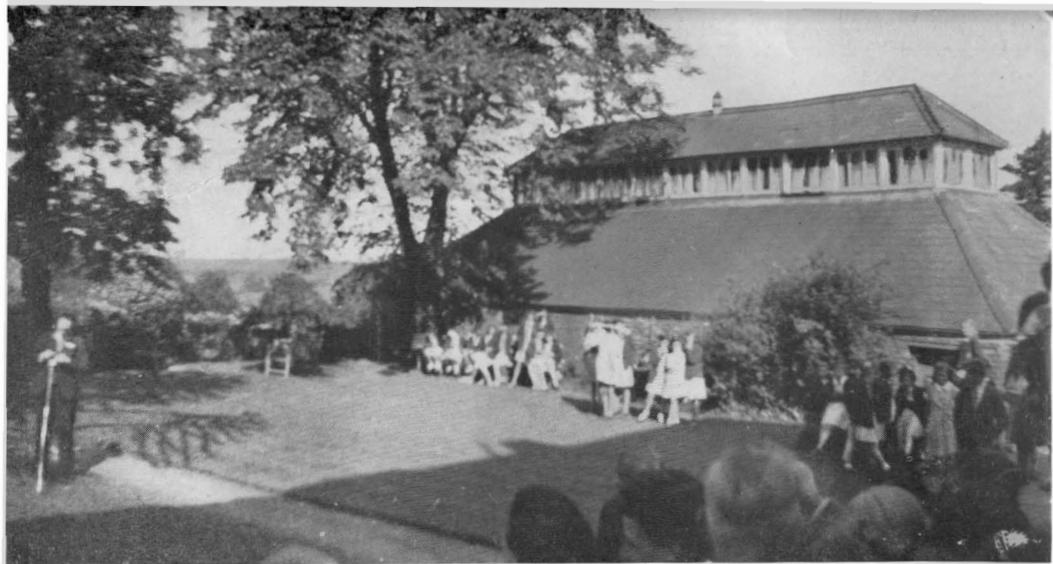




"YE MENNE OF SHEEP-FORD WENDATH WITHERSOEVER THEY WILEN"

1943 THE SIBFORD
MAGAZINE

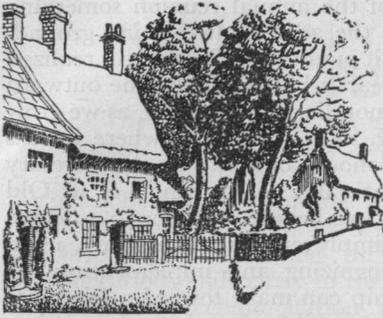
SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION



Francis Thomson (extreme left) waiting to take the group photograph on the lawn outside the swimming bath

One of the groups watching the mixed hockey match at the Hill, between past and present scholars





The Sibford Magazine

THE DEBT BETWEEN US

It is a happy and a lovely thing to renew at Sibford that sense of sincerity, of realness, of living friendship which began in our childhood and our adolescence and grew into the fabric of our life. If Sibford gave us nothing more, we would count it still the source of a valued and cherished experience. We have been led to think upon the nature of that experience, to wonder how so rich a blessing has grown from a period of physical and academic development. To those of his time who were privileged to hear James Harrod speak at the evening reunion on Whitsun Monday, there could be no doubt that the fundamental cause lay in his understanding of education as something more than the pursuits of the classroom and greater than the passing of examinations. More simply, we believe it lay in his practice of being a friend.

In poetic phrase, education is received through the heart as well as the mind : we do not overstate it when we say that an arid intellectual drive is not so much education as a process of partial starvation. Education is defined

ous development of the resources of the human spirit ” ; the young, it is demanded, should “ have every opportunity of growth in breadth of mind, strength of purpose and tenderness of heart ” ; “ discipline . . . should find its effective power in mutual relations of respect and love between older and younger ”. Herein is recognized that relative equality of duty between master and scholar that is in the general field of education so little understood. Those who knew him as their headmaster know that James Harrod had that fundamental sense of equality, know that it was in that same sense that the friendship which grew between his scholars and himself had its source. But the impact of his personality was not confined, wider spheres, including the continuing life of those who had left his care. He gave to the OSA a quality which made its annual gatherings an event as educative as any other item of the school curriculum. We have a vivid memory of the warmth, the excitement, the friendly and exuberant spirit which in our own time at Sibford School pervaded each eagerly awaited Whitsuntide. It was this spirit which made of the Association something more than a mere collection of people

who went to the same school, and of the annual reunion something more than a merely curious return to the adolescent training ground. Is that inner feeling still cultivated as it ought to be? Is it still realized that the social event we enjoy each year is but the body, the outward manifestation, of something that does not die, nor grow less, as we grow old? The letter (extracts from which may be seen elsewhere in this magazine) from the chairman of the School Committee to the secretary of the OSA speaks of "the very great value to the school of its Old Scholars' Association." Those words, we believe, are true to a degree not always fully understood. They imply an underlying duty, upon school and Association alike, of recognizing and implementing the contribution which such a partnership can make toward a friendlier and a better world. The debt between Sibford and its old scholars is a mutual one: to cherish and keep alive that sense of a continuing and enlarging community of friends, the rightful fruit of an institution concerned with the "full and harmonious development of the resources of the human spirit".

OUT OF TOUCH

A number of Old Scholars, some of whom were at one time keen members of the Association, have recently lost touch. Lionel Geering is anxious to have news of any Old Scholar who has for any reason not been in recent contact with the Association, and anyone who can give him news, including the present address of these Old Scholars, is asked to write to him. The following Old Scholars are some he would like to trace.

Brown, Laurence; Darch, John; Eldridge, Cecily; Morrish, Sidney; Morrish, Herbert; Prichard, Elizabeth; Stebbings, Donald; Stebbings, William; Willmot, Raymond; Wilson, Christine.

