



SIBFORD 76

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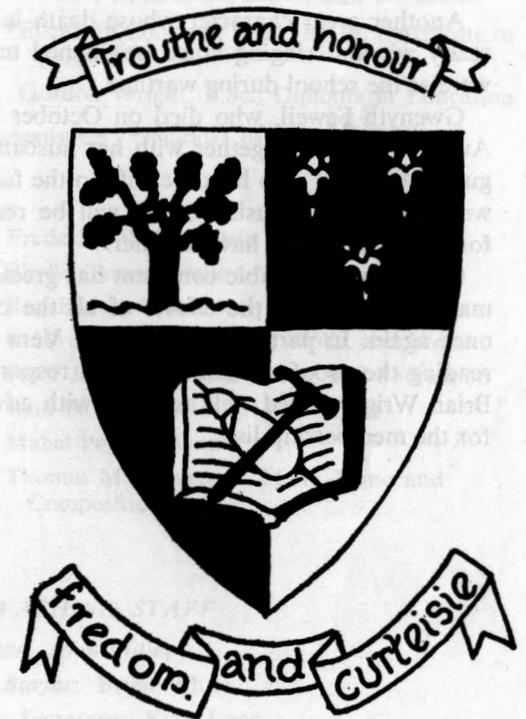
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SIBFORD 76



Annual Report Sibford Old S and Sibford School



EDITORIAL

Well, the drought had to come to an end sometime, it chose August Bank holiday to provide some of the heaviest rain for a long time. However, spirits were not dampened, and the new dining complex at The Hill meant not having too far to run between activities.

Leslie Baily, whose death it is sad to report, provided so much for Old Scholars and Sibford, to the Editor a regular correspondent, supplying interesting news and views about the school and its past. His article "Sibford in History and Architecture" was typical, thoroughly researched, when he was keen to demonstrate the importance of The Manor at the time when there was talk of selling land to raise funds for school repairs.

Another great character whose death is reported was Joe Canning, whose ready wit and singing voice brightened many a heart, especially those who were at the school during wartime.

Gwenyth Sewell, who died on October 25th, had been to Sibford for the August Reunion, together with her husband Joseph who was the Committee guest. A person who lived her life to the full, she entered into the spirit of the weekend with enthusiasm, and will be remembered with affection by those fortunate enough to have met her.

Generally favourable comment has greeted the appearance of the new style magazine and it is the efforts of all the contributors I would like to thank once again. In particular Frank and Vera Rollett have been most helpful in reading the proofs. Elizabeth Sallis, responsible for the school contributions. Brian Wright coped well as usual with advertising matter, and Louis Wright for the membership list.

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School Staff

Headmaster

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

Deputy Head

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

Senior Master

Kenneth T. Francis, Teachers Certificate

| | |
|---|--|
| ART and POTTERY | Susan Bradley, Dip.A.D., A.T.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 Elizabeth Sallis, B.A. |
| FRENCH/GERMAN | Gilbert Todd, B.A., Certificate in Education Jean Rudge, B.A., Certificate in Education Anthony Rye, L.T.C.L., Teachers' Certificate Elizabeth Sallis, B.A. |
| GEOGRAPHY/ECONOMICS | Brian Holliday, B.Sc., Certificate in Education Joanna Pring, B.A., Certificate in Education Janette Long, Certificate in Education |
| HISTORY | †Kenneth T. Francis, Teachers' Certificate Ian Charnock, B.A., Certificate in Education Anne Beazley, B.A., Certificate in Education |
| HOME ECONOMICS | †Gillian Edwards, Certificate in Education Jane Nussey, Certificate in Education |
| MATHEMATICS | †Alan Jarvis, M.A., Diploma in Education Frank Cookson, M.A. (Oxon), Certificate in Education Michael Hollman, B.Sc., Certificate in Education †Eunice Lemon, Teachers' Certificate |
| METALWORK, WOODWORK and TECHNICAL DRAWING | Graeme Sagar, Certificate in Education, M.C.C.Ed. †Stuart Hedley, Teachers' Certificate, City and Guilds Advanced Craft Certificate |
| MUSIC | Anthony M. Rye, L.T.C.L., Teachers' Certificate |
| PHYSICAL EDUCATION | †Michael Wollerton, Teachers' Certificate, Diploma in Physical Education †Pauline Sagar, Teachers' Certificate |

SCHOOL STAFF (Continued)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | Carole Creswell, B.A., Certificate in Education |
| REMEDIAL TEACHING | David Foulds, B.A., Teachers' Certificate †Eunice Lemon, Teachers' Certificate *Robin Greaves, B.A. |
| SCIENCE: | |
| PHYSICS and CHEMISTRY | H. James Shields, B.Sc., Diploma in Education |
| PHYSICS | Frank Cookson, M.A., Certificate in Education |
| BIOLOGY | Anthony Skeath, B.Sc., Certificate in Education D. June Ellis, B.Sc., Diploma in Education |
| CHEMISTRY | *Elizabeth Cookson, M.A., Ph.D., Certificate in Education |
| RURAL SCIENCE | Gordon Wright, B.Sc., Diploma 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 Composition

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

Dates for your diary

Day Reunion — May 28 1977

Cricket Match and Barbecue — June 25 1977

August Reunion — August 27-30 1977



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CHILDRENS' HOLIDAYS 1976

For the past three years Sibford has been holding a holiday camp for twenty deprived children from the East End of London. This year, twenty-one fourth fifth and sixth years with five members of staff stayed on to look after the children and try to give them a holiday that they would remember. Some of us had done camp before and others were unaware of what they were letting themselves in for. As it turned out, all the helpers enjoyed the camp as much as we hope the kids enjoyed it.

The children were all aged between seven and twelve years and each afflicted with either epilepsy, asthma or eczema. My child, Tracy Ryan, was epileptic and, unfortunately, had to go home in the middle of camp due to illness. I'm afraid she was very unhappy about this. Danny Brown was an incredible "tough" guy and yet liable to burst into tears at any moment. When he came he was homesick but by the end of the week he was crying because he had to go home. Tuskin, a Turkish Cypriot, had just had a blood transfusion before coming on holiday and certainly proved that they do give you a boost of energy. All the children were individuals — Christine with her "scootish" father, Stephen, unsure of doing anything. Mickey Murphey and his incessant singing of "the good ship Lollipop" and Roy Sugabin the human monkey! By the end of the week both helper and child were very fond of each other and already letters are being sent and received.

The helpers not only looked after their children but also looked after the rest of us. We had eight cooks, two kitchen boys, a laundry man, numerous caretakers and even a Fire Officer! As you can imagine we were all totally exhausted by the end of the week.

How did the kids spend the day? Well, we took them on trips to the Cotswold Farm Park, the Canal, the Model Railway at Blenheim, a long walk to Traitor's Ford, the Burton Dassets kiteflying: and showed films, put on a show and on the final night we had a large barbecue. The field was scattered with swings and a paddling pool and, of course, the swimming pool was used.

It's difficult to explain why we did camp. Some did it because we'd done it the year previously and enjoyed it, others because they genuinely wanted to help the children and some because they wanted to enjoy themselves on holiday whilst helping others. For myself, I did camp because the previous year I had enjoyed myself immensely and also received a marvellous feeling of having helped the community. Asking other helpers who stayed on they all agreed that they had a wonderful time enjoying entertaining the children and themselves.

Children's Holiday is the perfect opportunity to see a side of Sibford which is not always obvious in the day-to-day tedium of lessons and essays. Kids camp is the side of having fun and helping people who are less fortunate than ourselves. The true test of camp is just how many people stay on the following year, and how long friendships between the helpers and their children last. In answer to this, most of us are staying on next year and, for myself, I am still receiving letters from the little girl I looked after a year ago.

PILGRIMAGE

The Pilgrimage weekend was one of the most enjoyable and important weekends of my life. I didn't really ever want to go and was happy to return to school but the more I reflect the more I realise its importance. I think about it a lot and I talk about it a lot and strangely enough, usually not about the people we met from one school. This may sound pretentious, but I did find something spiritually which moved me quite a bit. I am not religious and am at a Quaker school because it is convenient, but there I came the closest to wanting, needing and finding a religion than I have ever been in my life. I found myself waiting for those silences, particularly in the evening when we were all so comfortable, crammed into that tiny room. But when we settled down and became still and the only noise was the rasping of the coal-fire I felt incredibly at ease and at one with everyone in that room. I suppose I could find that in Buddhism or many of the Eastern religions—the idea of meditation — but to me these northern people living in that rugged, cold, wet, beautiful village of Yealland mean so much more in the world today. At the moment I don't need a religion but I know that through that weekend if I ever do need to turn to God it will be through Quakerism.

A member of the U. VI

GIRLS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Early in the year we became the proud possessors of a new webbed trampoline, the result of our old one being declared unsafe. This has led to a great improvement in the standard of trampolining, and many girls are now ready to take awards. We are hoping to send a competent team to the County Competition in December. The interest in Gymnastics continues, and we were very grateful for the kind donation which enabled us to purchase five new gym mats for floor work plus a crash mat. Many girls are now working for the higher awards of the B.A.G.A. Awards Scheme.

The Swimming Team trained hard throughout the summer term and were successful in most of their matches. They lost only on two occasions, one of which was only lost by one point. A number of junior girls each completed a two-mile swim just before the end of term. The athletes too worked hard and achieved some creditable results.

P. D. Sagar

LISTER BOYS HOUSE

Having completed our lounge project over a year ago with new decorations, a display case and a Grundig radiogram bought from a Donation of the Friends of Sibford, and a carpet provided by donations from parents and friends of the House, we thought the time was right to begin a similar project for our landing which we hope to carpet soon and make another showcase to provide a pleasant area and gallery of boys photographs and art work.

With some help from the boys a new kitchen counter has been constructed this term, much larger than the old serving area, which should make supper time a little more pleasant for all.

During this work the railway has been neglected but many new track parts are now in stock for a rebuild during the winter.

Our thanks are due to parents and friends for their support in making many of these facilities possible.

WORKSHOPS

In the past year a great deal of work of high standard has been produced in the workshops. One can instance Timothy Senior, Robert Austin and Stephen Williams who produced engineering work and Ian Ford, Peter Fleming and Anthony Price-Dury who produced good quality furniture.

The workshops themselves have been rearranged and modified in recent years to make better use of the available space and have benefited from several very generous gifts of machine tools. The gift of a Universal Milling machine from Tom Greeves was a particularly valuable addition to our equipment and will increase significantly the scope of work which our senior pupils are able to undertake.

We have also given anonymously the money to purchase a 6" metalwork lathe and we are already looking out for a suitable machine.

During the past few years the workshops have become more comprehensively equipped and now stand comparison with most schools of our size whilst the standard of work of the pupils has constantly improved.

It is hoped also that during the winter months we shall see some varied craftwork being undertaken by the Staff with the formation of a Staff Craft Society.

S. Hedley
G. Sagar

CARING ABOUT YOUR TOMORROW THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS' ARE FOR

Tomorrow you may want to give your child an extra special start in life.
 Tomorrow you may be disabled or too ill ever to work again.
 Tomorrow you may want to buy a house.
 Tomorrow you may need to think about retirement
 Tomorrow you may want a secure place to invest
 your money.
 Tomorrow you may not be here.
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 much as you do. Isn't that
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THE RADIO AND FILM CLUB; HOW IT STARTED AND DEVELOPED

We began by making a photographic sequence, which we called a "Still Life" film. We chose the theme of "Jesus' Last Days", because we were allowed to do a project in our scripture lesson, so we planned out the pictures during that time.

The photographs were ready by Parents' weekend, in November of 1975. Only.

Before the photographic sequence, we were thinking of doing a Cine Film, but had better see how easy it was to produce a film of a moderate standard with the less complicated "Still Life" film first.

So at this point, we decided to take a serious view of the production. This was now the Autumn term, so we had a new Form teacher who takes our registration. Luckily we had Mr. Rice-Oxley who was willing to help. He became our general advisor, and kept order. In-fact, the club might never have become what it is now, if we hadn't had a "Supervisor", so we give our thanks to Mr. Rice-Oxley for using his power to control particular members.

The film this time was called "The Invisible Boy" and it started as a semi-improvised script. We decided that Paul Schramm's offer of a video-tape would be better than a cine camera, because we could "rub out" and review the rehearsals. We added music and then I wrote a set script.

The script was useful, and the first half of the film progressed. We had the beginning of the script typed by Richard Pike, and also had the typed paper copied. Damage occurred to the camera, but we later continued on another camera — the school one. The only disadvantage to this was we were not able to move the camera as it is not portable (like Paul Schramm's)!

So we did a "radio play", we didn't complete it, but we showed the first 10 minutes of it to the actors parents (and some others). It appeared to be enjoyed, so we decided to do Radio Plays, and Films — including interviews etc., as we would be able to get more done widespread — like that.

All this took time, which now brings this all to present date. Now we have two teams of the club. There are 15 of us. We use radio plays (and hope to write our own), and we are going to have a play a week soon. We are going to show them shortly, but to a chosen audience for the time being. The members were all keen, too.

Sincerely, Simon Caines
 Form 4A

GEOGRAPHY FIELD EXPEDITION

On Thursday, March 25th a party of Advanced Level Geographers led by Mr. Holliday left Sibford to do their fieldwork in Mid Wales. The intention was to observe and record as much of the physical geography of this part of Wales as possible in 2½ days. We had the extremely kind offer of Mr. Gordon Wright's mother's cottage for the duration of our stay. The school loaned us a minibus and provided all the food we required. Fiona Poulton came along as cook and housekeeper and this allowed us to spend up to ten hours each day out of doors and each evening studying without worrying about meals. Fiona cooked superbly. Miss Sue Bradley accompanied the party as experienced mountaineer and photographer.

We arrived at Capel Bangor, 8 miles from Aberystwyth on Thursday afternoon and the evening was spent settling in and preparing for the next day.

On Friday we got up, and after breakfast left for Cader Idris a 2,927 ft high mountain 24 miles away in the Snowdonia National Park. This mountain and surrounding area is notable for the variety of glaciated landforms that are to be seen. I think we were all pleasantly surprised to reach the top without too much discomfort. The weather at this time as with the rest of the weekend was warm and sunny with quite a stiff breeze. We ate our packed lunches near the summit and came down (much quicker than we went up). The afternoon was spent on the coast looking Borth spit and the features of coastal erosion in Clarach Bay.

Saturday was planned so as to be a little less energetic but we still studied a great variety of features. Without going into detail, the Rheidol river and its valley is very complex and in the distance of several miles most of the features of river erosion and disposition can be studied. This we did. Saturday afternoon was spent studying the erosive effects of the waves north of Aberystwyth. Again, this short stretch of coastline has virtually everything the 'A' level student needs to see. Saturday evening was spent copying up notes made on the days trip.

On Sunday we went for a walk around a disused lead mine and found samples of lead and copper ores in the waste tips. Then we had a delicious roast lunch. Clearing up seemed to take a while and we left at 2.45 Sunday afternoon.

