



OLD ROAN

Chronicle

Vol. 13

July 1993

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

Mike Callaghan
67 Ravens Way
Lee
London SE12 8HB
Tel: (081) 852 3763

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs.M.J.Barber
Miss M.S.Chamberlain
Mrs.B.A.Scott

L.J.Berry
Mrs.M.Jeffrey
A.G.Weir

V.E.Brooker
J.V.Lovell
P.Williams

HON.PRESIDENT

Christopher Deane
The John Roan School
141 Maze Hill
Blackheath
London SE3 7UD
Tel: (081) 858 8981

SECRETARY

Tony Slaney
3 College Gardens
North Bradley
Trowbridge
Wiltshire BA14 0SL
Tel: (0225) 754976

CLUB CHAIRMAN

Mike Titheridge
31 The Chase
Bromley
Kent BR1 3DE

Tel: (081) 460 1719

TREASURER

Neal Haslam
34 Heversham Road
Bexleyheath
Kent DA7 5BG
Tel: (081) 304 3053

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Dave Andrews
143 Lyme Farm Road
Lee
London SE12 8JH
Tel: (081) 852 4075

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Trevor Bell
96 Bellingham Road
Catford
London SE6 2PR
Tel: (081) 698 3247

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOCIAL SECRETARY

Dave Wright
141 Wicklemarsh Road
Blackheath
London SE3 8DL
Tel: (081) 856 0372

Mike Walpole
2 Silver Spring Close
Erith
Kent DA8 1EQ
Tel: (0322) 431745

EDITOR

David Horsburgh
32 Merlin Grove
Beckenham
Kent BR3 3HU
Tel: (081) 650 5112

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

G.A.Johnson
L.P.Nelson
S.J.Perry
D.W.Boon
K.L.Wilkins

S.C.Nelson
F.J.Hornblower
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Mike Callaghan - Old Roan Association President 1993-94



Sunday July 19th 1992 at the Playing Fields

Old Roan Veterans in March 1993. Standing: Derek Humphries, Paul Davis, Graham Briscoe, Chris Dettmer, Mike Baxter, Steve Hunt, Keith Mexter. Kneeling: David Horsburgh, Roger Dale, John Hardy, Jim Hardy, Sid Dampier, "Spot" Hughes.



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FROM THE EDITOR

In an effort to redress the balance the editor arbitrarily selected magazines from the recent past (1973) and discovered a wealth of material. The Roan School for Boys was "buzzing" in that year and the energies and enthusiasm of staff and students were evident in all areas – academic study, sport, music, drama, specialist pursuits. The overlap between School and Old Boys was also very clear and is illustrated best by a study of Mike Callaghan's Sunday 3rd XI. The co-operation between staff and students is also evident throughout all activities and resulted in enjoyment and achievements that are still fondly remembered without the need to reach for the archives. If you find that the article does scant justice to the year then please return to the original and read for yourself the articles of Brian Smith, Clive Brown, "Horatio" and others. Many of the names mentioned are now strong supporters of the Old Roan Association and familiar faces at the Club.

A similar article from an Old Roan at Devonshire Drive would be very welcome. We have no wish to return solely and repeatedly to the Boys' School.

We have included the list of Roan Exhibitioners from the Roan School for Boys. This is only partly completed and we are grateful to the School Librarian, Janice Barber, for information. We hope that the publication of this list will prompt other members to write with information.

One name from the distant past that stands out is that of A.J. Ronald, Exhibitioner in 1917 and School Captain. The editor would like to hear details of his life and career. Reminiscences and photographs of the School Bands organised by Bill Ellis in the 1960's and 1970's are also welcome for a future article. Finally, we welcome reminiscences and photographs of the evacuation during the war to Sussex and Wales.

The editor would like to thank Alf Knott for his support with preparing this magazine and our various contributors. Special thanks are due to Lionel Berry, Alan Weir, Trevor Bell and P.J. Barnwell.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My connection with the Roan School began as early as 1951 when as a pupil of Halstow Road Primary School I was exhorted by my form-master, Alan Weir, to make an extra effort in order to achieve success in my 11-plus exam. I was fortunate enough to obtain a result (the highlight of my academic career!) and placed Roan as my number one choice ahead of Colfe's and Shooters Hill. This was based not only on the high reputation enjoyed by the Roan School but also the playing of football as against rugby; I was already a keen follower of Charlton Athletic. My priority choice of Roan was a wise decision as Mr. Gilbert did not take kindly to those placing Roan as 2nd or 3rd choice.

Immediately I found that the distinctive green uniform was recognised far and wide from its South London origin and, equally, on leaving school, the Old Boy's tie was regularly identified – especially within the City. I remember with much affection the competitiveness of the Mills Cup (between Houses – I was in WOLFE) and the Hobbies Exhibition – their discontinuance was one of the more regrettable changes. Nevertheless, I am left to appreciate the fine school I attended with a fame and tradition of which to be proud.

It was in fact my joining the Old Boys that had a profound influence on my way of life, particularly socially, with the very many strong and lasting friendships made through the Old Roan. By chance, my leaving the school in 1956 coincided with the opening of the War Memorial Room and Bar, and this event was to be the catalyst for growth in the Club facilities and financial boost which among other things enables us to maintain the quality and regularity of this magazine. The sports clubs, already successful, were able to have a social base to entertain families, friends and opposition. In the case of the football club we saw an increase in the number of elevens fielded from three to six or seven every Saturday.

At school in the "fifties" we were allowed "afternoons off" in order to attend the Kent County Cricket matches at the Rectory Field, Blackheath. This was instrumental in fostering my passion for cricket which was further nurtured when I joined the Old Roan and took an active part as player (aged 17 and described by Len Groves as the worst ever seen) and administrator. I must at this point pay a personal tribute to three Old Roans (all regrettably no longer with us) – Frank Barnes, Alan Pile and Len Groves – who all shaped my appreciation, knowledge and love of the game. Thanks to Len, especially, for the many hundreds of happy hours spent in his company watching and supporting Kent C.C. Also, thank-you Len for the comment some 25 years after the original assessment of my playing ability: "You think Mike's bad now – he has improved one million times since I first saw him!"

I therefore make no excuse for stressing the importance of the sports clubs (especially cricket and football) to the Association, and today they generate a major source of revenue through the bar. The funds are able to be used to improve the facilities (a major refurbishment of the Memorial Room is currently planned for early implementation). There has always been a close link in sport between the school and the old boys, which was best illustrated when the School Football Team won the English Schools' Association Trophy in 1971 after a two-legged final at the Valley and Walton-on-Thames. The team had attracted very substantial support from the Old Roan Club, with a coach-load of "fans" travelling to Newcastle for the semi-final. Almost all of the side joined the Old Boys and two years ago re-united to play an anniversary match at the School Field (see Chronicle Vol.11, July '91). It is pleasing to report that there remains a continuing flow of players from the school into the Old Roan sides.

As an avid supporter of the 1st X1 Football Team, it gives me pleasure to report that they have just completed their most successful season for many years; reaching the semi-final of the League Cup and finishing 4th in the League. A disappointing four weeks in March/April undoubtedly cost the side a top honour, nevertheless congratulations are in order. Well done lads!

As part of my presidential duties I am anxious to discover more of the current situation at the school and have already learnt that the prospectus prepared by the school has generated a "waiting list" for places. It details the excellent current academic record, careers advice and social societies to be enjoyed at the John Roan School. Doubtless, further in-depth insight will be given by the school elsewhere in this magazine. The prospectus also gives details of the Old Boys Association, advising and encouraging pupils of the facilities available. It is gratifying that over the last two years we have gained a considerable intake of new youngsters from the school, many of whom are primarily social members rather than of a sporting persuasion.

In these early weeks of office I have become only too aware of the hard work being carried out by the committee and membership in order to maintain and improve the facilities available to Old Roans present and future. I make no apology for singling out two Past Presidents who continue to put in considerable work. Our gratitude is due to Neil Haslam, our Treasurer, who does a very professional job in handling our ever increasing finances, and to Tony Slaney, our Secretary, who despite moving to Trowbridge still manages to attend all meetings and most functions. Tony's diligence has ensured that our membership remains over the magic figure of 1,000 despite regular losses through deaths and non-renewals.

It will be noted that the clubhouse at the School Field is the "hub" of activities, but we must not lose sight of the membership that has moved away from South London. To them, the "ties" may sometimes be somewhat tenuous and therefore I would particularly cajole them to attend the major annual events – the first of which will be the Reunion Dinner at the School Field which is fixed for **Friday 22 October, 1993**. Please make a firm commitment now. If you need a bed or accommodation there are several locally based Old Roans willing to help. Telephone me or Monty Smith to liaise.

The major occasion of the Presidential Year should be the Dinner Dance, usually held in March. It was a great disappointment to my predecessor, Linda Nelson, that due to lack of support this year's event had to be cancelled at the last minute. Obviously we do not wish for a repeat situation and are considering the options for March 1994. I welcome any feedback on the type of "do" and venue that would encourage your support.

In conclusion, and turning the wheel full circle, the strength of the bonds of the Association are indicated by the fact that my first connection with the School, Alan Weir, has since been a President and today umpires the Old Boys Cricket and watches football at the Field. He also proposed me for office. Thanks Alan!

My best wishes to all Old Boys of my acquaintance and I hope to see you during the year.

Mike Callaghan
May 1993

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have been asked to try to explain the difference between the Old Roan Association and the Old Roan Club. It could be summarised quite easily by saying the Association is a body to provide a continuation after the school for those who attended the Roan Schools. The Club is just the building which has a bar where members of the Association can meet over a drink.

The aims of the Association are written into its Constitution. They are to maintain and develop links between its members, the School and the Staff of the School, and to foster and facilitate the continuance of associations formed at the School. Membership is restricted to former pupils, past and present members of the staff and past and present governors. It was formed on 29th September 1911 with the headmaster, Mr.T.R.N.Crofts, being its first President. The principal functions are now to publish news of interest to Old Roans and hold reunion events, such as the dinner in the autumn. A mailing list of members is kept to keep members in touch, but can only be up to date if members keep up their subscriptions and let the Association know of changes in addresses.

For many years before the Old Roan Club came into existence there was the Old Roan Cricket (first season 1922, although first annual general meeting was 23rd April 1920), Football (formed in 1920, first season 1921-2) and Tennis Clubs and the Old Roan Dramatic Society, all of which had recognition from the Association and members on its committee. The Table Tennis Club was formed shortly after the Old Roan Club. Others have included Swimming, Physical Training, and Athletics (was it ever formed?). The John Roan Lodge was consecrated on 29th April 1929. There may have been others although I am not aware of them. No doubt a reader will correct me. It was not until 15th July 1956 that the War Memorial Room extension to the School pavilion was opened and the Old Roan Club really started. Its objects are to provide social facilities for its members and generally further the interests of Old Roans. It is one of the constituent parts of the Association. Membership is not exclusive to Old Roans, and regular playing or social individuals may be granted affiliated status. It does not actively seek outside members. Spouses of full Association members are also Associate members of the Club (not the Association).

It is the Association that recognises any Clubs formed by its members so long as their rules are approved by the Association General Committee and all such affiliated Clubs shall submit a list of their members when requested. A recent addition to recognised Affiliated Clubs is the Old Roan Netball Club, and a report has been requested from their representative for this Chronicle. It is a most welcome addition as so many of the sporting activities are male orientated. As far as committee and general meetings go, the Association and Club meet together recognising the importance of the Club and minimising duplication of discussions. A Club Management Committee runs the day to day activities and proposes major items to the joint committee. I hope the above will clarify some apparent misunderstandings and will gladly try to elaborate should any one wish further explanation.

Membership of the Association rapidly increased in the early years to its peak of 1269 in 1981, one year after the merger of the separate boys' and girls' associations. Since then there has been a slow decline, although the Club is regularly well attended by younger members and particularly so on disco nights. The full breakdown of membership as at 31st December 1992 was:

	1992	1991
Life Members	590	610
Fully Paid Ordinary Members	326	348
Junior Members	29	26
Honorary Members	2	2
Associate Members	34	34
Honorary Members (Old Roan Club)	2	2
Fully Paid Affiliated Club Members	20	16
	1003	1038

At the Annual General Meeting in March there were some changes to the committee. Mike Callaghan took over from Linda Nelson as President. My first encounters with Mike were when I joined the Association, visited the Club and was constantly asked for my subscriptions. Mike has been involved in almost every aspect of the Association, Club and Sports Clubs and is a worthy Old Roan to be given the honour of the Presidency. Dave Andrews and Kay Wilkins did not stand for re-election as Assistant Secretaries owing to other commitments. Dave is now the Assistant Treasurer and Kay remains as a committee member. Their places have been taken by Trevor Bell (Staff) and Dave Wright. It is very good to see a member of the staff supporting the Association in such an active way and demonstrates the closer links with the School, which had drifted apart a few years ago. His duties are the circulation of agendas of committee meetings and the taking of the minutes. Dave Wright's duties are primarily to the Club. Another important change was that of Social Secretary. Deb Wallis, having been a very able Social Secretary, wished to stand down and Mike Walpole, an old hand at the job, kindly volunteered to fill the vacancy. Votes of thanks were passed expressing appreciation to both Linda and Deb for the work they had contributed during their respective terms of office. Linda joins her brother, Steve, as a School Liaison Officer on the committee. Through a regular intake of new younger members and increasing involvement with the School the prospects for the Association are looking brighter than they have since (arguably) the days when members of the staff, Barry Thomas and Gordon Brooks, were involved with it and frequently used the facilities at the Club.

A.J.Slaney
May 1993

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The audited accounts for 1992 of the Old Roan Association were presented in full at the Annual General Meeting in March. In keeping with the majority of "company" accounts these days, and the space available within these pages, the following must be considered as a financial summary of last year.

Revenue Account	1992	1991
Subscriptions	£ 1,911	£ 2,063
Trading Surplus	15	8
Interest	396	641
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,322	2,712
Publication costs	2,794	3,472
Other Expenditure	140	138
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 2,934	£ 3,610
Loss	£ 612	£ 898

Balance Sheet	1992	1991
Fixed Assets	£ 189	£ 196
Investments	3,421	3,421
Current Assets:		
- Stock	297	72
- Fund Accounts	2,884	2,976
- Bank Accounts	8,230	8,457
Current Liabilities	(596)	(519)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£14,425	£14,603
Accumulated Fund	£11,613	£11,695
Benevolent Fund	£ 1,263	£ 1,253
Idough Mem.Fund	£ 1,549	£ 1,537
Mary Higgs Fund	£ Nil	£ 118
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£14,425	£14,603

Accumulated Fund

Balance b/f	£11,695	£11,885
Investment Interest	345	345
Donations Received	804	363
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£12,844	£12,593
Donations made	£ 619	Nil
Less Revenue A/C	£ 612	898
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£11,613	£11,695

Overall, subscription income has remained remarkably steady in recent years, and as long as this situation continues, I believe there is no cause for concern, nor need for an increase – so please pay your subscription on time, preferably by banker's order. Falling interest rates have had an immediate effect on our revenue, and in the present economic climate, it is most likely that we will see the present levels maintained for some time to come.

The single significant item of expenditure is publication of the "Old Roan Chronicle". The general committee feel that in the present circumstances, it is unlikely that we will produce the "Newsletter" due not only to the obvious problems in gathering sufficient suitable material to publish, but also to the disproportionate costs of dispatching it. Donations, however small, in return for advertising space in the "Chronicle" would be most welcome.

The Association was fortunate to be named as a beneficiary in the estate of the late Herbert "Ginger" Lister, and this is reflected in the donations received to the accumulated fund. We made donations to the John Roan School to defray the costs of merit badges and also merit certificates. These were partly paid for by the remaining balance in the Mary Higgs Memorial Fund, which has now been extinguished.

It was suggested at the AGM that I draw members' attention to the existence of the Benevolent Fund. It should be used to help Old Roans, i.e. former pupils of the Roan School for Boys, the Roan School for Girls and the John Roan School, and its purpose needs no further explanation here. It is administered by the General Committee of the Association and donations from the fund are made at their discretion. If members become aware of deserving cases, please provide details to either myself or the secretary in order that they may be presented to the committee for consideration.

The end of year balance of the accumulated fund showed a small decrease, but all in all our financial affairs continue to be satisfactory and the balance sheet remains largely unchanged. Copies of the accounts are available on request, the following figures provide a summary.

Neal Haslam
May 1993

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO.....EDWIN D.PARNELL?

We are grateful to John Long for these notes on Edwin D.Parnell who now lives in Australia. Edwin visited his sister in Kent earlier this year and came into contact with John Long through a connection with All Souls Church in Crookham.

- 1938 - 45 Roan School including the evacuation with the school to Flimwell, Rye and Llandybie
- 1946 - 47 Telegraphist in the Royal Navy
- 1948 - 53 Fitter in South Eastern Gas Board.
Married Mary Crafter in August 1949
- 1953 - 63 Draughtsman and Instrumentation Engineer with Babcock & Wilcox, London
Emigrated to Kingswood, New South Wales, Australia in 1963
- 1963 - 78 Draughtsman, Engineer and Contracts Manager with
- 1980 - 92 Babcock Australia

Now living in retirement at Green Point, New South Wales

Involved in many activities in the Church of England and in the Anglican Church in Australia

"My wife and I have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren (all in Australia)."

THE OLD ROAN CLUB REPORT

Yet again, despite the country's economic problems, the Club has been able to maintain a stable position and our target figure of £36,000 net turnover was exceeded. Last year, the licensed trade as a whole experienced an average 15% decrease in volume throughput. In fact, we increased ours by over 12%, and net bar sales at £40,816 showed a growth of nearly 28% over the previous year, although a proportion of this was due to increased bar prices. A significant boost to our trading has come from the efforts to encourage our younger members to make greater use of the facilities at the club, coupled with the installation of equipment to receive the Sky satellite television sports package.

Our planned improvement programme is in place and progressing; last year we replaced the tables and chairs in both bars and, more recently, have had double-glazed windows and doors fitted. The Management Committee are currently enlisting professional advice to investigate the feasibility and costs of what could, and should be incorporated into our overall refurbishment plans. The complete rewiring of the club, provision of effective heating and re-equipping the cellar/storage facilities are items high on our priority list.

Other changes include the provision of further gaming/quiz machines and a pool table that not only accepts coins, but also stores them, thus providing a revenue. These features are popular and, with the increased use of the Club, generate a steady contribution towards our trading account.

Good use has been made of the Club for functions, and these are essential to help us maintain our competitive bar prices and allow us to not only fund the planned refurbishments, but also keep faith with the School now that our joint structures have had to become a lot more commercial. Hitherto, we made a contribution to the School toward energy costs and assisted the Governors in respect of rent for those areas of the playing fields which they did not own freehold. This arrangement allowed Old Roans to enjoy sports facilities at nominal costs. With the advent of LMS (Local Management in Schools) and following numerous calculations, agreement was reached with the School that an overall contribution of £7,200 per annum would be paid towards the cost of providing facilities at the playing fields. Despite this change of emphasis, we continue to enjoy an excellent working relationship with the School.

