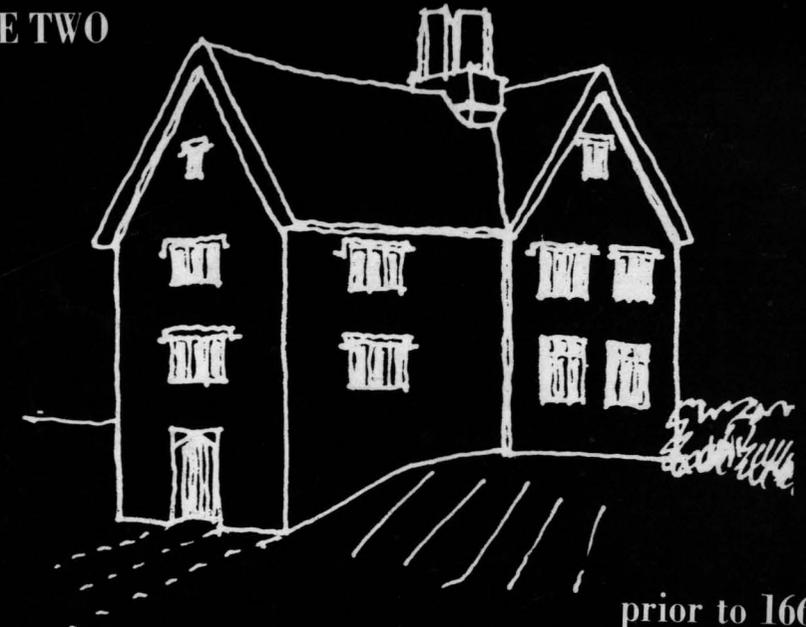


PHASE ONE



c 1590-1610

PHASE TWO



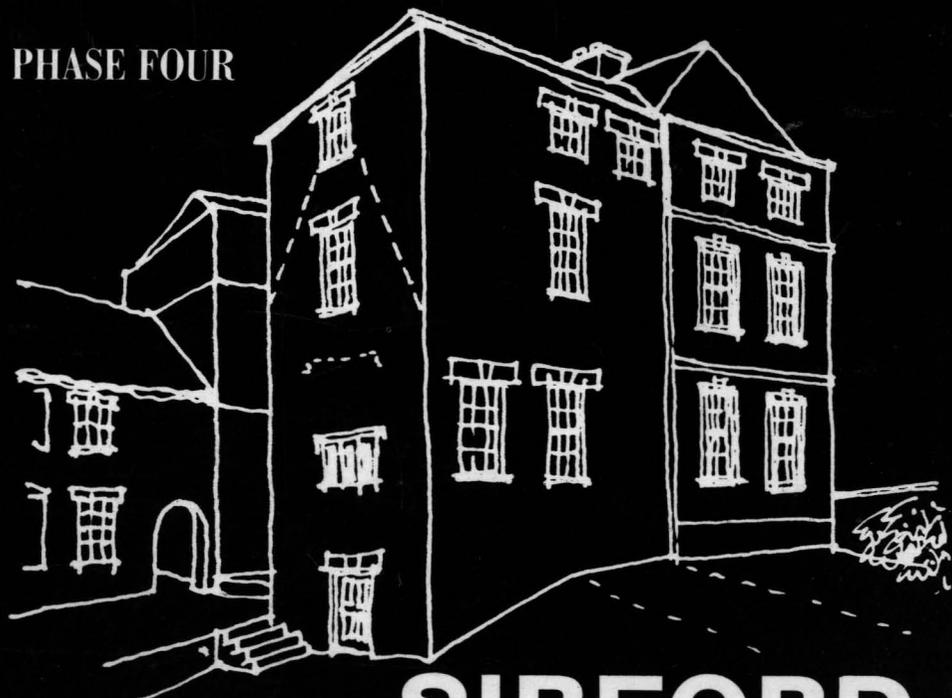
prior to 1660

PHASE THREE



c 1730

PHASE FOUR



c 1800

SIBFORD 77

The way ahead

▲ **University Sponsorship** Outstanding 'A' level recruits, after one year's accelerated training in the Bank (on full pay), take part in a sponsored three-year degree course in banking and finance at Loughborough University. That course is then followed by a two/three-year accelerated training programme prior to first executive appointment.

▲ **Study Leave** Staff with G.C.E. 'A' levels or in some cases 'O' levels (or equivalent), are among those who could qualify for Study Leave, to assist with their professional qualification, the diploma of the Institute of Bankers.

▲ **Special Grade** Potential in men and women is recognised by selection in their early twenties for Special Grade. This scheme, open to all recruits,

ensures additional financial remuneration and appropriate career planning of staff who have both the character and the personal attributes for top management.

▲ **Training** Training courses are provided at all stages of career development.

Responsibility and challenge come early. An executive appointment can be reached in the mid-to-late twenties and a managerial position in the early thirties.

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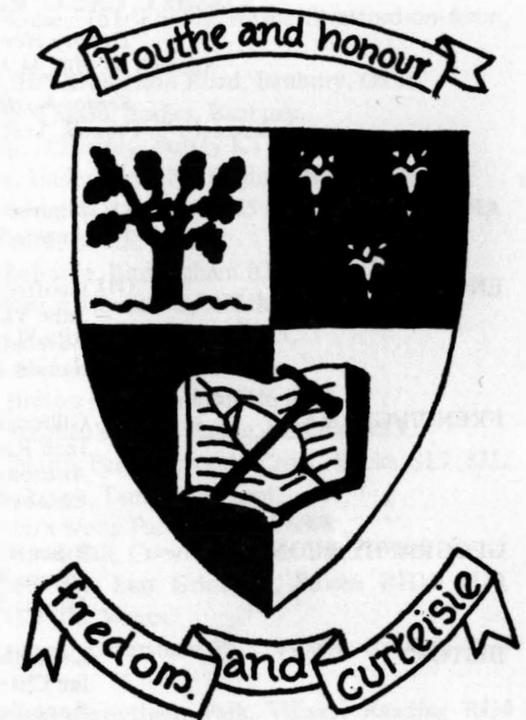
Midland Bank

A Great British Bank
and a great place to work.

SIBFORD 77



Annual Report Sibford Old Scholars and Sibford School



Cover. These line drawings by John Baily were used to illustrate his lecture and show the possible development of the Manor, Phase I c1590-1610, possibly by Thomas Hawton, Phase II Major works prior to 1660. Phase III, Refacing of main front and building of East wing possibly by Thomas Walford c1730, Phase IV, addition of second floor, and modernising of West Wing possibly by Thomas and Mary Walford c1767-90 and addition of farm buildings c 1800.

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School Staff

THE TEACHING STAFF: AUTUMN TERM 1977

Headmaster:

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

Deputy Head:

Shelagh M. Hill, M.A. (Oxon)*

Senior Master:

Kenneth T. Francis, Teachers Certificate

ART & POTTERY

+ Maureen McHale, N.D.D, A.T.D.*
Angela Mortimer

ENGLISH

(H) Geoffrey Higgins, M.A. (Oxon)*
Julie Thomas, B.A.*
Elizabeth Sallis, B.A.
Robert Penman, B.Ed.

FRENCH/GERMAN

Gilbert Todd, B.A.*
Jean Rudge, B.A.*
Anthony Rye, L.T.C.L.*
Elizabeth Sallis, B.A.

GEOGRAPHY/ECONOMICS

Brian Holliday, B.Sc.*
Joanna Pring, B.A.*
Janette Long, Teachers Certificate

HISTORY

Kenneth T. Francis, Teachers Certificate
Ian Charnock, B.A.*
Anne Beazley, B.A.*

HOME ECONOMICS

(H) Gillian Edwards, Teachers Certificate
Jane Nussey, Teachers Certificate

MATHEMATICS

(H) Alan Jarvis, M.A. (Oxon)*
Frank Cookson, M.A. (Oxon)*
Michael Hollman, B.Sc.*
(H) Eunice Lemon, Teachers Certificate
+ Vera Blade, B.Sc.

METALWORK, WOODWORK M.C.C.Ed.

Graeme Sagar, Teachers Certificate
M.C.C.Ed.
(H) Stuart Hedley, Teachers Certificate, City &
Guilds Advanced Craft Certificate

MUSIC

Natalie Herman, Teachers Certificate, Dep-
loma in Music

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(H) Michael Wollerton, Teachers Certificate
Diploma in Physical Education
(H) Hilary Davies, Teachers Certificate
Susan Lynk, Teachers Certificates

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kathleen Shirt, B.A.*, M.Phil.

REMEDIAL TEACHING

David Foulds, B.A., Teachers Certificate
(H) Eunice Lemon, Teachers Certificate
+ Robin Greaves, B.A.*

SCIENCE:

PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY
PHYSICS
BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY
RURAL SCIENCE

H. James Shields, BSc.*
Frank Cookson, M.A. (Oxon)*
Anthony Skeath, B.Sc.*
+ Elizabeth Cookson, M.A., Ph.d.*
Gordon Wright, B.Sc.*

TYPING

+ Sylvia Manning

VISITING TEACHERS:

Phyllis Travis, 'Cello
Ray Burley, Guitar
David Foulds, Violin & Viola
Peter Jeeves, L.T.C.L., Brass & Percussion
Joan Barnwell, A.R.C.M., Clarinet
Mabel Payne, Piano
Thomas M. Lawrence, M.A., Piano & 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

(H) Indicates Housemaster or Housemistress, + Indicates part-time staff
* Indicates Post-Graduate teaching qualification

School Leavers 1976-77

- Katrina AGNEW: Nicholas Corner, Sibford Gower, Banbury.
Richard ALDINGTON: Crabtree Leys, Offenham, Evesham, Worcs.
Ian BAKER: Beechcroft, 16 Burford Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Warks.
Simon BARFOOT: The Gables, Old Parr Road, Banbury, Oxon.
Timothy BATHE: 5 Astrop Road, Kings Sutton, Banbury, Oxon.
Penelope BLACKBURN: The Barn, The Street, Ashfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
Simon BLACKBURN: The Barn, The Street, Ashfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
Henry BLANCH: Chelworth Manor, Malmesbury, Wilts.
Alexander BLOND: 9 Rembrandt Close, Graham Terrace, London SW1.
Claire BOWERS: Headlands, Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford.
Jens BOWNS: 2 Orchard Close, Banstead, Surrey.
Charles BREWER: Merefields, West Hendred, Wantage, Oxon.
Jenny BRUCE: Applegrove, Sibford Ferris, Banbury, Oxon.
Timothy BRYANT: The Dial House, Walgrave, Northampton.
Natali CARAPETIAN: 3 Wellesley Court, Walton Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex.
Mark COHEN: 39 Shaftesbury Avenue, Southampton.
Roger COLE: 41 St. John's Hill Grove, London SW11 2RF.
Annette CONS: Haffes, Penmoel Lane, Woodcroft, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7PX.
Stephen CONS: Haffes, Penmoel Lane, Woodcroft, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7PX.
Belinda COOPER: Rowler, Brackley, Northants.
Charlotte COVILL: Fox House, Charlton, Banbury, Oxon.
Catherine CRAWFORD: 17 Montpelier Place, London SW7.
Alice DOVELL: c/o Ministry of Agriculture, P.O. Box 24, Maseru, Lesotho, Southern Africa.
Jane DYER: Hill House, Sibford Ferris, Banbury, Oxon.
Victoria EDWARDS: Park Cottage, Lower Hartwell, Aylesbury, Bucks.
Mark EVANS: Field Farm, Wootton Wawen, Solihull, Warks.
Anna FERGUSSON: 1 Putney Park Avenue, London SW15.
Juliette FLEMING: Kingsbury, Gloucester Street, Painswick, Glos.
Iain FORD: Whitens-Mere Farm, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex.
Louise GASSON: Vernon House Farm, Ascott, Shipston-on-Stour, Warks.
Petula GATHERCOLE: Church Farm, Hulcote, Salford, Bucks.
Ian GEBBETT: Orchard Cottage, Blackberry Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hants.
Timothy GEBBETT: Orchard Cottage, Blackberry Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hants.
Caroline GIBBS: Dickins House, Cherington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warks.
James HAMILTON: Greenways, 2 Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4BD.
Nicola HARRIS: The Manor, Aston Tirrold, Didcot, Oxon.
Matthew HATHAWAY: Orchard House, 151 Loxley Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Warks.
Christopher HERBERT: Linden Lea, 109 Broughton Road, Banbury, Oxon.
Judith HERBERT: Hasty Leys, Coombe Slade, Brailles, Banbury.
Pauline HOBSON: 29 Ferndale Avenue, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9RB.
Amanda HUDSON: 1 Felly Mill Lane, Underwood, Nottingham NG16 5FG.
Rebecca HUNT: 46 Ingarsby Drive, Evington, Leicester LE5 6HA.
Robert HUNT: Manor Farm, Scamblesby, Louth, Lincs.
Martin JAFFA: 64 Gillhurst Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 8PD.
Karen JAMES: 28 Worthing Road, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex.
Peter JENKINS: 57 Lytham Avenue, Watford, Herts WD1 6XA.
Mark JOFFREY: 8 Ormond Avenue, Hampton, Middlesex.
Helen KRANTZ: 36 West Hill Park, Merton Lane, London N6 6ND.
Kate LENNOX: 8 White Ledges, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, London W13.
Stanford LYNES: Cadogan House, North Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8JL.
Marcus LYWARD: Rysings, Stone-in-Oxney, Tenterden, Kent.
David MARKS: 7 Court Close, St. John's Wood Park, London NW8.
Paul MATHEWS: 25 Herrick Close, Pound Hill, Crawley, Sussex RH10 3AN.
Jennifer MATTHEWS: Pinecroft, Felcourt, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 2LQ.
Grace MEIKLE: 4 Peachfield Road, Malvern, Worcs.
Jonathan MITCHELL: 5 Fraser Avenue, Caversham Park Village, Reading RG4 0RT.
Louise MITCHELL: 5 Fraser Avenue, Caversham Park Village, Reading RG4 0RT.
David MOISLEY: Baltic House, Thames Side, Henley, Oxon.
Nicholas POLLOCK: Coppock House, Coppock Close, Headington Quarry, Oxford.
Lucinda POULTON: Jessamine Cottage, Sibford Gower, Banbury, Oxon.
Catherine RAMSEY: 36 Canewdon Gardens, Runwell, Wickford, Essex SS11 7BJ.
Christopher REA: Hound Tor, Sutton-under-Brailes, Banbury.
Andrew RUSSELL: 6 Half Moon Crescent, Oadby, Leicester.
Anne-Marie SABIN: Pewamo, Sibford Gower, Banbury, Oxon.
Anthony SABIN: Grove End, Edgehill, Banbury, Oxon.
Linda SABIN: Grove End, Edgehill, Banbury, Oxon.
Colin SAMUEL: 23 Shaftesbury Avenue, Southampton SO2 1SB.
Martin SAMUEL: 23 Shaftesbury Avenue, Southampton SO2 1SB.
Cherry SANDFORD: The Manor Besthorpe, Newark, Notts.
Dilip SARKAR: Arambha, 70 Margaret Road, Worcester WR2 4LR.

