

SIBFORD 78



1st RE-UNION 1904



75th RE-UNION 1978

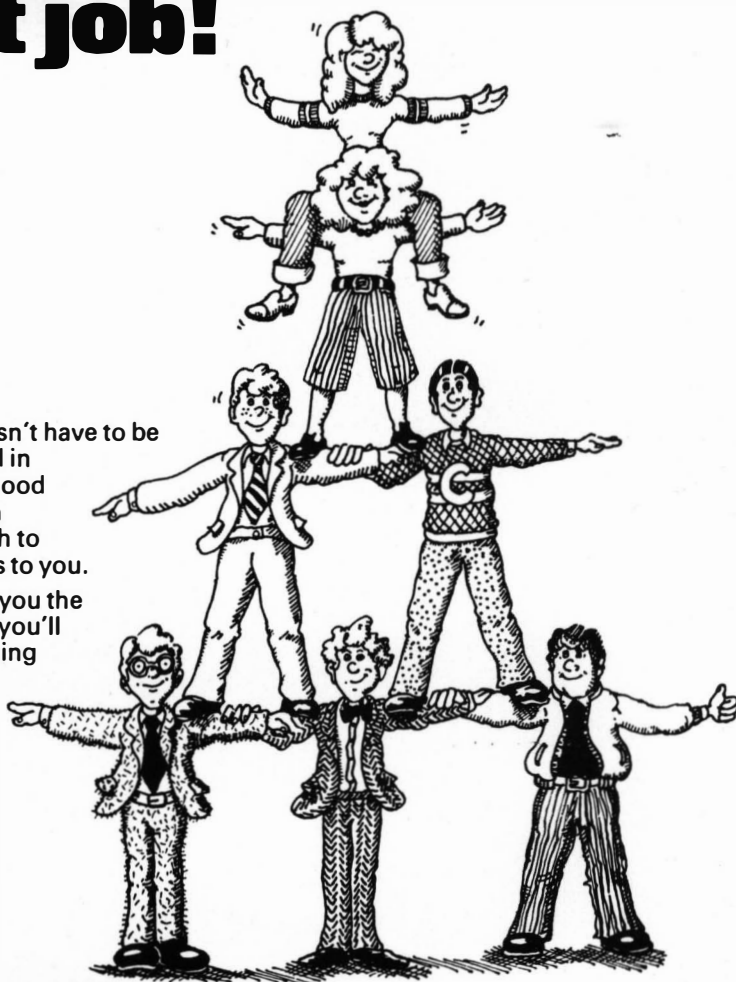
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SIBFORD 78

Annual Report

Sibford Old Scholars and Sibford School



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School Staff

THE TEACHING STAFF: AUTUMN TERM 1978

Headmaster:

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

Deputy Head:

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

Senior Master:

Kenneth T. Francis, Teachers Certificate

ART & POTTERY	Maureen McHale, N.D.D., A.T.D.* + Angela Mortimer
ENGLISH	(H) Geoffrey Higgins, M.A. (Oxon)* Julie Thomas, B.A.* Robert Penman, B.Ed.
FRENCH/GERMAN	Gilbert Todd, B.A.* Jean Rudge, B.A.* Anthony Rye, L.T.C.L.* Jennifer Walker, B.Ed.
GEOGRAPHY/ECONOMICS	Brian Holliday, B.Sc.* Joanna Pring, B.A.* Janette Long, Teachers Certificate
HISTORY	Kenneth T. Francis, Teachers Certificate Ian Charnock, B.A.* Anne Beazley, B.A.*
HOME ECONOMICS	(H) Gillian Edwards, Teachers Certificate Jane Nussey, Teachers Certificate
MATHEMATICS	(H) Alan Jarvis, M.A. (Oxon)* Frank Cookson, M.A. (Oxon)* Michael Hollman, B.Sc.* (H) Eunice Lemon, Teachers Certificate
METALWORK, WOODWORK & TECHNICAL DRAWING	Graeme Sagar, Teachers Certificate, M.C.C.Ed. (H) Stuart Hedley, Teachers Certificate, City & Guilds Advanced Craft Certificate
MUSIC	Natalie Herman, Teachers Certificate, Dip.Mus.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	(H) Michael Wollerton, Teachers Certificate, Dip.P.E. (H) Susan Lynk, Teachers Certificate
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Jean Lumb, Teachers Certificate
REMEDIAL TEACHING	David Foulds, B.A., Teachers Certificate (H) Eunice Lemon, Teachers Certificate + Robin Greaves, B.A.*
SCIENCE: PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY PHYSICS BIOLOGY CHEMISTRY RURAL SCIENCE	H. James Shields, B.Sc.* Frank Cookson, M.A. (Oxon)* Anthony Skeath, B.Sc.* + Elizabeth Cookson, M.A., Ph.D.* Gordon Wright, B.Sc.*
TYPING	+ Sylvia Manning
VISITING TEACHERS:	Phyllis Travis Frank Underwood David Foulds Peter Jeeves, L.T.C.L. Joan Barnwell, A.R.C.M. Mabel Payne Thomas M. Lawrence, M.A. Robert Pacey 'Cello Guitar Violin & Viola Brass & Percussion Clarinet Piano Piano & Composition Flute

NON-TEACHING STAFF

Bursar: John Miller

Assistant Bursar: Brian White

Headmaster's Secretary: Kate Long

Medical Officer: Sidney A. Agnew, M.B., Ch.B.

School Nurse: Shirley Ross, S.R.N.

Catering Manager: Geraldine Westbury

Maintenance: William White

Head Gardener: Arthur H. Dring

In Charge of Linen Room: Margaret Dring

(H) Indicates Housemaster or Housemistress

+ Indicates part-time staff

* Indicates Post-Graduate teaching qualification

School Leavers 1977-78

Alexander ADAMS: Lower Farm, Stoke Lyne, Bicester, Oxon.

Donald ALBRECHT: 60 Broadgate Crescent, Almondbury, Huddersfield, Yorks.

Katherine ALDINGTON: Crabtree Leys, Offenham, Evesham, Worcs.

Sarah BARFOOT: The Gables, Old Parr Road, Banbury, Oxon.

Sarah-Jane BARKER: Broom House, Broom, Biggleswade, Beds.

Anita & Fiona BIRTLES: 19 Downside Road, Headington, Oxford. OX3 8HP

Andrew BISS: 44 Abbey Road, Medstead, Alton, Hants.

Simon BLINCOWE: Evergreens, 131 Sinclair Avenue, Banbury, Oxon.

Richard BODY: Jewell's House, Stanford Dingley, Reading, Berks.

Helen BOWERS: Social Services Department, City Chambers, Queen Street, Oxford.

Caroline BROOKS: Churchfields, Stonesfield, Oxon.

Anita BROWN: 65 Fulford Grove, South Oxhey, Watford, Herts.

Eric BROWN: 78 Harpes Road, Oxford.

Richard BRUCE: Worcester Road, Salford, Chipping Norton, Oxon.

Patricia BRUTON: 93 Thirlmere Gardens, Wembley, Middx.

Amanda CADE: 23 Gerrans Hill, Portscatho, Nr. Truro, Cornwall.

Rebekah CARTER: Manor Farm, Bow Brickhill, Milton Keynes. MK17 9JT

Geoffrey COLEMAN: 17 Bushey Park, Bristol. BS4 2EG

Duncan COLTMAN: Longlands, School Road, Kedington, Haverhill, Suffolk.

Rachel & Rebecca DANCER: Manor Farm, Cornwell, Kingham, Oxon.

Jurai DARONGKAMAS: 43 Higher Green, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey. KT17 3BB

Santha DAVIS: P.O. Box 113, Shawnigan Lake, British Columbia, Canada.

Susan DAVIS: 135 Tyrrell Avenue, Welling, Kent.

Caspar DE LA MARE: Rudge Farm House, Froxfield, Nr. Marlborough, Wilts.

Amanda, Katherine & Frances DIKE: 27a Northmoor Road, Oxford.

Sophie DONCASTER: 15 Westgate, Southwell, Notts.

Jane DONNELLY: 5 Burns Road, Banbury, Oxon.

Joanna & Jonathan DOVELL: Ministry of Agriculture, P.O. Box 24, Maseru, Lesotho, Southern Africa.

Laura ELSMORE: 7 Hill Close, Charlbury, Oxon.

Penelope ENGLAND: 4 Barrow Hill Terrace, Ashford, Kent.

Julie FERRIDAY: 19 Browning Road, Banbury, Oxon.

Lise FINLAY: Tournay House, Hornton, Banbury, Oxon.

Anthony FRANCIS: 3 Hillfield, Sibford Ferris, Banbury, Oxon.

Johathan & Timothy FRANCIS: 254 Ashmore Road, London. W9

Carol & Deborah GAIGER: The Farmhouse, Mathon, Nr. Malvern, Worcs.

Christina GOLDSWORTHY: Bregviz, Middleton Road, Chacombe, Banbury, Oxon.

Geoffrey GREEVES: 8 Middle Park Close, Selly Oak, Birmingham. B29 4BT

David HOBBS: Park Farm, Stoke Rochford, Grantham, Lincs. NG33 5BE

Paul HOWE-PIPER: Portland House, High Street, Botley, Hants.

Justin JAMES: 44 St. Mary's Road, Adderbury, Banbury, Oxon.

Michael JENKINS: 57 Lytham Avenue, Watford, Herts. WD1 6XA

Ruth JONES: 10 Sandell Close, Banbury, Oxon

Sarah JUNIPER: 15 Bradmore Road, Oxford. OX2 6QP

Trina LANGFORD: 64 Hagley Park Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica.

Sarah LEELAND: British High Commission, Private Mail Bag 2096, Hospital Road, Kaduna, Nigeria.

William LESTER: Tall Trees, Vicarage Lane, Steeple Claydon, Bucks.

Heather LEWIS: P.O. Box 716, Maseru, Lesotho, South East Africa.

Cherry LUCAS: c/o Umm Al-Jawaby Petroleum Co.S.A.L. P.O. Box 693, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Republic.

Daniel LUCEY: The Old Farmhouse, North Stoke, Benson, Oxford. OX9 6BL

Cengiz LUGAL: Cortijo Grande, Turre, Almeria, Spain.

Christine & Janine MALLETT: Kings Court Farm, Cooksmill Green, Writtle, Essex.

Julie MANNING: Holly Close, Sibford Gower, Banbury, Oxon.

Imogen MARGRIE: 158 Camden Road, London. NW1 9HJ

Helen MATTHEWS: 9 Walford Avenue, Bradmore, Wolverhampton, Staffs.

Antony MAWER: Arnold Cottage, Toot Baldon, Oxford.

John MOORE: 7 North Park Avenue, Leeds. LS8 1DN

Helen PAINTER: 11 Harefield Road, London. N8 8QY

Margaret PARTRIDGE: The Mill, Eynsham Road, Cassington, Oxon.

J. M. CANNING

TAXI SERVICE

MALT HOUSE FARM, SIBFORD FERRIS,
Nr. BANBURY, OXON. OX15 5RG

TELEPHONE: SWALCLIFFE 321

Cherry PEDLER: 172 Clinton Lane, Kenilworth, Warwicks.
Philip PETTY: 32 Leamington Crescent, South Harrow,
Middx.

Christine PRITCHARD: 20d Trinity Place, Windsor, Berks.
Andrew RAMSBOTTOM: 'Willowmere', Clifford Chambers,
Stratford-on-Avon.

Meriel RAY-JONES: West Coombe Farm, Huish
Champflower, Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset.

David SIMPSON: Irelands Farm, Henley-in-Arden, Solihull,
Warwicks.

Roger SLADE: Madingley House, Haddenham, Cambs.

Laura SMITH: 65 Leighton Hill, Link Road, Hong Kong.

Fiona SPERRY: Church Farm, Morton Bagot, Studley,
Warks. B80 7EJ

Jeremy STEERS: Ladywalk, Long Lane, Rickmansworth,
Herts. WD3 5DH

Paul STERNBERG: 22 Cloudesley Square, London. N1

Timothy TAYLOR: Crescent Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

John TODD: Kingsettle Lodge, Semley, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Martin VINCE: Booz Allen & Hamilton International, P.O.
Box 3084, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.

Sally WARWICK: 1 Church Path, Great Amwell, Ware, Herts.

Benjamin WATKINS: Pitt House, Llanarth, Raglan, Mon.

Gay WATTS: Natural Resources Development College, P.O.
Box CHOO, Luzaka, Zambia.

Michael WHALE: Mount Farm House, Ratley, Nr. Banbury,
Oxon.

Richard WHEATLEY: 41 St. Mary's Road, Adderbury,
Banbury, Oxon.

Robert WHITE: Haldon, Lamborough Hill, Wootton, Oxon.
OX13 6BY

Lesley WILCOX: The Grange, Radway, Warwick.

Colin WOODWARD: Cherry Trees, 22 Hodgetts Lane,
Burton Green, Kenilworth, Warwicks. CV34 4SR

ATHLETICS

In the Banbury and District Athletics League Sibford finished fourth behind some of our much larger neighbours. Much of the credit must go to the individuals who scored well for the team. Our best three were undoubtedly Anthony Wynn-Williams, David Allen and Andrew Egbuna all of whom won through to the Country Championships. Andrew became junior hurdles champion while the other two were well placed in their finals.

SWIMMING

Swimming matches were held in our pool against Bloxham, Warriner and Kingham Hill, but our only outright success came in the combined match with the girls at Warriner School where a very closely fought match was just won in the final relay events.



Head Boy (Michael Bilborough) and Head Girl (Jenny Munday)

FOOTBALL

Senior	Played 9	Won 2	Drawn 2	Lost 5
	Goals For 28		Against 37	

After the success of the previous year the Senior Football Team had rather a disappointing season. The team was quite capable of scoring goals — Michael Jenkins and Simon Blincowe managed twenty two between them — but despite the industry of Anthony Francis in midfield we conceded far too many as well.

Junior

The story in the Junior Team was much the same where two or three good players failed to hold the team together against some strong opposition.

CRICKET

Senior	Played 7	Won 4	Lost 3
---------------	----------	-------	--------

With a number of players still at School from the previous season hopes were high for a successful year. However, it proved to be a season of rather low scores in which we dismissed our opponents in all but two games but could never raise our batting in order to score sufficient runs.

The bowling, fielding and catching were generally good and both Simon Blincowe, the captain, and Michael Jenkins took more than twenty wickets. The batting was unpredictable and although several batsmen made reasonable scores on occasions there was a general lack of consistency.

RUGBY

The Rugby Club was in a very healthy state and despite having several games cancelled it still managed to field a veritable menagerie of sides. Apart from the regular Senior & Junior XV's (animal enough at the best of times — oops! sorry!) the club also fielded a side of Tigers & Ogres. So with four sides regularly committed Sibford had reason to be proud enough but several results were also very laudable, particularly the First Fixture v Shipston School (away) where the Seniors won 44-14 and the Juniors 52-0. The Junior XV then went to Kingham and won 54-0.

However, all good things must come to an end ("why?" said the Hedonist) and against two very strong Oxford School sides the Seniors lost 40-0 and the Juniors 36-0. But, far from being discouraged both sides couldn't wait to play again. Unfortunately the Seniors did not live up to their promise and lost 46-6 to Kingham.

The final game of the term was against B.G.N. (home). The Juniors won 43-10 and the Seniors, after one of the most exciting games I have seen where the lead changed several times, ran out winners 25-22.

That evening the Seniors had their rugby dinner where J. Dovell spoke with the same distinction that characterized his play.

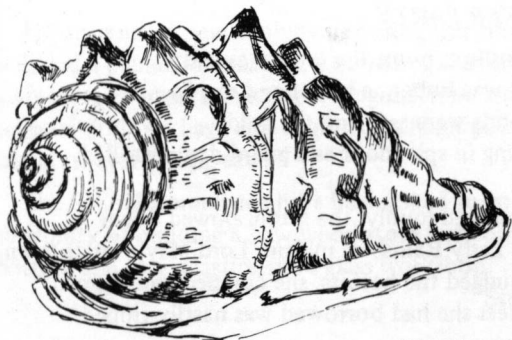
The Tigers (the first & second year team) had 4 matches winning once, drawing once & losing twice. Possibly not an outstanding record but against B.G.N. S. Freeman produced

a truly memorable performance by scoring seven tries — a school record.

