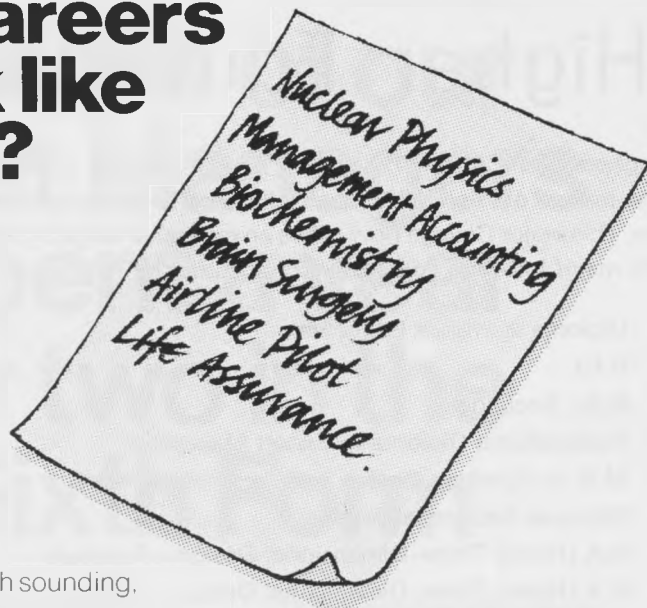


THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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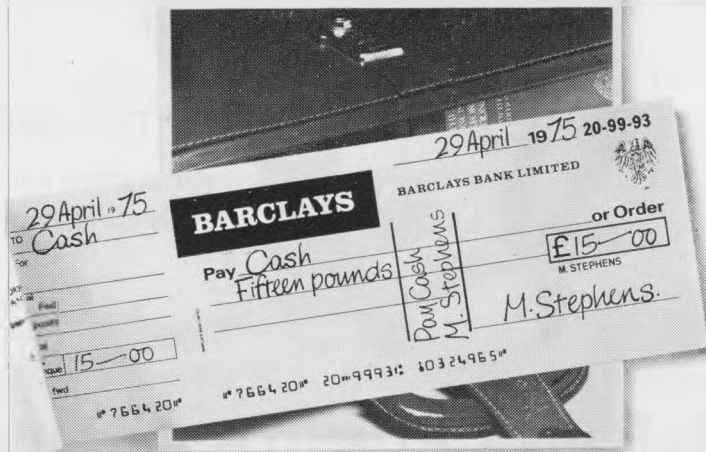
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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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

JULY 1976

EDITORIAL

'All good things which exist are the fruits of originality.'—*John Stuart Mill*.

Welcome to another edition of the school magazine; not just any other edition, for we were greatly encouraged by the response to our appeals for material. Moreover, the standard of work was higher than ever.

It's certainly not that the people of this school lack originality and talent in their work, but it seems that in the past many people have felt inhibited by the fact that *The Wycombiensian* is the official school

magazine. Possibly, they have been deterred by the embarrassment of seeing their names in print.

We must stress that the school magazine is your magazine; and its future is in your hands.

David Brown
Tim Clark
Steven Parker
Keith Richmond

SCHOOL NEWS

At the end of this term we shall be losing four members of staff: Mr. Leggett retires after 30 years teaching Physics; Mr. Hillier leaves after eight years to go to Dauntsey's School, Wiltshire; Mr. Byford is leaving after two years teaching Physics and Maths; Mrs. Ferris comes to the end of her year's appointment, having done wonders not only with Medieval History but also with costumes for *Billy Budd*—not to mention her various roles in *Staff Trek*.

We welcome B. T. Thomas, B.Sc., Ph.D. from research at Imperial College London to teach Physics; R. M. Wardell, M.A. also to teach Physics; J. R. B. Kempson, B.D. as Co-ordinator of Religious Education; K. D. Keysell, M.A. from Eltham College to teach History; Mrs. E. M. Walker, B.A. to teach French part-time.

At the end of last term the Headmaster started a six week visit to U.S.A.; an account

of his journey appears elsewhere. The School play was a dramatisation of Melville's *Billy Budd*, up to Mr. Smith's usual high standard. What a pity most parents and boys cannot be persuaded to support him and his cast by their presence in the audience.

The Staff Revue romped its way through the last two nights of the Easter Term to packed, appreciative audiences. Concerts have been held in the Town Hall and the Queen's Hall: the first a combined event with Wycombe High School, the second to mark the installation of an organ in the Queen's Hall.

Various visits have been organised, both by the Science staff and Modern Languages staff in particular. Vulture has continued to flourish, debating and public speaking have been successfully engaged in, for more details, please read on.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES 1975-76

We congratulate the following on gaining Open Awards :

- S. R. Armstrong : Organ Scholarship, Queens' College, Cambridge.
- K. D. Bennett : Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Peterhouse, Cambridge.
- S. N. Cousens : Open Exhibition in Mathematics, St. John's College, Cambridge.
- P. J. Harrison : Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.
- S. A. Hopkins : Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.
- R. P. Madelin : Open Scholarship in Modern Studies, Magdalen College, Oxford.
- B. R. Newton : Open Exhibition in English, Pembroke College, Cambridge.
- D. J. Suckling : Open Exhibition in Classics, University College, Oxford.
- C. M. White : Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Queens' College, Cambridge.
- A. A. Jenkins : Scholarship in Law, Aberystwyth.

Places at Oxford and Cambridge for 1976 :

- D. N. J. Bristow : Jesus College, Cambridge, for Modern Languages.
- S. G. H. Corrin : Pembroke College, Cambridge, for Economics.
- P. W. Dodd : Jesus College, Oxford, for Modern Languages.
- R. H. Edwards : St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, for Modern Studies.
- D. C. McNee : Churchill College, Cambridge, for Chinese.
- A. B. McElroy : Peterhouse, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences.
- C. R. Pendrill : Christ's College, Cambridge, for History.
- D. B. White : Downing College, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences.
- S. N. Woodward : Jesus College, Oxford, for History.

University Places 1975 :

- J. F. Aldous : Southampton, Mathematics.
- S. R. Atkinson : Leeds, Chemical Engineering (for 1976).

- S. D. Bainton : Leeds, Electrical Engineering (for 1976).
- M. Baker : Nottingham, Mining Engineering (for 1976).
- J. N. W. Barry : Queen Mary College, London, Genetics & Microbiology.
- K. J. Bartlett : Imperial College, London, Civil Engineering.
- M. V. Blundell : Kent, Social Sciences.
- S. E. Britnell : Surrey, Physical Science / Computing Science.
- C. E. Browne : Goldsmith's College, London, Mathematics & Physics.
- M. J. Bull : Sheffield, Medicine.
- S. R. Calverley : Liverpool, Oceanography.
- R. J. Coles : St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.
- M. G. Coups : University College Hospital Medical School, London, Dentistry.
- S. J. Crome : Surrey, Forensic Science.
- R. B. Dapling : Westminster Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.
- B. Darvill : Reading, Geography.
- N. Davidson : Lancaster, Modern Languages.
- T. W. Digby : Bristol, History.
- M. Dunkley : Exeter, German.
- N. P. B. Godden : Royal Holloway College, London, History.
- M. L. Goodman : Leeds, Civil Engineering.
- K. Guha : Lancaster, Economics.
- M. A. G. Guz : Queen Mary College, London, Astrophysics.
- G. M. Haines : Surrey, Engineering.
- H. I. G. Hare : Bristol, Architecture.
- P. G. C. Harvey : Lancaster, Accounting & Finance.
- P. R. Hawes : Hull, Engineering.
- R. E. Holliman : St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.
- N. A. Hurneyman : Imperial College, London, Physics.
- J. Ireland : Sheffield, Business Studies (for 1976).
- A. S. Iveson : Warwick, German.
- C. W. Jenkins : Birmingham, Geography.
- N. D. E. Jones : Bristol, Classics.
- T. A. Jolly : Nottingham, Economics.
- C. A. Keen : Loughborough, Economics.
- P. M. Knight : Sheffield, Zoology.

- P. G. Knipe : Leicester, Biological Sciences.
 N. V. Leaver : Brunel, Biochemistry.
 P. F. Lewis : Aberystwyth, Economics.
 S. J. E. Matthews : Guy's Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.
 I. C. Mawhinney : Bristol, Veterinary Science.
 D. J. N. Moore : Loughborough, Computer Studies.
 P. Nuttall : Sheffield, Economics & Accountancy.
 N. J. Oakey : Southampton, History & English.
 D. G. Parker : Cardiff, Electrical Engineering.
 C. G. Paull : Imperial College, London, Microbiology (for 1976).
 J. N. Pearce : Loughborough, Banking & Finance (for 1976).
 S. J. Pearce : Reading, Agriculture (for 1976).
 S. F. Peart : Aberystwyth, French.
 K. A. Pettit : Lancaster, Accountancy / Business Studies.
 P. B. Pugh : Westfield College, London, Zoology.
 G. J. Philbrick : Southampton, Music.
 J. E. Rackstraw : Leeds, Architectural Engineering.
 M. D. Randall : East Anglia, Biology.
- T. J. Ross : Liverpool, English.
 R. E. Schramm : King's College, London, Mechanical Engineering.
 E. T. Steggles : Reading, Estate Management.
 G. J. O. Tinn : Exeter, Mathematics.
 K. A. Vallance : Birmingham, Medicine.
 D. G. Walbridge : Bristol, Medicine.
 I. C. Walker : Birmingham, Commerce & Social Services.
 Q. N. D. Wallace : Hull, Plant Biology.
 R. A. Watson : Lancaster, Accounting & Finance.
 D. A. Weller : Loughborough, Transport Management & Planning.
 M. Whitcombe : Birmingham, Physics.
 S. R. Widberg : Bangor, French & Drama
 P. J. Wilkinson : Lampeter, Geography.
- Teacher Training**
 D. C. Clemens : St. Martin's College, Lancaster.
- Polytechnics (Degree Courses)**
 R. Evans : Kingston, Mechanical Engineering.
 D. F. Keen : City of London, Business Studies.
 R. J. Wallen : Birmingham, Town Planning.

THE WYCOMBE SCHOOLS' ART EXHIBITION

As a part of the Wycombe Arts Festival in March this year the school took part in the Wycombe Schools' Art Exhibition at the Oak Room in the Town Hall. Most of the secondary, middle and primary schools from Wycombe, Beaconsfield and Marlow exhibited.

The R.G.S. display was judged to be the best and Mr. Eaton was presented with the Will Haines Rose Bowl. At the presentation the work from the school was said to be of high quality in a variety of media including drawings, painting, printmaking, ceramic, wood, metal and plastic sculptures.

The work on show was that of fifth and sixth form students.

A. D. LEGGETT, 1946-76

Arthur Leggett takes a well deserved retirement this year after thirty years teaching physics at the R.G.S. When he came, shortly after the war, the school was considerably smaller with one physics lab, sited in what is now the language lab. In the early sixties the school expanded and the present science block was built. Inevitably the expansion came before the building and there are apocryphal tales of whole classes marching in crocodile carrying their science apparatus to distant boarding houses where teaching accommodation had been improvised! Then came the population bulge with oversized classes and sixth forms of thirty.

Through all this, metrication, the change to Nuffield and umpteen syllabus changes, Arthur was one of the principal mainstays of the physics department. Dedicated, kindly and always helpful to colleagues and pupils alike, generations of schoolboys will remember him with affection. We wish him a long and fruitful retirement.

J.W.

K. A. HILLIER, 1968-76

We are very sorry to have to say Goodbye this term to Mr. K. A. Hillier, but would like to take this opportunity of giving him our warmest congratulations on his promotion to Senior History Master at Dauntsey's School, West Lavington, in his favourite county, Wiltshire.

During the eight years he has been with us Mr. Hillier has given a very great service to the School. He has been in charge of the Early Modern History Sets in the Sixth Form and achieved conspicuous success with his pupils who have come to respect his scholarship, his skilful teaching and kindly concern for the individual's welfare.

His contributions to School life reflect his wide interests. He took charge of Tennis which under his guidance has prospered. The fixture list has been extended, new tennis courts obtained and substantial

success achieved in the Youll Cup Competition and elsewhere.

Two years ago he set up the Resources Centre having handed over the Library to Mr. Mitchell. Its technical equipment and duplicating and reprographic equipment have provided an invaluable service to teaching.

Nor should one forget his four Staff Revues. The zany *LOOHCS is a backward School*, *NOS son of LOOHCS*, *Luftstaffe 73* and *Staff Trek* have shown up in the kindest way our idiosyncracies, and at the same time provided funds for good causes.

To all these activities he has brought the same tremendous energy and enthusiasm. His many friends here send him their best wishes for his work in his new School.

D.G.J.

BOARDING HOUSE REPORTS

UPLYME HOUSE REPORT

There have been two major changes in the house since the last report. Firstly Mr. Gamester has departed from the post of house tutor to be replaced by the returning Mr. Edwards. The second major change has been the introduction of a colour television. The money for this was raised by the sale of coffee at parents' evenings and various other school functions and through the boys' gardening and car-washing in the area. This effort was made entirely by the boys and it was pleasing to note the response that most of the house made to the call to raise money.

As usual the house has been well represented in all the major senior teams, as well as in the junior teams. It is hoped that this pleasing aspect of the day-to-day life will continue into the summer term.

It remains for me to thank Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs for the contribution they have made, as housemaster and matron to the smooth and efficient running of the house.

We wish Mr. Gamester all the best for the future and also hope that Mr. Edwards will enjoy his stay with us.

TYLERS WOOD HOUSE REPORT

With the prospect of another *Wycombiensian* the literary geniuses of Tylers Wood cast their minds back to the events of the last term, and here's the result

Hearty congratulations must go to Richard and Steve on gaining places at Oxford and Cambridge respectively, and here's hoping that Robin can make it three in a row for the Edwards family!!

At the present, the boarding house is somewhat empty with only 14 boys in the house. Unfortunately Walter has just left us for a flat in Hatters Lane, but has promised to come back and help at week-ends. As well as the loss of Walter, we were greatly saddened when Mrs. Breed left us after 15 years for a happy retirement in Somerset. In Mrs. Breed's place we welcome Mrs. Heather who has settled in well, and we wish her many happy years at Tylers Wood.

On the sporting field, the house has equipped itself well. Robin Edwards at 1st

XV went on to play for the four counties. M. Noblett was a regular member of the 2nd XI hockey team. In the second year, four of our six boys played for the school, whilst down at the range R. Chambers got due reward for his 'tons' with full colours. Also congratulations to him on gaining his R.A.F. scholarship. And on the subject of the services, a special mention should be made for Malcolm Noblett who must be the first ever fifth form sergeant in the C.C.F.

With everyone refreshed after the Easter break, and the prospect of showers without flaky paint, all are looking forward to the new term. Some await G.C.E. exams and so good luck to them!

Finally thanks to all the cleaning ladies, cook Mrs. Woods and Mr. Wilson. A special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Samways for ensuring the smooth running of the house.

The Study

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF SCHOOLS IN U.S.A.

Disappointment at missing *Staff Trek*, and learning the mechanics of the delivery of certain important supplies to my room, was compensated for by the fact that at that very time I was, allowing for the six hour time lag, visiting a 15-18 age range school in Denver, Colorado, where at an altitude of over a mile above sea level the ground was covered with a six inch layer of crisp snow, and yet it was warm enough at mid-day to dispense with a jacket. The school had its own TV studios and station, a complete printing department, an automotive workshop with about 20 vehicles in it and a sports hall capable of having four tennis courts in use at any one time.

