



SUSCEPTUM PERFICE MUNUS

THE OLD ROAN CHRONICLE

No. 7

July 1987

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Election to President of the Old Roan Association may well have had my predecessors scurrying, like me, to past copies of the Roan Magazine or Chronicle. What usual comments are made in an address; how controversial can one be; what subjects are absolutely taboo; what subjects are a must?

Study of such archives, I'm afraid, is a rather negative approach, merely producing symptoms of acute panic and confusion. No neat parcels of ideas here; simply a rich diversity of thought reflecting independent minds and free spirits. Yet, even allowing for such freedoms, I found a common framework within which I could work, albeit rather clumsily.

I first noticed how regularly the same phrases surfaced: "great honour"; "not a little surprised"; "when I recall my predecessors"; "my inadequate thanks and appreciation". We may tend to dismiss these as tired platitudes, that blithely conform to convention: nothing could be further from the truth, believe me!

Now that I am placed in the same position, I can proudly speak on behalf of the defence: we really do feel greatly honoured and not a little surprised; we do recall those Old Roans of great stature who served before us; and we timidly offer our inadequate thanks and appreciation - the present incumbent certainly does!

Having now convinced myself that a collection of past Presidents are sympathetically on my side, I can proceed with growing confidence, to speculate on the future of the Old Roan Association. What is the future - is there a future? The past few years have seen radical changes within the once Roan Boys' and Roan Girls' Schools, now the John Roan School. Older generations may have looked aghast at such alterations to long-established systems; others may have greeted them with open arms.

Whatever social or political views we may harbour, as Old Roans one thing is of paramount importance to us: we must maintain

and strengthen our links with the School. Despite the marvellous efforts of many people within our ranks, that link has eroded at an alarming rate: our cricket and football clubs would gloomily attest to that. In the long run, our future as an Association is only assured if we continue to recruit a plentiful supply of school-leavers. Somehow, we must convince them that there is life after Roan. We need to educate them to recognise that we offer them friendship, a welcoming Clubhouse, sport - as relaxing or as competitive (pardon me, Ms. Morrell) as they wish.

When I was at School, the Roan Magazine used to be printed every July and December. Its arrival was guaranteed as that of double Physics on a Monday afternoon. Yet, unlike double Physics, which had to be endured to the bitter end, I only partook of the first half of the Magazine, having little or no interest in the Old Roan Association section; no doubt most of my contemporaries were equally predisposed.

Happily, on leaving School, I was a reformed character, dutifully reading even the most tortuous poem submitted by an eleven-year old. I hasten to add that my reading role had reversed and that duty persuaded me to read the School section of the magazine as well; to my knowledge, there are no eleven-year Old Roans submitting excruciating poetry.

Yet, however weak-jointed the verse, however poor the School results at cricket or football, chess or athletics, I felt an allegiance. It was, of course, a simple recognition of the activities of a place that was inextricably woven into my own life history. Whatever its faults, the School represented an age that never returns, but inexorably recedes into the past.

Our association with the School shouldn't be allowed to mirror that passing of time. We must guard against the corrosive nature of apathy by reminding ourselves of the roots that are uniquely part of us, and by ever encouraging the arrival of those new faces "that come hereafter". I hope in the coming year to contribute to that aim.

I conclude in sanguine mood, because I know we can succeed. Our success depends, to a large extent, on the attraction of the Club, which seems, if my letter-box is any indication, to be a hive of activity these days. Pu-n-ch lines literature regularly descends onto my mat; Pu-n-ch lines posters decorate the Club bar. If you're not on the mailing list, get on it, or better still, visit the Club to get first-hand knowledge of what's on offer. To all those who promote such enterprise, and to all those who have assisted in running anything at the Club, I offer sincere thanks - something I shall be offering in the coming months to those kind souls who will, no doubt, guide me expertly through to 1988.

Graham Johnson

FROM THE SECRETARY

In accordance with the resolution passed at the 1986 Annual General Meeting annual subscriptions were increased from £2.50 to £5 with effect from 1st January 1987. There has not been too much difficulty in collecting subscriptions from those using the Club, but there are 64 members, out of just over 200, who pay by Banker's Order and have not yet increased their orders. At the 1986 AGM Life Membership was re-opened. As a result 34 members transferred from annual to life membership, of which 9 are paying by instalment.

The general appeal to life members to top-up their original subscription has been most successful and welcome, with over £3,500 being donated by 226 members of which 49 have initiated regular donations by Banker's Order to bring in almost £300 each year. As with annual subscriptions, donations are still being received.

The figures for membership as at 31st December 1986 were:-

Life members	703	(694)
Partly paid life members	9	(-)
Fully paid ordinary members	471	(482)
Junior member	1	(1)
Honorary members	3	(3)
Associate members	19	(19)

1206 (1199)

During the year John Cramp, then President, visited the School and spoke with the Headteacher, staff and members of the John Roan Association with a view to closer relationships between the three bodies, in particular with reference to work experience being offered to pupils of the School by Old Roans.

The John Roan Association is an organisation of parents or guardians of pupils of the School; all staff, both teaching and non-teaching and all pupils. Membership may be extended to friends of Roan and the Old Roan Association had been invited to take part. The Association has responded positively, and further developments are awaited.

During the week before the AGM Steve Nelson and Trevor Puddifoot visited the School and spoke to the fifth formers, advertising the facilities offered by the Sports Clubs. From that meeting it was learnt that there is a girls' football team at the School. This could pose the Football Club with an interesting problem when the players leave the School. The fifth form leavers have possibly been neglected by the Association in the past. With education moving towards tertiary colleges the fifth form may become a major source of new membership in forthcoming years.

A consortium of the sixth forms of The John Roan, Eaglesfield, Blackheath and Bluecoats and Kidbrooke Schools has been formed, known as The Central Park Consortium. Pupils of the schools involved attended classes for specific subjects at each others' sites. Thus some pupils from any of the other three schools would attend Roan for certain tuition. Under the previous constitution these students would not be eligible to join the Association. At the 1987 Annual General Meeting John Long proposed and Neal Haslam seconded the following proposal, which was unanimously agreed: that with immediate effect Paragraph 3 (a) of the Constitution, under the heading "Membership", should be amended to read:-

"Membership shall be open to all former pupils, including members of The Central Park Consortium who have been on the register of The John Roan School or have attended the School for tuition, past and present members of the Staff and all past and present Governors of the Schools of the Roan Foundation, Greenwich."

Efforts will continue to be made with sixth form leavers and 42 joined at the summer's School leavers' evening last year.

Some editions of the Christmas 1986 "Newsletter" were stapled together incorrectly by the printers. It is impossible to tell how many, but it seems to be only a few. If anyone did receive an incorrectly stapled one some spare copies are still available from the Secretary.

In the last edition of the "Chronicle" there was mention of the Class of '62, who had had a reunion in 1985. On August Bank Holiday Sunday in 1986 they held another successful reunion, this time at the Club. There were 17 of Marilyn Walker's (the organiser) Class and 7 of the other Class of that year, plus husbands and children.

The facilities at the Club are available for such functions, and it is hoped there will be more such groups. Indeed there is to be a reunion of the Class of '70 on 12th September this year - see "Dates for your Diary". Wherever possible I shall try to assist by putting members in touch with each other. As usual several publications have been returned as a member no longer lives at the address in our records. My continued appeal is for members to ensure they let me know their change of address and should anyone be in touch with the following to let me know their whereabouts:-

Mrs M. Collins
K.G. Cornish (29-34)
W. Johnson (19-26)
Mrs. A. Mills (13-17)
N.W. Page (26-32)
Mrs. J. Parker (63-70)
D.L. Phillips (62-69)

A.P.R. Richmond (71-78)
T. Rumble (46-54)
D.S. Smith (46-52)
P.N. Snaith (64-71)
D.W.T. Snape (70-77)
Mrs. P.M. Stock (39-44)

Tony Slaney

FROM THE TREASURER

After a few lean years, 1986 was financially successful for both the Association and the Club, and with the hope that this is the shape of things to come, a few comments seem appropriate. For the benefit of the 1183 members who were unable to be at the Annual General Meeting the "bones" of the accounts are set out later.

You will remember that life membership was re-introduced and subscriptions from these members proved to be the larger part of our income, enabling us not to rely on the Club to meet the printing costs of the "Chronicle". Existing life members responded magnificently to the appeal last year to help "top up" our finances and many have chosen to make a regular donation - Thank You All.

The Association never really recovered from the inflation rates of the seventies and funds were never readily available to fall back on; we had to juggle if an unexpected item of expenditure arose! The donations received are held on short term investment to enhance their value and, at the time of writing, have topped £6,000.

With a stable base, we can now look to the future more optimistically than we have been able to do in recent years.

Bar prices at the Club increased in January last year by an average 5% in order to generate a profit level of 25% to enable us to meet the new contribution to ground rental and also pay for our on-going programme of improvements. At the end of the year we had achieved just over 23% gross profit and the addition of the Whitbread loan redemption raised this to 25.2%. The War Memorial Room had new flooring laid and improvements were made to lighting.

For 1987, refurbishment of the ladies' toilets will be our main expense, and we are hoping to receive support from Whitbread towards this. Our everyday running expenses steadily increase and a high level of turnover must be maintained in order to hold our prices steady for another year.

Hopefully the difficulties experienced in 1985 are now behind us and we can steer the ship on an even keel.

Full details of the Association and Club accounts can be obtained from me if any member wishes to have any further information.

Neal Haslam.

ACCOUNTS

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION

Revenue Account:		Balance Sheet:	
Subs	Annual	Fixed Assets	92
	Life	Less Depreciation	88
Trading Surplus			<u>4</u>
		Investments	7,421
Expenditure		Current Assets	4,865
Surplus		Current Liabilities	(543)
			<u>11,747</u>
Accumulated Fund:		Represented by:	
Balance	4,858	Accumulated Fund	8,892
Interest r'cd	325	Benevolent Fund	1,026
Donations	2,761	Icough Memorial Fund	1,645
Surplus	<u>948</u>	Mary Higgs Fund	<u>184</u>
	8,892		<u>11,747</u>

OLD ROAN CLUB

Trading Account:		Balance Sheet:	
Sales	22,542	Fixed Assets	15,125
Gross Profit	7,419	Less Depreciation	3,877
Running Expenses	4,982		<u>11,248</u>
Net Profit	2,437	Investments	2,571
Fruit Machine/		Current Assets	14,971
Pool Table Recpts	<u>2,162</u>	Current Liabilities	<u>8,351</u>
Surplus	<u>4,599</u>		<u>20,439</u>
Profit and Loss Account:		Represented by:	
Surplus	4,599	Balance b/forward	15,637
Interest received	549	Surplus for year	<u>4,802</u>
Social functions	<u>508</u>		<u>20,439</u>
	5,656		
Gratuities & grants	<u>854</u>		
Surplus for the year	<u>4,802</u>		

THE OLD ROAN CLUB

The Club report covering the past 12 months is much more encouraging than that given in the 1986 issue of The Old Roan Chronicle. It is not the purpose of this report to deal with details of the Club Accounts but merely to draw attention to the bar, or trading, receipts for the year ending 31st December 1986 which amounted to £29,422. This sum gave us a gross profit of £7,419, or just over 25%, which was the projected margin that we set early in 1986 when we agreed to assist the School Governors with the greatly increased rental charges levied on those areas of the Sports Field which are not held in freehold.

