

SIBFORD

1953

sibford old scholars association

Eva M. Herbert: recd. May 4th 1954.

PAST PRESIDENTS

1904-	Joseph Spence Hodgson	1929-30	Henry John Randall, CBE
1904-05	Dr Richard L. Routh	1930-31	James T. Harrod, BA
1905-06	Michael T. Graveson	1931-32	Theodora Hodgkiss, BSc
1906-07	Robert B. Oddie	1932-33	Lionel Geering
1907-08	Joseph S. K. Parsey	1933-34	Jane Sabin
1908-09	Elizabeth M. Oddie	1934-35	Percy O. Whitlock, MA
1909-10	Edward P. Kaye, MSc	1935-36	Margaret C. Gillett
1910-11	Charles E. Brady, OBE	1936-37	Henry Lawrance
1911-12	Ethel M. Harrison	1937-38	Frederick E. Goudge
1912-13	Arthur B. Oddie	1938-39	Wilfrid Pollard
1913-14	Lucy S. Lamb	1939-43	Howard Quinton
1914-16	James T. Harrod, BA	1943-44	Kathleen Rice
1916-19	Elizabeth F. Brown	1944-45	Roland Herbert
1919-20	Thomas Jackson	1945-46	John Dearden
1920-22	Mabel T. Harrod, BA	1946-47	Leslie Baily
1922-23	Frank W. Snow	1947-48	Geoffrey D. Long
1923-24	Ethel M. Sharp	1948-49	F. Joy Reynolds
1924-25	Frank Lascelles	1949-50	Ronald Ll. Lloyd
1925-26	Dr Margaret Brady, BA, MB	1950-51	James C. Baily
1926-27	Christopher Martin, FRCS	1951-52	Ronald Quinton
1927-28	Miriam J. Carter	1952-53	Alice Long and
1928-29	Arnold J. Kaye		Edward P. Kaye, MSc

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SIBFORD

and SOSA Annual Report

Jubilee Number

‘Ye menne of Sheepford wendath withersoever they wilen’

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT 1954: LOUIS WRIGHT

<i>Secretary</i>	John Coxon, 9 Middleton Hall Road, Birmingham, 30.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Alfred Holland, Wyndhams, Millshot Drive, Chequers Hill, Amersham, Bucks.
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Louis Wright, Pantiles, West End Lane, Esher, Surrey.
<i>Catering Secretary</i>	Celia Law, 25 Putney Hill, London, S.W.15.
<i>Auditor</i>	John Taylor.
<i>Resident Officers</i>	Margaret Baily, Miriam Carter, Lionel Geering, Roy Turner.
<i>Representatives on School Committee</i>	Miriam Carter, Louis Wright.
<i>Magazine Editor</i>	Stephen Wall, Turners Cottage, Fencott, near Islip, Oxon.
<i>Photographs</i>	Geoffrey Moore.
<i>Colours</i>	Lilian Ward.

a trio of messages

A Jubilee should be an occasion for jubilation and I am sure it is also one for hearty congratulations. The SOSA has been served by a succession of enthusiastic officers to whom we all owe gratitude for their devotion to the school, the Old Scholars' Association, and the ideals which bind the two together. May every good thing for which the association stands flourish and abound for countless years to come!

ARTHUR JOHNSTONE.

I should like, as Chairman of the Friends Education Council, to send a word of greeting and congratulation on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Sibford Old Scholars' Association. I have been impressed by the strength of the feelings of affection and loyalty which Sibford evokes in so many of its old scholars. The links between Sibford and Bournville Preparative Meeting, to which I belong, are particularly close. We have a constant succession of boys and girls at Sibford, and almost without exception, they become more attached to our meeting. I hope the Old Scholars' Association will continue to flourish.

HERBERT G. WOOD.

The third message is really from ourselves—to ourselves. There's no reason why, on such an occasion, we shouldn't throw aside any lingering reticence we may still have and give ourselves a hearty pat on the back! Some of us are over and many of us are well under fifty, but still we have, collectively speaking, reached our jubilee, and we've every right to congratulate ourselves. We've always known of course, that there never was anything quite like SOSA, whichever way you looked at it. But, however many feats of longevity we celebrate, let's make a stern resolve never to let SOSA get middle-aged, even if we may individually become antique. May we greet every new anniversary with the vitality and enthusiasm of youth! On behalf of ourselves, may your Editor wish us Many Happy Returns?

congratulations sosa!

Casual Impressions, 1953

Our fiftieth meeting opened with an expression of gratitude for the great services of Edward P. Kaye, a founder of our Association. Among his other gifts, the introduction of brother Arnold has been of outstanding value. Another founder, Elizabeth Foster-Brown, was present in good cheer. Others belonging to that era included three of the 1904 Staff, Mabel Sargent (Peirson), Ethel Harrison and Percy Whitlock.

The sudden and complete arrival of sunshine harmonized with our deepest desires and spread joy all round. Football on the playground, Cricket and Tennis flourished; Whichford Woods gave us a lovely reception; a grand procession of decorated cars and fantastic costumes dazzled the sports field.

Reminders of the versatility of a Sibford education were frequent. The "School Certificate" is a small part of life. Resourcefulness is greater. The attempt to divide English Youth into two parts, academic and non-academic, does not meet the multitudinous varieties of human life like a Sibford education does.

Saturday supper gave us a new diversion. With one of a pair of cards (black and white, oranges and lemons etc.), each man had to find a lady partner. This brought to me a young friend with a lively knowledge of Stratford-on-Avon and Wigton, apt subjects for our conversation. Entertainment afterwards was a clever display of dancing controlled by Kathleen Rice, whose pupils were remarkably apt. This was followed by a fine show of fireworks in the field. On Monday evening we had two well-acted plays and sundry smaller items: songs, a dialogue, a gambolling human horse, amazing conjuring. Two of Gordon Bigg's dogs were sold by able auctioneers to aid the building fund. What Versatility!

Looking back on early August, 1953, I cannot believe that anywhere else was to be found more continuous yet varied happiness than we enjoyed. This, no doubt, was largely due to the fact that Sibford is co-educational, where all are welcome; our Treasurer brings his young wife, our President is a "Long loved Ladye", and parties of active boys and girls come to taste the possibilities of future school life. One eight-year girl swam the length and earned a shilling.

How inactive radio and television are! *Here* was life, a chance to "consider one another to provoke unto love and good works" (Heb. x. 24).

Collecting £3,000 in a few years for the building fund was a great accomplishment. We like the new block, especially our "Old Scholars' Room", where our President unveiled our plaque; we look forward to using it next year.

Our President's address on Saturday evening was brief and very fruitful. Her appeal for times of silence and meditation was appropriately followed next morning by a harmonious meeting for worship at Sibford Gower.

Our officials were in good form. Alfred Holland gave a sense of financial stability. Louis Wright forecast future advances. Provision of meals by Celia Law was varied, abundant and always tasty. Unfor-

unately a mixing machine badly damaged her hand, but it could not quench her cheerfulness. John Coxon was hard at work all the time and was not dissuaded even when the clapper from the high-hung bell fell on to his head. A kind-hearted boy; luckily he is also hard-headed. Leslie Baily, like Lionel Geering; has now made his home in Sibford where he can keep a watchful eye on the School.

A closing word about our President. In fancy dress she was Queen Elizabeth the First. As herself she was happy as the Queen of the May, as brilliant as the Queen of Diamonds, and to everyone the Queen of Hearts. Long may she reign!

JAMES T. HARROD.

The Jubilee Week-End

There must have been many long faces on that Friday morning when the rain poured down so steadily hour after hour. Our Catering Secretary must have wondered how she could cancel all the salads and ice cream and whether it was too late to order soup, stews and steamed puddings. Everyone will remember though, how first the rain stopped, then the clouds parted, then the sun shone. From all parts of the country came the cars, buses, cycles and motor-cycles bearing Old Scholars to meet at Sibford, in the sunshine on the Prom.

Although the programme for Friday evening announced dancing, the main occupations without doubt were greetings, talk and laughter. Some dancing did take place, to the invaluable Quinton band, some hectic games were played and, of course, the Committee met, but above all could be heard the hum of conversation in the dining room where a steady supply of food and drink was served and the shouts from the Archway as some new arrivals appeared.

Amongst those arrivals appeared James Harrod, attending his 48th Old Scholars' Reunion without a break, determined to be there for the Jubilee celebration. Soon it was time for the walk to the Elm where a happy crowd sang songs and gave the usual rockets. A count showed 91 rocketeers led, of course, by Chief Rocketmaster, Arnold Kaye. A few real fireworks made their appearance at this time, fore-runners of things to come. Then came the dispersal to more personal pleasures, which included tea or coffee in the dining hall. Some people who had retired as early as midnight were inadvertently serenaded by softly singing "song-happy" groups. The swimming bath was patronized in the small hours and hardly had the ripples died away before the early morning dippers appeared. The day had dawned and the sun soon shone on the deserted Prom. Deserted until about ten minutes before breakfast time, then how it filled up! How punctual Old Scholars are—for meals. By breakfast time the space outside the girls' common room (once the science room and probably other things as well) was crowded with hungry folk. Then occurred an event which might have had tragic results, but we were spared them. Our masterful secretary

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strode forth and seizing the bell rope gave it such pulls that the bell fairly danced on its support. The crowd surged into breakfast and at that instant John Coxon staggered to the wall and collapsed against it. The bell had rebelled and discharged its clapper on the head of its tormentor. He was helped into the Common Room, Matron was soon on the spot (as usual) and after a visit to the doctor John retired for a short rest. A half pound piece of iron with a point on it is not a good thing to have fall on your head from a height of 20 ft. and the pain must have been intense. You stuck it nobly John, and as the results were not serious please forgive us if we treat the matter with some levity. You will be known to many people in the future as Clapper Coxon.

Meanwhile breakfast was proceeding and it was at this meal that a certain small boy caused alarm to his neighbours by eating seven sausages, but he still lives.

Games on the playground organized by Philip Morris occupied the morning; at the same time Norman Hargraves got the Tennis Tournament going and Pip Manasseh the Table Tennis. During this time new arrivals appeared in a steady stream, every minute was occupied trying to keep in touch with all activities. An amazing scene occurred on the playground during the tug-of-war contest when a team of heavyweight men (including Stan Ewen and Reg Barber) was pulled all over the place by a team of lightweight girls as easily as possible. On the return pull reinforcements quickly arrived from the Prom., but these were quickly cancelled by reinforcements for the girls which led to more help for the men and so on till the rope was full. The result might be termed a draw.

In conforming to tradition, cricket and tennis took place after dinner. As married men seem to give up cricket it was not possible to arrange a match of "Married *v.* Single"! In its place "Over 25 *v.* Under 25" was played. This is sometimes known as "Buds *v.* Blossoms" and as usual the Buds won. The Blossoms did manage to score over 25, in fact 30, but the Buds beat that very easily. A supplementary game of so many overs for each side was also won though not so easily by our "Under 25s". So stumps were drawn and all adjourned for a tea on the lawn. By this time the crowd had been increased by people coming for the afternoon as well as by late arrivals, so that it was no wonder that the reception by the Headmaster and his Wife could not be carried out. The lawn was looking its best as Old Scholars swarmed over it in the sunshine, standing in groups and talking animatedly while muffled shrieks and heavy splashes showed that the adjoining swimming bath was still being used.

