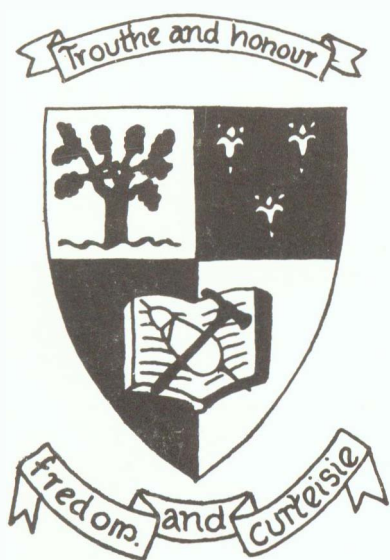


# SIBFORD 80



# SCHOOL

# OLD SCHOLARS



*“Ye Menne of Sheepford wendath whithersoever they wilen”*

# SIBFORD 80

## Annual Report Sibford Old Scholars and Sibford School

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### EDITORIAL

This is the third and last magazine which I have edited. Under the rules the association's offices must rotate after three years. I've always thought that this is a good rule. Office holders should not come to believe that they are indispensable nor should other members be denied the chance of showing what they can do. This applies to all officers, but particularly to that of Editor. Each new editor can bring something new to the work. The Editor next year is Margaret Fairnington. Every one wishes her every success and enjoyment in the work and I, for my part, will give her all the help I can so that at the end she will have enjoyed producing the magazine as much as I have.

I have been very fortunate in my tenure of office. I have recorded the 75th Anniversary of the Association. This year is the half century of the 'Hill'. The President referred to it in his speech at the Dinner and also dwelt on by Mrs Dring in her reply to that speech. It is now the custom for the President to address the scholars at a meeting on a Sunday evening early in the year. I have a copy of Mike Finch's speech. I am sorry that there will not be room for it in this magazine. It is enthralling and reveals a vast amount of research by Mike. I hope some time in the future it can be brought to a wider audience.

Also this year we have said 'Goodbye' to Kenneth and Robin Greaves, Robert Penman and James Shields. It will be more 'au revoir' than 'goodbye' we are sure we shall see them again at the re-unions. We have also welcomed Jim and Maureen Graham as new headmaster and wife, and

Anne Muir as Deputy Head. We shall, I am certain, enjoy their stay at Sibford and their association with the S.O.S.A.

For the Leslie Baily lecture we were honoured to have another Old Scholar — Leslie Thomas who had a long and varied and influential career. A report on his speech is elsewhere in this magazine.

I have been fortunate to have been given articles voluntarily by O.S., unfortunately I have not enough room for all. I must thank all who have sent photographs for the magazine. I should particularly thank Stuart Hedley for his work in confirming the adverts of the established advertisers and obtaining fresh ones. These widen the interest in the magazine and we hope that where possible readers will support the advertiser.

Many people last year spoke highly of the school half of the magazine. The articles this year are equal to anything in the past. Anne Muir, the new deputy head, has collected and collated the items and presented them to the Editor in such a form that I had little to do before presenting them to the printers.

I must finally thank the printers who have done all they could to produce a magazine of which the association can be proud. Enjoy it!

Finally have a good 1981. We all look forward to meeting you next year.

Philip Beckerlegge

# THE TEACHING STAFF: AUTUMN TERM 1980

## Headmaster:

Jim A. Graham, M.A.\*

## First Deputy:

Anne S. Muir, B.A.\*

## Second Deputy:

Kenneth T. Francis, Teachers Certificate

### ART & POTTERY

Maureen McHale, N.D.D., A.T.D.\*  
+ Angela Mortimer  
+ Al Williams, B.A.\*

### ENGLISH

(H) Geoffrey Higgins, M.A.\*  
Barbara Clark, B.A.\*  
Verity Free, B.Ed.

### FRENCH/GERMAN

Gilbert Todd, B.A.\*  
Anne Muir, B.A.\*  
Jean Rudge, B.A.\*  
Anthony Rye, L.T.C.L.\*

### GEOGRAPHY

(H) Brian Holliday, B.Sc.\*  
Janette Long, Teachers Certificate  
Stella Wilson, B.Ed.

### HISTORY

Ian Charnock, B.A.\*  
Kenneth T. Francis, Teachers Certificate  
Marion Higgins, B.A.\*

### HOME ECONOMICS

Jane Nussey, Teachers Certificate  
(H) Gillian Edwards, Teachers Certificate

### MATHEMATICS

Alan Jarvis, M.A.\*  
Frank Cookson, M.A.\*  
David Goodwin, B.Sc., A.R.S.M.\*  
(H) Eunice Lemon, Teachers Certificate

### METALWORK, WOODWORK & TECHNICAL DRAWING

Graeme Sagar, Teachers Certificate, M.C.C.Ed.  
Stuart Hedley, Teachers Certificate, C & G Advanced Craft Certificate

### MUSIC

Pauline Roe, L.R.A.M., G.R.S.M.\*

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(H) Michael Wollerton, Teachers Certificate, Dip.P.E.  
(H) Susan Lynk, Teachers Certificate  
Stella Wilson, B.Ed.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lisa Taylor, B.Ed.

### REMEDIAL TEACHING

David Foulds, B.A., Teachers Certificate  
(H) Eunice Lemon, Teachers Certificate  
+ Merryl Muat, B.Sc.\*

### SCIENCE:

#### PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY

#### PHYSICS

#### BIOLOGY

#### CHEMISTRY

#### RURAL SCIENCE

Christopher Cox, Teachers Certificate  
Frank Cookson, M.A.\*  
Anthony Skeath, B.Sc.\*  
+ Elizabeth Cookson, M.A., Ph.D.\*  
Gordon Wright, B.Sc.\*

### TYPING

+ Sylvia Manning

### VISITING TEACHERS

Frank Underwood	Guitar
David Foulds	Violin
Mabel Payne	Piano
Thomas Lawrence, M.A.	Piano
Robert Pacey, B.Mus.,	
D. Phil.	Flute
Pierre Jacob	Percussion

## 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* George Gibson  
*Maintenance* William White  
*Head Gardener* Arthur H. Dring  
*School Matron* Margaret Dring

(H) Indicates Housemaster or Housemistress  
+ Indicates part-time staff  
\* Indicates post-graduate teaching qualification

## Exits.....

The summer term finished on July 3rd – a Thursday. The following day, after the train travellers had departed, Mr. Gibson and his catering staff were already preparing for the evening. The invitations had been sent, – most of which the Post Office managed to deliver – and their replies had been received. Cryptic mutterings had been exchanged between us and Robin and Joan.

Eight o'clock saw us gathered in the dining hall; an assembly of past and present colleagues to mark the retirements of Kenneth Greaves and Jim Shields. It was good indeed to welcome many former Sibfordian friends who had worked with Ken and Jim. As Jim's length of service to the school spanned nearly a quarter of a century, tracking down some of the names on our guest list needed some digging into the archives.

After we had enjoyed our meal, well laced with chat and reminiscence, Ken Francis, on our behalf, thanked Ken and Robin, and Jim and Joan for the contributions that each of them had made to Sibford, and gave them our love and best wishes for the future.

Then the lights dimmed and in came the trolley bearing a fibre optic lamp for Jim (at last we knew what one of those was) and for Ken a working model steam engine actually in steam which had been built by Graeme and Stuart amid tight security in our workshops. We also gave to Jim a cheque, and to Robin a gift token.

We spent a most pleasant evening knowing that, although we were saying our official 'goodbyes' they were only 'au revoirs' and that we would be counting Ken and Robin, Jim and Joan among the wide circle of friends that we have and who will be sure of a welcome next time we see them.

A.M.R.

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

For the past twenty four years, throughout the regimes of three headmasters, I have taught Science at Sibford, and watched it grow from a single-staff, single-laboratory subject into a flourishing department, with modern labs and store rooms. Now as I retire, I am happy to hand over to a most competent team under the leadership of Christopher Cox,

and wish them well for the future.

I have received such kindness and generosity from everyone at this time, from the pupils, from past and present colleagues and from Old Scholars, that I want to say a big "Thankyou" to everyone, and to say how much your gifts are appreciated. Even more I shall cherish the friendship of so many colleagues and ex-pupils – many of them now scattered all round the world. It gives me great pleasure to meet people I taught twenty years ago, and learn where they have been, and what they have done in the meantime. But it made me realise I must be "getting on" a bit when I discovered some years back that there were five new pupils whose parents – or aunts – I had taught in years gone by!

Joan and I will continue to live in Sibford, and are proud to become members of the Old Scholars Association where we have always found a warm welcome and a depth of fellowship seldom met with elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,  
Jim Shields.



Kenneth Greaves receives presentation  
Steam Engine from colleagues past  
and present. July 4th 1980



## *and Entrances.*

I have never heard of another new headmaster and his wife being introduced to school life by having over a hundred old scholars having tea on their lawn within a week of moving in. It struck us with awe in advance and delighted us in the event. If Sibford produces such nice people with such an evident sense of fun and friendship it must be an even better place than we had thought.

In fact it was not all new. Kenneth and Robin Greaves had done a great deal to prepare us and it is nice to be able to add our thanks to those already expressed elsewhere. They were most generous with hospitality, patience and advice. Their great knowledge of what a Quaker school is and can be was invaluable to us as we moved in from the State sector.

Now, after half a term, we are closer to understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the School's personality. The first impressions, as so often, were absolutely right. More than any other institution I have had contact with Sibford understands about the qualities that make life good. If Maureen and I can help that understanding to continue and flourish we shall be well satisfied.

Jim Graham

### CAREERS

It is hoped that in future issues of the magazine it will be possible to print some short articles outlining different career experiences of Old Scholars, whether recent leavers or older Old Scholars.

If you think your career experience might be of interest or help to others please write in telling of the advantages and disadvantages, the satisfaction and frustration, the interest and boredom, in fact the 'inside story'.

Frank Cookson  
Careers Master

### HEADMASTER'S REPORT 1979/80

As this was to be my last year in office, I might have been forgiven if I had hoped, perhaps a little naively, that it might be a serene and untroubled one, free from problems and difficulties; but as I have told myself often enough these past twenty years, if ever there were to be such a year there would hardly then be a need for a headmaster at all. It has certainly not been an easy year, but it has not been such a bad one either.

We began the year with a full school, and I am glad to say that there was a very good demand for places for September 1980. Applications for day places were so great that we had to close the list, and this is particularly pleasing because it clearly shows that locally the school's reputation stands high.

### Head Boy & Head Girl 1980-1981



Keith Little & Sarah Chandler

The most important item of staff news during this year was the appointment of Anne Muir as our Deputy Head. Already experienced as Deputy Head in two other schools, Anne Muir joined us in January, and with her friendliness and efficiency soon found her way around and established herself in the community. During the Autumn Term we had to manage without a Deputy Head, and an additional weight of work and responsibility was added to the already heavy burden carried by Ken Francis, our Senior Master. Fortunately he has broad shoulders, and if he is not often singled out for thanks it is only because his are not the sort of jobs that hit the headlines, and not because the importance of his contribution is not recognised and appreciated. As a senior boy was recently heard to remark with some truth: "Mr Francis *is* Sibford."

After several years with very few changes on the teaching staff, this year brought many. Julie Thomas, who had been with us for thirteen years, left unexpectedly in January when bereavement required her presence at home. Jennifer Walker left us in May to have her first baby; and at the end of term we lost Anne McKeane to go with her husband to teach for a year in Germany. Jean Lumb, to be married, and Michael Hollman, Joanna Pring and Robert Penman to take up other posts. They gave, each one, wonderful service both in the classroom and in other school activities, and we offer them our thanks and good wishes.

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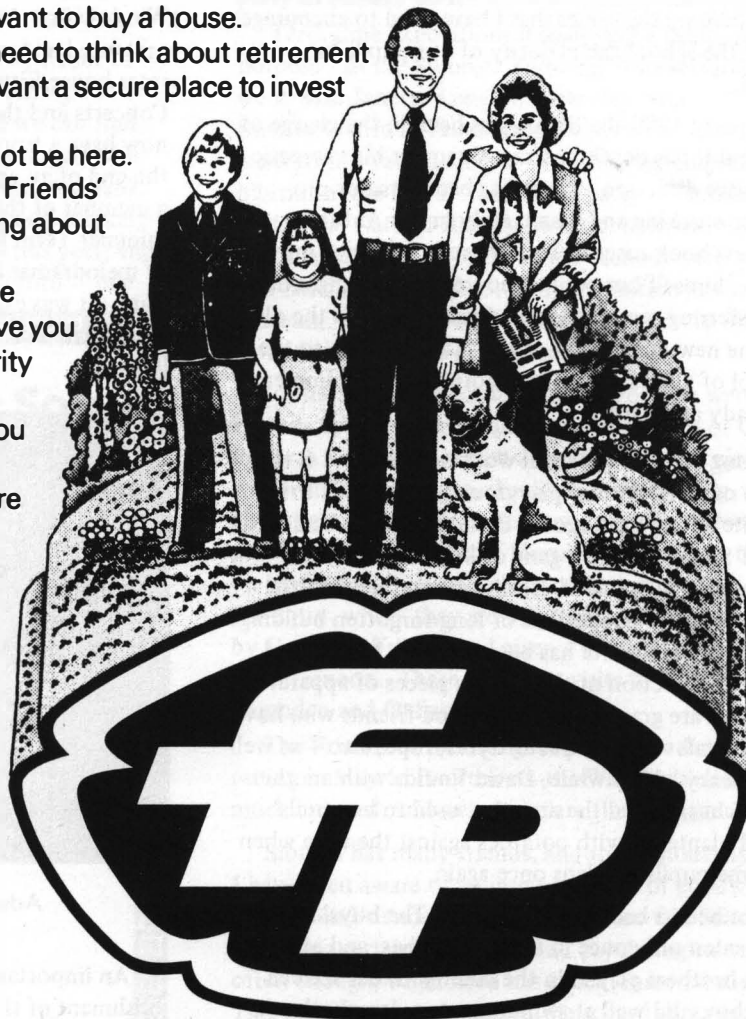
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Also in the summer Jim Shields retired after twenty-four years at Sibford. In addition to his work as Head of the Science department, Jim Shields had, in his quietly unobtrusive way, a significant influence on the character and quality of the life of the school. He it was who, many years ago, started pupils visiting old people; he has organised our gifts for old people every Christmas, and he has been a faithful supporter of all school activities, especially school worship. We are grateful for his service and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

The 1980 public examination results were a mixture. At O-Level we achieved a 63% pass rate which is the highest ever and there were among these some outstandingly good individual performances. At lower levels too, a number of children acquitted themselves very well indeed. The picture at A-Level, however, continued to be disappointing though there were more candidates than last year.

I have always rated those qualities of application and perseverance more highly than the kind of success that can be achieved relatively easily by people who happen to be clever, and these are the values that I have tried to encourage. Throughout the school the majority of our pupils have worked well.

Since January 1979 the library has been in the charge of Tony Rye and it has developed rapidly under his energetic and imaginative direction. There has been a major programme of re-stocking and when, early in the Autumn Term, the new book-cases were delivered, Tony not only erected them himself but completed unaided the gigantic task of transferring several thousand volumes from the old shelves to the new *in the right order*. The benefits to the whole school of a library thus transformed will be immense and are already apparent.

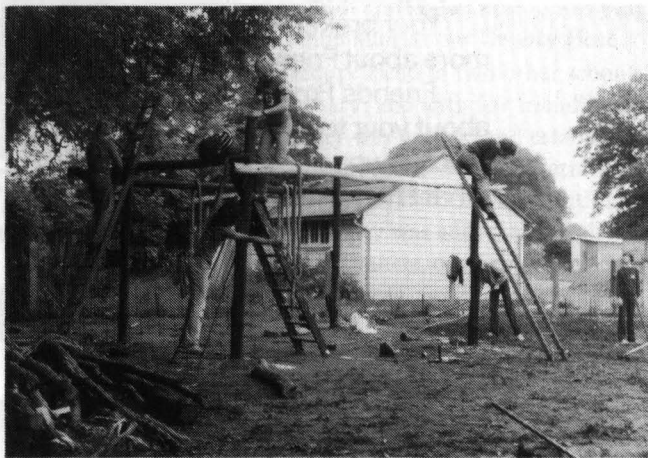
An exciting piece of practical work now in hand is the preparation of an adventure playground – an idea first mooted quite a long time ago by Eunice Lemon. Under the direction of Stuart Hedley a gang of boys have worked hard to clear a large patch of derelict ground beyond the maintenance yard. Foundations of long-forgotten buildings have been dug out, the site has been levelled, hedged and fenced, and the erection of the various pieces of apparatus has begun. We are grateful to parents and friends who have given us materials – poles, tractor tyres, rope, etc. – as well as gifts of money. Meanwhile, David Foulds with another gang of boys has cleared the area that used to be pupils' gardens and planted it with potatoes against the time when it can become pupils' gardens once again.

It has not been a bad year for games. The boys' soccer team was beaten only once in twelve matches, and at rugby the Egbuna brothers played in the county Under-sixteen team. The boys did well at swimming, too, largely thanks to the regular expert coaching given voluntarily by our neighbour Frank Stevenson. The boys even avenged last year's defeat by the girls – although this was the only swimming match that the girls lost, which says much for the work of Anne McKeane in training them. In the swimming sports eight new records were established. Gymnastics and trampolining have remained popular activities with the

girls; and the availability of tennis coaching has benefitted boys and girls alike. We also had a very good athletics sports day when, in spite of wet conditions, some good times were recorded – deservedly, because many pupils had trained hard. In the county championships, Andrew Egbuna won the Intermediate 100 metres hurdles and was also in the winning relay team. In the Banbury District athletics competition our junior girls came second, out of ten schools, only one point behind the winners, and our girls also came second in the Banbury schools league.

A less sophisticated kind of sports day was held at the end of June as part of our celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Hill building. Having first marked the occasion by planting a tree we proceeded to an afternoon of traditional races, including the egg-and-spoon, the sack, the three-legged, the wheelbarrow and the slow bicycle varieties. In the evening there was a buffet-dance with decorations and fancy dress related to the events and personalities of the past fifty years.

For the School Play this year Geoff Higgins chose *The Winslow Boy*, by Terence Rattigan – a good play, well presented and well received. The Winter Term brought the inter-house Eisteddfod competitions including the House Concerts and the House drama competition, for which we now have a trophy, given by the Elsmore family to mark the end of an eighteen year period when there was always a member of the family at Sibford. At the end of the Summer Term Robert Penman presented that most famous of melodramas *Maria Marten*, or *The Murder in the Red Barn*. It was exceptionally well acted, and the audiences participated enthusiastically in hissing the villain.



Adventure Playground in Progress

An important innovation during the year was the establishment of the Arts Club. The idea was that we should meet informally three or four times a term for an evening of Art Appreciation – to look at slides of great paintings, to hear about them and to talk about them. Some fifty people came to the first meeting, and although numbers subsequently declined to about half that number the enthusiasm was such that for the rest of the Autumn and Winter Terms the club met every week. The meetings were

mainly arranged and led by Maureen McHale, the Head of our Art department, assisted by Ian Charnock; but we also had some very interesting contributions from pupils on works of art that had especially appealed to them.

