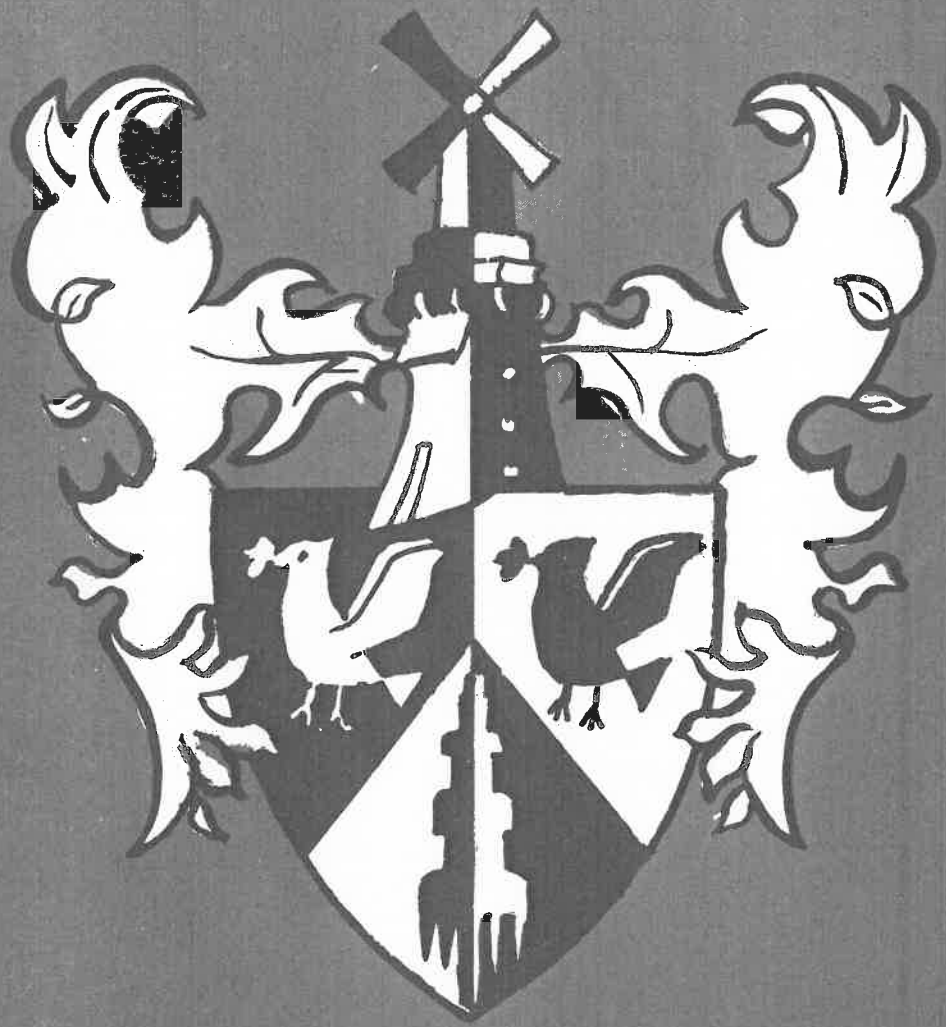


THE KIRKHAMIAN



74

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The Kirkhamian

THE MAGAZINE OF KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1549

Volume V, No. 3

September 1974

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Editorial

Chairman: Mr. H.B. Wilson.

Editor: J.M. Nodder.

Committee: N.R. Scott, M.P. Leech, J.A.D. Blaikie, M.G. Berkley.

Owing to ever increasing costs and to the fact that a year's activities have to be condensed into one issue we have had to abandon the traditional letterpress printing method and have adopted the offset-lithographic process. This process developed over the last ten years is gradually being used by more and more schools. It is more flexible and economical. It does not necessitate the assembly of metal types and fabrication of expensive blocks for photographs and drawings, more of which can be included at no extra cost. All material is accommodated in a simple photographic process.

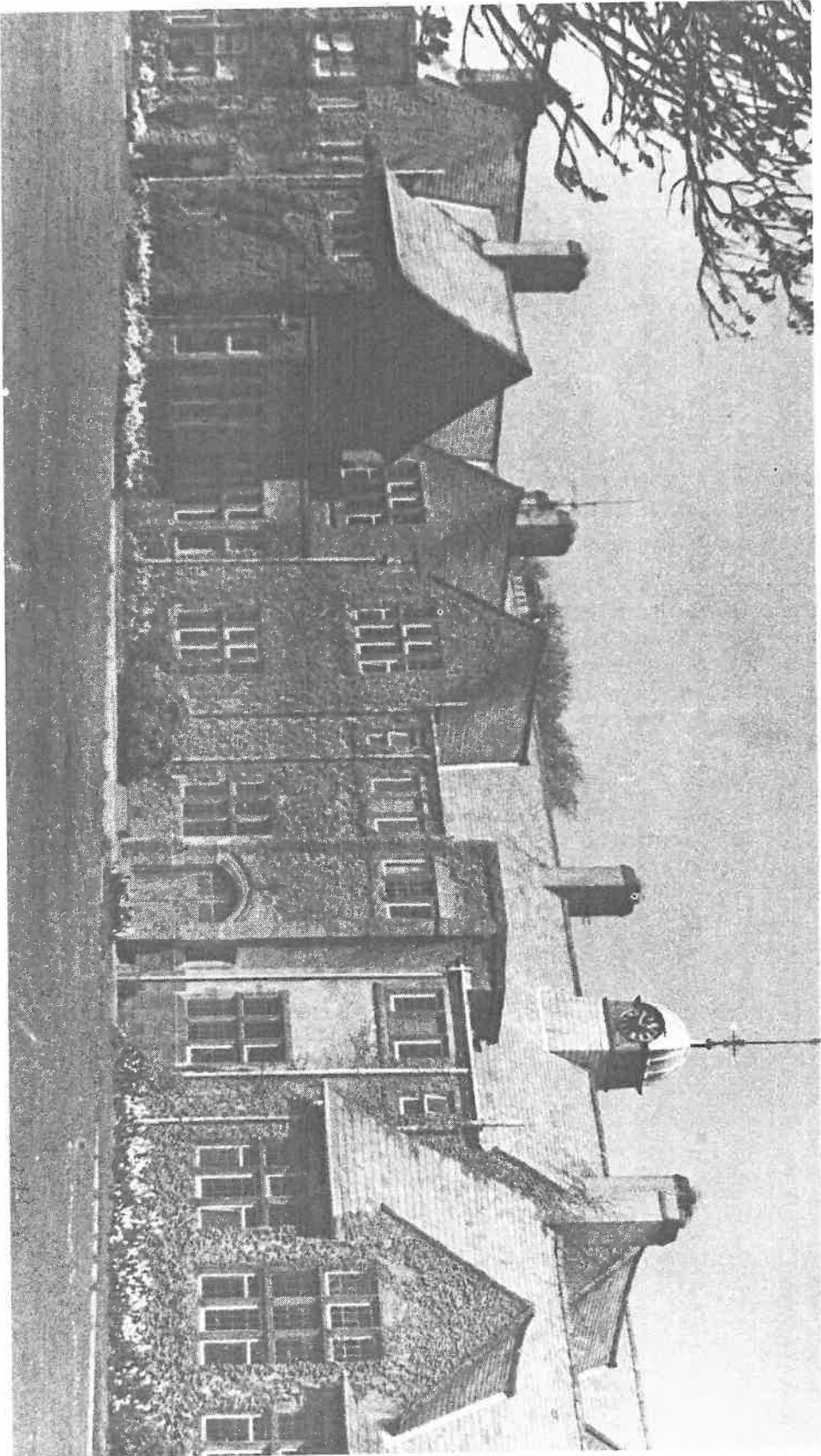
The system, however, places greater responsibility on the Chairman and Editor and considerably increases the work load, the lay-out being only one of their responsibilities. No proofs can be corrected by the printers and because of this it is essential that all copy should be legible, grammatically correct and carefully phrased before being submitted to the editors. Also, as we are limited to size, superfluous verbosity must be reduced to a minimum.

