



SUSCEPTUM PERFICE MUNUS

# THE OLD ROAN NEWSLETTER

No. 3

Christmas 1984

## ADDRESSES

President: Dr. A.J. Taylor,  
John Roan School,  
141 Maze Hill, Blackheath,  
London SE3 7UD

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

Assistant Secretary: Kay Wilkins,  
9 Tile Farm Road,  
Orpington, Kent BR6 9RY  
(Tel: Orpington 52079)

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

Chronicle & Newsletter Editor: Fritz Henning,  
129 Kempton Walk,  
Shirley, Surrey CR0 7XH  
(Tel: 01-777 9600)

Social Secretary: Mike Walpole,  
31 Pragnell Road,  
Lee, London SE12 0LF  
(Tel: 01-857 3965)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Dinner and Dance 9th March 1985

Annual General Meeting 29th March 1985

Old Roan Braithwaite Camp 31st August -  
14th September 1985

(Last year's Camp was reduced to one week due to lack of numbers. Unless sufficient numbers are obtained then 1985's may have to be cancelled altogether. Contact the Secretary, or Alan Palmer, 42 Elliscombe Road, Charlton, London SE7 7PY.)

## CHANGE

Why is it that most of us dislike change? Even young people are unsettled by it; a change in a day's routine for a class often means a difficult day for those who have to teach that class.

For many people, thanks to the popularity of Francis Lyte's hymn, change is for ever associated with decay - most unfortunately and incorrectly because the most rapidly changing things are those which are growing, especially those which are in the early stages of growth!

These thoughts came to mind a few weeks ago when I realised that probably no other Head of either of the Roan Schools has held office through a time of such great change as that which the School has seen the last seven years.

There was one period of great change following the Education Act of 1870. As the London Schools Board began organising education for the poor it was seen that the Roan Trustees would soon be using their funds in duplicating what the State provided. Hence the decision to establish "a new School in which should be given a superior education of the character usually given in the best middle class schools". The Head of that time, Mr William Haworth, did not see these changes through because he was pensioned off. He was opposed to the change, as were many of the people of Greenwich, since the new School would provide free education for only a minority of its pupils and free clothing for none!

Nevertheless, the new Schools (a Girls' and a Boys' School) were built and opened in 1877 and soon established a high reputation; in 1944 they became Voluntary Aided Grammar Schools.

In 1977 there was another major change - the Schools became comprehensive and, therefore, open again to any pupil in Greenwich. Does "Old John Roan who lived and worked and died in the mighty days ....." look with approval on this situation? Is the spirit of William Haworth appeased?

A living organism has to adapt to changes in its environment if it is to survive. This, I believe, is what the School has done on at least two occasions in its history. It has changed in response to a society which is changing and, thanks to that, we are now well into a fourth century in which the name of John Roan remains firmly tied to a School providing education for the children of Greenwich.

Alfred J Taylor

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Members will recall that much publicity was given in the Chronicle to the closure of the Devonshire Drive site, which had been the Roan School for Girls for over 100 years. Publicity was also given in the press and it was very much worthwhile. Around 500 former pupils turned up during the afternoon of the final Reunion on 14th July and a separate account appears in this Newsletter. The operation was a tremendous success, principally due to the hard work of those involved in the preparation.

The day before the Devonshire Drive Reunion, the Staff and Old Roans held an informal retirement party at the Old Roan Club for, amongst others, Dave Billington, Jose Collins, Jean James and Alfie Knott. This too proved a pleasant occasion for members to meet some of the Staff who had been at Roan for many years and to wish them well in their retirement. A particular highlight was Alfie Knott and members of the Old Roan Dramatic Society putting on a few humorous sketches. Congratulations to Gordon Brooks who has been appointed a Deputy Head to fill one of the vacancies created.

More recently the Annual Dinner was held at the School Pavilion - again a popular event with speeches from Kay Wilkins, Gordon Brooks, Dr Taylor (President) and Frank Barnes (Guest of Honour).

Through the generosity of Dr Kurt Bac (1914-'15) a Trust Fund has been established. Kurt was on holiday in this country as a guest of the late Mr Llewelyn (Staff) at the time of the outbreak of the First World War. Unable to return to his native Germany he spent several terms at Roan before his internment. He has fond memories of his time at Roan and has kept in touch ever since. After a little thought it was felt that a suitable purpose for the Fund would be to establish a pupil exchange scheme between Roan and the Neue Oberschule in Brunswick, a town in Germany, and a Trust Deed has been drawn up accordingly.

This summer saw the departure of the Groundsman of the School Playing Fields, Cyril Davies, who has moved to Goudhurst to take up a similar job near there. He has been of great help not only to the sport orientated side of the Association but also of considerable assistance to the Old Roan Club, and on occasions when the Association uses the facilities at the School Field. Grateful thanks are also due to Peter Ellis who had to carry on single-handed until a replacement was found.

