position. Occupation: Oil magnate

Keith Weaver

Attractive right-hand batsman. Unorthodox slow left-arm bowler. Brilliant all-round fielder. Will share job of wicket-keeper. Occupation: Warehouseman.

Graham Townsend

Stylish right-hand opening batsman, occasional off-spin bowler. Fine cover field. Occupation: Insurance Executive.

It is hoped that he will return from a year's work in America to be available throughout the tour.

NON-PLAYERS

Monty Smith	International Banker
Malcolm Waterton	Civil Engineer
Kevin Todd	Computer Systems Manager
Fred Cook	Tax Consultant

All four rarely leave the pub in time to see the opening overs of matches starting at 2.30. Particularly strong competitors after 8.00

POST WAR CAREER AVERAGES

BATTING 1949-1987 (Qualification: 1000 runs)

DEBUT	INNS	N.O.	H.S.	RUNS	AVER	100/50	CT	STD
'60 K. FARRER	273	53	156*	9304	42.2	11 68	93	
'75 N. KHAN	249	27	140*	7812	35.1	13 40	137	7
'49 J. WILLIAMS	572	123	148*	15452	34.4	10 95	213	
'63 J. BROADBENT	559	88	139*	15289	32.4	8 95	229	
'77 G. LAWRENCE	229	51	104*	5535	31.0	1 38	53	
'65 G. TOWNSEND	416	39	129*	10800	28.6	8 67	112	
'60 T. BARRY	562	96	119	12294	26.4	5 50	264	1
'68 G. MONK	93	25	76*	1792	26.3	12	42	1
'81 P. ELLIS	127	6	108	3025	25	1 14	32	1
'62 K. MEXTER	70	11	69*	1369	23.2	3	34	2
'72 C. RODWELL	323	23	116*	6941	23.1	3 36	97	
'53 G. CHAMBERS	611	111	123	11459	22.9	3 52	211	
'69 J. RUSSON	77	15	95	1404	22.6	3	34	
'56 J. HUNTLEY	579	68	115	11448	22.4	6 54	200	
'78 M. SQUIRE	181	36	76*	3227	22.2	15	62	
'49 P. WILLIAMS	1130	179	123	20408	21.4	3 82	683	298
'49 C. TREW	382	51	109	6865	19.7	23	227	
'55 D. DREHER	221	49	64*	3168	18.4	10	78	
'49 K. RATCLIFFE	106	21	60	1538	18.0	4	24	
'69 R. DALE	309	35	91	4886	17.8	14	177	3
'50 A. DAWE	445	56	112	6851	17.6	3 21	177	55
'50 B. ENDERSBEE	374	51	85*	55111	17.0	18	71	
'49 D. BAXTER	175	45	85	2129	16.3	9	64	
'49 H. TOWNSEND	369	93	81	4016	14.5	9	104	
'49 B. HAMER	276	85	62	2704	14.1	3	100	
'51 W. BROOKS	126	24	72	1444	14.1	3	96	56
'69 V. LAWRENCE	1523	24	59	1761	13.7	4	49	
'49 S. DALTON	87	9	90*	1032	13.2	4	27	
'49 F. SMITH	93	15	46	1003	12.8		20	
'63 H. HENNING	245	45	66*	2441	12.2	2	110	
'60 M. HOOKER	111	19	42	1087	11.8		30	
'49 L. GROVES	147	32	69	1023	8.8	4	30	

The following current players are approaching 1000 runs.....

J. BAIN 977 L. SALES 856 G. BRISCOE 815

BOWLING 1949-1987 (Qualification: 100 wickets)

DEBUT	OVERS	MDNS	RUNS	WKTS	AVER	5(+)/W/I	CT-STD
'49 L. GROVES	3605	875	8592	725	11.0	57	30
'49 J. WILLIAMS	8696	2058	21867	1817	12.0	153	213
'63 T. BARRY	6865	1482	19095	1325	14.4	92	204 1
'62 K. RICHARDSON	1088	313	2499	173	14.4	7	23
'49 S. DALTON	881	107	2915	198	14.7	16	27
'53 T. SAUNDERS	740	134	2302	146	15.7	7	15
'52 R. PARKER	2822	721	7323	455	16.9	24	71
'59 D. GRIMBLE	1675	402	4663	183	16.4	12	50
'53 G. CHAMBERS	3915	955	11541	675	17.0	30	210
'77 G. LAWRENCE	1949	476	5133	299	17.1	9	53
'49 M. POTTER	1041	207	3153	179	17.6	3	63
'57 D. DREHER	1830	412	5366	292	18.3	13	78
'56 J. HUNTLEY	2170	418	6802	368	18.4	7	200
'72 C. RODWELL	1707	476	4450	236	18.8	7	96
'71 F. SPINK	3499	732	11328	598	18.9	31	80
'67 C. WYTON	2123	481	6315	328	19.2	11	61
'49 H. TOWNSEND	796	149	2400	124	19.3	2	104
'57 P. BOAKES	1305	292	3951	201	19.6	9	21
'78 M. SQUIRES	1254	257	4171	211	19.7	5	62
'63 K. CALMAN	3165	719	9099	436	20.8	12	227
'69 B. HAMER	5345	1190	15803	724	21.8	26	100

Compiled by Peter Williams

FOOTBALL CLUB

In my first season as Secretary I have been pleasantly surprised by the relative lightness of the administrative workload. This is mostly due to Ian Clatworthy who actually controls 4 teams, Vic Brooker who does a marvellous job with the kit, money and teas, and Ray Keeling who managed to keep the pitches in superb condition despite 7 weeks under

water midway through the season. I would also like to thank Ray for being so helpful with regards to extra pitches towards the end of the year.

