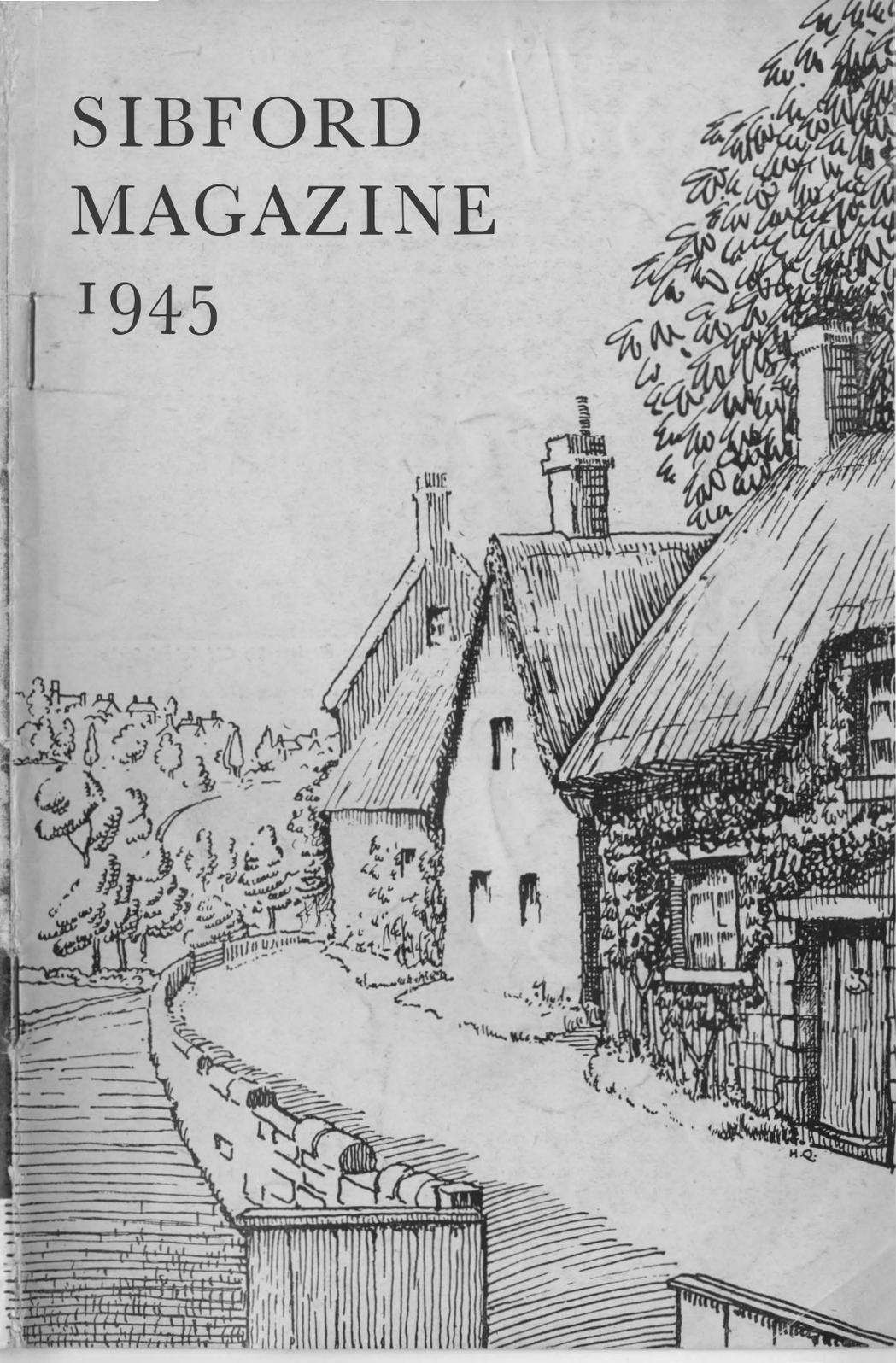


SIBFORD MAGAZINE

1945





An Interval in the Whit Monday Sports, during which Polly displays his Old School Socks

The camera in the same spot—an action picture of the village tug-of-war team





The Sibford Magazine

RENASCENCE

For the purpose of assessing the general trend of the SOSA in recent years it is helpful to glance briefly at the wartime history of its official publication. That the OSA has emerged with vigour from the period of the war has been a demonstrated fact to those who have been able to join in recent events ; for the others this brief summary may serve as a guide. Many of us may have forgotten that in 1940 the Sibford Magazine (which incorporates the SOSA Annual Report) was almost a casualty. Not until the last moment—by little more, in fact, than the skin of its austerity paper cover—was it saved from a total if temporary disappearance. Belatedly, a slight issue of 12 pages, embodying much less than one sixth of its previous size and grandeur, it emerged into the blitzed England of the spring of 1941. During the following two years it grew only by virtue of the illustrations which blossomed forth in places which were once typographically sacred wastes. But in 1943 it began to recover : the number of its pages grew to 16, and in the following year to 20. The present issue has 24.

In view of the substantial increases in the cost of printing, in view of the wartime restrictions upon the use of paper and the many other difficulties, it says much for the OSA that the end of the war finds it with a magazine twice the size of that which it was able to achieve at the start. But let us not forget that once the Sibford Magazine had 64 pages of type, ten pages of half tone photographs, and a stiff two-colour cover. The remembrance is salutary as well as nostalgic : the cost of the pre-war issue was about the same as the cost of the present, post-atomic publication. The SOSA is not, of course, alone in this situation : our Ackworth contemporary, for example, despite a reduction in size since the war of about one third, has nevertheless risen in cost from about £230 in 1939 to about £330 last year. As far as the SOSA is concerned, against this new situation has to be placed the fact that only a third of its members are keeping it financially alive.

Yet we cannot doubt but that the vitality of older days will be reborn from the soil of this new age. There are problems—not only the monetary ones which the facts above reveal, but problems such as the resolving into a more settled routine of wartime improvisation,

and the still unknown factor of Whitsuntide accommodation. The point to be remembered is that fundamentally they are not the problems which faced us in 1939, but our inevitable companions in that "period of rebuilding the SOSA to its former strength of membership and activity which lies ahead". It is not optimism, but conviction, which leads us to believe that in common with a world which is reaching out for the sun, the SOSA will achieve its rightful and its desirable place.

SIBFORD AND THE NEW ACT

It is disappointing that at a time when free education is available at secondary schools under local education authorities, Sibford is unable to offer any such advantage.

It was hoped when the recommendations of the Fleming Report were published that Friends' Schools would be able to benefit from one or other of the suggested schemes for state aid. This, however, has not been found possible, largely through the breakdown of the schemes as originally put forward.

Owing to the rise in the rate of salaries under the Burnham scale it has been necessary to raise fees, but the School Committee has in mind the importance of not allowing fees to rise beyond a point which prohibits the attendance of the children for whom the School has always provided.

It should be noted by parents that under the new Education Act it appears possible that children who have attended primary schools and have passed the examination for entry into a secondary school can hold their scholarships in any secondary school, and by application to their local authority should be permitted to attend Sibford without payment of tuition fees. Boarding fees would then be adjusted by that amount.

Until this summer, Sibford was not a recognized secondary school. It has never been the intention of the Committee that it should provide a Grammar School type of education. However, the wider interpretation given to secondary education in the new Act led the Committee to apply for recognition. The inspection was held in July and the School is now placed on the list of *Recognized Secondary Schools*. In the Inspectors' report it was urged that as soon as practicable further classroom accommodation and a new hall should be built. These new buildings have long been hoped for by those who know the School, and the problem of raising the necessary funds is very urgent in the minds of all lovers of Sibford.—E.B.B.

[*It was felt that a note on the position of Sibford under the new Education Act would be of interest to all Old Scholars, and particularly to those who are also parents.—ED.*]

THE SIBFORD MAGAZINE (incorporating the SOSA ANNUAL REPORT) is the journal of and published annually by, the SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION. Items for insertion should be submitted to the Editor. General enquiries, including those concerning distribution, and also notices of change of address, should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Louis E. Wright, at the address given on page 4.

