

# SIBFORD

# 1970

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION



ca.

## PAST PRESIDENTS

1904	Joseph Spence Hodgson	1938-39	Wilfrid Pollard
1904-05	Dr. Richard L. Routh	1939-43	Howard Quinton
1905-06	Michael T. Graveson	1943-44	Kathleen Rice
1906-07	Robert B. Oddie	1944-45	Roland Herbert
1907-08	Joseph S. K. Parsey	1945-46	John Dearden
1908-09	Elizabeth M. Oddie	1946-47	Leslie Bailly
1909-10	Edward P. Kaye, M.Sc.	1947-48	Geoffrey D. Long
1910-11	Charles E. Brady, O.B.E.	1948-49	F. Joy Reynolds
1911-12	Ethel M. Harrison	1949-50	Ronald Ll. Lloyd
1912-13	Arthur B. Oddie	1950-51	James C. Bailly
1913-14	Lucy S. Lamb	1951-52	Ronald Quinton
1914-16	James T. Harrod, B.A.	1952-53	Alice Long and Edward P. Kaye, M.Sc.
1916-19	Elizabeth F. Brown	1953-54	Louis E. Wright
1919-20	Thomas Jackson	1954-55	E. Marjorie-Simmons
1920-22	Mabel T. Harrod, B.A.	1955-56	Reginald W. Barber
1922-23	Frank W. Snow	1956-57	Arthur Johnstone, B.Sc.
1923-24	Ethel M. Sharp	1957-58	Celia Law
1924-25	Frank Lascelles	1958-59	Lewis Poulton
1925-26	Dr. Margaret Brady, B.A., M.B.	1959-60	Vera Rollett
1926-27	Christopher Martin, F.R.C.S.	1961	John Coxon, F.C.A.
1927-28	Miriam J. Carter	1962	Gladys Burgess, B.A.
1928-29	Arnold J. Kaye	1963	George Law, B.Sc. (Eng.)
1929-30	Henry John Randall, C.B.E.	1964	Brian Wright
1930-31	James T. Harrod, B.A.	1965	Betty Thelton
1931-32	Theodora Hodgkiss, B.Sc.	1966	Gulie Grimes
1932-33	Lionel Geering	1967	Gordon A. Wells
1933-34	Jane Sabin	1968	Jonas A. Fielding
1934-35	Percy O. Whitlock, M.A.	1969	Loraine Brown
1935-36	Margaret C. Gillett	1970	Michael van Blankenstein
1936-37	Henry Lawrance		
1937-38	Frederick E. Goudge		

## SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

### RULES

1. **NAME.**  
The name of the Association shall be 'Sibford Old Scholars' Association.'
2. **Objects.**
  - (a) The continuance of the interest of former scholars in Sibford School and its work.
  - (b) The furthering of schoolday friendships.
  - (c) The provision of assistance to the School wherever possible.
  - (d) The encouragement of a spirit of loyalty amongst present scholars.
3. **MEMBERSHIP.**
  - (a) The Association shall consist of Ordinary, Life and Honorary Life Members.
  - (b) The following shall be eligible for membership:-
    - i. Old Scholars of Sibford School.
    - ii. Past and present members of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the School and their husbands/wives.
    - iii. Past and present members of the School Committee.
    - iv. Husbands/wives of Old Scholars.
    - v. Other relatives of Old Scholars interested in the School.
  - (c) Honorary Membership of the Association may be conferred at any Annual General Meeting as a mark of esteem for notable services to the School or the Association.
  - (d) Scholars leaving the School shall become members of the Association only after completing the appropriate application form. The General Committee shall have power to accept, reject or defer any such application.
  - (e) The General Committee, shall be empowered to remove a person from membership for any reason which they think to be good and sufficient and such membership shall cease forthwith. No return of subscription shall be payable.
4. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**
  - (a) Subscriptions to the Association shall be as follows:-
    - i. Scholars leaving school for the year in which they leave 50 new pence, and thereafter £1.00 per annum. Alternatively, a ten year membership of £5.00, including the year in which they leave, to be paid by their Parents with the last school fees. This may also be used as a part payment towards a full life membership.
    - ii. Life membership £21.
    - iii. Married couples jointly £1.50 per annum.
    - iv. All other members £1 per annum.



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**'Streams In The Desert' Pat Baker cools her feet at Traitors Ford while Liz Hockley, Chris and Margaret Fairnington, Wendy van B. and Mike Finch and Andrew look on—Rhoda Finch averts her gaze.**



LILIAN WARD.  
PRESIDENT 1971

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1971 became due on 1st. January. OUR ASSOCIATION DEPENDS ON THEM—please send yours as soon as possible to the Hon Treasurer;

Arthur Harrison  
5 South Drive  
Leighton Park  
Reading  
RG2 7DP Berks.

making remittances payable to the account of Sibford Old Scholars' Association.

Subscription rates are shown in rule 4(a) printed on the inside front cover.

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# SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

**President 1970: Michael van Blankenstein**

**President 1971: LILIAN D. WARD**

**Vice-President 1971: JOHN A. TAYLOR**

## *Officers and Committee from 1.1.71.*

<i>General Secretary</i>	Michael Finch. 34 Teddington Grove, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 1RF
<i>Treasurer</i>	Arthur Harrison. 5 South Drive, Leighton Park, Reading RG 2 7DP
<i>Reunion Secretary</i>	Nicholas Bennett. 17 Scotton St., Wye, Near Ashford, Kent
<i>Assistant Reunion Secretary</i>	Elizabeth Hockley. Flat 1, 62 Northlands Road, Southampton
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Louis E. Wright. Pantiles, West End Lane, Esher, Surrey
<i>Magazine Editor</i>	Philip Beckerlegge. 10 Prior Avenue, Sutton, Surrey

## *Local Branch Secretaries:*

<i>Midland</i>	Michael Gibbins. The Bank House, Harvington, Evesham, Worcs.
<i>London</i>	Grace Beckerlegge. 10 Prior Avenue, Sutton, Surrey
<i>Sibford</i>	Frank Rollett. Grassholme, Sibford Gower, Near Banbury, Oxon.
<i>Resident Officers</i>	Lorraine Spencer. Michael Rice.
<i>Representatives on School Committee</i>	Vera Rollett. Louis E. Wright.
<i>Representatives from School Staff</i>	Alan Jarvis. Frank Cookson
<i>Representative from Friends of Sibford Committee</i>	Heather Macnair

*Committee*

to 31.12.71

to 31.12.72

to 31.12.73

Julian Harnor. Andrew Tomlinson

Elizabeth Hockley. Vaughan Bradbury

Jane Fairbank. Robert Peace

Also members of the Committee are the Headmaster and the Bursar.

*Auditor*

John A. Taylor, ACA.

*Technical Advisor to Editor*

Brian Wright

**ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS TO:-**

*Change of Address*

Membership Secretary—As stated

*Subscriptions*

Treasurer—As stated

*Material for Magazine*

Editor—As stated

*Births, Deaths, Marriages*

Gladys Burgess. 31 Melrose Road,  
Southampton, Hants.

*Advertising Matters*

Brian Wright. 18 Vicarage Road,  
Woking, Surrey

*Photographs*

Christopher Grimes. 11 Mount Drive,  
Park Street, St. Albans, Herts.

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## EDITORIAL

This is the second Editorial which I have written, but owing to shortage of space, last year's was not printed! In it I rejoiced that once again the magazine included the Membership List. This was done at the request of the Annual Meeting. It was felt to be a most important part of the magazine. It enabled O.S. to keep in touch with each other and has been used in place of an AA guide for those who require a cup of tea and a bun—or even a bed for the night.

This issue does not contain the list. Increasing costs have compelled your committee to instruct me that it must be omitted. The cost of producing a magazine such as this have rocketted and while last year's was actually being produced we were informed that there had been an increase of 12% in prices throughout the whole industry. We were very fortunate in our choice of printers that none of this increase was included in our last bill. The only way of keeping the cost per issue of this magazine down is by printing more copies, which means increasing our membership. A number of our readers have friends who are old scholars but not 'O.S.' It is up to them to get these friends back into the association again. Each one—reach one.

The illustrations have been provided by Russell Steed, Geoff Moore, Chris Grimes, Ian Wright and Frank Rollett to whom, Many Thanks.

It is hoped that a full duplicated list of members will be available by the time this magazine is in your hands. Please contact the Secretary if you require a copy.

Finally we must thank all those who have helped to get the magazine out and into your hands, particularly Brian Wright, who has provided the printing expertise as well as obtaining the advertisements, Chris Grimes, who has edited, collated and identified the illustrations, 'Howard' who has provided the cartoons for the review of the re-union and C. B. for the sketch of the New Elm for the Front Cover. Also to be thanked are the advertisers who should be supported where ever possible.



'A Nice Cup of Tea' say Gordon Biggs, Celia Law, Archie Hannay and Miriam Carter.

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Sibford on Monday, 31 August, 1970.

President in the Chair—Michael Van Blankenstein.

The meeting remembered in silence our friend Alex Norman who died earlier in the year.

## 1. *Minutes*

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 31st August, 1969 and having been printed in the Magazine were taken as read and were approved by the meeting. The President duly signed them.

## 2. *Headmaster's Report*

Jonas Fielding gave a most interesting report of the School's work during the past twelve months. This is reported in full elsewhere in the Magazine.

## 3. *Membership Secretary's Report*

Louis Wright reported that membership was much improved on the previous year and he was not quite so pessimistic about it. Several people had rejoined and he had also had several new members join. The School had also helped considerably with their circular which is sent out periodically to obtain up-to-date addresses. This had produced over 80 people enquiring about membership.

He also hoped that local branches would show more enthusiasm and encourage new members.

Louis Wright was thanked by the meeting for his efforts.

## 4. *Treasurer's Report*

Arthur Harrison reported that the balance of the Life Membership Fund, which amounted to £ 646, had now been invested with the Barbican Trust. He also reported that last year's Re-union had shown a loss of £ 30.

He hoped members would do their utmost to pay off their subscriptions as to date he had only received approximately £ 20 in subscriptions since the start of the year.

He also extended his thanks to John Taylor for his work as Auditor.

The meeting applauded its appreciation to Arthur Harrison for all the hard work he puts into his office of Treasurer.

may also be used as a part payment towards a full life membership.'

(a) iii ..... 'Married couples jointly £1.50 per annum'.....

(2) This rule is being changed to incorporate a representative from the Friends of Sibford committee.