The competition of fine weather, tennis and more personal enjoyment was noticeable as we gathered for the President's Address. An account of Alice Long's address appears elsewhere in the magazine, but a printed version cannot give any impression of the happy atmosphere, nor the pleasure with which it was received. Jack Lewis proposed a vote of thanks most wittily, and as the address had been short Louis Wright was able to make an appeal for an additional £500 for the building

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fund. He also was able to make apt and witty references to our President's address and so this hour proved such a happy occasion that it was regretted more Old Scholars were not there to enjoy it.

An innovation took place later at supper time which met with great success. We had been given coloured slips of paper after dinner, blue for the boys, pink for the girls; each had a word on it and matching words provided supper partners. Kathleen Rice seems to have been responsible for this arrangement and her entreaties not to cheat prevented a great many financial dealings to obtain an exchange of slip. As it was there seems to have been a black market somewhere: Romulus and Remus turned out to be married and did anyone see the cards of Alfred and Susan Holland?

After supper we were able to join in an unexpected ceremony. Leslie, who has been helping Celia Law in the kitchen for three reunions, was found to be celebrating her 21st birthday. A cake with a key on it was provided and while we sang an appropriate song Leslie undid the multitudinous wrappings of another parcel to find another present.

As many Old Scholars are aware, Gordon Biggs presents a pedigree dog to us each year to be auctioned for the benefit of our funds. This year we were given two dogs, a Sealyham and a Collie. The former was bid for by Sally Law, much to the consternation of her father till he found she was bidding for a friend. The Collie was withdrawn but at an auction later in the week-end a better price was obtained from Ken Bottom (husband of Maureen Tennent). Gordon Biggs deserves all our thanks for this annual generosity.

So we came to the Old Time Dancing and Fancy Dress. The dancing was well patronized, again the music was provided by the Quinton Band, but the gym seems to get smaller every year and the crush was intense. Roll on next year! Then there will be room and we will be able to spread ourselves. Fancy dress was not abundant but what there was was excellent. The Wright party was outstanding: Louis in the uniform of a Ruritanian prince carried a chest-load of medals (all, no doubt, for services rendered to SOSA); Beryl and friend wore elaborate Elizabethan costumes, which we were astonished to learn were home made. Kathleen Rice led us through the many dances and all who could find room joined in, but too many had to watch. After darkness had fallen we were summoned to another innovation in the form of a firework display. Crowds thronged the Prom. while busy operators lit fuse after fuse. What a show it was, rockets by the score, Roman candles by the dozen, bangers by the hundred! As the smoke thickened the shadowy forms of the lighters grew less distinct, had we not known Roy Turner was there with Susan and Alfred Holland we might have thought demons had been imported from the Pit to provide this display of coloured fire sparks, flashes, spangles in such profusion accompanied by the bangs, whistles, swishes, roars and phuts. Old Scholars must have been very generous but the donors remained anonymous. When we went to the Hill, however, we soon learned that

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Jim Baily had provided a wonderful number of super rockets, the playing field was the only reasonable place to let off these stupendous monsters. Up they went to a great height there to explode and let down a vivid red flare on a parachute. The bonfire was lit and soon the playing field was lit by the dancing flames of the fire while intermittently the whole scene was bathed in a red glow. No wonder we cheered while the children ran about in the red glow with arms outstretched to catch the parachutes as they neared the ground. An unforgettable spectacle. With the last of the rockets and the dying fire a torchlight procession was formed and off we went to the Elm. There a count showed no less than 141 who joined in the singing and more rockets before returning to tea or soup in the dining room. It was at this point that many Old Scholars, having come over for tea and been unable to tear themselves away, at last decided they had to leave.

Sunday morning promised another fine day and at last we were getting bold enough to prophesy good weather without touching wood. After a substantial breakfast Choral took place with Arthur Johnstone leading as usual at the piano. The old hymns were sung with the Sibford verve, the descants were remembered and the sound of singing flowed over the sunlit prom. The trek to meeting followed, the more frail (and the more lazy) going by road, but a fair number going by the fields admiring the countryside bathed in the sunshine and the meadows returning the glow with a million buttercups. For many this Old Scholars Sunday is the only one in the year on which they attend Meeting and how they treasure the experience! We were reminded by one speaker of the large number of children with us this week-end, and another brought to our minds devoted friends of Sibford who were no longer with us but whose spirits were surely very close to us at that time—Constantia Wells, Joshua Lamb, Richard Routh, William Reason, Nellie Millard, Frank Parkin, Roland Herbert, Mabel Harrod, Edward Kaye:

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses . . . let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

After our usual greeting of Friends round the Meeting House door we returned to the school to find that Sally Law had been holding a Sunday School for the children. This explained the presence of so few at the Gower Meeting; well done, Sally, keep it up!

I think it has been generally assumed by Old Scholars that their contribution to the Building Fund would be added to all other contributions, and the resulting buildings would be paid for by the combined effort. It was, therefore, with pleasant surprise that we heard that a specified part of the new buildings could be described as provided by Old Scholars. The School Committee had made this very thoughtful proposal and had stated that the Societies Room would cost an amount in proportion to what we had subscribed.

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We were also being allowed to furnish this room and to supply a plaque describing the source of these contributions. The Jubilee Reunion was a very suitable time to unveil this plaque and the ceremony was carried out early on Sunday afternoon. Our President, Alice Long, did the unveiling with her customary happy naturalness. A short speech expressed appreciation of seeing a literally concrete result of OS contributions. She finished by reading the inscription on the plaque explaining, amidst great hilarity, that she could not read Roman numerals, but was inspired to guess that the year was 1953. But she boasted that she could read Latin and proceeded to do so amidst an awed silence terminated by applause and cheers. We then moved on to the mass photograph taken by Moreland Braithwaite. Not so many cameras were in evidence as usual but one was seen photographing the photographer photographing the photographer photographing . . . but enough.

As a measure of how greatly the weather had improved over the week-end it is enough for those who know the place to say that Whichford Woods was confirmed as a suitable site for a picnic on Sunday afternoon! Even so the walkers, who should be applauded for their energy, found themselves acting as trail breakers through very difficult terrain. It did not look as though anyone had walked that way since the last Old Scholars' picnic. No wonder there were such appetites at tea time! Dozens of cars carried loads of passengers to join the throngs round the fire with its boiling kettles. I think there were more who rode back than rode there, but after their adventures in the wilderness that was not surprising.

The address was given by Mrs. Watson, wife of G. A. Watson, both of whom attended this reunion as our guests. G. A. Watson, of course, is well known to some of us as the examiner when we tried for our Life Saving awards at school. An interesting account was given of certain social service work being carried out by the Society of Friends.

After a very noisy supper we met for our Business Meeting. We were reminded at the commencement that we should have had Joint Presidents this year, and for a few minutes we stood in silence remembering our old friend E. P. Kaye, giving thanks for his gifts to us of friendship and service.

A book could be written about SOSA business meetings. In some, officers have been elected en bloc in a few seconds, in others the meeting has dragged on for hours. In the interests of democracy rules are altered, procedures changed, till no one understands it and it can only be run as a benevolent despotism! Nevertheless for many people it forms one of the highlights of the week-end—not to be overlooked. We had a very interesting Headmaster's report, a Treasurer's report (please pay your subs.), a Membership Secretary's report (please pay your subs.), with an interim report on the working of the new COD system for supplying magazines to Old Scholars who are in arrears with their subscriptions. The proposed new rule for electing officers for three year periods caused some discussion during which some speaker

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(who shall be nameless) suggested either that the committee was made up of thugs, or that the officers were thugs, or that perhaps one day they would all be thugs—it wasn't very clear which was intended, but we know he meant well! A number of matters were not raised and I am sure the Editor of the magazine was very glad one in particular was not mentioned! So once more to the Elm, an attendance of 60, with more songs, rockets and the long-drawn out drift to bed.

After breakfast on Monday it was announced that supplies of coloured crepe paper were available and there was no excuse for anyone appearing in everyday clothes for the rest of the morning. This was great encouragement to many who had not previously thought of decorating their vehicles or themselves. Enormous activity took place and soon after 10 a.m. an astounding procession formed up outside the old school. Words cannot describe the fantastic costumes on view, some the result of hours of preparation, other impromptu efforts of great ingenuity but all more gay and colourful than can be imagined. The band that led the way looking like a gang of ruffians dressed by Dali moved off, closely followed by decorated vehicles. Then appeared Queen Alice attended by her faithful jester in his motley, followed by more vehicles and a crowd of kaleidoscopically dressed pedestrians. Down the road they went, up the Hook Norton Road, along the New Road, on to the playing field. There a grand parade took place before the judges and a great crowd of spectators. It was not possible to grade the entries in the children's section, so all got prizes, but mention must be made of a charming Queen of Hearts complete with tarts (plus serious dignity) and a smiling dark-eyed South Sea maiden with grass skirt and flowers. The prize for the four-wheeled vehicle was taken by an enormous perambulator pushed by Victor de Quervain and full of large Flinn babies with all their babyish failings. The two-wheel prize was awarded to that masterful Sheik, Terry Cemm and the no wheel prize to Pamela Gilbert as "Where the Rainbow Ends". The winner of the Baby Show (for over 16's) was Raymond Baseley and a bonny baby he made. After the judging, a large number of sideshows were run by the Sherwood Group, many competitions could be entered for and there was no time for a dull moment. The Sherwood Group deserve the most warm congratulations on their very successful organization of these events—both for the pleasure given to us all and for the sum of money collected for the Building Fund.

Winners of competitions included Colin Johnson, Harry Green, Tom Long, John Wallis and Barbara Lyall.

The perfect weather continued in the afternoon when the Sibford Flower Show received many Old Scholar visitors (now stripped of their disguises). We all must hope that this Show was successful enough to make up for the two previous weather-spoilt occasions. Glowing reports were received of the exhibits. While many were thus displaying their interest in village activities our own programme was in full swing at the School. Tennis and table tennis heats were being played off, a treasure hunt was on and a continual stream of greetings took place as

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more Old Scholars arrived for the day. Visitors at this time must have reached the peak figure, the nominal figure of about 180 rising to at least 250. Judging by the crowded appearance of the lawn at tea time and by the number of times the urn had to be replenished the figure may well have been greater. The tennis final proved such a close game that it lasted much longer than anticipated and tea had to be postponed until Ina Herbert and Dafydd Edwards managed at last to beat Vera Barber and Ken Bottom by a narrow margin.

While tea was finishing another of the week-end's accidents took place. With her mind completely in a whirl as a result of bidding farewell to Howard Quinton, Celia Law put her hand into the kitchen mixing machine. Matron was called and Celia had to retire from the scene of her labours for some time. When she next appeared she was wearing a natty sling but was obviously not her usual self. The latest report is that no bones were broken and a recovery has been made.

With the playing of the table tennis final, won by Bernard Lamb, and the supper afterwards, the end of our week-end suddenly seemed very near. Some unfortunates had to get back for work on Tuesday morning and some had to leave before the Monday evening entertainment. This year London Branch was responsible for the big event but Sherwood Branch very kindly lent one of its members to give an outstanding performance. A short play was given "How He Lied to Her Husband", by Shaw, ably acted by Sally Law, Ian Hedger and Tom Clayton. The standard was higher than that of some past performances, the actors were almost word perfect, and when Tom Clayton put his head through the side curtains he was *not* arguing with the prompter but was looking out of the window of the stage set. Some shorter items were then given and after the interval Ken Tyler (by kind permission of the Sherwood Branch) gave a conjuring turn which was quite professional in its expertness. We hope to see more of Ken in the future. The entertainment finished with a short play by Eden Philpott, "Something to Talk About". Hugh Gibson made a very ferocious burglar and other parts were taken by Maureen Bottom, John Canham, Alan Edwards, Ken Bottom and at very short notice, John Wallis.