HAVE YOU PAID ?

The acting treasurer—F. Lionel Geering, 18 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire—asks all members of the SOSA who are in arrear with subscriptions to forward the amount due to him at their earliest convenience. The standard subscription is 2s. 6d. a year.

THE SIBFORD MAGAZINE, incorporating the SOSA Annual Report, is the journal of and published annually by the Sibford Old Scholars' Association. Edited by Leslie J. Cross, 56 Parsons Street, Banbury, Oxon. Enquiries and notices of change of address should be sent to Lionel Geering, 18 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

REUNION 1944—AND THE FUTURE

The 1944 annual reunion will be at Sibford over the August Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday afternoon to Tuesday morning.

The OSA Committee has approached the School Committee on the question of the annual reunions, which are faced with increasing difficulties due partly to wartime conditions and partly to the almost impossible task of finding sufficient accommodation in the village for the growing numbers who wish to take part. Extracts from the reply of the chairman of the School Committee, Wilfred Littleboy, to James Baily, are as follow :

“ Thank you for your letter of June 17th which I was able to read to the Sibford School Committee that day. We gave considerable consideration to the whole question of your annual gatherings. I should like to say at first that the School Committee does recognize the very great value to the school of its Old Scholars' Association. We also recognize that with increasing population in the school your gatherings are likely to increase in size and that your special difficulties during wartime are likely to continue in large measure in normal times. Recognizing this, the Committee does feel a responsibility to you and it will be our wish to try to work out satisfactory arrangements in future years which will give your annual gatherings the continuity which they require.

“ For the moment, therefore, I think I had better confine myself to the immediate situation, and your request for 1944. . . . The Committee, as you know, frequently has requests for the holding of junior summer schools at the beginning of August. They have felt that these have met a very real need and hope to be able to continue to help those organizing such schools in the future. They feel, however, at present that it is a case of either the Old Scholars or the junior summer school, but not both. As far as 1944 is concerned the Committee is prepared to give the Old Scholars' Association preference, and would be glad to let them have the use of the school premises over the Bank holiday weekend (Saturday afternoon to Tuesday morning).

“ I should not wish to finish without re-iterating that the Committee has some appreciation of the difficulties with which your Association is faced in connection with its annual gathering, and will certainly be prepared to try to help in their solution after the war.”

On behalf of the OSA, James Baily has replied thanking Wilfred Littleboy and the School Committee for their helpful consideration of the difficulties facing the OSA.

WHITSUNTIDE 1943

WHITSUN saw once again a goodly gathering of Old Scholars at Sibford. They began to arrive sporadically on Saturday morning, some by bicycles, others by Shanks' pony, and yet others *par excellence* and affluence by taxi. Rumour has it that the tramped all the way from Hook Norton with bag and baggage, but of this there is little confirmation (i.e. we have only his word for it).

It was stimulating to breathe the Sibford air once more, to meet old friends again, and to feel the magnetic attraction of the Prom rail, that admirable institution, so conducive to conversation and so well calculated to leave one with a lasting impression of Sibford School.

The weather looked promising, and the week-end appeared to be starting really well—until Charles Brady had the misfortune to lose his mac. This caused great consternation, especially as our dear Charles felt so keenly the loss of so many coupons.

Saturday lunch was remarkable for several interesting features. It was noticed, for instance, that when the bell sounded, there arose simultaneously

fested itself as coming from numerous privately owned pieces of cutlery, which OS's manipulated skilfully in lieu of castonettes as they leapt eagerly into the dining room. "La cuisine" was excellent throughout the week-end and harassed housewives released briefly from the kitchen front were glad to sample "Roe Soup" and to learn that jam is an excellent substitute for pickles. It may be put on record that in addition to something new in the way of food, there were also to be seen some ultra-modern austerity styles in table etiquette. One OS of some weight and standing was noticed licking her knife with the utmost delicacy, no doubt to save herself the job of washing it up!

On Saturday afternoon we played the school at cricket. Old Scholars were captained by Louis Wright and the rest of the team consisted of E. P. Kaye, A. Goodday, E. Grimes, B. Wright, R. Atkins, D. Heckford, J. Bolam, L. Tebbs, J. Hilling and S. Geering. The spectators saw a first class match with an exciting finish, in a victory for Old Scholars by 55 runs to 53. After cricket we had tea at the Hill where we renewed our acquaintance with the School donkey, who is still in good running order.

In the evening the school gave us a most original Prom concert. They used the boys' playground for their stage, and the audience had a fine view from both the stalls and the dress circle, in other words, the Prom. The entertainment was particularly interesting as it included examples of the type of work being done in the school. There was recorder playing, verse speaking, dancing, and a demonstration of playground games. The young musicians were rewarded for their trouble in the traditional manner, and enjoyed the scramble for pennies after their performance.

Sunday was a leisurely day. Meeting at the Gower, tennis and conversation occupied the morning, while the afternoon saw us all gathering for a picnic at Hill Bottom. The moke was once more in evidence with her faithful soul-mate, one Arthur Goodday, who as usual, brought Selina and the tea safely to the right destination by a

process of sympathetic encouragement. The weather was perfect and we lay about on the grass enjoying the sunshine and the pleasant smoky smell of the fire

This was held in the open air at the Hill. There was a reading by James Harrod, and Jack Hoyland spoke about the life of John E. Glover. There was the usual reunion in the gym after supper, where we had some enjoyable music.

We had a scavenger hunt on Monday morning, and despite the seeming impossibility of the task, some experienced scroungers actually acquired the entire collection, including one feminine bovine quadruped, which they led triumphantly on to the Prom. Sports on the boys' playground followed, and onlookers watched with admiration (not unmixed with astonishment) those PS's and OS's who willingly offered themselves as victims for the various items.