LEAVERS 1976-1977

Susan SCHREIBER: 46 The Green, Ewell, Surrey.
Paul SCHRAMM: Threeways, 15 Lee Grove, Chigwell, Essex.
Sarah SNELL: Painters Farm, Butlers Lane, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex.
Serena STANFORD: Grass Ground Farm, Hailey, Witney, Oxon.
Nigel STEERS: Ladywalk, Long Lane, Heronsgate, Rickmansworth, Herts.
Patrick ST. JOHN IVES: Chain House, Modbury, South Devon.
Charlotte SVOLIS: 42 Crosspath, Radlett, Herts.
Beth TANENHAUS: 70 Aspen Lane, Stony Brook, New York 11790, U.S.A.
Maxine TEMPLE: Kibanda, Rose Bank, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon.
Jane TUSTIAN: Windmill Farm, Middleton Cheney, Banbury, Oxon.
Patrick VENVELL: The Cottage, Enstone, Oxon.
Mary WHITE: Harambee, Bells Lane, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon.
Elizabeth WILSON: 9 Balliol House, Manorfields, Putney, London SW15.
Elizabeth WISE: 8 Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxon.
Katrina WOOD: The Manor House, Milton, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon.
Andrew WORLOCK: Brook House, Berrick Salome, Oxon.

David Foulds and Youth Hostellers Easter 1977.



THE POST-EXAMINATION PROGRAMME FOR FIFTH AND UPPER SIXTH YEARS.

This ran from 20th June to 4th July.

The major coach trips were to Oxford, for punting and a visit to the play 'The Comedians' at the New Theatre; to London, where two parties did a historical tour and another visited Phoenix School, from which some of the children come to the holiday camp; and to Birmingham, where one group toured the Midlands Arts Centre while the other went to the Museum of Science and Industry, and we all went ice-skating in the evening.

There were some interesting smaller trips – to Alcan; to March Racing Motors at Bicester; to see the plane which our neighbour David Stewart flies; sailing on Banbury Reservoir; and a visit to Stuart Crystal glassworks, which was absolutely fascinating.

About 15 of us went for a weekend camping and canoeing on the Evenlode near Stonesfield. This expedition, packed in the pouring rain on Friday, looked like being a disaster, but we had marvellous weather and a super time.

Our friends from the Life for the World Trust, who work with drug addicts, and have now moved to Crutchfield Manor near Maidenhead, came again to talk to an interested group.

And when we weren't out on visits there was a programme of work projects here and there, nobly organised by Gill Edwards.

Pippa Cookson.

JONAH MAN JAZZ.

This retelling of the story of Jonah and the Whale, with bouncy twenties-style jazzy tunes and rhythm, was a delightful choice for the junior choir. Each number went well, with Natalie Hermann at the piano setting just the right tempo, and she and Hugo Loudon (on drums) maintaining a sparkling or lilting rhythm as required. The choir sang gently, or with a full round tone, or with an edge on their voices. The words came across clearly, and each singer was concerned to project words and music to the appreciative audience. The brief linking narrations received a direct, unselfconscious delivery, for which much credit must go to Katie and Franny Dike. All credit to Natalie Hermann for training a scratch group to sing accurately, clearly and with evident enjoyment; and, amazingly, for running a Junior Choir in which the boys outnumber the girls.

Mark Miller.

HOLIDAY CAMP 1977.

For the fourth year in succession Sibford once more acted as hosts to twenty 'delicate' children from the Phoenix and Stormont Schools in London, during the first ten days of the summer holidays.

The weekend after term ended was spent converting classrooms into dining-room, play area etc., and outside were constructed homemade swings and paddling pool. The helpers, comprising several members of Staff and twenty fifth and sixth Formers worked hard over the weekend, relaxing on the Saturday evening by attending a thrilling 'pop concert' held at Pebble Mill, Birmingham, and being treated on Sunday evening to an excellent open-air buffet in the garden of Gordon Wright's house.

The children from London arrived on Monday 11th July and turned out to be rather less 'delicate' than I for one had anticipated! We all spent an exhausting but very enjoyable week visiting, among other places, the Model Railway at Middle Barton, the Cotswold Wildlife Park and attempting to fly kites from the top of the Burton Dassett Hills on a rather calm day.

This was the first children's camp I had attended and although it was all much harder work than I had expected, it was also much more fun. There were plenty of practical jokes to enliven what few hours of relaxation we had. I shall certainly never forget the teasing and joking by Jeremy Adams, Tim Bryant and Andy Warlock which involved rubber snakes, booby-trapped and missing sleeping bags and even rather a lot of water. I think, however, that I did manage to have the last laugh late on the final evening after another enjoyable meal, this time at Jim Shields' house.

All in all it was, I feel, for everyone, children, helpers and Staff, a very worthwhile and enjoyable ten days. All credit to pupils and Staff who devoted so much time and effort and succeeded in making it all such a success, and especially to Gordon Wright who so capably organised the whole event.

Liz Sallis.

SPACE EXPLORATION – FOR OR AGAINST?

Men should redouble their efforts to conquer space. As opportunities for exploration on Earth dwindle, this will become increasingly important.

Earth's resources are crumbling and the exploration of space could possibly answer this problem. Some people believe that the whole survival of life on Earth depends on communication with extraterrestrial intelligence. Space exploration would open up this possibility. Having studied our immediate environment, the Earth we live on, why stop there? Why not go on to explore our wider environment – the boundless universe?

Men should abandon their efforts to conquer space. As the economic situation of the world as a whole continues to worsen, why waste money on pointless space projects? In the Third World people are starving for the want of one small meal a week. Surely the billions of dollars America spent on that Apollo project could have been spent more wisely on helping those starving millions.

Andrew Houghton 2B

FLIGHT

I sat by the tent watching the river go by
The raucous cries of the Buzzards were heard as they soared
overhead,
My gaze turned upward to see the graceful Buzzards gliding on invisible
thermals.
They surveyed the fields for a glimpse of a mouse or vole
to make their first meal of the day.

My attraction was distracted by a flash of sapphire and blue.
It was immediately recognisable as a Kingfisher.
It flew on to a bent reed where it sat for a while.
Suddenly there was a blaze of colour and a splash.
The coloured king emerged from the water with a minnow; which it ate
whole.

Some time later a Heron flew over.
It flew with slow graceful wingbeats
The curled long neck and spear-like bill were tucked away.
I was full of wonder at this ease of flight,
This is where I was truly at home.
"As free as a bird".

John Butts 3A

ALL SQUARE

(Football match, Staff versus School).

On an afternoon redolent of the burnt-out ends of smoky days (or a dragging lunchtime in a secluded Sibford meeting place) the fallen idols of a far off weary Avalon unhitched old-boots from shady hanging places and robed themselves in the now ill-fitting remnants which had remained from a more athletic past. Bandages once used to cure were now employed to arrest or prevent the excesses of wayward kicks in the grass.

The preliminaries and formalities concluded, the pre-match threats, protestations, promises and humble intonations were now silenced by the one long shrill cry from referee Jack's whistle. An early kick and rush suggested nerves more than calm, enthusiasm or deliberation. The opening gambits included a deft hand ball from the deft head boy; a subtle use of the sedentary position by a well-padded mathematician; a header of extreme altitude by the man with a bandage on his head; and a whispered observation concerning the state of his internal organs by the juggernaut of the geography department. A late arrival took up his position and the game soon settled into the rhythm it was to maintain for its whole course - end to end exchanges full of incident and no little humour - not often does one see a goalkeeper clutch his stomach in triumph mistaking it for the ball.

The scoring started when the School took advantage of some fine passing before Somin Footbar pushed the ball over the line.

The Staff replied with a headed goal forced across the line by Ton Woller M. after a mistake by junior Jenkins.

At half-time the School led 2-1 after Footbar had knocked in another.

The second half augured well for the school with the slope advantage and an age differential of pocket calculator proportions. However, the long experience of the Staff in fighting uphill struggles against schoolchildren seemed to stand them in good stead for the contest with their young adversaries.

The Staff latecomer struck a fine goal to tie the game. The pace did not slacken - a hint of perspiration was detected on the pitch (or was it just an early dew) The Staff possessed a lion in defence of invisible mane but some might, as well as two bibbed bombshells who denied the attentions of a brace of Francises, a Filbert Street habitu , and a few others of indeterminate destination.

Late in the game, after a move of pinball precision, the geographer from Dodge City scored a goal of roll-top desk proportions which had the net billowing voluptuously and the scorer looking in a mirror for hours after, repeating the magic formula known only to the true soccer player - "Well, the ball came over and I just hit it, Brian." (It is rumoured that he is opening a boutique and leather goods store in the near future if it rolls right for him).

However, not to be outdone the Scholars fought back to score a fine goal - again with Footbar involved, but with a little help from his friends for once....

No effort was too great in the final minutes of the game to secure the winning goal - and no relief more sincere when the final whistle blew.

Bill Quiverstave.

The Staff Football Team 1977. Photo: Paul Schramm.



SIBFORD FIRST XI SOCCER

Played 9. Won 6. Drew 3. Lost 0.

This last season (76-77) was the school's most successful season for senior football.

Of the nine matches played, the nearest we came to losing was against the Staff. The final score was 3-3, the School scoring the equaliser in the last few minutes of the game. (Editor's Note: see 'All Square'!)

Our most successful senior matches were against Falcon Manor. The final scores of the three matches resulting in Sibford scoring 25 goals and Falcon Manor 2. The one home match produced an unfortunate incident when a Falcon Manor player broke his leg in a fair tackle. Sibford, however, were very lucky in having a comparatively injury-free season and used the following thirteen players:

Peter Jenkins	—	Goalkeeper
Chris Rea	—	Defender
Tim Gebbett	—	"
Iain Ford	—	"
Philip Petty	—	"
Jeremy Adams	—	Midfield
Antony Francis	—	"
Andy Russell	—	Forward
Micky Jenkins	—	"
Simon Barfoot	—	"
Tim Francis	—	"
Reserves:		
Simon Blincowe	—	Forward
Donald Albrecht	—	Midfield/Forward.

The two top scorers were Simon Barfoot who scored 16 goals and Michael Jenkins who scored 10. The highest scorers in any one match were Michael Jenkins — 4 goals, Simon Blincowe — 4 goals.

Tim Gebbett 5A.

KITES

It's off up and up it goes,
Sliding to this side and then to that,
Diving and turning,
Shooting and squeaking, and
Vibrating the strings as it races by.

It pulls and pulls you about,
Like a mighty hand might shake a puppet,
It turns like an eagle and bears straight down,
It then dives and dives until it is only inches from the ground,
But suddenly it is back in the sky.

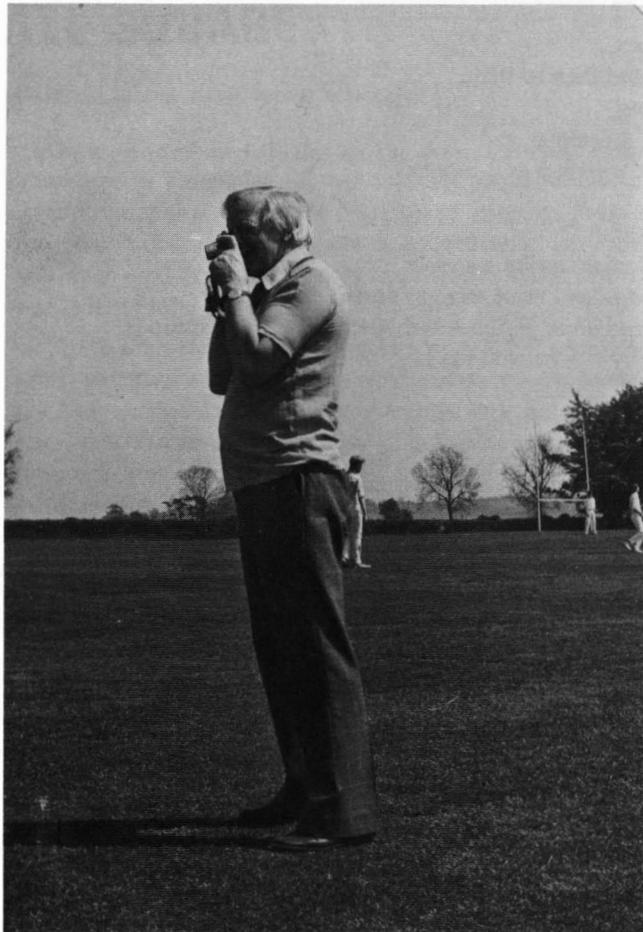
Then again it starts its fantastic flight,
Twirling, Diving, Turning, Hurling, Spinning, Dropping
And getting faster and faster and faster until
All you see is a flash of light,
But suddenly it stops as
You take this fantastic thing into your power
And land it.

Stephen W. Cook. 3A

'BEN HUR'.

Early in the summer term Form 3B voted unanimously to spend four and a half hours on an English prep, at a cost of 45p each. This miracle was achieved by making the aforesaid prep consist of seeing 'Ben Hur' in Banbury. I got a free complimentary seat as a reward for doubling the size of that evening's audience. The film, with its splendid spectacular scenes, strong sense of history, moving personal dramas, tremendous sea-battle and exciting chariot-race, was much enjoyed by all. Later in lessons we were able to discuss some aspects of the film, and to compare one scene with the parallel episode in the book, and the crucifixion scene with its counterpart in the TV 'Jesus of Nazareth'. Sarah developed an interest in leprosy, Tanya made me a little thank-you speech, and normal working was resumed as soon as possible.

Mark Miller.



The Professional! Photo: Paul Schramm



Yvonne Hedley Margaret Beech. Photo: Kenneth Greaves



Rachel Dancer Jessica Earle. Photo: Frank Rollett

POVERTY?

The slums where all the houses are back to back. They've got a very small garden, or, if you like, not even a garden at all, just a minute back yard where all the dirty washing hangs out. The people living next to each other; it's an ant's nest, people living each in their own hole, all bunched up. All their clothes all tattered and torn; some holes sewn up with string.

Yet amongst all this they seem to be happy.

The children's feet are as wide as dustbin lids as they wear no shoes. Their arms are as thin as heron's legs that just hang idly down. The smoke that pours from the holes in the roofs is brown, as if a puddle has just been jumped in. The cats that sit on the wall have things thrown at them by the old men who sit just waiting for something to do. Young boys are sitting on the corners of the streets, waiting for someone to give them money, while their brothers pump the pump, hoping that some water will come out into their grubby broken jug. Just down the road a factory goes city-claty-creek-bonk-city-claty-creek-bonk, while the black sooty smoke comes out of the chimney which is higher than Buckingham Palace.

THE TRAIN

Dominic Jones. 3B

Chuffling
Day after long day
With stream-lined bodywork
With the number plate 4065 looking at everybody
Getting on and off the train.

Whistling through many-a-tunnel
Stopping at many-a-signal
Carrying heavy coal
Or light post.

Hot or Cold, Wind or Rain
Steadily chuffing mile after mile
Chickerty-clack, chickerty-clack
Over the wet rusty rails.

Clouds of thick smoke
Pouring out of the oval funnel
Tons of coal used each year
For post, coal, oil or wood.

Constant and steady
The good old engine
Never too late to let people down
Constant and steady all the way.

Ian Finlayson 3B

DARKNESS.