Dr Taylor, Head of the School and this year's President, has announced his intention to retire next Easter. We shall be paying tribute to him at length in the next edition of the Chronicle.

Tony Slaney

## NEWS OF OLD ROANS

GORDON STACEY (23-28) writes from near Johannesburg, South Africa. He emigrated there in 1947 following war service with the RAF. After 24 years with South African Airways he retired in 1972. His brother Geoff, who was also at School, lives in Colchester.

Also abroad is DINAH ANNE ROGERS (45-48) who lives in California. She makes her living as an actress, in theatre, T.V. and sometimes the 'Big Screen'. She acted in this country before moving to the States and claims to have got the bug in the School Play in 1947. Ahead of her time she attempted to form a joint drama club between the two sixth forms. Unfortunately this was not successful but it pleases her to see that joint productions occur now. Both Dinah's mother and aunt were at the School. Dinah's address is: 11300 Emelita Street, North Hollywood, California, USA 91601.

Another Old Roan who has settled in the USA is EWEN WHITAKER (33-40) who writes from Tucson, Arizona. He notes with sorrow the recent death of his old Science Sixth form master Cyril Daltry who was, like Ewen, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Ewen is currently writing the history of the founding of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 1985. He mentions a contemporary - RON MORRIS - as well as pointing out that the staff photograph which appeared in the Chronicle of November 1980 should have been dated 1938 rather than 1936 as suggested.

The recent Chronicle photo of the 1924 visit to the British Empire Exhibition obviously brought back many memories. FRANK GOLD (24-26) was 'shocked' to be confronted by his former self. Frank asks whether anyone can help in tracing his cousin WINIFRED SANDS who attended the Girls School in the early 1920's? Winifred used to live in George Lane, Lewisham.

A contemporary of Frank's, BERNARD ALLEN (24-30) writes from Norwich. Bernard was the son of 'Tubby' Allen (staff and former treasurer of the ORA) and brother of ELSIE ALLEN who was for many years secretary of the OR Girls. He recalls the donkey which was kept in the yard beside the school in Eastney Street which brayed extremely loudly. One account suggests that it was "even as loud as Peddie's voice! When Peddie was teaching French he had a voice like a foghorn which could probably be heard as far as Greenwich Pier". Bernard tells us that his brother Percy, who was also at Eastney Street, has passed away.

Another Old Roan who has moved to Norfolk is ERIC SWANN (34-39) who lives in East Dereham. He informs us that STEPHEN and CHERYL SWANN (nee THOROGOOD) (66-72) now have a son Michael, born in July. He also provides news of P. ANGUS (65-71), listed amongst the 'lost' in the last Chronicle, who is lecturing at Eton College.

BILL SOLKHON (17-23), a contemporary of two past Presidents, George Carter and Bill Gosling, lives in retirement in East Sussex. He was for many years a teacher at the Elfrida Primary School in Bellingham, where he was instrumental in recommending a number of children - both boys and girls - to the Roan Schools. From time to time he hears from some of the boys, the girls only rarely. In 1969 both School Captains came from the Elfrida 'Stable' - CHRISTINE BICKFORD and GRAHAM SMITH - a fact that was mentioned under the heading 'Is this a record'. It was and, now that the Schools are amalgamated, always will be. Other girls that Bill can recall are - or were - ISABEL HARLE, JUNE MULLET, LORY ASHBY, JOANNE LEE and LINDA WALTERS. Bill also provides news of his local sub-postmasters - BEN and BETTY PRICE - who both went to the Roan in the 1944-50 period.

A regular correspondent P.J. BARNWELL (23-31) offers additional information on the recent election of JOHN MITCHELL (staff) as an Honorary Fellow-Commoner of Christ's College, Cambridge. Apparently such Fellows are quite a rare breed. The term Fellow-Commoners was originally given to students of mature age or noble rank who did not eat with other students but at high table with the other Fellows. Nowadays Honorary Fellows are persons of some eminence; Honorary Fellow-Commoners are members of the college who do much voluntary work for it. He is also in touch with GEORGE FRANKLIN (09-16), the Roan Exhibitioner in 1915 who now lives in Shropshire. Mr Barnwell also makes reference to that part of Eastney Street between the school and the main road being a 'no go' area for boys in view of the disorderly houses to be found there. Apparently staff were not so restricted, perhaps because they were able to look after themselves!

LIONEL BERRY passes on news about (Dr) DONALD WHITE (28-36) who has just retired from University College, London. He is an expert on timber and has just completed a book on the subject. For over 20 years he has been Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the National Trust at Blakeney Point, Norfolk.