Other leisure-time activities were less well supported. There was quite a lot on offer but not as many takers as one would like to see. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, with 128 pupils working towards an Award, was to some extent an exception; but Gordon Wright, who runs the scheme for us, expresses disappointment that so few persevere and complete the scheme. During the year there were eleven Bronze and five Silver Awards, plus three Gold Awards achieved by recent leavers; but although this is not a bad record it could be a lot better. When senior opt out of school activities with the virtuous plea that they must now concentrate exclusively on their examination work one is only partly convinced. Any reasonably energetic and lively-minded young person should be able to give proper attention to his studies and still find plenty of time for some worthwhile leisure-time pursuit. Since we cannot lengthen our lives it is worth learning from an early age to pack as much as possible into the time that we have.

Exceptionally worthwhile are the various activities of the Social Service Committee, and for these I am glad to say that we have many more volunteers than we can find work for. Once again we won awards in the inter-schools competition organised by the National Westminster Bank for schemes of social service. In Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, fifteen schools submitted schemes this year, and of the seven prizes awarded three came to Sibford — one

for our annual holiday camp for deprived and delicate children from central London, one for our scheme of visiting local old people, and one for the maintenance of local footpaths and the preparation of a booklet of local walks. In addition to these schemes some of our boys, directed by Ken Francis, set up signposts on footpaths for the Parish Council; and each year Tony Rye organises the clearing of footpaths by volunteers from the school.

Two of our teachers are Parish Councillors and a third is secretary of the Village Hall. Each week there is a craft class in school for local people and a swim for the children; the Parish Council and the old People's club hold their meetings in the school and the cricket club uses our ground in the holidays. These are some of the ways in which we try to maintain good relationships with our neighbours and to be of service to the community in which we live.

During the Christmas vacaton, Sue Lynk, Maureen McHale and Mike Hollman took two parties on continental ski-ing holidays; and at Easter David Foulds with Mike Wollerton, Janette Long and Mike Hollman again took a party of juniors Youth Hostelling in the north of England.

Term-time expeditions usually had a rather more serious purpose. In the Summer Term the A-Level Geographers went with Janette Long on a five-day course at the Field Studies Centre in Pembrokeshire; the Sixth Form Art group went to the Tate Gallery and to the Post-Impressionist exhibition at the Royal Academy; a party of Human Biologists visited the Natural History Museum in South Kensington; and a large party from the middle school were taken by Jim Shields to the Silicon Chip exhibition at the Science Museum. There were also House outings and other excursions to local places of interest.

In the Autumn a group of Sixth Formers went on the Friends Schools Pilgrimage to the birthplace of Quakerism in north Lancashire which always proves an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Junior Yearly Meeting, too, is always good value, and this year our two representatives gave an excellent week of Morning Meetings to the school on its theme. In June a party of seniors went to Meeting at Coventry, where they were entertained to a picnic lunch by Coventry Friends and given a tour of the cathedral in the afternoon. There were also visits to Meetings at Broad Campden and Oxford.

The Friends of Sibford gave pupils another successful outing in May to Bourton-on-the-Water which was very much enjoyed, and we appreciate their continuing support.


Sibford has many friends, and throughout my time here I have been aware of an immense fund of goodwill emanating from Friends, from parents, from Old Scholars, and supplying certainly spiritual and psychological support and, often enough, when need has arisen, material support too. This has been a great help to the school and a great encouragement to me, and I am grateful for it.

The School Committee have been to me an unfailing source of wise advice and encouragement; and I would also like to record my appreciation of the loyal support that I have had from my colleagues — both the teaching and the non-teaching staff.

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Two people I would like to thank personally. Kate Long, my secretary, adds to her purely secretarial duties many other responsibilities, ranging from the administration of examinations to supplying information to bewildered parents and comfort and reassurance to distressed children. All this with unfailing kindness, infinite patience and incredible efficiency. Kate Long makes Sibford possible, and she deserves our thanks.

Finally, as my period of headmastership comes to an end, I hope I may be allowed a public word of thanks to my wife. She came to Sibford determined to devote herself to our family and not to teach. In fact, she has taught throughout our time here, often stepping in at a moment's notice to supply some unexpected staff shortage. A good teacher to many, and a kind friend to many more, her influence has helped to make Sibford the happy and friendly school that it is, and has certainly been instrumental in keeping me as sane as I am.

Sibford is a quite exceptional school. If some of us are too close to it to see that for ourselves, I myself am assured of the fact every week by the comments of knowledgeable visitors and the expressed opinions of professional consultants who steer their clients in this direction. I am proud to have been associated with the school, and I hope that I have contributed something useful to its development. I have every confidence that under my successor, Jim Graham, the school will continue to develop and prosper, and I wish him, and everyone connected with Sibford, every success in the future.

## NANSEN GIRLS HOUSE REPORT

We started the year off well with a week of morning meetings, with almost all years contributing, and we went on to raise £72 doing a sponsored knit, which everybody took part in. Half of the money went to the Cambodia appeal, the other half to a house record player; the knitted squares were sewn into three blankets which Heather Grant took to a mission hospital in Zambia, and they were gratefully received.

We won the Eisteddfod concerts and plays and we were awarded the Eisteddfod Cup.

We raised another £10 for some beads which were needed for beadwork in Africa; this we did by allowing the boys upstairs to see the rooms and have a cup of coffee, for only a small fee!

We won the hockey cup and Cleo Crawford broke the under 12 x 800m record in her first term at the school.

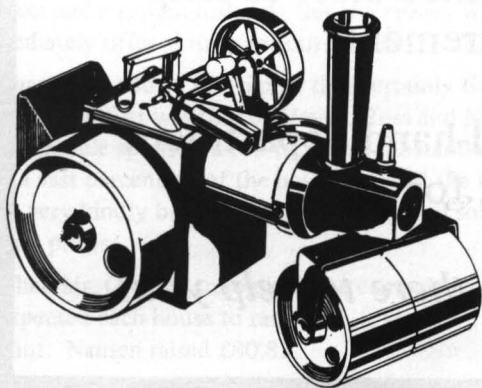
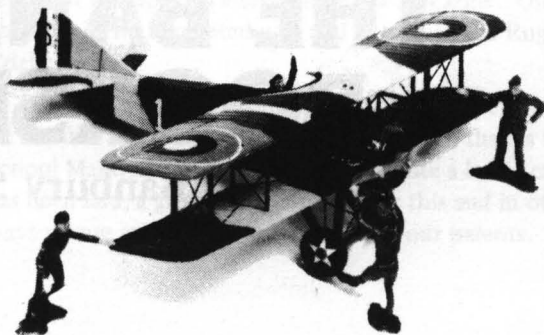
We finished the year with the study room and part of the television room being painted by Katie Dike and other fifth-formers.

We had a number of outings to plays and films at Chipping Norton and Banbury and on the whole we had a happy and successful year.

Amanda Endersby  
Miranda Sale

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## LISTER BOYS HOUSE

We said our farewells to Michael Hollman at the end of the Summer Term, our Assistant Housemaster for four years, and marked the occasion with a Strawberry and Ice-cream Supper. We have already welcomed Christopher Cox as our new Assistant Housemaster.

The House bought a very old snooker table during the year and completely renovated it in the workshops. It is now a handsome and often-used piece of equipment.

The 5th form dormitory now has its full complement of box-beds and a carpet project has been started recently to complete the first dormitory.

Sports and pastimes have once again been quite actively pursued and our thanks go once again to our House Captains and senior boys for encouraging new and younger boys in their activities.

## LISTER GIRLS HOUSE REPORT

As usual Lister came second in Eisteddfod activities, but Mr. Hedley's hardworking boys helped us to win the hobbies exhibition. Although we didn't win the House Drama, we had great fun organising it and holding the scenery up on the actual performance.

We have enjoyed helping other people throughout the year. We have collected money for Blue Peter Cambodia Appeal; most of the house had a go at knitting squares for a blanket; on sports day we sold refreshments to raise

money for a bicycle for a local children's home.

For a change we had very few false fire alarms, even with the new red light.

Miss Edwards and Miss Long took people to films, Heathrop Cross Country Event, and even other Quaker meetings. It has been an interesting change to have Miss Muir, Miss McHale and Mrs. Rudge on duty in the house again.

Last of all, we would all like to congratulate Miss Long and Mr. Skeath on their engagement.

Julie Greenhill.

## PENN BOYS HOUSE REPORT

The year has been a generally happy and successful one for the House. Good performances in the Concert and Drama sections of the Eisteddfod Competition, a win for boys and girls in the Swimming Gala and the return of the Athletics Cup were all notable achievements. Besides the new washing machine and the snooker table the Junior Brain of Sibford Trophy arrived in the House by courtesy of Neil Bosomworth, one of several Penn boys who took part in the competition. A welcome innovation that ensured we should all remember the year, our first House photograph.

M.R.W.

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## PENN GIRLS HOUSE REPORT

Penn girls were very sorry to see Miss Lumb go, our deputy housemistress, and we wish her a very happy marriage. We have now got Miss Taylor who teaches R.E. and we hope she will be very happy with us too.

We had a very good year with sports, thanks to Frannie, the games captain, and we won the Girls' Cross Country, Athletics, Swimming and over all Sports Day.

Out of the three terms we came first with merit marks, thanks to the members of the house.

Now that the end of the house is gradually slipping away, we hope to get it repaired before it is too late! We are also looking forward to the house being decorated, hopefully in some more imaginative colours than at present and with the carpets laid, the house will be warmer.

We had two parties which were both of a very high standard. For the Hallowe'en party most of us went in fancy dress, based upon the theme of Hallowe'en. The Christmas party, (for both Penn Boys and Penn Girls), was just as good and we all enjoyed ourselves very much.

Let's hope that this year will be as successful as last year and everyone will take part in as many activities as possible.  
Sophie Pitt

## THE NANSEN MEN DO IT AGAIN!

As Nansen's first contribution to the Cambodian Appeal Fund, nine strong and able-bodied inmates of the house proceeded to a nearby farm to shovel, shift and lift piles of rubble from its sheds. This took about three hours of strenuous work but at the end the result was perfect. Sometime later during the following week another notice appeared on a notice board asking for people to help, by painting and decorating in order to convert a pub into somebody's home. Within moments of the notice being published, the five places had been filled in, and on the following Sunday we proceeded to the pub in nearby Wigginton. On arrival we donned overalls and began the enjoyable task of painting the walls of various rooms all over the house. Before leaving I noticed a remarkably worn-out juke-box sitting in the garden. On immediate examination I discovered that an amount of money appeared to be still contained within. After pleading with the owner of the house, and soon gaining his agreement, I proceeded to smash it open with various implements including a pickaxe and a garden fork. At this the money was immediately offered to us for our appeal.

I hasten to add to this report that certainly the most exhausting effort was that of Messrs. Ross and Nobes, who did a ten mile sponsored run to raise a substantial amount. Also a vast percentage of the house enjoyed the beautiful cakes very kindly baked by Mrs. Holliday and sold for bargain prices.

When Mr. Greaves announced the campaign and said that he expected each house to raise £15, it appeared a large amount. Nansen raised £80.85.

Need I say More!

Jonathan Coleman

## VEGETARIANS

Some of the vegetarians of the school have been meeting on Sunday afternoons to try out various recipes. We have given our ideas to the Catering Manager and we have been pleased to see some of them on our menus.

Here is an example of what we like to eat and we hope that if you try it and like it you might wish to become a vegetarian too!

### "Vegetarian Oatie"

3oz Oats.

1 Onion — chopped.

2oz Margarine.

1 teaspoon Marmite.

Seasoning, herbs.

4 — 6oz grated Cheese.

1 egg (beaten).

— and chopped green pepper, chopped mushrooms, grated carrot etc. — anything you fancy!

Fry onion in margarine until soft but not brown. Mix in the rest of the ingredients, adding egg last of all. Spoon into well-greased flan dish. Bake in moderate oven for about half an hour.

Christine Clover

## NANSEN BOYS HOUSE REPORT

The greatest success for the house was in winning the Inter-House Drama competition and in taking the Eisteddfod Trophy in the Winter Term, something which involved virtually everyone in the House. Our fund raising for Cambodia was also very rewarding and satisfactory. A report of this appears elsewhere in the magazine. On the sports field we competed well and won both the Rugby and Cricket cups.

The facilities in the House have improved over the last 12 months and we now have a hobbies room thanks to the School Maintenance Department and quite a lot of carpet has been laid, a gift from a parent. For this and in other ways we are grateful for the support of our parents.

B.H.

## CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club has had a somewhat chequered history in recent years. We have been able to maintain at least one loyal member on most meetings, but this has, unfortunately, made it impossible to hold a worthwhile knock-out competition for the treasured Gilchrist Trophy, at present held by Nansen House.

This year has seen an expansion of the activities of the club with three members making stone-moulded chess sets between moves; we have also been playing some other board-games such as Othello. During the year greater numbers of regular players have been developing and it is hoped that this trend will continue.

A.S.



Chess Men

## ORIENTEERING

On Sundays I go orienteering with the school club. Mr Wollerton takes us to the event by the school minibus. When we reach there we go and register with the officials and choose the course we should go. These range from one and a half kilometers to nine kilometers. After paying we are given a map, a punch card and a list of control equipment. We proceed to the start, when our time is called, we go to the line.

When the whistle is blown we run to the Master Map and make a copy. The object is to get from one point to another in the shortest possible time. The control description gives the clue what to look for. When the control area is reached, such as a ditch or an earth embankment, the punch card is punched to prove that you have actually been to that control.

At the finish the time is noted and the punch card is handed in. The results are then checked and later sent to the school.

Chris Arkless. 4A.

## ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

A very good start was made on the adventure playground site last term. A great deal of hard work was undertaken by senior boys and many juniors clearing concrete bases and hardcore from the site, and two pieces of large apparatus were able to be started before the end of the year.

A small band of boys helped to plant nearly 100 trees surrounding the playground area and if arrangements can be made to keep the grass cut we look forward to continuing the project during the coming months.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition in Wales

Materials of all description have been collected from many sources and stored, and we are very grateful to all who contributed so willingly.

## TAKING PART IN Y.H.A. JUBILEE TREK

At the beginning of the summer holiday my friend William Maxwell and I took part in the Youth Hostel Association Jubilee Trek.

We had to do fifty miles in five days or less staying at Youth Hostels. We had to book the nights ourselves by post.

We decided to do the walk down south and on the 6th July, Sunday night we were dropped off at Southampton Youth Hostel. On Monday we walked nine miles to Norley Wood Youth Hostel. It rained most of the day. The next day we walked 14 miles to Yarley Youth Hostel, through the New Forest which is very nice. Wednesday, the longest day of the trek, fifteen miles to Cranborne. Then on Thursday we walked fourteen miles to arrive in Salisbury to finish the trek. Mr. Hedley our housemaster signed our cards and we sent them to the Y.H.A. In return they sent us a certificate signed by Chris Bonington together with free membership to the Y.H.A. for 1981.

Giles Last. 4B.



Stephen Cook being presented with the Educational Institute of Design, Craft & Technology casket and medallion by Sir Alex Smith (Centre) and Peter Dawson, the National President.

## WORKSHOPS

A major acquisition this year has been the installation of compressed air lines throughout the workshops, supplied by a 17 c.f.m. Hydrovane compressor. This will allow us to use air tools, spray equipment, etc.

In September the Educational Institute of Design Craft

and Technology, Oxford and South Midlands Branch, ran an exhibition, "Excellence in Technical Crafts", in Oxford, involving some 40 schools. We were pleased that Peter Doney won his section in woodwork for his side table, and that Stephen Cook won his section and also the overall craft prize, the E.I.D.C.T. Cup and medallion for his blanket chest of English Oak and Ash. Keith Hawker received a high commendation for his steam engine entry.

#### GEOGRAPHY TRIP – DALE FORT (WALES)

A group of four geographers and Miss Long set off for an enjoyable week in Wales. The first day:— the weather was good in Haverfordwest, after taking a slight detour around Swansea, we did an Urban Survey which produced some unexpected and amusing reactions. We arrived at the fort after everyone else had settled in. Dale Fort is an old 19th century fort built during the Napoleonic era for defence. The standard of food was variable.

The next day we walked around Dale Peninsula, taking note of geological land forms; did another survey on houses in Dale village before returning to the fort for supper and hours of long work into the night.

On Day 3 we went to Cae-fai bay and Whitesands bay, exploring rocks and caves. That afternoon we climbed Caarn-Llidi, which is a (monardnock) on St. David's Peninsula, visited a traditional woollen mill in Solva Valley, after which we returned to Cae-fai bay for a paddle.

On Day 4: spent the day in car touring around, went to see Llysfran Dam and climbed Maiden Tor.

On 5th Day we walked around Cliff path from Wooltack point to Marloes Sand where we made our own geological map. We then attempted to climb round the headland to West dale bay, but, it being further than we expected, it was necessary for the girls and Miss Long to be rescued by a boatload of soldiers out on a fishing trip. Meanwhile the heroic boys were precariously picking their way around the cliffs with all the equipment. Had to have a late tea with the Catholics!

Day 6 – celebrated Paul's birthday in Milford Haven after an extremely smelly morning at the fish docks. We and remained so had an enjoyable boat trip around the oil refineries at Milford Haven.

Day 7 – there was a drastic change in the weather – it rained all day. We went to Newgale beach and measured pebbles. The centre had a Bar-b-que, marvellous end to an enjoyable week. The last day piled all our stuff into the car ready for an early start back to School.

Nikki Benn.  
Tracy Smith.

#### SOUTHERN SCHOOLS' PILGRIMAGE

After hearing various reports of Pilgrimage from the past by teachers and ex-scholars, a group of seven dedicated (?) and earnest (?) future-pilgrims set off on their trek 'up north' to 'George Fox Country'.

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Later, having met other 'Pilgrims' at Woodbrooke College (Birmingham), we carried on with our journey. In the afternoon we all trudged up Pendle Hill, thankful to have a rest while someone read a sermon. It was too misty to get a good view of what Pilgrims should see! However the countryside was beautiful. . . .

That might the exhausted Pilgrims bedded down in their somewhat sparse sleeping conditions. (Due to fatigue most slept well.)

We went to various meetings where

'People spoke their mind,  
Quakerism to find,  
Questions they did pose,  
But the answers no-one knows.'

(Still the quest continues.)

Elfrida Foulds spoke to us on the history of Quakerism. After these talks we visited places connected with famous Quakers such as Preston Patrick; Brigflatts; Firbank Fell, (where Fox's pulpit was situated); Swarthmoor Hall; Birkrigg Common, (which was near the sea and famous quicksands). This area was very wild and rugged; we enjoyed the freedom there!

On the Sunday we went to the local gathering for worship with Friends in Yealand, including Robin and Kenneth Greaves, who kindly entertained us during our stay. (They live opposite the Pub.)

The Pilgrimage would not have been complete without

our general discussion groups at Greengarth! (Elfrida Fould's house.)

The last morning was dedicated to clearing up. After exchanging addresses and saying our reluctant farewells, we were hustled off to the waiting 'Sibford' mini-bus and started our trip back to school. An unforgettable experience! Eunice Lemon revived and cheered us with Kendal mint cake, struggled bravely up hill and down dale, and even ate with us bullet-like peas that were meant to be mushy.

P.S. Friendships blossomed!

Sophia Miller.  
Anthony Wingfield.