On the playing side, the season was fairly disappointing with the notable exception of the fourth XI who won the Club's only trophy this year. The main reason for the lack of success in the top two teams was the constant changes in personnel. Too many times the managers of the respective teams have had to rely on friends, or friends of friends from outside the Club, just to raise a team. The third XI, with exactly the same problems, finished high up in their division. Perhaps Mark's friends of friends are better than mine? Seriously though, we cannot expect to compete with other clubs in senior football if this situation continues. I would particularly like to see more movement between the teams right through the club.

On that note I will finish and wish all the players and managers a restful close season.

Tim Fish

1st XI

The 1st XI's season started with great expectations and a run of encouraging results, staying unbeaten until the beginning of December, but once into the second half of the season the results and performances slowly declined. A lot of this was down to not being able to pick a settled side and the loss of two key players, Robin Faithorn through a long term injury and Peter Grindley to Golf.

However, although the season petered out without a trophy to be seen, there were some very encouraging signs for the forthcoming season.

There was the discovery of new young players such as Sam Morgan, Dave Armstrong, Paul Barber and Tony "Buggerall", this coupled with our golden oldies Bernie Turner and David Hutley should give us a good base to build a team on next season.

Two players who deserve special mention, who have been relied on ever increasingly towards the end of the season are Ian Daniels and Paul Witchalls.

I would like to thank everyone else who helped the 1st team out, and hope that with a couple of new faces and a more settled team, we can have reason to celebrate at the end of next season.

Ray Mills

2nd XI

The 2nd XI have had a poor season, finishing second from bottom in the Spartan League Reserve Division. Highlights of the season were away wins at Ulysses, Southgate and the double over Leyton County. John Leach deservedly won the Player of the Year with Andy Daniels, Mitch and Ossie not far behind. Towards the end of the season results picked up and, hopefully, this improvement will continue next year.

Tim Fish

VETERANS

An indifferent season ended with a series of good results and a sequence of enjoyable evening matches played at the School Field. The standard of the team has grown in recent years with the introduction of stronger players only to be matched by an improvement in the quality of the opposition. This general increase in standard is very welcome and has led to a number of competitive and tightly fought matches.

Keith Mexter again topped the goal scoring with Rod Pepper contributing usefully in the few matches he played. Roy Hunt added great class in midfield with support from Brian Hamer and Brian Matthews. Graham Briscoe was again 'elegant and unhurried' in the sweeper role and the defence was usually effective involving Mike Titheridge, Doug Weaver, Paul Davies and Fred Spink. Injuries and business commitments reduced appearances for Peter Edwards, Graham Townsend, Roger Dale and David Horsburgh but all made useful contributions. John Stanford added good support either as goalkeeper or centre-forward. Simon Perry carried the burden in goal during the season showing goal scoring ability on several occasions when relieved by Keith Mexter. Our new president also appeared in goal and was never on a losing side.

The tour to Norfolk was an unqualified success and returned the team to a winning streak. It is always a pleasure to re-unite with Barry Thomas and Jim Russon and we quickly negotiated the inclusion in our team of the 'chinese stuntman'. The hotel and social activities were excellent and abiding memories include Steve Nelson seeking to encourage the opposition's attack and the non-appearance on the Sunday of Terry Chance.

The main disappointment was a 3-2 cup defeat to Villacourt in a much postponed fixture that was very 'winnable'. On the plus side we recorded a rare win over Charter Diamond.

Mike Titheridge captained the side with great enthusiasm and efficiency.

The Bottom Line reads:

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
25	11	3	11	58	57

David Horsborough

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Having just recently completed a production at the John Roan School, I am writing in a mood that would be familiar to anyone who has acted in front of a live audience: one of anti-climax and yet relief that it's all over.

Our play, "The Best Laid Plans", was in fact a triple bill featuring a comedy, a farce and a straight play written by a young(ish) John Mortimer. Each was well received by small but appreciative audiences on Friday and Saturday, 15th and 16th May. Despite some difficulties during rehearsals, the actual performances were a notable success both from the acting and technical points of view. I don't think it would be invidious to mention a few individual contributions, particularly Teresa Wilkins and Joan Stanbridge in "Lunch Hour". Teresa played a naive and childlike office girl, capturing the apprehension and yet excitement of the character to perfection. Joan played the Manageress delightfully: a priggish and inquisitive woman, constantly intruding upon and finally helping to destroy the couple's fragile 'hour-long' world. In the opening play "Careful Rapture", there were some light comic touches by Barbara Roe, Flossie Booth, and Rosalind Walker. Rosalind also displayed her talent as a character-actor with an angular and delightfully eccentric paranormalist in the concluding farce. "Wife Required", Trevor Talbot, Richard Ridson and Graham Johnson could not help but enjoy themselves amidst these actresses' feminine charms!

Special mention should also be made to the professionalism of the back-stage and lighting crews, ably guided by Frank Hornblower. Their contribution cannot be underestimated, and one director in particular is eternally grateful to them for arresting the ageing process that had gathered momentum throughout rehearsals. Our thanks to them all are sincere.

So now, we look forward to our next production, which we hope to stage before Christmas. To those people who support us, we are forever grateful. But, please, tell your friends and relatives that there is life after 'Eastenders' and 'Neighbours'; evenings of entertainment that may pleasantly surprise them.

Graham Johnson

THE BRAITHWAITE REBUILDING APPEAL

Since the appeal was launched in the last edition of the 'Chronicle' Old Roans have generously donated the sum of £650. However, as the notes below will indicate a great deal more than this is needed; further donations will be gratefully received! The Icough Memorial Fund has promised assistance. Appeals to various charitable trusts have also been made. In all about two hundred letters were written, which have so far resulted in donations of £2,500. appeals for grants or sponsorship are also being made to a number of major companies. In addition the Trustees have about £8,000 in Bank Deposits and investments.

It is hoped that the Trustees of the Roan Foundation will be in a position to make a substantial contribution either as a loan or as a donation - or as both.