OF IMPORTANCE TO ALL

- We have received from the newly-appointed Membership Secretary the following letter, the importance of which will be obvious to all. We trust that all Old Scholars will give it their careful attention

DEAR OLD SCHOLARS,—You will see from the report of the Annual Meeting that those present were disturbed by the treasurer's report, which revealed that out of a membership of over 600, about 200 were, financially, keeping the Association alive.

The annual subscription of 2s. 6d. is very small, and while the Association allows continued membership to those who are genuinely unable to afford this small sum, it does feel that those who can should pay, and pay promptly and regularly.

Perhaps because it is such a small amount, some are careless about it. To those I would say : become a Life Member. It saves a lot of bother, and Life Membership costs only three guineas, which represents 25 years at the present rate of annual subscription. The average boy or girl leaving Sibford at 16 would therefore receive his or her membership virtually free from the age of 41 onwards. When this is compared with the amounts that an Arnold Kaye or a Charles Brady have had to pay, the proposition is surely an acceptable one !

You will also note from the report of the Annual Meeting that ideas were considered to induce regular payment of subscriptions. Of these suggestions, that of a Membership Secretary was adopted. I volunteered to tackle the job—although I was told that I was taking on the impossible. I have been told so many times since. Help me confuse these pessimists by sending your subscription regularly, to me or to the treasurer, whose address you will see on page 4. If you have not already done so, do it on receipt of this magazine. (And if you change your address, do please send me a card at once. You can do so for a penny, provided your new address only is written on the card.)

Any attempt to keep the whole of our membership " alive "—and that in short is the job I have tackled—cannot be done by one person alone. I need, and I ask for, the help of all who have the welfare of the SOSA at heart. Our Association is a vital part of all that is implied by the word " Sibford " ; let us work together to see that we make our contribution as useful, as beneficial, and as pleasureable as it can undoubtedly be.—*Yours very sincerely*, LOUIS E. WRIGHT (Membership Secretary), 72 Ditton Hill Road, Surbiton, Surrey. (Emberbrook 4059.)

SOSA SUBSCRIPTIONS AND COLOURS

The minimum subscriptions are : annually, 2s. 6d. ; life, 3 guineas. Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed and made payable to " Sibford Old Scholars' Association ", and paid to the Treasurer or the Membership Secretary.

SOSA Ties (4s. 6d. and one coupon) and Scarves (15s. 6d. and two coupons) are available from John Coxon. Six months delay in delivery.

REUNION 1946

The 1946 Annual Reunion at Sibford will be at Whitsuntide. Arrangements are being made and a meeting of the SOSA Committee was held at Sibford in December. It is especially asked that members will *not* book accommodation privately. Details will be circulated as soon as possible.

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS

Membership of the Sibford Old Scholars' Association is open to Old Scholars, their wives or husbands, past and present officers of the School, and members of the School Committee

PRESIDENT 1946 : JOHN DEARDEN

PAST PRESIDENTS

1904	Joseph Spence Hodgson	1924-25	Frank Lascelles
1904-05	Dr. Richard L. Routh	1925-26	Dr. Margaret Brady, BA, MB
1905-06	Michael T. Graveson, JP	1926-27	Christopher Martin, FRCS
1906-07	Robert B. Oddie	1927-28	Miriam J. Carter
1907-08	Joseph S. K. Parsey	1928-29	Arnold J. Kaye
1908-09	Elizabeth M. Oddie	1929-30	Henry John Randall
1909-10	Edward P. Kaye, MSc	1930-31	James T. Harrod, BA
1910-11	Charles E. Brady, OBE	1931-32	Theodora Hodgkiss, BSc
1911-12	Ethel M. Harrisson	1932-33	Lionel Geering
1912-13	Arthur B. Oddie	1933-34	Jane Sabin
1913-14	Lucy S. Lamb	1934-35	Percy O. Whitlock, MA
1914-16	James T. Harrod, BA	1935-36	Margaret C. Gillett
1916-19	Elizabeth F. Brown	1936-37	Henry Lawrance
1919-20	Thomas Jackson	1937-38	Frederick E. Goudge
1920-22	Mabel T. Harrod, BA	1938-39	Wilfrid Pollard
1922-23	Frank W. Snow	1939-43	Howard Quinton
1923-24	Ethel M. Sharp	1943-44	Kathleen Rice
		1944-45	Roland Herbert

Joint Secretaries James Baily, 90 Brighton Grove, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Irene Coxon, Five Ways, Charlbury, Oxford.

Membership Secretary Louis Wright, 72 Ditton Hill Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

Treasurer John Coxon, Five Ways, Charlbury, Oxford.

Auditor Alfred Holland.

Local Secretaries Grace Bunker (London), 61 Highlands Court, Gipsy Hill, S.E.19.
Hilda Jenks (Birmingham).
Lewis Poulton (Sibford).

On School Committee Henry Lawrance.

Magazine Editor Leslie J. Cross, 4 Moorfield Road, Cowley Peachey, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Committee Eileen Atkins, Peggy Yeoman, Monica Foss, John Bolam, Elizabeth Holden, Geoffrey Long, with the Past Presidents and the *ex-officio* members.

WHITSUNTIDE 1945

ON Saturday, May 19th, with VE-Day celebrations hardly over, began the annual pilgrimage to Sibford.

A larger number than last year was to be accommodated, although fewer children were in evidence. Despite a late easing of the billeting situation, through the timely return to the towns of many evacuees who had been living in the village, a few Old Scholars were denied the tonic of reunion. What, we wondered, of the future, now that we have the welcome interest of so many younger members? The problem of accommodation loomed large in our more serious moments this year, for we all sensed the resurgent spirit of the SOSA and we all agreed that nothing must be allowed to dampen this rising enthusiasm.

The newly resumed weather forecasts did not promise the best, and on Saturday the prevailing high wind bore them out; nevertheless, by characteristically varied methods, including a car or two, we arrived at the beautifully verdant village. We were a goodly gathering, though familiar faces were missed, particularly those of the stalwarts, Howard and Doris Quinton. We hoped that improved health would repair the omission next year. Many of us also missed the pleasure of calling in on Sally Walker, who had been enduring a long illness. We were glad, however, to welcome back some who had missed recent reunions, including Charles Brady, whom we were able to compliment personally upon his acquisition of the OBE.

Prom-propping sessions began at once, and speculative groups had happy gossip. (But—talking of the prom—what Hercules has removed one or two of the important footrests?) From this time-honoured custom we adjourned to the first lunch, during which President Roland Herbert said words of greeting, and thenceforward the gathering was definitely “on”. Once again indefatigable Jim Baily outlined the table by table duties of preparing, setting, and clearing the meals, and the telling of an appropriate story of schooldays. We scarcely believed him, however, when he ended his words of instruction by saying, “Our table” (containing the weighty OS’s) “has, of course, now done its turn.”

The old cookery room revealed evidence of the rationing spadework accomplished, and, throughout the weekend, the unflagging efforts of those who look to the needs of the inner man.

In the afternoon, with the uncongenial wind doing its worst, the cricket match, School *versus* OS, was played on the Lilliputian wartime field. The School fairly swamped us. OS’s batted S. Geering, A. Castree, L. and B. Wright, R. Geering, A. Holland, J. Herbert, E. P. Kaye, P. Hargreaves, N. Myall, and R. Quinton to total a mere 29. Early in their innings the School obliged by toppling badly, but A. Manesseh and R. Herbert were dominant, and with P. Grayson, P. Manesseh, G. Watkins, K. Tettmar, D. Brook, D. Buckland, K. Dowden, C. Jones, and P. Dumpleton, hit up 54 after passing the OS total with five wickets down. A noteworthy feature was the bowling of E. P. Kaye (still resplendent in his Monty Woolley beard). Most of us were pleased when came the chance of tea (sans sucre) and



. . . . strange and enchanting dances

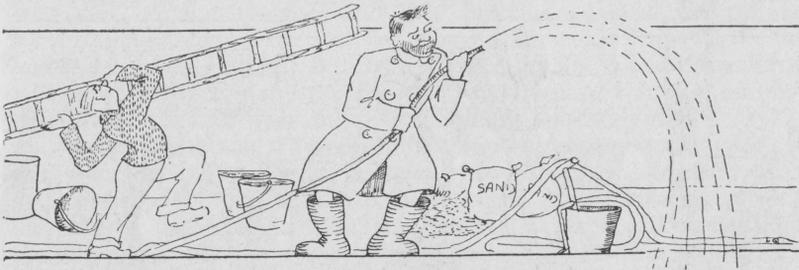
cakes in the comparative warmth of the verandah, and there, abetted by the inspiring effect of reunion's magic air, tongues were loosening. After a short resumption of play we all drifted away to the gym for the present scholars' production of Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer".