#### MOSCOW 1980

We left London on July 19, which was a Saturday, at 6.30 in the morning. We flew out and back again on the Russian airline "Aeroflot". We flew to Leningrad and landed at Lenin Airport. In Leningrad we stayed in the new hotel which sleeps two thousand four hundred people. The only sport in Leningrad was the football and we went to one of the matches. Czechoslovakia and Brazil were playing. Czechoslovakia slaughtered Brazil and eventually got the gold medal.

The second day started with a sightseeing trip round Leningrad. Because Leningrad used to be the Russian capital there are some very beautiful palaces, the Winter Palace on Red Square is one. All of Leningrad was

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exceptionally clean. But the buildings needed a new coat of paint.

We did a variety of things in Leningrad like visiting the Zoo: going to a Zoological Museum: and even had a sauna in the hotel. The Zoo was very clean and full of smiling bears. We were very impressed by the stuffed animals in the Museum, they were so lifelike and the scenery was fantastic. The central point of the Museum was the Mammoth that filled the centre area entirely. Overall we spent three nights and four days in Leningrad.

To get to Moscow we took an overnight train that had a stern lady guard who made us all tea. The first morning in Moscow we were sorted out into rooms and so on. This time we were in the Arts and Music Schools Hostel. We were given meal vouchers to be used at a cafe behind the building.

In Moscow we were very lucky with what we saw, the only boring bit was seeing some dressage, which the girls liked. At the athletics stadium we saw Britain get three Golds, two Silver and one Bronze. As well as those medals we saw lots going to other countries. The excitement of Alan Wells' 100 metres final is indescribable. Your heart stops as the gun goes and does not start up again for at least a second. To explain it I could write for ten sides and not touch it.

Mrs. Lynk had got tickets to see both Basketball and Volleyball. In the Volleyball we saw Russia versus East

Germany, who eventually played each other in the final. Brazil and Cuba were playing in the Basketball. Jesus G.T. would have won for Brazil but with only eleven seconds left he ran out of time.

Overall the nine days of the holiday were very much worth it. We now know why people save for four years just to see the Olympics.

Ben Gifford.

## ORIENTEERING 1979-80

A keen group of orienteers have visited a number of events from Birmingham down to Oxford and Reading. A number of boys have reached bronze standard at Badge Events but higher standards have generally eluded us.

## FOOTBALL 1979-80

The Senior Team achieved some very good results during a season in which they lost only one match. Nine games were won and two drawn. The team as a whole played well but Andrew Egbuna, who scored twenty five goals, and his brother Robert were outstanding.

## CRICKET 1980

Victories during this season proved hard to achieve. The Senior Team won only once while the Juniors managed two wins. The most notable achievement was that of Marcus Sheppard who, in the Junior match against Falcon Manor, scored twenty five out of a team total of fifty five runs, then took eight wickets for nine runs.

## SWIMMING 1980

The good results and improving times of the boys in the swimming team have been achieved through hard work in their training sessions which Mr. Stevenson has run regularly throughout the year. The Banbury Swimming Gala was the final event of the season and although we had no winners, there were a large number of finalists who managed no fewer than seven second places.

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## SIBFORD SCHOOL JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM

### REGULAR TEAM GOALS

David Bain	
Glen Atterbury	3
Andrew Wolmer	1
Matthew Bond	
Ben Nobes	2
David Kiango	5
James Ross	1
M. Sheppard	3
M. Gillett	4
G. Last	1
Shademan Irvanipour	

### OTHER PLAYERS

William Maxwell  
Jonathan Cowper  
Justin Gorddard

1st Match. Kingham Hill. Away. 1-4.

Weather was rainy, windy and very cold. Half-time score Sibford 3 Kingham 0. Full time score Sibford 4 Kingham 1. Sibford had a very good game especially in the first half.

2nd Match. Falcon Manor. Home 2-5.

Weather all right - a bit soft underfoot. Half-time 0-4. Final score 5-2

3rd Match. Shipston. Away 0-1.

Weather cloudy. Half-time score Sibford 1 - Shipston 0 Full time 1-0

4th Match. Wicken Park. Home. 7-0.

Weather fine. Half-time 5-0. Full time 7-0. Sibford won, it was rather one-sided.

5th Match. Falcon Manor. Away. 2-1.

Weather cold and very windy. Half-time Sibford 1 Falcon Manor 1. Full time 1-2 to Falcon Manor.

6th Match. Kingham Hill. Home 5-4.

Weather was normal, slightly wet underfoot. Half-time Sibford 2 Kingham Hill 3. Full time 5-4.

A good season. Top scorer - David Kiango. 5 Goals.

Captain Ben Nobes.



F. Avati

## THE BULGARIAN TRIP

In December, 1979, a school party of twenty set off from Gatwick to Bulgaria. It took all day to get to the village where we were to stay, Pamperovo. The snow was very scarce on the Rhodope mountains.

The party was staying in a very good hotel, well heated and we were all well fed. In the middle of the week the snow fell to about one and a half feet, which was very good because all the slopes could be used. We had six two-hour lessons in the afternoon so became able to master the slopes.

The village of Pamperovo was entirely made up of hotels, so we did not see much of the Bulgarian way of life. But we did enjoy a traditional Bulgarian meal. When we were at the top of the mountain we could see the Greek range of mountains of the Rindus Range, when the weather was good, which it was usually.

It took us from 1.30 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. to get back to Gatwick.

Over all the holiday was a great success.

Frances Dike.

## SKI-ING 1980

The first ski-ing trip of 1980 was to Cauterets in the Pyrenees in the south of France. We left Luton airport early on Wednesday, 9th January, and arrived at the Hotel de France in time for lunch.

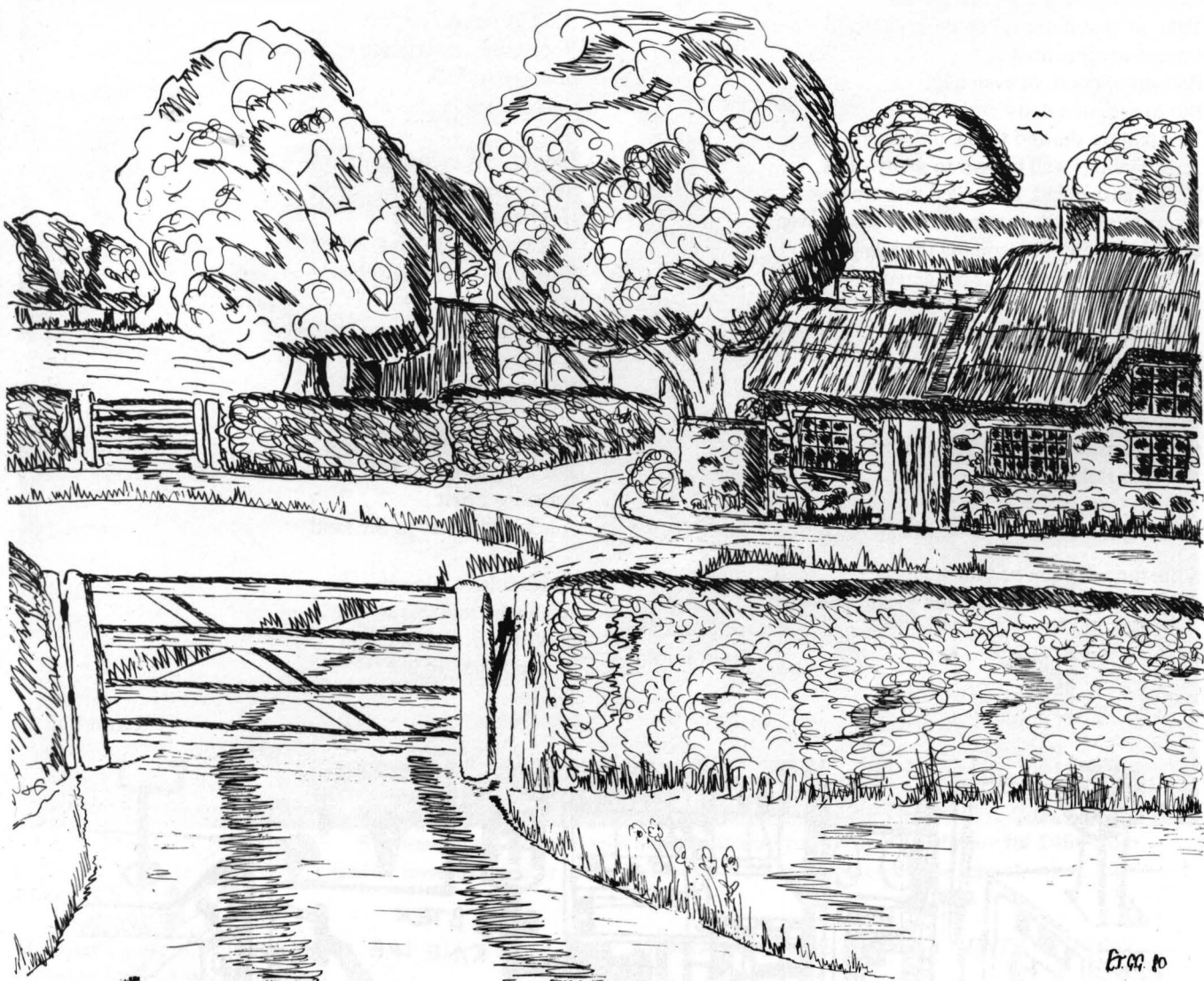
Although there was very little snow in the village, there was plenty further up on the mountains. There was also plenty of sunshine with fantastic views in every direction. From one point you could see the Spanish mountains, but they looked much the same as the French.

We left, after a very tiring week, on the morning of Wednesday, 16th January, some of us with a hint of a suntan, sad to leave but I think, glad of the thought of a rest.

Emma Beath.



October 1980



Ex. 10

E. Garnier 3B.

### WHY US?

Why are we here?  
 Why us?  
 Why now?  
 I don't know where, why, what or how!  
 It seems so strange that I should be me  
 Why should we smell, hear or see?  
 Why do we look like what we do?  
 Why don't you look like me?  
 And I look like you?  
 But when we die the time will tell  
 Whether in Heaven or in Hell!!

Andrea Herbert 3B

### NIGHT

Night is exciting  
 Night is spooky  
 As the eerie stars flicker with fright.  
 The moon disappears  
 Behind the clouds  
 As the church-yard darkens  
 And the tree boughs shake.  
 The owl screeches with its powerful scream  
 and everything shivers with fear.  
 But soon everything will be silent  
 For dawn is coming near.

Charlotte Bland 1A

## DEATH – AN HONOUR?

The picture, suspended on the wall,  
Told me that indeed, I could imagine,  
I could imagine images,  
Perhaps of good, or even bad.  
But images of a deity enshrined.  
This picture showed to the onlookers  
A man who is well known to many of us.  
He was suspended, no, nailed to a cross.  
On scrutinizing the background, I saw heaven,  
Or maybe hell – welcoming the scene,  
And, with open eyes, I considered.  
I considered that art is beautiful,  
Yet death is an honour.  
An honour we only experience once  
But see coming and feel uplifting us.

Jonathan Coleman

(Written after studying "The Christ of Gala" by  
Salvador Dali.)

### Postscript:

Sometimes I think of you –  
And sometimes of cheese and pickle sandwiches.

Jonathan Coleman  
Sixth Form.

## BIG JOE

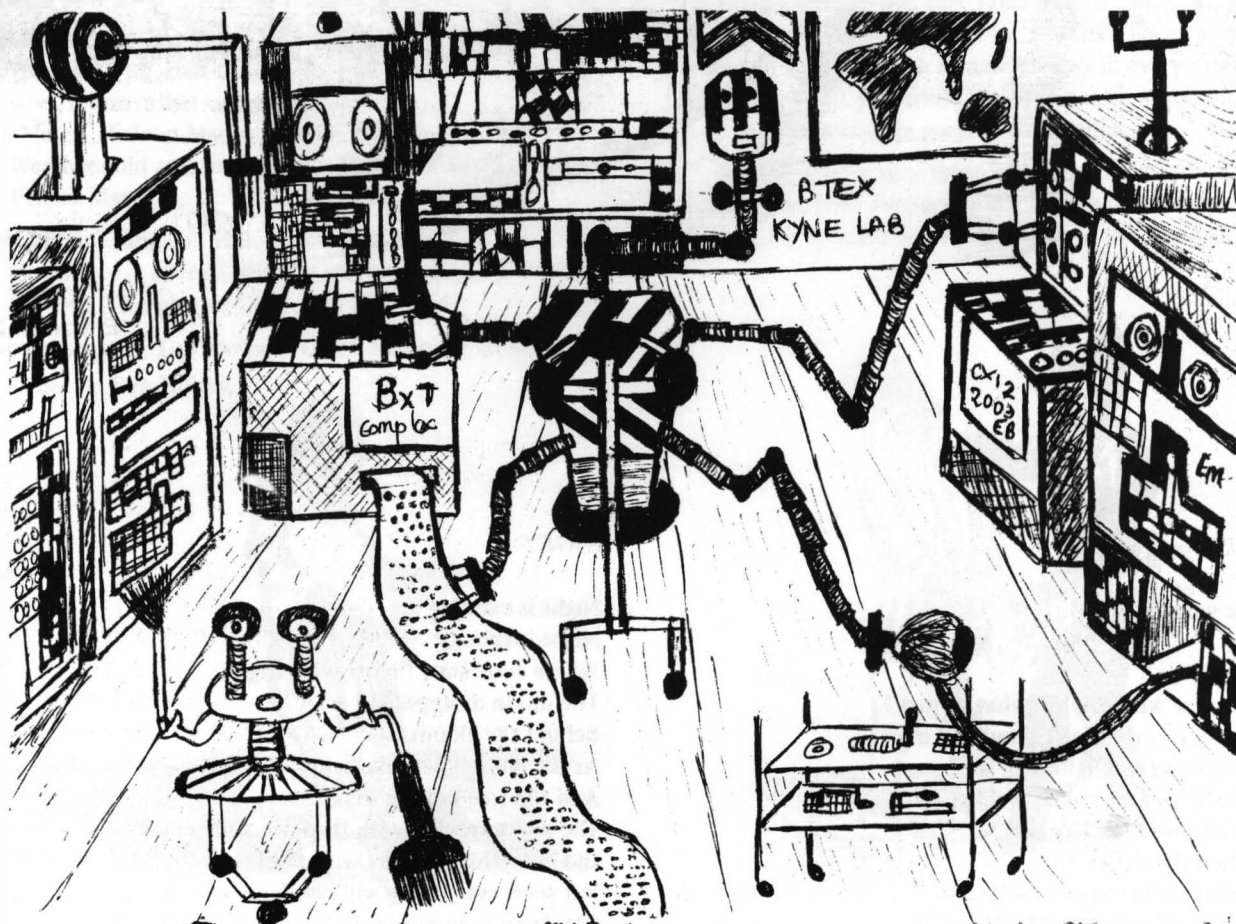
The sun was setting in  
the West when Big Joe  
Rode on in, he is going  
to make trouble boy  
so hide over in that bin.

His gun was in his hand,  
his hat was on his head,  
He got off his horse  
And stood there on the sand.  
I shouted at him harshly  
"Get on your horse, ride out of here  
To where you durn well belong."

He threw his gun up  
In the air, and  
Caught it in his hand  
But I happened to pull  
my trigger first  
And he lay there in the sand

So let this be a lesson  
to all who saw this so  
don't try to be too clever  
or you'll end up like  
Big Joe.

Kerrin Bull 2A



Adrian Sestini 5th Form





**PROJECT RESPONSE:** — Representatives of the Social Services Committee receiving a cheque for £450 from NAT-WEST BANK towards the cost of Social Service Work undertaken by the school.

#### *LIMERICK*

My sister's most mischievous kitten  
Pulled to pieces a woollen mitten  
Got covered in wool  
Then got kicked by a mule  
And now she's a black and blue kitten.

Anon 2nd year.

#### *AN AUTUMN POEM*

The leaves are falling off the oak,  
As the wind briskly knocks them down,  
"Oh, woe is me for I lost my leaves,  
Soon I'll be covered with snow".  
"Ha Ha" said the wind, "Ha, Ha, Ha, Ha,  
You'll feel a lot of me,  
I'll blow through your branches,  
I'll blow off more leaves, you'll  
Soon be a bare oak tree".  
"Snow will be falling in a matter of time,"  
The willow said quite sadly,  
"For I am the easiest for knocking off leaves,"  
"Oh blow!" said the spider, "You've knocked down my web,  
But I'm sure I'll find a sheltered place".