It may also necessitate the use of smaller type to keep within our budget.

Unfortunately this year we were unable to book a publication date before September, so please accept our apologies for delay in publication. We hope to remedy this in 1975.



'If you have anything important to say — speak up; if you haven't — belt up!'



The School

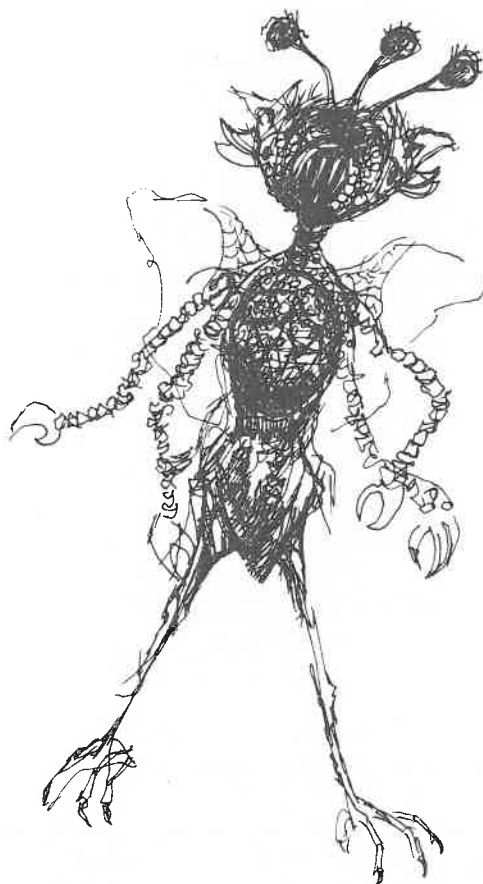
CONTRIBUTIONS

'Kroika'

The inhabitants of the planet Epsilon Caesar Three are one of the few warm-blooded races of the Galaxy who have any real contact with the Ethereal World. The inhabitants are advanced technologically but are tied to the Ethereal World by the 'Kroika'; an ordeal undergone by the subconscious of every male.

The time of the Kroika comes just after puberty. Then, the young male must journey to the Caverns of Atu-Fahlee, which are only visited by initiates. Once inside, the subject goes into a hypnotic trance by the ingress of certain chemical solutions.

In this trance, the subconscious becomes extremely active, leaves the body, and enters the Ethereal World.



This is the story of the Kroika of Kōeda Fa, 17th Controller of Epsilon Caesar Three.

"My first sight of the Cavern Doors was from the foot of the slope leading to them. The pale green watery light of the morning sun seemed to accentuate their size and mystery, and in that moment, a shiver ran up one and then down the other of my two spines.

For the first time in my life I was really afraid and I wanted to turn and run. However, my sense of duty made me face the grim reality and I pressed on up the slope.

As I approached the doors, they swung silently open. I stepped inside.

I was standing in a vast, dimly-lit hall in which the only source of light was a small candle which flickered and writhed, sending shadows scurrying amongst the numerous recesses in the walls. The ceiling was too high to be seen. My three eyes blinked in slow succession as they wavered on the ends of their tentacles, surveying the scene.

I waited.

As though in answer to my unvoiced question, a door to my right swung open invitingly. I went through the archway and the door shut quietly.

I found myself in a seemingly endless corridor and on either side were rows of closed doors. One on my left opened and I stepped inside.

I was in a small square room, with a bed and a table on which was a strangely inscribed drinking vessel and a bowl of incense, exuding a peculiarly satisfying aromatic fragrance.

I lay down and took a draught from the vessel. I then took the bowl of incense and, closing two of my air-vents, held the bowl over the third and inhaled deeply. After a time I replaced the bowl on the table and waited.

For several minutes nothing happened. Then a white mist obscured everything and I was unable to move. I became aware of a presence. A shadowy figure, dressed in long white robes, emerged from the mist, beckoning to someone; once, twice.

I saw another figure, smaller and naked, a pale blue colour, going to meet the first. I recognised that second figure. It was me.

Suddenly, I saw the scene through the eyes of my other self. The robed figure receded and I was overwhelmed with a burning desire not to lose him and followed quickly.

It was like trying to run through thick treacle. The Figure hovered and beckoned and turned away. I knew then I had to reach him, I had to! The viscous mess seemed malevolently alive, rearing up in waves to impede me, clogging and choking my air-vents. The Figure was receding into the distance.

My actions became mechanical, it was agony. Suddenly, the mess disappeared and I found myself moving rapidly in pursuit of the Figure. He had now stopped and as I reached him, panting hard, he extended a tentacle and took my forward arm. We were moving up through solid rock. The rock became water, then air. We stopped, and I realised that I had not inhaled once during our ascent; at least fifteen minutes.

We were surrounded by tall buildings, their tops lost in the clouds. There was one opening in the square which led to a furnace, emitting flying sparks and a blinding glare.

The Figure shook me and pointed to the buildings. At first, I could not grasp his meaning, but then I perceived that the four sides of the square were moving inexorably towards the centre. I was trapped! No way of escape; except . . . except the Furnace!

The Figure opened a door in one of the buildings, and went through. I rushed over to this door, but before I reached it, it disappeared. I tried another, and another. They also disappeared. No escape!

There was only . . . the Furnace, it was impossible, surely. To be burnt alive, or to be crushed! I chose. Better to be burnt trying to live than be crushed thinking about trying to live.