Incidentally MARGARET WHITE mentioned in the last edition of the Chronicle was head girl of the Girls School at the same time that her brother Donald was head boy of the Boys School - another record? Lionel also joins in the debate as to when the first Braithwaite Camp was held. "I was interviewed and appointed by POTTER in August 1923, behind stacks of glass cases full of stuffed birds (which the Antient collected), and I was then packed off to Braithwaite to meet the Antient. I was met at the station by BURNS (who subsequently was awarded the George Cross for gallantry in the floods) and sat with HOPE and his scouts in the hut. I had to make a speech and sing to them - but I was still appointed."

TONY BRYER (62-68) has been vicar of St. Michael's, Loughton, since 1981. Earlier this year he discovered that one of his parishioners is RICHARD EVELEIGH (47-52) who stood (unsuccessfully) as a candidate in the local council elections. Another link with the school is that Tony's new lodger in the vicarage is LIZ AMOR who has just left the 6th form and is a student at the local Acting School.

News of a recent informal reunion in Chislehurst of several Old Roans who started in Mr Lee's 3rd form in 1932. Amongst those present were KEN BARTLETT, JOHN LONG, JOHN SMITH, FREDDIE VERNAU and BILL WEDGE. Near contemporaries who also attended were DICK ASTILL, ERNIE WINTER, BRIAN THOMAS, DOUGLAS PEDDIE, ALAN WEIR and STAN BERRY. Former master JOHN MITCHELL and his wife Ivy and Mrs BETTY BINNIE were also present. Bill Wedge who set up the reunion was also in contact with PETER TRAFFORD, FRANK TWITCHETT, BERTIE WALLACE, BILL HENLEY, NORMAN CLARKSON, REG MATHIESON and LIONEL BERRY who all expressed interest in a further get together. Anyone of the '1932 vintage' who wishes to be involved in such an event is cordially invited to contact Bill on 01-647 7317.

CHRIS LOGAN (nee TRACEY, 59-66) has a new address in Gravesend, Kent. She and her husband, Ken, have a daughter Jill Elizabeth born in November 1978. Chris is doing supply teaching and Ken, after six years as a professional musician, changed jobs and found himself working with an Old Roan, BOB GRIMWOOD. Chris' brother, JEREMY TRACEY (53-60), is married with two sons, Simon (15) and Matthew (13). They live at St. Peters, Broadstairs, where Jeremy is active in running the local Sea Scouts. Chris says that those Masters who suffered at Jeremy's hands in the past will be glad to know that he is now repaid in kind as his sons take after him!

## OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB

JO STARK (nee HAY, 60-65) has a new arrival, Hannah Elena, born on 30th October and a sister for Rachel Elizabeth.

ALISON MITCHELL (nee MAYO, 64-70) went to Newcastle University where she got a BSc in Computing Science. She married in 1981 and she and her husband worked in Holland for a year (1982/83). She says she is now a lady of leisure with two dogs and a house (in Wokingham, Berks) to renovate so most of her time is taken up with decorating. She keeps in touch with MAUREEN HAMES (nee HILL, 64-70) who lives in Charlton; LESLEY TRIM (nee HANLAN, 64-70) who lives at Offham, Kent and is expecting her first baby any day now (she's probably had it now!); SANDRA COLLINS (nee COPPS, 64-70) who lives in Chippenham, Wilts and has two children.

Alison's brother, PAUL MAYO (59-66), went to UMIST, Manchester where he obtained a BSc in Bio-chemistry, then an MSc in Oceanography at Southampton and a PhD at Aberdeen. He now works at Glasgow University.

SIMON MAYO (Alison and Paul's brother, 60-67) obtained a BSc in Botany at Durham with David Bellamy as his tutor. He now works at Kew and is studying for a PhD. He travels to Brazil every few years to give talks and collect plants. He is married to Anne Mayo whom many people may know from "Gardeners World" on BBC2, which she helps to present. Simon and his wife live in Chiswick.

Alison Mitchell (nee Mayo) worked at one stage for Volkswagen Audi in Milton Keynes as an Analyst Programmer and while there CHRIS CHARLESWORTH was appointed head of the Computing Group in which she worked. They were surprised to find they had both gone to Roan and now, she says, Chris takes great delight in pointing this out and equally she takes delight in emphasising he was there before she was born!

Can anybody help, please? Some of the Old Girls have been "rescuing" items of historic relevance from the Devonshire Drive site, including a plain wooden cross inscribed "In loving memory of NELLIE PRIOR, died 4th March 1951". Nobody seems to know anything about it - can any Old Girls enlighten us?

"Only men could have made white the uniform of a game played on green grass and brown earth with a red ball that has to be wiped on trousers to keep it shiny."