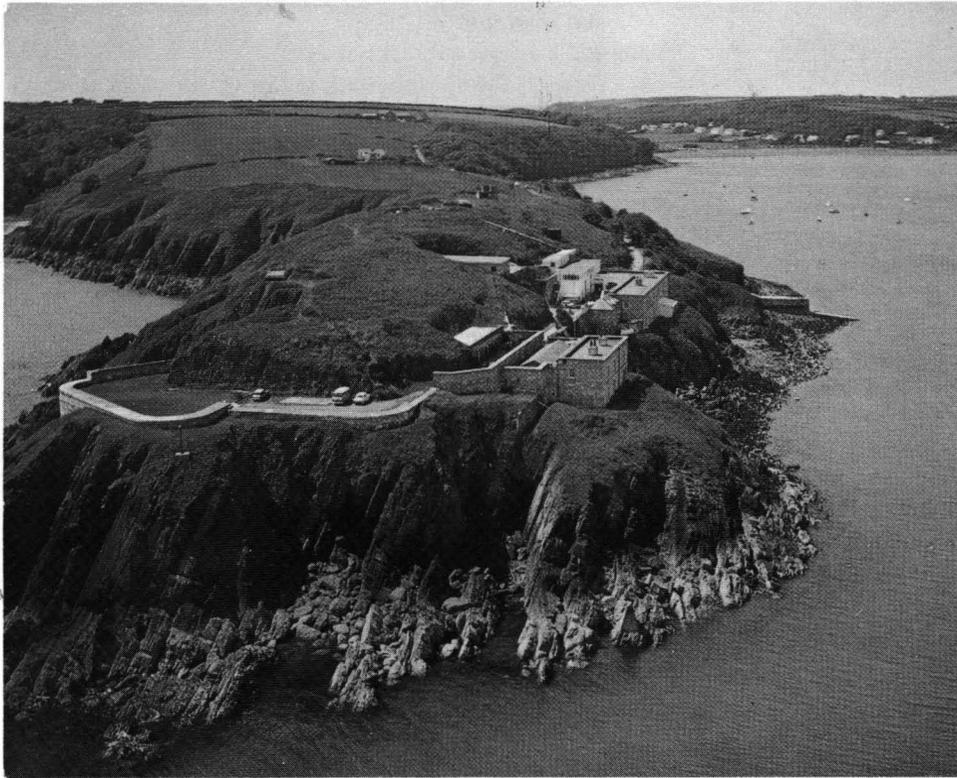
Night falls and darkness closes around.
Gradually the moon appears,
Sending rays of silvery light
Down to the earth.
The stars twinkle and wink,
The darkness is lessened.
But then shadows appear,
Long and reaching out, large and black
Against, the mingling with the grey, vast
Darkness.

In my bedroom the darkness is different.
Not grey, like the night beyond the walls of the house,
But dark so that when I look into it
I feel as though I were looking into a black curtain
Only a few inches from my face.

When I'm alone in my room at night,
When none but I am at home,
Another darkness appears, evil!
I feel as if I wasn't completely alone,
As if a murderer or thief was also in the house.
Too scared to move across the room to my light switch
I cover my head with the blankets,
Where the darkness is friendly and safe.
I know that if only I would put the light on
The darkness would vanish,
And with it the darkness of evil, lurking beings.
But the darkness is too great.

Louise Bailey 3A.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD EXPEDITION



Dale Fort Field Centre Haverford West

On the 11th May the 'A' level geography set left for a field trip. We were staying at Dale Fort Field Centre, which is situated on the end of a small peninsula in Pembrokeshire, west of Milford Haven. The fort was built by General Gordon in the 17th century.

The first day consisted of a survey of the Dale peninsula to see if there was a relationship between land-use and slope. First points were marked on a map (60) by random point tables, then the crop and slope of land of that field were recorded. In the evening, using Spearman's rank test of significance we proved there was a relationship.

Friday we looked at the influence of Geology on the slope of the coastline at both Caerfria and Whitesands Bay. We also looked at Solva Valley in the afternoon to try and determine its origin.

Saturday we visited the Llys-y-Fran reservoir which supplies fresh water to the oil refineries at Milford Haven. We went to Milford Haven on the Monday where we looked at the fish docks and went on a boat trip to look at the oil refineries. But in the morning we did two surveys. The first hypothesis was:- To investigate whether Milford Haven is a high or low order shopping centre for the area. Our conclusion which was worked out by statistics was that it was a low order settlement. The second hypothesis was:- The number of pedestrians clearances further away from the centre of the Central Business District. Our conclusion using chi-squared was the the hypothesis was right.

On our last working day we looked at Newgale Storm beach to see if longshore drift is taking place. For this we measured the pebbles at 20 metre slopes along the beach. We found that the beach had reorientated itself so it no longer occurs.

Wednesday ended a hard working but interesting week so it was back to Sibford for a rest!

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FRIENDS OF SIBFORD OUTING

We set off early one summer afternoon in a rented coach, chauffeured by Mr. Wollerton, for sunny Stratford and arrived there less than an hour later on the banks of the Avon. We hopped 'en masse' into a river launch which took us for a leisurely ride upstream and back again, passing the Memorial theatre. Everyone had to duck their heads as we navigated two rather low bridges – we had all been precariously balanced around the edges of the boat. We disembarked and then split up into six groups of about six Sibfordians plus one group leader. These included Mrs. Stewart, Frank Rollett, Mr. and Mrs. Barfoot and Mr. Temple.

With the aid of advance bookings we managed to see many of Stratford's sights. We operated on a rota – each group was stationed to start at one place so that we could see everything without causing too much congestion. This plan, however, was not entirely successful.

The theatre gallery showed many fine paintings, old costumes and relics of drama. Hall's Croft, a Tudor house once lived in by Dr. John Hall, Shakespeare's son-in-law, contained antique furniture and several books over three hundred years old – so old that the pages could not be turned over for fear of damaging them. Realistic waxworks of various Shakespearian characters met us at Tussaud's Gallery. We dare anyone to spend the night alone with the three weird sisters from 'Macbeth'! Near here we had a look round the Arden Pottery and some saw the potter, Barbara Cass, in action. The Motor Museum exhibited a fascinating variety of cars bicycles, motorbikes, old advertising signs and even a friendly talking Mynah bird!

Last, but by no means least, came tea for all provided very kindly and abundantly by the Baptists at the church in Payton Street. We won't make you jealous by describing that! Half an hour to recover from tea was spent wandering around as we pleased, before we clambered back into the coach for Sibford. Our thanks to everyone who helped to arrange this trip and looked after us – we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

Cherry Lucas & Elaine Pritchard VI Form.

FRIENDS OF SIBFORD SCHOOL

Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting, 1977

The Committee of the Friends of Sibford School has met three times during the past year.

In September it was decided to organise a Buffet Dance, to be held in the school Dining Room. This took place on February 26th and was such a success that it has been decided to hold a similar event in November.

In the Autumn Term the Committee decided to give the following gifts to the school:

- £30 for photographic equipment;
- £40 for bench seats;
- £50 for equipment needed to start a project on power from natural sources, including a solar heating panel;
- £20 for mats for the weight-lifting group;
- £80 for video tapes, and
- £100 for stage equipment.

In the Spring Term it was decided to give the school £50 for the purchase of a spinning-wheel, and to give £20 for the purchase of a pump for the solar heating project.

On May 14th, Friends of Sibford organised an outing to Stratford-on-Avon for about 45 children who cannot often go on excursions. This included a boat trip on the river followed by a choice of visits to any of seven places of interest, and then tea. This outing was very successful and was greatly appreciated by those who took part.

At each of the Parents Week-ends, refreshments have been served by Friends of Sibford. Twice during the year, in July and December, newsletters have been sent out to members

ODE TO THE PICKLED ONION.

Rotund obscene fish, floating in a sea of vinegar,
Globules, clinging spawn waiting;
Waiting for the spear that liberates, eliminates
Dispatches to the depths.
Succulent morsel, you have one taste of freedom
Before the crunch comes
And we taste your death.

JUNE ELLIS

June Ellis joined the staff at Sibford in January 1964 as Deputy Head. One of her first experiences was of her car getting stuck at the bottom of Manning's Hill in snow and ice and a gang of boys coming to the rescue. Nobody had warned her about the hill! June survived this difficulty and soon became an established part of the Sibford scene, although she freely admits that settling in was not easy; everything was very different from the girls' boarding school where she had been senior mistress.

Over the years Sibford pupils came to appreciate June's qualities. They may have grumbled at the high standards of personal behaviour she expected of them, but in times of trouble or when needing advice it was to June Ellis that many turned. In both the small things and the large her concern for all girls, boys and Staff was evident. A clear, bell-like "Come here!" could herald a dressing down for some minor infringement of rules, but equally could lead to the patient unravelling of a serious problem.

To the Staff June will be remembered as a forthright, hard-working colleague prepared to admonish if standards slipped, but more than generous in her appreciation of hard work. The many occasions when her tongue was somewhat ahead of her thoughts gave rise to what became known as Ellisisms, or as 'Punch' used to say: "Things which might have been expressed differently."

June was an Anglican when she came to Sibford. Whilst here she joined the Society of Friends. It is fitting that she should crown her career by becoming Headmistress of The Mount.

Although we shall miss June at Sibford, we are grateful for all she did for the school and the individuals in it over the years. We know too that such is her affection for the district that she has a home in the area to which she will return for well earned holidays.

Kenneth T. Francis.



June Ellis Leaving Presentation by Margaret Baker. Photo: Kenneth Greaves

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Christmas Dance 1976



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SIGHT

We never stop to think
How lucky that we are
To be able to look about
Quite near and very far.

We never notice the beauty
That surrounds us every day.
The blind would give up anything
To see things bright and gay.

Julie Watkins. Form 2B.



Sue Bradley, Richard Aldington, Thomas Leeman. Photos: Kenneth Greaves

Left to Right: Lesley Yearley, Fiona Doulton, Julie Clewer, Jayne Weldon
Richard Aldington, Margaret Beech, Peter Fleming.



There are Skeletons in the Cupboards at Sibford.

Much material of historical value has been found in and around the school this year. Both the Ashmolean Museum and the Oxfordshire County Museum at Woodstock have been most diligent in helping to identify these finds, which for the purpose of this article I will take in chronological order.

Perhaps the most exciting of these finds is an Egyptian foot. The foot is much shrunken with age and it is not known whether it belonged to a man or a woman. There are some remains of bandaging on the underneath. It is not known how it came to the country, though it is presumed that it entered the country in the nineteenth century in the bag of some traveller.

The Roman finds (see photographs) must have been given to the school at some stage, perhaps from a collection which was being broken up. The votive shovel is most probably a local find and is only the second of its kind to be found in this country, the first being found in Cirencester in some rubble during excavations there. The rest of the finds probably come from Europe. The bronze bucket was probably used for presenting food at table. It has been dated to the period 300 A.D. by the method by which the handle has been attached. The twisted spoon is probably a mixing spoon. The weights of 29, 57 and 152 grams therefore represent Roman one, two and six ounce units. The second spoon is too clumsy and heavy to be of Roman origin. A small metal bar of unknown origin was also found with these finds.

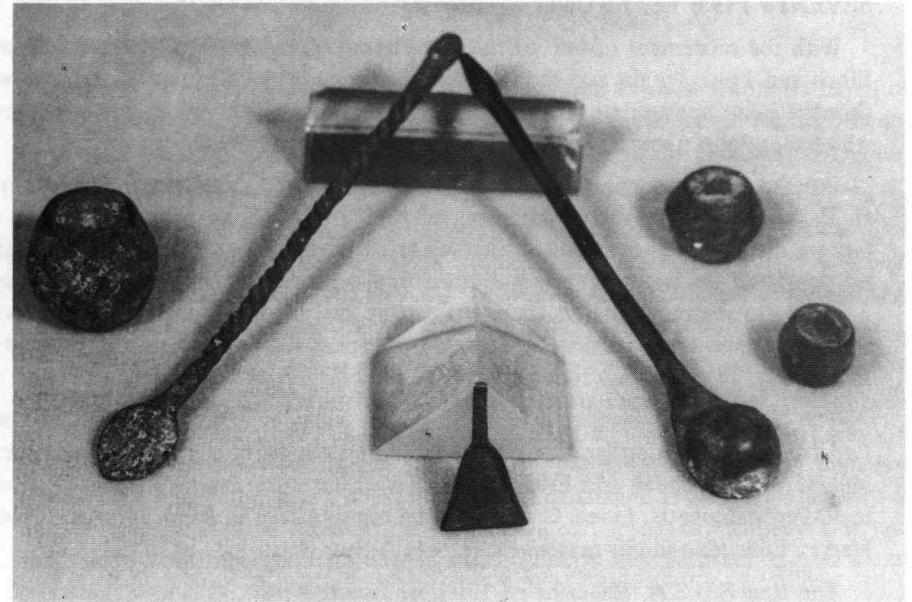
Two dresses have also been taken for identification. The first is made of beige silk and is entirely handsewn. It dates from 1815–1825 and is of a Grecian style with an "A l'enfant" bodice. The second is made of a golden coloured cloth, possible silksatin. It is a "Gothick" dress from the 1840's. It has a v-shaped front panel emphasised by fringing and would have been worn over a tight corset!

The metal bar, which some of you may have seen during Parents' Weekend is a flooring clamp. It would have been used to lever floorboards close together before nailing.

At the moment there is a small knife-like object at a museum awaiting identification. It was found by one of the pupils in a local hedgerow and I hope it will prove to be of interest.

Members of staff and pupils are still unearthing and bringing in many interesting objects. I hope to be able to make a display of much of this material in the summer term over Parent' and Old Scholars' Weekends.

Anne P. Beazley.



SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS ON!

With the retirement of two of the Association's long-serving officers – Michael Finch and Louis Wright and the fact that our seventy-fifth birthday is next year we thought it an appropriate moment to remember and reflect with gratitude, those who have administered and featured in the Association during those years.

Edward P. Kaye in proposing a vote of thanks to the President of 1951, James C. Baily, for his Presidential address, referred to Jim's long period of service as General Secretary and suggested that a list of past holder's of that office might be published. In fact a list was published in the 1951 Magazine and we felt it appropriate to remind members again with an up-dated list of the persons who have shouldered the main burden of executive responsibility during the past seventy-five years. Thirteen O.S. have served as General Secretary during that time:—

The Treasurer is another official on whom heavy responsibility falls, and we find from the records that over considerable periods, especially in the early years, Millard, Harry Randall and Fred Goudge. Other Treasurers were:— Percy O. Whitlock, Percy Hodgetts, Lionel Geering, John Coxon, Alfred Holland, John A. Taylor, Martyn Edwards and our present incumbent Arthur Harrison.

The first S.O.S.A. Magazine of 1904, or annual report, as it was then called – cost £9.14.9d for 300 copies! Our bill for printing and sending out our current Magazine will cost something approaching £1000!

Editors over the years have included Elizabeth Foster Brown, Leslie Baily, Leslie Thomas, Leslie Cross, Stephen Wall, Brian Wright, Mavis Stiles with Beryl Ryan, Loraine Brown, Michael van Blankenstein, Lister Mathews, Philip Manasseh and Philip Beckerlegge.

As the Association has expanded, numerous additional offices have been created; the many office-holders will appreciate that we have insufficient space for a full record of their names but we cannot let the occasion pass without mentioning a few of them.

Louis Wright has become a legend as Membership Secretary, having served splendidly, two terms of about thirty years! Other Membership Secretaries include John Coxon, Irene Coxon, Monica Taylor and Gordon Wells.

One of the hardest jobs of all is Reunion Secretary, introduced in 1963. Previously this had been yet another job undertaken by the General Secretary.

Malcolm Rudlin was first to be appointed and he was succeeded by John Canham, Michael Finch, Ian Wright, Kate Long, Nick Bennett and our present "Super-sec" – Russell Steed.

Branch Secretaries were first appointed in 1920. (London – Harry Randall; Birmingham – Arthur Bishop). Also in 1920, S.O.S.A. were able to have representatives appointed to the School Governing Committee.

Charles E. Brady was the first and others who have undertaken this vitally important work have been Henry Randall, Lionel Geering, Percy Whitlock, Leslie Baily, Henry Lawrence, Miriam Carter, John Coxon, Vera Rollett, Louis Wright and the present holders of the office, Lilian Ward and Michael Finch.

Looking through the first annual report we find three O.S. who played a conspicuous part in that first Reunion of 1904 and who subsequently were prominent in the building of the Association, they were Elizabeth Foster-Brown, Miriam Carter and Edward P. Kaye. In fact until their deaths they remained active and vital links between past and present generations of O.S. E.P. Kaye's name along with his brother Arnold probably epitomise the very fabric of S.O.S.A.

