

*Sibford
School*

SIBFORD 1974

*Sibford
Old Scholars'
Association*



PAST PRESIDENTS

1904	Joseph Spence Hodgson	1939-43	Howard Quinton
1904-05	Dr. Richard L. Routh	1944-45	Roland Herbert
1905-06	Michael T. Graveson	1945-46	John Dearden
1906-07	Robert B. Oddie	1946-47	Leslie Baily
1907-08	Joseph S. K. Parsey	1947-48	Geoffrey D. Long
1908-09	Elizabeth M. Oddie	1948-49	F. Joy Reynolds
1909-10	Edward P. Kaye, M.Sc.	1949-50	Ronald Ll. Lloyd
1910-11	Charles E. Brady, O.B.E.	1950-51	James C. Baily
1911-12	Ethel M. Harrison	1951-52	Ronald Quinton
1912-13	Arthur B. Oddie	1952-53	Alice Long and Edward P. Kaye, M.Sc.
1913-14	Lucy S. Lamb	1953-54	Louis E. Wright
1914-16	James T. Harrod, B.A.	1954-55	E. Marjorie Simmons
1916-19	Elizabeth F. Brown	1955-56	Reginald W. Barber
1919-20	Thomas Jackson	1956-57	Arthur Johnstone, B.Sc.
1920-22	Mabel T. Harrod, B.A.	1957-58	Celia Law
1922-23	Frank W. Snow	1958-59	Lewis Poulton
1923-24	Ethel M. Sharp	1959-60	Vera Rollett
1924-25	Frank Lascelles	1961	John Coxon, F.C.A.
1925-26	Dr. Margaret Brady, B.A., M.B.	1962	Gladys Burgess, B.A.
1926-27	Christopher Martin, F.R.C.S.	1963	George Law, B.Sc.(Eng.)
1927-28	Miriam J. Carter	1964	Brian Wright
1928-29	Arnold J. Kaye	1965	Betty Thelton
1929-30	Henry John Randall, C.B.E.	1966	Gulie Grimes
1930-31	James T. Harrod, B.A.	1967	Gordon A. Wells
1931-32	Theodora Hodgkiss, B.Sc.	1968	Jonas A. Fielding
1932-33	Lionel Geering	1969	Loraine Brown
1933-34	Jane Sabin	1970	Michael van Blankenstein
1934-35	Percy O. Whitlock, M.A.	1971	Lilian D. Ward
1935-36	Margaret C. Gillett	1972	John A. Taylor
1936-37	Henry Lawrance	1973	June D. Ellis
1937-38	Frederick E. Goudge	1974	Geoffrey L. Moore
1938-39	Wilfred Pollard		

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*"Ye Menne of Sheepford wendath
whithersoever they wilen"*

Editorial

Much has been said and written about the needs of the School and its plans for the future. The original move to the Hill area was envisaged as a start to a progressive and hopefully complete unit eventually. Progress has been made in this direction and we older old scholars see improvements and new buildings which make us envy today's scholars. However, the complete objective has not yet been reached, the offer for development of the old school site was seen as the saviour and culmination of the plan. But it was not to be, land values have in the present economic climate done what is popularly called I believe a 'U' turn, and so the School soldiers on having to make do with the old buildings and all their associated problems.

We understand that it will not be long before an appeal is launched for new buildings at the Hill; this is to be commended and it is hoped that old scholars will give it all the support they can. In the meantime let us wish the school and its managers a safe passage through the economic storms of the immediate future.

There is this year a greater amount of school material, for which we are grateful. Discussions are still going on for changing the magazine layout (fingers crossed for next year!) I would like to thank contributors for being so prompt with articles. If you send photographs please put the names on, it makes them so much more meaningful, but above all remember it is *your* magazine, and with seven hundred going all over the country and abroad your news could make someone, somewhere, a happier person.

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SIBFORD SCHOOL

The Teaching Staff — Autumn Term 1974

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Kenneth C. Greaves, M.A. (Cantab.)

Deputy Head

D. June Ellis, B.Sc., Diploma in Education

Senior Master

John K. Gilchrist, B.Sc.

ART and POTTERY

Susan Bradley, Dip.A.D., A.T.D.

Maureen Robinette, N.D.D.

*Angela Mortimer

ENGLISH

Geoffrey Higgins, M.A., Diploma in Education

Andrew Rice-Oxley, M.A., Certificate in Education, Diploma in English

Julie Thomas, B.A., Diploma in Education

*Marjorie Fielding, B.A., Diploma in Education

GEOGRAPHY

John K. Gilchrist, B.Sc.

Brian Holliday, B.Sc., Teachers' Certificate

HISTORY

†Kenneth T. Francis, Teachers' Certificate

Jocelyn Radcliffe, B.A., Teachers' Certificate

HOME ECONOMICS

†Eileen Tait, Teachers' Certificate, Advanced Diploma in Sociology and Psychology of Education

†Gillian Edwards, Certificate in Education

MATHEMATICS

†Alan Jarvis, M.A., Diploma in Education

Daniel Petrencik, B.A., Diploma in Education

METALWORK, WOODWORK and TECHNICAL DRAWING

Graeme Sagar, Certificate in Education, M.C.C.Ed.

†Stuart Hedley, Teachers' Certificate, City and Guilds Advanced Craft Certificate

MODERN LANGUAGES

Gilbert Todd, B.A., Teachers' Diploma

Jean Rudge, B.A., Teachers' Certificate

MUSIC

Anthony M. Rye, L.T.C.L., Teachers' Certificate

*Anne Silcock, A.R.C.M.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

†Michael Wollerton, Teachers' Certificate, Diploma in Physical Education

†Pauline Sagar, Teachers' Certificate

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Carole Creswell, B.A., Certificate in Education

REMEDIAL TEACHING

David Foulds, B.A., Teachers' Certificate

Sylvia Atkinson, Teachers' Certificate, Diploma in Special Education

*Robin Greaves, B.A.

SCIENCE:

PHYSICS and CHEMISTRY

H. James Shields, B.Sc., Diploma in Education

PHYSICS and MATHEMATICS

Frank Cookson, M.A., Certificate in Education

RURAL STUDIES

Gordon Wright, B.Sc., Diploma in Education

BIOLOGY

Anthony Skeath, B.Sc., Certificate in Education

CHEMISTRY

*Elizabeth Cookson, M.A., Ph.D., Certificate in Education

†Indicates Housemaster or Housemistress *Indicates part-time staff.

VISITING TEACHERS

Frederick Walsh, Flute
Phyllis Travis, 'Cello
Ray Birley, Guitar
Keith Wykes, A.R.C.M., Violin and Viola
Peter Jeeves, L.T.C.L., Brass and Percussion
Joan Barnwell, A.R.C.M., Clarinet
Mabel Payne, Piano
Thomas M. Lawrence, M.A., Piano and Com-
position

NON-TEACHING STAFF

Bursar: John Miller
Assistant Bursar: Brian White
Headmaster's Secretary: Kate Long
Medical Officer: Sidney A. Agnew, M.B., Ch.B.
School Nurse: Shirley Ross, S.R.N.
Catering Manager: Leslie Bloodworth
Maintenance: William White
Head Gardener: Arthur H. Dring
In Charge of Linen Room: Margaret Dring

SOME JUNIOR POETRY

FEELINGS

His heart is hot,
His soul is cold,
His mind is warm.
Then his soul burns
Harder and harder.
Anger is his cry,
Feeling has gone.

John Moore

THE DAY WHEN THE SKY STORMED INTO A VICIOUS RAGE

Black clouds moved across the sky.
Suddenly lightning flashed upon the sky
And the whole sky roared in anger.
Then the rain rushed down,
Pushed along by a howling wind.
Growling and moaning, the wind
Pushed the rain along the vicious sky.

The sky is in a vicious rage.
Then the black clouds ceased to appear.
The rain suddenly disappeared.
The sun came gradually out of the clouds
With a soft, gentle breeze,
In memory of the vicious rage.

Mark Rowntree

THE SEA

I walked down to the shore,
I could hear the sea rubbing on the stones.
I imagined myself out there,
Out in the icy sea.
I suddenly saw something in the waves.
I saw a seal.
I wonder about it,
Where it had been, what it had done.
I walked slowly up the shore,
And looked back on the wide stretch of blue.

Naomi Colvin

ALONE

I stand on the cliff edge,
Looking down at the waves, smashing onto the rocks.
I felt like committing suicide in the waves.
I had no one to live for,
No one would mind.
It looked as though the waves were asking me to come in.

Naomi Colvin

WE HAD A PET

He was the King of cats,
He was the leader of the gang.
He would take the lessons
When the school-bell rang.
He was sleek,
He was shy,
And he was a respected member
Of the 'Aristocracy'.
How he could dancé
With his Siamese fiancé,
And wow!
How he could rock an' roll.
He'd get the beat-groups playin'
The latest gig-out
And he'd be wearing the smartest rig-out.
He wore a boater as a hat,
He was the grooviest cat.
He carried one of those sticks,
The 1950 dancer had,
And dancing to the Charleston
Was not at all bad!
He wore a black glossy cat-suit,
He had a leather-jacket too,
And on the back in studs
He'd put:
'I'm a King over you.'
My cat was independent,
He walked on his own.
He hated being stroked or fussed,
Through alleys he would roam.
Until one day I found him hurt,
And I carried him gently home.
I knew there was no hope for him,
I knew that he would die.
His proud, black head drooped,
He closed one eye.
He made no sound.
I touched his cold, black head,
'Twas only then I realised—
That my pet cat,
Was dead.

Julie Fleming

WALKING THROUGH AUTUMN

Walking through the Autumn woods
My legs sink into the dead leaves,
"Crackle, crunch, crunch, crackle."
"Crunch, crackle, crackle, crunch"
Were the last words for the leaves.
The woods are dead, even
The noises are dead.
Suddenly the poachers came!
Yes, the woodpeckers come to kill,
To kill the dear innocent
Woodworms who were and always
Have been the faithful companions of the tree.
Then came the burglars!
Yes, the rabbits and the hares,
Who have come to burgle the tree.
Oh, oh, what crimes are being committed in this
wood!
In this wood!
Then came the two policemen at last,
The golden eagle and the kestrel.
For the king of the birds and the kestrel
Chased these criminals out of the graveyard.
But a murderer struck the wood!
Yes, the wind. For he killed more trees.
"Crack, rattle, rattle, crack"
Were the last words for the dying branch.
Suddenly he fell DEAD on his grave.
I sat under a conker tree
And all the conkers fell on my head.
There are still crimes being committed.
But then, then the sun came out
And everything was still and quiet.
No more crimes, no more poachers,
No more murders, no more burglars,
No more crimes, just some birds
Singing for the dead.
All this, walking through an Autumn wood.