The way in which we have developed in recent years places us very much in the "small business" category and we must now evermore ensure that we function and make our decisions on a firm commercial basis. Our balance sheet is very respectable and no doubt in the present climate there would be many small businesses which would like to reflect a similarly strong situation. A summary of the accounts follows this report – further details may be obtained from the Treasurer.

Thank you to everyone involved with the Club: for your support so far, your intended support, and your efforts enabling the club to operate so successfully during 1992.

Trading Account	1992	1991	Balance Sheet	1992	1991
Bar Sales	£40,816	£31,957	Club House	£12,662	£12,662
Cost of Sales	£34,772	£27,488	Equipment	£ 3,936	£ 3,168
			Investments	£ 2,571	£ 2,571
Gross Profit:	£ 6,044	£ 4,467	Current Assets:		
Whitbread Redemptions	£ 2,774	£ 3,257	– Stock	£ 2,191	£ 2,754
	£ 8,818	£ 7,726	– Prepayments	£ 1,321	£ 1,290
			– Cash/Bank	£26,556	£20,770
Club Running Expenses	£ 6,809	£ 5,825	Current Liabilities	(£6,588)	(£5,954)
				£42,649	£37,261
Net Profit	£ 2,009	£ 1,901			
Non-Bar Receipts	£ 2,927	£ 1,304			
	£ 4,936	£ 3,205			

Profit and Loss Account

Interest Received	£ 1,252	£ 1,378	Balance b/f	£37,261	£33,589
Trading Surplus	£ 4,936	£ 3,205	Surplus for the year	£ 5,388	£ 3,672
	£ 6,188	£ 4,583		£42,649	£37,261
Gratuities/Grants	£ 800	£ 911			
	£ 5,388	£ 3,672			

Mike Titheridge
May 1993

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Copies of the last magazine were returned – "not known at this address" – from the following. If anyone knows of a current address for these members of the Association please contact Tony Slaney with information.

Mrs.J.Bliss (nee Killick '61-'68)
L.F.Bristow ('33-'38)
Mrs.J.Goines (nee Sullivan '65-'72)
J.F.Lockyer ('62-'69)
Mrs.E.Roberts (ex-staff)
Mrs.H.Saker (nee Stocken '25-'31)
B.C.Skinner (left approx.1969)
I.K.Whitelock ('63-'70)

GEORGE CARTER ('16-'24) – AN APPRECIATION

As his dates imply, George Carter was one of Hope's men. We have a Braithwaite photograph, possibly one of the earliest, showing a kilted Antient with a contingent of Scouts, one of whom is George. Perhaps it was on this visit that he sustained the ankle injury on Grisedale that convinced him that walking (especially on hills) was not for him.

On leaving Roan he trained as a teacher at Goldsmith's College, specialising in Maths and Art. He did not lay claim to any great artistic distinction, but his – and Margaret's – discerning eye is proved by the watercolours which grace the walls of his house. He spent all his working life in Greenwich schools, becoming Head of Lower School at Charlton in the early '50s.

Asthma prevented his flying with the R.A.F. during the War. He became a Link Trainer Instructor, serving much of his time on airfields in the Cambridgeshire area.

As a schoolmaster he would wish to be remembered for his contribution to Schools Soccer in Woolwich and Blackheath districts. He was able to get the best out of boys and staff of all ages and dispositions with his knowledge of the game and his forceful enthusiasm. He was an exceptional organiser; his sports store was a treat to see – not a dirty shirt or muddy football in sight. He was himself no mean performer, keeping goal for the Old Boys after an injury had prevented him playing outfield. As a coach he showed considerable skill and judgement. It is therefore to some a mystery why such a discerning person should come to support Arsenal, but he retained his interest to the end. On one occasion he returned from a disappointing F.A. Cup Semi-Final to find Margaret absent, his dinner in the oven, and a black tie on the table.

His sporting interests were not confined to Soccer. He played for the O.R.C.C. 1st XI before the War and until 1949, when his batting figures read: P23 Runs 300 Ave. 14.2 Highest Score 61. It is reported that on one occasion, taking guard in the deepest gloom, he produced a flame-thrower of a lighter to show the umpire where the stumps were. "Tell me when he's going to bowl?". In later years he added his weight and experience to the 2nd and 3rd teams, forming part of that crafty quartet of bowlers which included Gosling, Groves and Townsend.

As a tennis player he approached County standard with the Inland Revenue Club. He was proud of his ability and had been known to say that he could beat the youngsters "by standing on the baseline and making them do the running about". It was at the Inland Revenue that he met Margaret, his wife for over 30 years. He played a cunning game of Snooker with Len Groves, Harry Lancaster and Ken Graf, still playing Ken up to two years ago. Perhaps his only reason for not taking up Golf or Bowls was the amount of walking or bending involved. His competitive instincts were not limited to the sportsfield; he played Bridge regularly with O.R. friends.

He shared a love of his garden with Margaret, aided and abetted by Les and Doreen Jarvis. Even in latter years, plagued by hip and knee problems, he battled cheerfully on, tending his plots entirely on his knees. However, when relatively fit he left the lawn to others. It was, he said on his retirement, most thoughtful of his colleagues to present Margaret with a mower.

George loved everything Old Roan. As a Committee member for many years and President in 1965-6, he was not afraid to speak his mind. He will be pleased to note that the lobby to



the Clubroom is now clear of debris (Thank you N.S.H.). He took great pride in his Mother's achievements in local politics. She became Mayor of Greenwich, acted as a Governor of the School and was later made a Freeman of the Borough. George, as her escort, was pleased to refer to himself as the "Mayoress".

Born and educated in Greenwich, serving Greenwich children and this Association for most of his long life, George Carter can truly be called one of John Roan's men.

Alan Weir, April 1993

NIGEL EDGERTON – AN APPRECIATION

With the death last summer of Nigel Edgerton the school lost a very good friend. Others could write of his contribution to local politics or of his personal friendship; I knew him over the twenty odd years that I served with him on the Governing Board, first of the Roan School for Boys and then of the John Roan School as a man generous to supporters and opponents alike and a passionate believer in the power of education.

A dedicated believer in the I.L.E.A., Nigel was never one to be afraid of challenging their decisions or of rejecting the advice of inspectors if it seemed that the Authority's view ran in any way counter to the good of the children of Greenwich or of the Roan School.

This was never more in evidence than at the time when an amalgamation was on the cards and he led the governors in strenuous opposition to the first plans that the Authority had for the Schools. Those plans would have proved the easier solution for the hard-pressed bureaucrats but Nigel was determined to find the best solution for us – which he did in the eventual amalgamation of the Roan Boys' and Girls' Schools with Charlton Secondary.

I especially remember him during the countless hours we spent at the time of the amalgamation interviewing for posts in the new school. This was a difficult time for us all: staff and governors alike, and our deliberations frequently went on to midnight and beyond. Nigel was always scrupulously fair and never hurried discussions if there was the least possibility that haste might lead us to the wrong decision.

He was famous for his opening questions at interviews. I well remember mine – a string of at least six, cleverly intertwined, showing that he had read up on the latest developments in English teaching and challenging me both to answer cogently – and to remember all the points he had fired at me!

But "correct" answers gleaned merely from the latest report and couched in the current educational jargon cut no ice. There would always be the percipient rider to expose any shallowness of thought or slavish following of fashion.

The Chair of Governors can be a tower of strength behind the School or a thorn in its flesh. Three Heads have, to my knowledge, paid tribute to the unfailing help and support that they received from Nigel in the execution of their duties.

Greenwich and the John Roan School owe a vast debt of gratitude to a man who gave of himself unstintingly and who, above all, believed in the value of children and of their education.

Few if any Chairs of Governors over the long history of the School since 1677 can have striven harder or more successfully to ensure that the School remained a place where the "townborn children of Greenwich" received "true learning".

He is greatly missed.

Nigel Ballantyne.

NEWS FROM THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL

The end of the summer term in 1992 witnessed a performance of the "Ocean World Oratorio" which offered sounds and sights which not only gave pleasure, but also provided plenty of food for thought. The oratorio featured the massed choirs of the School, musicians, dancers, artists and technical crew. The performances were excellent, with crisp, clear singing and tight, effective coordination of music, dance, narration and their technical counterparts, lighting and the excellent slides and videos. Ms. Pollino's team have established for themselves an enviable reputation for producing work which is not only of high quality, but also brings ecological issues to the attention of audience and performers. All the vital messages in "Ocean World" came across loud and clear.

Founders' Day in 1992 had an extra bonus. In addition to celebrating the achievements of pupils in Years 7 to 9, friends of the School were invited to the official opening of the lift at Maze Hill. Completion of the lift, together with the new ramp and other building improvements, greatly improves access for disabled pupils in the School. Funding came from Greenwich Council and the Roan Foundation Trust.

The John Roan School pupils collected the princely sum of £500 as a result of their non-uniform day. This was donated to the Christchurch Forum, the Greenwich multi-purpose community centre which is designed in all its aspects with disabled people in mind. Members of the parents' association, the JRA, worked very hard on Sunday 29th June to raise £340 for the School at the boot sale.

The United Bank of Kuwait has very generously donated some of its "obsolete" computer equipment to the School. The gift was negotiated by Malcolm Jones, the School's Media Resources Officer. An old computer may be considered obsolete and of no value to some people but to us at the John Roan School it is still a valuable and useful resource. Many companies will only give their old equipment to schools or similar institutions so if we can ask you to keep a look-out for signs of an imminent upgrade in computers at your place of work, please put in a good word for the School.

Year 11 students received their Compact Certificates for having achieved the Compact goals of attendance, punctuality, work experience and being on target with course work as well as being entered for Maths and English GCSE. The Compact certificate is recognised by employers as a sign that the person applying for a job has completed all the Compact goals. Compact employers have been helpful in offering work experience placements for our Year 10 students who have been out on work placements for two weeks this term. The work experience was organised by a team of teachers: Mr. Hayes, Ms. Prentice, Mrs. McMeckan and Mr. Hardcastle and it actually involved almost every teacher as we all went on visits to see the Year 10 pupils "at work".

The October "News" reports that G.C.S.E. examination results continued their upward trend. A quarter of all pupils achieved five or more A-C grades, the number of non-entrants was significantly reduced and all pupils who attended regularly gained passes in the core subject areas. The number of subject grades achieved rose steeply from 785 in 1991 to 1086 in 1992. Sixth Form one-year courses showed a similar improvement and A-level results were also up on 1991. As a consequence of these results and the wide range of courses on offer, the sixth form has increased in strength.

Percentage and numbers of pupils gaining 5 or more A-C grades at G.C.S.E.:

1990	1991	1992
9% (16)	14% (26)	25% (43)

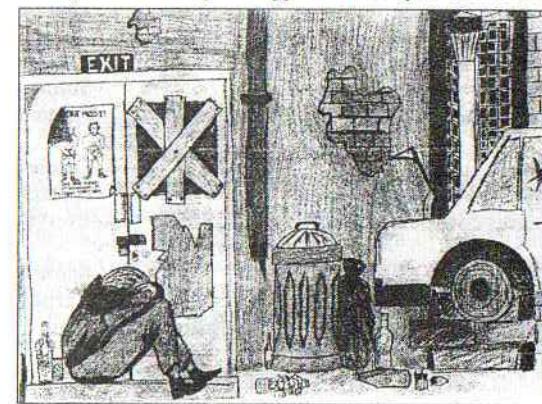
Seventeen members of Year 8 participated in the Japanese "I draw my Dream House" drawing contest supported by the United Nations Children's fund. Special praise is due to Kalveer Plaha (8RSA) and Hamida Quadir (8DM) who received awards of excellence and whose drawings were exhibited in Tokyo and at the UN headquarters in New York last summer.

Several pupils from the School were invited to participate in the making of a TV educational series called "The Arts Connection". Jamie Bridges-Brown (9MP), Megan Toogood (11MR), and Susan Reid (10MV) participated in one of the programmes looking at drama in the National Curriculum and were selected to take part as they are keen members of the Greenwich Young People's Theatre. Jessica Edwards (9AD) also performed in one of the series which looked at music in schools. Jessica discovered that working in television wasn't as exciting or as glamorous as she had imagined: "The filming took ages and we all had to practise pieces over and over again. The piece that I played was only five minutes out of a twenty minute programme yet the whole programme took nearly ten hours to make!... I'd never realised how much patience and strength you need to work in television".

The School rock bands added to the great atmosphere at the Greenwich ACE (Action against Cuts in Education) Fair last September in the Cutty Sark Gardens. Parents, pupils and staff from Greenwich schools ran stalls and games to make the community more aware of the education budget situation in Greenwich. The John Roan School was particularly well represented with two rock bands and the JRA tombola stall. Speakers included Nick Raynesford, MP. More recently the John Roan Parents' Association held a May Fayre and raised £2,500 which will be used to support the School during this time of budget cuts.

In March the School celebrated International Women's Day by inviting a number of women into school to talk to pupils about their careers and jobs. The aim was to celebrate women's achievements and to challenge stereotypical views held by girls and boys about the role of women in society. Over 500 pupils received a visit from various women working in a wide range of fields. These included doctors, a barrister, a solicitor, an engineer, the project manager from Shell, the Deputy Mayor (soon to be Mayor of Greenwich) and the Director of "Disability Awareness in Action". The talks were varied and informative giving pupils interesting ideas for future careers. The whole event raised pupils awareness about the achievements of women in our society and the range of opportunities open to them. In addition to visitors coming to talk to pupils there was also a display of women's writings and a lunchtime musical celebration led by Ms. Selves and Ms. Short.

A Year 10 Art class looked at the issue of homelessness and considered how many young people find themselves trying to survive on the streets of London. The Class did some life drawing and then imagined the figures in a specific setting in London or another city. The class sent the completed drawings to "The Big Issue", a magazine for the home-



Drawing by Ben Mitchell

less. The editors were so impressed by the quality of the sketches that they decided to print a series of these in several editions of the magazine.

The School raised £600 after a number of sponsored events on Red Nose Day. These included sponsored silences, runs, sponge throwing, pyjama football and Beat the Goalkeeper. Special thanks to Mr. Deane who underwent ordeal by water when he faced the battalion of some amazingly accurate wet-sponge throwers.

Joanne Butters of 10JM is a rising star at badminton having recently taken part in two international matches. Joanne successfully represented English schools in individual and team events at an Under-16 International Badminton Tournament in Scotland and won later honours against South Africa and Holland. Joanne's ambition is to be picked for the England Badminton team in the Olympics.

In January several of the Lower Sixth A-level English group went to see the RSC's production of "Hamlet" starring Kenneth Branagh in the title role with Jane Lapotaire as Gertrude. It was acted in modern dress and the production lasted over five hours. One student summed up the evening: "I thought it was a bit too long though the brilliance of Kenneth Branagh prevented people from nodding off to sleep and so missing the death throes of all the main characters in the final act of the play".

Haiku Yearbook by 9AD

Lifeless and frozen
Resting on the branches
January's snow lies

R.Cohen

March sun is lazy
The sun's yellow rays rests on roofs
Turning them golden

A.Savage

May's warming sunshine
White legs hoping for a tan
Visiting the park

K.Cochrane

The last weeks of school,
Children - hot and agitated
Crowd the icecream van

K.Cochrane

Late September
The trees bare as skeletons -
Leaves cover the ground

E.Shaw

Year almost ending
Weather growing still colder
Darkness fills the world

J.Edwards

Beware February
Sky cloudless, bitterly cold
Death's on a stake-out

M.Lee-Redman

April releases heat
Funfairs come to town
Children are laughing

K.Haylett

June's clouds are pillows
Cottonwool or marshmallow
That float across the sky

T.Lindsay

Cool August
Sitting around chatting till late
Future memories

S.Lawrence

October is dead
A blacky - brown barren land
Everything's quiet

C.Blackman

Snow is white
Christmas trees are loved
Time to pile present

J.Bate

Founders Day will be on 2nd July and Sports Day is on 21st July. Term ends on 23rd July.

DEVELOPMENTS AT KIDBROOKE PARK ROAD

One of the benefits of LMS (Local Management of Schools) has been our ability to set up a new management structure for our schoolkeeping and playing fields maintenance staff with line management responsibility delegated to me as Deputy Headteacher. Within this structure I am pleased to say we have renegotiated roles and responsibilities so that we now have Martyn Bain as the Senior Premises Manager with financial and managerial responsibility for the maintenance of our buildings and services at Westcombe Park, Maze Hill and Kidbrooke Park Road, and Ray Keeling as the Playing Fields Manager.

One of the subsequent arrangements made to facilitate the development and joint management of the playing fields between the school and the Old Roan Association has been the setting up of the Playing Fields Steering Group.

This group meets approximately each half-term and on a day to day basis acts as a liaison group between the Association, the Club, the various sports sections and the school.

Its aims have been to increase use of the facilities, particularly football pitches, leading to greater use of the club; to move to maximum use by the school, the sports sections and, if possible, use by other teams with Old Roan members or affiliations; to monitor pitches to ensure there is no deterioration in playing surfaces caused by increased use; to give direction and co-ordination in matters of development, improvement and the creation of new facilities; to provide a forum within which the arbitration and resolution of any problems or disputes may take place.

I am pleased to say that these aims are being met and our first exciting development project will hopefully be the installation of floodlights for training purposes followed by the installation of an all-weather surface in an adjacent area.

Watch this space for further information.

Trevor Bell
May 1993

THOMAS DINWIDDY - ARCHITECT

Thomas Dinwiddy was a Bristol-born architect but he produced his best works when he came to live in Greenwich. His own home in the Manor House, Crooms Hill, Blackheath, was notable but he decided to specialise in the design of public buildings, which are dotted around Lewisham, Greenwich and Bexley. He won various medals and a commendation for his design of Laurie Grove Baths in New Cross and the Roan Girls' School in Devonshire Drive, Greenwich. He was also responsible for the Hollies in Sidecup, Grove Park Hospital and restoration work at the Yacht and the Trafalgar public houses. Grove Park was one of the last purpose-built workhouses in the British Isles and opened in 1904.

MIKE CALLAGHAN OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT (1993-94)

Mike Callaghan is this year's President of the Association and a more deserving or colourful individual could not be found. Mike had an academic career more distinguished by hard work than natural genius and parted company with "Gus" Gilbert by mutual consent in the summer of 1956 to begin a short-lived career in banking. During the latter part of Mike's schooldays, pupils were given the option of watching county cricket at the Rectory Field instead of sporting activities at the School Field. Mike was one of the few who actually watched rather than go home! In this simple fashion seeds were sown and Mike's lifelong love of the game had begun. His banking career was short-lived because he was unable to get on with holiday arrangements which took no account of the Isle of Wight tour fixtures. He switched careers into shipping and in 1970 became manager of a small Shipping and Forwarding company where arrangements were far more flexible! His career also included three separate contracts in Nigeria. On the last of these he met the delightful Elizabeth who became his wife in January 1990.