#### RULE 6. GENERAL COMMITTEE

(b) ..... 'The General Committee shall comprise:-

Ex-Officio President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Re-Union Secretary, Assistant Re-Union Secretary, Membership Secretary, Magazine Editor, Local Branch Secretaries, two Resident Officers, one representative from the School Committee, one representative from the Friends of Sibford Committee, two representatives from the School Staff, the Headmaster, the Bursar and six ordinary members elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a three year period'.....

(3) This rule is being changed to comply with a request from the Berks and Oxon Quarterly Meeting to re-word the rule.

#### RULE 7. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

(b) ..... 'The General Secretary and other Officers shall be appointed for a three year period at an annual General Meeting. Two representatives shall be nominated to serve on the School Committee coinciding with the School Committee's normal term of appointments'.....

All three amended rules were unanimously adopted by the Meeting.

#### 9. *Colours*

Michael Finch reported that the sales of Colours had virtually ceased during the past two years due to apparent lack of interest. He suggested therefore, that as they no longer appeared to be an economic proposition they should be discontinued and the remainder of stock sold at cost price.

The Meeting reluctantly but unanimously agreed to this.

Susan Holland was to be informed of the decision and to be thanked for her efforts as Colours Secretary.

#### 10. *Election of Committee Members*

The President asked the meeting if they would endorse the following nominations from this years leavers—Jane Fairbank and Robert Peace. They would serve in rotation until December, 1973. The Meeting unanimously accepted these nominations.

Vaughan Bradbury was unanimously elected from the floor to serve until December, 1972.

Elizabeth Hockley was unanimously elected to be the new assistant Re-Union Secretary in succession to Jill Long. The President said that a new Re-Union Secretary to succeed Ian Wright had not yet been proposed although a person had been approached but had required more time to consider.

Louis Wright proposed Christopher Grimes from the floor, but he too asked for more time to consider. The Meeting decided unanimously therefore, to leave the matter with the General Committee for them to make a suitable selection.

11. *Election of President and Vice-President for 1971*

The President, Michael Van Blankenstein, proposed to the meeting that Lilian Ward be the next President and that John A. Taylor be Vice-President.

These proposals were tumultuously acclaimed by the meeting.

12. *Gift to School*

Michael Finch asked the Meeting if they would leave this matter with him as consultations had not yet taken place with the Headmaster.

This the meeting unanimously agreed to.

13. *Next Re-Union Date*

The President announced that the next Re-Union would take place during Eastertide 1971.

14. *Any Other Business*

There being no other business the President declared the meeting closed.

There were approximately 60 members present.



## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

*The President first referred to his recent visit to North America and drew some comparisons between that country and ours and between the outlook of its inhabitants and those of this country. He continued:-*

I would have liked to address you on the subject of social change but Loraine Brown's superb dissertation last year would have made mine merely a pale copy. I hope that you will detect in what I have to say my own brand of radicalism.

Firstly I must say how honoured I am to have been asked to be President of this Association. I must also confess to surprise for my four years at Sibford were undistinguished and I played little part in the Association for many years. Yet despite sixteen years of teaching I still have found composing this address a daunting task.

As your second consecutive Johnstonian President I am going to look back to my life here in the '40s and try to discover what Sibford did for me and to me—for I am sure that the four years contributed strongly to what I am, despite fourteen years of subsequent education.

While the Cotswolds of Thomas Hardy, as described in his novels of rural Dorset and Wiltshire of the mid nineteenth century had passed away the villagers of thirty years ago were still poor, prejudiced and ignorant of the world at large. The School itself had less than two hundred pupils, a staff of under a dozen and fees of £90 per annum. The Sibford education of those days was unique and had been conditioned by its isolation, history, original foundation and lack of sixth form. The education also bore the imprint of the Headmaster, Arthur Johnstone while the protracted war intensified our isolation and threw a heavier load on the key teachers, Gladys Burgess, Frank Parkin and Roland Herbert.

The absence of a sixth form did little to enhance attitudes to study of academic subjects, but Sibford's tradition was non-academic anyway, scholastic pressures were slight in the '20s and '30s and it was just as easy then for the honours graduate to rot outside the labour exchange as it was for a miner. A laudable tradition of craft training produced a number of excellent practitioners and teachers in my day—alas I spent many weary afternoons struggling with dove tail joints! Perhaps woodwork was emphasised too much but it must have been difficult to staff a full curriculum in those days. As a teacher, I would have been wary of living so far from town, with only bi-weekly buses (do you remember Jesse Tanner in his prime). Petrol rationing made a car out of the question, though it was stated that one local member of the bourgeoisie had a ration to go to Banbury to purchase the dinner for his dog—a repulsive terrier.

'A.J.'s lengthy span at Sibford reached its climax during the war. He carried on without a bursar and little capital to counter the depreciation of the

fabric of the school. He ran an autocracy. I can still see him—slight, dressed in tweeds, on the look out for some pupil to carry things to the Hill or to lend that indefatigable gardener, Jessie Johnstone, a hand.

I remember a number of remarkable teachers; firstly Gladys Burgess, strictness itself but leading us in the exploration of English literature. (I recall once, when the girls selected to be the Three Witches in Macbeth proved to be failures, three boys, myself included, did a fiendish bit of 'eye of newt' cooking round the waste-paper basket). Another character was Casto Alonso ('Bonzo') who is still teaching and who was able to achieve that balance between being arbiter and also 'first among equals'. I remember Eric Clegg, biology teacher and friend who is now the Principal of the University College of North Wales.

Besides that other mainstay of the boy's side Roland Herbert, there was Frank Parkin who also died in his mid fifties nearly a quarter of a century ago. He was one of the first great "liberal Studies" teachers. Though ostensibly a teacher of geography and maths his eclectic mind and keen vision led him and us far from the strict bounds of the syllabus. It was he who encouraged my emergent interest in politics, and it is to political education I would now like to turn for a few minutes, for I feel that this subject should stand side by side with religious and moral education in the upbringing of adolescents.

Politics is not something that happens once every five years. It should be an area of human concern relating to the idea of the Good, Justice, Human Rights and also the Practical and the Possible. I first became aware of politics during the Munich Crisis, when at nine years of age I was fitted with an adult size gas mask! It would be four years later when in reply to a question I stated I was a Conservative, because my Father was. I later found my Father never had been one and my reading of social surveys in the Library proved to me that I was not one either. My readings led me to become a rabid socialist, one of those who thought that all the ills of Capitalism could be swept away, workers control introduced and democracy still be retained.

Today we have the sobering experiences of the '50s and '60s. I teach economics, which is a study of possibilities, the drawing of a map rather than the planning of a trip. I often have to face unpalatable truths. Yet I find around me apathy and insularity. We pretend to have equality of opportunity while privilege and class still persist. We pretend that local government is non-political. Power is still firmly in the hands of middle aged and elderly yet 'youth' is worshipped. We have given the vote to teenagers, but the great issues, wars and dictatorships, H-bombs and famine have been ignored. Education, even Higher Education, is aimed at material ends. I can only hope that the teaching I received at Sibford still continues so that coming generations can pursue peaceful change.

Another area in which Sibford shone was that of the arts. We remember Gladys Burgess' productions on that fantastic little stage. Also appreciated (though not by all) was the work of 'A.J.' with his old gramophone and the

music of the old composers. He did not evidently care for opera, particularly Wagner. He was a purist to the last ditch—once in a tirade on the evils of swearing (nowadays standard T.V. words) he likened it to "playing jazz on a beautiful piano". Modern classics, never mind jazz might never have existed for 'A.J.' I derived greater pleasure from that old gramophone than I do now from modern expensive hi-fi.

Though keen on acting I only remember acting 'Bingley' in 'Pride and Prejudice' as later my height ruled me out of further plays. Paul Eddington—now a celebrated professional—then played Mr. Bennett.

We enjoyed doing forbidden things, and kept ahead of the Headmaster in so doing. With a croney, Arthur Grant, we would listen to forbidden popular music and war news on his crystal set, secreted at Burdrop. At our hide out at Temple Mill we consumed contraband tuck, supplied by our parents in parcels with false bottoms. When those ran out we bought and ate anything off ration, including powdered milk! The climax of the summer term was a picnic at Whichford Woods when we made cigarettes from hollow twigs stuffed with foliage and smoked them in nearby bushes, coughing with incipient manhood. It cured me of the desire to smoke when it became legal to do so.

I shall pass a decent veil over puberty though there were, what 'A.J.' called 'clandestine meetings'. We also practiced hypnotism until we found a very suggestible subject, Michael Selby, when we became frightened and gave it up.

In retrospect, we were a pretty wild crew. But the freedom we enjoyed has contributed to the make-up of my generation. We all would like to see the present scholars, products of improved conditions, join our association. I join those who would like the Whit gatherings restored, with the possibility of meeting the upper school. Such a gathering, allied to a joint O.S.-school magazine and rules altered to encourage new school leavers to join will give new life to our association. Meanwhile the Harroddians and Johnstonians hold the fort awaiting the relief forces.

(Abridged)



Rosemary and Jonas Fielding  
play Mine Host to the President.

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## REPORT ON THE REUNION 1970

The Old Scholars' flag flew bravely at the mast head at the Hill when most people arrived on the Saturday for the 1970 Reunion. Jill Long was there to welcome us and direct us to our rooms.

Being a comparatively new old scholar, I wasn't quite certain what to expect but the Highland Dancing which was the main part of that afternoon's entertainment set the tone for the whole weekend. Everbody enjoyed it, particularly when some of us tried our hands—or rather our feet—at it after the experts had finished. Some of us even had enough energy for a swim afterwards!

Great preparations were soon in hand after the evening meal for the Witches and Warlock Dance in the evening. Everybody was in various shades of black while Mike van Blank, presided over the festivities as a sorcerer. Those who had forgotten their Shakespeare remembered snatches of 'Double, double, toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble'. Those who could remember more of the chant sounded as if they were remembering the old school meals—'fillet of a fenny snake, in the cauldron boil and bake.' The games were enjoyed by all, not excepting the smallest children until we finally retired at eleven after an energetic day.

It seemed that no-one stirred on Sunday morning until a quarter to nine. After breakfast we first went to the normal Choral singing at the Hill under the watchful eye of Jonas Fielding followed by the walk to Meeting at the Gower. This brought back memories of old times and we left feeling greatly refreshed. We returned to the school by the well remembered track via Oddie's field, over the stile and down into the dried-up mud at the bottom. The other side of the hill seemed a lot steeper than it had in years gone by. Back at the school there was waiting for us a delicious lunch of roast pork.

