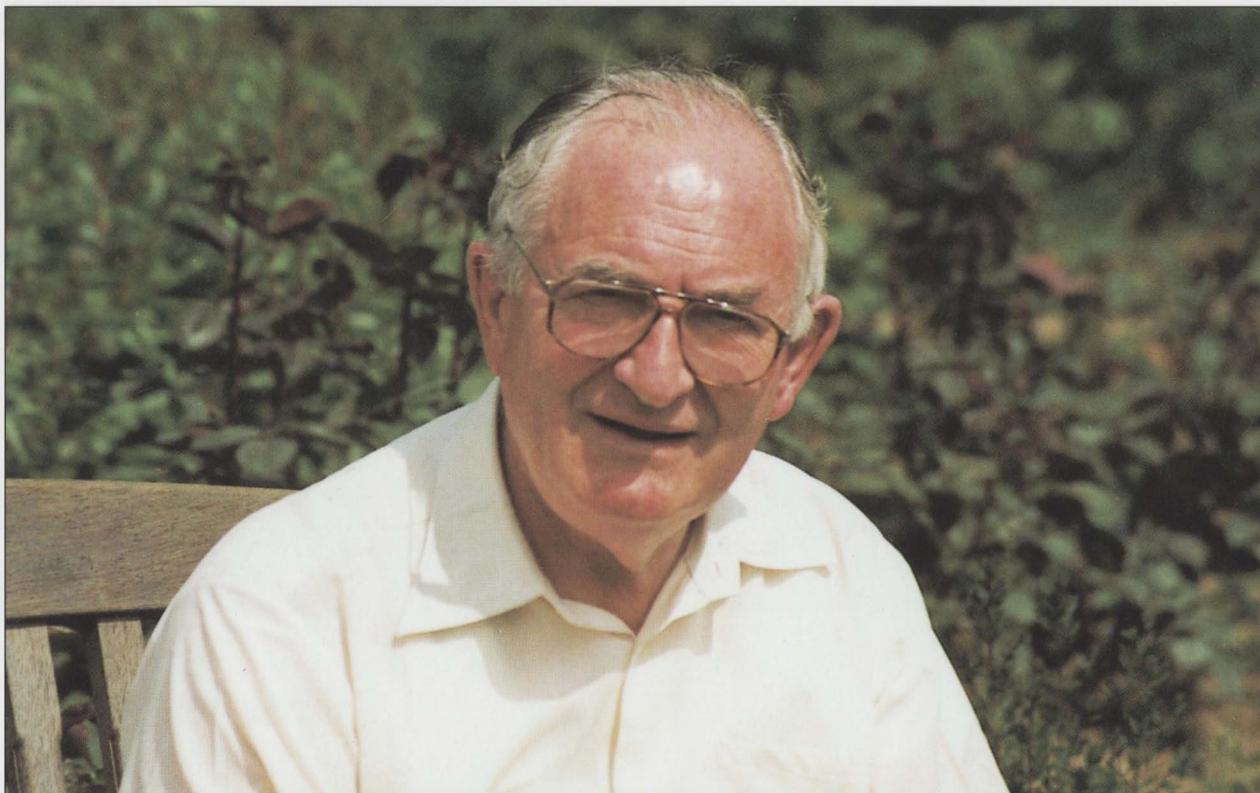


The Sibford Rocket 2000

The Annual Report and Magazine of the

Sibford Old Scholars' Association



Michael D.T. Farr - President 2000-2001

A New Beginning ...

A warm welcome and 'hello' to you all at the beginning of a new era in publishing for SOSA; this, the first independent SOSA magazine for nearly thirty years. Since 1971, the school and SOSA have put together a joint production. As more and more adjustments were required to encompass the individual needs of both parties, it was decided, completely amicably and without 'falling out', that two separate publications is the way forward. Whilst some may see the re-introduction of an independent magazine as retrogressive, the SOSA committee believe that this is an exciting and positive move as we approach the celebration of our first century. With this development, changed format, layout and title, a new identity is offered for the SOSA magazine. My thanks to all those who contributed to the production, be it writing, photography or simply time. I do hope that you enjoy the fruits of our labours.

Caroline Mills (née Bond) Sibford 1982-87 Editor

(The School Magazine is due to be published during the Summer Term 2001; any Old Scholar who wishes to receive a copy should contact the School Office.)

Membership Campaign

SMAG * SMAG * SMAG * SMAG
SMAG * SMAG * SMAG * SMAG

SOSA Membership Action Group

This sub-committee was formed earlier this year to address concerns regarding falling membership (and thus SOSA revenue). You can read about our activities on page 28, within the AGM report. We want to trace as many former pupils as possible over the next two years, and encourage them to join SOSA in readiness for all the exciting activities that will happen in the SOSA Centenary Year, in 2003.

Increasing our membership will also ensure that SOSA maintains sufficient funds to support the School - an essential aim of our Association.

WE NOW NEED YOUR HELP! We ask

everyone in SOSA to introduce at least one new member. The leaflet enclosed with this magazine should assist. Help us to keep SOSA strong and active. Help us to take SOSA into 2003 and beyond.

SMAG: Ann Bond, Julie Greenhill, Tom Lane, Ellen Salway (addresses and phone numbers are on page 48).

Or e-mail us via
AnnBondSOSA@aol.com
with any urgent queries.

STOP PRESS * our own web-site *
SOSA now has a registered web-site:
www.sibford-old-scholars.co.uk

It will be up and running some time during the next few months. If anyone has experience of creating and building a professional, inter-active web-site, please let us know via Ann Bond:

e-mail AnnBondSOSA@aol.com

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NOTICES

Special Reserve Fund

A Special Reserve Fund was set up in 1998 to provide financial support to any current pupil of Sibford School or to any recent leaver who is in need of assistance or who needs funding for a specific project. If you are aware of any deserving causes then please contact the Treasurer who will raise the matter with the Committee.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 20th January -

Midland Branch 'New Year Party'
Selly Oak Meeting House, Birmingham
Contact: Hilary Haddleton 0121 705 0462

Saturday 27th January -

Sibford School Development Appeal Ball
The Orangery, Blenheim Palace. Tickets £75 per person
plus

Discount lunches by arrangement at Raymond Blanc's 'Le Manoir aux Caissons'

Contact: Development Office 01295 781200

Saturday 16th June -

Sibford School Open Day
Contact: School office 01295 781200

Saturday 23rd June -

'Quaker Day' discussion on 'Spirituality & the Arts'.
Open to all old scholars.
Contact: Chris Lawson or Sue Freestone 01295 781200
(School office)

Saturday 25th-27th August -

SOSA Annual Reunion Sibford School
Contact: Ellen Salway 0115 950 2196

Archive Database

A database of all former Sibford pupils and staff is being compiled by Raymond Bond (1941-45) as no consolidated record yet exists. Can all members compile a list of as many classmates as you can remember and send it to him (address below) together with your own dates at Sibford. This will enable him to check whether they - or you - are 'on the computer'. Raymond will be most grateful as many of the available records are scrappy and are having to be researched from various sources. Addresses would be helpful if you know them but don't leave anybody off your list if you haven't got an address. If any of the named persons are no longer alive, the date of their death would be useful. Send your list to: Raymond Bond, Ivy House, Whichford, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, CV36 5PE. Tel: 01608 684385.

Geoffrey Long Book Prize

The 'Geoffrey Long Book Prize' is awarded by SOSA to a current pupil within the school for their contribution to the school magazine. Our Presidents have decided that the Award for 2000 (for contributions to the 1999 'Sibford' magazine) should go to Andrew May, Year 10, for his piece entitled 'Happily Ever After, for a While', a piece of imaginative and descriptive writing. Congratulations to Andrew and thank you to all those pupils who contributed to the 1999 magazine.

Annual Reunion 2001

The 2001 SOSA Annual Reunion will be held during the August Bank Holiday from 25th to 27th at Sibford School. Please note that, due to a reduction in boarding space, beds are now more limited than at previous reunions. Therefore, Old Scholars that do not return their completed forms to the Reunion Secretary by the date given in the Reunion Programme (these are likely to be sent out in May) cannot be guaranteed a bed. Beds will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

I'm Mike Farr, a son of Harrow, at Sibford 1938-1943. Being an indifferent scholar I had to learn, after my school-days, to take chances and to live by my wits!

I emerged from school into a country at war. A year on, aged 17, I joined the Fleet Air Arm as a trainee pilot. I worked in my family's business both pre- and post-FAA. Indeed my accelerated release from service was due to essential bomb damage work.

Eventually I needed to assuage an Itchy Feet Syndrome. From age 20 to 32 I worked overseas in Rubber Factory Management; initially seven years with Dunlop in Malaya (now Malaysia) then four with the West Nigerian Development Corporation.

Incidentally I was a Police Inspector with the Malayan Specials - during some very hair-raising times (I actually slept with a 9mm Browning beside the bed!).

In the early years we lost several colleagues from our community of plantation staff, miners and government officers.

The 1954 move to Nigeria was in part due to the hazardous family life in Malaya, even though the troubles were then subsiding. It was a difficult decision, for I had come to love that beautiful and essentially peaceful country.

The Nigerian post was tailor-made for me: again centrally processing raw rubber, as in Malaya, although now our input came from scattered smallholdings, whereas previously we had been sourced from plantations totalling around 250,000 acres.

My job in Nigeria called for every ounce of patience at my disposal. The country was approaching full independence and my employers were a 'quango' having responsibility for Regional Development.

We were four expatriate staff with an expected total of around 500 workers, but inter-tribal friction was something new to me and, even worse, few of our workforce had any aptitude for hands-on industrial tasks.

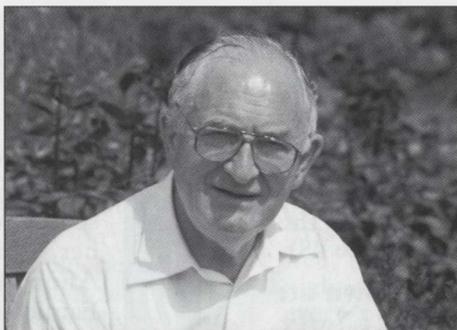
The frustration of repeatedly demonstrating simple jobs and of needing to re-run substandard batches was extremely wearing.

Executive decisions had to be coaxed from a sporadically-convening Management Committee, with a near-retirement Colonial Officer as Chairman supported by an assortment of tribal elders and some ambitious politicians- though still unworldly!

However I was able to call on the tact and diplomacy acquired with my Quaker schooling; for frankly I had not been 'gifted' with powers of friendly persuasion.

Rather unbelievably, after four taxing years, I was presiding over a viable enterprise; we were buying crops from farmers' cooperatives, processing and packing to top standards and commanding best prices on world markets. Ours stood alone, from among several similar industrial ventures, to be already yielding profits from the Government's investment.

Having completed two tours of duty in Nigeria, I had to bow to the irresistible changes happening in formerly dependent territories.



Presidential Profile

Michael D.T. Farr
2000-2001

Now here's what I mean by adapting and 'living by my wits'!

I spent the next five years in pharmaceutical marketing, employed by major British, American and German drug houses both at home and abroad. (For two of those years I was covering the pan-West African region from a base in Accra, Ghana).

Realistically though, for me anyway, pure sales and marketing lacked serious job-satisfaction. Consequently in 1963, aged 37, I sought vocational advice from industrial psychologists; whereupon supported by the natural aptitudes which they identified, I looked for a position in the newly emerging computer industry. My

starting point was as a trainee Systems Analyst with IBM.

Once again (just as in the Rubber and Pharmaceutical industries) I had the grind of interminable training courses. But there's always a fun element in Information Technology - even for a middle-aged family man!

Thereafter I was engaged in some absorbing assignments: largely financial in the City of London but interspersed

with others in the provinces and Ireland.

The Green Isle quickly cast its spell over me, making me realise - after years of globe-trotting - that here in Ireland I had found a spiritual home. Harsh realities necessitated the continuation of my career in England, but I remained closely in touch with Ireland. Thankfully by then I was accompanied by my new Irish wife, Eileen.

Retirement came in 1991, after completion of 12 years as a Micrographics Consultant with NCR Ltd. Again in this specialist sphere, just as with mainstream computer systems, I had found myself needing to assimilate clients' profiles - in their diverse pursuits - to ensure the design of IT solutions which matched precise needs.

The NCR stint was my longest with a single employer. Space limitations here (and visions of readers' stifled yawns) keep me from describing some other stop-gap jobs, inter alia Ambulance Driver, Rural Mobile Shopkeeper, Seagoing Croupier etc.

All told, my varied life seems to have been in the best traditions of 'ye menne of Sheepford'.

Twice married, I have three daughters, a step-daughter and step-son. Eileen and I between us share eight grandchildren (one grand-daughter; seven of the other sort).

My interests include travel, DIY, cryptic crosswords, civic affairs and reading. I was once a halfway-good badminton player (even playing at international level in Nigeria and Ghana) but I abandoned that a few years back on account of my creaking joints.

We now live in Dymchurch (close to our long-time home in Hythe, Kent) adjacent to the Channel ports and Tunnel, but secluded and untroubled by international traffic.

It is a great honour to have been elected to this office and it will be a challenge, during my Presidential Year, to attain the standards set by many worthy predecessors.

Obviously the testing of my mettle will come with the 2001 Reunion. Watch this space!

Missing Persons

The following SOSA members are no longer at the address held on the current membership list. This means that we are unable to send their copy of this magazine or any other SOSA information. Help in tracing their whereabouts would be much appreciated; please contact Julie Greenhill, the Membership Secretary (address details on page 48).

Name	Years	Last Known at:
Kozo Aburagi	1990-94	c/o Gabbitas, London W1X
Michael Arthur	1989-92	London NW11
John Augar	1990-92	Sutton Courtney, Oxon
Marcus Buneman	1987-90	London N20
Naomi Buneman	1988-91	London N20
Stacey Cole	1994-95	Banbury, Oxon
Caroline David	1991-93	Okehampton, Devon
Michael Donkersley	1994-96	Henley on Thames, Oxon
Ross Evans	1990-94	Shipston on Stour, Warwicks
Teresa Fairweather	1991-93	Rushden, Northants
Nigel Gates	1985-92	Tredington, Warwicks
Anna Griffiths	1985-88	Faringdon, Oxon
Lorna Hills	1992-94	Bromham, Beds
Kathryn Holton	1986-93	Sibford Gower, Oxon
Patrick Kennedy	1989-94	Bishops Itchington, Warwicks
Kevin Keung	1994-95	Hong Kong
Jessade Kiatnawanand	1992-94	Thai Embassy, London
Talat Kilcioglu	1987-90	Farnborough, Hants
Dominic List	1987-92	Welwyn, Herts
John David Lunnon	1993-96	RAF Laarbruck, Germany
Thomasz Majszyk	1987-91	c/o London N9
Sara Martin	1992-94	Leafield, Oxon
Naomi Prosser	1988-92	Bloxham, Oxon
Toby Prosser	1988-91	Bloxham, Oxon
Susan Samm	1981-84	Biggleswade, Beds
Debra Schwartz	1989-93	California, USA
Emily St Clair	1986-91	London N8
Chawalit Taibowornpitak	1991-93	Thai Embassy, London
Natasha Viney	1985-90	Hong Kong
Nancy Yuen	1994-95	Hong Kong

*'Ye Menne of Sheep-ford wendath
withersoever they wilen'*

News of old scholars

Mike Farr has heard from **Grace Allen** who sends her greetings to anyone who remembers her, and in turn, she recently had a visit from **Anne Rado (née Taylor)** and the 'Morley Family' from Canada - the sister-in-law and niece of the late **Jean Morley**.

From **Irene Yarwood Tester** who writes, 'I am so sorry not to be able to get to Old Scholars this year. I am now one of the oldest members (1920-22) and my husband at 92 cannot really be left for more than a few hours. I would like to express my great appreciation of all the work that the officers do. It is much appreciated. Sibford for me was one of the best two years of my life - as for many others. I would like the Committee and everyone to know that their efforts are appreciated even by absentees!'

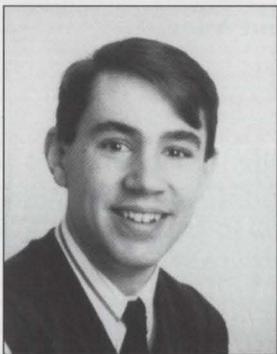
From **Eddie and Margaret Goudge** (Eddie was at Sibford in the 1950's and followed his father **Frederick Goudge** who was at Sibford in the 1930's)... Eddie writes from his home in South Africa where he runs a dance centre. 'It has been extremely busy this year, sometimes not knowing which way to turn. I am not complaining, in fact I feel blessed. I am currently teaching at four schools plus two nights at a university which has around 500 members. We are about to host the annual intervarsity ballroom competition which you can imagine is quite hectic but thoroughly enjoyable. My university team are current holders of the intervarsity team trophy and we have been working very hard to retain it. We are aware, of course, that the SOSA Reunion is just around the corner so we wish you a successful weekend. We send our greetings to all of those who may remember us and look forward to being with you in the not-to-distant future.'

Robert Inverarity, who was at Sibford in the early sixties sends greetings to all who may remember him and was sorry that he couldn't get to this years Reunion.

From **Otto Wolf**, who was at Sibford between 1939-45, writes from Australia, 'I am always thrilled when I receive all the Sibford news and as you probably know I have been corresponding and talking to Michael Farr on several occasions. The 'Yesterdays Refugees' article certainly brought back many memories. Please remember me to all the Old Scholars whom I know and who I especially thank for the postcard sent from the 1999 Reunion.'

Charles Thornton (1984-89) writes: Leaving Sibford in 1989 I was to spend another four years in the grips of education before embarking on what has so far been a successful career in the UK tourism industry. Following the completion of a business studies course at a local further education college in Oxfordshire, I was offered a place at New College, Durham to study an HND in Tourism Management. Graduating in 1993, my first job took me inside one of Oxford's famous colleges (Christchurch) where for two years I worked for the cathedral's shop.