The weather on Monday afternoon was showery, but we managed to fit

affair. The Old Scholars turned out feeling rather stiff and out of practice but very confident

This confidence however, when the school team appeared, looking really tough (especially the centre-forward !). It was an exceptionally good game and we finished

had been raging throughout the weekend culminated in the final on Monday afternoon, Roy Parsons and Peggy Yeoman winning the battle against Richard Atkins and Joy Reynolds to the tune of 6-4, 6-1.

The gym was tightly packed for the Old Scholars' Concert, which went off with a comparatively small number of technical and other hitches. (It may be hardly fair to make the matter public, but we believe the President was at the root of some of the hitches, and it was debated whether he should be summoned for absenteeism. His wife told us confidentially

"business" with some of the committee flappers!) included contributions from all classes of Old Scholars, young and old, shy and bold, campers, tin-hutters and the respectable element, represented by Charles Brady and E. P. Kaye (Charles still lacking his mackintosh) who sang "Forty years on", looking very dashing in tails and toppers. It was also a superb sight to see Lionel Geering, Grace Bunker and others taking their physical exercises so seriously—even though they were ashamed to look us in the face! There was some pleasant fooling by Jim Hilling & Co., some nice nursery nonsense by Doris Wetherall, a carefully censored ten minutes of Kingsley Lawrance, and a large selection of songs and recitations. The last item, a BBC Quiz, presented by Kathleen Rice and umpired by E. P. Kaye, caused much amusement.

After supper we danced in the gym, and during the evening James Harrod spoke to us about some Sibford memories, and also of Mabel Harrod, whose absence all felt so keenly. We had "Auld Lang Syne" and our last rockets in the gym after the dancing, as it was not a suitable night to go up to the Elm.

Some brave spirits cycled in to Banbury Station in the small hours, but the majority of us went our way on Tuesday morning. The

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weekend had been a superlative success in the face of considerable difficulties, and we are exceedingly grateful to those who made it possible. We all went away sorry to leave, but very happy, and especially so as at the last minute it was announced that Charles Brady had found his mac.

EILEEN ("TINGLES") ATKINS.

The following were among those present during the weekend: Atkins, Betty and Richard. Baily, James and Elin; Barnett, Doris; Bizzell, Earle; Bolam, John; Bond, Barbara; Brady, Charles; Brookhouse, Frances; Buckley, Mary; Bunker, Grace. Carn, Elizabeth, Leslie; Caudwell, Paul; Cheshire, Roy; Cottrell, Jean; Coxon, Irene, John; Cross, Leslie. Dumpleton, J. Ehlers, Marion; Elliker, Betty; Ewan, Stanley. Farr, John. Geering, Edith, Lionel, Sidney, Quinton; Gibson, H.; Gooday, Arthur; Green, Elizabeth, Fred; Grimes, Gulie, Eric, Christopher; Grisdale, Irene. Harrison, Marie, Graham, Arthur, L.; Harrod, James T.; Heckford, D.; Herbert, Roland, Eva; Hilling, J.; Hoskins, Roy. Jenks, Hilda; Josenhaus, R. Kaye, Arnold, Edward. Laity, David; Lamb, Edith, Bernard; Lawrance, Elsie, Henry, Kingsley. Neal, Hazel, Richard; Norman, Alice, Humphrey, Bernard. Oddie, Helen, Mrs. Sidney; O'Grady, E. Parker, Brenda; Parkin, Frank, Hilda, Janet; Parsons, R.; Pollard, Wilfrid; Popley, John; Poulton, Louis, Henry; Pugmire, Harold. Quinton, Howard, Doris, June. Reynolds, Joy; Rice, Kathleen, Dudley; Rollet, Vera, Frank; Rose, Harold; Rozen, Franz. Swann, Betty. Taylor, Elsie; Tebbs, L. and M.; Thomas, V.; Thomson, Francis, Pamela; Tingey (now Atkins), Eileen. Wetheral, Doris; Whitaker, Isabel, B.; Wright, Louis, Doris, Brian and wife. Yeoman, Peggy, Peter.

SOSA NEWSLETTER

NEWS of the activities of Old Scholars is welcomed. Items sent to Arthur Johnstone are recorded in a circular letter sent periodically to a number of OS's. The most recent includes the following:—

Eric Parkin married Joy Booty (art mistress at the school) at Sibford on September 2nd. They are now designing toys and equipment for Nursery Schools. Douglas Carn was married at Eastbourne in July. Francis P. Thomson married Pamela Dairy. Joan Roberts, nurse at Aylesbury Hospital. Margaret Roberts gardening at Aylesbury, has been gardening at Eton College. Ralph Townley, farm work in connection with FAU. Hugh Gibson and John Wallis, apprentices at locomotive works, Doncaster. Colin L. Prior, FAU at Addis Ababa. Duncan Cummins, studying Forestry at the Forestry School, Sydney. Sheila Watkins, married (now Sheila Trout), living at Market Drayton. Norman Smith, Australian Navy. Sheila Robinson, second year at Gipsy Hill Training College. Margaret Rundle, third year at Leicester Domestic Subjects College. Jean Sinclair, at Westfield London University, reading for Science Degree. Margaret Herbert, married at Whitsuntide (now Margaret Hargreaves), in charge of FRS Hostel. Margaret Holden, passed B.Sc. Hons. Botany, London University. Alan Cole, open scholarship at Peterhouse, Cambridge. Pearl Mayo, cook in charge at The Laurels (school), Wroxall Abbey, near Warwick. Daphne Ward, training for nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Monica Knight, training at Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Birmingham, has passed Final Orthopaedic Examination. Edith Worall, training for nursing at Royal Vic and W. Hants Hospital, Boscombe, has passed Preliminary State Examination. Betty Laughton,