Almost all the remaining Old Scholars went up to the Elm for our last rocket and 120 were present.

Our heroic kitchen staff were on duty at a very early hour on Tuesday to prepare for the 7 a.m. breakfasters. There were many for early trains and considerable anxiety prevailed when the special bus failed to turn up. Fortunately James's bus never fails and by straining the sides a bit all his extra passengers got in. We waved them off and hoped that the Elm got its usual cheer as they passed. The later breakfasters soon assembled and dispersed leaving a few to help tidy up and to enjoy the first quiet hours of the week-end. When we went it was with envy for the two girls we left camping in the orchard to complete their summer holiday.

Our week-end was over, fortunate in the weather, in the large

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attendance, and in our entertainments; it was no wonder that we heard some say "the best reunion we have ever had".

Among those who were there for whole or part of the week-end were:

Aylward, Bernard.—Baily, Elgin, James, Jim, Peter, Roger; Barber, Reg and Vera, Christopher, Graham; Beckerlegge, Philip and Grace and family; Boast, Pamela; Bond, George, Edith, Michael, Raymond; Bottom, Kenneth and Maureen; Bottoms, Ivan, Nancy, and family; Brown, Tom, Reg, Vera; Buck, Douglas; Burton, Norman.—Canham, John, Daphne; Cannon, Dawn; Carn, D. W., Leslie, Ronald; Carter, Margaret; Caudwell, Paul, Nesta; Cheshire, Roy; Clayton, Tom; Cottrell, Constance; Coxon, John; Chamberlain, Daphne.—Dale, Tom; Darling, Jeanne; Davies, T.; Druery, Miss H.; Dickens, Michael; Dodson, Martin; Dumbleton, Frieda, Peter; Eavis, Brian, Helen; Edwards, Alun, Dafydd, Rachel, Nan; Edridge, Cecily, Stella; Ewan, Stan.—Farrant, Winifred, Ruth, Judith; Flinn, Christine, Patrick, Rosamond; Friend, Betty and family.—Gaffee, Derek, Peter; Gee, Raymond; Gilson, Hugh; Gibbins, Michael; Gilbert, Lorna, Pamela; Grant, Robert; Green, Harry, Molly; Grimes, Eric, Christopher, Guilie, Diana.—Hargraves, Norman, Margaret, and family; Harrison, Ethel M., Arthur, Pamela; Harrod, James T.; Hedger, Ian, Hodgkiss, Theodora; Holland, Alfred, Susan; Hooper, Brian; Hudson, Audrey, Ian; Hughes, Donald.—Jagger, Priscilla, Stephanie; James, Oswald; Johnson, Colin B.—Kaye, Arnold; Kelf-Cohen, Judy.—Ladell, Michael; Latil, Francois; Law, George, Celia, Sally; Lawrence, Henry; Lewis, Jack, Edith, Josephine; Little, Alan; Long, Geoffrey, Alice, Tom; Lonsdale, Stephen; Lyall, Barbara; Lynch, John.—Manasseh, Philip, Anthony, Mr. and Mrs.; McCullum, Margaret; LeMare, Ann; Moore, Geoffrey; Morris, Philip.—Naish, Jess; Needham, Paul, Marjorie; Neill, Sepha; Nicholls, Neville.—Osborne, John, Jean, and family.—Parker, Basil, Joan; Parsons, Janet, Margaret, Ian; Penrose, Raymond; Piper, Mary; Pollard, Wilfred, Mabel, Ian, Robin, Tony; Potter, Hazel; Powell, Beryl, Noel.—de Quervain, Victor; Quinton, Eric, Barbara, Howard, Margaret.—Rann, Bill, Christopher, Peter, Joy, Penelope, Deborah; Rice, Kathleen, Michael; Robinson, Patricia; Rollett, Frank, Vera, and family; Rose, Alice, Elsie, Robert, Brian; Russen, Ann; Ryan, G. J.; Rowland, Christopher.—Sargent, Mabel, Helen, Joseph; Southwell, Claire; Starkey, Alexander.—Thompson, Barbara, Matthew; Thornton, Hilary, Jean P.—Vine, Molly, Elizabeth.—Wall, Andrew, Stephen and Barbara; Wallis, Naomi, John; Ward, Russell S.; Watson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Alston; White, Leslie; Whitlock, Percy O.; Williams, Pat; Winter, Jean; Worrall, Edith; Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Brian and family; Wright, Louis, Doris and Beryl.



Above: The First Gathering.

Right: An after-meeting chat
between Madge and Gulie
Oddie and Ethel Harrison,
in 1907. And what hats!
(Photos kindly lent by
Ethel Harrison.)





Above: The authors of our jubilee reminiscences at the jubilee Gathering: Mabel Sargent, Percy Whitlock, and Ethel Harrison. (Photo: Robert Dale.)

Below: James Harrod and other veterans enjoy the Whichford sun. (Photo: Pat Flinn.)



The President's Address

On June 19th, 1903, the following minute was passed by the Sibford School Committee: "We are pleased to hear that an Old Scholars' Association has been inaugurated to-day. We warmly sympathize with the movement and trust that much advantage may accrue to the school and its former pupils."

This year was a momentous one in many other ways also; it was in 1903 that an Act of Parliament was passed which allowed vehicles to move along our roads at the enormous speed of 20 m.p.h.; in the same year Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first flight in a mechanically propelled machine. (I wonder whether, if they could have had a magic glimpse into the next fifty years, they would have consigned the thing to the scrap-heap there and then.) The first international wireless Convention was held in the same year, two years only after the first wireless signals had been sent across the Atlantic by Marconi. In the same year the first underground railway tunnel was opened from Charing Cross to Hampstead.

In 1903 the Ford Motor Co. was formed in Detroit, and this great commercial enterprise, with its concentration on cutting production costs, was virtually the beginning of "mass production" which is such a central feature of modern industry.

In 1903 the first garden-city, Letchworth, was founded. This was, I suppose, the real beginning of the town-planning movement, and carefully-planned building done there on workmen's cottages in particular, has influenced similar work done afterwards all over England.

In the field of education the outlook at this time was hopeful; following the Act of 1902, the responsibility for keeping the stream of educational development flowing had been largely assumed by the nation, and the Board of Education was established as the central authority.

The Labour Party had not yet contested an election and the Women's Suffrage cause, responsible, perhaps, for one of the greatest social changes of these last fifty years, was being courageously fought largely by groups of educated women recently emerged from the first women's colleges.

Far be it from me to turn this address into a history lesson—besides if I turn any more pages of my scrapbook I may be suspected of cribbing from another eminent Sibfordian! I am sure I have indicated quite enough of the forces which were being set going in the first few years of this century to call to mind the enormous change which has taken place in our social life in the last fifty years.

To the Sibford School-leavers of to-day life presents a vastly different picture from that which faced the first members of our OSA. Their choice of employment, both in work and leisure, has been enormously increased, their opportunities for further education and training and of constructive social service have widened beyond the dreams of their predecessors of fifty years ago. But just as the great scientific discoveries and social developments of this period have vastly complicated inter-

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national relations, so these great changes in our personal lives have added complexities to our individual problems.

I should like you to consider with me quite briefly just two aspects of this new age in which we live. The first is the power of propaganda. This terrific new force at work upon every one of us, is something which affects our lives at every point, and yet, I believe, it is scarcely recognized let alone combatted, by many people to-day. This power, influencing us continually through the press, radio, television, films, can be and is used both for worthy and unworthy ends, and for many purposes which are neither. The only capacity to fight this threat to our mental freedom lies in each individual mind. I think it is of great importance to do our very utmost to preserve our independent judgment and taste, and to cultivate a stubborn mental resistance to all the forces which attempt continually to drive us into narrow channels of thought and action whose ends are obscure to us. Of course I am not speaking merely of political propaganda, but also the insidious propaganda of advertisement, of fashion and of all kinds of vested interests. Let us do all we can to seek truth and to recognize it, and then to make up our minds whether we prefer to vote red or blue, which washes whitest, and whether, in fact, we don't get a little too much of "red, white and blue".

I believe that independent schools can and do play a valuable part in helping to draw out and foster those special qualities of character and personality which present an unassailable front to those who would put across facile ready-made opinions. One of the outstanding characteristics of Sibford scholars, past and present, has always seemed to me to be a sturdy and resourceful self-reliance; long may it continue to flourish!

The other subject which I want to speak of is one which is very often in my mind, and that is the danger we run in the rushing torrent of this modern life of ours of completely sweeping away all the little pools of silence. Just think of the first five things I mentioned as being begun in 1903, the motor-car, the aeroplane, wireless, underground trains and mass-production factories; what a great volume of noise they represent! I shouldn't be surprised if in another fifty years the human ear becomes deaf to anything softer than a motor horn.

There can be no need for me to talk about the value of silence to you educated in a Quaker school, but I think that even *we* give ourselves too little time and opportunity for this great re-creative power in our ordinary lives. Of course I do not mean the silence of vagarious dreaming, though even this serves a valuable and delightful purpose if not over-indulged; what I really want to advocate is a deliberate and directed meditation. There is scarcely a problem in life which cannot be clarified to some extent by making such an effort in positive contemplation. I do not, of course, advocate contemplation *upon* the problem or worry, but a withdrawal from it into oneself into the highest we know. I know it is difficult to find time for this sort of thing in our busy modern lives, but if we want to make a habit of it, we'll find a niche for

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it. A housewife's life is full of mechanical tasks which do not need thought, and her life, which always contains dull, monotonous stretches can be incalculably enriched by using these opportunities for positive contemplation. Goodness knows I am no mystic by nature, but I can nevertheless vouch from my own experience that such oases of meditation that my humble efforts have been able to achieve have been of great value to me. I should like to see the art of meditation taught in Friends' schools; it is something which does have to be learned, and where could it be better taught? This idea is hardly an original one of mine, in fact it was written down most beautifully some eighteen hundred years ago by Marcus Aurelius as follows (he is admonishing himself): "Men seek out retreats for themselves, cottages in the country, lonely seashores and mountains. Thou too art disposed to hanker greatly after such things: and yet all this is the very commonest stupidity, for it is in thy power, whenever thou wilt, to retire into thyself: and nowhere is there any place whereto a man may retire quieter and more free from politics than his own soul; above all if he have within him thoughts such as he need only regard attentively to be at perfect ease: and that ease is nothing else than a well-ordered mind. Constantly then use this retreat, and renew thyself therein: and be thy principles brief and elementary, which, as soon as ever thou recur to them, will suffice to wash thy soul entirely clean, and send thee back without vexation to whatsoever awaiteth thee."

I began by reading the minute inaugurating our association in 1903; later that year another event occurred of great importance to me: I was born, so you see this is my Jubilee year too. Nearly eighteen years elapsed before I attended my first OS gathering. It was the first of many, all gay, happy and friendly occasions for which I thank you one and all.