(C Wolmar - "New Statesman")

The respective captains for the 1st and 2nd XI league sides have chosen to draw a discreet veil over what was a most disappointing season for both the Saturday XI's. Without quite reaching rock-bottom our performances, with one or two notable exceptions, left a lot to be desired. Nevertheless, as the following Sunday reports suggest, there remains considerable talent within the club. Our problem is to ensure that it is more equitably distributed!

### 1st XI

Before the start of the 1984 season there was reason to be optimistic. With Nas Kahn in the side this would take a lot of pressure off our batsmen but I don't think anyone would have predicted that we would win 11 of our 17 games - and it could so easily have been more. Of the remaining 6 games, 3 were lost and 3 drawn. In 8 of our 11 victories we batted first which indicated that we could (a) score enough runs and (b) bowl sides out. To be able to achieve either is pleasing but to do both together turns pleasure into satisfaction and pride.

The Foundation for our new-found confidence with the bat was laid in the very first hour of the season. Superb batting by our openers Nas Kahn and Graham Townsend against an excellent Romford attack made such a good impression that it both raised the morale and set the standard for the rest of the team to follow. With so many good starts our batsmen were rarely under pressure and if the openers did falter there were others willing and able to step in and score the runs. Peter Ellis and Mark Squire emerged to be such good players that together they managed to combine the enviable talents of being able to open either the batting or the bowling at the start of the day and then, afterwards, to stay the distance with their skipper in the bar. No mean achievements for young lads still 'learning their trade'. Peter played many powerful shots in some fine knocks and Mark, with infuriating ease, demonstrated how straightforward it can be to construct an innings.

Roger Dale and Dan Calnan, with an instinct for knowing when we needed them to get runs, did just that and scored some important 50's. The incorrigible Joe Broadfoot added the benefit of his ability and experience to the middle order and was always a reliable consultant in times of uncertainty or crisis. With Graham and particularly Nas being so dominant with the bat it was pleasing to see everyone who lined up as a batsman (with apologies to Simon Perry) having a fair share of success.

Out of the 17 games we played we bowled our opponents out on 11 occasions. Terry Barry and Mark Squire were the major wicket-takers with Brian Hamer, Peter Ellis, Graham Briscoe and Dan Calnan providing the essential back-up. Mark consolidated on his form of 1983 and put in some good performances but I think his best was appropriately against one of our strongest opponents, Midland Bank, where in a fitting setting he looked a class bowler. Brian Hamer displayed all his qualities of dependable accuracy, economy, and competitiveness which makes him such an important member of the side. As was Dan Calnan, with the difference between the two being that Dan didn't take a single wicket until the last game of the season and, then, as if to prove it wasn't a fluke he took another one in the dreadful draw with CUACO. Peter Ellis showed glimpses of what he can do as a bowler and will get more opportunities next season. It is a popular belief that Graham Briscoe has a lot of potential but lacks confidence and consequently doesn't do himself justice. I'm sure Graham is fed up with this tag and I want to correct this assertion. Graham took 20 wickets in very few overs and nearly all his wickets had a significant impact on the game. Graham's bowling suffered from having a conservative captain who was all too willing to take a safe option rather than be more adventurous. Apologies, Graham, I will endeavour to be more positive next season; such variety should be encouraged and not concealed.

Of course fielding is a vital part of the game and can win games (Midland Bank) and lose games (LESSA) and because we have a lot of players with a natural eye for a ball the fielding was generally very good. However, concentration is a key factor for which every player has to learn to bear individual responsibility. Well done, Simon, for another good season keeping wicket and for suffering Mark's rude remarks with commendable dignity.

So, to conclude, for a team of part-timers I think we did exceptionally well. At times we were very impressive and I shudder to think what the likes of Romford, Midland Bank, Holmesdale and Spencer will be hurling at us next season! Next year some of us will also be trying to improve the results of the Saturday side and whilst I hope this will help to arrest the decline of Saturday cricket, I trust this will not be at the expense of the quality of the side which we saw develop on Sundays last year.

My thanks to Graham, Fritz, Daniel, Cyril and Peter, Jackie and especially Tandy for their help and to everyone who made it such a memorable season.

Terry Barry

## 2nd XI

Congratulations on a splendid season Terry Barry and wishing you well next year. Just a little note to let you know how we got on and to give you my thoughts for the future.

Our results weren't quite as good as yours but we did have a lot of fun, after all what are 2nd XI's for! We played 19 matches and only drew one, that's the good news; the bad news is that we lost 12 games and only won 5 (one was abandoned). The batsman who scored most runs was Peter Williams and the batsman who scored the second highest number of runs was Terry Chance which means we have an opening pair. Mike Baxter was top of the batting averages but really did not have an exceptional season considering he started in the 1st XI. Over 5 batsmen topped 200 runs and that was quite pleasing. The middle order has never been consistent and this was the root of most of our bad performances.