The Drama Group (as they were termed) followed the meal with a quick rehearsal for Chris Grimes was also required to act as guide to some of those old scholars who were going on the picnic at Whichford Woods. The weaker members travelled to the site in the various chuck wagons! Those who thought they were tough walked. It was a glorious day and the ice cold water at Traitor's Ford was most refreshing to tired feet. Chris Grimes, stripped to the waist, paddled in the water looking very much the latter day John the Baptist. Only one of our party received total immersion—I'm revealing no names but the Secretary's wife knows who it was. I'm sure the sign posts were all turned round for our destination seemed to recede as we approached up and down—but mainly up—the Cotswold lanes.

Eventually all arrived to a very welcome cup of tea and a sandwich. Though some of us started walking back to the school a shuttle service of cars was laid on which soon brought us all back, to prepare for the evening meal and meetings. The guest from the School Committee this year was Peter Bur-

guess who had come with his family to be with us, leaving his tomatoes to ripen unaided in Guernsey. He spoke to us shortly and later we had a most interesting talk from Joy Speirs. Her subject was on the work of a 'vet' which we expected to be somewhat humdrum and full of farmyard animals. This was quite interesting but it became exciting and hilarious when she described her professional calls on circuses visiting the area. Her training had not included information on quantities to be used in injecting elephants or zebras. Sometimes it was a case of getting hold of the animal in other cases she had to ensure the animal did not get hold of her.

Following a cup of coffee the more energetic indulged in 'Country Dancing' and this included some of those at the older end of the membership. Under Chris's instructions and 'Calling' we learned some dances which were never taught when we were at school.

Midnight saw us doing 'Rockets at the Elm.' This old custom was new to some but we are assured that it has been performed in the most unlikely places—including London main-line railway platforms and even on Tower Hill in London. After two attempts we eventually managed to get a good 'blast-off'.

Monday morning was cloudy but it was set aside for us to do our own thing. Some played tennis or table tennis while others went to rehearse for the evening entertainment. In the afternoon there was the School v. Old Scholars Cricket Match when Mr Wollerton played for the school. It was most



The President



'We're Such Devoted Sisters'

successful for the O.S. won! To celebrate we went down to Holly House for tea on the lawn which Marjorie Fielding had laid on for us. The Annual General Meeting and the Presidential Address are to be found elsewhere so I won't report on these.

'Not Only—But S.O.S.A.' was the name of the review put on by the O.S. One or two items remain in my mind—Ian Wright miming 'Soldier, Soldier, won't you marry me' with Pam Harrison to a guitar and sung accompaniment by Wendy van Blank; a pair of glamorous and buxom blondes—Mike Finch and Phil Beckerlegge—singing 'Sisters, Sisters, there were never more devoted Sisters' and a sketch on the adventures of a piece of chewing gum. But there was a lot more than those.

Following the entertainment all went down to the paddock for the Bonfire with baked potatoes, coffee and cheese. Even then some of us had not enough of the Sibford spirit for we went up to the Rolletts for more coffee and biscuits and talk of Old Scholars—some still with us and others only memories in the hearts of their friends. At last the time to go was inevitable.

Tuesday saw the end of the reunion with the departure of the last of the Old Scholars. We are now looking forward to the next one!

*Margaret Crowe.*

Among those who attended the Re-Union 1970 were:-

Michael van Blankenstein (President) Wendy, Guy & Jolyon, Loraine Brown (Immediate Past President) Philip, Philip jun. & Peter. Patricia Baker, Margaret Crowe, Brian and Ethel Wright, Elin Baily, Chris Grimes, Celia Law and Archie Hannay, Janet Eavis, Peter Yeoman, Lewis Poulton, Jonas and Marjorie Fielding, Wilfred and Mabel Pollard, Norman Coxon, Leslie and Christine Harrison and family, Francis Loftus, Francis and Barbara Rush with Christopher, Peter and Martin; Paul Billings; Peter and Diana Burgess with Philip, Timothy and Ellin, Louis and Doris Wright, Florence Beetlestone with Joy and Jonathan; John and Monica Taylor and Gordon; Mary Mascaro, Michael Gibbins, Susan Gibbins, Elizabeth Hockley; Esther Jackson and Angela; Olive A. Dalley, Irene Coxon and David Coxon; Raymond and Margaret Shelley; Ian Wright, Miriam Guest, Norma F. Weatherall, Grace and Philip Beckerlegge and Elizabeth; Russell Steed, John Farr, Margaret and A. Fairnington, Patricia Bates, Peter Marlow, Harold and Connie Cunliffe Irene and Alan Eavis, Geoffrey and Jean Moore with David, Peter, Jill and Heather; Leslie and Margaret Baily, Robert and Alice Rose, Elsie Randall, Gordon Wells, Vaughan Bradbury, Alan Evans, Jill Long, Chris Fairnington, Eddie and Margaret Goudge, Frank and Vera Rollett, Brian White, H. J. Shields Patricia Syrett, Arthur and Pam Harrison with Nicholas and David; Michael and Rhoda Finch with Andrew; Vic and Joyce Butler; Norman Myall, Kevin McGeoghigan, Neil R. Spencer, Robert Monks, Geoffrey and Joan Long, Gordon Biggs, Lily Baker, Andrew Butt, Miriam Carter, Jan Elias, June Ellis, Philip Manasseh and family; Jim Thelton, Stephen Vincent.

We apologise for any omissions in the above list, which includes about 125 visitors.

## HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Those of you who have visited Sibford this year will have seen the latest developments at the Hill. Chief among these is the new Sixth Form Centre. Our present Sixth Form has some thirty-five students of whom roughly half have been doing the Advanced Level work that to most people is Sixth Form work. Of this year's leavers in this group, five are going to Colleges of Education, and one each to Music College, College of Art, Polytechnic, Agricultural College. The other half of our Sixth Form have been following a one year general course to enable them to obtain qualifications not possible in the Fifth Year. Of the sixty-five in the Fifth Year, twenty odd will stay on. The leavers from the Fifth and General Sixth aim almost entirely at Further Education, to enter courses in such things as catering, nursing or nursery nursing, farming, hotel management, photography or veterinary nursing. Last year's Fifth Year candidates offered one hundred and fifty three Papers in ten subjects for C.S.E. with seventy-three passes of Grade Four and above. In G.C.E. two hundred and fifty Papers were sat in twenty subjects with one hundred and fourteen Passes. Next year will be unusual for us in that three pupils are to join us at Sixth Form level.

Until we have the new accommodation in use our resources will be strained to the utmost. The situation in the school generally will be made worse by the fact that the Fifth is smaller than usual and in order to keep the school full, the Second and Third Years may have to be three streams. The higher fees do not, as yet, seem to have deterred applicants for boarding places, but are undoubtedly robbing us of day pupils. It is particularly saddening when they are children of Old Scholars. We have been pleased to meet the needs of Local Authorities in search of boarding places for children in need, but have had to be more cautious this year in offering places. But with twenty-four different Local Education Authorities represented, I suppose we ought not to have any twinges of conscience on that score. So much for some of the new administrative problems.

In the social life of the school, though the basic ingredients appear the same, there has been a feeling of change. May I, therefore, at the outset pay tribute to my colleagues on the teaching staff for their untiring efforts not only in the classroom but in the field of pastoral care, in the Houses and Sick Bay, and for the way they have provided opportunities for self-expression in sports, activities, excursions and the like, for I cannot enumerate all. Sports Societies, Scouts, Drama, Music, Art, Hallowe'en, the Eisteddfod, theatre visits, educational journeys, these may be only mentioned. Yet in these more than anywhere even we, the teachers, are surprised by the new insights we have of our pupils. That is what teaching is about.

The first thing to note is what industry might call the Joint Consultative Committees of staff and pupils which have been far more active and wide in their discussions. I refer to the Charities Committee, the Social Commit-

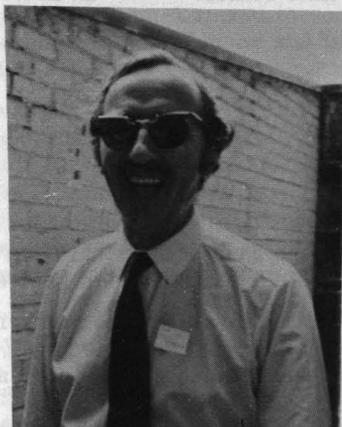
tee and (for this generation) the newly-formed School Council. This last has concerned itself mainly with clothing, the Prefect system, Sunday walks, Fifth Form privileges, menus, smoking and of course, school meals had to be included. We now have a cafeteria coffee and rolls Sunday morning breakfast, and some stalwart fighter for the rights of men even suggested that clearing away the breakfast cups might be a girls' Office. I don't know if one can read through the lines when somebody is presenting a report in this way, but those who can will have noticed that there are, in all this, signs of a new student approach. Compulsory attendance at Sunday Morning Meeting has been a favourite target for attack. We have made a few cautious sorties from our position of strength (if the metaphor may be forgiven) and have offered choices by way of an alternative Meeting at school or have taken car loads to smaller nearby Meetings. I cannot do better in speaking of Sunday Evening Meeting than to quote from one of the Newsletters issued by the 'Friends of Sibford'. Two parents wrote: 'The high standard of speakers at Parents Weekend is well known, but each Sunday during term a short service is held in the school hall at 6.45 p.m. In the past it has been a speaker or preacher from different denominations, or members of Staff. During the past year there has been a variation on this. On several occasions a group of the young people have led the worship, their theme expressed through poetry, passages of scripture or song. There is a young lady who can sing and play the guitar as well as anyone on 'Top of the Pops' in our opinion. Every service is worship in one way or another. There is not time to mention it all, nor have we been able to attend every week, but we shall remember the young blind singer who enchanted us by her lovely voice and choice of songs, and her very able accompanist. The young people made her feel their appreciation by the warmth of applause, though she could not see the pleasure on their faces. A member of staff showed us with slides and a talk about the work in an African school where he had taught before coming to Sibford, and brought home to us all the advantages we have, and take rather for granted in this country.' That description epitomises for me the way in which our parents are as much part of the school as are the Old Scholars. This year has seen the beginning of links between these two groups which should be greatly to the benefit of S.O.S.A. Some members of the Old Scholars Association have had doubts about the newest association supporting the school—the Friends of Sibford. I hope that these will be dispelled as the two committees learn of each other's work. During the year there have been several happy occasions when Old Scholars met the school. We have had several sporting fixtures with the Old Scholars and a pleasant Saturday evening's entertainment by the London Branch.