In anticipation of this assistance the Trustees have obtained the services of architects who have submitted outline plans for a suitable new building. The proposed new structure will consist of a single storey structure with rough cast walls and a slate roof, similar in area to the present huts. A dining area and common room will occupy the "Braithwaite end", looking towards Barrow and Causey through a large bay window. Sleeping accommodation will occupy the "Bassenthwaite end", with kitchen and washing facilities placed centrally.

"Slate roof", I hear you mutter, "What's wrong with shingles, or iron, or felt?" The answer lies with the Lake District Special Planning Board, who have strict regulations regarding size, shape and construction of new

buildings, especially in an area of such outstanding beauty as surrounds our Braithwaite site. A slate roof adds several thousand pounds to the cost of the building.

We have authorised the architects to apply for planning permission, but, of course, will do nothing more until funds become available, which brings me back to my first remarks. All donations, large or small, will be thankfully received - please send them to the address below:

Alan Weir
147 Wellmeadow Road
London SE6 1HP.

Alan Weir

NEWS OF OLD ROANS

Tony BRYER (62-69) and wife Penny have moved to Bristol where Tony has recently been appointed as Senior Resident Minister at St. Paul's Clifton. He tells us that the church and parish are set on the edge of the city centre and includes Bristol University within its responsibilities. His new address is 9 Leigh Road, Clifton and he invites former acquaintances to drop by "if they are passing through".

The recent article on the memorial trees at the school brought back many memories for John MITCHELL (ex staff). He recalls about half of those commemorated, in particular Jean HARTWEG (tree No. 1 by the Staff Room), the French Assistant with whom John shared 'digs', Peter ANDREWS (No. 38) and J.H. CURRY (No. 16). Curry was befriended, when he parachuted into France, by Hartweg's family - a delightful coincidence.

John relates that two of his former pupils (in his non-Roan days) have been in the news recently, namely Peter Wright of 'Spycatcher' fame and Pauline Cutting, the Beirut surgeon. John does not mention whether he taught R.E.D. BISHOP (36-43) but will no doubt be pleased to learn that Professor Bishop continues to illuminate the academic world. He was recently elected Vice-President of the Royal Society.

Nigel LAWSON (56-61) - no, not the Chancellor - is involved in property development and if his address in a salubrious part of



Sussex Tour 1953

(Back) Bill Gosling, Dave Bonner (Snr), Bill Brown, Ken Ross, Harry Townsend, Len Groves, Freddie Smith, Doug Humphries, Val Lovell, Bill Brooks, John Stringer, Maurice Potter

(Middle) Marjorie Williams, Ivy Brown, Margaret Cardwell, Wendy Lovell, Ena Groves, Joyce Williams, Peter Williams

(Front) Connie Townsend, Marilyn Townsend, Ian Castle, John Williams, Graham Townsend, Miss Cardwell, Margaret Castle

Greenwich is a guide, is clearly enjoying the fruits of the recent property boom. His brother David LAWSON (61-68) now works in America following his award of a PhD.

Alan VIBERT (ex staff) who taught biology in the 1960's as well as showing his skills on the football and basketball arenas, now teaches chemistry at Whitgift School, Croydon.

Old Roans Barbara KAMINSKI (67-73) and Peter WINCH (1970-76) announce the birth of their new venture. After ten years apiece in the Social Work profession, they are now the new owners of THE SEAVISTA HOTEL, MAWGAN PORTH, NEWQUAY, CORNWALL (Tel: 0637 860276). All Old Roans are welcome at any time and will be well looked after. Anyone arriving wearing a Roan tie or other item of school uniform will be presented with a free bottle of wine! Barbara and Peter look forward to seeing some of you in the future.

Bill WHELAN (24-28) was amused by the schoolboy howlers which appeared in the last newsletter. He sent one to his local newspaper in South Africa, where he lives, who duly printed it. Tony HOWITT (60-65) has recently moved to Skegness and via the same newsletter discovered that one of his contemporaries Keith SILCOX (60-68) lives nearby. Any other O.R.'s in the vicinity are invited to get in touch.

Roy CLARK (33-37) does live locally. He has renewed his contact with Roan after an absence of 50 years. He writes that he served with the RAF for over twenty years, the latter years as an adviser in various overseas countries, resigning his commission in the late 60's. He trained at the Rochester Theological College followed by work as a curate, then parish priest in Lincolnshire. He has recently retired. He has happy memories of his old school and staff such as Binnie, Milne, Mills, Ashworth, Mills, Gilbert, Harris, Chamberlain etc. who taught him. His particular group included Don Keating, Geoff Walters, Frank Holland, Clifton and the Lyon brothers.

Dylan WINDER (80-87), a recent Roan Exhibitor, is now studying zoology at Aberystwyth University. He intends this summer to participate in the Operation Raleigh project with an expedition to the Rocky Mountains. The projects in the west of the USA will involve wildlife preservation and trail maintenance combined with extensive backpacking treks; archaeological excavations of native American sites in the drier, semi-arid desert country of Utah and West Colorado;

'rattlesnake' botanical and zoological studies in the Rocky Mountain National Park and Wyoming.

Those that have read Phyllis Willmott's two earlier books "Growing up in a London Village" and "A Green Girl" will wish to learn that she has now published a third volume of autobiography "Coming of Age in Wartime". The publishers are again Peter Owen, who write.... "In her previous volumes Phyllis wrote with refreshing candour and insight of her childhood and adolescence (including her time at Roan). These books won her much acclaim. In this eagerly awaited third volume of her trilogy she recounts her life in England during the Second World War The special charm of "Coming of Age in Wartime" is that it tells us just what it was like to be a young unprivileged but intelligent and socially aware person making the difficult transition from youth to adulthood during an intensely dramatic period."