Mark Rowntree

BEING BLIND

I live in a terrible darkness and have
Nothing to do.
I take step by step with care,
Cracking
My wooden stick
In front of my hopeless feet,
Wondering.
"Will I take a step—and fall
Or will I guess it right?"
My only true wish is to see—
Colours, beautiful sights—
Or, even better, light!

But

I never will see all the wonders of the world.

Maybe a cure will pop up, and one day
I will see?

But

My long, dark days carry on and on—
In darkness forever.

Jane Donnelly

A POEM ABOUT A STORM

The thunder rolled,
The lightning flashed,
The wind roared and blowed,
The rain lashed and belted,
The trees rustled and bustled,
The flowers looked dead.
The lightning knocked down trees.
The storm moved to all areas in the country-
side.
The clouds blew away
And the storm stopped.

Jimmy Setna

*(Some of these poems were written
by 11 and 12-year-olds in the new
Remedial Centre)*

TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE

June 13th, 1974, was a very important day for four former pupils from Sibford and me. It was this day that we went to Buckingham Palace to be presented with our Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award certificates. The five girls were Jill Thornton, Rosemary Child, Susan Dyer, Wendy Hutsby and me.

We left Sibford straight after Meeting to go to Banbury station for our train to London. The train arrived in good time for a meal in the capital before catching two taxis and asking to be taken to Buckingham Palace. By now nerves were beginning to catch up with us and all we could think about was what fools we would feel if we tripped up on anything or if we couldn't think of an answer if the Duke was to ask us any questions.

Eventually we arrived at the Palace. It made us all feel very important as we walked across the first courtyard with hundreds of faces peering through the railings watching us go through the archway and into the central courtyard. Before we had had time to take in everything there was to see we were inside the palace. The main hallway gives an impression of red and gold with low lighting. Everywhere there were excited Award holders taking in everything there was to be seen while at the same time trying to find out which chamber they were meant to be going to.

Everyone from Sibford was in the Music Room. This was a room overlooking the lawns and lake. After what seemed an eternity of nervous waiting the Duke came to our room. He talked to all of us asking various questions such as, "What interesting experiences have you had whilst doing the award scheme?" We were then given our certificates and gradually made our way back down into the central courtyard where everyone was busy taking photographs of friends and relatives.

After an hour or so of walking around London we caught the tube back to Paddington Station from where we caught the train back to Banbury. On arrival in Banbury we were met and told that the school was going to pay for our evening meal in Banbury. And so we ended a perfect day with a good dinner and a slow drive back to Sibford.

Nancy Ross

TRAPPED

Help! I am trapped, I can't see a thing, I've been buried alive, hemmed in on all sides in absolute and utter darkness, so dark it's almost solid. The air is thick and dusty, making the back of my throat tickle. I am so confined I am having to fight claustrophobia for my senses! I've got to get out—break out—smash my way out. I need air, it is an effort to breathe. My breaths seem not quite to fill my lungs, not quite reaching the bottom of them. I feel a horrible sensation in the pit of my stomach. I'm thrashing about now, trying to break out; blood flows from my knuckles and head.

Adrian Walker

THE SCHOOL SPONSORED WALK

Sunday, May 19th 1974. What a day! It was baking hot even when we started the task in hand. Over 95% of the School were taking part in order to raise money for a planned holiday for deprived children from the London area.

There were two walks, an 8 mile one, and for those who felt up to it the twenty mile one. At roughly nine o'clock, year group by year group departed from the Manor, after signing on with Mr. Francis. The file of people became longer and scattered, until there were people in their own private parties. As the miles rolled on the day became hotter, until we were frying! Clothes began to be dropped at check-points while in return we became sunburnt. At check-point C we were all relieved to find Mr. Wollerton with some orange juice, and after refreshing ourselves we were ready to carry on.

On we walked, mile after mile, check-point after check-point, some people singing their way along, others gossiping. By this time our stomachs had started rumbling, for we had certainly worked up an appetite, and at check-point 'G' (for Grub) our calls were answered by Mr. and Mrs. Sagar who had our packed lunches. We sat down and rested and ate our lunch. By this time we had approximately walked ten miles, so we were half way home. The eight mile people had turned off our route by then and were most probably in a hand's reach of home. Off we went, leaving all the food behind, striding for school, realizing for every mile we walked the more money we would raise. Through check-points H. I. J. and then at Traitor's Ford there was only one more check-point and that was at home. Everyone's morale was raised as they passed this point for we realized we were nearly there.

People started creeping in, weary, exhausted, sun-burnt, but 'chuffed'. In they signed and in return, a piece of paper saying So-and-so has walked 20, 8 or whatever mileage done, and then it was signed. As people came in the expected amount of money grew. £100—£300—£700 and finally, when everyone was in, it was as expected. £1000 target. This, Mr. Francis worked out, while around him exhausted walkers snored contentedly, or suffered from pain.

But the big task still lay ahead—to collect in the money. At first it came in slowly, then quickly, and then all the loose ends. The amount received, unbelievably, was over our target. It was nearly £1500. And so the sponsored walk was a success and the kiddies' holiday went ahead, with enough money for future holidays of the same sort.

And a few of the older pupils were allowed to run the 20 mile course which they completed to their own and everyone else's satisfaction by lunch-time.

Tim Chalk

When you leave school
don't just take a job.....

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SENIOR POETRY

THE STORMY SEA

Oh stormy sea, you are as black as the night,
And when you're annoyed
You put up a fight.
Oh stormy sea you frighten me
Especially at night.
You look so gruesome,
You belong to the sky when you're grey.
Please leave me alone, I pray,
Then I shall go home and get some peace.
I awake in the morning at the smell of the sea,
I could hear it wailing and shouting for me.
Slowly and steadily
I made my way down
And gazed at the sea
With an uncertain frown.
It beckoned me in
To a life in a dream.
I looked away
But he'd imprisoned me,
And all I could hear
Was a scream.

Joanna Dovell

WAR IS ALL WE HAVE

I heard the sound of war,
It was pounding in my ears.
I tried to open its door
But I was trapped beneath my fears.
All love had gone to sea
For hate from the ruler's men
Was upon the innocent, unable to flee.
What is this war all about?
Greed and sin and sorrow
Are mixed together with love.
Fight! Fight in the days to follow
There is only peace above.
Metallic men fight metallic wars
With machines like death.
Dead people slumped on blood-red floors
Soldiers have taken away their breath.

Joanna Dovell

LIFE

As we struggle and persevere to make our way through life,
It mocks us meanly with desperate strife.
The world seems suddenly hard, cruel and crude,
People change, they suffer—yet brood.
Life goes on in its own simple way,
But thoughts and impressions change it—everyday.
Life is to love, love is to live,
So let's look again, let's try to forgive.
Whose fault is it that life went stale?
Whose fault is it that the humble wail?
Questions confusing, baffling me,
Answers impossible, can't you see?
The world is dying, slowly, dreadfully,
Our world is crying—silently—solitarily.

Sarah Baxter

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THE EARTH

Such a wonderful place is the earth,
'Tis the land of our living and birth.
The ground is covered in thick, rich soil,
Generations of men have stooped to toil.
Above the earth there is the sky,
Through which all manner of birds will fly
Around the earth the sea will roar,
Among the plains are cattle and boar.
To light the earth we have the sun,
To darken it, great clouds will come.
Plants will grow beautiful and rare,
Fields of corn, golden and fair.
See the rabbit in the field,
Watch the fruit bear forth and yield.
And when the world doth go to sleep,
Don't be afraid, pray do not weep,
For the earth will bear another morn,
With the sweet song of birds,
And the waking of the dawn.

Sarah Baxter

THOUGHTS OF LONELINESS

I lie in my bed and wonder
About this world so full of things,
What will tomorrow hold for me?
I am so confused and frightened,
Will I ever find happiness and satisfaction
Or will I always be nervous and depressed?
I say I don't care but deep down I know I
I want to be successful and proud,
Proud of myself and my world.
But is my life worth looking forward to
Or shall I stay alone and without love?

Sue Addinall

LOVE IS . . .

Love is . . .
Like the sun on a beautiful day,
And of memories when we were both happy and gay.
We walked hand in hand in the blazing sun,
And ran through the fields where we had so much fun,
But all I have left is the cross you gave,
And my memories as I stand by your grave.

Sue Addinall

WAR

I dreamt about a Soldier, he walked to me in the mist,
He had cuts all round his forehead and a gun clenched in his fist.
He walked up very slowly and held his gun in front,
He tried to tell me something, but he could only grunt.
I held my face up to his eyes, and looked down at his feet,
He was cut and torn and hurt all round, he had come from a retreat.
He stared at me and tried to speak, but he could make no sound
Because the echo of his shot was heard from all around.
I turned and saw his bloody face and searched for him within,
His eyes were dark and narrow and tears filled up their brim.
He was trying to tell me something, I could not understand,
He let the tears roll down his cheeks, then dried them with his hand.
He whirled his arms up in the air then brought them to his feet
Expressing how he'd fought war, war, and was shattered with defeat.
I pulled his hands up from the ground and placed them on his heart,
The thought of life just frightened him, he flung them far apart.
He turned and started running. To where he did not know.
He had lost the art of living, there was nowhere else to go.

Sally Allford

SUICIDAL DEATH

Alone, confused, lost in my mind,
Defenceless, pathetic, why were you so kind?
I nearly took my life away, I wouldn't have lived
another day, but . . .
You came along like bee to the honey,
I begged you not to, I offered you money,
I didn't know what a coward I was, to take the
easy way out because . . .
You saved my life, dear friend, for me I was close
near the end.
Your voice was strange, cool and firm, remember I
hit you, I tried to squirm . . .
But you held me close with a grip like steel,
I was like a slippery eel,
My mind is dying—it's almost dead, but these
few words I want you to have read,
Because altho' it's now too late, and I am advancing
towards my fate,
I need you more now death is near, my eyes are
closed to hide my tears,
What can I say?—I feel so weak,
Goodbye, trusted friend—goodbye, till we meet!

Sarah Baxter

LONDON CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CAMP

It was the idea of the school's Social Services Committee to give a week's holiday to some children from London who would not usually get the chance to have a summer holiday.

The children came from Phoenix Park School and Stormont House which are in the Tower Hamlets area of London. Some of the 5th and 6th visited these schools before the holiday to meet the children and find out what to expect!

About twenty of the upper school stayed behind at the end of term, the idea being one person to each child. The first three days were spent getting things ready; for instance, beds had to be made, the Pavilion was turned into a play centre, swings were erected and the jumping pit was turned into a paddling pool. Apart from that, there was the worry about food, and this side of the holiday was organised by Jill Edwards who had two groups of three helping her. The first problem was buying the food and making out menus. The school mini-bus made a special trip to a Cash and Carry in Banbury and returned nearly full with stock. The next thing was finding room to put everything away in the D.S. room and getting the large pots and pans. The one great snag for the poor old cooks was getting up at 6 o'clock in the morning and having to cook the breakfast. At first they didn't mind but by the end of the week the other helpers were often woken up by grunts and groans of complaint.

