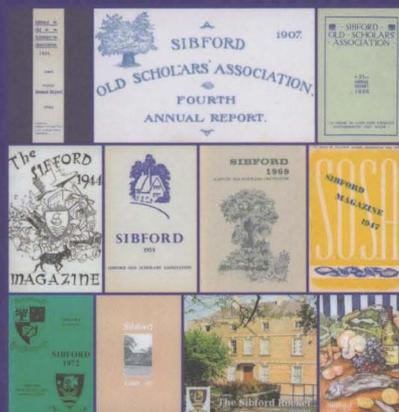


the Sibford Rocket



The Sibford Old Scholars' Association Magazine and Annual Report



2003 - 2004

agm minutes | notices | 100th Reunion Anniversary | news



Dear Members,

Firstly – We hope you like the new layout of the Rocket. Your feedback is most welcome.

Secondly – It was a pleasure to volunteer to edit the Rocket this year as it has given us a great opportunity to become that little bit more involved. (We quite like getting all the news first hand too!)

Thirdly - A huge thank you to all of you who have contributed to this edition and please keep your contributions and suggestions coming.

Fourthly – Michael Grimes will be the editor next year and we will be working together in your interests.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

In friendship,

*Christine & Ian Weatherhead -
and all the other 'elves' who have helped us put this together.*



The 100th Reunion of the Sibford Old Scholars Association, see the full attenders list on page 13.

Diary Notes

important note

Next year's Reunion will be moving from the Bank Holiday Weekend to July 16/17th 2005

Midland Branch

The annual **New Year Party** will take place on **Saturday 29th January 2005**

At Selly Oak Meeting House in Birmingham.

Contact is Hilary Haddleton on 0121 705 0462

The Schools Open Day and Sports Day will be held on Saturday 18th June 2005.

As usual, there will be a SOSA presence, so we hope that as many Old Scholars as possible will visit the School on this day to see it in action.

Stephen Bunney – SOSA President 2003/2004

Profile

I was born into a Quaker family in January 1956. My parents are George and Margaret Bunney (née Scaife) of Amersham Meeting. During my childhood I attended Meeting in Amersham Meeting on a regular basis with my brothers and sisters and with the children of other Friends families in the area. We thoroughly enjoyed Sunday School and formed many long lasting friendships. Most of us still meet regularly every summer at Jordan's Monthly Meeting Camp (attended by David C. Smith amongst other Sibford Old Scholars).

At the age of 11 my direct association with Quaker education started when I went to Bootham School – York – as a pupil looking back I had a thoroughly enjoyable time at school (though in reality I know that it was more likely to have been an emotional roller coaster) and duly left in 1974 with sufficient exams to go to University College in London to study geography. After graduating I returned to York to do my teacher training at the College of Ripon and York St. John.

In 1978 I began my teaching career at Wootton Bassett Comprehensive School in Wiltshire – after 3 years I moved to Sidcot School and my association with boarding education – as a teacher began. Whilst at Sidcot I moved from being an assistant in one of the boarding houses to being in charge of the main boys boarding unit in the school. I soon found myself being interested in helping develop the whole self rather than just teaching the students geography and economics. After 5 years at Sidcot the post of Deputy Head at Sibford became vacant on the retirement of Ken Francis and I was encouraged to apply for the post – my direct association with Sibford so began. I say direct association because



Stephen Bunney, SOSA President 2003-2004

members of my direct and extended family have been associated with Sibford in numerous ways. My mother Margaret Scaife taught at the school and my father was school Treasurer for many years. As my mother is a member of the Brigham Family – many of you will be aware of my other relatives who have attended or worked at the school.

As Deputy Head I had responsibility for boarding but soon became aware of the specific learning difficulties (dyslexia) that many of our students had. This prompted me to undertake training in how to help young people who were afflicted with this condition. I say help rather than teach because the condition affects many more aspects of life than just reading and writing.

After eight very happy and instructive years at Sibford I decided that I needed a new challenge to my life and moved to De Polen School in Market Rasen. De Polen is a state school of 1200 students with 80 boarders. My many experiences at Sibford have frequently helped me in my job of running De Polen's boarding unit and also in my latest venture as Boarding Inspector for the National Care Standards Commission.

Stephen Bunney

Contents

Editor's Letter	2
President's Profile	3
Open Day Report.....	4
SOSA 100th Reunion	6
The first SOSA Reunion	10
Presidential Address	13
Head's Report to SOSA	14
Farewell to Sue Freestone	15
Michael Goodwin Profile.....	16
Through the Grapevine	17
Leslie Baily Address.....	19
Naomi Cordiner Report	20
The Foundation, how to support it	21
Hatches Matches and Despatches.....	22
A.G.M Minutes	26
Diana Lloyd Profile.....	33
Officer's & Committee	35



Old Scholar Ties and Bow Ties

are available at
£7.50 each (plus £2 p+p)
from Hilary Haddleton.
Her address etc. is to be found in
the officers list on the inside
back cover.

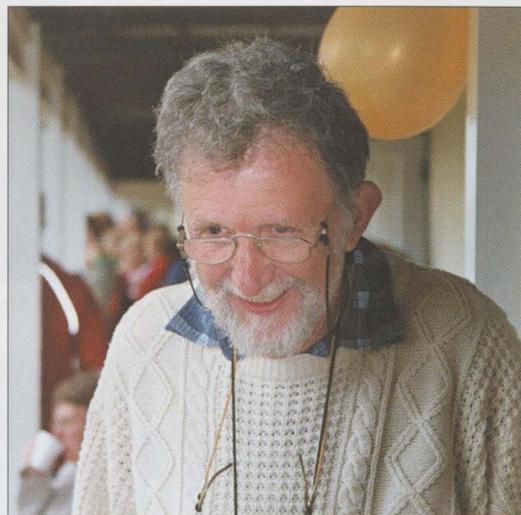
Editors..... Christine & Ian Weatherhead
Photos..... Ian Weatherhead & John Lloyd
Layout and design.....KC Graphics

Open Day Report

June 19th 2004 started out bright and clear, and seemed the perfect opportunity to introduce my boyfriend, Matt Green to Sibford. We arrived at the school at about 10 o'clock, a bit frazzled after demonstrating to Matt just what I meant when I said I always get lost in Banbury!



Christine Weatherhead and Cindy Poulton.



Chris Grimes.

Our first port of call was Room One, which had been taken over by Old Scholars for the Day. From here we could see Orchard Close in the throws of a walking race as part of their sports day. After introducing a few people we went on a tour of the campus.

As we walked back to the car to get that extra jumper, (always required at Sibford!) I pointed out the new Art and Music blocks. "They're too big" came the response. Matt, being science minded felt that these buildings should be housing science and maths, not

dedicated to the 'less important' subjects. You can imagine his response when he saw the Science Block!

The Horticulture area was looking very impressive for only having been in it's current location for less than three years. It was also a good opportunity for



Robert Invararity and Erica Strofton.



Owen Vulliamy coasts in to win.

Did you know that SOSA sponsors the SIGNATURE PAGE in the Sibford Pupils Year Book? ... and they love it!



In between the showers!



Heads past and present – an unusual photo of Hugh Maw (1956-62), Sue Freestone (1996-2004), Michael Goodwin (2004 -) and Daphne Maw.



Open Day Sports Day.

Matt to impress me with his knowledge of plants and vegetables.

The rest of the tour included a walk through the Paddock to stand on the side of the road to look at the Manor, and a wander around to look at the boarding houses, the Sports Hall and Swimming Pool. All interspersed with lots of reminiscing about all the different occasions I have been at the school as well as stories I've had passed down from those members of my family who actually attended the School!

There was a lot going on throughout the day, including a *son et lumiere* in the School Hall which we couldn't get in to see, but I'm told was excellent.

However Matt has had a taster of Sibford, and he may even return!

Nicola Grimes

Don't forget...

**Next Year's School
Open Day and Sports
Day will be held on
Saturday 18th June.**

SOSA 100th Reunion

August Bank Holiday 2004

by David C Smith

What had threatened to be the wettest ever August weather petered out with some drizzle on Saturday and passing showers on Sunday, to leave bright and beautiful skies from midday onwards. So did the Reunion gather pace from modest beginnings: fewer than usual turned up for the elevenses at 11.30 Saturday, and some, stuck in a jam on M40 even missed lunch!

The early afternoon was for catching up on gossip and exploring, the surrounds, studded with many fungi, some edible, on the lawns. A swim in the handsome new Pool kept some well exercised. There was also a charity Rugby match organised by an old scholar, Josh

Jackson, in memory of his brother Barney. The proceeds go to the Winged Fellowship which supports disabled people and their carers. This worthy event was well attended.

Due to the intended speaker's spell in hospital the Leslie Baily Lecture was

Meeting House except in February when it visits Exeter Cathedral in 2005. Our President's aunt Ann is far from being the only Old Scholar involved with the Tapestry, so this was a topic both fascinating and pertinent to us.

An early but substantial (except for veggies) sandwich tea then yielded to more time for talking, purchases at the impressive bazaar, which ran all weekend, or perusing the mounting decades of Reunion photos in The Hub and signing postcards to absent friends. Many of us have old cronies in the village, and if we missed their annual fête that afternoon could still find them at home.



The Charity Rugby Match, 28th August 2004 - inset is Josh Jackson who organised the event.

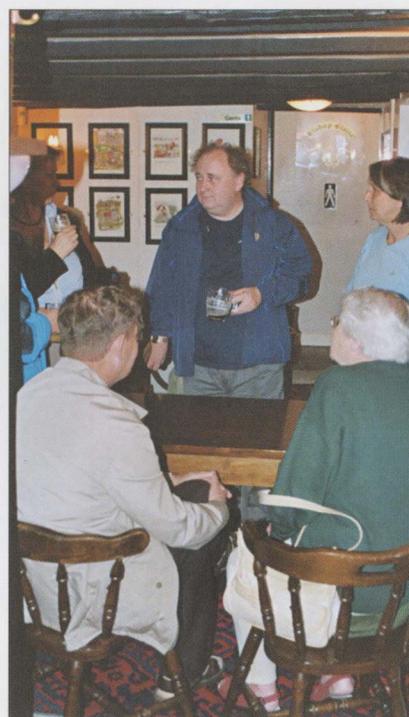


Into the action.

not about building the new Manor development, but, at very short notice (not that it showed) by Ann Taylor (Scaife) on the Ouaker Tapestry. Anyone who, like this writer, has not seen it yet really must go to Kendal Friends



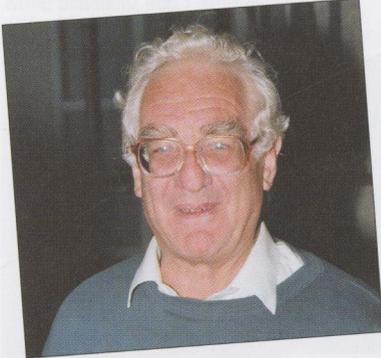
The supporters.



Ashley Shirlin, Nancy Pugmire, Adrian Shirlin and Connie Shirlin.

My visit to Mike Canning, still occupying his Old Malt House address, actually coincided with Kelly Holmes' Olympic Gold run no. 2, live on his T.V.

As the evening began to darken, more faces-from-the-past arrived, particularly old staff colleagues of our President. A barbecue by hired contractors smouldered outside the Oliver Room in a rather futile effort to produce a proper hot meal – do they ever work in this country? – almost managing to feed everyone (but the veggies, again!), though the piles of rice, pasta, and potato salads were fine.



Nick Bennett.



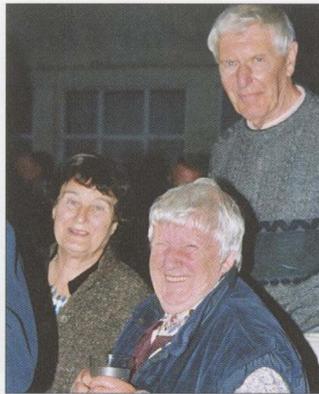
David Haines and Peter Sladen chatting to Mike Finch.



Janet Steed and Hilary Haddleton.



David Laity, Margaret Dale, Doreen Carmen, Ian Hedger and Mike Farr.



Wendy Van Blankenstein, June Ellis and Michael Van Blankenstein.



Cherry Pugmire, Hilary Waterfield, Joel Pugmire and Nancy Pugmire. Michael Doolan in background.



Margaret Fairnington, Tim Wardle, Michael Van Blankenstein, John Watson and David Smith.



Jenny Wollerton, Stella Wilson and Ian Hedger.



Michael Doolan, Di Howes, Liz Bunney (hidden), Mike Wollerton, Tony Skeath, Stuart Hedley and June Ellis.



Stephen Bunney organises the Quiz Night.

Meanwhile a cash bar (!) with real Hooky bitter and sundry tipples flowed in the Foyer and a mercifully muted Disco occupied the Oliver Studio, with a trendy crawl by the infant Kingham while we prepared for a well-set Trivia quiz, mastered by the loud but lenient Stephen Bunney. The largest group won. And so to bed – or Blaize?

Sunday dawned damp, even more so

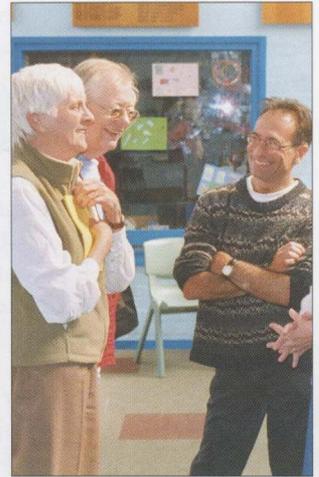
for the early swimmers, and a leisurely 8.30 breakfast allowed plenty of time to reach Gower Meeting for Worship in the regrettable absence of Choral, but lacking the necessary able pianist-in-residence, this was *force majeure*. The breeze had nearly dried the grass for the walk to the Gower, and the final rainy spells caught only latecomers. Meeting was quieter than usual, in the absence of many Sibford P.M. members in the Fox country of the N.W., including such familiar faces as Norman Coxon, Margaret Le Mare and School Committee clerk Judith Weeks. Ministry flared into a candle theme after a while. Following tea and coffee, as always laid on by Old Scholars in the Meeting House, certain hostelries were visited on the way back to lunch.