Gradually the gym filled up, almost to saturation point. First came from Arthur Johnstone an explanation of last-minute cast difficulties because of illness; despite this, Miss Burgess's protégées gave a lively and well received performance, the boys in the bar room scene particularly enjoying their "swigs". The leading parts of this well-acted comedy were played by Miss Burgess (who gallantly substituted at the very last moment), Arthur Grant, Geoffrey Watkins, Naomi Carter, June Wheeler, Brian Cashin, and Philip Manesseh.

At supper time Geoffrey Long set a high standard for the table by table raconteurs with a story of a schoolboy transaction in Belgian cigarettes. However, even that paled by comparison with the spontaneous effort of our new comedian, that droll bachelor, Mr. Lewis Poulton. With expertly mixed humour and admonition, he described the billeting difficulties attached to his job as local secretary, difficulties relating particularly to single girls, whom it appears landladies don't like. Lewis's suggested remedy (to achieve the married state), coupled with the information that he was himself open to receive suitable offers, was greeted with one of those roars of laughter that punctuated his remarks. Referring to the fact that a number of tents had been brought into commission to ease the billeting strain, he was sorry if the supply of blankets was small, and he hoped no one would be too cold. If they were, however, the solution was simple—go to bed late and get up early. Truly, if laughter aideth digestion, we could have indulged safely in a diet of old socks and rusty nails!

Trooping back to the gym, we found the irrepressible Kathleen Rice leading and teaching the younger bloods in strange and enchanting dances. Dancing, of all kinds, continued until 11 o'clock, when we began the first pilgrimage to the Elm, where 102 lusty throats rent the chilly night air. And then, diminuendo, back to bed (?)—but not before Mr. President had been well and truly chaired up Holly House drive.

Sunday yawned threateningly, and while breakfast was yet on, the thunderstorm broke. Consequently the day's programme had to be revised. Roland Herbert gave the usual breakfast table reading, and we observed a silence for Old Scholars who had lost their lives during



The Local N.F.S. (No flies on Sibford)

the war, and for those yet serving far away. Postcards were circulated for autographs and greeting to absent friends.

There were two morning Meetings for Worship at the Gower, and during the morning the OS Committee meeting was held at the School. At lunchtime attention was drawn to the welcome presence of the "first lady" (the President's wife, Eva Herbert), and a full-throated cheer heralded the ceremonial presentation to her of a number of presents to mark her birthday, which auspicious occasion happened to fall on that day.

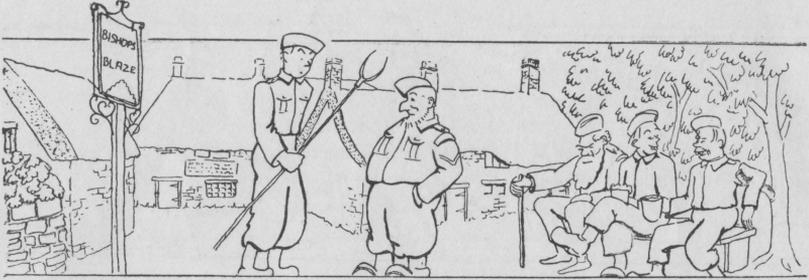
Loudy Bell picnic was perforce cancelled, and instead we had the annual business meeting at 3 o'clock. (It must be remarked that tradition was again broken when Charles Brady did *not* take the chair!) E. P. Kaye kept us, more or less, to the point at issue. Greetings were read, as also was a cheery letter from Fred Sheldon. Arthur Johnstone presented his report of the School's achievements during the year. Following the business, the gym witnessed a jolly tea, willing helpers serving the throng, seated in chattering groups, while outside the skies became less ominous. Subsequently the weather was fair—but this, however, did not avail the fruition of Alec Norman's tennis tourney, which was nullified by the wartime lack of tennis balls.

The usual evening Meeting, held in the gym, was ennobled by the speaking of James Harrod.

Settling in to the day's last meal, we learned that one anticipated incident had, at last, occurred. . . . Jim Baily announced that Charles Brady had lost an item of clothing—this time, his silken scarf. Well, well, well . . . !

As an improvisation, it was decided to use the post-supper period for a rehearsal of the items to be given at the OS concert the following night. This took place after the President had given what he described as a condensed address, which contained a good deal of thought provoking material. (A further condensation of the President's Address appears elsewhere.)

At the Elm that night there mustered 94 rather chilled people who did their best to follow the choral leads of Roland Herbert, Arnold Kaye, Kathleen Rice and Frank Rollett. And the new tradition was upheld when Mr. President chanted the "Great American Railway". And so back through the palely illumined village went the gay-hearted groups.



The Sibford Home Guard

The light of Monday promised the blessing of fine weather. Breakfast over, some OS's were, as ever, batting an eye-ful or bowling a maiden over with the boys on the playground. (But are the girls degenerating? For none appeared to join in during the whole weekend.) Four lucky people had found tennis balls and played on the fine-looking courts. Others (some the Spartans who had mowed the games field the preceding night) assisted sports master Louis Wright to prepare for the morning's events.

The Aquatics came first. Battle was waxed and waged by relay teams, and there was propelling of the lighted candle, which betimes was likened to a blanched Churchillian cigar 'twixt clenched teeth. Perched precariously upon the greasy pole, and boutng with pillows, antagonists of both sexes were goaded into ponderous activity and no little fatigue by the roars of the crowd. To finish off, Birmingham and London lashed the H₂O in tugs-o'-war. The scoring was reported as : Rest, 16 points ; Birmingham, 12 ; London, 9.

Eleven o'clock found a full gallery settled in the sunshine at the Hill watching Louis Wright and his myrmidons tussling with the sporting appurtenances. The schoolboys and girls joined in with great glee. The slow bike race tumbled off ; the three-legged gallop proved the value of that hereditary Herbertian gait ; dental apple grabbing from buckets of water was as funny as ever ; relay and wheelbarrow races attracted large entries ; the toddlers' treasure hunt was eagerly entered into ; and then the grimly anticipated tug-o'-war, where vocal strain seemed as great as physical. The School won, despite most of the rope engirdling rubicund Stan Ewan, plus the derisive grimaces of Geoffrey Long. Great amusement was caused by the weavings of the boat race crews, as also when several minutes after unmasking, the winning girls' team enquired as to which crew had won ! The smallest team won the ball passing, and Arnold Castree confirmed his domesticity by walking away with the dressing competition. A closely contested triple tug-o'-war between OS's and villagers just went to us ; similarly, Birmingham beat the Rest. And finally men vainly strove against the ladies in the sew-and-sew obstacle event. It was all efficiently run and well applauded—though our worthy Louis Wright seemed most modest in declaring the final score as Old Scholars, 20 ; the School, 19.

Spring Vale was the picnic rendezvous to which Selina, complete

with cart, Arthur Gooday and Erle Bizzell, conveyed the rations. As we congregated on the acclivity, Harold Rose wrestled with the fire and the witches' kettles. But for a short rainstorm, when the value of a derelict chicken pen was proved, we languished under nature's delightful spell, and were amused by Selina's bucking antics.