Including agreed donations from the Old Roan Football and Cricket Clubs, who each contributed £250, we have now paid the Foundation Governors £1000, being a portion of the 1986 rental of £3,250. We anticipate that the bar revenue, if maintained at the 1986 level, will enable us to make future payments directly from the Club Account. In this connection we have not yet received any response from the Governors to our request for a formal agreement of tenure but this matter is being pursued and I hope it will be resolved in the near future.

Insofar as Club amenities are concerned we have, at considerable expense, refurbished the ladies' toilets and installed a small dressing room and shower in that area. At the time of writing this report the work is practically completed and we hope it will greatly improve the somewhat limited facilities that have existed hitherto.

In conjunction with this work we have also installed radiators in the bar lounge and these, also, should make the place more comfortable, especially during the colder months. The ILEA are currently carrying out the external redecoration of the whole pavilion and the cost of such portion of the work that relates to the War Memorial Room and the Bar Lounge will be paid by the Club.

Whilst we are still experiencing minor, but often niggardly, problems with our suppliers and with the maintenance of the Bar rosters the Bar has, in general terms, been fully satisfactory. In no small measure this is due to the hard work put in by Steve Nelson and Trevor Puddifoot who spend most Monday evenings cleaning the beer pipes and checking the stock levels etc.

The problems of staffing the Bar, particularly on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, are more difficult to resolve and I can only remind all of you who use the Club facilities that we rely solely upon the voluntary efforts of members to meet this commitment. If we do not obtain enough volunteers the Bar will not be open and, resultantly the Old Roan Club will cease to exist. For this reason I make my annual plea to all members, particularly those with no domestic responsibilities, to help behind the bar and enlist with either Monty Smith, Steve Nelson or any other member of the Club Committee.

On the social front the efforts of the "Punch Promotions" team of Steve Nelson, Trevor Puddifoot and Terry Chance have

gathered momentum and have increased the number of social evenings at the Club. As well as providing entertainment these evenings have produced an increase in our bar sales and are, thus, of double benefit. On a more intellectual plane David Andrews has organised a number of competitions and his current efforts in organising a "Trivia Quiz" are worthy of special mention.

On the debit side our initial information relating to the trading period January to April 1987 indicates that the bar profit level is not being maintained and this problem will be receiving prompt attention from the Bar Executive Committee. We are facing increasing costs, as well as capital expenditure, and it is vital that the planned levels of income are realised and continued.

During December last the main Pavilion was broken into and the Payphone was stolen. An attempt was made to break into the bar area but this was thwarted by the alarm system. As a result the School decided not to continue with the telephone in the main Pavilion and, in its place we have installed a payphone behind the bar. This little incursion has cost the Club quite a lot of money in reparation and installation costs and, additionally, we now have to meet the telephone charges over and above the amounts paid in by users. However it is perhaps better for us to have an exclusive telephone, in a secure location, for the prime benefit of the Football and Cricket Clubs.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Club Committee, especially the Bar Executive, and all who have helped by staffing the bar, for their efforts during the past year which has seen further progress from the doldrums that were experienced during the early part of 1985.

Frank Barnes

OLD ROAN PERSONALITIES

Graham Johnson

When I heard the name of the man who is to be our President for this year I have to say that I smiled to myself. No doubt others of John Roan's men and women who know him will also have the same reaction when the news of his appointment reaches them. This is not to imply that Graham Johnson will not make a fine President for he is both intelligent and conscientious and he will use these qualities during his year of office - but he is also a very funny man.

The "talent to amuse" as Noel Coward put it, is a combination of a sense of humour that many have and can share, allied to an unusual ability to impersonate accents and voices that few outside the acting profession can match. In the nicest sense - the man is a clown. Graham loves the theatre and has been an active member of the Old Roan Dramatic Society for many years, taking leading parts, and in recent times, directing as well. My children will not thank me now for reminding them of the times when they would climb onto Graham's knee and he would recite poems and tell tales for hours on end - all with full vocal improvisation. The Tale of the Thumbs seemed to be the



GRAHAM JOHNSON
President, Old Roan Association
1987-88

favourite and included snippets of James Bond and 'Somerzett' accents.

Because of these talents Graham has been a frequent speaker at cricket dinners and indeed helped out his Kent C.C.C. namesake at dinners during his benefit year in 1983. The Old Roan C.C. has held a supper for over 20 years and of the best five speeches made during all this time, Graham has made three of them.

His greatest triumph was surely the night he spoke of the Packer revolt and its effect on after dinner speakers - the subject shows the humour of the man. After a few minutes preamble he whipped off his clothes to reveal that underneath he was dressed in pyjamas. With the aid of a table lamp to emulate floodlights he launched into the funniest piece of nonsense that I have ever heard. The whole room rocked with laughter and the applause at the end of this masterly performance was the loudest and longest ever heard at this function.

However, it is as a cricketer that I know Graham best. He is a traditionalist, not quite approving of the one-day game and preferring the more complex strategy of the 3 or 5 day match. I have attended matches with him for many years - and excellent company he is too.

As a player he is a genuine all-rounder, that is to say that he is worth his place either as a batsman or as a bowler. His captaincy is sound though sometimes he will be a little too generous to lesser players and drop himself down the order to allow others to have a bat. As a bowler he is quite unorthodox, bowling as they say off the wrong foot. But his line and length is good enough to justify his bowling for long spells as a stock medium pacer. However, if there is just a little help from the pitch he can be a prodigious wicket taker. I was his captain on two such occasions. He took 8 wickets against Thornton Heath in one of the finest games of cricket any of the players who took part can have played in, though his best ever figures were 9 for 49 against Linden Park then in our league but soon to be promoted to the South Thames League.

Whilst he is an unorthodox bowler his batting is quite the opposite and Graham would be the first to see the contrast. He plays beautifully straight and can play all the shots. His playing of fast bowling is probably as good as anyone in the 2nd XI, always trying to play forward and often getting hit on the hand for his trouble.

He is an ideal opener but he does not hit the ball very hard and tends to play elegant shots straight to the fielders so that a well set field can often restrict his scoring. I was lucky enough to be at the match when Graham made his highest score when he made a lovely century against Sibton Park; for once he was finding the gaps and his drives to the boundary.

During his year of presidency Graham will work hard to help the Association in these difficult and changing times. He will also enjoy himself immensely - and so, I think, will others whom he meets.

Martin Hooker

THE CLASS OF '62

About two years ago I decided that instead of just wondering about my old classmates who started at the Roan Girls with me in 1962, I would try to find them. I wrote to the few I was still in touch with and they supplied me with further contacts. I then wrote to these girls and before long the whole thing had snowballed until we had traced all but five of the original thirty in my form. We also found twelve of the other form from the same year as well as many of the staff. The enthusiastic replies to my quest for information astounded me. The Old Roan spirit still lives and everyone is eager to hear news of their old friends. I now send out a newsletter about three times a year bulging with contributions from members of the 1962 intake, giving news of what they have been doing since they left school.

We have held two reunions, the first in the summer of '85 was in Greenwich Park. The second was in August '86 and we were very grateful to be able to use the Clubhouse. Twenty-four girls from our year, three members of staff, a couple of girls from other years, husbands and numerous children, got together for a good gossip and a thoroughly enjoyable day out. It was such a success that it looks like becoming an annual event, and a third meeting is already fixed for Sunday 13th September 1987.

It would take too long to give news of everyone since they left Roan so I will just mention a few of the happy events of the last year or so. Jane Skinner (nee Hackett) produced her first child, Thomas, on December 16th 1985. A few days later Brenda Edlington (nee Purkiss) had her second child, Jane, on New Year's Eve. In 1986 Linda Davies (nee Spring) gave birth to her second child, Miriam, on April 18th and Gillian Griggs (nee Coles) also had her second child, Amy, on July 15th. Chris Stanhope (nee Hubbard), who has lived in Australia since shortly after leaving school, had her fourth child, John, on 4th September. In March '86 Elizabeth (nee Hung, formerly Winter) married Cliff Appleby and in September Barbara (nee Bray, formerly Ash) married Peter Emmony.

Despite the recent marriages some of the "girls" have been married for many years and some have children well into their teens. It's nearly twenty years since some of them left Roan. I wonder what the next twenty will bring?

Marilyn Walker (nee Judson)

AND OF '70

All girls who attended the school from 1970-75 or 1970-77 are invited to a reunion which will take place at the Roan Club on September 19th at 8pm. There will be a light buffet and disco (with some 70's records to bring back memories!) and everyone is being encouraged to bring photos, old school books, and other "souvenirs" with them. Tickets will cost £2.50 each. Further details are available from Jane Sackett on 856 3264 (home) or 948 3262 ext 222 (office).

AND OF THE '30's

As you possibly know, Old Roans of the '30's continue to meet, and a pattern has developed, so that we gather at The Windmill, north of Ewhurst, Surrey, at lunchtime on a mid-June Monday, and at the Rambler's Rest, Chislehurst Common, on a November Monday.

Beside the regulars - Brian Thomas, John Long, Ken Bartlett, Ernie Winter, John Smith, Alan Weir et al, we were delighted to see for the first time Douglas Goddard, Peter Trafford and Roy Pearman - plus Lionel Berry of course - last June. And in November Frank Twitchett came down from Leeds, Bill Henley from Glasgow, Peter Longhurst from Winchester, and Stan Pierce, who had tracked down the much enquired-after Freddie Whittle, who also came - all for the first time. Peter A. White, Richard B. Jenkyns and Dennis Broome are among others who have been in touch and who hope to appear - one day!

Anyone interested in joining us can contact me on 01 647 7317.

Bill Wedge

SCHOOL NEWS

As I write the election campaign is in full-swing and we are being bombarded with the rival parties' solutions to the dreadful decline into which education in Britain has plunged. Indeed, for months (or is it years) past we have read in our newspapers and seen on our televisions countless "informal" views as to what is wrong with our schools (at least that's one topic on which everyone is an expert - after all we all went to school didn't we?).

To some of you whose days at Roan or Charlton are now some way back in the past it might well make you wonder whether the school that you remember is still vaguely the same - or whether it, too, is the victim of falling standards and all the other ills of which we hear so much.

If you could start your school life again would you recognise the experience - or would it really be so different? Those of us who have been with the school for some considerable time (can it really be nearing the end of my 24th year?!) are inevitably tempted at times to don our rose-coloured spectacles so we look back on the past that never really existed but when we focus on the last couple of terms what do we see?

I've just said goodbye to my fifth year and they've gone off for the half-term to put the final touches to their exam preparation with the usual mixture of phrenetic panic and blase self-assurance (and the usual number who are resigned to do it all again next year!). The one difference, perhaps, was the manner of their leaving - a get-together in the Hall for a buffet meal, entertainment from a staff "group" and by members of the fifth, the swapping of farewell messages in autograph books (yes, they can read and write despite what we hear!) and the flashing of cameras. It was an afternoon to remember.

Next year it will be G.C.S.E., but the standards asked for and achieved and the attitude of the pupils a year hence will not

be much different - there must have been just as much to do when "O" Level, C.S.E. came in and, of course, the School Cert.

I dip into the bag to find something different and pull out - the Breakfast Bar.

"For your delight we will be serving a variety of cereals, yoghurt, croissants, toast with spreads, fruit buns, rolls and crumpets. To drink there will be coffee, tea, fruit juice and hot chocolate. All this served with panache by a friendly team of young adults. SO BE THERE AT THE BREAKFAST BAR OR BE SQUARE".

So ran the pre-publicity when the C.P.V.E. (Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education) students in the Lower Sixth launched their new venture, backed by a loan from a local bank. Since February, each Tuesday and Thursday morning has produced the aroma of coffee wafting along the top-corridor at Maze Hill and a welcome change to the start of the day.