Sunday afternoon's outings were either to tour historic Banbury on a signed trail from the Museum, or to Compton Verney for its stately Home, Art Gallery and Park, where a heavy shower pelted Old Scholars. Nearer home was the village fête at Swalcliffe Barn, where O.S. Arnold and Iva Lamb presided over entry to that marvellous building's historical displays. Some just stayed playing Tennis.

By 16.30, more tea was ready in the Hub, and by 17.20 sixteen of us walked, pedalled or drove to The Elm for Rockets,



Staff Reunion: Wendy Salmon, Stella Wilson, Fiona Doolan, Yvonne Hedley, Liz Bunney and the backs of Mike and Jenny Wollerton.



Jeanne Little, Claire Smith and Ivano Ricci.



Anyone for tennis? Guy Kingham, Diana Lloyd and Christine Weatherhead.

as a night-time visit is deemed too dangerous or daunting these days.

At 18.30 we were sufficiently recovered and titivated to gather for the Group photo in dazzling sunshine before varied fruit punches and the Presidential Dinner. Ahead of the Address the dazzling Sue Freestone, briefly back from Ely, gave us the highlights of the School year and her seven years with us. Stephen Bunney's speech largely concerned the benefits of Quaker and Boarding education, and the weekend guest from School Committee, Peter Neighbour, spoke of aspects of Sibford seen from the eyes of a parent and professional accountant, a change



Sue Freestone delivers her final report.



Enjoying the Presidential Dinner.



School Committee guest Peter Neighbour with his wife Anne and Cindy Poulton.



Mike Finch and Sue Freestone do a request duet Rocket.



Simon Barfoot and Richard Weatherhead.



Liz and William Bunney share a joke.



John and Diana Lloyd.



The proud father – Guy Kingham and Saffron.



Pat Grimes.



The Hockey teams square up.



Jane Kingham, Christine Weatherhead and Simon Barfoot.



Cindy Poulton, Stephen Bunney and Russell Steed prepare for the A.G.M.



Nicola and Michael Grimes.

from the usual insider stance. The organised day concluded hilariously with a special Rocket, at Sue's request, where she performed a near perfect 'duet' with Mike Finch.

Monday dawned bright, and some of us took an early swim. After breakfast the A.G.M. loomed belatedly, leaving a space to admire the Horticultural area with its new wildlife pond, replacing the infilled morass in the field corners beyond, but still a drinking – place for resident

badgers, if not Great Newts.

After the quiet memory of last year's deceased, and mention of those too ill to be here, the A.G.M. passed briskly, despite detailed reports. Although it was dismaying to learn of the curtailment of subsequent Reunions to less than 48 hours, there will still be room for all the regular sessions, even perhaps, I hope, Choral and President's Choice. The earlier date is an exciting prospect for extra faces and greater numbers on a 'plain' weekend with fewer alternative attractions and holidays, and lesser fees, with luck, for some. Special thanks to Nicola and Cindy for their efforts in place of any designated Reunion Secretary concluded the AGM in good time for coffee or more bibulous excursions before lunch.

Time for coffee, swim or siesta preceded the strenuous mixed 7-a-side hockey match, ending in a non-fatal 3-all draw. Participants' ages spanned well

over 50 years – a record?

An Answer to the weekend's mystery then arose. Nine huge metal containers along the Hooky Road car park are temporarily housing property of the closed Henley-in-Arden school, many of whose pupils are now here.

The cool breeze despatched hockey players and fans to change and pack before Tea and bring-your-own cakes and buns, an excellent bet, on the sheltered veranda which revitalised us for a final Rocket and Auld Lang Syne, ready to make our ways home with hours of good daylight for the journey.



Weekend guest from School Committee, Peter Neighbour.

Don't forget...

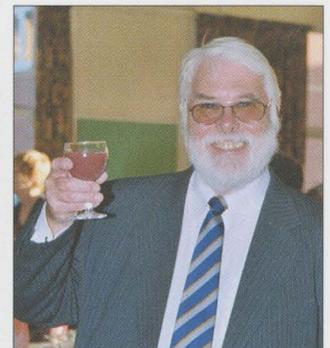
Next year's Reunion will be moving from the Bank Holiday Weekend to July 16/17th 2005



Nicola Grimes, Mike and Wendy Finch and Anne Muir.



At the Annual General Meeting.



Tim Wardle tries a 'drop of the hard stuff'.



Weekend revellers before the Presidential Dinner (see the full attenders lists on page 13).

1904

a significant year – the first SOSA Reunion

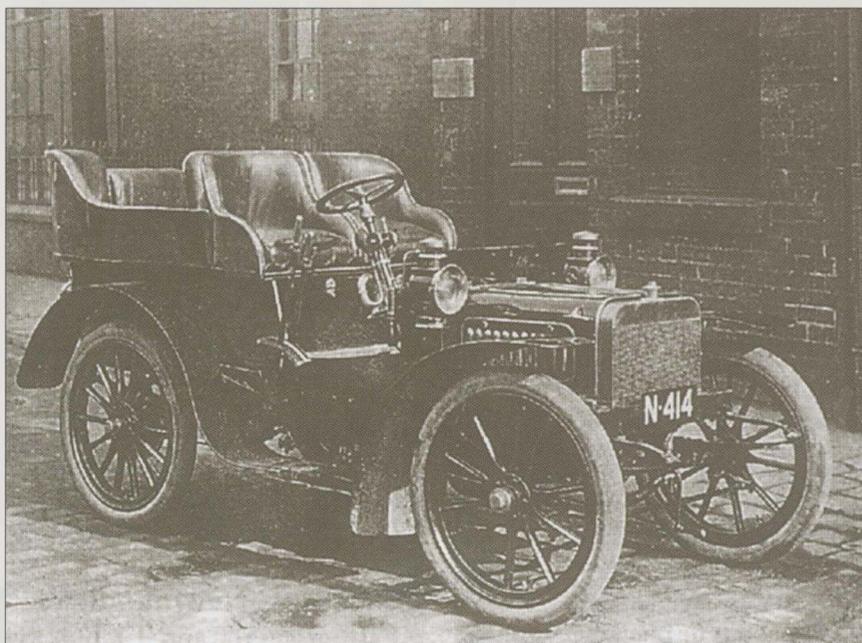
2004 marks the Centenary of SOSA's first Reunion, which was held at Whitsuntide 1904. The School and SOSA Archivist – Mike Finch, has been searching through the Archives to remind us of an historic and important year in SOSA's history...

This country, and the world at large was certainly a very different place to the world of the 21st Century – it is very hard to believe at times, the colossal changes that have taken place in the last hundred years. To draw a clearer picture, some of the perceived 1904 highlights are listed below:

Jan 8th – Pope Pius X added to the controversial actions of his first year in office by hitting out at low cut evening gowns! "No woman who wishes to be thought of as a good Catholic should wear such a gown whenever cardinals or other high Church dignitaries are present according to his latest instruction to the diplomats accredited to the Holy See."

Feb 1st – The New York Metropolitan Opera is currently at the feet of Enrico Caruso, the great tenor from Naples, who is now appearing in *L'Elisir d'Amore*. Caruso is unmarried but has two sons born to an Italian soprano. He smokes 40 cigarettes a day and never takes exercise. He has even gone before the curtain at the 'Met' to acknowledge the applause patting his ample stomach. He then implores the audience to go home "because I'm hungry and want my supper."

April 8th – Great Britain and France this morning signed a historic agreement, resolving all differences between them. The agreement became known as the *Entente Cordiale*. The longest standing dispute concerned Newfoundland, where fishing rights and French shore rights had been disputed since the Treaty of Utrecht in 1714. The French agreed to surrender shore rights in return for fishing rights, and the end of



One of Royce's first three cars 10hp 2 cylinder model.

an ancient dispute over whether a lobster is a fish – The French accept that it is! Tr

May 4th – An agreement was reached between the Hon. Charles Rolls, whose company C.S. Rolls sells and repairs cars from Coduit Street, London, and Henry Royce, the driving force behind F.H. Royce, a well known Manchester based electrical firm. Under the provisional agreement, which stops short of a merger, Rolls will sell Royce cars under the name of "Rolls-Royce."

Aug. 17th - The country is in the grip of a mania for postcards, according to the latest report from the Postmaster General. They have been very popular on the Continent for the last two years, but now they have caught on here with a vengeance.



At the wheel: Charles Rolls.



Elizabeth and Robert Oddie.

From 'The Friend'...

Sibford's Old Scholars' Association first Whitsuntide Gathering

About six o'clock on Saturday evening, May 21st, the rumble of wheels was heard, carrying a score of old scholars down the familiar Banbury Road. The first gathering of the Sibford Old Scholars had begun.

After tea in the gymnasium the present scholars, in the dining-room, welcomed us back to old scenes with an inspiring song written for the occasion by Arthur B.Oddie. The delightful entertainment by children was specially enjoyed by some who had recollections of the dark ages when boys were punished for singing on the playground. After supper each night we held an informal reunion, enlivened by music and recitations; then to bed in sweet country cottages, or accommodated by the kind helpfulness of local Friends.

Sunday was a happy, restful day. In the afternoon old friends revisited the haunts of childhood – Swalcliffe Common, Traitor's Ford, and even Compton Wynyates.

At the evening meeting Alfred H. Bayes of Birmingham, was present by special invitation, and gave us a helpful address. This was followed by other voices urging us to the duty "which the true man owes his time." Later, we assembled with the children for hymns and sacred music, and to hear interesting reminiscences sent by Margaret Clark, of Constantinople, long known here as a scholar, teacher, and housekeeper.

Whit-Monday was the day, and, dawning bright and sunny, brought us an increase in numbers, making a total of sixty-nine old scholars present, besides many visitors. The first event was a cricket match – past versus present – easily won by the old scholars. Then came the business meeting of the Association, at which the secretaries reported membership of 186, as an outcome of the inaugural work of the year; the officers for the coming year were elected, Dr. Routh* being appointed President, and

continued>

Oct. 31st – "A new device which acts like a valve for electricity, allowing it to flow in one direction, but not another will have a big future in wireless. Among other uses it can replace the unreliable crystal and cat's-whisker combination which makes the operation of many wireless receivers so frustrating." – a far cry from digital and computerised radio of today!

The big event at Sibford, was of course, the first Old Scholars Reunion, which was held over the Whitsuntide period, Saturday 21st May until Tuesday 24th May 1904. According to the First Annual report the Reunion "passed off with great *éclat*; with ideal weather and environment supported by a loyal and enthusiastic membership, favoured with the genial presence of Joseph Spence Hodgson, its first President."

To encapsulate the event in more detail, printed above is a report from 'The Friend' of June 10th 1904...

1904						
MAY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25			
29	30	31				



Nautical but nice: Postcards are especially popular with holidaymakers.



Presidential Address

August 2004

Since I started teaching every school that I have worked in has described itself as being special. The exact reasons given vary from school to school but they are always along the lines of good pastoral care, boarding provides an opportunity to boost self confidence, educating the whole person and academic excellence. In the year or so I've undertaken work with the Commission for Social Care Inspection as an inspector of boarding provision. This work has taken me into a number of schools all of which have described themselves as special - all quoting the sorts of reasons mentioned above.

Sibford is no exception yet I do believe that there is something genuinely unique and special about the school [and I have to say the other Friends Schools as well.] Naturally, I have

thought long and hard about what it is that makes the school unique. All too often when I believe I have discovered the 'magical' factor I am dashed by finding it elsewhere. However, I have come to the opinion that the answer is a simple one and is also clearly obvious. It is Meeting - the act of unplanned, silent corporate worship where every one present is partaking on an equal basis.

I am aware that many students will have struggled with Meeting for Worship over the years whether it has been at the Gower on a Sunday morning or whether it was part of the daily assembly. It will be seen as boring, a load of old fogies sitting doing nothing etc. - yet its magic does rub off on scholars, as can be seen by the number who go to Meeting's when at Sibford events and also by the number of old scholars who talk about their quiet, 'simple approach to life.

What is it that Meeting provides? The very nature of sitting quietly and patiently is a useful skill to acquire. It provides us with the opportunity to put

the bustle of everyday life to one side, think out our priorities and as a result be more effective in our daily life. The collective nature of Meeting means that everyone is in it together - this has a remarkable calming influence on all who take part. Indeed I can think of at least two Sibfordians who were in the school when I worked here who had very volatile personalities but were calmed significantly by attending Meeting for worship.

In the modern day age the number of boarders at Sibford is declining. Of those who do board most are weekly boarders and go home at weekends. This means that the number of scholars attending Meeting at the Gower is very low. However, the students do experience silent worship in assemblies and school Meetings. I am glad to see this and hope and pray that the Schools are able to continue to develop these opportunities for corporate worship. Certainly we should give them every support to do so.

Stephen Bunney

Top secret at the President's dinner '04

by David Laity

Who's got a corkscrew?

About 20 bottles of wine needed to be opened and LEADING LIGHTS OF THE S.O.S.A. could be seen wandering about trying to trace one, THE PRESIDENT INCLUDED. What a carry on!!

However the oldest Old Scholar present had been well trained and had brought a lovely white one which turned out to be about the only one in the room and was used by many with grateful thanks.

I always thought I had been well trained also but mine turned out to be a TIN and bottle cap opener.

Attendees at 100th Reunion

The following is a list of those who attended the Annual Reunion at the Bank Holiday weekend for part or all of the Reunion. If we have omitted anyone, please accept our apologies.