"Cricket, lovely cricket!" A Life Member of Kent County Cricket Club, Mike has been much more than just a watcher, and played for over 25 years, some fifteen of which were spent skippering the Sunday 3rd XI. Under his guidance the team became an important nursery for future 1st XI players who learnt at an early age that as well as being complex and competitive the game and its social adjuncts were a rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable way of spending a day. Despite his initials, M.C.C. was not blessed with outstanding natural talent but this was more than compensated for by his ability and willingness to learn, diligence, attention to detail and a shrewd grasp of human psychology. These qualities made him an outstanding skipper and latterly one of the Club's better umpires. Mike was a stubborn and courageous batsman who would never surrender his wicket easily and a slow left arm bowler who claims never to have turned a ball. Anyone who doesn't know the answer, and perhaps some who do, could spend half an hour or so with Mike having asked the question – "Who is the only Old Roan playing for Old Roan who has carried his bat through a completed innings and taken a hat-trick?" Chris Rodwell, a Callaghan protege who had ascended to the heights of 1st XI captaincy was foolish enough to bet Mike that he would not be able to take 25 wickets in a season playing on Sundays only. A glorious summer and some astutely selfish captaincy meant that Mike was collecting in mid-August! Mike was a leading light in the Isle of Wight Cricket Tours and, on the Island, Old Roan are still remembered as the good team who also liked a drink, brought an irresistible sense of fun with them and were totally unpredictable. My greatest personal memory of "Mike the Cricketer", which I feel reflects his qualities, was on this tour at Arreton, a mid-week fixture, artificial matting wicket, quick bowlers and graveyard of Old Roan 1st XI batsmen. With 22 overs to go, eight wickets down and Mike going out to bat, most of the team and camp followers were heading for the White Lion public house, fifteen minutes walk from the ground. An hour later, a report from the ground said Mike was still batting. At 7-45 pm an exhausted and thirsty M.C.C. reached the pub with the opposition, a few others and the skipper of the day who announced that Mike had defended his wicket throughout and enabled Old Roan to bat out for the most unlikely of draws. Mike spent the evening berating his team-mates and demanding his reward (many of them).

Liked a drink? Mike is currently Treasurer of the Woolwich Branch of the Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood, which he joined in 1970, and he has also been Chairman and Secretary. He remains a life-member of the Campaign for Real Ale, now a

highly successful consumer organisation which he joined in its formative years. Of course the "proof of the pudding lies in the eating" and Mike has missed no opportunity to test the product nor to encourage others to join him. Apart from the obvious evenings related to cricket there have been innumerable trips around England and Wales and even a few ventures into Europe. Many an evening, weekend or "short-break" has been spent with often disparate groups having what can best be described as a "whale of a time". For myself and many others these trips have been among our most memorable and enjoyable experiences and we must heartily thank Mike for the introduction to these pleasures. Photos of some of these events are available upon request!

Not just a cricketer, Mike was also a rugged left-back with the lower elevens and formed some formidable soccer partnerships with the likes of Mike Titheridge, Jim Bird, Monty Smith, Ian "Chopper" Clatworthy and Bernie Hampton. It has to be said, however, that these players were perhaps formidable not so much in their ability to stop opposing forwards as in their capacity to remain vertical at 11.00 pm irrespective of kick-off times! Mike also skippered sides regularly and was a member of the inaugural 6th and 7th XI's. In the service of the Club he was to break his leg in 1972 but was promptly seen "supporting" the 1st XI from his wheel-chair. His support for the 1st XI remains as ardent today and he misses few Saturday afternoons (home or away). After his injury Mike refereed local leagues and still turns out to officiate "friendly" matches at the Club on Sunday mornings.

Colourful? Although a keen devotee of the theatre, Mike is not a natural thespian but has none the less turned in some classic performances – Sir Les Patterson (Cricket Supper '78), Prince Incredibly Charming (Christmas Panto '82) and the three-and-a-half-hour virtuoso display as an overturned statue on the floor of the club bar (Cricket Supper '84). Not always the star, Mike has been an impromptu stuntman and his collaborations with a moving table ('81 send-off to Nigeria), an aggressive wardrobe (Tunbridge Wells '84) and a collapsing bed (Leicester '88) have been particularly memorable. As you can probably gather, Mike is not a man who is afraid to give it a go!

On the more formal side, Mike has always had the best interests of the Club and Association at heart. He will be remembered by the Cricket Club as Fixture Secretary, re-vamping and strengthening the fixture list at the time of entry into league cricket. He was Assistant Secretary of the Association from 1966-68, a period when we were seeking to increase membership and, if possible, break the magic "1,000" barrier. Mike's ability to get on with younger people combined with effort, administrative skills and blackmail allowed this formidable target to be reached.

Mike's other great interest has always been the cinema and is a member of the National Film Theatre. Claiming to be a "bit of a buff" he admits that such knowledge is his only available contribution to quizzes such as "Trivial Pursuits".

Mike is unusual among recent Presidents in that he accepted this honour unhesitatingly and without qualms. Make no mistake, it is an honour and one way or another it has to be earned. The realisation that it entails yet more work came later! Many of you reading earlier paragraphs will be reminded of happy times spent in Mike's company. Why not make a commitment now to support one or both of the Presidential functions in October this year and March next? Come on lads, give him the support he so richly deserves, in the same way as you would have given an extra over, another innings or one more pint in the past.

Monty Smith

W.L. GARSTANG

An article from "Crowhurst", the Old Rectory magazine of the Divine Healing Mission – Winter 1991.

Wilfred Leonard Garstang – affectionately known as "Tim". Oxford Blue at Rowing. Headmaster of Roan Grammar School for Boys at Blackheath in S.E. London until retirement.

In the 1960's with Barbara, his wife, they had a healing prayer group at their home in Blackheath. Later, at Hassocks, Mid-Sussex, Tim assisted Barbara when she was the Area Representative, and a visit to the local church was organised for George Bennett to take a healing service.

Tim became a Trustee of the Divine Healing Mission in 1969 and then Chairman of the Trustees later on after his retirement from teaching. He also served on the Management Committee from its formation in 1970. After moving from Hassocks to Cheltenham in 1980, travelling became increasingly difficult and both Tim and Barbara retired from being Trustees and members of the Management Committee.

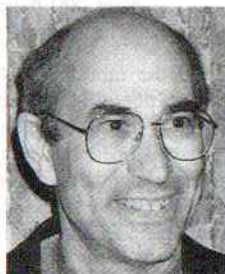
Experience of working with Tim at the Roan School saw him to be an efficient and careful administrator, yet most thoughtful and considerate for pupils and staff under his charge. These qualities were very evident in his dealings and compassion for people when he was Chairman of Trustees at Crowhurst in his dedicated years of service for the D.H.M. Tim was a lovely Christian gentleman in the fullest sense and would fully merit our Lord's commendation, "Well done thou good and faithful servant".

THE RT.REVD. GAVIN REID

The Rt.Revd.Gavin Reid ('45-'53) was consecrated at Canterbury Cathedral on October 9, 1992 as the Suffragan Bishop of Maidstone. Since 1974 he has worked with the Church Pastoral Aid Society as an advisor in Parish Mission and as an Evangelist. For the past two years he has been released by the CPAS to work closely with the Church House staff heading up the Church of England's Decade of Evangelism. He was elected in 1985 to represent the Diocese of Guildford in General Synod and in 1989 was elected onto the Synod's Standing Committee and served on the Board of Mission. Until his new appointment he was also an honorary curate of St. John's Parish Church, Woking.

He met his wife, Mary, at the Sunday School of his local parish church, St. John's, Blackheath, and they now have three grown-up children. After leaving Roan he read philosophy and theology at King's College, London. As a Missioner and Evangelist he has worked alongside people in hundreds of different parishes throughout the country, all seeking to find more effective ways of parochial outreach. In the 1980's he was seconded to direct the two major Billy Graham Mission England campaigns. He has written eight books, including the best selling "To Be Confirmed", aimed at teenage confirmation candidates. Hobbies include sailing their keelboat in Norfolk, walking and birdwatching. Commenting on the appointment, the Archbishop of Canterbury said: "The Revd.Gavin Reid is well known as a most effective evangelist and sought after teacher within the Church of England".

(Details courtesy of the Guildford Diocesan Herald).



NEWS OF OLD ROANS

Kevin TODD ('60-'68) contacted Mike Callaghan last December with details of his new address in Maryland. He took a position in June with the GTE Program Office close to NASA. Kevin and Ellen are enjoying Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay area finding it quite a change from the high desert of Las Cruces. Particular affection is noted for a seafood restaurant close to their home. Ellen is involved in local politics, working on a voluntary basis for the Maryland legislature, and active in the League of Women Voters and the New Annapolitans. They took some time off at Thanksgiving and visited friends and family in Atlantic City. NASA and the aerospace industry in general is going through a difficult time but Kevin is busy and still enjoys the work.

Dennis UPTON ('47-'53) responded to the request for information on the football team photograph submitted for the last issue by William Moore. The names include: Bill Moore, Vic Brooker, Del Baxter, Dennis Upton, David Cutting, John Bailes, Del Dreher, John Huntley and Brian Davis. The photograph was taken after success in the Kent Junior Cup which he believes they won twice inside two or three years. Dennis attended the Reunion Dinner in 1991 and enjoyed meeting old friends. John HUNTLEY ('51-'56) was spotted by Roger DALE ('61-'68) in the Peter May Stand on the first day of the Oval Test Match last August and he further clarified that the photograph was taken in April 1958 at West Wickham. This chance meeting also involved Graham BRISCOE ('62-'69) and the day was greatly enjoyed right up to the point of David Gower's unexpected dismissal – the rest is history.

The list of Roan Exhibitioners has prompted some welcome responses. The Revd.A.C.BRYER ('62-'69) writes from Clifton with news of the birth of their first child last August and the pleasure that this event has brought to him and his wife.

"Fritz" HENNING ('59-'63) has submitted details of his brother Claus, an Exhibitioner in 1959. He provides information on Chris BUNTON ('69-'76) who appeared in the "Where are they now?" section and is now living in Basingstoke. Chris played football for Old Westminster Citizens but has now retired to spend time with his family. Ulrike LEIGH (née Henning '54-'61) lives with her husband (a Reader in Economics at the University of Middlesex) in St. Albans where she is school secretary of the Girls' High School. Her sister, Dorothy HENNING ('55-'62) read German at Reading University and is now in publishing as Rights Manager for the UK arm of Readers Digest. She previously held a similar position with Times Books. Both sisters spent a spell in Vancouver, Canada, before settling in St. Albans. Fritz remains very much a local and in his capacity as head of town planning control for the London Borough of Greenwich is deeply involved in local development issues, including the former Girls' School in Devonshire Drive and the Charlton Athletic "back to the Valley" saga.

John REGIS ('84-'85) came sixth in the Olympic 200 metre Final in Barcelona in August 1992 and won the 200 metres at the European Championship on June 27 1993 in 20.38. David HILLIER ('81-'86) had another frustrating season with Arsenal and suffered an injury late in the season which kept him out of the F.A.Cup and League Cup winning teams.

Dave BRYDEN ('54-'61) recognised his late uncle, John Robert Cooper, in the photograph of an early Old Roan cricket team included in A.D.Hewlett's article in the last magazine. We have been in contact with John's widow, Ivy, who now lives in Dorset and provided her with addresses for both Arthur and Frank Hewlett. The cricket cap featured in the photograph still survives. Her daughter, Rosemary GREW (née Cooper) was deputy head

girl at Roan about 1952/53 and Dave recalls that mentioning his family link with John Cooper during his interview with H.W.Gilbert did him no harm. Dave particularly enjoyed the article "Friday in the Park with George" and promises future contributions.

George MELOTTE writes from Feltham on the recommendation of Christopher Deane with a copy of the school football team taken in Greenwich Park in 1894. This photograph was featured in the 1990 magazine but the exact date was unknown. George's father, P.J.MELOTTE (1890 - '95) is in the back row leaning on the goalkeeper. George's family arrived in Greenwich from Namur in Belgium during the 1870 Franco-Prussian conflict and his grandfather taught at the Royal Naval College. After leaving the Roan School his father, Phil, followed a distinguished career at the Royal Observatory becoming a Chief Assistant. During the First War he was in the Royal Engineers specialising in sound-ranging for artillery, and experienced service on the Western Front and in Italy. On his marriage he went to live at 6 Highmore Road, at the rear of the School, where George also spent his childhood until the blitz forced the evacuation of the Royal Observatory to Abinger in Surrey. He can recall taking refuge in the cellars of the Roan School in September 1940 against the night raids and also recalls the great front door of the School being blown in by a bomb. George was about 14 at that time and the move to Surrey resulted in his education at the King Edward IV Grammar at Guildford.



Alan EDEN-GREEN ('26-'34) wrote of his schooldays at Roan in the last issue and sent a copy of the magazine to his contemporary, Ken JAMES, who lives in New York. He hopes for a few recollections but feels that Ken may not have the fondest memories of his schooldays.

Alan WEIR ('36-'42) shares an interest with the Editor in the history of the First War and they have both obtained copies of Peter TRAFFORD's ('28-'38) book "Love & War" about Ted Trafford's experiences with the London Regiment. Alan visited the Somme last year

with his wife on a specialist tour and plans another visit to follow his father's itinerary of 78 years ago to Loos and Ypres. The Editor attended the commemoration services last July for the 75th anniversary of Passchendaele and is involved with providing part of the musical activities, in association with the Ypres Authorities, for the 75th Anniversary of the Armistice on Thursday 11 November at the Menin Gate and St.Martin's Cathedral in Ypres.

Peter TRAFFORD reports that his book has been well received and sales have been respectable, well exceeding the pre-publication expectations of one experienced military historical bookseller/publisher. Copies are still available at the price of £11-50 including packing and postage from Peter's new address at "Timsway", off Portway, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2BB.

Dr. Robert LOCKHART ('62-'69) has followed the footsteps of Somerset Maugham (Kings' School, Canterbury) and Philip SNAITH ('64-'71) to Bandar Seri Begawan, Capital of Brunei. Bob has returned to mathematics and teaches at the University of Brunei in the Capital. His wife and baby daughter are due to join him in July for the rest of a three year contract. Their plans involve a few wildlife ventures into Borneo (Orang Utangs) and Malaysia (Giant Leather-backed Turtles). His only comment so far is to reconfirm his dislike for the writing of E.M.Forster and to advise that he lives on the 6th floor with six tortoises, two parrots and as many cockroaches as you care to shake a stick at. Bob also needs to overcome the problem described by Anthony Burgess in the 1950s of trying to teach students who live in a society with so much wealth that there appear to be few goals to attain. Phil Snaith returned from Brunei in 1989 and, after working at Shell Centre in London, he and Rosemary journeyed back East to Beijing in March of this year to work for Shell China Ltd. We have heard nothing further to date, but assume that Phil will pick up full details on Charlton Athletic via Reuters. It seems unlikely that Bob's interests will take him to the beautiful golf course along the Sarawak river where the ghost of P.S. still strives for the perfect round.

Clarice Smith wrote last July to correct the dates in the "Appreciation" of her late husband, Gordon SMITH ('26-'31). She also advises that F.P.WALTON ('12-'15), mentioned in the "Where are the now?" section, died in 1989. His last address was at Sevenoaks Weald in Kent. Frank Walton worked for one of the large oil companies on the research side and was one of the pioneers in that field.

Another correction is advised by Peter GIBBS ('55-'60) to the entry stating that his sons attended the Boys' School. David GIBBS attends the John Roan School and Michael GIBBS left the John Roan School last summer to study for his "A" levels at Alleyns in Dulwich.

Bill CRAMP (43-'50) thanked the Secretary for sending copies of the magazine to all 18 Old Roans attending the reunion in May 1992. The photograph has also been returned to Bill to meet the demand for copies.

The promotional material from Whiting & Birch Ltd for their book, "A Singular Woman: The Life of Geraldine Aves" by Phyllis Willmott, offers information about the author. Phyllis WILLMOTT ('32-'38) trained as a hospital social worker after leaving school. She became research assistant to Richard Titmuss at LSE and continued to carry out research at the Institute of Community Studies in Bethnal Green which included publication of "The Voluntary Worker in the Social Services". She is the author of various books on social welfare subjects, including "Consumer's Guide to the British Social Services (Penguin 1967) which became a best seller going into four editions and four reprints. In 1979 the first of her

three autobiographical works, "Growing Up in a London Village: Family Life Between the Wars", was published by Peter Owen. "A Green Girl" and "Coming of Age in Wartime" followed (in 1983 and 1988). Each received warm reviews in the national press. For example: "A wonderful evocation of people, place and period" (Sunday Telegraph); "Here is a book that should, for all sorts of reasons, be on every A-level history syllabus" (Observer). Phyllis Willmott is currently chairman of the Grants Committee of the Family Welfare Association and a trustee of the voluntary organisation LinkAge. She is married to (and has worked with) the sociologist Peter Willmott. If you wish to purchase a copy of this latest book (£18.95 + 95 p&p) please contact Whiting & Birch at: PO Box 872, 90 Dartmouth Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3HL.

Hettie SMITH ('28-'35) sends best wishes to the Association from Bath. She promises an article based on her days at the Girls' School but is currently busy with her support for one of the four World Centres for Girl Guiding. This centre is in Mexico approximately 56 miles south of Mexico City – "a beautiful oasis of a place to which hundreds of girls and women come from all over the world for learning experiences of all kinds". When Hettie retired from teaching she did voluntary work at this centre, "Our Cabana", and now visits every February for a week of committee meetings. She also reports on meeting one her contemporaries, Olive SPOONER, for a long and enjoyable lunch, which they hope to repeat. We have two classroom photographs taken in 1929 with Dr. Marjorie Reeves as form-mistress and 1931 with Miss Knight. Hettie has the long black plaits. A further letter earlier this year followed a visit to Canada and amused the Secretary by including a reference to a red stain on the letter – "apologies, my wine dripped!".

Allen GALES ('59-'66) has moved to Eastbourne after living for more than 40 years in Greenwich. He continues to work in local government and is Borough Treasurer of Eastbourne Borough Council. Since moving to the South Coast he has met only one other Old Roan – Andy JOHNSTON ('75-'79) who is Head of History at Eastbourne College, and, according to our Secretary, a lapsed member.