Plus ca change, plus c'est oh yes, we still teach French (and German and Punjabi) - the first years have visited Le Touquet and others have been to Collogne and Brunswick - but that wasn't what I meant - I was thinking of the winter, and what a winter: deep snow with the hardy trudging knee-deep to school to find - yes, if you remember Maze Hill, you've guessed it! yet another flood in the loft over the Art Room, and the English store cupboard and (as we are moving with the times) over the computer-rooms. Amazingly the computers, once dried out, worked but poor old Shakespeare took another soaking and his words had to be re-ordered.

Despite the continuing pressures of the I.B.I.S. inspection and our differences with Mr. Baker, the artistic life of the school has continued to flourish. Last term there was a musical concert which showed the breadth and depth of talent that enriches the school, with items ranging from the expertise of Grade 8 musicians to the infectious enthusiasm of the beginners Jazz Band making full use of the first few notes they have learned - it was a lovely evening.

On stage, we continue in the forefront of dramatic production in I.L.E.A., a fact noted by the visiting "O" Level examiner. We have just seen our imaginative performance of "The Canterbury Tales" which had the audience rocking with laughter - and some of them brought into the action!

So - if you were to start again at eleven of course there would be changes - in curriculum and to a certain extent in style, with more emphasis on the pupils' self-motivation and self-assessment, with more group work and less of the teacher at the front talking the hours away. However, the end-product would be much the same - if you took your opportunities you would learn as much (perhaps more about your own abilities), you could play as much, there would be as many activities for you to do.

Perhaps, above all, there are as many people, both staff and pupils who are healthily dissatisfied with the present and looking to change the future for the better as there have ever been. This suggests that whatever the pressures from outside

we shall not only survive but we shall continue to develop and in that sense The John Roan School is the same as the one you went to and enjoyed all those years ago.

Nigel Ballantyne

SCHOOL NEWS CUTTINGS

The following selection of cuttings from the local press and the monthly "John Roan News" gives some flavour of current school activities:

After my appointment at the end of last term, the real introduction to John Roan began on 17th July with a staff workday preparing for the new school year. Here I met teachers who, in spite of the difficulties of the previous months, were still creative, open to argument and excited about new developments. The contacts I have since enjoyed with staff, pupils, parents, governors and members of the Old Roan association have helped confirm my view of the school and its future.

As Deputy head with responsibilities mainly for the pastoral care, discipline and social development of pupils through the year system, I have joined with the skilled and committed team of year heads at John Roan. I see us developing an environment in which all pupils may achieve their full potential through an acceptance of school as a happy, orderly and productive institution where teaching and learning are the first priority. An important factor in this development will be the creation of real opportunities for pupils to contribute to the running of the school through the Year and School Councils which have just been elected, and their representation on the John Roan School Association.

At the end of my first term, a demanding one for us all at John Roan School, I have a real sense of belonging. I am now looking forward to the next five years when we have, with your support, a real opportunity to improve the quality of education for all our children.

Trevor Bell

No Cover Up!



All parents and anyone else interested in John Roan are welcome to come into school on **TUESDAY MORNINGS** without making an appointment. Just go to the General Office and then you are free to walk round the school and see what's going on.

The John Roan Association

In the Autumn Term of 1986, the John Roan Parents' Association, by democratic process became:

THE JOHN ROAN ASSOCIATION.

Membership of the association is now automatic for ALL pupils, parents, staff, and friends of the School.

There are NO membership fees.

The new Association Committee has been elected and formed from parents, pupils and staff. The committee meets regularly to discuss issues such as fund raising, the use of funds for pupil benefit and to explore ways to promote greater communication between the School, parents and the community as a whole. These meetings are open to all members of the Association, and the Committee welcomes all with views to put and ideas to explore.

Dan the man

GET down to Charlton Park on Saturday to support valiant Charlton supporter Dan Coffey (pictured below).

Dan, 55, a teacher at John Roan School, Blackheath, is running for 24 hours in aid of the Mercury Trust Fund for Charlton.

He's taking on another mega-marathon star, Malcolm Campbell from Birmingham, in a unique event in the borough.

Guessing how far Dan will run could win you a bottle of whisky in a raffle for the Mercury fund.

Go along and cheer this most valiant of fans! Offers of help or sponsorship can be made by ringing Dan on 311 1570.

Markers

You can sponsor Dan, of Abbey Wood, or provide valuable assistance as a lap marker.

"I've already got some people to help but we particularly need lap markers between 6-10pm on Saturday," said Dan, a world beater in his age group for extreme distances.

The race starts at 11am on Saturday and, apart from a short break, will continue through to 11am on Sunday.



SIXTH form pupils from the John Roan School, Maze Hill, showed their business enterprise by opening a breakfast bar last Friday

And they started on a romantic footing by serving a Valentine's Day breakfast of bubbly and French rolls.

Idea

The idea for the breakfast bar is the result of a practical project on distribution and retailing which is part of a CPEV (Certificate in Pre-vocational Education) course at the school.

Wholesome

Pupils got a loan to buy the equipment from Barclays Bank in Greenwich and will be open two mornings a week serving wholesome food at reasonable prices to staff and other pupils.

YOUR caring Mercury rode to the rescue when a cash crisis hit SE London's only school for autistic kids.

Money came pouring in after we highlighted the need for play equipment at Griffin Manor School in Plumstead.

Kids at John Roan School in Greenwich gave £1,400 after a fund-raising drive; businessmen at the Skillion centre came up with another £1,000 and the Midland Bank bought toys worth hundreds of pounds.

Lucky

And on Monday the 24 autistic youngsters presented Mercury reporter Mark Langlands and photographer Adrian Spalding with a heart-shaped Valentine's cake for their help in transforming the school.

Head teacher Stephanie Lord said about £3,000 worth of equipment had been bought by the school in Plumstead High Street thanks to the Merc's intervention.

She said: "I thought we might get about £100 if we were lucky, but three different organisations came to our aid."

"The new equipment will help to stimulate our children, and so will be doing them a great deal of good as they develop."

Teacher's bid to take it on the chin

JOHN ROAN School's very own mad professor has been voted a top teacher for balancing bicycles and blackboards on his chin.

Wood and metalcraft technician Richard Krabbendam, 57, came second in a teacher talent contest on BBC TV's Saturday Superstore last week.

He has been amusing the pupils with his tricks ever since he started at the school in Blackheath eight years ago. Nonetheless he was very surprised when the first-years told him he'd been nominated for a talent contest.

"I didn't take them seriously. I can't always be sure with these children! But then the television people rang me up and said they would be interested for me to be on the show," he said.

Sink

As well as balancing bikes, Richard has been known to prop a chair, table, guitar, flower pots, even the kitchen sink on his

broad, jutting chin. He also walks on his hands.

Richard said: "I don't remember quite how it all started, but I think we were a very acrobatic family — all my brothers used to walk on their hands, and I started to do tricks as well."

That was back in Holland, Richard came to Britain aged 24 in pursuit of his future wife, and has stayed. He re-started his balancing tricks to keep the children amused when they were on a school trip

His fame spread and soon the zany technician was performing to eager classes in their spare time. He also helped the sixth formers to raise money for charity

His skill is no mean feat, especially for someone in late middle age, and is an obvious strain on his neck muscles and balancing ability. Once he admits he went too far with an act he still keeps a picture of — balancing a kitchen sink unit! He did it twice and it damaged his chest.

"If I'd known how comfortable it was to be on television," he said "I wouldn't have been so nervous. The children have all been so excited and wanted me to win, but after this I'm retiring."

"I love my job and I love being at the school so I don't think I will be an acrobat full time."

Retirement Party



On 20th February Mrs. Fiona Christopher retired from her job as a member of the school's non-teaching staff. She had worked at the Maze Hill building for over 5 years. She had worked in most areas of the school building in her time at the school, but the majority of her time was looking after the two staff rooms. She was given a small retirement party by the school-keeping staff and the head, Mrs. Tonkin and Deputy, Mrs. Austin attended on behalf of the teaching staff. Mr. Richard Krabbendam did a small cabaret act.



PUNCH LINES

Punch Promotions is now about 18 months old and quite an eventful time it has been too. We have been able to provide entertainment at the club every three or four weeks with a vast array of talent to make people laugh, dance or stare in wonderment at the skill of the acts.

If you have not managed to drag yourself away from the junk on the box to attend any of Punch's Promotions let us tell you of some of the performances you have missed:

Steve Rawlings - A juggler who had us in stitches telling jokes as he balanced 2 bottles, 1 tray and four glasses of wine on his chin whilst juggling with four flaming torches!

The Balham Alligators - A Cajun-Rock band featuring an electric accordion and violin with the normal two guitars and drums cited by City Limits in 'One of the top 100 things to see on a night out in London'.

Ian Kemble - Magic with laughter, Ian baffled us by pulling previously incinerated £10 notes, now back in pristine condition, from the centre of a whole lemon.

The Ya Yas - London's leading dance band led by Tich Turner have appeared three times on each occasion getting the audience Bopping like Billyo.

Pierre Mollin - This phoney Frenchman had the Club rocking with laughter culminating in his death defying finale of diving from the top of a ladder into a pint glass of water with a rubber chicken strapped to his head!

Brett Marvin + the Thunderbolts - A band who had a No. 1 hit in the early seventies under the pseudonym of "Terry Dactyl and the Dinosaurs" and who feature Jonah Lewis who had a few hits at the end of the same decade, notably with 'Send for the Cavalry'.

Clarence & Joy Pickels - Probably the craziest couple you could ever see on stage had the audience in a continuous state of uncontrollable mirth.

The PitProps - A local band and one that's always popular at the Club featuring Bill Clift on vocals and occasionally including Terry Morrison who has been a great help to Punch in organising the cabarets and who is a very funny man in his own right.

The Ukelele Orchestra of Great Britain - Seven Ukeleles, two guitars and a bowed double bass playing and singing songs spanning five decades, all on the small stage at the Club. A brilliant sound.

All in all, a pretty mixed bunch: we even started with a cabaret featuring 'Hales & Pace' (The Two Rons) who are now stars on television with their own series starting soon. Talking of television many of our acts have been seen on the small screen.

So there you have it, interspersed with various Discos and the odd weekend away, what more could you ask for? (Any suggestions gratefully received).

What Punch could ask for is more support from Old Roans. The whole scheme was launched to bring members back to our club and to utilise the bar facilities more on a Saturday night. The sustained high quality of acts we have promoted at the club should ensure us of a full house every time but, unfortunately, this is not so.

The evenings at the club can cost us from under £100 for a disco to over £350 for a cabaret or band. On the night the Balham Alligators appeared, for instance, Punch lost £200 although the 60 people that turned up thoroughly enjoyed one of the best musical events ever staged at the club. So please when you see our events advertised make a note in your diary and lets have 200 people to every promotion. You won't be sorry.

Incidentally, Punch made over £500 last year (for the Old Roan Club we hasten to add) so we can carry the occasional disaster, but not too many.

For those of you who cannot regularly make it to the Pavilion but would like to be kept in touch with Punch entertainments, if you contact the undersigned during working hours we will gladly add your name to our 150 strong mailing list.

Thankyous are due to Dap who regularly "does" the door and has helped with ideas on ticket sales and to Tony and Monty who, with a slowly growing band, have helped man the bar (which has benefitted by many thousands of pounds). However, we do need more help and volunteers are very welcome, especially on the bar and with helping to clear the stage and put it out and the replacing thereof. So don't sit back and watch the three of us struggle or wait to be asked, just lend a hand for a few minutes.