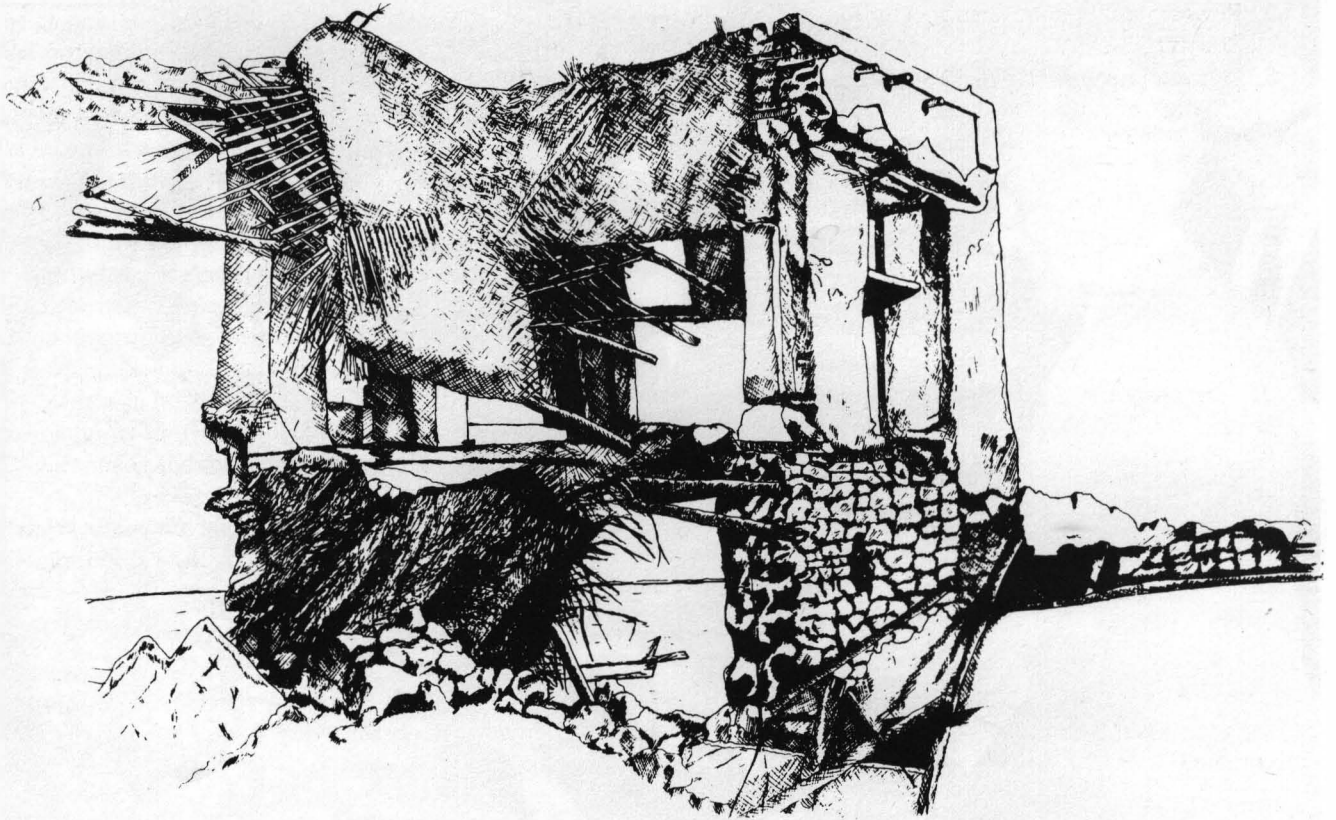
Carla Todd 1B

#### *SIBFORD SCHOOL'S CROSS COUNTRY COURSE*

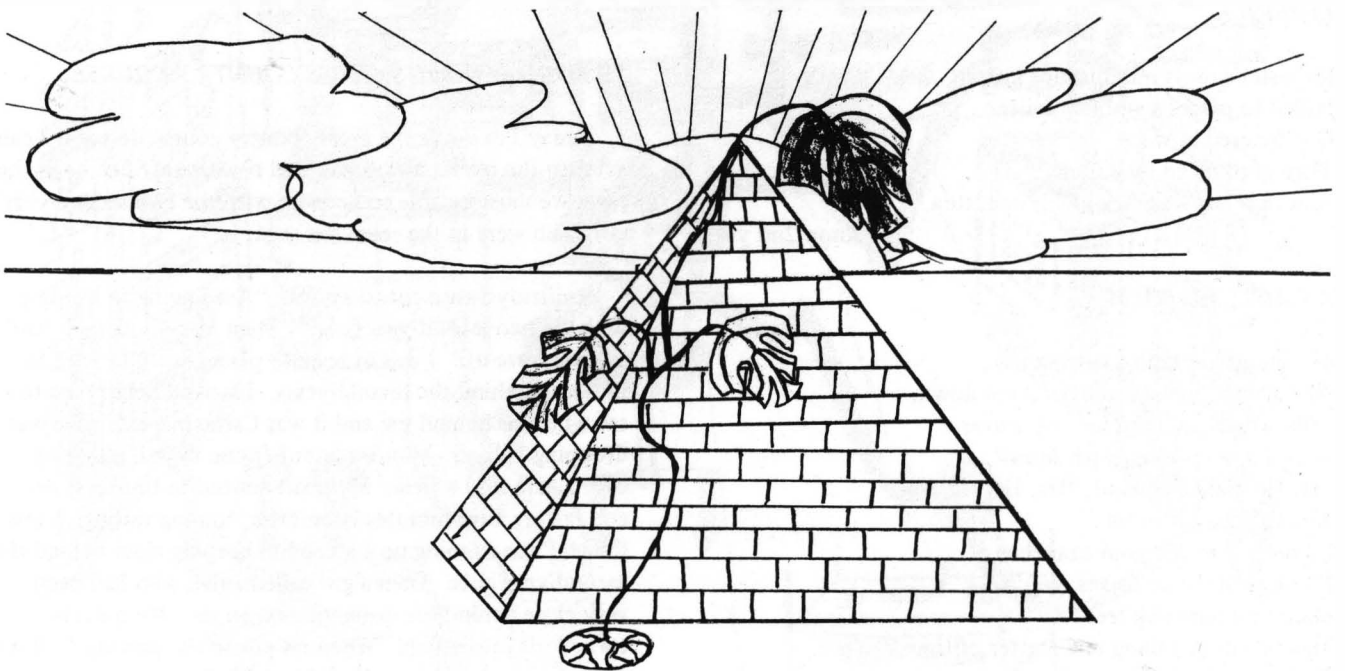
Today I'm doing the cross country course, to see if I can get into the team. Mrs. Lynk said if we wanted to be in the team we must be able to keep up with the two second-year girls who were in the team last year.

Suddenly I thought to myself, "Am I going to keep up with the two second-year girls?" Then Mrs. Lynk said "Go", and we were off. I was in seventh place, but I decided to move up behind the second-years. I looked behind me to see who was behind me and it was Carla, but sadly she was dropping behind. Minutes later I found myself climbing over a gate into a field. My heart started to thump faster and faster. Five minutes later, after running through a few fields, I was running up a steep hill keeping close behind the second-year girls. Then a girl called Julie, who had been very close behind me came up next to me. We quickly turned off into a field. When we got to the playing field we started to sprint across the field and Julie overtook me and beat me, but not by much. So I came in fourth place and not including the second years I came second out of the first years. Mrs. Lynk gave us a merit mark each.

Sally Pack 1B



Sarah Chandler 6th Form



Jane Harper 3rd Year

## FOG IN HARWICH HARBOUR

As our little motor-sailing boat pushes out of the Orwell, a crawling sea fog plunges into us, immediately dulling all our senses: sounds ebbed and flowed like the tide as the fog thickened and thinned; vision stunted to a hundred metres of drifting vapour all around. Clothes dampened and drop-lets of water beading on our skin as the wet blanket rolled around us. The clean smoke swirled into our faces and the wind disappeared as if feeling humbled by the fog and standing aside. Our meagre sails flap to stillness and the only sound is the engine droning and the suddenly smooth, swelling sea slurping against us. A fog horn starts groaning across the harbour and we start ours in reply.

Suddenly a green buoy appears to starboard, its winking light flashing. I hastily turn the boat to port of it to keep out of the deep water channel which large ships enter by. A terrifyingly close white wall suddenly surges past, as if a thickening of the fog. It stretched to either side into the fog and rose away above our heads. I look up and see bobbing black heads: the heads of passengers peering down at us. The metal wall continues sliding past and the name appears in Danish. As the stern of the passenger liner fades away and the thud of its engines are abruptly cut off by the fog, its backwash, a continuous swell of water, lifts our tiny craft high up before letting it roll down the other side; the second wave, as high as our boom, forces itself under us; we ride proudly for a second before toppling steeply down the other side. More waves of the backwash lift us; as if a huge pebble had been dropped in the harbour: causing ripples to expand from its point of contact.

We steer well away from the channel. A fog-filled ship's horn blares from all around us, but we see nothing. Startlingly, a dredge is surging broadside on to us. We swing away to its port and watch it grunt away towards the safety of the river; away from the treacherous clutches of the fog and bustling harbour.

At last the fog is thinning as we flee from the haven, we plunge into the refreshing waves of the North Sea, and are startled at the closeness of other yachts who quickly strain under their sails and skim away. We gather speed in the relieved breath of the wind and I look back to see some dozen ships, one behind the other, swinging into the foggy harbour and disappearing. The fog seeming to devour them.

We escape Harwich harbour intact, leaving it gladly behind.

Ian Buffery 4A

## NOT SUNDAY AGAIN

Sibford is a place that you make. It can either be a combination of bleak buildings, work and listless weekends, or it can be full of noise, laughter, peaceful moments, snow-ball fights and hot lazy summers.

It is quite an individual affair, we can choose to be bored or not. Hops are places where you can throw your social side into the open. If you want to see, you will find taste in fashion, music and find the real you.

New clubs are being brought out and arranged, cooking cycling, ballet. Maybe gardening, canoeing and a project on painting your own art on old walls. You can join the social services, work 'Duke of Edinburgh', and we have a lush countryside surrounding us, a swimming pool and tennis courts. Nearly every day of the week is full of clubs for sports.

In Summer, the field is littered with groups of people clad in jeans and T-shirts, the girls' garden is occupied by sunbathers, people go for walks in groups, free swims are taken. In Winter we make gigantic snowballs, have snowball fights, and drink hot soup round our massive bonfire. Films are arranged for us. We can go on Gymnastic trips. You can choose whether to see these things or not, but they're all here.

Sibford is what you make it.

Alison Farr 4A

## THE GRAVEYARD

As the mist closes in on the deserted graveyard  
The trees sigh and shake their leafy boughs.  
Nothing is here  
Everything is dead and gone.  
Overgrown and forlorn,  
Silence reigns.  
The birds sing little in this sad place.  
The whistling wind blows softly through the rustling trees,  
It makes a mournful, haunting sound.  
The solitary gravestones grey and old stand around,  
Ivy slowly creeps over them.  
The mist silently moves closer over the damp as night comes.  
A pale moon shines on the desolated church.  
An owl screeches loudly in the night,  
It flies on invisible wings to the yew tree.  
The night wears on spookily.  
The dark shadows play on the walls of the ancient church.  
Then silently the moon disappears,  
The stars once twinkling shine no more, blown out like  
candles.  
Dawn is here and the sun rises with golden rays shining  
brightly.

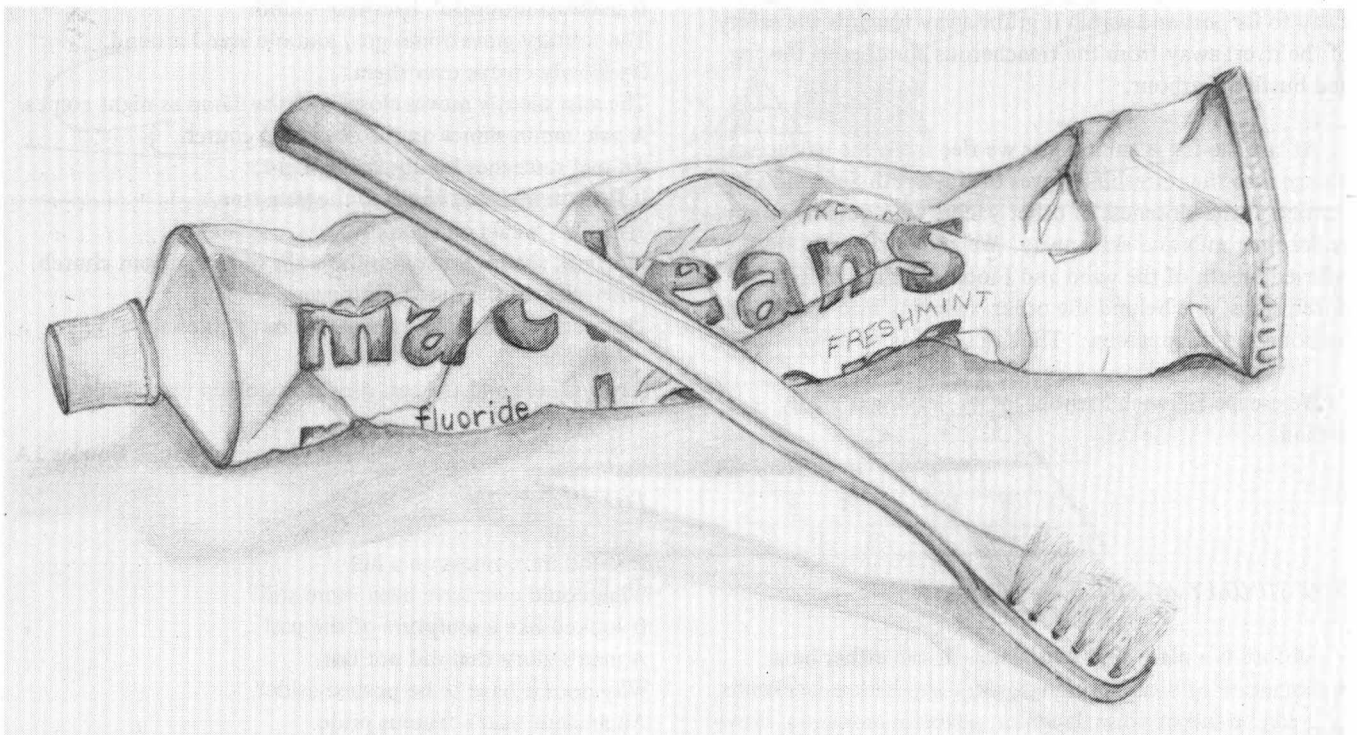
Julie Bowles 1A

## THE OLD RUIN

It stood motionless on a hill  
What could ever have been more still?  
It looked like a sculpture of the past  
A man's glory that did not last.  
Why does it have to be pushed aside?  
An ancient man's famous pride.

Shireen Fakhro 1A





Jane Minchin 6th Form



Side Table by Peter Doney  
Prize Winner at EICDT Exhibition

### *THE OWL'S VICTORY*

The owl is flying  
after its prey  
swooping, diving  
Till dead it lay.  
Cold in the dark the poor mouse lay  
Until the owl took it away.  
Victory, Victory, Victory, he cried,  
Death to any mouse in the earth who lies.

He sleeps through the day  
In bed he lies  
But at night he starts  
And begins to dart  
At any passing rat.  
He kills it with a piercing claw  
Victory, Victory, Victory, he cried  
Death to any mouse in the earth who lies.

Caroline Foster 1A

### *MY WOODEN RADIO-CONTROLLED BOAT*

This boat was made in my leisure time in the Hobbies Room of Lister Boys House. It took me nearly two terms to make. It was not just a matter of assembling all the parts like in a plastic kit. All the joints, slots and grooves had to be filed and scraped in order to form a strong and neat fit. The deck gunwales had to be laminated to make extra strength; the stern had to be sanded and filed to get a rounded shape.

The decks were made from thin sheets of plywood which were sanded on the top. I had to put two coats of varnish on the planks. The bottom of the boat was dark blue; I put white on the sides then varnished over it.

I also added a radio control unit, then last of all I added a motor.

Martin Yeomans 4B

### *THE LAST I SAW OF HIM*

I waited outside the door of my grandfather's room. From inside I could hear nothing except a murmur of voices and a buzzing inside my ears. It seemed that I would be sitting there forever, just waiting. The room was dark except for a crack of light appearing through the shutters. The dust caught in the ray made me feel drowsy. I sleepily gazed round the room. In one dark corner there stood an old butter churn, partially covered by cobwebs, and next to it was an old cupboard, made of solid oak, with tiny figures of centaurs and satyrs carved in. A rocking chair was next to the cupboard. The bench I was sitting on was hard and I was getting stiff.

A door opened, to my left, with a groan, and out came a familiar figure. It was my grandma. She looked towards me and nodded, with a tear in her eye. I got up slowly, with an ache in my arms and back from sitting still so long. I walked to the door, which was slightly ajar and quietly pushed it open. I walked through and softly pushed the door to. I turned and crept to the bedside, where an old chair was. I sat down and looked at my grandfather. He looked so old and bent. His soft, brown eyes were closed, his wrinkled cheek and furrowed forehead, worn with age.

He opened his eyes, and looked at me, muttering some-words which I could not define. He stretched out his hand feebly and I placed my hand in his. He smiled and then flopped back onto the pillow.

After a while he was sleeping, peacefully for once, so I got up and straightened his sheets and blankets, and stood looking at him, remembering all the things he had done. He was so kind to everyone and everything, but his time was coming to an end. I left him, and walked slowly away, down the endless corridor.

Tina Fox 4A

### *A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NAPOLEONIC BIT OF COAL, OR, IN THE PIT*

Being a bit of coal ain't much fun.  
Take me, for instance — I've been sitting in this dingy pit for thousands of years and the miners have only just got to me.

Look out — bang! I've just got hacked out of the coal face and thrown onto a wagon. A little boy of not more than eight then laboriously pulled me up to the surface.

There I was, shovelled on to the back of a cart. "It's changed a lot since I was up here last," I thought to myself. Mind you, that was thousands of years ago when I was a bit of a tree.

Along the back streets I went until I arrived at a mill. There I was put on a pile of a fellow coal. I stayed there for quite a long time and I was just starting to make friends with some other coal when a man came and shovelled me onto a furnace. "The cheek of it," I thought, "and to think I've waited ten thousand years for this!"

Jonathan Wallis 3C

### THE TRAVELLER

I am just a traveller,  
I have wandered the globe,  
Seen the tall skyscrapers,  
And the dusty buffalo.

I've watched the elephant die,  
Heard the jackal cry,  
Met a Chinese panda,  
Been chased by an English gander.

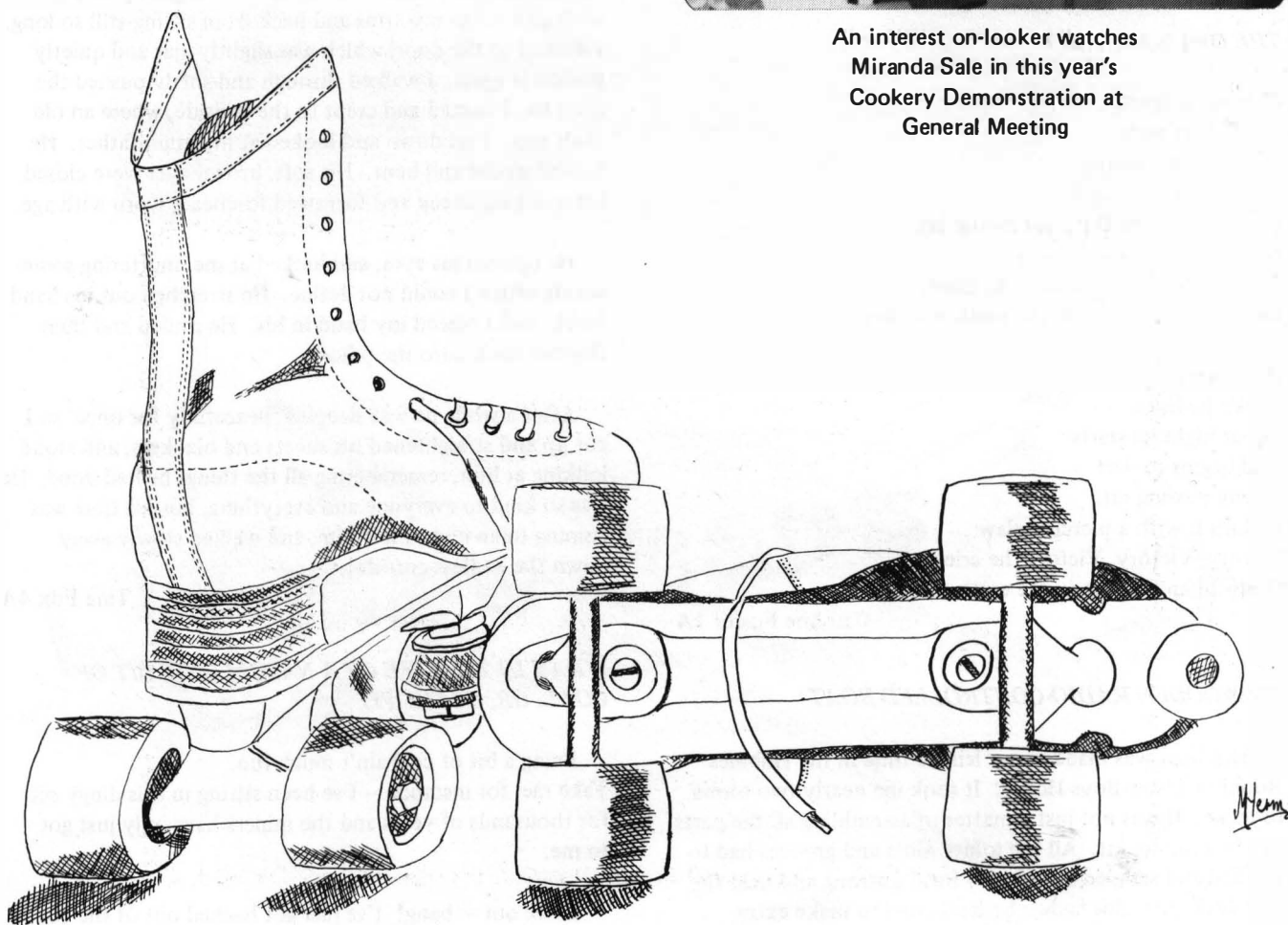
Slept under the stars,  
Faced the charging rhino,  
Through the bush I have battled,  
Swam rivers for my life.