Back at the School, the zenith drew nigh as gallery, stalls, windows and doorways of the gym seethed with humanity. Maestro Hargreaves broke the ice with two piano pieces played to suggest well-known gaits (one being a "Roll and Herbert Walk"). This preluded the selfsame gentleman's entry as chief of the local Fire Service, the rest of the Service being Harold Rose. We have had to wait until now to know that NFS means No Flies on Sibford! A glorious chaos of water, pumps, buckets, Rose's hoses and nozzles as would rival Fred Karno's circus, brought forth delirious laughter. The brothers Kaye next gave a delightful "Twin Song" duet extolling their virtues and weaknesses. Stanley Holloway the Second, in the person of John Wallace, recited about Sam's musket drill antics. In a "Hairdressing Sketch" Elizabeth Holden perpetrated beautifully unbusinesslike acumen, and then Grace Bunker rendered, well as ever, some popular songs. Louis Wright came on to give a breath of the morning's sport as he read results, with comments. Lancastrian Arnold Castree mimed the threading of a needle and the sewing on of a button in the contrasting modes of husband and wife, an item which was uproariously funny. Male solo vocalists seemed shy, and once again Joe Canning was the only one to delight us. Geoff and Alice Long turned the blackboard to scoreboard in a School *v.* OS impromptu talent competition which brought forth lots of fun and no small degree of unexpected abilities among past and present scholars. (Dorothy Pryor, Grace Allen, Jean Morley, Norman Myall) charmed us with their music.

Leslie Baily recounted personal BBC experiences and his particular affection for Freddie Grisewood (who is a Cotswold inhabitant), and also indulged in a dialect monologue of "Our Bill" as a conspirator in the Gunpowder Plot. Back came Dorothy Pryor with three trepidatious pseudo pupils, Grace, Disgrace and Scapegrace, all dressed a la Victorian and displaying their virtuosity in a pianoforte trio. Finally, our new discovery, Lewis Poulton, told how enjoyable a duty he performed (in retrospect) with the Home Guard, and recounted some incredibly funny (and true) stories of events in Sibford during the war.

With laughter in our hearts supper was consumed, during which thanks were offered to the "back room people" and our charming waitresses—on whose behalf Head Girl June Wheeler responded. Reg. Barber concluded the table by table reminiscences with a good Godfrey Baseley sleepwalking yarn.

The ultimate dancing session followed in the gym, and then at the eleventh hour the contented parties hied them Elmwards for 1945's last symbolic rites. A hundred and thirteen co-ordinated heads sang and uplifted the nocturnal air.

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MABEL HARROD FUND

The amount received is £850.

At the Whitsun gathering it was decided to continue the collecting, with the hope of making the total at least £1,000.

Arnold Kaye was asked to make enquiries as to the legal steps necessary for the appointment of trustees for the administering of the Fund, and I undertook to see Paul Sturge concerning the position of European Friends, with reference to the possible choice of the first children to be assisted to come to Sibford.

The chaotic conditions in Europe make it unlikely that any child will be able to come to Sibford from abroad (unless possibly from Holland, Switzerland or France) for some time to come. The aftermath of the war leaves much to be done on the Continent before there can be attempted wise planning of the children's future education, but here in England we can celebrate our thankfulness for the coming of peace by building up a fund which will enable some children to face a new world with the happy training of Sibford as a foundation.

I know that Old Scholars are keeping the Mabel Harrod Fund well in their minds. We need all we can manage to raise, so please send your donation to me—Frank Parkin, Sibford Ferris, near Banbury, Oxon. There could be no finer "Thanksgiving" than the object for which the Fund was begun.—F.P.

from 9]

AT THE REUNION

Tuesday morning saw few scenes of animated send offs—people just melted away with their fill of happy memory ; for we had appeared to reflect the national reactions to the coming of European peace—no wild enthusiasm, but a tempered thankfulness, with the added certainty that the gathering of 1946 would bring the return of many long-absent faces.—VERA ROLLETT. Drawings by LORAINÉ QUINTON.

Among those present were : Alexander, Naomi ; Atkins, Betty.—Baily, James, Elin, Roger, Leslie, Margaret ; Baker, Nancy ; Barber, Reg, Vera, Graham, Christopher ; Bizzell, Erle ; Blackie, Conrad ; Bottoms, Ivan ; Brady, Charles ; Brookhouse, Francis ; Buckley, Margaret ; Bunker, Grace ; Burg, Hans ; Butler, James, Lilian, Daniel.—Carn, Leslie, Elizabeth ; Castree, Arnold ; Chatting, Janet ; Connell, Ray ; Cooper, Patricia ; Cottrell, Jean ; Coxon, John, Irene ; Cross, Leslie.—Dale, Tom ; Dearden, John, Bessie, Jean, Rosemary.—Ebry, Joan ; Ehlers, Marion ; Ewan, Stan.—Farr, John ; Foss, Monica.—Geering, Lionel, Sidney, S. A., Vida, Dick ; Gibbins, Patricia ; Gibson, Hugh ; Gooday, Arthur ; Gutkind, Peter.—Hargreaves, Peter ; Harrison, Arthur, Leslie, Marie ; Harrod, James T., Lucy ; Heckford, David ; Herbert, John, Edith, Barbara, Roland, Eva ; Holden, Elizabeth, Margaret ; Holland, Alfred ; Holmes, Martin, Thurston ; Hoskins, Ena.—Jenks, Hilda.—Kaye, Arnold, Edward P.—Ladell, June ; Laity, David ; Lamb, Bernard ; Langford, Phyllis ; Laughton, Betty ; Lavender, Barbara ; Lissaman, Hilda ; Little, Chris ; Long, Geoffrey, Alice.—Mayo, Pearl, Amy ; Moore, Geoffrey ; Morris, Lucy, Philip ; Myall, Norman.—Neal, Richard, Hazel ; Needham, Paul ; Norgrove, Vera, William ; Norman, Alec.—O'Grady, Eileen.—Parkin, Frank, Hilda, Hazel ; Peile, John ; Pollard, Wilfrid ; Poulton, Lewis, Henry, Justin.—Quinton, Loraine, Ronald.—Rice, Kathleen, Dudley ; Rollett, Frank, Vera ; Rose, Harold, Robert, Alice ; Rundle, Margaret.—Schnurmann, Chas. ; Secret, Bessie.—Taylor, John, Elsie ; Trout, Sheila, Graham ; Tunstall, Francis.—Wallis, John ; Walls, Lionel ; Ward, Daphne, Russell ; Whitaker, Ishbel, Beryl ; Winter, Geoffrey ; Wright, Louis, Doris, Brian, Mrs.—Yeoman, Peggy, Peter.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual business meeting of the SOSA was held in the Gym on Whit-Sunday.

Edward P. Kaye was elected to the chair, and was supported by James Baily and Irene Coxon (joint secretaries), and John Coxon (treasurer).

Greetings were read from Ethel Harrison, Marjorie Hawkins, Eric, Gulie, Christopher and Diana Grimes, Norman Burton, Howard and Doris Quinton, Wilfred Green, H. Hockley, P. Eddington, Wilfred and Dorothy Angerson, OS's at Bootham, Leslie Thomas, Robert and Mabel Shepperd, Frank Kaye, Fred Sheldon, Joan Lock, Norman Coxon, P. O. Whitlock, Miriam J. Carter, Joy Reynolds, Eric and Marie Brown, Jack Lewis, Wilfred Wells, Louisa Gitsham, John C. Smith, George Hather, Margaret Jones, and Ian Parsons.

Following the presentation of the treasurer's report (detailed below), there was discussion concerning subscriptions and the cost of the magazine. It was pointed out that subscriptions received covered only half the cost for 1944. John Coxon said that if every member had paid, the cost would have been covered. The COD system of posting out the magazines was to have been instituted following the end of the war (a resolution to this effect having been passed by a previous annual meeting), but the meeting adopted a resolution postponing this step *sine die*. There was a general feeling that the magazine should not be further reduced in size or scope, some members expressing the hope that it would be enlarged. The editor of the magazine pointed out that printing costs had risen enormously during the war, and that there appeared little prospect of any reduction in the near future. A suggestion by Leslie Baily that a membership secretary should be appointed who would get into touch with OS's who had lost touch with the Association, and also make it his job to keep the membership "alive", was unanimously agreed to as being preferable to methods such as COD. Louis Wright volunteered for this work, and the meeting applauded his offer. Louis Wright was then appointed Membership Secretary.