Finally, we have enjoyed bringing the acts to the club and brightening up Saturday nights. Thanks to those of you who have made up the audiences while we have your support Punch will continue.

Steve Nelson and Trevor Puddifoot 01 853 5012

Terry Chance 01 980 6311

CRICKET CLUB

Secretary: K. Barron, 25 Liffier Road, Plumstead, SE18 1AU.

Some of us on the Committee have decided that we should keep tabs on past 2nd and 3rd XI scorebooks, so we have started collecting them together. The other day Peter Williams passed to me an old book that he'd found at the bottom of one of the kit-bags. Held together with sticky tape, it contains scores from Isle of Wight tours going back to 1979. Amongst some interesting scoresheets, some very neat and tidy, others a bit of a mess, one particular page caught my eye - the Old Roan innings of Wed. 25th July 1984 - on the mat at Arreton - an anonymous scorer gives the following, alongside the batsmens' names:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Porky | 5. Piglet | 9. T.C. |
| 2. P#sshead Guest | 6. Whale | 10. Overthrows |
| 3. W.G. Spot | 7. Cissy Virgin | 11. Irongloves |
| 4. arpo | 8. Shirl | |

A formidable batting line-up, I'm sure you'll agree, and on reflection, probably more interesting if I don't give the real names. Just for the record, we made 197 for 6 in 40 overs, and Arreton - 166 for 8 in reply. This indication of some of the harmless fun that occurs on these tours, underlines the sad news that, after about 27 consecutive years, the Isle of Wight tour seems to have ground to a halt. We are missed on the Island, apparently, especially by our friends with the nice batting track, at Northwood.

The reason behind the demise of the tour is, obviously enough, the lack of interested numbers, a problem that we have had generally, over the last few years. The Kent week, for example, has survived only because of some hard work by certain individuals and the use of some 'guest' players, mainly from our friends of Addington Village. So again I must repeat the annual plea for players, umpires, etc. Give up a weekend afternoon and come and enjoy a game of cricket.

By the way if anyone does have any old scorebooks, we would certainly appreciate it if they could be passed on to me. I don't necessarily want to keep them, but it would be nice to see them, if only to compare how we've done over the years.

Remaining Home Fixtures - why not come along and give your support?

August

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st 1st XI v Tonbridge* | 16th 2nd XI v Worcester Park |
| 2nd 1st XI v Westminster Wanderers | 22nd 1st XI v Westerham* |
| 8th 2nd XI v Old Elthamians* | 23rd 2nd XI v Harvel |
| 9th 1st XI v Witan | 29th 2nd XI v Belvedere* |
| 15th 1st XI x Old Shootershillians* | 30th 1st XI v Catford Wanderers |
| *North Kent League | 31st 2nd XI v Old Colfeians* |

Laurence 'Spot' Hughes



1st XI - Mid 50's
T. Barker, B. Endersbee, J. Huntley, T. Roe, D. Dreher, A. Dawe
T. Borrett, P. Williams, H. Townsend, J. Williams, C. Trew

FOOTBALL CLUB

Following our crisis meeting in April and the AGM in August the Club looked forward to a better start to the season in their elevated surroundings - it was not to be ... They were knocked out of the Kent Intermediate Cup in an early round because two players failed to turn up!

John Hardy writes "The 1st XI started the season with feelings of optimism because of the promotion to the Senior Division of the London Spartan Football League. Unfortunately, as in past seasons, players let us down, mainly the very ones we were trying to build on - the younger players!

After a prolonged bad start up to Christmas we followed on to produce some very good results with Ian Daniels, Peter Grindley, Robin Faithorn, John Hardy and Ray Mills being the backbone of the team. The second half of the season saw the emergence of the new arrivals namely Mark Weaver, Phil Savage and in particular Paul Witchalls, who will hopefully be a name that will be mentioned for many years to come in 1st XI circles. When Cyril Davies took over midway through the year much good football was played and we all anticipate that next season when he takes over full time the 1st XI will produce some results which are worthy of the Club we play for!"

London Spartan - Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southwark Sports	26	20	4	4	66	30	64
Swanley Town	28	18	4	6	51	28	58
Thamesmead	28	17	3	8	60	36	54
Wandsworth & Norwood	28	16	5	7	54	30	53
Walthamstow Trojans	28	14	9	5	46	35	51
Catford Wanderers	28	15	4	9	50	38	49
Bromley Athletic	27	11	8	8	44	35	41
Phoenix Sports	28	12	3	13	60	48	39
OLD ROAN	28	8	10	10	45	43	34
Chingford	26	9	6	11	38	54	33
BROB Barnet	28	8	7	13	44	59	31
Penhill Standard	28	7	6	15	32	66	27
Chigwell Police	27	6	4	17	34	58	22
North Greenford Utd.	28	4	8	16	34	45	20
Royal Arsenal Sports	28	2	1	25	16	68	7

The mediocrity continues and Tim Fish records: "The 2nd XI this year finished bottom of their league. A disastrous season caused by having to use about thirty different players and consequently never having a settled team. A common fault at Roan is the ability to play well against the better teams and poorly against the worst. Hence our 2-0 win at Leyton County and only losing in extra time against a senior side Southgate Athletic. This was followed by a 4-0 defeat by bottom club at the time Chingford, and the squandering twice of 3 goal leads against fellow strugglers. Once again the youngsters failed to materialise and those who did played well for half the season and then let themselves and the club down badly by failing to turn up on several occasions.

On the plus side was the form of goalkeeper, Andy Daniels, who had an excellent season and was easily the Player of the Year. Brez will be missed next year, not least by the Chingford goalkeeper! Finally, I would like to thank Dave Ellis for all his help in running the team when I was otherwise detained."

London Spartan - Reserve Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barkingside Reserve	20	17	2	1	49	10	53
Catford Wanderers Res	28	15	4	3	50	25	49
Walthamstow Trojans R	21	11	4	6	46	30	35
Wandsworth/Norwood R	21	10	3	8	57	42	33
Southwark Sports Res	22	10	3	9	50	39	33
Leyton County Res	22	7	9	6	53	43	27
Corinthian Casuals R	22	8	3	11	45	61	27
Ulysses Res	21	6	4	12	33	44	22
Penhill Standard Res	22	6	4	12	42	59	22
Crown & Manor Res	21	5	4	12	38	57	19
Chingford Res	20	5	3	12	32	62	18
OLD ROAN RES	22	4	5	13	36	5	17

John Stanford hasn't had time to use his bookies pen but said to me: "You know the 3rds - usual season - terrible start, bottom of the league - kept losing - midweek games at the end - won 'em all - finished sixth in the South London Alliance Division 2" Yes, the format does seem familiar but the games I managed to witness showed more spirit than usual and more than a sprinkling of skill.

True, as usual, many players had to be tried, both young and old (or should that be experienced?) which doesn't help cohesion but Stanno aided by Mike Baxter always seemed to get an eleven together to produce reasonable games. Nicky Riley became the utility player, Len Sales the unknown but for all round dependable performances Bob Grimwood got the managers nod for Player of the Year.

Graham Ellis has put pen to paper and writes thus: "The 4th XI have had an up and down season, rarely keeping the same eleven players for more than two weeks in succession. In all there have been more than thirty players with barely eight of those regulars. Our eventual goalkeeper, Steve Moore, turned out an impressive young player who hopefully will continue to play next season. John Coyle and Tony Osborne have been the foundation of our defence; Tony having an exceptionally good season.

Stuart Clay, drawing on his experience gained over many years, also performed well. We haven't had a regular right-back so it's been left to dynamic Dave Robinson to fill the position - and travel from Reading for each game!

In midfield the skill and flair of Graham Ellis and the relentless workrate of Tony Hutchins and Martin Muscat has intimidated many of our opponents although our scoring rate hasn't matched the effort. Up front Dave Scott and Paul "Hat

Trick" Nash have scored the majority of goals although on occasions they have been shown the way by Ozzy. Centre forward was another problem position for much of the year but latterly was filled by Tom Butt who we hope will continue next season. Although we haven't had a fantastic season we have avoided relegation and look forward with optimism..."

"Well" writes Steve Nelson "we didn't finish top of the league, unless you are an Australian, but the 5th XI went out with a full team each week and on many occasions had the luxury of two substitutes, luxury and bafflement. What the hell do you do with them once you've got 'em? We weren't hammered too many times although the game we lost 13-1, having scored first was enough for a whole season for most teams. The majority of the games were only lost by the odd goal or four!

Credit must be given to the younger members of the side, they remained keen, were very reliable and seemed to enjoy themselves week after week. They are Darren White, Scott Tovell, Alex Bottella, Kevin Sparkes and Matthew Nelson. Give them a season or so and they will be moving up the teams.

The players in their prime, Guy Hornsey, Steve Sawyer and Stuart Williams, lent the team their natural strength, speed and skill. Guy had obviously been in training whilst in Israel as his turning circle is now somewhat smaller than the Q.E.2's. We also had the services of Les de Hoog proving that the Dutch system of total football is not dead.

Special mention of the older regular members; Terry Chance (Elvis fanatic, so must be old) had possibly his finest season to date, Ian Hanson (back from days of old) was a great asset to the back four, Spot Hughes (feels old) was a high speed powerhouse in defence and midfield, and Gary Barwell (is old) played like a defensive dervish and was always ready with gentle paternal encouragement to the young lads.

The teams' resident OAP and goalkeeper Steve Nelson was a little hurt by the rest of the side continually reminding him that their few victories were all achieved in his absence (surely mere coincidence) but he got his own back by refereeing throughout the season. Special thanks to Vic Brooker for providing, just before each match, the teams only training session of the week, namely the insertion of the players' legs into the famous patented "Vicco" neverstretch Size 00 Sock, an operation which never failed to leave all eleven panting for breath on the dressing room floor."

The Vets XI report Played 28 Won 15 Drawn 5 Lost 8 Goals for 69 Against 59 (Pints 1000). The season proved most rewarding and enjoyable with a series of successful results played in a fine competitive spirit in excellent surroundings.

The team suffered a great loss early in the season with the injury to Don Boon and the midfield was further disrupted for the end of the season by injuries to Peter Edwards and Roger Dale and the absence of Graham Townsend. Keith Mexter was

outstanding as the leading goalscorer with 24 goals in the Malcolm MacDonald fashion and he gained good support late in the season with the acquisition of Rod Pepper who showed some promise!

Various players were allowed appearances to check their suitability for joining the squad in the future. These included Doug Weaver, Cyril Davies and Bob Grimwood with Joe Broadfoot making a deceptive appearance as substitute. Simon Perry performed the expected heroics in goal, and the defence, with the exception of the Charter Diamond aberrations, was secure with Paul Davis, Graham Briscoe, Mike Titheridge and Dave Horsburgh. The midfield was spread between Graham Townsend, Peter Edwards, Fred Spink, Roger Dale, Brian Hamer and John Ling with Brian Matthews, John Stanford and Keith Banks assisting 'up front'. Each member of the squad contributed fully and the real team spirit built up over several seasons was continued.

The annual tour to Norfolk was very successful with fine weather and a seafront hotel at Cromer. We enjoyed the company of Barry Thomas and Jim Russon - and won against a young and fit Russon Eleven with the help of a Chinese stuntman - surely an Old Roan first. The start of the game was a moving experience for Fred Spink - and qualified an otherwise inspired year for him as team guru on all matters ranging from bird species, tree types, soil construction and international exchange rates.