Everything seemed to run smoothly in the kitchen and they were never short of people to be tasters. The food was excellent, meals invariably on time and very little wasted. Meals were eaten in one of the classrooms, which was brightened up by pictures and a mural done on the blackboard by Winnie Malcolm. Even the washing-up was done without too much of a to-do, but the main two people who always had their hands in water were Tim Chalk and Paul Waterhouse.

The children arrived on Monday, and before they did, everyone was a little bit apprehensive and saying things like "What am I going to do if they don't like me?" but there was no problem. The children soon attached themselves to someone. Unfortunately one of the children could not come as he was in hospital so there was one helper without a child, but she didn't feel left out, as she helped everyone.



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Beforehand we were told that the children would most likely rush around for the first half-hour and then collapse in exhaustion. They didn't! Not even by the end of the week. The only ones who did collapse in exhaustion were the helpers, and some even had to have one day off while someone else looked after their child.

The first real day of the holiday was spent walking to Traitor's Ford and this caused great delight as some of the children had never seen cows or such a great expanse of green. One little boy looked at a field of corn and said "Cor, Miss! look at all them cornflakes." The Ford caused a great delight and many decided for themselves they needed a bath, but Carole Creswell needed a little persuasion. After lunch they were taken by coach to Aynho, where they had a trip along the canal. Throughout the holiday there were no disasters, but Tony—one of the children—fell into the canal and was immediately fished out by Jim Shields. It was then back to Sibford for a slap-up supper, and this was followed by games on the field. The things which gave the most interest were the paddling pool—they insisted in lying in it fully clothed—and an old billiard table. The other thing that the children enjoyed was a good romp with the helpers who often landed up being mugged by at least seven at once, and bruised from head to foot or ended up with a sore back after trying to meet the demands of "Please, Miss, give us a carry."

Before bed the children had a light supper, and if one could get them there, a bath. When a bath was first mentioned they at first shunned the idea, but at the end of the week it was difficult to get them out! Once in bed and lights out all the helpers and staff had a meeting to discuss any problems and plans for the next day. The rest of the evening was then free but everyone was so tired that they just flopped into bed.

The second day was spent on a visit to Rollright Stones and the Cotswold Farm Park, which caused great delight, especially when the children could actually touch the animals. On the third day there was a full day trip to the Cotswold Wild

Life Park at Burford. On the fourth day there was a grand trip to Burton Dasset Hills, where the children flew kites which were made the night before, and just had a gorgeous romp around. In the afternoon they used the school swimming pool. Once the children were in, one couldn't hear oneself think for the squeals of enjoyment. Some of us even began to teach some of them to swim, and gave water bumps, and once this craze was started it was never ending.

On Saturday we organised a crazy sports day which consisted of various races with crazy side tracks to them; for example eating sweets without using hands off a plate on the ground. Four of us got together and entertained them by feeding chocolate whip to one another, blindfolded! During the afternoon, while the children were at the Washington Bird collection, some of us, plus Gordon Wright, Carole Creswell and Maureen Robinette, stayed behind to work out a concert which we performed on Saturday night. It was a great success and the children came onto the stage themselves in one sketch and pretended to be chairs, table, etc. The thing that caused a great uproar was when we got their Headmaster pretending to be a curtain and running backwards and forwards across the stage.

On Sunday we had a very short Meeting and four people roughly acted the story of the Good Samaritan while Carole Creswell read it out. We also sang songs to the guitar. After a fantastic Sunday lunch we had a free afternoon when the children could do what they liked, and two people even took their children into their own homes.

In the evening we had a barbecue and invited all those who had anything to do with the success of the holiday. We finished with a general sing-song. Monday was back to London and some were glad, but others like one little girl, were torn between the two, she wanted to see Mum but also to stay in the country. Once they were gone we were left to clear up, but we all had a fantastic feeling of achievement and friendship.

Naomi Davis

THE LONELY CHRISTMAS

Pit pat, pit pat, pit pat!
When the snowflakes hit the window.
An old man rocking sadly on his wooden rocking-chair.
The wind was howling,
The church bells were ringing,
For it was Christmas Eve.
Carol singers were singing in the distance,
But still the old man was sadly rocking away in his rocking-chair.
There was no smell of food in the house,
No smell of pine,
For there was no Christmas tree.
But there was a smell of smoke.
A dog was curled up by the fire,
But the old widower still kept
Rocking away in his memories.
He was remembering the good Christmasses with his wife,
The dog was remembering the last time he saw a bone.
There were no presents or cards,
No bulging stockings full of presents,
And when Christmas Day came
Carol singers knocked on his door.
The old man opened the door
And gave them money.
Then he said, 'Come in! Merry Christmas!'
So the carol singers came in.
The old man gave them hot soup.
This was his present.
These people were his visitors,
This was his Christmas.

Mark Rowntree

*(This poem was one of the
Readings in the 1973 School
Carol Service)*

HEADMASTER'S REPORT TO GENERAL MEETING June 15th 1974

I imagine that I am not alone in having indulged from time to time in fond and foolish dreams of a year—or a term, or even a week—in which everything would run smoothly and according to plan and completely free from trouble. No such dream has come true this year. But it is times of difficulty that test the real worth of individuals and communities, and it is in times of need that one discovers one's friends; and the events of the past year have been reassuring in both these ways.

In the winter months we were again badly hit by illness among the teaching staff, with consequent additional burdens of teaching and duties for others. When Miss Blackburn suffered a breakdown and had to resign in the middle of the Spring term, it was an Old Scholar, Mrs. Jill Smith, who came forward to take on her duties as Assistant Housemistress and to see us through the crisis; and it was fortunate that Mr. Rice-Oxley was available to take over Miss Blackburn's teaching programme in the English department. During Mr. Todd's prolonged absence his colleagues in the Languages department took on a very heavy burden of extra teaching; and this term, when we found ourselves without a Maths teacher in the Remedial department, Mrs Lamb came back at some personal inconvenience to help us out. The temporary transfer of junior girls from Lister House to the Ark brought added responsibilities to the three mistresses who live there; and the flu epidemic in March brought an enormous load of work, not only to Sr. Ross and Sr. Bradshaw in the San but also to House staff. With over 100 children ill in bed at one time both Penn boys and Nansen girls Houses were transformed into hospitals, and House staff and pupils strove long and valiantly in the roles of nurse, matron, ward-orderly, etc.

These, plus the winter fuel crisis, when in the interests of economy we had to transfer evening prep periods to the laboratory block, where some of the problems that we have contended with during the past few months, and we are greatly indebted to those staff and pupils and other friends of the school who put in so much extra work to help us through them.

New members of the teaching staff in September were Miss Covington (Girls P.E. and Penn House), Miss Bradley (Art), Mrs. Rudge (Modern Languages), Mrs. Rice-Oxley (Biology) and Mr. Higgins (English). We were glad to welcome our new colleagues, and none of us more so than Mr. Sagar, for he and Miss Covington are to be married this summer. We offer them our congratulations and good wishes. Miss Ellis took a term's sabbatical leave in the autumn, and her duties as Deputy Head were shared by Mr. Gilchrist and Miss Hargreaves. And now we are to lose Miss Hargreaves who, after 11 years at Sibford, has been appointed to the Deputy Headship of another boarding school. Her contribution to the life and work of the school has been immense: she has been Housemistress, Form mistress, librarian; she has shared the running of Junior Meeting and has given her active support to school activities of every sort. She will be greatly missed at Sibford, and we offer her our gratitude for her service to the school and our best wishes for the future.

Through the year the half-termly grade-sheets have shown a very satisfactory standard of diligence in all year-groups. In the public examinations taken a year ago the results at GCE Ordinary level were only mediocre, but the CSE results were very good indeed, including 21 Grade 1 passes; and some very good grades were also achieved at GCE Advanced level. Richard Hobbes, the first student to apply directly from Sibford for university entrance, achieved A-grades in Maths and Physics and a B-grade in Chemistry and so gained admission to Loughborough University to study engineering. Peter Douch and Frances Pocock were also admitted to degree courses elsewhere to study Librarianship and Music respectively.

Early in May, three of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools spent three very full days in the school for what they called a Pastoral Visitation, and every aspect of school life was subjected to their close and expert scrutiny. They were very well

satisfied with what they found, and we were greatly helped by their advice and encouragement.

The Remedial Department, established a year ago and to which I referred briefly in my last report, has developed rapidly under the guidance of Mr. Foulds and has become an important feature of the Sibford scene. The progress made by individual pupils, measured by standardised tests, has been most impressive. In this remedial work, particularly in our efforts to help dyslexic children, we are offering a service which is still very rarely found in the schools of this country; but although the demand greatly exceeds the number of places that we have to offer we believe that the present size of the department is about right in relation to the size of the school and we do not intend to increase it.

An interesting change in the main school curriculum has been the introduction of a Home Economics course for girls in place of the Needlework and Cookery course offered hitherto. The new course covers all aspects of running a home, and although rather more demanding seems to provide a more valuable training than that which it has replaced.

The School Council continues to afford pupils the opportunity to make their suggestions, complaints and requests about the day-to-day running of the school; and during the year staff-pupil working parties have dealt effectively with problems concerning certain aspects of school discipline, with dining-room arrangements and with the organisation of evening prep periods. Evening prep especially has benefitted greatly as a result of this, and the establishment of the idea of pupil-staff co-operation in such matters is an important innovation.

The old-established pupil/staff committees have continued their work, and I have received particularly good reports of this year's Charity Committee. I shall have more to say later of their activities.

We have also been exceptionally well served this year by our Head Boy and Head Girl, Christopher Phillips and Deborah Hunt, and I would like to congratulate them and express our appreciation of the contribution that they have made.

Although this has been an undistinguished year for school games there have been some good individual performances both in inter-House events and in county competitions. In the House cross-country races Anthony Francis knocked a whole minute off the junior record, and our more senior boys did well in the county events. Stephen Johnson gained his county colours for rugby, and we also had successes in local swimming galas. Two of our girls represented North Oxfordshire at athletics; and the steadily rising standards in gymnastics and trampolining have been such that we expect to be entering teams in competitive events next year.

Leisure-time activities have benefitted because it has been made possible for the workshops to be more freely available for use out of school hours, and good use has been made of them. Certainly the standard of craftsmanship in the pieces of furniture submitted for the O-level Woodwork examination was remarkably high, as the Inspectors observed. A great many useful activities have been undertaken in connexion with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme under the leadership of Mr. Wright, and once again parties of our boys and girls will complete their outdoor training at the end of this term—some of them camping near Aberystwyth and others walking along Offa's Dyke. During the year in addition to a number of Bronze and Silver Awards eight of our pupils have gained Gold Awards, the first ever achieved in the school. Two days ago Mr. Wright had the pleasure of taking six of them to Buckingham Palace to receive their badges and certificates, and we rejoice with him in this hard-earned reward for all the work that he has put into the scheme in recent years.

