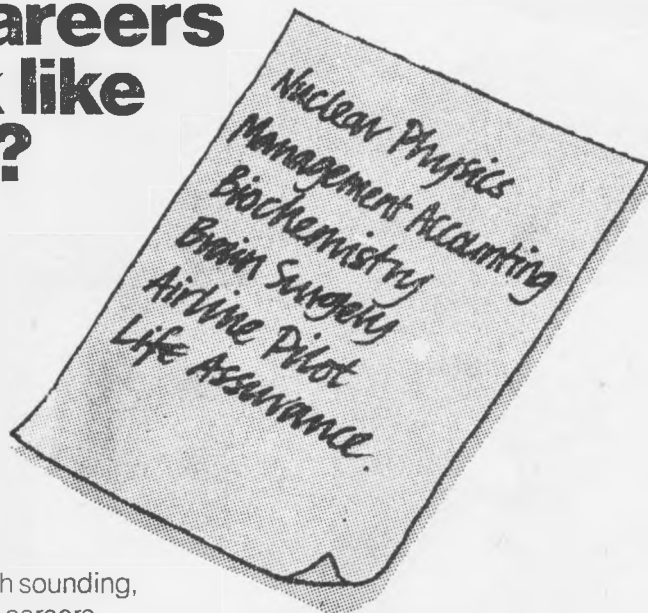




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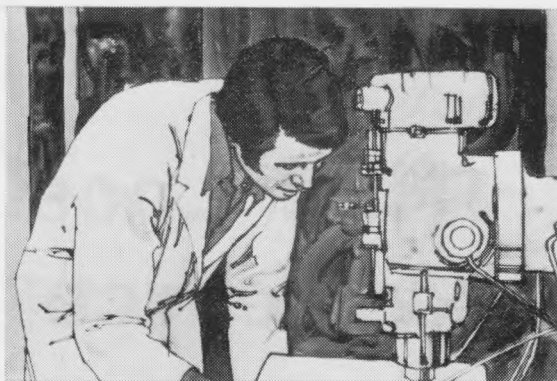
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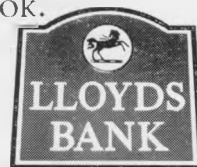
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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE)

JUNE 1978

EDITORIAL

This edition of *The Wycombiensian* has, although rather poorly supported, been compiled with relative ease. Those contributions received have been of a worthy standard, and it is hoped that such quality may be reflected in many more articles for the next edition.

Christopher Tite, Mark Foster, Harry Mann, Chris Jones, Chris Adams.

STAFF

Mr. I. R. Clark has been appointed as Deputy Headmaster in succession to Mr. Pattinson.

Mr. T. J. N. Claye of Manchester University has been appointed to teach Economics and to introduce 'A' Level Business Studies. Mr. S. J. Grundy of Bath University has been appointed to teach Chemistry and Mr. D. B. Thomas of Exeter University to teach Physics.

We congratulate the following on gaining Open Awards :

- R. M. Allim : Smyth Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
- P. G. Chapman : Open Scholarship in Engineering, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.
- J. M. S. Davis : Open Exhibition in Classics, Queen's College, Oxford.
- S. D. Everson : Open Scholarship (for 1979) in Modern Studies, Corpus Christi College, Oxford.
- J-P E. G. Le Tissier : Open Scholarship in Modern Languages, Pembroke College, Cambridge.
- S. McKendrick : Open Exhibition in Classics, University College, Oxford.
- R. M. Orr : Open Scholarship in Maths., St. John's College, Oxford.
- J. Turner : Open Scholarship in Maths., St. John's College, Cambridge.
- A. J. Tyler : Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences, Queens' College, Cambridge.
- N. McL. Diack : Aberdeen University, Simpson Bursary for Economics.

Places at Oxford and Cambridge for 1978

- R. J. Appleton : Queens' College, Cambridge, for Engineering.
- T. J. Bateman : Trinity Hall, Cambridge, for Maths.
- T. S. Hawkins : Corpus Christi College, Oxford, for Classics.
- A. M. Jones : Churchill College, Cambridge, for History.
- R. F. Keene : Peterhouse, Cambridge, for Engineering.
- C. D. Morrish : Pembroke College, Cambridge, for Archaeology & Anthropology.
- S. N. Rowe : St. John's College, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences.
- C. G. Stainton : Pembroke College, Oxford, for Maths.
- J. M. White : Pembroke College, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences.

University Places 1977

- T. P. Airey: University College, London, Medicine.
- M. D. Avery: Southampton University, Law.
- A. J. Balmer: Exeter University, German.
- A. K. Brook: Birmingham University, Chemical Engineering.
- D. J. Brown: Bedford College, London, English.
- P. R. Burton: Leicester University, Medicine.
- K. P. C. Carroll: Dundee University, Medical Sciences
- D. G. Catling: City University, Banking & International Finance.
- B. N. Coulter: Warwick University, Accountancy & Financial Analysis.
- A. J. Crook: Warwick University, Accountancy & Financial Analysis.
- M. C. Crozier: York University, Psychology.
- M. J. Daly: Hull University, History.
- M. J. W. Davies: University of Bath, Applied Biology.
- C. R. Dean: Leicester University, Combined Studies Course.
- P. N. Dickinson: Aston University, Managerial & Administrative Studies.
- M. W. Edwards: Liverpool University, French.
- S. G. Fenner: St. George's Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.
- R. J. Glenister: Imperial College, London, Metallurgy & Materials Science.
- M. G. Goldstone: Bristol University, History.
- P. A. Gray: The Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.
- G. A. Hannam: Liverpool University, Chemistry.
- N. J. Hasteed: Lancaster University, Environmental Science.
- R. F. Heath: University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology, Biochemistry.
- S. Hickmott: Bristol University, Chemistry.
- S. J. Highton: Southampton University, European & American History.
- G. D. Hill: Southampton University, Electronics.
- L. N. Holmes: Trinity College, Dublin University, Business Studies.
- T. M. Hopkinson: Lancaster University, Accounting & Finance.
- J. G. Horne: Loughborough University, Data Processing.
- P. G. S. Hornsby: Durham University, Chemistry.
- P. Howard: Sussex University, French Literature.
- P. T. Howe: Nottingham University, Mining Engineering.
- J. L. Hoy: Birmingham University, Engineering.
- M. P. James: Brunel University, Production Technology & Production Management.
- D. P. Jeffreys: Southampton University, Geography.
- M. J. Ketteringham: University of East Anglia, Economics.
- R. Kettlewell: Southampton University, Music
- J. W. Key: Birmingham University, Physical Education/History.
- J. R. Le Good: Dundee University, Architecture.
- P. S. Lowe: Warwick University, English & American Studies.
- P. G. Ludgate: University College, London, Electronic Engineering.
- J. M. MacPhee: Bath University, Business Administration.
- A. M. McNally: Hull University, Botany & Physics.
- M. Magill: Aston University, Managerial & Administrative Studies.
- A. J. Perkins: Southampton University, Electronic Engineering.
- D. J. Perry: Aberystwyth University, Maths.
- J. M. Picton: Aberystwyth University, Law.
- I. Raistrick: University College of Swansea, Mechanical Engineering.
- T. E. Redmond: University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology, Chemistry
- P. J. Savage: Southampton University, Biology.
- T. O. Scott: Southampton University, Politics & International Studies.
- D. O. Sherwood: Kent University, Accounting.
- C. E. J. Sinden: Nottingham University, Agriculture.
- J. R. Skinner: Leicester University, Medicine.

- G. J. Smith : Birmingham University, Geography & African Studies.
 S. P. Smith : Hull University, Mathematical Statistics.
 S. J. Stinchcombe : Nottingham University, Medicine.
 T. D. Stone : Birmingham University, English Literature.
 J. M. Tagg : King's College, London, Geography.
 S. D. F. Taylor : University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology, Electronics.
 R. T. Thick : Bath University, Pharmacy.
 N. W. Thomas : Bristol University, Chemistry.
 P. M. Thomas : Birmingham University, Engineering Production.
 K. Thomson : Bath University, Engineering.
 D. W. Timms : Bath University, Business Administration.
 J. Varah : University College, London, Biology.
 M. K. Walker : Southampton University, Civil Engineering.
 D. J. Watson : Exeter University, Chemistry.
 E. N. Will : Sussex University, American Studies.
 R. Wood : Westfield College, London, Marine & Fresh Water Biology.
 T. J. Yapp : University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology, Chemical Engineering.

Polytechnics (Degree Courses)

- N. G. Allen : Middlesex Polytechnic, Applied Physics.
 C. N. J. Hamer : Polytechnic of Central London, Business Studies.

- P. R. Hester : Oxford Polytechnic, Foundation Accountancy.
 J. A. W. Morley : Bristol Polytechnic, Accounting & Finance.
 J. J. White : Brighton Polytechnic, Accountancy.
 J. V. White : Middlesex Polytechnic, European Business Administration.
 S. C. Wynd : Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Business Studies.

Other Colleges of Higher Education

- H. C. Atkins : Berks. College of Agriculture, Agriculture.
 S. A. Barnes : Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Art.
 C. R. Carpenter : Exeter College of Art, Art.
 T. C. Curwen : Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Art.
 T. L. Gillman : Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Art.
 G. J. Goodyer : Berks. College of Agriculture, Agriculture.
 J. G. King : Dartington College of Arts, Theatre.
 S. D. Loughran : Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Business Studies.
 N. P. McDonnell : Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Engineering.
 G. A. G. Mealing : Harper Adams College, Agricultural Marketing & Business Administration.
 I. H. Norrington : Westminster College, Hotel & Catering.
 J. S. Robinson : Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.
 J. C. York, Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Engineering.

A POEM

There was a pig
 A rotund pig
 Whose christian name was Derek
 His mum was big, his dad was small
 His gran was
 Esoteric!

K. Green

The Place of Classics in the School Curriculum

Latin's a dead language,
As dead as dead can be,
It killed the ancient Romans,
And now it's killing me.

A poem dear to the heart of many school-boys but is it true? Of course neither Latin nor Greek are colloquial languages, they are no longer spoken in conversation but they are by no means dead. No one who has ever read a comedy by Aristophanes or Thucydides' History or Virgil's 'Aeneid' would say that the classical world has nothing to offer us.

The Greece that we study was a remarkable place. Here for the first time men were looking at the world around them and questioning it. This was a vigorous civilisation in a period of intense development. So many aspects of modern life saw their birth in Greece or more specifically Athens at this time: on the science side, geometry, astronomy, physics and many other branches of the subject were initiated and advanced at a tremendous pace; on the arts side the Greeks played vital roles in the development of drama, philosophy and historical writing among others. For example in the field of drama, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides wrote plays on themes which are as relevant now to the way men think and act as they were nearly 2,500 years ago. In the comedies of Aristophanes we can see how little anything has really changed, the ordinary fifth century BC Athenian cared about exactly the same things as the ordinary twentieth century AD inhabitant of High Wycombe, he even laughed at the same dirty jokes. Thucydides' History was described by its author as 'a possession for ever' and that's exactly what it is, it doesn't just deal with 'some obscure war which took place thousands of years ago' it's all about the forces which drive men to act as they do and as such it deserves to be

studied just as much now as any other history. Through Latin we gain an insight into the civilisation which ruled a large part of the known world for half a millennium, for longer than the British Empire lasted, a culture which though it lacked the originality of the Greeks more than made up for it in other fields. In engineering, jurisdiction, social and military organisation the Romans laid the foundations of the society we live in today. Once again we are fortunate that there were men who were able to express the mood of their time in writing, both poetry and prose.

That's all very well, some might say, but why bother to read all this Greek and Latin literature in the original when you can read it in translation? Obviously reading in translation is better than not reading at all, but any translation while it may be governed by a number of constants is really only an interpretation of the original. It's like hearing a story second-hand; all right, the bulk of the facts may be accurate, but the speaker's account has inevitably been coloured by his own feelings.

The place of classics in the curriculum then really boils down to the purpose of education. Should the educational system churn out people with qualifications, like the proverbial sausage factory, purely with an eye to getting jobs? Or should it rather educate people to take their places as responsible members of society? A classics student like any student of a non-vocational subject will not be any worse a person than a scientist for example and in my opinion he will very probably be a better person because he will have a wider understanding of what it's like to be a member of the

society into which he must enter after school.

It is interesting to note that special vocational training is required after virtually all courses and a study of the careers followed by Classics students reveals a very wide spectrum, certainly far wider than the false impression that only jobs in the legal

profession or teaching await the Classics scholar. I do not pretend to have painted an entirely unbiased view of the place of Classics but nevertheless I think I have shown that it can justify its position alongside any other school subject.

Mark Foster 6C2

Why Science ?

One thing is for certain : it is more than just an excuse to avoid being taught French and History in the VIth form! The learning of science consists of two main procedures (i) the accumulation of scientific knowledge and (ii) the refinement of the 'scientific method' (useful for everyone and not just scientists). There is no need to go into the details of what these are or involve except to say that both are slow processes which must be built up step by step; learning by experience, mistakes and successes. Thus science is not a subject that anyone can plunge straight into at top level but it is like a ladder that the would-be scientist needs to climb and the only place to start is at the bottom. Thus if science is to progress at all we must begin as low down the educational system as possible to give those who wish the best opportunity to reach as high a level as they are able.

'But why should science need to progress? Why should we bother with it at all?' many ask (most of them enjoy doing French and History!). The engineer, practical man, or medic would probably answer that scientific advancement is needed as a basis for future developments in health, buildings, transport, machines, and house-

hold ('essential') gadgets to name but a minute percentage of its practical applications. Although it is not a very strong argument on a realistic level some 'idealists' like to ask, 'But does all this materialism really increase our true standard of living?' This is an area of some hot discussion which hinges on the meaning of the phrase 'Standard of Living'. Therefore I will leave it alone and just add my view that the answer would only be a definite 'No it does not,' from a spiritual point of view in a perfect (impossible) society free from evil. Anyway, there is a far greater and more fundamental reason for the virtues of scientific progress and that is the mere desire for it—Man's unquenchable curiosity about the natural world surrounding him (and not only surrounding him but inside him and what he is made of also!) Without that yearning for the truth Man would be a mentally 'dead' and inert creature. Even though doctors, engineers, governments and the rest of the realistic world might like to add further reasons, it is by that FACT and that alone that a true scientist would justify himself and his colleagues.

J. Adams



R.G.S. SHOW DAY 1977

Photos S. M. Poulson

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The E.C.Y.O. was conceived from an idea that international understanding and co-operation is an essential requirement for mankind to live in peace and harmony. Thus it was believed that by bringing together 135 young people from the nine member States, with different backgrounds, religions, political ideologies and ethnic origins the correct cradle for such an idea to grow would be created. As music is a universal language that can help to overcome any barriers, the formation of an orchestra of the most gifted and talented young musicians in Europe was suggested.