Arthur Donald HEWLETT ('14-'21) celebrated his 90th birthday in October 1992 with a large family gathering. He quotes in his Christmas greetings from W.E. Henley – "And yet the menace of the years finds and shall find me unafraid". In May 1992 he visited St. Deniol's Library, a legacy from Gladstone's estate at Hawarden near Chester, and spent a large part of his five days there reading Popper's "The Open Society and its Enemies". A summer visit to Norway included travel by boat, train, bus and taxi in the Lofoten Islands followed by a visit for the first time to Durham on the return journey. He reports on the satisfaction of completing a varied and interesting journey as planned despite the bad weather. A copy of the magazine was sent by his elder brother to Wilfred HEWLETT who has subsequently become our most recent new life-member in his 81st year. W.L. Hewlett now lives in East Sheen and wrote to the Secretary with his membership request stating that he recalled joining the Association when he left school. The reply confirmed that records show he joined the Association on 28th February 1936 from the address of 44 Theatre Road, Calcutta. The annual membership at that time was 3/6d and remained so until 1947.

Rev. A.N. DANIEL (22-'26) also enjoyed receiving a copy of the last magazine from his elder brother C.W. DANIEL ('14-'20). He recognises himself in the photograph of the Dinner at the Hotel Cecil in 1928 though he never joined the Association after leaving the School at Eastney Street. Now living in Chichester in West Sussex he knows Val LOVELL ('27-'30) and advises that Val's sister-in-law is a devoted member of his local church where he still occasionally officiates as an honorary curate in his retirement.

Albert BERRY ('45-'50) send greetings from Western Australia and reports on weeks of election campaigns that resulted in Labor losing office after 10 years in state government and, in contrast, the fifth success in a row for Labor in the national contest. Albert retired at Christmas and is pleased to have "joined that large group of elderly people who have left the rat race. What's it like? At the moment I'm too busy to know!" He enjoyed the photographs and article on Alf Knott and George Witten. "I had Mr. Witten as my English teacher for several years. He was a superb teacher of English Language and Literature. Very astute, very committed, very pro the school." He notes the Secretary's address in Wiltshire and recalls his own time spent in Mere as an evacuee in the early 1940's. "All is well with me and my family. I really value the O.R. communications I receive."

P.J. BARNWELL ('23-'31) has provided his usual detailed observations. Writing on receipt of the last magazine on the eve of Bastille Day and referring to the photograph of the Hotel Cecil Dinner in 1928 he feels that the clergyman should be Canon Money (not Morey) and notes the faces of BINNIE, BURBRIDGE (head boy in 1927-8), W.A. ALLAN and his son, L.J. BERRY, JACKSON, POTTER, PYE, BARRATT and possibly HENDLEY – "Our Hendley has substance and weight". The Guest of the evening was Sir John Atkins who arranged for £1,000 to be paid to the Pavilion Fund. Dr. RUSSELL spoke and BURBRIDGE, as captain of the school, replied to a toast.

He was pleased to see the architectural details for the Maze Hill site revived and adds to the appreciation of Canon VILE with the information that he switched from running to rowing at Downing College and in his third year was in the college first boat in five events including Henley, Reading and Marlow. He recalls A.D. HEWLETT at the Old Boys Race in 1924 and met him at the funeral of his sister-in-law. The French master, LLEWELLYN, referred to in A.D. Hewlett's article was described by George Franklin as a Fabian and supported the l'École Unique idea which was a precursor of the comprehensive school.

R.C. HOWARD is now the oldest Cambridge Old Roan and a year younger than Percy SANDS who died on 1 July in Torquay Hospital aged 91. The Revd. SANDS went to Fitzwilliam Hall, took his B.A. in 1923 and his M.A. in 1927, was a theology student at Ridley Hall, Cambridge and was made deacon for Coventry diocese in 1927. He served at Leamington for a few years, worked for Toc H in the Midlands, then in 1935 went to Western Australia until 1941 when he became chaplain in the Australian Air Force. After the war he was at Flushing, Truro, and then moved to Torquay, remaining in that area for the rest of his life.

In response to the point made about the anonymity of initials on the Presidents' Board he confirms that A.D. Reid was Allan REID ('10-'13) who was the architect of the Pavilion and in 1925 had his design for a church at Earlsfield exhibited at the Royal Academy.

Paul ANGUS ('66-'72) has joined the Association and contacted the Treasurer during a recent visit to the U.K. He now lives in Modena in Italy where he teaches and is training as an opera singer. The Secretary has forwarded past copies of the magazine and a tie.

Don BOON ('56-'62) was awarded in September a Charter Mark by the Prime Minister, John Major, as part of the Government Citizens Charter initiative. Don is the Senior Environmental Health Officer of Croydon Council. He is far too modest to allow us to use a photograph of this event and was far keener to speak of his recent meetings with Alan GRAHAM and Dave APPEYARD and his enjoyment of the "Everly Brothers" concert at the Fairfield Hall which featured Albert LEE in the backing group.

Gladys ROPER ('19 -) wrote to the "Mercury" earlier this year following their publication of a photograph of the School in the Thomas Dinwiddie article. She asked what happened to the School and received a letter from Neal HASLAM with an update and details on the Association.

Another piece from the "Mercury" informs us that Bexley drama student Sophie COOK, aged 22, is featuring Up West next week in a new production of the Russian classic, "Fathers and Sons". The young acting hopeful, a former pupil of the John Roan School in Blackheath, will feature under her stage name of Sophie Langham at the Cochrane Theatre on Southampton Row from March 22-24.

The final note must go to a further quote in A.D.Hewlett's Christmas letter: "Dona praesentis cape laetus horae et Linque severa". (Horace)



Photograph kindly supplied by Hettie Smith ('28-'35) of Miss Knight's class in 1931. Hettie has the long black plaits.

Quote

'The theme of Lord of the Flies is grief, sheer grief, grief, grief, grief, grief'. William Golding (Died in June 1993)

THE ROAN THEATRE COMPANY

The A.G.M. in April reported on an enjoyable and successful year for the Roan Theatre Company. The Roan Theatre Company entered the Medway Little Theatre One-Act Drama Festival in July 1992 with "I Spy" by John Mortimore. Their performance reached the Final and they received a commendation for Peter Laurie in the "Best Supporting Actor" category together with the coveted "Best Actor" award for Graham Johnson. They plan to enter again this year and the dates of the Festival are July 4-24. The Iva Award this year was presented to Carol Lee.

"Season's Greetings" by Alan Ayckbourn

The major production last year was "Season's Greetings" at the School in November. This was performed well and was greatly appreciated by good audiences. It is a typical Ayckbourn comedy and is predictably enjoyable and genuinely funny but is also given an extra dimension by the character of Harvey who was superbly played by Alf Knott. Harvey believes that society faces a violent disintegration and wants to play his part fully in achieving this breakdown. He gives the children guns as presents to prepare them better for the real world and is impatiently waiting for the time when suburban housewives will not leave home without a gun in their shopping bag - "Well! it will make shopping in Tesco's more exciting." Harvey is a maverick figure, brutish, aggressive, loud, enjoying endless violent films on the Christmas television schedule and played to perfection by Alf. One of his best scenes involves Harvey explaining to Clive how Bernard is mad and Graham's limited response makes it all too apparent where the madness lies. Quite simply this was a superb performance by Alf and he appeared to enjoy it immensely.

The opening scene offers a typical family Christmas and takes us from the initial harmony through very entertaining comic farce to a final breakdown, violence and chaos. Clive, played by Graham Johnson, is the writer, the stranger from outside who brings out the frustrations in the lives of the three couples and takes us from fragile peace to the dark ending. Graham offered an understated performance providing the mirror for the other characters.

In reality he is dull, slow-witted and woefully short on insight or inspiration, but as the outsider of the suburban norm he is the focus for the four characters who still have hopes and dreams to realise, and naturally everyone feels the need to offer him a storyline. There are many excellent moments including his wonderfully guilt-ridden brooding presence in the Father Christmas out-



Richard Rickson, Graham Johnson, Mandy Brown, Beryl Knott and Peter Laurie - playing snakes and ladders.

fit on the "morning after" and the very funny sequence with Teresa under the Christmas tree.

Richard Rickson as Bernard had the most difficult part as the hopeless, boring failure who has devoted his life to the health of his awful wife. He plays the "Three Little Pigs" puppet-theatre well and gives the character the necessary overwhelming dullness.

Beryl Knott offered some lovely comic touches and enjoyed one outstanding scene with Graham. Her mimicking of the drumming rabbit was wonderful and her efforts in the kitchen were summed up succinctly by Harvey – "It should be a criminal offence to do that to lamb".

Peter Laurie offered a very natural and relaxed performance as Neville with his mind and attention always elsewhere, careless and a little dishonest and a man who would always prefer to fix a broken toy than his marriage. Leonard Quaife was equally effective as Eddie – shallow and a failure but with a good sense of humour and little sense of family responsibilities. Mandy Brown as Pattie suffered with the weakest written part but is a talented performer and was convincing as the wife of Eddie adrift in a sad life with its hints of violence.

Teresa Wilkins gave a lovely performance as Neville's frustrated wife suffering a boring suburban marriage. She falls for the illusory appeal of the writer but feels uncomfortable about passion "in the kitchen" and in the excellent scene with Graham in the hallway having coffee claims awkwardly that "I'm usually more interesting than this." Glynis Watson as Rachel played the born spinster well, full of sensible scarves, wellingtons and jolliness, destined for a lifetime of frustration and choosing the very worst moments to make her heartfelt pleas.

Carol Lee is a talented director, and made what were technically very difficult scenes flow easily, timing the dramatic peaks extremely cleverly. She and her technical crew of Barbara Roe, Rod and Joan Stanbridge, and some new youngsters – very welcome to the company – from Trevor Talbot's family earned our congratulations for this fine production.



"Season's Greetings" – the complete cast in action.

The overall ensemble playing was very good, the set was outstanding and the performance was genuinely funny. The ticket price also included the interval refreshments. What more can you want on a cold evening in late November?

NEWS FROM LIONEL BERRY ('23-'63)

The photograph overleaf was taken in 1937 of the staff at the Roan School for Boys. It shows clearly the fine men responsible during the inter-war years for maintaining the high Roan School traditions and the happy family atmosphere that was so often remarked upon.

Back Row:	G.C.Witten C.H.Milne	J.A.H.Mander F.W.Harris	C.F.Peters (Secretary) J.Thorp	C.T.Daltry S.J.D.Mitchell	S.R.Mills
Middle Row:	T.H.Barratt K.S.Binnie	H.H.Pye I.T.James	W.Peddle L.J.Berry	E.Durling T.Holt	L.E.Lee .E.Ashworth
Back Row:	J.H.Kirby J.Amesbury	W.Mann A.C.Horth	W.W.Poyser W.A.Allen	G.R.Parker J.H.Peckham	W.J.Potter (Head)

The photograph was taken just before W.J.Potter retired and was replaced by H.W.Gilbert. T.Holt succeeded G.R.Parker as Vice-Head and was himself later succeeded by L.J.Berry. There are seven presidents of the ORA in this photograph.

Paul DYKE was gym master at the School for a time before going off to War. He wrote last year to Lionel and noted that his brief time at Roan was one of the happiest times of his life. He recalls Alf Knott – "very dark hair and a good games player". He trained at Loughborough College in Physical Culture and now lives in Cheltenham.

Barbara Garstang wrote a lovely letter thanking Lionel for his appreciation of her husband in the "Chronicle". The Secretary has also been contacted and sent three copies of the magazine for Barbara's children, Charles, Tessa and Sarah. She repeats that Lionel was always a tower of strength to her husband during the whole of his time at Roan. The Editor checked with Revd.Ray Jones for permission to use the piece on W.L.Garstang in the "Crowhurst" and learnt that the author had worked in the office at the Roan School for Boys in the mid-sixties with C.F.Peters. He also spoke keenly of W.L.Garstang's care for the School and his wider gifts that were not always apparent to those attending Roan.

Gordon BROUGHTON ('27-'31) wrote, after the last magazine, to Alan EDEN-GREEN in answer to some queries raised in his article. Eastney Street has been called "Feather Place" for some time and the old School building is now used as a store room by the National Maritime Museum. The area where the huts were located is now an allotment and the "Antient's" collection of stuffed birds ended up in Charlton House. Gordon retired in 1976 from the Royal Arsenal Research Development Establishment as a Senior Scientific Officer. C.L.TATARSKI served in the Royal Army Pay Corps at Sidcup where he produced and appeared in a highly professional musical show – Lionel considers that he could easily have become a professional actor and he appeared in many O.R.D.S. plays. He has a very nice shop in Windsor called "Best of British" selling good quality craft goods. Unfortunately he has recently lost the sight in one eye following an operation. He had a son who went to Roan. He is still remembered as "Tat" but changed his name to Charles Lewis.

Lionel offers some further points following this article by Alan Eden-Green. He understands that TRIST became an instructor in the Instructor Branch of the Navy. R.J.W.(Dick) ASTILL ('39-'40) died on 11th September 1992. C.E.(Cheddar) LOVEMAN was in quite a few of the first O.R.D.S. plays. He was a teacher and went north (Blackpool area, I think!). D.R.(Donald) FAIR has been tracked down to Folkestone where he is retired. He



has lost touch with the O.R.A. but thinks he may be a life member. He spent most of his distinguished career with the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority and was on the Board of the C.E.G.B. He was a Wing Commander in the R.A.F. and was instrumental in some risky work in the Windscale fire. He received the O.B.E. in 1945. Lionel spoke with him of two contemporaries, Jack BEECHER and Bernard FISHER, from School and the O.R.D.S. production of the farce "Plunder" in 1935.

Following the reference to the Rt. Revd. Gavin REID in the last issue, Lionel wrote to him at his new address in Charing, Kent where he moved in September 1992 to take up his new post as Bishop of Maidstone. Lionel reminded him of the first time he read prayers as a prefect: "with great enthusiasm and fervour - so much so that I thought he was Welsh, until I discovered that he was born in Scotland". He also reminded him that they once met in the top corridor after one of the O.R.D.S. plays and the young Reid advised: "I didn't like your play!!!" He was a very conscientious prefect.

After spending some time with Brian and Gina THOMAS in April, Lionel has put together some early memories from his time at the School.

I was appointed by Potter, who sent me up to Braithwaite to meet Hope, who was there with the Scouts. I was reminded of this many years later by an O.R. named Burns, who told me he was sent by the "Antient" to meet me at the station (Burns was awarded the George Cross for bravery during the Norfolk floods). At that time I was in Toc H and running their concert party - the TicTocs - rather like the original Co-optimists - and when Hope knew that our introductory "round tune" was "Alouette" he made me do it with the scouts. This was my first introduction to his mischievous, puckish, sense of humour. He followed this, whilst we were all still sitting at supper, by saying "Now, Mister Berry, tell us about your late Headmaster". I remember replying, "Well, my late Headmaster was not as fat as yours". Thankfully, my appointment was not cancelled!

In those days the Stag List was printed annually and the staff were listed in order of seniority. On seeing the proofs, Eddie Durling and Frank Harris, recently back from the war, asked if they could be put on the Stag List as "Captains". Hope sent a message, to Peddie, via a boy, "Would Mr. Peddie like to be entered on it as acting, unpaid, lance-corporal Peddie?" Another of Hope's eccentricities was to march the School Scout Troop down the middle of the tramlines, thereby stopping the trams.

The Vanbrugh Castle lads were sponsored by an R.A.F. fund, and their names were indicated on the Stag List. Vanbrugh ceased around about Dr. Taylor's headship, but I wonder how many know that they have been transferred to the Duke of Devonshire School, a lovely building in large grounds, near Ewhurst in Surrey.

Under Hope, the School had eight houses, named after historical naval personalities - Raleigh, Drake, Rodney, Collingwood, Nelson, Wolfe, Grenville and School (Hope's house). With the arrival of Gilbert, the number of houses was reduced to four because of the difficulty of organising inter-house competitions. After the second War the O.R.D.S. organised an annual House one-act play competition and presented a beautiful, and quite valuable, bronze trophy. It represented Icarus - not, perhaps, ideal in one respect, since Icarus fell down from the skies! Does the trophy still exist and for what is it now presented? Alfie, incidentally, was my House Captain (Rodney) and took a large part in Rodney winning on a number of occasions. I also recall Trevor Talbot in a number of later plays.

When the new School was opened the stage had red curtains. Mr. Icough was, at the time,

a young Governor, and was on the stage (down stage left) at the inaugural ceremony. He had to make one of the speeches, and, as a very enthusiastic Labour Party member, referred enthusiastically to the colour of the curtains. How many O.R.s knew that there was a .22 rifle range at the rear of the old School (for the cadets) and dummy rifles still in a hall cupboard in 1923?

When I was appointed, I was 10 years behind the previous new man (Pye). Parker once called me the Head Boy. Some O.R.s may still remember me arriving each morning rather speedily in a Riley 9 (Monaco). Potter said of me - "he drives like a Jehu". The Aristotelian Society was started when the School was in Eastney Street as a result of one of Hope's mischievous leg-pulls. I suggested starting a Scientific Society. He immediately said, "Yes, Mr. Berry, we will call it the Aristotelian Society". In the early days the fixture list was professionally printed by the Blackheath Press and it was still going after I retired.

The old School had open fires in the classrooms. On parents evenings, usually cold nights, the staff interviewed parents in the classrooms. Naturally, the master chose to stand with his back to the fire! Gowns were worn. I set alight to mine on one occasion.

"Hobbies Day" was very elaborate under Gilbert. On one occasion a boy asked if he could enter sword swallowing as hobby!

I think Potter was an influence in my appointment so that I could take over the Sixth Chemistry. I was emerging from the alchemistic "air, fire, earth and water" stage! Just beginning to talk about the structure of the atom! (Now we talk about the chemistry of Mars). Potter was keen on mnemonics. Any O.R. of that period may remember his for the electro-chemical series: Careful (Ca) Magistrates (Mg) Allow (Al) Zanies (Zn) Frequent (Fe) Pardons (Pb) Since (Sn) Cruel (Cu) Hangings (Hg) Anger (Ag) Authorities (Au).

Billy Mann, when teaching about a dozen sixth formers on three sides of a bench, could write in reverse, so that it faced them. No other man I have ever known could do that. It was "alleged" that Tubby Allen was so tone deaf that he only knew "God Save the King" was being played when people stood up.

Ashworth (gym master), at Eastney Street, was an Olympic gymnast, and could still stand on his head up to his retirement. I was talking to young prisoners (about 20, on behalf of Toc H) in Wandsworth Jail (in the second condemned cell) and met "Froggy" Llewellyn, who had just left Roan. He talked to individual prisoners in their cells (perhaps his Roan experience was good training!).