Needless to say we were exhausted after our weekend's work but we all felt in retrospect that this was the correct way of doing the fieldwork viz. working very hard for a short period of time.

As well as seeing the specific features of geomorphological interest we also took note of the derelict lead, copper, and silver mines which were evidence of more prosperous times and the temporarily quiet tourist spots (some with last year's litter) which is Mid Wales' chief occupation today. The use being made of Welsh water supplies (H.E.P. and reservoirs for Birmingham and Liverpool) and forestry and farming were also noted in passing.

In all, this was a most enjoyable and important weekend and we were all grateful for the opportunity.

Brian Holliday on behalf of Lucy, Karen,
Tom, Neil, Martin, Fiona and Sue Bradley

THE POST EXAMINATION PROGRAMME

The Post-Examination Programme was arranged to provide interesting, useful and enjoyable activities at the end of the summer term for fifth and upper sixth years who had finished their public exams. There were three major coach trips. The first was to Birmingham, where groups visited the Science Museum, the Fire Station and Pebble Mill, and everyone went ice-skating in the evening. The next went to Oxford to go punting — getting 50 non-punters on to 7 punts and watching them learn to punt was at once devastating and hilarious! — and to see 'Under Milk Wood'. The last was to Portsmouth, where one group went to the Fair at Southsea while the other had an excellent programme of a boat trip round the harbour and visit to HMS Victory and the Victory Museum, arranged at very short notice by the Navy. About twenty went to the open day at Upper Heyford Air Base.

A small group had a few days hostelling in the Wye Valley with Miss Radcliffe; another went to Banbury Cattle Market, and two others to Banbury Magistrates Court. Marsh Cook, our lab technician, took a mini-bus load to see RAF Communications at Greatworth. Members of the science staff took a group to see round a recording studio at Chipping Norton. A small group went to Oxford to help re-decorate the Meeting House in the morning, and punt in the afternoon — proceedings being enlivened by the breakdown of the mini-bus!

Talks were not generally popular, and few were arranged. There was one notable exception, however—the visit of a group of three young men from Northwick Park Drug Rehabilitation Centre, they showed us a film, told us about their work and experience, and then two of them played and sang to the guitar. They had a job to get away from a fascinated audience. Mr. Doncaster, who lectures on Theatre Design, talked to a small group of interested people at the end of term.

Five Young Friends from Reading came to Sibford on the last weekend of term, spending Saturday night in school houses and finding out about 'Handicap' with opposite numbers from Sibford. We en from Penhurst Physically Handicapped School, Chipping Norton, on Saturday afternoon, and a discussion on Sunday afternoon was led by James Elliott of Banbury Meeting.

Useful activities included helping in the kitchen and laundry, and removing the old pump from the stream below Lambs' farm.

The considerable amount of organisation required for these varied activities was amply repaid by the interest and enjoyment of the young people taking part in them.

Pippa and Frank Cookson

POETRY

THE PIKE

The pike lies on the bottom
In the weeds,
Waiting for a minnow.
A splash!
A tug!
I have him on my line.
He struggles and twists,
He races and turns,
But for all his wrenching
He does not escape.
I land him!

Andrew Burton

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

The wind moans through the shutters
It screams through the gutters.
Children lie awake
Afraid that the ghost might take them away
On this windy night.
Afraid that the door might break
Under the pounding wind.
It groans through the trees
And rattles all the keys.
The ghost is coming
Whistling its way through the keyhole.

Adrian Clarke, 2A

THE NIGHT OF THE STORM

The wind it howls around the chimney pots
And whistles through the chimney slots.
It creeps along the floor in draughts
And freezes all that's left exposed.
I hear the crash of slates
Falling down,
Shattering on the ground.
I look anxiously out of the window.
I see our cold-frame's lids
Smashing and jumping up and down.
The glass is thin,
It smashes and sprays all around.
In the power station opposite
Flashes of lightening shoot up from the ground,
Lighting up the sky
For miles around.

Colin Woodward

LONELY TREE

It stands alone
In the middle of a field,
One solitary tree.
Like a weather-beaten soldier
Keeping a lonely watch,
Rooted to the earth.
Isolated!
At night in the cold
It shivers and trembles.
The blue cold moonlight
Like a chemical flare
Reveals its victim,
Remote and vulnerable.

Adam Christy, Form 2A

UP THE LANE TO MILKING

Walking up the lane to milking
Early morning
The snow twirled slowly down
Like handfuls of feathers
Thrown from the sky.
The snow crunched under my boots,
It covered the naked branches of trees,
It rested on spiders webs,
And shone in the early morning sun.
The icicles hanging from the cowshed roof
Gleamed like precious stones.

Adam Christy

I leave the farm
It is late at night.
The light from the cowshed
casts its shadow,
It grew longer as I walked down the track
until it faded away.
I can see more cows
Through the hedge,
And hear them munching the grass.
I hear the water trickling in the ditch,
And see the faint light of my house.
Glowing bright as I approach
through the open door,
The warmth of the roaring fire
rushed towards me.
I slumped into my old armchair
and dropped off to sleep.

Adam Christy

Adam James Christy was commended in the 'Seventeenth Children's Literary Competition 1975', organised by the *Daily Mirror* for these poems.

I AM A SCARECROW

I stand on top of a hill
With no friends but a mouse.
He rattles around in my trouser leg
And sharpens his teeth on my knee.
My head is a tatty bag
Filled with straw
And the face painted on.
I wonder why no-one comes to see me.
Soon the west winds will come
And will blow me down.
I will be full of mice
And they will eat my straw.

Debbie Gaiger 2A

TIME

Time is transparent,
Next year stretches out in front of us
Like some endless, dingy corridor.
Down it we travel towards our goal,
But when we get there
There is only further to travel.
Endless travelling,
Tomorrow will soon be today,
And today will soon be yesterday,
Soon what was yesterday will be last year.
But always yesterday is still there,
Somewhere!

Adrian Clarke

A HOLIDAY IN FRANCE

I said goodbye to my mother and walked over to the red letter box marked P.L.L. At a quarter past one some fairly young people arrived and ticked our names off on a list; I was assigned to Graham. We were told to board a train and to wait, so we did. As we made ourselves comfy we were told to move as this was the wrong train.

This was an indication of what the rest of the holiday would be like—disorganised. We finally got on the right train to Felixstowe. We had an hour's trip and then waited in a siding to get to the pier where the boat was. We waited six hours in a hot coach.

Finally we got on the ship, and most people went off to buy something to eat. I talked to one of the members of the group and we got to know each other and I made a few more friends.

When we arrived at Calais we got straight on to a coach and had a twenty-four hour bus journey down to the Mediterranean. On the journey we stopped off at cafes. We found this very expensive — you could pay 80p for four plums: and the men's toilets were infested with women.

We eventually arrived at Port Grimaud which is about 80 km from St. Tropez. The second night we went into St. Tropez where we walked about and bought the cheapest drinks. As we were leaving, the bus hit a car. We had to sit in the bus for half an hour while the drivers argued.

The rest of the time was spent swimming, snorkeling, sailing and fishing. Each day we made our own lunch of French bread and salad.

We then went up to the Ardèche. One poor girl who wanted to wash her hair had to submit to having it washed for her by the instructors. We later had a meal of sausages and potatoes which we were getting used to.

(continued on page 11)

Training Opportunities for School Leavers

If you are under 20

Engineering Student — 2 'A' levels — Maths and Physics*
 Business Student — 2 'A' levels — (preferably Maths)*

* Plus 4 'O' levels

If you are under 18

Engineering Technician Apprentice — 4 'O' levels
 (including Maths, English and Physics)

Business Technician Apprentice — 4 'O' levels
 (including Maths and English)

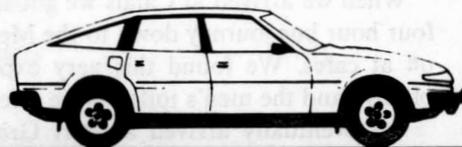
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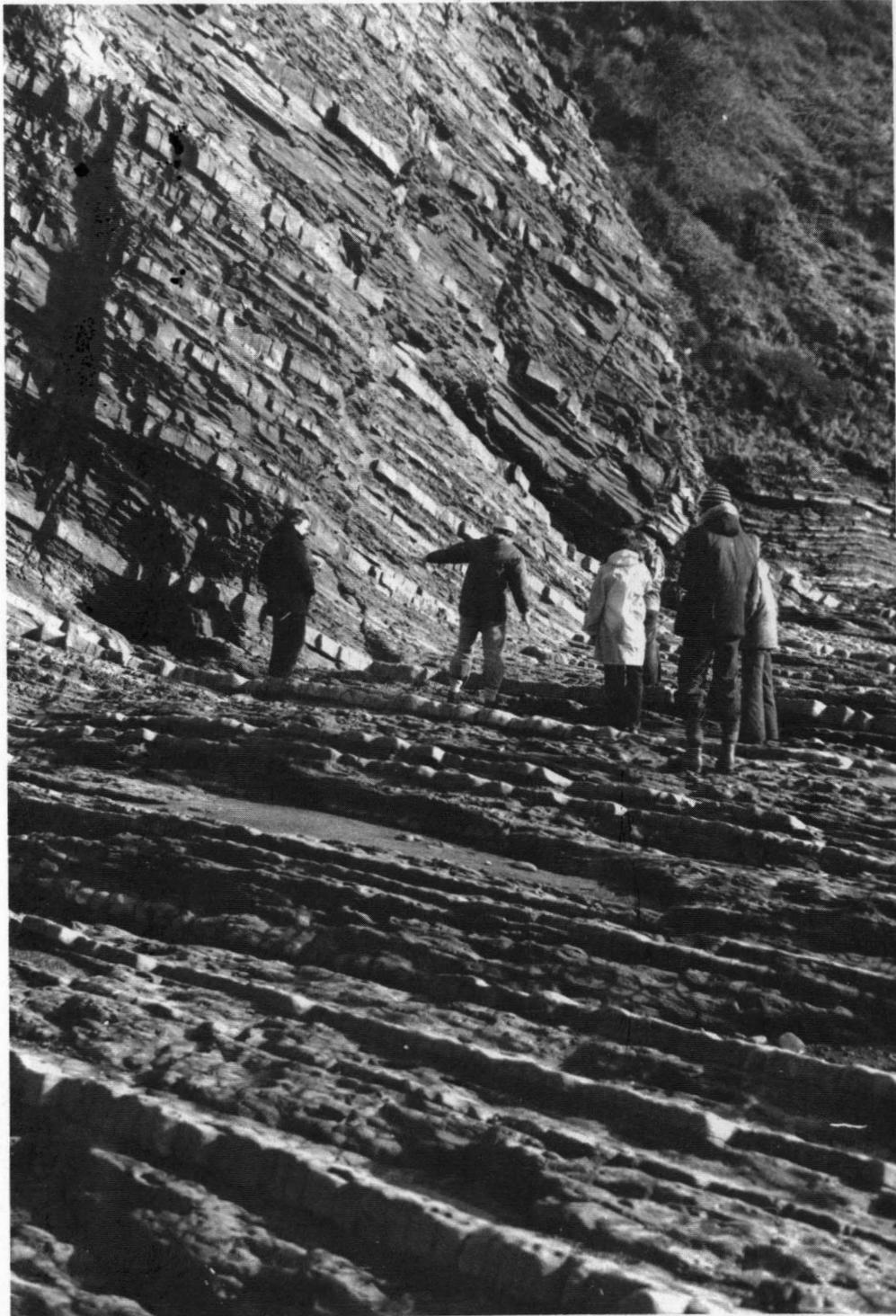
Financial Report 1975-76

| | £ | p |
|---|------|------|
| 23.9.75 Balance | 127 | . 42 |
| Christmas cards and diaries. Cost | 39 | . 78 |
| | 87 | . 64 |
| Income from sale of cards and diaries | 82 | . 59 |
| | 170 | . 23 |
| Income from sale of second-hand clothing | 45 | . 13 |
| | 215 | . 36 |
| Mix. Income at P.W.E.'s, donations, etc. | 27 | . 03 |
| | 242 | . 39 |
| Expenditure — visiting old folk, gifts for old folk | 62 | . 06 |
| | 180 | . 33 |
| Balance at 15.9.76 | £180 | . 33 |
| CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY 1976 | | |
| | £ | p |
| 5.11.76 Balance | 162 | . 01 |
| Money in Trustees Savings Bank | 500 | . 00 |
| | 662 | . 01 |
| 9.7.76 Interest on money invested | 50 | . 25 |
| | 712 | . 26 |
| Money spent during camp | 473 | . 87 |
| 15.9.76 Balance | £238 | . 39 |

GYMNASTICS DISPLAY



Photo: Martin Jaffa



The field party on
the wave cut platform.
Claraoh Bay

GEOGRAPHY FIELD EXPEDITION



Incised meander on the river Rheidol

(continued from page 9)

That night we went up to a large hill to see what we would be doing the next day.

'Super Tuff' and Gilbert were in charge. We were taken down an adventure route which entailed us sliding down the side of the hill on our seats. This is when I got my hands badly cut. So while the others were hauling a canoe around an assault course I was being bandaged up. They were pulling a fibre-glass canoe with two people in it around a course which involved going in a ditch, then going up a bank and racing to the finish.

That night we went to a village across the valley to have a drink and were told a story about a big rook which moved about one night downstream during floods.

The next day while my hands were being attended to again, the others practised canoeing. I was told to go with an instructor. We had a nice ride down and we were last as we carried the first aid kit and the lunch, but we always went first down the rapids.

The second day was the day of the nudes. When we had to pass through the second largest nudist colony in Europe — we were told to strip off or suffer the consequences. There was a fairly easy rapid but there was a large bridge before it. On top of this sat a nudist looking to make sure we were all naked. If not he signalled to others who attacked us and tried to turn us over. If they succeeded, we were dragged ashore and stripped and then sent packing without our trunks which were given to the instructors who returned them later. Well, the girl in front of me was not naked so we paddled like hell to get away from them — and succeeded!

The next day we finished off with a big meal of steak and chips, got on to a coach — with no adventures!

William Lester Form 5B

JOHN GILCHRIST'S RETIREMENT

Sibford has always been rather proud of the fact that it had only four headmasters in the first 114 years of its existence, and this longevity of service was shared also by John Gilchrist who taught here for twenty-two years—the last sixteen of which he was the senior master.

When I came to Sibford in 1956 it was well known that John's training as a commando gave smokers lurking behind the bushes little chance of escaping, because he could easily outpace any boy in the school! In retaliation, however, a few intrepid souvenir-hunters succeeded in snipping off little bits from the tattered old gown he always wore in class.

Equally well known was his uncanny way of sniffing out illicit happenings

around the school, such as night-time escapades, private firework parties, or the traditional cap-burning ceremonies which always marked the end of the summer term. And his thoroughness was proverbial too; he has been known to dig through a heap of the gardeners sand—till he found a packet of cigarettes! His "C-sub" master key had been unlawfully manufactured in the metalwork room by one of the boys, and he claimed that it fitted all the doors in the school better than any of the official school keys!