John Dearden was elected President for 1946, unless the School Centenary Celebrations fell during that year, when it was agreed to ask Ronald Lloyd to accept the appointment. Should the celebrations take place, it was agreed that John Dearden should be President during the following year. A President's Nomination Committee, which had not been active in recent years, was laid down, and in its place the meeting appointed the Secretary and the President for the year, who would co-opt two other members as they saw fit, as the machinery for future presidential nominations.

The following new appointments were made : London secretary (Joy Reynolds resigning), Grace Bunker ; committee (Joy Reynolds and John Dearden resigning), Elizabeth Holden and Geoffrey Long ; the Mabel Harrod Fund, Frank Parkin, John Dearden, Arnold Kaye and Roland Herbert, to examine the possibilities for the future working of the Fund, and to report.

ANNUAL MEETING

Accommodation for OS's during the annual gathering was considered, and a lengthy discussion ensued. James Baily and Lewis Poulton (local secretary) pointed out that the position had become acute, and that this year a few Old Scholars were unable to be present owing to their applications having to be turned down due to lack of suitable accommodation. James Baily said that Old Scholars who booked accommodation privately caused difficulty, and reminded the meeting that this point had previously been raised, Old Scholars having been asked to book accommodation through the local secretary. Lewis Poulton instanced specific cases where single members, and members without family, had taken accommodation which might have been used to accommodate members with families. Accommodation for those who did not mind roughing it was not so difficult to find, and this year several tents had been used. The desire of members to be accommodated in a particular billet could be met by this request being stated on the form of application to attend the gathering, and he promised that wherever possible the wishes of members would be met. The meeting agreed that booking for the annual gathering should be done through the local secretary, and strongly recommended all members to adhere to this rule.

With regard to the general scarcity of accommodation, it was felt that at present no active steps to meet this could be made, but that the experience of the post-war years would have to be taken as a guide to future policy. Some members were optimistic, feeling that with the return to the towns of many evacuees, and the ability to billet further afield when cars were again in use, would be sufficient to meet the needs.

The meeting placed on record a tribute to those members who gave their lives during the war. The following resolution, proposed by Reg Barber and seconded by Leslie Baily, was unanimously adopted: "This 1945 gathering of Old Scholars, the first after the end of the European War, places on record its tribute to the memory of those Old Scholars who have been killed in the conflict, and its cordial greetings to all Old Scholars who are still scattered either at home or overseas. In the period of rebuilding the SOSA to its former strength of membership and activity which lies ahead, we look forward to their co-operation and to seeing them again at Sibford."

FINANCIAL POSITION

The treasurer's report was adopted as follows :

[WHITSUNTIDE 1944 TO WHITSUNTIDE 1945]							
EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Printing and distributing				Balance in hand (1944) ..	124	13	7
Magazine for 1944 ..	47	15	8	Subscriptions	24	10	6
Expenses, postages, etc. ..		17	3	Proceeds of 1944 Gathering	55	0	7
Balance in hand (1945) ..	158	10	5	Bank interest	2	18	8
	£207	3	4		£207	3	4

The Life Membership account, with new subscriptions at £18 18s., stood at £296 2s. The total balance was £454 12s. 5d.

The statement was signed by John N. Coxon (treasurer) and audited by Alfred J. Holland.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

- We regret it is not possible to print in full the Presidential Address given at Whitsuntide by Roland Herbert. The following condensation is from the second part of the address, and is of immediate application to Sibford and its affairs

THE President began with a detailed and thoughtful review of the tremendous events of recent years, tracing them first objectively and then through their more subjective and psychological reactions. He concluded this section of his address with the words, "Democracy can function effectively only through a well educated electorate", and continued :

The Education Act which came into force on April 1st provides for the first time the possibility of a full education for every man, woman and child up to the limit of his or her capacity. This is a great step, but we must not regard it as having determined the extent of educational progress for the next ten or twenty years. It is only a piece of machinery, consisting mainly of a number of administrative measures which clear up and extend the existing system, remove anomalies and provide better physical conditions. What we now need is a thorough examination of the content and purpose of education in relation to the rapid social changes of the last ten years.

H. C. Dent, editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*, asks, "What is to be the purpose of this great educational machine?" Most of the answer, he says, must be sought "in the purpose of the society the educational system is to serve". But, he goes on, "Yet not all of it. An educational system is not fulfilling its function if it does no more than prepare boys and girls, and adapt men and women, to fit into society as it is and to pursue the imperfect conception of its purpose. It should also seek to assist in the progress of social development, and should therefore always have as its objective the social *ideal* towards which society is striving."

We talk rather glibly of creating a new social order, but we are content to go on teaching and learning the same things in the same way for the same unearthly reason as we did in 1939, 1929, 1919 and even earlier. Again, our thinking about education should no longer be bounded by the walls of the school. When we talk about equal opportunity, do we mean for middle-class children, or children of Friends, or English children? Or are we thinking of "children" whatever their race, creed or social position? We must also recognize that the school is not the only educating influence: I need mention only the home, the cinema, the Church and the Press. The best efforts of the teacher are often negated by their influence. The basis of the home is love; the war has taught us to hate; the Church teaches humility and self-sacrifice; business life fosters self-assertion and aggressiveness; advertisements and the cinema stimulate desires which cannot be satisfied. Similar conflicts exist inside the educational system. There is the conflict between different types of school: Grammar, Technical, Public, Sibford, Leighton Park—all have different social and economic connotations. Then we have different standards of value for different subjects; proficiency in

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conjugating French verbs is ranked higher than efficiency in handling a plane. Conflicts arise, too, from the existence of social strata both inside and outside the school ; from the wearing of school uniform, and from the different standards of behaviour demanded by teachers and parents or by one teacher or another.

One of the greatest difficulties which children experience is that of fitting the various subjects into the general pattern of life. The curriculum of our schools is based largely on the requirements of an examination which exists mainly for economic reasons and bears little relation to the tests imposed in after life for most of them. It is, I think, significant that self-government and the democratic way of life is practised mainly in out of school activities, and it is possible that these methods may yet prove to be suitable techniques for school organization. They imply a drastic revision of the content of education. Without going into the interminable question of curriculum reform, I want to put a few questions which educational bodies ought to be thinking about. One does not usually look to a Colonial Office publication for opinions about English education, but the report on " Mass Education in African Society " is a most interesting document. Paragraph 9 begins as follows :

" One effect of these modern changes which is of special importance in education is that the citizen has much to learn which can only be learnt in the years of maturity. The need to take account of this is present in every community. In England, for example, it is argued that the schools, moved by a sense of the mass of knowledge and skill which the modern citizen needs to acquire, and aware of the shortness of available school time, have made the mistake of attempting to impose an adult curriculum on children." There is need therefore to ask such questions as :

" When did a particular subject first appear on the school timetable? Why was it adopted at that particular time? Are these reasons valid for its retention to-day? Which subjects are taught mainly for their mental discipline? Are there not others more appropriate to children's needs? What are the real objections to the adoption of Esperanto as an international language to be taught in schools? Is it necessary that so many subjects should be taken to the same level of attainment? Should not more thought be given to the training of the emotions? Would not this help to avoid a recurrence of a situation in which the finest scientific and technical knowledge and skill is used for the purposes of destruction? "

I suppose one of the most legitimate claims for the continued existence of Friends' Schools is that of their character-forming influences. The value of this is felt and appreciated inside and outside the Society, but it is confined to a relatively small number of people. Sibford will almost inevitably become a Secondary School, but of what type? Grammar, Technical or Modern? I hope it will be neither of these. I do not believe that any but a minute proportion of children could be satisfactorily classified under any of these heads. Friends in the past have been pioneers in education and Sibford has played its part. I do not want to see Sibford sinking still further into the Secondary

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School rut. I want it to regain the pioneering spirit and I believe the present, while the educational iron is hot, is the time to hammer out a scheme which is more for the needs of to-day and is more in line with the professed social thought of the Society of Friends. The Friends' Education Council in 1942 said, "There is nothing inherent in Friends' traditions or principles to require each of the schools to maintain intact its present educational structure", and went on to speak of the danger of schools dependent on fees becoming restricted to children of the well-to-do, and of the need for better access to our schools if the association between them and the general educational system of the country is to be profitable.