NEWSLETTER

training at Leeds Hospital. Peggy Yeoman, training as masseuse. Elsie Taylor, secretarial work in London. Joy Phillips, married last autumn (now Joy Shea), husband is CO farmer. Brian Phillips, land work at The Grove, Clent, Stourbridge. Will Roy, RAF, Middle East, and Wilfrid Green, Tank Corps, Middle East, have both done some sightseeing in Palestine. Eric Brown, working for Friends in Madagascar, has two children aged 5 and 2. John Hughes, rejected for RAF three times because of sight, is working on a farm at Sudbury, Norfolk. Janet Dale, probationer at Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, Berks. John Parsons, with Hadfield Spears Mobile Unit in Africa. Keeps up his cricket. Jean Cottrell passed domestic subjects examinations at Bath Domestic Science College, now caterer at Gloucester High School. Peter Yeoman, farming near home. Evelyn Reid, passed nurse's examination at Cardiff Hospital. Rainer Josenhans, trainee at Standard Motor Company. Joan Lock, at Nursery School near Leominster. Stanley Mapp at Bird's Custard Powder works. John Llewellyn Thomas, prisoner of war in Germany (address, POW 563, M. Stammlager 111 D/999, Germany. Anyone writing to him must leave out "John"). Eric Bibby, learning wireless telegraphy in Merchant Service. Ted Best, army in India. Eric Fieber, lance-corporal in Manchester Regiment, married. Herbert Lucas, on a farm near Kidderminster. John Bolam, building with FRS. Roy Parsons, engineering at aeroplane factory. Loic Tebbs, engineering works, Coventry. Arnold Darlington, Citizen Advice Bureau, FRS, London. Frank Smedley, signaller in Navy. Maurice Gardner, farming. Anthony Moore Eddington, farming. Margaret Feist, probationer nurse at University College Hospital, London. Joan Ebrey, completed training as nurse, Birmingham. Madeleine Knight, given up dispensing and is now working at Midland Counties Dairy, Birmingham. Barbara Geering, passed final Guy's Hospital. Peter Payne, telegraphist in Navy, has been training in USA. Lionel Walls, in a drawing office at Wallasey. Philip Westover, banking. Leslie Harrison, helping his father at the Health Food Stores, Northampton. Mary Fletcher, studying art at Reading University. Janet Parkin, studying at St. Hilda's, Oxford. Olive Watson, telephonist at Cash's, Coventry. Rosemary Dearden, studying medicine at Birmingham University. Cecily Eldridge, nursing at Ipswich. David Laity, farming at Loswithiel. Raymond Connell, engineering. Mary Barnett, secretarial work at Friends House. Roy Cheshire, market gardening near Cheltenham. Norah Biggs, secretarial work in a London Hospital. Quentin Geering, studying biology at Cambridge. Peter Blackburn, in the Forces in Africa. Geoffrey Jones, FAU, in London. Ena Hoskins, secretarial work at Farmers' Union, Stratford-on-Avon. Sidney Geering, farming near Brailes. Beryl (Green) and John Gibbs have a daughter. Margaret Green is married and lives at Tysoe. Eileen Pim is married (now Thompson). Margaret Lycett is married (now Whiston). Dennis Butler (navy) is again stationed in England. Dorothy Mould is a probationer children's nurse at the National Children's Home and Orphanage. Meriel Manasseh is farming. Dorothy Hollis is learning baking and

confectionery at Barrows (Birmingham). Eileen O'Grady, training as a nursery nurse at Birmingham. Frank Wealsby and Vivian Lamb are farming. John Poplett, studying architecture at the Northern Polytechnic. Norman Burton, studying building. David Heckford is at the British Thomson-Houston Works, Rugby, as an apprentice engineer. Arthur Harrison, electrician at Stratford-on-Avon Theatre. Joan Oyston, at Maria Grey Training College. John Osborne, RAF. Ruth Osborne is a CO. John Simpson, RAF, Canada. Phyllis Langford, nursing near Worcester. Peter Morton, RAF. Frank Kaye, learning farming at Tarporley. Oina Paterson, nurse at Stratford-on-Avon Hospital. Barbara Herbert, third year at Leicester Domestic Subjects College. Dorcas Harris, Ambulance Driver in ATS. Monica Foss, nurse in wartime nursery, at Harborne. Doris Russell and Cecily Hynand, training at Wellgarth for nursery nursing. Noel Powell, passed B.Sc. in Horticulture at Reading University. Kenneth Stephenson, a "coder" in the Navy. Raymond Basely, Youth Club work at Slough Social Service Centre. Peggy Hancock and Wendy Stone, in Nursery School at Peterborough. Brian Hooper, Assistant Engineer in Merchant Navy. April Fearon, in the services and stationed at Hastham Park, Corsham, Wilts. Geoffrey Phillips, Warden of the Adelphi Farm Community at Diss. Merton Phillips has a daughter (Diana Catherine). Frank Phillips, still at Hoover's. Roland Hawkes, farming. Colin Goodbody, transport driving. Kenneth Wallis, RAMC, at hospital on south coast. Arnold Castree, NFS, at Liverpool. Harold Pugmire, bee-keeping. Terence Cragg, sergeant in RAF, on heavy bombers as wireless operator. Marcus Burt, RAF, reported missing. Charles La Croix, engineering at Worcester. Alan Ladd, married, market gardening. Frank Saunders, Military Police in MEF, in Palestine.