I was told, after my appointment, but before I started, that "Gerry" Parker had a fierce and forbidding appearance, but a heart of gold. How true! Maud and I had a great affection for him and his family. Even in those days, boys were not always the perfect angels they appeared. On one occasion, a nasty smell was evident in Parker's form-room for some time. Eventually a kipper was found pinned to the underside of a desk.

Who would remember "Fatty" Daniels who competed for some years in the Isle of Man motorcycle races? I think he won one.

THE JOHN ROAN LODGE – NO.5085

Like many good ideas, the forming of the Lodge began on the School Playing Field where, indeed, the Old Roan Association itself had its beginnings. On Sports Day in 1927 Mr.W.J.Potter, the Vice-Master (and later Headmaster after Hope), introduced W.Bro.W.W.Latter to W.Bro.Harald Berry, a keen officer of the Old Roan Association in which there was at that time a very strong feeling that a Lodge connected with the School and named after the Founder should be formed.

One of the two Officers of Grand Lodge who signed the petition to form our Lodge was a Governor of the School, W.Bro.Spratling. Harald Berry became first Master and was joined as a founder by W.Bro.T.R.N.Crofts, Headmaster and first President of the Old Roan Association, a keen mason who directed the Lodge in its early years and on leaving the Roan School became Headmaster of the Royal Masonic School for Boys.

Although in recent times we have not had the company of Heads or Governors, a number of Old Roans having been honoured by their fellow members to attain the office of President of the Association have then been elected by fellow masons to be Master of the Lodge. The memory of dear friends such as Frank Barnes, Doug Humphreys and Ron Harmer, amongst others, remain strong in our minds – I suspect that to many readers they will be remembered as firm and dedicated Old Roan colleagues.

Our current Master, Neal Haslam, is of course a Past President of the Association as well as being its Treasurer and also that of the Club; offices he has now held for over 10 years. Neal was our Master a few years ago, and on his second term at the helm will perhaps achieve a unique "double" when he is installed as Principal of our associated John Roan School Chapter in September.

We have had a successful year. Two masons have joined the Lodge and we look forward to an applicant becoming a freemason towards the end of this year. Neal and Hilary (herself an Old Roan) will be hosting our Ladies Festival at the Boathouse Function Suite in Danson Park in September. We wish all our ladies and guests an enjoyable and memorable evening.

A few weeks later Neal will install John Long as his successor. John is an able Past Master, having occupied the Chair in 1980 and no doubt we can expect an equally good year ahead of us; he was a team secretary in the Cricket Club and is still a Governor of two schools in Swanley.

I must take this opportunity to acknowledge the achievement of Geoffrey Marsh and Tom Wallis who have both completed over 50 years service to Freemasonry. Geoff was at the School '23-'29 and served in the Navy during the war. He was employed by Barclays Bank until retirement and was a keen tennis player, although most recently active on the bowls green. Presently Geoff is recuperating from a hip operation and we wish him well. Tom's years were '25-'30, after which he took up his profession of Master Stevedore and he retired in 1983. He was an ardent cricketer and is a Freeman of the City of London. Both are distinguished masons being members of various Lodges and Chapters – we can be rightly proud of them.

It is a shame that the public are generally unaware of Freemasonry activities – its motives misunderstood and its image poor. Some believe we only look after ourselves and that it is a "secret society". Not so! As with any organisation, a few matters are considered to be private, but not secret. It is a way of life; to promote care and harmony amongst family, neighbours and fellow citizens.

Perhaps it is only our charitable work that gains favourable attention. Indeed, a good deal

of local publicity was received following the Christmas Raffle in our Province of West Kent, to which members contributed, when some £15,000 was raised for the benefit of local, non-masonic charities including hospitals, hospices, schools and disability and research funds.

Within the Lodge we have not been inactive. As a result of the untiring efforts of our Charity Steward, Alan Weir (another Past President!), we have raised money for the RNLI, Haemophilia Society, NSPCC, Arthritis & Rheumatism Council, Salvation Army and the RNIB. How much? That's a matter we feel should remain private – call it a secret if you so wish. We were also pleased to take part in the "Adopt a Tree" scheme at the Hope Memorial Camp to plant trees for the benefit of future generations.

New members are always welcome. If you would like to know more about Freemasonry, or are interested in joining the Lodge or Chapter, please contact Neal Haslam, John Long or myself at the address below:

Bernard Madden. Lodge Secretary. 150 Plum Lane. Plumstead. SE18 3HF

THE HOPE MEMORIAL TRUST

The Hope Memorial Trust has been instructed by the Lake District Special Planning Board to plant 50 trees between the Camp and the Whinlatter Pass Road. In order to raise funds to finance this, the Hope Memorial Trust has asked if users and friends of the camp would like to: **Adopt a Tree at the H.M.C."**

As a result, a new plantation of trees was planted last November between the Camp and the road. The money for this was raised through the very successful "adopt-a-tree" campaign to which a number of Old Roans generously subscribed. In connection with this, a number of bird-boxes were fixed to some of the more mature trees on the site. On New Year's Eve 1992/93 the site had a beacon to celebrate entry to the E.C.

This year an extension is being built on the north end of the building funded by a further loan from the Roan Foundation. It includes a multi-purpose room which will give users much more room on those rare wet days as well as making the building more suited to GCSE and "A" level coursework. There will also be a small quiet-room and the whole building is being adapted so that it is more suitable for disabled children.

The Camp is used by a number of John Roan School groups and is now almost fully booked all through the season by schools from all over England from February through to October. The Old Roans have a booking for a weekend in October 1993 – further details available from Tony Slaney.

There are now HMC T-shirts with a small camp motif available at £5 each (forest green XL only). Postcards of the camp at 20p each, and HMC Mugs at £1.50 each are also available for sale. These can be bought by Old Roans by contacting Jim Upton at the school.



Jim Upton
Hope Memorial Trust
The John Roan School
141, Maze Hill
Blackheath
London SE3 7UD

ROAN SCHOOL EXHIBITIONERS

1882 R.Bird	St.Bartholomew's Hospital, London	1929 E.H.Walden	East London College
1883 J.H.Humphreys	Kings College, London	1930 W.L.Hewlett	Imperial College of Science
1884 T.Scott	Balliol College, Oxford	1931 H.A.Bulphitt	East London College
1885 G.W.Buxton	St.Bartholomew's Hospital, London	1932 E.R.Murphy	Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge
1886 H.W.Harding	St.Thomas's Hospital, London	1933 H.H.Glazebrook	Imperial College of Science
1887 P.J.Estler	University College, London	1934 E.R.Gardner	Imperial College of Science
1888 A.E.Salter	Guy's Hospital, London	1935 D.R.R.Fair	Kings College, London
1889 T.Dawson	University of Edinburgh	1936 D.J.B.White	University College, London
1890 W.C.Rivers	Charing Cross Hospital	1937 W.R.L.Turp	Bristol University
1891 R.T.Whittaker	University College, London	1938 P.A.Trafford	St.Thomas's Hospital, London
1892 J.G.Bell	Trinity College, Cambridge	1939 J.F.O'Donovan	St.Edmund's Hall, Oxford
1893 J.E.Usherwood	University of Oxford	1940 P.A.Reed	University College Hospital MS
1894 C.W.Zoephel	University College, London	1941 M.D.Moore	Imperial College, London
1895 C.E.Seamer	Brasenose College, Oxford	1942 T.T.White	Imperial College, London
1896 G.M.Young	Balliol College, Oxford	1943 J.D.Hales	St.Catherine's College, Cambridge
1897 R.Jakeman	University College, London	1944 C.J.Stimpson	Manchester University
1898 F.T.Wood	Guy's Hospital, London	1945 W.E.Moss	Kings College, London
1899 A.J.B.Green	Jesus College, Oxford	1946 A.J.Knott	Kings College, London
1900 H.A.Sanford	Guy's Hospital, London	1947 A.K.Brookman	Imperial College of Science
1901		1948 R.H.Williamson	Queen Mary College
1902		1949 D.T.Cogger	Royal Dental School, London
1903		1950 A.L.Brown	St.John's College, Cambridge
1904 G.J.Chapman	University College, London	1951 A.Chandler	Queen Mary College, London
1905 E.Mullet		1952 J.R.Masson	University College, London
1906 H.A.Howard	East London Technical College	1953 J.P.Watson	Trinity College, Cambridge
1907 D.A.Smith	Pembroke College, Oxford	1954 F.W.Knight	St.John's College, Cambridge
1908 A.P.Cordery		1955 B.D.Yallop	Imperial College, London
1909 G.W.Bosustow	Jesus College, Cambridge	1956 J.Marshall	Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge
1910 E.C.Munn	University College, London	1957 P.J.Gardner	Imperial College, London
1911 E.G.Wall	Emmanuel College, Oxford	1958 T.M.Watson	Trinity College, Cambridge
1912 C.W.Clout	Kings College, Cambridge	1959 C.C.Henning	Slade School of Fine Art
1913 H.A.Dade	Imperial College of Science	1960 R.E.Born	Trinity College, Cambridge
1914 H.R.Knight	Royal College of Mines	1961 K.E.Marks	Churchill College, Cambridge
1915 G.E.Franklin	Kings College, Cambridge	1962 P.L.T.Bevan	Manchester University
1916 N.L.Smith	Royal College of Mines	1963 T.V.G.Lawlor	Hull University
1917 L.H.Purton		1964 R.G.Courtney	Trinity College, Cambridge
A.J.Ronald	Royal Military Academy, Woolwich	R.F.Peacock	Queens College, Cambridge
1918 G.H.Isaacson	Emmanuel College, Cambridge	1965 R.W.Scott	Southampton University
1919 R.A.Nash	Guy's Hospital, London	M.J.Baker	Imperial College, London
1920 H.A.Strutt	Magdalen College, Oxford	1966 A.M.Butterfil	Sheffield University
1921 P.Hall	University College, London	1967 J.Mills	Imperial College, London
1922 C.F.Tumber	University College, London	1968 A.C.Bryer	Queen Elizabeth College, London
1923 G.E.Laywood	Westminster Training College	1969 P.E.Nicholls	Queen Mary College, London
1924 N.H.Chamberlain	University College, London	1970 M.J.Norton	Sheffield University
1925 C.B.Forgan	Royal College of Mines	1971 T.J.Shepherd	Imperial College, London
1926 N.S.Bishop	Jesus College, Oxford	R.G.Westwood	University of Kent
1927 A.M.Bloch	Imperial College of Science	1972 A.J.D.Simpkins	Keble College, Oxford
1928 B.C.Lee	City & Guilds of London	C.J.Kay	York University

1973 I.R.Pullen	University of Kent	1976 A.Reeves	University of Southampton
D.W.Church	University of Leeds	G.Sarsfield	Queen Mary College, London
1974 G.L.Gwyther	University of Bristol	1977 M.Sharp	University of Bristol
C.J.Jewell		1978 J.N.Daniels	University of Sussex
1975 K.A.Pullen	University of Newcastle	S.C.Thorp	University of Leeds
U.W.E.Arnold		1979 P.Bush	Salford University

We are grateful for members who have contributed articles on Roan Exhibitioners, either about themselves or those they know. In recent "Chronicles" we have had lengthy articles on H.A.Bulphitt (1931) and P.E.Trafford (1938). The following descriptions are short updates and we start with information gained from a study of the magazine in January 1973.

"Punty" Clout was a Roan Exhibitioner (1912) and went to King's, Cambridge, after leaving school. From the Cambridge O.T.C. he commissioned into the Royal West Kents, in which regiment he served in the First as well as the Second World War. At Delville Wood, when about to lead his men over the top and looking at his watch, a rifle bullet penetrated the brim of his helmet, entered his head exactly between the eyes, passed down, knocked out two or three teeth and emerged under his jaw; both entrance and exit wounds, when healed, were virtually invisible and did not spoil his beauty. He was a very handsome lad and his profile was actually improved when he took a dive over the handlebars of his bike when speeding down Maze Hill (a forbidden amusement) and broke his nose.

P.J.Barnwell has updated the editor on a number of entries. H.A.Strutt (1920) and A.E.Salter (1888) were knighted. Those found in "Who's Who" include R.Bird (1882); A.E.Salter who became an M.P.; J.F.Usherwood (1893) who became head of St.Dunstan's after being assistant head for 25 years and going to Brockley as head for two years before returning; G.M.Young (1896) who was an historian and the only one to get into D.N.B.; G.F.Franklin (1915) who became head of Lincoln; and P.Hall (1921) who died in 1982. Errors include E.G.Wall (1911) who was at Emmanuel College, Cambridge; G.W.Bosustow (1909) was at Jesus College, Oxford from 1910. A.P.Cordery (1908) was at London and was a member of the Roan staff from 1917-23 when he suffered a breakdown. T.Scott (1884), listed in the Balliol records next to the politician Sir Herbert Samuel, was born in 1868, taught in London from 1890 and died in 1918. J.G.Bell (1892) gained a First in maths, became a civil servant and died in 1934. C.E.Seamer (1895), a clergyman, last appears in Crockford in 1959-60, living at Otford, near Sevenoaks, after holding various livings. G.H.Isaacson (1918) was a well known clergyman from a local family and a familiar name to P.J.Barnwell from the 1920's when he was at Cambridge with Meux and Franklin. C.W.Clout (1912) took no degree, coming up in 1913, and then serving from 1914-20, without returning to Cambridge. E.G.Wall (1911), likewise, seems not to have taken a degree.

Tony Bryer (1968) lists his record to date:

1969-72	B.Sc. (Biochemistry) at Queen Elizabeth College, Univ.of London
1972-75	Ordination training at Trinity College, Bristol and post-graduate Diploma in Theology, Univ.of Bristol
1975-78	Curacy at St.Cuthbert's, Preston, Lancashire
1978-81	Curacy at St.Mary, Becontree, Dagenham, Essex
1981-88	Team Vicar, St.Michael, Loughton, Essex
1988-	Parish Priest, St.Paul, Clifton, Bristol
	Member of University Chaplaincy Team, and since 1991, Diocesan Adviser in Pastoral Care and Counselling

Claus Henning ('52-'59) was W.L.Garstang's first Exhibitioner in 1959. His prize was presented by the former Metropolitan Police Chief, (an Oxford contemporary of the Head), Sir Joseph Simpson. Incidentally, Sir Joseph presented the School Captain, Paul Hickie, with a policeman's truncheon as a symbol of authority!

Claus studied for a year at Camberwell School of Art before entering the Slade School of Fine Art, London University. He graduated in 1964 and after a spell in museum work in Reading joined the British Council, a quasi government organisation responsible for flying the British culture flag throughout the world. His first posting was to Sao Paulo in Brazil, where he spent 5 years. This was followed by 4 years as head of the Berlin Office. Here he lived in some splendour within the shadow of the Olympic Stadium, with the Wall very much in evidence in the still divided city. His father, who visited him on a number of occasions, was able to relive some of his own Berlin student days of the 1930's.

The Berlin posting was followed by a stint heading the London office before his latest posting to Bucharest, Romania. Whilst some would argue that what Eastern Europe requires now are tractors rather than a visit by the Royal Ballet or an exhibition of contemporary British art, the old saying of "man (or woman) cannot live by bread alone", is still a potent argument. Claus married a college contemporary and they have two daughters. When in this country they reside, in tranquility, in a cottage near the Thames in Berkshire. The Editor welcomes further news of the whereabouts and careers of Roan Exhibitioners.

A GREAT DAY AT THE MARATHON

In February 1993 I was approached "on spec" to see if I could raise 150 volunteers to supervise five London Marathon feeding stations for a new Isostar contract. I said I could! Isostar confirmed in March! On the Wednesday before we broke up for Easter that old saying "Never Volunteer" seemed ever present in my mind. **Where were 150 willing and able people going to come from?** By 3.15 on Friday the 149th name was added to the list and I began to relax. A few days in Kent and numerous phone calls put my mind at rest and I was really looking forward to Marathon Day.

Then came the nightmare!!! What if no-one turns up tomorrow?!

I arrived early at school at 6.35 a.m. with my heart in my mouth only to be confronted by two coaches and about 100 people **already waiting**. The final total of helpers was 170. What a great **John Roan Response**. The coach drivers were brilliant (ours even ended up in a yellow cap giving out drinks!). We sped to our station to meet the Isostar managers and helpers set up the tables and prepare the drinks for the runners.

We had all been briefed but as the elite women, including Liz McColgan, approached Station 15 the tension was visible. We all clapped and cheered but the greatest cheer went up when the first **drink** was taken. From then on it was aching arms, paddling in sticky liquid and concentration for the next four hours. Reports from station leaders and Isostar managers rang with praise for the helpers but especially for the youngsters who worked so long and hard with enthusiasm and initiative. Everyone said what a great day and two asked if they could **RUN** next year!

We will have an entitlement to free entries next year so if you would like to run and be sponsored to raise funds for a school project, please contact Trevor Bell at school. Certificates were presented to pupils and families who took part. The Old Roan Association (and especially the Cricket Club) were ably represented in our endeavour by the inimitable Vivian Lawrence esq. Congratulations and thank you to The John Roan Team.

Trevor Bell. May 1993

The Revd. David Lloyd Francis died in December 1991 at the age of 90. He had led an interesting life as a missionary in the Melanesian Islands for many years before returning to England to become a hospital chaplain at Westminster Hospital in the 1960s. This article was part of a journal written during his time in the Pacific and was among the papers left with his solicitors.

DAY BY DAY IN THE "BLACK ISLANDS"

If you were to travel by 'plane or ship to Australia and lengthen the journey by roughly a thousand miles North East of Sydney, you would come upon a long chain of Islands which stretch from the Isles of Japan to New Zealand, the South Island of which is a matter of three thousand miles from the South Pole.

This chain of islands includes the Island of New Guinea which is the second largest island in the world. South of New Guinea we come upon the British Solomon Islands, Santo-Cruz, the Banks and New Hebrides Islands, and this part of the island chain is known as Melanesia, the Black Islands. Why "Black"? For the islands themselves are anything but black; rather they are emeralds in a green-blue sea. Some of them are mountainous and volcanic, whilst others are of coral origin and many are but a few feet above sea level. But if the islands themselves are like jewels in an ocean, which is reputed to be Pacific in its nature, some of the natives who inhabit them are as black as the ace of spades, though the majority of the people have skins shading from a chocolate brown to a rich reddish copper colouring.

It is to these native people of Melanesia that I went in 1926 and spent some fourteen happy years as a missionary. For the first seven years of that ministry I was a lay-missionary and found my bent in caring for the sick, which included two years in the mission leper colony at Qaibaita (cleansing water) on the island of Malaita. Cannibalism was no longer rampant, but there was much black magic, also fear and superstition, to be found among those primitive people. However, primitive as they were in their way of life, many had already been brought into the fold of the Christian Church since the days of Bishop Patteson who was murdered on the island of Nukapu in the year 1871, an island in the Santa-Cruz group, not more than twelve miles from my island home at Nananabuli.