What scope does Sibford offer for an integrated educational and communal life? In Sibford village there is a strong social sense and considerable interest in education. The Workers' Educational Association class is the largest village class in the three counties of Berks, Bucks and Oxon; between 40 and 50 people squeeze into the little desks in the village schoolroom every Monday evening from September to May. A flourishing music club has been started and there is a live branch of the Women's Institute. Sibford needs a community centre where these and other activities can be carried on in reasonable comfort; this centre should be an integral part of the educational scheme of the locality in which this school should play a major part. Under the Education Act provision may be made for the boarding out of children who live too far from a suitable school; could not Sibford provide these facilities for this area? We have a glorious geographical position with ample ground for extensions and other amenities. The villagers are anxious to have a village hall as soon as possible, and have already collected about £500 for the purpose. Our school needs a new hall; we need a new gymnasium and a new swimming bath. Is it really necessary that two new halls must be built in a village of this size? Must our gym and swimming bath and playing fields be the private preserve of a privileged class?

The County of London plan shows the need for the integration of all the social and educational resources on the basis of the neighbourhood. "Some of the most remarkable schools in the country", said the Minister of Education during the committee stages of the new Act, ". . . are deliberately built in order to be centres of social life and to take the place of the medieval centre of the village, which was the Church. I hope the schools of the country will stand up to the challenge themselves, and not be frightened of becoming nuclei of village life." Whether we like it or not, we are part of this community and we bear some responsibility as the largest institution in the locality.

These ideas no doubt sound fantastic; there would be many difficulties, and all sorts of objections will be raised even to the mildest of reforms. The challenge of to-day has to be taken up, not only by teachers but by parents and employers and by men and women in all walks of life; for life itself is the greatest educator, be it for good or for ill. The degree to which we are prepared to take up this concern will mark the depth of our sincerity and be the measure of our greatness as educationists.

PAMELA ROBINS

The many Old Scholars who were at Sibford from 1932 to 1937 will learn with regret of the death in Naples of Pamela Joan Robins, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Robins, of Hastings. Death occurred on June 17th, at the age of 24, after an illness of three days.



Pamela Robins was a Corporal in the ATS, and was the only member to become a fully qualified operator announcer with the Army Broadcasting Service. Although she had had no broadcasting experience before her arrival in Italy in October, 1944, she very quickly became a well-known voice with the British Forces Station, Naples. She was tremendously popular, and her kindness and capacity for helping others in an unobtrusive way endeared her to all with whom

she came in contact. Lt.-Col. Slessor, Chief Broadcasting Officer, wrote to her parents that "she soon became a most valued member of the station staff, and it was not long before her quiet, soft voice was known and loved on the air by thousands of troops. She worked hard and unselfishly among men as a comrade and friend of them all. Your sweet and gallant young daughter died doing a job which brought pleasure and comfort to countless of her fellow soldiers. . . . Indeed, this gentle and modest girl is mourned by a great multitude of unseen and unknown friends".

Norah Biggs writes : Pamela's success as a producer and announcer of broadcast shows for the Army must have been in quite a large measure due to the influence of Sibford, where her interest in drama, painting and specially in music were aroused and developed. Her contemporaries will remember her achievements at school in these arts—and in that of hockey. Visits to Stratford Memorial Theatre and Arthur Johnstone's gramophone record recitals added to her enthusiasm for drama and music, and after leaving school she was able to gain a much wider knowledge of both, until finally as a member of the ATS she was given the opportunity to produce her own programmes, and her colleagues and her listeners in the army in Italy found the result good.

Her love for Sibford was never lost. Her last visit was in June, 1944, when she was working with the ATS on the "Salute the Soldier" campaign.

The funeral took place at the British Military Cemetery, Naples, and was attended by Corporal Robins' fiancé, Major H. J. Brewis, RA, who had flown from Austria ; a large contingent of ATS officers and other ranks ; officers of HQ Army Broadcasting Service ; and the entire staff of the Naples Station. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from Field Marshall Sir Harold Alexander and Chief Controller Whately, Director of the ATS.

MARIE P. BROWN

The many friends of Eric Brown, whose home is at New Southgate, N.11, will sympathize with him in the loss he has sustained by the death of his wife, Marie P. Brown, which occurred on October 22nd at the age of 36 years.

Eric and Marie Brown were two of a small group of workers with the FSC in Madagascar. They made their home in Tananarive, where Eric took over the printing office. They had one daughter, and they quickly made a place for themselves among their colleagues. Marie's health, however, failed after the birth of her second child, and for some time she received specialized treatment in South Africa. After her return to Madagascar in July, 1944, it was seen that the improvement was temporary, and on medical advice the journey home was arranged.

The family of the Brown's has a long Sibford tradition, Eric having been at school in the early 1920's.

ARTHUR GOODAY

To many Old Scholars, the death on July 27th of Arthur Gooday, of Brighton, must have come as a shock. Death occurred suddenly, at the age of forty-five.



Arthur Gooday, only son of Mary G. and T. A. Gooday, was known by name to most Old Scholars, and was held in great affection by all who knew him well. He was at Sibford from 1912 to 1915, and was one of the most popular boys in the School. He was exceptionally good at games and swimming, but had no conceit. He was always willing to lend a hand at any job, and his infectious merriment, which remained with him all his life, endeared him to boys and girls alike. More recent Old Scholars will remember him by the fact that, with Erle Bizzell, he always took charge of the donkey on the picnics. As

recently as last Whitsuntide he swam for the OSA in the contests against the School, and put up a very good show.

Many of his contemporaries will feel, as I do, that OS gatherings will lack something because Arthur Gooday is no longer there.—
GEOFFREY LONG.

ARTHUR WELLS

Although not an Old Scholar, Arthur Edward Wells, of Birmingham, was, until a few years ago, well known to most OS's as the group photographer at the annual gatherings, and many will regret his death, which occurred on June 23rd at the age of 74.

Arthur Wells was the father of a long and sterling family of Sibfordians—of whom Gordon, Arthur, Elsie and Marjorie are well known to us. He often visited Sibford and was for some years on the School Committee.

A MINIATURE "WHITSUN"

UNDER its new secretary, Grace Bunker, the London branch has begun a series of reunions which are proving tremendously successful. Highlight of the summer season was a gathering at the home of James Harrod, at Godalming, when sixty Old Scholars were present. A few weeks previously a good number had enjoyed a fine and breezy day at Brighton. A feature of the revived activity is a printed Newsletter which goes to every member following each reunion, giving the story of the outing, and announcing bigger and better things to come.



... conducted over the impressive building

The Brighton outing, writes B.A.W., was on July 22nd. We were met by local friends at the Meeting House, where the thirsty had soft drinks before continuing to the beach. Here we sat for what seemed an eternity, wondering what had happened to our sandwiches, which Erle Bizzell had piled into his car upon meeting us at the station. Ultimately we discovered that Grace had got mixed up with the piers, having told us to sit down 200 yards to the right of the wrong one! Belatedly we found the correct spot and began our sandwiches in silent appreciation—silent, that is, until our eyes alighted upon the spread with which the secretary had provided herself. Shades of Japhet! Plates, knives, forks,

salad (of lettuce, peas, beetroot, tomatoes, and other black market goods), jelly, apple, custard, and heaven knows what else. (Grace, it was agreed, had given up slimming!) She did, however, condescend to join us in bathing and paddling later on. During the afternoon we were joined by Percy Whitlock and his wife, who found us with great difficulty and some ingenuity, Grace having in her directions once again got mixed up with the piers. Before returning to London we enjoyed a fine tea provided by Brighton friends, and afterwards group photographs were taken. (Unfortunately, they are not good enough for reproduction here.) A very enjoyable day, and a fine augury for the future.