In 1995 I was invited to join Cotswold Wildlife Park to assist with their marketing activities before leaving home a year later and moving to Wiltshire where I am now manager of a Tourist Information Centre in Trowbridge. In the past six months the centre has celebrated obtaining the Government's Charter Mark Award and being made 'South West TIC of the Year' as part of the tourism industry's 'England for Excellence Award Scheme'. When not working I can be found travelling around the UK and Europe, enjoying music and theatre with friends together with getting involved with a variety of community organisations including Edington Priory Church, Voluntary Action West Wiltshire and the local chamber of commerce. Life is busy but it's proving to be immensely enjoyable! Charles can be contacted by email at: CFThornton@aol.com



Elinor Pedlar

(1983-89) writes: After leaving Sibford I started at Southport College part time and the rest of the time working for my dad in his shop, Wayfarers Arts Ltd. So the only free time I had was night time; I went out every night and that's how I met my boyfriend, Chris at Rock Night. He was a 'big time rocker' (long



Elinor Pedlar and son, Patrick

hair, been there, done that, got the t-shirt). We got engaged after 5 months and are still engaged now, but been and done even more and both really changed. I became Buyer/manager of the toy department within my dad's shop. sadly, due to many problems, and him wanting to retire, the shop had to close down in March 1997 after 70 years of family trading. So I decided to open up my own toy shop called Toyfarers Ltd, selling Teletubbies of course. The first Christmas in the shop I had a shock as on Christmas Eve I found out, after feeling sick, hungry and tired, that I was eight weeks pregnant. I couldn't believe it, as I had just got my life sorted with my own business, my own house and going to more gigs than hot dinners. I had a boy called Patrick, now just turned two. I had to close my shop last year and I haven't looked back since. My brother-in-law is one of the guitarists for a band called Gomez. Record companies far and near were hunting the band down and by the summer of '97 they had signed up to Hut Records. If anyone I know is going to any Gomez gigs, give me a ring (01704 566604) and we could meet up.

Emily Dumas writes: After leaving Sibford in 1990, I went to Eastbourne College of Food and Fashion. I studied childcare, restaurant management and catering in which I gained a diploma. From then on I joined my parents living abroad in Syria in the Middle East. When not visiting ancient ruins in the desert, I worked as a librarian in an international school. Later I worked as a trainee teacher in an American school. Two years later found me in Australia at my brother's wedding, then it was off to Jamaica, once again with my parents. Instead of sitting on beaches I got a job as an assistant librarian in another international school.

Coming back to England in 1997, I got a job with the Royal Mail as a postlady and yes, I get up at 5.30 am! I am also taking evening classes, doing more GCSEs. In February I crewed on a Tall Ship. It was fantastic and I really recommend it to anyone who wants an adventure; for more information contact the Jubilee Sailing Trust on 0238 044 9108 or visit www.jst.org.uk).



Emily Dumas with niece.



Harriet Langridge, Anne and Alison Farr and Julie Greenhill with bride, Liseli Bull.



Liseli Bull exchanges rings with her (very soon to be) husband.

Harriet Langridge and Julie Greenhill travelled to Africa to attend the wedding of old scholar, **Liseli Bull** in November 1999. Other old scholars attending included the **Farr** sisters, **Alison and Anne**.
(see more details on Page 33)

* *Births & Marriages*

* Simon Barfoot now has a son, William, born April 2000

* With the exception of the one birth and wedding mentioned above, we have, unfortunately, nothing further to report though surely not because there have been none in the past year. Sadly, the obituary list is always longer than the 'hatches and matches' so please allow us to include some more joyous news by informing us of your marriage, birth of offspring or wedding anniversary.

Wedding Anniversaries

Golden Wedding - **BROWN - Philip & Loraine** (née Quinton), married March 1950.

Diamond Wedding - **NAYLOR - Barrie & Sheila** (née MacPherson), married July 1940 at Sibford Gower Meeting House.

Many congratulations to both couples.



"Ye Menne of Sheep-ford wendath withersøever they wilen"

For those Old Scholars who live so far away and just cannot make it back to Sibford, these images (here and on the inside back-cover) will, I hope, recall for you just how beautiful the countryside around the school is, with some famous local haunts for many of us. For those

Old Scholars who live that little bit nearer but need encouragement to return - here are some reminders to whet your appetite. Why not take the plunge, return to the Annual Reunion next August Bank Holiday and see for yourself this glorious countryside once again.

I suppose it is inevitable that, with so many activities taking place over the Old Scholars' Weekend, no one reporter can do justice to all the events. If I've missed your favourite moment of the three days, apologies.

Saturday: it was raining, but warm - none of that familiar cold, sweeping wind assailing us across the playing field. We convened as usual in Fielding for badges, coffee and 'hello'; more confusing than usual as the previous 'let' overlapped ours. At one point some of us were to be found unbeknowningly tucking into cake belonging to a group of Quakers from the south-east; oh dear, how greedy of us! But nothing could daunt our spirits. As ever, we arrive determined to enjoy ourselves. And we did. Changes to this year's programme ensured more adequate meals and afternoon tea each day; most welcome. We were swept along too, on the tide of the Finch's exuberance and evident pleasure at being Joint Presidents in this Millennium year.

Saturday lunch in a warm dining hall with 'Chief barker', Guy Kingham admirably - and loudly - proclaiming necessary announcements. Then gossip time for those not involved in setting up their art and craft display down at the Manor; it was frenzied but purposeful activity for a couple of hours. Back to the Hill, a welcome

Annual Reunion Report



August 2000

cup of tea, and then into the Oliver Studio for the Leslie Baily Address. The lecture was given by Stephen Bunney, a former Sibford Deputy head. He was funny, at times poignant and so informative. Stephen held us in the palms of his capable hands; we laughed, listened spellbound and some of us even cried at the point when he played a recording of a song sung by a sixth former in a 1990 school production.

The Saturday evening ball gave all of us who wanted to an opportunity to 'dress up'. The dining hall had been transformed by a stage, theatrical lighting and a professional band. My enduring memory will be of a small boy who knelt

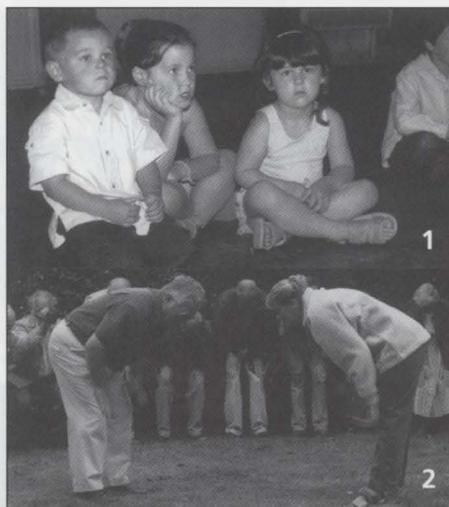
spellbound in the centre of the floor for most of the evening, just watching the musicians play.

Sunday: the quiet solitude of Meeting at the Gower, always a time when we can reflect on all that Sibford and the companionship of old scholars means to us individually. After lunch, our Millennium Guest, Norman Coxon, officially opened the Art & Craft Exhibition, showing us a pottery bowl he had made at the School as a small boy eighty years ago. The exhibition attracted a delighted reaction from a stream of visitors, who all commented upon both the quality and diversity of artifacts and paintings displayed.

Then a walk to The Elm - we were fortunate that the sun was shining - and a delicious picnic tea. Daytime 'Rockets' must have mystified passers-by; - to an outsider, what strange people we must look, - standing in a circle with our arms in the air or trying to touch our toes - some of us could!

Evening came and we moved once again into the Oliver Studio for 'The Sibford Follies' or 'Folly!' as it was sub-titled, ably compered by Mike Finch as 'Chairman Extraordinaire'. With Sue Freestone (Sue Pebbles as she was referred to throughout the show) at the piano, we were treated to many musical and verbal delights.

Starting by 'rolling out the barrel' in sing-along style, we were then offered contributions by Tara Overend (Sue's daughter), Mike Farr, Desmond Rose, Jane Ashdown, Nicola Jeffries, John Marsh and Hugh Maw. I think many of us were convinced Hugh would do himself an injury when he endeavoured to play the watering can horn! He succeeded without apparent hurt and had us curled up with laughter. Monday dawned and with it the AGM which ran remarkably smoothly. During the afternoon, the Art & Craft Exhibition re-opened at the Manor, with sports and recreation in the sports hall and Quiz Time around the campus for those who hadn't completed it on Sunday. The quiz was compiled by Hilary Haddleton and the Grimes family, and won by the Ricci and Casson families. Tea-with-the-Head this year was at the Manor. So many people arrived to 'pay their last respects' to this part of the school, that it caused some problems for the group photographers; there wasn't room! Later a delicious meal followed the Presidential Reception and, once dinner had been enjoyed and cleared away, we all listened in hushed silence to Wendy Finch's warmly appreciated Presidential Address. A gentle response in the soft Canadian voice of School Committee Guest, Ann Noël Clark, was equally enjoyed. Finally, Rockets, Auld Lang Syne and many fond good-



byes ended another happy and memorable reunion. Congratulations to Ellen Salway for bringing it to fruition, having stepped into the breach as Reunion Secretary at very short notice.

Ann Bond

ACCOMMODATION

With much reduced overnight accommodation at the school due to the redevelopment programme **SOSA** is compiling a list of bed and breakfast accommodation within easy reach of Sibford, including local old scholars who are willing to offer such facilities.

A list of local B & Bs will assist old scholars who wish to attend future Reunions (and/or other events).

Local recent leavers: can your parents offer an overnight bed or beds? Any help will be appreciated.

Please contact Ann Bond (list compiler) on 01608 684385, or e-mail her at:

AnnBondSOSA@aol.com

Photos

- 1) *Please, somebody ask me to dance*
- 2) *Where's the elm gone?*
- 3) *Michael Grimes & Rebecca Hare - Cheers!*
- 4) *Oh my goodness! What have I done?*
- 5) *Isn't she pretty?*
- 6) *Ruth Jones & Christopher Plummer*



SOSA REUNION 2000





Presidents - Mike & Wendy Finch • Picnic at the Elm • Four Committee beauties • Jen Macintosh & Hadley Quinton



The 'unofficial' reunion at the Blaize

Raymond & Ann Bond



Final Rockets at the Manor - Saying 'goodbye to The Old School'



Anne Muir

Guy Kingham clowning around

Jane Ashdown & Julie Greenhill • After Meeting • Stephen Bunney leads the Conga • Wendy Finch & Jessica





Pat Grimes & Ann Noël Clark



Captivated!



Liz Bunney with 2 'baby' Bunneys



Come on, give us a twirl!

Those who attended for all or part of the Annual Reunion 2000 were:

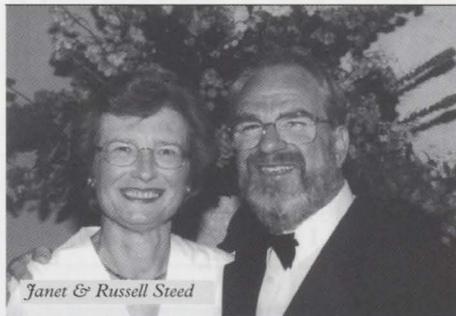
Barbara Abercrombie, Jane Ashdown, Gemma Baggs, Peter Baily, Simon Barfoot, Richard, Susie & Jessica Bartholomew, Chloe & Nick Bennett, Lorna Bergstrom, Alix Blakelock, Ann & Raymond Bond, Michael & Scilla Bond, Loraine & Philip Brown, Moreen Budgen, Liz, Stephen, Rosanna & William Bunney, David Carlton Smith, Keiron Carroll, Diana, David, Matthew & Rachel Casson, Ann Noël Clark (School Committee Guest), Andrew Clark, Norman Coxon, Irene Coxon Smith, Margaret Dale, June Dawson, Tom Davies, Bryony Denton Williams, Dorothy & Martin Dodsworth, Heather, John, Jessie & Joe Downard, Margaret, Barnabas & Nathaniel Fairnington, Mike Farr, Marjorie Fielding, Mike & Wendy Finch, Hugo Finley, Ruth Fletcher, Paul Frampton, Ken Francis, Sue & Rupert Freestone, Derek & Dorrie Gaffee, Irene Glaister, Julie Greenhill, Chris, Pat, Michael & Nicola Grimes, Jane Gunston, Hilary & John Haddleton, David Haines, Rebecca Hare, Arthur, Pamela & Phillipa Harrison, Ben Hedges, Ian Hedger, Jim Hilling, Kathy Holden, Brian Holliday, Pauline Hooper, John Hughes, Neil & Yvonne Hunt, Anthea James, Nicola Jefferies, Ruth Jones, Janice Kennedy, Guy Kingham, Michael Ladell, David Laity, Tom

Lane, Adrienne Lawler, Paul Levy, Bronwen Lilley, Jeanne Little, Diana Lloyd, Paul Ludlow, Winifred Lycett, Jennifer MacIntosh, John Marsh, Mark Mercer, Philip & Janet Manasseh, Margaret le Mare, Hugh & Daphne Maw, Caroline & Kate Mills, Janet Mitchinson, David Moore, Jean Moore, Ian Morris, Michael Morris, Philip & Rosamund Morris, Anne Muir, Barrie & Sheila Naylor, Jean & John Osborne, Tara Overend, Marjorie Palmer, Janet Parsons, Chris Plummer, Harold Pugmire, Johnathan Pratt, Cindy Poulton, Barbara Quinton, Hedley Quinton, Alexandra & Steven Ranford, Margaret & Peter Rhodes, Eleri & Ivano Ricci, Anne, Peter, Adele, Charlotte & Daniel Rose, Desmond & Margaret Rose, Navid Sadrzadeh, Julian Sandiford, Ellen Salway, Erica & Fred Sessa, Janet & Joseph Sewell, Margaret Shelley, Jim & Joan Shields, Jenny & Peter Sladen, Jeanne Southam, Claire Smith, Janet & Russell Steed, Mavis Stiles, John & Doreen Taylor, Richard & Anne Taylor, Nancy, Joel & Cherry Taylor, James Thompson, Jayne & Percy Turner, Maggie Vella, Kevin Viney, Lilian Ward, Tim Wardle, Sylvia Warren, Jill, Paul, Rebecca, Tom & Victoria Wathen, John Watson, Christine, Ian & Mary Weatherhead, Judith Weekes, Chris & Sylvia Williams.

Sorry if we've missed anyone!



Rupert & Sue Freestone



Janet & Russell Steed



Finches & Weatherheads



Nick Bennett & Paul Frampton



Tea in the 'walled garden'



Chris Grimes & Yvonne Atkinson



Hugh Maw - concerto for watering can!



The Derek Bruce Showband playing for the ball.



Say 'cheese'!



Norman Coxon opens the Art & Craft Exhibition



Tom Lane



Barnabas & Nathaniel Fairington

The Presidential Address

Given by Wendy Finch at the Presidential Dinner held on Monday 28th August 2000.

I think, by now, you have probably heard enough from Mike over this weekend, so it is my turn for the next few minutes or so to have my say. This will not be a long address. Those of you who know me well will be aware that doing something like this is very much out of character and has caused me much anxiety. I thought that I would use as my theme this evening my time spent at Sibford and all that it has given to me. You will all be aware of how dear Sibford is to Mike... I think it has made a huge difference to my life as well.

I arrived at Sibford on the 24th August 1978, which was twenty-two years ago last Thursday. Ken Greaves was Head at this time. I had seen an advertisement in the Banbury Guardian for help in the Sewing Room. I think the advertisement was worded something like - *Help required in the Sewing Room to look after and maintain children's clothing - you may be required to help with some ironing.* All I can say is it's a good job that I like ironing!

I have every sympathy now for visitors who cannot find the School - when I came for my interview I went to the school in the Gower first and couldn't understand why there was no one there. I eventually made my way to the Ferris and as I parked in the Hill car park, Margaret Dring came dashing out of the

door to greet me. She didn't give me any time to catch my breath but whisked me off on a show-round of the school. I don't think I was able to get a word in



Wendy Finch - Joint President 1999-2000

for the next hour or so! Anyway I got the job. It was ideal for me because at that time, my son Richard (who is here this evening) was only nine years old and this would allow me to have the school holidays with him (at that time the support staff had most of the school holidays off). I thought this would be a part time job which would see me through to a time when Richard was older and I could look for something full time!

I had previously been working as a Bookmakers Clerk, so as you can imagine - from Bookmakers Clerk to working in a Quaker School were worlds apart. Working alongside Margaret Dring, who many of you will remember

with affection, was an experience in itself. She could be a formidable lady but also very compassionate. I remember my first two days were spent along with the two other members of staff who were employed in the sewing room making 280 beds ready for the children to return - we had a lot more boarders at Sibford in those days. It was a baptism of fire, for Margaret Dring was a perfectionist as far as bedmaking was concerned; all beds had to be made with hospital corners and the bedspread and top sheet had to be folded back nine inches at the top. She would go around the houses afterwards and would pull off the bedding of any that didn't come up to her standard ready to be made again. To this day I am very fussy at home with how the bed is made and towels always have to be folded lengthways first and stacked in the cupboards with the folds towards you.

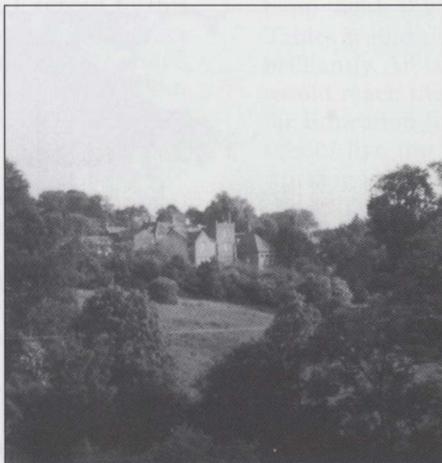
Margaret was a character. She would not ever refer to us by our first name, it was always full title. We were discouraged from talking casually while we were working, she said, 'if you are talking you are not working', so we spent much of our day in silence, except when she had gone to lunch when we caught up with news but as soon as she appeared on the drive - silence descended again. What always amazed me though, was that when Margaret helped out with the ironing, she would chat non stop about anything and everything! She also maintained that a task occupied the time available for it, she therefore made sure

that there was always another job waiting to be done so that we did not linger over the first. However, although she could be a bit of a tyrant, she was also a great source of strength to me and I feel privileged to have been able to work with her.

When Margaret retired in 1982 I was appointed School House-keeper and by now Jim Graham had taken over the helm. I continued as Housekeeper until 1991. By the time of my appointment, Summer Lets were becoming the norm - so the job that started off as part time had become very much full time! During this time I also became Assistant House Mistress in Gillett working with Lesley Norton. I stayed in Gillett for two years moving out when I married Mike. This was during the October half term and in true Sibford fashion the flat that I was in, was needed for another member of staff so I had to vacate my flat on the morning that we married. Not only was I getting dressed for our wedding which was at 11.00am, I was also packing up crockery and cleaning the bathroom at the same time!