During one of Mexter's occasional spells in goal (to relieve a frustrated Perry) he made one outstanding save which prompted Townsend to proclaim that 'a small window on time had been opened briefly'. This would make a suitable epitaph for this season with abiding memories remaining of Roger Dale's battery charged excursions up the right flank, Graham Briscoe's elegantly consistent performances as sweeper, the tackle on Don Boon and the occasions at the Field when it seemed that every member of the team left the pitch at a substitution to escape further verbal lashings from our midfield supremo.

If any older players - "the Class of '63" is now qualified - wish to join us the procedure is to present pension book, pint and bus pass to Mike Titheridge who deserves unqualified praise for his organisation, dedication and performances on the field.

Our heartfelt thanks to Ray Keeling for his excellent pitches and to Vic Brooker for his unfailing dedication to the Club.

Finally, this will be the last epistle constructed by yours truly so can I just ask that the help I've been given be extended to Tim Fish - and maybe a little more.

Geoff Sawyer

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

This report is being written at the wrong time for the Dramatic Society. We are currently rehearsing "Outside Edge" so we cannot report that it was a resounding success (or dismal failure). Equally we cannot say come and see it, because by the time this is in print it will be too late. Let us just hope that you came and enjoyed it.

"Outside Edge" should have been our autumn/winter production but it had to be postponed because leading lady Anne Chambers was sent abroad on business. That postponement turned out to be a blessing, for the performance date coincided with the January blizzards and consequent travel problems. Rehearsals were suspended and resumed at the end of March.

Perhaps some of you remember the play. It was in the West End in 1979 and a television version with Paul Eddington, Prunella Scales, Maureen Lipman and Jonathan Lynn was shown last year. We hope that our production will be at least as entertaining, and on the past record of director Fran Woodward it should be. New Old Roan President Graham Johnson plays the Eddington part of the beleaguered cricket captain, with Anne Chambers as his wife. Letta Nagel, so good as the awful Beverly in "Abigail's Party", plays the Lipman role. Ivor Hughes, not seen since 'Absent Friends', makes a welcome return as the drunken philanderer, and Mike Smith and Theresa Roe appear respectively as a scruffy all-rounder and a waspy tranquiliser popper. Newcomer and recent school leaver Rosalind Walker is a welcome addition to the cast; so too is Miles Chambers who plays the snooty star batsman.

The Society is still short of members - without Paul and Stewart White and Barbara Roe, this production would not have been possible. If you would like to join - in any capacity whatever - we would be delighted to hear from you. Phone Graham Johnson (01-859 0621) or Richard Rickson (01-853 0723).

Richard Rickson

MORE RANDOM REMINISCENCES OF THE O.R.D.S.

Once upon a time there used to be footlights - a term that was synonymous with the stage; to the professionals they were known as "floats" from the time they consisted of wicks floating in oil. We had footlights at the School until the early 50's I think, and a very dramatic effect they gave. They demanded a special style of make-up to compensate for the illumination coming up from the level of the stage and most of our camouflage was done by Dave Bonner whose experience and skill in this peculiar art contributed much to the casts' natural appearance.

After the last war, with improvements in equipment the floats were replaced by batteries of high-intensity lights shining

from all directions including overhead. The style of make-up changed and became much less theatrical; new switchboards enabled light to be shed anywhere with great flexibility and precision.

There is never enough room in the wings of most amateur stages and the one at the School is no exception. Eventually gantries were constructed high up on either side, one for the switchboard (stage right) and one for the curtain control (stage left), which created much more space at stage level and made exits and entrances much easier - and greatly facilitated Alfie Knott's quick change into a full set of armour in 'Wild Goose Chase'.

Some entrances can be very tricky. In the "Middle Watch" which was set aboard a battleship, Margery Berry had to spend a large part of Act II crouching under the stage below the trap-door (hatchway) through which she had to make a dramatic entrance, on cue, dressed in a long frock and picture hat and complete with parasol - by no means an easy feat but one she accomplished with the flair expected of such an experienced and talented actress.

Quite a lot of the expense of mounting a production went on costumes and we paid a lot of attention to getting them right and (relatively) well-fitting. Selecting them and trying them on at the treasure-houses of Fox's, Nathans or Bermans was a great deal of fun. Their storerooms had to be seen to be believed. Not too well lit and usually subterranean, they were amazing places with rows and rows of everything required by the well-dressed Ancient Briton/Greek/Roman/Egyptian/through Ruritanian hussars to Victoria/Edwardian/Elizabethan gentlemen; some of the ladies' gowns were marvellous and many were authentic.

No amateur Dramatic Society is any good unless they perform as a team and the success of any Producer must be measured by the extent he or she welds the Company into one. Lighting, wardrobe, decor, however good, cannot disguise or compensate for absence of team-work because the timing of entrances, exits, cues, blackouts, the Curtain is all-important.

Any company, professional as well as amateur, is a collection of very varied individuals and they have to be coaxed or bullied into a co-ordinated and coherent whole so that what audiences see is realistic, convincing and entertaining - entertaining, that is, not because of some ludicrous mishap - when trousers fall down they must be intended to fall down (scenery should always stay up).

The ORDS has been fortunate in its Producers and its casts, a happy state of affairs that owes much to the example set by its founder Lionel Berry, who started it all off with W. Poyser in 1927. Lionel, once described as a benevolent dictator, produced all the ORDS shows until 1963, and once showed his

dedication and talents by taking over the leading role (a Chinese Mandarin) in 'Chinese Puzzle' at virtually no notice whatever.

One of his best productions was "Simon and Laura" which called for a remarkable feat of stage-management requiring as it did at one point two television cameras, a boom microphone and associated control panels and most of the cast to be on-stage and moving about at the same time.

In this play Georgina Thomas was cast (and listed in the programme as Georgie Thomas) as a 12-year old, short-trousered schoolboy, and something of an enfant-terrible. This was quite a tour-de-force (and involved a sacrificial hair-do) and seemed to deceive most of the audiences, although two were overheard to speculate on her sex on the evidence of her knees.

Lionel has done a great deal for Old Roans in general over many years and in many capacities, but none of his achievements surpasses his management of the ORDS. Brian Thomas succeeded him for two shows as Producer and then Frank Barnes took over for a long series of very successful productions as varied as "The Housemaster", "Doctor in the House" and "The Shop at Sly Corner".

Following him, Martin Rider and Graham Johnson have carried on the tradition and with original material by Alfie Knott and Richard Rickson, have launched a number of entertaining revues and pantomimes. It was Martin's production of an excerpt from "Pygmalion" for a Greenwich Festival, unhappily aborted at the last minute because of an electricians' strike, that took the Society to the Rochester Little Theatre which, hearing of our misfortune, invited us to participate in their festival.

The Society's first tour, so to speak, and a most interesting experience; we were greatly impressed with them and the intriguing theatre they created themselves from an old warehouse; a handier bar I have never seen, but the solid wall, stage right, called for some ingenuity in devising exits and entrances which all had to be made from the other side or up-stage.

One of the features of the Society over the years has been the enthusiastic involvement of members of the Staff. In the beginnings the names of Eddie Durling and Frank Harris come readily to mind and W.R. Dalzell and Paul Dyke also trod the boards towards the end of the thirties. After 1948 Peter Francis, Chris Hodson, Bob Hoare, Lionel Morey and Bill Brooks contributed in substantial ways either out-front or back-stage; we have already mentioned Alfie Knott who, with his wife Beryl, made regular appearances over a long sequence of shows.

Eric Geddes merits a special place in these reminiscences for it was his artistic flair and impeccable style and taste that

made minor works of art of many of our sets - "To Live in Peace" and "The Bridge of Estaban" were particularly striking examples and his hanging "tapestry" (actually done in pastels I seem to recall) for 'Hawk Island' was a memorable highlight. We still have a "portrait" he dashed off for "Temple Folly".

I suppose that acting of one sort or another is something we all do most of the time. Doing it on stage (if you'll forgive the expression) before paying customers is something special but you don't need to be an extrovert to indulge - the shyest, most retiring people often turn in the best performances and anyone can learn lines if they put their minds to it (although the process seems impossible until The Night when, of course, everything will be all right).

But the Theatre isn't only acting - the back-stage crew are every bit as important as anyone else; front-of-house members have much to contribute too, and no Company can do without any of them.

I wish the Society well for the future - may it prosper for many more years. In the theatre it is bad luck to say "good luck" or to mention a certain Scottish play by one W. Shakespeare, or to whistle in the dressing room - which leaves only the traditional wish - "Break a leg!"

Brian Thomas

HOPE MEMORIAL TRUST - An Appeal

Many Old Roans will remember with pleasure and affection holidays spent at the Braithwaite camp. The facilities might have been basic, and the floor hard to sleep on, but who can doubt that a stay in that lovely corner of England will have left a deep and lasting impression on minds and bodies of many lads whose horizons had been bounded hitherto by the rooftops of South East London.

Sadly, the old buildings have reached the end of their useful life. Woodworm, damp and rust have taken their inevitable toll. The Trustees are launching an appeal to raise the money needed to provide new buildings. A sum of £35,000 is envisaged.

Can you help? Any donation will, as they say, be most gratefully received and acknowledged. Help us to continue to provide the same opportunities to today's children of Greenwich as were available to you, their predecessors.

Please send your donation to:

Alan Weir,
Treasurer, Hope Memorial Trust,
147 Wellmeadow Rd.,
Catford, London, S.E.6.

NEWS OF OLD ROANS

"A new friend is as a new wine; when it is old, thou shalt drink it with pleasure" (Ecclesiasticus 9:10)

Jean TOWSEY (ex Staff), known to many in her teaching days as Jean James, is actively enjoying retirement in Swanage, Dorset. Her husband, Ralph, introduced her to bowls and they often play Dave BILLINGTON (ex staff) and his wife. Contrary to all expectations - especially her own - Jean recently won her club's Ladies Singles Championship! She sends her regards to everyone.