The outing to Godalming on September 16th, writes B.B., resembled a miniature Whitsun gathering. Sixty of us were met by a warm handshake from James Harrod at his charming home, "Green Maze", before he led us on a real Sibford Sunday "pig drive" to Charterhouse School, where we were conducted over the impressive buildings and grounds, which occupy the whole of a high plateau, from which some magnificent views were had. Back at "Green Maze" a truly tremendous tea awaited us—and here we discovered the reason for the absence

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THE HEADMASTER'S NOTEBOOK

The most evident effects of peace are (1) no need to worry about blackout (and Sibford is now again a lighthouse for twenty miles around), (2) after nearly six years of abstinence we can now fly kites (and the air at The Hill is full of them), and (3) at beginning and end of term the road is once again full of parents' cars.

Godfrey Baseley came down in July with the BBC recording van and made records of our Recorder players. (These may be broadcast.) We suggested he should record some Sibford "Rockets". He thought it a bright idea, so we all assembled in the boys' yard and under his inspiration gave a first-class performance. It was very amusing to hear the record played! (This too may be broadcast.)

At the end of the summer term a mock election was organized by Roland Herbert. Polling results were: Socialist, 71; Communist, 33; Tory, 26; Liberal, 14.

The results of the Royal Life Examinations were better than ever—19 Intermediates, 16 Bronzes, 7 Bars to Bronze, 3 Resuscitation Certificates, 1 Second Class Instructor's Certificate, and 4 Silvers—a total of 50, and a fine record. Patricia Lee passed Bronze one day, and Silver the next.

The motor mower has at long last been repaired, and at the moment of writing the games field is a pleasant carpet of green, with George Webb careering to and fro on the mower seat. In the summer holidays a village fête was held on the field and a dance in the Gym.

It seems to be becoming fashionable to hold village wedding receptions in our Gym. Dorothy Green started it, Joy Salmon followed, last week it was the turn of Evelyn Stevens, and this week Lily Haynes. (I suggest their first sons should be called Jim!)—A.J.

from 18]

BIG CHRISTMAS GATHERING

of our secretary from the "pig drive". Seated upon a comfortable bench, and accompanied by our worthy Henry Lawrance and his wife, she was enjoying to the full a very large mug of tea! Her enjoyment was soon shared by all, and many thanks were extended to Lucy Harrod, Elsie, and May, who had by miracles produced such a spread. After tea, Louis Wright appealed for a bumper collection for the Newsletter Fund—an appeal which was delightfully reinforced by young Tony Pollard, who remarked in a loud voice, "If I had the money I would give you a hundred pounds!" (We hope father took the hint!) James Harrod told how he had looked forward to this day for six years, and how greatly Mabel Harrod would have loved to have shared in the joy of the gathering.

The Christmas gathering at Friends House on December 15th was attended by 150 Old Scholars, and raised £60 for the Mabel Harrod Fund. Among those present were the President (John Deardon) and his wife, James Harrod, Roland Herbert, and Leslie Calcraft (home from Hong Kong), who was renewing old friendships.

The afternoon was taken up with tea and a sale of work, and the evening with a social, auction sale, and games.

Every generation of Old Scholar was represented at this reunion.

THE NEW PRESIDENT

JOHN DEARDEN, of Wolverhampton, who went to Sibford when he was nine years old, and had Robert Oddie for his headmaster, is well known to Old Scholars of more than one generation, and to many parents and present scholars as well.



His activities in connection with Sibford have been numerous, not least among them being the founding with a few others of the Parents' Association (now the Parent-Teacher Association), which has grown to large proportions, and which meets at Sibford three times a year.

John's parents were Londoners, being attached to Mitcham Meeting of the Society of Friends. When he went to Sibford in the far-off days he joined his brother Henry Dearden, who was already there as a pupil. According to reports which the Editor has no reason to doubt, he was more successful at fun and games than at lessons, though this aspect of his Sibford career is perhaps thrown into relief on account of the fact that at cricket and

football he excelled, becoming captain of both teams. He retains, however, vivid memories of many types of schoolday activities, as those Old Scholars who have heard some of his Whitsuntide reminiscences of life under the rule of Robert Oddie will recall.

Upon leaving Sibford he was apprenticed to the grocery trade, with which he has been connected ever since as a commercial traveller. He became first Secretary then President of his branch of the United Kingdom Commercial Travellers' Association. During the war of 1914-18 he served in France with the FWVRC, working with his wife, whom he married in 1916. During the more recent conflagration he was active from 1940 on behalf of the revived FWVRC (which later became the Friends Relief Service), doing a great deal of work for bombed-out evacuees, and being especially interested in the FRS hostels for evacuees at Tettenhall Road and the Woodlands, Wolverhampton. In various ways he has given service to a number of causes, including the Citizens' Advice Bureau, the Midland Adult School Union, the YMCA, and other organizations.

He is the father of two girls, Rosemary and Jean, both of whom are Old Scholars. According to his wife, whose wisdom we would not dare to question, he is "the *one* perfect husband".

UNDER THE TWO ELMS

THE New Elm rises up stately in its youth—the Old Elm, over 300 years old, suffers more and more from the ravages of time. To-day it is but half the Elm it was when Old Scholars last gathered at the cross-roads to celebrate their mystic rites. And yet still it defies the worst that time and the elements can do. Pale shadow, perhaps, of its former majesty, it still stands beside its younger brother to mark the spot that every Old Scholar holds in affectionate regard.

The October gale practically bisected our old friend, and only half the hollow trunk and a gaunt branch remain. On the back cover of this issue is a photograph of the Old Elm as it now is.

Roland Herbert has collected a lot of the wood from the part of the Elm blown down, and hopes to use it for sale as souvenirs in aid of the Mabel Harrod Fund.

It is interesting to recall that in the great storm of 1893, in blinding snow, the top of the Old Elm, estimated to weigh twenty tons, crashed into the roadway. At twenty-five feet from the ground, 257 annual rings were counted.

This year's gale brought down a number of trees in the locality, including a silver birch in the graveyard at the Gower.

* * *

At Whitsun a few Old Scholars taking in the wonderful view from the roof at the Hill observed with regret that the flag was sadly ragged and unkempt at the third section of Oxford blue. One Old Scholar offered the coupons for the renewal of the entire third and another offered to carry out the work. After Whitsun an intensive hunt was carried out in all the main London emporia—all in vain. Large shops in widespread suburbs were equally empty of the required material. Many weeks later, in a small street in St. Albans, an Old Scholar chanced unexpectedly upon a shop which promised to fulfil the order. Off went the flag and material to the seamstress who had offered to undertake the work.

Next gathering, look out for a renewed, perfect and whole SOSA flag, flying proudly from the mainmast at the Hill, tribute to an example of the persevering Sibford spirit!

* * *

From Prague comes a letter from Thomas Lowenstein, at Sibford 1939-40. Having travelled a good deal, and having returned to Prague after six years absence, he takes the opportunity of thanking Arthur Johnstone and all at Sibford for the experience of spending four terms in the school.

He has had a good deal of further experience since leaving Sibford. First he went to Glasgow, where he studied physics for three years, taking his BSc. Then he got into the Czech Air Force, and after wandering around several aerodromes was finally stationed at Dornoch Firth. Later he went to the Bahamas, New York, Miami, and the Bermudas. "I know now", he writes, "that there really are small islands in a brilliant blue sea with coconut palms on them; that humming birds do fly about shrubs with enormous red flowers; that bougainville trees do almost drown native shacks in their overflowing

UNDER THE TWO ELMS

curtains ; and that all the rest of the paradise which I had formerly only read about is really true ”.