Now I must go,  
Continue my travels,  
Till my travels end,  
Where they began.

David Nicholas 2C



An interest on-looker watches  
Miranda Sale in this year's  
Cookery Demonstration at  
General Meeting



Michael Herm 5th Form



## **SOLITUDE**

I left the grey building —  
My home  
And walked along  
The grubby pavement,  
Littered with papers  
Full of tales of murder  
And imprisonment.  
The city is my prison.  
I hate its dullness.  
I stand waiting  
And notice a red leaf  
Clinging desperately  
To the now barren tree.  
A breeze knocks it  
And it falls  
To the road.  
I watch it  
Trying to lie beautifully  
Amongst the litter.  
The bus comes.  
A large black tyre mark  
Crushes its beauty.  
I sit on the bus  
And continue on my way  
Leaving the leaf  
With the rest of the litter  
That clutters my mind.

Amanda Endersby 5A

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### **SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION**

#### **NOTICE TO SCHOOL LEAVERS**

There is no automatic entitlement to membership.  
Only by becoming a member and booking  
will it be possible for you to come to  
Reunions in the future.

Application for membership can be made to the Membership Secretary  
whose address is shown on page 25 or to me at the address below.

Officers of the Association will be visiting the school in summer  
term to tell you about the Association and enrol new members.

Philip Manasseh,  
Orchard Lea,  
Combe,  
Oxford OX7 2NH  
Hon. Gen. Sec.

## SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

*PRESIDENT 1980:* Michael Finch

*President 1981* Hugh Maw

*Vice-President 1981* Marjorie Fielding

<i>General Secretary</i> (to 31.12.81)	Philip G. Manasseh, Orchard Lea, Coombe, Oxford 099389-360
<i>Treasurer</i> (to 31.12.83)	John Miller Sibford School, Banbury, Oxon.
<i>Ass. Treasurer/Membership Secretary</i> (to 31.12.83)	Grace Beckerlegge, 'Standswell', Kempsford Road, Whelford, Fairford, Glos. GL7 4DZ 0285-712-069
<i>Reunion Secretary</i> (to 31.12.83)	Simon Barfoot, Cedar Cottage, 147 Harborough Road, Kingsthorpe, Northants.
<i>Ass. Reunion Secretary</i> (to 31.12.83)	Russell Steed, 37 High Brink Road, Coleshill, Nr. Birmingham B46 1BH 0675-62543
<i>Magazine Editor</i> (to 31.12.83)	Margaret Fairmington, 140 Fellows Road, London W3
<i>Local Branch Secretaries</i> Midland	Irene Smith, 37 Redditch Road, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, Worcs. Bromsgrove 31857

London

*School Committee  
Representatives*

*Representative from  
Friends of Sibford  
Committee*

*Representatives from  
School Staff  
General Committee Members*  
to 31.12.81  
to 31.12.82  
to 31.12.83

*Hon. Auditor*

ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS TO:  
*Subscriptions  
Change of address  
Births, Deaths, Marriages*

*Material for Magazine*  
(incl. photographs and  
advertising matter)

David Marks  
7, Court Close, St. John's  
Wood Park, London NW8  
& Margaret Fairmington  
Lilian D. Ward (to 31.12.81)  
Chichester 512963  
Michael Finch (to 31.12.81)  
05646-3287

Frank Rollet  
Grassholm, Sibford  
Gower, Oxon.  
029578 309  
Anne Muir and Stuart Hedley

David Marks and Simon  
Everest  
Simon Barfoot and Ian Wright  
Nicholas Bennett and  
Helen C. Smith  
Bernard Howell Jones

Treasurer as stated  
Assistant Treasurer  
Margaret Le Mare  
Shepherds Knoll,  
Burdrop.  
Sibford Gower  
Editor

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## SOSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 23.8.80 at 3.30 p.m. in the Old Scholars Room. 54 attending. Michael Finch, President in the Chair.

In our silence before the meeting we remembered with thanks the lives of Eric Quinton and Jonathan Fairn.

Greetings were received from John and Lilian Ward, Alice Green, Michael Van Blankenstein, Brian Baldwin (telegram from Germany), Ivano and Eleri Ricci.

The President welcomed to the meeting Jim Graham the new Headmaster and Anne Muir the Deputy Head.

1. *The Minutes* of the Annual General Meeting of 1979, having been printed in the magazine were taken as read, unanimously adopted and signed by the President.

2. *Matters Arising* — None.

3. *General Secretary's Report*.

With membership around the 600 mark, we feel the Association continues in good health. We have again been able to recruit 29 school leavers and welcome them all to the association. On a serious note the secretary regretted having to report bad behaviour at the one day reunion, as a result of which the Committee in consultation with School staff have decided to curtail certain of the planned programme for 1981. In addition the following points were made:

1. Programmes are to be sent only to members in the future, not to all leavers as at present.
2. Clearer rallying points to define boundaries at the start of the proceedings.
3. Badges to be encouraged. All committee members to be identifiable.
4. Meal tickets to be issued when booking.
5. The Day reunion to finish at 6.30 in 1981.
6. Closer liaison between the secretary, president, and the headmaster and deputy head.

The Secretary stressed the point that just because one has been a pupil at the School, does not mean automatic entitlement to come back, the school after all is private and as such its officers are perfectly entitled to see the law enforced if necessary. This would be unfortunate but your committee feel that anyone joining the association should be aware of the situation; remember that we old scholars are guests of the school, and should behave as such. I regret very much having to ask the editor to print this concern, I hope it will suffice.

### BRANCH REPORTS

Good news comes from the Midlands. A new years party at Selly Oak meeting house attracted some 40 old scholars, who also later enjoyed a visit to Redditch and the play produced by Graham Trout. In mid July 25 Old Scholars met at Bill and Joy Ranns house near Bromsberrow and a meeting (lunch party) is planned to Jeanne Southams on September 20th.

The London branch appears to be suffering from Dutch

Elm, only 11 turned up the A.G.M. in April. Your President has called a meeting this week-end to discuss its future. However we have heard of a Cornish Meeting. Arthur Harrison recently invited Old Scholars to his home in Redruth and we are told that 15 arrived. Well done Arthur!

Turning to the joint Sibford School and Old Scholars Magazine I'm sure you will agree that once again it was excellent and that our thanks go to Philip Beckerlegge for his hard work and also to the school, for not only have they provided some outstanding material, but they have also helped towards production costs.

Your committee is sustained and helped in various ways, not the least by the co-operation from all those at the School who make rooms available, preparing for this week-end, and the day reunion and we take this opportunity of thanking them now, and of course all those unofficial refreshments and cups of tea in and around the premises.

As you know this is a year for electing some of the main committee officers. I would personally like to thank all the committee for their attendance at meetings, sometimes in the depth of winter, and there is one committee member I would like to particularly mention. He has decided to take a well earned rest or at least a partial rest, as will be revealed later. He quietly works away in the background, always available fetching and carrying all our needs, I refer of course to Russell Steed. We have a small token of our appreciation which we would like to give at this point. (Loud applause followed). Thank you Russell.

Finally, you will know by now that Kenneth Greaves has retired as Headmaster. Both he and Robin have done much for the school and we hope to complete donations this week-end and make a presentation at the presidential dinner. We would also like to mark the retirement of Jim Shields, after 25 years of dedicated service to the School in a similar manner. We feel sure you would also like to endorse our suggestion that they all be made Honorary Life Members. (This loudly applauded by the meeting).

### 4. *Accounts*.

Friends,

The accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1979, are before you, and I am pleased to inform you that the Association had a successful year. I will go through the accounts page by page and will then answer any questions.

#### *Page 1. Balance Sheet.*

The account shows assets of £3937 made up mainly from Life Membership Subscriptions of £2414 which are invested as per your rules. A schedule of these investments is shown on page four. Cash at bank of £1013 is made up as follows; £810 on Deposit Account and £203 on Current Account.

#### *Page 2. Income and Expenditure Account.*

A surplus of £493 was achieved for the year. A small profit was made on the reunion but the main source of income comes from subscription and donation. The magazine is a very expensive item, although the cost has been reduced by additional income from advertising. Even so,



with the cost of postage added on, it remains the main part of our expenditure.

#### *Page 3.*

This statement shows the position of the Leslie Bailly Memorial Fund. As agreed a sum of £20.00 per annum is donated to the account from the general funds.

#### *Page 4.*

A schedule of the Association investments is shown. These investments have been looked at by our bankers, Lloyds Bank Limited, who have written to the treasurer expressing their satisfaction with the investments and their yield.

The treasurer feels that although the finances of the Association are at present fairly satisfactory, the position could be improved considerably. At present, according to the register of membership subscriptions a sum over £900 is outstanding. In a lot of cases bankers orders have not been amended and several members, although continuing to receive the magazine have not renewed their subscription. Of the total membership of 656, 184 are covered by Life Membership and 117 pay a reduced subscription covering a period of three to ten years. The present subscription is £4.00 of which £1.00 goes towards the cost of producing and posting the magazine. This leaves £3.00 to cover any other expenditure of the Association and to finance gifts to the school, which is one of the prime purposes of the Association. Your committee will be looking at the question of subscriptions and other ways of improving its income. The treasurer does, however, make a special plea to all members to pay their subscriptions on time, and hopes that a lot of the £900 outstanding in subscriptions will be paid, £500 of which refers to this current year. To date only £540 has been received via subscriptions of which £165 refers to this year's school leavers. Our present membership of full paying members would be approximately 225, bringing in £900 per annum approximately.

Arthur Harrison hoped we would give the treasurer our full support. The meeting agreed to the adoption of the accounts and John Miller was warmly thanked for his report and the clarity and promptness with which he had produced the audited accounts. The meeting also wished to record its thanks to Brian White for auditing them.

5. *Proposed change of rules*, there having first been a vote to obtain the necessary 2/3 majority (rule 12a).

#### *1. Increase in subscriptions. (Rule 4a)*

Following much discussion it was agreed that the rates shown below be effective from 1.1.81, that the order in which they appear be altered as shown and that the following sentence be added . . . . .

"Bearing in mind the current inflation rate these subscriptions are expected to increase accordingly."

Members were assured that any change in subscription rates would not become automatic as a result of adding this last sentence. Any proposed increase will still need approval by members or the A.G.M.

- i) All ordinary members £6.00 per annum.

- ii) Life membership £100.
  - iii) Married couples jointly £8.00 per annum.
  - iv) Scholars leaving school, for the year in which they leave, and for the following year, £1.00 and thereafter £6.00 per annum. Alternatively, for the year in which they leave and the following 3 years £9.00 which could be paid by parents with the last school fees.
- Proposal by the Committee to Amend Rules.

#### **6 GENERAL COMMITTEE**

- (b) Delete 'Assistant Treasurer' and 'Membership Secretary' and replace with 'Membership/Assistant Treasurer'.

Add 'Deputy Head' to the list of Committee Members.

#### **7 OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**

- (b) "The General Secretary and other Officers shall be appointed for a three year period at an Annual General Meeting. These appointments should overlap each other to ensure continuity." . . . . . Remainder of rule as before.
- (e) "The Committee shall nominate a recent leaver to serve as an ordinary member on the Committee for a period of three years following the next 31 December.

The nomination shall be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting" . . . . . Remainder of rule as before.

With a show of hands, 40 for, 1 against and 5 abstentions, the above rules and rates were adopted.

#### *6. School Committee Representatives Report.*

In her absence the report was read by the Secretary. Lilian Ward was thanked for her most informative and enjoyable report. Vera Rollett added the meetings thanks to Michael and Lilian for their work on the committee.

#### *7. The Headmasters Report*

Was read by Anne Muir, who was warmly thanked by the meeting.

#### *8. Election of Officers.*

The President thanked the retiring officers, Margaret Fairington and Russell Steed, Lucinda Poulton and Jeanne Southam, all were warmly applauded by the meeting.

Moving on to the elections the President drew the meetings attention to the need for staggering the appointments of officers to give a more reasonable overlap. The meeting then agreed to the following elections.

- 1. General Secretary, Paul Frampton (from 1.1.82 to 31.12.84) the intervening period to be covered by the present post holder.
- 2. Treasurer, John Miller to 31.12.83.
- 3. Assistant Treasurer/Membership Secretary, Grace Beckerlegge to 31.12.83.
- 4. Reunion Secretary, Simon Barfoot to 31.12.83.
- 5. Assistant Reunion Secretary, Russell Steed to 31.12.83
- 6. Magazine Editor, Margaret Fairington to 31.12.83.

This election was as a result of a paper ballot Fairington/Rollett 29 to 20 votes.

7. Representatives from Friends of Sibford, Frank Rollett to 31.12.83.
8. Representatives from School Staff
9. General Committee Members,  
to 31.12.81. David Marks, Simon Everest.  
to 31.12.82 Paul Frampton, Ian Wright.  
to 31.12.83 Nicholas Bennett, Helen C. Smith.

9. *Election of President 1981 and Vice President*

The meeting warmly applauded the appointment of Hugh Maw as President for 1981 and Marjorie Fielding as Vice President.

10. The Secretary announces the following *Main Dates for 1981.*

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Saturday, November 1st | — Football Match.                               |
| Saturday, May 16th     | — Day Reunion.                                  |
| August, 29th—31st      | — Annual Reunion.                               |
| Committee Meetings     | — December, 7th 10.30 a.m.<br>— July 5th 2 p.m. |

11. *Any Other Business.*

The plight of the photograph album was discussed, the secretary has asked Nicholas Bennett to bring them up to date and he is willing to do this.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.28 p.m.

## UNDER THE TWO ELMS

### MIDLAND GROUP

We have had three gatherings this year. After recuperating from the Annual Re-union at Sibford at the end of August we waited until the new year when we had our Christmas party. This was very successful, it was well supported by 40 of us. Among those present were O.S. from Cirencester, Nailsea and London. We were particularly pleased to have Kenneth and Robin Greaves with us. Stan Ewan lead the party with games after we had had a splendid supper.

In March we went to Graham Trout's Gilbert and Sullivan production at Redditch. A very enjoyable evening.

Our summer event was once again at Bill and Joy Rann's house. Two of the O.S. (I can't think who they were! Ed.) got lost and had to phone for directions from the phone box at the bottom of the drive for directions.

Our next venture took us further afield. Nineteen of us travelled to Vaughan and Jeanne Southam's home in Nailsea. A happy occasion and once again a wonderful lunch and hospitality. Our sincere thanks to Vaughan and Jeanne. More refreshments before wending our various ways home.

This has been a really enjoyable year for the Midland Group. We hope that O.S. in the Midlands come and enjoy our New Year Party on January 31st 1981 at Selly Oak Meeting House. Ring Irene Smith for further details. We

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hope younger O.S. will come with their friends to enjoy this party.

I.S.

## NEWS FROM OLD SCHOLARS

Jim Sheehan writes from Queensland. he was at Sibford from 1953 to 1959. Then he went to Saffron Walden Friends School to do 'A' Levels. After graduating from the Camborne School of Mining he went to Australia in 1966. He spent firstly two years in an iron ore mine in South Australia then six years in a similar mine in Tasmania. In 1975 he moved to Queensland with his wife (ex Camborne) his son John and daughter Ruth. He is presently Mine Superintendent in charge of mining operations in a nickel mine.

He lives in one of Australia's more beautiful mining towns with a population of 600, surrounded by large cattle stations. The mine is opencast and he assures us that they pay a great deal of attention to restoring the land and environment after they have dug their great holes. The climate is subtropical — a change from the wind and rain of Tasmania's west coast, to say nothing of winter on the Hill, Sibford.

His only contact recently has been Mirian Guest who looked after them very well at Holmby House.

Linda Eaton (nee Watkins) writes from Workington, was at Sibford 1919 to 1923. She bemoans the fact that she is now not able to visit Sibford but she still enjoys reading about the old school and seeing occasional photographs of her old friends. Her memories are very happy ones, under the Headship of the Harrods with teachers Roland Herbert, Mr Thorpe and Mr Parkin. Her interest in current affairs stems from their teaching. Although she is 72 years old she still does certain voluntary work. She was a Justice of the Peace for 15 years. When she sees the opportunities now offered to today's children she thinks back to the cold winters, when the pipes broke down and they had to run round the boy's playground to keep warm, and the kitchen had to reheat old bread. She also remembers the long pig drives through the wonderful Cotswold countryside; the hillsides covered with snow drops which they collected and sent home in shoe boxes: gathering blackberries and eating them in blackberry and apple pies at the Sunday lunchtimes after returning from Meeting; Sunday evening meetings in the Gym. She ends by saying it was a very rich period in her life and what she learned there has remained with her all her life.



Hugh Maw

#### PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

My first eight years were spent in India where I was born of Quaker missionary parents. My education was truly Quaker, first at the Downs school and then Leighton Park. The influence and example of the staff have never been forgotten. They encouraged my aims of becoming a teacher, be it in P.E. or in Biology. Though a poor examinee I did manage to gain a place at Bristol University in 1938. A year later war was declared which changed all our lives.

After much heart searching I decided to be a Conscientious Objector. On call-up in 1940 I was given complete exemption from military service. I offered my services as a firewatcher and firefighter, during the heavy raids on Bristol. Because I was a science student I was expected to act as orderly in the Hospital Theatre. I also helped to look after Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany and Austria in remote Wales. I was twice arrested as a German spy! After completing my degree I was fortunate to be given a Teaching Practice term at Sidcot. An unexpected vacancy occurred and I was taken on full time. Here I met the girl I was to marry, Daphne Southall.

With the end of the war, I joined the Friends Relief Service and was posted to Germany with the F.R.S. which was to take over from the F.A.U. I had the opportunity of going to the Young Friends World Conference in the U.S.A. in 1947 and returned to Germany for a period of service with the Cologne Team. Finally I was accepted for an advanced course at Birmingham University in Child Psychology. After a period at Kingswood Approved School I was house master at two other boarding schools before being appointed Head of Sibford. We moved into Holly House with our two boys, David and Richard, and in Holly House Christine was born.

All this was excellent preparation for Teacher-Training, first at Dudley and in 1967 in the City of Birmingham College of Education. I later became Principle Lecturer to the one year in-service teachers in a course in School Counselling. I helped to organise the Student Counselling Service and set up the Opendoor Youth Counselling Service. In 1977 the college was reorganised and we were pitched into a Polytechnic. I was offered and accepted early retirement in 1979.

You will see how fortunate I have been with at least nine lives. The way has not always been clear but I have been conscious of the strong sense of guidance and the strong love and support of my wife, family and many friends.

The family share with me the honour, joy and pleasure you have given us by choosing me as your President for 1981. I look forward particularly to meeting, not only those O.S. of my short term at Sibford 1956-62 but also the oldest and youngest of you. May we get together and find as many ways as possible of helping and serving the school through the next really testing and challenging decade.