Turning to bowling I have to report that a young man who is under 16 took 29 wickets at 11-0 and was top of the bowling averages; his name is Nicki Stanbridge - he knows he still has a lot to learn but that was a splendid season. Len Sales took the most wickets and Keith Baron was second to him. I believe both of the last two mentioned are pushing for a place in the 1st XI.

Len Sales had an exceptional season fielding in the slips, picking up 10 catches most of them in a spectacular fashion and he is unquestionably the best slip fielder in the club at the moment. One has to mention John Bain who is a potential middle order batsman and opening bowler - however he can flatter to deceive.

A few memories of last Summer: in the last game against Granby, Martin Hooker smiting both the opening bowlers over their heads for massive 6's. Viv Lawrence taking the catch to win the match when the last pair at Harvel were in and they needed 2 to win with 2 balls remaining. Wally Wyton building up a terrific head of speed against Limpsfield Chart and making their number 3 look like a number 11 batsman. Les De Hoog attempting twice to stump a batsman against Harvel. Mike Baxter collecting the subs! Brian Endersbee arriving on time when we were misinformed about a 2.00 p.m. start and in fact it was 2.30 p.m. against Claybury Park. Our only Italian scorer at Warlingham and reading the delightful Lesley's (Spot Hughes' girlfriend) score-book. Regular lifts home after cricket matches with David (I don't give any decisions) Andrews who was always insistent I bought him something to eat.

You know most of the rest and if you do take one or two players from the 2's I hope we can have one or two experienced players making contributions, like the venerable 'Uncle Peter'.

Viv Lawrence

### 3rd XI

With the return of Mike Callaghan as captain, the necessity to re-build was paramount, players from the previous two seasons being either not available or required by the 2nd XI.

On 24th June we lost to RACS by 5 wickets, our previous cricket being limited to 2 victories in early May and 20 overs against Addington Village. Not a ball was bowled in 6 earlier matches scheduled. It was a miracle any enthusiasm remained and our poor results, reflecting lack of match practice, were hardly surprising. Only 1 further victory was achieved though we had the better of two draws.

There were many fine individual performances and given the opportunity of early matches the signs auger well for 1985.

Our 2 wicket win against White City Strollers owed much to Dave Ellis, 7-21 and 24 not out. A maiden 50 by Ray Mills was the backbone of the score of 116 against Harvey and an inspired choice of opening bowler (Roy Hunt 6-24) led us to a 17 run victory. John Stanford's 34 (out of 67) could not save us from defeat by RACS. Joe Broadfoot's 77 steered us to a total of 157-6 declared against Hawthorne but it was not enough to prevent the ignominy of the winning 4 being struck by Steve Nelson (questing for the opposition).

Aided by Don Boon in sheet-anchor role, Ray Mills scored 91 out of 195-9 declared against Oxted. Their last wicket pair survived the final 11 overs - and one chance to Ray!

Ex-Blues scored 174 all out (Alan Goodyear bowling unchanged 7-63); Doug Weaver with 50 (his first since 1970) led the run chase but we finished at 146-9. Mark Weaver with 23 and Tim Fish on his debut (34) saw us to 126 against Bickley Park after 61-6 threatened a total collapse. Goodyear (8-44) bowled us to a 31 run victory.

Against CUACO 36-0 became 68 all out and a defeat by six wickets. Only Rachel Dudding with 1 not out and a catch off the skipper could claim any credit and a first for Old Roan cricket.

A painstaking 137-8 against Sydenham was not enough to prevent them racing to an easy 7 wicket win. 'Oz' Osborne's 66 (another maiden 50) was the mainstay of our total of 146 against Bardhill. Goodyear 16-12-10-5 took us to the edge of victory but the 9th wicket pair held out.

On a dreadful wicket Old Brockleians should not have scored 108 (at least 10 dropped catches). Our reply of 19-6 finished at 70 all out thanks to John Hutley's 33 to add to his 3 wickets.

The fallibility of our batting was our major problem and after Geoff Sawyer and Spot Hughes had opened in May, we thereafter tried 9 permutations of openers. A greater availability of John Hutley, Don Boon and John Hardy will hopefully add much needed stiffening to the batting to which Oz, Ray Mills, Tim Fish and the Weavers should ensure we score enough runs next season. Although Alan Goodyear was consistent throughout, our bowling sometimes lacked penetration and we missed a genuine spinner. Mick O'Brien promised well as change bowler but his batting needs much more concentration to fulfil his potential.

The team spirit was excellent, enhanced by the fact that all 6 home games were unaffected by the weather. Thanks to Dave Ellis, an excellent vice-captain (except on the field!).