The following summer in 1986, there was a vacancy in Fielding for House Parents and somehow or other Mike and I were 'persuaded' to apply for the job and we moved in during the summer holiday. For some inexplicable reason we decided that we could move ourselves from Sibford Gower - so we borrowed the Green Sherpa van from school and started loading. Despite Richard's help it seemed to take forever and after a day and a half and many trips between house and flat Mike said he would chat with Percy Turner and Philip Gilbert and see

if they could lend a hand to get the remaining things removed. Percy is here tonight and may well remember the event. They arrived along with the tractor and trailer. They loaded what was left on to the trailer in no time and off they went. It wasn't until I saw them disappearing around the corner that I



The Manor - where life at Sibford began for Wendy

realised that on top of the load was the drawer from the dressing table in which was my underwear, sitting right on the very top not covered over but for all to see - I had visions of all my knickers floating away across the valley somewhere.

We spent two years in Fielding which was an experience I wouldn't have missed but not one I want to repeat either. I found that working full time and looking after 40 Sixth Formers, although never dull, was very tiring. As we all know youngsters have so much energy and don't seem to have the need for sleep. One event I will always remember from those days was that

there had been a problem one evening with someone getting on to the roof of the dining room and causing some damage to the vents. The feeling was that it may have been some of the Sixth Form boys. The next evening we had a House Meeting and Mike 'suggested' that some of those present may well know who had done this! We then went back into our flat and within 15 minutes there was a knock at the door - it was one of the lads, there to confess. Mike took him into the sitting room to interrogate him. I always tried to make myself scarce when they were in for a tongue lashing as I never found it easy seeing them in trouble, so I made myself busy in the kitchen. After a few more minutes there was another knock on the door and then another. Mike now had four lads in with him. I can't remember what their punishment was but they did it with good grace and could see the error of their ways. We moved out of Fielding in 1988 and went back to doing just our full time jobs. It was wonderful to have evenings and weekends back

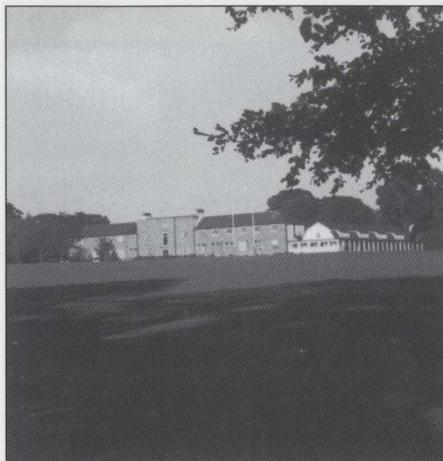
In 1991 (John Dunston was now Head) I decided that I needed to change tack and perhaps needed to move on from Sibford. I signed up in Banbury for evening classes in word processing and basic computer studies. However fate seemed to take hold again. A vacancy arose in Reception and I applied for it and got it, and that is where I have been ever since. My knowledge of the nooks and crannies and the working life of the School has stood me in good stead during my time 'Front of House'. I have so enjoyed this job. Every day is so varied, I have no idea in the morning what or who is going to come through

the door during the day.

I have taken delivery of; sheep's eyes for the science department,... looked after live mice for pupils, ... retrieved various items of clothing and equipment from all sorts of strange places and even sent the maintenance and gardening department off to try and catch a pot-bellied black pig which had appeared on campus; they didn't manage to catch it and in fact I believe Sue Freestone arranged a pig chase on the following Sunday morning and they still didn't catch it. However, the owner was traced and we hope that the pig eventually returned to its sty! The children and even some of the staff think that we have every thing and every one hidden in reception and they all come in and ask for it or them... A wonderful story from when Stephen Bunney was Deputy Head was that one of the girls had gone missing and as a search of the area was being headed by Stephen, a police constable rang from Banbury to say that they had a young girl at the police station in Banbury and she also had with her a rabbit; you can imagine this PCs reaction when I asked him to hold the line while I found Mr Bunney! There was a deathly silence on the other end of the phone and I had to explain that he was in fact our Deputy head. You will be pleased to know that both child and rabbit were returned safely.

At a party to congratulate long serving members of staff two years ago, Sue Freestone presented me with flowers and suggested that I say a few words. As I have already said, public speaking is not my forte. I had so much that I wanted to say, and so many people that I wanted to thank, but at the time and in

front of staff, most of whom are standing in front of a class every day, nothing would come to mind. So I mumbled something about having lots of friends and that was it. So now I have a platform, I will say it to you. I have made so many good and trusted friends at Sibford ...among staff, pupils and old



The Hill - where Wendy now operates 'front of house'

scholars. Sibford is very special, we all know that. It offers so much support to its community. There have been occasions when I have found things not easy. When Mike left the School it was very difficult of course for him, but it was also difficult for me, but the staff were all there for me quietly offering support when I needed it.

There is something about Sibford which can't be explained. We get many visitors who talk about its feeling of warmth and friendship when they leave. Most people would determine support at Sibford as being 'educational' but I believe that it is total support. I have often said that when you come to work at Sibford you either come for a short time or if you

traverse that line, you are here for life. We truly are a 'society of friends' - a family who look out for each other. I have seen so much commitment since I came to Sibford. A commitment from teaching staff who spend hours of their free time with an individual pupil helping and building their confidence enough so that they will do well. Amongst the support staff there are dedicated people willing to put in many hours just so that the place looks good or food is prepared for an Open Morning or a special event.

It is also apparent that Sibford is a family when we come back to the Old Scholars' Reunions, everyone is welcomed by each other like a long lost relative and their highs are celebrated and their lows sympathised with.

My father, who was a lovely gentle man with high morals, believed that we were all put on this earth to help one another and this is what he tried to do during his life. This is what Sibford is all about - helping one another.

Finally, there have been many changes during my time at Sibford and as we move into the new century it looks as though there are many more exciting developments planned - throughout all of these changes good or bad, Sibford's spirit remains intact, sometimes repressed but always coming back to the fore in the end. Let us hope that we and those who follow us can keep this spirit alive for many years to come.

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“That’s not what I went to university for!”

The Leslie Baily Address - 2000

It was Christmas time when I returned home from school and Liz said to me, ‘Mike Finch has phoned you and I think I said, ‘Yes.’ She didn’t tell me what she had agreed to and instead said, ‘You’d better phone him and find out what he wants’. This I did and this is when I learnt he was asking me to deliver the Leslie Baily lecture this year. I agreed to this and asked him what about a title. He did not say much other than, ‘talk about what you like’. In December that seemed simple, something was bound to occur to me by August but unfortunately, life is not that simple and nothing really came to mind. It was Easter time when I thought I should do something about the lecture, as I would probably have to write something as well. I began to think about previous lecturers I had heard in the past. I remembered Mike talking about the History of Sibford, Leslie Harrison talking about Organic Foods and then I remembered Sheila Stewart talking about her books. I felt that I could do nothing along these lines and was really quite stumped. Then I went to the cinema and saw the film by Ben Elton called ‘Maybe Baby’. In this film Ben wrote about his and his wife’s attempts to get a baby via IVF. Don’t worry, I am not going to talk about IVF but I am going to follow Ben Elton and talk to you about something I know about. Something in fact that I first heard during my first term at Sibford School.

I was Deputy Head at the school. One of my jobs, at the end of term, was to organise ‘Packing’ in the boarding houses. We had this agreed arrangement by which non-residential teaching staff went to the houses to help the pupils pack. It seemed simple; I made the lists and sat back expecting it to happen. However, my friend Stuart Hedley, the Housemaster of Lister Boys, phoned up to me in the Hill Building and said, ‘There is someone missing (I won’t say whom). They should be down here. They don’t understand what it is like to be a Boarding House Master. We are here for hour after hour after hour after hour and nobody takes any notice and nobody does anything for us.’ (This is a typical Stuart response as some of you will know!) I listened to what he had to say and discovered who this absent colleague was. I sought the person out and said to them, ‘I think that you are meant to be down in Lister Boys helping X and Y pack their trunks.’ The person replied, ‘That is not what I went to university for. I went to train as a teacher!’ This comment has returned to me over the years and has always got me thinking about what training to teach is all about.

A general accepted view of teaching is typified by the TV programme ‘The Little House on the Prairie’. In the programme there is a school room with a school teacher. In the classroom the children sit quietly and behave brilliantly. They get all their work done. They tend to answer the questions correctly. They all get stars for their work. Everything appears to be perfection. The school bell rings for the end of the day - all the children run out saying, ‘Goodbye Miss’, and everything is fine. Wouldn’t the Government be happy with this? Everyone getting everything right. League Tables would not be necessary as everyone would be doing brilliantly. All students would be model pupils and everyone would reach the bench marks laid down by the Department for Education & Employment. Sadly, I have never taught in a school like this. Instead I seem to spend most of my time working at the other end of the spectrum to that described above. The 2.1% of students in the UK who do not reach the five GCSE pass grade cut-off.

The students I teach have a different level of life from those in ‘The Little House on the Prairie’. I would like to describe one of them to you. His name is Robert and was a member of my Year 11 GCSE Maths group. He is about 5ft 1inch tall and, like me, on the rather tubby side. He has an ability to talk as much as me in the classroom, if not more. He does not do very much work but somehow manages to get full marks, because he has either copied his neighbours work or he has looked up the answers in the back of the book. Robert is what we call a lad. He can be rude in his classes and can be very disruptive. He comes from a very tragic family background. His father has been in prison. He came out three years ago and sadly took his own life a year later because he could not find work. Robert has not really recovered from this tragedy and feels put upon because in his words no one wishes to help him. Dad is not there, his mum and uncle do not really want to know - so he feels he has to mess around. We talk about this a lot. We say to him, ‘Come on, you can do this. Why don’t you work properly?’ We don’t know what happened but it worked and during the Summer Term of Year 10 he was working brilliantly. He was working in class much better - or so we thought. It then turned out that he was putting in more effort but not in the work itself; he was copying better and including more detail. In short, he was better at hoodwinking us. By the time he got to the Spring Term of Year 11 he had sworn at so many teachers that he was removed from the school. So for the period March to July of this year he was not attending any classes and by the time exams came around he was so disillusioned that he did not bother doing any exams.

His school career ended with him passing nothing. This is sad but it is the way it is.

In the school where I presently teach there are 1350 students. Percentage wise there are not many who cause major problems. However, the number is such that the staff are quite frequently challenged on how to keep the students on the education ladder. The problems that we face are not just those of laddish behaviour like Robert. In the last few months I have come across the following problems: schoolgirl pregnancy; girls falling out with their boyfriends; drug taking; alcohol; parental break-up; pupils falling out of trees and injuring themselves etc. All these things require staff attention and keep us from getting on with the job of teaching in the traditional sense.

My job then as a teacher is not only to work in the classroom but also to help some students come to terms with the social difficulties that they come across in their every day lives. These children are lonely and depressed and require someone to off load their anxieties onto. I come across children who are angry and upset. This anger can lead them to be bored and awkward in class.

I deal with children who are very nervous and worry about what happens if they are not going to get their grade Cs. They worry that this means that they will not get a job. They fear that they will fail if they do not get grade Cs and do not appreciate that about 50% of the population will not get Cs either. The damage is done and they drop out and begin to mess around and fail. Indeed, as teachers we don't always help because we have to prepare certain students for the fact that they are not going to get Cs and they will do well if they get F, D or an E. Sadly, our students see this as us telling them they are failures, because the Government and Press say that Grades C and above are the important Pass grades. These students tend to feel that we have let them down and so they turn off and become awkward in class.

Some students, particularly boys, do not work because they are frightened of being teased by their peers. If we work hard we will be called 'boffs'; we will be ostracised by our friends. This means they will be alone and then bored. It is much easier to join the crowd and not work. This is sad because with a little more effort they could do well and make progress and still enjoy the opportunities of a good social life.

We hear that a lot of our students are involved in the misuse of substances like aerosols, alcohol and drugs. All three are definitely present in most communities in the UK and

Market Rasen is no exception, but in my experience by far the major problem is alcohol. They seem to think that on a Friday night or a Saturday night, in order to be one of the 'in crowd' it is important to get drunk. It is certainly seen as a better way to get friends than trading 'Pokemon cards', wearing the correct designer label clothes etc. The problem with the drink does not end there. The young people, when they are drunk, are not aware of what they are doing and then get involved in petty crime, underage sex etc. This then leads them into further difficulties. They are then labelled as misfits and are soon seen as problems in school.

Another factor can be one of poor parenting. I know that it is easy to attack parents and say that they are to blame for everything that their children do wrong. I do not believe that this is true but I am convinced that many young people are not subject to consistent boundaries and this does cause problems because they are not clear about what is right and what is wrong. All too often they are told what to do and then see their parents doing something else providing the young person with the opportunity to misbehave and get in trouble.

In addition to these students with social difficulties, there is another group of students at my school who are dissatisfied and labelled as possible trouble makers. They are a group who Sibford is well used to seeing - they are dyslexics. Students, who for some reason or other, have a specific learning difficulty that makes it difficult for them to read, spell, copy and be organised. In a large school like ours, specific help is available but not in every class. At times in the larger classes teachers find it difficult to help these children. The children become frustrated because they can not get their problem over to the teacher and as a result they become angry, disruptive and sometimes rude. They end up being excluded from the lesson which actually makes the problem worse because they miss even more of the class and fall further behind. This is something I can sympathise with.

I must at this stage reiterate that the majority of students at De Aston do not fall into this deviant class. As a senior member of the Pastoral team and as a Special Needs teacher, it is inevitable that my job will focus on such children. So to me, and therefore I believe the school, they are a real challenge and deserve every effort we can make to help them experience success.

In order to get a rounded personality, it is necessary for an individual to follow these four levels of development: **Physical Development.** When we are born we have few

things that we can do but we have incredible potential. We learn various physical things - like walking - and in terms of our life history we soon make considerable progress. We therefore need to encourage and build on this physical development, something that I will come back to. **Emotional Development.** Our feelings, who we love, our relationships with people; useful things for us to learn. We learn them from our family, from the church, from our friends and from the media - as well as from schools. **Intellectual Development.** The bit that schools traditionally concentrate on. You were taught and learn things. You pass exams and become an intelligent being. This leads to good jobs and success. **Spiritual Development.** Schools have an input but as with the other categories, family, society and media also have an important input.

All four types of development occur continuously from birth to the grave. Indeed the quest for further development after the age of 16 is just as important as the development before and during school. Indeed, as an aside, I think it is one of the most important things about Quakerism. As you know, Quakers are continuously seeking the truth and as such are continuously questioning what happens around them. This I believe keeps the minds of Friends both active and nimble and if not contributing to their tendency to longevity, certainly accounts for their freshness and lively personalities well into old age.

Schools have traditionally concentrated on Intellectual Development and in my more cynical moments I might say that it is all they are interested in. Certainly, it forms a major part of the input needed to reach the league table targets. However, schools need to concentrate on all four types of development, particularly if they are to help those pupils outlined above to experience success. I believe that schools like Sibford have known this for a long time and have also been practising for just as long and as such have a lot to pass on to other schools. I am sure that I am being hard on my colleagues in the state system but at times it is the way it seems. The drive for exam results, league table performance and national curriculum requirements leave very little time for anything else than academic subject teaching.

What can we do in schools to encourage these categories of development and help produce rounded, successful students at the age of 16? To aid the learning process it is necessary for us to help an individual develop a well functioning, healthy brain. I believe that we can learn a lot from Maria Montessori on how to do this. She recognised that at birth a baby wants

to learn everything. They have to learn because if they do not, they will disappear into the great mass of things and be worthless. She realised that the environment around the child has to be right if learning is to take place. The parents, the home and the surroundings have to be right if learning is to take place. You can imagine if you just left a baby in a pushchair all the time, they will not develop as they should. They need to hear their family and they have got to see their family doing things. They need to see people doing things at a higher level than the ground. This encourages the child to want to sit up and later on to stand and walk. This needs to be stimulated does not disappear in our early years. It continues through school years right into old age

Montessori also noticed that the baby's hand motions go along side their physical and brain development. At all stages of development to do with sitting, crawling etc, there are parallel changes in hand grasp etc. This also continues well into school years. This is why it is important for us to encourage students to continue physical education in order to keep the development of the brain going. Indeed, with students who have specific learning difficulties, we frequently take them back through the early stages of physical development, as to learn the correct way to crawl, walk etc. can suddenly help their brain work more effectively.

By the age of 4 and 5, human beings have made massive developmental strides. They can walk, communicate, look after themselves, relate to each other. When they enter primary school they are all keen and well used to achieving success. As soon as a teacher asks a question they all put their hand up and eagerly want to answer it. This happens time after time. Then at about the age of 6 something appears to go wrong. The child answers the question and the teacher says they are wrong. The first taste of failure. If this happens too often the result can be disastrous and the young person could soon begin the journey of dissatisfaction and misbehaviour in school. Good schools do not allow this dissatisfaction to happen. They encourage the students to answer in different ways and get to the correct answer. Perhaps a little later on than the others, but in time for the student to experience the all important success. This hopefully would reduce the amount of laddish behaviour that goes on in our secondary schools.

The human brain can be split into two halves; the left and the right brain. The left brain does most things in a straight forward, logical order. If you are adding up 6 and 6, it will go 6,7,8 up to 12 in a logical movement. It does everything in a

linear way. Notes in books will be labelled a,b,c,d line by line. It also makes you neat and ordered. A good left brain therefore means that a student will do well at school. They are also very good at communicating to other people as they go through everything step by step.

The right brain, on the other hand, does things in a different way. It is more disordered. It takes the muddle that surrounds us in our daily lives and tries to make sense of it but it doesn't always do it in a logical manner. If I was to ask 7 add 8, it will know the answer is 15 but not count on step by step. Indeed they tend to jump towards an answer in an illogical fashion. This leads to communication problems as the whole process is not readily passed on in an easily understandable way.

People who are left brained therefore do quite well in school because they present everything easily so it is easily marked and assessed. A right brained person however, may get the correct answer at the end, but it is difficult to mark and assess because they tend to do six things at once, miss out bits and come over as living in a jumbled mess. These people therefore aren't marked to experience success and so become disillusioned as they believe they are doing everything correctly. It is true that many boys are right brained and this might be one of the reasons why today they are not doing as well as girls!

In addition to knowing things about how the brain works, teachers need to be aware how students absorb information. This is done through our senses - sight, hear, touch, taste and smell. As with all things people vary in which senses they use and to what degree. Those students who rely on sight and sound tend to do well in school because teachers have traditionally written things on the board, read books and lectured their pupils. Students who are stronger in the touch, taste and smell channels have therefore tended to lose out. These days to be a successful teacher, you need to move away from the lecture approach and move around the class adopting methods that use as many of the senses as possible, though it would be true to say that smell and taste are not really used that much. There has, however, been a movement towards fiddling, practical experiences etc. In maths we tend to use apparatus to learn techniques. Some people dismiss this as moving blocks around - 'in my day we used our brains'. In fact by moving the blocks people are learning and also stimulating their brain into a learning mode - remember the work of Montessori. Fifteen and sixteen year olds tend to see this as babyish and dismiss it but when we do get them to follow such techniques we notice, in some pupils,

considerable progress in learning algebra etc.