Work abroad, further study and marriage have taken more teaching staff than we usually lose in a year; in the remaining case, Sibford's loss has been Bootham's gain. We also lost one who has occupied a key position ever since I have been here—the Bursar, Leslie Tucker—and Old Scholars have reason to be grateful for his help in solving accommodation problems at the annual re-union.

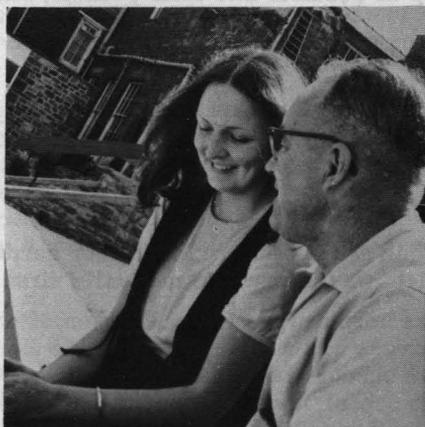
I end by quoting from two sources—'Children in Distress' (by Alec Clegg and Barbara Megson) and 'The Sins of the Children' (by the Scottish school-

master R. F. MacKenzie). Sir Alec points out the damage done by the excessive exaltation of intelligence: 'We over-rate the quality by which the clever advance and we discount greater qualities which some of them and some less clever than they possess. . . . . If a child suffers in his own home and is also made to feel that he is of no account, as he moves into the adult world his chances of achieving happiness and success as a worker or a citizen, or indeed as a member of society, are likely to be very greatly reduced. It is difficult to believe that some of these factors are not already at work in the United States of America, that they have not begun to work here.' I hope Sibford is helping here to make people feel that these other qualities do matter. Turning to MacKenzie and his Coal Town School, one feels a greater certainty that we might play a similar role. 'Because of the permissive, relaxed and, I believe, therapeutic atmosphere 'difficult' pupils (and pupils who have run away) from other schools are sent by psychiatrists, probation officers and other headmasters to the Coal Town School. It was as if the other schools felt it wasn't their job to deal with these rejects.' Both these men give clear warnings that an educational framework cannot, as such, meet today's need. It can only succeed if all human beings can be treated with the same respect.

It is, I suggest, within the power of this school to continue to meet the need outlined here by maintaining a sound, healthy community in which people matter. It is good, right and natural that our older Old Scholars show respect for their former teachers for their expertise and their humanity. There have been men and women of great devotion and skill—as skilled as the thatcher and the weaver of plush that this countryside produced—I can see no reason why the present generation should not think of their teachers with the same respect and affection.



Your benevolent Editor



Frank chatting up Jill

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

Once again, the School Committee have embarked on extensive Building Plans. Old Scholars who attended the Annual Reunion, saw the Science Block almost completed, and the start of a 6th Form House, now the New Hall, is well on the way. Whilst at the Committee Meeting on the 13th October, 1970, I saw the Steel Structure going up and infilling of Brickwork beginning. This Building, incidentally, is going up on the Paved Courtyard in between the Woodwork Shop and the Gym, which has been used as a Hall of course, for a number of years. Now that the School has 300 plus Pupils, this is quite inadequate.

It rather reminds me of the old Gym at the Manor, how that had to be given up because it was bursting at the seams. Many Old Scholars then said the new Hall/Gym will never be quite the same, but my guess is that few remember the crowds we used to cram into that old Gym. Now the New Gym is proving just as inadequate, so progress marches on.

So too are the Boys and Girls Houses too small to House the number that want this type of Education. Hence, the 6th Form House which has rapidly risen to 1st Floor. This is being built where the Childrens School Gardens were and in later years the Potting Sheds and Greenhouses.

Henry Long has just joined the School Staff as Senior Maintenance Man, a good choice. John Miller is the new Bursar in place of Leslie Tucker who has taken up an appointment in Oxford. Brian White is the new assistant Bursar, many of us met him at the Annual Reunion and he was persuaded by an indefatigable Membership Secretary to join S.O.S.A.

All this Building work, of course, leads to money, and money means Appeal. Some of you have already been approached, and others will be in due course. Something like £50 to £60, 000 is required, so will all Old Scholars dip as deep as possible into their pockets, when the time comes. L. E. W.

## PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE 1971

*Lilian Ward writes:-*

A squirrel has just run along our garden fence and I remember that such a sight was unknown to me until I first went to Sibford at the age of twelve.

I was born and grew up in London, attending first a private school where my progress was not very remarkable and my parents transferred me to a state school where matters improved. Fortunately, instead of going onto a High School, it was decided that I should go to Sibford. I shall always be grateful for this decision by my parents. I know it was not easy for them but I loved it from the beginning. So often when I trace events in my life—friendships, and even my marriage to John—Sibford is there at the beginning.

I was fortunate in having two years with James and Mabel Harrod and their staff—Herbert, Parkin, Thorpe, Pim to name a few. Then came the building of the Hill and Arthur and Jessie Johnstone, with Gladys Burgess as our new headmistress.

After six happy years I left and went into a solicitor's office as a junior. Two years later I transferred to another firm of solicitors and these are the only posts I've had since leaving Sibford.

In 1941 John and I were married at the Meeting House at Sibford and our friends joined us afterwards in the beautiful house which later belonged to Leslie and Margaret Baily. We moved south of the Thames after the war and have been in our present home for nearly twenty years.

John and I have always been keen campers and through our annual holidays on the Continent have made many lasting friendships and our friends from Austria, Germany, France and Italy come to visit us in our home. Through these connections we have become interested in languages and I hope to have more time to study when not so taken up with my work.

As a legal executive I am fortunate in dealing with people every day and I particularly enjoy the adoption work in which I am involved.

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

Last year I appealed for help in increasing our Membership without much response, but nevertheless with the help of the Headmaster, we have got quite a number of new Members, some not having been Members before and some rejoining. I appeal to you again, please whenever you meet one of your contemporaries, if he or she is not a Member, do endeavour to get them to join.

I was very happy this year to find quite a number at the Annual Reunion whom I did not know. This is good because it does mean that it is not the usual few supporting S.O.S.A. I would like to say that this was one of the best Reunions that we have had for years. The weather was very good, the Programme was very good, and the food excellent. The good fellowship was well worth the effort of going, try it next Easter when we shall be meeting for our next Reunion.

Remember S.O.S.A. stands or falls on your support, do not just sit back and say it does not matter, but do something about it, and do not say I did not go back because I would not know anybody, you jolly soon will. I hope the Editor has enough space in the Magazine to print the names of those members attending this year, and you can look up and see whether there is a name there that you know. If not, come and next year someone will see your name and be encouraged to come.

## MABEL HARROD BURSARY FUND

*Last year the Fund helped to pay for two scholars—Pat Lear and Jane Brown—to undertake a course in France. We have seen their report and think that Old Scholars would like to see how this fund is used. Here is, a shortened version of their most interesting report.*

First we would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity of being able to undertake this course; as much as possible was crammed into the ten days stay and a good balance was maintained between work and pleasure. Equally it was good that the lecturers and those in authority were young and good fun.

The journey was by train from Euston to Ramsgate and thence by Hovercraft—a most enjoyable experience. It was very smooth and more like flying than sailing. Our journey from Calais revealed how flat and poor Northern France is; for we saw horses pulling wooden ploughs and even two young children 'broadcasting' seed.

The students on the course were housed in five 'Pavillons' of different colours, ours was Pavillon Bleu. There were forty girls to each pavillon and we were rooming with three from Lincoln, others came from all parts of the United Kingdom. Each pavillon had a tutor, a French guide, two assistants, a house mistress and two lecturers! The latter divided the 40 girls into two for the morning lessons. After breakfast at 8.15 we started work at 9 a.m. and for an hour had 'phonetiques' followed by an hour of conversation. We would then have a lecture either on general subjects or on a particular subject, such as 'Le Theatre Contemporain' or 'Balzac'. As the entire morning was conducted in French the work was demanding and required much concentration. We often felt brainwashed and enjoyed lapsing into English over lunch.

The food was well-cooked, very attractively served and plenty of it. (Here they give a sample menu). The afternoons were either in groups or free. The first afternoon we went to the Chateau de Versailles which was at the end of the avenue where we were situated. It was very interesting, but somewhat in need of renovating. We later got lost in the town and on our return had to be admitted by the concierge.

Another day we spent sightseeing in Paris by coach, I thought the area round the Sacre Coeur particularly lovely, though the interior of the church was disappointing as it reminded one of a noisy tourist market. We saw the other usual tourist attractions. One evening we went to the theatre in Versailles to see some sketches and extracts by one of the authors whom we had been studying. I particularly remember the sketch—'L'oeuf Dur'—the actor spoke for fifteen minutes on how to boil an egg! We took the opportunity to visit the 'Jeu de Paurve' exhibition at the Louvre including

works by Manet, Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh etc. Pat, who is doing Art 'A' level and studying the 'History of Art' found this visit most helpful.

Another afternoon we visited the Palais de Justice where Marie Antoinette was imprisoned and beheaded. We also inspected Notre Dame and Saint-La-Chapelle, the latter we found garish, though its stained glass windows were beautiful. On Easter Day we went to Fontainbleau, passing through the most interesting village of Barbizon. We found the Chateau of Fontainbleau very beautiful and much better cared for than Versailles. Other free afternoons were spent absorbing the atmosphere of Paris.

The last day, Thursday, was occupied in the morning with the finals of the Concours competition. In the afternoon we had the closing ceremony in which the Mayor of Versailles and the Head Mistress of the Lycee joined. In the evening staff and pupils joined in performing some highly amusing sketches, singing and dancing, a Scotch girl did a Highland dance while a French teacher gave a display of Basque dancing.



'Proud Mum' Monica Taylor chats with Doris Wright.

Weighty Conversation between President and Secretary, while David Moore looks on.



## THIS MAGAZINE

Printing, to most readers, conjures up pictures of Caxton and his first printing machine (if they remember their history) Martin Luther and his wooden soldiers (if I remember my history) and possibly John Bull Printing Outfits—Instructive and Amusing—if you remember your childhood.

Some of you may have been inside printing works, with the racks of metal type and the compositors assembling the text, letter by letter, either up side down or wrong way round. Each line was fixed in a box and eventually the whole lot was fastened in by means of wedges. This 'box' was fastened into the printing machine, ink was rolled over it, the block of type was pressed onto the paper, and hey presto, there was the printed sheet. It sounds simple, but there were a lot of specialised skills involved, particularly in the composing room, where each letter had to be in its right place exactly.