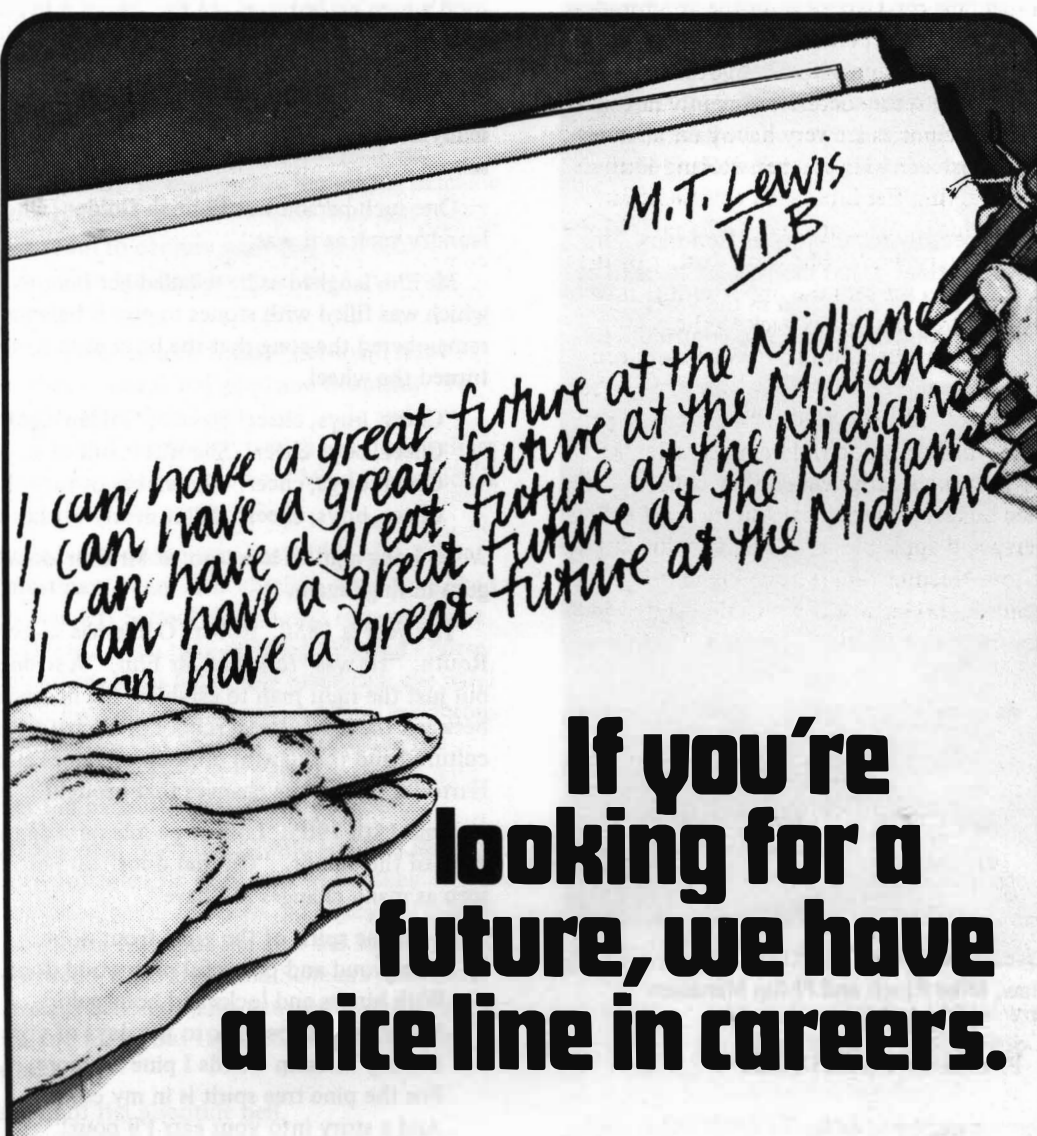
Hugh Maw.  
October 1980

FROM Kenneth C. Greaves.

Manor Farm House,  
Yealand Conyers,  
Near Carnforth,  
Lancs. LA5 9SJ.

Dear Old Scholars,

I hope I may take a few lines of the magazine to send you a brief but very sincere message of thanks. Thank you for your support and the friendliness that you unfailingly



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showed to Robin and me throughout our time at Sibford. We appreciated it. Thank you particularly for the kind words and the handsome cheque with which you marked our retirement. We plan to use the money mainly in connexion with our leisure-time pursuits and we have already spent some of it on bird-watching and fell-walking equipment.

And thank you especially for making us Honorary Life Members of the Association. It has meant a lot to us to be honoured in this way, and we hope that in the years to come we may still have something useful to contribute to S.O.S.A. activities.

With good wishes to you all,  
Yours sincerely,  
Kenneth C. Greaves.



**WEIGHTY DISCUSSIONS:-**  
Hugh Maw, Mike Finch and Philip Manasseh

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

*delivered at the  
Presidential Dinner – August Reunion*

One of the world's great spiritual leaders, Mr Sibford Elm was sitting quietly reflecting on another academic year that had just slipped by. He had seen so many, he could hardly remember where it had all begun.

"Here we are again at another milestone, another anniversary" he mused, "What a fuss they made when they opened the new "Hill" buildings. Just like the Quakers to put on a show like that". His mind wandered back to the start of it all and the events that had led up to that historic day in 1930.

"What a funny thing to start a school for children whose parents had married outside of the Society and had been kicked out. Still those Quakers have always got their fingers into some pie or other". He looked at his growth rings, "Here we are, the 1840's. The hungry forties as they had been called. Very hard times". He remembered the very first Sibfordian, shy Lucy Endall, all of ten years old. And the first boy pupil William Harris. "What changes they would see if they could be here today". In those days the boys spent most of their time digging and cultivating the field at the back of the Manor. They grew much of the

food which helped to make the school independent from the hard times in the country as a whole. The girls spent their time making clothes and sewing and darning, "They did have a few lessons as well" remembered Mr Elm, "And many dedicated teachers and others who helped run the school".

One such person was Hannah Golden, who ran the laundry such as it was.

Mr Elm laughed as he recalled her famous mangle which was filled with stones to give it balance. He remembered the song that the boys used to sing as they turned the wheel.

"Cheer, boys, cheer! Hannah Golden's got a mangle  
Cheer, boys cheer! She fills it full of stones  
Cheer, boys, cheer! She makes us turn the handle  
Cheer, boys, cheer! Till it nearly breaks our bones

So Long ago! so long ago, as Mr Elm looked at his growth rings again.

The year is 1880. Robert Oddie has succeeded Richard Routh. "He was" reflected Mr Elm, "A strong disciplinarian but just the right man to establish the necessary changes between the agricultural school of Richard Routh and the cultured and thoughtful outlook of James and Mabel Harrod". And what changes that brought.

June 15th 1905. Lots of people outside the great front door of the Manor. "Oh that door" said Mr Elm, "He's seen as many changes as I have".

"I am the spirit of the great front door,  
The proud and powerful pine wood door,  
With hinges and locks and bolts galore,  
My life stretches back to the days of yore,  
For my Russian woods I pine no more,  
For the pine tree spirit is in my core,  
And a story into your ears I'll pour!"

Another tea had been laid out on the entrance hall. The door of the Committee room opened after many hours of weighty discussion and at times heated controversy. For the umpteenth time that year a group of educationists emerged. They had arrived in all directions by carrier cart, bicycles and horse drawn wagonettes. They had been in consultation with three government Inspectors and Charles Stansfield, Secretary of the Friends Education Committee. They had been considering the future of the School and had decided to run it on more practical lines. One of the Inspectors summed up their meeting. "Eliminate excessive book learning, halve the time spent on humanities, arithmetic and French, substitute hand and eye training thus developing initiative and encouraging creative energy. Open wide the door to Friends and others for a three to four year course from age eleven upwards, regardless of wealth and social position offering generous scholarships and bursaries where needed".

Theodore Neild, School Committee Chairman, said with a smile to one of the Inspectors who was an old Harrow boy, "You know, the old school tie is not the only key that will unlock the gates of the New Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land. The fate of our country lies in the

hands, not only of the elite sons of Eton and Harrow but in the hands of all its youth". A lady Inspector added to the theme, "Teach the boys and girls in their kitchens to make stews and sponge cakes and blackberry jam. Use the workshops for making meat safes, bread boards and beehives. In the gardens let them double dig and plant peas and potatoes. Let them learn to manipulate the sewing machine and learn in the laboratory the meaning of  $H_2O$  and  $H_2SO_4$  and in the crafts room to conjure with clay and bake in a home-made kiln. Then let them camp in the Cotswolds and practise these arts".

"Above all" spoke Theodore Neild, "Let them learn to make and love what is useful and good and beautiful. To do with their might what their hands find to do and to understand the ideals of the Society which has their welfare so deeply at heart. Let their motto be: "Mind that which is pure within you to lead you to God."

"What changes, what excitement" cried Mr Elm, "What a period that must have been. The children must have liked it for after they had left School they always returned once a year at Whitsuntide. Then they arrived in Warren's horse brake shooting past me at an incredible speed that the wind broke off some of my twigs and leaves. A happy boisterous crowd calling themselves Old Scholars. They made the entrance hall at the Manor look like a railway station with coats, hats, bags and parcels scattered everywhere".

The spirit of the great front door could recall to Mr Elm all of those happy, memorable weekends where they renewed acquaintance, gossiped about old times and talked with concern about the future of the dear old school with a desire to serve it well. When these Old Scholars weekends were over the present Scholarssadly returned to the ordinary routine of work and play. But the sadness and emptiness didn't last for long.

"I sing the spell of the noontide bell,  
When out from the classrooms they rushed pell mell,  
From sewing seeds, or digging a trench,  
From kitchen table and woodwork bench,  
From the lab where they joyfully made a stench,  
Many a lad and many a wench,  
All downed their tools, twas quite a wrench,  
But ten minutes later as I've heard tell,  
At the very first sōund of the dinner bell,  
Clean and tidy and rosy and well,  
On the simple fare they quickly fell,  
It satisfied hunger and thirst did quench,  
'Twas a 'table d'hote' as they say in French,  
Last scene of all that end's this long but happy year,  
Is sound of laughter and hilarious mirth,  
As boys from Paradise race down the road,  
For morning plunge and stories (true? in part!),  
Of midnight revelries and attic routs,  
Sans cuts, sans falls, sans tears, sans punishment.

Mr Elm swayed slightly as he looked again at his growth rings.

1928. A torrent of publicity. Great excitement; The old treacle factory was front-page news. Everybody who was anybody wanted to be in on the act. They were making



Hugh Maw leading Choral with  
Jean Yeoman at the Piano

a film called 'Sibford'. The building scheme shelved because of the Great War was again the subject of conferences and tea parties at the Manor.

The clarion call was "We must upward still and onward who would keep abreast of Truth". William Reason a retired and successful builder and later Mayor of Finsbury said "The old school wall is cracking. One day the school may slip into the valley. Let us build a new school on top of Windmill Hill".

A great lament went out, "Where is the money coming from". Morland Braithwaite stepped forward as the hero, following in the footsteps of his grandmother Martha Gillett, who had helped to fashion the school a hundred years before. "Why not make a film of school life and show it around the country as propaganda and collect the £22,000 needed. Then we can build a school to anticipate the needs of twenty or thirty years hence".

"Oh! what fun we all had", said Mr Elm, "They even used myself and my father across the road. He's not looking too good nowadays". What fun the children had dressing up in Victorian and Edwardian costume and seeing themselves on film for the very first time. Their chests stuck out with pride as they read newspaper reports depicting the

exploits of Morland and Leslie Baily and James Thorpe, as they toured the country with the film.

June 20th 1930. The new building has risen like a phoenix. At a packed G.M. it was officially opened by Dame Elizabeth Cadbury. Miss Philip, the lady Inspector said "I am glad that general education is shaking off the influence of the Universities and is including more craft work and so following Sibford and gradually catching up". Arthur Rowntree, Chairman of the Meeting commented, "It is the scholars and the people who live in the school that makes its traditions". Ronald Lloyd announced to thunderous applause that the school had been opened free of debt.

Mr Elm sighed, "So much has happened in the last fifty years, Why they even had Aladdin lamps to light the 'Hill' then. No electricity, No gas, and the water was pumped all the way from Hill Bottom. There was no Transit van no Sherpa minibus only Japhet the donkey. They celebrated the hundreth anniversary of the school whilst the rest of the world was smashing itself to pieces. Ah well! no doubt they'll be hatching up some new ideas now they've got this chap from Bootham".

And so friends, here we stand at another crossroad in Sibford's history, just as Arthur Rowntree said fifty years ago we are not celebrating the anniversary of just a building but that of people who had ideals and the Godly belief that they could work. Those ideals of 1880, 1905 and 1930 are

just as relevant today and although knowledge, medicine technology is progressing at an unparalleled rate it is important that we don't lose sight of basics. The skilled worker; the plane and the lathe; the man and woman who can create from metal, wood and fabric. In industry there are but a handful of companies who now operate apprenticeship schemes. It is predicted that in five to ten years there will be a grave shortage of skill in every walk of life.

That is why Sibford is so important and other schools like it, for happily there are a few, who still regard skill and craft as important as other facets of education in the training of young people to achieve a richer and fuller life as they enter adulthood. It is linked with a Christian upbringing that gives a balance to it all.

I leave you with one final quote which I think sums up what I have tried, this night, to say; At the Schools Hundreth Anniversary, Charles Stansfield sent the following telegram; "Deep thankfulness for the past, high hopes for the future".

Michael R. Finch  
25th August 1980

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**Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1979**

	£	<u>1979</u>	£	<u>1978</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Land at Elm		45		45
<b>ASSETS OF SPECIFIC FUNDS</b>				
Quoted Investments (Cost)		2,572		2,716
Leslie Baily Memorial Fund		139		125
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	168		348	
Subscriptions in Arrears	—		253	
Cash at Bank	<u>1,013</u>	<u>1,181</u>	<u>911</u>	<u>1,512</u>
<b>Less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors	—		908	
Subscriptions in Advance	—		88	
Louis Wright Appeal	—	—	<u>104</u>	<u>1,100</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>1,181</u>		<u>412</u>
		<u>£3,937</u>		<u>£3,298</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>				
Accumulated Fund		919		446
Life Membership		2,414		2,403
Recent Leavers Membership		465		320
Leslie Baily Fund		<u>139</u>		<u>129</u>
		<u>£3,937</u>		<u>£3,298</u>

Audited and found Correct

BRIAN A. WHITE.

**Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended  
31st December, 1979**

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Profit from sale of 4¼% British Electricity Stock 1974/79	6	—
Donations	101	77
Subscriptions	592	653
Investment Income	214	140
Reunion	17	107
Bank Interest	47	27
Miscellaneous	94	—
Fete	—	71
	<u>£1,071</u>	<u>£1,075</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Net Cost Magazine	319	691
Louis Wright Appeal	48	—
Postage & Stationery	162	13
General	49	32
Subscription arrears written off	—	86
Gift to Sibford School	—	240
	<u>578</u>	<u>1,062</u>
Surplus for year	<u>493</u>	<u>13</u>
	<u>£1,071</u>	<u>£1,075</u>

**Leslie Baily Memorial Fund**

Balance brought forward 1/1/79	129.00
Bank Interest	15.00
Transfer from Current Account	<u>20.00</u>
	<u>£164.00</u>
Donation to South London Wives Group	25.00
Balance to end 31/12/79	<u>139.00</u>
	<u>£164.00</u>

**MISSING**

Mike Finch, our President, during the Reunion dismantling of the photographic exhibits suffered the loss of his contribution which was postcard-size print of the then boy occupants taken at the front door of Holmby House with himself, aged about eleven, in the centre of the group. He would be grateful for its return.



## REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

*Margaret Dring*

Mr President, Guests, Old Scholars.

I must admit I felt somewhat bewildered as well as honoured when, a short while ago our President phoned me and asked if I would reply to his address tonight. However, on reflection, I realised that 1980 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Hill. A milestone surely when we can look back, take stock, learn from our mistakes and plan ahead. My husband and I have been privileged to be part of this community for more than half that period and as our president has so ably described how and why the expansion came about in 1930 perhaps a few observations about the last 26 years would not be amiss. Some happy fate led us to Sibford in 1954 — towards the end of the Johnson era. Many of you here tonight, including Mike, are proud to remember that you were here while he was at the helm. During the two years we knew him we found him a man of integrity, fair, listening to both sides in any dispute, then making a decision and sticking to it. The war years had taken their toll, buildings were dilapidated, part of the playing fields still ploughed up from the war, and the wind of change gathering force and changing standards everywhere.

I well remember at that time we had an Irish girl in the kitchen whose first job each morning was to boil a kettle and take A.J. his shaving water — the school supply never being hot enough for him. She was not very good at getting up and each morning it arrived late. Eventually even A.J.'s patience was exhausted and he complained to her that it was just not good enough. Without hesitation came the sharp reply "Please make up your mind — you have a choice — you can either have it on time or you can have it hot". Dear A.J. found it difficult to accept that the pre-war employer — staff relationship had gone for ever.

He retired before the next surge forward was about to begin. In 1956 we welcomed Hugh and Daphne Maw who courageously took over an almost bankrupt school which had obviously got to expand if it was to meet the needs of the second half of the twentieth century. I remember Hugh saying to Arthur "I want you to help me sell the school" so the surrounds at the hill were cleared and re-planted, the playing fields vastly improved, hard tennis courts put where an old orchard had been grubbed out and as the new boys houses went up, so the surrounds were landscaped. Hugh Maw had by now been allowed the luxury of a Bursar and Alfred Holland had put the school on a much firmer financial footing. So we had the buildings and in Hugh Maw we had someone who was determined that the Christian home life so many of us had taken for granted should be extended into our school so that as the wider canvas of life unfolded the children entrusted to his care would be given a sound moral background and a right sense of values and be able to go forward to take their place in life as worthy Old Scholars of Sibford.

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As you know our own son was at Sibford during this period and we owe an enormous debt to Hugh who encouraged him to succeed by his own efforts and who shares pride in his achievements — culminating last year in being made a Freeman of the City of London.

After six years we said goodbye to Hugh and Daphne and welcomed Jonas and Marjorie Fielding. Sibford needed to expand again. A new science block, a new girls house, alterations at the Manor in order to introduce a house system like the boys. The urgent need to raise money for these projects, Jonas spending all day sorting out everybody's problems, not least those of the staff, then always dashing off somewhere to speak about the appeal. Never sparing himself and always caring about the needs of every child he had accepted into the school. If he felt in his heart Sibford was right for them and could help them — he would accept them. Arthur has sometimes said if that child had been a plant I would have thrown it away but thanks to the special caring Sibford has given to so many they have either overcome their limitations or learned to live with them and gone on to live full and useful lives. In his retirement I know he is able to remember with pride so many whom he has helped and his reward is to know that thanks to his efforts there are many men and women making a very useful contribution to the community they now live in. So in 1972, having seen the school expand to include a sixth form block he took a well earned retirement.

September 1972 and we welcomed Kenneth and Robin Greaves. To someone like me, on the perimeter, the job of Sibford Head appeared more difficult year by year. Such rapid changes in methods, standards and accepted moral values. I remember at his first G.M. Kenneth was asked about his plans and he said he intended to develop the potential of the average child who was prepared to work. Jonas had said he came out of grammar school teaching because the top 20% would get on in spite of their teachers. Kenneth said "diligence is a virtue — cleverness is not" and I believe those of us who have a quicker grasp of a situation than others would do well to remember that. He has always encouraged those who made a real effort to do the best they were capable of. Now he too has retired and another chapter has ended. I think the Sibford that is being handed over to James Graham owes much to Daphne Maw, Marjorie Fielding and Robin Greave who have comforted and supported their husbands through every crisis and believe me over the years we have progressed from crisis to crisis, but the operative word has been progressed not regressed. And the deputies I have known deserve a mention. Gladys Burgess who in her quiet unassuming way helped so many — only the recipients of her generosity are ever likely to know its extent. Then June Ellis who gave so much of herself and who always tempered firmness with kindness when the need to deliver a reprimand arose.