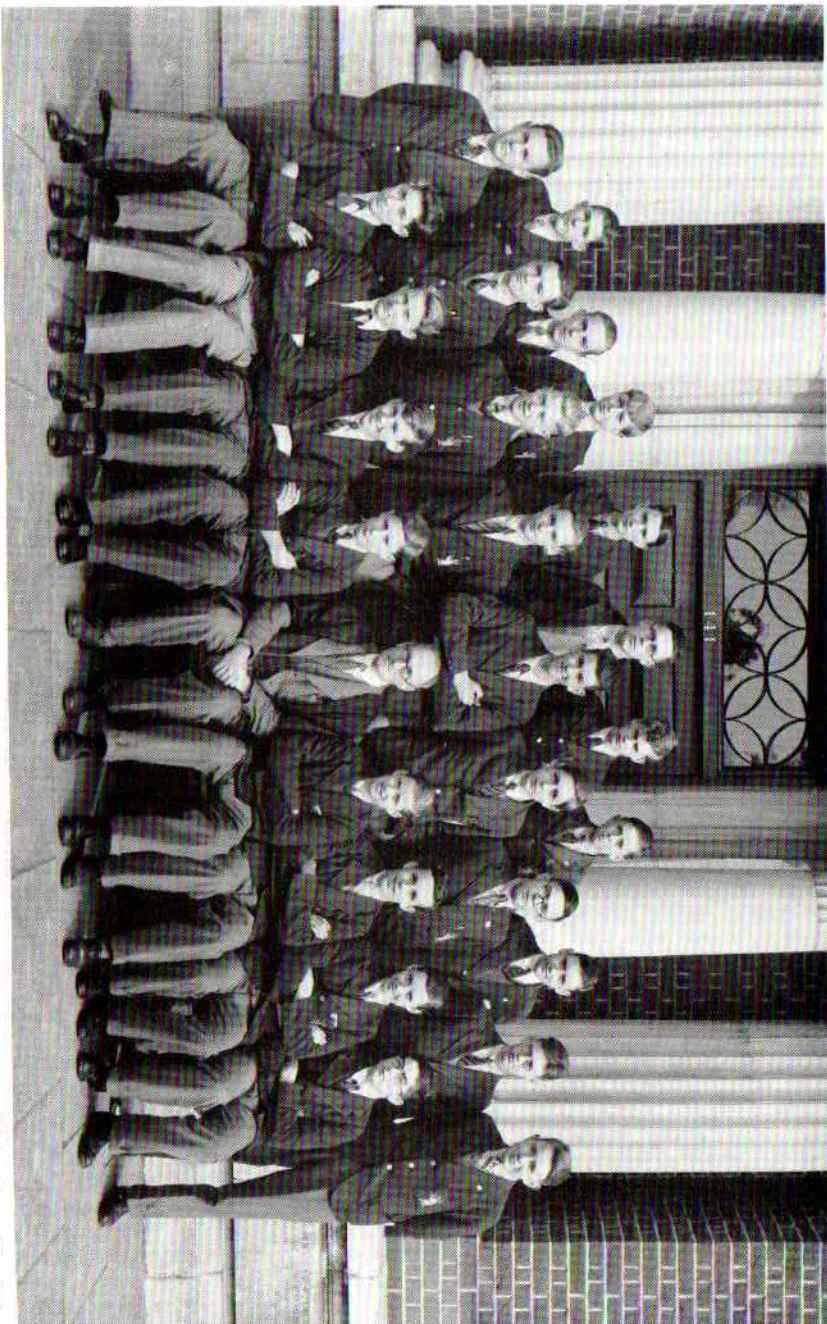
Peter HENDERSON (29-37) has retired to Rye in Sussex following a career in Quantity Surveying. He remembers the murder on Blackheath, mentioned by D.E. Phipps-Jones in the last Newsletter, and recalls that many Roan schoolboys went tramping over the heath looking for clues. As far as he is aware the crime remains unsolved! He asks whether the C.W. Daniel mentioned in the last issue is the brother of Harold Daniel who was at school in the 1920's. Harold went on to become a motorcycling all-time great, winning the Isle of Man TT race three times.

Another who recalls a sporting star of yesteryear is Cecil TODD (15-22) who refers to the "legendary" George Thompson with whom he played football and cricket between 1917 and 1927, both with the school and the OR's. George was outstanding in both games and his early death was a terrible loss. Cecil himself left for Chile in 1927 where he continued to play cricket (even to the extent of being invited to play for Chile v Argentina). He tells us that the strong school teams of the early 1920's formed the nucleus of the Old Roan sides. They were given a rough field by George's father in Kidbrooke Park Road and by dint of hard work transformed this into a football pitch and tennis courts with a small pavilion. Cecil now lives in retirement in Rye, Sussex.

Alison BENNETT (71-78) wrote with news of a number of her contemporaries. Alexis CLARE (71-78) was officially presented with her PhD from Reading University in December '86 and is now living and working in Sheffield. Julie Larkins (nee SKINNER 71-78) now lives in Romford and Claire HARTWELL, Julia BESSEY and Michelle BEVIS are all married with daughters. In January Alison returned to England after an extensive tour of North America for which she gave up her career with the DHSS. However, Jean Middleton (nee BOWER 71-78) now works in the same office that Alison left - small world!

Dr. John DUBBEY (45-52) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malawi. Marilyn Campbell (nee CROSS 64-71) has recently moved to New Zealand and would welcome visits from any Old Roans at 36, Forest Lake Road, Hamilton, NZ.

POYSER'S 5th FORM 1938/39 - Pizzy, Bristow, Parker, Jenkins, Wright, Cook, Still, Houndsell
White, Reynolds, Carnell, Davies, Peirce, Agett, Stevens, Marsh, Henley
Carter, Macenzie, Banks, East, Mr. Poyser, Chalkin, Blake, Thurgood, Jones



E.C. Watts writes of the sudden death of his brother **Len WATTS** (17-22). Len was Captain of School Cricket for two seasons and skippered the Old Boys 1st XI for most of the inter-war years as well as playing football. He leaves a wife, son and three grandchildren. **Val LOVELL** (27-30) writes that he first met Len in 1930 when he was outside left (a position not known these days) and got himself into all sorts of contortions to get the ball on to his left foot. Cricket was his game, however. He was a left-hand opening bat and a more than useful slow left-arm bowler. A tall, genial, gentle humoured man who, if he thought he had trapped the batsman LBW would inquire quietly of the umpire if this was the case. This was to the consternation of the batsman who, on occasions, had probably not even heard the appeal. Val and wife, Wendy, are, as ever, in good spirits in retirement at Selsey.

Arthur MEUX (11-16) wonders if after 60 years, there are any other founder members of the John Roan Lodge still living. He also wonders if any of the songs especially composed are still sung?

Mike WALKER (51-58) has been living in Coloc, Victoria, Australia for the past 12 years where he works for the State Electricity Commission as Region Surveyor pegging overhead power lines in South Western Victoria. Mike captained the school at football and remembers playing for the Old Boys with the likes of Del Dreher, Cliff Shepherd, Bill Brooks and Simon Perry in the sixties. Mike looked up Mike Carter without success and he thanks **Clarrie NEARN** (14-18) for informing the Association of his current whereabouts.

Ms. M.M. BENNET (31-38) writes from Leeds where she has been involved for some years in setting up a Christian Home for autistic adults. Her efforts will be rewarded when a House is opened towards the end of the year. The Home, purchased with the help of a Housing Association, will house 8 residents and meets a long neglected need.

Eileen Steel-Davies (nee **BRYANT** 30-36) recently took part in the LBC Radio 2 sponsored swim of 3 miles. She took 2 hours 30 minutes, collecting £60 for a breathing unit at St. Thomas's Hospital.

The 1937 staff photograph brought back memories for **M. LOWSON** (20-22) of Haywards Heath, who remembers most of those portrayed. He corrects a couple of spelling mistakes - Messrs. Durling and Parker not "Darling and Paker". He sends his good wishes to all Old Roans, as does **John DENNIS** (64-71) who has recently moved from the University of Kent to the South East Thames Regional Health Authority.

Doreen FIDLER has, with the help of Guernsey Radio, managed to locate **Doreen TOSTEVIN** (Tossy) a contemporary from the 1943-50

era, who is now living at 1 Christine Court, Cobbett Road, Southampton. **Tossy**, a Deputy Head at the Millbrook Middle School, is an active member of the Soroptomists Organisation being President of the Southern Region last year. She arrived at Roan from the Channel Islands (hence the Guernsey Radio connection) just beating the German invasion and occupation.

The article on Charlton Athletic brought back early memories for **Herbert LATTIN** (19-23). He recalls that his father was on the Committee of the Club when they played in the Kent, Southern and South Suburban leagues. Committee meetings were held at the Antegallegan Hotel and Herbert remembers being taken as a small boy to see the last of the horse trams go past this hotel. The first 3rd division match at the Valley was against Exeter City, attracting 14,000 people. The game was won by Charlton 1-0 following a goal by **Tommy Dowling**. A later memory was of a superb 'inside forward named **Harold Miller** who was one of a trio of brothers who joined Charlton from St. Alban's.

Another who remembers most of the masters in the 1937 staff photo is **Leonard LEE** (37-44). He started in **Joey Amesbury's** class in Maze Hill and finished up in **Mr. Parker's** 5th form in South Wales by way of Rye. He recalls that in those days a week's school dinners cost 1s.-3d (6p in modern money).

Bill HIGGINS (32-38) has made contact after a long gap following a visit from **Hubert BREWER** (33-39). Bill has many memories including Potter's progressive method of teaching Latin vocabulary. This consisted of the class sitting around his study, moving down a chair with each mistake. You can guess what happened to the last boy at the end of each lesson! Following service as a pilot during the war he trained as a teacher and taught for some time at Plum Lane School where one of his colleagues was **Tom SLANEY** (20-22). He only recently discovered that his daughter-in-law's father, whom he has known for 20 years is also an Old Roan namely **Wally WYATT** (-27). Bill is another Old Roan who lives in Swanage, Dorset.

Following his retirement as vice-master **Stan BEALE** has been very active in the musical, literacy and artistic activities of Bromley. He is also immersed in various literary projects centred on London and Oxford. **John KINSELLA** (21-28) and his wife **Marjory** celebrated their Golden Wedding in June this year but were most saddened to learn that his former neighbour **Denis PECKHAM** lost his wife just 6 weeks before they would have celebrated a similar milestone.

Congratulations are due to **L. NATHANAIL**, whose success in this year's Cambridge University Applied Biology Tripos examination has recently been published.

Barbara WHEATLEY (1930's) remembers **Miss Hough** with considerable affection. "She was a delightful person and made

history fine for all of us, so much so that when I went to college to train as a teacher I taught history as my main subject." Barbara also asks whether anyone can put her in touch with Miss Smith her former Latin teacher?

Memories of J.J. MORROW (08-14) are the subject of a letter from Grace WHITAKER (19-28). She writes that he left school in the Great War and was in the army for the latter part, in Germany. After the war he married a 'fraulein' which must have caused some consternation to his family, as feelings ran high for a long time after 1918. He could speak German quite fluently, a skill he attributed to Mr. Llewellyn. Grace herself lives locally in Plumstead.

News of the birth of a son to Mary Walsh (nee COOK 67-74) is given elsewhere. Apart from this bundle of joy keeping her very busy, Mary has also embarked on the Open University Arts Foundation Course. She finds it strange getting back to academic work after such a break but early results are encouraging. It is suspected that she may echo the sentiments of a number of members when she writes, "I'm afraid I still haven't adjusted to the joint format of the Association - I preferred the 'girl only' days; and still miss the passing of Devonshire Drive, but I suppose one has to learn to accept change."

Incidentally the Devonshire Drive school is still standing albeit with its windows boarded up to deter vandals. No formal proposals have yet been made for the future of the building and readers will be kept posted on this score.

Julie KOPP is another who recalls the "Good old days". She has recently returned from Germany and is temporarily living in Biggin Hill whilst her husband is with the RAF in the Falkland Islands. They shall then be moving to a new posting in Lincolnshire.

Glen PULLEN (44-49), who was a stalwart of the football club a couple of decades ago, now teaches in Luton. On a recent trip to the US he visited Peter WALKER (43-50) who upon leaving school gained a PhD in chemistry at Imperial College. Peter emigrated to the States around '58 where he married and now has a huge family and lives in Wilmington, Delaware. This summer, as part of his 25th wedding anniversary celebrations, he will be visiting the 'old country' for an extended tour. Details from Glen on Flitwick 713508.

Jack HILL (35-40) is enjoying his retirement in Rickmansworth. He makes occasional nostalgic trips back to Greenwich and continues to enjoy receiving news. Another who has retired is F.W. HELMER (18-32) who now lives in Corsham, Wiltshire. Whilst supporting the recent life members appeal he does give us food for thought when he states, "An article in the

Newsletter quotes membership numbers. The figures are revealing. There must be hundreds of leavers who have elected not to join the Association. What has gone wrong with the School that leavers do not wish to continue their association: or what is wrong with the marketing of the Old Roan Association that leavers do not wish to join?"