Generations of old scholars remember "Doss" by his thunderous voice echoing down the corridors, and by the pudding-basin hair-cuts inflicted by Joe Canning at the Doss's command. Yet despite the fear he could strike into wayward juniors, all old scholars remember him with sincere affection, having learnt in their later years to appreciate his single-minded honesty and determination to uphold the rule of law and the highest standards of education. Despite a bluff exterior and sergeant-major's voice John had a heart of gold, full of old-fashioned courtesy and genuine kindness.

As a fellow teacher, one could never wish for a more generous and conscientious colleague, who gave himself far-and-away beyond the call of duty. He regularly patrolled the school and its grounds, attended originally by a pair of spaniels but more recently by his border terrier, "Honey". No one could estimate how many extra weeks he spent during the holidays, planning the new timetable, ordering stationery, checking deliveries of desks, and so on. But at all times, if any member of staff was unwell he was round immediately, ready to help or fill in with duties.

Nor can one remember John without referring to his wife Vi, and her sympathy and helpfulness to anyone in need, either at school or in the village. On several occasions when the San had been overwhelmed by epidemics, both John and Vi have given themselves whole-heartedly to looking after the sick in the various houses . . . We shall long remember them, and wish them every joy and happiness in their retirement.

Jim Shields.

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THE EISTEDDFOD 'TOP OF THE FORM'

In this part of the Eisteddfod each house entered a team of four people, one member from 1st or 2nd year, one from 3rd or 4th year, and one from 5th and 6th year.

There were 3 rounds and in the first round Lister played Nansen. Mr. Higgins asked the questions and organized the competition and Mr. Francis scored. The rest of the school watched the competition and they were split up into house groups.

In the first round Nansen beat Lister and then Lister played Penn. Lister beat Penn and Penn beat Nansen in the last round.

Each of the houses was asked if they would like to play another round some other time or if they would prefer the points to be added up to find the winner. It was decided that another round should be played, and the first one left as a draw.

Everybody enjoyed the competition.

THE EAGLE

The Eagle!
King of the birds,
Soars in the vast skies.
It swoops on its prey
Like a falling brick
From a sky-scraper.
Down it comes!
It picks up a lamb in its pointed claws
And carries it far away.
King of the birds,
The Eagle!
It tears the lamb to shreds
On its rocky cliff nest.
The Eagle,
King of the skies!

Christian Notley

ORIENTEERING

We arrived at Badsey Woods and parked in a field. Once we had obtained a map of the area and the 'control clues card', which is a bit of paper saying something like:

1. River junction SE side,

We went to the map corrections and added a path.

We registered with an official to go at 11.45. At the start we were put into a group of seven all going at the same time. We moved forward over a low rope at 11.44, and jumped over the last at 11.45. We followed the man in front of us to the master maps where we copied down the course of twelve controls.

We ran through bracken, over fallen trees, round blackberry bushes, in and out of trees, looking at the map at odd times. We came to control 6 instead of 1, but we punched it on to the map. The punch was a bit of sprung plastic with pins sticking out to punch holes in the map. We followed the path down to control 1. The next clue said, 'Ditch corner'. We saw a ditch on our right and followed it along to control 2. We carried on for one hour fifteen minutes like this. At the finish our time was recorded and the map handed in with the punched holes in it. Then free orange squash was provided. After a few weeks the results were sent back and we came 12th in a group of 32.

Ian Finlayson 2B

NIGHTMARE!

My Grandparents have dreams and keep having Nightmares about the same thing. They have Nightmares of the same period in history: the two great wars and the one to come.

They have Nightmares about people who lost their jobs, homes and children: the children who lost their parents; the children having a long hard struggle for survival, to know only the toughest survived.

The Nightmare about people having to finish "The final solution".

The Nightmare about people being cold bloodedly murdered by the roaring killer-planes above. People being murdered by balls of death from guns. Metal tubes with no meaning to life, only for destruction of life. death.

"They start."

The torture of the cone, the metal bar. Then they pull their nails out, their teeth out, their hair out, their appendix out, and then they're castrated, only to cause the mentality of death.

To war no harm to fear only to make fear the Nuclear explosion.

The end.

GERMAN TRIP

1976 saw the first of what I hoped will be many exchange visits between the children of Sibford School and those of the Gymnasium in Donauwörth, Bavaria. Sixteen members of the German classes made the twenty-hour journey across Europe by train to spend two weeks with their penfriends, both at home and at school, during the Easter holidays. Several trips were arranged by the German hosts, including one to the Alps and one to the city of Munich. At Whitsun a return visit to Sibford was made by the German party who, unfortunately for them, spent most of their time over here during the school term, which meant, however, that they had an interesting glimpse at a way of school life which is very different from their own in Germany. In any case, it seems that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves on both sides, and I do hope that we shall be able to arrange a repeat performance next year.

Mrs. J. Rudge

EXCHANGE '76!

"Es war ausgezeichnet! . . . That (or something like it!) was what was being said by the group of boys and girls from the 3rd, 4th and 5th years as we climbed into our couchettes to start the long trail back to England.

Two weeks previously, most of us clambered into the 11.30 train from Banbury. The date of leaving England was April 7th and we were about to enjoy a fortnight's stay with our penfriends in Bavaria. On the way to London we collected a similar group, from Bicester school, which was also going to stay with penfriends in the same area of Germany. At London we all left the train, spent some time working out how to get around on the Underground, and finally ended up, (still together, surprisingly) at Victoria station. There, after a long half-hour of wandering round the station tripping over pigeons, bumping into plump little personages bustling around at random and stepping aside for furious-looking businessmen who gave the impression of having seen enough of Victoria station to last a lifetime, we staggered onto the next train with all our luggage. Having got ourselves settled into this train we noted that we had acquired three more people from Sibford School for whom it had been easier to join the party at Victoria rather than Banbury. Our next stop was Dover where we queued for some time to go through the Customs. Eventually we all boarded a Belgian cross-channel ferry on which we stayed for about three hours until we arrived at Ostend. During the crossing we watched a glorious sunset over the Western sea, and when we reached the Belgian coast what a fantastic display of lights met our excited eyes. Our excitement was dampened slightly as we got off the boat when we saw the gigantic queue for the Belgian Customs, but it was soon boosted again when we found an enthusiastic German-speaking gent who seemed quite willing to test our knowledge of his language. After we had passed through these Customs we boarded the waiting train and sorted ourselves out couchette-wise. As you can

probably guess, we had very little sleep that night, as sleeping in such a compact space on a rocking, jolting, high-speed train was a new and enthralling experience for most of this group. It was well after midnight before I finally dropped off to sleep, but I wished it had been a little earlier as we had to change trains at Stuttgart at 6.00 in the morning.

At 6.00 a.m. the train halted and we all heaved ourselves and our luggage out onto the platform. Bleary-eyed, I peered round at the rest of the group, noting the great resemblance of each one to an owl which had woken up in broad daylight from its beauty sleep some time ago. Soon, however, the chilling wind brought the life back into us and we began daring each other to go up to the cafe and ask for a drink in German. Nobody did though, because the next moment the train roared into the station and we all jumped eagerly aboard.

To our astonishment we found as soon as we rolled out of Stuttgart, that the countryside everywhere was white, and it was snowing lightly. But we passed out of the snowy region before we reached our destination. As we neared Donauwörth it began to dawn on us that in no time at all we would all be on our own, with very little or no English being spoken. Now people regretted all the German lessons of whispering and not paying enough attention to the language. (Note from Mrs. Rudge . . . I shall have to follow that one up!) Now people frantically rummaged in phrase books and books such as 'Brush up your German', desperately trying to take in all the sayings they could. However, when we were but a matter of minutes from the station, we stopped this and some of us switched to nail-biting. The next moment, the train driver was applying his brakes and then a few seconds later the train halted in front of a large group of excited Germans. We left the train and climbed down onto the platform. The names were called and rather shyly we paired off with our penfriends. My penfriend's name was Michael Wagner, and he and his father, Herr Wagner, took me to their home by car. Many of

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(Exchange 76 continued)

the party were situated in or near Donauwörth, but I stayed in a village called Feldheim, about ten miles away.

On arrival I met the rest of the family and waited for things to happen. We had arrived in Feldheim at about 11.30 a.m., so I just had a roll and a drink of milk. I timidly started to say a few sentences in German, and to my great surprise, found that most of what I said was understood. The parents spoke no English whatsoever, but I soon found out how well Michael and his brother Ulrich spoke our language. I must admit I spoke a lot of English with these two. The rest of the party fared similarly.

After the stay, we all agreed that it took a couple of days to get used to the new environment before we really set up a good friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

One of the first things to be done was to write home informing parents of our safe arrival, then we had a clear conscience.

During the Eastertide, many of us went with our penfriends and their families to numerous church services and I personally was fascinated by what I saw. They are nearly all Catholics out there but everything was so different.

Apart from the two main excursions, on which I shall comment later, our various families took us out on many interesting and expensive trips. I suppose the main trip I had was one of about six hundred miles by car to the Chiem See (agreat inland lake), where we went out to a huge castle on a island by boat and had a fine lunch. We then went on to Innsbruck in Austria. I must say how lovely the Alps were, still capped with snow. The only snag was the long traffic-queue in the evening at the border. The whole trip was wonderful and all day the sun shone for us.

Tony Sabin's main trip was when he was taken to a huge swimming-pool just inside Austria, where every ten minutes a great wave was sent down the pool as a source of excitement and amusement!

Richard Rata, on the other hand, seemed to have a penfriend who was completely hooked on football, and between matches in Donauwörth he was taken to Munich to watch a match at the Olympic Stadium.

Liz Wise's main day was the third day, when she and the German family went to Füssen. On the way there they stopped at two castles and one old church, but the huge cathedral they were meant to find at their destination was not to be seen anywhere!

On now to the two trips made by everyone during the stay. The first was a

long journey by coach to Tegernsee in the Alps. This is another large lake surrounded by many small, attractive but highly expensive towns at the foot of the Alps. The main attraction of the day for me was the cable-car lift up to the summit of a snow-capped mountain and then at the top, being able to let loose all the excitement in a snowball fight. I think Mrs. Rudge probably regretted for a moment all the low marks and grades and tellings-off, as she ducked the showers of white cannon-balls.

The second of the two trips was to the capital of Bavaria, Munich (München). We were taken round most of the main parts by coach, before being dropped off to spend some time on our own in the city. In the afternoon we were picked up again and taken to the Olympic Park where we saw the Olympic football stadium, ice-rink, and many other grounds, pitches, and tracks, where the Olympic Games were held in 1972. Some of us went up the Olympic Tower, which is 290 metres high. The lift in this tower went so fast that when we reached the bottom, I nearly had to go back up to fetch my heart and stomach!

And so the time went on, with many new and pleasant experiences, until, all too quickly for most of us, it was time to return home to England.

Laden with going-home gifts, presents and souvenirs for people at home, we left Donauwörth station at about 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday 21st April. The train was about half an hour late in arriving (British Rail is not the only unpunctual service!), but eventually it came and we said our goodbyes and climbed into our couchettes. That night in the train was pretty well uneventful, except for one funny incident in the middle of the night. It must have been at the Belgian/German border when the train stopped and two Customs men got on board. I was wide awake and so knew what was going on, but Mark Cohen, sleeping above me, was obviously half asleep, because the two men happened to stop outside our compartment, talking in fairly loud voices. Mark thought it was two of the Bicester children and shouted out in a terrifically loud voice: "shut up!" There was a moment's silence before they began talking again. By this time Mark realised whom he had commanded to be quiet and just hoped they didn't understand.

The whole of the stay in Bavaria has been in glorious hot, sunny weather and everyone enjoyed it immensely. These exchange visits, I think, are extremely informative, great fun and well worth the time, effort and money spent in preparation. In this respect, all who went are grateful to Mrs. Rudge for her part in the organisation.

Written and compiled by Chris Rea

SPORTS DAY 1976



Higher jump?



Patrick Benn



Stephen
Williams



Trampolining



Tim Dooley coming in to win



Charles Brewer
Eric Brown
Peter Richardson



The bookshop



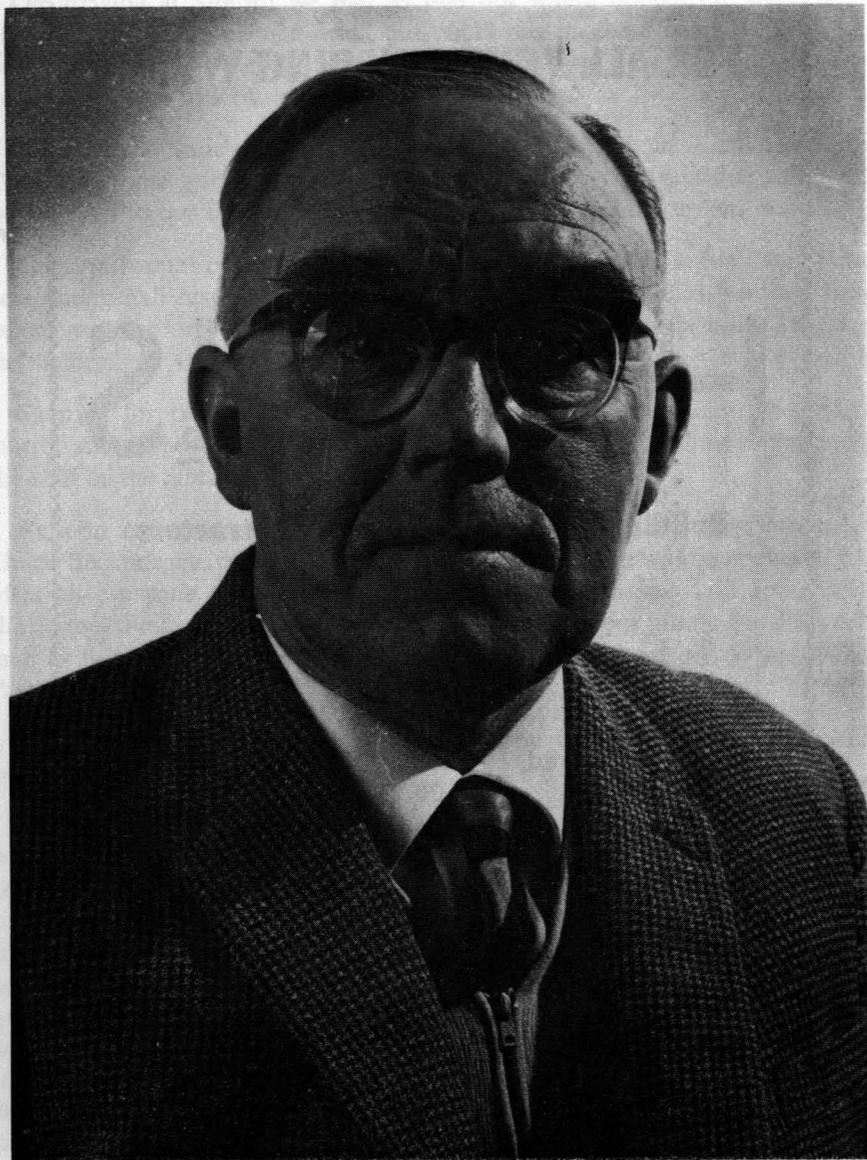
Naomi Colvin
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to Alice MacPherson

SUMMER FAIR



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PRESIDENT 1977



FRANK ROLLETT

Born of the son of a Lincolnshire farmer . . . and mother daughter of a well-known Wesleyan Minister within the sound (so to speak) of the Aston Villa chapel bell, I was christened there. Times change, that chapel is now a Sikh temple.