Anne and Malcolm Allpress; Simon Barfoot; Chloe and Nick Bennett; Stephen, Liz, Rosanna and William Bunney; Margaret and George Bunney; James Burt; Doreen Carman; Liz Cordiner; Margaret Dale; Bryony Denton-Williams; Ruth and Tony Dodds; Fiona and Michael Doolan; Jean Durman; June Ellis; Margaret Fairington; Mike Farr; Wendy and Mike Finch; Jenny and David Fleming; Paul Frampton; Elisabeth and Ken Francis; Sue and Rupert Freestone; Irene Glaister; Michael, Veronika, Edmund, Christina and Tilley Goodwin; Pat and Chris Grimes; Nicola Grimes; Nessa and Michael Grimes; Jane Gunston; Maggie and Chris Guy; Hilary Haddleton; David Haines; Leslie Harrison; Ian Hedger; Ben Hedges; Yvonne and Stuart Hedley; Di Howes; Josh Jackson and friends (charity rugby match); Jane, Guy and Saffron Kingham; David Laity; Ina and Arnold Lamb; Julia Langridge; Jeanne Little; Shelley Little; Diana and John Lloyd; Winnie Lycett; Mark Mercer; Philip Morris; Anne Muir; Ann and Peter Neighbour; Jean and John Osborne; Marjorie Palmer; Roger Petty; Lucinda Poulton; Nancy, Joel and Cherry Pugmire; Eleri Ricci and Ivano Ricci; Wendy Salmon; Julian Sandiford; Janet and Joe Sewell; Margaret Shelley; Connie Shirlin; Adrian Shirlin; Carol and Ashley Shirlin; Jack Simpson; Tony Skeath; Jenny and Peter Sladen; David C. Smith; Claire Smith; Janet and Russell Steed; Ann and Dick Taylor; Doreen and John Taylor; Patricia Thornton; Sheila Trout; Wendy and Michael Van Blankenstein; Tim Wardle; Hilary Waterfield; John Watson; Christine, Ian and Richard Weatherhead; Sheila Williams; Stella Wilson; Jenny and Mike Wollerton.



Head's Report to SOSA

August 2004

Sue Freestone's final report as Head of Sibford School before her departure to Kings School Ely.

In due course, you will receive a full report for the past academic year when the Annual Report for 2004-2005 appears in the Autumn. In this report I want to highlight just a few issues and to look back with longer perspective on my time in the School.

I spoke last year of the inspection carried out by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate in March 2003. Most of the recommendations in the inspectors' report have already been carried out and we continue the upgrading of the library, which has become the Learning Resource Centre, and to improve out ICT provision for teaching and learning. Those of you who witnessed the *Son et Lumiere* on Open Day will have seen a remarkable display of the use of technology in the most creative of senses.

The new swimming pool is now an integral part of school life. Although we have had some difficulties staffing the pool, we are about to launch into a summer of children's activity sessions, mother and baby/toddler groups, aqua aerobics, aqua parties and general swim sessions. The pool is to become a real resource for the local community and our own pupils alike.

With our students, we celebrated record results last summer. They achieved a 100% pass rate at A level for the first time since we expanded our sixth form provision and as usual, those who gained vocational qualifications achieved mostly merits and distinctions. Our GCSE results were very pleasing, and demonstrated the finding of our inspectors, that Sibford pupils achieve very highly against their cognitive ability regardless of their start point. Again, we appeared in the top 500, 300, 1000 schools listed by the broadsheet newspapers. There is no doubt that

these are schedules which indulge the national obsession for measuring the measurable rather than seeking to measure the important. However, our inclusion is an affirmation of our ability to enable our pupils, (not handpicked for their ability to enhance our reputation, but accepted because we believe they will thrive here), to find their wings and fly.

The end of last year brought the departure of several members of staff and with it the end of an era, since it also brought the retirement of Stuart Hedley. Stuart, with his wife Yvonne, had run Lister House for 34 years, and nurtured the development of hundreds of Lister boys. He had also ran the Design Technology department with meticulous care and a true passion for his craft. The end of this academic year also bring the departure of Mike and Penny Spring as Houseparents of Penn House. I am pleased to say that they are not leaving us altogether. In order to enjoy more family time and to concentrate on their teaching they will move into Hillfield, and will continue to serve as Head of Art and Head of English respectively.

As you all know by now, after seven years and two terms I too am off to pastures new. That being so, I want to take the opportunity to look back on the changes that have occurred during my headship.

In physical terms the School has changed tremendously. The new buildings are the most obvious transformation and the new art and music schools, together with the pool are undoubtedly the flagship transformations. Others have been more subtle. We have a new staff room; the library has moved and is now evolving into a Learning Resource Centre; the south corridor has a new roof and new windows and decking replaces the tired tarmac outside. Lister House has been totally refurbished; we have new brand new laboratories and an enviable new horticulture unit. We have a planned maintenance and major works programme that has lifted the standard of

the learning environment in many areas of the School. Orchard Close has been further extended to accommodate an ever-increasing number of pupils. Although it does not always work as we would like, we have invested heavily in ICT provision and communication systems. Many of these changes have come about with the support of Edmund Hudson, who left Sibford at the end of June, and he, in turn, has been supported by Diana Thorne. My grateful thanks to them for all they have done for the School and the support they gave me.

For me, the most important development that has taken place during my time here has been in the development and achievements of our pupils. Changes in the examination system have undoubtedly been to our advantage. The recognition of vocational ability on a par with the overtly academic has allowed the world to acknowledge the skills and talents of our pupils. The expansion of sixth form provision has continued to flourish and from a sixth form of under thirty in 1997 we now enjoy the company of a group of young adults who number in the region of sixty-five every year. The lead they give the school and the example they set, has encouraged the self belief we strive so hard to inculcate in all of our pupils. The school is vibrant and warm and glowing with health. Few who visit fail to feel that quintessential Sibford magic and to hear the music of the Sibford sphere.

We do not succeed with all of our pupils, but the vast majority exceed their own expectations of their own potential in so many ways, and leave us with a real sense of their value to the world into which they go. The spiritual dimension of the school has deepened and with it the reality of a caring and socially responsible community. Quaker values and a respect for others are what our pupils expect and I feel confident that the influence of many of them offers a candle, or even, from some, a brightly shining flame in the communities into which they carry their experience.

None of this could have been achieved without the support of School Committee who have been behind the school throughout all of its recent upheavals. Their vision for the future of Sibford and their belief in the relevance of a Quaker education in today's world has been an inspiration and a buttress of sound sense and shared faith in all we have been doing.

As for SOSA – I have relished the support – both moral and practical that I have received from members of SOSA throughout my Headship. The jollifications of the summer reunions and the frequent contact I have had with so many of you have also been a source of strength through happy times and difficult. The support for the sale of the Manor, which I know was at the heart of the memories many of you have for Sibford, was fulsome and almost without dissent. The hurt of parting with the school's ancestral home was rendered far less painful, knowing that the love old scholars have for the school is such that they were behind moves necessary to its survival and continuing development.

I have said many times how highly

I value SOSA's support. My first encounter was in 1996 when I attended the Annual Reunion as your guest. I should have known what I was in for when asked to do a solo 'Rocket' on my first appearance: (thank you Mike Finch)! I have spoken many times of how impressed I have been by the commitment to Sibford so many of you show and by the manifestation of love for the school which is palpable when you visit. I have also spoken of your importance as an element that goes up to make Sibford School what it is. A place where people care and people matter and a place where people continue to belong and to play their part long after their formal school days are over. As I have rejoiced in the support of so many different kinds, that you have given over the years, I know that you will provide a prop for Michael Goodwin whenever he needs it.

I leave now with a heavy heart. My passion for Sibford is undiminished. I still believe that this school 'has it right' in terms of educational ethos and the values that drive it. But I believe that all organisations, particularly schools, need a change of leadership from time

to time to bring a fresh perspective and new dreams and visions. I know that School Committee have chosen wisely in the appointment of Michael Goodwin. He will lead the school with wisdom and love and I know that he will take it on to greater things.

I pass on to him a school in good heart and one of the most dedicated staffs in the world. Our teachers believe in teaching and they expend enormous energy and creative thinking in the delivery of a range of teaching styles. Sibford staff are characterised by a profound understanding of teaching and learning that is unrivalled, and, yet again, Sibford is leading the way as an innovative school. The support staff here are second to none. They have a pride in their school and all that, together, we achieve.

It was an honour to be your Head during the celebrations of last year's SOSA centenary and to be part of something with the vigour and staying power of your Association. I thank you all you have given me over the past seven years and I wish SOSA health, happiness, growth and success in the years to come.

Farewell to Sue Freestone

a Deputy's perspective

Those of you who know the Sibford landscape well are all too aware of the magnificent 'face-lift' that the School has received during Sue Freestone's time as Head. We are, of course, eternally grateful for her energy and vision that has enabled the School to stunningly be transformed, but in the final analysis, her true legacy is the Sibford Spirit that fills these buildings. It is not for nothing that the pupils nickname for her is 'Sue Freestyle'!

Not only has she made her mark by becoming Sibford's first female Head, but she served as the first female Chair of SHMIS, a prestigious secondary school Head's association. Now she departs for King's School Ely to become their first female Head in a 1000 years of history. We are all sure that this is not the only aspect of Ely that she will breathe life into.

As Deputy Head for the past few years, I have been given an opportunity to share with Sue in the development of Sibford as a shining star in education. We are a school that is recognised for standing firmly on our Quaker values allowing both pupils and staff to find 'that of God' in themselves: a place of healing and a place of growth for individuals. As Sue often says, we are a school that gives our pupils wings to fly. At the core of a good partnership is a deep sense of respect for both the personal and the professional. I shall deeply miss her strength, humour, and

willingness to serve our community. Martin Luther King described qualities needed for leadership that I believe sum up Sue's Headship, "You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."

As ever, it is the impact that she has made on a generation of Sibford pupils that is her lasting tribute. As I read through their farewell comments to Sue two things impressed me. Firstly, the unashamedly personal tone of their comments; and secondly, the deep sense of trust and respect they feel for her. We shall all miss her greatly; I leave these pupils' comments for you to share:

- 'Thanks for changing me and the School.'
- 'Thanks for being a MEGA Head.'
- 'Thanks for making me feel at home here.'
- 'Thank you for giving me a chance.... I won't forget no matter what the others say.'
- 'Please share all the joy you gave us at your next school.'
- 'Mrs Freestone is like a big chunk of God's heart.'

Maggie Guy, July 2004

Michael Goodwin - Sibford's new head

Profile



© RayAnne Graphics

Michael joins Sibford School from Sheringham High School and Sixth Form Centre on the North Norfolk Coast where he has been Headteacher for 5 years. This school, a maintained comprehensive school for 800 pupils aged 11-18, shares a campus with a primary school and a new special school for young people with severe learning difficulties and so has pioneered inclusive education in the area. The school has also developed as a community school, providing courses for adult learners, church and community groups and overseas students on summer courses.

Michael was born in Rochdale, Lancashire in 1957, the middle of three sons. He attended Bury Grammar

School for Boys before going on to Nottingham University where he studied History. It was here that he met his wife Veronika; after graduation they studied in London, where Michael later began his teaching career in 1980. Two years in a London comprehensive school (and the end of grant funding for Veronika's PhD studies) led them to move to Spain in 1982, where they taught English as a Foreign Language.

Other teaching appointments took Michael to Leicestershire and then to Brightlingsea in Essex with their growing family. The four children will move with Michael and Veronika to Sibford in August and are pleased to be moving nearer cousins in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Benedict, who is

now 18, has just completed his A-levels and will begin an Arts Foundation Course in September. Christina is about to begin her sixth form studies. Edmund (13) and Tilly (10) will join Sibford School. They have all attended Aylsham Meeting and gained a great deal from local and national Quaker youth and all age events. They look forward to meeting new friends in Sibford.

As owners of a Tibetan Terrier (Sherpa) the family are compelled to be keen walkers, but also keep active through sailing, canoeing and climbing...and gardening, though this latter pastime is enjoyed less by younger members and is frequently sabotaged by the dog.

sibfordian anecdotes

The Attenders -

submitted by Ian Hedger

I awoke suddenly that Sunday morning a few years back and then, realising where I was, I looked out of the Cabin port to my left. Silhouetted against what appeared to be the rising segment of the morning Sun, and miles below looking like toys, were the three Pyramids of Giza. The experience lasted only for a few seconds and was then drowned by the light of the Sun itself. It was one of those 'never to be forgotten moments' which are with us all from time to time and which brought to my mind a previous occasion I was in this part of the world.

My thoughts were focussed on the days when I lived for months on end in the Desert wastes below us; on the scenes of conflict and turmoil which were the hallmark of the time of my youth. A few of us there at that time had some association with Friends, and when we could we would gather in some deserted hollow away from our Camp for a weekly Meeting.

Whether the following was a de facto event or only a figment of my imagination I shall never be certain, but for me it was, and still is very real. It seemed, on several occasions, that after a few minutes of communion together, the chattering guns would cease their vicious noise and angry planes looking for satisfaction would without apparent logic disappear from the sky. An unaccountable peace would descend upon us and all would be quiet until after the Meeting ended.



SIBFORD E-News is an e-mail newsletter, independently compiled and produced, and is freely available to anyone with Sibford 'connections' (and an e-mail address) – members of SOSA, other former pupils, School Committee, Sibford Staff, ex-Staff, Parents and Friends – to provide a bridge between all the various Sibford 'communities'.

For your free copy, e-mail
Ann Bond at
sibfordnews@aol.com.

Through the Grapevine

- news of old scholars from far and wide

Paul Ambler (1987-90)

Paul writes

As you can see from my address change I have moved very near to yourself (Mike Finch), as father and I have expanded our farming operation, and have in effect, doubled our acreage by purchasing most of Rynehill Farm (Kingham). It's been a busy and exciting year, but I haven't forgotten about Sibford!

From Nancy Bottoms (née Baker) (1931-35), resident in Canada.

Please convey my congratulations to all Old Scholars who will be fortunate enough to be at the 100th Reunion this year. I am sorry that I shall not be with you this year, but I'll be thinking about you all.

I was very sad to see the old school buildings gone last year. They had served their purpose, but I still wished that we could somehow have save "The Prom."