The awful heat forced me to retract all but one eye. I could see the Figure on the far side of the Furnace, beckoning and as the buildings closed in I screamed as loud as I could, jumped and ran.

Aah! The heat, the burning, searing, scorching, flaming, flaring, parching, all-consuming heat, tearing with flames of living vengeance. And the pain, unbearable, excruciating, crushing the very fibre of life with a sadistic passion . . .

And then it was over, I was unmarked. As the Figure stared at me his eyes seemed to grow and grow until they absorbed my whole body. And then far away, but coming closer . . . closer . . . a mysterious force holding me in a paralysing grip.

Then I felt something inexplicable going through my mind, assessing and recording all I knew, could know, and ever wanted to know.

Suddenly I felt very happy and slowly but steadily, a mist grew before my eyes, obscuring all. I could see nothing, feel nothing, hear nothing, sense nothing.

Then, without warning, I was lying on the bed, in the square room. I rose, opened the door and made my way outside.

It was a lovely day, the green sun riding high in a purple sky.

I was ready for the world".

J. Davidson, 4Y

The Acrobat

I lifted the mossy, beneath found cold life;
cast my weighted arm, firm frost redbrick shoulder
swung
flesh gathered round the corner as the last stitch was pulled
taut as my wind-closed gaze translucent emptied me.
I laced my shoes,
in the bow I saw the story lie with the mingled void
between eyes that lost involvement.
I lapsed, rolling succinctly to the brim, jumped, I fell in,
spinning back on a muddy heel, firmly wedged, screwing moisture
from green blades, wrench-rooted. The chill crept around.
I trundled the path. Beetlesheen signalled dusk. Dark delay.
I clean off the day, the scum sticks and work drains
to the common sewer of man's intent.
Rub between cloven toes, then slippered trapse the stairs to
the lounge — the clock and the mirror on the wall —
stale yellow pipesmoke of the eloquent, the parchment people
who gabbled, tweeded and mature, split to feathered retreats.
Handfuls of atmosphere loiter like banknotes.

Morning comes in primal streamers rich with hewn dust.
The lucid sun bites gently but never looks back,
finds the truth from any angle. Rising, I sip a strange elixir.
A ripple: the rising sun at morning like the sky on my eye
hands of trees charmed buds now seen with keen green eye. I pierce
to search the spring, the sifting snail slips its slime. In the
water-like movement the happy trail of children to the water as
sheens play mutating edges. "The sparrow hops along the veranda, with
wet feet".

Stand still and know the wonder, hands touch in the face of the clock,
The acrobat at "still point;"
sad wanderer know time. But so hard to know. Time stands still
for us all to feel — But is it real?
So, obsessed with the scenery of Paradise fail to drift through
and touch it like the river — to kiss the silk-smooth lips of fate —
no lips are sealed, blood through time congealed.

The trees that touch the sky, perfection no artist could match;
Man shapes his needs, shapes of Things, still in search of the movement.
Art is the journey. Drift, then, in all dimensions, no one limb
for there is no destination but from the past. Hope and lust
do not feed, only satisfy the seed, so be. Seen it all, but
can't relate, communicate; turn to logic, but words will fail —

Ours is the gift, love is reality, energy flows, time and motion felt;
the box of time dances: all smiles at all for us all to see ourselves.
A seagull flies by in the sky, pregnant with destiny, but agile,
while the man with the handkerchief, observing, wonders:
"Is truth the spontaneous sex of a sneeze caught in the breeze —
sad perfume, or the bloom?"

. . . for the shout of another breaks, snapping fingers to cut the trance
I step back in, spooning rice to nourish the day.
The rose in the vase is blooming.

J.A. Blaikie, LVIM

The Hunt

My panting sounded unnaturally loud in my straining ears. I tried to calm myself — a vain attempt. To try and take my mind off the situation, I studied my sanctuary.

My position, secreted behind some dustbins, was not the most glorious of hidey-holes, but glory was a remote ideal which was vastly removed from my prime objective — self-preservation. For the third time that day, I reviewed my chances of surviving unscathed. They were slim.

I reflected upon the circumstances which had forced me here; all I'd done was to say that I'd seen a boy at school when he was absent for one period — of course the boy was playing truant, but that was beside the point, I'd split, and there could be only one answer — Hue and Cry.

The news of the hunt had spread, spread so far down the school that there could be no escape — only a delay of the inevitable.



So here I was, the fox, to be hunted as fair game by a pack of human fox-hounds.

I had lain there for perhaps ten minutes. Ten minutes of unendurable suspense; but to be endured, for I needed the respite it gave me. Then a cry reached my ears, to be followed by another, and then another until the whole pack was alerted.

They came thundering down across the yard, a wild baying herd, finding courage in numbers.

The younger boys scattered, trying to keep out of their way. They all succeeded, all except one who, being slower than the rest, still stood in the path of this great onslaught. The rush parted and swept past the frightened child, but from the rear a small party broke off, and from my still-undiscovered position I saw it close on the boy. I could see the terror in his face.

The interrogation, trial and sentence were swiftly done, and the boy lay bruised and cowering on the ground. I smiled wryly, I could expect much worse.

But why?

The sensible thing to do would be to run for it — straight to the Headmaster, and in one fell swoop denounce them all. Yet that would not be playing the game.

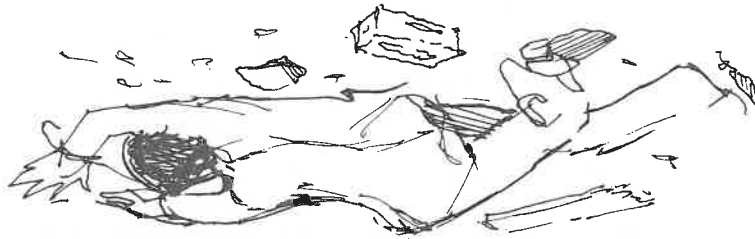
But it would be living. So I ran, and was immediately held at bay, pulled down by my foes and beaten into unconsciousness.

"How is he, Dr. Beddows?" The Headmaster's voice echoed the concern on his face. The doctor looked at the inert form being carried out to the ambulance. Then he turned to Mr. Graves. "Bad, I'm afraid. In fact I think he'll be lucky to live."

"I suppose you'll have to make a report?"

"Of course! Ruptured spleen, fractured skull, two broken ribs and a broken shin. The vicious swine must have kicked him half to death." There was a query in his voice as he said, "I wonder what he could have done to deserve this?"

J.I. Houston, 5Y



Poetry Review

Below is printed a contribution for the magazine which was at first destined for the dustbin. It has been saved from this unglamorous fate to become the subject of the Editor's Poetry Review.