The task of finding the young musicians fell to assistant Musical Director, James Judd, a daunting prospect many thought. For the first stage of the search each country was requested to hold a national competition to find 14 to 20 year olds with the technical skills required in tackling a work as demanding as Mahler's 6th symphony and the stamina of undertaking a hectic concert tour with such a work. In Britain the competition was run with the invaluable help of BBC television. The players at the semi-finals, already selected from hundreds of applicants were asked to perform for about ten minutes, an extract from a work of their own choice and a short sight reading section from Mahler's 6th symphony. The players who progressed were each sent certain difficult passages from the Mahler to study for the finals. The students who came through all the auditions with flying colours were to form the exciting new orchestral venture, which was to bring about a closer cultural integration of European nations. I was one of the lucky British competitors to succeed in gaining one of the coveted places.

On 17th March we musicians arrived in Amsterdam and were transported to the Leeuwenhorst Congress Centre, where a concentrated rehearsal schedule was undertaken by Maestro Abbado. The opening concert was in Amsterdam at the Concertg-

ebouw at which Queen Juliana of the Netherlands was present. The tour thus got underway. Bonn, Paris, Luxembourg, Brussels, Milan, each concert being opened by the anthem of that country and the EEC national anthem (which is the well known theme from Beethoven's 9th). Mr. Edward Heath who accompanied us on most of the tour and officiated at all the important ceremonies and receptions, then gave a short speech about the aims of the orchestra, followed by Wagner's Meistersinger overture, which he conducted. Every concert was a sell out, huge capacity audiences turned out (among which eminent members of the world of music such as Artur Schnabel, Bernard Haitink and Sir William Walton (who came from his home on Ischia to the Rome concert) could be spotted,) and standing ovations were the norm. The tour was extremely well organised; we had three coaches by Daimler Benz AC at our disposal, we stayed in the best hotels and food was of the highest standard. For many of us it was our first experience of airtravel as were our sightseeing tours of each city. We felt we were really 'jet set' people when we flew from Milan to Rome in a Boeing 747 for the final concert at the Teatro dell'Opera. After each concert a reception was held which was usually attended by important dignitaries and heads of State, also members of the European Parliament.

The course and tour was a great success and the ECYO are looking forward to meeting again in August, when we will undertake concerts in London, Aberdeen and Dublin (with a programme of Britten conducted by Lorin Maazel. A Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra; Verdi; Prelude to Act Three 'La Traviata'; Brahms, Academic Festival Overture (conducted by Edward Heath) and Berlioz 'Symphony Fantastique'). The final concert of the orchestra's first year will be held in Copenhagen.

Anthony M. Houska

A MAN FOR OUR TIME

The lights went down—except one spotlight which scanned the audience. The sounds of civilisation became louder and louder and then stopped. The silence was interrupted by the sound of gates being shut and locked. Through the middle of a scaffolding poured bewildered people. The acting had not yet begun. What the audience was seeing was a Miracle Play—a miracle that there was a play at all. Take forty actors, forty ideas of what the play should be like, six weeks for rehearsal and one has a recipe for disaster. Add to this the guidance of Messrs. Smith, Ruff and Edwards and things look just a little brighter.

Last October at the annual Drama Weekend, four scriptural stories had been staged in an improvised manner and, with a henpecked Noah, a Pythonic Herod and a Pinteresque Prodigal Son, this had been quite successful. It remained to be seen whether it would transfer to the Big Stage—the Easter Term Drama Production. It was decided merely to stage the life, or certain parts of the life of Christ and to do this in an unspecified setting. (Although one might have guessed, from the fragments of radio news included at the beginning, that it was set two weeks before the production and somewhere where they could receive Radio 4).

The scripts were prepared over Christmas, partly on ideas from the cast and work began after Mocks. Mr. Ruff, in a homage to democracy, told his group that they could change what they wanted; but all the improvements were really syntactic. It was perhaps surprising how little the scripts

were altered in rehearsal; Pilate's part became rapidly larger (for some reason) but such magnificent lines as 'We play your records God; but they tend to get scratched' escaped unharmed. At the end of Mr. Smith's play a machine gun is turned on the actors but there was probably nothing significant in this.

The problem here was maintaining the tension; there are things more immediately frightening than Chief Warders in Palm-Beach sunglasses, however great their obvious malignity. In this part, as in all three, the acting was most committed.

The second part, the 'Parables Game' was intentionally funny and had a script in which the only thing more noticeable than quick-fire wit was the massive number of typing mistakes (including the 'laboul exchange'). The combination of a bucolic buffoon, a punk prodigal and a tea lady, who yodelled the songs from the first play, seemed to be thought quite effective.

The third part dealt with Christ's entry into Jerusalem and his passion. This was mainly serious, despite a sybaritic passage dealing with cheese. (It didn't help that the stomach of one of those attempting to seem well-fed kept rumbling very loudly on one night).

The production seemed to be appreciated. 'Magnificent', 'Tremendous' were adjectives applied and we even had some things said that were unprompted. One of these came from a prominent member of the Staff Revue who could only say 'Muck!'

S. D. Emerson

ODE TO A SILVER BIRCH

Oh Silver Birch
Your shimmering softness
Gentler than the first pale greys of dawn
Slender dryad of sylvanal splendour
Your supple dactylic branches
Make such good whips.

C. McDermott

MOCK BY-ELECTION

Thursday 27th April, 1978

The Returning Officers for the 'constituency' hereby give notice that the total number of votes cast in this election was as follows:

Conservative	545 (57.4%)
Labour	138 (14.5%)
Liberal	48 (5.0%)
National Front	48 (5.0%)
Anti-Nazi	21
Communist	9
Con. Majority	407
Turnout	96.5%

It was therefore declared that the Conservative Party had been duly elected by the voters. The Conservatives thus retained the RGS 'seat' on a substantially increased majority. The Labour Party vote fell dramatically, and the Liberals—the victors in the mock 1974 (Feb.) General Election—fell to equal third place, with the National Front. Had this been a genuine election, only the Conservative and Labour parties would have retained their deposits.

COMMENTS

Before voting began it was made clear to the voters that only nationally-recognised political parties would be counted, in an attempt to secure a vaguely sensible result. To a large extent people realised the motive behind this ruling, but some did not. Thus,

despite the ruling, there now follows an account of votes cast in favour of minority groups.

PUS	12
SHP	25
Socialist Workers	14
Sci. Fiction	9

With the exception of the Socialist Workers Party, the remaining groups emerged from the RGS. (It is regretted that it is not possible to expand the abbreviations: their precise meaning is, and probably always will be something of a mystery!)

Nevertheless, voting went well, and the concept of a mock by-election was well-received throughout the School. As a comparison the results of the 'real' by-election are given below:

Ray Whitney (Conservative)	29,677
Trevor Fowler (Labour)	14,109
Harry Warschauer (Liberal)	3,665
Sylvia Jones (National Front)	2,040
Conservative majority	15,568

It would seem that the voters of the RGS accurately reflect the feelings of the electorate of the High Wycombe division!

Christopher C. Tite

VOTING ANALYSIS

Party/Year	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Conservative	117 (67.5%)	134 (74.3%)	100 (67.1%)	51 (32.7%)	143 (45.4%)
Labour	27 (15.3%)	18 (9.7%)	28 (18.8%)	14 (9%)	51 (17.1%)
Liberal	8 (4.5%)	6 (3.2%)	7 (4.7%)	7 (4.5%)	20 (7%)
National Front	} 22 (12.5%)	} 23 (12.4%)	} 14 (9.4%)	} 84 (53.9%)	} 75 (25.6%)
Anti-Nazi					
Others					
Turnout	97.8%	97.4%	92%	95%	80.5%



Three of the candidates in the by-election. From left: Trevor Fowler (Lab), Harry Warschauer (Lib), Ray Whitney (Cons).

Photo by Chris Jones

'FORUM'

Although not generally known, 'FORUM' was initiated in December 1977. Since then the Chairman of the association has endeavoured to secure visits from many eminent people, but alas! to no real avail (although hope does exist for the future).

The tragic death of Sir John Hall, the Member of Parliament for High Wycombe, obviously necessitated a by-election within the constituency—something which, it was anticipated, would be of interest to many boys. As various political parties sprang into action, and adopted their candidates earlier this year, approaches were made by 'FORUM' to try to secure visits from these gentlemen during the by-election campaign. Once the date for this was finally announced

acceptances were eventually received, after some negotiation, from the Conservative, Labour and Liberal candidates to visit the School just one week before polling day, on April 27th.

The 20th April came, and, one by one, the candidates (and also reporters from the national and local press) arrived—first Mr. Harry Warschauer (Liberal), then Mr. Trevor Fowler (Labour), and finally Mr. Ray Whitney (Conservative). After having been welcomed in the Headmaster's study by the Chairman and Mr. Ian Clark, the message was received that all was ready, and, just after 1.15 p.m., the guests were escorted into the Queen's Hall, to be greeted by a pleasantly larger audience than was

expected. After a brief introduction by the Chairman, each candidate was allowed five minutes (which, in reality, was more like seven!) in which to state briefly his political beliefs. Each gentleman performed ably—let this comment suffice, for any further judgement should be pronounced by those present at the meeting, and not by one actively involved at the time. There then followed a question and answer session, unfortunately too short, but nevertheless of interest and, on occasions, rather entertaining: notably a somewhat heated argument, mainly between Messrs. Whitney and Warschauer, over the immigration issue.

Perhaps it may interest readers to know that all the candidates commented after-

wards about the large attendance (estimated to be in the region of 400 staff and students). Apparently they had been accustomed to somewhat fewer people at their meetings, and one did say that he would expect an average audience to consist of some 20-30 people!

The excellent reception from those present, and the high standard of debate attained by the candidates, linked with the superb secretarial, technical and photographic support, both prior to, and during the occasion, undoubtedly contributed towards the ultimate success of this new venture into the world of politics, and current affairs, at RGS.

C. C. Tite, chairman

PUBLIC SPEAKING

During the early part of this year the School entered two teams in two separate competitions. Although success was limited in terms of material gains, it cannot be denied that valuable experience was gained in public speaking by all participants.

Christopher C. Tite (Main Speaker), Christopher Swinhoe-Standen (Chairman), and Adrian Jenkins (Proposer of the Vote of Thanks) were the members of the team which won the High Wycombe round of the Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' competition. However, retaining their original subject 'The Defence of the Realm', they went on to suffer defeat at the hands of Langley Grammar School in the second round, although the RGS team did retain the Tom Evans Memorial Trophy for the second

consecutive year at local level.

A further team, comprising Stephen Everson (Main Speaker), Julian Shaw (Chairman), and David Ballance (Proposer of the Vote of Thanks), entered the annual English-Speaking Union competition. With the unusual subject 'Existence', the team unfortunately suffered defeat in the first round.

Nevertheless, both teams agree that their efforts were worthwhile, and, as somebody said afterwards: 'To win is not everything.' Their time was well-spent, and thanks must be extended to Messrs. Jones and Mitchell, without whose patient ear and critical eye they would all have been rather lost!

C. C. Tite

I bought a talking flower,
It sat upon its stalk,
But though I listened daily,
I never heard it talk.

I fed it with weed-killer,
I watered it like mad,
But never has it said a word,
I think that I've been had.

D. Reid

STAFF AND NONSENSE

On March 3rd and 4th the Queen's Hall was filled to capacity to see the latest offering by the frustrated actors of the staff. Without any warning, the audience was exposed to Mr. Page's bare legs. Could the rest of the programme live up to this dazzling start? We soon saw it could, with Mr. Cook scoring a dubious victory over a gang who could have eaten the Brazilian football team for breakfast. Poetry with meter was followed by 'Morning, Squire' in which Mr. Blyth performed technological miracles on run-down masters.

A Staff Revue could not be complete without a Tom Lehrer recital by Mr. Ferris, whose songs were well delivered and well received. After some clarification of the naming of foims, a promising starlet, Steve (Harmony Hair Spray) Edwards burst onto the stage, suitably padded. Mr. Mills and Mr. Wardell placated the audience with their music, but the melodrama of Maria Marten and Lucifer restored the atmosphere.

Then the masterpiece: 'Welcome to your friendly Staff-Room', which confirmed our deepest suspicions about what happens on

Thursday lunchtimes. Mr. Gamester—who had earlier asked a question puzzling many people: afternoon school? What's that?—showed what happens to confiscated literature. Brad Golightly's newsround followed, then came Mr. Ruff's hippopotami and fish-shops. Mr. Moffatt suffered a close encounter with Mr. Wilson while Mr. White-Taylor was found breaking the silence rule in the library.

Julius Mitchell and William Shakespeare suffered in the play of Roman politics that followed. Messrs. Mills and Wardell played beautifully again, then Mr. White-Taylor in dirty mac succeeded where Mr. Gamester and Mr. Wilson failed—as a lion-tamer. More secrets were revealed about masters' nocturnal habits in Mr. Edwards' letters to his mummy, then the finale of eleven grown men doing the can-can, which may seem unlikely, but it happened and was very well received. It was with some justification that after several curtain calls a voice was heard from the audience—'We're not going home, you know!'

H. K. Mann



APPALLING BEHAVIOUR IN THE QUEEN'S HALL

On Friday and Saturday, March 3rd and 4th, eleven members of the staff made a squalid and disgusting exhibition of themselves in a programme given the innocent-sounding title of 'Staff and Nonsense.' They performed a series of, I presume, supposedly comic sketches, many of which reflected very badly on what goes on in the school. It was distressing to observe that the audience reacted most favourably to the most offensive sketches cheering and laughing in a manner very painful to me. It appears, for instance, from 'Match of the Day', that every Geography lesson is filled with the sort of crude violence that we have come to expect from professional footballers; in 'Dear Mummy', the cast had no qualms about portraying the staff as a collection of vampires sucking blood from a sweet and innocent boy; in 'Morning, Squire' the staff were jeeringly regarded as a collection of broken-down and inadequate used-cars, sold by a cynical and ignorant salesman; and most depressing of all, possibly the most popular sketch was 'The Staff-Room', where the whole staff were portrayed as drunken, lecherous, idle and eccentric buffoons, (which I am beginning to consider quite close to the truth), engaged in drinking and telling obscene jokes, when they were not viciously attacking or misleading a harmless boy. Worse still, members of the staff not involved in this charade were lampooned by name, often described as being 'up the pub!'