My best wishes to all that remember me. I wonder if Pat and Chris Grimes know that I was the very first London Branch Secretary. I still have two silver napkin rings that I purchased at a 'bring and Buy' sale at Friends House in about 1946. I also have letters that Arnold Kaye wrote me after Ivan and I emigrated to Canada in 1957. Am I dating myself – YES. Am I a sentimentalist – YES, and I wouldn't change a thing!

Ruth Dodds (née Stephenson) (1951-56)

Many thanks for sending me the Sibford Rocket, (Didn't we do something at the Elm to do with rockets?? or has a senior moment kicked in?) (Ed. No we are still barking mad!) It was good to see

the photo of Susan Thomas (née Smith) Ed Goudge and Bryony Denton - Williams (née Veysey) all my year!

Jennifer Langley is the only one I have kept in touch with since leaving Sibford, she had two boys there, probably about twenty years ago. Jenny, Guy and Russell used to come here on the Sunday of parents weekend, to relax and to have a good feed. Ed Goudge did email me on his return to SA.

Judy Beattie (née Davidson) is my cousin, and of course, Martin Davidson (1947-53). We lost touch after she went to Oz some thirty years ago, another cousin traced her while on holiday over there 2 – 3 years ago. We now email regularly; she has a daughter living over here. We see her and Bob when they visit the UK.

Perhaps you can tell me how the Leslie Baily Lecture started. (Ed. In 1971) I found him very interesting to listen to, mainly at meeting on a Sunday evening. He used to broadcast too I think? My mother's cousin Mary Davidson was head girl when LB was Head Boy.

Sibford comes back to haunt me every once in a while. While at a school concert at Warwick during the autumn I met parents who were considering sending their daughter there (daughter has severe Dyslexia), I couldn't believe that children bus in from Stratford every day and obviously do the return trip in the evening. In fact, do they have many borders now? A child in my granddaughter's class started there last autumn, so it's a small world. About 2 years ago we went to a concert at Warwick Castle, it was wet, and amongst all the umbrellas was a Sibford one, I was most disappointed to learn that it had been borrowed!!

Tony Dring (1957-62)

It seems to have been a long time since I wrote so here I go. The house is much

altered, a massive gas tank buried in the garden, new lawns and beds to mask it and what they call hard landscaping in the rear garden, so that we have new borders and beds for plants which are waiting patiently in pots to be planted. We also have a new conservatory and double glazed doors and windows. Ah such luxury, together with other additional insulation and work on the electric's and security system. Just the bathrooms to go. I collected my vintage Rolls Royce the other day from its annual service - it really is running better - and seems worth the £XXXXX it cost to service! Health wise I am now an injecting diabetic - such fun I can hardly tell you. It was one flag on my life map that I didn't want - still now it is here it isn't as bad as I perhaps thought. Coupled with my mobility problems 'though I am not chuffed. We went to Llandudno at the weekend and I can still hardly walk - it somehow doesn't seem fair.

It is always good to hear from friends - so don't be shy of replying. Carole is also suffering with her health at the moment and life for her seems to be a long round of hospital visits to ascertain the degree of damage done to her heart by the thyroid malfunction. Hey this getting older thing is really thrilling.

If you are in the Bobbington area (not far from Dudley or Stourbridge), do give us a call. 01384 221565 will find out if we are in or wandering round the garden centres - again! Either way our cat Jake can almost make a good cup of tea!

Simon Everest (1972-77)

We are looking forward to returning to Dubai - we decided to return before I had finalised what I was going to do! With Stephen now 10 we need to be in a place for the next five or so years for schooling - and working for the likes of Coca-Cola you move every two or three years, so there is no certainty. Dubai is a great place to

raise children.

Having said that we have enjoyed Slovenia - my first spell of living in Europe since 1984 and a first for the children!

You can probably list both addresses. I am OK for the magazines etc. to go to the farm on the Isle of Man but would like to list my Dubai details so that if Old Scholars find themselves they can make contact! We would love to see any OS's passing through. Up to our eyes in boxes now - this part is not much fun!

Cheers,

Simon, Sharon, Stephen and Georgina
(Everest)

(Ed. Note. Its all on the address list! A copy can be obtained from the Membership Secretary)

Michael Gilmour (1954-60)

Thank you for sending me the excellent 2003 'Sibford Rocket', it bought back quite a few distant memories, one especially of Reg Rowntree, the woodwork teacher shouting 'cut to the waste side of the line'. Sibford has improved hugely since I was a pupil in the 1950's. Its good to see all the new buildings, and particularly the superb new swimming pool, certainly a far cry from when I stood shivering at the side of the old pool!

Eddie Goudge (1951-1956)

Margaret and I enjoyed a most memorable holiday to the UK last year which encompassed a very enjoyable weekend celebrating a 100 years of SOSA. at Sibford. It was a little disappointing to see so few old scholars supporting the gathering and indeed SOSA. It was great to catch up with a few old scholars of my era including Sue Thomas (née Smith) from my class, who was Head Girl 1956. We had both travelled from afar Canada in her case South Africa in my case, yet old scholars from just down the road so to speak not present. We agreed to try and meet again at the 2006 Reunion and in between try to find and enthuse as many old scholars of our time to join and celebrate 50 years of life since our time together at Sibford.

The day we flew back to SA I met up with Jenny Fleming (née Langley), who

was a 1956 leaver, for a Pub Lunch. The result of which she and her husband David visited us in SA during March this year (2004) for a months' holiday. Many of those who remember Jenny would not know that she is suffering with MS, and has for a number of years. This does not daunt her in anyway, so boarding a plane with husband and wheelchair she wings her way to SA. We spent much time talking Sibford and she brought with her a school photograph taken in 1953 of the whole school and staff which I copied and framed for myself. I know they enjoyed the time with us and it will always be a pleasure to have Old Scholars visit us in SA. By the way we live in a beautiful country.

and this is Jenny's story...

I am writing for the first time since I left Sibford in 1956. I have been back to Sibford at parents Weekend in the late seventies and early eighties, when my two sons, Guy and Russell Prince, were at Sibford. Late last year, much to my surprise, Eddie Goudge contacted me after he had visited the Eden project. He is trying to contact as many ex pupils from our year (1956), as in 2006 it will be 50 years since we left Sibford.

I have had a bit of a chequered time since I left school - my Mother wanted me to become a teacher or nurse - I knew myself that neither of these professions would suit me - so I went to Guildford tech to do shorthand and typing so that I would have something to fall back on. After that, I did various office jobs including working for the Town Clerk of Guildford and the Chief Public Health Inspector. It was good pay, but not very interesting.

In between this, I married my first husband, and father of my two sons. We bought a small cottage, refitted it, and lived there for around fifteen years. It was expected in those days that I would stay at home to raise my sons, however after thirteen years, my husband left me for my then best friend! So I had to find work, and for a while I worked at a local garage as receptionist. I found another job with a freight forwarding company. An office colleague advised me that I could do better, so I wrote to a company he knew in London who were looking for a Canvasser. Every member of the board interviewed me, separately, lasting most of the afternoon!

The company was Killick Martin, who had worked for the East India Company in the 18th century, and it turned out that Mr Killick was a Quaker, so I sensed that

this was my job! I did a month's stint at the Head Office in Leman Street, and then a month at the Barking office to learn all the technique's for shipping goods within the U.K. and around the world. Killick Martin were the largest Loading Broker in the world, working for 7 different shipping lines, and my job was to interview shipping managers to get them to use the Lines I represented. This all came with a company car and an expense account. Ben Line, the largest of the shipping lines, had their own magazine, which I featured on the front page, and which was flashed around the world - fame at last!

After about two years, I became very ill. I couldn't walk or feel my legs, or see very well. I was seeing doctors and consultants, but nobody would tell me what was wrong. I looked OK, but I knew that something was really wrong. I felt as though I was going mad. Eventually I was told that I had Multiple Sclerosis. I was off work for three months.

On my first day back I went straight to the M.D. and told him about my condition. I am sure he had no idea what M.S. was really like - he just said 'well thank you for telling me, but you're back now!' I had a few attacks over the next few years, but nothing as bad as the first time.

I also managed to get married again, and we were very happy - life was good at this time despite my disability. My sons were now in their 'teens, and so were in the process of leaving home and moving on, when my husband died. A year after that I was made redundant, and so after 18 years I had no job. I tried for new jobs but got the answer that many ageing people face - I was too old. I sold a large house, and moved into a bungalow, now living off my State and Company pension.

My sons came back home and left again, and after five years of being on my own I thought no ones going to knock on the door and tell me I was the greatest thing since slice bread, so I decided to join a singles club. I went several times and met lots of nice people including my current husband! When I told him I had M.S. he said 'and so has my sister'. We got on so well that we got married in 1997, when I was really well and nobody would have known anything was wrong with me. During the past seven years, my condition has deteriorated, so that I have to keep my wheelchair in the boot of my car as I really cannot walk more than 20 yards. Despite all of this, I am a Parish Councillor, and Chair of the Planning Committee. (As an

Independent – I couldn't follow a Party line!) I am also on the Executive Committee of Shopmobility and the M.S. Society. This all helps me to keep my mind occupied with less time to think about my legs!

Jennifer Fleming
(née Langley) 1952-56

Dominic Hutchings (1979-84)

I'm a former day pupil and was interested in finding more out about SOSA. I enjoyed the 'where are they now' section of the website and offer the following update on my progress since leaving Sibford.

I graduated from Swansea University with an honours degree in Oceanography and Geology. I gained a postgraduate diploma in Water and Environmental Management, and I have subsequently worked for the national Rivers Authority, the Cabinet Office, and the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I'm currently working as Policy Advisor for the Environmental Agency. I'm living in Cardiff with my wife Claire and my son Ioe.

Jason Indge (1992-94)

Jason's mum, Pauline, writes..... Jason is currently on a world tour; he was in Africa for six months visiting Kenya, his birthplace, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Zambia, Mozambique, and then South Africa. He has been on safari in a number of game parks, been deep-sea diving with Sharks, Stingrays, and manta rays. He's been down the Zambezi River on a raft, crossed the Victoria Falls in a bucket seat on a cable. He has had many adventures getting to these places overland.

He is currently in New Zealand, touring both the North and South islands in a hired Camper-Van. Then he is off to the Australian Outback, the Great barrier reef for more diving, then on to Singapore

and the delights of the Raffles Hotel, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hong Kong then home around about July 2005.

Jason had a great time at Sibford, and made many friends, and just thought the teachers were very special, especially Mr Bunney. Sibford gave Jason confidence, and helped him tremendously with his Dyslexia. I cannot thank the School enough.

Ronald Kennedy (1928-33)

You may like to inform Mike and Jenny Wollerton and Stuart and Yvonne Hedley, that I was Head Boy and Prefect of Penn House in 1933, and was, as such the first Penn House boy, after the formation of the three houses of Penn, Nansen and Lister by Arthur Johnstone. These replaced the four houses Watchmen, Pilots, Shepherds, and Coastguards when James Harrod was Head. I should add that it was not because I was clever, in fact, it was the teachers who insisted that I should be Head Boy. If A.I. had had his way I would have been passed over. We did not get on very well, but that's another story!

Philip Mollet (1983-88)

Life has treated me well since I left Sibford. I did two years at agricultural college with a year off in the middle, which I spent in Australia. After finishing college, I travelled to Canada where I worked on a 400-acre arable and beef farm. Coming back to Europe, I then decided to stay in Portugal, working for local farmers, most of which were family! About 8 years ago, I was asked to run the two family farms by my father and uncle. We have been putting in about 60 acres of vineyard, and maintaining 2000 acres of cork forest. I'm getting married in May (2004) to Marge, who is a nurse at one of the big Lisbon hospitals. I met her at my parent's house when she was looking after my mother who

hadn't been too well. I am hoping to visit England in the not-too-distant future, so that I can show Marge Sibford!

Ellen Salway (1989-95)

I am working away trying to get my M.A. finished. I have passed my exams, and only the dissertation is left to do. Therein lies my difficulty in attending the Reunion this year. Although it looks very good, my dissertation deadline is about three days after the Reunion, and as much as I would like to think that I would have it all done and dusted by then, I know it never really works out like that! Please send my love to everyone next time you speak to them. (Ed. Ellen, we really missed you.)

Eleanor Smith (née Blunsom) (1949-55)

I have recently moved, so I thought I had better let you have my change of address.

I haven't been to Sibford for sometime, but I see the place is growing like Topsy! I am hoping to visit again in May (2004) – the best time to see the Bluebells in Whichford Woods.

Lilian Ward (née East) (1928-34)

The Magazine keeps me in touch. I so look forward to it arriving before Christmas, and I lend it to Betty Vanstone, as we were at Sibford together. In spite of my approaching 88th birthday, I'm still enjoying life! I'm so lucky to have wonderful friends around me and I have to be careful not to accept all the invitations to dinner etc.! I cannot manage many Reunion's, but one day I hope to get to Sibford to see the many changes.



Travelling in Central America

(extracts of an email sent to her mum the summer of 2004)

by Naomi Cordiner (Sibford 1990-1993)



Finally, for the first time in the trip so far, we got to see the sea. The rolling waves and white beaches of Puerto Limón on the Caribbean coast.

This is a happening town, where lots of African and Chinese immigrants came to work on the railway in the 1890's. The railway was designed to take coffee from the coast to San Jose, but is unfortunately no longer operating or we might have been spared a very long and hot bus journey. So, we sat (me with my feet in the sea until a big wave washed over me!) watching the sunset over the Caribbean, right opposite the island where Columbus first docked in order to discover the Americas. Behind us, in the town, a Saturday fair was in full swing with dodgems, trampolines for the kids and bits of jerk chicken and fried plantain on sale (if you haven't tried it, go to Notting Hill or Chapel Town this summer and have some - fantastic!!) Puerto Limón is also officially the place where you find the biggest bottoms in the world - and these women are not afraid to show it off! The mixture of African curves and the Latino desire to expose as much flesh as possible make for an explosive mixture!