There were also several “unofficial” matches between different year groups — some of which were very good, particularly the Fiftys v the Rest. (Thanks to Mr Skeath for refereeing.)

Finally, several very good players left Sibford — J. Dovell, M. Jenkins, A. Biss, J. Adams, J. Todd, D. Simpson, G. Greeves, P. Petty. My thanks to them for their support and effort and best wishes for the future. Keep in touch.

Ian Charnock



HEATHER LEWIS V FORM

EISTEDDFOD CONCERTS

“Huh, I don’t think much of the judging.”

“We were robbed.”

“Of course Lister deserved to win.”

These were just some of the comments heard after one Eisteddfod Concert. Popular opinion had it that the trophy should have gone to Lister. Why, then, did it go to Penn? Was it because Lister had already won the cross-country trophy the same day? Was it because Penn had won it in previous years and the judges didn’t want to break the tradition? I asked the judges — those elected by the school for their discriminating judgement and impartiality — why they chose Penn.

“Of course there are always complaints and differences of opinion after a Sibford Eisteddfod evening — if there weren’t you wouldn’t need judges, would you? We had great difficulty in deciding between Penn and Lister. There was much impressive work in the Lister show. Their opening chorus line was absolutely devastating and probably the best item in the whole evening. The two Yorkshire boys waiting for the man to jump was beautifully done as well; and the ‘Don’t Cry for More Ribena’ sketch was a very clever idea.”

So why *did* they choose Penn?

“I think it was the quality of acting that impressed us most in the Penn show. David Cadbury, for example, as the school boy whose knee defies the rules of medicine and biology; Geoffrey Greeves’ impersonation of Mr Hedley in the ‘Bike Shed’ sketch; and Ben as the not-so-stupid country bumpkin were all first rate pieces of acting.”

Didn’t the judges think the main item in the Penn show — the ‘Mr and Mrs’ sketch — was simply lifted from the television?

“No, it was a satire of a T.V. show and that’s very different from cribbing. They were showing the banality of the programme by making fun of the characters in it. The utterly boring Mr and Mrs Nonentity, the sluttish Aggie Acne, and Caspar (‘Cor, she’s all covered in spots.’), absent minded munching the fleas that jump out of the compere’s hair, as the chap whose eccentric behaviour takes over the whole show, were all horrible versions of real people.”

What about the Nansen show?

“That was quite funny in parts. The ‘Washing Powder’ sketch, the ‘Big Hand For Miss Herman’ and Gay Watts on the park bench were funny. The sketch on the balcony could have been good if it had been done slickly.”

R.P.

AN INTERESTING CHARACTER

There he goes
here he comes
this boy that
really interests me.

After what’s happened
he interests me
you see all three of us
have split up
yes all three.

I say all three
because there is three
he interests me
because in him
there is a third person.

This person was good
and kind to me
he paid attention to me
helped me and
loved me.

Yet now he looks
and sees me
this person is still
good to me.

This boy that
interests me
is bad and always
was
he was never with
just me but
everyone else
he tortured
and tormented me
he hated
and despised me
and still does.

And now these two
are together he tries
to make me jealous
he tries to make me
mad.

He stares at me
this boy that really interests me
but I couldn't really tell you why.

Helen Painter 5th Form



Sarah Juniper 5th Form

SUICIDE UNKNOWN

I was fat, short and ugly at fifteen,
Towards me the blokes weren't keen,
I envied the girls who were tall and slim,
I envied the girl that belonged to Him.

He was tall and dark, I loved him so,
I asked him out and he said 'No',
It was plain to see why he'd said that,
I was short, ugly and fat.

He'd smile at me when he passed me by,
I'd smile back — then start to cry.
I decided to do something really big,
To stop him thinking me a pig.

I started to think I really did try,
I made the decision — I'd have to die,
Only fifteen and thought I'd found love,
Just a fat old crow in love with a dove.

I set off to drown myself in the pool,
Everyone laughed and called me a fat fool,
I knew that I would feel no pain,
But I never realized that it wasn't a game.

I put my swim suit on, I don't know why,
I didn't know what it was to die,
Tied to a brick I jumped off the side —
Suddenly then I realized!

I thought of the pain that wouldn't hit me,
But what of the pain in my family?
I heard Mum cry, and struggled for breath,
Struggled for life . . . life against death.

Death won the battle — I'm dead I thought,
I'd rather be alive, fat, ugly and short.
After a while the dove wasn't sad,
The ones who were, were Mum and Dad.

Beka Carter 5th Form

THE DINNER PARTY

The curtains luxurious, the table was laid,
The carpet was Indian, a butler and maid,
The diamonds were safe and the gold
Lay gleaming in splendour as a guard dog patrolled.

The bell sounded loudly, the butler bowed down
"Lord and Lady Ramsb'm ma'am, Lord Mayor of de town."
The host nudged the hostess, she curtsied and tripped
And the dress she had borrowed was nastily ripped.

"Dinner is served ma'am," said the butler and maid,
"And after de sweet please see that we're paid!"
"Such commoners, butlers," choked out the host,
"But really these days one really must make the most."

They sat at the table and chatted of things
When the door burst open and the butler ran in:
"The dog ran orf wiv de duck an' ice cream,
So you'll 'ave to make do wiv this 'ere can of baked beans."

"I think we must go, dear," said the lady, quite shocked,
And went to the door and found it was locked.
They leapt through the window, scattering dishes and bowls,
And the guard dog chased them back to their Rolls.

A. and S. Ramsbottom 5th Form

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WORKSHOPS

Since the last report, the number of sixth form pupils pursuing woodwork or metalwork as a possible career has steadily increased, their work has become more ambitious and its quality has improved. This year two post-O-level students are studying woodwork with a view to going to college, two are studying metalwork and three more for pleasure as a timetabled subject.

Anthony Price-Dury, Christopher Herbert and Michael Whale have gone to Rycotewood College in successive years from the sixth form; Jonathan Francis took up an apprenticeship as a blacksmith with the Department of Environment; and Colin Woodward an apprenticeship with Rolls Royce, both from the fifth form.

Major items of new equipment during this time have included a planer/thicknesser, a mortising machine, a sharpedge, a Singer industrial sewing machine and a pedestal drill. We have also acquired as hand power tools, a sander, router and jig-saw.

The School Committee have been asked to consider the possibility of building a new wood-store and converting the existing one to a plastics/fibre glass workshop.

Stuart Hedley



Writing Desk & Chair — Michael Whale

THE GIRLS' SWIMMING TEAM

The Girls' Swimming Team had a successful summer term winning all three of the arranged matches. The one big disappointment was the fact that the Banbury Swimming Gala, which brings together many of the local schools, was postponed. We are still hoping that it will take place this term.

The general standard of swimming has been very high. This is partly due to the practice that some of the girls get in the holidays in the exotic countries which they visit, and partly due to their hard work at the two weekly swimming practices.

New records made at matches or the Inter-House gala are as follows:

40 yards Freestyle:

Junior	— Catherine Davies	26.0 secs.
Intermediate	— Francis Dike	24.3 secs.

40 yards Breast-stroke:

Junior	— Janine Mallett	31.8 secs.
Intermediate	— Fiona Sutherland	31.0 secs.

This year I am hoping to arrange eight matches and I hope also that the Gala will take place. We have lost some good swimmers amongst the leavers but two new arrivals — Clare Bonser and Linda Anazonwu — should prove to be strong additions to the team.

Thank you to all the swimmers and also to all the willing helpers at matches.

Anne P. Beazley



GIRLS' ATHLETICS

In the House athletics competition, several records were broken. All three relay records were broken — two by Nansen, one by Penn. Notable individual achievements were made by Elsa Stuart, who won four events and broke the senior 100 metres record, and Carol Williams who also won four events and broke the intermediate High Jump record.

The school athletics team had a very good season finishing in second place in the Banbury Schools' Athletics League.

Many girls competed in the Banbury Harriers Athletics Meeting and they came away with seven first places, eleven second places and nine third places.

In the North Oxon trials, Julia Wingfield came fourth in the Junior 800 metres just missing a place in the North Oxon team. Elsa Stuart, however, finished first in the senior Long Jump and went forward to represent North Oxon at the Oxfordshire County trials where she produced some excellent long jumps to gain first place.

This season a girls' cross-country team has been entered in the Banbury League and in the first match the school gained third place — a good start to the new season.

Sue Lynk

HEADMASTER'S REPORT TO GENERAL MEETING, 10TH JUNE 1978

First in time and first in importance in the events of the past year was the appointment of Shelagh Hill as Deputy Head. With her varied experience of education in this country and in Africa, as a headmistress several times over and as an inspector of schools, she has been a most valuable and refreshing colleague — not uncritical but always constructive, and her cheerful efficiency has had a helpful influence throughout the school. We are very glad and very fortunate to have her at Sibford.

We also welcomed several other new teachers in the autumn: Maureen McHale (Art), Kathy Shirt (Religious Education), Robert Penman (English) and Sue Lynk, who is in charge of Girls' P.E. and took over as Assistant Housemistress in Penn House when Elizabeth Sallis left in October. Vera Blade joined us to teach part-time in the Maths department, and Kay Turner as Librarian.

I am sorry to have to report that Hilary Davies, Penn Girls' Housemistress, will be leaving us this term. On medical advice she is giving up teaching for a time, and we thank her for the service that she has given and hope that she will quickly be restored to good health.

There has unfortunately been a good deal of ill health among staff this year, and I am grateful to those who have taken on additional work and duties to cover for absent colleagues.

The results of the public examinations taken a year ago were satisfactory and, in the case of the O-level examinations, the best that we have achieved for many years.

Mathematics has been in the national news in recent months, since tests revealed a very poor standard of numeracy among senior school pupils and young adults. Parts of the same tests were set to our own pupils of all ages and produced encouragingly satisfactory results. In addition to the Modern Mathematics course, basic number work is thoroughly and regularly taught in Maths classes throughout the school; and this is also the basis of the CSE Money Management examination which many of our pupils take.

An experimental non-examination course in Sociology in the Fourth year has not proved very successful, but we plan to offer a one-year O-level course in Sociology in the Sixth Form next year.

A staff working-party has also designed for next year's First Form a course in Environmental Studies. Borrowing time and material from History, Geography and Rural Science the new course will take the Children out of school for one afternoon each week to make a practical study of the Sibford district, and occasionally to travel further afield.

Once again we have held an Advanced Reading Course, mainly for the Third Form. The results remain remarkably consistent — on average, a threefold increase in reading speed is achieved together with a substantial improvement in comprehension; and it is reassuring to know that follow-

up tests show that after several months these benefits are generally retained and, in many cases, further developed.

In all kinds of ways Sibford tries to meet the individual needs of its pupils. An example of this is in the special help given to prepare children whose homes are in Europe for early O-level entry in French or to keep up their knowledge of Spanish. These are offered as extra-curricular activities by Tony Rye who, at the end of this term, will be taking a well-earned sabbatical leave. He will be spending it in France and Spain refreshing his knowledge of these languages, and we wish him an enjoyable and restful break.

Also in the area of Modern Languages, I am glad to report that this year the Third Form German course, which has been so well taught by Jean Rudge but which had hitherto had to meet at inconvenient times and places, has been found a place of its own in the timetable.

At Easter, Anne Beazley took five pupils to Germany for two weeks on an exchange visit, and their German hosts returned the visit last month.

Once again the boys' craft department has produced some fine work, the best, I think, that I have ever seen, and much of it is on display in the workshops today. Our woodwork and metalwork was recently the subject of an illustrated article in our local paper, *The Banbury Guardian*, and I was glad that Stuart Hedley and Graeme Sagar gained this small public recognition of the outstanding work that is produced here under their guidance.

On the games field neither the boys nor the girls' teams have had particularly successful seasons, but a pleasing feature on the boys' side has been the combined staff and boys rugby team which, under the somewhat un-Quakerly title of *The Ogres*, has had several fixtures with local club sides. Its members have also presented a trophy for the inter-House rugby competition. For the girls, a cross-country cup and a Junior Netball shield have been presented by Sue Lynk, and we are indeed grateful for all these gifts.

We have a strong girls' swimming team which has met regularly for training with Anne Beazley throughout the term. They won their first match against Warriners School, and they have four more fixtures this term.

In the swimming sports seven new records were established, and in the athletic sports, five. Four of our pupils have been selected to represent North Oxfordshire in the county athletics championships.

Orienteering continues to grow in popularity. In spite of bad weather more than 80 boys and girls took part in the inter-House event, and several of our members achieved Bronze and Silver standards at the National Badge events.

Travelling at a rather more leisurely pace, parties of juniors led by David Foulds, Janette Long and Jane Nussey have enjoyed three week-ends Youth Hostelling in Gloucestershire and the Forest of Dean, and a more ambitious expedition is planned for July when a party of 35 children and six members of staff will set off to explore north-eastern England.



Development on a Theme of Coathangers — Annabel Springate 4th Form

Another outing that was very much enjoyed was the trip to Bourton-on-the-Water arranged and led by the Friends of Sibford, to whom we are grateful for this and many other kindnesses and support during the year. Their buffet-dance in the dining-room in November was a very pleasant occasion and another one is planned for October. Their bring-and-buy stall on Old Scholars' day last month raised over £60, mainly earmarked for the library.

There have been plenty of other outings — to the cinema, the ballet, the theatre — and we have not been without our own entertainment here in school. In the autumn, Geoff Higgins production of *Oklahoma* was a triumph — musically, dramatically, visually — and it was remarkable that from such a small school could be found so large a cast of talented actor-singers.

The House drama competition brought us three interesting productions, including a very successful play written and directed by one of our Sixth Form boys; and the House concerts made good entertainment as ever, including a well-drilled high-kicking chorus which obviously derived from Natalie Herman's production a year ago of scenes from *The Boy-Friend*.

On a rather quieter note, at Christmas we enjoyed a medieval miracle play — *The Wakefield Second Shepherd's Play*, produced by Robert Penman.

Another of Robert Penman's enterprises has been the establishment of a school newspaper, *The Sibford Free Press* — a cynical misnomer, as one junior correspondent pointed out, since it costs 2p a copy, but it is very good value at that.



"Sibford Free Press" reporter interviewing Rock Group "Axehead"

And it was Robert, too, who organised our participation in an inter-schools public speaking competition arranged by the Banbury Junior Chamber. We entered ten speakers, and Cherry Pedler won second place in the senior section. This is a valuable activity and I hope that we shall do more of it.

Another competition in which we achieved success was the National Westminster Bank's Project Respond, for which schools were invited to submit schemes of public service. Of the ten awards made to schools in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire two came to Sibford for the work of our Social Service Committee which is led by Gordon Wright. An award of £75 was made for our pupils' visiting old people in nearby villages, and £25 for our annual summer holiday camp for delicate and deprived children from Central London. Both schemes continue to operate and the number of volunteers to help with this year's holiday camp far exceeded the number required. To run one of these camps costs about £550 and from time to time therefore we must organise a fund-raising effort to replenish the coffers. In October the Social Services Committee will be having a sponsored walk for this purpose. I hope that all members of the school will take part, and I hope that you will give them your generous support.

Gordon Wright's other main extra-curricular interest is, of course, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, in which he is assisted by several colleagues and also by local friends of the school. We are greatly indebted to Gordon and his helpers, especially those from outside the school, for all the time and effort that they devote to the scheme,

which covers a large part of the organised leisure time activities in the school. During the year, 6 Bronze, 7 Silver and 2 Gold Awards have been achieved, plus three more Gold Awards by recent leavers. Towards the end of term 66 boys and girls will camp in Wales in order to complete their expedition training — 25 for Bronze, 25 for Silver, and 16 for Gold.

This, then, is the record of the past school year. It is not, of course, the whole story. But even if we were to add some account of the less praiseworthy items — of which, I am glad to say, there have been few of any significance — even if we were to add these to the list of our positive achievements the record would still be incomplete.

Some months ago in a radio programme the story was told of a man who dreamed that he went to Heaven where he found himself in what appeared to be a large shop. And the angel in charge of the place said to him, "Ask for whatever you like and you may have it". So the man began, "Let us have peace, let us have happiness" and so he would have gone on, but the angel stopped him and said, "I am afraid you have the wrong idea. This is not a fruit shop: it is a seed shop."