Not content with this, the cast also made fun of England's greatest poet, in a viciously distorted parody of 'Julius Caesar' in which the people of Rome appeared as the violent supporters of Watford F.C., Julius Caesar himself was shown as effeminate, and Mark Antony was a leather-jacketed hooligan with a hang-over. The worst, however, was reserved for the Finale, where the entire cast attempted to dance the Can-Can, when clearly none of them was a trained dancer. This was received with ludicrous enthusiasm, the audience demanding three



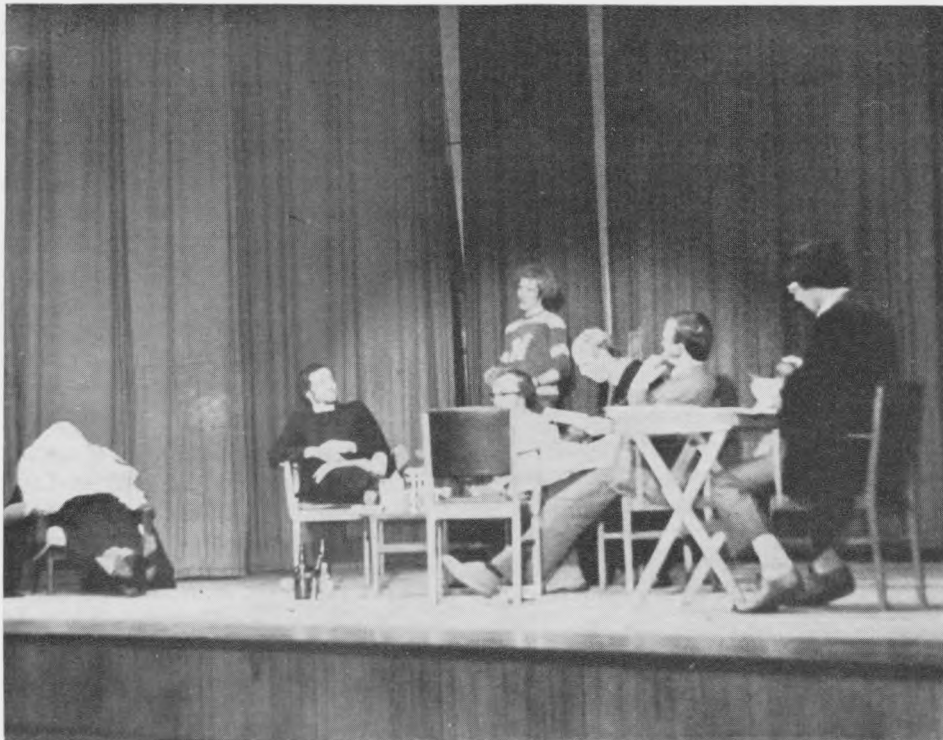
encores which showed many of the cast to be sadly unfit, no doubt as a result of their loose living and drunkenness mentioned earlier.

At least, the musical items were thoroughly satisfactory, apart from the tastelessly morbid songs of Tom Lehrer and the boys of the Sound, Lighting and Stage teams were very competent indeed, but in every other way, I was shocked and appalled by the whole affair, especially by the fact that the capacity audiences of boys and parents seemed to enjoy it a great deal. They laughed and applauded throughout the performances; I heard comments such as 'a work of genius', and 'the best yet', bandied about afterwards—words fail me!

Someone calling himself 'Ian Blyth' is evidently the chief architect of this sorry business. I only hope that he, and his outrageous friends meet a swift and condign punishment without further delay.

Disgusted

(Major-Gen. Rtd.)



OSNABRUCK '78

Three weeks in High Wycombe would hardly take pride of place in a travel brochure. This was the fate of the German group who visited us from Osnabruck at Easter this year. However they made the most of their lot. They also enjoyed and appreciated the trips that they went on, especially to London, and even more, the social aspect of the exchange.

At home, they were at first nervous but slowly grew more relaxed and friendly.

For us the first part of the exchange was merely a taste of the German character, the highlight was our trip to Germany.

As we said goodbye to our parents there were two feelings in our hearts, partly nervousness but more of excitement. It was somewhat disconcerting when before boarding the train at High Wycombe one of our bags broke. The next unfortunate incident occurred as we were leaving the same train at Marylebone, when the other writer's suitcase handle snapped. This was an eventful prelude to a rather uneventful journey. The thought crossed many minds that perhaps a flight would have been worth the extra money.

Exhaustion overcame the feeling of excitement when we met our partners' parents for the first time, but we were immediately accepted as one of the family. The first few days were simply a matter of getting settled in, used to the family and the sausage (the rumours that the Germans only eat sausage were ratified).

Most of us went to see Osnabruck on either the first or second day of the holiday. There was a great and striking difference between the new and old parts of the city; the old being quaint with narrow streets and chocolate box beauty; the new being typical of the Germans' clean-up and re-

building operation after the war—clean, practical but retaining a certain style.

The impression one got of the German school was almost a fear of regimentation: the teachers relaxed and the pupils more so. The whole style of the school was uncompetitive. The idea of our going into lessons failed because the atmosphere was so different, almost worrying. Perhaps the only defence of their happy-go-lucky attitude at school was that they appeared to work harder at home.

We found that having to speak German rapidly increased our vocabulary and gave us great confidence. We learnt many colloquial expressions, some of which are not to be found in any text book.

The centre of activity out of school was the Billiard Centre which quenched our thirst for sport and the Lager Hall—which quenched our thirst!

If there is any complaint about the Osnabruck exchange it was that the trips arranged for us were not as good as the journeys arranged for our partners in England. For instance Hannover was a large Osnabruck except it had no style.

Saying goodbye to our German partners was a sad, but at the same time, a happy moment. We were saying farewell to new but dear friends who had taken us into their homes and treated us with great kindness and hospitality. But after spending two and a half weeks in a completely different environment going back to our families was a happy prospect.

We would like to give thanks to Messrs. Durbin, Roebuck and White-Taylor for the time and effort they have put into the organisation of this year's exchange.

N. R. Warren & M. H. Welby

RGS-LYCEE DAUDET (NIMES) EXCHANGE 1978

The day had arrived. Sunday, March 19th 07.00 hours. Twenty-eight keen and able ?? French students from the RGS and Lady Verney H.S. were assembled at High Wycombe station. Their mission—to survive 24 hours travelling under the (un)doubted leadership of Mr. Stephen (where's my map) Edwards. Despite numerous attempts by the member of staff to lose them in Paris (where incidentally a beggar is considerably better off, thanks to generous contributions by Mark Jarvis) the 28 bedraggled heroes arrived at their destination—Nimes—on time.

The traditional French greeting signalled 'mission accomplished' and the students were then taken off to their respective abodes. They were to spend three weeks sampling every walk of French life (especially Mark Jarvis who is now a proficient skateboarder and star monopoly player amongst other things).

Each morning the group reassembled at 'Le Lycée Daudet' to attend lessons. A series of lectures was also arranged on local history, geography and culture. Many new friends were made during the short stay and many were asked to return in later years. Various trips were organised to give the

students an idea of the town and the area—an especially good one was a tour incorporating Les Baux and Avignon. A disco was even organised where they had the enlightening experience of seeing Mr. Edwards dance.

Time seemed to pass all too quickly and in no time the much-refreshed group had reassembled at the station for the return journey. (One guess as to who was late due to trouble with his map). The train pulled out of Nimes with Mark Jarvis waving goodbye from the platform until he realised that he should have been with us. The journey back was the same as the outward one (Mark Jarvis worked that out) and was uneventful except that Mark Jarvis' bag fell out of the coach. But as usual Mr. E. handled the situation with his usual composure by giving Mark Jarvis his shoulder and a handkerchief.

Despite all this, many thanks are due to Mr. Edwards and Mrs. Coutts for enabling us to participate in such a worthwhile exchange. (Thanks too to Mark Jarvis for giving us all a good laugh or two, or three, or . . .)

Two keen French students

RUSSIAN THAW

There is an element of uncertainty about any organised visit to the Soviet Union; if nothing else occurs to disrupt plans, Intourist can be relied on to provide a spice of frustration. However, despite lengthy travelling between hotel and restaurant; the strange complications involved in booking theatre tickets; the fact that only Intourist officials were unaware that Abramtsevo was closed to all visitors—despite, or perhaps even in a perverse way partly because of these things, our visit this Easter to Leningrad and Moscow was a great success.

The weather was kind to us all the time. Bright sunshine lit up the gleaming untrodden snow, the grubby compacted ice in the streets, and the occasional slush and water of a Russian thaw. The paths of parks were like paddling pools, and old ladies sat on benches, with their feet resting on melting ice. In the mornings other women could be seen breaking up the sheets of ice along the road verges, and loading the pieces on to lorries.

It began to rain on our last evening at Leningrad, but the sun greeted us the following morning in Moscow, where the streets were already clear of snow, and the weather remained bright until our return to England.

Russian school pupils with a special interest in English accompanied us on some of our outings, and occasionally acted as guides. Dima and his friends in Leningrad spoke very good English, and did their job well. Besides this fraternising, our visits to the House of Friendship in Leningrad and to a Pioneer Palace in Moscow were, of course, supposed to assist that other Russian thaw that we are told has been going on since 1953. Although these occasions were predictable, the encounters were by no means one-sided, and led to much lively discussion.

Each member of the party will have his own particular view of what was for him most memorable. For me it was being shown, among a display of recently acquired

manuscripts at the Literary Museum in Leningrad, a Gospels copied by Peter the Great's formidable sister Sophia, and a page written by the arch-priest Avakkum in the middle of the 17th century. Contact with such objects brings to life the whole turbulent history of Russia.

I personally had reason to be grateful for the cheerful good sense of the members of our party (although it included the most extraordinarily absent-minded people) and the way in which our four girls—Caroline, Debbie, Jackie and Sian—blended in. As we came back by rail through Poland and East Germany, shedding visa forms and currency declarations like confetti, there was ample leisure to reflect on our brief visit to the USSR. Even though it is unlikely that any permanent contacts will have been made with Russians as a result of it, a better understanding has been achieved, I think, of the way the Russians live. And, who knows, perhaps some slight, though imperceptible, furthering of the long Russian thaw.

E.J.P.

THE MINER

He moves through the tunnel of filth
Crawling and crouching in slime.
The cold water drips—
Annoyingly on his fearful body.
His life is continuously held in danger
Like the metal rods which hold up the mine.
Anxious moments . . .
Cold, black treacly water
Dripping from his numbed body.
He is covered with dirt
And waits desperately for the end of the day . . .
Grime between his fingers and toes.
Arms trapped—
The slightest movement means death.
There he lies.
In a pool of oily water,
Wet, dark, cold, claustrophobic
Death Trap.

3P

POVERTY

A young girl with torn clothes
Sits by the life-supporting flames
Drooping her head in self-pity,
Wistful eyes gazing dolefully at the hearth
Encrusted with
Thick black,
Choking black soot.
Moth-eaten jumper, torn jeans,
Bare feet and sore hands.
Starvation
Death
Poverty
Linger at every hovel.

3P

A NEW MATHS PROBLEM

At 11 a.m. a Frenchman sets off on his bicycle from Point A, carrying his onions, and travels at a speed of 100 m. per second towards Point B, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. 10 minutes later an Irishman leaves Dublin and travels due North at 30 ft. per second for 30 minutes, then turns sharp right, falls off his skateboard and stops for lunch. The Frenchman is by now three miles north of the Watford Gap.

At time T the Irishman resumes his journey at 10 m.p.h., due East.

Deduce, hence or otherwise

- The home address of the Irishman
- The time at which they collide
- The weight of the onions.

C F E R R W I L B L E D S C O T B L E T C E
H A M S I T S S O Y T W C L A T O U I G H F
E E B M I O N E N N H A R K R T M T C E T R
A R B R L G S S O W N E D O T T I L A V O E
R L A L L I K B R J O S S N A A T A N D N P
L A I L S P P K E R C O O K E F C H N O J S
H C N A E H R L U S L B E E S F L E E S A M
U T H T A P W A I M X O N C M O L F L E J D
C E R E G S T U T H R O W N A R D N I I V A
O O R U T A L B B S B S S E R R E R S E O H
E P K F F O B S O H K O T H D O E O R S L E
R I N R S T A Y R O Y D N R P E B U S E M L
H G D E A M W N N S B M O O H T K C P B F I
T R Y D U R B I L E A R G E L S C A M E L L

Travel up, down and sideways
(but not diagonally) until you
have completed the name of a
member of staff. There are 50
names hidden in this way and
when you have successfully
eliminated all of these you will
be left with a suitable slogan.

S. M. Poulson

BOARDING HOUSE REPORTS

SCHOOL HOUSE REPORT

Since the last report at Christmas not very much seems to have happened in and around the house, although earlier this term we had an overdue and much welcomed visit from the painters and decorators, who among other things managed to repair the somewhat dilapidated plaster-work in the annexe. Previous occupants might like to know that it is now quite safe to work (or sleep) in there without the constant threat of falling rocks.

Belated congratulations go to Pete Chapman and Jonathan Davis on gaining Open awards at Cambridge and Oxford respectively (who would have thought otherwise?) Richard Appleton's efforts were not fruitless either, for he managed to secure a place at Cambridge for next year. We hope, when they eventually start, they will enjoy themselves.

Up until recently the Lower Sixth had often complained that they had nowhere of their own to work, but at the end of last term one of the quiet rooms was converted into a comfortable workroom, the amenities of which threaten to surpass those of the Prefects' study. We hope that by the time this report is published, the study will have a new coat of paint, that is if our own Redecoration Project gets under way.

With the end of the school year coming up, I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of those of us who will be leaving, to thank Mr. Skipp and Mr. White-Taylor for their unending tolerance, Mrs. Pattinson for her marvellous work as Matron, and Mrs. Symonds who still continues to astound us with her culinary delights.

Brendan McNally

TYLERS WOOD HOUSE REPORT

Much has happened at Tylers Wood since the last boarding-house report some time ago. We have of course seen the departure of many valued members of the House and the arrival of new ones to take their place.

With the summer-term getting under way, the younger members of the House welcome the time as one holding great opportunities for outdoor activities, especially since the construction by Mr. Samways of two sets of 'five-a-side' football posts; while the seniors welcome the chance to penetrate the common-room without being assaulted by helmeted maniacs on skate-boards. The upper-sixth are now, of course, awaiting the A-levels with all the eager anticipation of sheep in an abattoir.

On a less depressing note, the five sixth-formers gave a 'post-mocks' party at Hazlemere Church Hall which was attended by many members of the School's sixth-form. I think and hope that it was enjoyed by all present.

The Prefects' Study (disporting a large and colourful collection of small table-mats) this year houses an enlightened and moderate regime which efficiently carries out the day to day running of the House.

But to return to the trivia of everyday life: Mr. Wardell replaced Mr. Wilson (to whom we wish every happiness in his recent marriage) as House Tutor and finds his relief from the weighty responsibilities involved in tinkling on his piano. Mr. Hornsby is currently bestowing upon the house the gift of his august presence and enlivens the life of its inmates by his own peculiar mixture of intimidation and cheerful helpfulness.

It remains, of course, to thank all the staff and masters who enable the House to run with such well-oiled efficiency. Special thanks must go to Dr. R. C. Dorrance (BSc, PhD, MRIC), who volunteered much of his free time to perform a service for the House.

Last, but of course, not least we would like to thank both Mr. and Mrs. Samways without whose invaluable guidance the House might not be capable of functioning properly.

C. McDermott

UPLYME HOUSE REPORT

With the beginning of the Summer Term the house seems to have quietened down a bit—probably because of the fact that there are only 12 of us now, rather than any increase in revision for exams. In fact half of Uplyme will be involved in GCE 'O' and 'A' levels this Summer and we look forward to many good results. (Best of luck, Guy!)

Once again we were widely represented in School sports—we had members in the Hockey, Rugby, Rowing, U16 Basketball, Chess and Bridge teams and Neil Holland was rumoured to have played in the Badminton Team. Notable performances came from D. Dilworth and D. Tordoff in the U16 Basketball Team and J. D. Carter who played for the U16 County Rugby Team. We hope, in vain at the moment, that we might even get a Junior in a School Team (there's your chance Graham!)