In January a party of our boys and girls led by Miss Covington and Miss Bradley joined with pupils from Abbotsholme School in Derbyshire for a ski-ing holiday in Switzerland; on another occasion some of our Sixth Form enjoyed a film-study week-end at the Friends school at Sidcot in Somerset; and our senior pupils have also attended several other study-conferences and gatherings organised by Friends.

Musically the highlight of the year came at Easter, when 20 members of our choir joined with contingents from the other Friends schools in performances at

Thaxted and at Friends House in London of Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius". It is greatly to the credit of Mr. Rye that we could find so many choristers capable of coping successfully with so difficult and demanding a work.

Once again we are indebted to the Friends of Sibford for their help at a number of school functions and for the gift of several useful pieces of equipment. Friends of Sibford have a stall in the foyer, and I hope that the parents of this year's leavers will take the opportunity of joining the Friends of Sibford and so maintaining their connection with the school.

We are also grateful for the continuing help of the Parent-Teacher Association, whose dinner-dance at the Parents' Week-end last term was such a pleasant occasion. This term we must lose the services of the secretary, Mrs. Hunt, and of Mr. and Mrs. Child, who have served for several years on the P.T.A. committee, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them most warmly for all the very valuable help that they have given the school through the P.T.A. over the years.

The major enterprise in school this term has been—and still is—the planning of a holiday camp here at Sibford for deprived children. As you will know, funds for this project were raised by a sponsored walk, and this in itself was a great occasion. Almost every pupil took part—some taking seven or eight hours to walk the twenty miles, others preferring to run the whole way in less than three—and it was very good to have the whole school engaged in such a splendid corporate effort. Such was the generosity of parents and other sponsors that the walk has raised nearly £1,300. So, for the first week of the summer holidays, twenty senior pupils and 5 staff will entertain twenty children between the ages of 9 and 11 from Tower Hamlets in London, accompanied by some of their own teachers. Already we hear that the London children are looking forward to their unexpected holiday with great excitement, and we know that the venture cannot fail to be a great success.

A year ago I spoke of the ideal of the school as a community of staff and pupils, working together in mutual understanding and respect, each recognising the needs of others, each making their contribution to the corporate life of the whole. In all the various activities to which I have referred, and in many more that I have not mentioned, we have gone some way towards achieving that ideal, and it is particularly pleasing that for this children's camp we have united in a project which looks beyond the school community to contribute something to the needs of the wider community in which we live.

The year may have brought its problems, but it has also brought a great deal to reassure us, and though we must never be satisfied we can certainly feel greatly encouraged.

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SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

President 1974: Geoffrey L. Moore

President 1975: Arthur W. Harrison

Vice-President 1975: Grace Beckerlegge

Officers and Committee from 1.1.75

<i>General Secretary</i>	Michael R. Finch, 52 Saxon Wood Road, Cheswick Green, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 4JN.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Arthur W. Harrison, 22 Elm Road, Reading RG6 2TS.
<i>Reunion Secretaries</i>	Peter Marlow, 1 Bronte Farm Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands. Russell Steed, 45 Ralph Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 3JX.
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Louis E. Wright, Pantiles, West End Lane, Esher, Surrey.
<i>Magazine Editor</i>	Philip Manasseh, Church House, Combe, Oxford.
<i>Local Branch Secretaries</i>	
<i>Midland</i>	Michael J. Gibbins, The Bank House, Harvington, Evesham, Worcs.
<i>London</i>	Alan and Patricia Yardley, 31 Hamsey Green Gardens, Warlingham, Surrey CR3 9RS.
<i>Representatives on School Committee</i>	
to 31.12.77	Lilian D. Ward.
to 31.12.75	Michael R. Finch
<i>Representatives from School Staff</i>	Alan Jarvis, Frank Cookson.
<i>Representative from Friends of Sibford Committee</i>	Cynthia Harris.
<i>Committee</i>	
to 31.12.75	Ann Lyth, Andrew de Hutiray.
to 31.12.76	Julie Watkins, Philip Sinclair.
to 31.12.77	Greta Millington, Ian A. Wright.
<i>Also members of the Committee are the Headmaster, and the Bursar</i>	
<i>Address your letter to:</i>	
<i>Change of Address</i>	Membership Secretary—As stated.
<i>Subscriptions</i>	Treasurer—As stated.
<i>Material for Magazine</i>	Editor—As stated.
<i>Births, Marriages, Deaths</i>	Gladys Burgess, 31 Melrose Road, Southampton, Hants.
<i>Advertising Matters</i>	Brian Wright, 18 Vicarage Road, Woking, Surrey.
<i>Photographs</i>	Russell Steed, 45 Ralph Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 3JX.
<i>Auditor</i>	John A. Taylor.
<i>O.S. Representative on the Friends of Sibford Committee</i>	Frank Rollett.

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SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1974

Held in the Old Scholars Room at Sibford on Saturday 24th August 1974 at 7.00 p.m.

President in the chair—Geoffrey L. Moore.

Members present totalled 55.

The Meeting remembered in silence the passing of Miriam J. Carter.

1. *Minutes*

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Sibford on Monday 27th August 1973, and having been printed in the Magazine, were taken as read and were unanimously approved by the Meeting. The President signed them as a true record.

2. *General Secretary's Report*

Michael Finch reported on the activities of the General Committee and the Association in general.

He said that there had been two Committee Meetings since the last A.G.M. The December meeting had not been well attended due to the fuel crisis.

There had been two meetings of the Reunion Sub-Committee. Patricia Grimes had resigned from the Committee to give birth to her second child.

The Secretary then spoke of the membership situation. He said that Louis Wright had been very busy and had obtained several recent leavers as members. Several members had rejoined the association. One member had become a Life-Member. June Ellis had sent out 21st Cards to recent leavers so as to keep in touch. Apart from London and the Midlands, the local branches remained at a low ebb. The Secretary said that contacts with the School had been good but unfortunately sporting fixtures had been curtailed due to the fuel crisis. The Day Reunion had been an enormous success. The School had held their sports day on the same day and it had been very successful. In the evening the Banbury Caledonian Society had entertained the School. The Secretary was very appreciative of the help given by Widgie Hammett and Philip Gray and June Ellis.

The Joint Magazine had been published and despatched at the beginning of the year for the first time in many years, due to the tremendous efforts of the Editor, Philip Manasseh. (The Meeting loudly applauded its thanks).

The next issue would be on the same basis as the current Magazine. However, the School were concerned that if the Magazine was to represent the School it would have to be made more elaborate and well presented to act as an advertisement. This matter was being investigated. The Secretary praised the efforts of Arthur Harrison for putting the Accounts into a far healthier position.

He then spoke of the Education Trust Fund which disappointingly looked doomed.

Also he spoke of the many grave problems facing the School Committee. These two items would be dealt with in more detail later in the Meeting. The Mabel Harrod Fund had been able to send Debbie Hunt, a recent leaver to France on a language course. (This is reported elsewhere in the Magazine) The Fund had a Balance of £90.00.

The Secretary paid tribute to the work of Nick Bennett, the Reunion Secretary, who was retiring after four-years in office. The Meeting warmly applauded its thanks.

He also warmly thanked Russell Steed for his work as Assistant Reunion Secretary.

Finally the School and School Committee were thanked amidst loud applause.

The President thanked Michael Finch for his work as Secretary and the Meeting warmly endorsed this.

3. *Accounts*

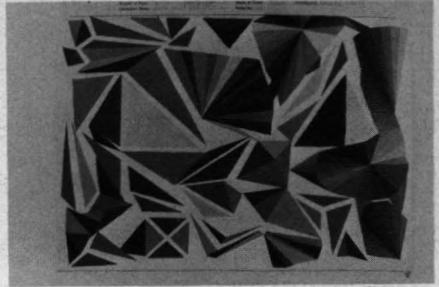
Arthur Harrison reported on the state of the accounts.

He said there had been a surplus of £82.00 on 1973, thanks mainly to the



'RISE AND FALL'
BY IVAN CLARK (5th)

'A' LEVEL
ART
SUMMER 1974



'DIFFUSION' BY PETER FLEMING (5th)



PRESENTATION OF SPORTS CUP TO
PENN HOUSE CAPTAINS

DAY REUNION
MAY '74



HEADS TOGETHER
MIKE FINCH NICK BENNETT



PHIL BECKERLEGGE, JEAN MILLS, JEAN LITTLE



JOHN AND MONICA TAYLOR, DIANA WRIGHT,
JOHN LLOYD, ETHEL WRIGHT

Photos: Messrs Steed and Moore



FRANK ROLLETT URGES THE TEAM ON!



PHILIP BROWN, LORRAINE BROWN, BRIAN HOOPER,
JOHN WARD, PETER YEOMANS, JUNE ELLIS,
LILIAN WARD



ETHEL WRIGHT, NICK BENNETT,
LILIAN WARD, WILFRED POLLARD



BETTER THAN WHITEWASH!
DEREK GAFFEE, "POLLY", MABEL,
JEAN MOORE AND FAMILY

MAY, '74



HARRISONS TAKING TEA



PICNIC TIME
JOHN TAYLOR, NORMAN COXON,
PAM HARRISON, (Dispensing)
JAMES THELTON, RUSSELL WARD
STAN EWAN, PHILIP MANASSEH



WALKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE



THE FOUR WISE MEN OF SIBFORD
MESSRS. EVANS, WRIGHT, BECKERLEGGE, AND LONG

Photos: Messrs Sreed and Moore



PRESIDENT 1975
ARTHUR W. HARRISON



FRED AND ALICE GREEN
AUGUST 19th 1958

AUGUST '74



BIRDS EYE VIEW BARBEQUERS



LAUGHTER AT THE MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY
MIKE FINCH, LOUIS POULTON, NANCY ROSS, JUNE ELLIS,
KEN GREAVES, REG PEARMAIN, JOHN TAYLOR,
BRIDGET HOPE, LOUIS WRIGHT, GEOFF LONG,
LILY RATHERHAM

AUGUST '74



NORMAN BURTON, BRYONY WILLIAMS, RUSSELL STEED,
LIZ CORDINER, LESLIE THOMAS, ETHEL WRIGHT,
REG BROWN, PAT YARDLEY, JIM LAW, M. PEARL MAYO,
STAN EWAN, MARJORIE AND GEORGE EDWARDS



THE NEW STAFF ROOM
VERA ROLLETT GEOFF MOORE

Photos: Messrs Steed, Rollett, and others

4
**CHILDREN'S
HOLIDAY
CAMP
SUMMER
1974**



successful Reunion and Diana Lloyd's efficient catering. Expenses were down by £100. There was £500 to invest which would be done immediately.

The Treasurer was very critical of Members for not amending their Bankers Orders to conform with the new Subscription rate. He urged Members to help in this matter as soon as possible.