Lionel Geering writes : Eileen Tingey married Lt. William Hodson Atkins, RA, of Bournemouth, at Friends House on December 4th. Reg Barber is now billeted at home (Whitstable) and still smiling. Charles Brady is still writing for his Old Scholars' tie (out of stock for the last 12 months!). Robert Dale is in British Airways Service as telegraphist. Conway Blackie is Technical Sergeant in RAF, North Africa. Harry Goudge left London, is now living at Ipswich, and travelling in boots. Fred Goudge, RNPC, has left Bournemouth for Ilfracombe. Irene Ladell, Land Army at Welsbourne, Warwickshire. I hear that Leslie Thomas (Lt. in AA) is engaged to a girl in the ATS. Jean Dearden is nursing in Birmingham. Colin Goodbody, mate on transport lorry. Hazel Garrett, land work. Dorothy Haines, clerk in the Civil Service telegraph dept. Betty Boyce, nursing at Stratford Hospital, married in April to a Canadian sergeant. Ian Parsons, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Philip Little, farming in Wales. Christopher Little, agricultural tractor driver. Allan Little, in the army. Lily Ratherham, Marjorie Coxon, Joy Reynolds, Hilda Lissaman, Hilda Jenks, Norman Coxon, all visited Fred Sheldon at the convalescent home, Blackwell, Birmingham, before he was moved to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Eric Storey, NCC at Bicester. James Stokes, aged 56, of Evesham, a fruit farmer, died in

October. R. T. White is still teaching in the Council Senior School at Middlewich, Cheshire.

A letter from John E. Murphy, of Selly Oak, Birmingham, encloses a cutting from the *Lynn Advertiser* of September 3rd, 1943, which devoted two and a half columns to an appreciation of Robert W. Errington on his election as Mayor of Lynn. Robert Errington, a prominent Lynn tailor, was at Sibford during the early days of the first world war. Richard Percy Errington, one of his sons, was a popular member of the Upper Fourth in 1917-18, and is now a Treasury official at Lagos. One of his daughters, Molly, was at Sibford for two or three years after the last war, and since then has spent 18 years as a children's nurse at Zomba, Nyasaland. John Murphy is still in the offices at Cadbury's.

James T. Harrod writes : Clifford H. Mortimer and his wife called on me. He seemed to have recovered fully from his illness. He is doing scientific

Inspector of goods supplied to the government, and his wife runs a high class canteen in London. John Bish writes from Lingfield his health has improved. I was at Sibford for a week-end in October to talk about International Languages. In the absence of one of the staff I took three classes on Saturday morning, gave a lecture on Saturday evening, and told the story of Dr. Zamenhof on Sunday evening.

Phebe Read (*née* Badham) sends an airgraph from India to Leslie Baily : Last Saturday I had just tuned in to Scrapbook when a large snake rushed across our garden after a frog. The frog jumped into our pond and the snake after it. Then the introductory music to Scrapbook started and the snake with about a foot of its front portion sticking out of the water swayed to the music. This gave us time to kill it.

Howard Quinton (who designed the front cover of this magazine, and also did the sketch at the head of page 1), writes : I still manage to keep my time fairly well filled up, teaching in the daytime, playing in the orchestra at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, in the evenings, and on Sundays, about once a month, with the Slough Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra is about 70 strong, and we recently had Tudor Davies and Ruth Packer as soloists. Other Sundays have been spent training for the position of an Incident Officer for the Civil Defence in Windsor. Frank Rollett, RAF, has been along to see us quite a lot. He is stationed near here.

Jack Lewis, Inspector of Works at Lincoln, writes : My brother Stanley has been with us for nearly 12 months, supervising constructional work on an aerodrome. Nield is somewhere in the Middle East, Charlie is in Ceylon, and George, with the Post Office, fills in his spare time with the Home Guard. Lilian still teaches, but is also an energetic ARP Warden.

As we go to press we receive welcome news of Leslie Calcraft, in the Stanley Civilian Internment Camp, Hong Kong. He was hit in the left leg and foot during the fighting, but says he is now fully recovered, is well, and weighs "as much as I should". He asks to be remembered to the SOSA and all friends and adds that he is "flourishing and confident".

THE BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the OSA was held at Whitsun at Sibford, Charles Brady presiding. He was supported by the President (Howard Quinton), the secretary (James Baily) and the acting treasurer (Lionel Geering).

Howard Quinton was unfortunately unable to give his Presidential Address. He explained that he had posted it to another Old Scholar, but apparently it had become lost in the post. This was regretted, as it was known that Howard Quinton had spent several months in its preparation, the subject being "Art and Music", upon which he is an undoubted authority.

The chairman read greetings from Barbara Herbert, Margaret Rundle, Elsie and May Harrod, Wilfred and Dorothy Angerson, June Ladell, Fred Sheldon, Ethel F. Shorten (*née* Farrington), P. O. Whitlock, Louisa Gitsham (*née* Wilkinson), Fred and Harry Goudge, Miriam Carter, and Reg Barber. There was also a cablegram from John Parsons (overseas), sent on the system of choice of message by selecting a number from a printed list. In this cablegram, however, something appeared to have gone wrong, for it contained four messages: "Greetings"; "Very pleased to hear you have passed examination"; "My thoughts and prayers are ever with you"; and (on being held up to the light) "Twins Born". It is probable that a mistake was made in the numbers, one of which was one removed from the following message, which would have been appropriate: "I wish we were together on this special occasion, all my best wishes for a speedy reunion."

The following appointments were made: President for 1944, Kathleen Rice; Birmingham secretary, Roy Parsons; committee, two new members elected on ballot, Peggy Yeoman and John Bolam.

James Baily raised the question of OS's booking accommodation in the village on their own at the time of the reunion. The meeting was unanimous in stating the principle that all bookings at the time of the reunion should be made through the OSA. It was felt that this was obviously the right method, but that if individual OS's had particular wishes to be given particular accommodation, this could be stated when writing to the secretary, and every effort would be made to meet their desires. The question of OS's booking their own accommodation and at the same time taking part in the social activities of the weekend was mentioned as one of the anomalies arising when booking was not done through the Association.

The meeting expressed its thanks to the officials and the organizers of the weekend, and also to Sally Walker for cooking the food, to Matron for considerable help with the commissariat, and to Fred Green for his work in keeping the plot of land at the Elm in good condition.