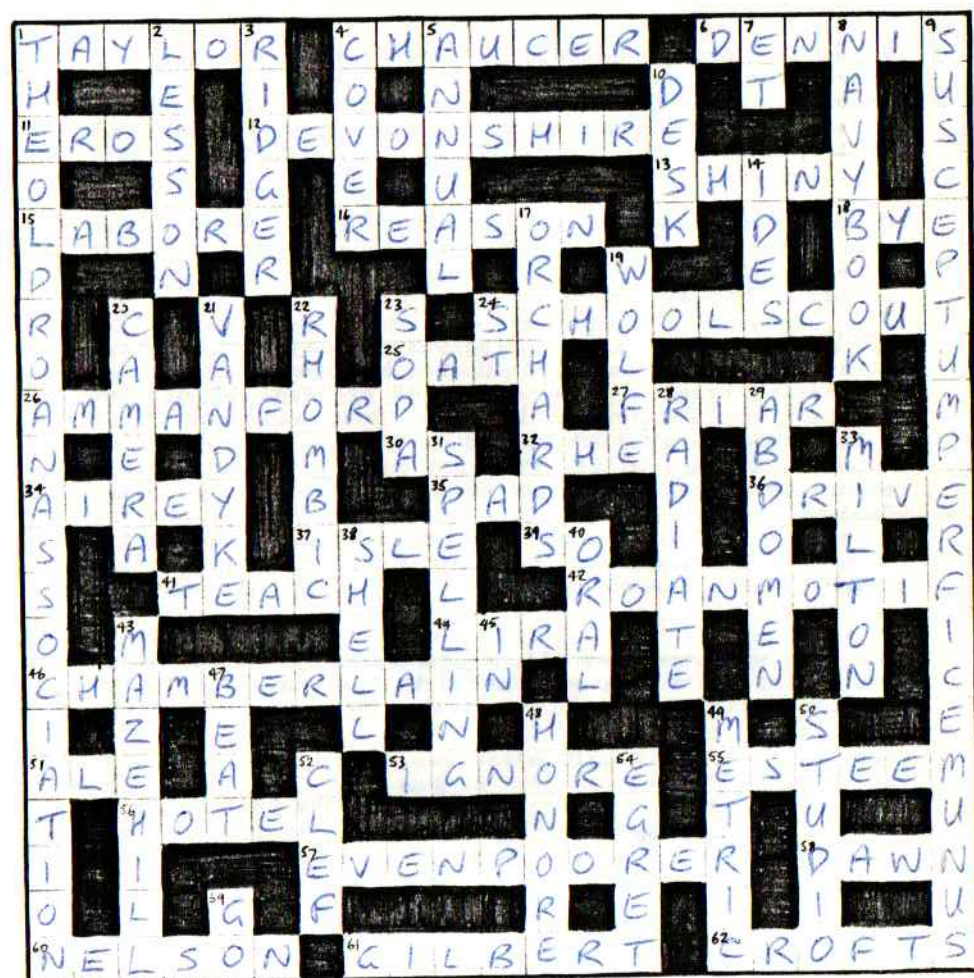
Mike Callaghan

# OLD ROAN CROSSWORD

Millionaire Bingo games may be alright for the amateurs in Fleet Street, but for your indulgence, here it is...

## YOUR VERY OWN PRIZE CROSSWORD!

Many clues reveal answers with a Roan connection, so once you've completed it send your solution (don't forget to include your name and address!) to the Hon. Treasurer, Neal Haslam, 34 Heversham Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5BG to arrive no later than Friday 25th January, 1985. The first correct solution drawn out of the proverbial hat by the President at the Committee meeting on 28th January will win £5.00



## ACROSS

- 1 Presidential head. (6)
- 4 ...here made his music sweet(7)
- 6 Sir Peter, our seafaring benefactor (6)
- 11 Greek god of love (4)
- 12 and 36 West country road (10,5)
- 13 Bright (5)
- 15 see 48 down
- 16 It's not an excuse (6)
- 18 A cricketers farewell (3)
- 24 Scotch soul with nothing is prepared (6,5)
- 25 Taken to emphasise the truth of what's said (4)
- 26 Evacuee destination (9)
- 27 Monk (5)
- 30 A similar adverb (2)
- 32 Ostrich (4)
- 34 Stargazer (5)
- 35 Protection for cricketers (3)
- 36 see 12 across
- 37 Land? I'll say! (4)
- 39 In such manner (2)
- 41 Cheat to educate (5)
- 42 The stag in formation (4,5)
- 44 Lair for Italian coin (4)
- 46 Former headmistress (11)
- 51 In our dialect, it's beer (3)
- 53 Disregard the change of region (6)
- 55 Held high in it (6)
- 56 A large superior inn (5)
- 57 More destitute (4,6)
- 58 It breaks every day! (4)
- 60 He broke his bread in Greenwich (6)
- 61 Headmaster '38 - '58 (7)
- 62 First ORA President (6)