Alice Long.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—continued from page 17

15. It was reported that Christmas cards made by Fred Sheldon would be on sale during the week-end. The meeting expressed its good wishes to Fred Sheldon.

16. The President, Alice Long, proposed Louis Wright as President for 1953-4. This was seconded by Reg Barber, and was carried unanimously.

17. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Sibford Old Scholars' Association was held at Sibford on Sunday, August 2nd, 1953.

1. Alice Long reported the death, during the year, of E. P. Kaye, one of the joint Presidents for 1952-3. The meeting stood in silence for a few minutes in his memory.

2. The President, Alice Long, proposed, and Frank Rollett seconded that John Coxon be elected Chairman. This was carried.

3. The minutes of the last meeting, which had been printed in the Magazine, were taken as read and agreed to, and were signed.

4. Alfred Holland presented the accounts for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1952. The Treasurer pointed out that the actual cost of the 1952 Magazine was £20 less than was shown in the accounts, and therefore the financial position was better by that amount. He said that, whilst we have sufficient cash to pay for the Magazine, the Association was very largely dependent on a considerable profit from this week-end, and that it was important for us to improve our income as far as possible. There was some discussion of the type of investment to be used by the Association and the necessity of paying Income Tax. A sub-committee, consisting of Henry Lawrance, John Murphy, Reg Barber, the Secretary and the Treasurer, was appointed to study this matter.

Alfred Holland said that the COD scheme for sending Magazines to members not up to date with their subscriptions should help to reduce the amount of subscriptions in arrears.

It was proposed by Lionel Geering, seconded by Louis Wright, that the Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1952, be adopted.

5. Louis Wright presented a brief report as Membership Secretary. He said that the results of the first trial of the new COD scheme were encouraging. He reported his efforts to encourage present scholars to join the Association on leaving school.

6. Arthur Johnstone reviewed the School's activities during the past year. In the course of an interesting report he stated: that the school was full, with over 200 pupils; that they were looking forward to using the new buildings at the Hill; that the old Gym was to be altered to provide additional accommodation for the staff, and a new girls' common room; and that they had and were still having great difficulty in obtaining domestic staff. Matron was leaving the school after twenty-one years' service. The school had obtained a good number of passes in recent examinations; there were sixteen societies flourishing in the school; Sibford was a family school, with 48 brothers and sisters, and a large number of children of old scholars amongst the present boys and girls.

Geoffrey Long proposed a vote of thanks to Arthur Johnstone for his report. This was carried.

7. Alice Long read a report on the Mabel Harrod Fund, received from Dorothy Brigham (see page 36).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. Miriam Carter, one of our representatives on the School Committee, gave a brief report on her work with the Committee.

9. Louis Wright reported on the present position of the Old Scholars' Building Fund. The amount so far collected through the efforts of OS was approximately £3,000. The Committee had agreed to provide the School with an apron stage, curtains, and lighting, and the furniture for the Old Scholars' Room. An additional sum of £500 was requested for this end; it was hoped that a substantial part of this sum would be collected during the week-end. A further appeal would be made in the next issue of the Magazine.

10. John Coxon reported that during recent meetings the committee had discussed the method of electing the Association's officers. They were proposing certain alterations in the Rules to ensure continuity of service, and to ensure that nominees for election had time to consider the matter before election.

It was proposed by Celia Law, seconded by Don Ryan and carried, that:

The Rules of the Association shall be amended to read as follows:

Rule 2:

The executive of the Association shall consist of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other necessary officers.

The President shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers, shall be elected for a three year period at an Annual General Meeting. Should a vacancy occur in any office during that period, the committee shall have power to fill the vacancy, and the person appointed shall hold office until the next triennial election.

All nominations for Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers shall be in writing, signed by the proposer, seconder, and by the nominee, and shall be handed to the Secretary twelve hours before the Annual General Meeting.

11. The officers for the three years 1952-3 to 1955-6 were elected (see page 2).

12. George Law and Philip Morris retired from the committee at the end of their term of office. Jim Baily and Don Ryan were elected to the committee for three years.

13. John Coxon said that it was hoped to hold the 1954 Reunion at Whitsuntide, and that he would be asking the School Committee to agree to this. The OS Committee were proposing to hold another Arts and Crafts Exhibition during the 1954 gathering. Philip Morris was organizing this exhibition and it was hoped that he would receive full support from Old Scholars.

14. The Secretary reported that an Old Scholar proposed to make a gift of an Honours Board of past Presidents of the Association, and that the School Committee had agreed to accept this gift and to hang the board on the school premises.

[Continued on page 15]

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952

	£		£	£	£
Printing and Distributing the Magazine for 1952	143	Subscriptions receivable			100
Postage and Stationery	4	Donations			12
General Expenses	2	Interest on Investments: Gross		37	
Subscriptions written off as unrecoverable	19	Deduct: Income Tax at 9s. 6d. in £		18	
				19	
		Profit on Sale of Colours			3
		Whitsuntide Reunion Account:			
		Proceeds of gathering		206	
		Deduct: Expenses	177		
		Depreciation on bunks	13		
				190	
		Deficit for the year carried to Capital Account			16
					18
	£168				£168

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1952

	£	£		£	£	£
<i>Capital Account</i>			<i>Fixed Assets at Cost Less Depreciation</i>			
As at 1st January, 1952	173			45		
Deduct: Deficit for the year	18			65	Depreciation to date	
	155		Land at Elm	7	7	
<i>Life Membership Account:</i>			Bunks	117	72	
As at 1st January, 1952	1,011		Steel Die	117	72	45
Add: Received during the year	23					
	1,034		<i>Life Membership Account—Investments</i>			
<i>Current Liabilities</i>			£550 3½% Conversion Loan 1961 or after		514	
Subscriptions received in advance	13		£500 3½% Union of South Africa 1965-67		497	
Sundry creditors for Magazine, etc.	147	160			1,011	
			Cash awaiting investment		23	
					1,034	
			<i>Current Assets</i>			
			Stock of Colours at Cost		39	
			Subscriptions in Arrear		57	
			Debtors		3	
			Cash at Bank		171	
					270	
	£1,349				£1,349	

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ALFRED J. HOLLAND
(Hon. Treasurer).

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I have audited the Books and Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st December, 1952, and have obtained all the information and explanations I have required.

In my opinion the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs as at 31st December, 1952, and of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

JOHN TAYLOR (Hon. Auditor).

The School Year

The most exciting event this year has been the completion of the new gym, library and Old Scholars' Room. The gym is now in use for morning meeting and for classes. The floor is a delight and it is a pleasure to see classes enjoying their new experience of a real gym, and safely running about barefooted. The library furniture (beautifully made by Louis Wright) is now beginning to arrive too. The bookshelves are in light oak and the chairs have seats of blue leather.

In the General Certificate of Education the school again did very well and in the examinations of the Royal Life Saving Society, sixty-nine passed at Intermediate or higher level. Our Recorder Trio were marked "first in any ensemble class" at the Banbury Arts and Crafts Festival and we had large numbers of awards in Art, Woodwork and Crafts at both Chipping Norton and Banbury Festivals. There has been a notable increase in skill and enthusiasm in athletics and in team games this year.

Elsewhere no doubt, reference will be made to the leaving of Matron after twenty-one years of most valuable service. Another old servant of the school too has given up his valued work on our behalf: Mr. Griffin has been making and delivering bread at school for over twenty-five years. Our suppliers are now Browns of Banbury.

This term there are 201 boys and girls attending school, forty-eight are brothers and sisters, and 32 are the children or the brothers and sisters of Old Scholars.

The Parent-Teacher Association continues to be a flourishing concern and the meetings held each term are excellently attended. Greatly appreciated lectures have been given this year by John Barclay of the International Help for Children Fund and Dr. Mildred Creek.

A.J.

From the Headmaster's Notebook

VALERIE FLELLO was married on October 19th, 1953, to Dr. Roger Morgan.

JOHN SAUNDERSON is now married to an old Ackworth girl and is living at Blaydon-on-Tyne. He is working with Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons, the Civil Engineering Contractors, on a power station.

JANET FELLOWS says she thinks she is the first member of the Association of Occupational Therapists among Old Scholars.

PATRICIA WILLIAMS is doing a year's nursing at Hastings before she goes to take up work as Probationary Nurse at Guy's.

SHIRLEY BAKER has been taking charge of small children for the last three years and is now at Hillesden in Buckinghamshire. Her brother MICHAEL is an apprentice draftsman in Bristol.

BERYL WHITAKER was married to Alfred J. Powell on March 21st, 1953.

BETTY DAVIS and MICHAEL FARR are on their way home from Malaya.

ALLISON HARGREAVES is a nurse at Great Ormond Street.

DAPHNE CHAMBERLAIN has changed her course of Physical Education to auxiliary work in dentistry.

GILLIAN BULLOCK has passed her second M.B. examination.

ALFRED HOLLAND was married on April 4th to Susan Whiteman, an old Saffron Walden girl.

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S NOTEBOOK

- CECILY EDRIDGE is taking a two year course in Social Studies and hopes then to train as a Hospital Almoner at Bedford College.
- MARY BARNETT is married to a Curate and Psycho-Analyst and her name is Vedy. She lives at Rochester.
- MARGARET BARNETT is in charge of the Occupational Therapy Department at Whittington Hospital, Highgate.
- ERIC SPIRA sends good wishes from 817 Lucile Avenue, Los Angeles, California.
- FRANCIS RUSH appeared as a Conscientious Objector before the tribunal and is now working with the Friends Ambulance Unit. So is WILLIAM ROWLEY.
- MARY GROVE went to a College of Secretaries and is now working in the Engineering Division of the B.B.C. as a temporary shorthand-typist.
- MARY HULME has her B.A. Upper Division of second class at Cambridge University and has now left Girton, but is still at Cambridge taking a Diploma of Education at Hughes Hall.
- MR. SLAY an Old Scholar, who was 81 on July 14th last, writes an interesting letter from Aberayron recalling old days.
- ERICA BOND (Mrs. Pitcher) has a second daughter, born on August 3rd.
- MAUREEN RATHERAM is at a Nursery which is dealing with the early stages of tuberculosis in children under fifteen years of age. She is working with thirteen babies all under six months, at a Hospital near Redditch.
- MONICA KNIGHT (Mrs. Jolly) has a little boy. They live in Edinburgh. Her sister Madilaine is a receptionist to a group of six Doctors in Winchester.
- NOEL POWELL has been awarded a Scholarship by the Kellogg Foundation to study at Cornell University. He is going to study the photoperiodism of flower crops. He was recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- An interesting letter regularly comes from DUNCAN CUMMINS who is still a Forester in Southern Rhodesia.

A.J.

Memories of Sibford Fifty Years Ago

In those far-off days of the first SOSA Gathering, Mabel Sargent (*née* Peirson), Percy Whitlock, and I were on the staff, and as you can see in Robin Dale's photograph, we were all three at the Jubilee at August.