In the School Play 'A Man for our Time' Nicholas Morris performed well and Mr. Edwards was organising a lot behind the scenes. We also supplied the car-parkers and coffee at the production, so many thanks to all who helped with that.

Other highlights of the term came when the whole house went to see 'Jesus Christ Superstar' in London. It proved to be a very worthwhile and enjoyable evening and many thanks to Mr. Edwards for his organisation, not least for making sure we didn't get lost on the Underground.

Finally thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs for their tireless efforts during the term and to Mr. Edwards for always being on hand but especially to Adam for keeping us all amused in the winter.

Neil Featonby

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

CHRISTIAN UNION

The main purpose of this article is to inform you that the Christian Union is alive and well.

Last term there was a full programme of activities including various guest speakers and a series of filmstrips and tapes entitled 'Peacemakers on the Move', the general theme of which was missionary work. This series was not very well attended which was perhaps not surprising as some difficulty was experienced with the equipment (when we could find it). Numbers began to pick up towards the end of the term which was quite encouraging. Just before the Easter holidays a debate was held between the Christian Union and the Debating Society. The motion was, 'This house believes that if God exists he would be a malignant force'. The debate was lively and well attended and the result was a draw.

The Christian Union is flourishing this term and numbers are growing. Speakers are booked for the rest of the year and some thought is already being given to what could be in the autumn term. Why not come along any Tuesday or Thursday lunch-time to the Chapel and find out what goes on?

P. F. Gosling

APATHY SOCIETY

The society has had a relatively eventful term. Our membership has doubled during the last year and we recently held our fifth Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately, as neither of us could be bothered to turn up, we don't know what happened (and we don't really care anyway). Apart from all this excitement we have held many (one or two) boring debates on subjects such as: 'How to waste free periods and Thursday afternoons successfully'.

I've heard a rumour that the Apathy Society meets on Monday lunchtimes in Bill's but I'm still not convinced.

S. M. Poulson

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB REPORT

Throughout this term the Model Railway Club has been expanding. There are now two exhibition layouts (one privately owned) for which we are always willing to accept new ideas. The permanent layout is being improved with a new facing crossover, bay platform and goods yard. The club had a successful trip to the National Model Railway exhibition and Clapham Junction during Easter and another more adventurous one to a railway works is planned for the summer at reduced fares (even less for M.R.C. members). New members are always welcome and there is always plenty for those with initiative to do. The old violent MRC has been lost for ever.

M. Dymott (Treasurer)

D. J. Ball (Secretary)

BRIDGE CLUB

The Bridge Club restarted again last November, and almost immediately quite a substantial number of younger players emerged, which is very promising for the future. There have been two school teams, and we have played four inter-school matches now. We have also participated in two national competitions, and the first team (D. Carless, N. Featonby, H. Menery and C. Grayling) qualified for the semi-final of one of these, The 'Daily Mail' Schools Cup. The club also held a competition at the end of last term. All had a good time, except for the tournament director, who had to organise the competition amongst total chaos. It is intended to hold more similar competitions in the future. The club meets on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes in room 19, and players of all standards are welcome. Thanks to Mr. Gamester for his valuable help in organising everything.

C. Grayling

RGS STAGE LIGHTING TEAM

The team was redundant for the first half of the Spring term but the second half more than made up for this. The first event was the Spring concert, then a day later we had the Dress rehearsal for the Staff Revue. The team displayed its remarkable versatility by operating the lights, sound effects and projection, all this while keeping Dr. Dorrance and Mr. Cave under control. One week later we once again proved that we could turn our hand to anything by helping to put up the scaffolding set for the school play, a rare example of co-operation between the friendly, efficient, highly intelligent democratically-run Stage Lighting Team and our traditional enemies, the tyrannical Stage Team. We were all impressed by Mr. Cave's very convincing portrayal of Tarzan. The play itself was most successful. It made a pleasant change to do lighting in the round, and besides it gave us an opportunity to play with the hired automatic colour-wheels. We soon hope to have one of our own and a new large bifocal spotlight, the first acquisitions in living memory. These were paid for in part by the milk bottle tops

which have been brought in and we thank all those who have helped.

In mid-March the team was shown around the National Theatre and its lighting systems. The visit was very interesting and we were suitably impressed by the 800 lamps and computer-backed lighting board in the Olivier Theatre, a bit of a contrast to our cumbersome death trap which is very good for toasting cheese sandwiches.

The end of the Summer term sees the passing of an era with the departure of Adrian 'Jimi Hendrix' Paull and the retirement of Mark Foster, who have been the mainstays of the team for the past four years (that'll make me popular!) and Paul Robinson, a very useful member for the past two. They leave the team in the capable hands (?) of John Laidler and Stephen Laws, both experienced campaigners, and Jim Lambert and Mark (the pest) Laws who show great promise for the future.

Finally thanks must go to Dr. Dorrance, who has put up with the team's sense of humour so admirably, and Mr. Cave who has settled in very well.

Mark Foster

WARGAMES CLUB

The Wargames Club faced two crises over the last term. The first was when Fighting 'Dragons and Giants Game' was banned because the players' sanity was questioned, and the second was when the Sixth Form leaders of the club left, leaving an apathetic 5th Form. Our thanks to Mr. Talbot who endured us over this period and continues regularly to supervise us on Tuesday evenings.

The club has now reverted to fighting more probable battles, using skill, strategic planning and luck, to win where others have lost. Convoys have been attacked by sub-

marine commanders, who showed great bravery and great cowardice. Great enjoyment has been gained from refighting the 'War of the Ring' with the sides acting in a totally Machiavellian Fashion, with the naive Sauron being betrayed countless times.

Finally we need new recruits to fight these great battles and so anyone who has ambitions of becoming a Hitler, Wellington or Stalin and would like to be taught the strange art of wargames by 5th Formers, do come along to Room 10 on Tuesday evenings.

A. Lane

CHESS CLUB

This term, with the number of Bucks Junior and Senior League commitments and the 'Sunday Times' matches, very few friendly matches could be arranged. Yet in other aspects it was a very lively term, with the inter-form chess competitions going on most lunchtimes and several keen juniors emerging.

Yet the highlight of the term was in the 'Sunday Times' where the Team managed to win the zone final, beating strong rivals Sir William Borlase all the way. We now look forward to continuing our success in the later rounds of the competition.

Both teams in the Senior Bucks League met with only moderate success yet there were some notable performances, especially from the captain David Carless, who is currently unbeaten. The Junior League Teams fared a little better and with a few games left they should finish near the top.

In addition we entered two teams in a Schools Lightning Tournament, organised by Langley GS, where the first team were unlucky to lose in the final.

Finally many thanks to D. Carless, this year's captain, and G. Barraclough, treasurer, but more especially to Mr. Clark, who in spite of his bad leg always kept the club together with his organisation.

Neil Featonby

AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

The club has flourished this term, the advent of better weather bringing several attempted flights of radio-controlled models on the school field, causing nail-biting excitement for spectators.

The Club still meets on Thursday and Friday lunchtimes in room 36 and Friday evening Fly-ins will recommence soon (weather and CPS permitting!). In room 36 we have a cupboard where models etc. may be safely stored. A subsidiary branch of 'Keens' Model Shop is also run by one of the minor (in stature, etc.) members.

Any form of model is accepted:—Radio-control; control-line; free-flight; Electric round-the-pole; cars; boats; female etc.

Although the club has exhausted its supply of membership cards new members are always welcome. The annual membership fee is 40p entitling the member to a massive (?) discount at two of the local model shops.

Finally thanks must go to Mr. Smaje for tireless effort (and effortless tiredness!)

The three members

RIFLE CLUB

After a somewhat slow start to the season, due to the unavoidable absence of many of our team rifles, we produced one of the best teams we have seen for some years. This was reflected in our performance in this year's 'Country Life' competition, excellent scores being achieved by both 'A' and 'B' teams as a result of a fairly extensive training programme. This certainly made things run smoother, the 'Country Life' competition having been notorious in the past for transforming the rifle range into something not unlike Piccadilly Circus in the rush hour. The most impressive performance of the year was, however, that of the R.A.F. team, who achieved the outstanding score of 593 out of a possible 600 points in the Assegai Tournament, which they consequently won.

In past years the 'Country Life' competition has marked the end of the season. However, this year it has been decided that shooting should continue four nights a week during the summer term, and I should like to thank Mr. Smaje, Mr. Sollars, Mr. Davies and Mr. Kempson for making this possible.

P. Trendall

RGS PARACHUTE CLUB

This new club has been set up with the aim of furthering this exciting modern sport. This will be done by organising basic and continuation courses with a qualified club; in this way costs will be kept to a minimum, so a basic course will be about £20 including full instruction and the first jump, further jumps costing £2.75. So for anyone who wants to boost his ego and shorten his height, the next basic course is planned for the weekend of 15th-16th July. The minimum age for sport parachuting is 16, but those under 18 need to have parent's permission. You also have to be medically fit. Further details can be obtained from the secretary nearer the time.

N.L.D.

Master-in-charge: S. B. Gamester
Treasurer/Secretary: N. L. Dowson 6M2
Also: P. A. Smith 6M2
M. S. Dowson 5G

'Reflections of a jumper'

(100% new wool)

1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, Check—canopy correctly opened then suddenly a strange mixture of emotions followed through all of us who were experiencing our first parachute jump. Relief, excitement and a sense of peace as we drifted earthwards.

A clear day without wind enabled us to see for several miles the layout of the fields the airfield and of course the drop zone, for two minutes we were alone and at peace in a quiet world. Only the ground coming towards us and preparations for landing could force you to return to the reality of life. Although few of the landings were perfect there were fortunately no accidents and only a feeling of exuberance filled the 16 of us.

A full moon set in a clear sky ended a day that few of us will forget and an experience that can be described as—AIRBORNE

M. P. Standing

'If in doubt, get it out!' RGS Parachute Club jumps

On the evening of the 21st April, 13 members of the school, two girls and Russell got transported to Bickmarsh, near Stratford on Avon to learn the art of parachuting.

Having broken into the training hut, luxury accommodation of super soft floorboards was found but some people slept well with the aid of various sleeping draughts (Skol, Tartan etc.).

The next morning, after an excuse for a breakfast, we started on the lessons, everything from canopy control to aircraft exits. These took the form of lectures and practical exercises and by lunchtime, everyone was in high spirits, but to our dismay, our usual beverage was prohibited (for safety reasons—just in case you were worried there).

By 2.30, and a pint of lemonade later, no jump was impossible. But then came the emergencies lecture. The high spirits vanished, as did nails, fingers and hair. In everybody's heads were partials, totals, bicycle clips and streamers. (This was definitely the most frightening 20 minutes of my life.)

Anyway, back to the agony. The suspended harness was next, and this piece of kit nearly changed Russ. to a Gill. II—just a bit tight, but amusing to everyone but Russ., of course.

From here we walked (bowlegged) to the 'pit', where we spent 2½ hours leaping around in gravel. Officially we were practising Parachute Landing Falls, but we got to like thrusting our heads into the stones.

The wind had dropped, the training was over and with no nails, fingers or any other protuberances, we boarded the little 'plane with our buckets and shovels. Nothing could stop us now.

N.L.D.



"Orpheus in the Underworld"

MUSIC SOCIETY REPORT

It has been another successful year for the Music Society with an active membership of over two hundred, which speaks for itself.

Last Christmas saw the production of Offenbach's 'Orpheus in the Underworld' which was hailed as a great success and contained much that was memorable, not least the can-can (choreographed by Mr. White-Taylor) and the sight of Gary Wise's Mars towering over the other deities. If Rupert Swinhoe-Standen as Euridice was not the ultimate in seductive charm, at least he hit the right notes.

The Choral Society again led the singing in the by now traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols in the Parish Church, and it is worthy of note that for the first time the organ was played—and very expertly too—by one of our members, Christopher Goodwin.

The Spring Concert gave the opportunity to many of our talented instrumentalists to show their prowess. Stephen Everson opened the concert by playing, and direct-

ing from the harpsichord (especially imported for the occasion), Bach's Concerto in F minor. Ian Gibbons played the Beethoven Violin Romance in F, accompanied by the First Orchestra, and William Stephenson demonstrated his technical skill in a Sonatina by Kobachevsky. Our virtuoso double-bass player, Anthony Houska, delighted us with a seemingly impossible piece, prior to rushing off to grace the ranks of the new European Community Orchestra (reported elsewhere). In the second half the Choral Society sang the Easter music from 'Messiah' with Mr. Flinders and David Hellier singing the tenor and alto solos respectively.

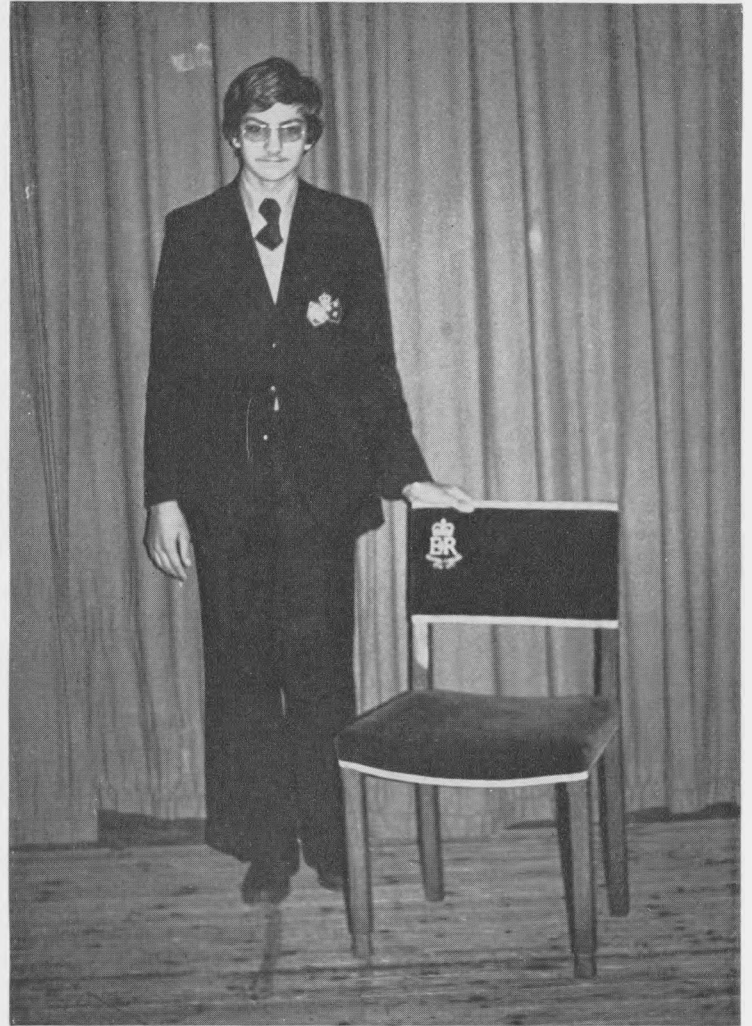
Although this is a glance back, our Society is always looking forward and working hard to reach higher standards, with always a public performance in sight. At the time of writing, the Summer Concert, on May 24th, is fairly imminent, and we hope it will not only give pleasure to the audience, but also convince us, once again, that our lunchtimes have been well spent.