That first gathering had many features which have become cherished parts of many of our latter day Reunions. The O.S. concerts, sports fixtures with the School, walks, picnics and meetings for worship at the Gower; the comradeship and Reunions of old friends, the continuing concern of the education and well being of young people at Sibford School. There was even some discussion at the 1904 Reunion, about the merits of Whitsun gatherings or otherwise! With the development of the School we know that Whitsun gatherings are no longer possible but a healthy substitute was introduced in 1971 with the Day Reunion.

So we're about to enter the last twenty-five years of our first Century, with the sure knowledge that a new generation of leaders will emerge to ensure S.O.S.A.'s continuance.

SOSA PAST SECRETARIES

Edward P. Kaye	1903–1912
Nellie Millard	1912–1919
Harry J. Randall	1919–1925
Frederick E. Goudge	1925–1932
W. Reginald Barber	1932–1934
Howard Quinton	1934–1938
James C. Baily	1938–1944
James C. Baily and Irene Coxon jointly	1944–1947
Jeanne Cottrell and Irene Coxon jointly	1947–1948
Jeanne Cottrell	1948–1950
John N. Coxon	1950–1959
Lilian D. Ward	1960–1965
Alfred J. Holland	1966–1968
Michael R. Finch	1969–1977

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	Lorraine 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
		1977	Frank Rollett

FROM THE REUNION SECRETARY

Ever been to an Old Scholars' Reunion?

If not, why not? We would like to see you, as well as those whom we have not seen for some time. The 1977 August Reunion was enjoyed by all. We filled Penn, Lister and Fielding Houses and had no spare places at the Presidential Dinner. If we know you are coming then there will always be space for you.

In 1978 we will be celebrating 75 years of existence of the Association. This achievement will be marked by some special items in the Reunion Programme. For the Day Reunion on 20th May we are preparing a combined School and Old Scholars Spectacular. At the August Reunion it is hoped to have something extra.

The next August Reunion is still being formulated, but it will still contain many of the usual events. The Presidential Dinner, this year's President Janet Eavis already has ideas of how she would like to improve it. Tea on Holly House Lawn. The Motor Treasure Hunt we hope to run again, although it will have a different organiser after Louis' long run of many enjoyable hunts. The second Leslie Baily Lecture will be delivered by George Edwards on the illustrated subject of "London". If you need to be told how good he is then ask a London Old Scholar, or read about him elsewhere within these covers.

There will be Rockets, for everybody of course.

The Day Reunion evening entertainment is to be a combined Old and Present Scholars production. The writers are all known to Old Scholars. It will take a light hearted look at the development of the School and the Association.

At present the programme is still very much subject to change, for the better of course. It should be distributed soon after Easter to all who are on the Old Scholars Address list. If you are interested, but not on the address list then write to Russell Steed, 37 High Brink Road, Coleshill, Birmingham B46 1BH who will ensure that you will get a programme and booking form. You do not have to be a member of the Association or even an Old Scholar to join the enjoyment of the Reunions. Last year we exceeded our estimates and filled all the space we asked for from the School. If numbers increase again in 1978 (as we hope they will) we will be able to expand to absorb them. You never know who you will meet there, there are always surprises for some.

Russel Steed.

PRESIDENT 1978



Janet Sewell (Nee Eavis)

(Photo: James Eddington)

As the eldest of the family, I went to Sibford in 1943 and presumably it was a successful venture so that the rest of the family followed suit. My parents visited Sibford continuously each term for thirteen years. In my last term four of us were there together. So Sibford has a very real family association for me which is something I have valued all my life.

I trained as a primary school teacher and taught for several years in Leicester before moving to London in the special school service teaching in a school for delicate children. I lived for a time in the Friends International Centre – a place where I had assisted in school holidays for some years previously. It was here that I became interested in Africa and eventually the opportunity arose, although I had not actively sought it, to teach in Ghana. I went to teach in the school attached to the University and after a short while was appointed headteacher. I stayed for five years during a most interesting and exciting period in the development of Ghana after independence. My experience there influenced me in so many ways. To live in another culture and environment for an extended period right away from family and personal roots is a truly educative experience and one for which I am tremendously thankful. I returned to teach in London in 1965 when the immigration of families from the Caribbean and elsewhere was at its height. My recent work in West Africa stood me in good stead in Paddington and later in two headships in Islington. These schools were in some of the most deprived parts of London. During this period, I went to America twice to run workshops for teachers on British Primary Education. In 1975, I was appointed to the post of primary schools inspector with the ILEA and now work in the ninety five schools in Camden and Westminster.

After I left Sibford I joined Friends and my membership plays a major part in my life. I am a member of Friends House Meeting which receives many visitors throughout the year from all over the world. I am presently a representative of London Yearly Meeting on the Friends World Committee for Consultation and frequently visit amongst Friends in Europe and America. I am a member of the Sibford School Committee and chairman of its Education sub-committee. In 1975 Yearly Meeting set up a group of Friends to look into the Quaker Involvement in Education and I am a member of this group which hopes to report to Yearly Meeting in 1978.

In between all this busy-ness I manage to find time to follow other interests. I like to think that many of these were fostered at Sibford – music which Arthur Johnstone developed for me; I go to concerts in London and listen as often as I can; travel, both in this country and abroad – I have just been to Israel; and dress-making and cooking.

As this magazine goes to press many Old Scholars will know that by the time I begin my Presidential Year I shall no longer be an Eavis in name – my marriage to Joseph Sewell, the school Treasurer and a member of SOSA takes place in December. I look forward to this year and hope to meet many Old Scholars. If you have not been back for some time, do try to come. I shall particularly be happy to see OS. who were at Sibford with me.

Janet Eavis

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT 1977: FRANK ROLLETT

President 1978: Janet Sewell

Vice-President 1978: Nicholas Bennett

Officers and Committee from 1.1.78

<i>General Secretary</i> (to 31.12.80)	Philip G. Manasseh, Orchard Lea, Combe, Oxford.
<i>Treasurer</i> (to 31.12.80)	Arthur W. Harrison, 22 Elm Road, Reading, Berks. RG6 2TS
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i> (to 31.12.80)	Grace Beckerlegge, Standswell, Whelford, Nr. Fairford, Gos. GL7 4DZ
<i>Reunion Secretary</i> (to 31.12.80)	Russell Steed, 37 High Brink Road, Coleshill, Nr. Birmingham, B46 1BH
<i>Assistant Reunion Secretary</i> (to 31.12.80)	Margaret Fairnington, 140 Fellows Road, London NW3
<i>Magazine Editor</i> (to 31.12.80)	Philip Beckerlegge, Standswell, Whelford, Nr. Fairford, Gos. GL7 4DZ
<i>Local Branch Secretaries</i> Midland	Irene Smith, 37 Redditch Road, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, Worcs.
London	Geoffrey L. Moore, The Cottage, 85 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1RY
<i>Representatives on School Committee</i>	Lilian D. Ward (to 31.12.81) and Michael R. Finch (to 31.12.81)
<i>Representatives from School Staff</i>	Natalie Herman (to 31.12.80) and Stuart Hedley (to 31.12.80)
<i>Representative from Friend's of Sibford Committee</i>	Robin Greaves (to 31.12.80)
<i>General Committee Members</i> to 31.12.78	Sarah Watts and Alexander Caviezal
to 31.12.79	Fiona M. Poulton and Michael Van Blankenstein
to 31.12.80	Lucinda J. Poulton and Jeanne E. Southam

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

Other Non-Committee Officers

Auditor To be appointed by Committee.

O.S. Representative on Friends of Sibford Committee Frank Rollett.

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Editor — as stated
Editor — as stated
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Balance Sheet 31st December 1977

	1976	1976	1975	1975
	£	£	£	£
<i>Fixed Asset</i>				
Land at Elm		45		45
<i>Assets of Specific Funds</i>				
Quoted investments at cost	1829		1742	
Barbican Investment Fund units at cost (Cash awaiting investment)	<u>646</u>		<u>646</u>	
		2475	42	2430
<i>Current Assets</i>				
Debtors	323		313	
Subscriptions in arrear	112		113	
Cash at bank	<u>1048</u>		<u>831</u>	
	<u>1483</u>		<u>1257</u>	
<i>Current Liabilities</i>				
Creditors	927		842	
Subscriptions in advance	<u>81</u>		<u>23</u>	
	<u>1008</u>		<u>865</u>	
<i>Net Current Assets</i>		<u>475</u>		<u>392</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>2995</u>		<u>2867</u>
Represented by:-				
<i>Accumulated Fund</i>		474		437
<i>Specific Funds</i>				
Life Membership	2226		2190	
Recent leavers membership	<u>295</u>		<u>240</u>	
		<u>2521</u>		<u>2430</u>
		<u>2995</u>		<u>2867</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 1976, and of the surplus for the year.

Hon. Auditor.

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 1976

	1976	1976	1975	1975
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income</i>				
Subscriptions (Net)		429		393
Donations		16		14
Investment income		102		93
Bank interest		<u>43</u>		<u>44</u>
		590		544
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>				
Net cost of printing and distributing magazine for 1976	614		366	
Postage, stationery and sundry expenses	14		43	
General expenses	101			
Profit on Reunion (1975 deficit)	—	<u>176</u>	<u>(26)</u>	
		766		
		<u>729</u>		<u>435</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>£ 37</u>		<u>£ 109</u>
Balance at 1st January, 1976		437		328
Add: Surplus for the year		<u>37</u>		<u>109</u>
		<u>474</u>		<u>437</u>

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MANAGING DIRECTOR : LOUIS E. WRIGHT

S O S A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in the O.S. room at Sibford on Saturday 27th August, 1977 at 4.00p.m.

President in the Chair – Frank Rollett.

Members present totalled 63.

The meeting remembered in silence the passing of Andrew Fairmington, Wilfred Angerson, Leslie Carn and Norman Hargreaves.

1. *Minutes*

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Sibford on Saturday 28th August, 1976, 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 General Secretary, Michael Finch, reported to the meeting that the landscaping of the gardens around the new catering complex would be undertaken in the Autumn.

This would be the Presidential gift to the School.

3. *General Secretary's Report*

The General Secretary, reported that the Committee had dealt with a variety of items.

He paid tribute to Louis Wright, retiring as Membership Secretary after many years. He also thanked the retiring Committee and in particular Russell Steed and Margaret Fairmington for their efficient organisation of the Re-unions.

The Secretary spoke of the School's concern at the dwindling help available from the various bursary funds and said that discussions were to take place with the Friends of Sibford to investigate a joint approach to this problem.

The meeting unanimously agreed to this action.

The President paid tribute to the nine years of service given by Michael Finch as Secretary, who retires at the end of 1977. Philip Manasseh proposed and Frank Rollett seconded that the Secretary's report be adopted. This motion was unanimously carried.

(N.B. The General Secretary's report is detailed elsewhere in the Magazine under "General Secretary's Review").

4. *Accounts*

Arthur Harrison, Treasurer, told the meeting that a small profit of £37 has been made on the year ending 31.12.76. The August Re-union of 1976 had shown a profit of £176. He also reminded members that subscriptions would have to be increased from January 1978 to maintain a steady balance. The Magazine for 1976 had cost £714 (including Membership list).

The Treasurer concluded by thanking Jonas Fielding for standing in as Auditor at very short notice.

John Ward proposed and Philip Beckerlegge seconded that the Treasurer's report be adopted and this motion was unanimously carried.

5. *School Committee Representatives Report*

Lilian Ward spoke on behalf of the School Committee representatives about the last twelve months work of the School Committee.

The new Education and Finance/Premises committees were now in being and helping members to understand more fully the functioning of the School. The Committee were sorry to be losing the services of June Ellis but were pleased with her appointment as Head of the Mount School.

The conversion of the Manor was well on schedule and completion was near. The appeal has reached £133,853.

Nicholas Bennett proposed and Marjorie Edwards seconded that Lilian Ward's report should be adopted and this motion, was carried unanimously. (N.B. This report is given in detail elsewhere in the Magazine).

6. *Headmaster's Report*

Kenneth Greaves, Headmaster, was glad to tell the meeting that the School was full. There had also been an increase in Staff.

The Remedial Centre had been opened at General Meeting and was proving to be of great value.

The School had again hosted a holiday camp for children from the East End of London.

The Headmaster announced that Mrs. Shelagh Hill had been appointed Deputy Head in succession to June Ellis.

Norman Coxon proposed and Wilfred Pollard seconded that the Headmaster's report be adopted and this motion was unanimously carried.

(N.B. This report is detailed elsewhere in the Magazine).

7. Amendments To Rules

The Committee proposed four changes to the Rules of the Association, in accordance with Rule 12 a) which was unanimously agreed by the meeting. *Rule 3 – Membership.* a), b), c), d) as at present.

3 e) to read as follows “The General Committee shall be empowered to bar any person from membership and to remove any person from membership for any reason which they think to be good and sufficient. No return of subscription shall be payable to any person removed from Membership The meeting agreed to this change by majority vote.

Rule 4 – Subscriptions

4 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 £3.00 per annum.

Alternatively, for the year in which they leave and following three years – £5.00, which could be paid by their parents with the last school fees.

ii. Life Membership £50.00.

iii. Married couples jointly £5.00 per annum.

iv. All other members £3.00 per annum.

Rule 4, b), c), as at present.

The meeting agreed to this change unanimously.

Rule 6 – General Committee

6. a), c), d), as at present.

6. b). to read as follows “Ex-Officio President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Re-union Secretary, Assistant Re-union Secretary, Membership Secretary, Magazine Editor, Local Branch Secretaries, two School Committee Representatives, Friends of Sibford Society Representative, two School Staff Representatives, the Headmaster, the Bursar and six ordinary members elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a three year period”

The meeting agreed to this change unanimously.

Rule 7 – Officers and Elections

7 a), c), d), e) as at present.

7 b). to read as follows “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 Governing Committee coinciding with that Committee’s normal term of appointments. Ordinary members will not be eligible for re-election after a three year term for a period of at least twelve months”

This alteration was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

8. Election of Officers.

The following officers were unanimously appointed for a three year term 1.1.78 until 31.12.80.

General Secretary	– Philip G. Manasseh.
Treasurer	– Arthur W. Harrison.
Assistant Treasurer (Membership)	– Grace Beckerlegge.
Re-union Secretary	– Russell Steed.
Assistant Re-union Secretary	– Margaret Fairington.
Magazine Editor	– Philip Beckerlegge.
School Committee Representatives	(Nominations to be appointed by Berks & Oxon General Meeting).
	– Lilian D. Ward (until 31.12.81)
	– Michael R. Finch. (until 31.12.81).
School Staff Representatives	– Natalie Herman.
	– Stuart Hedley.

The meeting unanimously confirmed the appointment to the Committee of 1977 recent leaver, Cindy Poulton, to serve until 31.12.80.

Jeanne Southam was unanimously elected as an ordinary member of the Committee until 31.12.80.

The appointment of Auditor was left in abeyance to be dealt with by the Committee.

9. Election of President and Vice-President for 1978

The President proposed to the meeting that Janet Eavis be appointed President for 1978 and that Nicholas Bennett be appointed Vice-President.

These appointments were unanimously acclaimed.

10. Forthcoming Dates

The President announced the following dates of interest:—

Friends of Sibford Buffet Dance.	19.11.77.
Day Re-union 1978.	20.5.78
Annual Re-union 1978.	26th/28th. 8.78

11. Any Other Business

Vera Rollett proposed a vote of thanks to the School Committee for allowing us to hold our Re-union. The meeting unanimously agreed to this proposal.