When I went to Sibford in 1901 as a young mistress, there were 38 girls and about 44 boys in the school. Robert B. Oddie was Headmaster, dear Mrs. Oddie was Mistress of the Family, and Dr. Routh was the school doctor. Edith Lamb taught the older girls, and I tried to teach all the usual subjects, plus French, to the juniors. Ruth Follows was music mistress and Mr. Darkin taught the older boys. In 1902 Mabel Peirson was music mistress, and later on Miss K. O'Neill replaced Miss Lamb. Percy Whitlock and Ernest ("Doggie") Wells joined the staff in 1904. I well remember the school concerts which consisted mainly of piano solos and duets, class singing, recitations and songs. Gulie Oddie and I sung such duets as "Excelsior", "Two Little Girls in Blue", Mendelssohn's part songs, and so on, and Percy Whitlock sang "When Father Laid the Carpet on the Stairs", "Johnny Schmoker", and others. Harry Randall reminded me last August that I introduced him to Shakespeare when he and Jock Whiting took the parts of Hubert and Arthur in *King John*! The concert platform was made of dining-room tables, and we usually did without a curtain.

MEMORIES OF SIBFORD FIFTY YEARS AGO

What memories I have of walks with the girls round Temple Mill, Pig and Whistle and Pound Lane, Swalcliffe Common, the Elm and Tyne Hill, Long Compton and Rollright Stones, and excursions to Whichford Wood, Edge Hill, and Compton Wynyates! Once some of us cycled to Shipston-on-Stour fair, where an ox was roasted whole in the street, and it was at Shipston that the Sibford Choir, under Miss Thame, won the Banner at the Festival of Village Choirs, and I won the solo singing prize of half-a-crown for the song "Three Fishers Went Sailing out into the West". Gulie Oddie and I formed the first girls' grass hockey team and we embroidered the navy hat-bands with "F.S.S.", for the hard straw hats. Our shopping was done mainly by the carrier, who went to Banbury each week. Once we drove in with him, taking two and a half hours each way for the seven miles! I remember buying fifty small oranges for a shilling.

Mr. Oddie took Bible reading with the boys and girls each evening in the lower school room, with the staff present. We all went to the Gower for evening as well as morning meeting, and I led the crocodile of girls down Mannings Hill, holding up my long skirt. The Staff had long hours of teaching and duty, starting at 6.45 when on "getting-up" duty, and ending at 9.30 when on bedroom duty. We crept about or sat in the dark corridors to see that no-one talked or stole down about nine to have a briefsupper with Mr. and Mrs. Oddie and the staff. I used to knit in the dark and strike a match when I dropped a stitch!

What a thrill it was when the first OS took place, and how busy we were getting up the school concert for them! Joseph Spence Hodgson was our first President, and some may remember his wonderful recitations. He taught me to recite when I was a scholar at Saffron Walden in 1896!

ETHEL HARRISSON.

In the good old days, when I taught music at Sibford (1902-1906), the half-year term used to get very long, especially in the winter. The roads were a sea of mud, through which Ethel Harrisson and I took the girls for long tramps, handicapped both by the long skirts which we had to hold up all the time, and by hats skewered to our hair with hat-pins! No wireless, no buses, oil-lamps everywhere (kept clean by Fred Green so that they never smelt), candles in the bedrooms—one to each dormitory! We had bicycles on which we occasionally dropped down to Banbury in the few hours at our disposal, and tugged back up the long hills. We were delighted to hear of the forming of SOSA, though we already saw a few old scholars sometimes at Easter or Whitsun or in August. At the first Gathering the weather was perfect, and they arrived in the big horse brake or on bicycles, and slept in the cottages around, and had meals in the gym. Village women came in to give help. The whole school was on holiday, and everyone was so friendly and delighted

MEMORIES OF SIBFORD FIFTY YEARS AGO

to be back—there were tennis, cricket, hockey, walks, and entertainments by the school and old scholars, with sing-songs for OS after supper.

MABEL SARGENT.

I have so many reminiscences of Sibford fifty years ago that I hardly know where to begin. I can go back over sixty years, to when I was taken by my mother to G.M. At that time my eldest brother and sister were at school, and I remember quite vividly going to Chastleton in a brake on a lovely mid-June day, a day or two after G.M.

The teachers I remember best—and all with gratitude—were Edith Lamb, "Jimmy" Proud, and Percy Kaye. Edith Lamb gave me my love for English literature. She took the senior girls and boys in a weekly lesson which was always preceded by a set of questions on last week's lesson. The boys always did better than the girls which Miss Lamb could never understand. I owe much to Mr. Proud also. My knowledge of the Stuarts goes back to the lessons he gave on that period. He was an excellent teacher and a good disciplinarian. When he was giving a stiff punishment (500 lines for example) there was always a twinkle in his eye, and one felt that there was no animosity against one. After leaving school I carried on as an "apprentice", and fortunately for me, J.W.P. was still my mentor.

I was not at the first Reunion, but remember well the 1905 Gathering, when Gulie Oddie and I were the local secretaries. The early reunions owed nearly everything to E. P. Kaye. His enthusiasm was infectious. He taught me in 1896-97, and he was a first-class teacher. I remember also that he could sing a good song. He would vamp his own accompaniment, and sing about:

"With the Whaleses and Porpoises for mates,
Which critturs I allus 'ates,
I was riding on a barrowful of dates,
Which I 'ates, while I waits!"

This reminds me of the visit of the Swarthmore football team to Sibford. After an exciting game, and an excellent tea, our opponents would give an entertainment. I remember especially John Glaisyer, and I think it was he who sang about how he had been "done" in replying to an advertisement:

"Once more I sent the needful eighteen stamps;
Once more I found that I'd been 'had' by scamps."
The letter came and this is what it said—
"If you want to know how to make a good sheep broth,
Go and boil your big fat head."

We attended the meeting house at the Gower twice on Sundays, and once on Fridays. When I first went to school, Richard Lamb—

MEMORIES OF SIBFORD FIFTY YEARS AGO

the great grandfather of the little Lambs running about Sibford to-day—was the head of the meeting. He looked like a Biblical patriarch. In the Ministers' gallery were also John and Constantia Wells, Maria Payne, Eliza Wycherley, and Mary Anne Abbatt. In a seat below was David Wrench. He was a king beaver, and looked even more patriarchal than Richard Lamb. At a later date came William Reason, who swayed as he spoke. OS of my time will also remember some of the occasional visitors to Meeting. For example, John Harlock ("Suffer"), who lived to the ripe old age of 103, and also Bevan Braithwaite, who had an impediment in his speech. It is said of him that he referred to someone as being a "ba-ba-ba-boon to the Society". He was a very dear old man.

I must say a few words about Mr. Oddie. Some of the old boys will remember his grammar lessons. R.B.O. would come into the classroom, write a few words on the blackboard, such as:

"I do not love thee, Doctor Fell,
The reason why I cannot tell,"

and so on, or

"The Vicar told the Sexton,
And the Sexton tolled the bell,"

and then we proceeded to try and parse them.

It is as a punster that I particularly remember R.B.O. On Tuesdays Mr. Seymour H. Beale used to come over from Banbury and give us lessons in Drawing. We were about to sit for some exams in this subject. R.B.O. came into the class, and by way of encouragement, said "If any boy does not pass this exam, he will *see more* of Mr. Beale." Again, some of the older boys had been allowed to go into Banbury to a symphony concert. On arriving back we were asked if we enjoyed it, or did it *seem funny*. On another occasion, R.B.O. and I were looking over a gate at Temple Mill, when a large turkey came up towards us very angrily and gobbling in a frightening manner. I could see something was coming from R.B.O., and it was one of his best puns; he said "Anyone might think we were *in Sultan* Turkey!" How he enjoyed a good laugh! I can see him now holding his sides as he related a good story, for he did not mind laughing at his own jokes. Mrs. Oddie was a dear and mothered the boys, especially when they were ill.

PERCY WHITLOCK.

A photograph of the first Reunion can be found on another page. Ethel Harrison asks whether OS can spot, among others: Robert and Mrs. Oddie; Joseph Spence Hodgson; Dr. Routh; Seymour Beale; Arthur, Gulie and Edgar Oddie; E. P. Kaye; C. E. Brady; Edith and Harry Whitlock; Winnie Wilson; Edna Roy; J. S. K. Parsey; D. Darkin; Mr. Proud; Miriam Pitt; Jess Hall; K. O'Neill; Mabel Pierson; Philip Sargent; Nellie Gittins; Annie Wells; A. Goode; Arthur Bishop; Elizabeth Foster-Brown; Ethel M. Harrison.

Whither Wendath SOSA?

"A Jubilee," wrote the Editor to me, "is a good time to do a bit of stock-taking. We take the idea of SOSA very much for granted, without enquiring what it's all for, apart from the obvious and important object of enjoying ourselves."

Then he asked me to do the stock-taking. So I have been looking through the annual Reports and Magazines that the Association has issued since 1904—milestones marking the way the "menne of Sheepford" have wended. Now that we have reached our fiftieth milestone let us sit upon it for a few minutes and check our route; perhaps then we may go forward wiser and stronger. Turning these pages and pictures, one is fascinated by glimpses of the half-forgotten past . . . is that really Miss X in the funny hat? . . . how droll Roland Herbert was as "the Spaniard who blighted my life" . . . how absurd the girls playing tennis in those long skirts . . . but withal how unchanged the beauty of Sibford's countryside.

Unchanged also, to a large degree, are the ways of boys and girls at work and play . . . the cricket knock-ups on the same old boys' playground . . . the summer sun striking honey-coloured on the walls of the Old School as girls lie reading on the lawn and the sounds of aquatic revelry rise from the same old bath. The spell of Sibford upon us is partly due to the fact that, as Frank Lascelles said in his 1925 Presidential Address, "it is the place of Eternal Youth". But these fifty years have seen great changes in school premises and curricula.

As an Association we too have had our changes. The seventy who attended the first Gathering at Whitsuntide, 1904, arrived from Banbury in horse-brakes. The week-end came to a giddy climax with a game of musical chairs. The annual sub. was a shilling. But all the changes down the years are strung on two unbroken threads. One is the thread of enjoyment. Sibfordians seem to have a genius for what the Editor so rightly calls the important object of enjoying ourselves, thus fulfilling clause (b) in our Constitution: "The cementing of schoolday friendships." This is our *social* purpose. But there are three other aims set out in the Constitution:

(a) The continuance of the interest of former scholars in Sibford School and its work;

(c) The provision of assistance to the School whenever possible;

(d) The encouragement of a spirit of loyalty among Present Scholars.

These comprise what may be called our *educational* purpose. The last of them we can do only by example. By our deeds and behaviour each new generation sizes us up.

Looking back through those old magazines, we can read of our past deeds—of SOSA gifts to the School, too many to recount; of service on the School Committee of Old Scholars, too many to name here. One of the first acts of the SOSA was to donate the honours board in the dining room. For years it was our good custom to make an annual presentation to the School in the name of each President. I remember how as a boy at Sibford I was filled with a joyous sense of the design

and colour of a large oil painting by Dr. Routh, which hung in the old art room and was thus given—a scene near Epwell.

The P.T. equipment in the old gym was bought with the help of £50 granted from SOSA funds in 1920 in memory of a devoted teacher who died in the influenza epidemic, Nellie Millard. More recently, seats on the tennis courts and a cricket scoring box perpetuate the memory of Frank Parkin and Roland Herbert. And it should not be forgotten that the New Elm plot, purchased by us in 1937, is not merely a site for nocturnal “rockets” but a symbol, through the New Elm taking over from the Old, of the services of three Heads (Routh-Oddie-Harrod) and their wives. And how many of us remember, or know, that in 1930 Mr. and Mrs. Oddie and Mr. and Mrs. Harrod planted two monkey puzzle trees at the end of what was then the new avenue to The Hill, to mark this milestone in our history?