John and Irene Coxon (Five Ways, Charlbury, Oxford) asked if OS's with any photographs of the annual gatherings from 1940 onwards would send copies to them for insertion in the OSA Album.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

The statement of accounts was submitted by Lionel Geering, as follows :

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, August 1942	101	6	10	Printing and distributing Magazine for 1942 ..	26	16	4
Subscriptions	16	0	6	Expenses, Postage, etc. ..	1	0	9
Donations	1	10	0	Balance in hand ..	95	1	6
Bank Interest	4	1	3				
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	£122	18	7		£122	18	7

The Life Membership Account now stands at £248 17s.

June 3rd, 1943.

(Signed) F. E. GOUDGE and F. L. GEERING.

Audited and found correct, J. N. COXON, June 11th, 1943.

THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT

The year has been one full of interest. As will be expected, the boys' new Common Room has been of great value. It was bought and presented by the Parent Teacher Association, and we received gifts of games from several good friends. On dark winter nights boys play bagatelle, or "bob", while others manipulate railway engines, or sit round the stove reading books—a jolly crowd.

There has been a considerable increase of interest in instrumental music, and the end of term orchestral concert has included four members of the staff, one of them being our first 'cellist. Everybody was delighted with the school play, "Pride and Prejudice". The gym was crowded for all three performances and we raised a substantial sum for the FRS.

Our school owes gratitude to many helpers, but we would like especially to mention two Old Scholars, Lionel Geering and Wilfrid Angerson. The former has been an invaluable "Clerk of the Works", always ready to put his knowledge and skill at our disposal; and Wilfrid Angerson has helped us with the wartime difficulties of our woodwork shop. While thinking of good friends, I must also mention the fact that Miss Jones, our valuable Domestic Subjects Mistress, has left, after being here eight and a half years, to take up work with Friends Relief Service.

Marriage has been very much in the air. It began with Beatrice Godfrey (our cook for the past twelve years) and Harry Tanner (undergardener for fifteen years). We gave them a present of ten guineas to show our appreciation of the way Harry had grown and Beatrice cooked our dinners. Then followed Roland Herbert's elder daughter, Margaret. Roland's old colleague, Frank Parkin (not to be outdone) secured our Art Mistress as prize for his son, Eric!

It has been a good year. Problems we have had. Like most schools we have hardly any household staff left, but lest you should fear that we have suffered, let me just tell you this. In July, among the boys and girls who left were two who weighed respectively 11 stones 8 and 11 stones 10, and neither of them was sixteen years old. And with regard to the academic side of school life, we had a record number of passes in the School Certificate.

THE NEW PRESIDENT

KATHLEEN RICE was elected President for 1944 at the annual meeting at Whitsun. It was an eventful day for me, she writes, when in 1912 I joined my sister to become the youngest girl scholar at Sibford. My father, an Old Scholar, and always delighted to have an excuse to visit Sibford, accompanied us on our long journey from Bishop Auckland and left me safely under my sister's wing.

I have distinct and pleasant memories of the fun on the games field, the thrill of playing the wicked Fairy Opal in a musical play



in which I also sang my first

school roof remained firm, in spite of warnings that I should lift it off. In

1915 I was sent to Bishop Auckland Secondary School, where after some grind I scrambled through Senior Cambridge. In

1919 to my great satisfaction I returned to Sibford, this time as a pupil teacher and spent a happy year under the kindly guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Harrod. I remember the enjoyment of playing hockey for a mixed Sibford team, which was composed of school staff and villagers. This team became quite famous for its prowess and strength and was the envy of local teams.

My next move was to Polam Hall, Darlington, and then in 1921, thanks

to my father's generosity, I went to Bedford Physical Training College. After three years' hard work I was turned out a qualified games and gymnastic mistress. I thoroughly enjoyed my four years teaching at Hanley High School—playing hockey for the North Staffs Ladies and being a member of the Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Players.

I have now been married five

fine In spite of domestic duties I still find urge for a certain amount of physical training work and I am at present working one and a half days a week.

I am truly shattered with amazement and awe at being appointed President of SOSA. Never in my wildest dreams have I contemplated such a high honour coming my way.

JOSHUA LAMB

- On the seventh of January, 1943, there died at Sibford one of its finest and most outstanding residents, Joshua Lamb, at the age of 87 years. The following appreciation is by Roland Herbert

FOR three hundred years the Lambs have been yeoman farmers in Sibford, and nearly all of them have been members of the Society of Friends. In 1689, one Joseph Lamb, who no doubt heard George Fox speak at his meeting at "Sibbard", was buried in the Friends' Burial Ground, and since that time one hundred bearing the name of Lamb have been buried there.

Until two years ago Joshua Lamb might have been seen tending his wild-flower varieties of wild flowers, to exist elsewhere. In neat clumps or in long rows were plants which he had collected from all over the British Isles, and it is amazing how even seaside plants flourished especially, the diminutive Sea Stork's Bill (*Erodium Maritimum*) which he brought from Boscastle, grows in great profusion. Botanists from all over the country have been to see this garden and in 1936 the British Empire Naturalists Association paid a special visit during the time of its annual meeting at Chipping Campden. Recent visits have been paid by the Directors of Kew and the Botanical Gardens, Oxford, who wished to acquire specimens for their national collections.

Joshua Lamb also collected 2,400 botanical specimens comprising nearly the whole of the British wild flowers. arranged in large folders in forty-eight specially made boxes. Every winter he examined scrupulously every specimen, dusting and correcting any disarrangement. This collection he had bequeathed to the Educational Museum, Haslemere, Surrey. He travelled all over the British Isles in search of specimens and has written 350 foolscap pages, "Rambles of a Botanist", in which he describes these excursions, which were among the greatest joys of his life.