One cannot fail to be impressed by the manner in which, if a community or School District sets its heart on it, a school will receive support by way of resources being poured into it. At the same time one cannot help noting that this same society produces circumstances where classroom doors are locked, even when classes are in the rooms, and a band of security guards patrols the premises throughout the day.

If we at the RGS think that our school is large, by American standards it is tiny. In urban areas schools of four to five thousand are common, and schools of six thousand not unknown. When one reflects that this involves having year groups of over a thousand, then it will be realised that the individual counts for less in such a vast community. Against this must be set advan-

tages of scale. Schools may have at least one or even two computers, their own detachment of buses, an army of choirs and bands, and their own fleet of cars for pupils to learn to drive. I say 'may have' for I was conscious, as I toured round Schools and colleges, that I was, naturally enough, seeing only the better schools and the better things going on in those schools. I did not see any of the schools in areas where the police have to be called to the premises to maintain law and order, though to judge by correspondence and articles in the press while I was there, this happens in large urban areas across the country. I did see a lot of young people working hard to get the best out of their High School years.

In many areas the school day started at seven or eight o'clock and was finished by one or two o'clock in the afternoon. This gave the pupils the chance to have a job for the other half of the day, which many did—from helping in shops or pizza parlours to running grass-mowing services or assisting a mortician. The tradition of working one's way through college and university without a County Grant—such a system does not operate there—has its counterpart in the schools and certainly teaches young people the value of money and of higher education.

In their Bicentennial year America's young people seemed to be in very good heart and eagerly ready to embrace the challenges of their next century.

R. P. Brown

DECORATION

The smell of new paint,
The swish of the brush,
The noise of the rush.
The sight of new paint,
The colours so clean—
But orange and green?

P. Newman

C.C.F. NOTES

ARMY SECTION

It is pleasing to record that all cadets who took proficiency in the recent exam were successful and this year's recruits are making excellent progress. The Signals platoon has gone from strength to strength under Cadet Sgt. M. Noblett and his efficient radio net has helped the various exercises considerably. It is hardly surprising therefore that 100% passes were recorded in the Signals Classification held at the end of last term.

Great enthusiasm was shown for a weekend at the Regular Army Camp at Longmoor. Other week-ends have been spent on expedition training for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award where cadets experience the satisfaction this form of self-reliance brings.

Adventure Training during the Easter holiday was at Leek on the edge of the Peak District. The short night exercise at the end of the first day created just the right atmosphere at the start of the Camp and a variety of training followed, including personal survival, rifle shooting, rock climbing, infantry training and a night exercise of escape and evasion. Most cadets did well to decipher the rather cryptic clues to an orienteering exercise which they completed in wet conditions to the encouragement and shouts from Mr. Robert Harry, formerly Cadet R.S.M. who with Mr. Richard Wallen, former N.C.O. i/c Signals, gave valuable assistance to the four Officers running the Camp.

The two day exercise brought into play all the individual skills acquired during the year and the enemy finally succumbed to numerical superiority. In the night exercise a 'strongly held bridge' was captured by Able seaman J. M. R. Preece who in his enthusiasm and disregard for personal comfort managed to get soaked to the skin in the shallow stream beneath the bridge. After drying out in the warmth of base camp he was back in action next morning and still in

good voice with his rendering of 'Ilkley Moor' on the last night of camp. With Bill's cooking up to his usual high standard a splendid time was had by all.

It is pleasing to record that Marius Coulon, a former Cadet R.S.M., has now been commissioned, his presence will soon be felt in the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Kevin Haugh was promoted Cadet C.S.M. at the end of Camp.

R.P./K.H.

R.A.F. SECTION

After the quiet part of the year when Cadets were studying for Part II and Part III, the results of which were very pleasing, the term came to life. The Vth form had their field trip to RAF Brize Norton and were lucky enough to have a flight in a *Belfast*. The IVth form were not so lucky; their field trip to RAF Wittering was postponed because of a Taceval exercise on the base, so they went to see the Shuttleworth collection instead.

After visits to O.A.S.C. RAF Biggin Hill, W.O. Chambers was awarded a University Cadetship and Sgt. Preece is awaiting the results of his Flying Scholarship. Also to be congratulated are A/Cpls. Standing, M., Wood, Vestentoft and Gurney who all passed their gliding proficiencies during Easter. The RAF again won the Inter-Section shoot. Five Cadets spent half-term at RAF St. Mawgan but were unable to get any flying.

So far this term we have been able to fly the glider a few times and 18 Cadets spent a weekend in the New Forest, camping and walking, and we will have another such weekend in Snowdonia before we go to Austria for exercise 'Summer Snow'. We are also hoping to spend some Thursday afternoons on the river at RAF Medmenham and some doing dinghy drill in the School pool.

Easter Camp—RAF Swinderby

We were able to take 33 Cadets and 3 Officers. The weather was kind and all Cadets were able to fly in *Chipmunk* aircraft from the *Vulcan* base at RAF Waddington. The Cadets were also shown round Waddington and inside the *Vulcans* and the *Vulcan* Simulator. We were also taken to R.A.F.C. Cranwell where 30 of the Cadets passed the RAF swimming proficiency.

Other activities included an escape and evasion exercise, a night exercise, shooting, P.T. and an assault course won by an R.G.S. flight, this was no surprise as the team

members came first, second, third and fifth in the individual competition. I must also congratulate A/Sgt. O'Keefe for being adjudged the best Cadet at camp, A/Cpl. Forrester for being the best Junior NCO and Cdt. Thomson for being the best Cadet. All three were presented with ties bearing the Swinderby crest.

It just remains for me to thank Flt. Lt. Smaje, Flt. Lt. Sollars, Fg. Off. Dr. Fair and F. Sgt. Heath without whose help we could not survive.

W.O. P. H. Browne

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

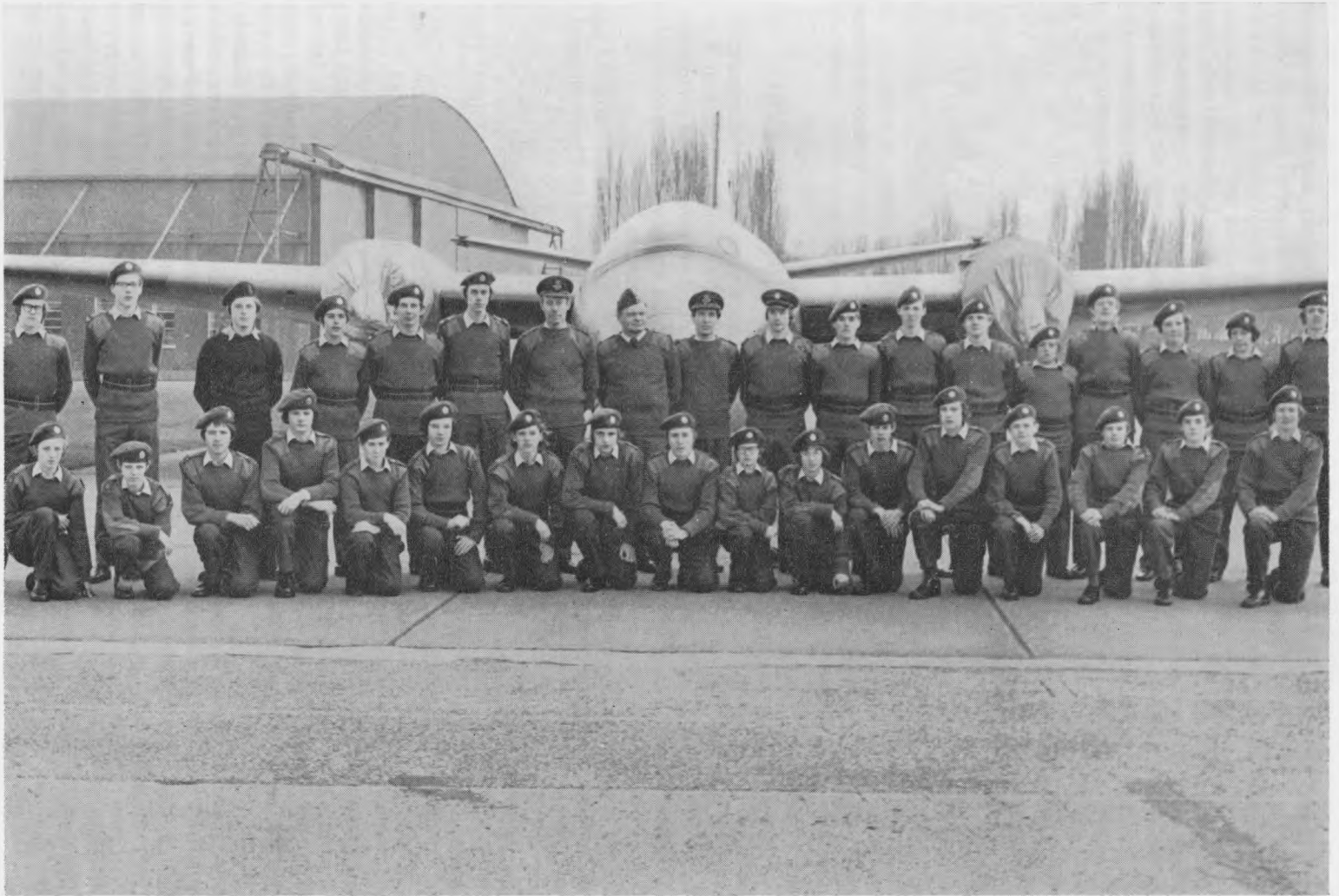
Two field-days have been undertaken so far and both provided ample practical experience. At Portsmouth the cadets faced a day at sea and braved the foul weather with high spirits even though Maynard kept looking over the side. Chatham proved a wet outing for some of the participants as the trip dealt with firefighting and contained elements of skill at putting out fires and soaking each other. Longer versions of these activities were provided in the form of Easter Courses and a group of cadets was chosen to go on a gunnery, air acquaint, adventurous training, range firing and submarine courses. The cadets reported that an enjoyable time was had by all.

The Aveley trip has been the highlight of the season so far. It was to provide practical sea training in a specially designed cadet ship, i.e. no guns, special equipment or fraddles. Many aspects of seamanship were 'investigated' and we only hit two ships and a harbour wall. Shore-leave was available every day but most of us required a good

night's sleep to make up for the early start and hard work. By the end of the trip 'sea-legs' had just about been obtained but some of us could not settle down to the wave action, even when the boat was in the harbour. This course was enjoyed by all as a mutual respect was built up with the crew.

C.C.F. Adventure Training Camp was again held at Leek and it was to provide plenty of hard work but proved to be as enjoyable as ever.

Ill-fated as usual, the Naval shooting team entered the inter-section competition and managed to achieve its highest placing so far in the history of the competition. That is, we came last. Better prospects lie in the future; with practice at Longridge, a good sailing team could put forward our challenge in the C.C.F. Regatta. And if the 16 ft. motor boat can overcome its initial problems then the world will lie at our feet, well at least the Thames will. We hope that the cadets will give the Section the necessary support in the forthcoming programme.



EASTER CAMP 1976 RAF SWINDERBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

VULTURE

SENIOR VULTURE

'Vulture' coaches don't seem so full as they used to be; this is a great shame, as once again we have visited a widely-differing selection of events at a fraction of the cost that an individual would pay for transport and entrance.

In October Vulture swooped on the Wyndham Theatre in London to see the critically-acclaimed Pinter play, *No Man's Land*, starring John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson. Our enjoyment was further enhanced by our earlier visit to *The Birthday Party* at the Shaw, which invited comment on the development of Pinter's work.

November saw us in London again, this time to visit the Tate Gallery to view the Paul Nash exhibition. In the evening we went on to the ABC cinema in Shaftesbury Avenue to see Woody Allen's brilliant parody of Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, *Love and Death*.

One of the most enjoyable events we've ever been to was to see the London Contemporary Dance Theatre at Sadler's Wells in December. They danced the Robert Cohan piece, the 'Waterless Method of Swimming Instruction', Micha Bergese's 'Hinterland' (with music by Kraftwerk), and Cohan's 'Place of Change' with classical music. The modern dance, stark but brilliant designs, and taped electronic music was a thoroughly refreshing experience.

After the Prom concert in September at the Albert Hall, we visited St. John's, Smith Square, in January for some more music, this time a concert of Mozart and Tippett.

In February we returned to Wyndham's for the Trevor Griffiths play *Comedians*, which was brilliantly directed by Richard Eyre and played by an excellent cast, the only exception being the disappointing Jimmy Jewel. It came more or less straight from the Nottingham Playhouse, and provides an interesting example of a successful transfer to the London commercial theatre.

We visited the Constable exhibition in March at the Tate, and in the evening went to the Young Vic to see *As You Like It*.

It would be rather nice to see more people taking advantage of the opportunity to contribute to a school activity and at the same time to enjoy oneself and be entertained. Those of us who did fill those Vulture coaches enjoyed all of our visits immensely, and would like to thank Mr. D. Smith, Mr. A. Manwaring and Mr. J. Mitchell for organising the trips. How about filling a seat yourself next term?

Keith Richmond

JUNIOR VULTURE

This school year marks the second in the history of the society. Now that half our original number have passed on into the 4th Form, it was found necessary to recruit new members from the 2nd year.

First however, before we had even been at school four days and had been allowed time to recover, we were whisked away to the Albert Hall to see one of the Promenade Concerts. After that there was a lull while these new members were found. Then all systems were go!

Our next trip was a double bill. First we went to the Mall Galleries to see the exhibition, sponsored by Kellogg's, of children's art. It was very similar to the one last year and though quite interesting it is fair to say that it was not the most stimulating visit we have made. This was followed by a visit to the Coliseum Theatre to see Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience*. The next excursion was another two-in-one. The first half was a visit to the Courtauld Institute Galleries (providing a complete contrast to the earlier exhibition), and then we saw Woody Allen's latest film *Love and Death* which basically was a skit on *War and Peace*. It was hilarious at the beginning but sadly fell away towards the end.

The last visit of the Winter Term was to Sadler's Wells to see the Modern Dance Company perform. With extensive use of coloured lighting (which sometimes played a greater part than the performers), and a conspicuous lack of accompanying music we came away not wholly converted to this progressive type of ballet. Perhaps we are traditionalists.

The Easter Term began with a visit to St. Martin's Theatre to see Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*, only a few days after her death. Despite five or so boys knowing beforehand who committed the murder, it was much enjoyed. The second trip was to the Festival Hall where we saw the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra perform a concert under the name of 'Vienna Carnival' which contained pieces by Strauss, Mozart, Lehar and Schubert. Conducted by Bernard Keffe,

it was excellent.

Next came a trip to the Tate Gallery to the Constable exhibition. We were all impressed by what we saw. This was followed by a visit to the Young Vic, which has by now become quite a regular event, to see *As You Like It*. The performance was superbly produced and played and it was a highly rewarding experience.

Lastly there came a performance of *La Fille Mal Gardée* at Covent Garden. As we had seen this ballet before, the inevitable comparisons were made between this and the production at Watford, and it was generally agreed that this was of a higher standard.

Vulture is incredible value for money. We all enjoy ourselves while still broadening our cultural horizons. Thanks to all the masters involved.