Towards the original building of The Hill the SOSA contributed £625, besides having a good deal to do with the first Sibford film, which raised further money by touring the country. We have done better with the more recent Building Fund—£3,260 so far towards the new wing, plus an untold contribution from the revised film. We are in a position to do better, of course, for our membership has risen. In 1904 it began with 186. By 1930 it was 520. Now it is 800.

One of the Association's most imaginative acts was to collect over £1,000 for the Mabel Harrod Fund, in memory of Mrs. Harrod's zeal for world peace, the money being invested and spent annually on exchanges of students between Sibford and foreign countries. As 1947 President I handed the first bursary to Martin Dodson. If this presentation were an annual public function, might it not keep the inspiration and purpose of the Mabel Harrod Fund more clearly before present scholars?

All this and more is not a bad record for “the provision of assistance to the School”, but what about that other clause in the Constitution, about fostering interest in the School, *and its work*? Do these three words receive their full weight? Sometimes at our Business Meetings we have dismissed the work of the School in a brief report or two, when a fuller discussion might have helped the School by bringing to bear the varied experience and opinions of Old Scholars—besides enlightening us a little more on what is going on. If, as we sit here on our fiftieth milestone, we are to look frankly at our backslidings as well as our achievements, I think we must confess that as a body we have not been consistently alert to our educational purpose. Our interest has waxed and waned.

We started well. At the first Business Meeting in 1904 a discussion on a proposal to put Sibford on an elementary school level resulted in a strong minute of dissent being passed and sent to the School Committee. Again, at the 1929 Gathering we held a debate, “Should Sibford take public examinations?” Harry Randall led for exams, James Harrod opposed. At such times, when Old Scholars as a body have shown a keen awareness that a policy crisis faced the School, their

views have had some influence. I believe that to-day Sibford would do well to seek out the opinions and advice of Old Scholars and ex-teachers, some of whom have attained leading positions in the teaching profession (one is a Professor of Education), in public life, and in business. Here is an accumulation of experience of the world; let us be willing to offer it, and let the School be eager to seek and to receive it.

In 1944 Roland Herbert, as our President, courageously urged the formulation of a new Sibford policy: "I want the School to regain the pioneering spirit and I believe the present 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." That was ten years ago. As yet no policy has been proclaimed in public with sufficient clarity for those of us outside the School Committee to hear and understand.

I often think it a great loss to the SOSA and to the School that some of those old pupils whose attainments in the world best qualify them to help are not members of the SOSA. There may be numerous reasons for this, but I will suggest two. One, that the SOSA has not been consistently alert to its serious purposes: too much frivolity is a bore to some people (I say this as one who likes a bit of it, and has contributed his share at Gatherings!). Second reason: the School's hesitancy in giving public expression to a clear and inspiring policy. Perhaps people should not lose interest in Sibford for this reason, but they do.

We have fifty milestones behind us; let us now rise up from this stock-taking by the wayside, and go forward to the next fifty, wiser for our mistakes, braver for our achievements, and remembering (both SOSA and School alike) some wordsspoken by James Harrod in his Presidential Address of 1916:

"This School of ours with its freight of lives must not rest in contentment with its past, but must ever draw towards a higher goal."

LESLIE BAILY.

On Looking Back

(We felt that our Jubilee Edition would not be complete without a contribution from the younger generation, and we are happy to print this essay by one who has recently left the school. We are also grateful to the other authors who submitted articles to us and to Miss Burgess whose co-operation was most helpful.)

It is now four years since I first came to Sibford. They have been eventful years, and I look back on them with pleasure. The Old Elm will probably say that time has passed swiftly, bringing many changes, since the first coach-load of children passed it, over a hundred years ago. Time has also flown for the inhabitants. It seems impossible that four

ON LOOKING BACK

years have passed since I first stood in front of the porch at the Hill, feeling very small and very frightened. The Hill was empty, and I thought that I should never get used to the length of the corridor—it seemed endless!

Looking back, I find I have witnessed several landmarks in Sibford's history. The first was the opening of the two new class-rooms at the Hill by Roger Clark, one General Meeting. I shall never forget the first Meeting held in the new Hall erected two years later. A third landmark was the planting of a descendent of the elm tree under which William Penn made his famous treaty with the Indians. These I shall remember, but not as I shall remember the everyday events of Sibford's life, which give a feeling of security and unchangingness.

One thing that always stands out in my mind is Parents' Week-end. I think I enjoy most watching the hockey and football matches against the Parents—even when it is spitting with rain and bitterly cold! One thing that is remarkable on these occasions is the lack of school supporters on the side-line! General Meeting I always enjoy, especially when I am allowed to help put up the exhibits the night before. I also like the dancing although, when it rained once, I did not enjoy dancing on the worms! Hallowe'en and Bonfire Nights are also outstanding events, but these I do not find so exciting.

I have always looked forward to Sibford Music Club concerts, I shall never forget seeing the opera *La Boheme* one year. The stage may not have been of the finest nor the surroundings of the best, but everyone soon forgot these as they listened to the pathetic story of the opera. Plays, too, have always been a source of great enjoyment. I have liked them all—serious and amusing—and especially when I have been able to help in their production in some way behind the scenes.

Sunday evening Meetings have always been very interesting, but Sunday as a day has never been a favourite. Many times I have tried to find something to do in the afternoon and failed.

Particular events that have occurred take a second place in my memory. Matches, both football and hockey, have added to Sibford's life. There is always a struggle to try and get a place in the team, and Sibford would not be itself if on half-days buses did not come and go, carrying teams to victory or defeat. Buses in fact seem to play a big part in Sibford's life. We all come by bus at the beginning of term. It is difficult to make oneself heard among the gay crowd that returns to the school. Buses, too, carry us on visits to the Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon: I shall never forget these visits—they too are landmarks in my Sibford career. Buses also take us home at the end of term—a time I never like—I get so bored without a few lessons to help pass the time of day!

But it is not only incidents that I shall remember, but people and places. Every year as one form leaves, a new one comes to take its place, so that the population of Sibford is always changing. But not so the surroundings: we shall not come back one year to find Tadmorton



Above: Our Sovereign Lady President and entourage in assorted costume!

Right: Picnic Group.

Below: A few of the jubilee Rocketeers. (Photos: Geoffrey Moore.)





Unsuspected strength of Philip Morris. As for the group in the bottom picture, only the Hill in the background makes us believe in them at all! (Photos: Geoffrey Moore)



moved to Swalcliffe, nor shall we find the Hill moved or changed. It still stands on the top of the hill; wind has not blown it down and every year it grows more beautiful.

Sibford at its most beautiful is for me Sibford in spring: the Paddock at this time of the year is a work of art. It has lovely trees and shrubs which go on flowering long after everything else has faded away. All the year round something is flowering somewhere. In summer Sibford catches the heat; the veranda is more like some pleasure resort than a school! I have often enjoyed reading there, when I could stand the sun's glare on the paper. Sibford in winter has a wild beauty. Leaves line the New Road, and the avenue of great bare-branched trees leads to the solid mass of the Hill building. Wind and rain leave it untouched; snow and mud only add to its beauty. On a wintry morning it looms up out of the mist—a sanctuary, curiously quiet and peaceful, despite a raging wind.

That is the Sibford I shall look back on when I have left. It is un-touchable and unchangeable, and very solid. I shall always think of it "as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land".

ELIZABETH A. GRAY.

Your New President

Louis Wright was born in 1905 at Henham, a small village in Essex, one of three boys educated at the village school. When he was eleven years old he went to Sibford, and was there from 1916-19. His main enthusiasms were for cricket and woodwork, and he says that he would like to pay tribute to Roland Herbert for giving him a good start in life in his woodwork career. While at school he won first prize for woodwork, and was also in the First Eleven while still in the Third Form. Louis says he is amazed at the difference between the discipline of those days and now, and tells a story to illustrate what he means. On one occasion he and Harry Iles saw a bat and ball lying around in the Barn on Sunday morning, and the temptation being too great, Harry bowled Louis a ball which he drove well to mid-on. Sudden appearance of Roland Herbert to find out who was playing cricket on a Sunday. Result: banned from playing cricket for three weeks. A vital cricket match against Banbury Municipal was due to be played, and Louis was picked, but crossed off. The captain persuaded Mr. Herbert to let Louis play if he agreed to a further ban of a fortnight after the match. When the match was over, however, Mr. Herbert withdrew the ban, proving that discipline had its human side after all!

On leaving Sibford, Louis was to have gone to Saffron Walden, but owing to an error was not entered, and therefore became apprenticed to a cabinet-maker in Hertford—a step he says he has never

YOUR NEW PRESIDENT



regretted. After a period as a journeyman in Bishops Stortford, London, and Esher, he was able to realize his ambition to set up on his own, and in 1936 bought a private house, converted it into a shop, and built a workshop behind. This has grown into a successful House Furnishing and Antique business, employing eleven people. The School Committee have recently entrusted him with the making of the furniture for the new School Library.

Louis was married in 1930, having met his wife at a local tennis club, and they have one daughter, Beryl, who is also an old scholar. His work for SOSA has been considerable: he took on the job of

first Membership Secretary about eight years ago, and is as well, the Secretary for the Building Fund Appeal. He has also been elected to serve on the School Committee as one of the Association's representatives. As if this were not enough for his spare time, he is this year's Chairman of the local Chamber of Commerce, as well as being a member of the local Rotary club. He has now given up cricket, but still plays tennis and bowls, and is very keen on gardening. One of his ambitions as SOSA's President is to get that extra £500 for the Building Fund during his term of office. In this, as in his other manifold activities on their behalf, old scholars will wish him the best of luck!

The 1954 Reunion

DEAR OLD SCHOLARS,

The 1954 Reunion will be held at Whitsuntide, from mid-day on the Saturday until Tuesday morning. The committee have arranged a full and interesting programme, the highlights of which you can find on the enclosed booking-slip.

Unfortunately Whitsuntide 1954 comes only a week before the normal date for General Meeting and this creates obvious difficulties for the School. Your committee and the School committee gave this

matter a lot of thought, and finally the School committee very generously agreed to move General Meeting to a date before Whitsun, so that we could have our Reunion then whilst the School is in session. We are all very grateful to the School committee for meeting the wishes of our Association in this way.

We have been asked this year to remember not to make too much noise late at night in the village or on the School premises. Car drivers, song singers, and dance bands, please note!

Whilst a limited number of OS will have to sleep on our bunks, we hope to find an improved alternative to the Mission Room in the Gower. We shall provide two blankets—if you want any more, please bring them with you. And sheets and cutlery will *not* be provided.

Don't forget the Arts and Handicrafts Exhibition: we want an even better display than last time.

I hope to see you at Whitsun, send off the booking slip NOW—don't delay!

Yours sincerely,

JOHN COXON.

Old Scholars' Arts and Crafts Exhibition

It's been decided to have another OS Arts and Crafts exhibition at Sibford during the next Reunion. Details are being sent round in a special leaflet, but here are some of the relevant facts for easy reference:

1. OS may submit:

Pictures: paintings, drawings, marquetry, photographs, etc.

Woodwork: furniture, treen, toys, carving, etc.

Metalwork: tools, utensils, hollow-ware, jewellery, enamelling in gold, silver, copper, brass, and iron.

Fabrics: textiles, knitting, crochet, tatting, netting, embroidery, upholstery, rugs, etc.