On behalf of the meeting the General Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his excellent Chairmanship of the meeting. This was unanimously acclaimed.

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

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REVIEW

We have had another full and energetic year on the Committee with many matters to deal with.

Attendances at our two General Committee meetings and various sub-Committees have been good although some of my young friends on the Committee obviously never learnt to write as they still fail to reply to my correspondence.

As you know this year is election year and I'd like to place on record my grateful thanks to the retiring Committee for all that they have done. One sad note is that Louis Wright is retiring as Membership Secretary after many years of devoted duty. S.O.S.A. cannot begin to count his dedication and love for Sibford.

Russell Steed and Margaret Fairnington have again organised everything for the various Reunions in their usual charming and efficient manner. — My grateful thanks to them for all that they do.

Last year's Reunion was in everyone's opinion, an outstanding success. The catering was undertaken by Lucy Padfield of Leighton Park and was excellent. (We are delighted that she returned to help us this year).

Several young O.S. and present Scholars were invited back and they told me that they had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Proof of this is in the fact that one has become a full life member and two others have become 'five year' members.

We have visited the School on many occasions since last August (1976), including of course, the Day Reunion which was remarkable because of the splendid weather! The annual cricket match was held on that day but I won't dwell on that as O.S. got hammered! The Disco in the evening was well attended and enjoyed by all who went. Frank Rollett gave a most enjoyable address at the Sunday evening meeting on his exploits in Poland.

The Leaver's barbecue was held in June — in pouring rain! Which to say the least dampened our spirits. There were also a great many leavers on exeats so it wasn't a great success. We intend to rethink the whole question.

As you know, June Ellis is appointed head of the Mount School and a presentation was made at the Presidential Dinner. She has also been made an Honorary Life Member.

I am happy to report on behalf of the Treasurer that last year showed a profit of £37, which in an inflated economic situation was very creditable. We shall be very happy to receive donations towards the special fund covering expenses for the Leslie Bailly Lectures.

Both Lilian Ward and myself, as School Committee representatives, have had some very fruitful and interesting moments during the last year. You can read Lilian's report elsewhere in the Magazine.

The Magazine was again very successful due to the efforts of Philip Manasseh, the Editor. A competition was held in School to design a new cover for this year's edition and we hope that it will be incorporated.

The Friends of Sibford Society have been going from strength to strength and continue to show what a valuable asset they are to the School. They held a very successful buffet — dance in February and hope to have a repeat in November. There was also a visit in May to Stratford for 45 non-exeat children who had a fine time — probably as Frank Rollett organised it!

There are now 182 members but their Committee would be glad to enrol any new members. My thanks to Robin Greaves and Frank Rollett for all their work as our representatives.

The School are deeply concerned about the dwindling bursary help that is now available.

We tried to implement our own scheme a few years back but to no avail. We are therefore looking at the possibilities of a joint approach to this problem with the Friends of Sibford.

The 75th Anniversary celebrations are in hand and we hope to stage a 'Sibford Review' at the Day Reunion next May (1978). We have been able to enlist the help of professional writers from within our ranks and the whole affair will be produced by Geoff Higgins. We are looking forward to this challenge enormously.

And so, there we are, I've reached that 'bitter-sweet' moment when I conclude my ninth and final report as General Secretary.

I suppose it is a time for reflection on the last nine years and I think its worth saying a few things — In the late 'sixties' when I first took over, there was considerable gloom and despondency in some quarters about the future of S.O.S.A. as to whether or not it could continue. I never believed that there was any doubt in its future for one second and it's partly the reason why I undertook the job. I was also fortunate to have some splendid people behind me who also believed, as much as I do in S.O.S.A.'s future. Sibford for me has always epitomised everything that is good in community and family life — indeed Sibford has always been regarded as a family school in every sense of the word. S.O.S.A. is an integral part of that family and if it were ever divorced from it, it would be a sad day for the School.

I conclude by again thanking the members of S.O.S.A. and my colleagues on the Committee who have always backed me so magnificently.

My very best wishes to Philip Manasseh, my successor, for a successful and happy future.

Michael R. Finch. (September 1977).

HEADMASTER'S REPORT 1976/77

It becomes steadily harder to make one's annual report interesting because the ingredients necessarily remain much the same from one year to the next; and it is also harder to make the plain truth sound convincing because so many of the words and phrases one would wish to use and the claims that one might fairly make have become part of the jargon of the world of education and is based by misuse and familiarity. Is there an independent school in the country today which does not claim to offer its pupils individual attention and to develop, as the phrase is, "the whole man"? Yet there was a time when this approach to education distinguished the Quaker boarding schools from most others; and it remains true that a concern for the individual is a characteristic of Sibford, not just because it is currently a fashionable or advantageous attitude to adopt, but because it is fundamental to the view of life to which Quakers seek to give expression in their schools.

A major development during the year was the building of our new Remedial Centre which was formally opened on General Meeting day by its donor, Mr. John Hastings. Here again is a word, "Remedial", which to many people carries, quite mistakenly and unjustifiably, such pejorative overtones of meaning that we seriously considered using some other name. "Dyslexia Centre" would have been an obvious alternative, but between those who maintain that there is no such thing as dyslexia and those who freely attach the term "dyslexic" to any and every backward reader and bad speller, "dyslexia" must be about the most abused and misused word in the dictionary. Highly intelligent people can be seriously dyslexic, and our Remedial groups include some of the most intelligent children in the school, since we are especially concerned to help the dyslexic child of high intelligence to overcome this handicap to his reading and writing. Few schools offer a comparable service, and the vastly improved facilities provided by the new Remedial Centre will enable us to work more efficiently and more effectively. We are indeed grateful for it.

I must again stress, however, that it is not our intention to increase the size of this department. At present the Centre serves about thirty pupils out of a total school roll of some three hundred and fifty, and this seems to be about the right proportion.

Among the other building developments in which we have been recently engaged there is one small but significant piece of work accomplished, with their customary skill, by our own maintenance staff under Bill White. I refer to the conversion of a small store-room into a very desirable residence for our Careers Department.

It is very much in the Sibford tradition to help the child with a special need, and to value the good citizen and the hard worker at least as highly as the successful scholar. This is not to say that we underestimate the importance of good

qualifications or that we do not strive for high academic standards, and the results achieved in the public examinations last summer were exceptionally good. But the doctrine of "the pursuit of excellence" – another piece of vintage professional jargon – is too often applied in such a way that the honours go repeatedly to the gifted few, while their less gifted but possibly no less hardworking fellows suffer perpetual frustration and discouragement. As Dr. Johnson wrote: "No man is well pleased to have his all neglected, be it ever so little." Here at Sibford the emphasis is on diligence, and I am glad to be able to report once again that the industry grades throughout the school and throughout the year have been very satisfactory.

In the long run the acquisition of the techniques and disciplines of study will prove more valuable than the remembered facts of any particular subject, and none more so than efficiency in reading. The courses in Advanced Reading Techniques have been continued, producing on average a threefold increase in the speed of reading, with substantially improved comprehension. About fifty of the pupils who had taken the course a year or eighteen months previously were recently re-tested, and the results showed that about a third of them had lost most of the improvement gained on the course, another third had retained the improvement gained, and the rest had actually continued to improve their reading efficiency in both speed and comprehension. Whereas most people read at about 250 words per minute, we now have several pupils reading at over a thousand words per minute with good comprehension, and one whose speed is well over two thousand words per minute.

A remarkably high degree of excellence was achieved during the year in our Craft departments under Stuart Hedley and Graeme Sager. Two anonymous and very generous gifts – a milling machine and a modern metal-working lathe – have considerably extended the range of work which can be undertaken in the workshops and we are most grateful for them.

At games the year was satisfactory but undistinguished, except for the Soccer 1st XI who were undefeated throughout the season. At swimming and athletics several school records were broken; and a welcome innovation was the establishment of the Orienteering Club, whose members travelled to a number of events during the year and steadily improved their ability and technique.

Our girls continued to make good progress at gymnastics and at trampolining in which we came fifth out of twenty-two teams in the County Championships, and in both these activities their success was due to the skilled and patient coaching over a long period by Pauline Sagar. Pauline, who was Housemistress of Penn House as well as being our Girls' P.E. teacher, left us at Easter and we are grateful for the

valuable service that she gave in both these capacities. She was succeeded in Penn House by Hilary Davies, also a P.E. specialist, who has held senior posts in very much larger schools in London.

Carole Creswell also left us at Easter, and her place as Assistant House-mistress in Nansen was taken by Jane Nussey who joined us in September. We are especially indebted to Carole Creswell for the great contribution that she made to the work of the Social Service Committee which arranges the visiting by pupils of local old people and also organises the Holiday Camp for deprived children from central London, which now seems well established as an annual event.

A sponsored walk in the autumn replenished the Social Committee's funds by £1,000 and another Holiday Camp was held at Sibford immediately after the end of the summer term, when twenty London children were looked after and entertained by twenty of our senior pupils and seven members of staff.

Over a hundred pupils, under the leadership of Gordon Wright, were engaged in activities under the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and more than half of them camped in Wales for expedition training in the summer term. During the year eighteen Awards were achieved, including four Gold Awards.

During the Easter holidays, David Foulds and four colleagues took a coach-load of juniors to Yorkshire for a Youth Hostelling holiday; Janette Long took the A-Level Geographers to the Field Studies centre in Pembrokeshire; and there were many other outings and expeditions.

Not least of these was the Saturday outing to Stratford-on-Avon in May, organised by the Friends of Sibford and very much enjoyed by the children who went on it. We are grateful to the Friends of Sibford who continue to help and support us in all kinds of ways.

Once again there were many visits to local places of interest, to the theatre, the ballet, and to concerts both highbrow and lowbrow. Music in school ranged from the stage production of "Oliver" to our participation in the performance of Verdi's Requiem in York Minster by the combined choirs of the nine English Friends schools.

New colleagues brought new activities: Natalie Herman her Junior Choir; Anne Bezley her History Club; Ian Charnock his Art History classes. The Chess Club, led by Tony Skeath, we're grateful to our old friend John Gilchrist for the gift of an Inter-House trophy.

At the end of the year we lost several members of staff. Sue Bradley, who, besides achieving great things in the Art department, helped with many other activities; Andrew Rice-Oxley, who came for a term and stayed, we are glad to say, for three years; Rosemary Williams, who was our Appeal secretary and also taught typing; and Ray Gilbert, who in the six years that he was our caretaker was very much a member of the school community. To each of them we offer our thanks and good wishes.

The year that began with Ken Francis taking up his duties as Senior Master ended with June Ellis relinquishing, after thirteen years, her position as Deputy Head, following her appointment as Headmistress of The Mount School in York.

I suppose that most of us – especially, perhaps, teachers – have our pet words and characteristic phrases, and a phrase which we have heard June Ellis use again and again in our staff meetings and other discussions was "a caring community". In addition to the innumerable ways in which she enriched the life of the school – or perhaps it would be truer to say, underlying them all – it is for her caring that she will have earned the gratitude, not only of past and present pupils, but of many parents and many present and former colleagues. On their behalf, and on behalf of us all, we offer June our thanks and our congratulations and our best wishes in her new responsibilities as Headmistress of The Mount.

DEPUTY HEAD

The new Deputy Head who joined School Staff at the commencement of September 1977 term is *Mrs. Shelagh M. Hill, M.A. (Oxon.)*

Mrs. Hill graduated in Modern History from St. Hilda's College, Oxford, in 1947, and she holds teaching qualifications including a Diploma in Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

In addition to experience in both boarding and day schools in this country, she has served as an Inspector of Schools in Kenya and as Headmistress of girls' boarding schools in Kenya and Malawi.

Mrs. Hill is a practising Anglican. She is a widow and has a son at the Dragon School in Oxford.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

This year the School Committee has been fortunate to have Jonathan Fairn as Chairman and although he agreed to take over from Jack Davis only until next December we are hoping that we have persuaded him to carry on.

Once again the year has been a busy one involving many visits to Sibford.

We have found the new constitution of the G.P. Committee – the Education and Finance and Premises – more satisfactory in many ways. We feel able to become more personally involved with the school and staff and so are in a better position to appreciate their needs and we hope understand their difficulties.

Kenneth Greaves has reported changes of staff during the year and you will hear of these in his report.

As you know June Ellis left at the end of last term to take up her appointment as Head of The Mount. June has become so much a part of our Association during her 13 years at Sibford and we thank her for her support and encouragement in all that time and hope that she will be able to join our Reunions. (I believe she is hoping to come down to be with us on Monday evening).

Her caring spirit and influence will be missed at Sibford, but we wish her long and happy time in York. I will leave Kenneth to tell you of the appointment of Shelagh Hill as Deputy Head.

The Remedial Centre was completed and has been in use since the end of May and pupils and staff are delighted with it.

John Hastings of the Schools Fees Insurance Agency who gave £30,000 to the school for this Centre formally opened the building at General Meeting on the 18th June. I hope you'll all have an opportunity of seeing the Centre. We are immensely grateful for this generous gift which is a splendid addition to the amenities of our school.

Conversion of the Manor complex is proceeding apace and when completed will give much needed accommodation for both pupils and staff; they have been consulted and some of their ideas incorporated in the conversion.

The Appeal Fund which enabled these buildings and conversions possible has now reached £133,853. We are deeply conscious of our responsibility to all those who have shown their concern for and faith in the future of Sibford by responding to our Appeal.

In January the Committee had a most interesting and informative visit to the Craft Department, Graeme Sagar and Stuart Hedley had prepared well for us and spent some time explaining the running of the Department, their aims, objects and needs. I think that Roland Herbert would have been well pleased to see the deep concern and interest still being shown in teaching pupils to develop and derive

pleasure in designing and making things and – as we were told – to encourage patience and perseverance and to equip pupils with reasonable practical skills as adults and encourage interests which may be fostered after school.

It is the intention of the Committee to make similar visits to other departments.

It was felt that it would be helpful to staff and others to know something of the background and interests of members of the Committee and we were asked to write a short personal history. We hope that these will be of interest to staff in particular to know that those who make decisions affecting everyone at Sibford are mindful of their needs and do their best for the school based on long and varied experiences in many fields.

As you may remember Old Scholars provided the curtains for the new Dining Room in time for the last Reunion, and we are making ourselves responsible for the landscaping of the ground around the dining room. Nick Bennett has prepared a plan and details are being worked out in conjunction with Arthur Dring.

In spite of inevitable fee increases, the school remains full.

We were asked by the Quaker Involvement in Education Group to consider certain questions relating to our role in the field of education generally and we're to have a discussion with staff on the questions put to us and some of our own queries.

I have been asked to draft the annual report to be presented to Berks & Oxon General Meeting and to settle the final form with Janet and Michael who as you know are chairmen of the two sub-committees so you'll see Old Scholars are well represented in the work of the Committee.

Lilian Ward.

REUNION - August '77

Disaster appeared to be just around the corner when the handle of my carrier bag, which was grossly over laden, gave way as I stepped from the train at Reading. Was this an omen for the week-end? The rest of the evening passed without too much trouble. Saturday morning I was up bright and early (for me!) but then made the fatal mistake of phoning our President, the one and only Frank Rollett, to inform him of my safe return from the depths of Devon, only to be told that there was plenty of work for me at school. So dutifully obeying his command, off I went to offer my services. On arrival I found that all was under control, capably dealt with by our general secretary, re-union secretary and assistants, all of whom made such efforts to ensure the success of the week-end.

Saturday afternoon was set aside for tournaments, Badminton, tennis, table tennis, and at 4.00p.m. we adjourned to the Old Scholars' room for the Annual General Meeting, a full house and business swiftly dealt with, including a complete re-shuffle of the committee in double quick time!