## DOWN

- 1 Ourselves! (3,3,4,11)
- 2 Instructive period (6)
- 3 Eastney Street's first Head (6)
- 4 Ours is green (5)
- 5 Yearly publication (6)
- 7 see 48 down
- 8 Mariners novel (4,4)
- 9 'Finish what you have begun' (9,7,5)
- 10 Made sketch of a table (4)
- 14 As of March? (4)
- 17 Fruit gardens (8)
- 19 A dreamer in our midst? (5)
- 20 A vaulted room (6)
- 21 Broad lace collar (7)
- 22 Diamond shaped (7)
- 23 A spirited splash? (4)
- 24 Diminutive angel (2)
- 28 Emit rays (7)
- 29 Bad omen for the body? (7)
- 31 Forming words with proper letters (8)
- 33 His were mighty days (6)
- 38 An intermediate form at school (5)
- 40 Spoken in some examinations (4)
- 43 Our home at No.141 (4,4)
- 45 Not out! (2)
- 47 How we pound the bounds (4)
- 48,7 and 15 across. The School Motto (6,2,6)
- 49 Counting in tens? (6)
- 50 Formerly the artroom (6)
- 52 Musical pitch (4)
- 54 A heron (5)
- 59 Depart! (2)

## GOINGS ON

The School this term has seen the effects of amalgamation come, in one sense, to an end. We are now a fully established mixed comprehensive operating on two sites. The School is now as it will be - until the next change! That change may be the loss of the Sixth Form. Let us hope not. The signs are, if we are realistic, however that we must work exceptionally hard to keep our Sixth Form in the face of current developments. The effects on the O.R.A. would be great and far-reaching. Your correspondent will do all in his power to keep the School "all through".

I must announce the arrival of Mrs Wynne Austin as our new Deputy Head (Curriculum Development and Planning). Wynne comes to us from Greenwich Park School and brings a wealth of experience and expertise. Already she has impressed pupils and Staff with her commitment and calm authority. The other new Deputy Head (Pastoral) is yours truly. I have moved up a rung and have the task of looking after all Year Heads and the general day-to-day running of the School. I am in current jargon "event-driven" - what some wordsmiths call - "operating under conditions of crisis management". It is very hard work, but rewarding for all that.

Mr Danny Coffey is leaving at Christmas. He is Head of Lower School. He is retiring early and will spend his time running and writing. He holds the World record for his age group (50+) having run 510 miles in 6 days. He is hoping for sponsorship from Medical Companies and Sporting magazines.

The Sixth Form appeal is for a "Transport Ventilator" for Greenwich District Hospital. Every Christmas the Sixth try to raise money for Charity. Last Year they managed £550. This year the target is higher. A transport ventilator keeps premature babies alive whilst moving them from home to hospital or between hospitals. (If you wish to contribute the Contacts are: The School Officers, John Roan School, Maze Hill, London S.E.3.)

You will have heard that Dr Taylor is leaving us - much more of this later. We are at present in the process of looking for a successor capable of building on the hard work that has been achieved in the past. It is not easy to find Headteachers in the I.L.E.A. Let us hope we can find a worthy successor who can continue to maintain the strong links between School and the Old Roans.

The Drama Staff and many others are producing a pantomime in December (13th, 14th and 15th - Maze Hill site). It is, as usual, ambitious and home-made. In compliance with Equal Opportunities' (Gender) initiatives it is called "Robyn Hood" - featuring the Robynettes, Villains, Spivs, members of Staff playing themselves (sic), rabbits, weasels, a horse, the Sheriff of Nottingham and a cast of untouchables. Do try to come and see it.

At the Upper School Prize Evening this year over 60 pupils will receive book tokens as a reward for honest endeavour, achievement, real progress, praiseworthy attitude or just being an excellent member of the School. Prizes will be presented by the Mayor of Greenwich (Cl. Philip Graham). We now try to balance the established traditions of the past with a broader use of the concept of a "prize". I don't suppose we will all ever agree as to whether we should have such things or, indeed, who should have them. The Prize Evening remains justified at present, in my eyes at least; especially when one of the 5th Year men chooses as his prize for Home Economics - Jane Asher's "Party Cakes", and one of the L6th women delves into Advanced Level Mathematics. We are well on the way to equality of opportunity:

"Kissin' don't last, cookery do!"

"You know Billy is a very sensitive child ... He's a peculiarly sensitive child - I'm afraid he's not quite like other children, and he simply hates Mathematics."

Gordon Brooks

## FINAL REUNION AT DEVONSHIRE DRIVE

What a marvellous day the 14th July, 1984 turned out to be for so many Old Girls and former members of Staff at the Girls School. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine it would turn out such a success and be so splendidly supported - 446 people attended!

When Fritz invited me to write about the Final Reunion, I decided I would inject my account with a few personal recollections - a sort of behind-the-scenes story.