WE'RE ALL GOING TO BANDAI BEACH?

After the cow auction
It's great at the pub
But Bandai Beach is the place to be
With the Golden sands and the deep blue sea
With the pretty girls and fun
And if you don't watch out you'll end up in jail

Bandai Beach in the sun
Where everyone has some fun
Where one in the Bush is better than two
And *all* the beer is Aussie Brand

Bandai Beach is the place to be
with Ra-Ra's Roo and Digger Dave
Where if the sharks don't get you
Then the Aborigines Will

R.W. Cole

I enjoyed the hard-hitting opening stanza. The poet certainly pulls no punches in conjuring up the Australian atmosphere that combines native manliness and holiday brochure sunshine. Furthermore, the reader is left in no uncertain assurance as to what will be the fate of those whose pleasures of the flesh become vices.

The second stanza exposes a subtle change in temper for the poem. I like the use of the qualifying 'some' with regard to 'fun' in the second line. Then, with a flourish of poetic genius, an old proverb is suitably altered to capture more of the true colonial spirit. And the final line of this stanza completes that picture — being a tight and unfussy description of the local beverage.

The final stanza is, of course, a masterpiece of literary art. By strange reference to the probably legendary figures of the outback, namely 'Ra-Ra' and 'Dave', Mr. Cole introduces the reader to a few carefully picked words of warning. Those who venture upon this veritable Elysian Field of sand must be aware of the carnivorous marine life, and of course the neighbourhood primitives.

This poem, then, is just one of many poems that I, as editor, have received and rejected this year. I would have liked to have rewarded Mr. R. Cole, of the Upper Sixth, for his efforts — but I couldn't find a strait-jacket that would fit him. Perhaps we could arrange for him a holiday on Bandai Beach; where if the sharks don't get him, the Abos will!!

J.M. Nodder (PRE)

Time Bomb to Destruction

Hiroshima lingers in our minds,
The live-long lie, that is a word, Chivalry,
Finally dies, buried in
Tons of Radioactive rock.
The pastime of Emperors cannot,
Now be allowed to stay.

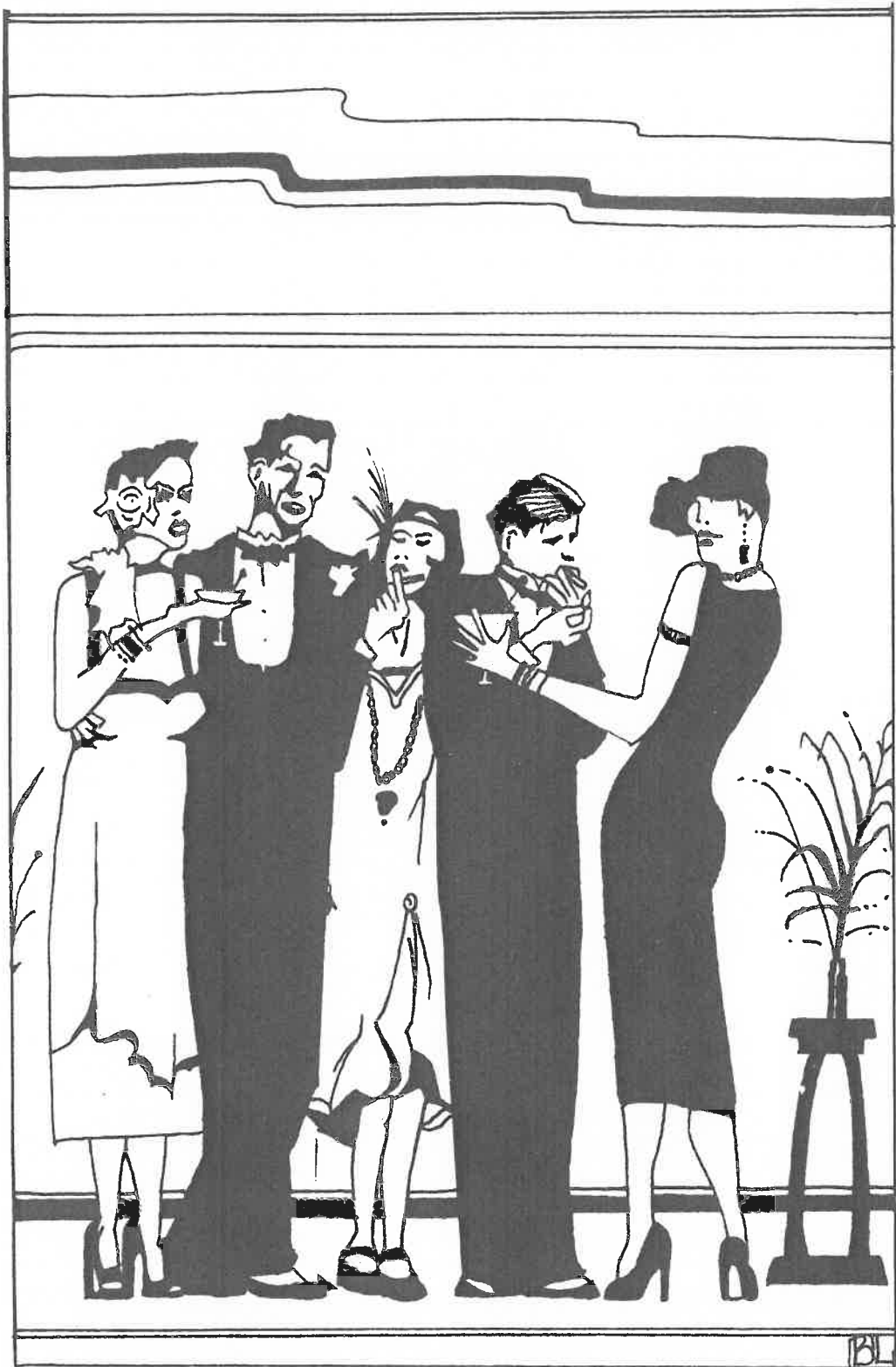
Fate of the life
Which for half an eternity,
Has slowly grown to a fruit
Which has conquered the Earth,
Without war.

Madmen press the wrong buttons, the red buttons.
The Earth will be a target,
Reduced to Poison Dust
Their warped minds will never know
The carnage that would start.
People, living in dread,
For a hundred years.

Will War not stop?
The Human Nature forbids
Mans friendliness to Man.
There will always be someone,
Desperate, hoping to destroy,
The present rotten world.

Man forgets the past, the Twentieth Century lingers not.
The bombs of doom that never fell,
Are laughed at.
The new people of the sky, enjoy their conquest of light.
The worst bomb that they know
Makes pretty patterns outside their massive shield.
They boast, they laugh, their city is indestructable.
Until, that is, somebody invents,
The Ultimate Weapon again.