In 1874 a few members of the choir gathered beneath a nearby street gas-lamp and decided to form themselves into a football team taking for their colours the claret and blue of the (now) Birmingham League Cricket Club of which I have been a member for fifty years, and am a vice-President. Both clubs still hold my intense interest.

To me came a great blow in 1928 when a serious fall closed a promising cricket career, except that I immediately took up golf, this being the only game at which I ever achieved regular first team status.

Being an academic moron maybe I have developed into a jack-of-all trades, with a macabre sense of humour!

Despite the early religious influences a veer towards agnosticism developed, but I am sustained by an ever growing wonder at every aspect of nature, evolution, and the universe.

After a reasonable start at school I was badly handled as a 'Grammar bug'. You see, in those days at Council school we were called Council fleas; then promoted to a higher rank of 'crawler'! However, this experience and the long subsequent years convince me of the ever increasing importance of the role of schoolteachers.

Due to my father being proprietor of a decorating business I was, with a view to eventually succeeding there, apprenticed joiner with a large building firm. Mostly I disliked the job, but it gave me sight and sound of workmen's attitudes and the seamier side of life. Thus I had a trade at my fingertips and now, having hoarded all my original tools, in retirement derive pleasure and usefulness therefrom.

Office training and Art School followed, then business partnership until the outbreak of war. All this in the turbulent and Nazi-threatened Thirties. During this same period also came a short but exhilarating membership of a major amateur Operatic Society where a revealed potentiality was, regretfully, never pursued. The same intense regret holds that I spurned mother's efforts to teach me the piano. I was very young.

The aforementioned cricket club was in fact but one section of a large tennis, bowls and social unit, in its time having many internationals as members. In 1937 to the 'disgust' of my colleagues I transferred, for one year, to the tennis section. From afar, and as near as I dare, I had been admiring the alluring sight of the Roe sisters at play (tennis). Before long I was introduced to Sibford School when very quickly Roland and Eva Herbert, and

I. T. Harrod made me feel to belong. The knot was really tied when Vera and I were married on April 1st 1939. Damn the superstition!

Not very enthusiastically in 1940 I volunteered for the R.A.F. They lost my papers five months later, and renewed recruitment began a fruitless and frustrating service period. However, through this I wangled leave so that since 1938 we have only missed one Reunion. Also, how shall I put it? daughters Jacqueline and Loraine arrived in 1944 and 1946 . . . they were at all costs a 'must' for Sibford. They, in their turn, have provided us with one of life's major joys . . . five grandchildren.

Eventually I took over father's business in 1946, and for some ten years did reasonably; and doing my stint on the local committee of the Decorators Federation. But then the gradual reduction of skilled tradesmen, plus the local influx of immigrants (which area by now is one of the country's most difficult) impelled me to seek the country . . . where else.

Every weekend for the first six months of 1960 we joined the O.S. working party to build the School sports pavilion, staying overnight with the indulgent Alfred Holland and Sue. Thus a seed was sown. In mid 1961 I took a half wrecked Holmby House over from school, into which we moved a year later.

Several years as Secretary at Tadmerton Heath Golf club gave me an insight undreamed of, and the friendship of many estimable people, which I still enjoy.

Transferring to Miriam Carter's bungalow in 1971, and adding to its amenities, we hope O.S. will continue to use this as 'open house'. For my part, along with Vera as a genuine old scholar, we are ever grateful for O.S. friendships long established and deeply valued.

Time flies the days seem to get shorter for my cramming in the interests of ornithology, photography, C.P.R.E., travel, stamp collecting, woodwork, O.S. matters, etc. Village Hall commitments, and occasional golf.

In the village I have one claim to fame. Through hitting Jill Long at the bottom of Mannings Hill (in our respective cars, I may say) and successfully suing the C.C., that roadway is now wider and clearer.

As I write, looking out at the view, life could be very much worse.

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REUNION - August '76

On arriving at Sibford we had to find out where notices etc were being displayed. In the "good old days" one could rely on these being in the Archway, but in the more enlightened times in which we now live, one is never quite sure where to look.

Without too much difficulty we found the notices in Fielding House Common Room and having scanned the lists to see who was due to attend, we repaired to our allotted sleeping places in Penn to make up our beds.

The first formal event of the weekend was lunch served in the magnificent new dining hall resplendent with the new curtains which Old Scholars have helped to pay for. We afterwards learnt that they had only been hung the day before.

Catering for the weekend was in the capable hands of Lucy Padfield, a matron at Leighton Park School who was ably assisted by three members of the staff of the Sibford's catering contractors.

As soon as we were replete, our indefatigable General Secretary introduced Grace Beckerlegge, our President for 1976. It all seemed a little unnecessary as after all everyone knows Grace!! We were then introduced to Joe Sewell, the School Treasurer, who with his wife Gwen, were our guests for the weekend. With much prompting from all sides Grace then managed to pronounce "fete open".

By the time tea was served in mid-afternoon tongues were well and truly wagging. Have Sibfordians ever been short of a topic of conversation.

After much goading from our hard working officers, a goodly number managed to assemble in the Old Scholars room at approximately 4.00 p.m. for the Annual General Meeting. A new innovation this year was the distribution of copies of the accounts so that during the treasurer's report everyone had the opportunity to refer to the figures. As the minutes are printed elsewhere in this magazine I will not elaborate on them. Having served for many years on the committee I know the problems involved in preparing the weekend programme, but it does seem to me that 4.00 clock on a Saturday afternoon is not the best time for a business meeting particularly for those who have young children with them. It is frequently a waste of fine weather, although that criticism could not be made this year.

Supper was served at 6.30 and after eating we moved, rather slowly, to the other end of the dining hall for the 8.00 p.m. start of folk dancing which was organised and run with his usual efficiency by Chris Grimes.

Sunday dawned as wet as Saturday had been, and after breakfast we had the traditional bible reading by Geoff Long which as usual gave us much food for thought. We later wended our way to the Gower for meeting for worship with hearts and minds suitably prepared. Whilst their seniors were in the meeting house, the children were in the care of Robin Greaves and I had a first hand report that they "had a smashing time".

It seems that even at Sibford the march of progress cannot be stemmed and now the meeting house has succumbed — electricity has been installed. It was strange to see lights hanging from the ceiling as we sat on the well remembered wooden forms, but local friends were pleased to have the facilities to provide us with a cup of coffee prior to our return to the Hill.

After lunch, the next item on the programme was "Mystery walk to picnic". The picnic site turned out to be Swalcliffe Common and the real mystery was how it could take an hours' steady walking to get there. Of course, if you go via the Elm, anything is possible! In deference to the dry summer we did not have the usual bonfire, but tea and orange squash were available together with what our secretary's wife described as "jam butties", marmite sandwiches and biscuits. We walked back to School the usual way via Hill Bottom, and the stragglers just beat the rain. To have managed to get to the meeting and have the picnic in dry weather was a notable achievement.

After supper we had Presidents Choice and Grace treated us to a programme of varied music ranging from Elgar and Haydn through Gilbert and Sullivan and Jerome Kern to Glen Miller. Three items had been especially recorded by two friends of Grace and Philip from their home village; a fine baritone with piano accompaniment.

After a short pause for refreshments we came to the item described on the programme as "Presidents Second Choice". This turned out to be what would have been described in days of yore as entertainment by Old Scholars". To try and do justice in this report to the quality of the offerings would be an impossible task. The songs, monologues and comedy items were first class, but looking back some weeks after the event two items which remain in the memory are Frank Rollett's rendering of "The Deathwatch Beetle" and Kenneth Greaves's boistrous version of an old time music hall song which was "so refined" and ably accompanied by Jonas Fielding (Headmasters have changed since my day!) Others involved included Ian and Carol Wright, Helen and Johnie Doyle, Margaret and Chris Fairnington and Philip Manasseh. Accompanying all the items (except the one mentioned above) was Jacque Cole — who one understands is Margaret Fairnington's prospective

daughter-in-law. The whole affair was delightfully rounded off by Jacquie playing a Bach prelude.

Rockets at the Elm were abandoned due to the inclement weather (it was raining) but the hall rang to the sounds of our endeavours, apart from the now traditional silent rocket when there was "utter ush".

Monday dawned dampish, and after breakfast we all set out on Louis Wright's motor treasure hunt; we looked for and missed the usual confusing entertaining and corny clues, and in between managed to admire the damp countryside. As usual Louis had found a delightful route for us and everyone enjoyed their trip. Incidentally, what was the Prime Minister's name in 1972?

On the afternoon programme was "fun netball". This was played(?) in the hall and turned out to be a cross between netball, basketball, soccer, rugby and all-in-wrestling. The two teams were the "shirts" captained by Mike Finch, and the "shirtless" captained by Mike van Blankenstein. The whole affair was refereed by Janet Eavis who imposed her will on the proceedings by completely losing control in the first thirty seconds. Despite numerous instructions from the crowd to send off various players she let them all get away with it. For the record the "shirtless" won 4-3. Fortunately the only female player was a member of the "shirts" team and thus a major scandal was avoided.

The next item on the programme was tea on Holly House lawn, but, as usual it was raining so tea was transferred to Fielding Common Room which to say the least was somewhat crowded. After tea we rushed through the rain back to the dining hall for the group photograph which had once again returned to the programme.

We had to leave shortly after this and thus missed the Presidential Dinner. I am reliably informed that this was a great success and that the President's address was excellent. Like all those others who were not present I shall read it with interest in this magazine.

I cannot close without paying tribute to our hard working officials who make it all possible, and we must applaud their initiative in arranging for a number of present Senior Scholars to spend the Reunion with us, having helped during the weekend, and whose main function was to wait (and so well too) at the Presidential Dinner Table.

Thank you everyone who helped to make this Reunion so enjoyable and here's to 1977.

John Taylor

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 1975

| | 1975 £ | 1975 £ | 1974 £ | 1974 £ |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| <i>Income</i> | | | | |
| Subscriptions (Net) | | 393 | | 300 |
| Donations | | 14 | | 14 |
| Investment income | | 93 | | 53 |
| Bank interest | | 44 | | 45 |
| | | <u>544</u> | | <u>412</u> |
| <i>Less: Expenditure</i> | | | | |
| Net cost of printing and distributing magazine for 1975 | 366 | | 273 | |
| Postage, stationery and sundry expenses | 43 | | 27 | |
| Deficit on reunion (1974 surplus) | 26 | | (1) | |
| | | <u>435</u> | | <u>299</u> |
| <i>Surplus for the year</i> | | <u>£ 109</u> | | <u>£ 113</u> |
| <i>ACCUMULATED FUND</i> | | | | |
| Balance at 1st January 1975 | | 328 | | 215 |
| Add: Surplus for year | | 109 | | 113 |
| | | <u>£ 437</u> | | <u>£ 328</u> |

Balance Sheet 31st December 1975

| | 1975 £ | 1975 £ | 1974 £ | 1974 £ |
|--|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| <i>Fixed Asset</i> | | | | |
| Land, at Elm | | 45 | | 45 |
| <i>Assets or Specific Funds</i> | | | | |
| Quoted investments at cost | 1,742 | | 1,646 | |
| Barbican Investment Fund units at cost | 646 | | 646 | |
| Cash awaiting investment | 42 | | 87 | |
| | | <u>1,257</u> | | <u>902</u> |
| <i>Current Assets</i> | | | | |
| Debtors | 313 | | 48 | |
| Subscriptions in arrear | 113 | | 87 | |
| Cash at Bank | 831 | | 767 | |
| | | <u>1,257</u> | | <u>902</u> |
| <i>Current Liabilities</i> | | | | |
| Creditors | 842 | | 592 | |
| Subscriptions in advance | 23 | | 27 | |
| | | <u>865</u> | | <u>619</u> |
| <i>Net Current Assets</i> | | 392 | | 283 |
| Total Net Assets | | <u>£2,867</u> | | <u>£2,707</u> |
| <i>Represented by:</i> | | | | |
| <i>Accumulated Fund</i> | | | | |
| | | 437 | | 328 |
| <i>Specific Funds</i> | | | | |
| Life membership | 2,190 | | 2,169 | |
| Recent leavers membership | 240 | | 210 | |
| | | <u>2,430</u> | | <u>2,379</u> |
| | | <u>£2,867</u> | | <u>£2,707</u> |

Arthur Harrison, *Hon. Treasurer*

Auditors 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 1975, and of the surplus for the year.

John A. Taylor, *Hon. Auditor*

S.O.S.A.

PRESIDENT 1976 GRACE BECKERLEGGE

President 1977 Frank Rollett

Vice-President 1977 Janet Eavis

Officers and Committee from 1.1.77.

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>General Secretary</i> | Michael R. Finch, 52 Saxon Wood Road, Cheswick Green, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 4JN. |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Arthur W. Harrison, 22 Elm Road, Reading RG6 2TS. |
| <i>Reunion Secretary</i> | Russell Steed, 37 High Brink Road, Coleshill, Nr. Birmingham, B46 1BH. |
| <i>Assistant Reunion Secretary</i> | Margaret Fairnington, 140 Fellowes Road, London, NW3. |
| <i>Membership Secretary</i> | Louis E. Wright, Pantiles, West End Lane, Esher, Surrey. |
| <i>Magazine Editor</i> | Philip Manasseh, Orchard Lea, Combe, Oxford. |
| <i>Local Branch Secretaries</i> | Michael J. Gibbins, The Bank House, Harvington, Evesham, Worcs. |
| <i>Midland</i> | Geoffrey L. Moore, 19 Vineway, Brentwood, Essex. |
| <i>London</i> | |
| <i>Representatives on School Committee</i> | Lilian D. Ward (to 31.12.77) Michael R. Finch (to 31.12.77) |
| <i>Representatives from School Staff</i> | Alan Jarvis, Frank Cookson |
| <i>Representatives from Friends of Sibford Committee</i> | Robin Greaves |
| <i>General Committee Members</i> | |
| (to 31.12.77) | Greta Millington, Ian A. Wright |
| (to 31.12.78) | Sarah Watts, Alexander Caviezel |
| (to 31.12.79) | Fiona M. Poulton, Michael Van Blankenstein |

Also members of the Committee are the Headmaster and the Bursar

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| <i>Other Officers</i> | |
| <i>Auditor</i> | Robert H. Phillips |
| <i>O.S. Representative on the Friends of Sibford Committee</i> | Frank Rollett |

ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Births, Deaths, Marriages</i> | Gladys Burgess, 31 Melrose Road, Southampton, Hants. |
| <i>Change of Address</i> | Membership Secretary — as stated |
| <i>Subscriptions</i> | Treasurer — as stated |
| <i>Material for Magazine</i> | Editor — as stated |
| <i>Advertising Matters</i> | Editor — as stated |
| <i>Photographs</i> | Reunion Secretary — as stated |

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REVIEW

As I was considering my report I was thinking to myself — how can I make it sound different from any other report that I've given? How can I keep the audience's attention? Could I do something revolutionary like streak across the games field! But then I thought better of it for I would not like to be remembered as the man who was over exposed!