I would like to think that something similar may be true of Sibford; that in addition to our immediate successes, reckonable in terms of examinations passed or games won, we may be passing on to our pupils something of the ideals and attitudes which the school was founded to promote: not merely a fruit shop, but a seed shop.



Heather Lewis & Andrew Biss being Presented with Duke of Edinburgh Awards



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KILLING AN ANIMAL

At home I have chickens. I made a hatch for them with a run. The door could slide up and down by pulling a piece of string. This string got very old, worn and rotten. At that time I had a mother hen with a brood of chickens. There was one brown chicken, all the rest being black. This one was very special. I wanted to breed from him when he got older.

One evening when I was rounding in the chickens a horrible thing happened. I was holding the string while all the chickens scurried into the hutch. Then the string broke. It came crushing down. At first I didn't know what damage I had done. But at a second glance I noticed the brown chicken sprawling on the ground. It didn't make a sound. The mother was trying to help it, but in vain. Its intestine had come out of its backside. I panicked! What should I do? I pulled the run away from the hutch. I picked the bloody chicken up with its intestine dangling over my hand. Its eyes were closed now but its mouth was opening and closing like it was trying to scream. Its wings were spread out and were very stiff. It must have been paralysed. I put my fore-finger and thumb around its neck ready to break it. The neck was too small and I couldn't break it cleanly. I then thought of dropping a brick on its head. But I couldn't stand the sight of brain suffusing the grass. Then the thought of drowning it came to mind. I took the notionless creature to the trough and put it under the water. Its eyes opened and its mouth moved faster and faster. I could feel it trying to escape. My grip was strong. The movement became weaker and weaker and finally it died.

Toby Harris 4th Form

NANSEN GIRLS' HOUSE REPORT

Nansen girls started off their ambitions year with the transformation of the common-room. This was inspired by the fourth-form, but everyone helped — we think!

We could not compete with Lister girls' over indulgence in the renovation of the exterior and interior of their House, but we were given three new chairs, and the kitchen was decorated.

Owing to growing concern over the situation in the Lebanon we tried to raise some money for this cause by running food bars which sold sandwiches, popcorn, popadoms, crisps, milk-shakes and cream-teas. This was very successful and we raised eleven pounds.

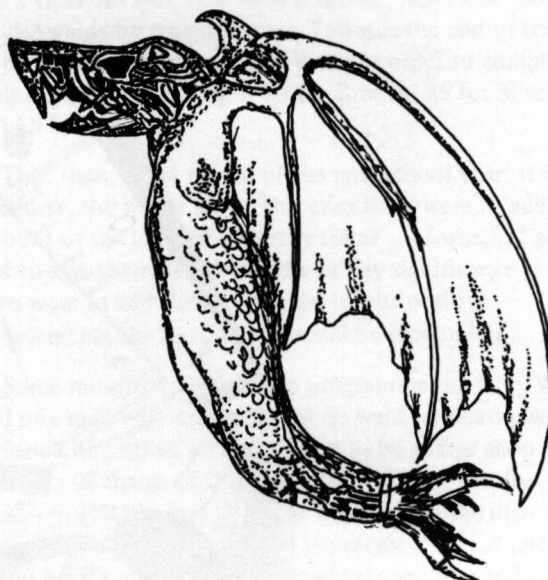
We acquired various cups — hockey, mixed-doubles, tennis and table-tennis — during the year. The table-tennis was won by Sophia Miller, who was awarded an egg-cup!

Although our efforts in the Eisteddfod Concerts and plays were rather unsuccessful, we did win one music concert.

Altogether we had quite a successful year, although, in Miss Lemon's opinion, smoking has increased — a problem causing some concern in the School amongst teachers.

On the whole, there was a happy atmosphere in the House with a number of outings. For example, we ran a trip to see 'A Star is Born'.

Sarah Chandler 4th FormHouse



Adrian Sestini 2nd Form

THE CHILDREN'S ANNUAL SUMMER HOLIDAY

This was the fifth annual holiday given by the pupils and staff to twenty deprived children from the East End schools of Stormont House and Phoenix. We needed twenty volunteers from our own 5th and 6th forms and had over forty applications — such is the popularity of the venture. It involves a lot of hard work and boundless resources of patience and love. To say it was a huge success speaks volumes for our helpers. Every 'helper' has a child to look after all day long and also they take their turn to cook and clean, etc. It would be an understatement to say that the children are difficult to handle but our helpers once again rose to the occasion.

We had two major outings: one to the Wild Life Park of Burford and, for a complete contrast, a long journey to the Playground of the Midlands' at Wickstead Park, Kettering. Both were greatly enjoyed. Local trips to Traitors' Ford and the railway at Middle Barton and to the Burton Dassets to fly kites also proved successful. Crazy sports and a concert occupied us on the campus. The highlight was the visit to Blenheim Palace grounds for literally hours of rides on the model trains there.

The holiday is great fun. We all enjoy it and the benefit to the children is immeasurable. It will I am sure continue to be a successful venture and to the end a sponsored walk to raise over £1,000 is arranged for October '78.

An extract from a letter from the Head from Stormont House School states "Once again I find it difficult to express how grateful we are for all that you do for our children It never fails to amaze me how patient, kind and hardworking your teenagers are in the face of children who can be extremely demanding and at times, ungrateful. God bless you all for your generosity of spirit."

B.H.



Paul Sternberg 5th Form

SKATE-BOARDING

The reason I like skate-boarding is that it is very good fun. It is not dangerous at all if you do not try to be too clever. Fooling about on a skate-board can cause bad accidents.

At Sibford my friends and I skate-board in the car park on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. There is a slight slope and we can get some speed up. We would also like to be able to skate-board during the week. At present we have five skate-boards and about twenty five people using them.

In London a place has specially been built for skate-boarding. Here you must wear pads and a helmet because of the stunts people do. It costs one pound a day to skate-board. Where I live we have skate-board tracks on a hill near the town – it costs nothing.

In America some schools have skate-board sessions instead of games. This would be a good idea at Sibford.

A skate-board costs about twelve pounds, but they can cost much more. Some have wide wheels for stunts – small wheels are for racing.

Skate-boarding is an enjoyable and interesting hobby, and is not nearly as dangerous as people think. Come and watch us at the weekend if you are interested in this sport.

Neil Bosomworth and Richard Dashwood 2nd Form

DISPLAY AREA

The boys' cloakroom on the bottom corridor in the Hill building has been converted into a display area for the use of all departments in the school. Although not quite finished at the time of writing, it consists of removable wall panels covered in hessian, concealed strip lighting and sliding track spot lights. An interior locking show-case is provided and the whole is closed in with aluminium framed glazing. Two display models have already been donated by Richards Shops Ltd., the well-known chain store, for the use of the Home Economics department, and we look forward to being able to put the area to full use very soon. As well as displaying our own work we intend to be able to display items of interest and excellence from local artists/craftsmen.

The old scholars have decided to finance this development as a memorial to Louis Wright – himself a fine craftsman and generous friend of the school. An appeal fund has been opened for this purpose.

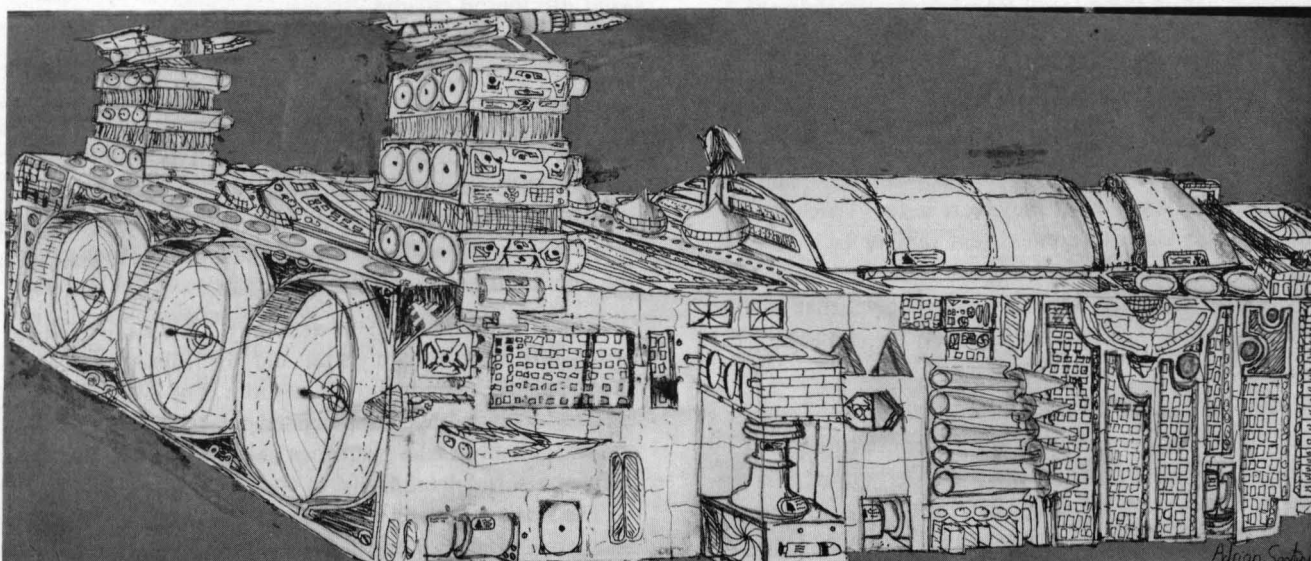
Stuart Hedley

LISTER BOYS HOUSE

Since our last report the landing projects have been completed. A cedar-clad wall has been built across the stair well, a showcase installed and carpet tiles laid. The cedar wood and carpet were provided by donations from parents and friends, a signed Terence Cuneo print donated by Mr L. G. Lee and a second Terence Cuneo is on loan from Mr Bird. Very recently a dormitory corridor carpet has also been provided by parents and friends, a third framed print donated by David Marks on leaving the House, an electronic T.V. game and a Hoover sweeper from individual parents.

Once again our thanks are due to all concerned for their support in making these projects possible. It is noticeable that during the evenings the boys are spread evenly throughout the House in various areas of activity.

Stuart Hedley



Adrian Sestini 2nd Form

PENN GIRLS' HOUSE REPORT: AUTUMN 77 – AUTUMN 78

At the start of the new year the House had Miss Davies as Housemistress and Mrs Sallis as Deputy but at half-term the House welcomed Mrs Lynk as Deputy. Michelle Ives was chosen to be Head Girl of the House and Heidi Ibrhaim was Games Captain.

As far as improvements to the House went, it was a very good year. The old boot-room was converted into a Fifth Year study room which allows somewhere quiet for those who need to work in the House. The House welcomed a carpet in the common room and, the following summer term, a carpet in the hobbies room. For those who want to do their own washing, the House received a new twin-tub.

On the games side, the House did not do too badly: we received two cups, one for senior girls' House Netball and the other for swimming.

In the Eisteddfod we did well by winning both the concerts and the drama. For our drama we presented a play which was written by Donald Albrecht, a member of the Sixth Form. Sadly our exhibition let us down but in the overall marks we came joint first with Lister.

At the end of the year Mrs Lynk took over as Housemistress as Miss Davies left. For the start of the year 1978 Penn welcomed Miss Lumb as Deputy Housemistress. Edwina Bezant took over the job of Head of House with Amanda Bond as Games Captain. The year started well with the House acquiring both a tumble-dryer and a new colour television which each member of the House contributed to.

Edwina Bezant 4th Year

OGRERY

Played three, lost three. Not the sort of record to have them proclaiming a second coming in Preoria, but never mind the quality feel the width (and there was plenty of that in the Sibford front row).

The RAF were the first to feel the might of the Ogres, and they needed their Scottish international to stop the Ogres. Disregarding defence the Ogres rampaged like Visigoths before the gates of Rome. Unfortunately the door seemed to be locked on this particular occasion but the RAF could not *per ardua ad centum* this time. Let it be a lesson in Quaker victories to them.

Next to feel the scourges of North Oxfordshire Orthodoxy was the Army at a frontier post called Kineton. They obviously knew what they were in for. Twice the sentry sent the Ogres to non-existent venues. Twice the Ogres saw through this ploy and even took the lead at half time, but not forgetting their motto (whatever that might be) they allowed the Army the indignity of a hollow victory.

Finally, it was the turn of Oxford University to come under the hammer – although this time both sides had 13 not the usual 15-a-side. Once again the Ogres moved to an impressive lead but once again allowing civility to come between them and their just desserts they allowed Oxford to rescue their dignity with a late win.

So, who can stop the Ogres in their quest for ignominious victories? Already the fixture list for next season is full, and we look forward to a good season.

Ian Charnock



The Sibford Ogres

OLD SCHOLARS' REUNION

Many people look towards this event as a day of school uniform and an evening of forced entertainment.

But as we all know it was different last weekend. We were allowed to change, the Friends of Sibford stall was very good although us poor Sibfordites couldn't really afford the prices apart from the 3p cakes. The mugs and pens were very nice, though. The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all and the rounders, cricket and table-tennis were all won by a good margin.

The Old Scholars were then presented with a wall-hanging which had been beautifully woven, and Frank Rollett was busy clicking with his camera.

We then moved onto a very good evening. Firstly we had the country-dancing which had been anticipated as a great flop, but as many people came it was a great success. The caller had not expected anyone. She was an old scholar who had travelled seventy miles to be there. After I had commented sarcastically how much I "enjoyed" country-dancing I was very surprised to find out how enjoyable it was.

Then we had a short disco which included the main pop records and a little Sibford Night Fever. The group from London then came on. Unfortunately their act was accompanied by rather a lot of miming, but apart from that they were excellent. Many old scholars, however, went to the pub because they disliked the noise.

Sunday arrived and there were only a few stray bands of people left. Unfortunately some did not realise the rule about breakfast and had to do without. The evening meeting was very much appreciated, especially by the top end of the school who had learnt about the terrible problems in Israel and Syria.

The week-end was a great success. Thank you Old Scholars.

Maria Hawker 5th Form



Sheridan Coldstream 3rd Form

TRIP TO WEMBLEY

On Saturday, 9th September, a group of girls from Years 2 – 5 left to go on an outing to Wembley to see the British Schoolgirls' Gymnastics finals. We departed from the Manor at 11.00 a.m. after morning school with Mrs Lynk, Miss Nussey and Miss Beazley. We had a packed lunch on the coach and so when we arrived at the stadium all we needed to do was to find our seats. We had no queueing and went straight in. The first performance was due to commence at two o'clock which it did. There were twelve teams taking part on four different pieces of apparatus: the floor, the beam, the bar and the vault. After the interval at 3.30 p.m. there was a special display of gymnastics done with groups of girls or just in twos and threes. After the special display the competition carried on until 4.45 p.m. when the prizes were given. We left the stadium without any bother and arrived back at school at 6.45 p.m.

Edwina Bezzant 4th Form

THE GERMAN TRIP

A German exchange between North Oxfordshire schools and Donauworth Gymnasium has been running for some years now. This year Sibford took part for the second time.

Donauworth, which lies just in Bavaria, was one of the free imperial towns and is situated on the "Romantic Road". Many interesting visits can be made from there including one to a large crater which was made by a meteorite. This later became an ancient sea and very rare fossils are now found there.

Our party spent two weeks staying with German families over Easter and we made two trips – one to the Science Museum in Munich and one to Nuremberg Zoo. Our pupils were interested to note some of the differences in the German way of life. They noticed the segregation of different ability groups in the school system, the emphasis

on sport and keep-fit, the very adverse exchange rate between the mark and the pound, the different foods, especially the fruit teas, and some of them enjoyed a lively social life different to that in England.

The German partners made a return visit over Whitsuntide and we made two trips – one to Bath and Cheddar, and one to London. I believe that they also enjoyed their visit.

Five pupils went with the school group while a sixth girl independently visited her partner from the last exchange. Of the five, three are still in contact with their partners and are likely to want to travel out again.

Anne P. Beazley

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

Easter 1978

The best china all set out; the contract with the school caterers amended to permit the gathering; bus loads of young people between the ages of 16 – 19 were collected from Banbury Station. On arrival we accumulated in Nansen Girls' common room where there was a chaotic sort-out to be given name badges and to be told where to take our luggage. The girls were housed in the girls' Houses and the boys in Fielding and the boys' Houses. The 140 or so young people included people from Switzerland, Scotland, Jersey and Sweden as well as all over England. There were representatives from all the Friends' Schools as well as the Monthly Meetings.