The most important event of the day was the inaugural lecture in the Leslie Baily memorial series. It made me very happy to see so many Old Scholars attending this event which provided a more serious note to the week-end as 'Uncle Leslie', as he was always known to me, had wished. This first lecture was given by Leslie's son John, morally supported by many others of the Baily family, including Leslie's wife Margaret. This well illustrated talk about the school, its buildings, history and some philosophy behind its conception is reported elsewhere in the magazine.

After the lecture we were surprised to find that Lucy Padfield had been busy and set forth a fabulous buffet supper including pizzas and vol-au-vents, to complete a memorable evening.

Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny and following breakfast we walked to meeting, at least most of us, some cars were seen outside! In the afternoon the picnic followed a route laid out by Norman Coxon to a field somewhere near the Warwickshire border (I am told that some took a more direct route than others, Old Scholars seem to have a habit of going the wrong way on these occasions!) Having satisfied their needs with sandwiches and that 'louverly cup o' char' they set off home.

I will confess (at the risk of retaliation) that the prospect of President's choice was on this occasion a daunting one ... What had Frank got up his sleeve now? I need not have worried, we were provided with an excellent evening's entertainment. Frank's nephew David Oliver and his wife Mary who both come from Newcastle (Northumberland not Staffs), gave us songs and a clog dance demonstration of exceptional standard.



David Oliver. Photo: Frank Rollett

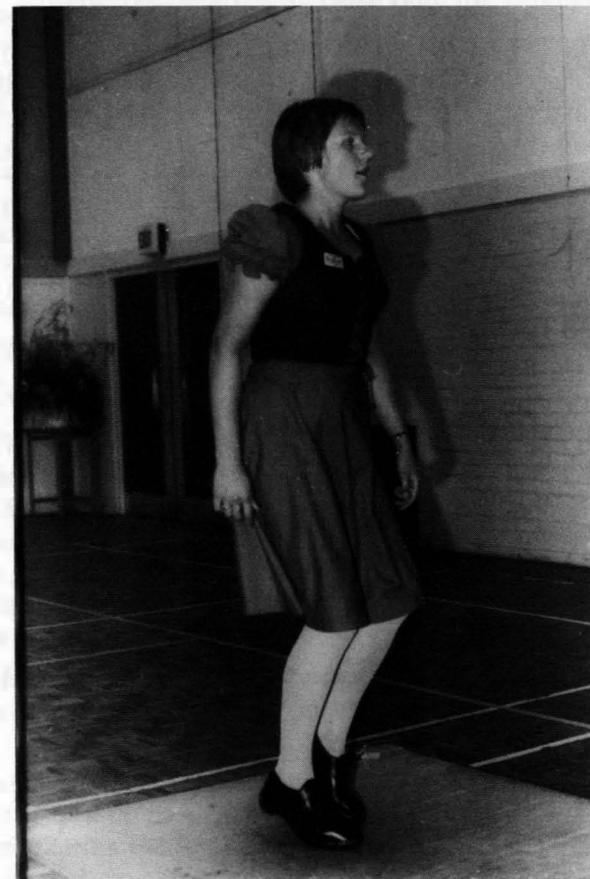
David was the singer, storyteller, piano accordionist, guitar player, and recorder played to sound like bagpipes "New-Castle" style. We were given lessons in 'English as she is sung', "New-Castle" style, and to be honest I think Robin and Kenneth Greaves would be the only ones to have really understood the song about the child who played with 'penkas down the dobble rae'. But it was all so well explained to us southerners by David whose many talents were much appreciated, as was the delightful display of clog dancing by Mary. This old tradition is passed down from generation to generation by demonstration, I believe Mary's teacher was taught by the same person who gave ideas to Fred Astaire!

As usual part two of the evening was provided by more local talent compered as usual by our Grace, the audience clutched at their sides as we heard two highly respected headmasters recount the saga of the poor girl who's heart had been broken by Frank Rollett with disastrous effects to ... the Manor foundations?! Sung to the tune of 'Tit Willow' you may be treated to the words elsewhere in this edition. Temperance songs were rendered in true victorian style by Helen and Jimmy Doyle, Margaret and Chris Fairnington. Ian and Carol Wright gave us verses Shakespearian and songs Oklahoma style, whilst the Harrisons held surgery. Philip Manasseh's three legged problem came to light, but I fear not Frank's bumper fun book; however, he could still muster enough strength to threaten Alfonso Sphagoni! Musical accompaniment for most of these items was again given by Jackie Cole who treated us to a wonderful piano solo, a most suitable finish to the evening, indoors anyway. For despite the lateness of the hour we trailed to the Elm for Rockets, under a beautiful moonlit sky. When we numbered off there were 46 plus dog, and Geoff Long our traditional rocket leader demonstrated his agility at toe touching. Following a Gower rousing round we tried silent and then mini rockets, before returning to the school to be treated by Russell Stead to a midnight feast and some Finch's Black Country jokes!

The motorised treasure hunt on Monday, organised in Louis Wright's usually efficient manner, saw cars filled with eager helpers ready to seek their fortunes around the countryside, the winners, Philip and Grace Beckerlegge, came near to maximum points, or as near as they could 'legally' get!

The programme promised 'Fun Orienteering' in the afternoon, I suspect this had something to do with our committee guest Roger Baker who I believe ranks nationally in the first three. Somewhat subdued by either the effort of orienteering or the sunshine we met on Holly house lawn for tea with the Headmaster and his wife, and from thence to the Hill for the re-union photo.

And so to the Presidential dinner, a gathering of the clans, and how many there seemed to be. More people present than for the rest whole of the week-end. It was an occasion for thanks. Firstly to June Ellis a presentation from Old Scholars and an Honorary Life Membership. Next from Wilfred Pollard to our President, a pair of socks, knitted in the old scholars colours, could this be a new tradition?



Mary Oliver. Photo: Frank Rollett

The Association was also 'Presidentially' presented with a gavel and block made by Frank from the walnut tree felled in the Paddock. It had been his constant companion throughout the week-end, its sharp crack bringing us smartly to attention after each meal, which incidentally, were laced with jokes; will he ever find that bumper fun book?!

To our surprise Frank also announced that for the fourth consecutive year an anonymous well wisher has donated £50 to association funds, this surely indicates the regard that is held for the Old School, and to him or her, our sincere thanks once again.

We are so grateful to Lucy Padfield for once again providing us with such good fare; her helper, Evelyn Tomlinson and the present scholars who helped at table. Louis Wright has given 25 years devoted service to the association and we thank him for membership matters, but do hope he will foil us around the countryside again in future. Mike Finch, also retiring after 9 years in the hot seat, thank you, although he remains as one of our representatives on the school committee.

And so we drifted away, but the evening was not yet done, Vera Brown promised slides of last years reunion, so wait awhile until we clear away. Russell looking concerned with a trolley of food as yet unused was approached by some 'Pip-squeak' who getting on a rostrum assailed the sedate and respectable company with barrow boy chat and sold the goods Petticoat Lane style, to anyone within 'catching' distance!

And so to our final ritual, rockets in a circle, 64 present this time, and Auld lang syne. I cannot close this report without saying thanks again to all the helpers and organisers, for, as one visitor said "each time I come to Sibford it seems to be better, and it's not because I know more people..." how true and perhaps the fun we had reflects the nature of this year's President and his wife Vera. Thank you everyone for coming and making the week-end such fun.

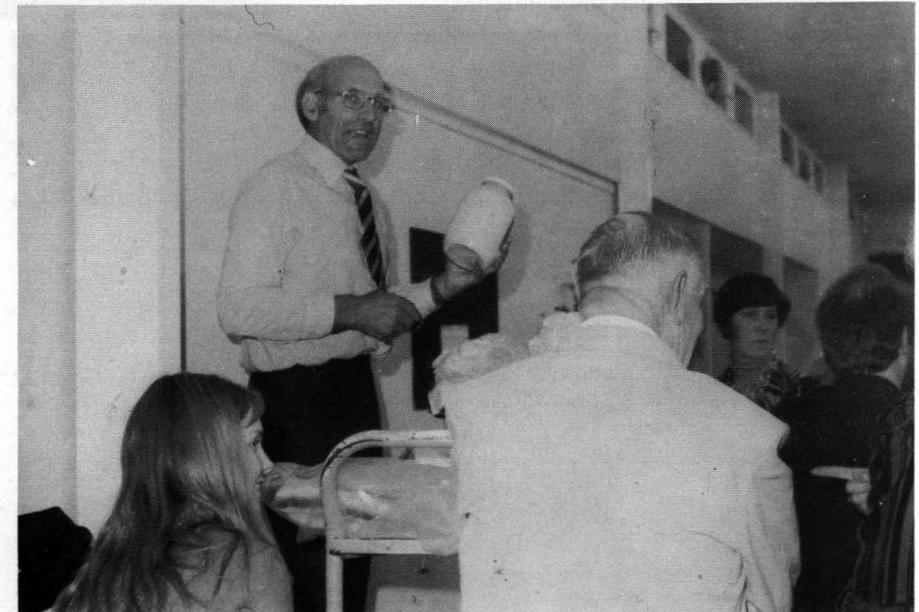
Fiona M. Poulton.

Those helpers mentioned by Fiona were:- Susan Davies, Helen Smith, Patricia Bruton, Sarah Barfoot, Simon Barfoot, Simon Everest, Andie Worlock, Tim Bryant, David Marks, Cindy Poulton, and also our committee guest's children Richard Judith and William Baker, well done!! - Editor.



Smile! Roger Baker, Vera Rollett, Mike Finch, Frank Rollett and Neville trying to organise the photo! Photo: Geoff Moore

Philip Manasseh Lovely Mayonnaise, Come on Ladies!!



AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT TIME AUGUST WEEKEND WERE

A) At the Presidential Dinner, Jonas and Marjorie Fielding, Grace and Philip Beckerlegge, Lily Ratheram, Leslie Harrison, Philip and Lorraine Brown, Andrew Siggs, Fiona Poulton, Philip Manasseh, Janet Eavis, Mary Mascaro, Stan Ewan, June Ellis, Louis and Doris Wright, Elin Baily, John and Lilian Ward, Margaret Baily, Mary Elwick, June Bell, Alan, Pat, Margaret and Catherine Yardley, Vera and Reg Brown, Kate Long, J.M. Smith, Gwen Rowntree, Alan and Katherine Kidney, Celia Law, L. Cohen, Arthur and Pam Harrison, Roger, Ruth, William, Judith and Richard Baker, Frank & Vera Rollett, Kenneth and Robin Greaves, Lucy Padfield, Evelyn Tomlinson, Margaret and Chris Fairnington, Jacqui Cole, Russel Steed, Ian and carol Wright, Norman and Marjorie Coxon, Lewis and Jean Poulton, David and Mary Oliver, Clark and Loraine Spencer, Dorothy Angerson, Mabel and Wilfred Pollard, Mike and Wendy Van Blankenstein, David and Philippa Smith, Alice and Robert Rose, Jim and Joan Shields, Betty and John Thelton, Brian and Ethel Wright, John and Helen Doyle, Nick and Olive Bennett, Eleri, Mario, Diana, and Ivano Ricci, Jean Southern, Constance Cottrell, Irene Smith, Francis, Barbara, Chris, Peter and Martin Rush, Janet, Peter, Rachel, Daniel and Ruth Baily, Mike, Rhoda and Andrew Finch, Joan and Geoffrey Long, Thomas Leeman, Geoff and David Moore, Margaret and Arthur Dring, Miriam Guest, Don Ryan, Margaret Le Mare, Kenneth and Elizabeth Francis, John, Monica and Gordon Taylor, Neville and Halina Smith, John and Edith Miller, Margaret and Clem Cox, April Marlow.

B) Those present at other times included:—

John and Jean Osborne, David and Mavis Stiles, Andrew Manasseh, Hugh and Daphne Maw, John & Maureen Baily, Joseph Sewell, Bronwen and Megan Morris, Jim Thelton, George and Marjorie Edwards, Judith Kelly, Godfrey Baseley, Jim Sepna, Pearl Mayo, Juliet Gibson, Roy Turner, Constance Philips, Barbara and Bill Crabtree, Julia and Dorothy Hart, Violet Harris, Olive Dalley, Diana Lloyd, Richard Hobbs, Esther Jackson, Pat Chorley, Tim Bryant, Hilda Lissaman, Shiela and Graham Trout.

C) Present Scholars and Recent Leavers:—

Helen Smith, Sarah Barfoot, Pat Bruton, Cindy Poulton, Andie Warlock, Simon Barfoot, Simon Everest, Tim Bryant, David Marks.

Total visitors 180 approximately, names of some visitors not known. 92 old scholars slept in the boys houses.

R.S.

Greetings were received from—

Alice Green, Gladys Burgess, Jean Moore, Hugh Gibson, Rose Baily (New Zealand) Eleanor Smith, Hilary Naylor, Constance Packer.



Joe Sewell and grandchild, Mike Van Blank Enstein, Vera Rollett, Janet Eavis Mary and David Oliver, Roger and Ruth Baker. Photo: Stan Ewan

Jo Sewell and Janet with Frank's Gavel and Bumper Fun Book



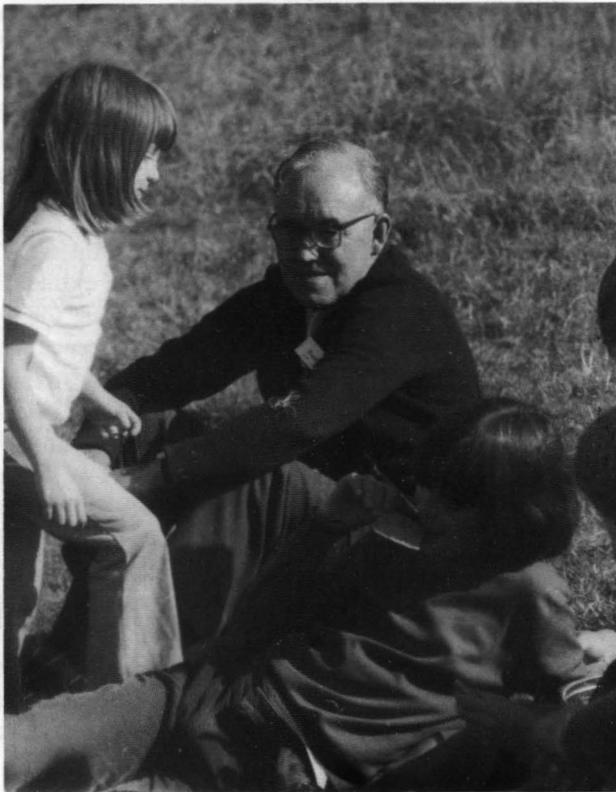
TIT WILLOW

On a bench by the elm tree a young maiden sat
Singing Rollett, Frank Rollett, Frank Rollett,
And I said to her, Madam, Pray what are you at
Singing Rollett, Frank Rollett, Frank Rollett?
You will surely catch cold and you'll cough and you'll sneeze,
You'll get rheumatic pains in your nice housemaid's knees –
But don't let him treat you for Dutch Elm disease,
Not Rollett, Frank Rollett, Frank Rollett.

Her tears became larger and faster they flowed,
Singing Rollett etc
And they trickled downhill towards the Hook Norton road,
Oh Rollet,
And they formed a great lake, to the Bursar's dismay,
And the Manor's foundations were quite washed away,
Which is why we're rebuilding the damn place today
Thanks to Rollett, Frank, Frank Rollett.

So Old Scholars be warned by the story above
Of Rollett, Frank Rollett, Frank Rollett,
For there's many a heart has been broken for love
Of Rollett, Frank Rollett, Frank Rollett.
If you're young and attractive, and if you rejoice
In a ravishing figure, a deep velvet voice,
You might well finish up as the President's Choice
Of Rollett, Frank Rollett, Frank Rollett.