R. Wayland, 111Y



W. H. Lowe 5X

Remembering the Good Times

I remember Gatsby's party on the first night of June,
Glistening chandeliers light a sparkling scene,
While the sun's departure announces the moon;
Guests arrive, and chauffeurs park their cars five deep in the drive,
And mellow music permeates the air
To bring the sober, still atmosphere alive.

Cocktails are served, to encourage the first sounds of laughter;
Confident girls leave their escorts to wander
Among already swelling groups of joking acquaintances,
Quickly becoming a focus for fun,
Posing with roses in hands slim and golden.

I remember our host surveying the scene,
Absorbing the picture; so cool and serene
At the head of the polished marble steps,
The perfect foil for his white flannel suit,
His yellow tinged tie and brash silver shirt.

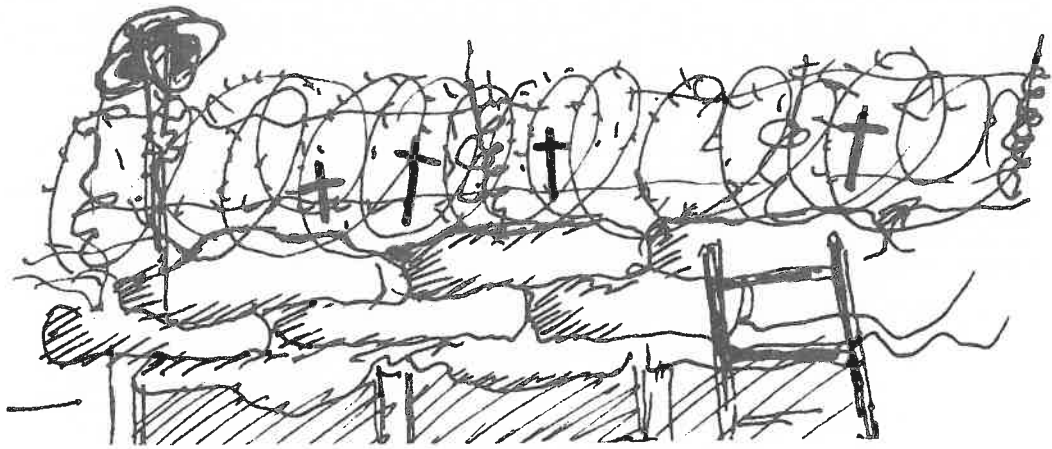
As midnight passes we dance in the moonlight,
To tinny banjos and their players by the pool;
The water there shimmers, as the moon rises higher
And Gatsby's "little party" waxes with it.

The Champagne is now served in tall, crystal glasses
To a sea of swaying faces, with wives making passes
At other wives' husbands
Who simply reject them for more bootleg hooch,
Or swooning young debs with their hair in French bobs,
Whose sharp squeals and pleas
Mix with shouting and laughter on the cool, summer breeze.

But time, with the champagne, flows quickly at Gatsby's,
And dawn finds his great rooms empty once more;
Spilt drinks from cracked goblets weep on the floor,
And the mourning sound of horns wails from cars that are going,
Passing over the lawn, where coloured lights are still glowing,
And Gatsby is framed by the emptiness around him,
With his hand held high in formal acknowledgment
"Farewell — until next time, old sport!"

J.M. Nodder, (PRE)

'Idleness is only the refuge of weak minds.'
—Earl of Chesterfield



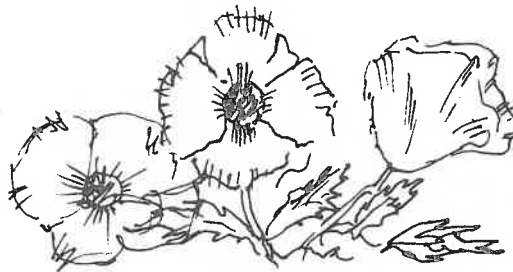
The Return

The guns are silent now; and flowers
Grow over flowers buried long ago.
Buried deep, unwanted memories,
Too painful to recall, reeking of
Death, like the ground I walk over
Reeks of flowers — a scent too sweet,
Too sweet for those who lived amongst
Filth — the cess-pit, the trench.

I gaze out, from the
Same place I gazed out all those years ago.
The firing-step where I killed — and was nearly killed.

I gaze at the poppies, red like
The Blood which nourishes their roots.
And the old scars in my mind
Bear memories of friends long dead.

J.I. Houston, 5Y





A. N. Jones, LVIM

John Clare 'I am'

When asked to choose a poem for 'The Kirkhamian', I unhesitatingly chose this one by the poverty-stricken son of the Northamptonshire cottage-farmer, who was to spend the last twenty-seven years of his life in a lunatic asylum. It seems impossible that such an affirmation of faith and sanity should come from such a predicament. I feel that the strength of the poet, the courage of the man, the unhappiness of the prisoner can all be found in Clare's work and life.

I am : yet what I am none cares or knows,
My friends forsake me like a memory lost;
I am the self-consumer of my woes,
They rise and vanish in oblivious host,
Like shades in love and death's oblivion lost;
And yet I am, and live with shadows tossed

Into the nothingness of scorn and noise,
Into the living sea of waking dreams,
Where there is neither sense of life nor joys,
But the vast shipwreck of my life's esteems;
And e'en the dearest — that I loved the best —
Are strange — nay, rather stranger than the rest.

I long for scenes where man has never trod
A place where woman never smiled or wept
There to abide with my Creator, God,
And sleep as I in childhood sweetly slept
Untroubling and untroubled where I lie,
The grass below — above the vaulted sky. J.A.S.

Report on Wintering Birds

The aims of this particular survey were to discover

1. what species used the school playing fields over the winter
2. why they used them

The following birds have all been seen in the school grounds during the last term.

Resident: Blackbird; Song Thrush; Starling; Collared Dove*; Wood Pigeon;
House Sparrow; Magpie; Jackdaw; Great Tit; Pied Wagtail.

Visitor (mainly winter): Blackheaded Gull; Herring Gull.
" (summer): Swallow; House Martin.
" (resident): Heron*.

* Flying over.

GULLS

The Gulls which use the Playing Fields are normally Black-Headed, with Herring, (a few Common and also the odd Lesser Black Backed).

It was at first hypothesised that the Playing Fields were used as a roost, but an examination late one evening disproved this theory.

It appears, in fact, that the Playing Fields are used as a staging post. Most Gulls wintering in the Fylde use the estuary as a roost. During the daytime they fly inland to their feeding stations, often, it seems, resting off at K.G.S. Playing Fields on their way.