Also bookbinding, stone carving, confectionery, pottery, clay modelling, basket work, and oddments.

2. Entries should, if possible, be at the Hill by midday, Friday, June 4th, and certainly not later than 11 p.m. on the following day. It would be much appreciated if OS could where possible, send their entries to reach Sibford before May 29th, as this weekend is the school General Meeting, and it is hoped to have some OS exhibits on show then.
3. In any case, Philip Morris would welcome details of what OS intend to show, so that he has some idea of how much there is to arrange, and whether some items need special placing. Post-cards should be sent to Philip at Bank Cottage, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos.
4. The Exhibition will be held in the new Old Scholars' Room, and will be insured as long as it stands.

5. It is suggested that in order to help the fund for the new stage and its fittings, some of the work might be sold. Exhibits should therefore be marked with their price, or as not for sale. To avoid a shop atmosphere, the objects will not be priced, but a list will be put up of the works available and their prices. Objects which are rather costly, such as silverwork, might be sold on the understanding that at least 10 per cent. of the sale should go to the Fund.

Those are the main conditions. All that remains to be done is for OS to employ their long winter evenings in work that will give both pleasure and profit in next June's Exhibition. Let's try and surpass the high standard already set for this unique show!

UNDER TWO ELMS

Sibford on the Air. One programme in the series "Leslie Baily's Log Book" brought on to the radio a number of people from Sibford and neighbouring villages, the theme of the broadcast being changes in village life. Old Scholars who spoke included Lewis Poulton, Jose and Michael Canning, Ina Herbert, Martin and Alice Holmes, Arnold Lamb, and Leslie Baily, while Fred Green told the story of the old Sibford country dance tune "Leadings Through", which has found a new lease of life as the signature tune of these programmes.

Leslie Baily writes: "After the broadcast I received letters from a number of old scholars who had lost touch with Sibford for some years. Gladys M. Durrant (*née* Moore), of Waltham Abbey, for example—'What nostalgic memories your Log Book has sent flooding through my mind! Sibford, Brailes, Swalcliffe, oh dear, I'm just full up! In case you are thinking I'm mad, let me hasten to tell you I am a Sibford old scholar, 1906-8, the first half-year with the Oddies and then with the Harrods when they first came. We were about sixteen in the school in their first term, or "half" as it was called in those days. . . . Green, Sabin . . . oh the names, it just takes me back years—old Dr. Routh, Mannings Hill on a slippery morning going to Meeting . . . I could go on and on. Is the old Elm still there? I was awake a long time last night just reliving those happy childhood days—names of the staff kept coming to my mind, and those of my companions: Harry Randall, Ethel Reason, Leonard and Lucy Salter. . . .'

"May B. Penfound, of Upper Tooting, wrote similarly; she was at Sibford School for nearly nine years, 1897-1906.

"Another letter came from Helen M. Lloyd (*née* Cook), of Bournemouth who was at Sibford in 1909: 'I remember the village blacksmith who used to drive us from Banbury station in a horse brake, and fetch our trunks next day on a farm dray. I often wonder if the old elm tree still stands? . . . What happy days they were, when we went for a day's picnic to Compton Wynyates and Edge Hill, with the old donkey pulling a cart with all our "eats" on board.'"

UNDER TWO ELMS

Sibford Meeting House Appeal. In last year's magazine we enclosed an appeal for funds to enable vital repairs to be carried out to Meeting House premises. "It is a great pleasure", writes Miriam Carter, "to be able to state that we have collected over the £800 for which we appealed! We have been helped by one or two large donations, but at the same time we have greatly appreciated the smaller gifts from friends like old scholars, because we know that these often represent real sacrifice as well as the genuine interest of the donors.

"In order to re-roof the Mission Room at once, it was necessary for us to borrow £216 from the Friends' Loan Fund, and the Appeals Committee feels that this sum must be met before we can entertain putting electric light into the Meeting House. The re-roofing cost £574 10s. 3d., and we still have to instal a really efficient and satisfactory heating system in the Meeting House. Perhaps the electric light may come in the future! We should like to thank again all those old scholars who so kindly sent donations."

* * *

From Australia Otto Wolf sent us a cutting from a Melbourne daily newspaper referring to the Bronze Age beaker found by Mr. Haynes, who it appears, lives in a village called "Subford Gower"! Otto says he has settled down well in Australia and is now married.

* * *

Births. A daughter, Hazel Shirley, was born to Leslie and Christine Harrison (*née* Kaye) on July 16th, 1953.

A son, Christopher Clarence Anthony, was born to Mrs. D. Mary Hyde (*née* Doreen Bishop) on June 6th, 1953, bringing the number of her children to five.

Marriages. John A. Taylor was married to Monica M. Dutton, at Wallasey, Cheshire, on June 27th, 1953.

Ernest G. Dixon was married to Frances Ingersoll on August 29th, 1953, in Calgary, Canada.

Deaths. We report with regret the death of Wilton Dixon on January 24th, 1953, at Calgary, Canada.

(For further Births and Marriages, see the Headmaster's Notebook.)

* * *

During the Jubilee Reunion, many letters and telegrams arrived from OS who for one reason or another weren't able to be at Sibford in person. The smallest member of the Ferguson family for instance effectually sabotaged the rest of them by contracting tonsillitis. Absent for a rather different reason was a group of Sibfordians at the Sidcot summer school; they sent a Greetings letter with the signatures of Janet Eavis, Stella McIver, Pat Campbell, Margaret Smith, Grace Lewis, Nesta Faulkner, John E. Brigham, Michael Langford, Malcolm H. Rudlin, Ronald J. Martin and Peter Sladen. Birthday Greetings came, too, from Margaret Rundle, who was at the time on the staff of the Saffron Walden summer school. Ethel and Kingsley Rutter sent

their best wishes, and special remembrances to OS of their time—1907-11.

There were also letters from Mrs. Byatt (better known to OS as Ann Boardman, and just recently married); from Robin Webb, out in the Canal Zone; and from Eric S. Bragg, who commented that Sibford was very dear to many who were prevented from renewing their association with it. Elsie Green (*née* Banfield) also sent her greetings, and wanted to give her kindest regards to her contemporaries of 1915-18. "I wonder", she wrote, "how many remember 'The Silver Penny' and the Tennyson evenings when 'Home they brought her warrior dead' but somehow never managed to bury him because he was brought home again on the next occasion of a social evening. Happy days!" Theodora Benton (*née* Sheppard) sent a card with her very best wishes, and there were greetings too from Janet Oldham, who wished we were with her—in Corsica!

Then there were the telegrams—from Tom, Eric, Reg, Harold, and Ron Brown; from Doris Russell; from Howard and Betty Campion; and from Alec Norman, who sent this message—"With a good Coxswain at the Elm, I am sure that the jubilations of your celebrations will Rocket up to Paradise!" And to end on a matrimonial note, Kitty Baker (*née* Braun) sent a wire saying that Eva Weinberg had celebrated SOSA's jubilee by getting married that very afternoon!

* * *

Back numbers. Certain back numbers of the Magazine can be supplied, at a cost of 2s. 6d. post free. Anyone interested in this offer should write to Louis Wright.

Regional Round-up

The once-a-year gathering common to most old scholars' associations is not good enough for Sibfordians! The regional branches of SOSA have their ups and downs, but there is always something doing somewhere. Last year was no exception. From London, local secretary Nancy Bottoms writes:

"To ensure a good start for 1953, we held our New Year party and A.G.M. early in January. An encouraging sign at this reunion was that our number had increased over recent years, and the chatter was therefore louder than ever. We had a showing of *The Sibford Story* during the evening. Those who were seeing it for the first time were delighted, those for the second time refreshed, and there were some who—if one can believe all one hears—who were seeing it for the —teenth time. I suspect that this fabulous figure came from none other than the operator, but it just shows how popular the film is.

"In early May, twenty-five old scholars turned up on a bright and sunny spring morning for a ramble in Epping Forest. Geoffrey Moore, a local inhabitant, was our guide; he knew all the best places and made sure we went to them. We had both lunch and tea picnic-style, with a

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

borrowed four-gallon kettle which comes in most useful on these occasions. How OS can drink tea!

"Our cricket match against the School in June co-incided with Coronation Week, and unhappily the hiring of a coach for this event proved economically impossible. However, a fleet of vehicles was assembled: old ones, new ones, smart ones, and old faithfuls. It was a beautiful day; we won the match, and were entertained to tea in the Domestic Science room by the School in a lavish manner.

"A Sunday in July found us back at Jordans, determined to redeem our cricketing honour. We won the game, which made us feel a lot better. About thirty-five old scholars were present on this occasion. We had a picnic lunch in the field beyond the cherry orchard and the sun shone brilliantly. We had tea in the village hall and rather remarkably the sun was still shining. This match has become an annual event much enjoyed by everyone, and we hope you will be there next year.

"After the August Reunion we had a short rest until October 31, when some forty OS attended a Hallowe'en party, at the home of George and Celia Law. Our ambitious plans for a barbecue party in the garden were, unfortunately, abandoned owing to the prolonged wet weather. Instead, we were accommodated indoors, and enjoyed ourselves apple-bobbing, playing silly games, and eating.

"With 1954 upon us, we have several events already planned, and we would very much like to see some of those London O.S., whose addresses we have on our books, but whom we seldom see at meetings."

The Midland Region's new secretary, John Osborne, writes that in July a cricket team played the School, which snatched victory by a few runs in very cold and wet conditions. A most enjoyable New Year party was held, with Stan Ewan as M.C. and a film of OS Gatherings at Sibford was shown by the photographer, Roy Cheshire. Future activities include a theatre party.

As in the Midlands, OS up north are hampered by being rather scattered, but, as Grace Beckerlegge reports, there were until the August Reunion monthly meetings of OS, who enjoyed picnic teas on each other's lawns. The year closed with a party in the Beckerlegge's home in Chesterfield. Unfortunately, the members of this group have been rather reduced in numbers, as some OS have moved to other parts of the country, and Grace would be glad to hear of any other OS in the area who could redress the balance.

EDITH GEERING

Old Scholars will be sad to hear of the death of Edith Geering. Those of us who remember her warm welcome and generous hospitality at Wickham Barn and later at Shipston and Burdrop will miss her most. She took a keen interest in anyone or anything connected with Sibford and was always in her home waiting for us. When we came it was as though we had never been away.

MATRON

Old scholars will be sorry to hear that Matron is leaving Sibford, but everyone will agree that, after twenty-one years, she is entitled to a quieter life! Matron has been for so many of us such an essential part of the Sibford scene, that she will be sorely missed—missed not only for her always cheerful welcome, but also for the practical help she has given so ungrudgingly both to OS individually and to their Association. Her services as a resident officer of SOSA are only a small part of the debt we owe her, for which our presentation was only a token repayment, and all old scholars will join in thanking her for befriending us in the past while they send her every good wish for the future.

MABEL HARROD FUND

The committee has made a grant this year of £75 to an Italian boy whose case was recommended to us by John Barclay, of the International Help for Children Committee. The boy belongs to an Italian peasant family. During the war, an English airman baled out over their farm and one of the boys hid him and finally helped him to escape. After the war the airman returned to Italy to visit the family who had saved him, only to find that his rescuer had been shot by the Germans, who had discovered what he had done. The mother, and in fact all the family, had suffered badly, and the boy we are helping is a younger brother of the boy who was killed. He has been brought to England, and is being looked after by a family in Kettering. When he is more settled, he is to come to Sibford to spend some time in the School.