A good teacher will use all the senses to teach their lessons. Get the students to see something, hear something and feel it. Dyslexic students are taught to trace words out on sand paper or in trays of salt. The theory being that they will feel the word through their finger tips and learn the way the pen or pencil flows as it is written. Saying the letters at the same time means that in addition to feeling the word you are also hearing it and seeing it. These techniques might not be traditional methods like in 'Little House on the Prairie' but they do work for those students who do not always succeed when stuck quietly behind the desk.

As I have stressed more than once, the experience of success is essential for students. When they have success they feel good and confident. They will want to experience more of the same and will work towards achieving it. This leads us on to the emotional development of an individual. This is something that schools have not always concentrated on but it is something that I believe Quaker schools and boarding schools have done for sometime.

In boarding school you have to get on with people, you have to live with each other, you have to help them over their problems and you have to make it work, because if you don't you become very lonely and depressed.

What we are learning here are the 'values' of the society that we live in. It is often said that you catch these values from others and not taught them. I am certain that it is true our values are caught from the examples of others around us. As such it is then important for parents and teachers to be careful about what they say and do in order to set a good example. It is also necessary for the carers to ensure that the good practice copied by the young people is recognised and reinforced by praise

This example setting is only part of the value teaching process. It is also important for young people to be given opportunities to put these values into practice. In a boarding school this is done informally when pupils help each other out on matters that a day scholar would talk to their parents about. Schools can also do this by providing other opportunities for young people to go out and help each other. At Sibford a good example of this is the Day Centre for elderly folk that is run by the GNVQ Health and Social care students. Fundraising is often put forward by schools as a way by which their students develop these values and an under-

standing of others.

Schools like Sibford need to ensure that the importance of these values is not ignored by other schools and is an important part of the education process. It is important that schools and teachers within them need to show that what we mean is what we do. If there is a disagreement or an argument we have to show that we are prepared to listen to the other side and mediate towards a solution. We have to help the students do this as well. We have to put in rules not for the sake of giving power to the teachers but to show the pupils what is right and wrong and what is appropriate behaviour in our society. They also have an important part to play because they make students feel safe. They show people that the carers are concerned and have standards by which everyone is expected to live. The young people might not readily agree with these standards but if they are fairly applied and explained they are often accepted in the spirit that they are written - to stop people from being hurt.

If those standards are seriously broken the students can expect to be punished. This hopefully will make them think about what they are doing and stop them breaking the rules or at least prevent them from going too far. This feeling of safety is also important from an educational angle. Someone who feels safe is basically secure and is therefore more likely to put greater effort into their studies.

Assemblies are very important in schools. They give the staff an opportunity to deliver a message about values and relationships to the whole school. Pupils might not always take all of it in but they are given the opportunity to hear it. They also give the school community the opportunity to praise the good deeds of the pupils. To me the assemblies I went to at Sibford are some of the best that I have ever been to. Firstly, they allowed the school community to have a regular helping of silence. The silence was important; I do not know why but it was certainly powerful. The sense of bonding was tremendous. Not everyone has to be a full part of it. Some students and staff can allow their mind to wander onto mundane things like, 'I hope I am not in too much trouble for not doing my homework etc.', but it doesn't matter as nobody else needs to know. Other people however can use silence to concentrate and think about the simple message that was often given at the beginning of the assembly. When people do join in they somehow bond together and the feeling of comradeship and oneness is miraculous. Those occasions when the whole community is drawn in to the Meeting are extremely beautiful, helpful, satisfying and powerful.

In conclusion, I must not knock exam results completely. There is also a place for traditional learning, and certainly I for one have benefited from it. However my point is that there is an awful lot more to schools than just learning facts. We need to ensure that all pupils, especially those who find academia difficult, experience success, learn the values of society and begin their spiritual journey through life.

Success does not need to be the best exam results, it needs to be something that young people can be proud of. In my book a serious dyslexic who obtains sufficient GCSE grades to just get onto an A level course deserves as much praise as a student who obtains 9 A grades in the same exams, but for some reason the press will not publish the dyslexic student's picture in their papers.

I would like to finish by mentioning two students who I believe demonstrate what I think is good about Sibford. The first was a year 7 lad (aged 11) at the time. He, one morning, very proudly played the piano in a full school assembly. The performance was not good but the experience was enjoyed by everyone - including himself. He went away obviously satisfied and soon came back wanting to do more. He was allowed to and I am glad to say the standard improved. I don't think many schools would have allowed him to do this. The second student was a fifteen year old girl. She was not an academic and really did not enjoy school at all. She frequently would say to staff that she hated the place and could not wait to leave. She also managed to get herself into a lot of trouble and very nearly got expelled. Anyway, she became involved in singing and starred in two of the school shows. She performed brilliantly and certainly experienced success. Whilst this did not make her a brilliant academic, she did perk up and managed to improve her studies. She was able to leave the school with a few exam passes and went on to better things. Something when considering her home background (she was supported at Sibford by her local Services) was not expected of her. At first neither student was expected to do well and indeed did not do very well at the school. However, they were given the opportunity - allowed to share their success with the school - and in the end did extremely well.

Stephen Bunney

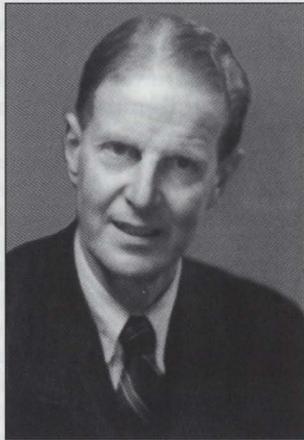
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(For the purposes of this magazine the text here has been edited. If you would like a copy of the full text please send a s.a.e. to the editor.)

FIFTY YEARS AGO - 1950

Compiled by Michael Finch

We sometimes look back and think that perhaps the world was a kinder place in which to live but in reality it was a very troubled world that still recovering from the ravages of the Second World War and it seemed precipitously close to be near to a Third World War as we were heavily embroiled in the Cold War and there seemed little likelihood of it being resolved in the short term. Here are some of the highlights of the half-century year of the twentieth century:



Ronald Lloyd
President 1949-50



Life at Sibford, on the other hand, offered far greater tranquillity. The big-time news was that for the first time since the opening of the Hill Building in 1930, Sibford was embarking on a major building development which involved the building of a centre wing (long planned) which was to include two new classrooms and a new boys dormitory. The following snippets offer a picture of those far off days.....

- George Orwell, famous for his futuristic books like 'nineteen eighty four' and 'Animal Farm', died on January 21st.
- Labour wins the General Election in February with a much reduced majority.
- Thor Heyerdahl's book 'The Kon-Tiki Expedition' is published on March 31st. This depicted his epic journey on a balsa-wood raft across the Pacific Ocean.
- The Cold War starts to become a 'Hot War' when North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25th. This dreadful conflict was to continue for another three years.
- Shock results are the life-blood of football but no international result has so amazed sport as the World Cup first round score of USA 1 England 0. Editors telephoned agencies to check that it was not a mistake!
- August 27th. The BBC transmitted TV pictures live across the Channel from France for the first time.
- In December, Bertrand Russell, always at the hub of controversy for his unpopular opinions, finds himself at the height of public respectability, with the award of the Nobel Prize for his book 'Marriage and Morels'.

THEODORE LAMB

Theodore Lamb died on March 23rd 1950 and Sibford lost one of its picturesque characters.

Theodore was 70 years of age. He was found in a distressed condition on the roadside by a bus driver and was removed to hospital, (The Horton) where he died two days later. He had contracted pneumonia due to exposure.

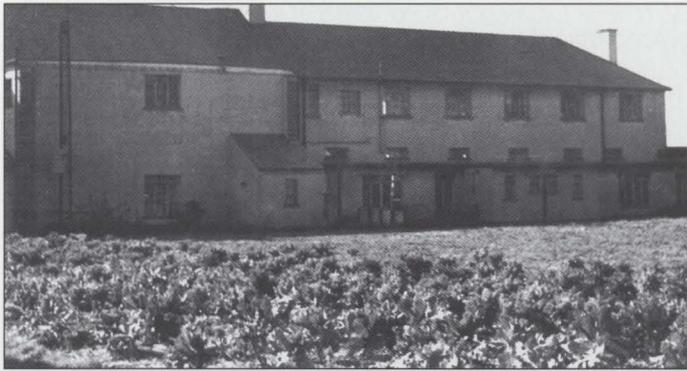
Theodore's home for nearly forty years was a shack where he lived as a hermit beside the Banbury - Shipston road. He carried to the grave the secret of why he chose a life of solitude instead of a comfortable country life he could have had. He would never talk about it. His clothes were a quaint garb of sackcloth and his hair and beard were matted and long but he had a cultured voice. Many strange stories have been told about him and he will, no doubt, become a Sibford legend.

He was a strong man and an honest one. During his youth he was apprenticed to a watchmaker and was skilful at his work. He was often entrusted by residents of Banbury with their gold watches and valuable clocks. If he called at a house during his wanderings for a glass of water he insisted on paying a penny for it. He grew most of his vegetables around his shack. He was not averse to visitors but had little to say until they dropped a coin into a tin mug which he kept for the purpose.

At one time, until his clothing became too meagre, he used to ride into Banbury on a bicycle devoid of rubber tyres and pulling a crudely made trolley, filled with pots and lumber. In the town he would buy a few goods.

The Rev. W.M. Grogan, Vicar of Sibford, spoke at the burial in the Friends Meeting House burial ground at Sibford Gower. He said that Theodore was simple and childlike but decent in his thoughts. He had entrusted the speaker with his money before he went into hospital. 'Theodore is paying for his funeral with this money,' said Mr Grogan. 'I am sure he would have liked it known that he always paid, as far as he was able, that which he owed.'

[Extracted from the SOSA Magazine for 1950 - the author is unknown.]



'Cabbages into Bricks' - the site of the new central wing at the Hill.



Braving the wintry Easter weather, James Harrod turns the first sod, watched by L., to R, Lillian and John Ward, Stan Ewan, John Coxon, Ronald Lloyd and Arthur Johnstone.

The Headmaster's notebook

As I write, the builders are just laying the first bricks of the new classrooms above floor level. There are two men and a boy on the job and the boy has just whistled to say that tea is ready ! Old Scholars will need to be patient. We who watch progress held up by shortages - of bricks, of cement, of labour - have become philosophical. All the same, we know that a start has been made.

This new accommodation is greatly needed. We have four class-rooms and nine classes, and nine into four won't go. The demand on the School for places has been as great as ever; and frequently when parents come, after their first exclamation of delight in the beauty of the School grounds, they go on to say 'We believe in the kind of education Sibford is providing.'

The past year has been a good one, a year of efficient work, (22 out of 27 passed School Certificate) happy play and as always, steady growth in the knowledge of things worthwhile. What have become old customs have been maintained, the visit to Stratford theatre (Henry VIII, Julius Ceasar and King Lear - at which we were first-nighters), Broughton Castle, Sulgrave Manor and Whichford Woods.

Our own play this year was 'Abraham Lincoln'. It was an ambitious play to do but the boys and girls rose to the occasion and it was exceedingly well done. The concerts arranged by the Village Music Club were of a high order and about eighty of the upper school were privileged to attend. The School orchestra acquitted itself well at general Meeting and Miss Robeson is to be congratulated on the results of her hard work. A new feature in school life is the Recorder Consort, a group of about twenty players who meet together weekly. Their skilful playing gives great pleasure.

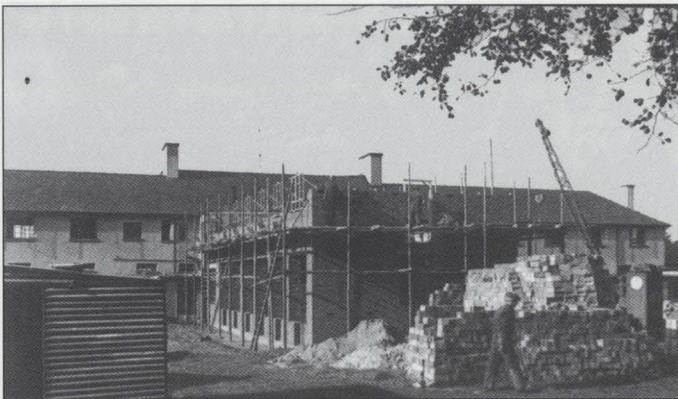
This year, for the first time, we sent fourteen pictures painted in our art classes to a London exhibition and, to our pleasure, thirteen were hung.

There has been a marked improvement in the cricket and tennis teams and some good matches have been played. The cricket team lost only one match. It has been a notable year for swimming too, sixty boys and girls passing the intermediate or higher examinations of the Royal Life Saving Society.

As School Certificate Examinations were over early this year, the Vth form had an interesting fortnight at the end of term. They paid visits to the Oxford Colleges and Swalcliffe and Hook Norton churches, and had valuable talks from - the vicar of Sibford, the Superintendent of Police and the local constable, the Banbury Water Engineer, Mrs Green (from the Post Office), Mr Williams (a local farmer), Mrs Winter (on teaching the deaf) and a hospital nurse.

The Swedish Ministry of Education sent two girls for five weeks in the summer to enter fully into school life. The Mabel Harrod Fund generously paid for a trip to London and Stratford for them.

Our most notable visitor - we have left her until last and she is also least - is a baby girl born to Mr Hirst, the science master and his wife, and it may certainly be said that her entry into Sibford life caused very great excitement. A susceptible boy even wrote a poem on the subject!



The new wing at the Hill takes shape.



1950 Art and Craft Exhibition which was opened by Dr Arnold Lloyd, at Sibford 1915-18 - Dean of College at Nottingham University.

It is interesting to note that at least eight participants in the 1950 exhibition also had displays in the 2000 exhibition, 50 years later!



Roger Clark opens the new wing at General Meeting 1950

Here are a few notes from my album of news which reaches me from Old Scholars all over the world:

Jean Laughton has left her nursing post in Harrogate and is at Cromwell House, Highgate, continuing her training. Cromwell House is a convalescent home for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Jean says that she is sharing her room with a Roman Catholic and a Jewess, the latter coming from Uruguay. ---- **Maureen Ratheram** is still at Ebley House, near Stroud, learning to look after babies in these homes. She says her work is to look after seven of them, the youngest being only six weeks old. ---- **Hugh Gibson** is third engineer on the SS Llandoverly Castle and writes an interesting letter telling of his journey to the Cape via Las Palmas. His ship passed close to Elba and then went by Corsica on to Genoa and Marseilles. At Zanzibar he saw an interesting collection of letters written by Livingstone and Stanley. ---- **Alfred P. Gibbs** (at Sibford from about 1901-1903) called in the summer term. He is 'preaching the gospel' in Chicago. He said his twin brother Edwin, is still in Africa. ---- **Ruby Mogridge (now Christensen)** writes from Tromso, Norway, where she is visiting her husband's parents. ---- **Michael van Blankenstein** is at the London School of Economics. He is, as you would expect, secretary of the Gramophone Society and is busy about all things musical. He says he has met **Valerie Ffello** and **Loraine Quinton** at various times in the college. His brother Louis, is apprenticed to a civil engineering firm and talks a lot about bridges, roads and concrete! ---- **Roger Pattison and Michael Iorwerth Williams** wrote from the Panama Canal. He was on his way to a farming job in New Zealand. ---- **Margaret Jones (Mrs Ashwell)** is living in Tottenham and has a young baby, Richard. ---- **Alix Blakelock (nee McSweeney)** has a second little son. ---- **Mavis Butler** has entered Homerton College to train for teaching. ---- A cutting from the Daily News refers to **Rainer Josenhans** selling Austin cars at the New York show. ---- **Frances Brookhouse (Malan)** writes from her home in Southern Rhodesia. She and her husband are growing oranges and maize and they now have a little daughter. She says she is now a true farmer's wife and are miles from anywhere. ---- **Dorcas Harris (now Carter)** has a son, Nigel. ---- **Kenneth Tyler** writes from Sheffield. He says he has written two books, and one was published in serial form in America. They have both been on the subject of magic. ---- **Raphaella Zamperini** has been married in Rome. ---- **Duncan Cummins** writes from Umtali in Southern Rhodesia, telling of his work as a forester. He says he is very isolated but feels it to be a grand life. ---- **Enid (Phillippa) Whiteman** has a little son called Paul. ---- **Vera Norgrove (Brown)** has a daughter, Deborah Jane. ---- **John Saunderson** appeared before the Tribunal as a conscientious objector and has been directed to farming. ---- **Alison Hargreaves** is a probationer nurse among the children of a London hospital. ---- **Peter Fielden** is in the RAMC doing his National Service. He instructs recruits in anatomy, first-aid, physiology and stretcher-drill. He has got into the first XV at rugby.

Arthur Johnstone.

(Footnote: It would make an interesting article to find out just what happened to all those names mentioned fifty years ago - any volunteers !)



Among those present at the 1950 Easter Reunion were:

Aylward, Bernard; Barrett, Doris & Reginald; Bowmer, Aileen; Blunsom, Bernard; Beckerlegge, Grace, Philip, Philip (Jnr) & Jonty; Bland, Jennifer; Baker, Shirley; Baily, Leslie; Barker, Basil; Barrell, Gabrielle; Coxon, John, Irene, Christine & Frazer; Canham, John & Daphne; Cemm, Terry; Cross, Leslie; Cheshire, Roy; Carter, Miriam; Chamberlain, Roger; Carr, Jean; Darling, Jeanne; Davison, Jean; Dumbleton, Peter & Frieda; Dale, John; Dodsworth, Joyce; Dearden, John & Bessie; Edridge, Cecily & Stella; Ewan, Stan; Edwards, June; Eavis, Janet; Feist, Alix; Farr, John & Patric; Fello, Valerie; Fuller, Jean; Friedburg, Esther; Galpine, Anne; Gaffee, Peter & Derek; Gibson, Hugh; Gilbert, Pamela & Lorna; Gibbins, Michael; Gibbons, Moreen; Harrod, James, Lucy & Elsie; Hockley, May, Robert, Elizabeth & David; Hooper, Brian; Horne, Carol & Jennifer; Holland, Alfred; Hemsley, Roger; Harrison, Ruth; Jenks, Hilda; Kaye, Arnold, Edward & Francis; Kelf-Cohen, Judy; Kissack, Richard; Lonsdale, Stephen; Lavendar, Barbara & Mary; Lynch, John; Litteck, Joachim; Law, George, Celia & Sally; Laughton, Jean; Lawrance, Henry & Kingsley; Lloyd, Ronald & Arnold;

Little, Alan & Chris; Ladell, Michael; Long, David; Manasseh, Philip & Tony; Mutch, Mavis; Mills, Victor, Jean, John & Mark; Morris, Philip; Moon, Jean; Moore, Geoffrey; Norman, Humphrey & Alex; Naish, Jessie; Newman, J; Osborne, Jean, John & Alison; Parsons, Janet; Phillips, Robert; Pearman, Reginald, Molly & Alan; Pugmire, Harold; Pollard, Wilfrid, Mabel, Tony, Ian & Robin; Quinton, Howard, Margaret, Ron, Jennifer, Hedley; Rann, Joy; Rice, Kathleen & John; Rollett, Frank, Vera, Jackie & Loraine; Rowland, Christopher; Russen, Anne; Ryan, Gordon; Saunderson, David; Sheppard, Jill; Southwell, Claire; Spira, Eric; Stone, Muriel; Strong, Ursula; Stafford, Peter; Sweatman, Ann & Jane; Sykes, John; Taylor, Ann; Taylor, John; Tennant, Maureen; Tettmar, Kenneth; Trout, Graham, Shelia & Rachel; Vine, Molly; Watkins, Geoffrey; Webb, Robin; Ward, John & Lilian; Ward, Russell; Wells, Margery; Whele, Marion; Whitaker, Beryl; Williams, Alan; Winter, Jean; Wragg, Anthony & Jill; Wilton, Molly; Worrall, Edith; Yeoman, Peggy; Young, Peter & David; Zugg, Michael.