The next day, it was time for the highlight of Costa Rica - a trip to see the turtles. Tortuguero National Park is 4 hours by motorboat down canals which wind through the depths of the jungle. Within half an hour of setting off we had seen caiman (small crocs), baring their teeth at us, cheeky raccoons peaking out

from the jungle and howler monkeys in the trees above. We stayed at the Manati Lodge, which supports conservation for these strange elusive creatures. The lodge was literally surrounded by the jungle on all sides, with all its noises and the only way in or out was via the water. On the first night, we crossed the small strip of land between the river and the Caribbean Sea and waited in the dark with about 20 other people. It was all a bit surreal, but eventually the call came through on the walky talky that a turtle was laying her eggs further up the beach. Apparently, when they are actually laying they go into a sort of trance and can't be disturbed, so it's OK to go and watch as the small white eggs drop into the hole she has dug. It was an amazing sight. I didn't quite realise how huge these creatures are - about a meter and a half across. Afterwards, she rested and covered over the hole, carefully patting down the sand with her flippers. Unfortunately we had to leave before she walked back to the sea - the number of tourists and the amount of time is very carefully regulated. A terrible thing, but apparently poaching does still happen and we have seen turtle meat and eggs for sale several times now.

Tortuguero was amazing - on an early morning boat ride we saw sleeping bats, rainbow-billed toucans, monkeys and storks all before 8am. Luckily we returned to the lodge for a huge breakfast of eggs, rice, beans, bread and fruit, which we felt we deserved before getting up so early! In the afternoon we went on a very relaxed paddle in a canoe and got scarily close to a caiman which jumped when our guide

moved in close to take a photo (pics to follow!)

In the last week we've done a whistlestop tour of two more of Costa Rica's tourist attractions - La Fortuna, a small town overshadowed by the active Volcan Arenal. We took a hiking tour as close as you can get (legally) to the volcano and as darkness fell, could see the lumps of red hot lava sending up sparks into the sky as they flew out of the cone. Later, we were taken to some hot springs, where we sat in one which felt like being in a giant communal bathtub and watched the lava some more.

Finally came Monteverde - a fantastically lush and cool place which began as a small Quaker settlement in the 1950s. 200 Quakers left Alabama in protest about compulsory military conscription and set up a dairy farm in this isolated part of Costa Rica. Originally there was no water or electricity and it took 15 hours to get there from Costa Rica down a dirt road! Now there is water, electricity and 100s of 1000s of tourists per year take 5 hours to get there up a dirt road from San Jose! The government has made a decision not to pave the roads in order not to encourage more tourists. It is a beautiful place - amazingly incredibly like Yorkshire - sometimes mist hangs over the fields which are filled with grazing cows and the wind blows across the valley. It could easily be Hebden Bridge in September! In the evening I put a jumper on for the first time since San Cristobal in Mexico - the only other cool place we've been to (can't really say cold compared to back home).



Volcan Arenal.



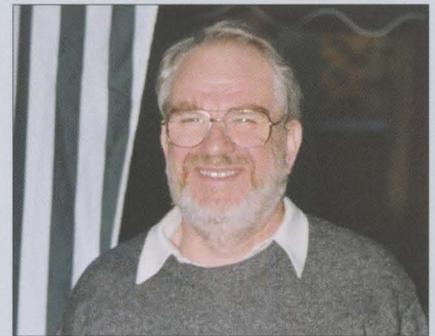
Rio Fortuna waterfall.

One of the best things was to visit a Frog Pond - don't think we actually have a word for it, but in Spanish its a Ranarium. Here we saw Costa Rica's other famous animal in all its red, yellow, orange and blue glory! It was great to see so many varieties close up. We also took the option to return after dark and play 'spot the frog by torchlight, which added an extra angle. On the last day, we visited the dairy farm which makes

its own special brand of cheese (lots of free samples) and heard about the history of the Quaker settlement from its humble beginnings to how it is today - exporting cheese all over Costa Rica and beyond. I have to say - the milkshakes made from huge scoops of pure dairy ice cream were by far the best experience of the whole visit (perhaps even the whole trip so far!, yes, they were that good!).

The Foundation – how to support it

by Russell Steed



1. In 2003 the School Committee decided to lay down the Appeal. It had run its natural course, and while not achieving all its original aims, it had given us the Art and Music Schools and the swimming pool. Much to be proud of, but much still to consider for the future. The School must continue to develop which means more finance must be sought in due course. Clearly another appeal could not be launched for some time, but an ongoing fund raising vehicle would be useful.
2. So the Foundation was launched to coincide with the Association's centenary, with the hope that old scholars would each raise a hundred pounds for a hundred years. I was asked questions about it that I could not answer because it had not been fully documented.
3. Now that the Foundation is in place, a few details will not come amiss. It has been set up as a trust that is separate from the school, however its trustees are the School Committee. Within its trust deed its objects include "To support, enhance and expand arrangements for the provision of education at Sibford School". To achieve this, funds will come from donations and legacies. The fund raising will continue, and being charitable any tax involved can be reclaimed. As a home for legacies the trust will be particularly useful. The Inland Revenue expects legacies to be

- used within a year of being received. Due to their erratic timing it is not always possible to use them to their best advantage. In the trust the legacies can wait, accumulating interest, till the time is right their use.
4. The Foundation was set up to help provide funding for major projects and bursary assistance. The trust deed lists a number of purposes to help the school:
 - 1) provision of bursary assistance to pupils
 - 2) assisting in the funding of capital projects to upgrade, enhance or extend the School's land or buildings including constructing new premises.
 - 3) provision of installations, facilities or equipment
 - 4) provide funding for exceptional circumstancesAlso included is a caveat that money may not be used to replace normal school expenditure.
 5. So how do we support the Foundation? There are several ways:
 - i) Make a donation, either direct to the School or through the Old Scholars Association.
 - ii) Do some fund raising or sponsored activity
 - iii) For tax efficiency, make your personal cheque out to "Sibford School Foundation", and write a covering letter to the school at the usual address including a statement in the form "I want the

- charity, Sibford School Foundation (Charity Register number 106825), to treat this donation of £..... as a gift aid donation and to reclaim the tax that I have already paid on it". This of course applies only to taxpayers.
- iv) Remember the School in your will. All legacies to charities are tax exempt and with more of us becoming liable for inheritance tax, if only because of the rising value of our homes, this way of remembering the School is becoming more attractive.
 6. The Foundation will take some time to grow to a suitable size before it can be really useful. So far most of the money that has been donated has come from Old Scholars. It would be gratifying if our contribution stayed as a substantial proportion. Old Scholar support is valued and welcomed by the School. At my last School Committee Meeting as a SOSA representative I had the pleasure during the discussion on the Foundation of handing over an envelope containing a substantial Donation from the Association. During the tea break afterwards I was asked if I had any more magic envelopes.
 7. I like to believe that our Association has given the Foundation a good start, and I hope we can keep a prominent place in its records.

Hatches, matches... and despatches!

If you have news of any births, marriages and deaths, then please notify the Membership Secretary, Mike Finch, as soon as possible. His address appears in the list of officers.

BIRTHS



Lara Mills at one week.



Jane and Guy Kingham and baby Saffron.

To Jane and Guy Kingham. On the 25th September 2003, a little girl called Saffron Rachel, who weighed in at 10lbs. She was certainly the centre of attention when she made her first Sibford appearance at the Open Day on June 19th 2004.

To Caroline (née Bond) and Paul Mills. A little girl, Lara Madeleine, weighing in at 7lb 10ozs, and born on 28th June 2004. A sister for Kate (nearly 6) and Dominic (age 3), and a ninth grandchild for Ann and Raymond Bond.

Marriages



Another Sibford bachelor succumbs !

On November 1st 2003 **Stafford Steed** married **Lesley Da Costa** in Hatfield Registry Office. They had known each other for many years and Lesley had experienced Sibford at one of our Reunions. In his youth Stafford met a group of people who have remained staunch friends ever since, helping each other out despite their wide geographical spread. Many of this





Stafford Steed and his wife Lesley Da Costa.

group took Stafford on a stag weekend in Paris, all except one travelled light. On arrival at the hotel this one, Mel, opened his case and handed Stafford a Pink Panther costume. In this outfit he was the centre of attraction wherever they went. Many had their photographs taken with him including the Gendarmerie. On their return the passport officials did not require the panther head to be removed for identification. Who but a Brit would walk around like that? Mel was also Stafford's best man. Lesley, the bride, was driven to the wedding in his chauffeur driven Bentley, while he drove Stafford there in a lesser vehicle.

Stafford completed his coup by not only gaining himself a wonderful wife, but also three children and a pack of grand children. We wish them much happiness in their future life together.



Michael Grimes and Vanessa Williams.

Michael Grimes and Vanessa Williams were married at Bourville Meeting House in Birmingham on a pleasant summer's day (a rare event this year) on 6th June 2004. Certainly, the local Friends were delighted to witness the rare occasion of a Full Meeting House, with standing room only! Afterwards the

whole party moved to Tyler's Lock, a canal-side location at Tardebigge, Near Bromsgrove, to attend the Reception. Michael and Vanessa had wanted as many people that they knew to join in with the celebrations, and as they couldn't afford to cater for so many, they hit upon the novel idea of a 'bring-your-

own-food' event, which was brilliant. Several Old Scholars were present, but decided that it might be too much to have a Rocket by the canal! Nevertheless, It was a delightful occasion, and as we welcome Nessa to the Sibford family we extend our love and best wishes for a happy and successful marriage.

DEATHS

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of a number of Old Scholars and friends...

Barbara Crozier (née Bond) was at Sibford between 1937-41 and was a Life member of SOSA. Barbara died in January 2003, but we only recently heard of her death.

Dorothy Haines was at Sibford between 1932-35 and she was a Life member of SOSA. Her death was reported to us in June 2004.

Janet Manasseh (née Oldham)
Died on the 21st June 2004 aged 72. She was a pupil at Sibford between 1944-48.

Janet Sewell (née Eavis), who was at Sibford with Janet, has written the following tribute.....

Many pupils came to Sibford in the 40's because of the war. Sibford was a safe place! Janet came from Castle Bromwich, Birmingham in 1944, her sister Marjorie (Young) having left in 1941.

Janet was quite reserved, hard-working, clever and well-organised - qualities which stayed with her throughout her life. She played hockey and was in the team which included her future sister-in-law, Pamela Boast! After Sibford, Janet went on to Edgbaston High School in Birmingham and then to St. James Secretarial College in London which took her into the world of commerce. She eventually moved to Banbury as secretary to the Director at Alcan. We had played a hockey match

There, So that was how she went to a SOSA. Reunion and met Philip. They married in 1956 and she took up her new life of farming with enthusiasm raising her two sons, Tim and Andrew.

The family moved to Combe in 1969 and she taught at a secretarial college in Oxford later setting up a new one in St. Aldates. Her high standards and unswerving attention to detail coupled with warmth and good humour are remembered by all who knew her. She took a full part in the life of the village and enjoyed her retirement following her interests of gardening, music and France.

She supported Philip in his work and responsibilities in Oxford Meeting, and the Sibford School Committee, and also Sibford General Meeting.

A Thanksgiving Meeting was held at Sibford Gower Meeting House on 16 July 2004 and was attended by her family and Friends, including many Old Scholars, and business colleagues.

Pearl Mayo

Died in her ninetieth year, having lived in the Shipston area most of her life. Her family were well known timber merchants. Pearl was a regular visitor to the School and was a pupil between 1925-32. She was also Head Girl. She was a Life member of SOSA.

Jim McCallum

Died on 29/11/03 aged 86. He attended Sibford between 1928-34. Jim was a popular attender at Reunions, especially Open Day, until very recently. His daughter is Ann Brown who was at Sibford between 1953-59.

Elsie Mitchell (née Harrod)

23.12.1910 – 21.10.2003

At Sibford between 1921-24.

Chris Grimes writes:

Elsie was born at Sibford, second daughter of James & Mabel Harrod, James was of course Sibford's third Head. She attended the School and became Head Girl. From Sibford she went to The Mount and then to Bedford College in London from where she graduated and became a science teacher. I remember her teaching at Queen Anne's School for girls, Caversham, and in East London. Her last full time post was at Guildford High School, where the Head teacher was reputedly told by inspectors "You are very lucky to have Mrs. Mitchell teaching here".

Her home in Godalming became a hub for the entire family who would gather together for all sorts of celebrations.

She had a mischievous sense of fun



Janet Manasseh.

and a sharp mind. This, together with a large collection of teddies and other soft toys, endeared her to all her 5 nephews & nieces and 15 great nephews & nieces whom she loved dearly. She married Herbert Mitchell late in life and delighted in having inherited grandchildren.

She was a passionate Socialist with very strongly held views which she would communicate to the media and her local M.P.

Elsie was very involved with her local Quaker Meeting, and was a volunteer in her local Oxfam shop for several years. Sibford was dear to her heart, even though her visits to the School became less frequent.

Unfortunately, age crept up on her and she became unstable, having many falls in the home and eventually, against her will, she was installed in a residential home where she was never very happy.

While she was there her alert mind became dulled and she got more and more confused, but she still loved her family visiting her until her death at the age of 92.

Russell S. Mortimer

His death was reported to us by his wife Jean, on the 18th March 2004. Russell was a pupil at Sibford between 1924-27, and was Life Member of SOSA.

Barrie Naylor MBE.

1911-2004

Michael Farr has compiled the following tribute:

Barrie came to Sibford in 1935, as a PE and Games Master, and also as a specialist teacher in Junior Maths and English. We all remember him as a warm and caring person. He took a genuine interest in the life of each child. We were not merely pupils, we were individuals. At difficult moments, Barrie's counsel and help could always be relied upon. Even the youngest of his former pupils are now in their seventies, but Sibfordians privileged to have had their lives touched by Barrie Naylor still remember him with deep affection.

It was at Sibford that Barrie found his life partner, the much loved - Sheila Macpherson, who was then Sibford's Art Teacher. They became Quakers in 1940 and were married at the Gower Meeting House.