The most Gulls were seen on days when the weather was overcast, with no rain, and a promise of sun later. On days of windy weather, very few were seen (most, we think, had gone inland already, using the strong wind to carry them without a rest). Days of sun were associated with reasonably large numbers. On days of rain, very few were seen; also, when there had been a frost few were seen, possibly because the ground was too frozen for any feeding to take place just here.

The Gulls were occasionally seen feeding, but surprisingly infrequently. On two occasions, feeding gulls seemed to conglomerate on the shorter turf of the cricket square.

The other point: numbers were higher in late Autumn (peak just before beginning of November, of about 100 Gulls), and numbers fell off slightly in the winter.

Other visitors were mainly residents using the Playing Fields as a feeding ground — e.g. (blackbirds), and one or two passing through occasionally, perhaps to other feeding grounds — e.g. (Collared Dove).

I.P. Hall, 5X

HOUSE REPORTS

Ashton

Housemaster: Mr. H. B. Wilson

Assistant Housemasters: Mr. G. Cheesbrough, Mr. D. R. Worth, Mr. G. T. Brown,
Mr. R. J. Browning.

House Captain: D. C. Stevens

House Vice-Captain: P. T. Kennedy

House Prefects: T. S. K. Aitchison, D. R. Bootle, P. Buckley, A. K. Jenkinson,
N. R. Vaughan, J. R. Warburton.

I should like to take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. R. J. Browning to Ashton as Assistant Housemaster, and hope his stay will be a happy one. In the report of the last magazine, Ashton had not won a cup up to that point and unfortunately the trend continued to the end of the year, although it must be said we were the victims of two cruel decisions in Athletics and Tennis which pushed us into second place, but we tried hard in these and other competitions.

My thanks go to T. S. K. Aitchison for leading the House last year and making the change-over a smooth one. It is good to see him back again this year still looking for those elusive 'A' levels, his advice has been invaluable throughout the year.

Under new management we were confident of restoring the former glory to Ashton but our optimism took a blow when knocked out of the Debating in the first round during an unusually quiet winter term. However, the Chess team with old hands Kennedy, Bootle and Warburton restored some pride by winning a couple of matches and putting us in contention for the prize.

So into 1974 and Ashton were still looking for the first cup in 18 months. After many House practices our Junior Rugby XV took on Kirkham but the luck was not on our side, for despite excellent performances from Berry and Wilson we went down 10 - 8.

Cross-country is definitely not our strongest sport, for in the Juniors we were last, Seniors 5th, and the Intermediate result is not yet known but hopes are not high!

Suddenly we tasted success in the House Music trophy, won handsomely in the face of stern opposition. My thanks go to the Bagshaws, Fisher and Wells who gave up so much of their time to coach the choir and instrumentalists into winning form, and for fine individual performances. Inside a week we had our second trophy in the Senior Rugby which was won after a dour struggle against Fylde. Aitchison of course was outstanding, and was well supported by Jenkinson and Collins but our success was really due to a splendid team effort.

We were looking forward to the Gym competition, as it was thought we were in with a real chance of lifting this trophy too, but sadly we managed only second place with Whiteside, Morgan and Gardner our outstanding competitors.

With so much talent in the House this year we are eagerly looking towards next term and with the Athletics, Cricket, Shooting and Swimming Competitions we should be challenging for the top positions in all these events.

Finally I should like to thank everyone in the House, masters and boys, for their support throughout the year and to wish all who are leaving and those staying the best of luck in all their endeavours.

D.C.S.



House Rugger Final. Ashton v. Fylde

Fylde

Housemaster: Mr. D. H. Butterworth.

Assistant Housemasters: Mr. B. Gornall, Mr. T. Capper, Dr. B. Summers,
Mr. I. Mellor.

House Captain: D. B. Holland

House Prefects: P. Brown, L. Gent, A. Price, C. Webb, D. Lambert.

Firstly I would like to welcome Messrs. Capper and Mellor to the House; at the same time wishing Mr. Watkins every success in his new career.

Last year we were rather poorly placed in the summer competitions, although the year as a whole was quite a good one. We won two trophies due to the efforts of our previous House captain, C. R. R. Hughes.

This year's school play, "Murder in the Cathedral", saw two members of Fylde House taking their places among the stars of the cast, and indeed giving polished performances. I congratulate Alun Price, as the Messenger and Chris Webb, as a Priest.

We were fourth in the Music competition this year, yet nevertheless thanks must go to those who took part, and played magnificently.

In the Junior rugby competition our team went down to Lytham House, 24 — 28. However, Leyland and Kirkham both had exceptional games, and we are proud of them.

The Debating Cup was our next target, and our hopes rose when Neil Morgan and myself were successful in outclassing Ashton House with the motion, "This House believes that routine is the grave of the soul". However, in the semi-final of the competition we were defeated by a strong and eloquent School House pair — who must surely now be the favourites to win the cup.

In the Spring Term, we won the Senior cross-country competition — which is a fine achievement. Also, we came 2nd in the Juniors, and 3rd in the new Intermediate class — both creditable results.

We reached the final of the Senior Rugby Competition again this year but in an entertaining game, the House was narrowly defeated 19—18 by a strong Ashton side.

In the Gym competition, we were placed 4th. However, all members of the team performed to their best ability, and they should be applauded for their efforts.

Now is the time to look forward to the Athletics, Swimming and Cricket competitions. In particular the Swimming Cup is a good prospect, since we possess many competent swimmers this year. Finally, I must thank all the members of the House who have put in hard work and practise for the House competitions. It is due to the efforts of you all that Fylde House is yearly becoming a stronger contender in all the inter-House events.

D.B.H.

Kirkham

House Master: Mr. A.R. Baines.

Assistant House Masters: Mr. H.H. Wood; Mr. J.A. Sutcliffe,
Mr. S.J. Hurd; Mr. D. Wallis.

House Captain: D.W. Jenkins.

House Vice-Captain: D. A. Ireland.

House Prefects: S.G. Hitchen; S.R. Carter; P.G. Dickinson;
L. Gardener; I.A. Scott.

Our victories in both cricket competitions were by no means unexpected. These shields have become Kirkham House property over the years, and this season six of our Senior XI played for the school first XI, and a similar proportion of the members of our Junior side spent their Saturdays playing for the Under 14's. However, the victories would not have been possible without the dedicated practice of those people who do not regularly play the game — two catches by Sanderson and Drew in the final for the Juniors particularly spring to mind. A. Swift, a second year, scored the bulk of the runs, and Timms, the captain, and Ross took most of the wickets. For the Seniors, S. Berry was magnificent with both bat and ball. M. Hird opened the bowling with Berry as R. Fisher was unable to bowl all season, due to a groin strain, or something of that nature.