One thing has saddened me over recent years. Inflation has squeezed out so many who, when Anthony was here, felt no sacrifice too great to give their children a Sibford education. I am proud to call some of those parents my friends to this day and their contribution was like the leaven in the bread.

After all these years I am still unable to define what Sibford gives its children but like our President, so many of you here tonight have come back year after year and the constant theme has been "Sibford gave me so much what can I now do to help Sibford". Mike was completing his schooldays here when we came but he has always returned, helping at Old Scholars and now ably serving as a governor of the school and Chairman of the Finance and Premises Committee — no easy task I can assure you with so many clamouring for a large slice of the available cake !

All of us are able to make some contribution to Sibford and because I firmly believe that religion should be part of our lives and not a thing apart, although this is a social occasion, I make no apology for quoting an extract from St Pauls letter to the Romans,

"For just as in a single human body there are many limbs and organs, all with different functions, so all of us, united with Christ, form one body, serving individually as limbs and organs to one another.

"The gifts we possess differ as they are allotted to us by God's grace, and must be exercised accordingly: the gift of inspired utterance, for example, in proportion to a man's faith: or the gift of administration, in administration. A teacher should employ his gift in teaching, and one who has the gift of stirring speech should use it to stir his hearers. If you give to charity, give with all your heart: if you are a

leader, exert yourself to lead; if you are helping others in distress, do it cheerfully.

"Love in all sincerity, loathing evil and clinging to the good. Let love for our brotherhood breed warmth of mutual affection. Give pride of place to one another in esteem.

"With unflagging energy, in ardour of spirit, serve the Lord.

"Let hope keep you joyful; in trouble stand firm; persist in prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people."

And now we are starting not only a new decade but another fifty years. Hugh Maw was present when the Hill was opened in 1930. Some of you here tonight will be privileged to be here when the Hill Centenary is celebrated in 2030. This generation has given you the buildings but it is the people who make the place come alive. I hope on that evening you are able to look back on the next 50 years with the same sense of achievement which pervades this weekend.

As Mike said the Sibford elm has always figured prominently here but remember, recently an insidious beetle has burrowed under the bark of many elms and destroyed them. Don't ever let that happen here. We must always demand and expect the best of all who serve here, always be willing to stand up and be counted and ruthlessly root out any who would have us lower our standards or weaken our Christian foundation.

Perhaps as Arthur and I are the oldest members of staff we can be permitted to wish James Graham a happy sojourn here. But I had better warn him we tend to give our headmasters a rough ride. When Arthur presented Jonas with his retirement present he likened his time here to the Grand National course with all the staff, if we were honest, admitting that at times we had highered the fences for him. I think Kenneth would agree things haven't changed much but as long as we continue to produce men and women of our presidents calibre all the hard work and disappointments are worth while and Sibford need never fear for its future.

## CONGRATULATIONS

This year our congratulations go to Robert W. Rose who has joined the band of O.S. who have passed their eightieth birthday. He was at Sibford from 1912 to 1915. After leaving school he went to Vauxhall Motors at Luton as an engineering apprentice, where he met Alice his wife.

In 1918—1919 he spent some time in France with the F.A.U. While there another friend gave him advice, which he followed on returning home. It meant studying in his spare time for six years, firstly to pass the Matriculation examination and then to obtain an external B.Sc. degree in engineering at London University.

After various positions he came to Rowntrees in York as Research Engineer responsible for the development of wrapping and packing machinery. He retired in 1965 after what he regards as a very happy and full life. Alice and Robert are very thankful for the long association they have had with S.O.S.A. Members of the Association look forward to meeting him each reunion.

## SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS GATHERING August 1980.

Saturday August 23rd dawned bright and early for some as they wended their way back to Sibford across the rolling Cotswold countryside to arrive in time for coffee in Fiel-ding House and to see who else would be returning for the weekend. It doesn't matter at Sibford if no one else is there from your particular year – the weekend soon becomes a friendly happy affair with old acquaintances renewed and new ones made. What is this spirit of Sibford that for the past 77 years has drawn us together? – is it the place – the feeling of belonging, the happy years we spent there – or the friendships made long ago. By lunch time about fifty Old Scholars had gathered and the 1980 President, Mike Finch in welcoming them wished them all a very happy and successful reunion.

The afternoon was given over to the start of the tournaments – and also provided an opportunity for Old Scholars to chatter amongst themselves – explore the school buildings again – and to appreciate the vases of flowers arranged so successfully by Vera Rollett and a few helpers. After an early cup of tea the A.G.M. was held in the Old Scholars room ably chaired by Mike Finch. As there is a full report of this elsewhere in the magazine – I will not go into details.

After supper we moved to the hall for the Leslie Baily Memorial Lecture given this year by another Old Scholar, Leslie Thomas. His talk entitled "The Media and the Message" gave us an interesting insight into his experiences in reporting news, from the Continent during the turbulent 1930's and continued with his later work in farming and his reporting on the weekly farmers news programmes. Coffee followed then rockets – an early night for some midnight walks and swims for others.

Sunday proved to be another bright day and a few swam before breakfast which was followed by a meeting for the London Old Scholars to try and find a secretary to keep the nucleus of them together – and choral for others – which took us back in time to other choral singing in the gym at the Old School.

There was a good attendance for meeting at the Gower – many Old Scholars having walked the long or short route depending on the time available. The theme running through was loving and caring – was this why we were all there?

The catering this year was carried out by the new school caterer who had just finished a catering career in the Air Force. I think some of us felt he could have done a lot to enhance the cooking when we were at school. Yet in spite of the plainness of the food then – we seem to have grown into fine healthy specimens of mankind.

Norman Coxon once again organised a walk starting off across the meeting house fields and ending up with a picnic tea in a field belonging to Dick Neal's farm. What a transformation time can bring – in our school days pig drives were compulsory and very often resented – a voluntary walk over those same gorgeous – windy smiling meadows today seems a treat.



PICNIC

Presidents Choice was a very mixed entertainment made up of Sibford recollections and others that Mike had enjoyed over the years. Music seems to have played an important part as it did to so many of us under A.J.'s expert guidance. His selections included Gustav Holst's Planets – a modern rendering of Jerusalem (which was perhaps not fully appreciated by some of the staunch W.I. members present) the hymn "Be thou my Vision" sung by a Presbyterian Church choir – Streets of London by Roger Whitaker – Waterloo Sunset by the Kinks and some poetry of Rupert Brooke and a sketch by Tony Hancock of the Blood Donor. Mrs Wolfgang de Garcey was also present to give us an enthralling lecture on Deportment, Intellect and Intelligence. From this very personal pot-pourri the highlight to me was the singing of a cowboy song by Paula and Timothy Campbell – when music and emotion ran deep.

Sibfordians primed on hot dogs, our synchronisation and – cheerfully and sometimes noisily give a hand with the chores. Never have I wished so much that the chores would end so that I could take part in the country dancing session – a true reminder of my days at school. As soon as the last coffee cup was safely washed and dried I ran to join the happy action that was calling so loudly to me.

Once more to the elm – lingering life in the old one and cosseted hope in the new. Next time the All Blacks visit England we must give them some tuition in their introductory war dance, prior to their match, from a team of Old Sibfordians primed on hot dogs, our synchronisation and volume with rockets is unbeatable, ask the local residents!

Mondays motor treasure hunt through our leafy lanes raised yet another fundamental Old Sibfordian question. Are we better at walking than at listening? Are we better at giving out than taking in? The clues were clear enough – what seemed to be missing was the concentration to find



the answers. But everyone reported back eventually. Congratulations to Frank Rollett for setting the course and to Philip Brown and his team for winning once again.

The tournaments made a slow start due mainly to lack of enthusiasm and equipment, but this could not be said of the Tramps Hockey Match, where the costumes would have done credit to a charity match by the cast of a West End Musical extravaganza. I never knew that Quakers had such items in their personal wardrobes! The refereeing was extremely consistent in its total inconsistency — yet again a tradition maintained by Mike.

I should like here to congratulate our new headmaster and his wife, Jim and Maureen Graham for coping so ably, only a week after their arrival, with the Old Sibfordians tea on their lawn. If the school in the past has produced this throng, what an opportunity there must be for a new headmaster to change the far distant future, what will his Old Scholars throng look like in 40 years time? We were fortunate indeed with the unforced participation in our events by Jim and Maureen as well as by the assistant head, Anne Muir.

The presidential dinner was a fine formal finale to our weekend. The younger Old Schoiars and Old Scholars to be took it upon themselves to serve us all with distinction a fine meal. This was followed by a brilliant President's address. Where did Mike find the inspired idea of reviewing Sibford affairs in the form of a conversation between the old and new elms? It gave him a masterly platform for reviewing change with a humorous detached involvement. The presentations included one to the retiring headmaster Kenneth Greaves who we shall hope to see at many future Old Scholars Reunions.

We were glad that the funeral procession for the retiring President was followed very shortly by a resurrection — thus enabling Mike's ghost to enjoy the final rockets.

Our grateful thanks yet again to a hard working committee who arranged such an interesting and varied programme for our enjoyment. Roll on August 1981.

J.S.

#### MEMORIES OF SIBFORD FRENCH LESSONS (1)

Un petit d'un petit<sup>1</sup>  
S'étonne aux Halles<sup>2</sup>  
Un petit d'un petit  
Ah! degrés te fallent.<sup>3</sup>  
Indolent quie ne sort cesse  
Indolent qui ne se mène  
Qu'inmport un petit d'un petit  
Tout Gai de Reguennes.<sup>4</sup>

1. The inevitable result of a child marriage.
2. A famous Paris market — alas no more.
3. Possibly a famous political prisoner — even the Man in The Iron Mask.
4. A young squire of Normandy who died at the tender age of twelve, of a surfeit of Saracen arrows before the Walls of Acre in 1191.



TEA ON THE LAWN



#### FRENCH LESSON (2)

Si sot, mare, je ris d'eau  
J'hoquet, chat lave ennui mât stère.<sup>1</sup>  
Et châle Ève bèta panne y aider  
Bécots.<sup>2</sup> Si Carnot turc et n'y fasse taire.<sup>3</sup>

1. A drunkard's song, laughing at water, and hiccuping, while the family cat washes itself on the wood pile. Stère is a measure of wood, similar to our cord.
2. His stupid woman with her shawl is in an awful mess because she kisses promiscuously. Probably the psychological reason for his alcoholism (or vice versa)
3. Nicole Carnot was the French Mathematician who first postulated the principles of thermodynamics. The water cure is attributed to the Turks. Will the water cure silence our songster.



## THE MEDIA AND THE MESSAGE

The 1980 Leslie Baily Lecture, by Leslie Thomas.

After spending most of his working life gathering, analysing and dispensing news through Press, Radio and Television, Leslie Thomas was able to entertain his audience of O.S. as he took them through his career from Sibford to Geneva, then back to farming in England and his work with the National Farmers Union and his farming reports on T.V.

From School he went as a very junior reporter to a Sussex newspaper at the princely sum of 2s. 6d. per week (i.e. 12½p). This was solid ground work on which to build a career at the heart of world affairs. In the thirties he went as a very junior reporter to Geneva – the headquarters of the League of Nations. He would do any job however menial so as to remain at the centre of affairs so that when the opportunity came, he was there – the right man in the right place at the right time. He became a member of the British United Press staff and he was a source of information which he had collected from all sorts and conditions of men. His information was passed to Governments, diplomats, industry and commerce as well as to press and radio. He was able to sit down with future French Prime Ministers (was it M. Daladier?) who gave him his very private views on Laval, which in the event proved correct. Though he could not get an interview with Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, who was on a visit to Geneva to plead his cause at the time of the Italian invasion, he did see this little man – “King of Kings”, “Lion of Judah” huddled in the corner of a train, betrayed by his friends and deserted by those who should have been his allies.

In 1939 Leslie joined the B.B.C. as a Public Relations Officer in Northern Ireland. He then had a spell in the armed forces and then returned to the B.B.C. in the News Department of the European Service. He was not now gathering news but editing the news that came in for broadcasting to the various countries receiving B.B.C. services. There is one great difference in presenting news for the press and for the B.B.C. Sir John Reith was the head of that organisation and impartiality was the keynote of all broadcasting.

After a while the love of land proved too strong for Leslie, he left the B.B.C. to farm in partnership with his brother. It was a return to a very primitive way of life. Times were difficult and their high hopes were not fulfilled so when an opportunity arose to join the staff of the National Farmers Union as a Press and Public Relations Officer he took it. For the next few years he devoted his skill and know-how to present the farming ‘case’ by supplying a never-ending stream of material to the Press, Radio and Television, often making personal appearances to very good effect.

This led him to be invited by the Controller of A.T.V. in the Midlands to initiate a regular farming television programme. This was a most successful venture and brought him directly into the general public view.

Presenting programmes on television often presents some quite unexpected situations. He recalled such a one at the

Royal Show at Stoneleigh. Leslie was scheduled to make a contribution as part of the news service. At the last minute there was a ‘technical hitch’. His producer approached him and asked him to be prepared to continue beyond his allotted few minutes, perhaps up to quarter of an hour. He looked outside the mobile studio and was fortunate to see a well known Oxfordshire farmer with very outspoken views. They started talking – extemporising – and then came the shock. The ‘hitch’ was continuing. For an hour they battled on, fortified with endless cups of tea.

While he was involved in radio and television great changes were taking place in farming methods and he could broadcast these changes to the farming world as a whole.

Leslie was still playing a very important role with the National Farmers Union, and had been appointed Chief Intelligence Officer. All his previous experience was called into use and proved very valuable in formulating sound bases for the future.

Leslie’s love of the countryside and farming has not diminished in retirement and he expressed his fears about the drastic changes being brought about in the countryside by chemicals, the requirements of mechanical farming, urban sprawl and motorways. These have reduced the habitat and natural food supplies for the wild life of the countryside. He instanced the loss of heathlands and natural woodlands, the 140,000 miles of hedgerow and the permanent pastures – the main source of supply of food for twenty four types of butterfly.

Finally came the appeal for everyone to be aware of the dignity of all living things by quoting the words of Samuel Butler, “There is only one life, that animals and man share. One creation; and it we offend against the dignity of animals we are guilty of an offence against life.”

G.B.

## THE LESLIE BAILY LECTURE 1981.

We are indeed fortunate and happy to announce that, during next Reunion, Joyce Butler will deliver the Annual Lecture.

It would take up far too much space here to adequately describe even her political achievements. The resume in Who’s Who 1980 reveals the extent of some of the Offices she has held.

As a Socialist M.P. for the unbroken period 1955 to 1979 she was, on retirement, the longest serving Lady Member.

Although Joyce was not a School pupil, nevertheless her connection and interest dates from time when her brothers (Wells family) in fact were.

Many O.S. will recall her participation for some years in the Birmingham Group’s Reunion productions of the little plays of St. Francis. And of course for countless years has been an O.S.A. member.

We were glad to welcome her, along with her husband at this year’s Gathering.

F.R.



Choral on Sunday

## FRIENDS OF SIBFORD

In September 1979 Vera Rollett was co-opted and became Chairman of Committee.

On the retirement of Robin Greaves at the 1980 A.G.M. Mary Cooper of Sibford Ferris became the new Secretary. Membership through the year was well maintained. The Committee of Friends of Sibford School met three times through the year and issued two Newsletters to members.

During the year gifts to School included: £150 towards the cost of a double bass: £40 to the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme for the purchase of books: £50 towards the cost of the newly created Adventure Playground £100 for the purchase of five more videotapes.

In May another (annual) outing to Bourton-on-the-Water was undertaken for young pupils unable to get away on the long exeat weekend. This outing, again, was highly successful.

At each Parents' Weekend (up to and including June A.G.M.) we sold coffee and soup with profit of £46.50. Also, at the November Weekend running a stall which raised £66.

F.R.

## DEATHS

GEERING Rose died in Hospital October 29th, 1979 – Wife of Richard A. Geering of Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.



Start of Ramble

PATTISON Roger died in a road accident, December 4th 1980. Husband of Diana Pattison, and father of Jeremy, Alan and Bridget, only son of Norah Pattison. Aged 50. At Sibford during the War 1940-45.

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## ANONYMOUS

At the Presidential Dinner I was, for the seventh successive years, privileged to announce the receipt of a gift of £60 to the Association from our benefactor. So, once again, our sincerest thanks to him, or her!

F.R.

## CORNWALL

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### ONE MAN'S CAREER

Raymond Matchett was at Sibford in 1927. He is now retired in Norfolk but remembers his days at Sibford. He recalls the various guilds into which the school was divided and for which Mabel Harrod wrote songs for each to well known tunes. He was in the Shepherds Guild and their song was a parody of the Major General's song from the Pirates of Penzance. He wonders if any O.S. have still got copies. He remembers Reg Brown, a twin, and younger brother of Eric, the captain of his guild.

After leaving school he joined the Approved School Service, which action perhaps was a result of the teaching he absorbed at Sibford. It was perhaps fortuitous that he joined the Service because he had first worked for Devon County Council – who sacked him because he registered as a C.O. during the war.

He spent three years at 'Cotswold' A.S. and then moved to Red House Farm School in Norfolk. This was established in 1852 by a group of local people led by a family named Wright. The Wrights were Quakers and connected through marriage with other Quakers, the Sewells and the Gurneys. The school was a private venture until the state took it over at the end of the last century. A family atmosphere permeated the work of the school. The school was run more as a family with a less rigid discipline. The aim of the teachers was to win the respect and eventually the friendship of the boys in their care. The school was run as a progressive boarding school and their activities was very similar to that of Sibford, at that time.

Discipline was maintained, firstly by force of character and mutual liking and respect; secondly, by the award of marks depending on his work and progress. The amount of his spending money was governed by his marks. Thirdly, corporal punishment which was progressively reduced over the years. Every three months a boys' progress was reviewed. When it was felt that he was ready to face the pressures of return to his home he went. In most schools only the headmaster made the decisions, not members of the staff and social workers. Since those earlier days Community Homes have developed and contact between schools and social workers at home has increased so that the schools are kept more informed as to the progress of the boys.

The Approved Schools only received boys who had broken the law, the new Community Homes also accept children of every kind whose parents are unable to provide the special care they need. The system evolved because of the growing belief that juvenile delinquency is not just something to be punished but is a sign of deep inner conflict which needs to be defined and then resolved.

When he joined the service their success rate was 80%. After the war it dropped to 50% and later to 40%. Raymond now fears that this reduced success rate will encourage those who advocate a more punitive regime. He accepts that liberality has gone too far in some cases. He expects that standards in the homes should be high. Some 'moderns' do not make this clear to the children and a few do not believe it themselves – some are anarchists!

Many of those committed during the war would not be there under normal circumstances, they were the victims of wartime pressures, lack of fathers and greater ease to get into trouble. Now there is less clear distinction between liberality and licence; occasions and temptations to do wrong are more frequent, social mores are lower, family ties are weaker and pressures are greater. Society is partly to blame and as much as the child, it needs reform.