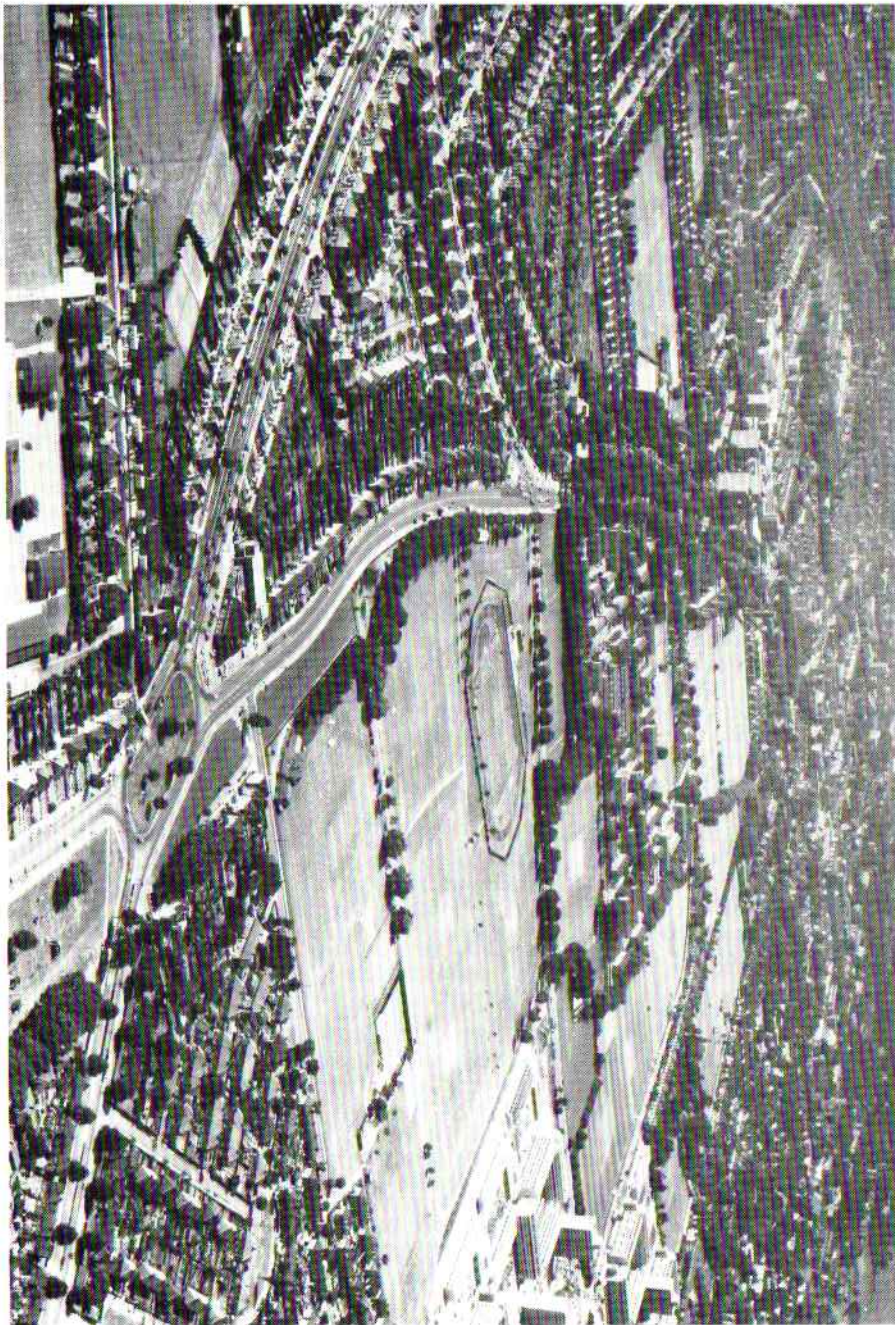
Hopefully P.J. BARNWELL (23-31) will not mind bringing up the rear. He has a style all of his own as can be seen from the following extract.

"First news of R.A. Pomeroy, with whom I entered the sixth form in 1927. I knew he had made good as head of a technical school or college in Taunton; he is still alive, in the Taunton area and wished to be reminded "to the old sweats." He retired ten years ago, having built his Technical into the Somerset College of Arts and Technology (S.O.A.T.); he lives four miles out of Taunton, in the Quantock Hills, which were associated years ago with the poets Coleridge and Wordsworth, before they went north to be nearer Braithwaite.

Second, the Roan Exhibitioner of 1915, George Franklin died at Shrewsbury early this month; he would have been 90 at the end of this year. He celebrated his diamond wedding last year, shortly before the death of his wife. After leaving Roan, he did war service and did not come up to Cambridge till 1919. For many years he was at Christ's Hospital, and I think he was still there when in 1934 he attended a lunch in Cambridge. The then head, W.J. Potter was the host, and I think S.K. Mills also came. The student Old Roans then were Eric Humphreys and Horace Wiessner (Wheeler), both on the War Memorial; and E.R. Murphy, another Roan Exhibitioner. Donald Vile (now Canon) and I were (I think) the others.

I next saw him in Lincoln in 1949 when a group of colonial journalists with whom I was an escorting officer (replacing Conrad Oppen, also O.R.) lunched at the school of which he was then headmaster - Lincoln School. He retired to a village north of Cambridge before moving to Salop in his seventies to be near a daughter.

When a new history of the school is compiled, it would make an interesting exercise to list the careers of Roan Exhibitioners, if they can be traced. Among the names on the boards in the school hall which fifty years ago intrigued us was that of Bosustow, who took his history degree at Oxford in 1913; we never traced what had happened to him. And so many years later it will be rather more difficult. There could be also a parallel list of those who did not get the top place and were never Roan Exhibitioners."



A LETTER FROM ALFIE

From: P.O. Box 286, Kwe Kwe, Zimbabwe

Dear Tony,

Astonishing how quickly time goes as the grey goes white and the joints' creaking drowns the noises of the tropical night.

Many thanks for the newsletters which wiped out six thousand miles and almost two years in one reading. How well Nigel Ballantyne has taken on Gordon's mantle as school correspondent. I was most impressed by his Eliot-type poem for Gordon.

Out here, Beryl and I have measured out our lives in holidays - the wilds of Mara Pools with nothing between us and the elephants (two) and hyenas but a blanket; Malawi and lake full of bilharzia; Lake Kauba, Hwange (in the rain), Victoria Falls (real old continental cum colonial hotel); Lake Kyle, the Matopos (sunrise over Rhodes' Grave), Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Nyanza (Scotland in Africa); Kenya - Flamingoes by the thousand, hot springs, and the Indian Ocean warmer than the baths we take in the summer in Zimbabwe, with the humidity to match; but old Mombasa foreign and ripe - Harare and Bulawayo spit-and-polished by comparison. Maybe we will see the swamps in Botswana before we come home next year. It has all been exciting and memorable.

They don't so much work us hard as work us long at school here. 7.15 to 5.00 Monday to Friday - classes of 40 make marking an absurd burden - and often Saturday games to supervise. This term we have compulsory athletics "training", which involves three hundred boys and girls of one house plodding round the track while three hundred boys and girls of another house jump high and long and try (mostly in vain) to throw things. The whole business is an exquisite exercise in futility - (I'm just grumpy because I want to produce "M.S.N.'s Dream" and can get neither the time nor the cast for rehearsal). It seems incredible that after this term I have only three left before we come home - should have said go, but with the newsletter before me it seems I never left.

For some weeks now, since you've had the snow I suppose, the weather has been hotter than at any time since we arrived in Kwe Kwe - mid eighties most of the time. The rains have not been as plentiful as last year - not enough in fact - and drought conditions prevail in some parts in the south of the country. We, up on the plateau (about on top of Scafell Pikes), have dry heat at least - at Kariba and Vic. Falls the temperature is in the mid-nineties and it's much more humid, which is why we visit those places in the winter. The natives (white ones) here always make the climate their reason for not returning to U.K. - their inflated standard of living (servants and swimming pools in the lush gardens) has nothing to do with it. (Excuse my cynical "ha!").

Best wishes to all,

Alfie



1st XI 1948-49

Brooker, Stanley, White, Howse, Fowles, Townsend, Bartlett, Emler
Hazell, Roe, Cutting, Scott, Brewer

"days of passion days of pride"

In 1983 Phyllis Willmott published her book "A Green Girl" which followed her progress at Roan during the 1930's. The book received favourable reviews and is most readable. It is still available - price £9.95 - from the publishers Peter Owen, 73 Kenway Road, S.W.5. The Editor is grateful to the publisher for permission to print the following extracts:

Phyllis Willmott trained as a social worker and has spent most of her working life either on social research or teaching and writing about social services. She is the author of "The Consumer's Guide to the British Social Services" and "Growing Up in a London Village". She is married to the eminent sociologist Peter Willmot.

Preparation.....

The blouses and gym tunics had also come from the school's outfitters. The white poplin blouses worn under the gym tunic had a square neckline and short sleeves, not the more usual long-sleeved, shirt style, and the Greek-style green tunic did not have the traditional three box pleats falling from a yoke front and back. The square neck of the blouse would have taxed Mum's dressmaking skills, but with its straight and simple pattern she could easily have run up the tunic on her sewing-machine at home.

Fortunately, Dad had picked up a furry black velour hat on one of his jobs. It fitted me perfectly and looked as good as new with the Roan ribbon band of pale blue and green round it, and the oval enamelled badge pinned on at the front. With the thick lisle school stockings and, on cold days, my green pullover under the blazer, Mum decided, 'You can get away without a coat and on wet days put on your navy raincoat.' As for the summer uniform - pale blue or green cotton dresses with white piqué collars and cuffs and a straw panama hat - well, she would face that next year.

First day.....

We filed into the ranks of chairs set out for us and, as instructed, sat down and waited quietly. The Headmistress, Miss Higgs, appeared very suddenly from a side door, her black gown billowing out gently behind her as she moved into the centre of the stage. Small and thin, with a grey face and grey hair, she regarded us over her steel-framed pince-nez. For a long moment she remained silent, then began to speak in a quick, quiet voice not much above a whisper. In the awed hush her appearance had created we strained anxiously to hear her. She looked small and sparrow-like on the platform. Disconcertingly, despite the pince-nez and academic gown, and although Miss Higgs must have been much younger, that quiet voice, that outwardly mild manner reminded me of Gran.

She did not waste words. A few minutes were enough to welcome us before crisply announcing that the prefects would now take us to our classrooms. The Head Girl, who had picked up the signal from her position at the side of the stage, moved forward and gestured to us to stand up. Miss Higgs, surveying us with one last cold look, swept out.

Games.....

Once a week, winter and summer, we went off to play games at the sports field belonging to the boys' school. Cricket had been started by Tubby a year or two before I got to Roan. We played with a hard ball; those for whom this was too much of an ordeal could opt to play rounders instead. One limitation of cricket for keen and competitive spirits like Flea was that there were no inter-school matches (and therefore no school cricket team) because no other girls' schools within the vicinity played the game.

The Roan sports field was half a mile beyond Lee Green on the same tram route I took from Lewisham on the way home from school. It had been a familiar place to me for many years. As a young child I had passed it often when my brothers and cousins and I – sometimes Mum too – went to the fields a bit further out to 'camp' for the day, to catch tadpoles in spring, or to have picnics in summer. More recently, I had come to know the sports grounds better because Dad had formed a friendship with the groundsman, George, who lived with his wife in the rear portion of the single-storey, brick-built pavilion. George had black hair and a ruddy complexion that seemed to reflect his cheery – or perhaps beery – disposition as well as the open life he led. He wore spectacles with black wire frames at a time when glasses were uncommon amongst the adults in my parents' circle.