M. Bull

AUTUMN VALLEY

The bullying wind tosses and turns the quivering
corn,
A sea of unceasing confusion,
Constantly, lazily wavering from side to side.
A nettle, that rises above the golden ears,
waves, as if for help, as the relentless yellow
quicksand engulfs it,
The grey clouds slide noiselessly across the moving
sky
And dark, green woods ooze over the hilltops on
either side
With dry roar and hissing that fills the incessant
valley.
Some deer, on matchstick legs, step elegantly
through long shivering grass
That rushes and shimmers back and forth on gentle
slopes.
Everywhere is motion, relentlessly roaring motion
And here is life and solitude,
Peace, and power.

BEECH WOOD IN SPRING

The bluebells hang in purple mist
And flatter with embalmed scent,
And 'midst their silent unreal haze
You stand alone, and aweful gaze.

The verdant tiers of lucent leaves
Clustered comet-tails of shooting green,
The bony trees in verdure burst
And sudden sprawl 'cross Chiltern hurst.

Through new-donned veils of glittered leaves
Glabrous sunbeam-pillars flood
And drench with light May's new-sprung store
Where still you stand, still in awe.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

This past term has been rather more hectic than usual, in that we now have a new dark room (on the first floor of the Junior Block next door to the book store) with hot and cold running water. We will be re-decorating it probably this term. Membership continues to grow slowly, anybody wanting to learn to develop and print black-and-white film, should see Mr. Ryder or Mr. Earl. Information about meetings will usually be posted on our new notice-board in the old school corridor.

P. Newman

WYCOMBE ACTION GROUP REPORT

Since the beginning of the Christmas term WAG has changed beyond recognition. Gone are the days of providing holidays for underprivileged children in the WAG caravan; the caravan is being sold and now WAG is a paradoxical mixture of apathy and enthusiasm, revolution and reaction, high ideals and aimlessness. What will arise from this chaos? Eventually we hope, a revolutionary organisation—not of the Marxist-Yawnist type, but an army—dedicated to overthrowing the synthetic, ITV-commercial, life of High Wycombe, an army to change the people of Wycombe's ideas, their outlook on life, themselves and the people they know. 'What', I hear the cynical reader saying, 'have you done to this effect?' I must reply, not much. But we have handed out free gingerbread-men in the streets of Wycombe, some street theatre is in the pipeline and . . . anything could happen. Action, though, means people and people means YOU! If you are at all interested, amused, or bemused by this report, come and see Jonathan Davis of VIC₁ or Adrian Campbell of VIL₁ who will swiftly press-gang you into membership.

J.D.

WARGAMES

First I would like to say how sorry we are about Mr. Talbot's sudden illness and we all hope that he gets well soon and is able to return to his enthusiastic leadership of the club. We would also like to thank the members of staff who are helping to keep the club going in Mr. Talbot's absence.

However, we are continuing to recreate military history, faithfully or otherwise, in the weekly meetings. The club is now almost completely given over to commercial board wargaming, with six naval wargamers providing light relief and mental breakdowns. The subjects of our wargames range from ancient Roman warfare through Napoleonic, World Wars I and II, to the distant future. Individual counters represent anything from starforces to mechanized armies to individual men. Individual players represent anything from garlic-breathing Welsh lunatics to the occasional normal, banal, schoolboy. People often accuse us of trying to start WWII. Well, we've got to do something with our lunchtimes.

The famous Beard (or, if you prefer, Board) Wargames Competition is nearly half finished (the first round, that is) and 15 keen players are hoping to win the SUPER prize of a board wargame worth up to £6.00. Anyone hoping to be driven mad bit by bit rather than suffer General Insanity of the Wargamer should enter next year's Board Wargames competition (starting after the autumn half-term holiday) and be broken in gently by being taught the rules and being provided with games and opponents for only 20p, PLUS a chance to win the prize(s). After all, what can you buy with 20p? Examples should be sent to the Wargames Club Funds, and the most original entry will receive a certificate. (Entries *must* be the real item, and sorry we cannot return them.)

I have been asked to mention the Naval Wargames Tournament.

A. Wells

ORIENTEERING

The Club is still thriving and although perhaps individual achievements are not so high from the club so far, it can only reflect the great enthusiasm which is being shown for the sport on a national scale.

We have been on two 'badge events' so far with quite promising results, and it is hoped to attend a third before the end of the year to qualify for a highly-rated gold, silver or bronze badge. We hope our standards are high enough; they certainly seem to have been up till now.

At a recent event at Blenheim Palace, the club was joined by a party from the school of boys going to Austria in the summer with Mr. Smaje, the object being to improve their map-work although I am sure most felt fitter at the end of it as well.

Finally on behalf of all the members I should like to thank Dr. Fair who drives us hundreds if not thousands of miles every year and makes the running of the club so successful.

K. Thompson

RIFLE CLUB

This year has been one of the best the present members have known. Club members to the fore have been Robin Chambers who is very proud of his persistent scoring of 'tons' while Trendall came fourth in the individual results of his division in the British Schools' small bore rifle association. In inter-school matches we have not lost a match. In BSSBRA Leagues both A and B teams came fifth in their divisions: excellent results for our first time in a league of this type.

Below the 2nd year Sixth there are a few budding marksmen, but the Sixth are seriously considering forming an old boys' team for next season.

Thanks are due to all who have helped run the club so efficiently, especially Mr. Sollars, Dr. Fair, Mr. Smaje and Mr. Pattinson.

A. Horner and S. Taylor

THE CHESS CLUB

The Chess team has had quite a successful season this year. Our best achievement was in the *Sunday Times* national schools competition. We won our Zonal final, beating Edmund Campion School, and in the following round there were only 32 schools left. However we were knocked out in this round by St. Albans School by the closest of margins. The score was 3—3 but they had won on the higher boards. However this is the best we have done for many years.

Our Second team in Bucks League Division 3 were in the promotion race until their last match against High Wycombe III, which they lost $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$, so they ended up third. Michael Church played exceptionally well, winning 7 out of his 8 games.

After being promoted last season our First team in Division 1 found the opposition too strong and despite fighting back at the end of the season, were unfortunately relegated to Division 2.

We have had several friendly matches and also some junior matches to give our younger players more practice.

Thanks to Jimmy Bower and Chris Austin, our joint-captains, Colin Webb and Raouf Allim, our treasurer and his assistant, and especially Mr. Clark for all the hard work he has put into the Chess Club.

John Hoy

THE CYGNET SOCIETY

The importance of THE individual has been the central topic for discussion by this society in the period which has elapsed since our progress was last reported. Throughout history, situations have been controlled—whether we like to admit the fact or not—by a caucus of the intellectually superior. When such an elite loses interest in fighting to save an unworthy society—or is dispersed by Chance or Death—that society invariably sinks into decay, and often fails to recover. It is this situation which we find once more current; the true fighters, the 'Immortals', grow weary, and control passes to inferior groups, hidebound and incapable of originality. Once this has happened, one has only

to wait before the demise of that society, a demise for which the 'rulers' are ultimately responsible, even though the first STEP towards the disaster may have resulted from external pressure. The debt owed by the many to the few is only admitted when it is too late.

Other areas explored by various members have been wide: the validity of the 'circle' theory which places extreme of Right and Left close enough for the dyed-in-the-wool Tories to infiltrate the Trade Union movement. Florentine and Italianate art, together with the potential of super-powered travel are other subjects which members find themselves currently being drawn to. As you see we have been busy!

M.P.W-W.

A STORM AT SEA

Waves tossing us,
We're alone!
Rushing along in turmoil
Danger!
Danger above us, around us, beneath us,
Everywhere.
Speeding along!
We're . . .
Maybe we're . . .
Going to die!
I can't stand the agony.
Four of us and a boat and . . .
Nothing, anywhere!

I'm afraid!
Afraid of death!
We're miles from land!
Miles from home!
Miles from civilisation!
Miles from anywhere!
Help someone! Help!
Help!

My friends are calm!
How could they be!
The sea is a torrent of liquid,
Rushing to and fro!
Pinnacles rising,
Dying on salty foam!
Oozing!
Oozing under the boat,
Our boat, our world!
And all the time, the wind!
The masterly wind!
Blustering and blowing!

The lightning is a flashing spear of yellow!
As it spans the sky from horizon to horizon!
And the rain!
The rain, the subsidiary marvel of storm,
And suddenly!
Suddenly!
Amidst all,
Like sudden black death sweeps the town!
Spray!
Over us, around us, beneath us, spray!
I've lost my seat!
I'm amidst a rushing torrent of salty spasmodically
moving sea!
We've capsized!

And now what?
Death?
Just death!
Nothing left!
I'm choked and pulled and dragged.
A tug o' war!
The sea and my friends become contestants!
In a rolling mass of foam,
I pass out.

I wake.
All's quiet.
The storm's gone.
No trace.

M. C. Crozier

THE MISSING GROUNDSMAN

Since several weeks ago today
The school has been in trouble.
And soon the cricket pitches will
Be covered up in rubble.

You see, our groundsman he has gone
And for him we have pined.
You can't tell if you've hit a six,
The boundaries are not lined.

The worst sports team in this fine school
Is certainly the cricket.
Our three best batsmen have been lost
In the hole beside the wicket.

The little place behind the stumps
Which the wicketkeeper sat in
Is now a little hole where you
Can sit, and do your Latin.

And so we come to school, and play
Our games just once a week.
And searching through the holes and bumps
A groundsman still we seek.

A. Glover

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

This year's field trip was based on Giggleswick, Yorkshire, an area ideally suited to the study of harsh scenery and the pleistocene's effect. The school provided excellent facilities including comfortable dormitories, good meals and a swimming pool.

First we went to Malham and Garedale, an area of outstanding beauty, scaled Ingleborough Hill—2,373 feet—but then came Mr. Talbot's sudden illness. We hope he is recovering and will soon rejoin us at school. Urban study of Skipton seemed to be more of a refreshment facilities study for some. Our strenuous day in the Lake District was very enjoyable thanks to excellent weather and fine scenery.

The last night of high spirits was made even more riotous by the arrival of hordes of girls. That night there were numerous disappearing, dismantled and shaving foam filled beds—one way of showing disapproval.

Thanks to Messrs. Cook, Gamester, Samways and Talbot: their efforts resulted in a highly enjoyable and valuable week.

BIRMINGHAM FIELD TRIP

As a result of close cooperation in the field of drama between Lady Verney H.S. and the R.G.S., in past years, this year seven 6th formers (some of us get all the luck!) were able to join the LVHS geographical field trip to Birmingham.

I hardly need say that in some senses of the word Birmingham is lacking, but in the sense that a field is a tract, rich as far as human geography is concerned, for human geography entails studying the town's functions, industry, services and the new towns on the perimeter. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and found the work useful and interesting. Our thanks to Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Talbot of Lady Verney and Mr. Talbot of the R.G.S. for arranging everything so well.

John Preston

P.S. I hear a LVHS v. RGS softball match is in the offing. The girls must have enjoyed the Field trip.

'THE PRISONER'

In here I sit,
Alone in my cell.
Like a chick in an egg,
Like a snail in its shell.

Here in my cell
There's no conversation.
There's a horrible smell,
No sanitation!

Head in my hands,
I sit and cry,
Nothing to eat,
And the well's bone dry.

While I sit in the dark
I remember the days
When my brothers and I
Went our own separate ways.

Long, long ago
When times were fair
We had fought for young maidens,
With long flowing hair.

But when times got hard
And the fights got rougher,

I parted with Bill
And Jock who were tougher.

They fought with the sword,
They fought with the dagger,
They fought as they roared
They fought with a swagger.

But who would have thought
On that same battle day
That Isabel, Mary and Pretty
young May, had poisoned the wine
That my dear brothers drank?

Their souls upwards went
Away to the sky,
But I was imprisoned
In foul Dunferly.

That's why I sit,
Alone in my cell,
Wishing those three girls
Were rotting in hell!

Tom Hardy

FRENCH EXCHANGE 1976

Determined not to be outdone by the Osnabrück Exchange, a party left this Easter on the second French Exchange. Sixteen girls from Lady Verney and eleven boys from the R.G.S. set off on Saturday 27th March from Wycombe Station. Everything ran smoothly until we reached Calais, where we discovered that our reservations were non-existent. As a result of delays caused by a French rail strike we missed our connection in Paris and had to take another train without couchettes for the long journey across France. We arrived in Nimes at lunch-time the next day.

The French were on holiday for the first week (while you at home were at school), and our exchange partners took us to the interesting sites in and around Nimes which included an intact Roman aqueduct and arena. The weather was very hot and sunny, except for a couple of days when there was rain and a wind. The next one and a half weeks brought us a few shocks when we accompanied our partners to school! No school uniform, smoking in class and pupils going on strike. We were well looked after by the French and were treated to a guided tour of the old part of Nimes, a tour of Provence and a dance.

The return journey was a lot easier. All in all, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and many friendships were forged. We only hope we can give the French an equally good time when they visit us. Thanks very much to Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Keen and her husband, Lady Verney High School and the Café de Lyon.

S. J. Richards

OSNABRUCK 1976

The exchange with the Ratsgymnasium in Osnabrück took place for the sixth time in seven years. Forty-eight boys and eight girls participated. The weather was good for both parts of the exchange though the return journey for the English party was marred by an inclement sea.

The German students attended some of our lessons, bringing mirth to one or two, visited

Ercol, Windsor Castle, played basketball, went to London several times, as well as sampling the myriad joys of High Wycombe.

The English boys (and girls) were received with characteristic hospitality and lived in lordly luxury for two and a half weeks in Germany. They visited Volkswagen, enjoyed superb swimming and sporting facilities and even got used to starting school at 7.50 a.m.

We look forward to next year's exchange, which we are sure will be equally enjoyable, and would like to thank the staff from R.G.S. and Ratsgymnasium (Herren Meyer-Ohle, Lehmann, Weiss-Schneider and Durbin) who organised the exchange and accompanied the groups this year.

J-P. le Tissier

BIX CHURCH

Deep enclosed in verdant nest,
With rotting boughs, all decked in green,
Where cropped turf yields underfoot,
And ancient, buckled trees, life-weary, lean,
 mossy mildewed.

There stand the bones
Of a ruined church, whose open shell
With mute entreaty upward yearns,
To heaven, a prisoner in that silent dell.

The speared ivy creeps up the walls
To slowly strangle, hack and hew,
And jagged flints and weathered bricks
Around the lifeless walls to strew.

Walls, that once proud downwards looked
On pious blood, that sadly drained away
And gleaming, gilded cross is gone,
Silver salvers are taken away.

Gone too are wooden tower and coarse oak bench,
Gone is sculptured seraph cornice
Gone are vaulted roof and staid arch door
As if consumed in verd'rous furnace

In whose timeless silent roar
Crumbling clefts dribble flaking flint
And rounded knobbed green walls melt
And sunlight through wide rifts doth glint.

Now organ and choir are wind and birds.
The people, the grass on dank stone and mossed.
But the life and the joy have long since died,
And even the graves are ever lost.

Billy Budd has been acclaimed as one of the best school productions of the past few years. When one takes into consideration the comparatively short rehearsal period, and the fact that a large percentage of the cast were victims of colds and 'flu for much of this period, then the high standard achieved is even more remarkable.

There were many fine individual performances: Mark Setchell, in the title role, showed a great deal of maturity and his nervelessness was quite astounding. Stephen Parker, as Captain Vere, was the epitome of authority as were the other officers, and the normally docile Jonathan King showed an evil streak in his portrayal of the malevolent Claggart. Don Mackay convincingly coughed and spluttered his way through a very difficult part, and Chris Jozajtis proved the merit of typesetting, as the vulgar Jenkins (don't take that the wrong way, Chris!).