The amount now standing to the credit of the Fund is £847.

The Committee has suffered a severe loss in the death of its Treasurer, Edward P. Kaye. The Committee now administering the Fund consists of Arnold J. Kaye, Arthur Johnstone, Geoffrey D. Long, Elsie D. Harrod, and Dorothy Brigham (Secretary-Treasurer).

DOROTHY BRIGHAM, *July, 1953.*

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Again I sit down to write this report and I am very disappointed. Eighty-four Magazines had to go out C.O.D. this year; that meant eighty-four OS three years in arrears with their Subscriptions, which in terms of money was £63. Fifty per cent. of these eighty-four then refused to accept the C.O.D. packet; this in money is about £30. OS defaulters had refused to pay for something which they had already received: do you wonder that I am disappointed? Each year the Association has to write off about £30 in subscriptions not paid. You, old scholar, are not a defaulter or you would not be reading this, but do make sure that you will not become one. Why not make a resolution now always to pay your subscription promptly—better still, if you can afford it, why not become a Life Member?

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

I again repeat, please let me have your change of address when you move: there are now quite a number of Life Members we have lost track of; they do not receive a magazine because we do not know their address. If you are one of the younger OS, let me have your permanent home address, so that if you change your digs you won't have to write and tell me so. Please send the Editor or myself any interesting news about yourself so that we can publish it in the next Magazine.

LOUIS E. WRIGHT

APPEAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Last year we included an appeal form in the Magazine asking for more money for the new School Building. Well, we have now got our own room and it was officially opened by Alice Long at the August Reunion. We now want to furnish this room; we also want to give the School an apron stage for the new Hall, and curtains and lighting equipment, so that they can have a really first-class stage on which to perform their plays and so on. Incidentally, this will also be helping ourselves, as we shall have the use of the stage for our own shows at Reunions. To enable us to do this we need a further sum of about £500. This is not a large sum for a membership of 800 OS—less than £1 a head (probably a good deal less than the amount many of us spend on tobacco each week). So what about it, OS? Your donation, however small, will be gratefully received in the enclosed business reply envelope. The School Committee just have not got the money to supply these extras, which are really luxuries, and if we do not help, it will be some years before the School can have them. The Buildings are there, waiting for these things to be put in them, so this is not an abstract appeal, for something that may happen in years to come, but for something that is there waiting to be done, now.

LOUIS E. WRIGHT.

Editorial Footnote. Your Editor hopes you have enjoyed the jubilee *Sibford*; he would also like to apologize for its tardy appearance. By not printing the Membership List in full this year, we have been able to include more features, and print more photographs, than usual.

This magazine depends largely on the co-operation of old scholars, and the more help it gets, the better it will be. Our information about the activities of OS, their triumphs (and tribulations), is not as full as it might be; our "hatch, match, and dispatch" department isn't as complete a record as we would like. The remedy for this is in your hands: if there's anything you think might be of interest to other OS, then drop us a line about it, and we'll put it in. And don't be shy if you have something more than information—an article of recollection or discussion, or (dare we whisper!) something "literary". The post that brings an uncommissioned contribution not only puts the editor in a good mood for days, but also helps him to make up a magazine which may be more worthwhile, and which may give us all more enjoyment. So do help us if you can, won't you?

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

t Present and Past Teachers

* Life Members

	<i>t</i> Ashwell, Margaret E.	6 Cherry Row, Lexden, Colchester.
	(<i>née</i> Jones)	
1945-51	Baily, Peter	130 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.
14	Ball, Eleanor (<i>née</i> Williams)	Not known.
48	Beach, Christopher	Lackhampstead Cottage, Reigate Road, Reigate.
	*Blacklee, Fred	Not known.
47	Bland, Jennifer	Not known.
47	*Byatt, Ann (<i>née</i> Boardman)	312 Bishops Worth Road, Bristol, 3.
	*Bowley, Irene	Lower Hankerland Farm, Aylesbeare, Exeter.
1914-17	Bragg, Eric	Sibford, Bargains Lane, Ledbury, Herefordshire.
1941-46	Braun, Gerald	Not known.
36	Broadhurst, Ivy	Not known.
1924-27	Carn, Leslie	Southgable, Wedderburn Road, Eastbourne.
1939-42	Champion, Joan	Not known.
26	Chuter, Sheila	Not known.
48	Cleaver, Rosemary	2 Abbots Way, Mincaster, York.
1937-43	Eddington, Paul	Not known.
49	*Eyden, Peter	The Laynes, Churchdown, Glos.
41	*Flinn, Patric B.	Sibford Ferris, nr. Banbury, Oxon.
50	Flinn, Rosamond	Sibford Ferris, nr. Banbury, Oxon.
50	Flinn, Christine	Sibford Ferris, nr. Banbury, Oxon.
1932-37	Friend, Betty (<i>née</i> Elikier)	127 Kingsbury Road, Coventry, Warwicks.
1945-49	*Gibbons, Michael J.	The Court, Kingscote, East Grinstead, Sussex.
50	Green, Harry	Windy Ridge, Pershore Road, Little Comberton, nr. Pershore, Worcs.
1940-46	Guillery, Rainer W.	87 Finborough Road, London, S. W. 10.
1940-42	Gutkind, Peter	Not known.
1916-19	*Harding, Ralph	51 Cherry Garden Lane, Folkestone, Kent.
	Harris, Edna B. (<i>née</i> Roy)	41 The Green, Bournville, Birmingham, 30.
1934-38	Harrison, Arthur W.	Ferris View, Sibford Ferris, Banbury, Oxon.
	Harrison, Mrs.	Ferris View, Sibford Ferris, Banbury, Oxon.
	Hemsley, Roger	15 Thornbera Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts.
1940-45	Hemsley, Ann (<i>née</i> Sweatman)	15 Thornbera Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts.
1939-43	*Holland, Alfred J.	Wyndhams, Millshot Drive, Chequers Hill, Amersham.
31	*Holloway, Josie (<i>née</i> Burt)	Not known.
1939-41	Kaye, Frank D.	Not known.
40	*Knight, Monica	9 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15.
1938-42	Little, Alan	9 Northfield Road, Birmingham, 30.
49	Lucas, Margaret M. (<i>née</i> Burgess)	11 Claremont Road, Staines, Middlesex.
1921-24	Mortimer, Ruth (<i>née</i> Taylor)	Beacons Farm, Swalcliffe, Banbury, Oxon.
30	Myall, Christine (<i>née</i> Bird)	Not known.
	Myall, Fred	Not known.
1936-40	Needham, Paul H.	Not known.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

	Parfitt, Barbara (<i>née</i> Wooding)	Not known.
49	Parish, William	Not known.
1941-47	Parker, Basil	6 Hillview Gardens, Hendon, N.W.4.
	Parker, Joan	6 Hillview Gardens, Hendon, N.W.4.
41	Parker, Brenda	Not known.
	*Parker, Phillip	Not known.
38	Parsons, John E.	Baluan, Viewfield Culcabock, Inverness.
1932-38	*Powell, Noel E.	Highleigh, Dawlish Road, Teignmouth.
14	Quinton, Eric	Fort Dunlop, Erdington, Birmingham, 24.
1919-22	Ratheram, Lilly	Not known.
1942-48	Ratheram, Maureen	Not known.
1939-45	Ricketts, Ruth K. (<i>née</i> Parsons)	170 Belle Vue Road, Southbourne, Bourne- mouth, Hants.
1940-44	Selby, Michael C.	Mullard Research Laboratory, Cross Oak Lane, Salfords, Surrey.
	Seymore, Jane (<i>née</i> Sabin)	The Vicarage, Long Crendon, Aylesbury, Bucks.
	*Simmons, Marjorie	Not known.
1934-38	Simpson, John F.	93 Mulberry Road, Bournville, Birming- ham, 30.
1934-37	Simpson, Monica (<i>née</i> Foss)	93 Mulberry Road, Bournville, Birming- ham, 30.
14	Sly, Ethel (<i>née</i> Lewis)	123 Hampton Way, Southgate, N.14.
46	Smith, Barbara T.	66 Wavendon Avenue, Chiswick, W.4.
	Smith, G. E.	48 York Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.
47	Stafford, Peter	Not known.
	Sykes, A. A.	Not known.
1940-45	Taylor, John A.	98 The Sunny Road, Enfield, Middlesex.
1920-24	Thelton, Betty (<i>née</i> Swan)	17 Chestnuts Avenue, Esher.
1927-32	Thomson, Francis P.	19 Templars Avenue, London, N.W.11.
	Thorpe, J. W.	81 Archers Way, Letchworth, Herts.
30	*Tilley, Reginald	Not known.
1939-44	Van-Cooten, Francis	Not known.
1940-46	Watkins, Geoffrey L.	113 Rister Road, Redditch, Worcs.
46	Willgoss, Edna (<i>née</i> Sykes)	Not known.
1934-40	Worrall, Edith R.	4 Chester Road, Branksome Park, Bourne- mouth West, Hants.

LEAVERS, SUMMER TERM, 1953

July 1953

Ball, Ian	BOYS	20 Middle Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham.
Davidson, Martin		36 Worlds End Avenue, Quinton, Birmingham 32.
Evans, John		19 The Drive, Orpington, Kent.
Hailey, Roger		Windwistle, Bellfontain Road, Crickhowell, Brecon- shire.
Imrie, John		124 Murray Avenue, Bromley, Kent.
McDowell, Paul		15 Allison Road, Brislington, Bristol 4.
Piper, Anthony		2a Mount Street, Diss, Norfolk.
Richards, John		25 Old Barn Road, Bournville, Birmingham, 30.
Richards, John		Embrook Farm House, 103 Reading Road, Wokingham, Berks.
Richardson, Robin		110 Parkside, Wollaton, Nottingham.

LEAVERS, SUMMER TERM, 1953

Roberts, Trefor
Thompson, Raymond
Threadgold, Jeremy

Wood, John

Highfield, Westwood Park, Welshpool, Mont.
Wayside, Sibford Ferris, Banbury.
2 Branscombe Gardens, Winchmore Hill, London,
N.21.
Charlton Lodge, Charlton, nr. Banbury.

July 1953

Darling, Brenda
Forrest, Ann
Griffin, Margaret
Lewis, Grace
Lewis, Mary
McIver, Stella
Parsons, Patricia
Savage, Janet
Smith, Margaret
Squire, Celia
Tanner, Sylvia
Townsend, Sheila
Williams, Patricia

GIRLS

St. Mary's Drive, Three Bridges, Sussex.
7 Victoria Square, Clifton, Bristol, 8.
231 Bournville Lane, Bournville, Birmingham, 30.
37 Park Hill, Shirehampton, Bristol.
37 Park Hill, Shirehampton, Bristol.
Reigate, Ryeworth Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham.
40 Gervase Drive, Dudley, Worcs.
65 Richmond Road, Rugby.
66 Wavendon Avenue, Chiswick, London, W.4.
69 Grange Avenue, Street, Somerset.
Sibford Gower, Banbury.
46 Bath Street, Rugby, Warwicks.
Sibford Road, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon.

The Jubilee Round-Up. (Photo: Morland Braithwaite.)

The Frontispiece, of the New Elm, is by Geoffrey Moore.