Stephen Everson





M. S. Harris



M. K. Hawkins

SILVER JUBILEE PRIZE WINNERS

C.C.F.

ARMY SECTION

Adventure Training

The Army Section went to Leek for its Adventure Training. There was an energetic programme devoted both to the adventure and military sides. Members of the party did well in both. It is unfortunate that the Ministry of Defence have to limit numbers for these camps and we were not able to take all who wanted to come.

On the first evening instruction on rock climbing and range procedure prepared the way for the next day's activities. The Camp is very well placed for both the Roaches and Ramshaw Rocks which dominate the landscape in one direction about two miles away. We were fortunate in having Mr. Boreham and two of his pupils from The Chaucer School, Sheffield to help instruct and ensure safety on a series of graded climbs.

Meanwhile, back on the range, Mr. Wallen and SSI Harry were supervising the shooting of a rather generous allowance of rounds, with Captain Davies transporting parties to and fro.

Mr. 'Bob' Spenceley cooked us one of his admirable meals for the evening. After this there was much preparation to be done for the next main activity—an expedition across the edge of the Kinder Scout area with all that meant for both individuals and Section Commanders—route cards, survival and first-aid drills to be learnt or brushed up, kit to be prepared. There was a brief night exercise too. This still left time for sociable activities.

That full day shows important things about Leek. No one pretends it is a week of luxurious ease. But, without being too ponderous about it, members of the group do discover, with the effort they come prepared to put in, that they have capabilities which there is no theoretical way of testing. They also store up lessons each time from experience.

The day also shows how much we rely on and value the help of the Old Boys who come back to give us the benefit of their experience.

Kinder Scout day was a good test of fitness. It was also an important lesson in the use of the compass. Anyone who has been up on that peat covered area knows that what on the map looks like a straightforward hike across a plateau is in fact an unending series of downs and ups into and out of peaty pits which are often 10-20 feet deep. A compass reading error which leads to an extra 1000-2000 yards of that is dearly paid for, especially when, as was the case, they are filled with snow which sometimes bore the weight of a cadet and sometimes did not. To compensate, of course, there is the satisfaction after accurately following the compass through the wilds of having the trig. point you were making for suddenly appearing exactly ahead on track.

The two-day exercise was prepared in great detail by Mr. Wallen and SSI Harry. It was hard. The weather was not entirely kind. It went well through all the early patrols and incidents, through the night patrols and the movements the next day up to the last energetic rush over the final position.

That left us with treasure hunt and initiative tests. Graham Woodman who had stayed with us for the week helping us with rock climbing and on a specially lengthened route for a senior party over Kinder Scout made up a treasure hunt to get people to the initiative test area.

These tests—a simple version of the sort of thing found as part of the Regular Commissions Board Selection Tests—were completed with a combination of dexterity, contortionism, some rhetoric, exhortation, possibly a little mild invective, sheer intelligence and a dash of brute strength.

Back to a final delicious—and virtually

overwhelming—meal, packing up arrangements, prizes, promotions, generous presentations, sociability.

Everyone had played his part in making good use of the time and resources we had.

We all missed our friends, Bill and Walter; we hope to have them with us next year.

Finally I should like to thank Captain Hollingworth for coordinating the whole camp not simply on paper but by talking to everyone concerned. Those of us who were on the camp know what we owe him.

Courses

Almost immediately after Adventure Training Sgt. P. Welch went on a Wild Water Canoe Course in the North of England, Lance Cpl. Coburn on a full scale Outward Bound Course in North Wales, and Sgt. Watts and Cpl. Holland on the top CCF Course, the 10 day United Kingdom Land Forces Leadership Course at Stanford. All are to be congratulated on completing these demanding Courses.

There are many courses ranging from engineering to signals and port operating.

For those not in the CCF if the courses existed at all they would cost between £100 and £200. The mere course fee for the Outward Bound Course, for instance, is £150 to non-CCF candidates.

For cadets almost all the cost is borne by the Ministry of Defence. Not surprisingly they are oversubscribed. Early and sometimes repeated application is the rule. It is most encouraging that more NCO's and cadets are applying and it is worth both those who already are in the CCF and those considering the matter keeping an eye on the noticeboard. To my mind they do constitute one of the most worthwhile activities of the CCF.

F.N.C.

RN SECTION CCF

The spring term started off with a present from the Royal Navy, a brand new Mirror sailing dinghy. It will be used for teaching sailing but will also be entered for various sailing events in Bucks and elsewhere.

This term will see the start of boating, sailing and canoeing at Longridge but if all

goes according to plan we should shortly move to RAF Medmenham where we are family members. This will mean great savings in costs, for at present a visit to Longridge costs 55p per head excluding the cost of the coach. Our costs should now be reduced to an annual membership fee and the cost of the coach.

During the Easter holidays many parents were relieved of their sons for a week by courtesy of the RN. Various courses were attended concerned with gunnery, submarine arduous training etc. at RN bases in many parts of the UK.

P.O. Thornton had one of the best courses spending a week sailing the channel in a 56 foot sailing boat and visiting France in the process—all for £2!

Another bit of good news: the RN Section were not last in the inter-section shooting contest. We were third out of four teams—beating one of the army teams.

Sadly Cox'n Maynard and P.O. Thornton have left due to 'A' levels (good luck), so the following cadets have been promoted: Chalmers to Cox'n, Leading Seamen J. Allcock, S. Andrews and T. Illian all to acting P.O. The 4th year took the exam for promotion to Able Seaman and all passed.

Plans for this term include overhauling (again) the SMB (Slow Motor Boar) and practising for the Inter-School CCF Sailing Championships.

*Cox'n Chalmers
P.O. Thornton*

R.A.F. SECTION C.C.F.

As always, the onset of the Summer months sees the RAF section leaving its classrooms in pursuit of such outdoor activities as gliding, camping and .303 shooting.

Congratulations must go to Squadron Leader Smaje on his promotion, and to Mr. Boutland who has recently been commissioned in the RAFVR(T) with the rank of Pilot Officer.

The Spring term got off to a fine start with a flying detail at RAF Abingdon—perhaps this was a good omen—we had a 100% flying record last term (i.e. no flights lost to bad weather).

Shooting played a significant part in the

programme last term. The section took part in various competitions both locally and nationally. The RAF Section won the inter-section shoot yet again with its 'A' and 'B' teams coming 1st and 2nd respectively. The RAF Section rifle team is also hopeful of a good result in the Assegai trophy, having scored one point more than last year's winning team.

Towards the end of the Spring term, the section suffered what has been described by some as 'a major disaster', our Easter camp which was to have been held at RAF Wyton was cancelled at short notice 'owing to operational requirements'. However one cadet—A/Cpl M. Church—was lucky in getting a place on a camp at RAF Laarbruch, Germany.

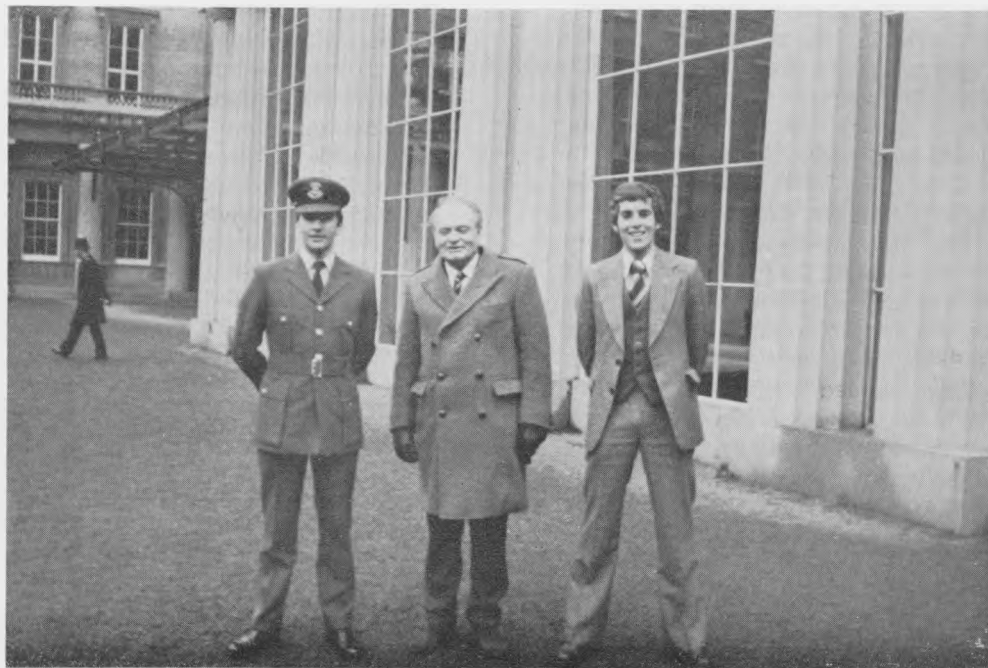
During the Easter holiday members of the section were engaged in various service

activities, Cpls. P. Smaje and J. Wilks attended a gruelling 10 day leadership course with the Army whilst three members of the section completed gliding courses at RAF Manston.

As well as GCE exams, we have the prospect of various activities including flying, adventure training in Snowdonia and the New Forest, and the possibility of a camp at RAF Kinloss.

Finally, on behalf of the section I would like to thank all those who have given us help and encouragement during the past year, especially Sqn.Ldr. Smaje, Flt.Lt. Sollars, Plt.Off. Boutland and F.S. Barker. Our new senior NCOs will soon be taking over the section, therefore I wish them good luck.

R. J. D. Webster



Pilot Officer Peter Browne and Keith Thompson with Mr. Smaje at Buckingham Palace to receive the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards, 22 Feb 1978

1st XV RUGBY 1977-78

P 28 W 20 D 4 L 4 For 377 Against 178
The playing record shows what a successful season it has been, but this would not have been possible if it had not been for the tremendous determination and will to win that the team showed throughout the season. Although the team lacked a little individual flair they made up for it with great teamwork. The forwards, despite being relatively small in stature, were great in heart and were seldom beaten. The backs proved to be a very powerful attacking force on their day and, coupled with the high standard of covering and tackling, proved to be a highly effective unit, with N. Connor, N. Maclaren and K. Titcombe outstanding.

The season started with three convincing wins and one draw, then came two of the major disappointments of the season, losing 7-24 to a strong Emanuel team and then, despite outplaying them for the whole match, losing 0-3 to St. Benedicts. The response to this was six consecutive wins including an undefeated three match tour of Cornwall, with matches against Redruth R.F.C. Colts, Redruth Comprehensive School and Falmouth Comprehensive School, the latter being one of the best games of the season. Then, during a run of seven wins in a row, a fine 18-3 win over Aylesbury GS, for the unofficial 'Champions of Bucks' title, was achieved. There was then a game against a strong Old Boys XV who won a close game 7-16. After Christmas the weather intervened and four games were cancelled but three wins and two draws were achieved including an exciting 0-0 draw with Rickmansworth in the last game of the season.

In the seven-a-side tournaments the 1st VII were unlucky as they were beaten in

the second round of the Windsor, Sutton and Oxford tournaments by the eventual winners or runners-up. The Bucks Championship produced a thrilling result as the 1st VII won the title by beating Radley 4-0 in a 'sudden death' extra-time period with a try scored by B. Morgan. The team was N. Maclaren, M. Noblett, B. Morgan, D. Smith, K. Titcombe, C. Morrish, P. Speed. In the 'B' section the B seven suffered an ignominious defeat by the U16 team in the semi-finals.

During the season no less than 27 players were used but the squad had great strength in depth which was a major factor in the team's success. The forwards were especially hit as the pack was never the same for two consecutive matches. However, they played with great determination with R. Hammond, S. Vladar, M. Noblett, B. Morgan and A. Paterson outstanding. In the backs there were constant changes due to injuries but consistent play by C. Morrish, N. Maclaren, and K. Titcombe kept the rhythm going. The injuries helped the emergence of several good players from the U.16's, notably G. Davies who progressed to the England U.16 trial.

County honours were won by R. Hammond, R. Stewart and A. Paterson at U.19 level and G. Davies, J. Carter and D. Cheesewright at U.16 level.

Finally thanks must go to Mr. Learmouth, for his hard work and effort throughout the season, and to Mr. Ball for his help with the sevens. Thanks also to the whole team for making the captaincy of the team such a pleasure.

C. Hoggett (captain)

U.15 RUGBY

The record of P14 W4 D1 L9 does not do justice to the strength of this side. The fixture list is so arranged that the strongest sides are played early in the year and inclement weather during January and February meant that only two games were played in The Spring Term, both won.

The forwards were an extremely efficient unit, based on a solid front five of Johnson, Cheesewright, White and Platts. Cheesewright was an opportunist hooker who was the side's leading try scorer. Johnson, a new boy from Aberdeen, added his considerable strength and technique to the prop forward position. The back row of Davies, Wright and Vladoar carried out their duties intelligently. Another new boy Frost, unable to play because of injury until Christmas, showed great promise in the one game he could play.

Much of the good ball gained by the forwards was wasted outside the scrum. M. Smith was a competent scrum half but Newport, although he kicked well, was indecisive as a runner. N. D. M. Smith, the captain, was an elusive runner who scored some good tries, but he was reluctant to pass on occasions. Black and Jolly were strong runners, given the chance, and Sutton performed creditably at full back.

All in all there was much of promise in the performances of the side. Some measure of their gradual improvement was shown by their narrow defeats at St. Bartholomew's, Newbury and St. Benedicts, Ealing—two schools who had comprehensively beaten them last year.

M.W.C.

U.14 RUGBY

P 15 W 7 L 7 D 1 For 266 Against 228
An enjoyable, interesting season. At one stage, early in the Autumn term, after one or two defeats by rather wide margins, things did not look promising, even though it was clear, even in defeat, that there was real try-scoring potential in the team. However, by the end of the season, the U14's were playing some pleasing 15-man rugby, relying less on individuals, and there was much encouragement for the future.

A great improvement was made by the forwards, who were lacking in ball-winning hunger early in the season. Coaching assistance from Mr. Ball paid big dividends, and the forwards, in the Spring term, were a much stronger, more vigorous unit.

When the link from forwards to backs has been made efficient, there will undoubtedly be real attacking potential in the side, for in McGill, Gillingham and Noyes, they

have players of promising ability. These three scored 36 of the team's 55 tries.

However, it would be wrong to give the impression that these individuals often outshone the others, many of whom showed qualities that were vital to the team's success.

Twenty-eight boys in all, played for the team, in a season which was one of experiment and testing. They were: Welby (capt.), McGill, Reeve, Gillingham, Maclaren, Noyes, Williams, Pinder, Lee (T.), Bunt, Boyes, Peacock, Marsden, Bavelja, Hodell, Atkins, Hutton, Petersen, Hayes, Payne, Sharpe, Price, Studer, Fairbrother, Howick, Buller, Turnbull and Scott.