Barrie was a Conscientious Objector, and as a requirement of his exemption, he was obliged to do social work. This led to his move to the Rhondda Valley in 1941.

The Naylor's first duties in the Rhondda were as resident helpers in the Quakers' Maes-yr-haf Educational Settlement. Compassionate Friends who were concerned with the Depression's disastrous effects on mining communities had started up the Settlement in 1926. They became Warden's and were there until retirement in 1971.

After retirement, the Naylor's moved to Brockweir, in the Wye Valley, having acquired a dilapidated Malthouse. The couple established a pottery business there while they continued, over three decades, to restore the old building. They were joined by son Peter, who kept the pottery going until his own retirement. During this period, they suffered the cruel loss of their daughter Judy through cancer.

Happily, Barrie maintained his mental faculties to the end of his long life. At SOSA Reunions, even up to the turn of the Century, we continued to enjoy the Naylor's presence among us, and quite often at Sunday Meeting we were privileged to receive Barrie's thoughtful ministry.

Failing eyesight marred the last three years of his life. He was finding it harder to move about and after a nasty fall down the cellar steps, he was rushed to hospital. He died peacefully on Thursday 16th September 2004.

A throng of mourners attended the



Elsie Mitchell.

funeral at the Forest of Dean Crematorium. In addition to a large group of friends and family, many folk had travelled from the Welsh Valleys in order to pay their last respects to a much-loved man.

(Ed. If anyone would like a full transcript of Mike Farr's tribute, then please contact him by e-mail: mfarr@lineone.net

Clive Penman

He died on the 16th September in York. Clive was Sibford's Music teacher in the late 1950's and early 1960's. He left Sibford in 1961. His son Robert, also taught at Sibford.

Shirley Rowley (formerly Cemm) (née Baker)

Sadly, Shirley's death was reported to us early in the year, very soon after she rejoined the Association, and having written an evocative piece about her time at Sibford, in last year's Magazine. She attended the School between 1943-48.

Mavis Stiles (née Mutch)

One of SOSA's much loved members, died after a brave fight against cancer on 7th September 2004. Hilary Haddleton (née Thornton) has written the following tribute...

Mavis lived at Stanten-on-the-Wold when she came to Sibford between 1946-49. She was in a Form above me, but somehow we became friends, and she used to come and stay at our home in Oxford.

Mavis made many friends during her life, and I remember her as a keen writer, with Penfriends in various countries. In 1950 she had a Grant from the Mabel Harrod Fund to enable her to visit her Swedish Penfriend.

When I worked in S.E London, I would visit Mavis and her husband David and their daughters Anne and Julia, at their home in Ashford.

Mavis was a loyal and keen old scholar over many years, and it was she who enticed me back to the Reunion in 1983, because Arnold Darlington, who taught Biology at Sibford to both myself and Mavis, was giving the Leslie Baily Address, and it was he who had stimulated Mavis's love of birds and nature.

Mavis was President of SOSA in 1988-89, and introduced her cousin Desmond Rose and his wife Margaret, to SOSA Reunion's, and who has entertained us on many occasions with his love of amateur operatics. Mavis's daughter Anne and her family also became staunch supporters.

I visited Mavis in Kings Lynn Hospital on the Thursday after the August Reunion, taking her a Sibford Teddy. She was having a 'good day', and I was able to wheel her around the hospital grounds, enjoying the fresh air, birds, trees and plants that were so much a part of her life. She died five days later.

Five Old Scholars attended her funeral at Holbeach - Diana & John Lloyd, Mike Finch, and John and Hilary Haddleton. We were pleased that we could give our farewells on behalf of SOSA.

Jonathan Wayburne

His mother notified the Association of his death at the beginning of the year. He attended the School between 1995-97. Unfortunately we have no other details except that he died in tragic circumstances.

Barbara Wood (née Best)

Died in April 2004. Barbara was at Sibford between 1927-32, and was a stalwart of the Midland Branch where she will be sadly missed.



Mavis Stiles.

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 10.30am on Monday 30th August 2004

Venue: Sibford Friends' School

Attendees: 41

Stephen Bunney welcomed Old Scholars and Guests to the 100th Annual General Meeting.

1. Greetings Received:

Stephen Bunney reported that Best Wishes for the Reunion had been received from many individuals including, Ruth Aldworth (Lizzie Jones), Maggie Vella (née Smith), Jim Hilling, Cecily Blunt (née Eldridge), Ann Bond, Nancy Bottoms (née Baker), Lorraine and Philip Brown, Norman Coxon, Hugh Gibson, Michael Goodwin, Margaret and Eddie Goudge, Arthur Harrison, Esther Jackson, Ronald Kennedy, Hugh and Daphne Maw, Will Norgrove, Lesley Nell, Graham Sagar, Ellen Salway, Janet and Joe Sewell, Mavis Stiles, Lilian Ward, Judith Weeks, Berwick Williams and Elizabeth Young.

2. Obituaries:

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

- Reg Brown (September 2003),
- Barbara Crozier (née Bond) (January 2003),
- Dorothy Haines (June 2004),
- Jim McCallum (November 2003),
- Janet Manasseh (June 2004),
- Pearl Mayo (April 2004),
- Elsie Mitchell (née Harrod) (October 2003),
- Russell S Mortimer (April 2004),
- Shirley Rowley (née Baker) (November 2003),
- Jon Wayburne (June 2004) and
- Barbara Wood (née Best) (April 2004)

3. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting:

The minutes of the AGM held 25th August 2003 were approved and signed by the President as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Reports

General Secretary's Report:

Presented by Lucinda Poulton-Your Committee has continued to meet throughout the year under the superb chairmanship of Stephen Bunney. I hope that my report will give you an insight into numerous matters that the Committee has addressed.

As members you will have received your copy of *The Sibford Rocket*, if you were unlucky in being unable to join the events last year you will have been able to gain some idea of the various celebrations that took place. As you are aware we were celebrating the Association's 100th Anniversary and the Ball, as part of the August Reunion transformed the 'Black Hole' (Main Hall) into an unrecognisable and excellent venue. The event was one of the Association's fund raising events for the Foundation and as our Accounts show we were able to hand over £2360.74 from our weekend celebrations, but more of that within our Treasurer's report.

This year has seen some consolidation and reconfiguration of things, and as my report continues they will start to appear before you.

The Foundation is now formally established and with thanks to Old Scholars has opened with over £16000. Just to remind you all that it is a vehicle for investment of donations, legacies, gifts and fund-raising and will assist in funding future major developments. So as I say to remind you at our 100th Reunion don't forget to link together with families and friends in trying to raise £100 for 100 years.

Another SOSA fundraiser for the Foundation, suggested, established, and co-ordinated by Ann Bond, has been the *Silver Mile*. As you will be aware from the E-news that Ann circulates, we have not yet reached that magic target. Ann had suggested that with Sue Freestone's departure it might be right to lay down the *Silver Mile*, and following discussion at our last General Committee Meeting, Committee Members agreed with Ann's suggestion.

Ann Bond has continued to produce *E-newsletter* which so many individuals receive and enjoy. It acts and a useful reminder of forthcoming events within SOSA, and the School. The sponsorship of the *School Year Book* that was mentioned in my report last year has come to fruition with a signature/autograph page, the feedback from pupils has been positive. Thanks go to Christine Weatherhead for her co-ordination

and liaison with the School on this matter.

There was a good SOSA presence at the School Sports and Open Day on the 19th June and the SOSA room on the South Corridor was competently organised and manned by Chris and Pat Grimes. It was also an opportunity for people to meet Michael Goodwin for the first time. Our presence at the Open Day allows both pupils and parents to meet members of SOSA, and we have also continued to promote ourselves through the School Magazine, and a SOSA Magazine was sent to all parents and staff.

Whilst mentioning Pat and Chris Grimes, they have after many years decided to step down as the London Branch Secretaries. Unfortunately having approached members of the Branch nobody is interested in taking on the organisation of the group. It has therefore been agreed that the London Branch will be laid down with effect from this AGM. Hilary Haddleton is happy to continue as Branch Secretary of the Midland Branch and we thank her for that. I would like to ask you to join me in thanking Chris and Pat for all their hard work and hospitality that they have put into their time as Branch Secretaries.

Reunion Secretary (Organiser) –

Last year Ellen Salway resigned as Reunion Secretary just prior to the Reunion and as you will have noted this is one of the posts on the Nomination Form. The General Committee spent time discussing this position and it was agreed that now was an ideal time to reformat the work and it was felt that because of the commitments that individuals have outside of Sibford and SOSA there should be greater delegation of duties and that under the newly elected Reunion Organiser these changes would start to occur, enabling individuals to actually enjoy the weekend themselves.

Future Reunions - From next year, 2005, the Reunion will move from August Bank Holiday to July. It will

always be the second weekend of the School Holiday. There are several reasons for these changes; firstly, we are not attracting the younger families, partly because of the week-end occurring at the Bank Holiday. People now travel far and wide for their holidays and do not see the week-end as part of their summer holiday. There are also far more festivals and national events that take place that weekend. Secondly, the Bank Holiday weekend is also a prime weekend for the School Lets, and as part of our objectives within our Constitution 'the provision of assistance to the School wherever possible' it does not make sense for us to cause a block on some of the Schools longer Lets at this time.

The Reunion will in principle be a two day event, accommodation will hopefully be available from Friday Night, although there will be no activities organised or food provided. Meals will begin with Breakfast on the Saturday, and the weekend will finish on Sunday after afternoon Tea. It was recognised that there may be a couple of years where there could be a drop in numbers, and some members will not be happy about these changes, but for the future of the Association this has to be attempted.

It pleases me to be able to inform you that Ann Bond has been asked to be Honorary President of the PSFA and your President offered congratulations to Ann on your behalf.

As mentioned earlier the *Sibford Rocket* found its way through your letter boxes and the feedback has been positive, especially receiving it slightly earlier, once again thanks go to Ann Bond for her hard work in producing the magazine, not a simple job.

There have also been changes in relation to the Editor of the *Sibford Rocket*. Due to some disagreements within the General Committee, Ann Bond chose to withdraw as Editor of the magazine in the spring. This unfortunately meant that Ann relinquished her position on the Committee as she was elected as Editor and not a general committee member. A letter was sent to Ann on the Associations behalf thanking her and expressing our sincere gratitude

for the invaluable work in so many areas, along with the time that she has also put in on behalf of the Association.

Thanks go to Christine and Ian Weatherhead who have stepped into the breach to ensure that you receive a magazine this year. The position of Editor is up for election later in the AGM and it has been agreed by the Committee that a Magazine sub-committee be established under the leadership of the Editor and that the President should have input into the magazine that covers their term of office.

Membership of the Association currently stands at around 647 the new membership system with current pupils appears to be working well.

Following the election of Mike Finch as Membership Secretary at last year's AGM, Raymond Bond has passed over the SOSA Membership Database. A letter expressing the Association's sincere thanks for all the time and extremely hard work for all that Raymond has done 'behind the scenes,' but more importantly in the establishment, and maintenance of the Membership Database, has been sent to Raymond.

Thanks go to Philippa Harrison who completes her term on the Committee for her contribution to the Association work and in particular the recent work she has done in revamping the enrolment/new member leaflet.

The SOSA Geoffrey Long Prize, awarded to an individual piece of work which can be either literary or art has this year been awarded to Jeremy Wright. Jeremy produced a video documentary about the plight and courage of the amputee football teams in Sierra Leone, the documentary is very moving to watch and was entered for the International competition with the Brooklyn Film Festival and reached the final eleven entrants.

A member of the Association has requested that some way be found to relay to the membership acknowledgement of the immense

amount of work that the Committee put in to organising the Reunion and running it at the weekend, in particular the Reunion Secretary and Assistant Reunion Secretary. The individual stated that he felt the membership should be reminded that these individuals are doing all this work whilst also paying the full registration fee to attend the weekend. I thank the individual concerned for his gratitude and acknowledgement of the amount of work involved.

Comments are often made that maybe we 'recycle' the members of the committee. For the last two years I have asked at the AGM that members consider coming on board, and each year with your agenda you are sent nomination forms BUT we never receive any other nominations. This year has seen the co-option of three 'new, young' faces, one, Edd Frost, has been extremely proactive and has submitted his name for full Committee Membership in this year's election. Unfortunately one has a small child and has found it difficult to attend meetings, she is now pregnant again so has been unable to commit time and is not standing for election. The third, a very local 'lad' has been unable to commit himself. So I am inclined to agree that at times we appear to 'recycle' and maybe as some have said become a little incestuous. It is very easy to sit back and complain or judge on these issues BUT I would add that if it wasn't for these individuals who put in a great deal of their personal time and effort at no cost to the Association then there would be no Reunions, no magazine, no news and no Association.

Finally I would like to close by thanking all members of the Committee for their ongoing support, hard work and dedication to the Association.

Questions were invited from the floor; all queries were in relation to the change of weekend and reunion programme. Michael Van Blankenstein

requested that the Reunion sub group look carefully at the content of the shortened weekend, remembering such things as President's Choice, Treasure Hunts, Walks, and Choral etc. Stephen Bunney reminded the meeting that one of the aims of moving the weekend is to try and attract back younger Old Scholars and families. Ann Muir suggested that we should look at mixed year groups in relation to the Committee and the Weekend. David Carlton Smith suggested that attending members should be used to move chairs or run things at the weekend and if possible they should be asked before the weekend. The issue of current pupils and recent leavers attending, as previously was raised. The Meeting was reminded that during the tenure of a previous Head this practice was ceased and that although Sue Freestone was supportive of SOSA she did not feel that it was right to expect the current Head boy and girl to attend meeting, especially with the majority of pupils now being day pupils.

Branch Reports:

London -

Presented by Chris Grimes -

London Branch has had a quite year. Our last event was in December when once again Old Scholars joined us in St Albans for a pre Christmas gathering. This time eleven of us entertained ourselves with the usual mix of food, chat and quiz games.