This was a delightful place for a mission station, surrounded by low lying islands covered in tropical trees and its beaches fringed with coconut palms. Just across the way, not more than fifty yards distant, was a still smaller island known as Ndeli, from which we were separated by a narrow stream of water which flowed into a wide lagoon where the natives would spend many hours fishing, both by day and night. To the left of my house, of bamboo and palm leaves, I could see the village church and not far from it was a long line of thatched houses where the villagers lived. In front of these were jacked up on the beach some fine specimens of ocean-going outrigger canoes. These took a whole family across the sea to Santa-Cruz some twenty-five miles away to the South West or up to the Taumako group, sixty miles to the North East.

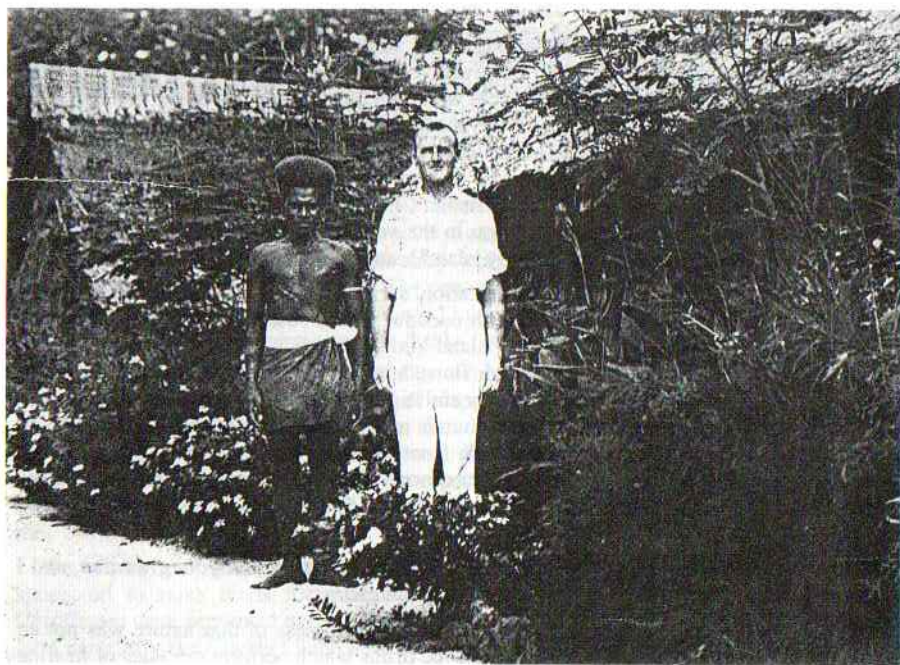
It was to one of those village houses that I was called to see a sick young woman, and I diagnosed that she was suffering from pneumonia and pleurisy.

To nurse and care for a patient suffering from a chest illness of that nature was not an easy task. There were no such things as antibiotic drugs which perform miracles of healing in these days; it was a matter of careful nursing for three weeks, and a constant vigil kept on the patient until the crisis in the third week of illness. During this period, I found it neces-

sary to sleep and rest on a palm leaf mat spread over the sandy floor alongside the patient, every so often sponging her body and putting cool compresses on her forehead in an effort to keep down her high temperature. I am happy to say that eventually she recovered.

It was in nursing this young woman back to health that I came to know Arnold Naivas. When I first met him, I knew him only by his native name, Naivas. When staying and almost living in this native house, I had noticed a very unpleasant smell about the place – it reminded me of something dead and putrefied. At first I thought it might have been a dead rat or snake hidden from view in between the layers of thatched palm leaf. I made some enquiries from the owner of the house as to what it might be, and at first I didn't get a straight answer, but pressing my enquiry I was told that it was Naivas. At that stage, I didn't know who or what Naivas was – it could have been a dog, pig or cat, but eventually I discovered that it was the brother of this young woman whom I had been nursing. I had noticed a palm platted screen which divided the house, but I had not heard any unusual sound coming from behind it. There it was that Naivas lived.

When I was told by his father that he had one "big fella sore leg", I asked to go and see him. On moving behind the palm screen, I was met with a charming smile from Naivas, though really he had nothing to smile about for right across his buttock was a huge tropical island sore, covering seven inches in area, almost the size of a small dinner plate. No wonder his body was so emaciated that one could almost hang a coat hanger on the bones of his shoulder. Yet he greeted me with a broad grin. Of course, I could not speak his language, neither could I understand it, but through an interpreter I learnt that he had been confined to



Arnold Naivas of Reef Islands, once a cripple for four years, with his 'doc-er-tor', outside the "vicarage"

his bamboo slated bed for some four years. He was a lad of about fifteen years of age and his body was bent to an angle of 70 degrees.

During those four years of suffering he had received no medical treatment whatsoever; he could not have done, because the nearest doctor and hospital were five hundred miles across the sea. All that his friends were able to do for him was to clean his sore, and, covering it over with a large piece of banana leaf, try to keep the flies away from it. Believe me, I was sickened at the sight of such an enormous ulcer and how he had lived with it so long without treatment was a mystery. The next thing to consider was treatment and how to tackle such an unpleasant task.

Fortunately for Naivas, I had just returned from a short furlough in New Zealand. During that time, I had made it my business to learn how to give injections both intramuscularly and intravenously at the Auckland General Hospital, so I arrived back equipped with syringes and suitable drugs for such things as topical ulcers. However, my supply was a very limited one and therefore I had to use it sparingly. Naivas was to be the first to receive the benefit of a new and wonderful drug. It was with tremulous hands that I gave my first injection, but Naivas was game for anything if it meant the healing of his tropical ulcer. In all, I could afford to give him three injections only, but even with those three, a miracle started to take place; gradually the affected area became smaller and smaller, but it was six months before I could stop giving daily dressings and was able to see the day when it was healed completely.

I need hardly tell you what joy and relief it was, not only to Naivas himself, but to all his family. This family was at the time still heathen, and the father used to make periodic visits to the ghost house where he made offerings of sticks of tobacco and red feather money to placate the spirit which was supposed to reside in the ghost house. But the healing of Naivas changed all that. The whole family decided to become Christians and after due preparation, were baptized, Naivas taking the Christian name of Arnold. Later on, after further instruction, they were confirmed and became full members of the Christian Church.

And what happened to Arnold after that? To begin with, he offered to become my house boy, do my washing and chop the wood for my cooking stove. It was during this period I put Arnold through some physical exercises to straighten up his body after those four years spent lying on his bamboo bed in a bent up position. Gradually his body straightened and he was able to one of the canoe crew who paddled me from village to village and island to island as I went about my job and asked to be sent to our mission hospital at Fauabu (Holy Rock) for training. Here at Fauabu Arnold stayed four years, at the end of which he was able to give injections and other treatments, just as I had done for him.

Eventually, he returned to his island home at Ndeli where he became the first native medical orderly in the Reef Island Group and went about his job, healing the sick in the name of Our Lord in the ministry of healing.

Rev. David Lloyd Francis ('14-'17)

Born: 15 October 1901

Died: 16 December 1991

ANARCHY IN GREENWICH PARK – THE ROAN CONNECTION!

I digress from what should be done to turn to a Roan topic which has been on my mind since Tony Hyde years ago referred me to Joseph Conrad's – "The Secret Agent" – and said that the first persons to reach the anarchist who blew himself up near the Greenwich Observatory a century ago were two Roan boys returning home after school. The Roan boys were not mentioned in the recent television adaptation and are not mentioned by Conrad ("what a chance he missed of immortalising C.M.Ridger's boys) but the "Times" account of the attempted outrage is a reliable version published. The "Times" of 26 February 1894 under the heading of "Greenwich Park Explosion" recorded the evidence of George Frost, of 15 Broomhill Road, Catford, aged 14, who was going home from the Roan School, East Street (not Eastney then), with another boy, Thomas Winter. They had reached the bottom of Observatory Hill when they heard a loud noise and saw bluish smoke rising from among the trees. They ran about seventy yards, other boys following, and saw a man kneeling in the zig-zag path up the hill. John Young of Lee and two other schoolboys also gave evidence of seeing the man sink to the ground.

A park-keeper and an observatory porter and two observatory "gentlemen" (one of them a Mr.Thackery) were also soon on the spot, and sent for a doctor and a stretcher to take the injured man to the Seamen's Hospital where he soon died. No further mention was made of the Roan boys.

Jury and coroner went to Greenwich Park to see the location for themselves. A crowd collected and two anarchists began to harangue the jurors. The keepers objected that the park was not a place for public speaking, and the anarchists "adjourned" to Hyde Park, where there was a place reserved for free speech.

In an early "Times" report (not the inquest), on 17th February, Keeper Sullivan was named as having found the dying man "at about the second corner from the bottom of the zig-zag path". Another keeper went for a doctor. Some observatory officials brought some brandy. The sound of the explosion was heard "as far away as the Charlton and Dover railway station in Stockwell Street" to the west, and Maze Hill Station on the S.E.Railway to the east. The "Times" of 16th February said Martial Bourdin died within ten minutes of being reached; the "Times" of 17th February said he "died exactly fifty minutes after the explosion."

Bourdin was a tailor, born in Tours, and associated with anarchists in Tottenham Court Road where their headquarters were at the Autonomie Club in Windmill Street. He had taken a third-class ticket from Charing Cross to Greenwich, which he had reached half an hour before dusk, and he had walked to the park by London Street and Stockwell Street. All these details show that he was not a messenger sent by the devil but a real human being.

There was a fuss over his funeral. His brother, another tailor, arranged for him to be buried in Shooters Hill R.C. cemetery but the £13-00 found on the body was not handed over to the brother who could not afford to pay for the Shooters Hill funeral. Colleagues of the dead man, "relatives", asked another undertaker to bury him at Finchley. So the funeral was moved to Finchley, becoming a "public" one, with comrades invited to attend. The "anarchist community" prepared a fine coffin, and planned a funeral procession for the latest "hero", with no religious service, the motto of the Autonomie Club being "ni Dieu ni Maitre".

The "Times" of 24th February judged that: "but for the police, Bourdin's funeral car would have been wrecked and his body torn to pieces." The police re-routed the funeral car and one coach, so as to bypass the crowd that waited at Fitzroy Square. There were free fights at Fitzroy Square and the windows of the Club in Windmill Street were broken. At the cemetery, would-be speechmakers were hustled away by the police. So the matter ended peacefully; what had begun with a bang ended with a whimper. One moral to be drawn from the police precautions was "the roughest section of London people will hold no parley with Anarchy."

A pity the Roan School boys got left out of it!

Tony Hyde, by the way, was the first Old Roan to get a first-class degree at Cambridge, in Geography, later followed by R.E.D.Bishop.

P.J.Barnwell
February 1993

THE FRIENDS OF GREENWICH PARK

A group of people interested in Greenwich Park have formed a "Friends of Greenwich Park" to help support and promote all the amenities of the Royal Park. A similar group was formed around Richmond Park thirty years ago and now number 2,300.

The Friends of Greenwich Park need help in their efforts to:

- * maintain the high quality of trees, shrubs and flowers in the Park
- * care for the wildlife
- * monitor the new privatised maintenance contracts
- * plant new trees and improve the landscaping
- * plan guided walks and open days
- * watch over the development of all public amenities, sports facilities and access to the Park
- * and, above all, liaise with the Park authorities in ensuring a community-based involvement in the future planning of the Park

The first newsletter (summer 1992) lists information that includes the park plant nursery (closed at short notice in July), guided walks, commemorative tree planting, ice-cream vans, the Tea House, tennis court bookings, the Elizabethan Oak (expired), a garden party, unauthorised cycling and Friends' T-shirts.

Further information available from:

Faith Clarke
Membership Secretary
37 Park Vista
Greenwich. SE10 9LZ

THE OLD ROAN FOOTBALL CLUB – SEASON 1992-3

The Editor understands that the Club continues to run five football teams and that the 1st X1 had their most successful season for some years. However, five weeks after the copy-deadline, we have no details and it appears that whatever efforts were made last season in the name of Old Roan on football pitches throughout South London and beyond will go unrecorded.

We offer a photograph of the Vets team taken on the Quaggy pitch on a beautiful spring day which offers familiar faces and some attractive foliage. The short article from Fred Fuhr will suffice as the report on the Vets. After an unhappy opening match at the field against Old Addeyans, Graham Briscoe took charge and we then went 7 matches without defeat. This run included good wins against Charter Diamond, Addington Manor and Belvedere and a stirring 1-1 draw against Ex-Blues. We then suffered another bad and unexpected defeat against Red Barrel in the mud which was followed by the appalling weather of November and December that allowed us only the match against Metrogas (creditable 1-1 draw) until Christmas. The bad weather caused further cancellations and having only one fixture in ten weeks destroyed any rhythm the team had built up. We subsequently enjoyed victories over the Royal Bank of Scotland and Charter Diamond and some competitive matches but overall the season was disappointing.

The low-point of the season was the broken leg suffered by Rod Pepper in the match against Old Addeyans on Saturday 13th March. Rod was by far our best and most consistent player and the long wait for the ambulance on a beautiful sunny afternoon was sickening. Those players deserving a mention include Keith Mexter, Sid Dampier, Bob Grimwood (injured for much of the season), John Stanford (broken finger when the photograph was taken), Peter Grindley and John Hardy. Thanks to Keith Mexter we have an excellent fixture list and we expect a better time next season.

The record reads:	P	W	D	L	A	F	A
	21	7	4	9	1	40	63

BARDON '92 - A SNAPSHOT

August time again, cue Bardon weekend. A slight hiccup this year due to the Somerset time difference – meaning it started a week later than usual! This year, a smaller contingent of Bardonites assembled for more fun and frolics.

Returning to the Manor is like meeting an old friend, carrying on from the last time. The customary formula for the weekend was followed - surprisingly the Non-Vannies won the events the Vannies normally relish (French cricket, Boule and Croquet) and the Vannies turned the tables on "safe" Non-Vanny pursuits (Skittles, Archery and the Trivia). So, by Sunday lunchtime, at the "Burning Stump", the two teams were drawn 3-3. What would be the deciding round?

A bizarre challenge ensued. Based on the fairground game of throwing ping-pong balls into goldfish bowls, an arrangement of glasses of varying shapes and sizes were arranged on the steps of the manor. The competitors were armed with bottle-tops. With much amusement, the pling, ting, plunk chimed out for two rounds of six tops each. Still level. A "sudden death" round and a fluke "Perrlunk" by George sealed the fate of the Bardon Cup for 1992.

Hours later, a tasty curry filled the plate to round off another highly enjoyable Bardon weekend. Bardon 1993 should commence Friday evening the 30th July, new blood more than welcome.

Dave Wright, March 1993

FRED FUHR'S RETURN

On a sunny late September morning I made a far too infrequent visit to the Club, and had the pleasure of watching the Old Roan Veterans X1. They took the field (the 1st X1 pitch) against a team allegedly captained and organised by Graham Lawrence under a name that could only be created by a man who wields his wit like a blunt two-handed broadsword.

For those who have not stood on the playing fields for some years I can report that they look as green and pleasant as ever. Some of the giant trees of the past have fallen (but are being replaced) and the old nissen hut where we collected our cricket equipment is no more.

Such recollections are appropriate as this Old Roan team was full of lads who have played here over four decades; experiencing Bill Jordan's lightly prepared playing surfaces; the shouts of Reg Lentle – for nothing in particular; the ever helpful Cyril, and on to the present.

The "First X1" pitch is still as small as ever and still lends itself to the tactical game perfected by Joe Broadfoot when his 3rd.X1 swept all before them in the '70s. For those not schooled in his strategy it involves by-passing the midfield by kicking the ball from the goalkeeper to Joe Broadfoot at centre-forward (ideally supported by someone who could still run),

Unfortunately, the Vets had long forgotten this simple formula and found themselves bogged down in a tight midfield battle played mainly in their own half. Against a side of lesser years and some talent it looked ominous. But this was like relish on a favourite meal to a team of stalwarts who have spent a lifetime defending: Briscoe, Dale, Davis, Hardy, Mitchell, Horsburgh, Hughes, the indefatigable John Leach and the ever dependable Stanford.

However, whilst time has not wearied them it hasn't improved them either. It could have been 20 years earlier as "Dodger" ignored the call from three team mates in space to run into the chest of a stationary centre-half – and then subsequently retire from the game with a knee injury (incurred trying to sidestep the referee). A still regal, but now more benign, Mike Callaghan refereed the game with his usual panache and long distance vision. Meanwhile Paul Davis, never a master of the back pass, was clearly troubled by the new back pass law.

But no report of this game would be complete without mention of John Leach who at 48 years ran and tackled in a way that most of us could only dream of – even in our youth.

Those who believe that you can't teach an old dog new tricks should watch John Stanford accommodating the new rules for goalkeepers on handling the ball. No mountain has ever had such delicate footwork.

The match ended in a 1-1 draw – very fair in the end for a game played at pace, with skill and good humour (even allowing for Graham's rural tackling). In the best tradition of Old Roan football, Keith Mexter stole a goal from a breakaway and could have had two more, whilst our defence made an error and were punished for it.

Afterwards the Sunday lunchtime ale was a perfect lubricant for the post match analysis and stiffening joints. It was a wonderful day of timeless pleasure. Just what a boy needs.

Fred Fuhr ('62-'69)
October 1992

Fred has lived with his family in New Zealand for several years and caught this game on one his occasional visits.

OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB - SUMMER 1992

Saturday 1st XI

P	W	D	L	A
16	2	2	11	1

The League position was 16th out of 17 teams. After last year's revival of fortunes in the League this season's results were most disappointing. On paper the team was as strong as, if not stronger than, last year, but never lived up to expectations. Our batting throughout the season was fragile to say the least. In seven games we failed to score more than 150 runs. In ten out of 15 games we batted first but only on two occasions did we score enough runs to give our bowlers a decent total to bowl at. Against Metrogas, we bowled well to dismiss them for 125; only to be shot out for 103. An indication of our batting weakness shows up vividly when you see that only three players averaged over 20 for the season. If results are to improve, then all of our batsmen must make the opposition bowlers work much harder for their wickets.

The few highlights of the season included the 60 run victory over Wickham Park with Tony Nutall taking 6-59. Our only other win was against Belvedere with Stickings 3-23 and Morgan 4-37 bowling us to victory. Against the league champions, R.A.C.S., we fielded our strongest team of the season and had the home team struggling at 142-3 with only 5 of their allotted 50 overs remaining but the gods were against us as monsoon rains washed out the game.

Our main bowlers were John Stickings (18 wickets), Tony Nutall (17) and Keith Barron (16). Sam Morgan showed real promise for the future with many fine, accurate spells and deserved more than his 10 wickets.