All their successes came from an inward change. A boy discovered his potential and was no longer a nonentity struggling for notice — his newly acquired self respect did the rest. Raymond cannot remember any boy who really changed his way of life because of the threat of the cane.

He pays tribute to Sibford, the atmosphere, the ways of using leisure, the ideas of social responsibility, standards of good conducts which they were persuaded to accept by James and Mabel Harrod, Frank Parsons and the other staff of the '20s. did much to sustain him throughout career.

This Man of Sibford did not go exactly where he willed at first but finding himself where circumstances had driven him the spirit of Sibford was a source of strength second only to that which comes from religious convictions.

Report of Sibford Old Scholars' Representative  
on School Committee given at the  
Annual General Meeting at Sibford on August 1980

As members of the Finance & Premises and School Committee Michael and I have had six meetings at Sibford this year. There have been other meetings for sub-committees including those dealing with the appointment of the new Head and Deputy Head, so you'll see we've had the usual busy year.

Last summer Jim Graham was appointed our new Headmaster to begin at Sibford at the end of the Summer Term 1980 and we are delighted to have him with us at our Reunion. Jim Graham accepted the committee's suggestion that it would be mutually beneficial for him to have the summer term free in preparation for taking up the Headship and he has been meeting Sibford people, visiting other Friend's schools and generally learning a little of what he's let himself in for!

Jim Graham is a Quaker, an Elder of Oast House Meeting, Cambridge; educated at Bootham and Magdalen College, Oxford; before coming to Sibford he was Headmaster first of Letchworth Grammar School, and then, as it reorganised of Fearnhill School, This reorganisation entailed removal to new premises, adaptation to the full ability range etc, all requiring great organising skill. In addition whilst at Manchester Grammar School from 1961 to 1971 Jim Graham was full time Appeal Director for the School's £½ million Appeal. This could prove very useful experience at Sibford!

Jim Graham is married to Maureen and they have two daughters, Katharine and Pippa. We welcome them to Holly House and look forward to having the family with us for a long time.

Last autumn Anne Muir was appointed Deputy Head to begin at Sibford in the Spring Term and we're delighted to welcome her. Anne Muir was first Deputy Head of Dilley & Stowe School, Newark before coming to us and those who have seen her here know how fortunate the school is to have Anne Muir and we wish her a long and happy association with Sibford.

Now to deal with less happy matters. Some Old Scholars may not have heard of the sudden death last December of the School Committee's Chairman, Jonathan Fairn. He had been a member of the Committee since 1966, Chairman of General Purposes Committee from 1970 to 1976 and Chairman of School Committee until his death. We on the Committee know the time and energy he was always prepared to give to our school notwithstanding his own busy and demanding life as a solicitor. We Old Scholars will remember Jonathan as our guest at a recent Reunion, how well he entered into our weekend and some Old Scholars joined him in his great sport—jogging before breakfast. We are thankful for Jonathan's long and valued service to Sibford.

You will remember that Joseph Sewell is Treasurer of School Committee and he has also been acting Chairman in this interim period. Jo has been invaluable to us.

This year has seen the usual retirements by rotation and the appointment by Berks & Oxon of two more Old Scholars to School Committee, Philip Manasseh and David Saunderson, so that we now have five Old Scholars on the Committee; this is not a long term situation as Michael and I are due to come off Committee at the end of 1981 but I think it is helpful to have people who have lived and worked at the school.

The work of the Committee has been the usual round of administration; meetings with staff which we look forward to developing, etc.

Our last meeting was on the 13th June and most of us stayed on for General Meeting the next day. Old Scholars were well represented and although it was a wet, chilly day we had one of our largest gatherings and the school demonstrations and exhibits were much enjoyed.

Two final matters.

Kenneth and Robin Greaves have said their official farewell to the school but we know that they will be joining us at Reunions before long. They have been good friends to our Association, always welcoming us to the school and we are grateful for their support and wish them happy days in their new home at Yelland.

As this is likely to be my last report to you I should like to thank you for appointing me and giving me the opportunity to continue a long association with Sibford in this way. Being a member of School Committee is rewarding, sometimes worrying and always a responsibility and I know that no one is more aware of this than your President, Michael. I think he must spend as much time here at Sibford as your representative as he does at home with Rhoda and Andrew! He is totally involved as Chairman of Finance & Premises and he really does represent this



Association on School Committee. This term he spent many hours visiting Sibford researching the school's history; and gave a much appreciated talk on this at an evening meeting.

He may not have taken quite his fair share of these reports to you, but for this he is forgiven—but next year is yours, Michael!

Lilian Ward.



At Bill and Joy Rann's

#### DAY REUNION MAY 17th 1980.

We soon found ourselves a picnic spot beside the cricket pavilion where eventually the afternoons major attraction was to take place. Among the older Old Scholars was Rendle Hill, at Sibford 1925, who took his place on the field, along with such stalwarts as John Taylor and vice president, Hugh Maw. Rendle Hill kept wicket for the school in his day (but not on this occasion) and went on to play for Mitchells and Butlers, as well as playing once for Warwickshire at Old Trafford. Perhaps his expertise gave the Old Scholars confidence for they won the limited over match 121 for 7, with the Scholars 94 all out.

The other official function, rounders, was to be organised by Simon Barfoot, but no score was reported, much activity nevertheless prevailed. Ice creams and pottery seem an unlikely mixture, however the former cooled and Vera Rollett as usual looked after the latter.

It was pleasing to see that the school had taken the

initiative to make and sell cakes in aid of school funds, these were very gratefully received. High tea was as usual provided by the school, many of the older ones and tired cricketers were seen to be taking the opportunity to rest here and meet some of the present scholars.

I was unable to stay to the evening entertainment, a disco, it is reported that some old scholars may have out-stayed their welcome at this point, the matter is more fully detailed elsewhere in the magazine. Suffice is to say that the Day Reunion is valued by Old Scholars, many of whom are unable to come in August, but also because it enables us to meet the present scholars and the staff. I hope we are asked along again.

P.M.



Square Dancing. August 1980

#### FROM OVERSEAS

Dear Editor

I recently received the S.O.S.A. magazine, and membership list and perceived to my astonishment that I was listed as: "address unknown".

My Aunt Elsie Rose tells me that it was my own fault, and of course she is absolutely correct and so to set the record straight let me state that "Ian Parsons is alive and well and living in Toronto".

I came to Canada in 1966, married in 1968, and have a son aged eight and if we lived in England I would of course be entering him for Sibford in two years time.

I am employed as an industrial jeweller with the firm of Henry Birks Ltd., well-known in Canada although they originated in Sheffield two hundred years ago. My duties consist of manufacturing for industry, regalia, and insignia.

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We also make school graduation rings, very big business in North America, though non-existent in Europe.

Although I have been very fortunate in Canada I still get very nostalgic for the English countryside. I miss the scenery of the Cotswolds especially.

The last time I visited Sibford we drove slowly to Banbury and I remembered that thirty years ago, almost to the day, a group of us walked the eight miles to celebrate the coronation of King George the sixth. Later in the Army I marched eighteen miles across the sodden Yorkshire moors in full pack, but that was nothing compared to the knee-chafing voluntary Sibford pig-drive. Later we were given a souvenir mug, and told not to mention it to any of the other boys.

My best friend Nigel Stretch displayed powers of leadership equalled only Sir Edmund Hillary, by promising to share his allowance at Sally's tuck shop on our return. Happy days! and happy memories.

Yours very sincerely,

Ian Parsons.  
1936-39. Toronto

Edith E Lamb writes from Western Australia, left Sibford in 1902. She lives with her daughter — now Jennifer Wilson. She left as Head Girl with a bronze medal to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII. She continued to live in Sibford until immigrating to Australia in 1959. She has only been to England once since then when she passed through on her way to Canada. She keeps in touch with what is happening through the magazine and relatives here. Her sister, Nellie Millard while a teacher at Sibford died in the influenza epidemic at the end of the first world war. A memorial was hung in the new school entrance hall. She wonders if it is still there and if not, does anyone know where it is.

Jennifer Wilson also sends her greetings, particularly to those O.S. who were contemporaries.

Kingsley Lawrence sends his greetings to those who remember him from California.

#### OLD SCHOLARS BY ADOPTION

Our other friends don't understand. We've all been scholars, haven't we? (they say), however muted the scholarship; and we're all old or ageing, that's for sure. We don't mean old scholars (we say), we mean Old Scholars. You can't go away for a long weekend to someone else's school (they cry in disbelief).

It started with an invitation to an August Bank Holiday where we should not be camping cheek by jowl on a licensed site. For the children: games, swimming, entertainment, other children, beautiful surroundings and washing-up (hope it's salad, no grease). For the adults: much the same, plus the company of good friends, new acquaintances

to be made and — oh bliss — someone else doing the cooking. From such simple beginnings much evolved.

As a bonus we got lots of lovely English weather so that we had to wear thick woolies and gumboots with the elegant clothes we'd been warned to bring for the President's dinner, and plastic macs over those as we trudged from our tent to the dining-hall. Nothing deterred, we returned the next year, and the next and the next . . . sometimes with the odd (very odd, actually) German schoolboy on an exchange visit, a spare cousin or two, the occasional niece or nephew.

Gradually we migrated indoors to dormitories and family rooms, our boys grew up and arranged their own holidays, we were promoted to a double bed-sit, communal washing-up ceased — until, at last, the final accolade. The Assistant Treasurer asked us for a subscription to SOSA!

Should you be a guest and this determined lady approaches you with her persuasive tongue, give in, it's easier. Useless to insist your membership may be an intrusion because you're not *really* an Old Scholar; your protest will be brushed aside, and you will officially become, as we have long counted ourselves, friends of the Friends at Sibford. 1981, here we come.

Helen and Johnnie Doyle



The President Retires



Section of Craft Exhibition

### THE SIBFORD REVELLERS

We thought we had seen it all . . . . .

Clutching our secret hoard of biscuits and chocolate (you know what school meals are like!) we arrived at Sibford nervously wondering what was in store. The programme didn't look too bad, but we weren't sure about 'Meeting at The Gower' – unusual name for a pub! Still the fireworks on Sunday evening sounded great. We found however that the diet had vastly improved since our own school days even though we were nearly trodden underfoot in the rush for "seconds".

On Sunday morning after a strenuous rendering of "Jerusalem", we made it just in time to the Gower – although we needn't have rushed, the Vicar didn't even turn up! The afternoon saw us trailing in the wake of a well-organised route march. The President led a splinter-group off on an abortive foray of their own but we all joined up on the miraculous appearance of a field kitchen which disgorged a never-ending supply of tea and sandwiches.

We managed to put our weary feet up during the President's Choice – so that's why the Sixth form girls were invited!! – before we were pressganged into the intricacies of country dancing. Little did we know but the best was yet to come.

Leading his merrie band of revellers by the light of the full moon, the President crept silently through the unsuspecting village. A frightened face appeared at a bedroom window and the curtains were hastily pulled. Curiouser and curiouser, everyone was converging at the crossroads. By now we had gathered the rockets were not of the "light the blue touch paper" variety. Under the branches of the famous Elm, we all hungrily stuffed ourselves with red hot suesages and onions scooped up with our fingers (another quaint Sibfordian custom). Just as we had decided to make a quick get-away under cover of darkness, we were hustled into a circle where the countdown immediately took place. What followed we dare not relate, but sufficient to say the Elm was well satisfied with its oblations. Several cars were startled to come across cavorting Sibfordians deep in the Cotswold countryside. Nervously they slowed down, but were relieved to find no harm was intended. We decided it was best to humour them and after further frolicing when we all tried to sit on each other's knees, we stumbled back to the dubious safety of the school.

Everyone, much to our amazement seemed to be quite sane the next day and we decided we must have dreamt it all. Not for us a quiet relaxing morning however. Instead, armed with a lengthy set of obscure clues we were sent on our way to scour the countryside. One certainly needed sharp eyes as we found it necessary to scan a distant church spire with binoculars. The Unicorn freehouse attracted a number of participants who regarded the interior of vital importance. At one point we met the President's wife going in the opposite direction (still this is nothing unusual!) To keep us on our toes the final direction was cunningly omitted and in view of our somewhat blank answer sheet,



After the walk – Philippa & David Smith

we cast caution to the winds and followed the first sign to Sibford. Just as a search-party was about to be formed, the President's wife scurried in to a late lunch.

The peaceful afternoon was shattered by the annual bloodsport of the O.S. hockey match with much flailing of arms, legs and sticks, the ball occasionally emerging.

The last evening heralded the splendid President's Dinner which was concluded by the "burying" of the President who, by the shape of the square coffin had been specifically measured for the occasion. Our belief that rockets had black magic origins was proved correct when during the final rendering of this ceremony the reincarnated President appeared.

However, we emerged unscathed from our experiences with our sanity still intact and would like to take this opportunity of thanking the President and his Lady for inviting us and to all the Old Scholars for their friendliness in making us so welcome.

Long Live the Revellers.

Mary and Alan.



After Meeting: – Chris Grimes,  
Russell Steed, Alan Kichney

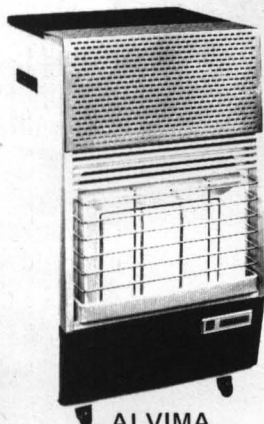


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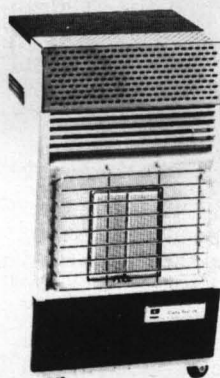
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And Finally:—

Headmaster's Report to Sibford Old Scholars Association  
August, 1979.

Well it's all right for you to come back as you do  
Once or twice every year for reunions,  
To relive past glories, exchange doubtful stories  
And make your unholy communions.

You go for a walk and you chatter and talk  
And you greet your old flames with embraces,  
And it all looks the same and you fondly exclaim  
How delightfully peaceful the place is.

You sit there for hours admiring the flowers  
And none of you stops to remember  
How it's likely to be for the teachers and me  
When the children come back in September. —

When the lads and the lasses return to their classes  
We're not so much teachers as warders,  
And duty, God knows, is not sweet bed of roses  
When tending our audacious boarders.

For the kids are all crooks and they won't read their books  
Or do any hard work till you kick 'em,  
They would sooner by far take a pint in the bar  
Of the Bishops, the Gate or the Wykham.

\* \* \*

For each one that's good, that behaves as it should  
In the classroom, the field or the dormitory,  
There are twenty or more who make light of the law  
And the right school for them's a reformatory.

The best way to treat 'em is soundly to beat 'em  
(No child's ever worse for a beating);  
You can set them to toil, you can boil them in oil,  
You can send them on Sundays to Meeting!

You can chop off their head, send them early to bed—  
The most terrible torture is merited;  
And when mother arrives to appeal for their lives  
You can see that their problem's inherited.

She's a ravishing sight, but she can't read or write,  
Although no-one could call her inhibited,  
And when fees are so high she just cannot see why  
That the smoking of pot is prohibited.

And she's very distressed that the end-of-term test  
Showed the teachers were biased and stingy . . . .  
And the way she goes on you would think that her son's  
Leonardo da perishing Vinci!

\* \* \*

In this lunatic set-up there's never a let-up  
Life's always a scrap or a scrimmage,  
And the headmaster's role, at the risk of his soul,  
Is to publish a counterfeit image.

Things are not as you thought from my yearly report,  
There are changes the school would be better for;  
But we can't be wet nurses and make silken purses  
(Forgive me for mixing the metaphor.)

When some innocent fool comes to look round the school  
I'm ashamed of my brazen hypocrisy  
When I sell them the place with a Quakerly face  
As a haven of love and democracy.

But although some may doubt,  
I have not been found out;

And although "Trouthe and honour"  
I'm afraid is a goner;

And though "freedom and curteisie"  
You must look elsewhere—

Hip-Hooray! They still pay  
me my wages.

*Sung to the tune of the Lord Chancellor's song  
in Iolanthe — "When you're laying awake with a  
dismal headache . . . .etc"*



Among those who attended during the week end were:—

Russell Steed, Jane Sturge, Gwen Rowntree, David & Philippa Smith, Leslie Harrison, David & Mavis Stiles, Mary & Hugh Blaschko, Jonas & Marjorie Fielding, Joseph & Janet Sewell, Loraine Brown, Stan Ewan, Lily Ratheram, Hugh & Daphne Maw, Miriam Guest, Mike & Rhoda Finch and Andrew, Nick & Olive Bennett, Pat & Terry Clark, Anthony Blewitt, Joyce & Vic Butler, May Flinn, Grace & Philip Beckerlegge, Jean Moore with Peter, Jill and Heather, George & Marjorie Edwards, Simon Barfoot, Peter & Jean Yeoman and Jonathan, David Marks, Mabel & Wilfred Pollard, Arthur Harrison, Betty & John Thelton, Jim Thelton, Chris & Pat Grimes with Michael and Nicola, Irene Smith, Johnnie & Helen Doyle, Paula & Tim Campbell, Alan & Katherine Kidney, Jeanne Southam, Fred Headley, Margaret Le Mare, Jim & Joan Shields, Ken & Robin Greaves, Jim & Maureen Graham, Anne Muir, John

& Edith Miller, Brian & Ethel Wright, Mary Mascaro, Frank & Vera Rollett, John Taylor with Gordon, Doris Wright, Margaret Bailly, Mary Elwick, Arthur & Margaret Dring, Mary Sanders, Alan Gates, Jean & Lewis Poulton, Edna Lawrence, Sarah Samways, Margaret Fairnington, Paul & Ruth Frampton with Charles and Harriet, Anna Wilson, Kate Long, Christopher Leo, Jonathan Leo, David & Jenny Hill with Christopher and Katherine, Norman & Marjorie Coxon, Ian Hedger, Dorothy Angerson, Geoff Moore, Pete & Pat Marlow, Olive Dalley, Winifred Hyde, May Davison, Paul How Piper, Constance Philips, Ian & Jenny Wright with Amanda and Simon, Philip & Janet Manasseh with Andrew, Mark Ward, Merk Mercer, Edwina Bezant, Fiona Richardson, Sarah Chandler, Tracey Smith, Niki Benn, Patrick Benn, Helen Smith, Tim Vince, John Miller, Greg Smith, Hazel Smith, Clem & Margaret Cox, Bridget Hope, Clare Smith, Richard Aldington, Leslie Thomas.

# 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)
    - i. All ordinary members £6.00 per annum.
    - ii. Life membership £100.
    - iii. Married couples jointly £8.00 per annum.
    - v. Scholars leaving school, for the year in which they leave, and for the following year, £1.00; thereafter £6.00 per annum. Alternatively, for the year in which they leave and the following 3 years £9.00 which could be paid by parents with the last school fees.
  - (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, Membership/Assistant Treasurer, Reunion Secretary, Assistant Reunion Secretary, Magazine Editor, Local Branch Secretaries, two School Committee Representatives, Friends of Sibford Society Representative, two School Staff Representatives, the Headmaster, the Bursar, the Deputy Head, 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. These appointments should overlap each other to ensure continuity. 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 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) The Committee shall nominate a recent leaver to serve as an ordinary member on the Committee for three years following the next 31 December. The 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 decided 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.