After all, why change for the sake of it — an intelligent body of people like yourselves, having been educated at Sibford or married to a Sibfordian, (which makes you just as intelligent!) wants facts. You want to know if the old machine is still functioning on all cylinders and the answer to that is—yes it is!

Having made that statement I could quite easily close my review but I am sure you will want more details.

I am happy to say that in the main many good things have happened over the past twelve months but like all things they are sometimes laced with a sour mixture.

I can report that financially we have again shown a working profit on the twelve months ending December 1975. We did show a slight loss on last year's Reunion which, all things considered, was slight.

I think that the general consensus was that the Annual Reunion 1975 was an unqualified success. I am sure that you would wish me to minute our thanks to Julia Smith and Eddie Smart for undertaking the difficult task of catering in an efficient and sufficient manner.

One worrying aspect is income from Subscriptions. We have a large sum of money in arrears — members behind in their subscriptions were written to by the President, but apart from one renewal and one Life Membership the response was appalling. So it is up to all members to make a supreme effort to normalise this situation. Membership otherwise remains the same except to say that several recent leavers have joined which is encouraging.

The General Committee have met on two occasions and the meetings were well attended. The Reunion sub-committee have also met on two occasions (plus many impromptu meetings!). It is disappointing to note that the worst attenders at Committee were young Old Scholars' who did not even reply to my correspondence — I found this aspect particularly annoying.

Unfortunately Peter Marlow had to resign as Assistant Reunion Secretary due to commitments, and Margaret Fairnington was co-opted and stepped into the breach quietly and efficiently. Fiona Poulton was co-opted at the July Committee meeting as this year's recent leaver — and it's nice to see the name "Poulton" appear on the Committee list again. We were sorry to learn that John Taylor is standing down as Auditor and Brian Wright will be relinquishing his office of Advertising Manager. Our deep thanks go to these two for all that they have accomplished over the years.

We have visited the School on several occasions. In the autumn the soccer team surprised everyone (including themselves!) by winning the annual fixture 3-2 after being two goals down. The Day Reunion was held on May 22nd 1976 when the School put on a fete to assist the building fund. I don't think the money really mattered, what was important was that it was an excellent occasion where we met with School and were able to enjoy common activity.

O.S. organised an entertainment in the evening based on TV's "Generation Game." I would be the first to admit it wasn't perfect and we must be very careful in planning future events of this kind. Having said that I would not accept all the criticism and say it was a total failure — on the contrary in many ways it was a great success for at a very early stage in the year we had the help of several present scholars who worked like beavers for the Association in helping to make the entertainment possible. My lasting memory of this year will be the tremendous strides that were made in rekindling the kind of spirit that used to exist between O.S. and present scholars. Proof of this was the attendance at this year's Reunion of several present scholars.

It is incredible to think that after this long hot summer the annual cricket fixture was rained off! We had also arranged a barbecue in the evening for the leavers. We had to improvise with camping gear and move into the old dining room. The outcome was very successful and it is hoped that this sort of function will be repeated.

You will all by now have seen the new syle Magazine and I am sure you will agree that Phillip Manasseh has done an outstanding job. The concept of a truly "joint" magazine with the School is at last beginning to materialise. I know that the School are much happier with their content and the Association should be greatly indebted to them for shouldering a large proportion of the costs.

The sub-committee appointed to discuss arrangements for 75th Anniversary in 1978 have met and have the embryo of a plan. This time next year I hope to be able to give you details.

The Friends of Sibford Society continues to flourish and since the incorporation of the P.T.A., membership has grown to the 200 mark. This body contributes considerably to the welfare of the School. They have provided many gifts which otherwise might have been lost. Cynthia Harris has retired as Chairman and is replaced by John Temple, a former parent. Frank Rollett continues as our representative on their committee and I am sure everyone joins me in thanking him for all his hard work.

I have covered most points for your attention but I cannot close without giving my sincere thanks to all of the Committee for the considerable time and effort which they put into O.S. affairs. My thanks also to Lucy Padfield for

giving up valuable time and holiday to come and cater for us at the Annual Reunion. And what can I say about the remarkable contribution that my friend and colleague Russell Steed makes in all that he does.

Finally, (and then I will close!) I have always believed that a person can stay in office too long. It is my intention therefore not to seek nomination for re-election as General Secretary after my present term which expires 31.12.77.

Michael R. Finch
September, 1976

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S O S A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in the Old Scholars' room at Sibford on Saturday 28th August, 1976 at 4.00 p.m.

President in the Chair: Grace Beckerlegge.

Members present totalled 54.

The meeting remembered in silence the passing of Leslie Baily, William Reeve Bennett, Joe Canning, Mabel Shepherd, Gordon Wells and Marjorie Westlake.

1. *Minutes*

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Sibford on Saturday, 23rd August, 1975, and having been printed in the Magazine, were taken as read and were adopted unanimously by the meeting. The President signed them as a true record.

2. *Matters Arising*

The President reported to the meeting that the money set aside from last years sponsored walk (min. 8.1. 23-8-75) had been used to purchase curtains for the new dining room. Stan Ewan led the meeting's thanks to the anonymous donors who had added to the Association's contributions in making the gift possible.

3. *General Secretary's Report*

The General Secretary, Michael Finch reported that the twelve months ending December 1975 had again been successful financially, showing a working profit on the year.

The Committee had reluctantly received notice that John Taylor and Brian Wright would be standing down as Auditor and Advertising Manager respectively.

Margaret Fairnington had taken over as Assistant Reunion Secretary: and Fiona Poulton had been co-opted onto the Committee as the recent leavers' representative.

The Secretary congratulated the Editor on producing an excellent magazine which had been re-styled to assist the School.

Several members commented on the necessity to increase the size of the magazine.

The majority of the meeting felt that if it were helping the School then it was desirable.

The Secretary concluded his report by stating that he would not be standing for re-election after his current term which finished 31.12.77. (This report is given in detail under "General Secretary's Review").

Nicholas Bennett proposed and Vera Rollett seconded that the General Secretary's report be adopted.

This motion was unanimously carried by the meeting.

4. *Accounts*

The Treasurer, Arthur Harrison, reported that the profit on the year ending December 1975 had been £109.

Due to this margin he had recommended to the Committee that subscriptions should be maintained at their present level for at least twelve months.

He forecast that the new membership list due in the current year would cost at least £100.

The sponsored walk in 1975 had raised £183 and much of the credit for this amount goes to Frank Rollett for his efficient organisation.

The Treasurer endorsed the General Secretary's view that the large amount of subscriptions in arrears was intolerable and this situation must be normalised for the good of the Association.

The August Reunion in 1975 had shown a slight loss of £26 which, although this was an acceptable figure, it was his intention that the Reunion must pay for itself.

He concluded by paying tribute to the work of John Taylor as auditor.

Robert Phillips proposed and Stan Ewan seconded that the Treasurer's report be adopted.

This motion was unanimously carried by the meeting.

5. *School Committee Representatives Report*

Lilian Ward Reported to the meeting on behalf of the School Committee representatives.

She said that the re-organisation of the School Committee had now taken place and it was hoped that this would benefit the School considerably.

The appeal had been more successful than anyone had dared hope for and the figure currently stood at £132,000.

The best way of rectifying the Manor was now being looked into. A generous gift by an educational trust was enabling the School to build a purpose built remedial centre to further the excellent work carried out by this department.

(This report is given in detail elsewhere in the magazine).

Norman Coxon proposed and Christopher Grimes seconded this report be adopted.

This motion was unanimously carried by the meeting.

6. *Headmaster's Report*

Kenneth Greaves thanked Old Scholars for all their good wishes during his recent illness.

He also thanked the meeting for the gift of curtains in the Dining room which he said added greatly to the building.

He reported on another successful School year with encouraging results in both G.C.E 'O' Level and 'A' Level.

The School were sorry to lose the services of Eileen Tait and John Gilchrist who were both retiring after many years of service. (This report is given in detail elsewhere in the magazine).

Nicholas Bennett proposed and Geoffrey Long seconded that this report be adopted.

This motion was unanimously carried by the meeting.

7. *Election of Officers and Committee Members*

The meeting were asked to confirm the co-option to the General Committee of Margaret Fairington as Assistant Reunion Secretary and Fiona Poulton as the current leavers representative.

The meeting unanimously agreed to these appointments.

Michael Van Blankenstein was elected as an ordinary Committee Member to serve until December 1979.

Robert Phillips was appointed Auditor in succession to John Taylor.

8. *Election of President and Vice-President 1977*

The President proposed to the meeting that Frank Rollett be appointed President 1977 and that the Vice-President for 1977 should be Janet Eavis.

These appointments were unanimously acclaimed.

9. *Any other Business*

1. The General Secretary, Michael Finch said that several members had enquired about a suitable memorial to Leslie Baily.

He said that Leslie Baily had long cherished the idea of incorporating a serious item into the Reunion Programme in the form of a lecture or discussion by some suitably qualified person.

After detailed discussions it had been decided by the Committee to introduce a series of lectures which would be given at the Annual Reunion and these would be called the "Leslie Baily Lectures".

It was hoped that the series would commence during the 75th Anniversary celebrations in 1978.

It was also hoped that John Baily, Leslie Baily's son, would give the first lecture.

The meeting was unanimous in commending this project but felt that

the starting date should be brought forward if possible to the next Annual Reunion (August 1977).

It was also felt that some sort of fund should be created to cover possible expenses.

It was also commented that the use of the word "lecture" might act as a deterrent.

The Committee were directed to look into these suggestions when details were being finalised.

The General Secretary announced forthcoming dates of interest:-

Soccer Match 11.12.76 (Provisional)

General Committee Meeting 12.12.76.

Christmas Service 12.12.76.

Day Reunion 28.5.77.

Evening Meeting address by President 29.5.77.

Cricket Match 25.6.77

Leavers Barbecue 25.6.77.

General Committee Meeting 10.7.77.

Annual Reunion 27th — 30th August 1977.

3. Frank Rollett reported on the condition of the Sibford Elms. He was sad to inform the meeting that he thought the trees might have developed Dutch Elm disease. He was keeping a constant check on their condition.

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Since the last Annual General Meeting, we have had four Meetings of the School Committee and General Purposes Committee at Sibford, and it has been a busy period.

There has been a re-organisation of the Sibford School Committee following expressions of general concern in the Committee about the effective functioning thereof, and it was felt because all members were at present attempting to be conversant with all the issues brought to the Committee, there was a danger that very few knew any part of the functioning of the school in depth, and it was felt because of our real lack of knowledge of the current situation we were unable to give adequate support through informed involvement. It was felt that there was a great deal of duplication of discussion when issues came firstly before the General Purposes Committee, and then before the School Committee, when time is very restricted this means that other important issues may not be discussed at all. As an outcome, two sub-committees have been formed to replace the present General Purposes Committee, namely Finance and Premises forming one Committee, and Education the other.

Jonathan Fairn has been appointed Chairman of the School Committee in



Godfrey Baseley recalling country days



Young scholars

ONE DAY REUNION MAY



Brain of Sibford competition



It's a knock-out spectators

Photos: Philip Manasseh



Arthur Harrison Vera and Reg Brown



London (July) Old Scholars outside Guildford Cathedral

SUMMER MEETINGS

AUGUST



Gwentyth Sewell Joseph Sewell



Margaret Fairington and Chris

Photos: Geoff Moore

succession to Jack Davis, and Michael Finch is appointed Chairman of the Finance and Premises Committee: and Janet Eavis, Chairman of the Education Committee.

The Appeal has been more successful than we could have dared to hope,

Morland Braithwaite reported at the General Meeting that the total now reached was £128,448.00 and that the costs of the Appeal to date were £8,962.00. The cost of providing the new dining hall and kitchen, which most of you will now have seen, has been met in full without recourse to borrowing. The breakdown of the Appeal Fund as at 10th June, 1976 was as follows:—

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Current parents number of gifts | 84 |
| Total given | £ 32,991.00 |
| Former parents number of gifts | 44 |
| Total given | £ 5,468.00 |
| Old Scholars number of gifts | 52 |
| Total given | £ 7,846.00 |
| School Committee number of gifts | 19 |
| Total given | £ 14,601.00 |
| Others including Friends, Monthly Meetings and Charitable Trusts number of gifts | 170 |
| Total given | £ 65,551.00 |
| Deposit interest | £ 1,991.00 |
| Totalling | £128,448.00 |

It was felt that a great deal was owed to our Fund raisers who are now organising an Appeal for Leighton Park, and the Committee felt that we had much cause to be thankful to all who have contributed to make this venture so successful.

So far as the Manor Development is concerned, because of the very large increase on the originally estimated costs, it was felt that we could not contemplate proceeding with the proposed structural alterations at the Manor, and this provided an opportunity to consider other suggestions as to the future uses of these school buildings, an opportunity that might not arise again. Messrs. King and Chasemore were asked to examine the existing buildings with a view to recommending the best method to replace the defective accommodation, a report was prepared, and at our Meeting in May, Mr. Bobby of King and Chasemore spoke on his report and of the plans for alteration. It was noted that they advised that a limited amount of demolition was required, and that reasonable accommodation can be provided for the school, and the programme of priorities is being prepared, and the work will no doubt soon commence at the Manor.

Some months ago an Educational Trust showed great interest in our remedial department and have offered a very generous gift to the school to build a new remedial unit. The details of the way in which this gift is to be

accepted are still being considered, but it is hoped that this will go through.

As from September, provided there is no worsening in the present economic situation the fees for borders will be £515.00 per term and for day pupils £255.00 per term.

I know the Committee will be very sad to have learned of the death of Leslie Baily, who has been such a great friend of the school and so concerned for its continuance. The research which he has done for his proposed book will not be wasted. His son John is proposing to carry out his father's work at some time in the future. There was a memorial service at the Meeting House when many Old Scholars came, and our sympathies go to Margaret.

We were also sorry to learn of the death of Joe Canning in May this year, he too was an old friend of the School and some of the older scholars will remember him as the school barber.

You will see that being a representative on the School Committee is interesting, and a responsible task, and all the more so since such faith has been shown in the School by the response to the Appeal.

Lilian D. Ward September, 1976

N.B. The Appeal Fund currently stands at £131,551—October, 1976.

FRIENDS OF SIBFORD

This report covers our activities from June 1975 to June 1976.

It is indeed pleasant to record success. The absorption of the P.T.A. has, and is proving to be most beneficial. A lively committee backed by a membership now of nearly 200 is continuing its good work in providing some items desired by pupils, etc., perhaps not covered by School Budget. At the Autumn and Spring P.W.E.'s we ran the usual refreshment unit, plus a recruiting drive.