Keith Barron's 84 v Bromley Town was the highest score of the season. Sam Morgan hit a fine 61 n.o. v Lloyds Register and with several other useful knocks ended up second in the batting averages, a fine achievement. Dan Calnan improved as the season progressed. His 55 v South Bank Poly was just reward for remaining cool with the ball flying around his ears. Once again Graham Lawrance was the main contributor with the bat scoring nearly 400 runs at an average of 42. In his twelve knocks he scored five fifties.

Although the results were very disappointing I am glad to say that the team managed to keep a good spirit going and never lost their sense of humour. We all look forward to a more successful campaign next season.

Saturday 2nd XI Captain: Adrian Jackson

P	W	L	D	A
17	6	5	5	1

Position 8th

A considerable improvement on last year was achieved this season thanks to the consistency in team selection. This was in no small part due to players making themselves available as often as possible, which was greatly appreciated by myself.

The season began badly with a very sound defeat by Downham & Bellingham, but was lifted by a 90 run victory over Lloyds Register. Unfortunately, a level of inconsistency was to mar our performances all season; otherwise our league position would have been a lot higher and we would not have suffered 3 of our 5 defeats. The highlights of the season were obviously the victories, particularly over Belvedere where Brian Hamer, 4-6, and Raj "simply no answer" Prabhaker, 6-6, reduced the opposition to 14 all out - a league record.

Many notable individual performances occurred during the season. So many in fact that they cannot all be included in this article. The mainstay of the batting was Kevin Noble who

scored 370 runs during the season including an excellent 102 against Lloyds Register. Kevin was ably supported during the season by all the other batsmen regularly contributing runs. Brian Hamer led the bowling attack with 37 wickets during the season and also demonstrated his all-rounder prowess with an unbeaten 50 against Bromley Town Old Boys to grab a draw from the jaws of defeat.

In addition to those mentioned the efforts of other regulars were fully appreciated. Hopefully with this same core of players available and a less naive captain we may be able to go on to greater things.

Sunday 2nd XI Captain: Andy Hanks

P	W	L	D
15	4	5	6

A mediocre season after a brilliant performance last year in which we only lost once. I had to use a number of different players, mainly youngsters, who all performed well, especially Terry Cordwell who bowled and fielded extremely well. Charlie Williams ("Mr. Predictable!") was the star early on, batting and wicketkeeping in his usual textbook style.

Dave Nash scored a few runs at last although he performed better in the middle order rather than opening the innings. Raj Prabhaker was comfortably the player of the year with good performances with bat and ball. He constantly helped us out of difficult positions along with myself, occasionally, and will probably go up the batting order next year. Les de Hoog and Paul Rayne also scored a lot of our runs and hopefully Paul will be back next year.

Overall, not the worst season of all time and with more players available next time around, such as Russ Sauntry and Jeff Harvey, we should do even better.

Sunday 3rd XI

P	W	L	D
12	5	3	3

Despite the inclement weather, when it appeared to rain harder on a Sunday than on any other day of the week, the Sunday 3rd XI enjoyed another agreeable season. It was encouraging to welcome several new faces to the fold this year. Jeff Harvey was a particularly good acquisition, available regularly every week, batting with gusto and fielding athletically. His bowling will improve when we get him to the winter nets at the Fosters Oval. Keyur Patel, who commenced this season not knowing which end of the bat to hold, improved as each game went by. Russ Sauntry (before his premature elevation to higher elevens), Terry Cordwell, John Moorcroft and Danny Bray were also keen and welcome additions.

Of the old faces, Pat Gregg's contribution proved invaluable. He did not miss one game, was responsible for getting eleven men out each week (players that is, not victims), caught everything that came to him in the air and batted with great pluck. Nobody present will forget his innings at Greenwich Park against Excel on a green wicket which could politely be termed dangerous, where he faced a quick bowler who the previous day, playing in the Surrey league, had bowled to Roland Butcher (ex Middlesex and England), recording a highly creditable analysis. Pat held his end up for nigh on 90 minutes, finishing up with bruises on most parts of his anatomy. "Spot" Hughes was our most successful bowler finishing with over 30 wickets and also scoring many valuable runs at crucial times. Lucian Howlett,

Duncan Bell, Peer Marshall and Mick Price also improved and made worthy contributions.

Thanks are due to the stars from the higher elevens who came to the rescue when the team was short or looking on the weak side. These include Mark Squire, who showed all that he was a first eleven batsman, but always managed to get himself out at the right time, Paul Cook and Raj Prabhaker. Rumour has it that Joe Broadfoot and Fred Spink are threatening to grace the side next year. Should this be so, their presence will be welcome and their experience and guile will be of great assistance to the youngsters.

THE CRICKET CLUB – INDOOR 6-A-SIDE COMPETITION

The 6-a-side competition is held during the winter months and we report successful campaign ending as champions of Division 2 with promotion next season to Division 1.

The results:

Old Roan 151-4	v	Metrogas 77-3	Cup	Blackheath W.11 49-6	v	Old Roan 126-2
Sidcup 103-2	v	Old Roan 102-6	Cup	Old Roan 89-3	v	Petts Wood 91-2
Old Roan 144-2	v	City of London Poly 1 83-6		Hayes 11 119-5	v	Old Roan 124-5
Old Roan 118-5	v	Crockenhill 83-3		Bethlem Hospital 80-5	v	Old Roan 88-3
Sidcup 26-4 (all out)	v	Old Roan 161-2		Old Roan 75-6	v	Ex-Blues 66-5

League Position:	For			Against			Avge				
League 11	P	W	L	Runs	Wkts	Avge	Runs	Wkts	Avge	Diff.	Pts
Old Roan	8	7	1	922	35	26.3	598	40	14.9	+11.4	14
Crockenhill	8	5	3	681	33	20.6	658	46	14.3	+ 6.3	10
City of London Poly 1	8	5	3	786	37	21.2	736	37	19.8	+ 1.4	10
Sidcup	8	5	3	581	27	21.5	746	25	29.8	- 8.3	10
Ex-Blues	8	4	4	705	33	21.3	623	36	17.3	+ 4.0	8
Petts Wood	8	3	5	710	30	23.6	716	30	23.8	- 0.2	6
Hayes 11	8	3	5	780	40	19.5	811	38	21.3	- 1.8	6
Blackheath Wdrs.11	8	2	6	697	42	16.5	855	38	22.5	- 6.0	4
Bethlem Hospital	8	2	6	732	43	17.0	873	25	34.9	-17.9	4

An early season defeat in the cup was a disappointment as better things were expected. However, this did not deter spirits and left us able to deal more readily with the league programme. Early results went well which made my selection difficulties less fraught. It wasn't until February 20th that we suffered our first, and what turned out to be our only, defeat. After this slight hiccup we got back into the groove against Hayes 11 on March 27th and we came out winners in a closely fought contest.

This left us in an unassailable position at the top of the league, or at least that is what I

thought. Somehow the rest of the league seemed to conspire against us and the better teams started to lose to the weaker teams. With two games left to play it was mathematically possible for one of four teams to win the league and consequently Roan could finish fourth!! This absurd situation of not being certain of promotion but only losing one game to date did not fill the side with confidence. However, all came to rights when the night before our last big game news arrived that our nearest rivals had lost and not only were we assured of promotion but we would also be champions irrespective of the result. Needless to say we duly won the game and then wondered why we had ever doubted ourselves.

My thanks go to the members of the team for being available on a regular basis, which made my selection duties easier; to "uncle Peter" Williams for standing every game as umpire – not an easy task as the game is played at a frantic pace; to Mark Calnan for his help with the scoring and keeping us up to date with Millwall's latest defeat. Last but not least my thanks go to Nazir Khan for doing a grand job as skipper throughout the season.

I hope that we perform as well next season and give a good account of ourselves in the "top flight". The team was selected from the following:

A.Khan R.Stanbridge D.Calnan N.Khan K.Barron J.Stickings M.Baxter
Aziz C.Stanbridge P.Cooke K.Noble Abid J.Broadfoot I.Bhatti

Anyone wishing to play next year should speak to me as soon as possible.

Keith Barron, May 1993

THE SCHOOL 1ST X1 CRICKET TEAM – 1972

Pen portraits (very popular in the 1973 magazines) of the unbeaten squad courtesy of B.Smith:

C.Rodwell: The captain and probably the best player in the team. He was also a valuable bowler

B.Smith: An opener who tended to be a little ponderous in the accumulation of runs. We hope to see more of his leg spin next year

T.Thurley: Always a good man for a crisis. Terry was both confident and cultured

D.Hutley: He represented Kent Under 15 and is a player who has a lot of potential

P.Lancelotte: His fast bowling never quite realised its potential of a few years ago, but nevertheless a leading wicket-taker

D.Davis: In his last season, Dave (remember his brilliant centuries in junior cricket?) never failed to entertain us with his aggressive bowling and batting

J.Hardy: That ebullient gentleman who, while not possessing many sophisticated shots, impressed everyone with his lusty blows – his best innings being a memorable 71 against South London Tech. Wicket keeper in the absence of Ian Thorpe

C.Winter: Another fourth-year player; a fast bowler of great potential

M.Brown: A reliable player who was another of the side's "cavalier" cricketers

P.Clarkson: Primarily a curly spinner; his batting was also an asset

D.Ellis: A fast bowler who took many wickets and who, towards the end of the season, developed a fiendish slower ball

J.Payne: A fitting number eleven whose ability to hit sixes was on a par with his ability to swat flies. Should have been a blacksmith

Master-in-Charge: Mr. Thorp

YES! I REMEMBER "SLADE"! – THE YEAR IS 1973

The "Chronicle" time-machine clocks back twenty years and finds, in their prime, the names of Mike Callaghan, Monty Smith, Ian Clatworthy, Joe Broadfoot, Geoff Sawyer and Brian "Arthur" Smith. This promises to be a "golden age".

But first the school and a prophecy:

"Twenty Years' Time"

In twenty years' time our fuel will be none
Unless we get power from the sun
And our only forces
Will be horses.

The energy has a hole
Because of the shortage of coal
And the oil will be drained
And the air all stained.

There'll be no cars – not even a lorry
And all the people will be sorry.

T.Earnshaw, 1B

Poetry is very popular in the magazines of January and November 1973 and St.Jim thrived. Further selections will be unfair and the general mood in this year of oil crises prior to the "winter of discontent" is bleak, bordering on apocalyptic. We will leave Brian Smith's yearning for a real ploughman's lunch in the archive but his line – "sweat drops into my plastic beer" – recalls those years of "Double Diamond" and "Watneys Red". Perhaps some things have improved!

Brian Smith is in fact fairly prolific in these pages. In an unbeaten cricket 1st XI he is described as "an opener who tended to be a little ponderous in the accumulation of runs. We hope to see more of his leg spin next year". On Sports Day in 1972 he won the 200m, 400m, 800m, came third in the 1500m and second in the long jump (the 100m was won by P.H.Angus with K.Banks second and T.Leask third). He turns up at the swimming gala in the relay for Rodney and comes second in the senior cross country behind Clive Brown with a time of 22.10. He is Chairman of the Aristotelian Society – other committee members include Keith Banks, Geoff Webb and Martyn Pendergast – and though they are turned down by Margaret Thatcher and Michael Foot they manage to gain the attendance of Glenda Jackson and enjoy a good turn out for Dr.Martin Cole on "Sex Education". He features in the "Valet" as School Captain, House Captain, St.Jim, School Magazine, Aristotelian Society, Revue, School and House Plays, Cross Country, Cricket, Athletics, School Scouts and writes a contemplative article on the benefits of school and an education at Roan. A report by Dr.Taylor on School Drama refers to an "Interlude" written by Brian Smith and Geoff Webb which also involved Martyn Pendergast, Dennis Church, Mark Simpson, Gavin Grant and Simon Thompson – "It was a humorous and clever script. Well-balanced in its political comment..... an attack on the apathy of the majority of the electorate". He wins the senior hurdles, 400m and 800m events in the 1973 Athletics. The cross-country season report on the break up of such a fine senior squad refers to Brian as the "connoisseur of the showers, always eager to inspire his hearers with the pure aesthetic pleasures to be found in the privations of running".

Cross-country enjoyed a vintage season. The stars, apart from Brian Smith, are John and Paul Wybrow, Clive Futter, "Pud" Pendergast and Clive Brown – "self-effacing, dedicated, ruthlessly consistent, and without doubt the best runner the school has yet produced.... Clive Brown left with the Senior record firmly his – his time of 19m 56s is over half a minute faster than any other Roan runner has achieved". The club organises and wins the Lewisham Championships and the South London Grammar Schools' Championships. 1973 is also an excellent year for the School Athletics team. In the South London Grammar Schools' Sports, the team finishes in third position overall and the Juniors win their section. Eleven boys are selected to represent the District at the London Championship. Outstanding competitors include M.Windsor, P.Cook, Mike Tomkins, Mark Peters, Steve Smythe, Keith Diplock, Colin Alderton, David Campbell and Mark Windsor. Thanks are recorded for the early season preparations provided by Nigel Ballantyne.

School Drama flourishes in 1973 with a major production featuring three separate plays – "The Mark of the Goat", "Black Comedy" and "Meddling". The first is an ambitious musical drama put together by Mr.Lever and Mr.Ballantyne. Those mentioned in despatches include Neil Sargeant ("an excellent rather 'soppy' Carol), Stephen Humphreys, Steve Hammond, Brian Pinkstone, Keith Bradbrook, Keith Tebbutt and Paul McGann. Ray Mills is praised in the drama report – "provided a nice touch of light relief" and his skills at dinghy sailing and pin-table football are noted on the visit to Drake's Island in Plymouth Sound. "Horatio" writes eloquently of senior sailing holidays to Cornwall and the Norfolk Broads led by Messrs.Elliot, Thomas, Thorp and Brooks. Bill Ellis describes the enchanting atmosphere of Casablanca – "markets, snake charmers, strange clothes and customs, and shops where one could haggle over prices" – on the summer cruise of 1972 and decides that Antwerp was the favoured destination on the 1973 cruise (Oslo, Hamburg, Antwerp and Le Havre) because the boys could buy chips there. Bill is pleased to note that Roan boys found the prettiest girls.

There are no football reports in either magazine (an editor understands). The cricket 1st XI, unbeaten in 1972, win only two matches during the summer of 1973 but remain a "happy, enthusiastic band, ably led by Phil Clarkson. Special mention is made of Mike Baxter's 58 against Wilson, the fine batting of David Hutley and Terry Thurley, the bowling performances of Chris Winter and "Pud" Pendergast's dismissal of Joe Broadfoot in the staff match – with leg spin! David Campbell is captain of the Under-14s and is chosen to captain the Kent Schools' Under 14 team.

Other clubs and societies flourish. Nigel Potter and John Maybank shine in the Senior basketball; the Tennis Club notes the success of S.Bailey-Kennedy; P.Andrews and S.Bailey-Kennedy, again, lead the Badminton Club; Mr.Evans and Mr.Ballantyne organise the Scout Camp; the Chess Club makes good progress in the London League and Kent League tournaments with special note of Earnshaw in an unbeaten Junior team that also includes R.Mills; an Old Roan, Tony Bryer, is speaker at the Christian Union and "reminded us of the aims and purposes of the Christian Union"; the Bridge Club enjoys its best year and fields three teams in the London league – the "A" team includes Geoff Coe, Gavin Grant, Dennis Church and Colin White.

The School Band is recovering in 1973 from the loss of S.Swann, P.Chamberlain, T.Talbot, M.Penny and Mr.Griffin but P.Radmore is "discovered" on the piano and N.Potter now leads the trumpets – "a very sweet and full tone". The Band also includes S.Adderley, J.Howcroft, B.Woolridge, P.Winslow, M.Shaw, A.Hill, L.Thornton, S.White, J.Daniels and is enthusiastically led by Bill Ellis. The Junior Band includes Keith Barron and Terry

Chance and a fine young pianist in J. Page. The School Choir is organised by Mr. Lever and activities included a joint performance of a motet by Scarlatti at the Founder's Day Service. Nigel Ballantyne organises a Junior Drama Club which meets regularly at his home and includes writing and directing.

There is a fine tribute to Mr. B. T. Westmarland who retired in 1973 after 28 years at Roan. In the early days he was in charge of P.E. and later became senior Geography master. "Year in, year out, he has engaged in a great range of activities, including virtually every form of sport... It is because such men are prepared to do this sort of thing that Roan is a good school". Mention is made of his love of cricket and his admiration of the great Jack Hobbs. He is fondly remembered in the staff room for his wide-ranging interests and a decidedly sardonic sense of humour. He is known to his colleagues as "West". Alas! so much to add – but space forbids.

For our final look at the School in those days we look at the activities of Alf Knott, Bill Ellis, around 12 other members of staff and about 50 boys of all ages in the Roan School Revue – "Knotty Hash". Nigel Ballantyne writes that the tremendous enthusiasm which "conveyed the party spirit to the 800 or so people who saw the show was nowhere more apparent than backstage, where you could see an over-clad cricketer donning duffle-coat and beard, a sewerman transforming himself into Eddie waring, a Czechoslovakian beauty queen reverting to a schoolboy – all surrounded by Western and Oriental Charleston girls who at a moment's notice were to become neolithic cuties ready to bring out the caveman in any male member of the audience".

And there is an academic tale to tell. 86 Fifth formers gained 455 G.C.E.O-Levels with 49 boys in the Sixths gaining additional subjects. The A-Level results show 53 boys gaining 126 passes with 19 distinctions (6 in Economics). 11 members of the Lower-sixth gained A-Levels a year early. D.W. Church, I.R. Pullen, J.A. Titcombe and the Wybrew brothers excelled. Subjects that stand out include Maths, Economics and History. All results were listed in the magazine.

So, in this year of war in the Middle East, oil shortages, union disputes, conflict in Vietnam, Bob Stokoe's dance on the Wembley turf, Watergate, Gary Glitter, embarrassing fashion and appalling hair-cuts, we move onto the Old Roan Association and find there the ubiquitous M.C. Callaghan – leg in plaster. At first glance he appears to be drinking at the Club with Monty Smith, Ian Clatworthy and Joe Broadfoot.



Old Roan Football Club Committee. Left to right: G. Sawyer, I. Clatworthy, M. Smith, M. C. Callaghan, D. Bourne, J. Broadfoot

But first to other Old Roan matters. Annual subscription is 50p and life-membership £15. The President at the turn of the year is Brian Thomas who is succeeded at the A.G.M. by John Williams. The Annual Dinner & Dance is held at the Bromley Court Hotel, attended by over 160, and the venue for April 1974 will be the Forest Hill Banqueting Suite. The Club had received a "face-lift" in the early part of the year including new furniture and a carpet which appears to be appreciated by growing membership. The idea of building two squash courts is being considered. Lionel Berry refers to the benefit of a closer, mutually rewarding, liaison between the O.R.A. and the O.R.G.A., and between the Parents' Associations of both Schools".