We had a short introductory meeting after tea which we split up into our respective discussion groups and performed some odd rituals which consisted of an attempt to win each other's confidence. For instance, one person with eyes closed stood in the middle of the other members



The Art Class – Melissa Clements 1st Form

of the group and was passed from one person to another by gentle pushing. Then followed some attempts to get to know each other by telling a little about ourselves. Each discussion group had a leader and met in a classroom.

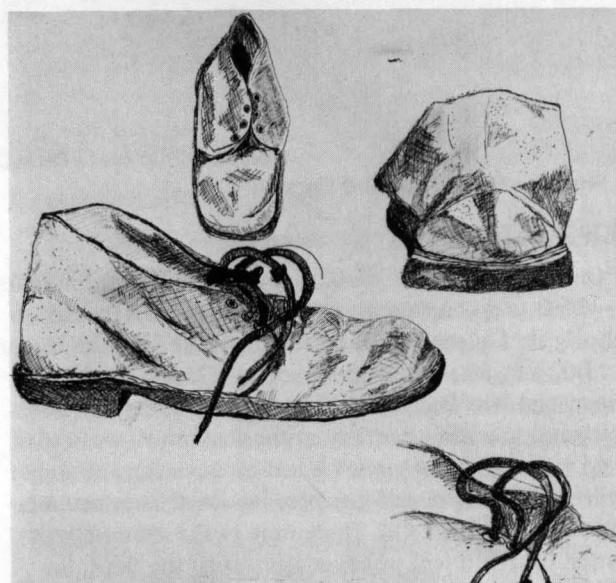
A typical day began with breakfast, then 20 – 25 minutes of Quaker style meeting followed by a short meeting to inform us of the day's coming events. At about ten o'clock we had a lecture followed by question time, coffee and discussions in our discussion groups on the lecture topic. The lectures were about the nature of Quaker pacifism and their non-violent conscientious objection with particular reference to the sufferings and torture of early Quakers and those that refused to take up arms during the last two world wars. Another was a talk on how Liberals support Quaker beliefs and ideals, but most convincing of all was a talk without notes, straight from the heart of someone who spoke on 'The Walk of Life' and showed how before we could go cheerfully across the world seeking that of God in every man, we should do something to use and develop that of God in ourselves to make a positive effort to better the world in which we live.

In the afternoons we had optional activities consisting of art and craft, music and improvised drama, working on the general theme of the meeting "Ideals into Action". There were some free-time activities including wood-carving, listening to a talk on Kibbutz in the Lebanon, and yoga. The evenings were taken up with films, including one on the life and work of Martin Luther King, a visit to Stratford Royal Shakespeare Theatre to see A Midsummer Night's Dream, and on the final night a concert of work done in the music group, a game of Monopoly based on the coping of people with life situations from the drama group and an exhibition of work done in the art and craft section. On one night we had an 'open forum' question time at which a panel including Mr Greaves were placed before an audience who fired questions at them.

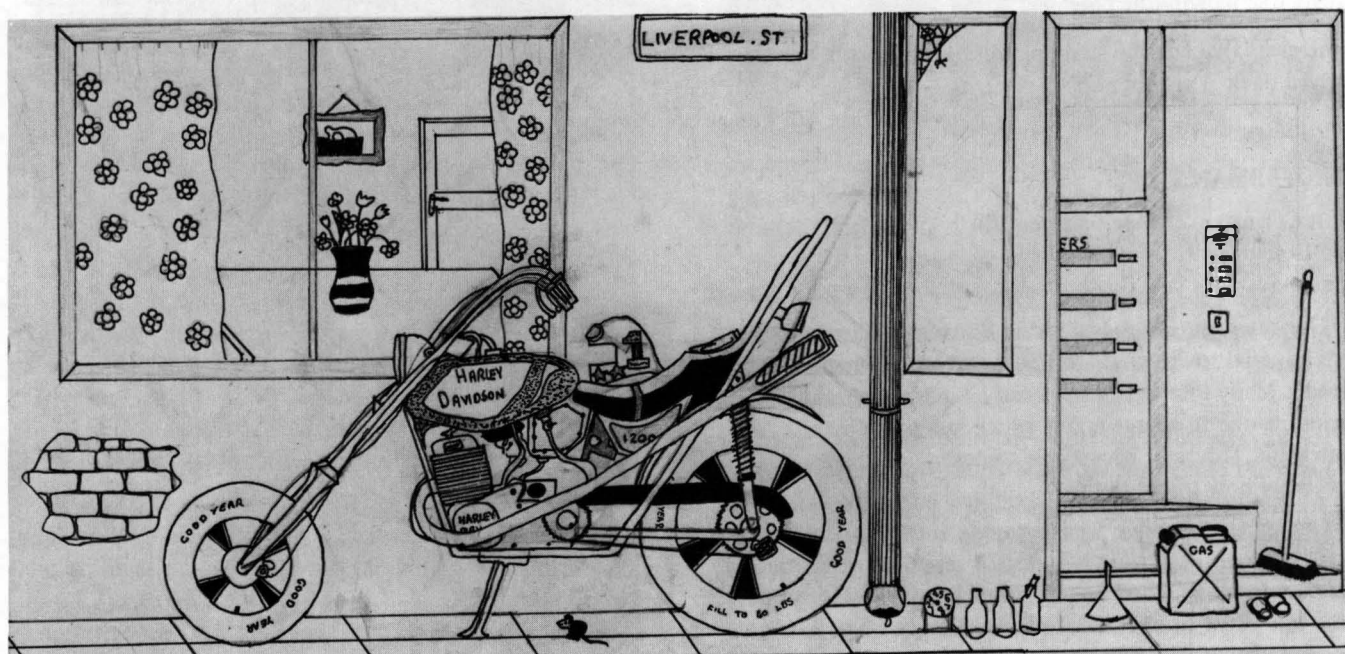
On Sunday morning we dispersed to various meetings, little and large, being shown round the area we visited and having a picnic there. On Sunday evening we had music and readings. Most nights we had country dancing and a disco and on the final night some people even stayed up all night after a midnight swim and disco which went on well past 3.30 a.m. – the time I left it.

In spite of all this not particularly religious activity, we felt that we agreed with the first epistle and that something had come out of the gathering which united us in our resolution to set ourselves standards and morals which we would not let slip and yet at the same time put some 'Ideals into Action' on the side of improving the lives of all the people whom we meet throughout life.

Cherry Pedler 5th Form



Study of Shoes – Mandy Dike 6th Form



Jonathan Basson & Mark Logue 1st Form

SIBFORD PUPILS IN TOP FORM

There were almost 50 names on the programme for Sibford School's highly polished production last week of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, Oklahoma.

That is a lot and I wondered how many of those names belonged to members of staff. Afterwards I had a word with Geoff Higgins, the show's artistic director, and he told me: "There wasn't a member of staff anywhere near the stage during the whole two-hour performance. The pupils did everything."

This musical with its big chorus scenes and famous numbers needs careful staging and choreography. Meticulous rehearsal obviously lay behind the production, particularly the three cowboys' dance and the cowgirls' Many A New Day, scene.

Mike Bilbrough played Jud with just the right aggression and there was good work from Jenny Munday, Bekah Carter and Geoffrey Greeves.

Because the dialogue of the play is American the cast attempted American accents. Occasionally, this presented difficulties but generally the standard of delivery was such that Doug Pray, who actually comes from the USA, was only marginally more authentic than his fellows.

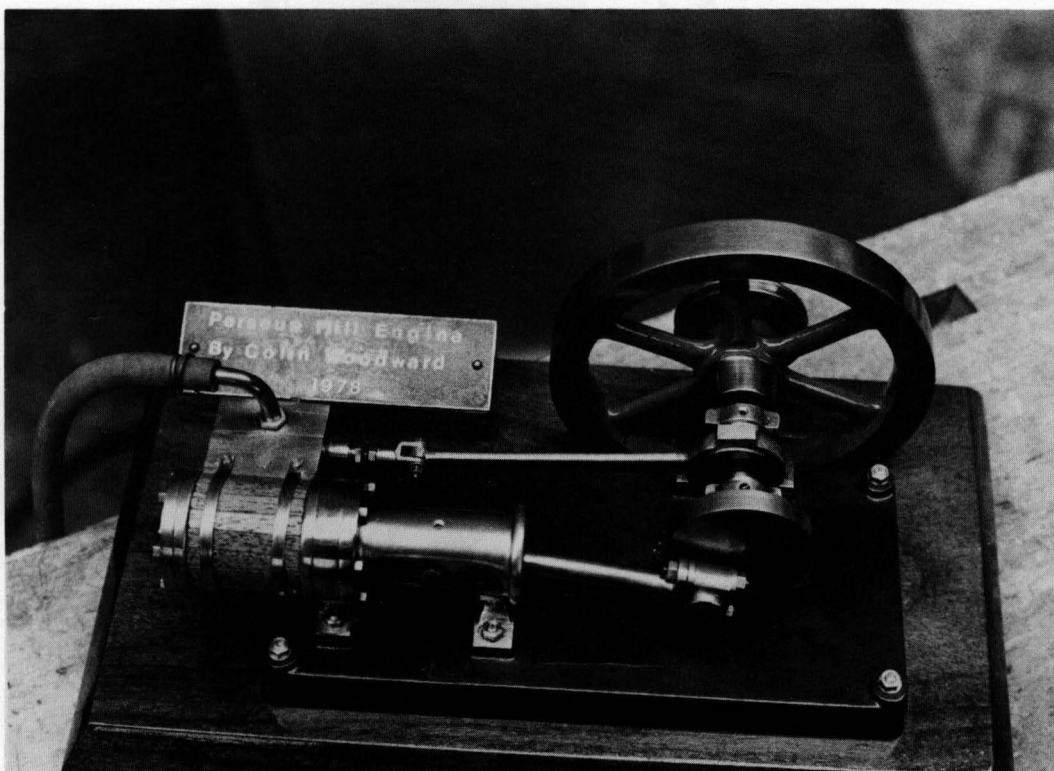
Natalie Herman, musical director and pianist, Tony Rye, organ, and Oscar Verden, drums, ensured that the evening was musically as good as it was theatrically.

R.P.

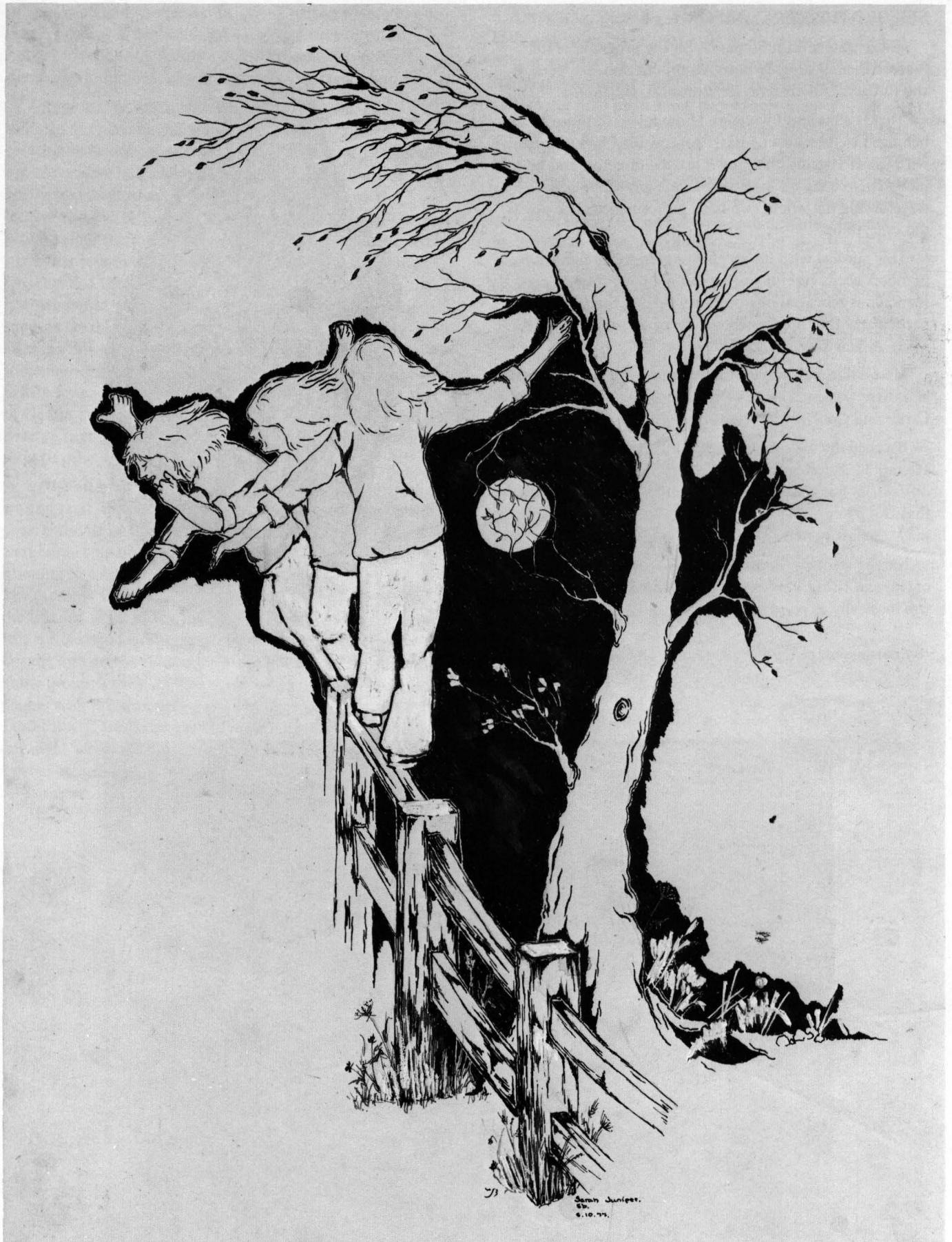
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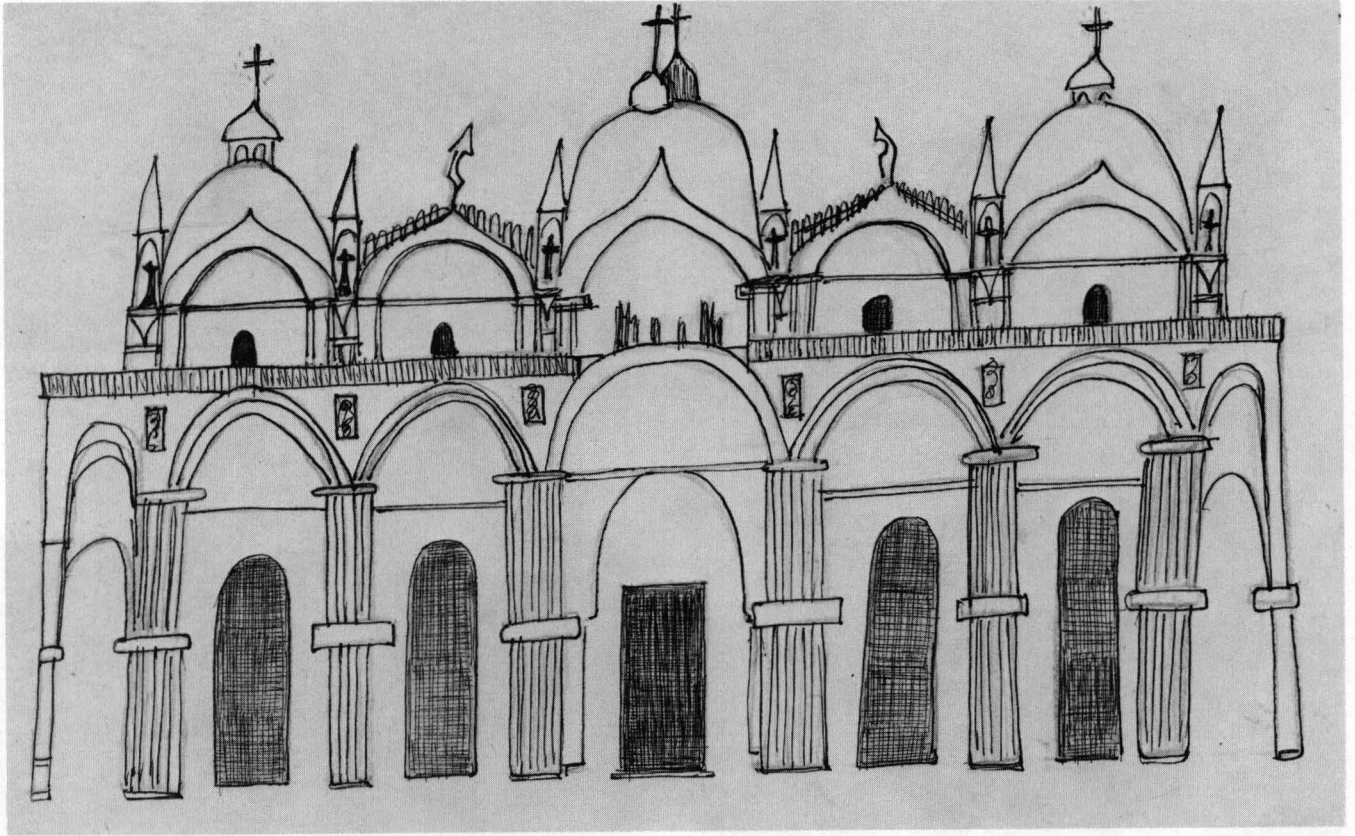
Katie Dike 3rd Form