As sung by Mr Kenneth Greaves with Mr Jonas Fielding pianoforte. From the
Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan, words adapted by Mr. Kenneth Greaves.



President Relaxing with grandchildren Sarah Spencer
and Nathan Vaughan. Photos: Stan Ewan



Leslie and Arthur Harrison meet
the President and Vera Rollett. Photo: Geoff Moore

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

First, may I thank you for accepting me as your President, and for such a happy Reunion so far!

I suppose that every President endeavours to speak on an original theme, and those with professional qualifications have an advantage over a jack-of-all-trades like me.

O to have the expertise of an Alistair Cooke who can conjure the most interesting talk out of seemingly a mundane subject.

Also I stand here with the great disadvantage of not having been educated within these illustrious precincts – but – I consider that in the forty years continuous contact with Sibford School I have, nevertheless, gained an enviable extension of my own schooling, and more importantly pleasure from the scores of friendships thus created.

So, to think of a suitable subject to speak on, with benefit from about the only asset to accrue from advancing years, that is a long memory, I mulled over several possibles such as; contrasting present-day conditions with the remembered old days; city versus country life: the competitive element; work and leisure motivations; personal efficiency; conscience; sport; humour; English, as she is spoke. etc.

As, thankfully, most of you seem in a good and sympathetic mood I will touch on just one or two of those just mentioned. For sure I have re-read some of my predecessors' addresses and the outstanding ones described, in their differing ways, some aspect of civilized life as we now attempt to understand it.

I believe it was about two million years ago when earliest man began developing from the apes; and around 40,000 years since man became recognisable as such (I don't know about woman ... she's only recently become equalised!) So today's sophisticated and civilized citizen is the end result of some 40,000 years of acquired skills and knowledge. Yet, at the same time, we *are* animal beings whose very nature is unalterable, but, whose *behaviour* is and always was subject to the influence of training and environment – or lack of it. I think it must be extremely difficult for the young student of today to understand the implications of the accelerating speed of technical knowledge and communication over the past 60 years or so and having had the doubtful privilege of remembering all that period my impression is that, as the years have passed, fewer and fewer children grow up aware of the simple or more elemental pleasures of life, this fact maybe is comparable with the trend away from the old teaching of the three 'Rs' in schools. Yes, I know that there have been recent stirrings to revive that tradition, praise be; and apropos that statement and the preceding reference to accelerating knowledge I sometimes wonder if we are any happier for it; and to place this idea on a broader geographical base one wonders if, with the ever increasing pressures on them from the so-called civilized countries perhaps the backward peoples of the so-called 3rd world would be better and happier if left to their own devices.

And apropos of this statement I'll read you a small news item from the Daily Telegraph of July 22nd last "King's celebration; King Sobhuza II of Swaziland, the world's longest reigning monarch, was 78 yesterday. Thousands of his 500,000 subjects, and most of his 110 wives, helped him celebrate. Warriors chanted salutes while bare-breasted girls danced in salute." How's that?

Nevertheless, I think this year of 1977 has so far been memorable in Britain with the extraordinary expressions and show of loyalty and patriotism of the best sort during the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and to mention but one of the marvellous scenes depicted those televised within St. Pauls cathedral. Then the address by Archbishop Coggan was outstanding, you remember his theme, foundations. Foundations matter, whether physical or mental, and it is useless building on shallow or shifting foundations. Many today are seeing through the hollowness of a way of life which seeks to build on a basis of materialism, of each for himself, or each for his sectional interest, and forgets the good of the whole.

Now, we are all aware of the human satisfaction gained in the ability to make or model in wood, stone or metal etc. and that Sibford School was a pioneer in the teaching of handicrafts ... and *that* sort of satisfaction has the elements of happiness in it. I was pleased to read in The Friend last April a report by our Headmaster (himself no mean model maker) of the outstanding workshop facilities this school now enjoys, and he then posed the question, I quote "Would you rather be a scholar or a craftsman? in my mind there is no doubt whatever" unquote.

On the subject of education, which was not on my list, this surely involves being inspired, and inspired to think, otherwise learn how to think, and to imbue the pupil with a sense of wonder and imagination. I remember learning, in my youth, of the three stages in a man's civilized development. Act: Control: Create. Life's initial apprenticeship being to gain the ability to do a job of work, i.e. to act. Then, those with organising ability eventually control, or manage, the actors. Finally in absolute maturity comes promotion to directing groups, or create, or invent new techniques. Genius will out.

In these scholastic surroundings, and feeling like a Daniel in the den, I will dare to make a suggestion. I think that in these times of so-called material progress when, thank goodness, the control of waste and preservation of the environment grows in the public mind, then the role of the school teacher becomes more and more important, but I think they might be helped in a minor way. Arising from running my own business for some 20/30 years and occasionally dealing with graduates from University, or T.T. Colleges I do seriously suggest that the curricula of these colleges should include a short sharp course in business methods and ethics. (and I may say that I wrote that before Shirley Williams' recent speech). But maybe I am being too serious ... for deep down I would far rather extol the virtues of humour and happiness. In modern day to day living and working the

main lubricant, so to speak, surely is humour and a lack of the sense of it is a condition to be deplored.

One of the dangers of a strong and vivid personality may easily be a lack of proportion. I have always thought that one can be an Einstein and yet be unwise in the ways of the world, or indeed be a bore, for such a person by reason of the very intensity of his central qualities may incline in this direction, or that, to the detriment of general wholeness or unity. Humour then is a necessary element to correct such a tendency, which is not quite the same as that enviable quality of wittiness (more of that later) but humour requires a sympathetic reception, it is often allied with sensitiveness and cannot flourish in an uncongenial atmosphere. And to digress slightly ... someone once described comedy as the flower of the nettle.

Therefore, humour is a reciprocal thing with the exponent and recipient in rapport with one another. And mention of sensitiveness reminds me of the old saying 'They laughed until the tears flowed'.

I like the description ... Humour in its first analysis is a perception of the incongruous, and, in its highest development, of the incongruity between the actual and the ideal in man and life.

There is a saying you know that a smile is a curved line that often puts things straight.

But humour must not be overdone, for nothing is more devastating to one's influence, or manhood (or womanhood!) than not to be taken seriously when the occasion demands.

Then again wit. Although half-brother to humour is somewhat different. It can be cruel: brevity can be its soul: it can be at your end but enough of platitudes. Rightly or wrongly I connect wit more with the spoken rather than the written word; the flash of repartee. Particularly in this connection I am thinking of those modern masters Denis Norden and Frank Muir who, blessed with phenomenal linguistic and musical knowledge and memory, just ooze wit and humour every time they broadcast on TV or radio. Comparing them with what is described as kitchen-sink humour is like the traditional saying 'after the Lord Mayor's show etc'

One side splitting radio show of theirs which I heard time back went something like this. Frank Muir was pooh-poohing some ambiguous comment by his partner who was pronouncing on something as being bitter-sweet. Said Muir "How on earth, how on earth, can anything be bitter and sweet? such contradiction, you might as well describe a rising waterfall: a slow swift: a sterile rabbit: a soft diamond: a myopic eagle: a melancholy hyena: a lazy ant: an underground overpass: and, wait for it, a misogynistic Casanova: a landlubber duck: an energetic sloth: a vegetarian piranha or, a *simple* schoolmaster"

And to enlighten the latter (of whom there are none here present) I will remind you that those contradictory couplings are called oxymorons.

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OXFORD

NEWPORT Gwent

So, here am I, one who hardly knows a gerund from a geriatric daring to expound on the vagaries and beauty of the English language, with all its illogical spelling. English as she is writ.
English as she is spoke.

But I speak as an old scholar by proxy i.e. I married into our Association, which fact gives me a concluding thought for us all. Headmasters, administrators and teachers may come and go, but, like the Civil Service our Association is a foundation which hopefully will prevail in a spirit of helpfulness to the School's great tradition.

Frank Rollett

BIRTHS

LLOYD: On February 20 1977 to Diana (nee Wright) and John Lloyd of Rivendell, 10 Prescott, Yate, Bristol BS17 4LA. A son Hywel Martin.

CORDINER: On November 20 1976 to Elizabeth (nee Hockley) and Roger of 19 Morris Road, The Pologon, Southampton.

MARRIAGE

SEWELL-EAVIS The engagement of Joseph B. Sewell to Janet Eavis was announced in "The Friend" on September 30. At the time of publishing we understand that the wedding will take place on December 10 at Friends' House Euston Road London. Old Scholars will be delighted with this news which had escaped the Presidential Profile!

IN MEMORIAM.

ANDREW FAIRNINGTON 1934 to 1977

It is with great regret that we announce the untimely death on 20th April of Andrew Fairnington. His wife Margaret, herself an Old Scholar, first brought him and their son Chris to a reunion weekend a long time ago; and they and the friends they have introduced to the Association have over the years become familiar figures. Many will remember the time when Andrew and his car, impersonating Theodore Lamb, won first prize in a fancy-dress competition – an event which is commemorated in the photograph albums which are on show at reunions.

Kindness and generosity are the qualities which spring to mind when one remembers Andrew, who would shrug off any attempt at thanks. No-one could fail to be impressed by the courage and humour which he displayed in hospital, where he became a byword for boosting the morale of patients who seemed to lack his inner strength. It is no exaggeration to say that everybody – surgeons, doctors, nurses, domestics and patients alike – loved him to an extent which is unusual in professional and fleeting relationships; and they were shocked and grieved when he died unexpectedly, as were his large circle of friends and colleagues.

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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.

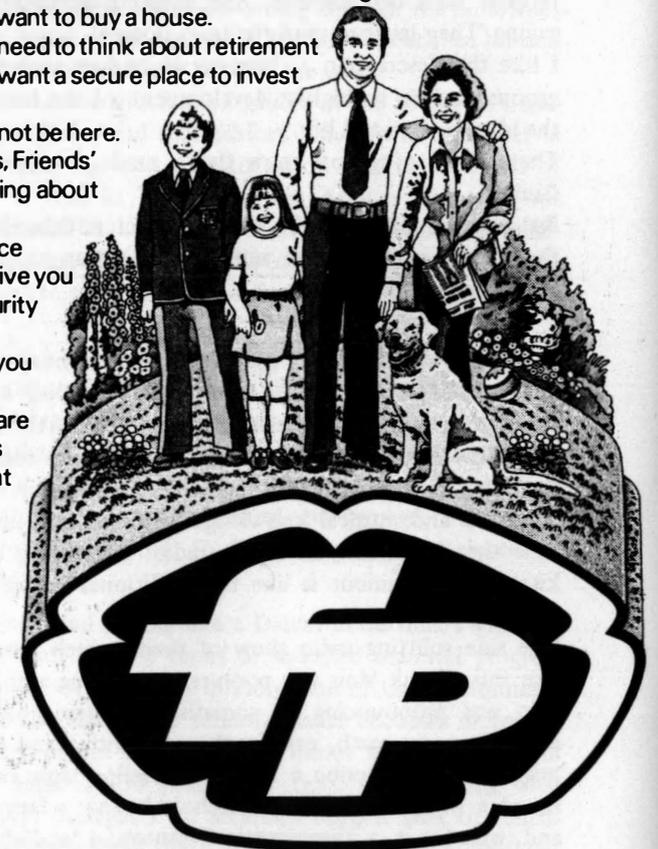
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UNDER TWO ELMS

MIDLAND BRANCH REPORT

Once again January 1977 brought us to a happy beginning with a grand meal and party, put on for some 30 old scholars by Michael and Kathy Gibbins. We were very happy to have old scholars from some distance join us for a splendid evening, very much enjoyed by everyone.

Our next get together was planned for April, for a fish and chip supper with Jack and Monica Simpson, unfortunately Monica was not well, so that event was cancelled. In July we met at Bill and Joy Ranns, with a cold wind blowing no one was tempted into the pool, yet it was warm enough to eat a not so slimming tea in the garden. There were a good number present on this occasion, including Godfrey Baseley, a great afternoon and our thanks to Bill and Joy.

In September some fifteen old scholars met at Graham and Sheila Trouts the plan was to go walking. Unfortunately the weather broke, but the sturdy ones from Nailsea and Cirencester joined the locals and off we went in the rain. Many times our thoughts took us back to Sibford with the Sunday pig drive with Parkin and Herbert. Arriving back we found a scrumptious tea, thanks to Sheila and Graham.

Our get togethers are great fun, but we would like to see more and new faces, with ideas of course, so why not contact me, we will help with transport if you are having difficulties. Irene Smith, 37 Redditch Road, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove Worcs.

LONDON BRANCH

London Old Scholars would like to thank Alan & Pat Yardley for all the effort they put into their four years as joint Secretaries of London Branch.

After almost a year as your second time around Secretary I am convinced that like our Elm Tree, the London Branch hasn't the Dutch Elm Disease Alan & Pat suspected. 43 of us filled to capacity Bunhill Fields Meeting House in early January for our Christmas Party & A.G.M. We were pleased to have with us our worthy President and his wife, and also Kenneth & Robin Greaves together with some younger Old Scholars. We had some games for the younger ones, plenty of talk and an excellent Tea thanks mainly to Pat & other committee members.

In March 12 Adults and 4 children had a delightful Sunday afternoon at the home of Arthur & Pam Harrison in Reading. We didn't venture out for our usual walk, but there was plenty of 'Natter' which O.S. seem to do very well. We also tried out our 'Pooled Tea' for the first time. Everyone brings a contribution towards the tea and it doesn't become such a strain on our hosts. Thank you Arthur & Pam.

The Day Reunion in May and the Annual Reunion in August were very well attended by our members and is reported elsewhere. We thought we would like to have a River Trip. This would have worked out very expensive so instead in late July we accepted an invitation to the Theltons in Esher and during the afternoon we were taken for a delightful walk through the older parts of Ditton to the edge of the River where we saw the boats and ducks and back to the Thelton home for a super tea enjoyed by all 19 of us.

Our last event this year, on Saturday 1st October was a great success. A goodly number of all ages met at the new London Museum where our own George Edwards was our guide round all the interesting things to see there including the Lord Mayor's Coach. We retired to Bunhill Meeting House for a rest and tea and this nicely rounded off the afternoon.

We now have 47 subscribing members of the London Branch so we aren't withering away, but we would like to see more recent leavers. Please write to me for further details and we cordially invite everyone to our Christmas Party and A.G.M. Make a note of it now?

Saturday 14th. January, 1977. Friends International Centre, Torrington Place, W.C.1. from 4 until 10 p.m.

Geoffrey L. Moore,
'The Cottage',
85, Broomfield Road,
Chelmsford,
Essex. CM1 1RY. (0245 62539)

THE ONE DAY REUNION

Arriving in time to enjoy our picnic lunch on a summers day we were greeted by the sight of a bevy of old Scholars basking in the sun and lunching outside Fielding house. The only 'organised' event was the cricket match, providing a backcloth for the meetings and greetings that naturally take place on such occasions. Captained by John Taylor the old scholars elected to bat and were soon in trouble thanks to the schools' good fielding and particularly the bowling of Peter Jenkins. The match was limited to 20 overs each, we collected 58 and the reply of 63 by the school in 9 overs allowed us to take tea and not return for further punishment. Well done school, but as your General Secretary elect may I have names of up & coming cricketers in good time so that we may attempt to re-dress the balance in 1978.

Our President Frank Rollett resplendent with camera made everyone welcome, as did the school who provided the tea both for cricketers and all visitors. The dining room queue seemed to stretch for ever, I noticed an anxious Kenneth Greaves at one time counting heads. Would the loaves and fishes go round?