Of course, the actors are only half the story: Mr. Dennis Smith revealed great patience and put in a fantastic amount of work to ensure the success of the play. Dr. Dorance's lighting was excellent, the sound effects were authentic (when they remembered to plug the 'speakers in!') and stage manager Chris Tite managed the stage most efficiently. Last, but by no means least, comes a mention of the costumes. The creations of Mrs. Long and Mrs. Ferris were absolutely superb; the officers looked magnificent in their full dress uniform and the crew were suitably smutty and grimy.

All in all, it's just a shame that the play only ran for three nights: I am certain that many people who were unable to see it (for various reasons) would have enjoyed it immensely, and I'm sure I'm not just speaking for myself when I say it would be a pleasure to perform it again.

T. Clark

This year's Staff Extravaganza on Stage, more commonly known as 'Staff Trek' followed in the style of previous revues with the chosen few showing to the world the qualifications needed to be a member of staff at the R.G.S.

The house was crowded both nights and the first of the 'goodies' lined up for the audience's transformation from normal(?) people to laughing heaps was a reproduction, on the wrong night, of the school play *Billy Budd* (er, I mean 'Dudd'). The quick thinking of the crew left Mr. I.A.B. in the spotlight, squirming, trying to think of jokes to tell the audience, whilst the rest learnt the script. He was unfortunately stopped in the middle of two interesting and highly dubious tales and forced to relate some of Mr. Hornsby's Irish Jokes. Inevitably he was dragged from the stage by Mr. Moffatt. Mr. Spock (or was it Mrs?) introduced the rest of the show.

Teaching Superstars followed with the Scottish 'loony'—Alistair Knockoutpunch—played by S. Gamester, accompanied by Herr Adolf Weiss-Schneider and Herbert 'Roy' Logtable. The 'hard-knits' were specially imported from Frogmoor looking remarkably like Messrs. Ferris, Moffatt, Blyth and Mitchell. A short, more serious, musical interlude was then sung by Mr. David Flinders, followed by 'And all because . . .' in which a certain high-ranking gentleman was declared to like Andrex. After which Dame Margot Ferris made her *début* in the world of ballet, when the entire History lesson became an exercise in ethereal ballet movement—the school having been taken over by the Music Department (which still seems imminent!).

After S.B.G. had relived his breakfast with us, eating to a background of apt cricket commentary, a music interlude by Mr. W. J. Clark enthralled the audience; a bald 'Theo' Moffatt crashed on the scene in a take-over bid for the sole lavatory; and a be-knickered 'Police 5½' presenter, Sure Failure, regaled the audience with suspect stories. The musical interlude struck again in the shape of the Mastersingers rattling off three songs,

only to be followed by Professor Zookovsky and his assistants for a quick custard-pie throwing version of 'The Engleesh Jok'.

The second half began with the highlight of the show—Bad Macbreath, expertly played as usual by I.A.B. Attempts on King Duncan's life and wherewithals, with mallets, rugby boots, toilet rolls and a large stick of invisible high explosive having failed (possibly due to high winds and loud thunderclaps, or to singularly incompetent, hag-ridden witches) the king's luck turned; he murdered Bad Macbreath himself, whilst Macbreath's over-endowed wife Flora (R.M.P.) decided one was better than nothing and proceeded to embrace Duncan, at which point her bust burst and the curtain closed.

At this juncture a tramp walked into the Hall and seated himself at the piano. Nobody knew what he was doing there until he revealed himself as the Rev. V. Bailey who played his own composition really well, getting off just in time as Mr. Gamester sprang on and showed-off his physical contours as the 1976 version of Supermaster (another great hit with the audience) to an accompaniment of excruciating puns on masters' names.

The true meaning of an R.G.S. report was revealed to all parents, in the report of 'Boy' (I. J. W. Gruttock); a few attempts by I.A.B. at impersonations of other staff took place, and his case comes up next week.

School poet 'Wilde' Oscar Mitchell now proceeded to recite 'An Ode to the R.G.S. Corridor', to the delight or fright of millions, and was edged off by the Musicians—again the Mastersingers doing their Finale and encore which everyone was glad (for the right reasons) to hear. This had no connection with the strange gargling sensation which now assailed us. Three people entered dressed for bed, seeming to possess a common throat, and Mr. Gamester broke the school spitting record!

The famous poem 'Katmandu' or 'Mad Carew' followed, rendered by K. E. N. Hillier accompanied by Mr. Heath on piano and enacted by an amazing four-legged and four-armed (but not always fore-warned) creature. There was a more serious final

sketch, in which a round up of the news scene around the school was expressed, as well as some interesting stories about salesmen, vicars and four foot high bookcases, not to mention farmers and blondes. This was followed by the Finale in which the whole cast sang(?) in various tones of the school's history.

All in all the Revue was a great success following in the tradition of the others. As Mr. Hillier told the audience on the second night, it could not have been done without the help of Dr. Dorrance and his Diddy men, Stage God (sorry, Manager) Chris Tite and his little tites, and the nut on the amplifier. The audience, I am sure are very grateful to Messrs. Ken Hillier and Ian Blyth for producing yet another great Revue.

Stephen Laws

Criticisms out of the way first, none of them reflections upon personal performances. The 'R.G.S. News' sketch (with 'Angela Ripoff and Richard Whipmore') was somewhat too long, especially for a sketch that was all verbal, and the Finale song has not worn well since its first performance in a previous Staff Revue. The opening sketch, 'Billy Dudd', a burlesque of this year's school play, *Billy Budd*, while visually amusing, was not altogether successful; the reason was perhaps that much of the point was lost on anyone who had not seen the original. (Make sure you support future school plays, seems to be the moral.) 'Police 5½', based on TV's *Police 5*, fell a little flat, and 'Arlott in Life' and 'Supermaster', which both had their funny moments, as well as one piece of splendid gymnastics, were a little too long and put an undue strain upon Steve Gamester, who had to entertain us with mime for long periods.

Virtually all the other sketches, some ten or more, were successes. To enumerate them all would be tedious, but mention must be made of some.

The musical items provided some excellent serious(?) relief from the comings-and-goings on stage. David Flinders and The Mastersingers are always a special pleasure and, despite his pre-match nerves, Wally Clark's piano solo was well received, but

Victor Bailey's fancy dress and rag-time pianism were a specially surprising delight. However, I hope I may be forgiven for singling out from among all the musical entr'actes, Phil Ferris's performance of 'The Masochism Tango', a Tom Lehrer piece: he has convinced at least one listener, thanks to his superb execution, that some of these songs are miniature masterpieces.

There were too many other ridiculous incidents to recall here; there was so much to smile at, so much to laugh at, so much to be impressed by.

I would single out the sketch 'The N.U.T.

Cracker Suite', a classroom mime to music by Saint-Saëns. The choreography was excellent, as artistic as it was comic.

One particular sketch earned tremendous laughter—a take-off of the TV advert for a certain well-known brand of chocolate, featuring, on film-slides, Derek White-Taylor clambering about on minibuses and delivering toilet rolls to the Headmaster's study.

Mike Moffat's West country style got a lively reception in his role as Kojak in 'Palotski'.

S.R.G.

BRIGHTON WITHOUT SUMMER

Only nature breaks the silence,
Only the sea goes on without end,
Everywhere shutters down, doors bolted,
Windows rattle as the sea
Tries out its strength on man again.

The wind chases leaves down alleys
Like an old woman chasing mice with a broom.
And as it shoots through
The narrow cobbled streets,
It races the clouds, those clouds,
Like grey candy floss.

On the promenade stand those
Memories of Summer
The deck-chairs of every conceivable colour,
Stacked under useless tarpaulins,
And on the pier the red and white
Striped, pole shudders,
Goliath's piece of Brighton rock.

The sea rests a while, thinking,
Then, as the baker's boy braves the wind
And rain on the promenade,
It gathers up its mighty strength
And collides with the wall with a
Smack, like a whip.

As the spray shoots into the air,
All the cottages and vast hotels shiver
And close their watery eyes—
And imagine Summer.

G. Milton

RECOGNITION OF THE CRISP!

O faithful crisp, your form and shape
Is there for all to see,
Your diversity of flavour,
Seems so wonderful to me.

Your origin is MOTHER EARTH,
But this we'd never dream,
When you are seen among your friends
In bags of polythene.

In public houses you abide,
And shops both old and new,
From Manor House to Glasgow slum,
We people honour you.

Your rivals come in many shapes
The hoop, the hole, the Quavour,
But our loyalty to you O crisp
Shall never, ever waver.

Your duty is to satisfy,
And thus your life is short,
But yet your death is not in vain,
You're eaten with great thought.

Self-sacrifice is your main goal,
For which you bear your fate.
We stand in awe of your great works
So thank you little mate!

M. G. Noblett / J. D. Poston

'THEY'RE ALL MAD . . . THEY SING CHORUSES IN PUBLIC!'

On arriving at the Royal Grammar School, the somewhat self-conscious new boy is at once bewildered, depressed, neurotic and suicidal. There is one ray of hope, one gleaming shaft of inspiration intruding into the claustrophobic tunnel of loneliness, one sleek sympathetic sinew at which one makes a desperate grasp; attempting to find some salvation and security in the sargassian surroundings of blue-clad youths, invariably bigger than oneself. This oasis, available to those who seek comfort in their hour of tribulation and suffering, is . . . yes! . . . the Music Society!! That unerring pillar of R.G.S. tradition, which works so amazingly hard every lunchtime of the week, trying to provide some entertainment for the hardened fourth-former who reckons his chances on the violin, or likes a bit of a sing.

'The more you put into your school life: the more you get out of it!'

'Tush and humbug!' cries 3T. 'Nothing ever goes on here anyway.'

But brethren . . . it does. Things happen in the largely uncharted zones of the inner Music Room. At a glance, the natives of these regions appear normal, upright scholars of our noble establishment, but comrades . . . don't be fooled! Underneath that casual appearance, and behind the devil-may-care gleam in those unusually alert eyes, lies a rampant beast, striving to escape . . . music!

If you happen to be passing the music room at about 1.30 p.m. on any day of the week, stop and listen to the dulcet tones of the Choral Society or stand and be saturated with the intense musical brilliance of the Second Orchestra. Yes it's all happening in the R.G.S. music department. Or if you feel suitably touched by this article, make a note in your diary or tie a knot in the cat's tail to remind you of the Summer Concert this year, when you can see us in action. Don't forget the Gilbert and Sullivan night either. Perhaps some of you . . . yes even you 3T! . . . might make the effort to join our merry throng. If you feel up to it, hasten music-roomwards and case the joint. I warn you, it's hard work, but certainly worth it.

A. Member

SCHOOL CONCERTS

The combined choirs of Wycombe High School and the R.G.S. gave a concert in the Town Hall on March 1st. Raymond Isaacson accompanied the choirs on the rebuilt organ and played Cesar Franck's 2nd Chorale. The first choral work was Britten's setting of 'Rejoice in the Lamb'—an unconventionally religious poem by Christopher Smart—a difficult but rewarding work.

After the interval came Haydn's 'Nelson Mass'. Here the soloists were Carys Dosser in the demanding soprano part, Simon Gay, David Flinders and David Lowe. Although soundly and accurately performed the dead acoustics of the hall robbed this joyful work of much of its life. Nevertheless Mr. Holmes and his team are to be congratulated on the performance of such fine works.

At the beginning of the Summer Term the new organ was inaugurated by a varied instrumental concert. Stephen Armstrong at the organ played works by Bach—Fantasia in G—and Howells. Geoffrey Heath accompanied the choir in lovely performances of 'Ave Verum' by Mozart, 'The Heavens are telling' by Haydn. Bach went to town in an arrangement for wind by Phillip Edwards, followed by sonorous Gabrieli antiphonally arranged for woodwind and brass. Paul Copas gave an exhilarating account of a rondo by Weber and other soloists, ensembles and bands played works by Beethoven, Wagner, Telemann.

Space forbids mentioning the names of all who took part in such a concert, where team work is obviously so important, but special thanks should go to the talented guest organist—soon to go to Queens' College Cambridge as organ scholar—to all who contributed to the organ fund, and to Mr. Holmes whose able direction made possible an enjoyable evening's music making.

J.M.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG YOUNG SCIENTISTS (B.A.Y.S.)

Following a year of renewed enthusiasm and a sequence of excellent and enjoyable lectures, visits, trips, coffee and biscuits, last year's B.A.Y.S. committee finally gave up, and bowed out gracefully toward the end of last term, making room for new management under the auspicious(?) chairmanship of C. E. J. Sinden. The 'election' of this new committee took place at the John Hampden School where T. P. Airey fearlessly handed away his coveted chain of office (and box of papers!) to the aforementioned who innocently accepted them in a state of shock and surprise. It is hoped, however, that my comrades in the R.G.S., namely G. A. Hannan and S. G. Fenner will give as much support as did S. Calvert and M. E. J. Sinden last year. Thanks are due to them and to their fellow committee members in other Wycombe schools whose coffee making and biscuit buying activities were greatly appreciated, even if the coffee did taste like mud from time to time.

Apart from the well attended(?), varied(?) and often amusing lectures (some were even interesting, too!) there were also several trips. The greatest, perhaps, was to the British Association Annual Conference held at Guildford last summer. The R.G.S. was well represented by M. E. J. Sinden and T. P. Airey who assure me they both had an immensely enjoyable time in the company of no less than eight girls from the High School. I have been informed that the highlights of the trip (of which I daresay there were several!) included a day's hike, a visit

to the delightful canals of Guildford which included a trip in a leaking barge into the murky depths of a collapsing tunnel, and also numerous trips to the cheap bar. 'Lectures?' do I hear you ask? Yes, I asked too, and they were said to be very good including lots of practical demonstrations which you can try yourself sometime. (For example, do you believe that a CO₂ fire extinguisher can be emptied in five minutes flat? You don't? Then ask Mr. Airey!).

Other trips were to Oxford—ten in a thirty seater coach; one to Hatfield; and the most recent trip to Harwell Atomic Research Establishment.

The disco' organised by last year's committee, in Kingsmead, was a great success, so much so that this year's committee is seriously considering another in the not too distant future along with a series of varied lectures and trips, all of which are in the pipeline (or post!) at present: further news on the notice-boards.

We are hoping for a good support from the R.G.S. again this year—last year we had one of the largest contingents—so all you budding young scientists come and join by simply paying a visit to G3 where you might be able to find Fenner, Hannan or Sinden more or less any lunchtime.

Thanks are also expressed to Mr. Gels thorpe without whose interest, help and co-operation in allowing the use of the lecture theatres, no lecture would have been possible at R.G.S.

C. Sinden

MODERN PHYSICS or Experimental Philosophy

'We took a brass hole fitted to a handle and a ball not quite small enough to go through the hole. We lit a bunsen and heated the hole . . .'

A second form student

THE ESTATES COMMITTEE

Although this committee is appearing in these pages for the first time, it has been in existence for several years now. However, since even some members may not recognise the title either, perhaps the more mundane—if more descriptive—'Make do and Mend Men' or the 'Odd Job Brigade' will seem more appropriate. (There have been other epithets.)

Outsiders, on observation, may think that there are three guidelines only on which this arm of Thursday Afternoon Activity operates—if it moves, hammer it; if it doesn't, paint it; and if it is useless, smash it. The individual skills of the members of the committee have been drawn out slowly and they each now have slight predilections and skill in either of the first two of these—but they are all vigorous experts in the third.