Perseus Mill Engine – Colin Woodward 1978



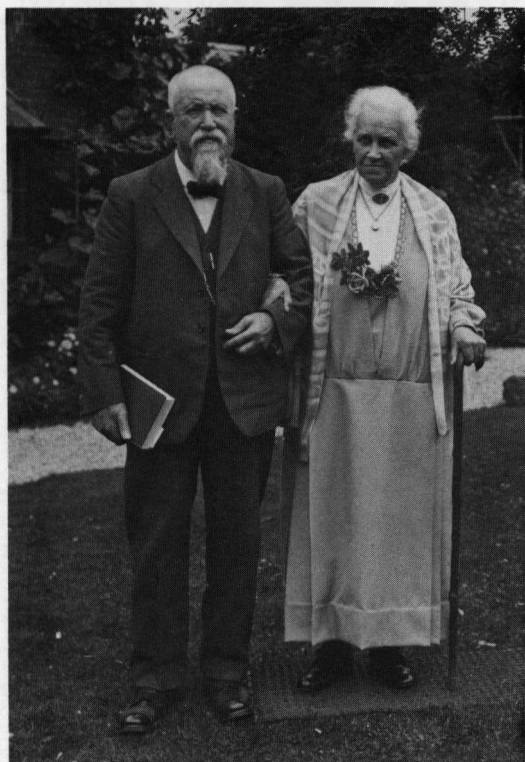
Sarah Juniper 5th Form



Domes & Spires — Melissa Clements 1st Form



Helen Carlton Smith — The "SOSA" Story



Robert & Elizabeth Oddie, Headmaster in 1903,
on their Golden Wedding 1927

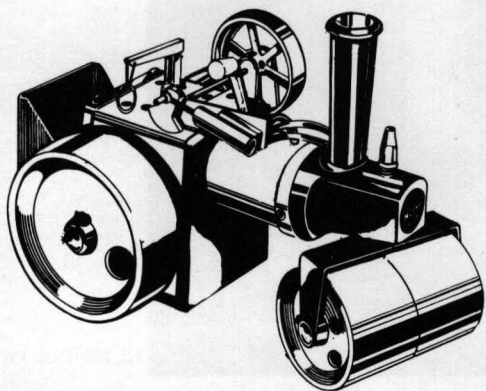
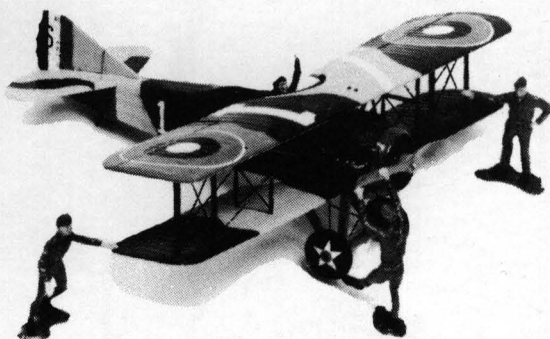


Kenneth Greaves, present Headmaster, dressed
for the part

The Patriarchs

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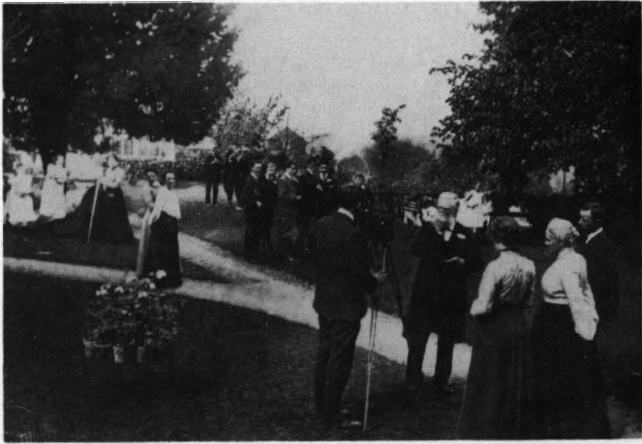
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Between Friends 1948



"Polly"

Watching Kate Long

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S O S A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in the Old Scholars room, Saturday, 26th August
— 4 p.m.

President in the Chair — Janet Sewell, with 73 attending.

The Meeting remembered in silence Louis Wright who died on 16th March, 1978.

Greetings were received from Alice Green, Geoffrey and Joan Long, Don and Beryl Ryan, Doris Wright, June Ellis.

1. *Minutes*

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held 27.8.77 having been printed in the magazine were taken as read, and unanimously adopted by those present. They were signed during the week-end by the President.

2. *Matters Arising*

There were no points raised about the minutes.

3. *General Secretaries Report*

When presenting the first annual report of the association, E. P. Kaye the then Secretary and Treasurer, spoke of the enthusiasm with which one and all had taken up the idea. "Without that, no amount of subscriptions would have enabled us to enjoy such a time as we have had" he said. At that time, June 1903 there were 186 members, including 30 leavers. This year we have some 600 members including 20 leavers.

The enthusiasm is still in evidence, since becoming your general Secretary the committee have met once, the reunion sub committee has met twice, and there is much 'behind the scenes' activity all the time. Russell Steed for example spends much of his time organising for the success of the week-end gatherings. The editor I also know has been busy obtaining quotes for the printing, and Stuart Hedley, a member of the school staff on the old scholars committee has undertaken the task of advertising manager, with excellent results. Another member of the school staff also on your committee, Nathal Herman, has also agreed to help with the magazine. I find this very gratifying, as one of our weak links seems to be with the school staff, due mainly to the fact that our main gathering takes place in the school holidays.

The magazine is likely to cost in the region of £800, and will include an updated address list, so will those old scholars who have moved or who are about to move please notify the assistant treasurer as soon as possible. I know some old scholars feel that we could manage with a cheaper product, but in following up Kenneth Greaves plea for a quality product I'm sure old scholars as well as the school image is enhanced.

We were all saddened to hear the death of Louis Wright on March 16 1978. He worked tirelessly for the association over many years, and his many contributions to the school and old scholars must add up to countless hours of work and large sums of money. With his gratitude in mind, your committee have discussed possible ways in which a tangible memorial might be made in his honour. As

many of you will know Louis was a craftsman and it happens that the school has already planned a crafts display area in the Hill building. The suggestion was made at the last committee meeting that the Old Scholars might like to contribute towards this scheme, perhaps providing the lighting or some other item. However it was unanimously agreed that we recommend to you today to undertake the whole scheme, the cost in the region of £900, to be raised by a Louis Wright memorial appeal. If you agree to this proposal, an appeal will be launched in the magazine. I hope you support this idea, the scheme will incorporate a plaque and will be a focal point for visitors to the school.

The Day reunion was held on May 20th, a hot Saturday I recollect, when Old Scholars some 80 in number were welcomed by the School. Beaten at cricket and table tennis, nevertheless enjoying the hospitality. The evening entertainment was enlivened by Naomi Alexander an old scholar who spends much of her spare time organising country dancing, who acted as caller with unparalleled expertise, and ensured that we all joined in! The evening finished with a live group from Oxford, noisy, but I heard cries of "more" from the present scholars.

Some of the committee met the leavers in June for a coffee evening, and we are pleased with the response. 20 leavers have joined the association and here I would like to thank John Miller for adding the initial subscription to the leavers last account.

I was asked about the possibility of colours, but even with samples and a quite competitive quotation the interest was only lukewarm on this occasion so your committee feel unable to proceed with this idea at this time.

You will be pleased to hear that Nick Bennetts landscaping scheme is now complete, the treasurer will be giving you the final cost in his report, and I'm sure you would like me to thank Nick on your behalf for the time and effort he has taken in preparing the scheme and ensuring the selection of suitable plants and shrubs around the new dining complex.

The Branch Secretaries have also been busy over the past year, they need your support, often frustrated by bad weather, ill health, or clash of dates, nevertheless it is a useful way of providing a link between the Sibford gatherings. It is at this point I wish to mention a concern I have for the younger Old Scholars. There is inevitably a gap between leaving School and returning. Generally speaking Old Scholars come back in the first year, then get increasingly involved with jobs, further education, marriage and families, before becoming regulars. In the earlier days the association appointed regional correspondents, and I would like to see, with some modifications a similar system restored. I have in mind perhaps four of the leavers volunteering to correspond with some of the committee, perhaps the Secretary, Regional Secretaries, and Editor. Each correspondent would undertake to write a couple of letters, and who knows could even organise a young Old

Scholars disco, theatre or coffee evening somewhere. These meetings, notices about leavers jobs, and so on should be printed in the magazine, and I would hope that in the process greater involvement by the younger ones in the running of the Association might take place. As your Editor I had very little feed back from the younger ones, as your Secretary I would welcome the chance to correspond with a leaver each year. I hope the committee will give further thought to this idea at a future meeting.

The work being done for the school by "The Friends of Sibford" is much admired by the Old Scholars Association and it was the wish of the outgoing Secretary to combine with them for a joint bursary scheme. However they feel more evident help is given by allocating funds to smaller items for the many, rather than large sums for the few, and we respect this view. Perhaps Old Scholars might feel they would like, at some time, to join with 'Friends of Sibford' when some suitable cause arises. I know for example, that the School needs a Video Tape Recorder, the cost of which is about £1,000 and a future committee meeting may discuss this as a joint venture I hope. Perhaps also 'Friends of Sibford' might like to consider joining in an Old Scholars venture in the future?

I am mindfull of the help and cooperation of the School in matters concerned with the Association. I would like to mention some of those who have been particularly helpful to me and therefore to the Association in the past year. First Kate Long, the Headmasters Secretary, always helpful and willing to supply information such as names and address, (and by return of post), she also takes a look at Kenneths Diary to confirm dates with me! John Miller has ensured that refreshments and rooms are available for Committee meetings. Mike Wallerton ensured that we were beaten on a very well prepared cricket pitch, and Jim Shields has been most helpful to us in the audio visual aid area, particularly in this year when the S.O.S.A. revue has been performed. Kenneth Greaves still speaks to me, even when I ring him at home in the evenings. Thank you school and staff.

Finally to our own officers and friends. Frank and Vera Rollett continue to make welcome at 'Grassholms' anyone and everyone who cares to call. Michael Finch I thank for not quite releasing the reins and to the rest of the committee thank you, and keep up the good work.

In the discussion that followed the meeting unanimously endorsed the idea to endeavour to raise the full amount of money for the Louis Wright memorial. The proposal was put by Vera Rollett and seconded by Norman Coxon.

The meeting recorded its thanks to Michael Finch and Russell Steed for all their hard work in the past year. The General Secretary was thanked for his report.

4. Accounts

Copies of the accounts were circulated and are printed in the Magazine. The Treasurer pointed out that the cost of the magazine appeared to be lower in 1977 than 1976, this was because there was no membership list, there would be a new one in the current edition. The final cost of the

landscaping scheme was £239.64, and Old Scholars were grateful to Nick Bennett for his work in designing the layout and selecting such suitable trees and shrubs. Referring to the Membership list Brian Wright asked if it would be feasible to include telephone numbers in future address lists. The Editor felt that the cost might be too great but agreed to include officers numbers in future. Frank Rollett proposed and Mike Finch seconded adoption of the accounts. The Treasurer, Arthur Harrison was thanked for his report.

5. The School Committee Representatives Report

Michael Finch who with Lilian Ward represent Old Scholars on the School Committee gave us his report. Changes in membership of the committee have inevitably taken place and new committee standards are working well. Building alterations and renovations seem to feature as a regular item for members to deal with, and much thought is given to the roll of the School bath in its remedial and sixth form role. A full report is given elsewhere in the magazine, and our thanks go to Michael Finch for this and to both he and Lilian Ward for the valuable contribution they make to the School committee.

6. The Headmasters Report

The Headmaster, Kenneth Greaves gave the meeting details of staff changes and school activities both in sport and academically. There have been five changes of staff including a new deputy head Shelagh Hill. The life of the school enriched with an outstanding production by Geoffrey Higgins of 'Oklahoma' and prizes had been awarded by the National Westminster Bank for the Schools involvement in social work.

In the academic field excellent O level results have been obtained, notably in English Literature, 24 children obtained only A and B grades (100% pass), and in English Language 90% passed. The School is full for the academic year 1978-9.

During question time the Headmaster was asked about careers advice. Frank Cookson and Elizabeth Cookson are in charge of this facet, and a careers room with all the up-to-date literature is available. The meeting warmly thanked Kenneth Greaves for his report, the detail of which is given elsewhere in the magazine.

7. Election of Committee Members

There are two vacancies on the Committee and Michael Finch suggested that as David Marks had already been co-opted to fill the place of Sarah Watts, he be elected. This was seconded by Vera Rollett and unanimously agreed to by the meeting. Michael Finch also proposed Simon Everest for the place to be vacated by Alexander Caviezel on 31.12.78. This was seconded by Frank Rollett and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

8. Election of President and Vice-President

The President was happy to announce that Nicholas Bennett was to be the President for 1979, and that Michael Finch was to be the President for 1980. The meeting applauded this announcement.

9. *Forthcoming Dates*

The following have been agreed with the school:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Saturday, October 7th | — Football match 2.30 p.m. |
| | — S.O.S.A. Story 6.30 p.m. |
| May 19th 1979 | — Day Reunion |
| August 25th-27th 1979 | — August Reunion |
| January 20th 1979 | — London A.G.M. and Xmas Party |
| December 3rd 1978 | — General Committee Meeting Date - 12.30 p.m. |
| July 2nd 1979 | — General Committee Meeting Date - 2.00 p.m. |

10. *Any Other Business*

We were reminded that there were three Headmasters present with us at today's Annual General Meeting, Hugh Maw, Jonas Fielding, and Kenneth Greaves. The meeting applauded them. Leslie Harrison told us that he often heard Arnold Darlington on the radio, and they had corresponded. Arnold Darlington wished to be remembered to Old Scholars, and sent his best wishes.

Finally Vera Rollett proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee. This was seconded by Leslie Harrison.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed.

UNDER THE TWO ELMS

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

The New Year Party would have coincided with that of the London O.S. Branch but this was resolved for us as our host, Michael Gibbins, had been taken ill. We therefore had to postpone the party until later. It was finally held on February 11th, at Michael's, who had made a very good recovery and 19 O.S. gathered for a delightful and happy evening. A delicious supper was served by our hostess, Kathy Gibbins and her eldest daughter. Our sincere thanks go to Michael and Kathy for all our previous parties which have been held at their house. We wish them well in their move to Devon, but we are sorry to lose their welcome and ready hospitality each new year.

In March a small group set off to see Graham Trout's production of 'Orpheus in the Underworld' at the Palace Theatre, Redditch. This was a very happy occasion and was much enjoyed by us all.

The Summer 'get-together' was once again held at Churches Farm, Bromsberrow by invitation of Bill and Joy Rann. There were some 35 O.S. and we were pleased to have Godfrey Baseley join us there. A happy day with a wonderful tea, a time to talk and walk and for a swim in the open-air pool, if one's will power and strength could sustain you. One actually did! Our sincere thanks to Bill and Joy for their hospitality on this happy occasion.