Among those we have not seen as regulars I noticed Hugh and Daphne Maw, Veronica Thornton, Judy Kelly (nee Kelf Cohen) with daughter, and Marjorie Wells, back again after an absence of 7 years. Our thanks to all those who planned the day, specially to the school for welcoming us once again. I'm sure the prospects outlined by our reunion secretary for Jubilee year will attract a great number of old scholars to the one day reunion in 1978.

A CAMEO FROM THE PAST

P.M.

One evening in January, I was lounging around in my rather over-heated monk's cell in a West Country hotel with half an hour to kill before dinner. I was on a conference and in order to revitalise my dulled senses after a day of seminars and syndicates I tuned in idly to the local Bristol TV programme. It was a survey of the films of one Arthur Elton, apparently an eminent producer of documentaries during the 1930's and '40's, skilful stuff, much of it on scientific topics.

In a clip from an instructive piece entitled "How an Aeroplane flies", Elton drew a cunning analogy: a schoolboy of the period (1947 to be exact) in long, baggy shorts, flannel shirt and school tie, standing strapped on to roller skates, caught a smartly bashed cricket ball, the force of which thrust him backwards, nicely illustrating the principle of the "thrust" of an aircraft engine. As the camera panned, a familiar scene was revealed: the old Boys' playground at the Manor, with "prom", slope, bicycle shed, fives court, cricketers and skaters - everyone was occupied in traditional Sibford sports and pastimes much as I had so often been myself on that very spot a few years earlier.

Why did Arthur Elton choose this location? How extensive was his filming at Sibford? Did he have other connections with the school? Could any Old Scholar in his early forties supply answers to these questions? No prizes are offered but a solution to an intriguing problem is eagerly awaited!

M.V.B.

LIVING THE COUNTRY LIFE IN A CANADIAN CITY

In March, 1972, I married a rugby club. This venture into polyandry was realised by espousing one Richard Vella, then Club Captain of the Toronto Wanderers R.U.F.C. who, when asked for a list of those whom he wished to witness his fall from bachelorhood, handed over the club address list with a few minor deletions, and followed it with the names of several members of other clubs, since rugger players seem to make as close friends of their opponents as they do of their team mates.

It was obvious that the Friends Meeting House in Toronto would be unsuitable for a gathering as large and I feared (unjustly), as rowdy as this one promised to be. We therefore turned to a member of the club, a referee who happened to be the incumbent of an Anglican church in a nearby village and who was happy to assist us. The Ontario Rugby Union clubhouse was the venue for our reception, the highlight of which was provided by a most original wedding cake, made by one of our wing-forwards in the shape of a rugby field complete with posts, on which a sugar player pursued a sugar bride. So you see what I mean when I say that I married a club!

Despite being a great North American city, with its proper complement of sky-scraper, Toronto is (during the summer at least) a place of greenery. Looking out from my office window on the 23rd floor of a mid-town building, it seems as if the soaring towers rise out of a sea of trees, among which closer examination reveals the rooftops and chimneys of the houses. Two small rivers and innumerable tributary creeks have carved out deep valleys through the glacial sands and clays on which the city stands, and while some of these have been used as natural routes for railway lines and motorways, most are laid out as parkland, providing recreational space for the public and a habitat for a wide variety of animals and birds.

Our garden's wild-life also includes black and grey squirrels, voles and deer-mice, chipmunks, raccoons, snakes (harmless) and the occasional skunk, as well as innumerable resident and migratory birds, from the hummingbirds which pollinate our peach-blossom to the pheasants which eat our lawn-seed. It's a beautiful oasis, and as such, it welcomes travellers. We have had rugby visitors from Britain, the West Coast of North America, Australia and South Africa, and would welcome any O.S. who pass this way on business or on pleasure.

Maggie Vella (nee Smith)

(Sibford, 1946-53)

(Telephone Number (416) 422-4325)

THE LESLIE BAILY MEMORIAL LECTURE

“Sibford, Education and the question of Relevance.”

The 1977 Reunion falls on the 30th Anniversary of Leslie Baily’s Presidential Address, and on the 70th Anniversary of Sir Michael Sadler’s Address to the school. Both these were on the question of the relevance of Sibford’s education to Society and the State. With the present debate on education, the topic of a review of educational relevance seemed to present itself.

I would suggest that history, far from being a ‘dead’ subject, is the essential framework of education, in which an understanding of the continuum of change provides a basis for our stability today and in the future. Leslie Baily stressed the importance of an historical awareness, pressing for the study of ‘all our actions in the past and all the traditions that are passed down to us.’ But whilst we can hand down traditional experience, the young have to accept this on trust, for we cannot teach experience theoretically. This frustrating situation has always been with us, but over the last generation or so, we have experienced a questioning and rejection by society of many accepted standards. This can be seen especially in the Arts. Whilst such a questioning is healthy in itself, the young simply see it as confirming the irrelevance of historic traditions. They therefore abandon the historic requirements of discipline, control and technical knowledge in a fruitless search for instant, direct experience; of inspiration without perspiration. It is not surprising that the dreamworld of drink and drugs can be seen as a method of achieving ‘instant experience’.

Rufus Jones, in the first Swarthmore Lecture, discussed the demand from the young for “verifiable facts of experience”. The problem, of course, is that verifiable facts can only be recorded after the event, not before. We must therefore always search for ways to use practical example and direct observation by the pupil, rather than theory. The more volatile society becomes through change, the greater is the need for the stability of example and observation. This is a very old notion, for Aristotle wrote that “the test of knowledge lies in action, not theory”, and James Harrod taught his pupils “to think by associating action with thought.”

As an example of the awareness of change and experience, if a superficial view is taken of the Sibford Ferris Manor, it will only be seen as a rather uninteresting early eighteenth century country house. It is only through stripping off the layers of change that its long and complex history emerges, not only of the school, but of local social and economic life. Without that knowledge it is not possible to see or understand, anymore than a view of the shell gives an understanding of the egg.



Coming Down! Alterations to the Manor

Going Up! Construction of the Remedial Centre. Photos: Kenneth Greaves



Another aspect of education is our shifting attitude to young people. This has moved over the last two hundred years from treating children of five or six as adults to treating adolescents as a special species, and dressing them as such, in gym slips for example. While a growing independence in the young is reflected in their contemporary dress, it should be remembered that the rejection of uniform has not lessened the force of uniformity in the 'Jean Generation', and the damage this can cause to the individual. It should also be remembered that the emphasis on the child-centered discovery of knowledge and standards increases the damage caused by an abrupt change from an ideal world into one of dual moral standards.

Morality has to be taught through observable fact and open discussion of actual behaviour. From this basis the method by which moral decisions are made can be commenced, for moral decisions can only be made from within a moral tradition. As Sibford is a Quaker foundation, the constant rediscovery by the pupils of a valid Quaker morality must surely be an essential function.

This situation places a heavy responsibility on teachers, for if their beliefs are uncertain, they cannot teach them positively, and a moral neutrality will be taken as a defence. As schools must reflect society it is quite unreasonable to expect them to assume moral standards that an ambivalent society cannot maintain. The Quaker belief in the Inner Light is a direct link to the progressive idea of the child as an individual and inherently good, and it is through this route that a solution may be found.

The young react against moral duality by rejecting authority and adopting unconventional habits. Those who dislike this should look to the cause, and not try to revert to former times by the reintroduction of authoritarian methods, which would never be accepted. If we care about the damage caused by habits such as drink and drugs, it is through knowledge and an open discussion of their effects – of example and observation – that we can have influence. It is therefore necessary to allow school's the occasional experiment and failure.

Apart from educational philosophy, the other major question is our relation to the State. The State is primarily concerned with maintaining its existence and influence, education being one of its primary tools. Any group or individual who adopts a separatist attitude is going to have trouble. Quaker attitudes were forged by the need for literacy if the movement was to prosper. The radical and dissenting traditions are here closely linked. The Quaker involvement in radical educational and political thought can be traced back from contemporary figures such as Kenneth Barnes via Lancaster, Owen, Allen, Williams, Bentham, Rousseau and Comenius to Aristotle. Even such a figure as Tom Paine was of Quaker stock, and wrote 'The Rights of Man' at the home of the Quaker writer Clio Rickman. With the gradual assumption by the State of radical aims – a general and free education, progressive methods and experimentation – the question of the relevance of the private sector becomes pressing. The escalation of costs presents the spectre of privilege more and more, and the current posture of conciliation and



John Baily. Wilfrid Pollard.

Russell Steed is Relaxing! David Marks (49) Tom Leeman, and Simon Everest in attendance.



compromise towards the State offers no positive alternative. The old Quaker characteristic of a stubborn and aggressive statement of belief, as shown in their dress, speech and conduct, is now sadly lacking. Without this there is no *raison d'être* for a Quaker involvement in education.

Sibford no longer caters for 'friends not in affluence', nor does it have its previous non-academic and craft bias. It is in the process of change, and we must hope that the tradition of sensitivity to the condition of its pupils will not be lost in the standardising process. The ambivalence of Quaker radical attitudes does little to help in the search.

Finally, some thoughts on possible future trends. The Greek word 'scholē' means leisure, for only those with leisure had time for schooling. Aristotle said that "spending time at leisure requires a good deal of learning and educating." We are now returning to this situation, with shortening hours of work and earlier retirement. Schools must adapt to educate people for leisure just as much as for work. The schools could also perhaps, look to educating those already on short-time or retired.

Another factor is the earlier maturity of the young. Many adolescents feel a desperation at being forced to remain in an artificial childhood. Schools could look to the partial secondment of senior pupils to local employers, to the local social, health and welfare services. This use of 'practical example and direct observation' would help integrate the young into society, and it would also have an influence on the form and relevance of the present examination system.

Another pressing problem is our economic imbalance with the third world. A more equitable division must come, and for our part it will involve an acceptance of falling standards. If this is to occur without bloodshed, it is to the education of the young that we must turn.

These future trends exhibit the need for a radical Quaker approach to political and educational thinking. The trends also show the areas where the Old Scholars could offer positive assistance to the school.

The future relevance of Sibford, and of private education will come, in part, from a radical reappraisal of change and the historic tradition, and from the creative use of an independence denied to those schools in the monolithic State system. Milton stated that "the reforming of education be one of the greatest designs that can be thought on ... and for the want thereof this National perishes." The reforming of education has been a constant thread through Sibford's past and, let us all hope, will continue so through the future as well.

Dr. John Baily
Leeds University. August 1977.

NEWS OF OLD SCHOLARS:—

Nick Bennett (1954-59) would like to obtain any old reunion programmes and documents, particularly pre 1935, '37, '41 and '42. Please contact him if you can help at 21 Derby Road, Kegworth, Derby DE7 2EN. *Richard Hobbs (1967-73)* has just completed, a four year course in Engineering Science. He obtained an upper second class degree (B.Sc.) and a Diploma in Industrial Studies. He is now with Marconi's at Chelmsford. He was asking me about old scholars jackets and ties, is anyone else interested? *please* write to me if you are. *Ian Wright 1967-62* has passed his finals for R.I.B.A. He is already in partnership as an Architect in Camberley, Surrey.

Dorothy Haines 1932-35 wants to straighten out the membership list, concerning *Joy Mangan (nee Morland) 1923-25*. She was a teacher in the early thirties so should have the appropriate 'S' by her name. This will be done! *Dorothy Prior*, (staff in the 40's) was seen by *Meriel Hunt (nee Manasseh) 1937-'43*, in Bournemouth recently and wishes us to correct her address, it is 104 ALMA RD., BOURNEMOUTH. *Robert Phillips 1941-43* wrote in January "Having spent over 20 years in the Industrial diamond business I have accepted a post with an American Company. I'm sorry to have to resign as Hon. Auditor but distance is an obstacle I fear!" *Geoffrey Moore (1937-41)* has moved to "The Cottage" 85 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex. *Pamela Manasseh (nee Boast) 1943-46* is an accomplished archer and has recently been asked to join the Sports Council and advise on these matters to Dennis Howell, the minister responsible for Sport (and water).

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 bar any person from membership and to remove any person from membership for any reason which they think to be good and sufficient. No return of subscription shall be payable to any person removed from Membership.
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 £3.00 per annum. Alternatively, for the year in which they leave and the following three years - £5.00, which could be paid by their parents with the last school fees.
 - ii. Life Membership £50.00.
 - iii. Married Couples jointly £5.00 per annum.
 - iv. All other member £3.00 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, Assistant Treasurer, Reunion Secretary, Assistant Reunion Secretary, Membership Secretary, Magazine Editor, Local Branch Secretaries, two School Committee Representatives, Friends of Sibford Society Representative, two School Staff Representatives, 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 Governing Committee coinciding with that Committee's normal term of appointments. Ordinary Members will not be eligible for re-election after a three year term for a period of at least twelve months.
 - (c) Should a vacancy occur in any office the General Committee shall have powers to fill the vacancy.
 - (d) and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
 - (e) 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.
 - (f) Each year the School leavers shall nominate one of their members to serve, as an ordinary member, on the Committee for a period of three years following the next 31st December, and such nomination shall be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting. The A.G.M. shall also appoint one representative each year to serve for a three-year term. Should an ordinary member resign during his term of service the Committee has power to fill the vacancy so caused, until the next Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting shall then confirm the appointment or appoint an alternative member for the remainder of the term of service.
8. **MEETINGS AND REUNIONS**
 - (a) An Annual Reunion of members shall be held at Sibford at Whitsuntide or at such other time and/or place as may be decided by the General Committee.
 - (b) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held during the Annual Reunion.
 - (c) Notice of the Annual Reunion shall be sent to all members.
 - (d) The General Committee shall have full control of all arrangements at these Reunions with power to make such regulations as they may deem to be expedient.
9. **MINUTES**
Minutes of the proceedings of the General Committee shall be duly recorded in a permanent manner and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting when passed shall be available for inspection by any member by arrangement.
10. **LOCAL BRANCHES**
 - (a) Whenever the number of members resident in a locality warrants the course, a local branch may be formed.
 - (b) A Branch Secretary shall be elected at a representative meeting of the local branch.
 - (c) Branch Secretaries shall have power to arrange local reunions and other events.
 - (d) All Branches must be financially self supporting and have no call on the funds of the Association.
11. **MAGAZINE**
A magazine entitled 'Sibford' shall be published annually by the Association and sent to all members whose addresses are known. Where husbands and wives are both members only one magazine will be sent unless an additional copy is specifically requested.
12. **ALTERATIONS TO RULES**
 - (a) Notice of any alteration or addition to be proposed to the rules of the Association shall be given in writing to the General Secretary at least fourteen days prior to an Annual General Meeting. Nevertheless the Annual General Meeting shall have power to deal with any alteration or addition to the Rules without such notice or any notice if the meeting so decides by a two-thirds majority of members who are present and voting.
 - (b) No alteration or addition to the Rules of the Association shall become effective unless passed by a two-thirds majority of members who are present and voting in Annual General Meeting.
 - (c) Rule 12 (b) and 13 (b) cannot be altered except by a 9/10ths majority at Annual General Meeting.
13. **LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND**
 - (a) All subscriptions received as Life Subscriptions shall be invested in the names of Trustees appointed by the Annual General Meeting.
 - (b) The Life Membership Fund may not be spent without prior referendum of the recorded members of the Association. To be effective the referendum must be approved by a 9/10th majority of all the forms received by a date set by the General Committee.
 - (c) The interest from the investment of the life subscriptions shall be added to the ordinary income of the Association.
14. **WINDING UP**
In the event of the Association being dissolved all the assets shall be disposed of as directed by the Annual General Meeting by a simple majority of those members who are present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

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

"Ye Menne of Sheepford wendath whithersoever they wilen"

Photo : Neville Smith



ANNUAL REUNION



AUGUST 1977