On May 14th the Headmaster reported on the implementation of a previous resolution when we had allocated £30 to each of seven School houses to spend on equipment of their choice, as follows:

Penn boys—books. Penn girls—room division. Lister—second-hand stereo. Nansen—material for cabinet and table tennis items. Lister girls—stereo and kitchen wall tinopener. Nansen girls—towards table tennis table. Fielding—stereo.

Then on May 15th we hired a coach and treated 46 non-exeat pupils to a visit to Bourton-on-the-Water. Six members led groups of seven around the several village features, culminating in a good restaurant meal. The whole very well arranged by John Temple. Many have said it to be the best day enjoyed since coming to School!

During the G.M. weekend on June 12th was held our A.G.M. when John Temple was elected Chairman in succession to Cynthia Harris who retired after completing two 3-year terms in which capacity she had officiated most effectively.

F.R.

ONE DAY REUNION

Every visit to Sibford, even after more than thirty years, rewards the perceptive traveller with new sensations and impressions. Some are inevitably reactions to the glory of Cotswold country in almost any season, others concern people and the way in which they live. On May 22nd, we arrived for a lavish picnic lunch, a cheerful car load, slightly lubricated with Hook Norton ales from the "Gate Hangs High", perhaps a bit lightly clad for high summer (ne'er cast a clout . . .), forgetting how sharp the breeze can be up at the Hill.

But out bravely into a fresh afternoon we went, to dawdle among the stalls and shies, spending happily but not ruinously in aid of the School fund. My sharpest sensation of this visit came at a stall, complete with ancient gramophones, piled high with antique shellac records from the school collection of my own youth—Walter in Mozart & Brahms, Beecham in Bizet, Koussevitzky in Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, all a bit over-priced and well-worn, but a nostalgic display nonetheless, summing up memories and visions of "A.J." to whom, for all his pedagogical eccentricity, I owe a great deal of my passion for music. Yet there was little time for nostalgia, with a Dog Show in one corner, (the entries including everything from a Great Dane to varieties of Heinz 57), tea in the Pavilion and the neighbourhood just to be explored—so we slipped off to Swalcliffe Common, penetrable in May when the nettles are only ankle high. We encountered a trio of local kids with air guns, looking and sounding much like thirteen year old Londoners; in the 1940s villagers looked and acted like another race, but all that poverty seems to have gone. In its place, everything around Sibford is too quiet, bland and tidy.

We arrived back for a filling tea of beans, pasties and jam, to admire the smart, utilitarian dining complex. Yet even for those whose religious practices are a little scant, it seems odd in these days of self-service not to have "silence"; that's one of the traditions that the Old Scholars still maintain in August, to remind us that a meal is not just a fuelling stop.

The evening was taken up with an important shot at TV's "The Generation Game", one of my children's favourites and a programme whose anchor man makes me curl up! Luckily, Grace and Phil Beckerlegge have a thousand times as much humanity and spontaneity and they kept things bowling along for ninety minutes in a crowded hall. Sibford children seem to me to be natural, unaffected and appreciative, and the younger ones in particular enjoyed the show. Frank Rollett received the "Brain of Sibford" award for an incredibly erudite performance involving the pinning of names on faces;

and a number of the current scholars took part happily in the dramatics.

It was good to look in again after nearly two years' absence and to meet a substantial bunch of Old Scholars, including Gladys Burgess, Jonas and Margery Fielding and the indefatigable Officers without whom nothing would ever get done. All too soon, we were driving away in the dusk, leaving the bluebells, thick hedgerows and dusty paths behind us.

M.V.B.

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THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Most speakers, I am sure, say a silent prayer before getting up to speak, I have mine also, and it is this, 'Lord, Help me that I may know my stuff, and nudge me when I've said enough.'

Old Scholars and friends, I am very proud to have the honour of welcoming you to a Presidential dinner in this lovely new dining hall. It is a far cry from the time when I would watch from the windows of Stansfield Dormitory, in company with other girls, and with every growing anxiety, for the old scholars to leave the old dining hall, so fearful that they would eat too much, and thereby leave nothing for us to nip down the stairs and collect, and old scholars in those days, had as good an appetite as old scholars have today.

I little thought then, that it would be my task one day, to address you as President. In considering what form my address should take, I found it very difficult to find a subject to speak upon, or a subject that had not previously been used, and used far better by former Presidents. Nearly all past Presidents were able to talk about their occupation, their hobbies, or just about Sibford. Having neither an occupation, or a particular hobby, I took a quick look at my past life, seeking for inspiration. No, I didn't find any skeletons in the cupboard. I did find that the only great event that had occurred, and which continues, was getting married, bringing up a family, and acquiring grandchildren, if one can 'acquire' grandchildren, and I am having a whale of a time with them. In fact I found that my occupation and my hobby, was being a housewife and a mother.

Much is said on the radio these days, and there are continual discussions, about the wide horizons of the 'Career Woman'. Whilst I realise that there are many real career women who have wide horizons, there are equally as many, who just pound a typewriter all day long. A housewife and mother can have just such wide horizons, if she reads, she has hobbies, and is out-going. She need not consider herself a 'cabbage', and by no means should she be looked down upon condescendingly.

As a mother, I managed, somehow, with Philip's help of course, to bring up three children, of whom we are very proud, as we are also of our two daughters-in-law, and I realise that despite the years that have passed, and the apparent successes, it is still necessary for both of us to work at our marriage. And it is that realisation which has prompted me to speak on the subject of Marriage.

Marriage is, for two people in love, a joyous experience, a union of two people living in perfect harmony, but it is also hard work, a whole time occupation, and if one stops working at it, then the marriage withers, and eventually dies.

In what other occupation does one need, or have, or give, so much love and understanding, so much trust and care, so much humour and faith.

Faith in a God who brought two people together, faith in each new day, to be used, and lived, and loved, faith in one another, and faith to know that through the difficult days, all will be well, and that one will reach the end.

Then there is the joy of being able to care, and accepting the care of your partner, the comfort and the joy that brings, to be able to care for one another, but not just for one another, but for the family, the neighbours, and those less fortunate than oneself, we can care for others.

There is so little caring done nowadays, we all care for ourselves, and heed not the next person's need. It is a fallacy to think that out of one's own unhappiness and disillusion, one is better equipped to help and care for others, it is only from our own contentment, and our own security, the knowledge that someone cares for us, that we in our turn are able to help and care for others.

If there is no humour in marriage, then the marriage is doomed almost from the start, we have to learn to laugh at ourselves, and with each other, and to take whatever is said, in the spirit which it is meant.

Marriage is full of humour, playful yet sympathetic, laughing together at absurd things that we do so easily, for without that laughter, some things would be turned into tragedy, trusting from time to time to the other's sense of humour to make life's tragedies into comedies, to be able to trust another person implicitly, is like having the strength of the insurance companies around you.

We always say we understand someone else's point of view, but I wonder if we really do. How many of us know and understand the person we married? I wonder how many husbands go home at night, and never look at their wives, or listen to her voice, giving her the usual peck on the cheek, but failing to look at her face, or note the angle of her shoulders, to see what sort of day she has had. Or we wives, how many of us look at our husband's face when he comes home, to see what sort of day he has had, or to inquire how his job is progressing.

It is all there, written in each other's faces, and by looking and listening, we can adjust ourselves, and our mood, to be of help and understanding to the other.

There was a divorce case, not so long ago, which resulted from the fact that the husband came home from work, having had a very good day at the office. The husband came home from work, having had a very good day at the office. He was feeling on top of the world, full of his own importance, and his own sense of well-being. His wife, on the other hand, had had a particularly hard day, all sorts of things having gone wrong.

Neither looked or listened to the other, so deeply engrossed in their own selves were they. He said to her, "Can I help?" She said, "Yes, dry up", and flung him the tea towel, and he, still so full of his good day, flicked her playfully across the seat, with the tea towel. She so full of her bad day, responded by hitting him on the head with a saucepan, and because humour and understanding were not there, and probably had not been there for a long time, this was the final straw, and the couple were divorced.

It is easy to look and listen, to understand, care and help, in fact to love, but sometimes we get out of practice and we have to work that much harder. We have to remember that to love, with all that it entails, can become as natural an action as breathing.

So much as been said and sung about love, that I cannot add one bit to it, except to say, that romantic love, as sung, written and portrayed on television, is every girl's dream, but seldom her reality. The day a girl gets married, she is on top of the mountain, or should be, but the mountains have a habit of shrinking, and the rocky bottom is soon reached, honeymoons have a way of ending, and one faces reality, and realises that one cannot just get married and leave it at that.

One finds that love has many faces, and that love itself must never be taken for granted, that marriage is a partnership, not a domination of one partner over the other, that giving and taking is the golden rule, and that one cannot always live on the mountain tops.

It has been said, that 'A woman marries a man for what he is, and then tries to make him into what she thinks he ought to be', that is not a partnership, that is selfishness. In all marriages there are quarrels and discords, but if one only can remember that one loves, and is loved in return, the making up is often worth the quarrel.

I remember an Aunt of mine telling me when I was getting married, that if Philip and I ever quarrelled, to make it up before going to sleep, otherwise by the morning it would be twice as difficult, and it was.

I know by experience. Harry Truman once said, that it takes two to make a promise, and only one to break it, and that is also true of marriage.

As one grows older, the excitement and discovery of marriage deepens into companionship, into mutual respect for one another, one's love becomes comfortable and love itself is peace and contentment; *But* one still has to work hard at the marriage, for either one grows closer together, or one grows further apart. I know for many people, it is not always like that, with time, the excitement and joy of love, at worst, turns into disappointment and disillusion-

ment, into self interest and unhappiness, and sometimes divorce, and at best turns into a compromise, a marriage kept together for the sake of the children, for one's friends, for security, from habit, or for whatever reasons people may have.

It seems to me we live at a time when the institute of marriage is under pressure, when it is fashionable to decry love, and when perhaps it is easier than ever before for married couples to contemplate separation and divorce and because of this people do not work as hard as they should at their marriage. It is now more important than ever that we understand the meaning and the purpose of marriage and of love and that we re-dedicate ourselves to the hard work of loving.

If you love a person, you will be loyal to that person no matter what the cost. You will always believe in that person, always expect the best of that person, always stand your ground in defending that person, never making that person feel small in the presence of others.

Love is a mixture to be taken three times a day, a dose of giving and taking, of respect and trust, of care and humour, understanding and faith, and unless we learn all that, we shall not experience the full joy of marriage.

St. Paul puts the meaning of love into words, much more clearly than anyone, and this quote from the book, 'The greatest is love', explains it exactly. 'Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, boastful or proud, never haughty, or selfish, or rude, love does not demand its own way, it is not irritable, or touchy, it does not hold grudges, and will hardly even notice when others do wrong, it is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever the truth wins', and because a husband and wife love and cherish each other, they can share their joys and double them, they can share their sorrows and halve them.

A Christian marriage implies that God himself has united the couple for life. A Christian marriage begins, 'In the presence of God and of this congregation', one great guarantee of its success is for the couple to ensure that the presence of God is kept permanently in the marriage, and that nothing, however good or desirable, is allowed to crowd him out.

Marriage is given to nearly every one, and every one is responsible for his or her own marriage, it is given to each one of us to decide whether we hold and keep our marriage, or let it go, and lose it.

GRACE BECKERLEGGE



Young scholars meeting

AUGUST REUNION

Photos: Geoff Moore



Picnic tea, walkers relaxing



Kenneth and Robin Greaves serving teas



John Taylor's story



President heads lunch queue



Stan Ewan's weaving display

AUGUST



The mystery picnic walk



Photos:
Frank Rollett

Russell and Co.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

For the first half-term of the year I myself was off duty because of illness, and our thanks are due to June Ellis and John Gilchrist who took on an additional burden of work and responsibility during that time.

Once again, the record of work throughout the school and throughout the year was good; and out of school hours, too, it seemed that more people were more usefully occupied for more of the time than has sometimes been the case. Many pupils serve on committees concerned with such things as the running of social events in school, with social service in the neighbouring villages, with the management of the tuckshop and the bookshop, etcetera, and one hopes that opportunities for such service will continue to increase.

In the public examinations taken at the end of the school year the results were generally good. In the advanced level examinations it was particularly pleasing that all our geography candidates were successful; and in the CSE and GCE Ordinary level examinations, not only was the pass rate a creditable one but a substantial number of high grade passes was achieved.

Although there were no significant changes in the curriculum during the year there was good work done within the existing framework, and some exceptionally fine work in wood and metal was produced in the workshops under the direction of Graeme Sagar and Stuart Hedley.

A feature of the year was the large number of expeditions and excursions. Sixth formers taking the O and A level courses in Economics with Joanna Pring visited local factories; the A level geographers enjoyed a few days fieldwork in mid-Wales with Brian Holliday and Sue Bradley; and in the Easter holidays Jean Rudge and her husband took 16 members of her German classes to Southern Germany for a two-week holiday arranged on an exchange basis, their German friends returning the visit in the Summer Term.

Also in the Easter holidays, David Foulds and Jocelyn Radcliffe took a party of 26 children Youth Hostelling in Yorkshire, travelling in a coach driven by Mike Wollerton.

Such activities not only give pleasure to those who take part but also benefit in less tangible ways the corporate life of the whole school, and we are indeed grateful to those of our staff who give up part of their holidays to lead these expeditions.

Other expeditions during the year included the outings of the History Society, led by Ken Francis, to Avebury, to Blenheim Palace, to the Houses of Parliament and to the 1776 exhibition at Greenwich. Our upper Sixth Form went on the Friends Schools Pilgrimage to the birthplace of Quakerism in North Lancashire and Cumbria; we were represented also at Junior Yearly Meeting, and one of our girls attended the Geneva Summer School. One of the

most notable excursions, however, was the famous outing in the Summer Term when the Friends of Sibford took 46 children — mainly those who cannot often have exeats with their parents — on a visit to Bourton-on-the-Water. "The best day out since I've been at Sibford," was the verdict of one small boy. We are truly grateful to the Friends of Sibford for the help and support that they continue to give us in all sorts of ways.

Thanks to the generosity of friends of Sibford in a less specific meaning of the phrase our premises were increased during the year by the building, in a magically short space of time, of our new dining-room and kitchen block. The building came into use at the beginning of the Spring Term in January and it meets our needs admirably. The Friends of Sibford provided curtains for the staff dining-room, and the Sibford Old Scholars Association gave curtains for the main dining hall, complete with all necessary fittings.

It would have been wrong to accept so much from others without making a real effort to help ourselves, and our own fund-raising events were organised in school during the year.

In connection with our appeal, our approach to an educational trust brought us a visit in the autumn by two of its directors. Several months later we were informed that, so impressed had they been by the work of our Remedial Department, they had decided to offer us a gift of £30,000 to enable us to build a new Remedial Centre, and planning for this is in hand. This generous gift, the more pleasing for having been so completely unexpected, comes as a great encouragement, and we shall strive to prove worthy of the confidence that has been placed in us.