" days of passiondays of pride"

The story of the Roan Schools has been told twice before, by J.W. Kirby in 1929 and by K.S. Binnie in 1956, the section on the Girls' School in Binnie's book being by Margaret Hough. To mark the closure of both the old schools the Old Roan Association asked Freddie White, a former member of staff, to bring the history up to date. The following two articles formed part of that update and tell of the final years in the lives of the Roan Schools and the establishment of the John Roan School.

This part of the history has now to concern itself with fundamental changes which affected the Roan Boys' School, the Roan School for Girls and Charlton Secondary School.

The changes were the result of an agreement in principle between the I.L.E.A. and the Roan Foundation Governors that there should be an amalgamation of the three schools and the establishment of a new, mixed comprehensive school.

Following the agreement in principle there had been a lengthy and very complex process of consultation involving the I.L.E.A., the Heads, Governors and Staff at which the details of the proposed new school were gradually worked out.

The general outline of the plan was as follows: Charlton was to cease recruiting in 1977 (i.e. the last first year would enter the school in September, 1976)) and the building would close in August 1981. The Roan Boys' School would continue to accept 90 boys each year but from September 1977 this would be an all-ability intake. The Roan School for Girls would increase its intake in 1977 from 60 to 90 girls and that, too, would be an all-ability intake. The new school, which it had been agreed would be called The John Roan School, would come into being in September 1980, by which time a new school building at Westcombe Park would be ready to accept the 180 children, boys and girls, of the first year. The Devonshire Drive building would close at the end of the school year in 1984 when the last 5th year had completed its education there. Consequently by September 1984 the John Roan School would be housed entirely on two adjacent sites, having its Upper School (years 4 and 5 and the Sixth Form) at Maze Hill and its Lower School (years 1 - 3) at Westcombe Park. The Maze Hill building would have to undergo extensive alterations prior to this time. A guarantee had been given that all pupils admitted to either of the former Roan Schools before September 1980 would remain in the building to which they had been admitted until the end of their period of compulsory school attendance.

The autumn term of 1977 saw the first stage of the changes outlined above. Charlton School was without its first year intake while Maze Hill had received its first all-ability intake of 90 boys and Devonshire Drive its first all-ability intake of 90 girls.

A great deal of thought had been given at the Roan Schools to the reception and organisation of the new first year. Staff were very keen to strike the right note from the outset, particularly in the teaching of children with greater learning difficulties than had been usual among a selective intake.

Form teachers had been carefully selected and the children organised in classes of twenty-two, instead of the normal thirty. The aim of this was to allow more individual attention to be given to pupils and to help teachers to establish a close relationship with each member of the class.

A new feature of the curriculum at both Maze Hill and Devonshire Drive was the provision of remedial teaching for those children who required it. Staff had been appointed with experience in this field which meant that children with learning difficulties in Maths and English could be given specialised help in these subjects in very small groups, often amounting to

no more than half-a-dozen. Rooms for this purpose with the necessary equipment and books were provided at both buildings.

In July 1977 Dr A J Taylor had been appointed Headmaster of the John Roan School, which would come into being in 1980. The appointment had been made well in advance to allow for forward planning. His was to be the arduous task of guiding pupils and staff through the extensive changes in curriculum and organisation which the following years would see.

The formidable volume of work which would have to be undertaken by the Headmaster, Staff and School Governors, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Nigel Edgerton, cannot be over-emphasised. It would concern every aspect of the continuing development of the new school, including frequent consultation with the I.L.E.A. Architects in the building programme of the Lower School at Westcombe Park and the preparation of plans for major alterations at Maze Hill which would be undertaken at a later stage.

Other senior appointments were also made early and for the same reason as in the case of the Headmaster - to enable those concerned to undertake as quickly as possible the work of planning ahead. In the Autumn term of 1979 began the lengthy procedure of interviewing for all appointments to the John Roan School, both teaching and secretarial. While Staff already established (i.e. 'designated') at the three schools were guaranteed a post at the new school, it was inevitable that the appointments made would result in a change of status for some teachers. It was obviously desirable to settle the question of appointments as quickly as possible since staff would then know their precise position in the School and could then plan for the work they would have to undertake. Alternatively, time was available for Staff to look for teaching posts in other schools if they were not satisfied with the appointment they had been offered.

In the same school year two important conferences were held with the aim of planning for organisation in the new school during its first year. The first of these was held at Chiesman House, Chislehurst, in January 1980 and was attended by Dr. A.J. Taylor, Mr. D. Coffey, Deputy Head Teachers and Year Heads. Mr. D. Coffey was Deputy Head at Charlton and had been appointed Head of the Lower School in the John Roan School. The second conference was in June 1980, and was for all staff who held appointments in the new school. It was held at Worthing. Both conferences were extremely valuable as they gave members of Staff from

the three schools the opportunity to examine the current situation, to plan for future development and above all to meet socially and continue the process of integration.

A new school cannot be created at the stroke of a pen. Time is required for staff and children to feel themselves belonging to a new entity. Separate buildings hold tenaciously to their own individuality. It is only as the interchange of teaching staff between buildings gets under way that the necessary friendships are gradually formed and the feeling of belonging to the same school gains momentum. At Worthing much useful information was supplied by visiting speakers from comprehensive schools which had earlier gone through the process of amalgamation. On the 31st August 1980 the formal closure took place of the Roan Boys' School, the Roan School for Girls and Charlton Secondary School. The John Roan School came into being on the 1st September 1980.