This magazine has never seen the inside of a composing room! It was set up on a typewriter—but a special sort of typewriter. It is electric and has five different spacings available for the different letters. Most typewriters have only one space and it is therefore the same whether the letter is narrow as for 'i' or wide as in 'W'. It is this characteristic (uniformity of spaces) which is recognisable in typewritten matter. A lot of time in the composing room is spent in 'justifying' the matter (not Martin Luther this time). Automatically all first letters in each line start underneath each other. In typeset printing, the right hand side also has to be uniform, with the last letter of each line underneath each other, this is known as 'justifying'. Time has to be spent in doing this by packing in blank spaces between the words, so that the spaces between the words are roughly equal. This increases the cost considerably, but is done, not only because it is the recognised thing to do but to ensure that all the lines of type are equally held by the wedges.

This 'justifying' of the right hand side can be done on the typesetting typewriters electronically. When each line is typed, the appropriate button is pressed and the typewriter works how many spaces are left to complete the line. It then works out how this spare amount of line can best be split between the words on that line; the line is then typed again and the machine itself spaces each word accordingly, so that the right hand letters are underneath each other. However, it increases the cost and it has been found that an unjustified page is easier to read than otherwise.

Though the typewriter is limited to the number of characters on the keyboard, modifications have been made enabling an extremely wide range of other characters, mathematical signs etc. to be easily incorporated. Also, complete sets of type face, e.g. italics or bold, instead of standard type, can be fitted in a very few moments. For this magazine two sets of characters have been used, one for the text and one for the headings. After the matter has been typed, proofs run off and corrected, it is photographed from the

type size down to the final printing size. Both the text and the membership lists have been produced from the same typeface, the latter having been reduced to a greater extent than the former. The photographs are first reduced to a size onethird larger than the final size onto the proofs and then reduced to the final size for printing. This ensures greater clarity and the whole method eliminates the need for expensive blocks.

Eventually the whole of the text, including the illustrations, is photographed onto a sensitized metal plate, which is then treated to enable it to be used for reproduction. The plate is large enough to take 32 pages of this magazine, so two plates are sufficient for the whole of the book. The machine which prints it takes both plates together and prints at the rate of 3,500 sheets per hour—double sides—with 32 pages to each side. So our requirements are produced in about ten minutes on the machine. If our membership—and the sale of the magazine—were doubled, then it would only take another ten minutes to print those extra copies and the cost, per copy, would be nearly halved! It's worth thinking about.



Hungry picknickers

## FRIENDS OF SIBFORD SCHOOL

In order that there shall be the fullest knowledge of the Friends of Sibford School, here, from its constitution, are the objects of the Society.

'The objects of the Society shall be to further the education of the pupils of Sibford School and in particular

- (a) To unite all friends of the School, in particular past and present parents of children at the school, pupils, old scholars, members of the staff and the School Committee, into a body to foster continued interest and support for Sibford School.
- (b) To provide or assist in the provision of funds for new buildings at the school and improvement of existing buildings.
- (c) To provide bursaries and scholarships for boys and girls entering, studying at or leaving the school.
- (d) To provide additions or improvements to the equipment and amenities of the school.'

Behind this formal statement is a desire particularly to keep contact with many well-wishers who have interests in the school and who would not have come into contact with the school through the Old Scholars' or the Parents' Associations. Many such are now advanced in years and are grateful to have up to date news of the school. The despatch of this newsletter has, up to now, been the main activity of this new group. Here is an extract from the latest letter to give you an idea of the kind of thing sent out:-

'When we last wrote there was not a great deal of the Summer Term left, but what a lot there was to pack into it. We worked hard and played hard and even after examinations were over, the work projects of the students make an interesting list—farming, fencing, painting and decorating, cleaning, gardening and clerical work. General Meeting was a day of great activity with pupils dashing from participation in the Fashion Show to sing in the Music Concert or to take part in the sports. It appears to have been an enjoyable day both for the school and for our visitors, too. For the Charities Committee the day presents the greatest opportunity of the year for fund raising. The sponsored swim raised £100 2s. 6d., the shoe cleaners £1 18s. 0d., the bring and buy stall £13 9s. 8d., sale of handmade jewellery £15 5s. 3d., car washing £5 10s. 0d., profit from tuck shop sales £4 0s. 0d. This year the money went to "Shelter".'

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## LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

Dear President and all O.S.

We very much hope that you had a good reunion and wish we were 9,000 miles nearer!

We were married at Christmas by the Registrar in what was the Bristol Meeting and after two months of work, spent March rushing round the U.K. for goodbyes, and flew to Perth for the 1st. April. We stopped in Istanbul for three-days of mosques and monuments, Bosphorus boats and Turkish traditions, then over snowy peaks for a day in Tehran—crown jewels, bazaars and modern Asia. Then over Afghan deserts to Delhi where another five days gave us time for most temples, ruins, zoo, Agra—Taj Mahal—ruined city Fatehpur—etc. etc. including V.I.P. treatment at a 5 star hotel

Then alongside the Himalayas to Calcutta and on to Singapore's lights at dusk where we bought a tape recorder. We reached Perth at 2.30 a.m. and spent a couple of days relaxing in that soulless city before flying up to Kalgoorlie. The backdrop of derelict and senescent goldmines overlooks the city of 20,000 people with huge broad avenues of tree lined streets with shacks or prefab houses à la Wild West. The current boom in nickel and base-metal prospecting gives a flashy touch of new supermarkets and drive-in cinemas. I'm one of a dozen geologists with areas way out in the dusty bush. Although we return for a week each month to a good prefab house, we live in a small caravan 200 miles north of here, on a camp with the married senior geologist, five tented field assisting lads and a cook. We map and sample our stretch, the size of half Oxfordshire or two sheep stations, and find targets for diamond drilling by our neighbouring gang of drillers. The bush is flattish with low hills, studded by small decrepit trees, herbs and blades of grass along the creeks which run for a few hours each year fed by 4 inches annual rain, following which many wild flowers delight Philippa who has started water colouring them. We see kangaroos most days, also emu, goats, foxes, eagles and even found a camel skeleton. 60 years ago old bottles were thrown away round the goldmines and make fascinating collector's objects. Fine sunsets are normal, and frosty mornings give way to 70° afternoons. Our water is hauled from wind pumps to tanks and we have running water and wood-hut showers. Shops are 40 miles of dirt road away, but our airstrip serves us too and a stores lorry comes weekly. We can hire a car or go by train sleeper to Perth for a change to read in the lovely University or tour waterfalls in the bird-rich forests—and in summer to swim in the sea and recover from a daily 40°C in the bush!

We hope to locate Bob Groom (any Address?) and any other O.S. in W.A.—or eastern states on our yearly break—but we will be back for the reunion in 1972.

Philippa adds:- Sport of all sorts, gardening—made possible by watering

which comes 400 miles by pipe from near Perth—discussing the state of their shares and drinking seem to be the main leisure occupations of people here. We've just played our first game of Tennis since our efforts at Sibford last September but with the practice we ought to get here we should do better next time.

Best Wishes

David & Philippa C. Smith

## AFTER 100 YEARS OF EDUCATION

In recent years, much has been shown on TV and written in the press about the appalling conditions under which many families are living in inner urban areas. In the face of apparent prosperity and security of the welfare state, it has been easy to overlook these continuing inadequacies and it is encouraging to know that some attempts are being made to eradicate them.

During 1970, those engaged in education have been celebrating the centenary of the 1870 Education Act which made school attendance a legal requirement from the age of five. At that time the School Boards were set up and schools were built to withstand the test of time many still existing today as a permanent memorial. The centenary year has been remembered with exhibitions and schools have been open to the general public. In looking back over the records it has been interesting to see how much change has come about in conditions and concerns for the education and welfare of children. Emphasis has gradually changed from the narrow view of education held in the 1870's of the necessity to learn to read and write to provide the skilled labour required by the new industrial society to the broader view of the 1970's—the education of the whole child and the development of his full potential.

If change has been so marked, why is it that some children are still brought up in bad living conditions where their health suffers and their schools are inadequate to meet their needs? The answers are not easy to find and lie in the wider field of social and economic affairs. In 1967, the Plowden committee reporting to the government in 'Children and their Primary Schools'\* said that positive discrimination ought to be given to schools in areas of special need. They should be given extra staffing and money to help meet the very heavy demands that children coming from deprived backgrounds were making upon them. Following this report, education authorities selected schools in certain areas to receive special attention in the way of improvements to antiquated buildings, extra staffing and equipment. These schools tend to be in the forgotten areas of large cities where houses crumble and are eventually demolished, where there is overcrowding and no amenities such as parks and play space for children. Many families who

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\* Children and Their Primary Schools. (H.M.S.O. 25/-), vol. 1, 1967.

have not had the opportunity to move out to the suburbs and new developments for one reason or another have been left and forgotten. Immigrant families, unable to get housing elsewhere have been forced to live in these unsatisfactory conditions. Overcrowding and shared facilities do not make family life easy.

In such conditions that I have described the local school holds a special responsibility. It has to compensate the children for all the experiences which those of us brought up under more favourable circumstances consider to be a child's right—space and materials for play, attention and talk with adults who have time and patience to listen. Children who have missed out on these experiences in the early years are at a disadvantage in the normal school situation. Therefore teachers have to plan programmes which will attempt to make up the deficiencies. Plenty of interesting materials are provided, sand, water, clay, paint, wood, junk, etc. Interesting books are provided and teachers spend a large proportion of each day talking and reading to the children. Visits are made to places of interest, the Zoo, local markets and shops, parks, the canal and river. It has been found that many children have not travelled far from their own street and some living in the middle of London have not been on the underground. Some schools run a play centre after normal school hours for those children whose parents are at work or who wish their children to stay on in a place where their play is supervised and they are safe from busy streets.

Another interesting change in recent years has been the influx of children of parents from overseas in to the schools. In certain areas, schools have become multi-racial and have to face new challenges. Some of these children have to learn English from scratch, others have to adjust to an entirely new way of life. Schools have met this challenge in various ways with special teaching methods, new organisation and in-service teacher-training. It is vital for future harmonious community relations to see that these children receive education which will enable them to play a full part in society in adult life. The 1970's will be remembered for the way in which this challenge is tackled.

## FLIGHT TO REMEMBER

Ian Wright

Some of you may have realised that I am a keen glider pilot. Shortly before the O.S. Reunion, I spent two weeks of my holiday at Lasham which is the home of the Surrey and Hants. gliding club, of which I am a member.

During my holiday one particular flight stands out from all the others, and provides me with the necessary material with which to bore you!