I must, however, emphasise once more that it is not my intention to increase the size of this department, nor to develop remedial work at the expense of other parts of the curriculum. It is in the Sibford tradition to cater — and cater successfully — for a wide range of educational needs, and this we shall continue to do, maintaining a proper balance between our various activities.

In the field of Physical Education it was not an outstanding year, but there were some good individual performances and some interesting developments.

Our girls gained 39 awards for gymnastics and 117 awards for athletics during the season, several school athletics records were broken, and Elsa Stuart reached the county finals in the Long Jump.

For the boys, the football season produced some good but rather mixed results, with both Senior and Junior teams winning more games than they lost. A group of our boys played in the county Rugby trial, and Stephen Johnson and Adrian Martin were selected for the Oxfordshire Under 16 team.

In September the school began an Orienteering Club, and members regularly attended local meetings. The initial popularity of the sport was shown

when, at the end of March, the first school event was run as part of the House Eisteddfod competition, and sixty boys competed.

Another innovation in the Eisteddfod, which seems to comprise a greater number of events every year, was the inter-House Quiz, based on the BBC's Top of the Form programme and very professionally presented by Geoff Higgins and the Social Committee. So closely were the teams matched that when even the replay ended with the scores exactly equal the outcome had to be decided by a sudden-death play-off.

This was a good year for drama. A good standard of acting and direction, and once again Geoff Higgins gave us two memorable productions — *Zigger Zagger* in the autumn and, in collaboration with Tony Rye, the musical *Oliver* at the end of the Summer Term.

A very full programme of post-examination activities at the end of the school year was arranged by Frank and Pippa Cookson, and once again Gordon Wright organised camps in Wales for boys and girls training for Duke of Edinburgh Awards. There were well over 100 pupils engaged in the scheme and 68 of them, in three separate parties, camped in Wales for their expedition training. During the year, 15 bronze, two silver and one gold award were achieved — for various reasons rather fewer than in other recent years, but there is no indication of any decline in interest in the scheme in general.

The Social Service Committee, led by Gordon Wright and Carol Cresswell, organises the regular visiting by our pupils of elderly people in the neighbourhood, and during the year the area covered was extended to include the village of Brailes. The Committee's main activity, however, is providing the annual holiday camp at Sibford for deprived and delicate children from central London. Once again, some twenty children came for the holiday and were looked after by an equal number of our senior pupils who, with several members of staff, stayed on at school for the first ten days of the holidays for this purpose. This was the third such camp to be held at Sibford. They have all been greatly appreciated by the London schools concerned and our own helpers have derived great benefit from the experience.

At the end of the Summer Term there were six staff changes; Sylvia Atkinson, Jocelyn Radcliff, Dan Petrencik and David Rennie left to take up other appointments, and Eileen Tate and John Gilchrist reached the time for retirement. Eileen Tate had intended retiring a year earlier but had stayed on to help us out of a difficulty — a sample of the off-hand generosity that was characteristic of her and for which we had so many occasions to be grateful.

John Gilchrist taught at Sibford for twenty-two years, and was Senior Master for eighteen of them. His influence in the school was immense, and there can have been few school activities which had not benefited from his energetic leadership or his unobtrusive support. His retirement was suitably

marked by the School Committee and by present pupils, and on the last night of the Summer Term a large number of his present and former colleagues gathered in the new dining-hall to do honour to John and Vi, to thank them for their past service and to wish them a long and happy retirement.

Ken Francis has been appointed to succeed John Gilchrist as Senior Master.

K.G.

MABEL HARROD BURSARY FUND

The fund is now down to the last £100 which in these inflationary days is very little and the trustees would very much like to see the remainder used before it depreciates much more.

The fund has been in existence now for 30 years and individual allocations have varied from £1 to help with an exchange visit to France, to £300 or so for a year at the school.

This incidentally was for Armin Wirsing in 62/3 with whom I am still in regular contact. He is now married — to an English teacher — and having completed a long and arduous study as a lawyer is in practice in the Stuttgart area dealing with legal aspects of population control. Armin has been to see us twice since he left Sibford, and visited the school again a few years ago.

The last grant from the fund was made in 1974 to help cover a language course in France for a sixth form girl at Sibford and this seemed to be one of the few practicable uses for our dwindling fund.

Mable Harrod was I believe very keen on the idea of sharing the family atmosphere of Sibford with other members of the European community by exchange visits to improve relationships and remove fear and misunderstandings. It has not been very easy to find suitable people to come to Sibford from other areas of Europe as it demands a lot of a child to give up a term or year to come to a strange country and cope with the language, apart from learning something of our ways and attitudes.

However, undoubtedly many Old Scholars have benefited from the fund and in making possible wider horizons and a broader understanding of the European community in which we live, it has helped to carry Mabel Harrod's concern outward and we are grateful to those who promoted and worked so hard to establish this fund.

I'm afraid I have been very slack at producing reports on time or appearing at O.S. reunions and I am not given to urgent drives to promote the fund, but I would like to feel that the same concern will go into the use of this last £100 as has been expressed so well by the trustees over the years.

If any Old Scholar or present scholars, having read so far, feel that they have a need which the fund might be able to help with I shall be glad to hear from them.

M. Dodsworth

UNDER TWO ELMS

MIDLAND BRANCH

The Midland group are really very lucky indeed to have the welcome and happy atmosphere of Michael and Cathy Gibbins' house to hold our Christmas party. There were 32 present, with supper as appetising and plentiful as ever. Here I should add that some old Scholars really did come from afar, to be with us. Fun and games and talking over old times.

March soon came round again and a good number of us went off to see Gilbert and Sullivan at the Palace Theatre. Graham and Sheila Trout give a great deal of their time to these productions. The grand visit of the year was of course the afternoon at Church's farm, Bromsberrow, the home of Bill and Joy Rann. We were happy to have Godfrey Baseley with us and once again several Old Scholars from far afield joined us. Yours truly took to the swimming pool as likewise two of the younger did. It really was a great afternoon spent there, 30 Old Scholars present, and amongst those not seen for some time were Molly Vine and Geoffrey Lowe.

On October 2nd Russell Steed filled his minibus and went off to Ironbridge, others made their own way there including Nellie the dog (this belongs to Barbara Abercrombie). It seems they had a happy and interesting day, including a picnic and visit to the museum.

You know we do have fun, we may be a few "oldies", but we would so much welcome the younger old scholars, and try to do things that they were interested in. Just get in touch with me, we can always collect and take to our various meetings, in and around Birmingham.

Irene Smith
37 Redditch Road
Stoke Heath
Bromsgrove, Worcs.
Telephone Bromsgrove 31857

LONDON BRANCH

Unfortunately the London Branch seems to have been suffering from what must be a severe attack of Dutch Elm Disease this year!

Apart from our Annual General Meeting at the new and far from successful venue, Hoxton Hall, we have had just one outing this year. This was a most enjoyable trip arranged by Brian and Ethel Wright to Guildford Cathedral where we were shown around by a jolly and well informed guide. After we returned to Woking Friend's Meeting House for tea and a chat followed by nostalgia in the form of a slide show. Many of us of course did attend the Day Reunion, only this year we all met at Sibford having made the journey under our own steam and this was an enjoyable day for us all.

We were persuaded at the A.G.M. to remain as secretaries for a further year but unfortunately, to say the least, it has proved a year of unexpectedness!! Pat first of all spent 15 days in Guy's Hospital and now towards the end of the year we are moving house, so due to this we are afraid Old Scholar's have gone rather amiss on our part and we do apologise for this. Geoff Moore indicated his willingness at the A.G.M. to take over from us next year so we hope that this will provide the necessary injection needed to stop the rot in this well established branch of S.O.S.A. All the best Geoff.

Patricia and Alan Yardley,
31 Hamsey Green Gardens
Warlingham, Surrey.

OBITUARY

LESLIE BAILY

Leslie Baily, who was at Sibford from 1918 to 1921, and was President of the Old Scholars' Association in 1947, died on the 21st February at York at the age of 69. An old scholar here contributes a memoir of a man whose life and work were deeply influenced by Sibford School.

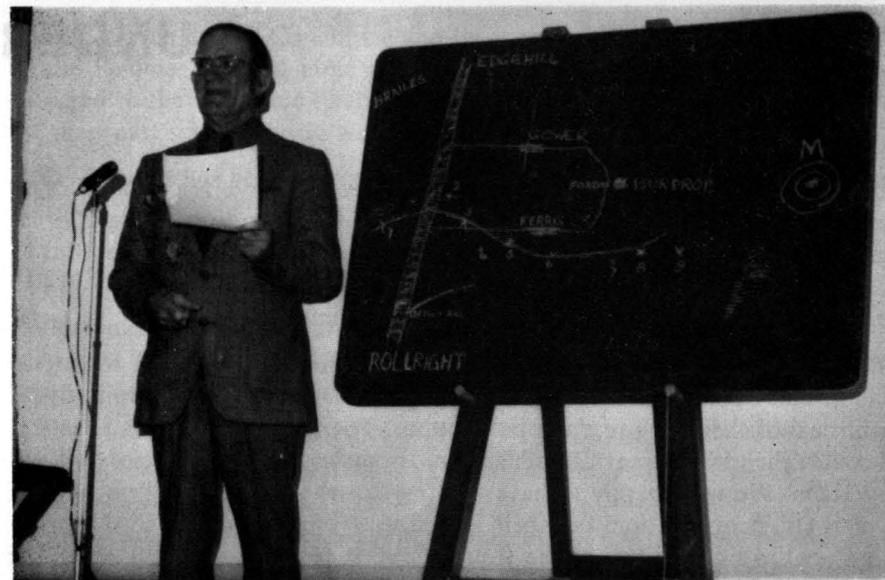
No man I have known inspired to such a degree the affection and respect of his friends: affection for his personal qualities of kindness, compassion and sense of humour; respect for his integrity as a broadcaster, writer and journalist, a professional to his fingertips, whose work was invariably based on scholarly and painstaking research, a care for facts, worthy of the real historian.

To the writer of his obituary in *The Times* Leslie will be remembered "with affection by more than one generation of listeners for the BBC scrapbooks which he, and in the early years Charles Brewer, created. They were judged by many listeners to be sound radio at its best." Indeed they were, and never more so than when Charles Brewer produced, and the incomparable Freddie Grisewood turned the pages.

To Professor Asa Briggs, the BBC's official historian, in his "The Golden Age of Wireless" the scrapbooks "drew on a powerful documentary element which earns them a certain place in the future interpretations of contemporary history." More than that: they belong to the history of broadcasting itself, for Leslie blazed a trail since followed by innumerable writers of television historical features and documentaries all unaware of the man in whose footsteps they followed.

Sibford, I believe, was the catalyst in Leslie's life. He was there in the aftermath of the first world war, when the school was a large family, the family of James and Mabel Harrod, Frank Parkin and Roland Herbert, whose personal qualities influenced so much his future life, and the lives of so many more. Sibford drew into a single life-line his Quaker background, shared with Margaret (whom he married in the Meeting House at Ackworth School, with which her family, the Jespers, had long and close associations), his idealism, and the influence of his father, James Baily, whose philosophy and teaching of craftsmanship contributed so much to the wholeness of education at Ackworth and Sibford, and indeed to the role of arts and crafts in English education. Leslie always believed this sense of wholeness was the real meaning of Quaker education.

In 1947 when Sibford School, at the age of 105, was at a turning point in its history, Leslie chose as the subject of his Presidential address to Old Scholars "Sibford and the State — can the independent school be justified



today?" The answer came out of his own character and Sibford education, both of which affirmed the essential values of the freedom and independence of the human spirit, which he saw as the potential victims of the growth of bigness and bureaucracy. He himself had just resigned from the BBC, an organisation for which, as a professional broadcaster, he retained great respect. In the immense growth of the Corporation's administrative machine, however, he saw a threat to the independence of the creative writer.

Leslie began his professional life as a junior reporter on the Yorkshire Evening News, in which capacity he covered the opening of Daventry 5XX, then the world's most powerful broadcasting station. His first broadcast work, an adaption of the Christmas Carol, went out from Belfast in 1924, and during his time as radio editor of the old Sunday Referee and thereafter he wrote an astonishing volume of feature plays and documentaries broadcast first from Leeds and Manchester and finally from London. His first Scrapbook was broadcast in 1933, and by 1937 his work had so impressed the BBC hierarchy that he was invited to join the Corporation as a staff writer, one of the earliest, if not the earliest, of them all.

If Leslie's reputation in the BBC's history rests above all on the Scrapbooks it is because, in the professional's jargon, they were 'pure radio', a brilliant innovation which re-created all our yesterdays, bringing contemporary history to life through the eyes of witnesses and participants, the most distinguished and the most humble in the land. One of the most memorable was the Scrapbook for 1914, with that moving record of the Christmas truce in the trenches in which his producer, Charles Brewer, had actually taken part. In the later

years there followed programmes of a different kind, of greater human depth and equally memorable, the series for example, on Gilbert and Sullivan, about whom he wrote two books and a film script, and the radio biographies of William Penn, Shackleton and Franz Schubert. Some of his broadcast "Travellers Tales" and the Scrapbooks reappeared in hard covers, and amidst all this output from the radio professional there was time for the quiet voice of "Craftsman and Quaker", the wholly admirable and unsentimental story of his father's life.

Leslie saw the village and the school as parts of the same tradition. While living in the Gower he worked enormously hard to raise funds for the building of the village hall, invoking the aid of many of the most distinguished broadcasters of the time, and in more recent years he was utterly tireless in his defence of the old Manor when it seemed to be threatened with extinction. His research led to an upsurge of interest in its history of which the story has yet to be told. The village hall and the Manor are inseparable in my memories of him.

When Leslie finally parted company with his professional career at the beginning of this decade his gifts for research and scholarship were devoted to what he would have considered to be the fulfilment of his life: the history of Sibford. His work had already earned for him the Fellowship of the Royal Historical Society. He had always been acutely aware of the importance of the countryside in what he called the Sibford tradition: the seminal influence in our lives of nature and the changing seasons, of agriculture and early rural society. This he believed was one of Sibford's most precious gifts to the children from the cities. His research into the history of the school therefore drew him inexorably further and further back into the history of the countryside and its people in which Quakerism and Sibford School took root. With a stubborn courage so typical of him he persisted throughout the ill-health of the closing years, and I believe he knew he would not finish his task. So it proved. That is our loss, and a loss to English local history. For the rest let us be grateful.

L.T.

From *The Times*, February 25 1976

OBITUARY MR. LESLIE BAILY

Mr. Leslie Baily, a pioneer of British radio broadcasting, has died at his home in York. He was 69.

He will be remembered with affection by more than one generation of listeners for the BBC Scrapbooks which he, and in the early days Charles Brewer, created. They were judged by many listeners to be sound radio at its best. The first — for 1913 — was broadcast in 1933. As Professor Asa Briggs wrote in *The Golden Age of Wireless*: "The Scrapbook programmes satisfied the Englishman's love of nostalgic reminiscence, and at the same time drew on a powerful documentary element which earns them a certain place in the future interpretations of contemporary history . . . in Freddie Grisewood, who was the narrator for the first two programmes, they were to find the perfect compère."