It had been planned that at the opening of the John Roan School the first year intake of 180 boys and girls would go directly to the new Lower School at Westcombe Park. However, because the new building was not ready for occupation, it was necessary for the intake to be divided - the girls to Devonshire Drive and the boys to Maze Hill. As a result of this circumstance the school year September 1980 to July 1981, the first year of the John Roan School, proved in many ways to be a difficult one. Firstly, there was the problem of overcrowding at Maze Hill and Devonshire Drive, made particularly acute because of the wide range of classes and courses to which the School was committed. Even more important than overcrowding was the fact that the new intake of children did not from the outset start school life at the new building and site, but had for most of the year to be grafted on to the organisation of the older sites at a time when these were undergoing a period of rapid and difficult change. The inevitable result of this was to make Mr Coffey's task in establishing the new Lower School much more difficult than it otherwise would have been. For most of the year the pattern of the School was as follows: there were four years of an all-ability intake at Maze Hill and Devonshire Drive, only the 5th and 6th Forms remaining of the previous selective intake. At Charlton only the 5th Year remained.

At this point some indication should be given of the steady changes in organisation and curriculum which had taken place during the previous four years, aimed at meeting the requirements of the whole range of children at the Roan Schools. Staff had been ready to adopt new

teaching methods and aids in order to respond to both the problems and the opportunities which a wider range of pupil ability implied. This process had been greatly assisted by the appointment of a full-time media Resources Officer and assistants. There had been a widening of the courses offered in the 4th Year and a great range of advice and information was provided to enable boys and girls to make the best available option choices. This had gone hand-in-hand with an increase in the work of the Careers Teacher and in the availability of advice from the Careers Service.

There had likewise been in recent years a greater emphasis on the pastoral work undertaken by the School. It had been the headmaster's aim that all staff should regard this as an important part of their duties but work in this field became the particular responsibility of Year Heads and Deputy Heads assisted by the regular help of Education Welfare Officers and the wide range of support provided by School Welfare

Contact between parents and staff had also steadily increased. This had been achieved by much more frequent Parents' Evenings at which parents could discuss with staff their children's work and progress or any problem associated with their life at home or at school. Contact was not restricted to set evenings: parents were encouraged to arrange appointments with staff, Deputy Heads or the Headmaster himself at any time in the term when they felt concern over matters relating to their child.

The Parents' Association at Maze Hill and Devonshire Drive and the Parent-Teachers Association at Charlton had been a long established feature of the old schools and had done a great range of valuable work. This had not been restricted to fund raising, though much help in this way had been received by the schools and by individual clubs and societies, but had been directed at establishing, in many cases, lasting friendships between members of the staff and families with children at the schools. The three associations combined after 1980 to form the John Roan Parents' Association which has become one of the School's most valuable assets.

The one hundred and eighty boys and girls from maze Hill and Devonshire Drive did, in fact, move to Westcombe Park for the last half of the Summer Term of 1981. This involved the production of a completely new timetable for the whole school.!

Because the school had been built in a conservation area, great care had been taken to ensure that its appearance should tone with its surroundings.

The interior of the building provided a wide range of modern facilities with regard to flooring, furnishings and design and had the advantage of much more space in its setting than the older sites. Certainly the reaction of the children to the new Lower School was enthusiastic and the last six weeks of the school year saw a rapid settling in by both pupils and staff.

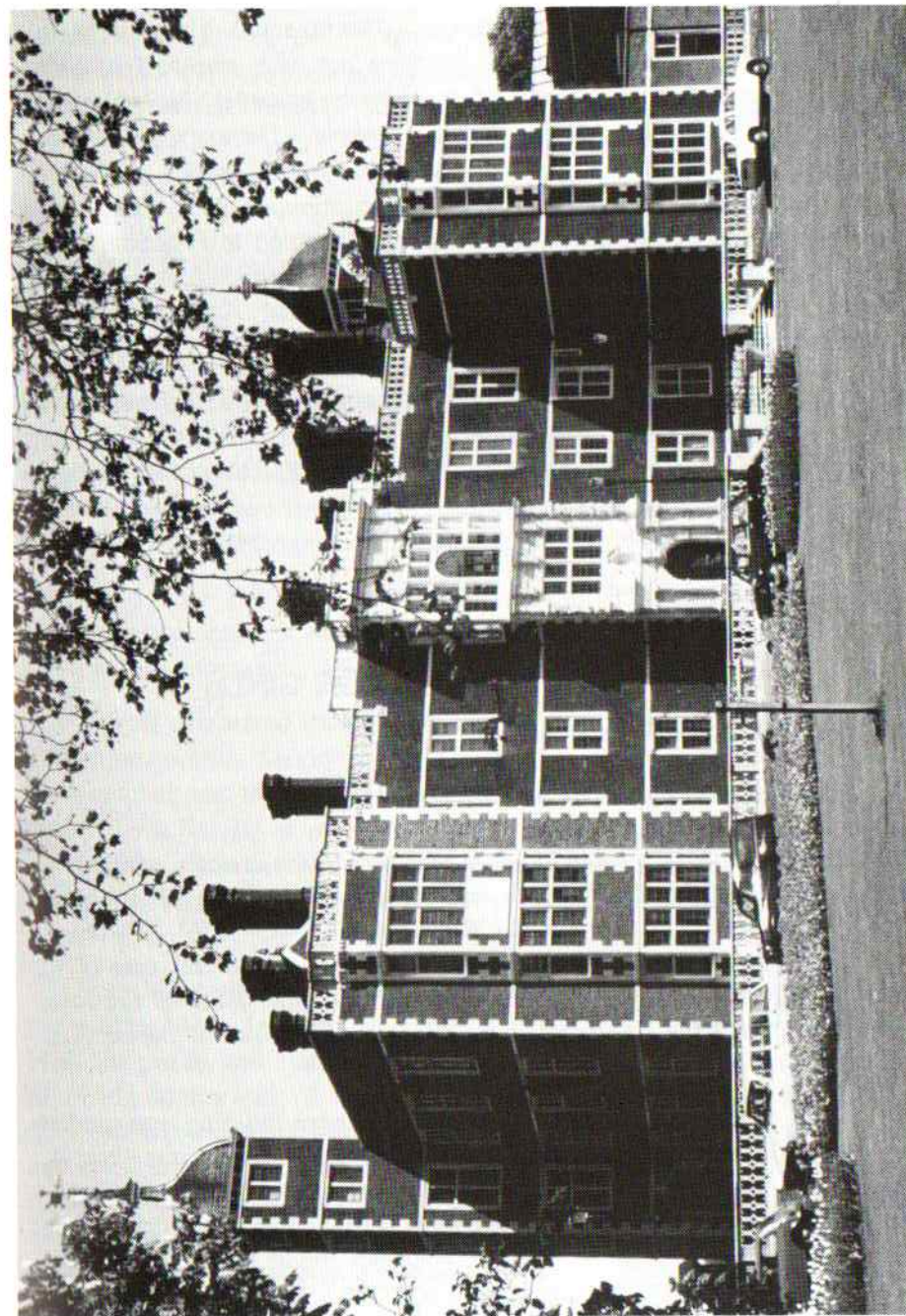
By Summer Term 1981 Charlton Secondary School was in the process of final closure. No pupils remained there after the completion of the G.C.E. and C.S.E. examinations and this left only the question of dealing with the large quantities of furniture and equipment at the site. Charlton Secondary School had, over many years, given fine service to the thousands of pupils entrusted to its care. This was not the end of a School but really a change of location, since the traditions and expertise of its staff had been incorporated in the new John Roan School.