Congratulations are due to all who were selected, and I wish them success and enjoyment next season.

S.R.G.

U.13 RUGBY

P 11 W 8 L 3 For 215 Against 97

From the above analysis we can look back at a successful season of junior rugby. Both the A and B teams performed with credit in the games they played. It was most disappointing for everyone that after the New Year we had nine games cancelled because of the weather, especially as the teams were settled into a good rhythm. Fairbrother proved to be a good captain

and led by example, scoring no fewer than 13 tries and one conversion from the No. 8 position—an excellent effort. However the basis of our success was good teamwork from forwards and backs alike, plus good attendance at training sessions. I would like to thank Dr. Dosser for his invaluable help at training and for looking after the 'B' team, and wish the team continued success next season.

D. J. Stubbs

U19 BASKETBALL

P 15 W 13 L2 Pts for 917 Pts against 591

All round it was an outstandingly successful season for the basketball team. This was due to the enthusiasm of the whole squad and to Mr. Stubbs' excellent coaching. Every practice was well attended not only by regular team members but by numerous others all wanting to play. This meant that we always had a full team able to play in what was a very extensive season of 'friendly' and cup matches, and that we easily adapted to playing together on much larger courts than our own.

Of the regular players Mike Standing was the 'find of the season', especially in attack where he was consistently the top scorer. He was ably supported by Malcolm Goodwin who scored some amazing baskets (he missed some pretty amazing ones too). At guard Steve Vldar, Alan Paterson and Dave Molesworth (those three ought to play rugby) were 'solid' in their defence and always looking to get on the score-sheet, one way or another. However, we didn't totally rely on our 'big' men. Paul Speed and Dave Balmer controlled play brilliantly and provided speed and skill in attack. They were aided and abetted by Dave Smith and Pete Loft with Nigel McNally also stealing in to get some points and 'Jam' Robertson who surprised everyone with some that should never have gone in.

The highlights of the season were our major journeys in the National Cup competition. The first was to Great Salterns school Portsmouth where we won convincingly 68-36 and the second was to Forrest Fields College Nottingham to play in the last 16 of the National Cup. The match was extremely tense and close until the final minute when we slipped from our small lead to a five point defeat 49-54. That ended our National Cup run but we did collect the Bucks Cup when we beat Leon School in two legs 108-43 after easily despatching local rivals Aylesbury GS and Dr. Challoners. We also had fine wins over Oxford School, Watford, Licenced Victuallers, Slough, Lord Grey's School and John Mason School. Our only other defeat being to Ranelagh School in a very close match 54-57.

The whole team would like to thank Mr. Stubbs for all the time and effort he put into the team without which we would not have been half so successful nor have had such an enjoyable season. We would also like to thank Pete Loft who as Secretary put a great deal of time into arranging fixtures despite not being able to play because of a broken collar bone.

Ben Morgan

1st XI HOCKEY

P 17 W 5 D 5 L 7 For 29 Against 24

During the Autumn term we played our best hockey, narrowly losing to Kingston G.S. by the one goal. We then rose to our peak just before Christmas with three consecutive wins including the 1-0 defeat of the highly rated Sir William Borlase team.

Due to many cancelled games and successive injuries to key players after Christmas we lost our rhythm. However the season ended on a pleasing note with a polished team performance against the Staff, resulting in a 5-0 win.

R. Healey, playing in his first season for the school, was top scorer with nine goals. The midfield trio of R. Healey, R. Coker and

J. Cook were most effective; J. Cook had an outstanding season, ably controlling the middle of the field in most matches.

A. Diack, D. Mould and R. Kendell represented Bucks U.19's. Mention must be made of S. Crook and R. Coker who avoided injury and played in every match.

The team was A. Diack, D. Carless, P. Radford, B. 'Mc'Nally, D. Mould (Capt.), R. Healey, J. Cook, R. Coker, R. Kendell, S. Crook, T. Coker. N. Featonby played in the last few matches.

Many thanks to Mr. Page for all his hard work.

D. A. J. Mould, R. W. Kendell

2nd XI HOCKEY

This season promised to be a good one at the beginning, with seven good players entering the sixth form. However owing to illness and unavailability the team proved to be unsettled with a total of 27 different people representing the 2nd XI Hockey team throughout the year. The bulk of the fixtures were scheduled for the Spring Term but as usual the weather took its toll and ten matches, including the key fixture at Stowe, had to be cancelled because of unfit pitches.

The team was led until Christmas by Richard Appleton who then left school after the Cambridge Examinations, at which juncture I took over. His hard work as captain was sincerely appreciated.

What the team lacked in skill and consistency was often made up for by enthusiasm. This season saw the introduction of the Tuesday evening training programme on the all weather (!?) surface at Handy Cross sports centre. Despite the drawback of apparently continuous sub-zero temperatures and gale force winds at the centre, the team benefited from the chance to play on a good flat pitch, although they often

found the transition from grass difficult. The attendance at training was generally good, often exceeding the number of 1st XI players who turned up.

The most consistent part of the team, as far as appearances are concerned, was the defence, each one of the back three missing only one game each in the whole season. Special mention should be made of Ian Hutton, the goalkeeper, without whom the results could have been much worse.

If the season produced nothing else, one outstanding result was achieved. This year the school 2nd XI Hockey team recorded its first ever victory over Magdalen College School 2nd XI by a margin of 2-1. The credit must go to John Ball who scored both the goals and to Steve Lever who proves indispensable in defence. Another outcome of the season was the awarding of half colours for Hockey to three members of the team, Ian Hutton the goalkeeper and Dan Martin and Howard Why the full-backs. Sincere thanks as always must go to Mr. Stone for all his unstinting effort and support during the year.

Howard Why

U14 HOCKEY

The side had a varied season with the following results:

P 8 W 2 D 2 L 4

There were perhaps three factors why the 'losses' outweighed the 'wins'. They were:—

- (i) The long gaps between matches and the conditions that they were played in.
- (ii) The prolonged absence of the centre-half and the lack of availability of some players.
- (iii) The change of goalkeeper during the season—all credit to J. Atkins for adapting to Hockey with little previous experience.

The centre-half, Andrew Griffin, was unfortunate to spend much of the season with one leg in plaster.

Our original goalkeeper, A. Rogers, left the RGS during the mid-season period, which left Mr. Sollars and Mr. Page searching for a new goalkeeper. Jonathan Atkins quickly adapted to hockey and saved the team many times—including a penalty flick against Reading.

Scorers were: 6—R. Griggs; 2—T. Mann, M. Walshe; 1—C. Baxter.

It remains for me to thank Mr. Sollars and Mr. Page for their constant effort and support throughout the season.

T. Mann

BADMINTON

The badminton team achieved a 100% record this season, beating all school opponents on average by seven games to two. Throughout the season encouraging performances were given, by Dalton, Kelly, Wiles and King. Match experience was also gained by White and Smaje which will be a useful asset for next season. Notice has to be given to Mark Methven for winning the All England Doubles U-15 and for also reaching the Semi-Finals in both singles and mixed events. The strength in depth of the team was exemplified by the nine games to nil victory over the Staff. Finally a special thanks has to be given to

Mr. White-Taylor for his encouragement and enthusiasm throughout the season.

Nigel D. McNally (Capt.)

CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB REPORT

No strength in depth is I think the best way one can sum up the cross-country team this season. There have been a number of good individual performances, but following the departure of Messrs. Rowe and Orr in November we have really only had three consistently good runners; team captain Neil Forrester, Bill Lambert, who did well to come eighth in the Bucks trials and was unlucky not to get a run for the county, and Chris Rogers. As a result the team failed to win any of its matches, though not for want of trying. That included losing twice by narrow margins to Borlase—the ultimate disgrace. Without doubt the worst race as far as conditions were concerned was the match played away at Northwood. The team battled bravely against driving snow and freezing sleet only to lose yet again. Nevertheless spirits remained remarkably high, largely due to the fact that Mark Foster fell headfirst into a waist-high pond of stagnant water, his only contribution to the season worthy of note. The team had a number of reasonable results in relay competitions, the best being in the Tortoises relay at Oxford where we came 19th out of 34 entrants and at Haberdashers where the team led after an excellent first leg from N. Forrester. In the Staff v. Boys relay at the end of last term despite the usual diabolical handicap and a brilliant run by Mr. Ball who ran the second fastest time of the day, the match was won by the Upper Sixth 'A' team, after an incredible last leg by N. Forrester (predictable). Phil Green and Ian Holliday have lent stalwart support throughout the season and with their return next year and the promising performances of Eric Coutts, Martin Harris and Richard Dean we look forward to better things in the Autumn. We are, as always, most grateful for the organisation and support of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Cooper.

Mark Foster

BOAT CLUB

In the beginning was the first First Four and, then, by the end of March, there was the second First Four. This contained three of the first First Four, and one of the first Second Four. This caused the first Second Four to become the first Second Three. In short, we were in a mess. Our deeply heart-felt thanks to 'two' of the first First Four. Ta, Pete.

Now, when Mr. Blyth created the second First Four, (Mike Jolly, Dan Havard, Mick Orr, Tim Sinden, Trev Dibb), he saw that it was good, and was pleased. (We hope!). And ever since he created the second First Four, we have been giving blood (bow pair), sweat (3), and tears (stroke, because three keeps bitching at him). However, the Second Three are having a hard time of it, trying to find someone to make a complete crew once more. All offers to Steve Laws, Julian Allcock, Jim Wilks and John Preece.

We started the financial year with fund-raising events in order to stop the bailiffs confiscating our boats. From a 1st IV sponsored row and the annual jumble sales we raised over £100, and together with a generous donation from Wilkinson Sword, this has put the Boat Club bank account into a healthy situation.

We started the rowing year fatigued after having to fend off all, (well, most of) the young, nubile, Filipino girls that besieged us night and day after hearing about our new, improved techniques. (See last report). Thanks to our intensive training, though, we are now fit for them. (The regattas, stupid!)

The J.16 'A' crew, (Davidson, Evans, Watkins, Morris and Parks), according to reports, are progressing quite well and are keen, but suffer from lack of size. If they develop properly, they will be going to five or six regattas, and we wish them luck. The J.16 'B' crew are conspicuous mainly by their absence from training, (except for Walsh). It has been suggested that it would have been to their advantage to have made some effort.

Anyway, we, the second First Four, started the season badly, but we are hopeful for the season, and if we win, all credit

must go to our coach, Mr. Blyth, (but of course, if we don't do so well, then he'll tell us it was our fault!)

Dan Havard (Captain)

Tim Sinden (Captain of Vice)

FENCING

Thanks to the depth of fencing talent this year, the school was able to field strong teams in most fixtures. Consequently, all matches against other schools have been won. Reading School, Radley, St. Edwards and Stowe were all defeated. The Old Boys, however, fielded a strong team that narrowly beat the RGS in the early part of the year. Oxford University, of course, defeated us, but only by six fights to three.

Competitions reaped a useful haul of medals. Paul Speed gained a silver medal in the Berks. Bucks and Oxon. under 18 foil and Mark Hughes picked up a bronze medal at under 16 level. Paul Speed achieved further distinction by winning a bronze in the Southern Section under 18 Sabre. This was the first sabre medal an RGS fencer has ever won. Paul went on to fence in the last 24 in the British Sabre Competition. He was unlucky to miss promotion to the second round.

Several other RGS fencers filled final pool places, and in many cases, narrowly missed medals. Mention should go to the second form squad of fencers who look as if they could be the basis of strong teams in the future.

My thanks go to Martin Radvan who has fenced consistently and been a good captain. Thanks are also due to all senior fencers who have helped in coaching lower down the school.

The following have represented the school:

Under 18. M. Radvan (Capt.), M. Noblett, P. Speed, J. Laidler.

Under 16. P. Bezer, M. Hughes, D. Orchard, S. Lever, R. Ireland, Wilkes, M. Scott.

Under 14. S. Whitmore, A. Slade.

J.R.

THE ORIENTEERING CLUB

The orienteering club has had yet another successful season, with members competing in eight events organised by the Thames Valley and Reading Orienteering Clubs. These events included two 'badge' events, staged at Goring Heath, near Reading, and at Christmas Common, where the standard of competition is high, attracting orienteers from far distant parts of the country.

Individual successes have not been high in either club or 'badge' events, but difficult courses were attacked with keenness

and enthusiasm, with few members actually ending up hopelessly lost!

One notable success of the year was, however, at the Bucks & Oxon Schools' Championships held at Bledlow in December, where the RGS team gained first place overall, with some very good individual performances.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Boutland, who has ferried us to distant rural parts in sometimes reluctant minibuses, and for his support for the club as a whole.

R. Ball

FIVES CLUB

After a good start to the season results were, to say the least, uninspiring. The 1st pair won only half of their matches while the rest of the team lost count of their defeats.

The play, however, was not quite as bad as the results may suggest. The 1st pair when they lost, did so by only a narrow margin and were unlucky not to win more matches. Another noteworthy pair were Evans and Lane who play quite well together but lack the practice and experience needed to beat some good opponents.

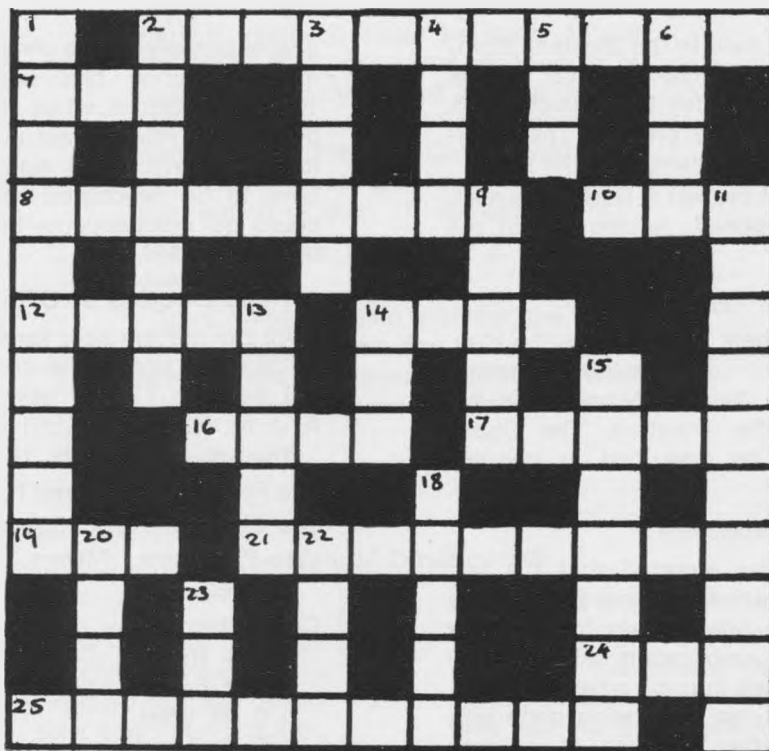
The rest of the team seemed insouciant (look it up) and put more enthusiasm into having a bundle in the back of the minibus; predictably, their victories were few and far between.