His active interest in botany started about thirty years ago when, owing to increasing deafness, he resigned several appointments which he had held for many years. He was appointed clerk of the Sibford Preparative Meeting in 1880, and clerk of the Monthly Meeting in 1883, serving for fourteen years. During his clerkship he made an index of all the important minutes of the Monthly Meeting dating from 1736. He also kept a record of all the births and deaths in the Meeting; the first of "Banbury Friends in the Seventeenth Century", and "Recollections of Sibford Meeting" in which he gives a description of the old Meeting House (*circa* 1664) which was replaced by the present building in 1864. "The old building", he tells us, "had a stone floor gallery; the bottom part being divided by huge sliding shutters, enabling the men and women Friends, who always sat on opposite sides in meeting, to hold their own business meetings. Joint meetings were started in 1883. Towards the close of the business meeting it was

usual for women Friends to send in a note asking if men Friends had any business for them, but it was an open secret that most of their time had been spent in listening to what had taken place on our side of the partition, which by no means excluded the voices of our more earnest members."

In his diary, and also in "Reminiscences of Country Life", he records the changes which the years have brought. In 1881 he went twelve miles to see a self-binder at work. The writer of this article has a sickle which was used on the Lamb farm before the introduction of reapers, and J.L. records that when the first reaper was brought on to the farm in 1873 all the men went on strike. Joshua estimated that in his boyhood at least a quarter of the houses in the village were occupied by tradesmen; to-day, there is but an aged carpenter and a spare-time blacksmith. Among the tradesmen he mentions are a wheelwright, a saddler, a barber, a cooper, a tinker, a quack doctor (veterinary surgeon), a "crow-butcher" or "hedge-carpenter", and Susanah Fardon's "Old Shuckey's Shop", where a raisin would be bitten in two to make the weight no more and no less.

Joshua kept rainfall records for over fifty years, and has been a keen observer of the weather; natural phenomena, storms, droughts and great frosts are all described. His hardihood was exemplified when in the great storm of 1893 he worked for hours in the blinding snow to remove the top of the "Old Elm" from the road where it had crashed. The head was estimated to weigh twenty tons, and at twenty-five feet from the ground 257 annual rings were counted.

Joshua Lamb took his share in local government, being a Rural District Councillor, a member of the Education Committee, and Chairman of the Board of Guardians. He was a member of the Sibford School Committee from 1888 to 1898, and again in 1911, and throughout his life he took a keen interest in the welfare of the school, the premises for which were bought from his grandfather in 1841. His first wife, Lucy Sophia Binns, was a scholar in 1866 and stayed on as a teacher until her marriage at Croydon Meeting House in 1882. She died at Sibford on May 10th, 1925, while Joshua was at meeting, forty-three years almost to the minute after they were married. His second marriage took place at Friends House in 1933, when Alice Mary Harris, an old friend of the family, also an old Sibford scholar became his wife. A warm welcome was always given to the large number of visitors who called at the "Family mansion" as the old home came to be called, and very frequent demands were made on Joshua's meagre leisure by his neighbours. He knew such a lot of local history, lore, names and sizes of fields, whereabouts of trees, the yield of springs, footpaths and so on, that he was a veritable living encyclopaedia. For many years he used to walk the length of every footpath in the parish to preserve the Rights of Way. He was a great walker, even in old age, and his habits were as regular as the clock.

His life was lived in harmony with God, with nature and with man, and he was a man of unquestionable integrity, standing amid the storms and vicissitudes of a full and vigorous life "as stiff as a tree".

MABEL HARROD MEMORIAL

- In our last issue we published an obituary notice of Mabel Harrod. The following appreciation is written by Frank Parkin, and contains news of the Bursary Fund which is being raised as a tribute to her memory

The news of the sudden passing of Mabel Harrod at her home in Godalming on November 2nd, 1942, was a blow to all who knew her. From 1905 to 1930 James and Mabel Harrod, at the head of Sibford School, were the beloved parents of a very large family, and when Old Scholars met at Whitsuntide everyone wished for some concrete expression of their appreciation of Mabel Harrod's great service to the school.

During her 25 years at Sibford, by her life and teaching, she strove for that which brings people together in happy fellowship. She was an able scholar, with the ability to impart knowledge in an interesting manner, an art which few command. Out of school she was just as much the leader. Wherever she was, at a Traitors Ford picnic, a women's cricket match, a strenuous game of hockey, or a quiet Sunday afternoon walk, Mabel Harrod remained an inspiration. One Old Scholar writes: "To many of us she brought the first realization of the complexities of the world into which we were growing up, and of the responsibilities we should hold to make it a better and nobler place, with more of the will and understanding spirit which she reflected from the Master she so devotedly served." Another writes: "Our debt to Mabel Harrod can only be repaid by handing on, through our contact with others, the warmth of love and friendship received at her hand." Another says: "She has been in my thoughts so many times since the war began, because her whole life was spent in teaching people to love each other and work for greater understanding between the nations."

When the League of Nations Union was founded, Sibford, under her leadership, was one of the first to have a Junior Branch, and very alive it was. The work of Wilson, Briand, Stresemann, Henderson and others was made real by enthusiastic boys and girls (often in foreign dress), who re-enacted great events. A few fortunate ones went as delegates to the International Institute at Geneva. Letters, written by the branch in Esperanto, brought replies from all parts of the world. Esperanto was heard in the classroom and on the playing field too. With great enthusiasm Sibford scholars sang: "Si estas bonegulino."

The wider circle of towns and villages welcomed Mabel Harrod's visits to its schools and meetings. More than 50 schools in the Sibford district were thrilled by her vivid stories of Penn and the Indians and by illustrated talks of happenings at Geneva.