Pat and I took on the Branch organisation nine years ago when it was under threat of folding. We have managed to keep it going, but with an ever diminishing number of old-timers. In April we wrote to London Branch members to inform them that we had run out of steam and that we wish to hand over the reins to anyone willing to do this, otherwise the Branch would, this time, have to fold. Although most of those who replied said they wished the Branch to

continue, we have, as yet, had no offers. So, sadly, unless we have an offer this week-end, the branch will have to close with any remaining money going to the Silver Mile.

Over the last nine years, apart from holding an annual Advent Gathering at our house, we have visited the homes of Pam and Arthur Harrison, Mavis Stiles and George and Margaret Bunney. We have rambled in the Chess Valley, visited Capel Manor in Enfield and visited London haunts of the Globe Theatre, and the Tate Modern.

We shall be sorry to see the Branch close, but hope that contact will not be lost and that informal gatherings may be arranged.

Pat and Chris were once again thanked for all their work in maintaining the London Branch.

Midlands -

Presented by Hilary Haddleton -

The Midland Branch Annual New Year Gathering took place on Saturday January 31st at Selly Oak Meeting House in Birmingham. About forty people attended the cold buffet lunch and after much talking we ended proceedings with Rockets.

Our next Gathering will take place on Saturday January 29th 2005, 12.30 pm at Selly Oak Meeting House. All are welcome, just let me know - 0121 705 0462.

With Nessa and Michael Grimes and Rachael Veazey in the Birmingham Area we hope to see some new faces with us next year.

School Committee

Representative Report

Presented by Patricia Grimes -

One thing about School Committee it is never dull - bewildering maybe but dull never! This year has had its fair share of excitement with change

being very much in the air.

We knew we would be losing Elizabeth Young and welcoming Lesley Nell as head of Orchard Close this year but it came as something of a shock to learn early in the autumn term that at the end of this academic year we would also be losing Sue Freestone.

Sue has been an energetic and inspirational Head of Sibford School for over 7 years. She has done so much to enhance the campus and to raise the profile of Sibford in the wider world that when the post of Head was advertised it attracted a very large number of applicants. Of the four on the shortlist two were members of the Society of Friends and one was an active Attendee. The final choice fell to the full Committee and was a very interesting and rewarding experience. Each candidate gave a presentation followed by questions from any of us. At the end of a very long day the Committee were united in the decision to offer the post to Michael Goodwin.

Michael's previous post was as Head of a state secondary school in Sheringham Norfolk. He is married with four children, two of whom will continue their education here. The family have been active Attendees at their local Meeting for several years and know something of Sibford from the children coming to Summer School so they are all familiar with Quaker ways.

As well as changes to the headship, changes are also happening in the Finance and Facilities department. A new post of Business Manager has been established, sadly at the expense of losing two members of staff whose posts of Facilities Manager and Facilities Administrator became redundant at the end of term. This new post also attracted a pleasing number of applicants, from

them Peter Robinson was appointed to start in September.

One of the two sub committees – *School Life* – has been toying with the question of whether or not to offer Early Years education. This has been on the agenda since the inspectorate criticised Orchard Close last year for having Reception age Children taught alongside those in year 1. The curriculum for Reception is very different from the National Curriculum designed for children in years 1 to 6, making it undesirable for them to be mixed in together.

It had not been felt possible or viable to offer separate provision and the admission of Reception age children had ceased by the time Lesley Nell took up her appointment. This decision had solved one problem but created another because by not accepting children of this age meant that some prospective pupils who would have progressed right through the school were being turned away. Happily Lesley's enthusiasm has proved it possible to accommodate a maximum of ten Early Years children in their own space and the Reception Class is reopening in September.

You may be interested to know that Sibford has been registered as a school with religious character. You may also be interested to know that School Committee spent some time considering the issue of pupils' compulsory attendance at Meeting for Worship at the Gower. Some disquiet has been expressed that boarders, most of whom are from other cultures and other faiths, should be expected to attend Sunday Morning Meeting at the Gower. The Committee view was that it would be sorry to lose the connection with the Local Meeting but that forcing attendance upon unwilling pupils was not in the spirit of Quakerism. We seem to have moved a long way from when some of us were here!

The care and wellbeing of the whole school community is a very important aspect of life at Sibford. In March, the National Care Standards Commission inspected the School. The report we received was pleasingly positive with regards to the quality of care, the relationships between staff and pupils and the general emotional support offered. However, the Inspectors were somewhat underwhelmed by the boarding facilities, particularly Fielding. Apparently some Independent Schools now offer en suite facilities for their boarders. I think we have a little way to go to match that!

You will be pleased to know that after several delays by the Charity Commission the Sibford School Foundation has been formally registered and CAF accounts are being set up. The Foundation currently stands at £16000; all contributions, donations and bequests are welcome so please do encourage folk to remember Sibford in their giving.

You will also be pleased to know that the Swimming Pool is now fully staffed, a Swimming Club established and a brochure produces listing the activities and charges. On offer are Kids Fun Club, Mums and Tots, Family Fun, Ladies Night, Lane Swimming, Aqua Aerobics and Swimming Parties. As the promotional leaflet says 'Why not celebrate your birthday in the pool?' Two other items that have come our way are the Public Rights of Way and Disability Access. The first was highlighted by the Inspectorate who was concerned by the number of public footpaths criss-crossing the school campus. I think there are seven in all. There have been a number of unpleasant incidents and they obviously present a safety risk to the school community. All incidents involving the general public using these footpaths are being recorded. It may be possible at a later date for

some of these paths to be diverted. The second refers to a plan to site colour coded signs around the campus. I don't know if any have sprouted yet. It's financed with the help of a £500 grant raised through Sibford's involvement in the Oxfordshire Independent and State School Partnership. The naming of buildings by their use i.e. Science, Music, Art, may be helpful to children with learning difficulties.

We are sad to be losing Sue and Rupert. They have both contributed so much to the life of the school and we wish them every happiness in their new venture. At the same time change brings the prospect of new enthusiasms and we look forward to welcoming Michael Goodwin and his family to take over the helm in September. The Committee has every confidence that Sibford School will continue to flourish under Michael's guidance and we hope they will all enjoy their time here.

Following Pat's report, questions were invited from the floor:

Michael Van Blankenstein enquired if the Pool activities were well subscribed to and thereby producing a good income. The meeting were informed that the pool had only recently been fully staffed and that the clubs had only been advertised in the last three-four weeks and therefore it is unknown how much income is generated.

Jennifer Fleming commented that the disability access within the school had proved to be difficult this weekend, a lack of ramps etc. School Committee Representatives will take this point back to School Committee.

Treasurer's Report ~

Presented by Russell Steed ~

My thanks to my predecessor, Mike Finch, for handing on the Books laid out in a clear and legible style. Although I became your Treasurer

12 months ago, Mike continued with the Books until last years Reunion was all accounted for.

Going through the accounts. Subscription income is markedly down on last year. The annual subscriptions from members are actually down by about £300, the difference is in the life membership income. As shown in note 2. Half of the life membership fee is applied to the annual subscription income which was boosted by a very good take by the 2002 leavers. The 2003 leavers did not respond so well and their life membership is not included in these accounts because it was not received until sometime after the end of our financial year. It would have increased the annual subscription by about £900.

I have separated the various donation incomes for clarity.

Because with the 2003 Reunion we celebrated the Association's centenary, it was foreseen that there would be some extraordinary costs for which £3,000 was provided. In the event the shortfall in income was over £600, for which Guy Kingham and all who were associated with organising the reunion should be congratulated for keeping it so low. It was decided to donate the remainder of this provision to the newly founded Sibford Foundation, and to top it up to £5,000. I found it difficult to show this in the income and expenditure statement, so here I have shown the actual income and expenditure for the reunion. In notes 1, 8 and 9 I have shown the contribution made to the reunion and Foundation.

As your former School Committee representative I had the great pleasure of handing over an envelope containing the cheque for £5,000 at my last committee meeting during a discussion on the Foundation. It made a considerable difference to the fund, giving it a substantial initial boost.

SMAG no longer functions. The expenditure shown in note 6 is included in the expenditure statement and was used towards promoting membership of our Association. With these accounts I am laying down the SMAG fund and absorbing it into the General Fund.

In note 4. the Administration Costs general expenses included almost £400 for the purchase of the bow ties, and £160 for our advert page in the School year book. There were also flowers for our General Secretary, Cindy, during her stay in hospital and last year's Presidents wife, Jane, when she gave birth not long after last years reunion.

The *Silver Mile* continues, we have received into our accounts a little over £3,200 which has now all been passed on to the school. Note 11. shows the Mile for this year. Contributions have also been passed direct to the school by Ann Bond so the total raised is now over £3,400. The Mile will be complete when the total reaches £4,500. Please continue to support the Foundation either direct to the school, through SOSA, or through the Silver Mile. Contributions to the Silver Mile should be sent to Ann Bond, but I am happy to accept them if you prefer.

At last years AGM one of our former Treasurers, John Taylor, raised a query concerning the allocation of subscriptions in their appropriate financial year. In actual fact all but a very few subscriptions are received within the period where both our subscription and financial years coincide. So the figure for subscription in the accounts reflects a reasonably accurate view. To show the subscription income in the year to which it relates would cause work and would show very little difference. However, to encourage members to pay their subscriptions in the coincident period I would like to offer a change to our rules.

Rule 4 (b) to be amended to read:
The annual subscription is due on

the 1st September for the ensuing year, and that payment should be made to the Treasurer or by Bankers Order before the following March 31st.

After much discussion, it was agreed that there was no need to have a rule change of Rule 4b. John Taylor removed his original proposal.

Adoption of Accounts:

Proposed by John Taylor

Seconded by David Haines

Carried Unanimously

(If any member would like a copy of the accounts then please write to the Treasurer).

5. Review of the School Year and Development Programme

Stephen Bunney informed the AGM that Sue Freestone had presented a summary of her report at the Presidential Dinner and the full report is published within the *Sibford Rocket*.

6. Elections

School Committee Representative

01/01/06-31/12/09 4 years

Stephen Bunney

Nicholas Bennett - Proposed

Ben Hedges - Seconded

Events Co-ordinator

01/09/04-31/08/07 3 years

Guy Kingham

Di Lloyd- Proposed

Janet Steed - Seconded

Editorial Team Leader

01/01/05-31/12/07 2 years

Michael Grimes

Stephen Bunney - Proposed

H Leslie Harrison - Seconded

General Committee Member

01/09/04-31/08/07 3 years

Edd Frost

Mike Finch - Proposed

Guy Kingham - Seconded

General Committee Member

01/09/04-31/08/07 3 years

Margaret Fairington

Hilary Haddleton - Proposed

Tim Wardle - Seconded

General Committee Member

01/09/04-31/08/05 1 years

Margaret Shelley (see note below)

Margaret Shelley was accepted to serve for one year by all those in attendance after the Annual General Meeting. All the other nominations were accepted unanimously by the Annual General Meeting.

Stephen Bunney then addressed the Annual General Meeting, reminding those gathered of the reason for Honorary Life Membership. Stephen offered to the Meeting Stuart and Yvonne Hedley and Michael and Jenifer* Wollerton as Honorary Life Members. These individuals were unanimously accepted by the membership present. (Jenny Wollerton always spells her name this way!)

Ann Muir congratulated the excellent suggestion, and added that when offered Honorary Life Member she had been deeply honoured, and

treasured it greatly. John Taylor endorsed Ann's sentiments.

Endorsement of the President

2003 - 2004 – Diana Lloyd

Endorsement of Vice President 2003 -

2004 – Christine Weatherhead

7. Any Other Business

Ian Hedger enquired whether subscriptions could be taken from pupils throughout their School Life. The Meeting was reminded that as reported last year this is now the current method of attracting membership, and that those who subscribe leave school as Life Members of the Association.

School Teddy Bears are for sale at £3 each with money going to the Foundation.

Stephen Bunney closed the Meeting with thanks to everybody who had helped with the organisation and running of the weekend. Special thanks were offered to Richard Weatherhead for the time he put into the supervision at the pool. Thanks were also extended to Nicola Grimes and Cindy Poulton who held everything together.

Mike Finch proposed a vote of thanks to Stephen Bunney for the excellent Chairing of the Meeting.

The Meeting Closed at 12.00 noon.

Silver Mile

please see the note in the Treasurers Report if you would like to continue to support the Silver Mile which only needs just over £1,000.00 or contact Ann Bond. Her email address is AnnSBond@aol.com

note from the treasurer

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND

The Treasurer would like to remind readers that there is funding available to support some worthwhile project that may require additional funding. All applications should be made directly to the Treasurer whose details appear on the inside back cover.

The Leslie Baily Address

Sadly David McCallum was prevented from delivering this years address. We are very grateful to Anne (née Scaife) and Richard Taylor for stepping in at relatively short notice. Anne and Richard took the Quaker Tapestry as the theme for their address.

Anne gave an illustrated talk on the Tapestry. She gave us a quick tour of the Tapestry's history from its early days as a fledgling idea in the mind of Anne Wynn Wilson's and other Friends' minds to the 73 panels that are currently on display in Kendal Meeting House. She told us how the early members of the project had researched materials and techniques and developed the framework on which different Quaker groups (usually local Meetings) could work on creating their panels.