Let us hope (please God) that next season sees a team infused with the will to win, then perhaps we will have a table of results worth publishing.

J. S. Hannan (capt.)

A MUSICAL CROSSWORD

by R. F. Shaw



Down

- 1 A profound colour
- 2 Neither is the other side of 'Punk' (3, 4)
- 3 A fleeting greeting in 'A shell on the beach'. (5)
- 4 Popular Bowie protege (4)
- 5 Half a moun~~t~~, but a third of a Massachusetts triumvirate (3)
- 6 The subject, it seems, is 'soft as an easy chair' (4)
- 9 Dies around a thousand deaths to create an ample star (5)
- 11 Their records become indelibly stamped on their fans memories (10)
- 13 This singer lives after all, or so it would appear (5)
- 14 The backwards singer ate American Pie (3)
- 15 It sound as if this backing group are fishing for the largest catch (7)
- 18 Is this what 25 did to the moon? (5)
- 20 A small four-seater singer, as she appears at first (4)
- 22 A place in both R. Stewart and P. McCartney album titles (4)
- 23 Did this improvisation lead to a best selling group? (3)

Across

- 2 Song Bird on one's radiowaves? (11)
- 7 Find these lovely lads in the Louvre (3)
- 8 Did these shady characters create a nuclear hearted mother? (4,5)
- 10 The group which always has only half of the answers (3)
- 12 No clue left by the relative who lost the circle originally (5)
- 14 Part of the title of an Abba song which contains the title (4)
- 16 Bowie and Cassidy commonly lose 500 and become ardent fans (4)
- 17 Kermit gets halfway to heaven as a vocalist (5)
- 19 The minions of the Pistols? (3)
- 21 One from Boston who made it on the beaches (9)
- 24 Todd Rundgren production needs a thousand to become horny! (3)
- 25 Valuable pets of yesteryear (7, 4)

OLD WYCOMBIENSIAN CLUB

The Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. was held in the Masters' Common Room of the Royal Grammar School at 6.15 p.m. on Saturday 11th March 1978. Thirty Old Boys were present. The President, Mr. Rowland Brown, took the chair.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read, confirmed and signed. Arising out of the minutes:—

(a) *The Financial Report*

The balance sheet drawn up by the Hon. Auditor, A. E. Franklin Hole was accepted. The increase in the Life Membership fee had improved the situation. The Club's finances could be described as vaguely satisfactory.

(b) *The School Magazine*

The Headmaster reported that the last issue of the magazine had cost £1075. This was a very high price to pay for the high standard of the publication. About £200 had been recouped through advertisements. The problem of cost was being gone into seriously and other avenues of printing explored.

(c) *The Future of the School*

Mr. Rowland Brown said that the future was sound and promising—there was no gloom. The School enjoyed the support of Old Boys, the town, a strong staff and it had a sense of purpose.

The question of the School becoming independent was brought up and an element of doubt introduced as to whether enough parents would be able to pay the fees. Some wondered how much money would be necessary to give bursaries to deserving children whose parents could not afford full fees. The Headmaster pointed out that no comparable fee paying school for boys existed in South Bucks. He had no doubts about there being sufficient parents able and willing to pay the fees. A very large sum would have to be appealed for to

enable bursaries to be given. (A quarter of a million pounds had been received by Hampton School when it went independent). The Headmaster concluded his remarks by saying that many hurdles would have to be negotiated before the School could go independent—but other schools had succeeded.

(d) *The Election of Officers*

All the officers now serving were elected en bloc. To enable the committee to be at full strength (12) a new young member A. J. M. Hampson (1961-68) was elected.

The officers for 1978-79 are:—

The President: Rowland P. Brown Esq.

The Chairman: G. C. Rayner Esq.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. G. A. Grant, S. Morgan

Committee:

S. E. Hands	(1915–20)
J. P. Lord	(1934–38)
G. W. West	(1933–40)
G. E. Green	(1940–46)
G. W. Ray	(1917–23)
J. K. Prior	(1934–40)
G. C. Rayner	(1937–45)
S. A. Goulborn	(1928–36)
D. B. White	(1968–76)
C. M. White	(1968–76)
The Revd. A. J. Skipp	(1928–37)
A. J. M. Hampson	(1961–68)

Hon. Secretary: M. M. Davies Esq.

Hon. Auditor: A. E. Franklin Hole Esq.

It was hoped that an Assistant Hon. Sec. could be found to help the Hon. Sec. who would be retiring in the near future.

Any other business

The Headmaster outlined a new plan to encourage Sixth Form leavers to get together at Christmas after they had left school in the previous July. About 140–150 leave each summer—very many go to

University and college in October and return home at Christmas. There has been no opportunity provided for them to get together and swap experiences. It was planned to hold a reunion in a very informal way with a bar and small buffet. During the evening reference could be made to the Old Boys' Club, the value of keeping in touch could be mentioned and the date of the Annual Dinner announced. The Headmaster hoped that the Club would consider this a good idea and help in the organisation of such an occasion.

Those present thought it a very good idea.

There being no other business, the Headmaster was thanked for conducting the meeting and all repaired to the Junior School Dining Hall for the Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner 1978

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 11th March 1978. 120 Old Boys gathered to welcome and pay tribute to their Guest of Honour, A. C. Hills Esq., M.A., A.K.C., who had retired in July 1977 after 28 years service to the School, as Head of the English Department from 1949-77 and more recently Senior Teacher with oversight of the 6th Form.

The toast to the Guest of Honour was proposed by the Revd. John Skipp (1928-37). In a characteristically witty speech he paid tribute to Mr. Hills' unfaltering dignity, which impressed his pupils, who soon learned to respect his knowledge, his willingness and ability to share it with them, and his sincere concern for every aspect of their welfare. 'He was a wonderful colleague and he is a truly valued friend.'

In his reply Mr. Hills recalled some of the memorable episodes in his career at the School and concluded by referring to the Queen's visit in 1962 on the occasion of the School's fourth centenary, when he had the honour of presenting her with a

bound copy of the 1962 'Greybook.' He referred to the original charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I and said: 'There you can read that this foundation was set up to be, in the terms of the grant, a grammar school for ever. I sincerely hope that the first Queen Elizabeth was right.'

The toast to the School and Club was proposed by R. W. Stewart, the present Head Boy, who spoke of the School's achievements not only academically, but in sport and athletics, music and drama. The School was not an island but was playing an important part in the community.

The Headmaster in his response paid warm tribute to Mr. R. Pattinson, Deputy Headmaster and a key figure in the life of the School for 40 years, who died last summer. The School still continued its pursuit of excellence in every field and aimed to see that everyone attained his full potential in every way and he concluded: 'This is a policy which must be maintained, preserved and strengthened. We look forward to the future with confidence.'

DEATHS

Staff

Mr. Edgar Fowlds (1946–47)

Mr. Fowlds died in March 1978 after a short illness. He taught mathematics at the RGS and left in 1947 to start his administrative career in Derbyshire. He was Deputy Chief Education Officer in Cambridgeshire when he died. He will be remembered for his unshakeable commitment to the education service.

Old Boys

The Revd. C. A. GRIFFITHS (1919–25), on December 15th 1977 in Banbury, aged 71 years.

Charles Griffiths was a schoolmaster by profession; he was not ordained until he was 41, when he became assistant curate in Banbury for the next 17 years, most of it as Priest-in-Charge of St. Paul's. In 1964 he became Priest-in-Charge of Swalecliffe and Shutford and in 1969 exchanged Shutford for Tadmaston. He retired in 1973. The Parish Magazine wrote of him: 'He will be remembered as a serene gentle person, he was quite wonderful with old people and equally at home and happy with the younger generation.'

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Winifred Griffiths, of 41 Bath Road, Banbury, Oxon.

R. G. CUBBAGE (1925–30) on March 21st 1978, aged 62 years. 'Ron' Cubbage was Head of the Engineering firm J. W. Cubbage and Sons Ltd. In 1965 when he was elected president of the Rotary Club in High Wycombe, reference was made to the wonderful spirit he had shown in fighting ill-health. He leaves a widow Mrs. Mollie Cubbage and four daughters.

F. HALLASEY (1915–20) on March 13th 1978 in Chicago, U.S.A. aged 74 years. Last December Frank Hallasey wrote to Sydney Hands giving news of himself. He went to Chicago in 1945 and had become an American. He had done well as foreign patent expert for the Borg-Warner Corporation with an office on the 20th floor of the Borg-Warner building in

Michigan Avenue facing the world famous Art museum and Lake Michigan. He wrote warmly of his years at the School.

L. H. JOWETT (1919–25) on November 19th 1977, in Wycombe Hospital aged 67 years. Lionel Herbert Jowett began working as a boy clerk with Martin's Bank in the City of London when he left school. He had a great love for the City of London and was an authority on the City's history and customs. He was a volunteer guide to the City. His illustrated talks were in great demand. He was a member of Trinity Reformed Church and had been church treasurer for many years.

R. A. MANN (1948–54) on April 3rd 1978 in Vancouver, Canada aged 41 years. Ralph Allen Mann, M.A.(Cantab), F.R.C.S.(C), Ph.D. gained his M.A., M.B. B.Chir. from Cambridge (Jesus College) and spent his clinical years at Westminster Hospital, London. He rowed in the Jesus 1st Eight and gained a prize in Public Health. In 1967 he became an instructor in anatomy in Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A. A year later he joined the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg as a research fellow in orthopaedic surgery. This stimulated his interest into the embryology of the spine with particular reference to spina bifida and related abnormalities. His work spanned some seven years culminating in attaining Fellowships late in 1977 and Doctor of Philosophy in February 1978. His thesis also won the Samson Award from the Canadian Orthopaedic Association. His very sudden untimely death has left his friends and colleagues bereft of a man of quality, one who showed interests beyond his chosen career. He leaves his parents and brother Edwin (1953–58) to mourn his passing.

C. W. K. NEALE (1904–10) on March 16th 1978 at 26 Woodville Road, Ealing, W.5, aged 86 years. When C. W. K. Neale came to the School in 1904 the total number of boys was about 40. All four afternoons of the week (Wednesdays and Saturdays were half-holidays) were devoted to French and Latin—no other subject. He

and Freddy Youens were great friends. When D. J. Watson, a year ahead of him, won a scholarship at Cambridge it was considered little short of sensational. He was a Certified Accountant and was proud of his daughter who was also an accountant and with whom he was living when he died.

R. T. WALKER (1941–45) on December 1st 1977, aged 47 years Raymond Terence Walker F.C.C.A. leaves a widow Mrs. Edna Walker and a son and daughter.

NOTES

BARRETT A. D. (1946–52) is a partner at J. D. and D. M. Watson Consulting Civil Engineers at Terriers House, Amersham Road. He has the following impressive letters after his name, B.Sc.(Eng.), F.I.C.E., F.I.W.E.S., M.Inst.W.P.L.

BASTERFIELD, G. F. D. (1966–71) has completed his doctorate at the University of Manchester and hopes to work for the Ministry of Defence.

BROWN, P. J. (1969–76). Cadet Philip Brown wrote from on board the Associated Container Transport I (A.C.T.I.) going round the world. He has a cabin with his own shower and toilet. The three cadets usually have a film or video showing in the smokeroom each evening. When in S. America some months ago he was arrested in Buenos Aires for walking on the grass around the Peron Presidential Palace. Ten packets of English cigarettes placated the policeman. The police walk around with loaded S.M.G.'s and stand no nonsense.

BURROWS, J. (1964–71) has received a Master of Philosophy degree in town planning from University College, London. He won an Open Scholarship to Hertford College, Oxford in 1971 and gained a first class honours degree in Geography. At London University he did research on vacant urban land and recently had a survey published in 'The Planner', the journal of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Since 1972 John has travelled to N. and S. America, India and

last year he visited China with a party representing the society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding. He is working in the inner east end of Glasgow at the moment.

CHAPMAN, P. G. (1970–77) is having an interesting time in Industry before going up to university. He has worked in the drawing office, attached to the Engineering Department of Bass Charrington Ltd. and has been accepted by Rolls-Royce Engines for an Undergraduate Apprenticeship on a scholarship scheme organised with Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

COLLINS, A. C. (1934–40) nobly did as he was asked and sent the Hon. Sec. the present position of the Collins family. Oldest brother F. H. COLLINS (1933–40) joined the National Employees Mutual General Insurance on leaving school and is still with them. He served in the R.A. during the War and left as captain. Frank's three sons all went to the RGS. M. H. COLLINS (1959–65) is a computer programmer in Amsterdam. A. C. COLLINS (1961–66) works on computer programmes in Beaconsfield. P. M. E. COLLINS (1963–70) works in the Midland Bank in Slough. Alan is the next in order of brothers (1934–40). He left school to work for two years in the County Treasurer's office in Aylesbury. Then 4½ years service in the Navy—from ordinary seaman on Britain's newest battleship (H.M.S. *Howe*) to Lieutenant in command of a minesweeper in the Mediterranean. After the War he went to Jesus College, Cambridge and from there to teach, mainly Chemistry, at Watford Grammar School. He is still there and keeps in touch with us as a result of our many sporting encounters. B. E. COLLINS (1939–44) went to the Bucks Water Board from school and apart from two years in the Fleet Air Arm has remained with them although when reorganisation absorbed Bucks Water into the East Anglian Water Authority he was transferred to Bedford. The last brother P. J. COLLINS (1947–52) joined the Bucks Police Force from school and is