It had been raining for almost four days! Was now Tuesday, and we were promised a cold front, which in weather terms usually means a sudden and often dramatic change in the weather. What was more, we could actually see the cold front approaching Lasham from the south, behind it the sky was clear, with an absence of low cloud and the sun was shining!

At last an opportunity to get my feet off the ground. Two hours, and a lot of rain later, there was at least 1,000 ft. between the lowest clouds and the airfield, creating poor but flyable conditions.

The gliders were made ready, and eager pilots waited for a further clearance in the clouds, to enable them to have a tow behind a powered aircraft (an aerotow) to 2,000 ft. I managed to be at the head of the queue, as some of the pilots were waiting until the conditions became absolutely clear.



Ian Wright at the Controls

I was first away on aerotow, in a Ka 8b (see Photo), we climbed slowly to 2,000 ft. in a mile wide gap in the clouds, the 'tug' pilot making sure I knew where the airfield was, by flying towards it as we approached the end of the tow.

At 2,000 ft. I released my end of the tow rope, the tug flew away, diving for the small gap in the clouds that framed the airfield.

I turned and flew south, ie. upwind, towards the fine weather. The cloudscape was quite impressive, so much so that after about five minutes flying I banked the glider into a turn to fly back to the airfield, only to find it had disappeared behind a wall of cloud, which towered above the glider, and looked as though its base was at about 800 ft above the ground!

My position was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 miles south of Lasham, at an altitude of about 1600 ft. which translated into time means about 10 minutes until I hit the ground!

Perhaps I also ought to explain that at my stage of training, I am forbidden to fly in cloud, or land the glider away from the airfield.

The problem was, as I saw it, to arrive back at the air field with enough height to land safely. To accomplish this either meant flying a course due north through the cloud, to pop out the other side with about 1400 ft. altitude, or descend rapidly using the divebrakes and attempt to fly under the cloud.

I chose the former, because I was not sure how low the cloudbase was, and I wanted to ensure that I arrived back at the airfield with plenty of height.

So I set a compass course due north, which should bring me out of the cloud just south of Lasham. To fly successfully in cloud, an experience which I had never attempted before, it is absolutely imperative that the pilot relies solely on his instruments to indicate rate of turn, angle of bank, and air-speed. This is necessary because our normal balancing mechanisms, rely on visual reference to horizons.

Therefore, I made sure I was flying at the correct speed, and flying level before I entered the cloud. At first everthing was going according to plan, and I was managing to keep the glider on a straight course. Then suddenly, a huge surge of turbulence, and the glider was rotating rapidly to the left and the speed was increasing all the time, 50. . 60. . 70 knots! It was some time before I had the glider flying on an even keel again, and heading north!

Several times I started turning without really noticing it, each time correcting the turn and returning to my compass course. I was also losing altitude, and was now at 1400 ft, in the middle of a cloud somewhere near the airfield, which is'nt the best position to be in! What was most worrying was wondering how much longer I would be in the cloud, because when I emerged, if I was not within gliding range of the airfield I would have to pick a field in which to land, and position the glider correctly for the landing all in the space of about three minutes!

As I was contemplating this, I shot out of the cloud into the clear air, and started frantically looking for the airfield, there was an airfield but it did not look at all like Lasham but more like Odiham, five miles east of Lasham, so I set course to fly west to try and find Lasham, and failing that to pick a field, and land.

I continued west for some time, until I was at about 1000 ft and still had not found Lasham or a suitable field, when I contacted a weak but large thermal. As I was turning round and round in the thermal I noticed the airfield I had just left was in fact Lasham! I had now climbed to the stunning altitude of 1,100 ft, could I get back to Lasham and leave myself height to land safely?

I decided it was just possible, so I gingerly set course across the mile and a half that separated me from the nearest airfield boundary. As luck would have it there was no sinking air to increase my rate of decent throughout this final glide and I cleared the airfield boundary by about 500ft, which left me adequate height to turn through 180 degrees and land into wind.

The landing, according to my friends, was not one of my best, in fact one of them called it an 'undignified arrival', well what could you expect!!!

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## RETURN TO THE MIDDLE AGES

Periodically the Plague swept through Europe in the Middle ages! In the 14th Century it killed a quarter of the population and in 1665-6 70,000 died in the Great Plague in London alone. These were regarded often as visitations from God upon a wicked people—a God who had to be propitiated by a people who had truly to repent and show their repentance in some visible form.

In 1633 the Plague raged through Bavaria filling the graveyards and the churches. The little town of Oberammergau was badly smitten, perhaps worse than the surrounding villages so the people of the town made a vow that if the plague should pass they would show forth the Passion of Our Lord, in the form of a miracle play on each tenth anniversary of the plague. The plague passed and the townspeople have kept their word ever since, some 330 years. To start with it was very much the keeping of the vow, performed by themselves and for themselves with no idea of it being an attraction for outsiders. They kept very much to the original text, based on the bible story with possible additions from the Roman Catholic mythology. To tell the story of the last few days of Christ's life on earth, from His entry into Jerusalem to His resurrection took a whole day, eight hours of presentation. Last century the play became increasingly known outside the immediate locality and this century, with greatly improved communications it is known throughout the world and people from every country visit the little town of five thousand people to see the inhabitants keep the vow made three centuries ago.

It is performed four times a week from the middle of May to the end of September. Because Oberammergau is so isolated the audience has to stay the two nights in the town, both before and after the performance. Because there are so few hotels virtually all the townspeople take in guests for the two nights. The organising committee arranges where you shall stay, though the amount you pay for the seat may have some bearing on your accommodation. You may stay at the best hotel or you may stay, as we did, at the home of the parents of Judas Iscariot! The little town is beautifully clean and fresh looking and most of the buildings are semi-timbered and plaster work, the latter being covered with attractive paintings. These range from balconies with curtains and flowers painted on to scenes from the story of 'Hansel and Gretl' or 'Red Riding Hood'. The paintings are only renewed after approximately twenty five years.

With the increasing demand for seats a large auditorium has been built. The stage is open to the sky and it is possible to get some five hundred performers on the stage at once. The auditorium is under cover and seats as many thousands. The acoustics are wonderful, for though the actors have no roof over them their voices reach the very back of the audience. Approximately one third of the townspeople are in the cast, 1,500 out of 5,000. They

have a rota so that they can continue with their normal work while the play is being acted. They have a mixed choir of forty eight singers besides a rota of soloists. There are 65 in the orchestra. The audience had to be in its place by 7.45 am so that the performance could start at eight.

First were the opening chords from the orchestra, then from each side led by the 'Prologue' came in the choir, in simple grey gowns, so that they formed a line of over fifty across the stage. The 'Prologue' introduces the scene, the soloists and chorus follow—to me in strains very reminiscent of Handel. At the beginning of each act a comparison is made between some deed in the Old Testament and some happening in the life of Christ, for example, as Joseph was sold to his brethren for twenty pieces of silver so Christ was sold for thirty pieces. These comparisons were done by means of Tableaux, posed in a smaller stage set behind the main stage and curtained off. As those curtains rose the choir told the story and drew the comparison.

One can get some idea of the impression it made on a member of the audience when you remember that there were some five hundred on the stage, along with sheep and cattle as Christ entered into Jerusalem and the same five hundred, stirred up by the priests, who did an excellent job, shouting 'Crucify' 'Crucify'. It was hard to remember that these players were amateurs when they gave such a polished professional performance. All of them were local people, for it is a requirement that you must be born in the town apart from those who qualify by living there for twentyfive years. One man had been in eight plays, you can reckon how old he must have been. All the acting was magnificent, it is invidious to mention anyone by name, but besides Christ himself the person who most stuck in our minds was Judas, the scene when he realises what he has done was very moving.

I suppose all of those who visited and were not Roman Catholics wondered how much the play would be 'slanted' towards Rome. The play was very true to the Bible, perhaps Pilate was whitewashed somewhat in his attempts to persuade the Jews to release Christ (I was reminded how in D. L. Sayer's 'Man Born to be King' the words 'suffered under Pontius Pilate' echoed down the centuries in myriad tongues—this aspect was missing at Oberammergau), the only other point was the introduction of St. Veronica who wiped Jesus' face on the way to Calvary. I learned later that this is one of the 'Stations of the Cross' in Catholic churches. Apart from these two points I could find nothing to fault. It had been claimed by American Jews that it was anti-semitic; this was not so in any shape or form. Perhaps because of their recent history the Germans had been over sure in removing any such trace but I think most people in the audience felt that the Jews in the drama were standing-in for all mankind and that we too could easily have been shouting 'hosanna' one week and 'Crucify' the next.

I shall be ten years older the next time it is performed and doubt whether I shall see it again, but those who have not seen it must do so when the chance arises.

G. B.

# UNDER TWO ELMS

## LONDON BRANCH REPORT

We have had another successful year when we have kept in contact with our old friends and also made a number of new ones. The number attending our gatherings have kept up to the thirty mark while the high lights, such as the Christmas Party have resulted in gatherings of fifty to sixty. In January we held the Party at the Meeting House at Westminster, with the number already mentioned. Tea was provided by our members and the evening was spent in fun and games. We visited Woking once again in March to see various films, the main one being 'The Sibford Story' Louis Wright backed this up with a montage of various movies he had taken over the years of old Scholars. The excellent tea was provided by the next years president—Lilian Ward.

I should have mentioned that a number of us went to the school in February to present to the scholars the review which was put on at the O. S. re-union the previous summer. It was greatly enjoyed by all—or so we gathered from the laughs and applause. Afterwards we had the opportunity of meeting the scholars in the Common Room (or recreation room?). We stayed the night and joined them at Meeting the following morning.

In May we visited the President's home at High Barnet. As is usual on these occasions, the host took us on a tour (not only of his estate) but also the surrounding countryside. We were reminded that a very important battle took place there in the Wars of the Roses, in that the victor became Edward IV. The countryside round London is indeed very pleasant.

In June we took a trip to Little Venice, which is unknown to quite a lot of Londoners. Little Venice is part of the Regents Park Canal and is also, I believe, part of the London end of the Grand Union Canal. We embarked on a 'narrow boat' and had to go through a number of locks to reach the heights of Regents Park. The boats have to be narrow, there was only one inch to spare each side when we went through the first lock. We disembarked at Regents Park and had our picnic there in the shadow of the ibex enclosure and were much entranced at those creatures' agility on the peaks provided for them.