He warmly thanked John Taylor for his work as Auditor.

The Meeting warmly applauded its thanks to Arthur Harrison.

4. *School Committee Representative—Report*

As items 4, 5 and 6 were closely related it was suggested that all comments should be deferred until item 6 had been concluded. The Meeting unanimously agreed to this.

Lilian Ward presented her report on the activities of the School Committee.

She said that the Committee were very appreciative of the years of service rendered by Vera Rollett and Louis Wright.

She said that the School Committee had made herself and Michael Finch very welcome and this had been greatly appreciated.

She spoke of the grave problems concerning the School Committee. The older School buildings had suffered a rapid deterioration of the fabric and structural weaknesses had developed due to ground movement. The School Committee were faced with the problem of repairing or replacing these out-worn buildings. The minimum estimate for the operation is £150,000.

The Committee had decided therefore to launch an appeal for funds as quickly as possible.

(This report is given in greater detail elsewhere in the Magazine).

Lilian Ward was warmly thanked for her excellent report.

5. *Education Trust Fund*

John Taylor reported on the Education Trust Fund. He said that the Deeds had been duly submitted to the Department of Education and Science for approval as a charity and had been rejected. It looked therefore as though the project was finished.

He then read the Departments reply listing their objections, the main

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points of which are listed below——

“—— It is the joint view of the Inland Revenue and the Department that a Deed executed in the form of a draft Declaration of Trust would not establish a body eligible for registration as a charity. To assist or enable Old Scholars of the School who could not otherwise afford to do so to educate their children at the School by the provision of financial assistance to Old Scholars is not thought to be legally charitable either as being in advancement of education nor for the relief of poverty.

What appears to be envisaged is the provision of an expensive education for the children of the Old pupils of the School.

There might be a case for regarding this Trust as a charity if it could be shown that the children of Old Scholars were more in need of this kind of education than other children, for example where parents are mobile and the child's interest is, best served by his/her remaining at a residential school”——

John Taylor was loudly applauded for all his work in trying to establish this fund.

6. *Headmaster's Report*

Kenneth Greaves gave a delightful report of the School year.

The School had had its difficult moments with the fuel crisis followed by a flu epidemic.

There had been a “Pastoral visitation” by the inspectors of the Department of Education and Science who had been favourably impressed. Examination results had been good and in athletics many outstanding individual events had been recorded.

Eight pupils had also received Duke of Edinburgh awards.

(This report is detailed elsewhere in the Magazine).

The last three items were then open for discussion.

The Meeting was very impressed with the Headmaster's report which showed the School to be in good shape and excellent running condition. Many Members expressed their disappointment that the Education Trust Fund looked doomed in its present form but hoped that it may be looked at again in the future.

It was also obvious that the Meeting were very anxious to help the School with its appeal but it was generally hoped that the money would be spent wisely and not used to patch-up worn out buildings.

The following resolution was proposed by Brian Wright and seconded by Frank Rollett and unanimously adopted by the Meeting.

——“The Annual General Meeting regrets that the Education Trust Fund is unable to be established in its present form but hopes that it will be looked at again in the future.

The Annual General Meeting is very mindful of the School Committee's problems and agree that every assistance should be given to the School. It is therefore agreed to give all donations set aside for the Education Trust Fund and proceeds from the sponsored walk to the Appeal Fund——”

7. *Elections*

The General Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Editor were all willing to be re-elected and were duly appointed by the Meeting for a further three years.

Nicholas Bennett retired as Reunion Secretary.

Peter Marlow and Russell Steed were elected as Joint Reunion Secretaries. Greta Millington was elected as the recent leavers nomination to serve as a Committee Member until December 1977.

Ian Wright was elected by majority vote as ordinary member until December 1977.

Finally, the President, Geoffrey Moore asked the Meeting to approve the appointment of Arthur Harrison as President for 1975 and Grace Beckerlegge as Vice-President for 1975.

This was unanimously approved amidst much applause.

Continued on page 27

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1973

1972			
£	<i>Fixed Assets</i>	£	£
45	Land at Elm		45
	<i>Assets of Specific Funds</i>		
1,111	Quoted Investments, at cost	1,111	
	Barbicon Investment Fund units, at		
646	cost	646	
419	Cash awaiting investment	501	
<u>2,176</u>			<u>2,258</u>
	<i>Current Assets</i>		
273	Sundry debtors	155	
82	Subscriptions in arrear	66	
381	Cash at Bank	461	
<u>736</u>		<u>682</u>	
	<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
638	Sundry Creditors	486	
10	Subscriptions in advance	26	
<u>648</u>		<u>512</u>	
88	<i>Net Current Assets</i>		170
<u>£2,309</u>	<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<u>£2,473</u>	
	Represented by:		
133	<i>Accumulated Fund</i>		215
	<i>Specific Funds</i>		
2,051	Life Membership	2,098	
125	Recent leavers membership	160	
<u>2,176</u>			<u>2,258</u>
<u>£2,309</u>		<u>£2,473</u>	

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.73**

1972			
£	<i>Income</i>		£
171	Subscriptions (net)		184
—	Donations		7
44	Investment income		49
19	Bank interest		37
122	Surplus on reunion		77
<u>356</u>			<u>354</u>
	<i>LESS Expenditure</i>		
	Net cost of printing and distributing	£	
343	Magazine for 1973	229	
21	Postage and stationery	27	
23	Sundry expenses	16	
<u>387</u>		<u>—</u>	<u>272</u>
<u>£(31)</u>	Surplus for the Year (1972 Deficit)		<u>£ 82</u>
	ACCUMULATED FUND		
164	Balance at 1st January 1973		133
(31)	Add: Surplus for year		82
<u>£133</u>			<u>£215</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

In my opinion the above Balance Sheet, and the annexed Income and Expenditure Account give respectively a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Sibford Old Scholars' Association at 31st December, 1973, and of the surplus for the year.

ARTHUR W. HARRISON, *Hon. Treasurer*

JOHN A. TAYLOR, *Hon. Auditor*

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BARCLAYS

8. *Reunions 1975*

Michael Finch announced the dates for Reunions in 1975.

Day Reunion—17th May 1975.

Annual Residential Reunion—23rd until 26th August, 1975.

9. *Any Other Business*

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

PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

It's been quite an exercise delving into the past—and Pam says she has learnt a thing or two!

My parents being more than fully occupied with their own business of running a health food store it seemed right that I should complete my schooling at Sibford. (We had moved to Northampton from Bradford, where I was born in 1923) and Northampton Friends encouraged the idea.

I went to Sibford in 1934 and remember with affection the names of Roland Herbert, Frank Parkin, Gladys Burgess, Dorothy Brigham, Dorothy Prior, Arnold Darlington, Barrie Naylor and his wife Sheila, to mention a few.

During the years between leaving School (1938) and about 1942 I worked as a carpenter and an electrician eventually finding myself at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon as the assistant electrician and engineer. Having registered as a C.O. the tribunal decided that I should stay in my present occupation. Whilst at Stratford I equipped the stage of the Old Gym at Sibford with some very simple stage lighting.

At the end of the war itchy feet took me to Daventry—a small general engineering firm where I did anything from blacksmithing to driving an ambulance!

In 1947 I spent a short time in Camborne helping to convert a disused hotel into a theatre in company with some other young people including Barbara Bond (Crozier) and Frances Brookhouse (Malan). I shall always remember leaving Camborne on my motor-bike—driving non-stop to arrive home in Northampton that same evening—quite a journey in those days.

Then followed about eighteen months working with a wood turner and furniture maker near Reading.

While spending a few days holiday with the Cannings in 1949 I agreed to return and build them a henhouse! One thing led to another and being of no fixed abode I took up residence in Sibford, Burdrop to be exact, running my own business as a jobbing builder. At about this time I was a Q.M. representative on the School Committee in the days of Wilfred Littleboy, Lionel Geering and George Edwards. I soon became involved in village affairs as secretary to the Town Estates Charity and then School Manager and Parish Councillor.

In 1951 I married Pamela who was working at the School as Nurse. In 1958 I went to work for the School and was there for nine years, during which time I personally carried out many alterations, not least of which was the conversion of the Old School to oil-fired heating and the building of the first stage of the new Science block.

Partly for the benefit of the children (by this time we had Philippa, Rosamund, Nicholas and David) we moved to Leighton Park, my having been offered the position I now hold of Maintenance Officer.

We have a busy life in Reading being very involved with our Meeting, and my new appointment as a J.P. promises to make life even more interesting.

IT WOULD "SEAM" THERE IS NO FAULT!

Recent geological investigations on the Manor site reveal no evidence of the geological fault to which the troubles of the Manor have been attributed for so many years. The buildings, it appears, stand on a solid stratum of blue clay some thirty feet thick.

UNDER TWO ELMs

The time comes round so very quickly to report once again on the activities of the London Branch that it is hard not to think of it as a half-yearly report! However, the whole year we will try to recall briefly.

The A.G.M. and Christmas Party was held as usual at Westminster F.M.H. on 12th January and was attended by forty-five O.S. and others. The meeting was lively and held some surprises, one being the reaction to a proposed five pence increase in the Annual Branch subscription. Although our Treasurer had reported a year of financial balance a proposal came from the floor that this increase be ten pence, this being seconded and carried unanimously was surely an insight into the rate of inflation that was to come. The interest in outings was renewed and many ideas were forthcoming. The Secretaries agreed to serve a further year.

In March twenty-five O.S. sped down the M4 to Pam and Arthur Harrison's at Leighton Park. Pam and Arthur's house was bulging with the large number of O.S. but room was soon made to accommodate us all.

April saw us down the Thames to Syon Park. Isleworth Friends had loaned us the keys to their Meeting House and sixteen returned there after an interesting albeit brief look round Syon Park, a trip we will do again no doubt.

Alan drove a mini-bus from South London and the President filled his van up through North London on route to the Day Reunion at Sibford in May, others came under their own steam so that the Branch was well represented by thirty-six or so.

The President and Jean welcomed about twenty to their house in June and a visit to a pleasant local park preceded a sumptuous feed and much talk (whenever one or two are gathered together in the name of S.O.S.A. there will be talk!)

With the reunion at Sibford in August our next outing was perhaps the most interesting, our friend George Edwards conducted twenty-six of us around Quaker Westminster at the end of September. George, as is his way, made this walk a very pleasant and educational one. We finished up in St. James' Park at the Cafe, that we learned, now replaces a lady with a cow!

A good and full year for the Branch when we managed to increase our membership by a few, but we were all the sadder that Grace and Philip Beckerlege now have much further to come. We do hope to see them from time to time as they have been so much a part of the London Branch but we wish them joy in their new home.

Pat and Alan still like to hear from anyone who cares to write, or if Sibford omitted letter writing in the curriculum during your stay then the telephone number is Upper Warlingham 2229.