Baily was in many ways a man born for radio. Educated at the Friends' School, Sibford, near Banbury, and Cheltenham Grammar School, he later joined the staff of the *Yorkshire Evening News* at Leeds. In 1925 as a young wireless correspondent he covered the opening of Daventry 5XX, then the biggest broadcasting station in the world and the first long-wave station.

He was strongly attracted by the new medium and its sense of mystery, something which was felt, and indeed is still felt, by those whose lives were wonderfully enlarged by its coming. He was responsible for a stream of features, plays and revues first in the Leeds and Manchester studios of the BBC and then in London. The Scrapbooks were perennially successful and, as the years went by, took new directions — for example, in 1942 Baily came out with a series entitled *Everybody's Scrapbook*, designed to provide a link with the Empire; it was found that the formula pleased Canada and Australia as much as Britain.

His gift for turning research into lively scripts bore fruit in a number of other radio productions which were concerned with Gilbert and Sullivan, Sir Ernest Shackleton, William Penn and Franz Schubert.

He married in 1928 Margaret Jesper; they had one son and one daughter.

OBITUARY

JOE CANNING

Joe Canning was one of the increasingly rare persons to be found in Northern Oxfordshire today, a 'true' countryman, whose life was spent in complete accord with the environment around him.

Ever willing to help the community, and a Parish Councillor for many years, keenly interested in sport, he was more than a useful member of the village football team in his younger days.

He enjoyed singing at village social functions, where his pleasant tenor voice singing light ballads was always looked forward to and well received.

Joe will always be remembered by many Old Scholars as the School Barber whose "Short Back and Sides" were not always appreciated! especially by the "young bloods" in their early teens, but from which there was no escape!

A kindly, pleasant and respected member of the Sibford Community.

L.W.P.

WILFRED ANGERSON

Wilfred Angerson was at Sibford from 1912-1916. He lived in Birmingham for a good many years and was the inventor of a small indoor football game, setting up a business to manufacture the game, later this business manufactured furniture.

He married Dorothy Tye, another Old Scholar, who as an amateur actress entertained Old Scholars on many occasions. They were both regular attenders at Old Scholars gatherings for many years, contributing much in financial, as well as moral help and well being, to the organisation.

Your present Editor has vivid memories of Wilfred and Dorothy. I was a very small boy at the time, family and Old Scholar Reunions were always enlivened by Wilfreds cheerful presence.

His final years were spent with Dorothy at Newton Abbot, where the signed postcard of greetings from Old Scholars was received in the late Autumn. In a letter to Geoffrey Long, Dorothy writes "we were very glad to have the signed postcard, it gave us great pleasure to see the names of some of the "Old Guard". We both felt that genuine warmth of old friends, dating back to our childhood."

P.M.

BIRTHS, & DEATHS

BIRTHS

FACEY On April 26th 1976 to Ruth (née Whatley) and David Facey, a daughter, Hannah Eleanor Sarah.

HOCKLEY On June 29th 1976 to Janet (née Lea) and David Hockley, a daughter, Rachel May.

ALLEN On June 15th 1976 to Helen (née Groom) and David Allen, of Hobart, Tasmania, a daughter, Jennifer Georgina.

HUSSEY On September 15th to Inez and Stephen Hussey, of Hlekweni Friends' Rural Training Centre, Rhodesia, a son, Joseph, a brother for Juliet.

DEATHS

ANGERSON—WILFRED On September 12 1976

BAILY—LESLIE On February 21 1976

BIZZELL—ERLE On August 6 1976

CAFFREY—MARY In November 1975

CANNING—JOE On May 11 1976

CARN—CHARLES LESLIE 65 at Eastbourne, husband of Maymee and father of Ronald, Frances, Alan, Elisabeth and Katherine. Sibford 1924-28.

CUMMINGS—JENNIFER Aged 18, in October 1976

THACKER—AUSTIN On September 23 1976

WELLS—GORDON On June 7 1976

NEWS OF OLD SCHOLARS

Chris Little and his wife on leave from Kenya called in on the August Reunion. He is with Marshalls marketing Peugeot cars. In Kenya he met Mary Nicholas (née Lewis 40-43) who works in Malindi. Her two children are at Sibford, one is about to leave, and another will be taking her place.

Philip Morris (1939-44) was briefly encountered, unfortunately we were unable to reminisce, he seemed to vanish. But the prize for the best vanishing trick of the weekend must surely go to Michael Bond (1932-42) and his wife Priscilla (née Flinn) (1937-40) and her mother, seen on the photograph but nowhere else, amazing!

Nice to see Janet Eavis (1945-48) once again, she seems to get everywhere and told me that Rainer Guillery (1940-45) a great school friend of mine, is now a Professor of Neurology in America.

Tony Manasseh (1938-44), came to Oxfordshire with his wife Pam (née Boast) who was involved in a W.I. meeting at Marcham in September. He took the opportunity of visiting the school, (Tadmerton golf club was closed), and the Headmaster assigned a sixth former to show him around.

Stan Ewan (1917-20) put on a magnificent one man display of tapestry work on the August Reunion. His wife Mabel who is a J.P. has recently been awarded the M.B.E. for service on the Domestic Coal Consumers Council.

Book Review

“Joseph Ashby of Tysoe, 1589-1919. A study of English Village Life”
by M. K. Ashby (The Merlin Press, London 1974, 303 pp paperback)

Here is a right good read for all those thoughtful Sibfordians who have often pondered on life in the Cotswolds several generations back. Joseph Ashby was born out of wedlock to a young woman of singular integrity of character; not only had Elizabeth Ashby “fallen” but her family, too, had sunk economically and socially — interestingly, after some 150 years they had ceased to attend the Gower Meeting; they had also become itinerant labourers, not above a spot of poaching. Young Joseph was to join the Methodists and was to grow up in that long agricultural depression when cheap food flooded in from North America and elsewhere, many decades before the featherbedding of farmers.

Joseph Ashby inherited his mother's qualities, being sociable, equitable and wise in the bargain; liberal in character, he matched this in his politics, too, in an age when Anglican squire and parson dominated village life and blocked the social mobility of the labourer. Joseph elevated himself from casual labour — scaring off birds and carting stones — to the respectability of smallholder, local councillor and J.P. He fathered a large family, wrote copiously about the countryside, chronicling and researching, and became a close friend of other writers and antiquarians, many of them from far plusher backgrounds than his own; for instance, he had more than a passing acquaintance with the Marquis of Northampton, whose seat was at Compton Wynyates.

In effect, Ashby bridged the gap between the rigid social classes of that time and place. “A man should... be unique and universal and plainly he was so”, writes the author, herself one of his daughters (disguised in the narrative as “Kathleen”). She and her brother Arthur were among the first beneficiaries of that narrow “ladder” of County scholarships, he rising to become a Professor of Agriculture and she to a distinguished career in teacher education. “Joseph Ashby of Tysoe” is the fruit of her retirement — it was published in hardback as long ago as 1960; part biography, part social and economic history, part sociology, it is essentially a lucid, objective and affecting portrait of character and incident in a more resilient world than our own. As much as Joseph himself, the scene is dominated by a formidable trio of women, his mother, Elizabeth; his cousin and then wife, Hannah; and his aunt, Hannah Rouvray; it is rich in accounts of political events (using “politics” in its broadest sense), encompassing a visit by the pioneer of rural trade unionism, Joseph Arch, in 1872, the impact of the Boer War (Joseph Ashby being naturally pro-Boer), the religious furore over education in the 1900's, and much besides.

Although he died comparatively young, Joseph Ashby's life was a model of self-fulfilment and service to his fellow men. This masterly book is fully equal to its subject. It deserves to be read and reread.

Michael van Blankenstein

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 L. 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 | Wilfrid Pollard | 1975 | Arthur W. Harrison, J.P. |
| | | 1976 | Grace Beckerlegge |

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.
 8. **MEETINGS AND REUNIONS**
 - (a) 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.
 - (b) 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.
 - (c) 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.
 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.

"Ye Menne of Sheepford wendath whithersoever they wilen"

Photo: Neville Smith

School Leavers 1975-76

AINSLIE, Caroline,
 ALDINGTON, Marie-Claire,
 ALLFORD, Sally,
 AUSTIN, Robert,
 BAKER, Alan,
 BEBBINGTON, Antoinette,
 BEIRNE, Jeremy,
 BOWNS, Christina,
 BRYANT, Timothy,
 BURTON, Frank,
 CAVIEZEL, Jane,
 CHALMERS, Julia,
 CHAMBERS, Jacqueline,
 CHARLES, Sheila,
 CLARK, Ivan,
 COLVIN, Naomi,
 COPPING, Timothy,
 CORDY, Jane,
 DAVENPORT, Neil,
 DAVIS, Denise,
 DONOVAN, Adrian,
 EASTLAND, Alastair,
 FLEMING, Peter,
 FRANKLIN, Anne,
 FULLERTON, Lucy,
 GATEHOUSE, Elaine,
 GIBSON, David,
 GILBERT, Andrew,
 GOLDSWORTHY, David,
 GOODWIN, Clyde,
 HEATH, Piers,
 HILL, Tristian Frederick,
 HOLLOWAY, Richard,
 HUMPHRIS, Martin,
 HUMPHRIS, David,
 JACK, Katherine,
 JENKINS, Simon,
 JEMSON, Joanna,
 JOHNSON, Stephen,
 KASTENHOLZ, Debra,
 KASTENHOLZ, Lori,
 KORN, Elisabeth,
 LAING, James,
 LAWRENCE, Anna,
 LEEMAN, Thomas,
 LESTER, Richard,
 LOW, Nicholas,
 LYON, James,
 LYTH, Benedict,
 MACK-SMITH, Nicholas,
 MARTIN, Adrian,
 MASON, David,
 MEIKLE, Robert,
 MOYLE, Ralph,
 MULHOLLAND, Karen,
 PALMER, Elspeth Kate,
 PETTY, Roger,
 PRICE, Deborah,
 PRICE-DURY, Anthony,
 POUITON, Fiona,
 REIMBOLD, Mark,
 SAICH, Markus,
 SAWARD, Colin,
 SAWARD, Teresa,
 SENIOR, Timothy,
 SIMMONS, Nigel,
 SPIERS, Gerald,
 STEVENS, Andrew,
 SWABY, Leward Anthony,
 TIMMS, Sandra,
 TOMKINS, Elizabeth,
 THORN, Louise,
 THORN, Pauline,
 WILLIAMS, Stephen,
 YOUNG, Robert,
 ZEILINSKI, Amanda,
 Long Thatch, The Green, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon.
 Crabtree Leys, Offenham, Evesham, Worcs.
 39 Belsize Road, London, NW.6.
 Gatehouse, Union Street, Banbury, Oxon. 1
 Beechcroft, 16 Burford Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Wawicks.
 2 Park Road, Chipping Norton, Oxon.
 16 Little How Close, Radley, Abingdon, Oxon.
 2 Orchard Close, Banstead, Surrey.
 The Dial House, Walgrave, Northampton.
 2 Rantree Fold, Lee Chapel South, Basildon, Essex.
 The Nettings, Hook Norton, Oxon.
 11 Luard Road, Cambridge, CB2 2PJ.
 215 Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxon.
 12 Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxon.
 105 Norfolk Road, Upminster, Essex.
 Ansgar House, Woodstock Road, Charlbury, Oxon.
 Flat 10, Glenoch Court, Glenmore Road, Belsize Park, London, NW.3.
 1 Barley Close, Sibford Gower, Banbury, Oxon.
 Bramhall, Barford Road, Bloxham, Nr. Banbury.
 26 Burns Close, Welling, Kent.
 31 Lenton Avenue, The Park, Nottingham.
 81 Selwyn Road, Egbaston, Birmingham B16 OSL.
 27 Ennismore Garden Mews, London, SW7 1HZ.
 18 Greenway, Great Horwood, Bletchley, Bucks.
 5 Rector Street, London, N.1.
 37 Scotby Avenue, Walderslade, Kent.
 Tomercocher, Killin, Perthshire, Scotland.
 25 Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury, Oxon.
 Bregnez, Middleton Road, Chacombe, Banbury.
 10 Worton Road, Middle Barton, Oxford.
 23 Hollywood Road, London, SW.10.
 Rosebank, Longborough, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos.
 6 Wykham Gardens, Banbury, Oxon.
 111 Broughton Road, Banbury, Oxon.
 111 Broughton Road, Banbury, Oxon.
 Redroof, East Hanney, Wantage, Berks.
 16 Greenwich Road, Llandaff, Cardiff.
 Manor Cottage, Stert, Devizes, Wilts.
 17 Hambledon Road, Boscombe East, Bournemouth.
 South Cross, Weeping Cross, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon.
 South Cross, Weeping Cross, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon.
 8 Alexandra Court, 171-175 Queens Gate, London, SW.7.
 White House, 69 Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Nr. Loughborough, Leics.
 The Gingerbread Cottage, Hook Norton, Nr. Banbury, Oxon.
 12 St. Bernards Road, Olton, Solihull, Warwicks.
 Oatley's Hall, Turweston, Nr. Brackley, Northants.
 Chestnut House, Hadstock, Cambridge, CB1 6NZ.
 The Hill, Clifton-on-Teme, Worcs.
 Cherrycroft, Farnham Royal, Bucks, SL2 3PA.
 Kinaston House, Northleigh, Witney, Oxon.
 College Farm, Evenley, Brackley, Northants.
 6 Woodside Road, Woodford Wells, Essex.
 4 Peachfield Road, Malvern, Worcs.
 The Old Court House, Sibford Ferris, Banbury.
 "Walstead", 141 Northwick Road, Worcester, WR3 7EG.
 154 St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Reading, Berks.
 32 Leamington Crescent, South Harrow, Middlesex.
 38 Worrall Road, Clifton, Bristol, 8.
 65 Four Acre Road, Downend, Bristol.
 Jessamine Cottage, Sibford Gower, Banbury.
 18 Victor Road, Teddington, Middlesex.
 Reigate Hill Cottage, Reigate Hill, Reigate, Surrey.
 Tigh Na Craobh, Woodpeckers Drive, Winchester, Hampshire.
 Tigh Na Craobh, Woodpeckers Drive, Winchester, Hampshire.
 143 Parsonage Lane, Bishops Stortford, Herts.
 Springfields, Curbridge Road, Witney, Oxon, OZ8 7NR.
 15 Woodstock, Bradville, Milton Keynes, Bucks.
 Chilanga Cement Ltd., PO Box 99, Chilanga, Zambia, Central Africa.
 24 Vyner Road, East Acton, London, W.3.
 Chez-nous, 1 Queensway, Banbury, Oxon.
 Warrs Cottage, West Meon, Hampshire.
 Broomhall Farm, Epwell, Banbury, Oxon.
 Broomhall Farm, Epwell, Banbury, Oxon.
 26 Conifer Close, Whitehill, Bordon, Hants.
 The Mill House, How Hill, Ludham, Norfolk.
 14 Fourth Avenue, Teignmouth, Devon.