Obituaries



Winter trees at Bishop's Field

It is with profound regret that we list below Members and friends of the School who have died since the printing of the last Magazine.

HUGH CARN. Hugh was at Sibford in the twenties and was a member of one of Sibford's famous dynastic families. His death was reported to us earlier in the year.

NEIL FRANCIS. 05/09/56 - 26/06/00, tragically died on holiday in Malta after a swimming accident. He had been staying at the home of an Old Scholar friend, Widgie Hammet. Neil, who was the eldest son of Ken and Elisabeth Francis (Ken was a former Deputy Head and was on the staff between 1960-1984), and brother of Tim (1970-75) and Anthony (1973-78), was brought up on the School campus, where, after leaving the Endowed School in the Gower, he completed his education, being a pupil at Sibford between 1968-75, and Head Boy in 1974-75. He then became an accountant in Banbury and for many years had his own business in partnership - Partyka Francis. The Francis' have been a popular and integral part of the Sibford community for many years and we extend our deepest sympathy to all the family.

HARRY ILES. Harry (Bob) Iles, was at Sibford between 1916-19, died on 29th December 1999. He had been suffering from Alzheimer's Disease for a number of years.

JOACHIM LITTECK. Died suddenly on April 11th, aged 68, after a heart attack. Jo was one of the famous band of refugees who came to Sibford to avoid Nazi persecution. It is only recently that he returned to SOSA to join us at our Reunions. He was at Sibford between 1944 and 1947.

F. MARGARET McCALLUM who was a Life Member of SOSA, died on 24th May 2000, aged 97 years. Margaret was at Sibford between 1914-17 and lived in Cornwall. She was the elder sister of

James McCallum who was at Sibford in the 30s. She was a much loved figure of Truro Friends Meeting.

TIM PYE. Died on 21st July 2000 after several months battle against cancer. This much loved character was at Sibford between 1937-41. After leaving school, he distinguished himself by becoming the youngest officer in the Paratroop Regiment, attaining the rank of Major at twenty-two. He saw active service until 1947. After leaving the Army he began an extensive career in sales, including a spell with John Holt and Co. of Liverpool who he worked for in West Africa for three years before returning to the UK. He also met his wife, Pat, at Holt's and they were married in 1954. Both he and his wife were keen golfer's. Tim always had some good golfing stories to tell at reunions! He was a vibrant, delightful man whose company we shall miss. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Pat.

MONICA SIMPSON (née Foss) Just as this magazine was going to press we heard that Monica had died on the 2nd October 2000. Monica and her husband, Jack (also an old scholar), were great supporters of the Midland Branch where her presence will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go out to Jack and his family.

MURIEL STEVENS (née Bentley). Died on 28th January 2000, aged 98. She was at Sibford between 1913-15 and was a Life Member of SOSA. She was married in 1924 to another Old Scholar, Harry Stevens (1907-09), who was a teacher at Leighton Park for many years where both of their sons, Michael and Roger, were educated. Reading meeting was an abiding focus throughout Muriel's life and she served Friends variously as Clerk and an Elder.

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 10.00am on Monday 28th August 2000 • Venue: Sibford Friends' School • Attendees: 90

Lucinda Poulton, Retiring President, opened the Meeting by officially handing over the Chair to Michael Finch

Michael Finch welcomed Old Scholars and Guests to the Meeting and reminded Guests that they held no voting rights.

1. Obituaries:

The meeting observed a short silence to remember the lives of:

John Baseley*, Hugh Carn, Leslie Cross, Neil Francis, Harry (Bob) Iles, Justin Juan* Joachim Litteck, Margaret McCallum, Tim Pye, Muriel Stevens (née Bentley), Yuka Suzuki*, Bill White* and Gordon Wright. (*Tributes appeared in the SOSA Newsletter December 1999. Further tributes will be in the SOSA Magazine)

2. Greetings Received from:

Michael Finch reported that Best Wishes for the Reunion had been received from many individuals including, Irene Yarwood Tester, Leslie Harrison & Pam Smettem, Otto Wolf, Sheila Trout, Sheila Williams, Eddie & Margaret Goudge, Brian Baldwin, Robert Templeton, Don & Beryl Ryan, Monica & Jack Simpson, Michael & Wendy van Blankenstein, Ashley & Carol Shirlin, Michael Grimes, Basil Franey, Bill Norgrove, Rainer Josenhanss, Esther Jackson, Grace Allen, Hugh Gibson, June Ellis, Ken & Robin Greaves. Doris Jefferson and Jean Mills.

3. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting:

The minutes were approved unchanged and signed by the Joint Presidents as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Reports

Chairman's Report:

Presented by Michael Finch: As a slight departure from the usual routine it has fallen to the Chair to give this years Annual Report on the work of the General Committee since the last A.G.M. If we use our scale of Highs and Lows we can certainly report that this has been a full, busy and productive year in which we have achieved a great deal.

We have been concerned for sometime now as to whether the Committee operates in the most efficient way. We felt that it didn't and that it was somewhat top-heavy and needed some restructuring. After much discussion we have arrived at a revised model which will see the Committee reduced in size to a total of 22 including ex officio's from a total of 31. We are also anxious that all members of the Committee feel that they have a part to play and that everyone has a specific role. The main burden of responsibility will still fall on the shoulders of the General Secretary but with a closer working link with the President, Vice-President and Retiring President

Most of the proposed Rule changes that have been presented to you encompass the Committee changes. The other proposals are designed for clarification purposes and these will be discussed later in the Agenda.

The other main area that the Committee has been concerned with is membership and publicity. I won't report on this too fully now as it will also be referred to later. I will say, however, that we are all fully motivated to improving our image and viability amongst present scholars, parents and staff. We know that SOSA has a positive and contemporary role to play in the Sibford community. It would be invidious of me to single out individuals but I feel I must pay tribute to the great energy and commitment of the specific sub-committee dealing with these matters of Julie Greenhill, Ann Bond, Ellen Salway and Tom Lane.

As you will also be aware we have been looking at the Magazine and its future and again this will be discussed later on the Agenda.

You will also be hearing about the financial state of the Association in due course.

At the beginning of my report I referred to the Highs and the Lows of our year. Well like most organisations it hasn't all been straight forward and plain sailing. We have had three resignations from the Committee during the year.

Hugo Finley resigned last October as he felt unable to continue due to his University commitments. We are most grateful for Hugo's contribution to SOSA and the Committee and we look forward to his return in due course. Unfortunately, James Thompson became ill during the year and had to relinquish his duties as Reunion Secretary. We are pleased that he is with us this weekend and is now returning to full health.

In moments of crisis there always seems to be a guardian angel and we were delighted that Ellen Salway was able to take over the reigns and has done a splendid job. The Meeting responded with loud applause.

Perhaps the most significant loss to the Committee was that of Ashley Shirlin, the General Secretary. The main reasons for this were as follows: Firstly he felt that he had to give more time to his business and secondly he felt unable to support the School's Development plans. The Committee felt that any opposing view could not be aired until the Plans had been made public which they were at the Open Meeting held on the 23rd January 2000. After that meeting the general consensus appeared to be in favour of the Development. The Committee sent a Minute to the School Committee supporting its work

and wishing it well with the Proposals.

The Committee was greatly saddened by Ashley's departure. His contributions to the Committee and the Association have been immense. He has been responsible for much development work especially in the field of Information Technology. It was also his initiative for the Committee to take a long hard look at its efficiency. We wish him well and we hope that it won't be too long before he is able to again take an active role.

Finally I would like to pay my personal tribute to all the Committee for the painstaking work which they undertake on behalf of the Association. I would also like to express heartfelt thanks, on behalf of the Committee, to our Acting General Secretary, Cindy Poulton, the other guardian angel, who stepped into the breach and also for putting up with me as Chairman. Thank you.

Membership Report

Lucinda Poulton reported that the membership has changed little in the last year. The total membership stands at 734, broken down this consists of:

Recent Leavers (10 & 15 years)	294
Honorary Life Members	18
Ordinary Members	174
Life Members	248

Ann Bond presented the A.G.M with a Membership Campaign Report:

In Committee, we frequently discuss the need to maintain and augment our membership numbers. We talk about it but do little. So, with the Centenary of the Association rapidly approaching (in 2003), we decided to take positive action. We all felt that this was too great a task for any one person to undertake, so formed a sub-committee of Julie Greenhill, Ellen Salway, Tom Lane and myself.

We have 'met' on numerous occasions, entirely by telephone, correspondence and e-mail - an innovation in itself. In June we put our sub-committee proposals to the General Committee, together with a 'Blue Print Task Sheet' for ongoing action. This was unanimously accepted and we have been allocated a budget.

We are calling ourselves the SOSA Membership Action Group' - SMAG for short - and swing into action next term.

We have already produced a leaflet for leavers, and will be preparing another version for general membership enquires shortly. We will be launching an official SOSA web-site. We also want more involvement from you all at the School's Open Day - this year we had a small stall and held an impromptu picnic on the south facing decking overlooking the sports field. Plans for next year will be announced in due course.

But the main help we need from all current members is two-fold. The first is in tracing 'lost' former pupils. You will know that just before the last Reunion, Raymond (Bond) started to compile a computerised archive of all former pupils. He already has over 3,000 names entered. It would be good to have this archive completed for 2003. He, and we, need names and where possible, addresses. Details of how you can help will be in the magazine.

Our other significant problem is how we attract leavers and the under 30s. With notable exceptions, this age group does not seem interested. Why? We have pin-pointed various probabilities but we seek your input. I don't propose we take any time in this meeting for discussion, but, if you have thoughts - and possible solutions, please see or write to me, Julie, Ellen or Tom. Thank you.

London Branch Report

Pat Grimes presented her report: -)

details of events are covered elsewhere in this magazine.

Midland Branch Report

Presented by Hilary Haddleton:)

School Committee Representative's Report

Presented by Russell Steed:

I will not be reporting on the development and appeal as this will be covered more fully, in more detail and more up to date elsewhere. Tied in with the development, but not part of it, is the new access from the Hook Norton Road. With the reduction in boarders has come an increase in traffic on the campus. At peak times twice a day there is a deadly mix of children, cars and buses on our narrow winding roads. A new access is needed to separate the bipeds and the wheels. The proposal was to lay a road across the playing field from the Hook Norton road to the south side of the sports hall. The local planning authority was firm in that their preferred route was from the Hook Norton side of Margaret Fell House. They themselves had difficulty in agreeing what the best option was. The access would have provided a route for all the heavy traffic during the development. In the event the planning authorities refused permission for a new access off the Hook Norton road. We have an access which is already in use on the Ferris side of Margaret Fell House. This will be developed into car parking and a drop zone. The uses and state of the Old School has often been considered. We have conflicting interests between it being a listed building and the requirements of the fire authorities; one requiring us to maintain it in its original state and the other requiring us to modify it to bring it up to modern standards of fire safety for use as boarding accommodation; add to this the high cost of maintenance just to keep it in its present dilapidated state and its low utilisation. The thought of selling the Old School was not a pleasant one, but the practicalities and the finance started to look like good sense as it was examined.

A group of committee members with the appropriate experience oversaw the preparation of the building for sale. The decision was made by full School Committee. However, all facilities now at the Manor, will have to be provided on the Hill site before the Old School is finally relinquished.

All committee business is now carried out by the committee as constituted by incorporation. The changeover from the old committee has been so smooth that few have, I think, been aware of the change. The committee is still made up of the same people using almost the same terminology as before.

Sibford Trading has been set up as a limited liability company and has started trading. It is essentially for activities which attract VAT. The core business of education does not attract VAT but the peripheral activities, such as lettings and the tuck shop, do. The VAT man was starting to show too much interest. Sibford Trading will keep us on the right side of the law.

Our Facilities Manager, Edmund Hudson, continues to work his budget to the limit. As far as possible, larger jobs, which might be done by outside contractors, are being done in house. Sometimes more slowly as time permits or as a rolling programme of renewal. Whichever way the money available is made more productive. Much of the work is not immediately obvious, but all goes to making the School a more pleasant environment. The more obvious include double glazing of some of the windows on the front of the Hill building and clearance of overgrown shrubbery and trees. More double glazing will be done as funds permit. On a recent sub committee meeting day, because the business of the day allowed, committee members had a look at parts of the buildings. We saw some of the day to day difficulties with the boilers and some of the dilapidated building fabric.

Sibford's ability to put on large productions continues. Last December the School put on a top quality performance of 'Grease' in the main hall. All tickets were sold well in advance. The production showed the need for facilities not only for the performers, but for the audience as well. As well as suffering the poor acoustics, a large part of the audience spent most of the performance standing around the side of the hall to get a better view. The problem was that the stage is at the same level as the audience so that only the front rows could see what was going on.

Some of you may have heard of changing the School badge and motto. The current ones instigated by Arthur Johnstone in the 1930's. Few ideas for replacement came forward together with some criticism of the change. It was apparent that few knew of the source of the motto. The badge is to be retained, but the motto spelling has been changed to modern day spelling. There was a strong contender for an alternative motto, which has been in use for some time: Each Talented, Each Different, ALL Valued.

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Michael Finch.

Income and Expenditure - Income is up slightly as is the Expenditure. I am happy to report that we have finished with a surplus of £2500.

Notes:

Subs are down because of a reduction in Recent leavers income. One has to put in perspective though that 1998-99 was an exceptional year. 1999-2000 was an average year. The current year will be well below average but we will talk of that in twelve months time when we have all the details. The 1999 Reunion, although showing a small loss of £33, didn't seem to suffer unduly from the high increase in booking costs. Numbers were encouragingly higher and that trend seems to have been maintained this year.

Magazine costs are about the same although they appear higher in the report, this is due to the fact that the Newsletter costs were transferred from the Admin. Account.

Archive Fund. This is a new fund that has been set-up by donations to help improve the Archive facility. It has now been added to in the current year and stands at £350. My hope is that we will view this as a joint venture with the School which would seem to be the most sensible way forward. Somewhere in the proposed developments there will be, at last, an Archive facility. I hope you will support the proposal that this fund, although administered by SOSA will be used for the future benefit of both the SOSA/School Archives. This is certainly the wish of the donors.

Investments. We are now in the process of reviewing our investment profile. There is £15,000 in the Life membership Fund which under the terms of our Constitution, cannot be used for normal expenditure so we should maximise our potential earnings from that fund. Ian Weatherhead and myself are processing a range of opportunities which Ian has gathered from his contacts in the City and we shall be looking at the most advantageous and ethical investment that we can find.

Recommendations:	• • • • •	£29 500 Available.	£3000 Centenary Year
		£15 000 Life Membership	£2000 Membership/Publicity expenses
		£ 3 000 Special Reserve Fund	£ 500 New Magazine
		£ 1 000 Millennium Year	£3000 Reunions 2001-2003, payment in advance
		£ 1 000 Contingency Fund	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£20 000	£8 500
		Balance available: £9 500	Balance remaining: £1 000

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and all the recommendations were: Proposed by - Julie Greenhill, Seconded by - Arthur Harrison Unanimously accepted by the Meeting.

5. Proposed Rule Changes

The proposals were presented by Michael Finch.

6b: Ordinary Members will be reduced from nine to six.

Proposal Accepted. There were no abstentions.

6c: Presidential Sub-Committee should include the Retiring President.

Proposal Accepted. There were no abstentions.

6e: Co-options - Nominations for co-options must be proposed and seconded in the recognised manner and all nominations must be submitted to all Committee members in advance of the next scheduled Committee meeting.

Proposal Accepted. There were no abstentions

6f: Two-thirds majority - Decisions will be determined by a two thirds majority of members present and eligible to vote. Abstentions would be counted as members not voting.

There was lengthy discussion on this rule change and clarification on two-thirds was requested. After much debate a new proposal was submitted and a vote taken:

Decisions will be determined by a two-thirds majority of members present and eligible to vote and voting.

Proposed by : Philip Morris Seconded by: Michael Farr.

Vote: For Proposal 40, Against 7, Abstentions 11 -- Proposal Carried.

6g: The Head and two Staff Representatives shall be ex officio non-voting members

Proposal Accepted. No Abstentions

7f: Each year the Annual General Meeting shall appoint members from the floor as necessary to maintain the Committee's Ordinary Membership. Paramount among candidates, and with a view to enhancing the link with past and present scholars, every effort should be made to include recent leavers to serve as ordinary Committee Members.

Proposal Accepted. There were no abstentions.

8b: present and eligible to vote. Abstentions would be counted as members not voting. Postal or Proxy voting is excluded.

Discussion took place as to the need to change this rule, it was explained to the meeting that at last year's AGM pieces of paper were handed to the President, at the AGM, by a potential candidate. In order to prevent this recurring there was a need to write this into the rules.

In light of the accepted Rule change to 6f the rule 8b would now read:

..... present and eligible to vote and voting. Postal or Proxy voting is excluded.

Proposal Accepted. There were no abstentions.

6. The Future of the Magazine

All members had received a joint letter from our Presidents and Sue Freestone prior to the AGM on the reasons behind dividing the Magazine. The School magazine will still be available to members and vice versa. It was asked if any thought had been given to selling the Magazine to non-members. This had not been considered but some thought would be given to this for the future. The meeting was happy with the principle for this year and also for the foreseeable future.

Proposal of separate SOSA and School Magazines for the year 2000 and beyond. Accepted unanimously.