Soon after this we won the Gym and Debating cups, which came as no surprise. The Gym competition was won by over fifty points and as there was no split this year between the juniors and seniors Sanderson and Drew did well to finish 14th and 18th respectively. Hird, the captain, won the overall competition, Berry was second and D. Fisher was seventh.

In addition, during this very busy term, we came second in three competitions — the Chess tournament, the Swimming and the Shooting. The chess team had lost only one match all year, and that was to the eventual winners, Fylde House, and so deserved their high position. In the shooting there was the customary result of 1st., School, 2nd., Kirkham and there were the same placings in the Swimming Competition. It was a shame that Brookes of the second year, who is attaining great heights in the swimming world, was not available to swim for us, but more than creditable performances came from Hird, Berry, Newton and Sanderson. In the Athletics we far exceeded our expectations by finishing fifth. Gardner and Dickinson D. deserve praise for their jumping — both horizontally and vertically respectively.

That just left the Work Cup to be decided, and at the end of the term we had to hand over the trophy to Lytham House, where Norm Allan's intelligence obviously played a part in their victory. We were in fourth position.

At the end of the Summer Term Mr. Reay said farewell to Kirkham House after nineteen years as Housemaster. We wish him good luck for the future.

A month after the start of the Spring Term, we had won our first cup, through the Juniors winning their Rugby competition beating Ashton House in the semi-final by 10 points to 8 and beating Lytham House in the final 12-8. Our juniors deserved their success merely because of the amount of hard work they had put into the practices. It would be unfair to single out any particular players, for all nineteen boys who represented the House in the three matches played their part, but the scorers throughout the competition were Wright, Drew, Banks (the Captain), Eccles, Swift A. and Benson. I still cannot understand why T.E.H.C. doesn't pick Benson as scrum-half for the School Under 14's XV, preferring instead some School House chappie — smacks of corruption that!

During this term we defended two of the trophies that we won in the above-mentioned Summer Term of '73; the Gym and the Debating, and lost them both. In the Gym competition there were creditable performances by Fisher, Sanderson, Drew and Brookes.

After many postponements the Senior Rugby XV played against School House, and lost 0-27. However, the match was not as one sided as it is made out by the score. There were creditable performances by D. Fisher, G. Bell, G. Harris and J. Kirkham and next season's hopes are high.

Finally in our traditionally weakest event, Cross-country, we finished 6th in the Seniors and 5th in the Juniors. Eccles, Banks and Thompson ran well in the Juniors and J. Kirkham finished third in the Senior event. The Intermediate race has to be re-run after certain irregularities were discovered. In the original race we finish second, G. Harris, C. Shaw and M. Palmer all being in the first seven home.

Once again I am able to conclude by saying that we look forward to a number of successes in the coming Summer Term.

D.W.J.

Lytham

House Master: Mr. B.F. Taylor.

Assistant House Masters: Mr. W.J. Webster; Mr. J. Bradbury; Mr. A. Bowman.

House Captain: N.G. Allan.

House Vice-Captain: S.P. Heath.

House Prefects: A.C. Balmer; A.J. Bedford; J.D. Clifton; R. Cole; J. Hodson; R.S. Smith; P.M. Wilmot.

During the summer term of '73 the House gained its first trophy of the year, the Work Cup. While in chess, the House managed to come 2nd., equal with Ashton, Preston and Kirkham. The competition having been made slightly easier by the fact that School only managed to play one match all year. In the first round of the Tennis competition we were eliminated by School House in a very exciting and close match.

In the Athletics competition we were a little unfortunate to be placed 6th overall despite good performances by Wilson, Heath and Bamber. While in the Junior Cricket the team fought hard to beat Preston and School Houses, only to lose by 7 wickets in the final against Kirkham. Wilmot and Wayland deserve a mention for playing well throughout the competition.

Unfortunately in the Senior competition the House didn't do quite so well, in the first round. In the allotted 24 overs Preston managed to score 85 runs for the loss of 6 wickets, despite the efforts of Grundy, Wilmot and myself. With two first teamers opening the batting we were confident of at least a few runs, but unfortunately it wasn't to be. Grundy and myself were out within a few overs for a grand total of one run between us.

In the first round of the debating competition, we opposed the motion, 'Fame Is Incompatible With Happiness' and were defeated by Preston House. This wouldn't have been too bad if they had had both speakers there, but their 2nd speaker didn't turn up and Hart had to do an impromptu speech.

In the Cross-country competition with three races for Junior, Intermediate and Senior the House did reasonably well in two of them. The Juniors came third with a score of 99 points, having five runners in the first 17. Congratulations must go to Clifton, Taylor and Cole who came 8th., 12th., and 13th., respectively. In the Seniors we again came third and my thanks must go to J. Clifton, Wilson and Balmer who came 8th., 9th., and 11th., respectively, and also to everyone who ran, as 6½ miles is no Sunday Afternoon stroll. The Intermediate race is to be run again, but our team had better improve or we will again be last.

In the Senior Rugby we were narrowly defeated by an excellent Fylde team, 15-4. On paper they had a far superior side with thirteen of their team in either the school 1st., or 2nd., XV. But things didn't go all their way, and but for two interception tries by T. Woodward, the county winger, we could have very easily pulled off a shock victory. I would like to thank the team for their efforts and in particular, Heath, Smith, Clifton, Cotgreave and Hodson. The Junior Rugby team had more success beating Fylde and School Houses before going down 12-8 to Kirkham in the final. Although we lost, I was very pleased with the performance of the team and especially with Wayland, Wilmot, Abraham, Blaikie and Redman, not only for their obvious ability but also for their help in organising the team.

There were a number of pleasing aspects brought out in this competition. One of which was the number of 1st year boys who not only filled in, but who made a position their own, — a fact that must show well for a good junior team in the future.

In the House Gymnastics Competition our position of 5th doesn't show how well we did under some very difficult circumstances. Due to injury and illness three out of five of the team came in at the last minute and did very well indeed. But unfortunately there are six in a team and if we had had our sixth member we could easily have come in the first three. But a certain individual with two minutes to go decided he did not want to enter, and disappeared from the competition.

In the Music competition we were placed 4th with Fylde. I would like to thank A.J. Bedford and Gray for all the work they put in, in preparation as well as on the day.

Finally I would like to thank all the House Prefects for their co-operation, and to wish the House all the best for the years to come.

N.G.A.

Preston

House Master Mr. T. Jackman

Assistant House Masters Mr. J. Catterall; Mr. R. M. Clarkson; Mr. I. Beckett

House Captain N. L. Hart

House Prefects N. R. Scott; S. I. Thomson; W. M. Bramwell

First of all I would like to welcome all new members to the House including Mr. Beckett whom I trust will have a long and enjoyable stay with us.