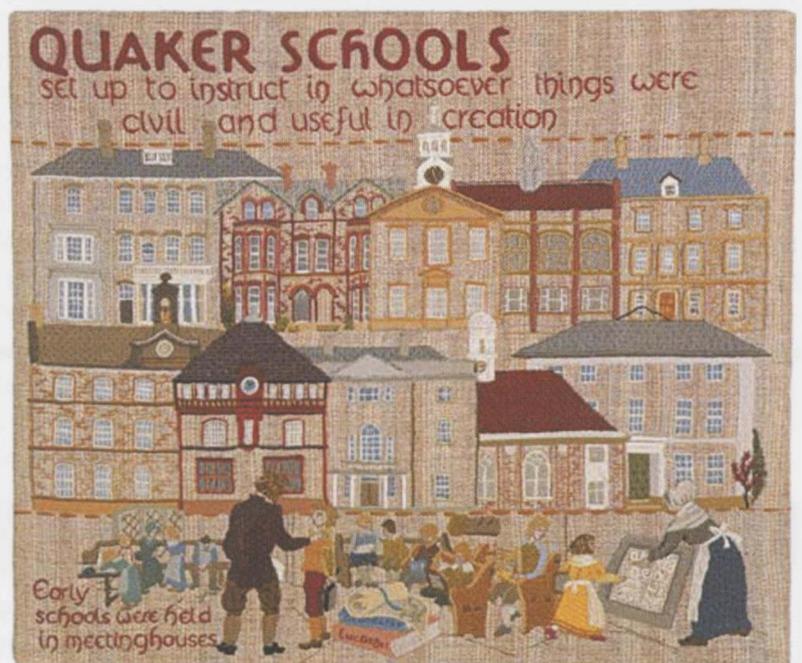
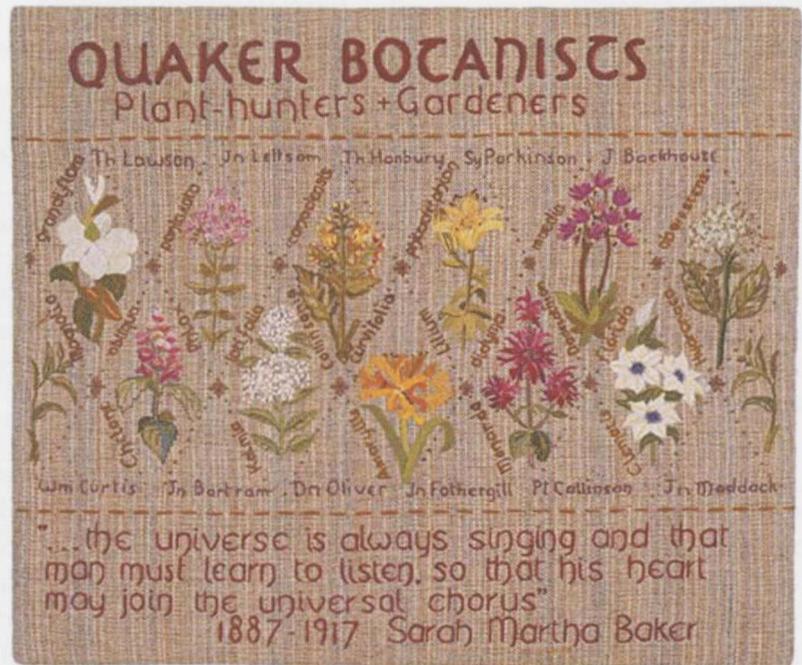
Anne went on to tell us that the various panels come together to tell the story of the social history of Quakers (and the world in which they live) in both the UK and the wider world. In the time available she was unable to tell us of the whole history but concentrated on one or two of her favourite panels – in particular the panel which depicts the various Quaker Botanists – a special interest of hers.

Through out her talk Anne stressed the role that 'ordinary' people have played in the Tapestry project. The construction remains as more panels are conceived and brought into fruition. People can also help as stewards at the permanent and touring exhibitions.

Richard finished off the address bringing the Tapestry situation up to date. Outlining the various decisions – mainly financial but also logistical – which need to be made if the Tapestry is going to remain permanently on show for people to see and enjoy.

If you have not seen the tapestry it is well worth a look. It can be seen at its permanent home in Kendal or when it is on tour. Early next year it will be on display in Exeter Cathedral.

Details of the Tapestry can be obtained from: www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk or 01539 722975. Our thanks go to Ann and Richard Taylor for their interesting talk.





Diana Lloyd – SOSA President

2004/2005

Profile

Sibford has been part of my life since 1953, when at the age of four, I first attended an Old Scholars' Reunion with my brother, Ian and parents, Ethel and Brian Wright. That was the occasion of the Fiftieth Jubilee celebration of SOSA and it was estimated 250 attended on the Bank Holiday Monday.

The 1953 Reunion report states, "A mention must be made of a charming Queen of Hearts, complete with tarts (plus a serious dignity)." What the report fails to mention is that the tarts were covered in ants as I had set the plate on the grass!

The Sibford Reunions that followed were interspersed by cricket at Jordans, Christmas Parties at Westminster Meeting House, trips on the river in sunshine or pouring rain, but always surrounded by a wonderful group of people who were determined to enjoy themselves.

I wanted to be part of this special group, so when the question of my secondary education was raised, I had no hesitation in saying, "Sibford."

However, when I arrived at Sibford as a scholar in September 1960, it took time to adjust to school for what it really was and I soon had to learn that places where I had roamed freely a month before were now strictly out of bounds.

My school reports suggested average attainment though I did excel in practical subjects and I also enjoyed playing hockey, managing to get into the school team and thereby savouring the pleasure of 'teas' when we played away matches!

After five years, it was time to move on though I had no idea to what, and so I spent two years allegedly studying "A" levels at a local comprehensive in Hersham from where one was expected to go on to further education and then into the nursing or

teaching vocations, neither of which I felt I had a particular calling.

The local Careers officer, recognising my interest in needlework, suggested employment with a theatrical costumers in Soho, London, a post that provided a variety of interesting work for the next two years ranging from making two-piece skimpy outfits for "Talk of the Town" cabaret to military uniforms for the film, "Charge of the Light Brigade." It was whilst commuting back from London to Woking that I saw an ad. in the "Evening Standard" for a college course in Hotel, Catering and Institutional Management for which I duly enrolled at Guildford Tech. in September 1969.

I spent two very happy years at Guildford developing skills in catering and house management, book-keeping, design and interior furnishing. I had found my forte at last!

On "graduating", my first job was a cook at Westminster Teacher Training College, Oxford where with six other cooks, we prepared three meals a day for students and staff. It provided an excellent experience and grounding in large-scale catering as all meals were produced using only raw ingredients (and what was left over each day was boiled up in the stock-pot for the evening's soup.)

Eighteen months later, I felt ready to move on to catering management and applied for a post at a boys' boarding school in Cranleigh, Surrey – not the public school- but one that Essex County

Council had relocated in 1942 and apart from a few brick buildings the school was still housed in wooden chalets.

Life at Elmbridge was something of a shock after Westminster. As Assistant Catering officer I was not required to do any cooking and the quality of meals was poor. I felt disheartened and wondered if I had made the right career move but the teaching staff were friendly and welcoming. In particular, the Head of English, John Lloyd was kind enough to come along to the 1973 Sibford Old Scholars' Reunion and peel potatoes at 7am in the School Domestic Science room and do other menial tasks asked of him.

We repeated the same catering feat the following year, a month after John and I had married at Godalming Meeting House and again in 1979 by which time we had a two year old son, Hywel and another on the way! For that Reunion we were able to use the School kitchens and enlist some of the staff though I couldn't have satisfied the hunger of Old Scholars at any of the Reunions without the support of Katherine Angus, whom I had trained with at Guildford, and worked with at Westminster.

That year, 1979, saw the Lloyd family move to Wotton-under-Edge, a small, picturesque town snuggled under the south Cotswold escarpment with a wonderful community spirit. As the boys were growing up, I became interested in the development of the pre-school child, taking a vocational Open University

course followed by one on pre-school playgroup management and using our younger son, Owen as guinea-pig! By that time, I was running the local Mother and Toddler group and later became a Playgroup leader which was especially rewarding when working with the "rising fives" as they prepared for full-time education.

In 1985 when Owen started his first year at primary school, Wotton's other junior school advertised for a school cook and since I had worked in the school meals service prior to the birth of our two boys, I had no difficulty in securing the post. So with the boys at one primary school, John at the comprehensive and now me at the other primary school, we had a finger in every pie, to use a culinary expression!

Over the years that I've been at the Bluecoat School, the nature of the work has changed so that I no longer work for the school meals service or any group organisation but am employed by the governors of the school and have total control of menu planning. To be able to provide the children with balanced, healthy meals gives much job satisfaction though it is rather disconcerting now to be feeding the children of past pupils!

Now another stage begins as next summer I will resign from the Bluecoat school and become a "groupie" with the British Lions Male Voice Choir as they tour New Zealand with the Lions Rugby team. But I'll be back from "down under" and look forward to the first Old Scholars' Reunion to be held in July.



Ian and Diana, Sibford, August Bank Holiday 1953.

Sibford Teddy Bears for Sale

£3.00 each – please contact Wendy Finch at the School on 01295 781200.

The money will go into the Foundation Fund.



If you need a new **Membership List** or details of a member, or if you know of any births, marriages and deaths, then please contact Mike Finch, the Membership Secretary. His contact details are shown in the list of officers opposite.

important note

Next year's Reunion will be moving from the Bank Holiday Weekend to July 16/17th 2005

sibfordian anecdotes

Memories of a Quaker School in the 1930's – by David Laity

April Fool

The School dining hall seated about 60 boys and 60 girls at 12 plain oak tables without mats or tablecloths and at the end on a dais or raised platform sat the Headmaster and his wife and a number of teaching staff.

Normal sequence of events.

1. The pupils and staff filed in and stood in silence behind their chairs.
2. The Headmaster moved his chair and sat down and the whole school did likewise and there followed a short silent Grace.
3. At the end of the meal the Headmaster rang a small bell and all the talking stopped and there was a short silence in thanks for the meal.

However on the first of April breakfast someone had tied all the inside legs of the staff top table chairs together with a long piece of string or rope.

When the Headmaster moved his chair the pupils all sat down in silence and the staff were left tugging and pulling their chairs.

The Headmaster was not amused and when he tried to ring his little bell to signal the end of the meal it did not work because the knocker had been removed.

It was not his day and it never happened again.

Sibford Old Scholars' Association

Officers and Committee

01/09/04 until 31/08/05

PRESIDENT DIANA LLOYD (Until 31/08/05)
87 Court Orchard, Wotton-under-Edge,
Gloucestershire GL12 7JE
Tel: 01453 842715
Email: lohnLloyd@wotton-u-edge.fsnet.co.uk

VICE PRESIDENT CHRISTINE WEATHERHEAD (Until 31/08/05)
35 Ossulton Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb,
London, N2 0JY
Tel: 0208 458 3455
Email: cweatherhead@ukonline.co.uk

RETIRING PRESIDENT STEPHEN BUNNEY (Until 31/08/05)
Mayfield House, Linwood Road,
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire LN8 3QE
Tel: 01673 849236
Email: stephen@sbnuney.fsnet.co.uk

GENERAL SECRETARY LUCINDA POULTON (Until 31/08/05)
c/o Kit's Cottage, Junction Road, Churchill,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 6NW
Tel: 07713 166222
Email: lucinda.poulton@tesco.net

TREASURER RUSSELL STEED (Until 31/08/06)
50 St. Francis Avenue, Olton, Solihull,
West Midlands, B91 1EB
Tel: 0121 707 4720
Email: jruss@steed4.fsnet.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY MICHAEL FINCH (Until 31/08/06)
Kit's Cottage, Junction Road, Churchill,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 6NW
Tel: 01608 659625
Email: mrwf@kits49.fsnet.co.uk

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR GUY KINGHAM (Until 31/08/07)
31 Prideaux Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN21 2ND
Tel: 01323 643363
Email: guyandjane@hotmail.com

ASSISTANT REUNION SECRETARY NICOLA GRIMES (Until 31/08/05)
c/o 53 Chestnut Drive, St. Albans,
Hertfordshire AL4 0ER
Tel: 07747 791430
Email: nicola.grimes@virgin.net

EDITORIAL TEAM LEADER MICHAEL GRIMES (01/01/05 until 31/12/06)
42 Second Avenue, Selly Park,
Birmingham, B29 7HD.
Tel: 0121 472 7594
Email: michael.grimes@dsl.pipex.com

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA GRIMES (Until 31/12/05)
53 Chestnut Drive, St. Albans,
Hertfordshire AL4 0ER
Tel: 01727 850521
Email: pat_chris@btopenworld.com

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE LUCINDA POULTON (Until 31/12/07)
c/o Kit's Cottage, Junction Road, Churchill,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 6NW
Tel: 07713 166222
Email: lucinda.poulton@tesco.net

BRANCH SECRETARIES:

MIDLAND HILARY HADDLETON
8 Park Avenue, Solihull,
West Midlands B91 3EJ
Tel: 0121 705 0462.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS SIMON BARFOOT (Until 31/08/05)
102 Holly Road, Northampton NN1 4QP
Tel: 07967 737326
Email: Barfsl@yahoo.co.uk

MARGARET SHELLEY (Until 31/08/05)
39 Bradden Road, Greens Norton,
Towcester, Northamptonshire NN12 8BS
Tel: 01327 354894
Email: maggieshel@yahoo.co.uk

JULIE GREENHILL (Until 31/08/06)
64 Dundee Road, South Norwood,
London SE25 4QJ
Tel: 0208 656 5715
Email: jools1205@hotmail.com

IAN WEATHERHEAD (Until 31/08/06)
35 Ossulton Way,
Hampstead Garden Suburb,
London N2 0JY
Tel: 0208 458 3455
Email: ianweatherhead@ukonline.co.uk

EDD FROST (Until 31/08/07)
2 Gilkes Yard, Banbury,
Oxfordshire OX16 9GF
Tel: 01295 257102
Email: edd@eddfrost.com

MARGARET FAIRNINGTON (Until 31/08/07)
140 Fellows Road, London NW3 3JH
Tel: 0207 586 3623

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

HEAD MICHAEL GOODWIN,
Tel: (Office) 01295 781200

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES: MAGGIE GUY (31/08/05)
Sibford School, Sibford Ferris,
Banbury, Oxon OX15 5QL.
Tel: (Office) 01295 781200
Email: maggie.guy@virgin.net

DIANE HOWES (31/08/05)
Sibford School, Sibford Ferris,
Banbury, Oxfordshire OX15 5QL.
Tel: (Office) 01295 781200
Email: diane.howes@btopenworld.com

the **Sibford** Rocket

important note

Next year's Reunion will be moving from the Bank Holiday Weekend to **July 16/17th 2005**