Over recent years the making good of wear and tear—fair and otherwise—around the school has gathered pace, related closely to the decreasing value of the money the School receives. Until the Spring term exercise, any internal decorating of classrooms over the last five years at least has been done by the caretaker Mr. F. Brown or the boys and staff.

In the last two years the value of their work has been incredible. The largest single venture was the creation of a new art room / general teaching workshop, including the permanent and movable work surfaces. They have painted two classrooms and restored many chalkboards. They have mended perhaps 70 desks and 100 chairs, including easy chairs in the 6th Form Common Room. Many other smaller maintenance jobs have been done too.

If this work had not been done by the committee then either it would not have been done at all, or the money would have had to have been found at the expense of other areas of school activity or classroom provision. The money value of these 'savings' could be as much as 10% of the school's total annual allowance.

Genuine thanks therefore are due to—
T. Ahmed, L. D. Fulker, I. N. Hazelwood,
S. Hickmott, R. C. Osola, T. A. Pawley, P. T.

Russell, T. P. Russell, J. H. Sands, J. Vaughan, A. R. I. Walker, and to the many who have served, unmentioned, before.

M.J.M.

SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCES CENTRE

The Centre has just recovered from the annual 'Book Bang' that invades its premises, and we are back to the hallowed quietness that is our special hallmark! What the school would do without the litho machine and Mrs. Worley, I do not know. The machine is rarely idle: play and concert programmes and tickets; science block booklets; fixture cards and term calendars; and an ever increasing amount of official 'bumph'. The standard still varies, generally the product is of a very good quality.

During the past financial year we have made certain useful acquisitions: a new 16mm film projector to replace the ageing Elf; new ink and spirit duplicators; and a new typewriter for Mrs. Twitchen. More and more boys are using the resources—C.C.F. notices are looking neater; projects are benefiting from photostat plans and drawings; and the cassette tapes are proving their worth. Over 3,000 slides have now been processed and are ready for departments' use, and a vast stock of duplicated sheets / stencils exists for staff to check on what is available not only from their own but other departments. From the superb profits made by the successful(!) Staff Revue, we will be purchasing a colour television set which will probably be housed in the Centre. Naturally we have our sights fixed on a video-tape system but short term aims include a stencil cutter and a two-track tape recorder.

The Resources Centre is now an integral part of the school, whatever the latter's shape and composition in the future. There is a very experienced and able assistant in Mrs. Worley, and one can only hope that the staff make even more use of the facilities available to them. Its setting up has been a challenge, and I leave it knowing that more and more staff and students are realising its value and potential.

K.A.H.

I bin asked by de infamous Sub-Lootenant Hornsby R.N.R. to comment on de activities of de R.G.S. Naval Section. Dis bunch o' honks bin trainin' damn hard. In February they bin goin' down to Portsmouth to see where de Navy used to be, an' den some of dem went to Plymouth to put de Fleet back to rights, it havin' had a hole in it. Others bin goin' to Chat'm an' practising de fire-fightin' (At least dats wot dey're sayin').

At de skool it has bin reported dat their marchin' so damn good dat dey is likely to beat Ugandan War Cripples nex' year. Dey also bin doin' de top level strategical discussuns. De latest plan is dat, in de event of a war wid de Commies, they gonna lure de Russian frigates up de Thames wid de bran' noo motor boat and trap dem in Marlow lock. There de pongoes, under Sgt. Hornsby Jnr., gonna finish dem of wid de Bren guns, Webberley .45's etc. Dis mean dat de Naval Section bein' welded into an efficient fighting team if it not for de actions of a certain L/S Chalmers, who bin threatened wid havin' de teef kicked in by P.O. Thornton for not sailin' de famous dingies.

Dis brings me to de boatin' activities of other members o' de section. Cox'n Taylor bin showin' great skill at rammin' de waterborne 'budgies', but dese damn difficult to find, wot wid dere bein' mainly ducks an' swans on de river aroun' here (dis variety of

waterlovin'-budgie bein' found only at Leek). De Abler Seaman Preece even bin doin' boatin' activities wid out any boat. Dis not, as you might think, because he worried about de defence cuts, but is a deliberate attempt to sabotage de Army section's armory (He gon' an' rusted up two rifles already). Dis Preece also givin' a concert o' de 'On Ilkly More Bar Tat' in Kampala stadium, tickets free wid Kellogg's Cornflakes.

De annual 5th form exodus now taken' place (Damn good thing too, de Navy never gonna get dat lot in de flagship) and de stores team bin workin' their fingers to de bone. All de good little cadets signin' on fo' de summer courses wid de three cooked meals a day an' de inspired syllabuses wot we have come to expect. No doubt they gonna come back after havin' had a whale of a time, de pinched cap tallies sown onto de belts an' a vastly increased vocabulary (Preece will swear to de truth o' dis statement). If any mug thinkin' dat they might join de Naval section, Sub-Lootenant Hornsby will be glad to interrogate you. He bin one o' my pupils, so, if you join, you gonna do o.k., but, if you decide to defect, you might find yo' ear nailed to de floor o' de Navy office.

Yours sincerely,

Idi Amin

(Admiral of the Fleet)

THE WATER WHEEL

Water gushing through,
 Splashing off the wheel and down,
 Taken by surprise, away silently down the stream.
 The water wheel goes round angrily,
 Chuffing like a train as the water hits it.
 The colours of a rainbow, hitting the sun and the
 water.
 Red, yellow, green, blue and mauve.

The air is damp and chilly, while the moss on the wall
 behind is still and green.
 Knocking sounds come now and then; but still the
 chuffing is to be heard.
 The cows are on a hill close by; the noise does not
 bother them as they walk slowly crunching the rich
 grass.

Andrew M. Brown

THE BRITISH PRAYER

Our Father,
 Which art in Downing Street,
 James be thy name,
 United Kingdom gone,
 We will be done on earth and probably in heaven,
 Give us this day our daily pay,
 And forgive us our frauding,
 As we forgive those who speculate against us,
 And lead us not into inflation,
 But deliver us from the T.U.C.
 For thine is our kingdom,
 The Leyland and Chrysler,
 For ever and ever. Amin.

R A P. Swinhoe-Stander

YESTERDAY MORNING

Yesterday morning, I woke up at six.
At eight, I had breakfast.
At nine, I went to school.
At one, I had lunch.
At four, I returned home.
In the evening, I did my prep.
At ten, I went to bed.
At twelve, I thought to myself;
'What did I do today?
Did I enjoy myself?
Did I fall in love?
Did I earn any money?
Did I grow closer to God?'
No!
This morning, I woke up at six.

t d stone

IL LOROMO

(A parody on some of the characters from *Nostromo* by Joseph Conrad. If you haven't read the book I suggest you do. It may make the following more funny.)

Charles Gulled:

Inherited the famous (or infamous) Chocolate factory at Sillyco from his father. He was sent a bar of the chocolate by his father and from that time on his mind (and his fingers) were stuck on the Chocolate of the Factory.

Dr. Monogram:

The celebrated neuro-surgeon at the factory who operated on Captain Fido. He gave the man the name 'Il Loromo'. 'It's Italian for Their Man. Fido's so stupid, corruptible, dishonest and cowardly that we don't want him.'

Martin Degood:

Editor of the town paper *Gorgeous Girls Weekly*, who saved the chocolate of the Factory from the Fascist Dictatorship with Il Loromo. It is often thought he died because of the solitude he felt when left alone with the chocolate. In fact he was so greedy that he ate himself to death.

Senor Cello:

An obvious parody if you've read the book.

Captain Fitchew:

Head of the factory's OSN—'Onorary seamen at Nestles. In his younger days he'd had the agility (and the brains) of a polecat. Now he had neither.
Il Loromo—Captain Fido

The infamous Capataz de the Trade Union at the factory. Aided the Prime Minister in his escape from the National Front dictatorship. He managed to get him onto one of the OSN's boats which sank and the Prime Minister drowned. He was eaten by a senile Dr. Monogram and Captain Fitchew after falling into a vat of chocolate whilst endeavouring to steal it.

(The author of the piece wishes to remain anonymous as the 'A' level English masters would kill me if they knew I'd done it.)

CHAPTERS OF THE LOST MAN

'Alone, so alone,
I wander my being,
each piece, each part,
the mother I'm part of.
How long have I been here,
awaiting the beginning,
how far will I go, having once
entered the farce?'

'And the years will roll by,
love dying? Feelings diminishing or growing?'

'Alone, so alone,
I wander the moors,
the mist, so close,
the night closing in.
How long have I been here,
walking in dreams,
how far have I stumbled o'er the
wet muddy grass?

'And the years roll by,
love dying, feelings diminishing or...?'

'Alone, so alone,
I wander the suburbs,
the smog, so grey,
the sky slowly greying.
How long have I been here,
and what is life's meaning,
how far have I chased along Life's
cul-de-sac bars?'

'And the years roll by,
love dying, feelings diminishing.'

'Alone, so alone,
I wander, surrounded,
the wife, the children,
the parents I'm child of.
How long have I been here,
and when will I know them.
how far till I feel true friendship's
warm blast?'

'And the years roll by,
love dying, feelings...?'

'Alone, so alone,
I wander in my memory,
the real, so dim,
the senses now dimming.
How long have I been here,
the warped body mutters,
how far back was I joined to this
most common of paths?'

'And the years rolled by
love dead.'

Adrian Stott

THE PRISONER

Morning 7 a.m.
The clanging doors vibrate
through the building,
The warder appears—grey
Grey—the predominant colour,
Grey—the walls, the bars, the bed covers—
Grey world, Grey gloom.
Shut from the colour and noise
of the outside world,
and a meagre breakfast arrives,
Followed by drill, parade in the yard,
Then three hours in the workshop,
'For the good of the community,'
someone said.
Tables, chairs, baskets—
'Occupational therapy,' they said.
Lunch breaks the monotony.
Then back to the cell.
Day after Day the same routine.
Never changing, never ending
Lethargy descends like a painful
blanket,
Sleep—the only relief offered us
Sleep and can forget;
Sleep and move into the outside world
again—
Freedom, light, movement, space, laughter and
pleasure,
Almost forgotten emotions
But all too soon the spell breaks,
A distant clanging of doors, of bells,
And the grey world returns,
Appears like a nightmare,
Forcing its way into the semi-conscious,
and again I must follow the daily pattern
Again face the lonely isolated life of a
prisoner . . .
Twenty years is a long time ?

David Dilworth

STAR

Star,
From earth, darkest earth,
Galaxy-gazing men look upwards
Through trees, whose branches grope
at the sky, and past
Shadowy clouds, flirting with the moon's soft light,
Searching, for an uncharted star.

Star,
Emitting a thin stream of 'warmth'
Penetrating cold expanses
of space, the immeasurable area.

Star,
With its brilliant shine rapidly pulsating,
Its celestial body nearly
Enveloped by a stark, sheer, nothingness.

Star,
Like a diamond set,
On a velvet dress, surrounded
by continuous extensions
bleaker than the imaginable.

Star,
Guiding sailors, guiding wise
and in the future many,
To meet you ?

N. Connor

RIVER SONG

My life is like a river, flowing onward to the sea,
My life is but a river, from the mountains to the ocean.
My banks are sometimes high,
My banks are sometimes low,
Ripples up and down
I am both young and old.
There is no time for me but now.
But I exist always,

Eternal Now.

I am as free as a new born calf in Springtime
But I do not think about freedom.
I am all speeds, my waters move
Both slow and fast.
My mother is the ocean,
My father is the mountains.

Sit by my side in silence
Look deep into my eyes,
Surrender to my waters
And wash away your dryness.
Look at your reflection, how you are part of me
How can I feel separate from you,
When I don't even think at all ?
You are as me and I as you.
It's only when you think, we become two,
You are as me, whole world is only one.

Nothing can resist me because I am soft
And smooth, and I give way
Just like a tree in the wind.
But I dissolve even the hardest stone away,
These things are no secret,
Yet I do not think about them.

My real secret cannot be sung about,
There are no words, there is no music,
My real secret has no substance.
It is empty, like the blue sky which I reflect.
Yet it is more marvellous
Than anything in the universe
But do not ask me what it is,
I do not know,
I do not know anything.
My life is like a river, flowing onward to the sea.
My life is but a river, from the mountains to the ocean.

SPORT

1st XV RUGBY 1975/76

P 29 W 17 D 1 L 11 For 446 Against 236
A convincing 40-10 win over Forest G.S. was the first match of a highly successful season. The team soon proved itself capable of exciting rugby and any lack of basic skill was made up for in enthusiasm. The team this year did not rely solely on the potentially strong backs for attacking moves as the good support work of the forwards meant that this department supplied a good number of our scores.

An initially experimental combination of I. Price at fly-half, and M. Jordan at scrum-half, proved successful and this partnership played together for most of the season. Price, although inclined to be selfish, often initiated attacks with his intelligent kicking and hard running, with a resultant 20 points in the final match of the season. He was supported by M. Woodbridge and E. Will, the two centres, and P. Woodbridge and M. Long on the wings. The backs could be an efficient attacking force and often proved themselves in defence, notably against St. Benedicts and Aylesbury, the latter's excellent centre being marked out of the game by Will.

The start of the season was one of the best for several years. Five victories on the trot were recorded, three of them away from home. However, stronger opponents ensured the next three games were lost. The team countered this by beating strong local rivals Borlase in a match in which the forwards dominated.

Mention must be made of the hard-working light forwards. Although not a big pack, we were never pushed and good hard work by the front five meant a clean, regular supply of ball to the backs. With Hoggett going into the front row, despite much complaining, R. Edwards took his place and applied his skills admirably to a difficult change in position, beating players much taller than him to the ball. M. Waller, the other lock, proved very reliable and towards the end of the season began to show more and more promise. The back row were often

on excellent form and tackled and supported well throughout the season. L. Holmes set an example with his enthusiasm and was ably supported by A. Jones and M. Fane, who came in to take the place of R. Edwards.

After a short tour to Norwich in October the team went six matches without defeat, including one match v. Richard Hale when the team came back from 18-4 down at half time to win 20-18, the saving try being scored in the last minute, and two good victories over Watford G.S. (16-10) and Lord Williams (6-3). However, two disappointing defeats followed including a tight match against Aylesbury which was narrowly lost (8-9). During the ensuing period the team lost some of its 'will to win' and only three out of five matches were lost. Then the team started to play well again, culminating in a final impressive victory over St. Nicholas G.S. (36-0).

County honours were won by Lipscombe, Will, Price, Edwards and Long for the U19 team, with Edwards going on to the Area 6 England trial, while the Woodbridge brothers both played for the U16 team, and S. Newman, the regular full-back, played for the A.T.C. England trial.

After the XV-a-side matches were over, teams were entered in 'sevens' competitions. The 1st VII looked promising but disappointed. They reached the quarter-finals in the Windsor sevens and the semi-finals of the Sutton sevens. However, in their one competition the 'B' seven, captained by Lipscombe with Fane and Hoggett in the forwards, and C. Morrish, D. N. Currie, P. Chapman and R. Kettlewell as the backs, beat Stowe School 14-12 in the final of the 'B' section, with the winning try causing a huge cheer, as it was the only try scored by the captain in three years of 1st XV rugby.

Finally, thanks must go to Mr. Learmonth for his much appreciated guidance and ever-present support. Thanks also to the whole team for making a year's captaincy much easier and extremely enjoyable.