One date for your diaries, if this magazine comes in time, is January 11th Westminster Friends Meeting House, St. Martin's Lane (Hop Gardens entrance) late afternoon for our 1975 A.G.M. and Christmas Party. All are very welcome.

Alan and Patricia Yardley

J. M. CANNING

TAXI SERVICE

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FRIENDS OF SIBFORD SCHOOL

The membership of Friends of Sibford is now 106, and interest in our work is well maintained. We continue to make contact with parents through serving coffee and soup at Parents' Weekends in the spring and autumn terms; previously we have given the profit to school charities, but in the coming year we intend that contributions shall be for our own funds.

Gifts to the school during the year include equipment for the remedial department, film strips of art history, two sewing machines for girls' houses, and two loud speakers for the school hall; these last are much appreciated by all members of the school as they listen to a wide variety of recordings.

At the committee meeting held in September it was decided to give £100 to a special fund being raised by members of Berks and Oxon General Meeting towards expenses incurred for urgent maintenance work at the Manor.

We are sad to lose Dorothy Smith, who retires after two three-year periods of valued service on the committee. Heather McNair has also retired from the committee, and once again we thank her for all she has done for us. Carol Albrecht has unfortunately not felt able to continue her membership of the committee. We welcome Jim Shields back to the committee, and we also welcome two new members, Marjorie Fielding and Hilda Ransome.

At the Annual General Meeting many ideas were put forward as to ways in which various parts of the school could be helped with small items of equipment. We commend these suggestions to individual members of Friends of Sibford, who should in the first instance make contact with a member of the staff, and look out in our newsletter for mention of any pressing needs.

We hope to increase our membership during the coming year. Applications should be made to the Hon. Treasurer, Constance M. Phillips, Milverton, Park Road, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon.

CYNTHIA HARRIS,
Chairman.

THE MABEL HARROD FUND

The course was run by Educational Travel Ltd., and the Comité d'Accueil des élèves des Ecoles Publiques. It was held at the Lycée la Bruyère in Versailles.

The first part of the course was the journey to the Lycée. I joined the party at Dover, and we crossed the Channel on the hovercraft. We then travelled from Boulogne to Versailles by coach.

After dinner we met the staff, and were then very grateful for an early night.

The next morning we had the first lesson of conversation, and then phonétique, which were to become a regular feature in the morning: altogether we had six hours of conversation and five hours of phonétique. The third period of each morning was spent either in a general literature lecture or a lecture expliquée. There were three groups of lectures expliquées, and each group was given twice, so that one could attend a total of six. The lectures expliquées were, in my opinion, one of the most valuable parts of the course, each one was about a passage from one of the 'A' level set texts, and started with an introduction to the text, before going into detail about the selected passage.

The afternoons were spent on organised visits: a coach tour of Paris: a visit to the Château de Versailles: to the Ile-de-la-Cité; to the Jeu de Paume (a museum containing most of the impressionist paintings); and to Paris for shopping in the famous grands magasins. The other afternoons were free so most of us took the opportunity to spend them seeing more of Paris.

On Sunday we had a choice of a coach trip to Chartres or to Fontainebleau, or a free day. I spent the morning in Paris looking for the Meeting-house

(unsuccessfully) and the afternoon at the marché "aux pûces" in the north of Paris which was very interesting.

After dinner there was a lecture each evening. We were asked to attend four of the seven lectures. I went to one on La tragédie classique, one on Les Impressionistes, one on Le Théâtre Contemporain, and one on Paris et son Histoire.

On the day before the last day of the course we had the preliminary rounds of the French speaking competition in which we all had to read out an essay we had written on the Irresponsibility of Youth. I got into the semi-final.

On the last afternoon there was a closing ceremony, attended by the Mayor of Versailles, a representative of the Prefect of the department, the Chef of the Comité d'Accueil, the Headmistress and Intendant of the Lycée, the course director and the Directeur Culturel, who all made speeches because it was the tenth course to be held in Versailles.

That evening there was a very amusing social evening, with sketches by both pupils and staff, and music.

The next morning we left the Lycée at seven o'clock, and arrived in Dover at about two-thirty.

The course was very useful, not only because of the lectures about set texts, but I feel sure that, as a result of the conversation and phonétique lessons, as well as the ample opportunity for speaking French to French people, my knowledge of the French language has improved greatly. I would like to say how much I enjoyed and profited from the course, and to express my gratitude to you for making it possible for me to go. Thank you very much.

Deb Hunt

REUNION 1974

Gloom and despondency, centred on Solihull, slowly spread throughout the United Kingdom during the week ending 24th August as the sun beat down continuously from a clear sky. Could the fine weather persist until the weekend was over.

In hope, Dianna and John Lloyd, along with Kathy, our caterers arrived at Sibford on Thursday to start their mammoth preparations. The following day Mike Finch, Nick Bennett and Russell Steed turned up to put the finishing touches to their months-old plans, so that by 11 o'clock Saturday morning everything (well, nearly everything) was ready for the weekend—starting with coffee; and the sun was still shining!

Over fifty sat down for the first lunch, after which we had the usual notices from the various officials with pleas for more competitors for darts, table tennis and sponsored walks.

The hockey match on Saturday afternoon turned out to be "Holland's team" skippered by Alf versus "Finch's team" made up mainly of the Greaves family. Mike confidently stated before the match that his side couldn't lose—as his reputation was at stake. The Headmaster—appropriately attired like a Roman Gladiator, with Greaves in the shape of shin-pads—was goalkeeper, and was kept under pressure—while it was observed that on one occasion at least the other goalkeeper was asleep at his post! The game was one—or lost—by the Referee—Grace Beckerlegge—who stated quite impartially "Our side lost". Result: Holland's XI 2, Finch's XI 0.

An early supper at 5.30 enabled us to make a reasonably prompt start for the A.G.M. Elsewhere in the magazine will be found a report of the meeting, as will the report which was presented by the Headmaster, which, though light hearted, gave evidence of continued progress. In the discussion which followed, Jonas Fielding referred to the growing disenchantment with education by part of the younger generation (3,000 truants in both Liverpool and Manchester) and made

the point that schools, such as Sibford, should cease to be schools for Quaker children, but rather Quaker schools for children. The meeting was very concerned to hear about the structural defects at the Manor and the cost of remedying them. The question of how to raise the necessary money exercised the minds of all of us. An appeal for funds had not yet been made but it was decided that the money raised last year by the sponsored walk, as well as the money to be raised this year, should be donated to the fund.

The evening finished with an open-air Kebab barbeque organised by Ethel Wright—and then rockets, with over eighty being counted.

Sunday dawned with the sun still shining. After breakfast some thirty of us adjourned to the Old Scholars' Room to hear the President's Choice—this year all music, including the modern hymn "Morning has broken" and "Coming Home" from Dvorak's "New World Symphony". The meeting for worship at the Gower is always a welcome interlude for all, but particularly for those whose memories can span the decades (and half-centuries) when they sat, as children, on the hard forms now mercifully padded.

After lunch there was a mystery walk, this year to Neal's farm at Brailes where a picnic was laid on — water being boiled on the traditional wood fire. Unfortunately the fears of the past week were well founded, for during the picnic the heavens opened and the picnic ended hurriedly. Following supper John Gilchrist spoke to us on the changes he has seen during twenty years of teaching at Sibford. He has served under four Heads (or as he put it, three down and one to go)—and had seen many changes—but in a number of ways children were still the same today as twenty years ago.

The evening finished with old-time and square dancing under the tutorship of Maestro Chris Grimes.

Monday did not dawn—rather it emerged from under grey dark skies to the sound of pouring rain. Fortunately it ceased in time for the Sponsored Treasure Hunt Walk. The route devised by Frank Rollett covered ten miles with marshals at intervals and the usual liquid and other refreshments supplied by Wilf and Mabel Pollard at the six-mile stop. Competitors had to answer some twenty questions—or provide botanical specimens. The questions revealed the mind of the man who thought them up. One concerned the fish caught by Noah when he was no longer at home—or something like that. The answer Carpark without the "ark" = carp.

After lunch and a little relaxation we joined the Headmaster and his family on his lawn for tea and biscuits. Again a hurried dash for cover as the heavens opened. The rain lifted in time and for sufficiently long to allow a production of the "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" to be given on the lawn. The cast was: the Mad Hatter—Leslie Harrison; March Hare—Paul Brown; Dormouse—Robin Greaves, and Alice—Jana Bock. The narrator was Peter Yeoman and the play was produced and directed by Grace Beckerlegge. Though produced at short notice it was excellently done and was enjoyed by all. The high spot of the play was when the Hatter and the March Hare upended the Dormouse and attempted to put her head first in the tea pot.

The now traditional Presidential Dinner was beautifully prepared and cooked and served as usual on tastefully decorated tables. The waiters, recruited from the junior guests, did a grand job. The President spoke on Craftsmen and their place in the modern world, and Craftsmanship and the demands such skills make on the craftsmen. Geoffrey Long thanked the President for his thought-provoking address and expressed the thanks of all those at the dinner for the speech.

The evening ended with a social and dance under the guidance of Brian Wright and musical direction by Chris Grimes.

Those who did not leave for home that evening had the choice of 7 a.m. or 9 a.m. breakfast. And for all—except those who remained to clear up—that was the end of a most enjoyable weekend.

AMONGST THOSE PRESENT FOR THE WEEKEND:

Brian Hooper, Russell Ward, Geoff and Joan Long, Brian and Ethel Wright, Wilf and Mabel Pollard, John and Betty Thelton, Derek Gaffee, Jonas and Marjorie Fielding, Reg and Vera Brown, John Sissons, Miriam Guest, Alfred, Sue, Sally and Paul Holland, Angela and Esther Jackson, Marjorie and Norman Coxon, Irene Smith, John Miller, Margaret and Athur Dring, Susan Marriage, Ian Jones, Diana, Ivano, Eleri and Mario Ricci, Geoff, Jean, Jill, Peter and Heather Moore, Philip, Janet, Timothy and Andrew Manasseh, Chris, Pat, and Michael Grimes, John, Monica, and Gordon Taylor, Paul Ross, Kenneth, Robin, Helen, and Caroline Greaves, Arthur, Pam, and David Harrison, Leslie, Christine, and Ian Harrison, also Ann, Trevor, and Hazel Harrison! Jacqueline Hare, Reg and Mary Pearmain, Jim and Mrs. J. Shields, Constance Philips, Vera and Frank Rollett, Janet Eavis, Shirley Ross, Kate Long, Paul Dermot, Helen and Johnny Doyle, John Farr and family, Sylvia, Lesley and Julia Atkinson, Grace and Philip Beckerløgge, Chris, Margaret, and Andrew Fairnington, S. and F. Tresize, Michael, Wendy and Guy Van Blankenstein, Lily Ratheram, Stan Ewan, Philip and Loraine Brown, Mary Mascaro, Jana Bock, Peter Marlow, Russell Steed, Nick Bennett, Jack and Janet Davis, D. June Ellis, Michael Finch, John and Lilian Ward, Louis and Doris Wright.