Finally, Thomas Lowenstein speaks of conditions in Europe, as “ far from being completely satisfactory ”. Things are not, he says, “ on the level of a civilized country by English standards,” although he has hopes that the decency which he also meets with on many sides will eventually triumph. He concludes with an expression of “ heartfelt gratitude and best wishes ” for Sibford and the ideas it stands for.

* * *

John Headley, a founder member of the Adelphi Players, writes, “ We have been going for nearly four years now, touring continuously all over the country, whereas when we started our function was mainly to perform a social duty by playing in air-raid shelters, tube stations, out of the way villages, and isolated camps. We are finding the need to settle down now and develop our own technique of acting, one based on sincerity and truth, and hope to do so soon. But our life has been infinitely full and varied during these past years. One of our best audiences was composed of prisoners of war in an internment camp in the Isle of Man. We were the first entertainment to go there.” John Headley feels, however, that the theatre has something more to offer than mere entertainment, and goes on, “ We hope our plays will interest and entertain at the same time, perhaps even shake up the audience a bit, too, and provoke thought.” The Adelphi Players, whose president is Dame Sybil Thorndike, are in association with CEMA, and have the Playhouse at Ilkley as their headquarters.

John Headley has other links with Sibford apart from being an Old Scholar. His father, Herbert Headley, and mother, Florence, served on the School Committee for some years. His mother is a sister of Corder Catchpool.

* * *

Lewellyn Thomas (known at Sibford as John) writes from Rome in September that he is working with UNRRA, but hopes to visit his mother in Middlesex. Lewellyn Thomas had vivid and hard experiences during the war, as may be imagined when he says, “ I am in good health in spite of my two years in the Channel Islands under the Germans, life in four internment camps, fifteen German prisons, and six months in a Straff-Lager near Berlin.” He adds that he had the opportunity to meet many interesting people, and some very famous people now no longer living. In the future he hopes to work for an architect in Belgium whom he met while interned and whom he knows well—for, as he says, “ a friend in prison camp is a friend indeed ! ” Old Scholars will join in wishing Lewellyn Thomas happier times ahead.

* * *

Leslie Calcraft, who has been in Hong Kong, arrived in England in December, and hopes to renew OS acquaintances. Writing from Hong Kong in September, he says he hopes to be married soon, but is awaiting news, not having had a letter or telegram from the outside world since the start of the war. “ I shall have to begin a new address

UNDER THE TWO ELMS

book when I can get one," he says, "as I have lost literally everything and haven't even a decent suit to my name. However, that, no doubt, will be rectified soon." Leslie, who has had a hard time in Japanese hands, will be welcomed by all who knew him, and all Old Scholars will wish him a rapid recovery from his difficult past.

* * *

His brother, Herbert, of Vancouver, BC, had a daughter on January 22nd, 1945, who was named Sybil Frances. Herbert is still travelling on government business, and, from his letter, is highly delighted with the advent of parenthood!

* * *

An air-mail from A. Reuben Wilson (Flight-Lieut. in the South-East Asia Air Forces) says that he called at the FAU in Calcutta and in addition to seeing John and Mary Burt and Christopher Mitchell, met Jack Goss, who was *en route* for England from China, due to medical reasons. Reuben Wilson was at both Sibford (around 1920) and Ackworth with Jack Goss.

* * *

Dudley Page and his family were fortunate in securing with the help of Arthur Johnstone the rent of Lower Nill Farm (between the Tadmarton-Wiggington and Hook Norton roads) as a refuge from doodlebugs. During their stay, they rusticated in the approved Sibford manner, and made excursions to all the well-known places—Traitors Ford, Hill Bottom, and so on. They are now back at their home at Eastcote, Middlesex.

* * *

It is with regret that we record that there is still no further news of Terence Cragg, who was missing after a supply dropping mission at the time of the airborne invasion of Nijmegen and Arnhem.

* * *

Ralph Harding, of Folkestone, an OS of Leslie Baily's time, had a front seat during the Battle of Britain and the later activities of doodlebugs and other things from across the Channel. He was in the Observer Corps, stationed at a post on the coast at Folkestone. He has lost touch with the OSA, but wants to join us again.

* * *

The Sibford Village Hall Committee (of which Frank Parkin is treasurer) has bought an acre opposite the Church as a site for a new Hall, and an appeal for £2,000 has been started. The School field was the scene of a fête during the summer, when £205 was raised.

* * *

Howard Quinton is now a Labour Councillor in Windsor. The royal borough was won by Labour for the first time in history in the October elections. Howard has been in Windsor for only four years, but during that time has taken a great part in community affairs. In his ward, four of the five seats are held by Labour. Howard, who drew the front cover for this Magazine, took a big share in drawing up and illustrating an election magazine, issued by the Windsor Labour Party.

UNDER THE TWO ELMS

Congratulations are due to the Dearden family in more ways than one, for not only is papa our new President, but his younger daughter, Jean, was married at the Friends' Meeting House, Wolverhampton, on September 8th to Victor J. Mills, of Birmingham. Victor Mills had been an FRS member for several years, being attached to the hostel at the Woodlands, Wolverhampton, and, though not an Old Scholar, has taken a considerable interest, through his association with the Deardens, in Sibford affairs. Is now doing engineering.

* * *

Other SOSA officials to be congratulated are treasurer John Coxon and his wife Irene, who is our joint secretary. They were presented with a daughter, Christine Anne, on September 22nd.

* * *

Lionel Geering has bought a cottage at Burdrop which he proposes to convert into a baronial residence in the traditional Geering style. The cottage is very near the Bishop's Blaize, but there may be little significance in this.

During the gale, Lionel was caught in some telegraph wires brought down in Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower. He had to cut himself clear, but we have no news of any permanent injuries.

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Here are a number of brief items from Arthur Johnstone's letter which he sends out to a number of Old Scholars. The notes are compressed for obvious reasons.

Cecelia Eldridge is back in Canada after 11 years. (Address : The Ledge R3, St. Stephen, New Brunswick.) Connie Otherspoon (now Lacey) is in the Indian Military Nursery Service. Her patients vary from 6-foot Sikhs to little Gurkhas. Norman Smith, now a Leading Seaman in the Australian Navy, hopes to qualify as Petty Officer. (He now has a beard.) Franz Rosen (now Russell) was in a Tank Regiment and was wounded in France. Jack Simpson and Monica Foss are engaged and were to be married when Jack was suddenly sent to Burma. He is a warrant officer in the RAF. John Bolam was married in February. David Laity has taken over his father's 300-acre farm near Lostwithiel. Dorothy Hollis is now in Lyons bakehouse and has won a silver cup for confectionery—the first woman to do so. Gordon Ryan is in Ferry Unit, RAF, and has been in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Is now in Egypt. Will Roy, RAF, Middle East, has been in Tripoli and Cyprus, and is also now in Egypt. Geoffrey Jones, with the FAU at Kutsing, China, has been having adventures driving trucks on roads 10,000 feet high. He spent Christmas Day with some German Sisters in charge of a China Inland Mission. Warwick Williams is working for Boy Scouts with the British Red Cross in Belgium. Joan Broadhead is at school in Vancouver. Barbara Bond keeps up her singing, and is also a leading lady in High Wycombe dramatic circles ; she recently took the part of Candida. John Dumbleton is married and lives in St. Albans. Patricia Ball (one time assistant school secretary) was recently married. Tim Pye (in Paratroops) was dropped on Rangoon, and was about to descend on Singapore when peace came. Is engaged to be married.



TREASURE * HUNT *

Watched by a large gallery, the juveniles go off (above) on the first lap of their Whit Monday treasure hunt



SIXTEEN Old Scholars pose (left) at the Hill

This year's PHOTOCRIME asks: "What is Secretary Jim Bailey doing to ex-President Kathleen Rice?" Study the clues carefully, and send your solution to Jim. He is a very busy man so don't be disheartened if you have to wait for your prize!





THE DAY THOU GAVEST . . .

The remains of the Old Sibford Elm, in the fourth century of its life, after the autumn storm . . . 1945