The Birmingham Branch is quite small, we should welcome some of the newer O.S. to come along and join us. It is quite easy to contact your local secretary:— Irene Smith (name and address as shown in the list of officers).

Do try to come along and join us.

Irene Smith

EDITORIAL

In presenting this, the 75th anniversary S.O.S.A. magazine I must not let the opportunity pass without thanking all those who have helped in providing matter for it.

The school has provided some excellent articles and illustrations, and I have to thank Robert Penman for organising these. Stuart Hedley did yeoman work in obtaining promises for new advertisements, most of which now appear in the magazine. I hope many of you will support the advertisers, be they hostellers or model shops, or anything in between. The modern photographs are the work of Vera Brown and Frank Rollett, they cover the whole range of activities over the year. I cannot name those who took the older photographs — but I thank them all the same, who ever you were. There are many others on whom I have to rely, they are mainly officers of the association and they know how much I appreciate their help. I have enjoyed preparing this year's magazine and if requested I would like to have the opportunity of editing the Centenary Anniversary Magazine.

LONDON BRANCH

London Old Scholars have not been very active this year mainly because the Secretary has been under pressure with other matters.

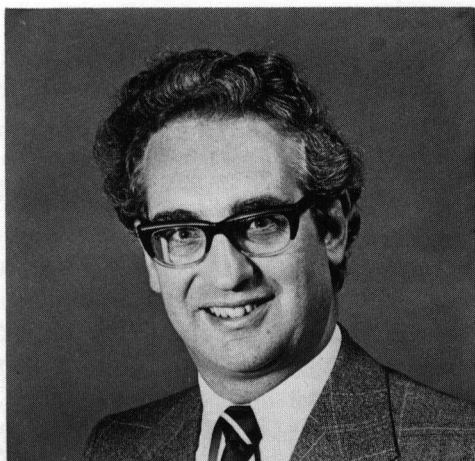
Our Christmas Party & A.G.M. in mid-January held at the Friends International Centre was well attended by some 40 Old Scholars including some recent leavers. We were pleased to have with us a contingent from Sibford, and our worthy President commenced her duties by taking the chair at the A.G.M. and after some enjoyable games and lots to eat we were thrilled to see some beautiful Presidential slides of Madeira, and Vera Brown's Sibford Colourama.

We next met for the Day Reunion at Sibford in May when a large number watched the Cricket Match and after tea with the School we all Square Danced, and the younger ones danced to the Disco, into the night.

We hope to visit our President and her husband in their home later this year. We have almost 50 members, but we would like to see more recent leavers. Please write to me for further details and we cordially invite everyone to our next Christmas Party & A.G.M. as follows:—
Saturday 20th January, 1979 at the Friends International Centre, Torrington Place, London, WC1 from 4 until 10 p.m.

Geoffrey L. Moore
(name and address as shown on the list of officers)

PRESIDENT 1979



Nicholas Bennett

Hullo everyone! My very warm greetings to Sibford Old Scholars everywhere. Your first 'Utility President' here and to misquote Cole Hawkins in John Masfield's 'The Box of Delights'. "Only I do date from wartime days and a travelling man collects as he goes or doesn't he?"

My travelling began in Middlesex at the country end of the Metropolitan and Piccadilly railway lines, where I was born and grew up, a birthright member of the Society of Friends.

I woke each morning to the sound of aircraft at the nearby Northolt aerodrome warming up and taking off, and the early trains passing on the nearby lines.

Ickenham had ceased to be truly a village by the time I knew it, having become a part of the inexorable, west London suburban sprawl. But it still had a village atmosphere. There were farms where you could buy milk and eggs, a village pond, a green bordered by cottages, an attractive village pump, an inn or two and the ancient parish church.

I grew up in a family where books, sport, music and the theatre, especially Gilbert and Sullivan all ranked about equal. Our other preoccupation was education either giving it or receiving it. As a consequence I was 'brainwashed' at an early age into accepting Old Scholars Gatherings and Parents Weekends as a regular part of my year. This was due to the fact that my father had been to both Sibford and Saffron Walden. In my early years my only brother was at Saffron Walden as well, so we regularly made the long train journey to Saffron Walden for Parents Weekends and Old Scholars Gatherings.

Thus by the time I was eleven and went to Sibford, I was a seasoned Old Scholar's companion. I knew all about queuing for meals, the sport, the endless talk and the equally endless cups of tea common to all O.S. gatherings.

Sibford was a very quiet place in the early fifties. There were very few cars either in the village or the school and buses, as with the present day ran only occasionally. Upon reflection I am amazed at the amount of freedom we were given, not only in time, but the lack of supervision and

restrictions. Only the 'flesh-pots' of Banbury were totally banned. We roamed happily far and wide over the broad green sheep pastures through the woods and the old open cast quarries. The autumn term meant the inter-house blackberrying competition, the spring term tobogganing down Oddies Field and the summer term picnics to Whichford Woods.

There he goes, you are thinking, wandering in maze of misty, rose-tinted irrelevant twenty-five year old memories. Patience fans, all will be revealed shortly.

My sporting activities developed well in Sibford's bracing climate! Also some of my academic subjects, notably History with Miss Brigham and English with Miss Burgess. Reading had already become a passion before I went to Sibford and the ever open library, newly equipped by Old Scholars led me into many new and unlikely literary waters. Music especially, singing stimulated first by A. J. and later by Clive Penman has become an essential part of my life.

But back to the plot, Sibford and all those hours spent in the surrounding countryside either walking or cycling or just daydreaming led me to my first intimate contact with plants and the countryside they grew in. I don't mean I studied plants in a detailed scientific manner, except in science classes. Rather I absorbed the atmosphere, the textures, the many shadings of greens in the fields, hedgerows and trees. I absorbed the farming way of life not only because we were close to it but because the local day pupils in our class brought us into daily contact with farm life. From all these influences came my decision to take up horticulture as a career when I left Sibford, although various farming ancestors particularly the five hundred years of stubborn East Anglians on my fathers side of the family may also have had something to do with it.

Since then I have rambled happily from a local Parks Department, to colleges in Hertfordshire and Worcestershire and two vital, stimulating years in Cambridge at the University Botanic Garden. More recently I have worked for London University at Wye College in Kent and I now work for Nottingham University. My work has continued the educational theme of my life. Being involved in the training of apprentices and trainees, undergraduates and post-graduates is very satisfying, but in many ways the most satisfying of all are the epileptics and problem teenagers who are sent by harassed Youth Employment Officers to take up a 'healthy open air life'.

My spare time rather like my working hours seems to be filled with plants both wild and cultivated. For like doctors and vets your patients are always with you. However relaxation comes mainly in the form of reading, music both singing and listening, travel and walking usually in pursuit of plants.

I feel very honoured to be elected President for 1979 and look forward to meeting Old Scholars in the coming year.

Nicholas Bennett

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After Meeting



George & Marjorie Edwards



Mr Hockley with Brian & Ethel Wright



Grace Beçkerlegge Taking Subscriptions

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

(Being a transcript of the speech given at the Presidential Dinner on 28th August)

First of all I must say a very warm 'Thank you' to you all for inviting me to be the President of the Old Scholars Association this year.

But what should the President of the Association say in an address on this occasion? Is it to be an account of one's life experience or a reminiscence of what Sibford has meant? As I prepared, I have recalled with great thankfulness, as many of you will, experiences from the past and the present which seem to fall into two categories – the people and the place. When I think of the people, I think of all of you here now, many of whom I have known since I was a child. I also think of people who are not here but who had a profound influence upon me, though neither you nor they nor I realised it at the time. I have to remember Arthur and Jesse Johnstone, Roland Herbert and Frank Parkin – the ones whom my generation always remember. But what about those of you who were with me in the war years who came and kept this school going during those difficult years. I remember them with great thankfulness. Everybody has their own list of people and it is a long list if you really sit down and think about it.

Then when I think of Sibford I always think of the place. I did rather more daydreaming than I should have sitting in those classrooms over there, particularly when Jessie Johnstone attempted to teach me French, but I did learn to love that view and I have never forgotten it. Another view which I remember is the view towards the hills with Broadway Tower, a view which I surveyed many a long hour frozen in goal on the hockey pitch. (I did know how to play hockey though some of you did not think so this morning when I was refereeing the match.)

I had the opportunity a few years ago to bring some primary children here to camp one weekend from Islington. I took them for walks to the village shop. I took them from the camp site out here, across the fields to Grounds farm, through Lamb's farm, by Swaycliffe bottom up to the Elm, then back to the Ferris. They said "What a long way to shop". But on that walk a child made a very profound remark to me. It was a little boy who was rarely taken out of his immediate environment. Coming back across the fields he stopped and said, "Ain't the world a big place, miss". It is a place of which many of us are fond and to which we turn in our thoughts repeatedly.

Also when I think of Sibford it is inevitable that I think of family, because this school has always been a good family school not only for my family who are here today but for many other families, both present and absent. We are reminded of this yesterday in the 'S.O.S.A. Story' – of the Oddies and the Harrods who looked upon this school as an extension of their personal families. I think that this is a very real tradition, carried forward today by the Greaves family.

I have been asking myself the question . . . Why is it we come back? Why is it that after many years people whom we have not seen for years come back? Why do we want to come back? Michael Frayn's comedy, 'Donkey Years', is about a reunion of a particular year at an Oxford college. One of the cast says 'Whatever has become of so and so?' Somebody else answers "We have become, that's what's happened." Now, to have become is to have been something before. It implies a development, a change that has taken place. Maybe we return to see old friends and to see what has become of them, how they have developed. Sometimes we are surprised to find that people have achieved things which we thought were impossible when they were young. Sometimes it is the opposite: people whom we thought would make a success of life have not done so. Recalling the experiences of childhood is what I wish to talk about tonight.

I have a friend, a head in a London Primary school, with the quotation on her wall from Virginia Woolf "The experiences of childhood cut deepest and last longest". Now that is a very telling reminder to her and her colleagues that a child has only one childhood. For those of us who work with children, as I have done since leaving school, it is a very salutary thought to have with us. I have been trying to recall some of those things which cut deeply with me. Some are quite trivial. Recently I was reminded again of the very deep fear I have of dogs, especially large ones. I was once bitten by an alsation which ran out and attacked us in our village. I have a warm friendship with cows. Recently going for a walk with Joe in an outlandish part of Scotland we parked the car in a farmyard with cows and sheep wandering about – and a bull. It was Sunday afternoon and nobody else in sight. I was not worried about the bull, but I was scared of the dog, locked up in the house, which was barking. I am sure all of you can recall similar fears that are founded in childhood experiences. Being brought up in the country, including my years at Sibford, I really developed quite an intimate knowledge of things to be found in fields and hedgerows, in banks and woods. I remember blackberrying for Jessie Johnstone's jam and putting them into a bath in the old dairy. Silly things one remembers – what it looked and smelt like, and what it tasted like when you had to eat it. But also I remember carrying the jars with the taut paper covers (no plastic in those days) and the number of those covers which popped on the way so that you had a free sample of the jam.

There are the very deep impressions that come from childhood which we were fortunate to spend in this place. "Famous and successful" people are asked about their early experiences, on television and so on. It is surprising to learn that some people who had a very difficult and unhappy childhood have managed to overcome this and to make a very good, mature and well balanced life for themselves. I remember seeing Tommy Steele on television talking about his childhood and going back to Bermondsey,

where he was born; visiting the places which he frequented as a child, going to the public baths and queuing for soap and towel and pine salts, then to the 'Pie and mash' shop, then crawling into the front seats of the cinema by illicit entry through the unattended exit doors. He recalled all those experiences in a very real way. But it is easy to look back and think every thing was good and to disregard our responsibilities for the future.

Those of you who are parents and grandparents or are going to be parents have a responsibility to decide what is best for your children. The state of childhood, the rights of children are something which are talked about a great deal more today than they used to be. It is only recently, in terms of social history, that childhood has come to be looked upon as a state in its own right. In the 19th century it was looked upon as defective adulthood. Much has happened since then. It is only recently that we have recognised the place of children in our society and the provision for their needs both within and without the home. I have spent all my working life with young children, I am talking now of children under the age of eleven years, because those are the vital years, the crucial years, in their development; particularly the years before 5. There are one or two things I want to share with you about it, although on an occasion like this, one cannot go into it deeply.

The first of these is the role and status of parents, parenthood as a craft, as a skill which we have to think about, on the one hand, more deeply than we do in our society, but on the other hand not to underestimate the place of good, plain commonsense in the bringing up of children. We run a great danger if we think we have to be absolutely expert about everything because most parents are expert about their own children for at least part of the time. We have to think more about of the role of the children in our society. What are they expected to do, or to be, or to have? In some societies it is very clear — in some of those known as developing countries — children have a very real place and they are secure in it. When I worked in Ghana children knew exactly where they stood in the family and their relationship with adults. Children need to learn responsibility as they grow up, and we do not always give it to them. And the other thing which emerges is about education itself, and we make a great mistake sometimes if we think that education only takes place within institutions which we call schools. If you go back and analyses some of the things I talked about earlier yourself, many of the real things you learned about in life were not learned in school at all. That is not to say that I am for de-schooling by any means, but we have to recognise that there has to be a greater partnership between what goes on at home and what goes on in schools.

So, what is it we want for our children? What are some of the things which we have learned from the past which we have enjoyed and which we want to pass on, because that is part of our responsibility too. Most people say, when asked that sort of question, that they want their children to be happy. And what do we mean by that? It is a very difficult question to answer. I think that we want children to feel that they know where they are going, to feel secure,

to grow up in such a way that they are able to think for themselves, to solve the problems which they are bound to meet, to be able to take decisions, to take responsibility and above all, especially nowadays, to meet what is a rapidly changing world in a flexible way.

A short time ago I walked with a colleague of mine, who went to a famous grammar school in London. He told me that most of the boys went straight from school, across the road, and into the Prudential Building where they stayed for the rest of their lives. It was the nearest good place to work! And that is not so long ago. It is no longer possible for us to prepare children to live in a world like that because people nowadays have to be willing to change occupations, to look for new kinds of work as the world changes technically around them. It is one of the biggest problems which we face at the moment. We have to prepare children to be flexible. We may want to pass on some of the insights that we have had from the past. We do this in all sorts of ways, not just verbally. When we were young we did not appreciate the insights which were given to us and quite rightly we have had to discover through our own experience what is of value. It is only later in life that we re-discover the extent of earlier influences in our childhood and that is probably one of the reasons why we come back.

Janet Sewell (August 1978)

Contact

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Sibford School and wish them every success
in the future.*

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1977

	£	£	1976 £	1976 £
FIXED ASSETS				
Land at Elm		45		45
ASSETS OF SPECIFIC FUNDS				
Quoted Investments (Cost)		2614		2475
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	341		323	
Subs. in arrears	89		112	
Cash at Bank	<u>913</u>		<u>1048</u>	
	1343		1483	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors	783		927	
Subs. in advance	<u>38</u>		<u>81</u>	
	821		1008	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>522</u>		<u>475</u>
		<u>3181</u>		<u>2995</u>

Represented by:

Accumulated Fund	558		474	
Life Membership	2303		2226	
Recent Leavers Membership	<u>320</u>	<u>3181</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>2995</u>

PATRICK CROAKE

Patrick, a police constable in London, was killed on 2nd October, 1978, when answering an emergency call. Swerving in an attempt to avoid an elderly woman pedestrian, his motorcycle hit a bollard and he was killed outright. He was twenty-four years old.

Patrick came to Sibford in 1967 and left in 1972. He joined Penn House where he soon became a valued member of the group. In particular he showed a real concern for the welfare of the younger boys teaching them to play Monopoly, similar games and chess at which he excelled.

A keen, but not outstanding games player, he took up refereeing and became a fully qualified soccer referee while still at Sibford. Many of us will remember Patrick, in immaculate referee's kit, keeping firm and just control in house and school matches.

In 1971 he became Head Boy and was one of the first group to be resident in Fielding House. As Head Boy he had an eye for the needs of the job and powers of discipline seldom equalled.

We shall miss his visits to Sibford.

K.T.F.