Michael Finch offered thanks on behalf of SOSA to Michael Grimes for his previous excellent work on the Magazine. Thanks were also given to Caroline Mills for the production of this years Magazine.

The issue of the provision of Membership lists was raised. Michael Finch informed the meeting that it was now possible to produce lists. The question of Data Protection was raised. Ann Bond has been in touch with the Data Protection Authorities and we are apparently exempt. Further discussion on this matter will take place at the General Committee Meeting. With the development of a database by Raymond Bond, it is possible to also produce a list on disc.

The Meeting was adjourned for Coffee.

7. Elections

Position	Term (years)	Appointee	Proposer	Secunder
General Secretary	2	Lucinda Poulton	Wendy Finch	Michael Finch
Treasurer	3	Michael Finch	Lucinda Poulton	Ian Weatherhead
Reunion Secretary	2	Ellen Salway	Michael Finch	Julie Greenhill
Asst. Reunion Sec.	2	Nicola Grimes	Ellen Salway	Lucinda Poulton
Editor	3	-	-	-
Committee Member	3	Ian Weatherhead	Michael Finch	Ellen Salway
Committee Member	3	Guy Kingham	Lucinda Poulton	Julie Greenhill
Committee Member	1	James Thompson	Nicola Grimes	Julie Greenhill
Committee Member	1	Rebecca Hare	Chris Grimes	Hugh Maw

Confirmations

Editor	1	Caroline Mills
Committee Member	2	Tom Lane

All the above nominations were accepted unanimously by the Annual General Meeting.

Endorsement of the President 2000 - 2001 - Michael D. T. Farr

Endorsement of Vice President 2000 - 2001 - Simon Barfoot

Honorary Life Membership - Norman Coxon

8. Review of the School Year and Development Programme

Presented by Sue Freestone, John Marsh, Adrienne Lawler and Ian Weatherhead. Sue Freestone's full report is reproduced later in the magazine. John Marsh, Architect for the new Development, showed the meeting the new model for the development, because of the denial by the Planning Council to allow the original proposed access road there has been minor amendments to the original plan. The alternative showed the new octagonal Meeting Hall situated at the front of the School. It will be built on a Green Oak Frame and guidance has been given by Peter McCurdy, who is an Old Scholar and worked on the Globe Theatre. The Hall will have a capacity to hold 700 and it's new position forms a natural foyer with the Theatre (large hall).

The Art, Music and Swimming Pool have not moved from the original plans. The Swimming Pool will be a 4 lane, 25 metre pool. Following the construction of the new entrance to the School Campus, the priority will be to replace the facilities that are currently housed at the Manor and then move on to the new Meeting/Concert Hall, Theatre, administration and related facilities.

Adrienne Lawler, a parent of a current pupil and Chair of the Development Group, discussed the aims of the appeal which is to raise approximately 2 million pounds. She explained the importance of Corporate support, which is already excellent from such areas as Aston Martin, Raymond Blanc, QDAS plc - a successful Theatre Company who have chosen the Appeal as their Charity this year, this will mean that it will promote a National (charity) Profile for the Appeal. The Theatre Company produce most of the Pantomimes held around the country and twice throughout the duration of each pantomime a collection will be held for the Appeal. It is also important to attract Trusts, the responsibility of this falls to Helen Haughton, a member of the Development Group and an Old Scholar of Saffron Walden.

Individuals with connections to Sibford are also important in the process of fund raising. Obviously we do not all have money in large quantities to give but through the establishment of small fund raising events, or through donating things for raffles or auction a part is played. The pupils of the School have set themselves a target of £60 000 to raise and the staff have been challenged to put together other fund raising activities.

There are already dates which need to be marked in diaries. The Official launch of the Appeal is to be held at the School on Sunday 1st October 2000 - 'The Past giving to the Future'. On Saturday 7th October there will be a musical extravaganza of 'Yeoman of the Guard' organised by Tara Overend. Raymond Blanc is offering discount lunches at Le Manoir and in October Maralyn DiCuffa is holding a Hairdressing Marathon. The 27th January 2001 sees the highlight of the events already organised, a Ball to be held at Blenheim Palace in The Orangery. Tickets and further information on these events can be obtained from The Development Office at the School - 01295 781200.

Ian Weatherhead continue Adrienne's theme on fund raising. Focusing on the issue of giving something that does not have to be money, such things as a weeks holiday in a holiday home/caravan that you might own or a piece of art work that you may have produced, all these things can raise a good price at an auction. It is important not to feel that you can't help because you don't have the cash to give, we have seen from the Arts and Craft Exhibition the amazing talents that are in our midst.

If anybody has any ideas for raising additional funds it is important to let the Development Group know. Another important point is Gift Aids. Since April 2000, the Tax Man will give 28p for every £1 donated on behalf of basic rate tax payers, for high rate tax payers this increases to 18%. Gift Aid Declaration forms are available from the Development Office.

There was time following the presentations for questions, some of which were: Concern was raised about relationships with the Meeting House in Sibford Gower being broken with the building of a meeting hall, both Sue Freestone and Norman Coxon emphasised that relationships would not be broken, the School would continue to join the Gower and the Gower would join the School as currently happens. The question of the playing fields being divided by an access road was raised, the School has reclaimed land at the back of the Dining Hall which is already used for many sports activities. Another major worry was that Agriculture and Horticulture would be forgotten, there was reassurance that this was not this case, it was suggested that contact be made with Barney Smith at Woodbrooke, Sue Freestone would take this on board.

9. Any Other Business

Pearl Mayo Pictures - these have been reframed and were presented to Sue Freestone by the Presidents of SOSA

Peace Garden - the Peace Garden is in need of some attention. Nick Bennett addressed the meeting requesting volunteer to assist in two sessions to tidy up and prune some of the bushes and also to do some thinning out and replanting. There was a need to hold one session in the Autumn 2000 and the second in Spring 2001. If anybody wishes to assist in this project please contact Nick Bennett.

Mike Farr requested that if anybody had any suggestions for next years Reunion to please make contact with him.

The meeting closed at 13.10hrs.

“The Honorary Treasurer”

the life of old scholar, Anthony Hill with the Air Training Corps

One evening in November 1965, whilst walking from Nansen to the Hill, I decided in a moment of madness to scale the tennis court fence. Before I had climbed very far, I developed the same feeling as a spider would if it realised it had been caught inadvertently climbing onto another spider's web. Not that I am suggesting that Mr Jonas Fielding was a spider, when he suggested that I might like to continue my journey to the Hill without this diversion....captured.

What, you may wonder, has this got to do with The Honorary Treasurer? Being captured immediately springs to my mind.

I am the Honorary Treasurer of No. 120 Hendon Squadron Air Training Corps, Middlesex Wing, and became involved with the Squadron when my thirteen year old daughter wanted to do something completely different. I am now in my sixth year. Like most Honorary Treasurers, I am a volunteer and my time is free. The ATC is a Registered Charity, consequently my end of year accounts have to meet certain additional legal requirements to those organisations that do not have that status. The best part of the role is always when the accounts balance, and my figures agree with the bank's.

ATC Units are administered by Civilian Committees, who have the responsibility of handling all financial and procurement matters for the Squadron. They do not take part in the operational side of the Squadron, which is left to volunteer civilian instructors and uniformed officers who hold ranks similar to the RAF.

The three Services each have their own Cadet Scheme, and contrary to what may be perceived, does not attract frustrated young men eager to live out their 'Rambo'

dreams.

In addition to the ATC Squadrons, there are some 9000 young persons in school based squadrons throughout the country.

Surprisingly, there are more cadets in the ATC than there are men and women serving in the Royal Air Force itself, and equally surprising is that fewer than 3% of those people who join the ATC actually seek a career in the Air Force.

The squadron I am with is the only ATC squadron that has the same squadron number as an existing RAF squadron, being No. 120 Squadron, based at Kinloss, and flying Nimrod aircraft.

Enough about the background of the ATC, What does it do, why is it different to other youth based clubs, and why is it so popular?

The first thing that becomes apparent to the cadet is the need for smartness and discipline. Drill is an essential part of the discipline procedure, teaching the cadet to work as a team. At each session, (usually two per week), there is a parade during which the cadet is inspected for smartness of appearance. Many times the inspection is carried out by a Corporal or Sergeant, who is not necessarily an adult but may be by one of the promoted cadets. who equally may be older or younger than them.

During the winter months emphasis is placed on academic matters and classroom activities, and in the summer, outdoor activities utilising, in many cases, things that they have been taught during the winter.

Qualified instructors teach the cadets about the principles of flight, navigation, orienteering, first aid and use of the radio. The latter involves calling up other squadrons throughout the country, and using correct radio discipline in so doing. Most of the subjects taught are examined to

national standards applied by the Headquarters branch, thus encouraging personal achievement and squadron status.

Throughout the year regular camps are arranged so that the cadets can practise their survival training, learn to work as a disciplined group, and develop their leadership skills. A favourite locally based exercise is the night exercise where they split into groups and set off to a given location using prepared information. Obviously this is heavily supervised by the adult instructors.

As the weather improves and the evening get lighter, additional activities fill the agenda. 'Inter Wing Championships' take place in athletics, swimming, tennis, target shooting and drill, at which all cadets are encouraged to participate.

Like the other Services, the ATC has its speciality. The Navy has the sea; the Army has the land, and the Air Force the sky. All cadets have the opportunity to learn to fly, being taught to the level where they can qualify for solo flying in powered gliders. Whilst not all want to do that, they can take advantage of visits to operational air bases when they are taken up for flights in such aircraft as the Chinook helicopter, the Hercules transport carrier, and in the case of 120 Squadron, the Nimrod

Every ATC squadron has an annual summer camp at various air bases around the country which gives the cadets, not only the opportunity to witness life on a Royal Air Force Station, but also to meet other cadets from areas beyond their own Wing Area.

120 Squadron is particularly fortunate, as it has two camps, the second being as guests at RAF (120) Kinloss.

Opportunities of foreign travel exist for cadets, such as Holland to participate in the Joint Forces charity march to Nijmegen, and thanks to Hughie Green ('Opportunity Knocks'), free flights to Europe, courtesy of two major British airlines. My daughter spent a day in Amsterdam and, apart from an administration fee of £6, it was absolutely free.

All these activities are enjoyed by the cadets, and most of the events are free or subject to a small administration charge similar to that described above.

Each ATC squadron sets its own weekly charge for membership, which in our case is £1 per week, which is higher than most squadrons. Even so, where else can you go that will give you so much for so little?

*Anthony Hill
At Sibford 1964-66.*

African Wedding

Julie Greenhill, Harriet & Terry Langridge go to the wedding of Liseli Bull & Thandi Kamanga in Lusaka, Zambia.

We had been planning to go to Zambia for some time for the special occasion of Liseli and Thandi's wedding which was in November 1999.

Wrapped in our winter jumpers, we embarked on our African expedition which would take 14 hours.

After an uneventful flight, we stopped at Harare (which we were unaware of) where we moaned and groaned amongst ourselves. Harriet and I decided to have a stretch and a walk round the aircraft. Suddenly I heard a voice saying 'Julie, Julie over here', it was Anne & Alison Farr, another 2 old scholars who had ventured out to Zambia for the wedding. We finally landed in Lusaka, very hot (bearing in mind we were wrapped in winter clothes and it was now 35 degrees), thirsty, tired and hungry. We also discovered that 15 people on the flight were part of the wedding party, and we were all at the airport waiting to be collected including Winston & Irena, who were staying at the same hotel as us!! Finally Nicola (Liseli's sister and an Old Scholar) came to collect us surrounded by cousins and nieces who all took the time to greet us and make us feel welcome.

Liseli arrived looking stressed and hot. She announced that the reason she was late was because they had been trying to buy some beer for the wedding reception and after much haggling had finally bought some!

The next day was the beginning of the festivities. After being collected we ventured into Lusaka to collect all the wedding flowers, meet the family and friends and went to a crocodile farm where Harriet and Terry tried the local delicacy of croc burgers.

The evening festivities started with Liseli's hen night, where, by tradition, all the women and close friends in the family attend. The evening started hilariously with Liseli's (Lemonjelly) life story being told; we even got a mention as we were her 'naughty friends'. We met up with Alison and Anne again and yet another Old Scholar, Yinka. After much drinking, laughing, and dancing we finally returned to our hotel at 3.00am.

The next day it was the boys turn to go out for Thandi's stag night; they didn't return until 4.00am. The girls had a much more sedate evening, where the women in the family had a 'Kitchen Party'. This is not what it seems. The Bride and her spokeswoman open all the wedding presents, and her spokeswoman thanks all guests and explains what each present is for; it was a unique experience.

The wedding was not the only reason to travel to Africa. I had never been to Africa before and I wanted to see the amazing wildlife and to experience the culture. We travelled to the Kafoue National Park, which was special to Harriet. This one road north had pot holes that were so deep that a man could stand up in them!

We finally arrived and experienced our first game drive. To my utter amazement, a battered old vehicle that could hardly stand, let alone be driven, came to pick us up. Within two hours we saw antelope, hippos, and elephants; an utterly amazing experience I will never forget.

We travelled back to Lusaka for the wedding (we had no idea that a wedding could be so big) which was held in Mr Kamanga's huge back garden. We were in special company amongst government ministers and local dignitaries. We also met Aunt Edith, who it transpired was Lady Grenville Grey and the sister in law of the President of South Africa.

Thandi walked in with his mother, Mrs Kamanga, followed some five minutes later by Liseli and her mother, Dr M Bull, and her father, Theo Bull. Liseli looked absolutely stunning and beautiful; the ceremony was simple but encompassed the religious divide and included a lot of Quakerism which is what Liseli wanted to achieve. Again we met Anne and Alison Farr, some of her Leighton Park friends, other family members and generally enjoyed the special occasion of her wedding.

Thank you Liseli for inviting us and being able to be a part of your special day.

Julie Greenhill



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Head's report to SOSA AGM - August 28th, 2000

Where to begin? It has been another very busy, buzzy and successful year here at Sibford. However, I am going to keep my report very short because I know that the aspect of school life which interests you most at the moment is the development - more of that later.

Academically we go from strength to strength. We have just received the best ever GCSE results our pupils have ever achieved. This is without altering the nature of our entry. Most remarkable is the achievement of a boy who has been in our learning support programme since year seven. In most schools he would have been virtually written off. He has just achieved eight GCSEs including a double A in science and a B in maths. I enjoyed hearing Stephen Bunney's Leslie Baily Address on Saturday and I am very proud that in spite of many changes that have taken place here in my time, the fundamental ethos of Sibford remains unchanged. We identify ourselves as enablers. We believe that all children are born with wings to fly and that it is our duty to help identify their strengths, build their techniques, develop their knowledge, but most importantly, by respecting them and believing in them, giving them the confidence and sense of self-worth which allows them to find the courage to try their wings. That about Sibford has not changed - and never will as long as Sibford exists. We will never be driven by league tables; we will never deny pupils the right to enter for exams if they want to be entered; we will never crush an initiative and we will always celebrate achievement by the lights of the young person concerned, not by external, artificial, statistic derived and driven goals. - and what of initiatives?

We have developed our student management team in the sixth

form. Each member of the lower sixth is given the opportunity of applying for the post of Head Boy or Head Girl. They are interviewed by a team of senior staff and this year, the applications were so strong that we now have a team consisting of Head Boy, Head Girl, both with deputies, a games captain, a sixth form Orchard Close Liaison Officer, a sixth form Middle School Liaison Officer, and an Overseas Student Liaison Officer, with a supporting team of prefects. This may sound a little top heavy but the situation has evolved from the strengths of our senior pupils who want to take responsibility for those around them and for the well-being and development of the school. They have also set up their own appeal group and set a target of raising £10,000 towards the new development. They go one evening a week to spend time with Orchard Close and sit with them at lunch. The School is becoming more and more integrated and cohesive. Further down the School we have pupils visiting elderly people in the community and yes - there is still a lunch club on Wednesdays.

We've had two major dramatic productions this year - one in Orchard Close - a musical called 'Blast Off', when Sibford Outreach reached out into outer space; and the production many of you saw of 'Grease' which was a tremendous success. Again - a chance to really shine for some of our pupils who are less successful in a conventional academic sense. Two hundred or so pupils were involved and even the school architect, John Marsh, roped himself in by designing and largely building the set.

We have also been on television this year having run the first course of its kind on drugs education. As always, Sibford took a creative route to trying to tackle a serious problem facing all

young people today and for once, this was recognised by the media.

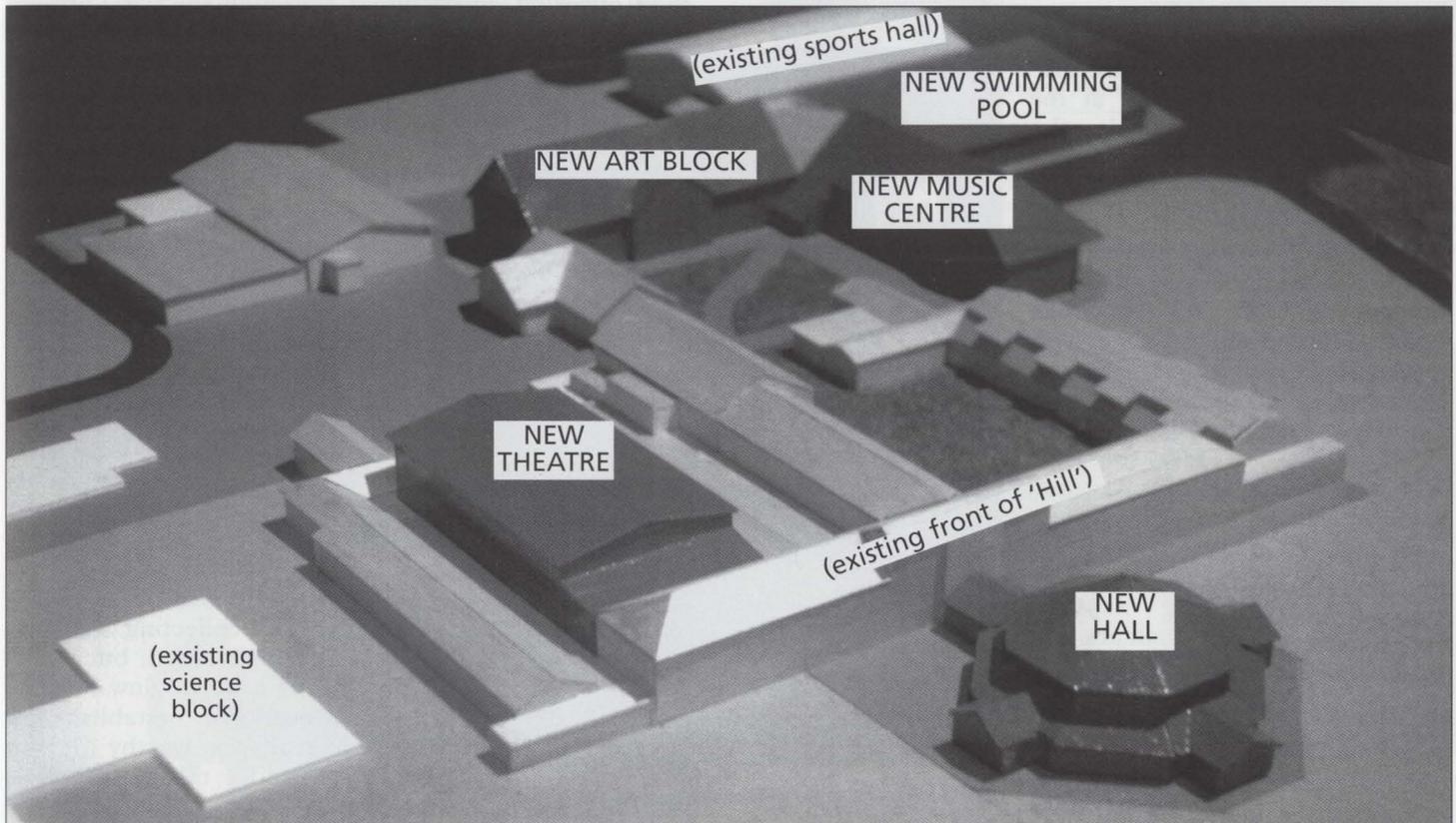
A sale has been agreed for the Manor. We had eleven bids, several of which were in excess of 1.6m. We hope to have the ends tied up by the end of September and to start building in October. Phase one - the building of the Art and Music blocks should be completed by this time next year. In order to start on the next phase, we have to raise a further 2m or so through appeal. We have a new fundraiser with Adrienne Lawler, Chairman Appeal Board; Helen Houghton, Fundraiser through trusts, and Kevin Viney, Appeal Administrator. We have established a Quaker Link Group with Chris Lawson as convenor, and my thanks to those of you who have given your time to that. Your knowledge is invaluable and stunning! Many positive things will come through the appeal, not least, I hope, a correcting of the society's understanding of what Sibford is about.