In September 1981 the situation of the School was as follows: Westcombe Park now housed two years (i.e. 360 of the 540 children it was designed for); Maze Hill housed years 3-5 and Upper Sixth, boys only, and in addition the combined, mixed Lower Sixth Form; Devonshire Drive housed years 3-5 and Upper Sixth, girls only.

One of the problems of course for staff was the question of tacking in three buildings. Not all staff were equally affected. Some taught only in one building and problems of movement were not serious. For those however whose timetable involved teaching in three buildings, life could be extremely hectic.

A typical day might involve teaching all the morning at Devonshire Drive and in the afternoon both at Maze Hill and Westcombe Park. Although the timetable had been designed to limit movement as much as possible and travel periods were incorporated in it, it was inevitable that considerable strain was imposed on some members of the staff. It should be understood that movement here refers to staff only. Movement between buildings by children did not take place, with the exception of some movement by individual Sixth Formers and by some Third Year groups between Maze Hill and Westcombe Park.

A tragic event which happened on Sunday 29th November 1981 and which might have had serious consequences for the School should be noted here. A light aircraft crashed on the School Field at Kidbrooke Park Road, a few yards from the Pavilion. Some minor damage was done to the Pavilion itself but no harm was done to the Groundsman's house and he and his family suffered no injury.



"Charlton House"

The end of the school year in July 1982 brings us to the end of the first two years of the John Roan School. The account given here had inevitably been concerned with the carrying out of a plan and its effect on curriculum and staff. Many of the events, however, had much less effect on the life of the children in the Schools. During the five years from 1977 the wider life of the Schools continued largely unchanged; normal teaching continued without interruption, school and public examinations were held, clubs and societies continued to function, school camps were still run, football and cricket teams flourished, school plays, concerts and revues ran successfully, and Parents' Association events attracted large

In view of the heavy calls on the time and energy of the Heads, Teaching Staff and all other Staff during these five years, this is a most significant factor in the foregoing account. It promises well for the future vigour and success of the John Roan School.

D.M. Evans

THE ROAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

THE FINAL CHAPTER

The following notes are intended as a postscript to the chapter entitled "The Roan School for Girls" which was contributed by Miss M Hough to Mr K. S. Binnie's "The Story of the Roan Schools 1643-1956". These notes provide an abbreviated account of the last twenty eight years of the Roan School for Girls; years which have seen the emergence of the John Roan School, and the final closure, in 1984, of the school in Devonshire Drive.

For several years in the 1950s the Devonshire Drive building was used to capacity with the three form entry required to accommodate the "Post War Bulge". So great was the congestion that the laboratories and the Domestic Science rooms all had to serve as form rooms for middle school classes, and the two staircases were each designated as "One Way Traffic Only"! Classes were full to overflowing and the Staff was increased to deal with the large numbers of girls.

The House System was begun at the request of the girls, and after consultation with the Staff, four Houses - Chesterfield, Dartmouth, Queens and Vanbrugh - were established. Many activities were organised in each House, which involved pupils of all ages meeting one another and working together. There was also healthy competition in Sports and Dramatics, and great help was given to charitable causes, especially to local ones.

Each year, Harvest Festival was a time of special effort; the houses combined to make a wonderful display of flowers, fruit, vegetables and household provisions which later in the day were distributed to nearby hospitals, almshouses, and to those in need. The Toy Collection at Christmas was another outstanding effort. Toys were made by groups of girls during the term, then displayed with their gifts, and finally sent on to schools and children's wards in local hospitals. It was felt that healthy competition between the Houses fostered the team spirit in an over large school, and enabled contact to be made between girls of different years.

More and more girls were now staying on the VIth form but, owing to limitations of space, it was only possible to maintain two forms, and these were full to capacity.

The School celebrated its eightieth birthday on May 2nd 1958. There was a Commemoration Service in St. Alfege's Church in the morning when the preacher was the Bishop of Woolwich. This was followed at the School by a Recital of music and poetry, appropriately entitled "Learning for Girls".a Saturday May 3rd was the occasion of an Old Girls' Reunion, and of a performance by the Staff of "The Happiest Days of Your Life".

1962 saw the retirement of Miss Barnsdale who had been headmistress since May 1944. In her first months at Devonshire Drive she had shared with the pupils and Staff of the Emergency School the nightmare period of flying bombs and V2 rockets. It was during the years following VE Day that the members who had been scattered by evacuation grew under her hand into a well integrated whole. She ran the School with extreme competence - no easy task with the numbers involved and the limitations of the school building. Above all, she treasured the traditions which are a priceless possession of any establishment, and she encouraged the girls to work as individuals and to fulfil themselves. her departure marked the beginning of an era of change.