Well, it all started to come together in March when the "girls" on the Old Roan Committee got together for the first time to talk about what we would do to mark the closing of the Devonshire Drive site; for once I am going to name names so that due thanks can be paid to the organisers - Hilary Haslam, Jo Hook, Jean James, Mary Jeffery, Kate Moore, Linda Nelson, Terry Tipler, Marjorie Watts and myself. We decided the proceedings

on 14th July should start with a buffet luncheon for former members of Staff and then the School should be open for the whole of the afternoon to allow people to wander round and reminisce. There would be an exhibition in the Library, refreshments available, and a souvenir of the day (a canvas bag silk screen printed with a picture of the Girls School) on sale. That was the general outline - so we set to work making sure it all happened.

After the chore of getting all the invitations out in May (rewarding but hard work), the first thrill I got was when I saw the Reunion publicised in the Press. We had decided we would write to the local newspapers and put a notice in one of the nationals. As a result, there we were in the Personal Column of the "Telegraph" on 6th July and in the "Mercury" and all editions of the "Kentish Times" on 12th July. Mind you, I didn't altogether appreciate the latter printing my name and telephone number when I was inundated with 'phone calls for the next two days!

So the 14th July arrived. (I won't go into details about the day before which some of us spent moving furniture, setting tables, driving backwards and forwards between Devonshire Drive and Maze Hill with crockery, cutlery, etc.) We arrived early to set up the food for the buffet luncheon and all our fears about not having enough to eat disappeared rapidly when all the contributions started arriving. What a marvellous lunch - 67 former Devonshire Drive Staff were there including four Heads, Miss Barnsdale, Miss Chamberlain, Mrs Barber and Mr Billington.

We barely had time to finish the lunch before people were queuing outside the main door waiting to come in. From then on it was a mad whirl. What do I remember - the Library jammed full with people looking at the splendid exhibition; the joy of meeting (and seeing others meet) the members of Staff; the Gym crowded with Old Girls, their husbands and children sitting drinking tea and talking; the queue to buy bags - we sold 140; examining the signatures in the book which we asked everybody to sign when they arrived; talking to Geraldine Sorum (nee Hills) who had come from Norway, and Joyce Marrison (35-41) who wore her school uniform; the squeals of delight when Old Girls found their school record cards (including photographs) which they were able to take away; the sea of faces when we met at 5.00 p.m. in the Hall (so many people, it was full), the rousing chorus of "Jerusalem" and the tears when we sang "Auld Lang Syne".

So many memories for so many generations of Old Girls. What a sad but absolutely splendid day!

Kay Wilkins (nee Gotts)

## LEAVERS 1984

In the summer of '84 the John Roan School 'lost' four major forces within the school. A part of our history changed and we were forced to re-group to compensate.

There can be no compensation or substitution for the loss of people of the calibre of Alfie Knott, Jean James, Jose Collins and Dave Billington.

Alfie's contribution to the life at Roan has been immense and thousands of former pupils recall their schoolhood memories of him with affection. He has taken early retirement and may even return to India to teach. For the moment, he is supplementing his pension with 'supply' teaching. He is still involved with this year's panto.

Jean James left us as Head of Third Year where she had worked hard and successfully. She may also leave the area and start a new 'career' in another part of Britain.

Jose Collins is enjoying her early retirement. She can't think how she ever found time to come to school! Her social life is a mixture of leisure and creative endeavour.

Dave Billington has been Acting Head at Devonshire Drive and left us as Deputy Head. He had been at Roan since 1966. He was less well known at Maze Hill - but leaves a limitless number of fond memories for those at Devonshire Drive.

We welcome Mrs Wynne Austin as Deputy Head (Curriculum and Planning). She already has 27 years' service in the area. She has already made her presence felt. She has a calm, efficient and dignified manner.

At Christmas we will lose the Head of Lower School - Mr Danny Coffey (see Goings On).

To those who have left or are leaving - good luck, good health and good fortune in protecting your index linked pensions!

Gordon Brooks

# New Year's Eve Disco

See out the old, see in the new...  
Make your New Year Resolutions at the  
OLD ROAN CLUB

Contact the Football Club for tickets.

## Don't forget...

THE ANNUAL DINNER  
& DANCE

9th MARCH 1985

Details are enclosed  
on a separate letter

£12.75

## A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting  
will be held at the Pavilion

Kidbrooke Park Road

on

29th MARCH 1985

at

8.00pm

Ideas for that last minute Christmas present?

An OLD ROAN TIE - Stripes alternating with Stag's Heads  
in the Association colours £3.50

A WALL PLAQUE - Hand painted with the full School  
crest and motto, mounted on a  
polished wood plaque £12.00

Contact the Secretary, Tony Slaney, to place your order.