At the A.G.M. of the Old Roan Dramatic Society, Lionel Berry relinquishes his last remaining formal link with the Society that he formed in 1927 and for which he produced all their plays until 1962. He is replaced as Chairman by Brian Thomas but retains close touch with their activities. Preparations are in hand for the production of "Night Must Fall" in November. The previous production was "Boeing Boeing" which featured noted performances by Helen Castleton ("distinctly decorative"), Margery Berry, Christine Chambers, Joan Stanbridge (her "passionate but straightlaced German was a revelation"), Martin Rider and Trevor Talbot with backstage support from Frederick Fuhr, Brian Hamer, Richard Hitchin, David Roberts and Annette Shooter. This was Graham Johnson's first attempt at production for the Society and he was commended on a well-turned-out presentation.

On the last weekend of April a party of 13 Old Roan footballers set out for Langenfeld in Germany to participate in a tri-partite international football tournament. Joe Broadfoot organises the mini-bus and the meeting point is the "Yorkshire Grey". An evening of excessive local hospitality is followed by football. Reports from our overseas correspondent indicate that the skill and finesse of Roy Hunt, Will Easterling and Terry Barry were let down by the negligent defending of Mike Callaghan, Paul Watts and Fred Jacobs. There was the inevitable "questionable refereeing", despairingly brave goalkeeping by Fred Fuhr and victory for the French. Jim Russon interrupted his studies at Kent University to play little part in the proceedings after encountering Jupiter beer on the ferry. Dave Bryden is praised for his driving, rubbished for his singing and there is no mention of his footballing contribution. Other travellers included Don Boon, Mick Roberts, Simon Perry and Monty Smith.

And finally to Mike Callaghan. Praised for his work in improving the 1st X1 cricket fixtures he spends his Sundays in the summer captaining the Sunday Thirds. His record of 11 wins, 5 draws and 6 defeats is creditable and gained with a mixture of schoolboys (Mike Baxter, David Campbell, David Hutley, Arthur Smith, Tim Leask, Martyn Pendergast, Terry Thurley) and "older hands" (Doug Weaver, Dave Bryden, Mike Titheridge, Simon Perry and Brian West). The pen-portrait states: "surprised even himself with a solid defence which gives him at present a batting average of 22.5. Greatest captaincy problem is where to hide himself away from the catches". Mike broke his leg playing football for the 6ths against Sidcup on 28 October 1972 and remained in plaster until January which allowed him a long rest to plan his tactics for Langenfeld and the summer. We leave the sports pages with the advice to Mike Baxter – "you'll be a good Old Roan"; the portrait of Ian Clatworthy – "enjoys the game after 7.30"; and the photograph of the distinguished Old Roan Football Club Committee.

*"So! Here it is, Merry Christmas, everybody's having fun,
Look to the future now it's only just begun..."*

TIME-CAPSULE

"This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom...." (The Second Spirit, "A Christmas Carol" – Dickens)

Reading the 1973 magazines reconfirms the feeling that these publications inhabit and perpetuate a strange "schoolboy land"- a never-ending "Boy's Own" world that is as complete and self-fulfilling as any literary creation. Seek in vain for mention of Vietnam, which is no surprise, yet the majority of the poetry in that year seems to happily pursue the millenium. The balance is redressed here.

The piece in 1992 was cut for lack of space. For the record it noted that the wider world had lost John Arlott, Marlene Dietrich, Robert Maxwell and the Soviet Union. The city of Sarajevo seemed well placed to draw neat parentheses around the century. The "Earth Summit" in Brazil was seen as a mission to "save the ship from its passengers" yet the U.S.A. was refusing to ratify the biodiversity treaty. The refusal of the Danes to ratify the Maastricht agreement was jeopardising the treaty for greater European unity. Tension was rising between the De Klerk government and the A.N.C. in South Africa and the national newspapers were obsessed with the Royal Family. On April 9, 1992, and against the predictions of the polls, a Conservative Government under John Major was re-elected. The recession continued with record statistics for business failures, bankruptcies, house repossessions and crime. Gary Lineker retired from international football and David Gower was recalled to the England Test side.

Moving into June 1993 we find no improvement. Do those 21 members of the sixth form who gained success in their Economics "A" level in 1973 have any recommendations to the new Chancellor (Kenneth Clarke)? The Prime Minister, John Major, has the lowest approval rating since records were kept. The former Chancellor, Norman ("green shoots of recovery") Lamont, took Sterling out of the E.R.M. on September 16, 1992 which resulted in a 20% devaluation of the currency by Christmas. The Labour Party under John Smith keeps a low profile. The Maastricht Treaty continues – and continues. The marriages of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York have officially failed. The fire at Windsor Castle in November is seen as a metaphor for the Royal Family and results in the Queen agreeing to pay tax. Signs of economic recovery are constantly spotted and other countries, including Germany, may have it worse, but official figures show that in May alone the Government debt increased by £5 billion. Lloyds of London declare another record loss. The British Judicial System is under widespread criticism. The National Health System continues to struggle and the education policies of the government are heavily criticised by the teaching profession.

The crisis in the former Yugoslavia and specifically Bosnia appears, to those involved, beyond comprehension and salvation and the U.N. Peacekeeping Forces in Somalia face a seemingly hopeless situation. Czechoslovakia is now the Czech State and Slovakia. The new President of the U.S.A., Bill Clinton, has, within his first 100 days, become a figure of ridicule and derision. The last episode of "Cheers" was broadcast on 13 June, 1993.

Finally, fulfilling the "Boys' Own" requirements, we report that the England Football Team face elimination from the World Cup and lost 2-0 to the United States; the England Cricket Team have lost successive series to Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka (one match) and are being humiliated now by Australia (David Gower and Ian Botham have not been recalled); in recent months we bade sad farewells to Bobby Moore and James Hunt. Charlton Athletic finally returned to the Valley amidst scenes of great emotion in December 1992.

CRICKET 1993. OLD ROAN X1 V OLD ROAN "EXILES"

On the Mayday bank holiday there was a special match between a team of Old Roans who play for the Club and a team of Old Roans who choose to play for other teams. Keith Barron lost the toss and took the field with a side consisting of:

Kevin Noble	Promoted to the 1st X1 after topping the 2nd X1 batting
Adrian Jackson	Captain of the 2nd X1
Ron Nauth	Hit 150 against Britannic House last season
Graham Lawrence	Top batsman last year and former skipper
Paul Cook	Plays for the 1st X1 on Sundays and Stanstead on Saturdays
Len Sales	Father of Daniel and former skipper
Dan Calnan	Who needs no introduction
Raj Prabhaker	Successful second team bowler aspiring to the 1st X1
Chris Stanbridge	Son of Rod, fast medium, hard-hitting batsman, real asset
Steve Tyson	Left arm over opening bowler and Roan School master

The "Exiles" were led by John Huntley who most people know plays at Bickley Park. The remaining members were:

Roger Dale	Former opening bat and wicketkeeper. Now with Sanderstead
Garth Barnes	Son of "Bootsy" who left about 1967. Plays for Blackheath
Paul Nash	Ex-Blackheath and back at the "Wanderers". Quality batsman
Geoff Barnes	Former Captain of Downham & Bellingham. Good all-rounder.
Dr. Simon Hooker	Son of Martin. Currently doing research physics at Oxford
Matthew Hooker	Brother of above. Plays for Surbiton
Ian Barnes	Played at Thames Poly. Now hang-glides at weekends
Lee Morton	At Blackheath Wanderers. Fastest bowler in S. Thames League
Malcolm Sanderson	Played at Wickham Park for many years
Stewart Williams	Son of John, nephew of Peter. Opening bowler at Bickley Park

The "Exiles" batted first with Dale and Barnes G. opening. Dan struck in the first over to bowl Garth Barnes. Nash and Dale repaired the damage with a stand of 50. Wickets fell and runs came from Nash (31), Geoff Barnes (35) and Dale (23). Simon Hooker was bowled by Dan first ball but the Hooker family were satisfied with a controlled 50 from Matt. John had planned to declare at 4.50 but the "Exiles" were bowled out for 180 at 4.47. Keith Barron (4-24), Dan (3-40), Raj, Chris Stanbridge and Steve T picked up the wickets.

Old Roan flattered to deceive and were bowled out for 164. "Bootsy" picked up 4-78, John Huntley 3-9 and the man of the match, Matthew Hooker, followed his half-century with 2-15 and a stunning catch to dismiss Adrian. Kevin Noble was top scorer with 47, Len chipped in with 27, Paul Cook with 24, Graham Lawrence 21 and Raj made 11 n.o. Thank you Martin and Peter for umpiring and D.A.P. for scoring. We enjoyed a meal together after the game and Geoff Barnes is now playing for us on Sundays.

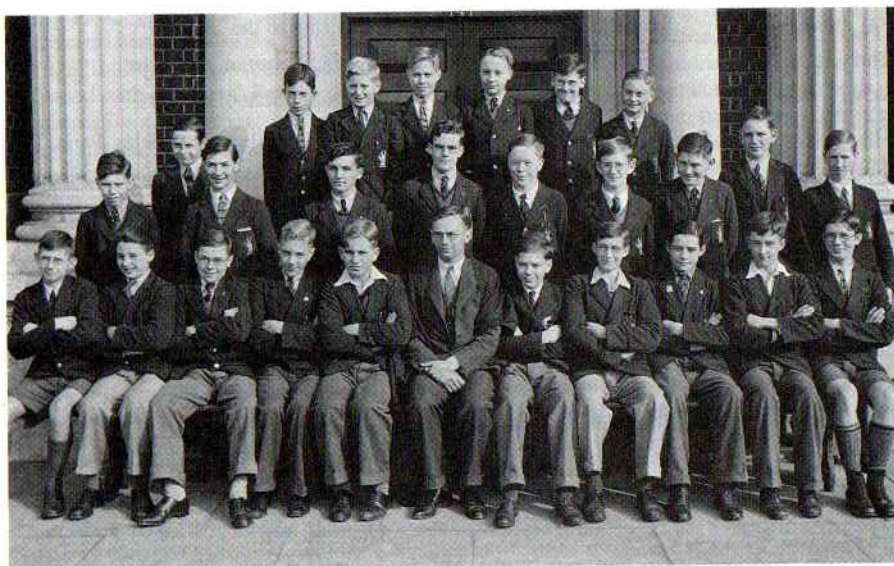
Vivian Lawrence, June 1993

MR.MILLS – REMOVE B – 1937

Geoﬀ Walter ('34-'39) has sent us this photograph taken in 1937. There are 26 students in addition to Mr.Mills and he can identify about 20 by name. He remains in contact with Roy Clark and Horace Abbott.

Please let us know if you can identify the unknown pupils or can correct any errors on the names given:

Back Row:	Cassidy	Parker	Rose	Shute	Swann	Abbott
Middle Row:	Unknown Walter	Unknown Bradgate	Holland Keating	Berry Walpole	Brooks	Unknown
Front Row:	Coombs Spice	Smith Canning	Seal Stride	Lyne Clark	Harding Morris	Mr.Mills



Quote

"The oldest and most obsessive of these visions is, perhaps, that of the perfect society on earth, wholly just, wholly happy, entirely rational: a final solution of all human problems within men's grasp, but for one – some one major obstacle – such asclass war, or the destructive aspects of materialism or of Western technology; or, again, the evil consequences of institutions – state or church; or some other false doctrine or wicked practice – one great barrier but for which the ideal is realised.

"It follows that since all that is needed is the removal of this one great obstacle in the path of mankind, no sacrifice can be too great, if only by this means can the goal be attained. No conviction has caused more violence, oppression, suffering. The cry that the real present must be sacrificed to an attainable ideal future – this demand has been used to justify massive cruelties."

Sir Isaiah Berlin. 1979.

BIRTHS

BLOYCE to Sally, wife of Andy ('71-'78), a son, Thomas James on 1st October 1992

BRYER to Sheila, wife of Tony ('62-'68), a son, Michael James David on 30th August 1992

LOCKHART to Angela, wife of Bob ('62-'69), a daughter, Annie on 8th April

MARRIAGES

PORTER-GILLESPIE on 1st October 1992, in the Caribbean, Frances Porter ('76-'84) to John Gillespie

WALPOLE-PALMER on 19th December 1992, at Sidcup Registry Office, Mike Walpole ('63-'71) to Olive Palmer

WEIR-ANGIER on 26th September 1992 at Marylebone Registry Office, Dr.Malcolm Weir ('70-'77) to Dr.Jane Angier

DEATHS

CARTER G.C. ('16-'24, President '65-'66 and a Vice President) on 31st January 1993

DAVIES Mrs.M.H.A.P. ('19-'28) on 29th November 1992

EDGERTON.N (Past Chairman of the Governors), August 1992

HANSFORD S.A. ('29-'33) in March 1993

HUNT H.G. ('22-'28) on 15th September 1992

JARRETT A.J. ('17-'22) on 22nd January 1993

LAVERS Prof. J. E. ('46-'53) on 16th May 1993

PALMER S.A. ('26-'30) in June 1992

POTTER M.F. ('40-'45) on 8th October 1992

SMITH Miss V.E. ('11-'18) on 15th April 1993

SULLIVAN L.J. ('08-'12) in 1992

WYATT T.S. ('23-'26) in 1992

Quote:

"The trouble with Christianity is not that it has been tried and found wanting but that it has been found difficult and never tried."

G. K. Chesterton.

50 YEARS ON – AN AMMANFORD REUNION

Race and Mattie Hooper recently held a luncheon party with a difference. All but one of the participants had been at school at Ammanford in the early 1940's. Race ('36-'41), Don Ashfield ('35-'42) and Alan Weir ('36-'42) were Roan "evacuees" whilst Avril Rees (née George), Olga Ashfield (née Morgan), Mattie and Peter Rees were at Amman Valley County School. Though the writer had not seen them (Race and Mattie apart) for fifty years, recognition was instantaneous, such are the clear memories we hold of those far off happy days. Happy they were, because of the men who ran the school, and because of the warm friendship provided by our hosts – of all ages and both sexes.

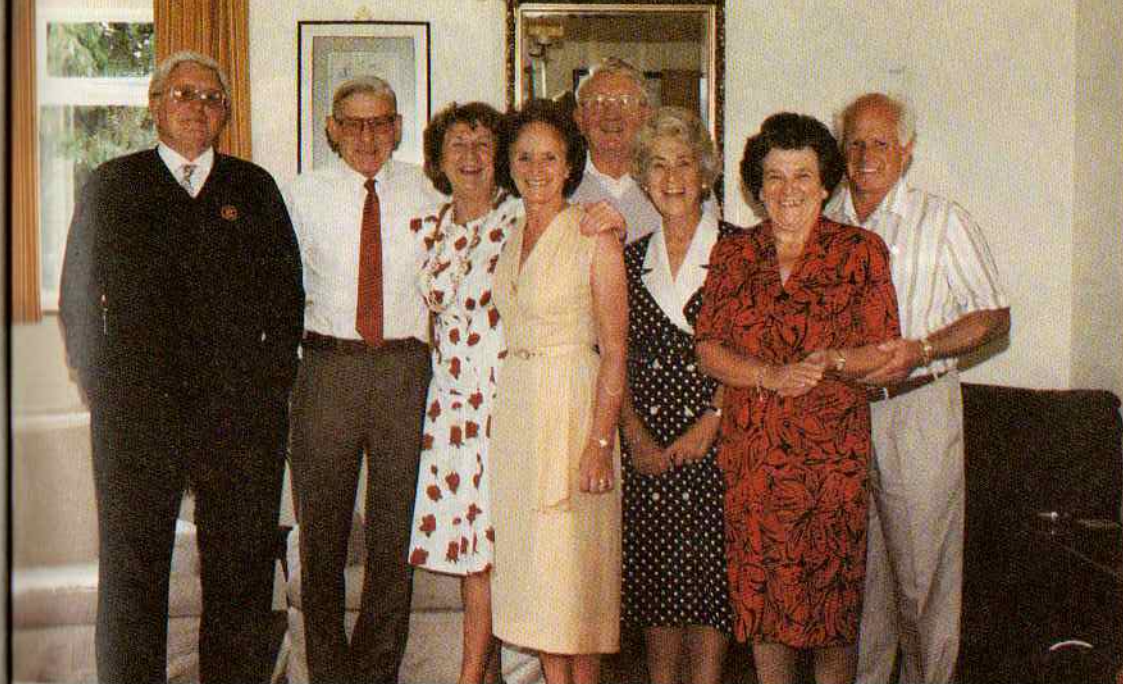
Reminiscence was vociferous and often hilarious. A close neighbour might have been tempted to think that some kind of "rave-up" was in progress. Inevitably the question of "whatever happened to so-and-so" recurred. Old Roan membership includes a number of familiar names. The Editor, I am sure, would be glad to hear from you!

But what of the likes of Syd Thew, Pat O'Donoovan, Johnny Wilson and Bob Turner? Maybe someone "out there" can put us in the picture? We have read of reunions of the classes of the sixties and the seventies. Would a reunion of the Forties – perhaps even in Wales – be too fanciful an idea?

Alan Weir, May 1993

The Ammanford Reunion

Left to Right: Peter Rees, Alan Weir, Avril Rees, Mattie Hooper, Don Ashfield, Jean Weir, Olga Ashfield, Race Hooper.



THE THIRTIES REUNION – 1993

The "Abinger Hatch" was the venue for the 1993 summer reunion for the "Thirties" Old Roans and their wives. Once again the sun shone on our grey hairs and balding pates. Are we tempting fate?

Among those present were Bill Wedge, Brian Thomas, John Long, Stan Berry, Colin Walter, Horace Abbott, Cliff Stimpson, Alan Weir, Phil Winter and of course the evergreen Lionel Berry. Please note the photograph – perhaps you recognise a face or two from the past? Even if you don't, as an Old Roan of the thirties you would be more than welcome to join us to exchange reminiscences at our next lunchtime drink – at the Ramblers' Rest, Chislehurst on November 15th.

Ring Bill Wedge on (081) 395 4837 or Alan Weir on (081) 698 4500 for details. We know you are out there – get in touch!

The Reunion at "Abinger Hatch" on 21 June 1993

Standing: Colin Walter, Horace Abbott, Brian Thomas, Doug Peddie, John Long, Cliff Stimpson, Keith Bartlett, Stan Berry, Alan Weir, Phil Winter. Front: Lionel Berry, Bill Wedge.





The Past President at the Fun Day



*Lionel Berry with Margery and Stan Berry
at the "Abinger Hatch"*

Alf Knott, Mandy Brown and Richard Rickson in "Season's Greetings"



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Reunion Dinner at the Club – Friday 22nd October, 1993

Childrens' Party at the Club – Sunday 9th January, 1994

Dinner Dance – date to be advised

AGM at the Club – Thursday 24th March, 1994