Of all the developments of the past year, the most exciting is a link with Mackenzie Thorpe. He is a dyslexic artist who is the top selling artist in the country having left school - not one like

Sibford of course - unable to read and write. He believes passionately in what we are doing and has named us as 'his charity' from April next year. This means that we will receive a proportion of the income from his exhibitions. He will also stage the opening exhibition for the space in our new hall. We have also established a strong link with the Arts Dyslexia Trust, and with the Leavers who have thrown the full weight of their support behind us. Peter McCurdy is now fully involved in the design and building of the Green Oak Hall.

Before I finish, I would like to thank all the Old Scholars who have supported the School in so many ways during the past year and for the help many have given us in researching and preparing for the appeal. I would especially like to thank Committee for their support for the development. Those of you who were here three years ago will have heard me talking about old scholars' part in the whole that is Sibford - the whole being ever so much greater than the sum of the parts. I am delighted to say that the ensemble, the intonation, and the rhythmic unity get better all the time. The orchestra plays on!

Sue Freestone





Sibford School Development Appeal



The latest 'developments' of the 'Sibford School Development Appeal' were presented to Old Scholars at the SOSA AGM in August - details are shown in the minutes on page 31 of this magazine. A presentation was also given by the School to Old Scholars last January outlining the proposals.

The Development will include new studios for art, music and drama, a new theatre, a meeting hall, and swimming pool.

The Appeal was officially launched on 1st October 2000 and all donations are now gratefully received! Old Scholars are also welcome at all 'Appeal' events.

The next event is on Saturday 27th January 2001 - the 'Appeal Ball' to be held in The Orangery at Blenheim Palace. Tickets cost £75 per person (with a tenth free if nine tickets are bought simultaneously). Discount lunches are also available, by arrangement, at the famous Raymond Blanc's 'Le Manoir aux Quatre Saisons'. For tickets and details, contact the Development Office on 01295 781200.

Good news for donations

The Government has recently made changes to 'Gift Aid' providing beneficial tax advantages if you wish to make a donation to the Development Appeal. It has also simplified the 'Gift Aid' administration so that in order for your donations to be eligible for reclamation of tax, you only have to complete a simple declaration called a 'Gift Aid Declaration' (available from the school). However, you must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that Sibford School reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give). If you pay tax at the higher rate of 40%

you are able to claim tax relief on your charitable donation. This relief is calculated at the difference between the basic rate and the higher rate of income tax (40%-22% = 18%) on the gross value of the donation. Therefore a higher-rate taxpayer can give over a quarter more than a basic rate taxpayer for the same net cost. For further details of making a donation, or on 'Gift Aid', please contact the Sibford School Development Office on 01295 781200.

The 'official launch' of the appeal was inaugurated on Sunday, 1st October, when parents returning their children to school after a usual week-end break were invited, together with Old Scholars, to a cream tea in the dining hall and were encouraged to regail themselves, and their offspring, in costumes reflecting the past, present (and future!) 'sartorial habit' of Sibford's pupils and staff.

A motley assembly, diversly attired - in stuff which varied from the most severe of early Victorian black-lace and bombazine, to something resembling the cast of 'Star-Trek', - were delightfully entertained for an hour by present scholars and staff. Songs by the very youngest pupils in 'Orchard Close' brought a tear to many an eye - (never work with children or animals, say the pros,) - whilst sketches, poems and musical items proved, once again, that Sibford is indeed peopled by individuals who are each talented, each different and ALL valued.

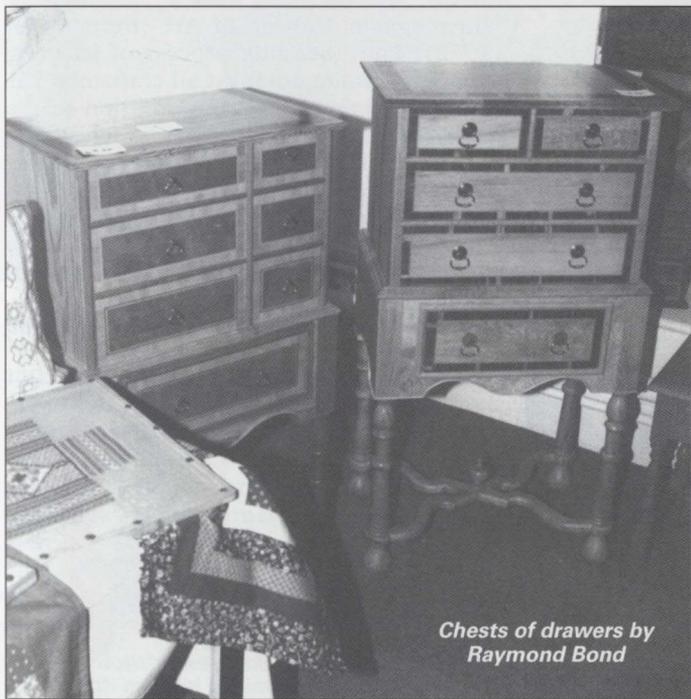
On this particular occasion the rattle of a collecting tin was nowhere to be heard, but we all left feeling a warm glow towards an educational establishment which really is worthy of our fullest and most generous support. Vivat Sibfordia!



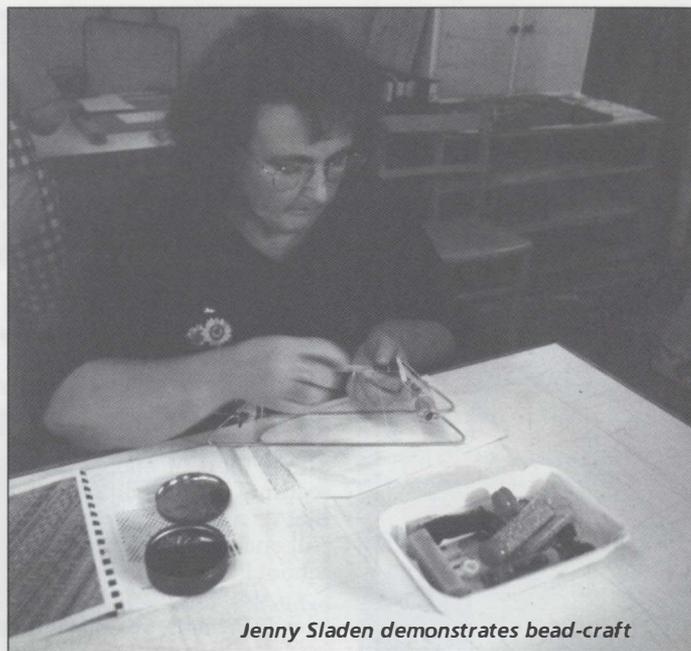
John Marsh, Architect & member of SOSA, demonstrates his model of the school development at the AGM

The SOSA Millennium ART & CRAFT Exhibition

Taking place as part of the Annual Reunion over the August Bank Holiday weekend, the 'SOSA Millennium Art & Craft Exhibition' attracted over forty exhibitors and many more visitors viewing the quite incredible art work on display. As Michael Spring, Head of the Faculty of Expressive Arts at Sibford, wrote in the Exhibition Programme, 'this exhibition of arts and crafts by Sibford scholars, past and present, is testimony to the skill and accomplishment of so many friends who have passed through the doors over the years.' The exhibition was co-ordinated by Ann Bond. Coincidentally, an Art & Craft Exhibition was held at the SOSA Reunion in 1950, details of which can be seen in Mike Finch's article, 'Fifty Years Ago'.



*Chests of drawers by
Raymond Bond*

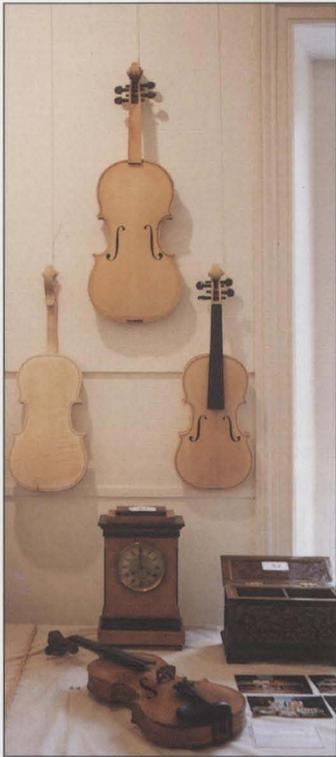


Jenny Sladen demonstrates bead-craft

Exhibitors included: Peter, Elin & James Baily; Ann Bond; Michael Bond; Raymond Bond; Loraine Brown; Wendy Finch; Arthur Harrison; Hilda Jenks; Ruth Jones; Michael Ladell; David Laity; Giles Last; Bronwen Lilley; Jennifer Macintosh; Hugh & Daphne Maw; Caroline Mills; Philip Morris; Jean & John Osborne; Janet Parsons; Nicholas Phillips; Christopher Plummer; Barbara Quinton; Erica Sessa; Peter & Jenny Sladen; Claire Smith; Mike Spring; Penny Spring; Russell Steed; Sylvia Warren. GCSE and A-level work was also displayed by eight current pupils.



*Banjo & modern target archery bow made by Christopher Plummer
with pictures by Ruth Jones displayed behind.*



Michael BOND: 1939 - 1943

An interest in both woodwork and music stemmed from my parents. Edna Quinton came from a family of musicians and trained at the Royal Academy of Music; she was a scholar at Sibford during World War I. My father was a woodcarver and furniture manufacturer. (In 1939 he, with Roland Herbert and others, built the blackout screens which will be remembered by wartime pupils - no mean feat for a building with so much glass!) In recent years, due to lack of facilities, I have concentrated on making smaller items.

exhibits: veneered clock; inlaid and veneered casket; various violins and a viola 'in the white'.



Wendy FINCH:
member of Sibford staff since 1978

After coming to Sibford as a member of staff, Wendy became Housekeeper in 1982 and married Mike in 1985. Since 1991, she has been the School Receptionist, working 'front-of-house' where she is the first friendly face to greet visitors to the school. She is fond of many creative hobbies: gardening, reading, needlework and decoupage - activities that so many former pupils enjoyed and which are still encouraged and are so much a part of current school life.

exhibits : 'Fruit, Flowers and Felines': a collection of Decoupage pots, boxes and trays.

Arthur HARRISON: 1934 - 1938

I started working in wood to begin with years ago. After retirement, I started model engineering, building working models of road engines and steam rollers. I am currently working on a steam locomotive.

exhibits: walnut 'coffin' stool (1948); traction engine; steam roller; steam locomotive (under construction).



Philip MORRIS 1939 - 1944

After Sibford, I was educated at Birmingham College of Art (from 1948-1952). The unending process of learning that is common amongst all craftsmen has resulted in my making, in addition to the items on display, such things as telescopes and computers. I am an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Designer-Craftsmen and freelanced as a Silversmith before taking up full-time teaching at various schools. I now work in my cellar studio in Stratford upon Avon.

exhibits: wood carvings; graphics (oil and slate); silverware.



Hugh & Daphne MAW

Hugh: Headmaster 1956-1962,

SOSA President 1981-82

Daphne - SOSA President 1992-93

Our hobbies are many: knitting, embroidery, tapestry, dress making and tailoring, crochet, photography, gardening, woodwork, bonsai, soft toys, shell boxes, rug making etc. Our exhibits were all made as gifts to each other or family, made together or separately.

exhibits: Meeting House hassocks, shell boxes, crochet mats and wedding gloves, a knitted pullover and Aran jacket.

Sylvia WARREN: *Head of Art, Sibford 1956 - 1972*

I trained at Goldsmith's Art School in London during the flying bombs; Fine Art finals exam took me to top place in England (never to be repeated!). I taught in a Grammar school, Secondary Modern and a Comprehensive - Sibford was the most special! I became Housemistress of Gillett House when it was built and Senior Housemistress. I retired at 55 (hearing problems made things difficult) and since then have enjoyed painting (mostly watercolours) and teaching groups of adults. Recently I've taken to doing watercolour portraits, mostly (and preferably) from the life, but also from photos. I would be pleased to accept commissions.

exhibits: framed watercolour paintings.



Loraine BROWN: (née Quinton) 1939 - 1944

My father was an Old Scholar and my parents (Howard Quinton and Doris Horton) met when they were teaching art and music at Sibford in the 1920s. After bringing up three children, my career was in social work and subsequently (with my husband) as warden of Eccles and Dorchester Meetings, when I had more time and began painting. A major cancer operation in 1991 left me very weak, but the following Christmas, my husband gave me a doll's house kit. Making miniatures of all kinds is something I can do sitting in an armchair, so was eminently suitable for convalescence. My speciality is miniature pictures for the 'tourist trade' - and I take commissions.

exhibits: dolls' house and contents; two 'room boxes' - one an artist's studio with original miniatures (commissions taken for these).

Bronwen LILLEY: (née Quinton) 1954 - 1957

I have always done handwork of some sort: patchwork, canvas work, embroidery, fabric collage etc. I enjoy experimenting with colours and textures and at the moment I am making boxes and tassels, having been on courses to learn the basic techniques.

exhibits: cartonnage boxes; tassels; sampler (unfinished); canvas-work cushions.



The SOSA Millennium ART & CRAFT Exhibition



Textiles by Erica Sessa



Lorraine Brown shows off her grandfather's bakery



Ann Bond demonstrates spinning



Jenny Sladen's beadwork

Midland Branch

Presented by Hilary Haddleton:

Our Annual New Year Party was held at Selly Oak Meeting House on Saturday January 29th 2000. Forty people attended to share in a cold buffet lunch and to hear Jean Osborne give her slide show entitled 'Dereliction to Recreation' fascinating. With two projectors in operation, we were shown areas of the Birmingham Canals in decay and then a shot of the same area after restoration, which is how we see it today. Old warehouses have been changed into shops, restaurants and cafés and the areas are vibrant and thriving

Our second gathering was for lunch at The Wharf Inn, at Hockley Heath. Here they serve an excellent carvery for under £5. This was on July 8th



Hilary Haddleton - Midland Branch Secretary

BRANCH EVENTS

2000 and 23 people attended. After, some of us went onto Baddesley Clinton, a National Trust Property, where we walked round the grounds and some went into the house, this was followed by a cup of tea at the restaurant. Out next 'Party' is on Saturday January 27th 2001, all are welcome.

London Branch

Presented by Pat Grimes:

Our numbers in London branch remain around 30. The majority of us are towards the more mature end of life which may be why we are active in spasmodic spurts. We have been dormant all summer but hope to meet up for a visit to the Tate Modern in October 2000.

Since our last report we have had two events. In October 1999 a group of 14 OS met in London for a picnic lunch on the waterfront followed by a tour of the Globe Theatre. We were conducted round by a former drama teacher - a slightly built elderly lady with great personality who gave us a fascinating and very lively tour. We were fortunate enough to be in the auditorium while the National Youth Theatre was rehearsing, which gave us a feel of how the space worked. We combined the tour of the Globe with a visit to Southwark Cathedral and

tea in the refectory.

In December 1999 we met in St. Albans for our Advent Gathering, which is becoming an annual event. This time, after morning coffee, OS went for a walk in Verulamium Park or visited the Abbey and then returned to the Grimes' for lunch and party games. We reached the dizzy heights of 18 on this occasion as our numbers were swelled by our Presidents, Mike and Wendy, and other visitors from the Midlands Branch. It was great to have them and we very much appreciated everyone making the journey to be with us.

The Advent Gathering this year will be in St. Albans on Saturday 9th December. We would love to see you



Pat & Chris Grimes - London Branch Secretaries

then and at the Tate Modern in October - just give us a ring if you are not on our mailing list, 01727 850521.



Tom & Ellen man the stand



Orchard Close Maypole Dance



Impromptu Picnic

Seeing the School in action

SIBFORD OPEN DAY

At the School's Open Day, on June 10th 2000, Old Scholars were able to see the School in action. We had our own 'stall' on the decking facing south by the French Café, an admirable position for obtaining refreshments. We had also been able to arrange a mention of SOSA aims in the School's Open Day programme. The stall was manned by Ellen Salway, Tom Lane and Ann Bond. We were able to talk to current pupils, SOSA members and various former scholars. An impromptu picnic lunch followed when we were joined by one of our joint Presidents, Wendy Finch, after which we all enjoyed the various displays put on by the School. We would like to extend our 'presence' at next year's Open Day, provisionally fixed for Saturday 16th June. Join us next year - and don't forget your picnic.