I. D. Lipscombe

2nd XV

P 20 W 14 D 1 L 5 For 435 Against 120
Despite dedicated training, the team suffered undeserved defeats against St. Bart's, Tiffin and Lord Williams, though they enjoyed a fortuitous draw against Watford G.S. Outstanding players included Morrish—20 tries in 19 matches—Carroll and Dickinson. Excellent team spirit was shown, especially against St. Nicholas School. In a game against a U15 XV full of potential, the 2nds duly won.

Thanks to all members of the team, and Mr. Edwards our enthusiastic coach.

D. N. Currie

U15 RUGBY

In a season of growing status and confidence only Emanuel and St. Albans got the better of the RGS team. Powerful, mobile forwards and fast, aggressive backs were the most important elements of success. Morgan was outstanding in the back row while Goodwin and Stott dominated line-outs. Speed and Connor ran 25 and 17 tries respectively.

The strength and morale of the whole team was evident throughout this most enjoyable season.

UNDER 14 XV

P 18 W 7 L 10 D 1 For 341 Against 239
This winter's Under 14 XV had a less impressive record in terms of victories achieved than our Under 14's have had for some seasons.

The chief reason for the lack of success is simple; our school is now a 12-plus entry one. Since the majority of our opponents are 11-plus entry schools, this means that this year's Under 14's were in only their first full season of competitive rugby, yet had to play against teams who had already played as a team for one full season. This often proved decisive.

With two prominent players from the previous season not available, and others only coming into the squad from lower groups late in the season, it became difficult to establish a settled team.

Of the ten defeats we suffered, five were by narrow margins; of the rest none were by a margin of more than 24 points, whereas, by

way of encouraging contrast, three of our victories were by margins of more than 50 points. The 'points for and against' record is interesting in this respect.

The main problems of the team were at full-back, half-back and in the back row, and various permutations were tried in these positions. Some measure of improvement was achieved, but much remains to be done.

There was encouragement, however, in the development of the right forwards and, here and there, in the back play. In addition, there was much to admire and applaud in individual achievement, improvement and effort. Several players emerged 'from nowhere' to make a creditable contribution.

In a team game it is invidious to single out individuals, but there was notable Celtic flair from Davies, some impressive play from Burgess, some excellent scrummaging from Nichols, some sharp hooking and opportunism from Cheesewright and some consistent, rugged forward play from Cussell.

The captaincy was undertaken by Davies and Cheesewright, whom I must thank for their efficiency.

The prospects for next season are therefore far from unexciting; with application, sound guidance, a good team spirit and a little luck, they could turn out to be a pretty good side.

S.R.G.

UNDER 13 RUGBY

The overall record of the Under 13 'A' and 'B' teams this year reads:—

P 16 W 5 D 2 L 9 For 220 Against 238
Considering the great majority of schools we play have had an extra year's rugby this is a very reasonable record.

Our results were achieved largely by good team work; but several individuals deserve a mention. Conrad Gamble played with spirit at scrum-half, while at centre Nicholas Smith, an efficient captain, ran hard and straight and tackled very soundly. His tally of nine tries put him as top scorer. In the forwards Jonathan Coles more than held his ground and steadied the pack as prop. Andrew Cheesewright hooked with determination and skill, and scored 4 tries.

All players steadily improved and hold

promise for the future. My thanks go to Dr. Dosser for his invaluable work with the 'B' XV especially at training, where attendance and spirit were excellent.

D. J. Stubbs

BADMINTON

Thanks are due to Mr. White-Taylor whose support and encouragement throughout the season has kept badminton on its feet, even while it was sagging at the knees from defeat. I also extend my deepest gratitude to those who have so enthusiastically played in the teams this year, not least to the reserves who have often stepped in to replace several of our players whose commitments lie primarily with major school sports. As a team we are indebted to Chris Morrish for his efficient work as Secretary, and also to the Hyltone coach company. I am sure the players will agree that the season has been very enjoyable.

I am particularly grateful to Derek Lindsay, Steven Parker, David Brown and Kelvin Jouhar who have given up a lot of the valuable working hours of their last year at the school to come and play in the team; they fully deserve the full colours they received.

I have greatly enjoyed being captain of the team this year, and wish Mr. White-Taylor and badminton at school all success in the future.

G. D. Lewis

CROSS COUNTRY

Despite lack of success in winning matches—we beat only Borlase (at home)—everyone who ran enjoyed himself.

The keenness, ability and fitness of John Hoy provided a shining example to his less enthusiastic colleagues. A fitting end to the season came when he won the U.19 county championship and came 109th in the national run (out of 300).

Despite strong starts at Challoners and Oxford we eventually finished 15th and 16th. P. Gray, running at short notice, performed superbly at Challoners.

R. Orr and S. Rowe gained full colours, B. Coulter, J. Picton, S. Gray and J. Hoy were regular performers.

The run against the staff ended in a win for THEM! Is it a compliment that I've been asked to run for the Masters next year?

Sincere thanks to all who ran, helped organise, supported on the touchline and particularly Mr. Wilson. Good luck for the coming season.

S. Gray

U 19 BASKETBALL

Due to education cutbacks or an uncharacteristic lack of interest in basketball this year, many of our traditional opponents did not have teams. However after an early run of cancelled matches 10 games were played of which 6 were won.

Although practice sessions were well attended throughout the season, a regular squad of only seven were present at most matches. Of these Kelvin Jouhar and Martin James battled it out to score most points each match; their skill, Paul Dickinson's and Eddie Will's staunch defending and Chris Carpenter's solid and reliable captancy—were invaluable in every game. Our heaviest defeat was inflicted by the Central High American Base, but even against this adversity the team played strongly and skilfully (many thanks to Mr. Patrick Klosowski the French assistant who played for us).

Whilst this year's team achieved only moderate success, this was more than made up for by the squad. Thanks are due to Mr. Wilson who helped us out with transport on one occasion; Tim Clark who displayed great courage and fortitude refereeing our away match at Desborough (we did win though, so he can't have been all that bad); and of course many thanks to Mr. Stubbs who gave us his usual excellent coaching, refereeing and support in all our endeavours.

I have neglected until now to mention the cornerstone of our success—our vice-captain Alan Edwards—whose arrival at the last match of the season (which we won) provided a fitting climax to our enjoyable season and an auspicious beginning to his own!!!

John Diffley

U15 BASKETBALL

Played 8 Won 7 Lost 1

We had a very good season, recording some fine victories. We improved immensely during the season and began to use our height advantage, over most teams, to win games as well as to stop them being lost. We reached a peak in one week in November when in two games we scored 150 points and conceded only 33.

The match against the unbeaten Dr. Challoners was very tough but despite being down at half-time we came back to win in the end. This victory showed the great spirit in the team and was well earned.

We were unlucky to have Morrish and Molesworth injured early in the season, but it showed the overall strength of the squad that we could fill their positions with other good players.

I would wish to thank Mr. Gibson for the time he spent arranging and transporting us for the matches and for all the lunchtime coaching.

B. Morgan

U14 BASKETBALL

The team improved considerably during the season, winning three of the six games. We won the first game v. Brenchwood by one basket, lost v. Beaconsfield but won decisively v. Aylesbury G.S. 85-26. Although beaten by the U15s mainly through lack of height the team should do even better next season.

Team: Cheeswright, Ade, Baldwin, Burgess, Carpenter, Cooper, Edwards, Evans, Mole.

J.R.L.

ROWING

Summer term is here again, the regatta season edges ever closer, the water grows ever rougher, the wind ever stronger, and, dare I suggest it, the rowing ever better.

However, following the loss of ex-captain Roger Marshall to the perils of the big wide world, a sturdy substitute was obtained in the form of Andrew Tyler to row in the Fours Head of the River Race at Putney last November. With Tim and Mark occupying

their familiar seats in the stern, Andy at '2' and Stephen Hopkins in the bow, a creditable performance was given gaining a fourth place in our division.

After that it was, sadly, goodbye to Hoppy who had been such a 'treasured' member of the club (and, incidentally, a good oarsman). The task of selecting his replacement was made doubly difficult by the fact that at least three oarsmen seemed equally qualified to fill the position. Numerous outings were had with each of these, and we finally plumped for Alan Cardy and settled in to the painful task of 'breaking in' the new crew.

The ensuing 'masochism tango' hurt a little, to say the least, but by February we felt a full course trial was in order.

The less said about the Henley Head the better, so that's all I'll say.

Many instructive words later (courtesy of IAB), we were back in full training and were soon racing fit for the Schools Head, March 11th.

While waiting, nonchalantly, at the start, we were jovially informed by 2nd IV coach Phil Ferris, thoroughly enjoying himself on a borrowed Borlase bicycle (rather him than me), that it was 'only a bit gusty round by Harrods, lads.' So with confidence surging, adrenalin flowing and determination grimly set, we burst over the start of the 2 mile course.

After two furlongs or so the wind seemed stronger than we had expected, and after three the water seemed definitely rougher. At about four furlongs the waves were breaking into the boat, not over the riggers, but round our oars! From my seat at '3', I could see cox, Trevor Dibb, frozen in terror and plastered with effluent while behind me the gasping and grunting of tortured oarsmen penetrated the maelstrom winds and heaving waters. Then '2' came up with an especially bright observation—'we're going to sink'. The prospect had crossed all our minds: the boat was filling fast. As one man, the decision was taken, row to the finish or drown in the attempt.

We survived and did not sink, not quite. Understandably the whole crew were diagnosed as suffering from double pneumonia

and an acute attack of 'dampened' spirits but in the nick of time a miracle cure was found in Thames Rowing Club bar.

Never disheartened, though we had every reason to be (I mean the 2nd IV only shipped a little water); we were soon back in competition at Abingdon Head. Here we finished second in Senior C's and fourth overall, after a good row.

While the 1st IV were enjoying themselves at Abingdon, other members of the club, parents and friends were organising that great annual event at Terriers Church Hall, the Boat Club Jumble Sale. Many thanks to those who helped, collected jumble, lent both hands and took in all, a handsome £72 profit.

The 2nd IV and Colts etc. are training hard and seem confident. With Ian Rollins at stroke, Simon Calvert at bow and the 'weighty' experience of Jeremy Scorey and Peter Hornsby at '3' and '2', the 2nd IV looks neat and if this holds up to the rigours of competition they could have a good regatta season. For the Colts there is little to say, except that they are going very fast and showing promise. Mr. B. (always keen to get his oar in) tells me that they are an especially Jolly crew, Amos of muscle, and though sometimes they Hav'ard times of it, he assures me that they'll soon Co-burning up the river faster than the 1st IV. Is that a threat?

M. E. J. Sinden

Don't say I Dibbn't warn you. IAB.

1st XI HOCKEY

This year's team was somewhat weaker than previous years, with only four players with 1st team experience. Notable victories were v. Watford, Old Boys, with a narrow defeat at Kingston (1-2). We won at Portsmouth, drew with Borlase and Aylesbury. The team played better against stronger teams than in less important fixtures.

D. Lindsay, C. Mould, C. Carpenter and R. Allison played for the County, while Lindsay also played for South East Schools.

Thanks to Mr. Page for all the hard work during the season to produce a 'better than average' team.

I. Quiney

2nd XI HOCKEY

'In the school games programme yesterday the 2nd XI, playing against . . . lost . . .'

The casual observer would be forgiven if this was the only impression gained from another season of 2nd XI hockey, but it would be a false one. The reason for the malaise in actual performance is hard to pin down. Morale was always very high and the team spirit came indestructibly through games against Kingston (0-6) and Magdalen College School (0-12!) bolstered up by some very satisfying wins. There was no lack of skill throughout the team either, even though we lost two regular players to the first's halfway through the season and often suffered further depletions. Fine individual performances by all players at one time or another, and especially by Martin Cover, long suffering and yet at times brilliant goal-keeper. So why didn't we win more often? Mainly because of some very bad luck at times, and because of the usual crop of gammy legs, broken arms, university interviews ensuring that the team was very rarely the same in successive weeks. Saturday fixtures, in particular, meant that several players, including the captain, were unavailable.

Thanks are due to Saturday captains Neil Diack and Dave Mould, to all the players who gave such keen support (especially those below the VI form) and of course to Mr. Stone, who stuck with us through the good times and the bad ones with such stoicism. We can only hope the next season's at least as enjoyable, and perhaps more fruitful in terms of results.

A. Berendt

I would like to thank Tony Berendt for captaining the XI so efficiently and congratulate Martin Cover who has been awarded club half-colours.

D.G.S.

UNDER 15 HOCKEY

P 11 W 3 D 5 L 3 For 20 Against 20

In view of their performances as an Under 14 side the results were perhaps disappointing this season. However, the side played really well on occasions and a good team spirit was maintained.

Jamie Cook, the captain, again showed distinct promise for the future and played for the county U15 and U16 teams. He had to play at centre-half as Mclindoe was out for the season with a leg injury. Top scorer R. Coker also played for the county along with Crook and Stokes.

Towards the end of the season Philip Ball proved a great success in goal despite his diminutive stature. Bosley was a reliable and competent full back and Coker showed some flair for the difficult left wing position.

M.W.C.

UNDER 14 HOCKEY

P 11 W 1 D 4 L 6

This season no two matches were played with exactly the same team; indeed, only four players remained in the same position throughout the season.

Our early troubles stemmed from an inability to score goals, and yet our opponents all too easily managed to do so. Landrock joined the set in the spring term, giving a more confident display in goal; and when King was tried in the forwards, he settled down and became top goal scorer. Orchard and Stott gave good support mid-field, and both have acted as captains. Lever was reliable at back, and came out with the best performance in the Green Shield trials. My thanks to Mr. D. Stone for helping with the team.

A. J. Sollers

FOILED AGAIN?

Mr. Roebuck's year away at Oxford was obviously going to make things more difficult, but we didn't realise quite how difficult until it came to arranging matches! Pangbourne, Stowe and Reading couldn't match our dates due to a wonderful variety of problems!

Over the school year, though, we ran our own intra-school competition, which saw the 4th form team (Laidler, Speed, Vladar) defeat the 5th form (Noblett, Paston, Radvan) by 5 fights to 4. The match result was in doubt until the last point of the final fight! The 6th form (Owen, Richmond, Shepherd) ran up a swift, if not easy, lead over the 4th to decide the match after six fights (5-1) with no need for the remaining fights to take place. Paul Speed fenced consistently well throughout the year, and justifiably finished 4th in the final of the county under-16. Richmond reached the quarter-finals of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon under-18 championships held at Eton.

Next year with Mr. Roebuck back full time, there will be two training sessions each week: fencing will now be a recognised Thursday afternoon activity for club members. We have had about a dozen regular attendances for the lunch-time 2nd form practices, all of whom show a great deal of promise for the future. They have the advantage of having begun to fence from an early age, and they should do well in under-14 competitions, as well as providing keen and capable fencers for junior teams.

Our thanks and best wishes go to Colin Shepherd (vice-captain) who left before the end of term, and to John Poston (off to St. Albans after 'O' Levels—any chance of a match v. RGS?) for their contributions to the running of the fencing club. Mostly though, our thanks go to Mr. Roebuck for establishing the sport at the RGS and for continuing to provide expert advice.

Keith Richmond

Mike Owen

SAILING SOCIETY

The sailing society came out of hibernation with the commencement of the Spring term. Some 6th formers have been allowed to go sailing during games at Maidenhead (thanks to Peter Attfield for the transport).

The school is mounting its now traditional advance on the National Schools Championships, which is being held this year at Pitsford Reservoir in Northampton during late July. The first trial for the Bucks team was held last Saturday, with one further attempt next Saturday. As reported in assembly the school sailed well in the first trial with

Stephen Gray and Peter Attfield winning overall with four wins and Philip Gray finishing second with two seconds and a fifth. It is hoped that the other members of the sailing team will accredit themselves to make the team next week—but things look good!