Miss Chamberlain was appointed to succeed Miss Barnsdale. She was a mathematician with a deep regard for the most effective way of teaching her chosen subject. She stayed with the School until 1968 and then decided to take a position in a Training College at Bristol to lecture on the teaching of mathematics. During her six years in Greenwich there were many changes. She welcomed new ideas and gave generous support to fresh ventures brought forward by Staff and by senior pupils. her relaxed and friendly attitude, the brushing aside of convention and pre-conceived ideas, and her concern for the individual, all made her period of office at the Roan School a very happy one.

The authorities had now decided that the School should revert to a two form entry: this brought problems of staffing, but it did mean that there was considerably less pressure on space. Also, during this period, enthusiasm for the House System waned, so that gradually it was abandoned. The members of the VIth form became more emancipated: they were now permitted to wear their own clothes and were encouraged to put forward their views on the successful running of the School. Staff were now less distant, and were in a way, closer to the pupils. At the request of the girls, prefects were no longer appointed; everyone undertook school duties and assisted in the smooth running of the school.

By summer 1967 four long established members of Staff had retired: Miss Hough (History), Miss Marsh (French), Miss Wilson - later Mrs Harris (English) and Miss Wretts Smith (Classics). All had served the school for around thirty years, covering not only the pre-war period, but also the evacuation to Bexhill and Wales, and the post-war reorganisation and development. All will be remembered with great affection and gratitude for their contribution to the life and work of the school.

Mrs. N. Barber was appointed as Head to follow Miss Chamberlain. She was a person of wide academic experience and was very interested in Care Committee work as well as being a local magistrate. By this time, winds of change were blowing and there were murmurs of reorganisation. Comprehensive schools, first introduced in London in 1954 at Kidbrooke, were now favoured by Education Authorities, and tentative plans were put forward for the Roan Boys and Roan Girls to join to form a new multi-ability entry school, situated on or near the Blackheath. Meanwhile, the School continued its work of education in the light of modern pressures and requirements. During the whole post-war era academic achievements had been of a very high standard. Many girls

went on to Universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, many to Teacher Training Colleges, and others to many varied establishments involved in training for various professions. Doctors, nurses, teachers, journalists, pharmacists, engineers, diplomats and archivists were all represented in the ranks of Old Girls.

Musical education under successive leadership of Mrs Lister and Mrs Leach was of outstanding quality. The School Choir and the School Orchestra were extremely successful and contributed much to the enjoyment of school life. Drama was likewise well catered for, and every year there was a stage production of a well known play, e.g. "Everyman", "The Importance of Being Earnest", "Much Ado About Nothing". One particular production, in the Spring of 1964, merits special mention, namely Purcell's opera "Dido and Aeneas". This involved a large cast drawn from all parts of the School as dancers, singers and actors. it was indeed a triumph for all concerned and gave the greatest enjoyment to both players and audience; Music, Drama, Dance, Art and Stage Management combined to reach a very high level of achievement.

Creative Art also came to the fore under the inspiring leadership of Miss Selves. Pottery, Photography and Silk Screen printing were some of the new subjects introduced into the Art Room, whilst formal art still maintained its previous excellence.

Field Courses and School Journeys attracted more and more support during these post-war years and, at the same time, Task Force and many other voluntary charitable activities were readily undertaken by those who wished to offer their services in the interest of the community.

In 1972 the I.L.E.A. issued their "Review of Secondary School Provision in South East London" and this contained the recommendation of the Roan School Governors that, subject to suitable financial arrangements being made, the two Schools should be amalgamated as a voluntary aided, mixed Comprehensive School. This would be housed in the existing Boys' School and in new buildings on a site in Westcombe Park Road. The Parents' Association campaigned against these proposals, the main objections being the great expense of building new school premises, and the desire of many parents for their children to attend single sex schools. the objections were overruled, and the decision was taken to proceed with the formation of the comprehensive school as soon as financial arrangements could be made.

In July 1974 Mrs Barber left as she had been appointed Headmistress of the larger Aylwin School in Southwark. After a nine month interregnum, during which period Mr. Billington ably performed the duties of Acting Head, Mrs. B. Scott was appointed to take charge of the School. It was during the four years that she was Head that plans for the reorganisation were finally passed and implemented. She worked very hard to smooth out the difficulties which were necessarily encountered in the preparation for the amalgamation of the two Schools into one comprehensive unit. Her previous experience enabled her to reassure Staff regarding future conditions of status and employment, and she will long be remembered for her pastoral work with the girls under her care. The Old Girls' Association will always be grateful to her for her interest and advice, especially in relation to its transition to the Old Roan Association catering for both Old Boys and Old Girls.

With so many changes afoot it was decided to celebrate the centenary of the Roan Girls' School in 1977 and many special events were arranged. A most moving performance of "The Messiah" took place in St Alfege's Church in March. "Music for a Summer Evening" was the title of a special concert held at the school, and an Open Day on July 14th gave friends, visitors and Old Girls an opportunity to visit the school. Finally on Founder's Day, July 15th, the usual, but on this occasion, very special service of thanksgiving took place in St. Alfege's Church; the preacher was the Bishop of Southwark. The service was followed by a Staff lunch at which three former Heads were present: Mrs Barnsdale, Miss Chamberlain and Mrs Barber, together with many members of Staff, both past and present. It was a wonderful occasion. It gave everyone an opportunity of reflecting on the progress accomplished during the one hundred years of the School's existence in the Devonshire Drive building - the successes, the failures, the many changes and, above all, the sense of continuity.