In July Louis and Doris Wright entertained us at their home in Esher. After a welcoming cup of tea Louis led us to Claremont Lakes, by rural roads. The lakes are all that are left of the home of Princess Charlotte of Wales, the daughter of George IV. It was very beautiful but, as Louis said, you should see it when the azaleas are out! A good number of us attended the re-union at the end of September and we were pleased to note that some of those we met during the year also attended the reunion for the first time.

The September we were to have visited the Moores at their new home. We

were all looking forward to it, but at the last minute it had to be called off as various of the 'brood' went down with 'measles drear with spots'. Still there's always another year.

In November George Edwards led us through London once again, but this time it was less strenuous than before. For his trip was conducted in the Westminster Meeting House with slides of historical spots. We learned quite a lot of interesting things, e.g. what 'Charing' means; where the village green for Charing is, what the endings 'ey' or 'ea' in so many London boroughs mean.

We have to thank all those who invited us into their homes and those who provided such delicious refreshments at the gatherings.

G. B.

### **MIDLAND BRANCH REPORT**

Our branch has been dormant for a year or so, but we have just started again, the first meeting being at the home of Michael and Kathy Gibbins in October. We had a slide show on Rome and Sardinia given by Stan and Mabel Ewan; this was well supported and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Barbara Abercrombie has retired as our Midland Secretary and we thank her for all the work she has put in to keep the group together for several years. In her place Michael Gibbins has been appointed secretary and the committee consists of Stan Ewan, Jeanne Little, Jean Mills along with the secretary. We hope that Old Scholars in the area will come and support us and enjoy our fellowship.

We are holding a Christmas Party in January and intend to visit the Theatre again in March. So you can see a full and interesting programme is being arranged for you.

M. J. G.

### **SIBFORD BRANCH REPORT**

We are sorry that we have nothing of great interest to report, this is mainly due to the short period between the issue of the last magazine and the reunion. We were glad to see so many old and new faces at the reunion when we welcomed them into our homes. We hope that any who are in the neighbourhood of the school will call and see us during the months between now and the next gathering.

F. R.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Our sister association, The Old Scholars' Association of SIDCOT School are celebrating their centenary this coming year, 1971. The celebrations are over Easter weekend, from Thursday 8th April to Monday 12th April. The President for the Centenary Year is John P. Brookes, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn (what higher recommendation can you have?) and it is hoped that up to a score of Past Presidents will be present and plant trees to commemorate the occasion. With a membership of 1,400 they should have an excellent gathering.

## RE-UNION 1971

The re-union this year will be held at Easter from 11 am 10th April '71. If you have not received your booking application slip please contact the Re-union Secretary immediately. His address is Nicholas Bennett, 17 Scotton Street, Wye, Nr. Ashford Kent. Numbers at the gatherings are increasing again and we can guarantee you a good time. Bring and meet your friends at Sibford this Easter.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

**COMPTON** On February 19th, 1970 to Brigit (née Moriarty) and Don Compton, a daughter, Amanda

**BURGESS** On June 21st, 1970 to Diana (née Clark) and Peter Burgess, a daughter, Ellen Mary, a sister for Philip and Timothy.

**ROSS** On June 13th, 1970 to Helen (née Eavis) and Joe Ross, a son, Richard, a brother for Marcus and David.

**SQUIRE** On September 22nd, 1970 to Anna (née Rissik) and Geoffrey Squire, a daughter, Hilary, a sister for Joanna.

GRANT On June 27th, 1970 to Jennifer and Robert C. Grant, twin son and daughter, Alasdair John and Elspeth Catherine.

SMITH On June 19th, 1970 to Rachel (née Eavis) and Frank Smith, a son, Russell, a brother to Clare.

### **MARRIAGES**

WHATLEY—DOUGLASS On August 14th 1970 at Fairfax, Virginia, David John Whatley to Rebecca Douglass

ALLEN—GROOM On 21st December 1970 at Friends Meeting House, Melbourne, Australia, David Allen to Helen Groome

EVANS—TUCKER On 18th. October 1969 Christopher Evans to Anne Tucker

SHARPE—BOWES On 25th. November 1970, Nigel David Sharpe to Gerda Joan Bowes

### **DEATHS**

RUSSELL On January 19th. 1970, suddenly, Stanley John Russell, aged 58 years

HARROD On August 10th. 1970, Lucy Ann Harrod

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## LEAVERS 1969/70

AMBLER-GREEN, Martin: 188 Broadway Ave., St. Margaret's Well, Hasbury, Nr. Halesowen.  
ALLETSON, Philip: Harwell, The Lynch, Winscombe, Somerset.  
BAREHAM, David: Lamorna, Manor Road, Adderbury West, Banbury.  
BIKKER, Simon: 42 Jervis Crescent, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, Warks.  
BISHOP, Peter: 1 Falcon Close, Banbury.  
BRADBURY, Vaughan: 35 Rochford Road, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, Hants.  
BROWN, Stephen: Oakwood, Kelliwith, Feock, Nr. Truro, Cornwall.  
EVANS, Alan: Makins, Whiteway, Stroud, Glos.  
FIDLER, Simon: 2 Place Road, Melksham, Wilts.  
FLETCHER, Nigel: Harlequin Cafe, 47A High Street, Banbury, Oxon.  
FOX, Nigel: Peverell's Cottage, Evenley, Brackley, Northants.  
HAINES, John: Darby Green House, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey.  
HARWOOD, Nicolas: 3 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamstead, Herts.  
HATHAWAY, Bruce: 62 Millrock Road, New Paltz, New York 12561, U.S.A.  
HAYTER, Simon: 6 Tekels Park, Camberley Surrey.  
HOFGAARD, Kristian: Grundtvigsvej 2, Kobenhavn V, Denmark.  
JORDAN, Christopher: Great Norbury, Inkberrow, Worcester.  
KEEN, Thomas: Chester House, 6 Seaview Road, Falmouth, Cornwall.  
KING, Robert: Tarry Wood, Park Lane, Little Totham, Nr. Maldon, Essex.  
LASSON, Richard: 19 Arnesby Road, Lenton, Nottingham.  
LITTLE-JONES, Charles: 26 Eastfields Road, Western Park, Leicester.  
MacNAIR, Philip: Wykham Mill Farm, Banbury, Oxon.  
MANSFIELD, Harry: Wincott House, Whichford, Shipston-on-Stour, Warks.  
MAXFIELD, Jonathan: Tuscan, Ford Lane, Trottscliffe, Maidstone, Kent.  
MERCER, Mark: 1 Tyrell Road, Chandler's Ford, Hants. SO5 1GG.  
MONKS, Robert: 72 Madeira Avenue, Leigh on Sea, Essex.  
MOSS, Nikolas: 12 Clarion Close, Offley, Hitchin, Herts.  
NUTTER, Simon: Berry Close, Little Compton, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos.  
OGDEN, Christopher: Pound Farm, Higham, Nr. Colchester, Essex.  
OGDEN, John: " " " " " "  
PEACE, Robert: 103 High Street, Witney, Oxon.  
PEARSON, David: 5 Eastfield Road, Wellingborough, Northants.  
ROBERTS, John: c/o Peredur Home School, East Grinstead, Sussex.  
SMITH, Ian: 9 Beech Road, Witney, Oxon. OX8 5LP.  
SMITH, Mark: 14 Northwood Road, Harefield, Middlesex.  
TARRELL, Niall: Burwell Farm House, Curbridge Road, Witney Oxon.  
TAWELL, Francis: 45 First Avenue, Dunstable, Beds.  
TRAYLEN, Jan: 13 Droridge, Dartington, Totnes, Devon.  
WHEELER, Kim: 26 West End Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1BJ.  
WILLIAMS, Adrian: 166 Westwood Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks.  
WILMOT, Christopher: c/o Labour Dept., Box G. 13., Honiara, Brit. Soloman Isls. W. Pacific.  
WOODING, Graham: 17 Westbourne Gardens, Folkstone, Kent.

AMBLER-GREEN, Allyson: 188 Broadway Ave., St. Margaret's Well, Hasbury, Nr. Halesowen.  
BAKER, Melanie: Little Acre, Bray's Hill, Ashburnham, Nr. Battle, Sussex.  
BINGHAM, Gillian: 23 Whin Hill Road, Bessacarr, Doncaster, York.  
BINGHAM, Hilary: " " " " " "  
BOOTH, Amanda: London House, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos.  
BROWN, Jane: Haydon Farm, Haydon, Sherborne, Dorset.  
BROWN, Nicola: " " " " " "  
COOKE, Deborah: 11 Barham Road, West Wimbledon, London S.W. 20.  
CRUICKSHANK, Jean: 42 Dollis Avenue, Finchley, London N. 3.  
EDGINTON, Jane: Cosicot, Little Tew, Oxon.  
EVANS, Isobel: Tokio Cottage, Walford, Ross-on-Wye, Hereford.  
FAERBER, Kathryn: Wedgewood, 110 Rosemary Hill Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, Warks.  
FAIRBANK, Jane: 9 Manor Drive, Hilton-in-Cleveland, Yarm, Yorkshire.  
FOSTER, Anna: Old School House, East Garston, Nr. Newbury, Berks.  
FOX, Deborah: Crossway Pharmacy, 46 Frensham Road, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.  
FRANKLIN, Elaine: 3 Lower Close, Bodicote, Nr. Banbury.  
GOODYEAR, Mary: 20 Sycamore Road, Bournville, Birmingham 30.  
HAMMOND, Elizabeth: c/o 162 Byron Way, Northolt, Middlesex.  
HATHAWAY, Linda: 62 Millrock Road, New Paltz, New York 12561, U.S.A.  
HITCHINS, Kathryn: Copper, Pound Lane, Sibford Gower, Nr Banbury.  
INGHAM-BROWN, Anne: 17 Winchester Road, Blaby, Leicester LE8 3HL.  
JANOCKA, Meryl: Braydon Manor, Braydon, Nr. Swindon, Wilts.  
JARVIS, Joy: Nansen House, Sibford Ferris, Banbury.  
JOHNSON, Clare: Seven Gables, Stockbridge, Hants.  
LEAR, Patricia: Hill Cottage, Mill Lane, Peasenhall, Saxmundham, Suffolk.  
LEWIS, Susan: c/o 34 Mill Street, Kidderminster, Worcs.  
LONG, Jill: The Dormers, Sibford Ferris, Nr. Banbury.  
MASCARO, Mary: The Retreat, 28 South Street, Comberton, Cambridge.  
MILLER, Sally, 24 Park End, Bodicote, Nr. Banbury.