S.O.S.A. SPONSORED WALK

This year's walkers faced windy, threatening storm conditions as they set off. A picturesque walk through the Gower, Ditchedge Lane, White House, Epwell, Swalcliffe Lea and home was made all the more interesting by clues, which activated the mind in concert with the legs! Most participants arrived home before the deluge. Some doubtful characters seemed to fall "inn" around the Swalcliffe area and were duly soaked!

The President's family once again produced an outstanding contribution, with Peter Moore far ahead of any other individual, followed closely by the Harrisons.

The total sum collected was substantially less than last year, but an anonymous cheque for £50, for which we are most grateful, made a total figure of £128.22 to be transferred to the new school appeal.

F. R.

DAY REUNION MAY 18, 1974

It was nice to see the School in its working clothes once again and it turned out to be in a very energetic manner, for the school sports final had been arranged for our benefit, and I'm sure old scholars would like to thank the powers that be for this splendid idea.

Of course there was none of the foam rubber to land on when we did the high jump, but then neither did we attempt the Fosbury flop! And whereas I remember doing a hundred yards in 10.1 seconds all that has changed and it is now all metric, so comparisons are not meaningful.

The School House that won the overall event was Penn, still as good as ever, and we enjoyed seeing the finalists fighting out the points whilst we drank tea dispensed, with key-rings and ball-point pens suitably inscribed with the Old Scholars motif, by Mike Finch and helpers.

The outcome of a tug-of-war twixt old scholars and school was, I believe, a defeat for the old scholars. I did not see the contest but on examining the photographs I notice Peter Baily in open-toe sandals and Phil Beckerlegge in suede shoes, and smiling! Who managed this team?!

One or two of the old scholars' children slipped away to the heated pool at the Manor, which I now understand is in use for most of the year, having visits from outside organisations as well as scholars and the local community.

High-tea was served as usual at the old school, amidst scaffolding. Scholars ushered us to tables with traditional fayre. A walk back to the Hill where an enjoyable folk dance evening awaited us in the form of the Banbury Scottish Dance Association, resplendent in kilts, together with some very fetching youngsters who gave an excellent demonstration of sword dancing.

This was a successful day for us—thank you School for organising it once again, it compromises a little for that something that is missing at the August reunions—the scholars.

P.M.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

One Whitsuntide evening in 1938 one of Ma Baily's first-year little boys looked out from the wire-covered window of Littleboy dorm across the Boys' yard to the creeper-covered Old Gym. It was Old Scholars' weekend and they were a noisy crowd. It was in fact their President Wilfred Pollard (Polly) delivering his Presidential address. It never occurred to me then that one day I might find myself in a similar position. But times have changed, and Sibford has changed. This wonderful New Hall has replaced the Old Gym, there aren't any first-year boys to keep awake, and Polly certainly missed out on this excellent Presidential Dinner.

(May I at this stage offer our most sincere thanks to our cooks, now Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd, and Kathy, the waiters, and other helpers who have all worked so hard to make this Dinner so enjoyable, and also to my wife and Vera Rollett who are responsible for the table and other decorations.)

When John Taylor, one of my oldest friends, invited me to serve as President for 1974, I was to say the least, overwhelmed. But John doesn't easily take No for an answer. I would like to thank you all very much for the honour of making me your President this year. I have always considered myself fortunate in having married an Old Scholar, someone who is able to share this honour with me especially at a time when our son David is a pupil here..... 'Moore' Old Scholars.

Selecting a theme for this address has been a problem for many before me. You have heard Reminiscences of Schooldays and past Reunions; Changes at Sibford; Tributes to Sibford; Appreciations of Games and Dickens; Aspects of Education, and problems with the Office Computer to name but a few. What can I say that hasn't already been said before!

Most of us remember with affection and gratitude our days here at Sibford, and we departed well endowed with the Spirit of Sibford. It was here, from that great perfectionist, Roland Herbert, I became aware of the aims and desires of being a craftsman. Thirty years on I prefer to call them "Thoughts of a craftsman".

I feel that if our part is to be a craftsman, then to have a vocation for craftsmanship, to aim at being a superlative craftsman, is one of the worthiest objects to which any man may aspire.

Our part here is to interpret thought into reality, through the rhythmic co-ordination of our senses.

On a higher plane still, the artist-craftsman interprets thought and feeling, his own ideas and emotions.

To effectively translate thought into reality, to translate thought into material beauty, we must feel in harmony with the work and in sympathy with our material.

There is a mute appeal about any material, an appeal to transform it into something useful, as well as beautiful.

What one gives in art or craftsmanship is returned a hundredfold, and yet what ones gives may inspire countless others.

From the product of his soul, his emotions, the co-ordination of his senses, eye and hand, brain and muscle, there will inevitably be that which is alone, himself, that cannot be copied.

If we bequeath nothing to posterity, if we add nothing to our own small part in the scheme of things, then there has been no reason for our being.

Stand in some old house, or in a great Cathedral where every stone, every timber, every tiny piece of craftsmanship is vocal. Do they not speak!

Every craftsman has his own personal rhythm—the mental attitude, the physical pace that suits him. He is sensitive and near to the heart of things and by virtue of this he is temperamental, almost without exception and in varying degrees. Upset his rhythm of working—if only by an ill-timed, perhaps innocent remark—and he reacts according to his degree of temperament and in manner according to his nature.

Rhythm in the craftsman is a matter of harmonious co-ordination of the mental and physical planes, resulting in skilled, effortless production, with the craftsman extracting from the job the maximum amount of happiness in its execution and fulfilment. Happiness coming from a sense of achievement is his real recompense and if he does not feel this there is something lacking.

Friends believe there is that of God in every man.

There is surely that of God in every Craftsman.

I should like to quote Walter Rose who said in *Christian Faith and Practise*:

“It is in the workshop and at the bench that an insight into the soul of wood craftsmanship can be truly gained. There are tools, there is the wood—rude planks, ungarnished, their surface scored with the saw. Between them, and without which each is useless, must come the soul and spirit of the designer and craftsman; the deft hands prompted by an alert mind; the knowledge attained only through years of study and service; the creative instinct and ability that will, by the correct use of the tools, transform the mere plank into a thing of usefulness and beauty—possibly a joy for ever.

It was at the lathe, when a youth, that I first realised the charm of line, the contour that flows continuously on, diminishing and enlarging, though separated by ornamental members. Those who have studied woodcraft for half a century find themselves still learning and quite unable to pack all their knowledge into a nutshell for the convenience of a beginner. The training is not that of the university; it is, however, quite as exacting in its own way and so merits equal recognition and respect, and it is encouraging to note that this idea is slowly gaining ground. The woodworkers of a century ago added to their carpentry the dignity of craft; this is why the examples of their handiwork that remain are treasured. Let it not be assumed that it is merely because such work is old that it is appreciated so highly. Even a slight study will reveal the artist mind that prompted the hands, the perception that had grasped the principles of design, the certain knowledge in its decisive finish. There is the secret of its permanent inspiration, in power to soothe and charm.”

And again I quote from *Christian Faith and Practise*:

“And a man’s work is perhaps the most important contribution he makes to society. It should therefore offer good possibilities of spiritual contentment. And it happens quite often that people find satisfaction, joy and meaning in their work. But, of course it is not always the person who looks for the job; often the job looks for the person. Many jobs, especially in industry, are mechanised and humdrum, and offer the worker few possibilities of deeper satisfaction.”

There is today, sadly, a lack of dignity in the crafts. Where have all the craftsmen gone? Financial reward for unskilled work on some assembly line is now considered recompense for happiness from a sense of achievement. Can the machine replace the man? I am prepared to let the matter rest with the younger generation . . . and the spirit of Sibford.

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**LILIAN WARD'S Report as representative on the School
Committee given to Annual General Meeting of the Association
on 24th August, 1974**

The first item in this my first report to you as your representative on the School Committee is to tell you of the great appreciation of the Committee for the long and valued service of Vera Rollett and Louis Wright, and I know you will be pleased to know that they have both been co-opted for one year on the General Purposes Committee.

This Committee, of about twelve members, is appointed from the School Committee for the day to day management of the School affairs within the policy laid down by the School Committee so you will see Vera and Louis are still much involved with the School.

Michael Finch and I were made most welcome to the School Committee and, when we have attended the General Purposes Committee, have been invited to participate in the matters discussed although, as members of the School Committee only, this is at the discretion of the Chairman.

We have been to Sibford several times this year for meetings, including one in June immediately prior to the General Meeting. At this time we were entertained to a musical evening by the School and Staff and we were most grateful to Tony Rye and his Minstrels for a most enjoyable evening.

You will hear from Kenneth Greaves in a moment about School happenings but I should like to say how much we, and I am sure the School, will miss Pippa Hargreaves who has left this term after eleven years at Sibford. There has been another recent retirement after eight and a half years—Norman Coxon—but fortunately he was not very serious about it and is still at the School part-time.

You will also hear of the tremendous effort of the School's sponsored walk

which raised about £1,400. I hope we may do even half as well on Monday.

Early this year the School was very badly hit by illness. At one time no less than one hundred pupils and staff were down with flu. We came down for Committee Meeting during this time and were very conscious of the tremendous effort made by the Staff to keep the School running and their difficulties and the way in which they overcame them were much appreciated.

These were by no means the only difficulties the School had to endure. Some of you may have seen the scaffolding in the Dining Room and wondered what is happening.

Obviously the School Committee has been much occupied with the proposed development of the School and very aware of the wishes of old scholars and others in relation thereto. Consequently, many different ideas and plans were discussed and contemplated. Meanwhile, the state of the property market changed and the School Committee were faced with an immediate problem.

I would like now to read to you a summary of the present position which has been prepared by Kenneth Greaves:

"In 1973 it was discovered that parts of the older School buildings had suffered a rapid general deterioration of the fabric and that structural weaknesses had developed as a result of ground movement. The buildings affected contained on the ground-floor, the kitchens and dining room, and, on the upper two floors, bedroom accommodation for thirty girls. Although there was no immediate danger, both the fire authorities and the School's Insurers demanded urgent remedial action to strengthen the buildings, and the School Committee in consultation with their professional advisers, implemented first-aid repairs and arranged for the top floor rooms to be evacuated.

The School Committee must now find the money either to repair or replace these outworn buildings. The minimum estimate for this operation is £150,000.

Apart from its assets in buildings and land the School has no resources whatsoever, and exploratory schemes have shown that at the present time the sale of land would produce comparatively little. The School is already indebted to certain Trusts, and because of our existing overdraft of £50,000, incurred mainly to finance the 1969 development, no further bank loan can be obtained. The only acceptable course of action, therefore, is to launch an appeal for funds, and this the School Committee has decided to do.