It was in 1977 that by directive from the I.L.E.A. selective intake was ended, although amalgamation was not to take place until September 1980. In 1979 Mrs. Scott left to take up a Headship in Tunbridge Wells and once again Mr. Billington skilfully held the reins until Dr. Taylor was made Head of the co-educational John Roan School in May 1981. Transfer of pupils from the Devonshire Drive premises to the new buildings commenced in May 1981. Since then, all new intakes of boys and girls have started their Roan School careers in the Westcombe Park premises. At the moment of writing, only the four fifth forms occupy

the Devonshire Drive building, and its doors will close finally in July 1984.

No history of the Roan Schools can be complete without reference to the debt owed by Staff and pupils to the untiring devotion, skilful guidance, and wholehearted support, freely given over the years by the members of the Governing Body. Many generations of girls will remember with affection Mr. Icough, who was Chairman of the Governors for many years, and who was a great champion of the cause of grammar schools. Mr. Edgerton, his successor, will be equally remembered for his leadership in overseeing the transition to the John Roan School.

July 1984 will mark the end of an era. John Roan set out to provide education for poor town-born children of Greenwich; for many years this meant boys only. Then in 1814 provision was properly made for girls, but in a separate establishment. Today, 170 years later, co-education had replaced the single sex schools, and the new John Roan School is a worthy development of the tradition begun in 1677. In accordance with the maritime associations of Greenwich, it is surely not inappropriate to say "May God bless her and all who serve in her" as an earnest of our good wishes for the future of the John Roan School.

Mary Jeffery (nee Grant)

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL LODGE

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Tel: 0732 458880

As you are all aware as Secretary of the Lodge I submit my annual report (perhaps it is better to say happenings) to the Editor.

I wonder if many of you read my short epistle, as my main concern is to try to interest one or two of you to join us, as I mentioned in the last magazine our Society is based on the principles of friendship, beneficence and respect for the law of the land.

Over the last few months two Old Roans have joined us in the 30-40 age group and another Old Roan aged in his 60's living in Cornwall has expressed a wish to become a member.

Doug Brittan (1943-48) will be installed as the 58th Master on the 18th October 1988. Many of you will know that he was a very good cricketer and footballer, playing for the Old Boys for many years.

On the 17th October 1989, we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary and we have invited the Provincial Grand Master of West Kent to be our honoured guest. If any Old Roan who is a member of another Lodge is interested in coming along, please let me know as there is a lot of preparation for such an important event.

BIRTHS

- BRADBROOK** - to Daryle (nee Hayes '65-'72) and wife of Keith ('66-'73) on 17th May 1987 a son Thomas, a brother for Elliot.
- DENNIS** - to Alex Broadey and John Dennis ('64-'71) on 20th February 1988 a son, William Joseph.
- FRAZER** - to Jenny (nee Ashmore '70-'77), wife of Dave on 13th September 1986, a son, Innes, a brother for Emily.
- HASLAM** - to Hilary (nee Chuter '71-'78) and wife of Neal ('67-'74) on 6th July 1988 a daughter Lucy Elizabeth, a sister for Emma.
- HUTLEY** - to Nicky, wife of David Hutley ('68-'75) on 19th September 1987, a son, James Christopher.
- KING** - to Sharon, wife of Allan King ('68-'73) on 14th January 1988, a daughter, Sophie Louise.
- LAWRANCE** - to Hilary (nee Riley '62-'72) and wife of Graham (Staff '76-'81) a son, Thomas.
- WALSH** - to Mary (nee Cook '67-'74) on 14th January 1987, a son, Stephen Paul.

MARRIAGES

- FISH-WINGATE** - on 18th March 1988 at Enfield Registry Office, Tim Fish ('64-'70) to Lorraine Wingate.

FORWARD-ORFORD - on 28th May 1988 at All Saints Church, New Eltham, Lynn Forward ('76-'83) and Colin Orford ('75-'82).

RODWELL-RUSSON - on 24th October 1987 at North Walsham Registry Office, Gill Rodwell ('70-'77) and Jimmy Russon ('64-'71).

THOMSON-WELLS - on 21st May 1988 Duncan Thomson ('74-'81) to T.J. Wells of Cudworth, Yorkshire.

THURLEY-ROBERTS - on 12th September 1987 at Christchurch United Reform Church, Morecambe, Terry Thurley ('66-'73) to Barbara Roberts.

DEATHS

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| BATT, J.B. ('59-'66) | September 1987 |
| BOYDON, B.F. ('19-'26) | February 1987 |
| COLE, G.B. | 31st July 1987 |
| COLLINGS, E.J. ('18-'24) | 10th November 1987 |
| EAGLE, H.W. ('22-'28) | 10th April 1988 |
| GOODWIN, Mrs. G.M. (nee Heard '49-'54) | July 1987 |
| ICOUGH, Mrs.
(widow of Harry, ex-chairman of the Governors) | 7th July 1987 |
| JORDAN, W. (Bill, ex-groundsmen) | 15th January 1988 |
| PAGE, H.J. ('22-'24) | 28th October 1986 |
| PAGE, N.W. ('26-'32) | January 1986 |
| READ, F.C.E. ('23-'30) | early 1987 |
| RINGER, A.E. ('19-'24) | 1987 |
| SOPER, Mrs. M.F.E. (nee Fry '16-'24) | 24 May 1987 |
| STEPHENSON, D. (nee Lashmar '18-'24) | 1st July 1987 |

"You have sat too long here for any good you may have been doing.
Depart, I say, and let us have done with you.
In the name of God, go!"

- (1) Oliver Cromwell to the Long Parliament (1654)
- (2) Rt. Hon. L.S. Amery, M.P. to the Prime Minister,
Neville Chamberlain (1940)
- (3) Anon to the editor of the Old Roan Chronicle (1988)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21st October 1988

Annual Reunion
Dinner at the Pavilion

25th March 1989

Dinner Dance,
Harrogate Rooms,
Yorkshire Grey, SE9

31st March 1989

Annual General Meeting
at the Pavilion