The Coronation.....

As the crowds began to thicken I was very glad that we had not come on our own. I had no idea where we were. Wherever it was that we were for the outward procession we did not see much, and Mr Barrett decided we should move to the Mall, close by the railing of St James's Park, to watch the return to the palace. There we were soon locked into a swaying mass of people and flags. All sense of time vanished, but eventually the roar of the crowd told us that the procession was getting near. The royal carriages swept past, the crowd surged this way and that and, stretching and straining to see between the lines of heads and shoulders in front of me, I saw the corners of one or two carriages flash by. Homeward bound we all agreed it really had been a great day. When Mr Barrett said firmly, 'We had a good view of the new King and Queen,' I was half convinced that we had.

Trouble.....

In the gloomy entrance hall, to the left of the huge, closed oaken door, was Miss Higgs' study. Outside her door surmounted by an arched lintel, we did not knock – we waited. Miss Mary Higgs was not to be interrupted by minion girls. Sooner or later the ping of her bell would signal the time to enter. After going through the door, and under her cold and continuous stare, it seemed a long way to her desk at the far end of the narrow, chapel-like room. 'Well, Phyllis?' she would say as I reached her desk, hands hanging lankily and clammy against my green tunic. Despite the time for thinking during the long minutes standing outside her door, words dried on my tongue. Distant and withdrawn as she was from our daily lives at the school, it always seemed a little uncanny that she knew one's name.

Gym.....

The large gym, built on to the original Victorian building in 1907, was the domain of 'Tubby' Talbot. Stocky in build and solid with muscles, she had straw-like hair cut short into an 'Eton crop'; as the nearest thing to masculinity on the staff, she was an object of adoration to half the girls and of fear to the rest.

Under Tubby's command gym lessons could not be taken lightly. Dressed always in a short gym tunic, she barked out her orders and kept us moving. Beginning in our early days with simple balancing on upturned forms, climbing on the wall-bars and enjoying ourselves with headstands and somersaults, we progressed as we went up the school to more demanding gymnastics on the 'ropes', the 'box' and the 'horse'.

The less agile, the lazy and, on the whole, the most feminine girls came to loathe gym. For such girls it was something to dread and to be got out of as often as possible whenever an excuse could be found.

Matric.....

After the summer holidays we returned to Roan and the realization that the metamorphosis into maturity had now truly happened. The senior history teacher, Miss Hough, whom we had always liked and respected for her judiciously distanced but friendly firmness, was now our form mistress. She made it clear, peering benignly at us through the small oval lenses of her

spectacles, that having reached the Upper Fifth, we were no longer children and she did not propose to treat us as such.

I also worried about Mum's and Dad's expectations of me. They had kept me on at Roan, at great sacrifice, as they saw it, mainly because I wanted it. They may often have doubted the wisdom of sending me there, and Mum certainly believed Roan had done a good deal of harm, by turning me into a 'rotten little snob' who considered herself above her own family. What had never been in doubt to them was that I had been born with the dubious advantage of 'more brains than sense'. When I tried to express my fears that I might fail to get 'matric', they could not take this seriously. 'Of course you'll pass,' was the inevitable response, cutting short further debate.

Leaving.....

On the last day of term those of us who were leaving had had to go round saying goodbye to the staff. When favourites like Miss Grant, Miss Wilson or Miss Hough had a few last words with us it had suddenly seemed as if they were more like old friends or even young aunts than the remote and dignified creatures of our early days at school. It was then that Miss Hough had invited us to an evening party during the holidays at her lodgings in a fine early Victorian house overlooking Blackheath. At the party, in between handing us homemade cakes and cheese straws, she and her friend (and colleague), Miss Knight, told us animatedly about their holidays abroad. As I looked round the elegant white room at the display of trophies brought back from their travels, I began to wonder if a teacher's life was quite so bad as I had imagined. But I knew it was too late now. I was about to start work.

Reflection.....

Looking back over their brief hundred years' existence and through the eyes of my own experience, girls' grammar schools do seem to have had a profound and lasting influence which in the long term spread far beyond the walls that enclosed them. It has been suggested that, although never hot-houses of feminism, girls' schools like Roan were 'institutions wherein the feminist tradition . . . was nurtured and kept alive'. Certainly, exasperated, disappointed and half-educated though I was after leaving school, I seldom doubted that Roan had had some kind of liberating effect that at the very least had turned me in the right direction.



Echos across the Valley - but which year?

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL CHAPTER NO.5085

The March convocation saw the Exaltation of Bro J.P. Callaghan and in May the Chapter looks forward to an interesting lecture by the current M.E.Z John Long.

The September convocation will as usual be the Installation meeting for Principals and Officers for 1987/88.

Archie Jarrett retired as secretary last September after holding that office for 12 years and E. Comp. J.H. Wallington was appointed in his stead. Archie was suitably thanked for his many years of admirable and devoted service to the Chapter.

The regular convocations are held at Oakley House, Bromley Common, Kent, BR2 8HA on the 4th Tuesday in March, 3rd Tuesday in May and the 4th Tuesday in September (Installation).

Companions and Old Roan Masons interested in joining the Chapter should contact the Secretary :- J.W. Wallington, 2 Vicars Hill, Ladywell Village, London. S.E.13 7JH. Telephone: 01.690-1330.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL LODGE

Secretary:

R.L. Harmer Esq., 6 Chesterfield Drive, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN13 2EG Telephone No. 0732 458880

The Lodge has continued to meet during the past year and members have enjoyed a successful "season" under the Mastership of Philip Winter (1938-39). He will be succeeded by John Card (1963-70) who will be installed as the 57th Master of the John Roan School Lodge on the 20th October next. As a matter of general interest the Lodge was founded and consecrated in April 1929 and the founding members included T.R.N Crofts, Headmaster of the School from 1910 until 1915, who left to become Headmaster of the Royal Masonic School at Bushey.

It is also pleasant to report that we still have one of our Founders with us, Arthur Meux (1912-16) although, regrettably, infirmity precludes him from participating in any Old Roan activities. Moderately interesting, I hear you say, but:

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME????????????????

The brief answer to this question is, materially speaking, not much although the Masonic Institutions, that is to say the Royal Masonic Hospital, the Educational Trusts and the provisions for the Sick and Aged, are pre-eminent in their respective spheres. Hopefully our members will not need to avail themselves of any of these benefits, although they are there if needed, but are content to enjoy the continuance and extension of friendships and social contacts formed at School or within the Old Roan Association.

Like the O.R.A. our members span many years of Roan scholarship. Our meetings are regularly attended by Old Roans who were at Eastney Street nearly seventy years ago, through the intervening decades to those who came from the Maze Hill School in the mid 1970's.

No matter what your age is you are almost certain to meet some of your contemporaries. The continuance of our Lodge depends,

primarily, upon a regular intake of new members and I, with other officers of the Lodge, will be only too pleased to discuss membership with any Old Roan who is interested. Despite what you may have heard, or read, Freemasonry is not a secret society, akin to the Mafia or the Klu Klux Klan, it is one of the world's oldest secular fraternal societies based upon the principles of friendship, beneficence and respect for the law of the land.

Our Ladies Festival will be held on Saturday 17th October 1987 at the New Hackwood Hotel, Wigmore Road, Bromley and further details can be obtained from John Card at 49 Belmont Lane, Chislehurst.

BIRTHS

BERRY - to Teressa, wife of Keith Berry ('61-'67), on 11th June 1985, a son, Adam.

FINCH - to Caroline (nee Spencer '69-'76 and wife of Peter "69-'76) a daughter, Louise, a sister for Christopher.

HASLAM - to Hilary (nee Chuter 71-78), wife of Neal (67-74), on 11th February 1987, a daughter, Emma Victoria.

KENNEDY - to Gwen, wife of Paul ('65-'70), on 20th September 1985, a daughter, Laura.

RILEY - to Kerry, wife of Nick ('67-'74), on 16th September 1986, a daughter, Lucy Nicola, a sister for Emma.

RODWELL - to Bodil, wife of Chris ('67-'72), on 29th November 1986, a son Nicolas Sondegard.

TROTMAN - to Susan (nee Greeno '69-'75), on 31st March 1987, a son Christopher Charles.

WALSH - to Mary (nee Cook '67-'74), wife of John, on 14th January 1987, a son Stephen Paul.

MARRIAGES

GARRATT-ROSS - on 20th September 1986 at St Lukes Church, Charlton, Mike Garratt ('69-'76) to Suzanne Ross.

LAWRENCE-MALATESTA - on 6th September 1986 in Treviso, Veneto, Italy, Viv Lawrence ('64-'67) to Maria Luisa Malatesta.

PUDDIFOOT-LETCHWORTH - on 6th September 1986 at Blackheath Baptist Church, Trevor Puddifoot ('64-'71) to Tracie Letchworth.

WEAVER-CLINCH - on 30th August 1986 at Ulcombe church, Ulcombe, Kent, Keith Weaver ('60-'65) to Susan Clinch.

DEATHS

DINES, W.F. ('16-'20) - October 1986

FRANKLIN, G.F. ('09-'16) - 13th April 1987

LEE, Mrs E.M. (nee Dumper -'20's)

LOWSON, M. ('20-'22) - 7th January 1987

MORROW, J.J. ('08-'14) - 30th October 1986

TAYLOR, Mrs M (nee Byerley '10-'21) - 17th February 1987

TEARLE, Mrs D (nee Wells '56-'63) - 9th June 1986

UNSTEAD, F. (Caretaker at Devonshire Drive 1936-62)

WATTS, L.R. ('23-'31) - 29th October 1986

WOOLLARD, R.J.B. ('23-'31) - 1986

1986 NEWSLETTER COMPETITION ENTRIES

1	Marilyn Walker (nee Judson)	62-69
2	Hazel Freston (nee Ream)	66-74
3	Brian Thomas	33-39
4	Krista Partridge	58-65
5	D.J. Elmer	22-27
6	Mary Walsh (nee cook)	67-74
7	David Andrews	64-71*
8	Ray Westwood	64-71
9	E Nicholson (nee Sinclair)	18-26
10	E Howse	35-42
11	Mrs E Minter	15-21
12	N Langlois	76-83
13	Frank Twitchett	32-37
14	Lee Morton	78-83
15	David Wright	71-78
16	T Mullard	52-58
17	Virginia Clements	65-70
18	Jean Chandler (nee Garner)	44-48
19	Rosemary Willock (nee Chuter)	58-64
20	A Mitchell	65-72
21	J Fletcher	45-50
22	Alan Buhl	67-74
23	Catherine Stock (nee Lakin)	73-80
24	C Oakley-Hill	59-66
25	Gordon & Clarice Smith (nee Wiggins)	26-31
26	Gillian Vyse (nee Chuter)	60-67
27	Mike Hansford	54-58**
28	Frank Barnes	33-37
29	Tony Slaney	59-66

* First Prize

** Second Prize

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15TH AUGUST 1987	Cricket Club Disco
13th SEPTEMBER 1987	Roan Girls Class of '62 Reunion at the Club
19th SEPTEMBER 1987	Roan Girls 1970-77 Reunion at the Club. Details from Jane Sackett 856 3264
23rd OCTOBER 1987	Annual Dinner
NOVEMBER 1987	'30s Reunion Chislehurst Details from Bill Wedge 647 7317
25th MARCH 1988	Annual General Meeting at the Pavilion