GEOFFREY LONG

Most old scholars will know by now that Geoffrey suffered a severe stroke towards the end of 1977. He was in intensive care for some considerable time but was removed to a hospital nearer home earlier this year. Joan has taken his rehabilitation in hand and under her devoted care he has been making progress. This year's reunion must be the first Geoffrey has missed for many years. We all know that we all missed him. We wish him all the best for the future.

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 1977

INCOME

Subscriptions (Net)	385	429
Donations	152	16
Investment Income	128	102
Bank Interest	76	43
Reunion	<u>83</u>	<u>176</u>
	824	766

EXPENDITURE

Net Cost-Magazine	559	614
Postage & Staty.	67	14
General Expenses	14	101
Subs. in arrears written off	<u>100</u>	<u>729</u>
	740	

SURPLUS FOR YEAR

	<u>84</u>	<u>37</u>
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Accumulated Fund Bce. as at 1.1.1977	474	437
Add Surplus for year	<u>84</u>	<u>37</u>
	558	474

Arthur W. Harrison, Hon. Treasurer

Audited and found correct

Bernard Howell Jones (23rd August 1978)

LOUIS WRIGHT

Louis Edwin Wright who was born in 1905 passed away on March 16th 1978.

It is difficult to comprehend the Old Scholars Association without this pillar of strength for so many years, both as to his very active participation and deep personal interest in our affairs, and those of the School.

For over twenty years Louis was an O.S. Representative on School Committee. And during this period was also O.S. Membership Secretary, Building Fund Appeal Secretary, etc. etc. and then President in 1953, when, in his Address, entitled 'Tribute to Sibford', he recalled many of his schoolday experiences, the disciplines with their beneficial moral effects, and deep sense of gratitude to such personalities as Roland Herbert. Then again will be remembered the pleasure he gave in organising the Reunion motor treasure hunts which give O.S. the opportunity to explore or re-visit so much of the surrounding countryside.

During the School's expansion since the War Louis carried out several contracts of furnishing new sections as they developed; and in this connection mention should be made of his great generosity betimes.

The above comments personify the man. Louis, through skill, flair and toughness built up from scratch a very successful cabinet maker/furnisher and antiques business . . and yet, at heart, he was sentimental almost to a fault.

A few years ago when being shown round his premises, standing as they do in a not exactly poverty stricken area, the writer asked him, how came he, although a first-class woodworker himself, to create such a successful business? Louis then described how, early on (and I mean 'how' technically) he restored for a titled lady a potentially valuable set of old continental dining chairs condemned by others as beyond repair. This incredibly difficult job, successfully carried out 'made' Louis, the Esher Craftsman.

It is gratifying and appropriate that he is being commemorated within the Hill building by the construction of a new large cabinet display unit for pupils' work. The last tributes were paid at the memorial service at Woking on March 21st, when, in the presence of Doris and all the family many Old Scholars, friends and business acquaintances attended.

F.R.

THE LOUIS WRIGHT MEMORIAL APPEAL

Old Scholars will have read with sadness of the death of Louis Wright. As an Old Scholar he worked tirelessly for the Association, and contributed much to the well-being of his school.

Your Committee have discussed with the school a suitable way to remember him. A craft display area with illuminated shelves, already planned by the school, was adopted by the Association after the proposal was put to the Annual General Meeting and agreed to at the August Reunion. This will be a focal point highlighting to its best advantage all the art and craft work made by the scholars. As a craftsman himself, Louis Wright I'm sure would approve of such a scheme: his success in life and business he always attributed to Sibford, and especially to the craft teaching.

The cost of this scheme is likely to be £800-£900, and your Committee feels confident that Old Scholars and friends will readily raise this amount of money. Will you consider a donation? It will help the school and be a tangible and worthwhile memorial to one of its most loyal pupils. Any amount is acceptable. Please send it to Grace Beckerlegge or Arthur Harrison, whose addresses are printed in the magazine.

Thank you.

Philip Manasseh Hon. Gen. Secretary

POLLY

The 'good book' tells us that we should also rejoice with those who rejoice. On 29th September your secretary sent on your behalf a telegram to Wilfred Pollard, 'Warmest Greetings, Young Polly, Sibford Old Scholars'. Wilfred Pollard was on that day 80 years young. I have known him for over thirty years — I have grown older — he has not.

P.B.



Robin & Kenneth Greaves

FRIENDS OF SIBFORD SCHOOL

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

In September it was decided to give £30 to each of the seven Houses to spend as they wished, and £10 to the Stamp Club for the purchase of a new catalogue.

In November we organised a Buffet Dance held in the school dining room. This was a very successful evening and we hope to hold another this October.

In January it was decided to give £50 to the library and £20 for a picture for the front hall of the Manor. In April it was decided to give £30 for a slide projector for the Languages Department, £50 for sleeping bags for use on Youth Hostelling expeditions and £70 for a special mat for the girl gymnastics.

Once again in May the Friends of Sibford organised an outing for children who do not often go on exeat. This year 46 children went to Bourton-on-the-Water.

At the Old Scholars Day Reunion the Friends of Sibford held a Sale of Work. I would like to thank everyone who provided items for the stall. At each of the Parents Weekends, the Friends of Sibford served refreshments. Twice during the year, in July and December, newsletters were sent to members.

Robin Greaves

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The first major event that occurred after our last report was the announcement of Janet and Joe Sewells engagements and subsequent marriage — possibly the first time that two current members of the Committee have got married whilst in office — that's what country walks at Sibford does for you! We were all delighted with the news and wish them well, now and in the future.

Several longstanding members retired at the end of 1977. Geraldine Cadbury after eleven years service, Ethel Waller and Millicent Williams after eight years service. At the end of this year we lose what Jonathan Fairn calls the "Birmingham Trio" of Morland Braithwaite, Leslie Harris and Fred Gregory. Their period of service totals something like sixty years. Morland, of course is best known to O.S. having served in various capacities on the School Committee since 1947. He was responsible for making the very first film of School Life. We are very grateful for the significant contribution that these friends have made.

New members to the Committee are Bernard Howell-Jones (ex. Bank Manager) and Paul Roberts (Consultant Haematologist) who is also a former parent. As you can see this extends the knowledge of the Committee over a large cross section and this can only benefit Sibford in the long run. A great deal of care goes into the nomination of new members, who must be prepared to give considerable time and effort to Sibford School. We all submit a personal

history so that fellow members have a clear knowledge of our backgrounds. A copy is also given to members of staff so that they can see us as people and not as a collection of names.

The two Sub-Committees continue to move from strength to strength. The education and Welfare Committee have made further visits to departments within the School to assess first hand the work that they do and some of the problems involved. There was a most informative visit to the Science Department last Autumn and this was followed by an equally interesting visit to the Mathematics Department in the Spring.

These visits not only help the Committee they also give the Staff an opportunity to share their thoughts and hopes with the Committee.

The Finance and Premises Committee have had many weighty problems to deal with over the year especially the continued financial problems in an inflationary economic society. I think that the School is very fortunate at this time to have so many professionally competent people who are able to handle the School's affairs efficiently and profitably. In 1947 when Morland came onto the Committee the School had a turnover in the region of £15,000 per annum. We are now talking in terms of £578,000 a year business. Hopefully despite all these problems we shall show a profit at the end of the financial year.

You will be pleased to hear that problems with the structure of Fielding House have been amicably resolved and hopefully remedial work will start on the roof shortly.

The other great matter has been the completion of the modernisation of Lister Girls House at the manor. O.S. will have had an opportunity to assess the changes for themselves and I am sure that those who have seen it will agree that it has been expertly renovated. The balance of money from the recent appeal has helped to pay for some of the costs. The remainder will be found from the budget.

You would have thought that having those sort of problems to deal with there would be nothing left for the main Committee, but of course there is always plenty of items to consider. The introduction of the sub-Committees have enabled the main Committee to devote more time to policy making and to the future pattern that the School should take. We have been particularly concerned about the decline in day pupils. We have felt that perhaps the School does not sell itself sufficiently. We intensified our advertising campaign considerably, and to date we have had a very favourable response. This response has come from some very unexpected sources such as local estate agents in the area who have helped enormously. We have received something like 58 enquiries, which is most encouraging.

As another exercise in public relations the School was opened to the public at G.M. and I believe several visitors took the opportunity to visit the School.

We have also been concerned about the future role of the VIth Form and we are hoping to have a conference with Staff involvement to see just where we are going in this

particular direction.

We continue to pioneer in the true Sibford tradition and whilst we have the continued concern of so many Friends there will I am sure be no time for complacency. We are continually aware of Sibford's uniqueness and we look forward to continuing in that spirit.

Michael R. Finch



Lucy Padmore, Pam Harrison and Joy Rann

Dear Friends,

Last month, through the invitation of my friend Celia Law, I was guest at your seventy-fifth birthday celebrations.

I listened with the greatest interest at your A.G.M.; followed with fascination George Edward's footsteps down the byeways of London history; scoured the countryside in pursuit of treasure; (Celia's expert driving might have deserved more than the "Honourable" 41 amassed by her passengers – but Congratulations to the gallant and perspicacious Victor!); joined with appreciation in your President's "Choices"; laughed uproariously at Sheila Stewart's potted history and the guaranteed authentic 1903 hockey match; took tea on your present headmaster's lawn; traced the growth and development of Sibford through the tour of the Old School.

To me as "outsider", perhaps the most moving occasion of the whole weekend was the Meeting on Sunday: an opportunity for true, inner communion with our Maker, and for refreshments for the week to come. But for all the climax must have been the dinner, beautifully served by your New Old Scholars, and with a most thought-provoking address from your President, Janet Sewell.

Thank you Sibford Old Scholars, and especially room-mates Jean, Constance and Irene, for all your good fellowship, and for making me so welcome at this most enjoyable, most delightful, most Friendly occasion.

With all good wishes to Sibford and to its Scholars, Old and New.

May Berry

ROLLER SKATING AT SIBFORD

Michael van Blankenstein's short article in 'Sibford 1977' instantly brought back to mind the excitement in the school in 1947 when Arthur Elton came to film. I never knew his name until now. Either Arthur Elton or one of his team was an old scholar and had asked Arthur Johnstone for permission to film, knowing that the school was a hot-bed of roller skating. He came for two days. Of course, we all pushed forward for a part. I was chosen to skate down the slope round the bicycle shed and roll up to the camera. We were told that this action would be reversed on the film and the picture gradually changed to that of an aeroplane taking off. The skill of skating down the slope was in the turn at the bottom in the bicycle shed; turn too late and we crashed into the 5th form bicycles, turn too quickly and we fell over.

Is there anything about this in the very early issues of the 'Archway'?

When he finished Arthur Elton presented a cricket bat to the school. He also said that he would return to show us the finished film. He never did.

Alun Edwards (1944-1949)

An interesting footnote to the above was provided in the Sibford Review at the August Re-union Weekend. Lilian Ward (nee East — 1928-34), told us how she once roller skated to Banbury and back one day and was punished for it! She still managed to become Head Girl despite this!!



Godfrey Baseley & Lilian Ward
"Charlestoning" not Skating

GENEROSITIES ANONYMOUS

At the Presidential Dinner I was privileged to hand over, for the fifth successive year, a cheque for £50.00 towards our General funds from that enduringly anonymous O.S. How can we thank 'them' enough? Maybe someday . . . thank you.

F.R.

Also, we have to thank Vera Rollett for the sum of £35 which has been handed to the association over the past few years as the profits from the sale of locally made pottery at the re-unions.

RE-UNION WEEK-END 1978

Saturday 26th August dawned pleasantly warm though cloudy and early arrivals met for coffee at 11 o'clock in Fielding House, where we studied the lists of accommodation, to see where we were sleeping, and who else was coming.

At lunch we were officially welcomed by our President to this, the 75th re-union. We were glad to have with us the Committee guests, Jonathan Fairn, and also Ernest Dixon, who left school in 1913 and has been in Canada almost ever since. He and his wife Frances have made the trip here in celebration of their Silver Wedding.

In the afternoon there was a guided tour by Kenneth Greaves of the latest alterations to the Manor. The first-aid treatment necessary to save the building has also had a cosmetic effect — the old boys' playground area has been much improved by the removal of the dining room extension and the top floor where Neild dormitory used to be. Most of the interior is of course unrecognisable to most of us — familiar names on dormitory doors lead to fitted carpets and built-in units! I think Old Scholars could be dated by the use to which they put a room — was Clark a boys' dormitory or a dining room in your day, and where has Little Dining Hall gone — to say nothing of the cold wash-house where Harry Rimell used to sit taking the eyes out of potatoes, and George Webb collected coal to carry in buckets attached to a yoke across his shoulders. All that was only 25 years ago, but it seems another age entirely.

Back to the Hill for a cup of tea and then the A.G.M. which of course is reported elsewhere. We remembered with thankfulness Louis Wright's long service to the School and Association. It is sad also that Geoffrey and Joan Long are unable to be with us this year, the first time for many years. We wish Geoff a steady improvement in his recovery.

In the evening the second Leslie Bailey Lecture was 'London, thou art Queen of Cities' given by George Edwards. With the aid of some lovely colour slides George gave us one and a half hours of fascinating information — dates, anecdotes and little details on the history and people of London, from Westminster to the Tower, from Roman times till now. He never faltered or was lost for a word, and I am sure we all envy him his prodigious memory and enjoy his enthusiasm and ability to pass it on to others.

Sunday brought a misty morning with a heavy dew, which soon gave way to sun and another warm day. It is good that the tradition of a reading after Sunday breakfast has not broken by Geoff Long's absence, and Janet's reading of Geoff's choice, (part of the Sermon on the Mount) will I hope mean that this continues.

The walk over the fields to Meeting was a pleasure as always. The Meeting House was full — something much appreciated by the members of the Meeting, who are always glad to see visitors, especially in term time, when Friends are considerably outnumbered by scholars. Coffee was served afterwards, for which many thanks to Vera Rollett.

CARING ABOUT YOUR TOMORROW THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS' ARE FOR

Tomorrow you may want to give your child an extra special start in life.

Tomorrow you may be disabled or too ill ever to work again.

Tomorrow you may want to buy a house.

Tomorrow you may need to think about retirement

Tomorrow you may want a secure place to invest
your money.

Tomorrow you may not be here.

For nearly 150 years, Friends'

Provident have been caring about
lives like yours.

Caring with insurance
policies and plans that give you
and your family the security
for a better life.

Your broker will tell you
more about Friends'.

Friends' Provident care
about your tomorrow as
much as you do. Isn't that
what Friends' are for?



FRIENDS' PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE

HEAD OFFICE AT PIXHAM END, DORKING, SURREY RH4 1QA. AND AT 24 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE.

After lunch was the start to a very full programme for the rest of the day. The motor treasure hunt was organised by Frank Rollett, and finished up with a picnic tea at Swalcliffe Common. I'm not sure which caused most wear and tear, the deviousness of the clues to the nerves of the participants, or the road down to the common to the cars!

Back at school, supper was followed promptly by President's Choice, a very peaceful restoring interlude of slides accompanied by music of places holding memories for Janet, and for Joe Sewell.

We then had time for a quick coffee (the dispensing of coffee and tea seemed always to be in the capable hands of Irene Smith, Jeanne Southam and Constance Cottrell) before SOSA Story. This was a light hearted history of 75 years of the Association, written and produced by Sheila Stewart, with a cast of — not thousands, but seven — Godfrey Baseley, Grace Beckerlegge, Michael Finch, Sheila Stewart, Leslie Thomas, Lilian Ward and Peter Yeoman, with the able support of a group of present scholars delivering the punch-line. Music was supplied by Matthew Stewart and the slides of old photographs presented by Philip Manasseh were a marvellous accompaniment.



Chorus Line — Lilian Ward, Mike Finch, Grace Beckerlegge with Present Scholars

To finish the day we had Rockets at the Elm, numbers didn't quite reach the 75 that had been hoped for, but we made up for it in enthusiasm. Proceedings were as always enlivened by the passage of cars in various directions, the occupants usually peering doubtfully at us, and sometimes beating a hasty retreat as if expecting an ambush. Then back to bed — for some of us at least.

The weather really did us proud the whole weekend and Monday was yet another lovely day. There was a hockey match in the morning between 'young' and 'old' Old Scholars, dressed as for 1903. Top hats and whiskers predominated with long flowing skirts also to the fore. Our President made a striking referee in straw boater and black dress with a sort of bustle effect. The game was short, sharp and unconventional and the more mature team had a convincing win of 3-1.