Ann Bond



Old Scholar Visitors



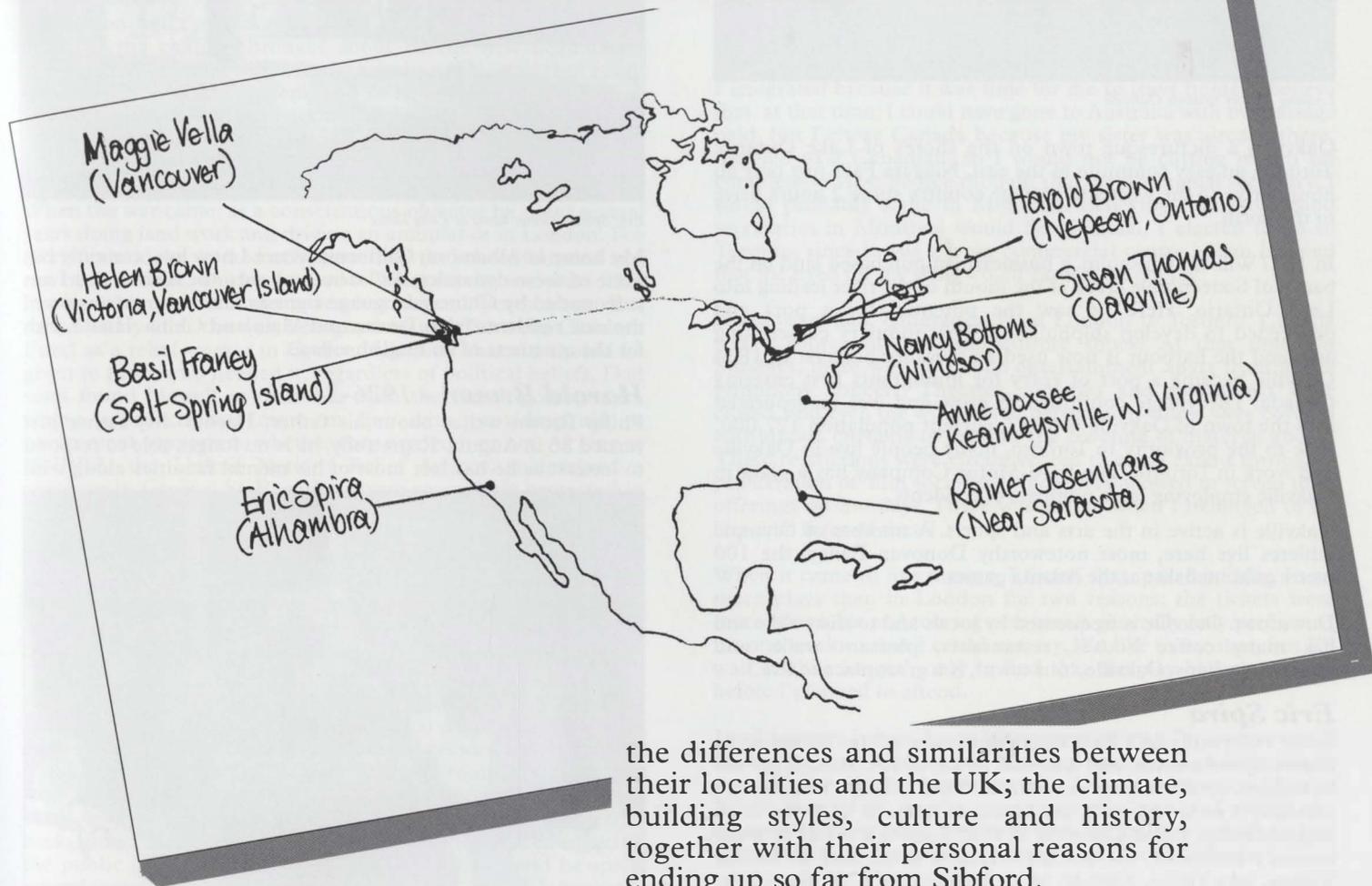
The 'Sibford Strings'



Old Scholars enjoying a chat

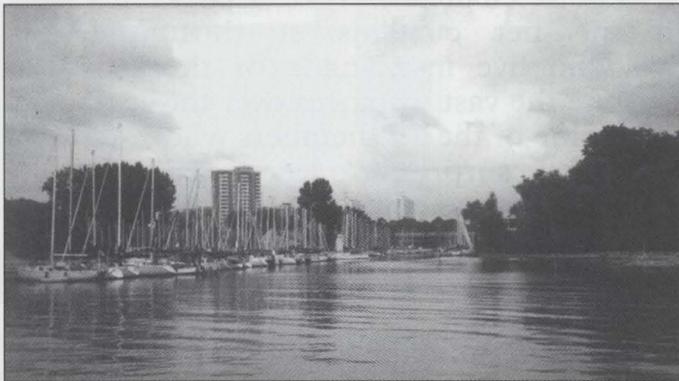
At Home, Abroad

Most people like to be nosey sometimes so here is your chance to take a peek through the net curtains at those members who live in Canada or the USA. Despite the vast distances over the continent, some of the 19 members who live there may be surprised to learn their close proximity to one another. Over the next four pages we see, through the eyes of some of them,



the differences and similarities between their localities and the UK; the climate, building styles, culture and history, together with their personal reasons for ending up so far from Sibford.

Susan Thomas (née Smith) - 1951-56



Looking upriver towards Oakville

Oakville, a picturesque town on the shores of Lake Ontario. Toronto, an easy commute to the east, Niagara Falls just over an hours drive to the west and cottage country some 2 hours drive to the north.

In 1827 William Chisholm, a businessman purchased land on the banks of Sixteen mile creek at the mouth of the river leading into Lake Ontario. Here he saw the potential for a port and proceeded to develop shipbuilding. That industry ceased long ago, and the harbour is now used by pleasure boaters. In 1834 Oakville became a port of entry for immigrants first entering Canada. The village continued to grow and was incorporated into the town of Oakville in 1857, current population 127,000. Due to the proximity to Toronto, many people live in Oakville and work in Toronto. The Ford Motor Company has a plant in Oakville employing large numbers of residents.

Oakville is active in the arts and sports. A number of Olympic athletes live here, most noteworthy Donovan Bailey, the 100 metre gold medalist at the Atlanta games

Downtown Oakville is frequented by locals and tourists alike and has many coffee houses, restaurants, pleasant walks and interesting shops. Oakville, 'our town', is a great place to live.

Eric Spira

Some 100 years ago a New England woman wrote: 'Home is the dearest spot on earth, and it should be the centre, though not the boundary of the affection.' (Mary Baker Eddy). Well that is certainly true in my case, my favourite home is and was in an English village called Loxwood in West Sussex; it is one of many homes I have had. My second favourite home was in Incline Village, lake Tahoe, Nevada, at an elevation of 6700 feet in the High Sierras. The picture shows my home in winter. This lake is

one of two clear water lakes in the USA. It is approximately 5 miles wide and 15 miles long, surrounded by mountains and looks like a miniature Switzerland. Much dynamic beauty in contrast to the quiet beauty of an English village.



Eric Spira's former home at Lake Tahoe

My home in Alhambra, California where I now live, certainly has none of these dynamics. As I drive out onto the main street I am surrounded by Chinese language signs as this is the expansion of the new residents from Taiwan and Mainland China. How I wish for the quietness of an English village.

Harold Brown - 1926-31

Philip Brown writes about his father, Harold. My father just turned 86 in August. Regretfully, he is no longer able to respond to letters, as he has lost most of his mental faculties along with



Harold Brown & family celebrate his 86th birthday

the ability to talk, walk and hear. A year ago, he had to be moved to a nursing home as it was no longer possible for mum to care for him at home. The photo is taken at our house last August, when we were celebrating his 86th birthday. He is shown surrounded by his family; his grandchildren, wife and daughter-in-law.

Dad often talked to me about Sibford, and when I was in my teens in 1967, took me to visit his old haunts. He went to Sibford in the late 1920's along with his twin brother Reg and his older brothers Tom and Eric. He used to tell me about the days when Mr. Harrod was headmaster, and even taught me one of the songs for the guild system they had in those days. Sung to the tune of 'Men of Harlech', it began 'Coast Guard Guild is the foundation, and the backbone of the nation...' He and his brother resented the changes brought about by the new headmaster during their last year at Sibford, including replacing the 'guild' system with a 'house' system, and so he remembered being on the outs with Mr. Johnstone, the new headmaster, that year. He was at Sibford when the now old 'new' school was being built!

Dad's Sibford experience prepared him for an incredible life. When the war came, as a conscientious objector he spent several years doing land work and driving an ambulance in London. For a brief period, he worked at Summerhill, the school founded and run by A.S. Neill, which relocated to Wales for the war years. This inspired him to become a teacher several years later. But immediately after the war, he signed on with Save the Children Fund as a relief worker in Greece. Adamant that aid should be given to those who needed it, regardless of political beliefs, Dad soon found himself in disfavour with the Greek government, whose approach was more in line with providing aid to government supporters, whether they needed it or not. As long as UNRRA, the United Nations Relief Agency, maintained a presence in Greece, SCF workers were reasonably protected in their work, but after UNRRA pulled out, the government started targeting the voluntary societies like SCF. Dad had just met and married my mother, an Armenian refugee from the aftermath of World War One who was living in Athens, when word came that a warrant had been issued for Dad's arrest for allegedly 'aiding communists'. Dad and mum were able to get out of Greece with the aid of the British embassy.

After his return from Greece back to London, dad attended Teachers College and began a lifetime career as an educator. A few years after I was born, dad and mum decided to emigrate to Canada, spending an initial year in a one room school on the edge of the bush in northern Saskatchewan, and then several more years in schools in southern Ontario. Dad's Summerhill background, and his strong ethical beliefs, were not well suited to the public school system in Ontario at the time, and he spent several years moving from position to position. In 1963, however,

he was hired as a teacher by the federal corrections service, and went to work in a medium security penal institution. Surprisingly, he found this work extremely fulfilling. He used to tell me that he felt he had made a greater impact on others during his 15 years working in a prison than at any other time in his career as a teacher. He was actually able to help many inmates turn their lives around, and for many years after his retirement he would still get letters and Christmas cards from many of his former 'inmates'

When someone leaves school, it is impossible to know what kind of a mark they will leave on the world. In dad's case, Sibford contributed to a full life of caring and service to others. Sibford should be proud to have produced men like him.

Maggie Vella (née Smith) 1946-53

I emigrated because it was time for me to leave home. I believe that, at that time, I could have gone to Australia with my passage paid, but I chose Canada because my sister was already there, married to a Canadian, so I would not be cutting myself off completely. Most people thought that, as a bilingual secretary, I would probably settle in Montreal. Believing that most good secretaries in Montreal would be bilingual, I elected to go to Toronto, since it was a large commercial centre where I hoped that the need for my skills would exceed the supply.

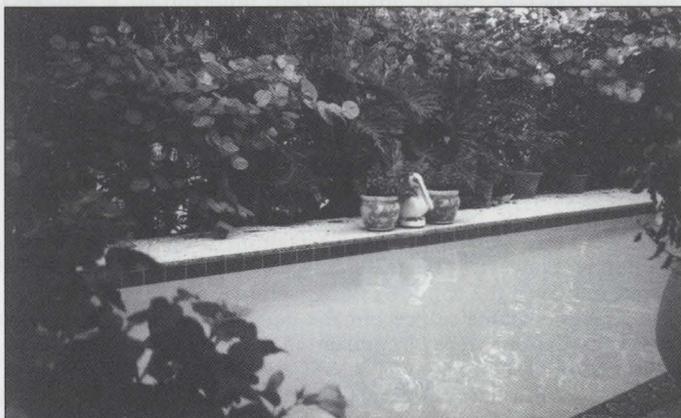
Forty years ago, emigration from London to Toronto, Canada was a source of profound culture shock! At that time, on Sundays, there was no public entertainment apart from a free symphony concert. Theatres, cinemas and restaurants were closed, and even the windows of department stores were covered with drawn curtains to prevent the coveting of material goods! These restrictions were circumvented to some extent through a proliferation of 'film societies' which were allowed to screen their offerings on Sundays. There was a time when I belonged to no less than three of these!

When it came to live theatre, I found that, paradoxically, I saw more plays than in London for two reasons: the tickets were more affordable and touring companies generally only performed for one week so that I could not say, 'I'd like to see that, but I'll wait a while longer', only to find that the play had closed just before I planned to attend.

In all fairness I should say that anyone visiting Toronto now will find it to be a vibrant and bustling metropolis, bearing little resemblance to what I have described above. Nowadays I live in North Vancouver on the west coast of Canada. I prefer the scenery of mountains and sea, and the climate which is less extreme in both summer and winter than that of Ontario.

Continued overleaf . . .

Rainer Josenhanss - 1938-45



Rainer's house and pool

We live on a barrier island (connected to the mainland) on the Gulf of Mexico which is situated on the west coast of Florida near Sarasota. Longboat Key is 11 miles long and has a wide white sand beach the entire length. At this time of year (August), when the Gulf Stream current moves inshore, the water temperature is around 86 degrees. We built our house nine years ago. It was designed and constructed to withstand hurricane force winds up to category 3 which translates into wind velocity of 111 to 130 mph. That kind of wind force brings tidal swells of 13+ feet so construction laws mandate that our lowest (living room) floors start at 23 feet above mean high water. The house continues to stand since it is built on 36 concrete pillars. We love living on the beach.

Anne Doxsee (née Russell) - 1934-38

'Wild Wonderful West Virginia' is what the signs used to read on entering this mountainous state. Governor Caperton was responsible for these signs when he was in office a few years ago. He must have meant it; he bought a home only five miles from here on his retirement. He also called it 'Almost Heaven'. The State of Maryland is only half an hour ride from here so I am not surrounded by mountains, but they are not too far away.

Fox Glen is a sub-division of about 350 homes and families all of modest incomes and retired. A little bit of arithmetic told me that I have lived here for 28 years. I have three children, Linda who was born in Chicago, Anna who was born in Istanbul and Steven who was born in Bethesda, Maryland not too far from Washington D.C. They are all married now and live within half an hour of here. My grand children, six of them in all, range from soon to be nine to twenty-one years.

On the first and second Monday of each month a few of us go to two different nursing homes to sing to and with some of the people who have been placed there. We have a leader, Ed Walsh, who leads our singing and I am very thankful to Miss Dorothy Prior who gave me music lessons when I attended Sibford way back in 1934-1938! We have a group of seniors from the centre in town to help us sing all or some of the old favourite hymns. We all enjoy doing this very much; I don't know who gets the biggest blessing.

Four of the best years of my life I spent at Sibford - I am so thankful for my parents who sacrificed so greatly so that I could attend. My sister, Lilian Russell, also went to Sibford and she was even more crazy about it than me. Lilian passed away while over here for a visit in 1988. My kindest regards to all of you. If you are ever this way, stop by and see me!



Anne Doxsee



Summer flowers on the end of Anne's house

Helen Brown (née Trathen) - 1980-85



A rare occasion to see Helen Brown's house covered in snow

After leaving Sibford I trained to become a Registered General Nurse. I then started travelling and working abroad, always planning on returning to the UK someday. However, in Vancouver, Canada I met my husband to be, Clive. As much as I talked about moving to the UK, my husband couldn't be moved.

We now live on Vancouver Island on the west coast of Canada in the city of Victoria. Our house is situated on a hill overlooking Haro Strait and the US San Juan Islands. We have two children, William who is five and Alice who will be two in January. As much as I miss the UK, when I take my children to a local beach or park or drive around Vancouver Island, I know bringing children up here is a privilege.

Although this picture of our house shows it covered with snow, it very rarely snows here. The weather is very English.

Nancy Bottoms (née Baker) 1932-36

In 1954/5 we lived in Qatar in the Persian Gulf. Unfortunately our two sons were running out of schooling. They were too young for Sibford. After several attempts to get them into boarding schools in Beirut and Cyprus, we returned to the UK. In 1956 we came to Canada. First living in St Catharines - just 8 miles from Niagara Falls. A very beautiful part of Ontario which we hated to leave. However, Ivan is an engineer so we came to Windsor in 1967 and we still live at the same address, although he has worked in many places, travelled a great deal, and finally opened his own consulting office.

Windsor is situated opposite to Detroit across the Detroit River.

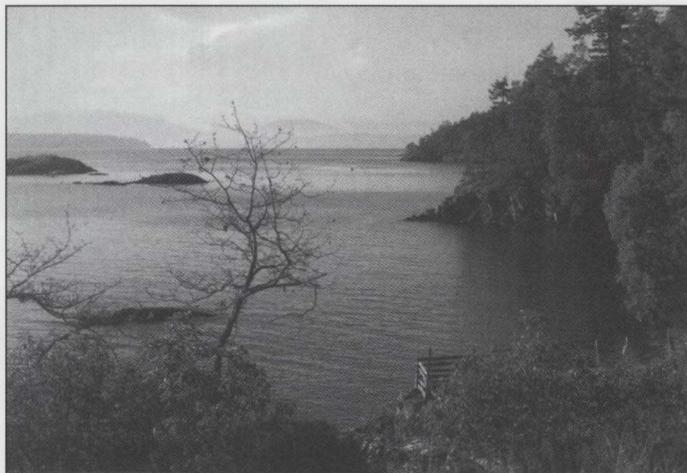
We have the Great Lakes all around us and we own a sailboat which has allowed us to visit many lovely places. Windsor is an old university town with a very interesting history. A population of about 200,000 and surrounded by rich farmlands, grape gardens and orchards.

We have been very fortunate to be able to travel extensively. Across Canada from Quebec to Vancouver Island; made countless trips down the Eastern seaboard of the USA and enjoyed vacations in Barbados, St Lucia and Antigua. Thanks to aircraft we have made at least 20 trips back to the UK which allowed us to stay in touch with our families and friends.

All together I would say that we made a good choice. We also have seven Canadian grandchildren. Incidentally, Betty Friend (né Elliker) is still living in St Catharines; we were neighbours there and we still try to visit her once a year.

Basil Franey - 1936-41

Salt Spring Island lies 20 miles off the west coast of British Columbia. It is 18 miles long, heavily forested, rising to 2000 feet, with a population of 10,000. We come and go by ferry. The photo shows a view from our house. We have 70 acres which, although ocean front, is sheltered from the open Pacific by Vancouver Island which is very large. Our local town is twelve miles away with good shopping, restaurants, a library, theatre, hospital etc. The climate is temperate, not unlike England. The big difference living in Canada compared with Britain is the matter of sheer space. In the west we are also acutely aware of our proximity to nature with forests and mountain ranges that seem to go on forever. The air is clean and the scenery spectacular. Sound like a sales pitch? Please come and visit!



View from Basil Franey's house. (Not bad, is it?)

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