We would like to thank Mr. Hornsby for his work in arranging the sailing during games and wish all those representing the school and Bucks good luck at the National Regatta (except Stephen Gray who is providing a composite team with Berkshire!).

Stephen Gray

1975

A year went quickly passing by
A year, a year, a year on high;
So fast I scarcely knew 'twas there,
A year went quickly by.

O, happy year,
O, sickly year,
O year, for you I cry.

O year in which first love did bloom,
blossom, and then die,
For you, year . . .
For I,
I cry.

T. Brown

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS 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 March 20th 1976. Fifteen Old Boys were present. The chair was taken for a few minutes by the Chairman of the Club, the Rev. A. J. Skipp. The former President of the Club, Mr. Malcolm Smith, had resigned on his retirement from the Headmastership of the School in July 1975. The President of the Old Wycombiensians' Club takes the chair at the A.G.M. and within minutes it was proposed and seconded in many places that the new Headmaster, Mr. Rowland Brown, be elected the new President. This was carried unanimously and Mr. Brown took over from Mr. Skipp.

Before the business of the meeting began Mr. Brown felt it his duty to inform those present that Old Boy John Prior, a faithful attender at all Old Boys' meetings and also Chairman of the Governors of the School, was absent because his eldest daughter had died the previous day.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were then 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 but dismay was registered at the fearsome magazine and postage costs. The Headmaster, from the chair, stated that the magazine was in his opinion an important reflection of the life of the School and it was vital to keep up standards. Those present agreed with him. It was proposed by G. E. Green that two magazines a year should continue to be sent out to members, but that the membership fee to join the Old Boys' Club should be increased—the Life Membership to £10, Annual Membership to £1. This was seconded in many places and carried. R. F. M. White proposed that Life Members should be invited to make a voluntary contribution of £5 or whatever they felt they

could afford. It was felt that these measures would help to put the finances of the Club on a sound footing. The proposal was seconded and carried.

Franklin Hole was thanked for the help he gives so willingly.

(b) *The Future of the School*

Mr. Rowland Brown stated that the School was in good heart and he hoped that wisdom and common sense would find the light of day so that the R.G.S. could continue as a grammar school. Authorities like Buckinghamshire should not be forced to do what they did not want to do. There was no meaningful way of discussing the problem further but he did hope members would be ever alert in the defence of the grammar school system.

In answer to a question, Mr. Brown stated that even if the R.G.S. were to change to become a comprehensive school or a 6th Form College, there was no reason why the Old Boys' Club should not continue.

(c) *The Election of Officers*

It was proposed by the Rev. John Skipp and seconded by Maurice Stone that the retiring President, Mr. Malcolm Smith, be made an Honorary Life Member. This was carried unanimously.

The officers for 1976–76 are:—

The President: Rowland P. Brown, Esq.

The Chairman: The Rev. A. J. Skipp.

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

Committee:

The Rev. A. J. Skipp (1929–37)

J. K. Prior (1934–40)

G. C. Rayner (1937–45)

S. A. Goulborn (1928–36)

C. R. Rollason (1965–71)

R. S. Wombwell (1960–67)

S. E. Hands (1915–20)

G. W. Ray (1917–23)

J. P. Lord (1934–38)

G. E. Green (1940–46)

G. W. West (1935–40)

Hon. Secretary: M. M. Davies, Esq.

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

(d) The Headmaster reported on the state of the Organ Fund. The cost of the new organ shortly to be installed was £1800 and this would soon be met. £500 had been received as a legacy from an Old Boy, £400 from Bucks County Education Authority, £400 from Old Boys, parents and well-wishers.

There was no problem over the raising of the remainder.

The Headmaster was thanked for conducting the meeting and then all repaired to the Junior School Dining Hall for the Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner 1976

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday, March 20th 1976. 97 Old Boys gathered to welcome and pay tribute to their Guest of Honour, Mr. Malcolm P. Smith, M.A., Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School from 1965–75.

J. K. Prior (1934–40), Chairman of the Governors, had asked to be allowed to propose the toast to Mr. Malcolm Smith but a grievous family bereavement made it impossible for him to attend. The Hon. Secretary Mr. M. M. Davies paid tribute in his stead. He outlined Mr. Smith's brilliant academic career, his success as schoolmaster and headmaster, his warm and sympathetic attitude and his keenness to encourage practical pursuits in the School. In Mr. Smith's last year as Headmaster, the School had achieved the best academic results in its history. Mr. Smith had worked hard to preserve selection and ensure the survival of standards. In retirement he continued to do carpentry and bookbinding for the School and was involved in many other activities. His vigorous body and eager mind were fully occupied. The Old Boys were then asked to drink a toast to a man who had dedicated his life to excellence.

After the toast the Rev. A. J. Skipp (1929–37), Chairman of the Club, presented a salver to Mr. Smith as a token of the respect and affection of the Old Boys.

Mr. Smith's reply showed that he was a happy man—retirement was a joy. He thanked all the friends of the Royal Grammar School who had helped him in the fight to retain selection—the School deserved to survive. He was most grateful for the unexpected gift of a salver.

The Rev. A. J. Skipp proposed the toast to

the School and Club with his usual sparkle. He paid tribute to the resolution and constancy of the Bucks County Council which had refused to be shaken in its resolve to retain grammar schools. He hoped that the School might be left to do its job without interference from people more concerned with politics than education. This term the School had been enlivened by the presence of decorators—green and orange colours now predominated. The feebly dripping fountains had been converted into rose beds. It was pleasing to see such a goodly number present—in addition to the ever welcome group from the Old Boys' Lodge, there was a large party from the Rugby Club with their chairman D. J. Stubbs (1961–63).

He thanked F. G. Secker (1932–37) and his friends for their excellent work in running the bar. He concluded his proposal with these words:

'We have a new Headmaster who is our new President. He has had a good look round the field and is playing himself in carefully but with great determination and looks well set for a long and distinguished innings. We offer him our assurance of loyal support and encouragement in a difficult task.'

In his reply Mr. Rowland Brown paid tribute to Mr. Malcolm Smith for handing over to him a school which had reached such heights of academic success. It was a privilege to be Headmaster. He had come to the Royal Grammar School from a Sixth Form College and had been through the process of a re-organisation which had not however been too painful. The School was in very good heart and Mr. Brown was sure it would continue to flourish.

DEATHS

V. A. BENNETT (1919–23), in March 1976, as a result of a car accident in Dorset, Vermont, U.S.A., aged 69 years.

Victor Bennett made a great success of his life in America. He became head of his firm Bennett, Newbury and Cowan, International Marketing Consultants in New York before he retired. He always showed the greatest affection for the School and wrote regularly. He had arranged to attend the Annual Dinner this year with his friend J. W. K. TAYLOR (1918–24) but was fatally injured a few days before he was due to fly to England.

He leaves a widow and two sons.

E. S. BURNETT (1913–20), on November 15th 1975 at Wycombe Hospital, aged 73 years.

Ernest Smith Burnett was a very well known Wycombe pharmacist—of Lansdales, Chemist, Desborough Road. He leaves a widow Mrs. Trudi Burnett and two sons.

H. R. JANES (1915–23) on March 7th 1976, aged 69 years.

Harry Janes lived in the Wycombe area all his life and had been ill for several years. He was a very well known personality and all pay tribute to his fortitude in these last years. He served with the Oxfordshire and Bucks Light Infantry during the last war and reached the rank of major. He was an active member of the British Legion. At one time he was proprietor of the leading Wycombe furniture manufacturing firm of Nichols and Janes. He was also a keen sportsman and played cricket and hockey for High Wycombe for many years.

He leaves a widow Mrs. Margaret Janes who lives at Bank House, Tylers Green Common, High Wycombe.

W. PRIOR (1915–23) recently at the age of 68 years.

William Prior, a partner in High Wycombe's oldest music shop, was a gifted pupil and when he left school studied at the Music Trades School at the Northern Polytechnic, London. He then joined his father at the music shop in High Wycombe and became very well known as a piano-tuner. He was the first Scout Leader of the

Trinity Congregational Church Company and was also leader of the Wycombe Rover Crew. During the last war he served as a warrant officer in the R.E.M.E.

He leaves a widow Mrs. Doris Prior and two daughters.

J. J. B. WARE (1945–49) in 1975 at Hastings, aged 44 years.

J. J. B. Ware was a very able mathematician. Soon after leaving Cambridge he was struck down by a wasting disease and was cared for by his parents for many years before he died. He and his father died at the same time. The executors of the will have sent £500 to the School.

NOTES

ANGELL, B. W. (1965–72) left school to work on a small dairy farm near Launceston in Cornwall. He went to University College North Wales in 1973 and has nearly completed a degree in Agriculture. He likes Bangor very much—it is strong in the biological sciences—especially Botany.

BAILEY, A. W. (1954–61) worked for some years after leaving school but is now at Southampton University studying for an honours degree in Music. D. N. LORD (1965–71) completed his degree in Music there last year and is now doing a Teacher Training Course based at Winchester. G. J. PHILBRICK (1967–75) is also reading Music at Southampton and leads a very busy life, playing in two orchestras, singing in three choirs and editing the University chaplaincy weekly newsletter.

BARKER, M. A. (1968–75) worked underground in a coalmine in Leicestershire before going to Nottingham University to study mining engineering. He has a National Coal Board scholarship. With him when he visited the School was S. R. ATKINSON (1968–75) who worked on a building site and as a Laboratory technician at the Radio Chemical Centre in Amersham before going to Leeds to study chemical engineering. They reported that P. J. HODDINOTT (1968–75) was in South Africa working in a gold mine for a year.

- BLUNDELL, M. V. (1973–75) is working for Project Trust Volunteers at Namulungu Secondary School in Kenya. There is no free secondary education in Kenya—the intake is governed not only by academic ability but by the ability of the parents to pay the fees. Many government schools have a ‘harambie’ stream (no educational standard required) simply to boost funds. Blundell teaches pupils whose ages range from 13 to 17. A major problem is the lack of text-books—in one form he has 26 books between 64 pupils. He enjoys the life despite being so cut off—4½ miles to the nearest market or bus-stop. He has bought a bicycle and this enables him to get meat during the week.
- BONE, J. R. (1952–57) wrote from 33 Spey Drive, Three Rivers, Vereeniging 1930, Rep. of South Africa. He and his family enjoy life greatly. They have a bungalow with adequate grounds and a pool which is in regular use almost throughout the year to the consternation of the locals who give it a rest in the ‘winter’. He works for Stewarts and Loyds S.A. as manager of the division that produces structures in steel. He says that he is like the R.G.S. masters in that he is paid for something he enjoys doing. He met recently M. J. GREEN (1950–57) who has been out there for 11 years working for B.P. John Bone ends his letter with the cheering words that the education he got at the R.G.S. on and off the field had stood him in very good stead. Anyone from the School visiting South Africa will be welcome at his home.
- BOURKE, D. A. (1935–40) wrote with affection of Mr. C. M. Haworth who was Bourke’s form-master when he came to the School in 1936 and taught him Latin and Greek. When particularly hard pressed either at work or elsewhere, Derek Bourke always remembers the phrase ‘Caesari omnia uno tempore erant agenda’. He was pleased about the new organ at School—he has an electric organ in his home and can recommend it. He was also very impressed by the scholastic record in 1975—so many ‘S’ Level distinctions.
- BROOKS, J. F. (1947–52). Sandy Gall, ITN newsreader, was guest of honour recently at Wycombe Round Table’s Dinner. He was looked after by John Brooks, retiring chairman of Wycombe Round Table and D. J. SLADE (1949–55) the new chairman.
- CASTLE, J. H. (1935–39) who is a quantitative engineer in Australia was home in England and rang up G. C. RAYNER (1937–45). Castle was a Royal Marine Commando in the last war and was taken prisoner at St. Nazaire.
- CHADWICK, J. W. M. (1967–75) met the Queen last term when she had tea at Christ Church, Oxford.
- COLEMAN, R. T. (1946–51) is one of the many Old Boys who are doing so well at Equity and Law Life Assurance Society Ltd., Amersham Road, Terriers. He is manager of Computer Operations. P. A. THROSSELL (1959–63) is Assistant Secretary in charge of Computer Systems Programming. K. R. PUDDEPHATT (1953–57) has left the Computer Department to be Senior Assistant Secretary in the Pensions Department. M. P. A. SOLOMON (1957–62) is Assistant Secretary in Staff Training.
- DARRINGTON, S. R. (1960–66), P. G. SHARP (1960–66) and J. G. RICHARDSON (1966–72) make up the group ‘Shucks’ which in April 1976 broadcast in *Country Club* on Radio 2. They have produced a record which is selling well—ask for Shucks! Steve Darrington sings, plays piano and harmonica, Trevor ‘Spike’ Jones plays lapsteel, banjo, electric and acoustic guitar, Pete Sharp plays guitar and mandolin, John Richardson plays violin and sax. We wish them luck in their precarious profession.
- DAVIS, A. J. (1955–62) has returned to High Wycombe from Leamington Spa. He is working for J. D. and D. M. Watson at Terriers House. His job is Computer-Structural Engineer. This means he is responsible for all the firm’s computer work and also gets involved in some structural design. The firm specialises in Public Health Engineering and water supply. A. BARRATT (1959–65) works

there too—he is an Associate of the firm. R. J. ELVERLEY (1960–66) works for Watsons in the Far East.

DODGSON, A. (1913–18) continues to enjoy reading his school magazine. He omitted to write last year but hoped we hadn't imagined he'd passed on. He is still fit but finds that the hills are getting steeper. He just can't guess how we keep up the excellence of the magazine. He was pleased to find three names in the last O.B.'s section which he knew—Hands, Grimsdale and Hastings—but all younger than himself. His brother J. DODGSON (1919–22) and nephew P. DODGSON (1947–52) are well, the latter hard at work with E.M.I. on electronic secrets.

EVANS, E. T. H. (1965–72) completed his Part I in Natural Sciences at Cambridge after two years and has now changed to Law. The university is always happy to help a young man who changes his course.

FLETCHER, C. T. (1939–46) was appointed County Treasurer of Cheshire from the date of local government reorganisation—April 1st 1974. It has happened at a most interesting and challenging time.

GRAFTON, P. E. (1960–67). Capt. Paul Grafton, 2nd Bn. The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers is earning his daily bread on a five-year Short Service Commission. He wrote from Paderborn, Germany, and reminisced about his not so pleasant experiences in Northern Ireland.

Three months conversion training from his conventional role to the Urban Counter-Terrorist role precedes departure to Ireland. His ship enters Belfast at first light, soldiers crouched in fire positions can be picked out around the docks and sheds, each man is issued with a Flak Jacket (a glass fibre body-armour waist-coat) and ammunition.

The city is just starting to come to life and the convoy speeds through the streets, the only feature is that no-one waits at red traffic lights if the road is clear.