After lunch, Harrison's (Arthur & Leslie) Fete took place on Holly House lawn before and during tea. There were several side shows and a well supported Bring & Buy Stall and it all raised £70 for O.S. funds. Many people were now in dress supposedly suitable for 75 years ago, and we all repaired to the Manor for the group photograph, once more under the Monkey Puzzle. There was another resemblance to the days of 1903 as owing to the emergence of the sun at the wrong moment we were 'frozen' for some minutes waiting for it to go in again.



The Harrison Brothers — Counting the Takings!!

There was time then for enjoying the sun at the Hill until the Presidential Dinner. This is the occasion of votes of thanks, speeches and presentations. Janet's thoughtful address on the importance of the early years in a child's life had a special interest for me. John Ward won both tennis and table tennis finals — not an unusual occurrence — and the motor rally was won by the combined forces of Rann and Hooper. The meal finished with many thanks to all in the success of the weekend — I must make special mention of Vera Rollett's flower decorations which take her many hours of hard work. Also the present scholars who came for the weekend to help — we hope they come again to enjoy themselves.

We managed to total 100 present for the final Rocket and then came the time for clearing up, Philip Manasseh selling off the surplus food with great panache. So — one more weekend over — one of talk and activity, sometimes funny, sometimes serious, making a whole of enjoyment and that special magic that is Sibford. See you next year.

P.H.

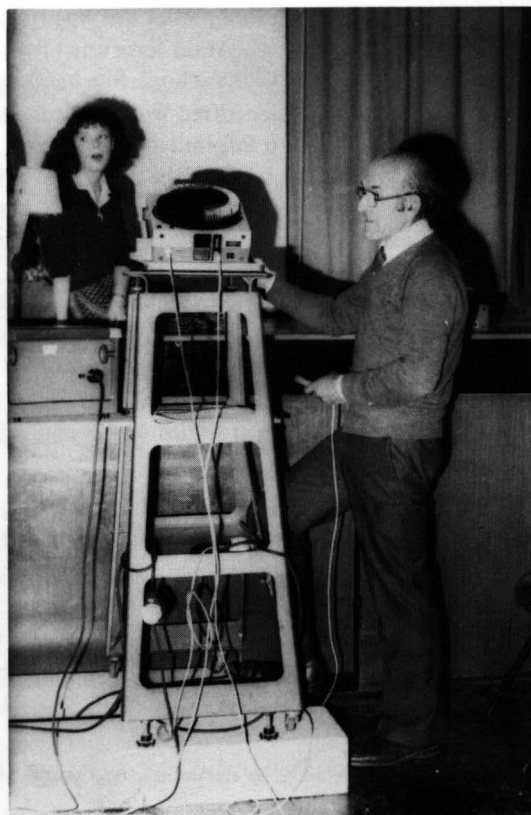
SOSA IN CANADA

Among those O.S. who visited the school in August was Ernest Dixon who was at school about the end of the First World War. He came to England to celebrate his silver wedding and brought his wife to see his old school. He is the Proprietor of Macleod Greenhouses — vegetable gardens and perennials. As all old scholars know Fort Macleod is in Alberta, Canada. One wonders if his interest in growing things started and was increased at this school.

We give below the hotel regulations for the local hostelry at Fort Macleod in 1882.

Hotel Regulations of the Hotel in Fort Macleod 1882

1. Guests will be provided with breakfast and dinner, but must rustle their own lunch.
2. Spiked boots and spurs must be removed at night before retiring. Dogs are not allowed in the bunks, but may sleep underneath, only one dog allowed in a room.
3. Candles, hot water and other luxuries charged extra, also towels and soap. Towels changed weekly.
4. Insect powder for sale at the bar.
5. Crap, chuck Luck, Stud Horse Poker, and Black Jack games are run by the management.
6. Two or more persons must sleep on one bed when requested to do so by the management.
7. Baths furnished free down at the river, but bathers must furnish their own soap and towels.
8. Only regularly registered guests will be allowed the special privilege of sleeping on the Bar Room floor.
9. Guests without luggage must sleep in the vacant lot and board elsewhere until their baggage arrives.
10. No cheques cashed for anybody. Payment must be made in cash, gold dust or blue chips.
11. To attract attention of waiters or bell boy, shoot a hole through the door panel. Two shots for ice water, three for a deck of cards.
12. All guests are requested to arise at 6 a.m. This is imperative as the sheets are needed for tablecloths.
13. No tips must be given to any waiters or servants. Leave them with the proprietor, and he will distribute them if necessary.
14. Every known fluid (except water) for sale at the bar.
15. No more than one dog allowed to be kept in each single room.
16. No kicking regarding the quality or quantity of the meals will be allowed; those who do not like the provender will get out or will be put out. Assault on the cook strictly prohibited.
17. Quarrelsome or boisterous persons, also those who shoot off without provocation, guns or other explosive weapons on the premises and all boarders who get killed will not be allowed to remain in the house. When guests find themselves or their luggage thrown over the fence, they may consider that they have received notice to quit.
18. In case of fire, the guests are requested to escape without delay.
19. Guests are forbidden to strike matches or spit on the ceiling, or to sleep in bed with their boots on.
20. Everything cash in advance. Following Tariff subject to change: Board \$25 per month; board and lodging, \$50 per month with wooden bench to sleep on. Board and lodging, \$60 per month with bed to sleep on.



Operating the Projector

Two Faces of Philip Manasseh

Auctioning Off Surplus



One of the Old Scholars whom I met at the August reunion was Constance Cottrell who must have one of the longest family connections with the school. She has let me see a letter from her great uncle, Alfred Watkins. It is dated 1843. It reports school visits to Edgehill and Broughton Castle. We print a copy of the letter in the magazine. If it is not possible actually to photograph the letter, let me assure you that it is in beautiful copper plate script; would that I could write as well as that schoolboy of 145 years ago. Constance Cottrell also let me have the letter from the Head Master, Richard Routh. This letter points out that if the parent wished Alfred to continue with his education at Sibford then they were required to forward the fees for the next year of eight pounds to cover Education, Board and Clothing.

Constance Cottrell adds that it is a pity that her great great grandfather only saved her great uncles letters and not those of her great aunt Jane or her grandmother who followed Alfred to Sibford.

Her grandparents sent their five children to Sibford under Robert Oddie. Constance herself followed under J. T. Harrod.

Sibford School 9th May 1843

My Dear Parents,

I write a few lines to you hoping you are all well at home as I left you before. I received thy affectionate letter and things. Please to send me some Whipcord string, and some paper bags. We have been to Edgehill and to Broughton Castle. I am also in want of some currant trees and gooseberry trees and some raspberry trees and strawberries and a few more flowers and seeds of different sorts. I give my love to all of you to my Aunt and Uncle.

*I remain thy affectionate Son
Alfred Watkins*



The President Giving Her Address



Stan Ewan with Wall Hanging



President-Elect in Jovial Mood

Sibford School, 18th of 11th Month, 1843

Esteemed Friend,

The First year of Alfred W. Hains
of Byfield aged ten years, now in
Sibford School, will expire on the 19th of 12th Month next: if it be intended
for him to continue here Eight Pounds for another
year's Education, Board, and Clothing, must be paid either to me, or to J. A. Gillett of
Banbury, the Treasurer: should the latter plan be adopted, please to inform me thereof.

If it is intended to remove him
notice to that effect must be given at least two weeks before the expiration of his
year.

By order of the Committee,

Thy Friend,

Richard Rouse.

All Letters to be Postage free.



Anyone for Hockey? Lorraine Brown & Friend



Robert & Alice Rose



John & Diana Lloyd (nee Wright) with Son



Hockey Match – Interval for Refreshments

AUGUST REUNION

Numbers at the re-union keep up to previous years and an encouraging sign is the increased numbers of more recent old scholars. Among those recorded as attending were:

Mabel & Wilfred Pollard, Alan Kidney & Katherine, Louise Mitchell, David Simpson, Mary Mascaro, Mike Bilbrough, Miriam Guest, Ernest G. & Mrs Dixon, Jonas & Marjorie Fielding, Philip & Grace Beckerlegge, Kate Long and Jill Smith, Gwen Rowntree, Joe & Helen Ross with Marcus, David & Richard, Reg & Vera Brown, Paul Howe Piper, Philip & Loraine Brown, Patricia & Terry Clark, Joseph & Janet Sewell, Jeanne Southam & Constance Cottrell, Geoff Greaves, David & Hilary Beedham, Jeremy Beirne, Jon Francis, David & Mavis Stiles, Fiona Sperry, Philip & Janet Manasseh, George & Marjorie Edwards, Leslie Harrison, Helen Smith, Mike, Rhoda & Andrew Finch, Stan Ewan, Lily Ratheram, Jim Thelton, Dorothy Angerson, Arthur & Margaret Dring, Brian & Ethel Wright, Lucy Padfield, Christine Lindquist, Jean Morley, Grace Allen, Johnny & Helen Doyle, Pat Bruton, Margaret Fairnington, Maria Hawker, Eric & Alexander Weil, Jonathan Fairn, Helen Painter, John & Mrs Miller, Heidi Ibrahim, Kenneth & Robin Greaves with two daughters, Godfrey Baseley, Frank & Vera Rollett, April Marlow, Irene Smith, Arthur & Pam Harrison, Jim & Joan Shields, Rachel Smith with Clare & Hazel, Margaret Bailey & Mary Elwick, Paul & Ruth Frampton with two children, Beatrice Buchmann, David & Jenny Hill & two children, Norman & Margorie Coxon, Betty & John Thelton, Nick Bennett, Olive Bennett, Margaret Le Mare, Robert & Alice Rose, Geoff Moore, David Moore, David Marks, John & Lilian Ward, Violet Harris, Simon J. Everest, Celia Law, May Berry, I. Cohen, Eleri Ricci with Diana & Ivano, Ken & Elizabeth Francis, Mike van Blankenstein, Lewis, Jean, Fiona and Cindy Poulton, Bill & Joy Rann, Hugh & Daphne Maw, Ken & Phyllis Southall, Liz & Roger Cordiner & Naomi, Mr & Mrs Eavis, senr, Bridget Hope & Mr Hope, Ian Weatherhead, David Henderson, Roger Stewart, Olive Dalley, Winifred Hyde, Mark Mercer, Peter Yeoman, Donald Albrecht.



Hockey Match – Bully-Off



Chasing-up Members – Asst Treasurer at Controls of Concorde



RULES

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be 'Sibford Old Scholars' Association'.

2. OBJECTS

- (a) The continuance of the interest of former scholars in Sibford School and its work.
- (b) The furthering of schoolday friendships.
- (c) The provision of assistance to the School wherever possible.
- (d) The encouragement of a spirit of loyalty amongst present scholars.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The Association shall consist of Ordinary, Life and Honorary Life Members.
- (b) The following shall be eligible for membership:
 - i. Old Scholars of Sibford School.
 - ii. Past and present members of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the School and their husbands/wives.
 - iii. Past and present members of the School Committee.
 - iv. Husbands/wives of Old Scholars.
 - v. Other relatives of Old Scholars interested in the School.
- (c) Honorary Membership of the Association may be conferred at any Annual General Meeting as a mark of esteem for notable services to the School or the Association.
- (d) Scholars leaving the School shall become members of the Association only after completing the appropriate application form. The General Committee shall have power to accept, reject or defer any such application.
- (e) The General Committee shall be empowered to bar any person from membership and to remove any person from membership for any reason which they think to be good and sufficient. No return of subscription shall be payable to any person removed from Membership.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) Subscriptions to the Association shall be as follows:
 - i. Scholars leaving school for the year in which they leave and for the following year, a total of £1.00 and thereafter £3.00 per annum. Alternatively, for the year in which they leave and the following three years - £5.00, which could be paid by their parents with the last school fees.
 - ii. Life Membership £50.00.
 - iii. Married Couples jointly £5.00 per annum.
 - iv. All other member £3.00 per annum.
- (b) The Annual subscription is due on 1st January for the ensuing year.
- (c) Any member whose subscriptions are in arrears for more than two years and who, after due reminder, shall not make the necessary payment shall have his/her name removed from the list of members.

5. YEAR

The Association's year shall be from 1st January to 31st December. This shall apply to the Accounts of the Association and to the term of office of President, Officers, Committee, etc.

6. GENERAL COMMITTEE

- (a) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a General Committee subject to the approval of the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (b) Ex-Officio President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Reunion Secretary, Assistant Reunion Secretary, Membership Secretary, Magazine Editor, Local Branch Secretaries, two School Committee Representatives, Friends of Sibford Society Representative, two School Staff Representatives, the Headmaster, the Bursar, and six ordinary members elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a three year period.
- (c) Ten members of the General Committee shall form a quorum.
- (d) The General Committee shall have power to co-opt up to four members at any one time and to appoint any additional officers it deems necessary.

7. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

- (a) The President and Vice-President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for one year. Normally the President's year of office shall immediately follow the year in which he/she was Vice-President.
- (b) The General Secretary and other Officers shall be appointed for a three year period at an Annual General Meeting. Two representatives shall be nominated to serve on the School Governing Committee coinciding with that Committee's normal term of appointments. Ordinary Members will not be eligible for re-election after a three year term for a period of at least twelve months.
- (c) Should a vacancy occur in any office the General Committee shall have powers to fill the vacancy.

- (d) and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
- (d) All nominations for General Secretary, Treasurer and other Officers shall be in writing, signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee and shall be sent or handed to the General Secretary twelve hours before the Annual General Meeting. Nomination papers to be included with the appropriate Annual Reunion programmes sent to all members.
- (e) Each year the School leavers shall nominate one of their members to serve, as an ordinary member, on the Committee for a period of three years following the next 31st December, and such nomination shall be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting. The A.G.M. shall also appoint one representative each year to serve for a three-year term. Should an ordinary member resign during his term of service the Committee has power to fill the vacancy so caused, until the next Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting shall then confirm the appointment or appoint an alternative member for the remainder of the term of service.

8. MEETINGS AND REUNIONS

- (a) An Annual Reunion of members shall be held at Sibford at Whitsuntide or at such other time and/or place as may be decided by the General Committee.
- (b) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held during the Annual Reunion.
- (c) Notice of the Annual Reunion shall be sent to all members.
- (d) The General Committee shall have full control of all arrangements at these Reunions with power to make such regulations as they may deem to be expedient.

9. MINUTES

Minutes of the proceedings of the General Committee shall be duly recorded in a permanent manner and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting when passed shall be available for inspection by any member by arrangement.

10. LOCAL BRANCHES

- (a) Whenever the number of members resident in a locality warrants the course, a local branch may be formed.
- (b) A Branch Secretary shall be elected at a representative meeting of the local branch.
- (c) Branch Secretaries shall have power to arrange local reunions and other events.
- (d) All Branches must be financially self supporting and have no call on the funds of the Association.

11. MAGAZINE

A magazine entitled 'Sibford' shall be published annually by the Association and sent to all members whose addresses are known. Where husbands and wives are both members only one magazine will be sent unless an additional copy is specifically requested.

12. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

- (a) Notice of any alteration or addition to be proposed to the rules of the Association shall be given in writing to the General Secretary at least fourteen days prior to an Annual General Meeting. Nevertheless the Annual General Meeting shall have power to deal with any alteration or addition to the Rules without such notice or any notice if the meeting so decides by a two-thirds majority of members who are present and voting.
- (b) No alteration or addition to the Rules of the Association shall become effective unless passed by a two-thirds majority of members who are present and voting in Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Rule 12 (b) and 13 (b) cannot be altered except by a 9/10ths majority at Annual General Meeting.

13. LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

- (a) All subscriptions received as Life Subscriptions shall be invested in the names of Trustees appointed by the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The Life Membership Fund may not be spent without prior referendum of the recorded members of the Association. To be effective the referendum must be approved by a 9/10th majority of all the forms received by a date set by the General Committee.
- (c) The interest from the investment of the life subscriptions shall be added to the ordinary income of the Association.

14. WINDING UP

In the event of the Association being dissolved all the assets shall be disposed of as directed by the Annual General Meeting by a simple majority of those members who are present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

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

"Ye Menne of Sheepford wendath whithersoever they wilen"