- still with them although since amalgamation into Thames Valley Police he has lived in Oxford. He served two years with the RAF in the Middle East. Now come the two step-brothers: D. A. WHEELER (1944–49) worked at Statters (electrical manufacturers) in Chalfont for some years but is now helping to run his father's shop, Wheeler's Radio and TV in Great Missenden. B. G. WHEELER (1945–50) spent two years in the Army (RE) and is a Quantity Surveyor living in Watford. The four Collins brothers and the two Wheelers have between them 20 children.
- DURY, I. R. (1954–59) has indeed become famous in the last few months. In an interview in the Arts Guardian in February he pondered his success. 'I'm extremely famous at the moment but I don't really care whether I'm famous or not. I'm a heavy-duty geezer ain't I?' Ian Dury has emerged as a performer of remarkable charisma, confidence and originality. He looks like a ragged East End villain—he has an exaggerated cockney style. He says—'I was born in Harrow, my mother went to Oxford, my father was a bus-driver. I was struck with polio at the age of seven and spent several years in hospital and at a school for the disabled.' (That's us.).
- EDWARDS, J. P. J. (1947–54) writes from his new home in Reigate. He has joined W. S. Atkins and Partners, one of the largest and most comprehensive groups of engineering consultants in Western Europe, based at Epsom. He has been active in the food industry in the Middle East and the motor industry in the UK. His biggest problem is likely to be the education of his children—six, three and two years of age. What will the system be like when they get to 'Grammar School' age? The local 'Grammar School' in Reigate has gone independent.
- FENNER, S. G. (1970–77) enjoys every aspect of the course at St. George's Hospital, Tooting. He gave news of C. SINDEN (1970–77) who is working on a pig farm near Newport Pagnell, gaining a year's experience which is a necessary qualification for a course at an agricultural college.
- GAMESTER, S. B. (1962–68) captained the High Wycombe R.F.C. when his team won the Bucks Championship for the second year. He played a great part in the victory over Marlow in the final but he was helped by Old Boys K. J. BENNELL, T. P. M. CARROLL, I. R. WHITELOCK, A. P. BROADWAY, A. D. HOGG, J. M. DAVIES, J. C. COOK, D. J. STUBBS. Ever faithful D. J. SCOTT (1933–38) ran the line.
- GLENISTER, F. (1935–42) is the new President of the High Wycombe and District Furniture Manufacturers' Society. In a speech recently he emphasised that it was vital for the future of the industry that it should train sufficient new craft entrants to fill the gap left by craftsmen nearing retirement age. Recruitment and training is falling far short of the number needed.
- GRAY, D. E. (1942–46). His books are now popping up all over the world. His latest are 'Tokyo Torpedo' and 'Fighting Submarine'. His U-Boat books have been published by Pinnacle Books in America and have been translated into Dutch, Italian, Danish and even Japanese. Sales are now over the half-million mark.
- GREEN, R. P. H. (1953–61) writes from St. Andrews where he is one of the Arts Faculty's three admissions officers. He is still looking forward to his first RGS application! He and his wife were delighted to report the arrival of a son to join their daughter.
- GRIFFITHS, C. S. (1956–62) works for Chrysler International S.A. and is now solicitor—staff attorney.
- HANDS, S. E. (1915–20). The following is extracted from the 'London Philatelist', the Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, April 1978.
The Society's London Medal
The Council has decided that the Society's 'London Medal' be awarded to two Past Presidents; one of whom is Lt. Col. S. E. Hands T.D., F.R.P.S.L. The citation reads: Sydney Hands has been a member of the Society for thirty years and throughout this time he has freely made available his

professional knowledge to assist in the maintenance of the fabric, decorations and furnishing of No. 41 Devonshire Place. The pleasant surroundings in which the Society gathers for its meeting owe much to his efforts and in no way did his official duties, first as Honorary Treasurer and later as Vice-President and President, demand such generous support.' The 'London Medal' was instituted in 1968 and awarded for the first time in 1969 to Sir John Wilson Bt., late Keeper of the Royal Collection. Since then there have been only three other recipients.

HARRIS, O. E. (1933–38), Director of 'CompAir' has been appointed a member of the Manpower Services Commission area board responsible for helping local unemployed people.

HILL, R. C. (1959–66) worked for an Acoustic consultancy for four years after gaining a degree in Architecture. He has now joined the Greater London Council and is trying to reduce the traffic noise problem for London. He meets J. W. HERMAN (1959–65) who works for GLC as an engineer

HODGE, W. F. (1952–56). The Hon. Sec. thought Frank Hodge was out of work until he watched the Thames TV Private Eye series 'Hazell' and saw that he was in charge of the camera. He has promised to come and talk to the School team responsible for the new video film equipment.

IREMONGER, M. J. (1954–62) still works at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, now as a Principal Lecturer.

MANN, E. G. (1953–58). Following the death of his brother Ralph, Edwin circumnavigated the globe, travelling from Australia to Vancouver, thence Winnipeg, London and returning to Adelaide. In his travels he visited old haunts in and around the Chilterns and noted many changes at the RGS. He lives in Adelaide, S. Australia practising dentistry. He graduated from Guy's Hospital, London in 1962.

ORME, I. M. (1963–70) writes from the

Experimental Immunobiology Section of the Wellcome Research Laboratory in Beckenham. He has had a few 'ups and downs' since leaving school but all seems well now. He left the RGS to study medicine at the Royal Free Hospital in London but did not enjoy it and did not do so well. He decided to bow out gracefully. For a year he was a dustman, an operating theatre technician and a coca-cola maker and then got a job as a junior technician at the Institute of Child Health (Great Ormond Street Hospital) in the Department of Immunology. He soon became personal technician to the Professor and passed an HNC by day-release. The Professor suggested he try again at University. He was accepted at Chelsea College, University of London. He read Physiology and was awarded a first class honours degree. He is now doing a Ph.D. on the central regulatory mechanisms of immunity.

PEDDER, I. M. (1936–42) is now Air Vice-Marshall Pedder.

PERFECT, W. J. (1922–28) was recently presented with a brass carriage clock to celebrate his 50 years service to the firm Seymour, Taylor and Co., the well known local chartered accountants. The toast to him was proposed by B. B. SEYMOUR (1928–35). W. J. Perfect joined the firm straight from School in 1928, he qualified in 1938 and was a partner between 1946 and 1974. He now acts as a consultant.

PICKLES, B. (1937–42) and his wife Jess have opened an old coaching inn as an hotel. If you are interested: Minffordd Hotel, Talyllyn, Tywyn, LL36 9AJ. Tel. Corris (0654 73) 665.

PRIOR, P. J. (1929–36). Some months ago the Transport Secretary set up a committee to inquire into motorway service areas. He was deeply concerned as to whether travellers' needs were being met. The Committee is chaired by Peter Prior, Chairman of H. P. Bulmer Ltd. and a director of the British Sugar Corporation. He is also a former member of the English Tourist Board.

RAY, P. F. (1958–65), B.Sc. (Eng.), C.Eng., M.I.E.E. feels very keenly about the status of the engineer in our society. The other members of the Common Market give to their professional engineers the same status as is given to doctors in this country. He thinks it might help if professional engineers called themselves inventors or chartered engineers but reluctantly concludes that a revolution is needed to change the style of thought in Britain.

RAY, R. F. (1941–48) wrote a letter in good Welsh from Haverfordwest. He says he has spent many years there 'bringing some culture to the natives'. We sent his school two of our boys not long ago. P. M. FLOWER (1970–73) is now at the University of Essex reading Maths and Economics, the younger brother D. G. A. FLOWER (1972–73) is in the Lower Sixth.

RICHARDSON, J. H. (1950–56) is a successful businessman. When he left the RGS he decided against university and joined the family firm R. M. W. F. Ltd.—Richardson Marlow Wood Flour. He looks back nostalgically to the days when he and G. L. S. HICKEY (1950–56) played open side and blind side in the 1st XV. It is possible too that he regrets that he did not go to university.

ROGERS, M. N. P. (1967–74) wrote from Brasenose College Oxford just before preparing for his finals in English. He had decided to be a barrister—a more precarious career than a solicitor but in his opinion more rewarding. He has to do a further year's academic study to put him on the same level as a Law graduate. He has applied to the City University and Polytechnic of Central London which run such courses. He had to join an Inn of Court—he chose the Middle Temple—and was awarded a Minor Harmsworth Scholarship. This is an award of some prestige and it showed him that he could hold his own as well as Law students in the opinion of the Middle Temple. Friends: G. H. HUNT (1967–73) is starting his articles as a solicitor in London in the autumn. N. D. E. JONES (1967–74) and

W. M. R. RAMSAY (1970–74) are both considering taking up Law after their degree courses. R. P. LOCKWOOD (1967–74) is in Germany for a year, I. C. VALE (1967–74) is preparing for his English finals.

ROLFE, G. E. (1919–22) has retired after 47 years in the furniture industry. He was a director of E. Gomme Ltd. and secretary of all the Gomme Holding companies. He trained in furniture-making at Wycombe Technical College and gained experience of all aspects of manufacturing and selling at Birch's. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of High Wycombe for 30 years and was president in 1959–60. He is deeply involved in the work of High Wycombe Parish Church and has been active in the Moral Re-armament Movement for the last 40 years.

ROWE, S. N. (1970–77) started his training with Imperial Metal Industries Ltd. in January 1978 after sitting his Cambridge Entrance Examinations. He can recommend the sponsorship scheme—sponsored students of I.M.I. are better off than most and he has been given excellent experience and training. The first part involved a period at East Warwickshire College of Further Education where he learnt such engineering skills as welding, turning on a lathe, plastics and fibre glass technology and engineering drawing. Later he will be working in Birmingham at I.M.I. in Welton in the Rolled Metals Division.

RUNDELL, D. J. (1960–67) proudly announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, in November 1977. He also gave news of R. S. WOMBWELL (1960–67) who had finished his tour of duty for International Computers Ltd. in S. Africa and was embarking on a Trans-African Expedition arriving in England in June.

STEVENS, S. J. (1935–39) had his picture in the 'Meat Trades Journal' recently—standing on the Great Wall of China. He spent 11 days in China and was particularly interested in the markets there. In Peking meat was not 'the attraction counter'—but cabbages—which reflected the

comparative abundance of horticultural produce. Paper for wrapping was most carefully used—sometimes meat was placed directly on top of vegetables or even on to the bare hand. In April he went to Athens to lead talks on the future of Meat Retailing.

THOMPSON, L. J. (1912–17) has moved to Beaconsfield, nearer the shops, station and the golf club. At 77 one must think of these things. He has a photograph of the 1914 Cricket 1st XI and reminisced about the good days in the Easton Street School. He spent much of his life in the East and when in Ceylon, W. R. BRINDLEY (1910–15), in the 1st XI with him, was Inspector General of Police there.

TOWNSEND, G. N. (1969–74) wrote after enjoying the Annual Dinner. He takes finals at Christ Church, Oxford, this summer and is then coming back to High Wycombe to train as a Chartered Surveyor with Hamnett Raffety. He is getting married in September to Diana Matthews, who is at Wadham College. They are both doing P.P.E. and met in their first week in Oxford coming out of a lecture (the much maligned first year lectures do have their uses) he has enjoyed Christ Church but will be glad to be moving away from full time study to do something rather more 'practical'.

WALKER, M. K. (1970–77) is working for British Rail at York, training as a civil engineer, before going to Southampton University in October.

WALTER, J. F. (1923–27) has retired and lives in 'Rangimarie', 33 Swafield Rise, North Walsham, Norfolk. There is always something going on in this little town. He is sure that Norfolk is greatly underrated by most people. It is far from the flat land that many think—indeed parts of it remind him of S. Bucks.

WARD, J. R. (1956–63) travelled last summer overland by coach to Istanbul, intending to stay about a week. His passport was stolen from his pocket and he had to stay almost a month waiting for a replacement. He then went on to Teheran. This year, John, who is a lecturer in

Economic History at Edinburgh University, has two terms sabbatical leave of absence. He intends spending one month in the jungle near Belize in British Honduras with a group of archaeologists who are excavating a Mayan temple. This is meant to be a holiday before he starts his real work in Jamaica and certain universities in the U.S.A. where he hopes to find further material for his forthcoming book on a Mr. Thistlewood, an 18th century plantation manager who kept a daily diary of his activities on the estate. Ward calls this his 'parvum opus'—it will be a prelude to his 'magnum opus' on 'Slavery in the West Indies.'

WATSON, G. E. (1951–58) is now a Director of Norman Bartleet, suppliers of confectionery machinery. He keeps in touch with Dr. P. N. ROGERS (1948–55) who has left Canada and is now President of Standard Brands, America. D. W. PARKINSON (1953–58) export manager of Jameson's Chocolates is a customer.

WILKINSON, P. J. (1967–75) finds that the motto of the Geography department at St. David's College, Lampeter, Dyfed is the same as at the RGS. 'Work hard and play hard'. He completes his degree in June and returns to Dartmouth for further training. He shares a boat with P. G. WILLS (1967–73) who is following a course in nautical architecture at Southampton University.

HIGH WYCOMBE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

The High Wycombe R.F.C. founded in 1928–29 as the Old Wycombiensians R.U.F.C. will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee on Friday November 10th 1978 at the Town Hall, High Wycombe. Several of the Old Boy Founders together with numerous other representatives from Rugby Union Football, Cricket etc. will be present up to the limited number of 400. A first-class meal will be served and licensed bars available. The anticipated cost will be £4.50.

Full details can be obtained from S. E. HANDS, 17 Brands Hill Avenue, High Wycombe. Telephone (0494) 25307.

The Hon. Sec. M. M. DAVIES still has copies of the School History (1562–1962) written by Ashford and Haworth. Price £1 plus postage 25p.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across

2 Nightingale; 7 E.L.O.; 8 Pink Floyd; 10 Yes; 12 Uncle (anag.); 14 Name; 16 Avid; 17 Stair; 19 E.M.I.; 21 Strangler; 24 Ram; 25 Diamond Dogs.

Down

1 Deep Purple; 2 Not Nice!; 3 Hello; 4 Iggy; 5 Gee; 6 Love; 9 Dennis; 11 Supertramp; 13 Elvis (anag.); 14 Nod; 15 Wailers; 18 Bayed; 20 Mini (Rippeton); 21 Jam.

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- * With rates of pay comparable with the best (at 16½ you start at over £31 per week).

ON COMPLETION YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK FOR A COMPANY THAT HAS:

- * A world-wide reputation for British Engineering at its best (over 80% of our products are exported to more than 120 different countries).
 - * Factories situated in all major continents and throughout the U.K.
 - * Some of the most modern machine tools and is one of the largest users of N.C. Machines in Europe.
- But above all Molins cares about people. You will be given the opportunity to reach your full potential; a skilled craftsman, an Electronics Engineer, or working on the fringes of technological science as a Research and Development Engineer. For some of these positions you will require a University degree, Molins offers sponsorships to the top Universities in the country for the right people.

QUALIFICATIONS

**Mechanical/Electrical Craft
Mechanical/Production/Electronic-
Technicians**

**Technician Engineers
leading to HND qualifications
Technologists**

Clerical Trainees

Commercial Apprentices

C.S.E. Maths and English
'O' level G.C.E. in four subjects including English, Maths and preferably Physics.
'A' level G.C.E. in two subjects or ONC/OND.
'A' level G.C.E. in three subjects including Maths and Physics. Or entrance qualifications to University. C.S.E. or 'O' levels in Maths and English.
'O' level G.C.E. in four subjects including Maths and English Language

If your age is between 16 and 19, write to the Training Manager for further details.

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Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education

The Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education offers an extensive range of courses and you may be interested in one of the major full-time courses which include the following:—

B.Sc. Sociology
Postgraduate Diploma in Export Marketing
M.A. in Furniture Design and Technology
Bilingual Secretarial Studies
B.A.(Hons) Three-Dimensional Design—Furniture
B.A.(Hons) Three-Dimensional Design—Silversmithing/Metalwork
B.A. (Hons) Three-Dimensional Design—Interior Design
Ordinary and Higher National Diplomas in Engineering and Business Studies

Having decided to leave school and enter industry or commerce, then one of the many sandwich and or part-time courses will not only help you to develop your vocational skills but also improve your promotion chances. These courses include:—

Ordinary and Higher National Certificates in
Building Construction
Business Studies
Science
Mechanical and Electrical Engineering
Professional qualifications in Accountancy, Banking, Languages and Management
City and Guilds of London Institute Courses—complete range

MAKE A DECISION . . . to find out more about these courses from the Assistant Director, Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Queen Alexandra Road, High Wycombe, Bucks (High Wycombe 22141).

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