NADIOPE, Irene: St. Jude, 256 Iffley Road, Oxford.  
 OXLEY, Daphne: Chesterton, 57 Hightown Road, Banbury, Oxon.  
 OXLEY, Katherine: " " " " " "  
 PEARSON, Maureen: Flat 24, The Foxlands, Penn, Wolverhampton, Staffs.  
 POLLARD, Sally: Colne Trees, 41 Colchester Road, White Colne, Nr. Colchester.  
 PRATT, Rosalind: Post Office Stores, Milcombe, Banbury.  
 PROSSER, Victoria: Victoria Bungalow, Allastone Mesne, Lydney, Glos.  
 PUGMIRE, Nancy: 23 East Street, Crowland, Peterborough, PE6 OEE.  
 ROBERTS, Caroline: The Lawn, Horley, Nr. Banbury.  
 SCHULTZ-LARSEN, Charlotte: Ermelundsvej 93, DK 2820 Gentofte, Denmark.  
 TAIT, Veronica: 62 Nightingale Road, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 2BT.  
 TANNER, Irene: Sibford Gower, Nr. Banbury, Oxon.  
 VERTH, Julia: 12 Wembly Road, Hampton, Middlesex.  
 WATERFIELD, Hilary: Bancroft Primary School, P. O. Box 6, Chililabombwe, Zambia, C. Africa.  
 WHITE, Jennifer: 85 Staunton Road, Headington, Oxford.  
 WILDE, Elizabeth: Springfield Farm, Brailes, Nr. Banbury.  
 WILMOT, Alexandra: c/o Labour Dept. Box G. 13, Honiara, Brit. Soloman Islands, W. Pacific.  
 WOELFELL, Elise: The Caravan, c/o The Sloop Inn, Scaynes Hill, Nr. Haywards Heath, Sussex.  
 WOOLGROVE, Patricia: Manor Farm, Milcombe, Nr. Banbury.  
 WOODHOUSE, Alison: Wilderwick, Felsted, Dunmow, Essex.

## NEWS OF RECENT SCHOOL LEAVERS

ALLETSON, Philip. Two year Catering Course at Weston-Super-Mare Technical College.  
 AMBLER-GREEN, Allyson. Secretarial Course at Halesowen Technical College.  
 BAKER, Melanie. 'A' levels at Bexhill Grammar School.  
 BISHOP, Peter. Basic Art Course and 'A' level Art at North Oxfordshire Technical College and School of Art.  
 BRADBURY, Vaughan. Art and Craft at Portsmouth Polytechnic.  
 BROWN, Stephen. O.N.D. in Hotel and Catering Operations at Cornwall Technical College.  
 BROWN, Nicola. Secretarial Course at Oxford and County Secretarial College.  
 BINGHAM, Hilary. Employed by Doncaster Royal Infirmary.  
 BINGHAM, Gillian: Two Year City and Guild Catering Course at Doncaster Technical College  
 COOKE, Deborah. One year Secretarial Course.  
 CRUICKSHANK, Jean: Pre-Trainee Nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, London.  
 EDGINTON, Jane. Typing at the Crouch Street Typewriting School, Banbury.  
 EVANS, Alan. Teacher's Certificate in Handicraft at Shoreditch College.  
 EVANS, Isobel. Repeat 'O' levels and/or Secretarial Course at Ross-on-Wye or Hereford Technical College.  
 FAIRBANK, Jane. Botany and Zoology 'A' levels at Stockton and Billingham College of Further Education.  
 FAERBER, Kathryn. 'A' level Maths, Physics and Biology at Sutton High School.  
 FOSTER, Anna. 'O' and 'A' levels at South Berkshire College of Further Education.  
 FLETCHER, Nigel. Basic Art Course at North Oxfordshire Technical College and School of Art.  
 FOX, Deborah. Working in a Children's Home.  
 FOX, Nigel. Agricultural Course at Magdelene College School.  
 FRANKLIN, Elaine. 'O' and 'A' levels at North Oxfordshire Technical College.  
 GOODYEAR, Mary. 'A' level Music and French and General Studies at King Edward VI Camphill.  
 HARWOOD, Nicholas. Three year Graduate Course at the Royal College of Music, Manchester.  
 HATHAWAY, Linda. Languages at Earlham College, U.S.A.  
 HITCHINS, Kathryn. 'A' levels at North Oxfordshire Technical College.  
 INGHAM-BROWN, Anne. 'O' and 'A' levels at Lutterworth Upper School.  
 JANOCKA, Meryl. Children's nurse.  
 KEEN, Thomas. Catering course at Cornwall Technical College.  
 KING, Robert. Horticultural/Agricultural Course at Arkley Hall or Writtle College.  
 LONG, Jill. Teacher's Training Course at Weymouth College of Education.  
 MacNAIR, Philip. North Oxfordshire Technical College.  
 MERCER, Mark. Gardener's Apprenticeship at Southampton Technical College.  
 MILLER, Sally. Secretarial/Receptionists Course at North Oxfordshire Technical College.  
 NADIOPE, Irene. I.M.A. Matron Housekeeper's Certificate at Oxford College of Further Education.  
 OGDEN, Christopher. H.N.D. Course in Agriculture at Essex Institute of Agriculture.  
 OGDEN, John. 'A' level Maths and Physics at Leighton Park Friends School.  
 PEACE, Robert. 'A' level Course at West Oxon Centre of Advanced Education.  
 PEARSON, David. Employed by Selmans.  
 SMITH, Mark. Two year Catering Course at Watford Technical College.  
 SMITH, Ian. 'A' level Course at West Oxon Centre of Advanced Education.  
 SCHULTZ-LARSEN, Charlotte. Kildgardsgymnasium, Denmark.  
 TAIT, Veronica. 'A' levels at Rickmansworth Grammar School.  
 TARRELL, Niall. Geography, History and Biology at Lord William's Grammar School.  
 TAWELL, Francis. Apprentice Jeweller and Watchmaker.  
 ROBERTS, Caroline. 'O' level Course at North Oxfordshire Technical College.  
 VERTH, Julia. Twickenham County School.  
 WHITE, Jennifer. Secretarial Course at Oxford and County Secretarial College.  
 WOODING, Graham. Joining the Royal Navy.



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Coffee—with Gossip—after Meeting.

- (b) The annual subscription is due on 1st January for the ensuing year.
- (c) Any member whose subscriptions are in arrear for more than two years and who, after due reminder, shall not make the necessary payment shall have his/her name removed from the list of members.

5. YEAR

The Association's year shall be from 1st January to 31st December. This shall apply to the Accounts of the Association and to the term of office of President, Officers, Committee, etc.

6. GENERAL COMMITTEE.

- (a) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a General Committee subject to the approval of the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (b) Ex-Officio President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Reunion Secretary, Assistant Reunion Secretary, Membership Secretary, Magazine Editor, Local Branch Secretaries, two Resident Officers, one representative on the School Committee, one representative from the Friends of Sibford, two representatives from the School staff, the Headmaster, the Bursar, and six ordinary members elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a three year period.
- (c) Ten members of the General Committee shall form a quorum.
- (d) The General Committee shall have power to co-opt up to four members at any one time and to appoint any additional officers it deems necessary.

7. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS.

- (a) The President and Vice-President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for one year. Normally the President's year of office shall immediately follow the year in which he/she was Vice-President.
- (b) The General Secretary and other Officers shall be appointed for a three year period at an Annual General Meeting. Two representatives shall be nominated to serve on the School Committee coinciding with the School Committee's normal term of appointments.
- (c) Should a vacancy occur in any office the General Committee shall have power to fill the vacancy and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
- (d) All nominations for General Secretary, Treasurer and other Officers shall be in writing, signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee and shall be sent or handed to the General Secretary twelve hours before the Annual General Meeting. Nomination papers to be included with the appropriate Annual Reunion programmes sent to all members.
- (e) Each year the school leavers shall nominate one of their members to serve, as an ordinary member, on the Committee for a period of three years following the next 31st December, and such nomination shall be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting. The A.G.M. shall also appoint one representative each year to serve for a three year term.  
Should an ordinary member resign during his term of service the Committee has power to fill the vacancy so caused, until the next Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting shall then confirm the appointment or appoint an alternative member for the remainder of the term of service.

8. MEETINGS AND REUNIONS.

- (a) An Annual Reunion of members shall be held at Sibford at Whitsuntide or at such other time and/or place as may be decided by the General Committee.
- (b) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held during the Annual Reunion.
- (c) Notice of the Annual Reunion shall be sent to all members.
- (d) The General Committee shall have full control of all arrangements at these Reunions with power to make such regulations as they may deem to be expedient.

9. MINUTES.

Minutes of the proceedings of the General Committee shall be duly recorded in a permanent manner and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting when passed shall be available for inspection by any member by arrangement.

10. LOCAL BRANCHES.

- (a) Whenever the number of members resident in a locality warrants the course, a local branch may be formed.
- (b) A Branch Secretary shall be elected at a representative meeting of the local branch.
- (c) Branch Secretaries shall have power to arrange local reunions and other events.
- (d) All Branches must be financially self supporting and have no call on the funds of the Association.

11. MAGAZINE.

A magazine entitled 'Sibford' shall be published annually by the Association and sent to all members whose addresses are known. Where husbands and wives are both members only one magazine will be sent unless an additional copy is specifically requested.

12. ALTERATIONS TO RULES.

- (a) Notice of any alteration or addition to be proposed to the rules of the Association shall be given in writing to the General Secretary at least fourteen days prior to an Annual General Meeting. Nevertheless the Annual General Meeting shall have power to deal with any alteration or addition to the Rules without such notice or any notice if the meeting so decides by a two-thirds majority of members who are present and voting.
- (b) No alteration or addition to the Rules of the Association shall become effective unless passed by a two-thirds majority of members who are present and voting in Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Rule 12 (b) and 13 (b) cannot be altered except by a 9/10ths majority at Annual General Meeting.

13. LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.

- (a) All subscriptions received as Life Subscriptions shall be invested in the names of Trustees appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

- (b) The Life Membership Fund may not be spent without a prior referendum of the recorded members of the Association. To be effective the referendum must be approved by a 9/10th majority of all the forms received by a date set by the General Committee.
  - (c) The interest from the investment of the life subscriptions shall be added to the ordinary income of the Association.
14. WINDING UP.
- In the event of the Association being dissolved all the assets shall be disposed of as directed by the final Annual General Meeting by a simple majority of those members who are present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

*Sibford*, incorporating the SOSA Annual Report, is the journal of, and published annually by the SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION. Enquiries concerning distribution should be the Membership Secretary. Items for insertion should be sent to the Editor