The School is full and, as a recent D.E.S. inspection confirmed, in good shape. The demand for places continues to be very encouraging, and, in spite of the present national economic difficulties, in the day-to-day running of the School the financial situation is satisfactory."

In regard to the urgency of this matter, it was decided to make our position known as widely as possible by all means available to us and to inaugurate the appeal without delay. Michael is on the Sub-Committee dealing with that and I am on the Sub-Committee appointed to discuss the present situation with the Clerks of our three holding General Meetings and with the Secretary of the Friends Schools Joint Committee. Our first Meeting is here at the end of this week.

As the result of the appeal is uncertain, we cannot set a definite target or suggest exactly what accommodation it is sought to provide. The Committee felt it was better to await the result of this approach before settling the final course of action.

As Lesley Bailey has recently written to the School Committee after reading Kenneth Greaves' report to the Friends of Sibford:

"Such splendid work is being done that one laments more than ever the black cloud that hangs over the Staff and Committee of the School. Obviously the absolute priority is the educational needs and good housing of School pupils and Staff."

Let us old scholars help to preserve this School of ours—still progressive today with its remedial departments—and let us hope for its long continuance under good management.

GREETINGS TO FRANCES WELLS AND ALICE GREEN

A Sibford-born woman who can remember Richard and Rebecca Routh, the first Superintendent (Headmaster) and the first Mistress of the Household of Sibford Friends School (1841-1880)—this link of memory seems hardly credible; yet such a witness is Frances Wells. She celebrated her centenary in 1974 at Street, Somerset, where she lives with her son Wilfred (Sibford scholar, 1909-14). Among hundreds of congratulations was a telegram from the Queen.

Frances has a clear memory and such high spirits that one has to revise all one's ideas about old age. When I called on her last summer she admitted that her recollection of the Rouths was "dim", but her memories of the second Headmaster, Robert B. Oddie, are bright and appropriately robust, as was "R.B.O." Her insights into village life in the late 19th century are likewise historically valuable. She was born at Prospect Villa (now Leasowe House), at the end of Bond's End Lane, Sibford Gower. Her father, John Wells, was for many years the Secretary of Sibford School (unpaid) in days when Bursars were unknown here. Old Scholars of my generation will remember John Wells (1834-1923) as a frequent speaker at Sibford Meeting. His wife Elizabeth had been born (1833) at Norton House (now Temple Close), the daughter of Ezra Enoch (1799-1860), one of the famous Sibford group of clock-makers whose "grandfathers" are tirelessly ticking in many parts of England today.

Ezra's grand-daughter, Frances, attended a dame school in Bond's End Lane; then she went to the Quaker School at Sidcot; no doubt her father John felt it discreet not to enter her to Sibford School since he as its Secretary brought home sagas of both the feats and failures of "R.B.O." Frances remembers that it was her father and Dr. Routh (village medicine-man, son of Richard) who laid out in their gardens the first tennis courts in Gower and Ferris respectively, while "R.B.O." introduced tennis in the Paddock at the Friends School along with other sports on other grounds. The sporting spirit of Sibford Quakers had an infective influence on village life, especially through day-students at the Friends School growing up to adult life in the village and taking part in village teams at football, cricket and hockey.

Wilfred Wells, like his centenarian mother, looks half his age today; he has affectionate memories of the third Headmaster of Sibford School and his wife, James and Mabel Harrod, whose forthright revolution of co-education put Sibford among pioneering schools in England in this respect in 1906. Wilfred, leaving school in the summer of 1914, served with the Friends Ambulance Unit in France, and can tell you more accurately than any television feature about the 1914-18 war, and about the Twenties, which, for no sane reason, are called "The Roaring Twenties" by present-day commentators who were not then born.

It is by the memories of hundreds of people connected with Sibford School and with Sibford village life in the past that I am helped enormously in my task of writing a history of this part of England. Please be patient about this: the book is a long period in preparation, due to the fact that comparatively little historical research had been done in the area. Such research is bound to take time if it is to be thorough and reliable. I am grateful to people of all generations, but especially valuable are such informants as Frances Wells and Alice Green who are living links with a very different village and School before the 1914 war.

Alice Green is: (1) daughter of Richard Walker, the one-time blacksmith in both the Sibfords; (2) daughter of Sally Walker, beloved to scholars as keeper of the Ferris sweet-shop and to Old Scholars as a good friend; (3) widow of Fred Green whose genial service as the School's Head Gardener is a memory cherished by many; (4) mother of Wilfred Green (1922-6) who keeps the village shop now. Alice moved recently from her Sibford cottage and is now at Adderbury House, Adderbury. She has always shown the keenest interest in Sibford School, and still does so. On Christmas Day 1974 she celebrates her 90th birthday.

Leslie Bailly

NEWS OF OLD SCHOLARS

Notes from the Day Reunion

Thomas Law (1915-19) known as Jimmy, at Sibford, made his first visit to the school since 1920, "Marvellous to come back and see so much that is recognisable, the old and new blend in well."

Violet Harris showed me a programme of a piano concert to be held in the Wigmore Hall, presented by "The Stanley Lewis Concert Society". founded in memory of **Stanley Lewis** (1920-24) who died in 1972.

Francis Rush (1945-51) and family have recently returned from Nairobi, Francis was en-route for a new post as careers master and handicrafts teacher of Friends school Wigton.

James Shear (1956-66) is a mining engineer in Australia, has two children.

Brian Evis (1945-50) returned recently from Barbados, where he worked as an irrigation agronomist.

Bridget Hope (Evis) was in Bavaria recently where she stayed with **Wendy Diehl** (Clark 194 -54).

John Canham (1940-45) nice to hear of again, was seen at the performance of "The Dream of Gerontius" at Friends House.

Norman Burton (1942-44) is a Public Health official, it was his first visit since leaving.

Congratulations to **Arthur Harrison** and **Lilian Ward**, both are now J.P.'s.

Notes from August re-union.

In between showers and crowded together in Holly House I met

Peter Yeomans (1935-40), back for the first time in 4 years, **Michael Zugg** (Peters brother-in-law) lives at 4 Mimosa Street, Milverton, Cape Province S.A., was a Captain with Union Castle Line, and is now a marine superintendent.

Russell Ward (1940-44) now lives at "Moorings" Dog Lane, Horsford, Norwich, is chief draughtsman with Boulton and Paul, (windows) and would like to hear from O.S. of his years.

John Farr (1940-44) Still lives locally at Swalcliffe and spent some time at the gathering.

Dick Neal allowed us to use his farm for the picnic and some old scholars took the opportunity to look at his exotic ducks and geese.

News of others not present at the gatherings

Gladys Burgess "I was sorry to miss the reunion again, I will try to better next year. I'm always with you in Spirit".

James P. Sheenan (1954-59) has been made a life member by his parents, is married and has 2 children, Ruth and John James.

Theodora Benton (1914-19) sent a change of address and wished O.S. all the best for their gatherings.

David Sanderson (1948-) I met up with at Oxford Meeting, he is a Scientist at Harwell.

Barbara Louise Conolly of Oxford, who left Sibford in 1963 has been appointed as a secretary at the council of Europe for 1-2 years.

Jim Grubb (1940'ish) now lives in New Zealand, but visited the school in the summer, his letter appears elsewhere.

Alice Green who ran the village shop for many years will be 90 years of age on Christmas day, I'm sure many old scholars would like to send her best wishes on the occasion. Her mother Sally Walker occupied the house opposite Paradise and sold sweets to boys and girls.

Frances Wells, mother of Wilfred G. Wells of 3 Middle Brooks, Street, Somerset, was 100 years old in 1974.

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OXFORD

NEWPORT MON.

LILIAN WARD writes:

"Dear Philip,

Herewith my report as promised.

You asked for particulars of my appointment as a J.P. My name was placed on the Commission of the Peace for the County of Inner London Area on 25th June, 1974. I was sworn in (or rather "affirmed in") on 24th July at The Crown Court, Inner London Sessions House, Newington Causeway.

I am now having the first part of my training which has included lectures and sitting at Camberwell Green and the Crown Court, observing and meeting future colleagues, both in Court and over lunch. I expect to begin sitting on the Bench in October and my area is South Central, i.e. Camberwell Green, Tower Bridge and Crown Court, Newington Causeway.

Now you know as much as I do!

I must say I am finding it most interesting; always before, I've been representing clients appearing before the Courts! I hope to be of some use. Hope you enjoyed O.S. We thought it very successful."

kindest regards

JIM GRUBB writes from New Zealand

Sibford—Half a World Away

Over twenty-one years had elapsed since I last saw Sibford, to this grey September day as we parked our car in what had been the "back field."

Ten years as a carpenter after emigrating to New Zealand in 1953 had been followed by another ten as a school teacher. Hence, I observed the new buildings with the triple interests of a builder, teacher, and an old scholar.

After an interview with the school principal, my wife and I were conducted by a pupil around the Hill buildings. I was struck by the very boldness of the structural changes which had been made. There seemed to be no hint of compromise—most of it was unrecognizable. Yet every change seemed to be a step forward, whether it was video equipment, or just the fact that pupils were allowed TV and record players.

The country views were probably unaltered, but were that day hidden by torrential rain. Only the foreground could be seen—as unfamiliar as a new town. Somehow, I felt almost stunned. Sibford has moved with the times and must surely be a finer place now than in those hard years just after the war. In a phrase then, "Sibford's doing fine!"

BIRTHS

PARK On March 13th 1974 to Bridget (née Matchett) and Colin Park, a son, Ian Kenneth, a brother for Tony.

GRIMES On April 19th, 1974 to Pat (née Baker) and Chris Grimes, a daughter, Nicola Elizabeth, a sister for Michael.

SHARPE On June 25th, 1974, to Gerda (née Bowes) and Nigel Sharpe, a son, Jasper David.

MARRIAGES

SEVILLE—STONE On June 27th 1974 at Trinity Methodist Church, Braunstone, Leicester, Wendy Stone to Ronald Seville.

DEATHS

HODGKISS On November 25th 1973, Theodora L. Hodgkiss (President S.O.S.A. 1931-2) Aged 78.

JACK HERBERT, brother of Roland, on September 24th 1974, in Banbury. Jack had spent the last months living with Ina and Arnold at Grounds Farm, Sibford.

GRACE BUNKER, on 27th September 1974.

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 and for the following year, a total of £1.00 and thereafter £2.00 per annum. Alternatively, for the year in which they leave and the following five years—£5.00, which could be paid by their parents with the last school fees.
 - ii. Life Membership £35.00.
 - iii. Married couples jointly £3.00 per annum.
 - iv. All other members £2.00 per annum.
- (b) The Annual subscription is due on 1st January for the ensuing year.
- (c) Any member whose subscriptions are in arrears 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, Immediate Past 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 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 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 made to the Membership Secretary. Items for insertion should be sent to the Editor.