In 1930 James and Mabel Harrod retired from the work at Sibford. Their three daughters, Gulie, Elsie and May, were then engaged in teaching, and Mabel Harrod was free to devote the whole of her time to her work for peace. She became a full-time lecturer for the League of Nations Union, first in the Birmingham area and then further afield. There are thousands who have warm memories of the keen and

WILLIAM GRIMES

enthusiastic Quaker lady who tried so hard to help in avoiding the tragedy of war.

The last few years of her life were spent at Godalming, where, as Clerk of the local Meeting, she was the centre of the community of Friends. To perpetuate her memory and to continue her work it is hoped to raise a sum of money sufficient to help children, selected by Friends, to come from central Europe to share the friendship of Sibford School. Old Scholars opened the fund at Whitsun, and appointed as a committee to have care of the scheme : Gulie Grimes (*née* Harrod), Henry Lawrance, Roland Herbert and Frank Parkin (Secretary). The idea of this constructive peace effort is now spreading to a much wider circle and contributions are coming from some who never knew Mabel Harrod. All money received is placed in the Post Office Savings Bank, where it will remain until a properly constituted scheme can be drawn up. The number of central Europeans in the school is gradually diminishing and after the war would probably cease altogether, but for the Mabel Harrod Bursary Fund. Up to the present (January 1944), £445 2s. 6d. has been acknowledged.

Contributions, whether large or small (Mabel Harrod always had regard for the quality rather than the quantity of a gift, so that the small donations will be as welcome as the large) should be sent to Frank Parkin, Sibford Ferris, near Banbury, Oxon.

WILLIAM GRIMES

William Grimes, of "Duncroft", Bracknell, Berks, passed peacefully away on August 25th, 1943, at the age of 88 years.

He was one of the oldest and most enthusiastic of Old Scholars, although in recent years he was rarely able to visit the School. years ago he wrote an account of his school days, and a photograph of him appeared in the 1938 issue of this magazine. He regularly sent 10s. a year to the funds of the SOSA, a donation which his great-niece, Ruth H. Grimes, has continued in his memory.

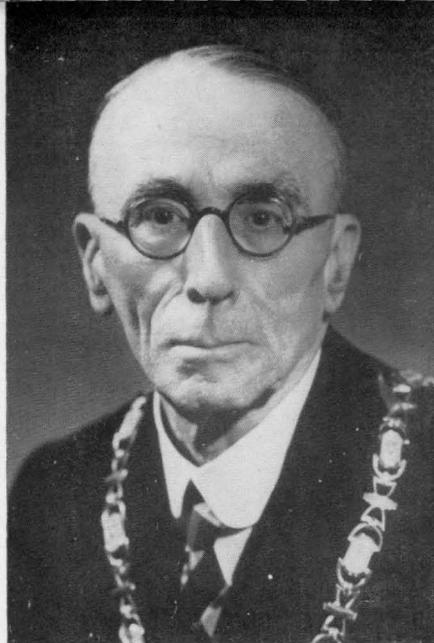
Writing of him, Ruth H. Grimes says, "He was always tremendously interested in his old school, and I found in his desk a notebook in which he had written quite a description of the school, and his doings."

These notes, which have now been passed on to Leslie Baily, editor of the forthcoming history of Sibford School, begin by referring to the contrast between the School in 1868 and 1930, when Wm.

one of his rare visits, and contain items of the customs and habits of school life during his school days. He mentions that the bounds in those days were the steps leading to the old dining room and the gate leading to the field.

girls' schoolroom, and outside this room was a pump and large stone trough where the potatoes were washed before being put into the steamer."

notes, which will no doubt be of use to the compilers of the history.

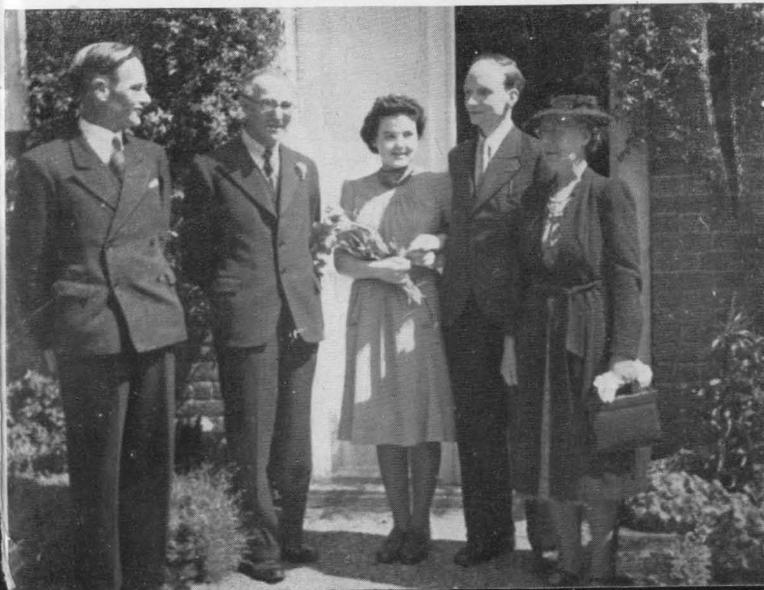


PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS ISSUE

Above. Charles Brady, chairman of OSA Business Meetings by right of conquest, wearing the chain of office as chairman of the Harrow Urban Council, 1942-3.

Top left. Mabel Harrod in Wychford Woods. An article on the fund being raised in her memory appears on page 15.

Bottom. At Jordans Meeting House on May 15th, 1943, when Pamela Dairy was married to Francis Thomson. James Butler (left) was best man. Other OS's present, Elizabeth Holden, Paul Caudwell, Naomi Butler and Nancy Baker.



Front Cover. Molly K. Noakes and Selina at Hill Bottom.

Back Cover. Roland Herbert and his daughter Ina.

Inside Front Cover. Views taken at Whitsuntide by Louis Wright.



"There's a touch of Sibford in my walk . . ."