The route to Andersonstown is mainly through Protestant areas which are relatively safe. Bombed-out buildings are now to be seen in every street and corrugated iron fences and tall wire mesh anti-rocket

screens indicate a police-station. The convoy turns off the Lisburn road—extra vigilance—this is the beginning of 'Indian Territory'—the green area of the Belfast 'tribal' map which signifies an almost entirely Catholic population. The slogans on the walls are aimed at the Army. The convoy enters a large camp, surrounded by a 20 ft. wire mesh fence, then a corrugated iron screen and finally a thick concrete blast wall. Inside, portable huts are tightly grouped together, with low anti-mortar-bomb walls forming a crazy pattern around them. This is Fort Monagh. Half an hour later the first patrol group is assembled in the briefing room—officers and Commanders have already been here for three weeks familiarising themselves with the lay-out of the area, the personalities, the known weapon hides, the previously used ambush and fire positions, the covered routes and short cuts, dead ends, culverts, sewage systems etc. etc. The first patrol dashes out—another four-month tour has begun.

GROOM, H. S. (1906–08) for 40 years former parish council clerk and the 'Mr. Chips' at the village school, where he was Headmaster, has resigned from the Milton Cottage Trust committee to make way for a younger man. He had served on the committee for 46 years.

HAMPSON, A. J. M. (1961–68) was married on March 6th 1976. His best man was A. J. E. MINETT (1960–67) and others officiating were N. P. G. HUNT (1962–69), J. S. THROWER (1966–68) and D. I. HEAPS (1963–67).

HARRIS, D. (1967–74) worked as a hospital porter before joining the police force—his chosen career. He only spent a year as P.C. Harris in the Thames Valley police and graduated from foot-slogging to Panda cars. He enjoyed the work but his ideas changed and he is now in his first year at St. Paul's College of Education in Cheltenham studying for a B.Ed. degree with French and some P.E. as his subjects. In a recent education assignment he had to make a critical assessment of his Wycombe days—the exercise made him realise just how important and enjoyable

- his seven years at the R.G.S. had been. He is very proud of being an 'Old Boy'.
- HAWKINS, F. E. J. (1948–56) is managing director of Hawkinsport and has control of about five shops now and is growing bigger. His photograph is often seen in the *Bucks Free Press* donating sports prizes. T. W. LONG (1952–58) chief coach at Orient also appeared in the *B.F.P.* presenting a shield to Loudwater Boys Club. They had won the Woodward & Stalder Cup, J. E. WOODWARD (1944–48). Terry Long's name has also appeared as a member of the Production Team for BBC 1's *Sportsweek*.
- HAYWOOD, C. C. (1959–64) appeared in a recent BBC 2 *Explorers* film, playing the part of John King, the only survivor of the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition to the Australian outback in 1860. The film was made by Lord Snowdon. Christopher Haywood spent three years at acting school and then went straight to Australia to appear on stage, film and TV.
- HICKOX, R. S. (1959–65). In *The Times* of Friday, March 5th 1976, it was announced that the London Symphony Orchestra had appointed Richard Hickox as its chorus director in succession to Mr. Arthur Oldham who was leaving to join the Orchestre de Paris.
- HOLLAND, G. (1969–71) moved to London when he left school and worked for two years with Lintas Advertising and Thames TV. For the last year he has been an account executive with a direct mail advertising agency in Cirencester. He has just written to say that he is the owner of a company by the name of South Western Golf Supplies which specialises in direct mail selling of all kinds of golf equipment. Telephone Cheltenham 41862.
- HOLLINGSWORTH, P. J. (1967–74) continues to enjoy reading Economics with Statistics at Bristol University. There are about 13 Old Boys at Bristol now. Six are in Hiatt Baker Hall which has the honour of having W. A. TRENDELL (1967–74) as its J.C.R. Vice-President, a post in which he is very efficient and popular.
- IVESON, A. S. (1968–75) found transition from school to university fairly overwhelming but he has settled at Warwick now. The German course is very interesting but he feels at a loss not having done English at 'A' Level—his German course is based heavily on literature. He enjoys the social life very much—he did not realise how easy and exciting it would be making friends.
- JONES, G. D. B. (1947–54). A western extension of the defensive system of Hadrian's Wall, the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, has been discovered in Cumbria. It lies west of Carlisle and seems to date from the first phase of the frontier's construction. It consists of parallel ditches with palisades, between which lies a series of fortlets and towers. The discovery was made by Professor Barri Jones of Manchester University, when parch marks visible from the air appeared during the dry summer weather last year.
- JOSS, W. A. (1965–71) was told by his doctors three years ago that he had congenital hip disease and his joints were on the point of collapsing. He had major operations done on both hips, spent nine weeks in hospital, six in a wheelchair and a month on crutches. Now he is following an arts course at Oxford Polytechnic where he leads a full sporting life and recently his photograph appeared in the *B.F.P.* showing him running 20 miles for charity.
- KEFFORD, M. H. (1958–65). Captain Kefford of the 7th Gurkha Rifles was, when these notes went to the printers, climbing Mt. Everest as the lead climber in the Army attempt on the mountain from the South Col. This was the culmination of five years of planning and training. Again we were unnerved by a BBC news flash in the Easter vacation, announcing that an English army captain had been killed on Everest. Michael was safe but a close colleague died.
- KNOWLES, T. C. T. (1920–26). Life for 'Farmer' Knowles is very pleasant in retirement at Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, especially in the mornings when he joins up with several other pensioners for their daily round of golf. His son W. A. C. KNOWLES (1951–58) is now an established partner in a West Country firm of

solicitors. He lives in Warminster, is a member of the Round Table and is very happy about Matthew who was born on October 15th 1975.

LE MESSURIER, A. P. (1962–65). The Hon. Sec. was told by a pupil that an Old Boy, Andy Le Messurier, was a guitarist in the 'Wombles' group. Andy hastened to disillusion him—the guitarist is Le Mesurier, with one s. Le Messurier has just completed his D.Phil. thesis at Oxford entitled 'The Instability of Space Frameworks with Elastic Connections'. While waiting for his visa he had worked as a furniture removal man but hoped to move to more lucrative positions helping the Arabs or Africans to spend their money building roads, dams and airports.

LEWIS, D. W. (1959–66) is busy in advertising in Jakarta, Indonesia. He was accosted recently on the beach in Bali by M. J. BOORD (1959–65) who left England four years ago on his way to Australia but seemed to find swanning around S.E. Asia quite acceptable.

LOWE, D. A. (1965–72) will be studying singing at the Mozarteum in Salzburg from next October—for three or four years. Last term he was busy in Cambridge on the *Don Pasquale* and at the end of term was singing some Mozart operatic arias with orchestra in the Caius College concert. He was also busy perfecting his German—he was grateful for the grounding given him at school.

MAYO, P. (1955–60) returned last year from a three year period with the Royal Australian Navy in Sydney. He was involved in the field of underwater acoustics and sonar and weapon systems for submarines. He and his family had a wonderful time with holidays in Fiji and New Zealand. They are tempted to return.

MORRISON, M. F. (1960–67) still works in the Registrar's office at the University of Leeds and finds administration a very interesting career. He sees P. S. EVERITT (1960–66)—a classmate and fellow cross-country runner who works in the administration at Brunel University, helping to promote the university as a conference centre during vacations. Morrison still runs

regularly—he finished 328th out of 1,300 runners in the English cross-country championship this year. He wonders how many Old Boys participate in this tortuous sport. He knows that P. J. YATES (1953–61) and J. L. CURRELL (1952–58) have gracefully retired. He has to train 50–60 miles a week to keep up any pretence of respectability. From magazine reports he detects a slight decline in the sport at the R.G.S. but hopes he is wrong.

MYANT, C. N. (1956–62) was appointed assistant editor of the *Morning Star* in December 1975. He had been with the paper since 1968 as a sub-editor and then on the foreign desk. He was the first British correspondent in South Vietnam after its complete liberation in 1975. He joined the Communist Party in 1963 and was elected to its executive committee in November 1975.

PANTER, M. E. J. (1956–63) is production manager of a biscuit factory in Clydebank. He was with Spillers but they have now joined with the Co-Op. He is married, has two children and lives near Loch Lomond.

NASH, G. D. (1954–59) has been selected to serve on a panel of hockey umpires for the Olympic Games in Montreal this year. He is manager of a new Leisure Centre in Preston.

PEPPER, J. (1966–72). Despite his joining the O.T.C. and becoming commissioned in the T.A.V.R., Jon Pepper managed to graduate last summer in Metallurgy and Materials from Birmingham University. When he wrote in October 1975 he was still living in Birmingham but driving lorries for a living to fill in time before joining the 1st Battalion, the Staffordshire Regiment, in January 1976, for one year as a platoon commander.

PUGSLEY, K. R. (1955–60) is now Vice-President of Barclays Bank International in New York. He did his training with Barclays in the Bahamas and the Virgin Islands. Brother C. R. PUGSLEY (1968–74) is reading History at University College, London. D. R. PUGSLEY (1963–69) is resident engineer in Hofuf, Saudi Arabia. The contractor is a German—he finds his school German very useful.

- ROBERTS, S. C. (1965–72) is in his 4th and final year of the Town Planning Course at Manchester University. He was elected President of the Owens Park Students' Association at the beginning of the academic year. Owens Park is the largest residential hall in Europe. He enjoys the responsibility of representing over 1,000 students.
- SADDLER, A. J. (1947–54) enjoys being Deputy Headmaster at Trent College. Life is very different but quite stimulating. He read of Mr. Haworth's death in a copy of *Didaskolas*.
- SCALLY, P. J. (1938–45) has an interesting new address:—Courtalds Italia S.r.l, Via Visconti di Modrone 12, 20122 Milan.
- SECKER, F. G. (1932–37) joined the R.A.F. in 1940 and has just retired as Senior Captain with British Airways having logged 20,500 flying hours. He is standing as a conservative candidate in the May elections and hopes to serve the town as a local councillor. He is also a bit of a conjurer and magician which should help.
- SHERLOCK, G. (1947–53) gained a degree in Geography at Leeds University and then went to McGill University as a Weather Observer and Forecaster. He returned to England to obtain a Teaching Diploma at Leeds and was teaching in Rotherham when he saw a BBC advertisement in the *Guardian* asking for applications for the post of Producer Editor BBC School Radio Geography. He got the job and is very happily settled.
- SINNATT, B. (1946–53) returned to London from Puerto Rico to do marketing and manufacturing liaison work for Shell with Francophone Africa. He spent two years in Puerto Rico and groomed Miss Puerto Rico for the Miss World title. She won.
- SLATTER, P. M. M. (1919–25), one of the foremost characters in amateur dramatics in High Wycombe, has won the highest award possible from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. He has been presented with NODA's gold bar for fifty years service to the amateur theatre.
- SWORN, C. H. (1958–64) was married in January 1976 and then returned with his wife to Rhodesia where he is working as an accountant-auditor for a Methodist Missionary Society. He is a remarkable chap—three Firsts in Cambridge and now he devotes his life to this worthy cause.
- THAINE, J. E. D. (1961–68) has left Searle Pharmaceuticals to work for Miles Laboratories in Stoke Poges, where he is Sales Development Manager of Ames Company Africa. He will spend almost half his time travelling in Africa. Whilst in South Africa with Searle he found he was working with M. A. C. PRIESTLEY (1958–64) and C. A. WEYER (1961–67). Colin WEYER has also left Searle and has taken up a post in Johannesburg as accountant for a company there. He has recently married a South African girl and is contemplating emigrating to Salisbury, Rhodesia. Brave man!
- TINN, D. S. O. (1965–71) left Cambridge with a degree in Metallurgy last June and is now working for Vandervell Products in Maidenhead as a metallurgist.
- TOMES, I. M. (1951–58). Major Tomes, M.C., R.R.F. made contact in January 1976. He was shortly to be posted from the Army Headquarters in Germany back to his Battalion as a company commander and as such he will be remaining in Germany—but with a further 4 months spell in Belfast during the summer.
- WILSON, P. J. (1954–60) is still working for Watford Borough Council as Special Projects Engineer. R. J. WILSON (1957–63) has married and gone to Australia for a three year term. He is starting a new company for Babcock and Wilcox and will be based on Sydney. A. R. WILSON (1960–66) is busy completing his Ph.D. thesis in Sheffield.
- WINTER, P. E. (1960–68) wrote just before leaving to spend three months in a remote area of Southern Sudan to sort out a boatbuilding project his company, Intermediate Technology for Developing Countries has there. Last summer he visited Kenya, Uganda and finally Tanzania where he climbed Kilimanjaro. On the last day he climbed from 15,000 feet to the summit at 19,342 and then descended to the bottom of the mountain the same day—about 45 miles and 19,000 feet of ascent

and descent all in 18 hours. Yet when he was at the R.G.S. he was never able to run the whole way round the cross-country course even with Mr. Rex Jones' gymshoe behind him. In order to be able to point out to economists the error of their ways in a language they understand, he has enrolled in an M.Sc. course in Economics at Birkbeck College—he works evenings and weekends on this.

WOOD, D. M. (1959–66) came back to the U.K. last October after a period of post-doctoral research at a place called the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute in Oslo, where a high proportion of the research is financed from consulting work with the North Sea oil platforms. He is now back at Cambridge lecturing in Soil Mechanics in the Engineering Department and he is also a fellow of Emmanuel. It is not quite the same as Peterhouse gastronomically.

WOODBRIDGE, J. R. (1966–73) has moved to Bridgnorth, Salop, an ideal part of the country to see some good geology. He was glad to read that Mr. Samways had

returned—he remembers well the hours of coaching he was given on how to kick a rugby ball properly. C. C. WOODBRIDGE (1963–69) is still working for the British Steel Corporation at Teesside—he should be a father by now. At the moment John Woodbridge is applying for jobs in engineering geology, the factory inspectorate and consumer protection.

ZANDER, M. (1946–51). Bernard Levin wrote Michael Zander up in *The Times* some months ago. Zander had just produced in an article in *The Criminal Law Review*, a survey of fees paid to counsel out of legal aid funds and had come to the mischievous, subversive and laughingly incorrect conclusion that some of them had been getting their bread rather too deep in the public gravy. He continued: 'Michael Zander is a person of loathsome aspect and dubious character who spends much of his time annoying barristers.' Zander used to worry masters at school too—his mental footwork was far too fast.

The Cambridge Old Wycombiensians Dinner

The Dinner was held at Churchill College on Feb. 6th 1976. The Headmaster Mr. Rowland Brown together with Messrs. R. Pattinson, A. J. Skipp and H. Scott represented the Staff. K. M. Knowles organised the event and he was supported by M. W. D. Oldnall, D. M. Edwards, F. D. McDonald, P. M. Stevenson, F. D. Glenister, R. C. Lacey, D. A. Lowe, E. T. H. Evans and M. T. Adger.

Knowles proposed the toast to the School and the Headmaster replied wittily and briefly. He gave the Old Boys present the impression that the welfare of the School was in good hands and that the School had

a promising future, pending Government policy of course.

M. T. Adger who was good enough to supply these details has the job of organising the Cambridge Dinner next year. Will Cambridge Old Boys, now graduates, who wish to attend, please contact him at Pembroke and he will let them know the exact date nearer the time. He will be inviting all the undergraduates and resident tutors. The Michaelmas term has been suggested for next time to keep the Dinner well away from examinations and to catch the freshmen with full grant cheques!

High Wycombe R.F.C. 'Seven-a-side' team played in the Middlesex '7's' preliminary rounds at Sudbury recently and after beating Wasps on their own ground in the fourth round felt they had a very good chance of beating Barts in the 5th round. This victory would bring with it the honour of playing at

Twickenham on the final day. The team with Old Boys, Derek Stubbs (captain), Adrian Broadway, Ian Whitelock and Steve Gamester in it was ironically thwarted by another Old Boy John Powell whose brilliant play assured Barts a place at Twickenham.

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