Since last year's magazine, the House has won the athletics and Junior cross-country cups and performed well in many inter-house events. During the summer term of 1973 the following activities took place; the junior and senior Cricket competitions, the Athletics cup, Swimming, Shooting and Tennis.

In the first round of the junior cricket the House faced a good Lytham side who scored 34 for 8 wickets in an allotted 18 overs. However the juniors playing very apprehensively failed to match this score, only reaching 30 all out, the top scorers being Haynes and Barton who managed 14 runs between them. I hope the juniors will be able to improve on their performance this year. In the senior cricket we reached the final, beating Lytham and Ashton house comfortably on route, to face Kirkham House who proved much stiffer opposition. They batted first and scored 110 for 6 before suspending their innings. By this time the team had lost all its confidence and unfortunately we all fell for only 28 runs. Kitchen was the top scorer making 6, and I think he did that in one stroke!

Once again we retained the Athletics cup, for the fourth year in succession, and I see no reason why this year we should not make it five on the trot. With 26 places in the 36 events we were quite unbeatable, a special mention should go to Duckworth, however, who gained four individual first placings in the 100 m, 200 m, triple jump and long jump — not bad!

As in the senior cricket the House tennis team met Kirkham House in the final and once again we lost to them. Fielding and Scott played creditably,

though, and with the same team returning this year I'm hoping that we will be successful. As for the shooting and swimming competitions, I've not much to say, except that we finished last in both, so all being well we can't do any worse this year — can we?

The first event of the new school year was the junior rugby. A young and outsized team put up a determined performance against Kirkham but unfortunately found them too much and lost by 35 pts — 0. Next it was the turn of the seniors and this time we were drawn against Fylde whose side contained several first and second team members — it seemed an impossible task. However, we all surprised ourselves by coming close to beating them and in the end were unlucky to lose 18 pts — 14.

The main House events of the Spring Term were the Music competition, the Debating, Cross-country and Gymnastics. In the music we finished third. Our performance was considerably better than last year's, thanks mainly to Fielding, who obviously has considerable musical talents. He not only performed excellently himself but also had the House competently drilled.

The junior cross-country team ran very well against good opposition and proved supreme to regain the cup from School House. Special congratulations should go to Williams D. G. on being the individual race winner and to his younger brother who is only a first year and did very well to finish 7th. The senior team, however, could not quite match the juniors and although running well finished second to Fylde House.

The debating pair of Scott and Roberts have performed wonders, beating Lytham and Kirkham Houses, to reach the final of the competition where they will face School. I wish them well, against such formidable opposition!

The final House event to report on is the Gymnastics. Here, for the fourth year in succession — maybe more, we managed to maintain 6th position. Surely we have some gymnasts who can raise the House from the depths of despair in this competition.

Finally I would like to thank the House masters, prefects and all the boys for their help and co-operation during the year and hope the House will maintain its high standard in future years.

N.H.

School

Housemaster: Mr. F.W. Sayer.

Assistant Housemasters: Mr. S.C. Crook; Mr. R.J. Watson.

House Captain: S.P. Rich.

House Vice-Captain: P.R. Atkinson.

House Prefects: J.M. Nodder; G.S. Harris; C. Strong; M.B. Williams.

In the summer term we gunned down all opponents to win the shooting cup, we foiled our rivals to gain the fencing cup and out-swam all opposition to claim both swimming cups. At the Summer Fête we showed our skills in eating ice-buns whole and jumping in dustbins of water and consequently won the annual "It's a Knockout" cup.

Last year saw us in the final of the Debating Competition, which resulted in a narrow and questionable victory for Kirkham House. 1974, however, finds us once more in the final with a strong chance of winning.

We finished 1973 having won 10 cups and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all members of the House who took part in these activities.

This year we met Kirkham House in the first round of the Senior House rugby. Although the team was considerably weakened, due to the absence of four regular school team members, Chris Strong, Willie Ward, John Pilkington and myself, we managed to defeat a very spirited Kirkham side by 27-0. It was generally agreed that Tim Downs was "Man of the Match". In the semi-final we met the eventual winners of the cup, Ashton House and once again with a weakened side played very courageously. Thanks to all the team especially Pete Atkinson, Mark Nodder, Kevin Pierce, Tim Downs and Woody.

Having only 13 juniors was a disadvantage when it came to selecting a Junior side, but we did manage and unfortunately lost to Lytham House after a very close fought battle. Thanks to all the team and the captain, John Calland.

Representation in all School rugby teams has been excellent with over half the House playing regularly, which in itself is a very creditable achievement.

This year we experienced, for the first time, a new cross-country competition; the House having to field three teams. The team selected from the sixth form was not full strength but everyone ran well and we came 4th. The Intermediates ran very well and consequently we won the cup. Outstanding performances came from Ian Nelson (3rd), Bruce Duckworth (6th), and Willie Ward (8th). The Juniors, who had what was regarded as the favourite team, came a rather disappointing 4th but this is not a true reflection of their ability and better results are hoped for in the future. Philip Nicholson ran a very good race, his final placing being 6th, which for a second year is exceptionally good.

The Gym Cup was the next sporting event of the year and we won this convincingly. Thanks to Robert Wood for organisation and organizing the practices and also congratulations to him on coming 1st in the Senior event.

After having won the music cup for the last two years we were hoping for a hat-trick. Unfortunately we were last. However, I do not feel that this is a true reflection of the talent we have in the House.

On the two nights of the concert we were represented by the House Choir ($\frac{3}{4}$ of the House) and three ushers.

The Easter fair this year was once again a success and I'd like to thank all the House for the part they played in erecting the stalls, running them and clearing away all the debris after.

Once again the House contributed two thirds of the cast for the School Play "Murder in the Cathedral", including Mark Nodder who played the leading role as "Becket".

In concluding I would like to thank all the House officials for the help they have given me throughout the year, and to the whole House for their 100% effort at all times.

S.P.R.

*'For when the one Great Scorer
Comes to write against your name
He writes not that you won or lost
But how you played the game.'*

SOCIETY REPORTS

Auto Society

Chairman: Mr. D. H. Butterworth
Secretary: N. R. Vaughan
Treasurer: M. K. Bowser
Committee: A. C. Balmer, R. A. Barnes, D. C. Boys, M. Davies
L. Gardner, M. A. Green, S. Green, G. R. Massam.

Apart from the lack of films during the postal dispute over Christmas, our year has been trouble free. We have had a wide variety of films the most successful one being about a disco-manager turned scramble rider. Anyone who saw this film will fill in the "market" details. Stickers were an added attraction this year, supplied by courtesy of Castrol and International G.B.

My good wishes go to my successor and my gratitude to Mr. W. J. Webster for letting us in to his private world. Last but not least my thanks go to my hard working committee. I wish them luck at university.

N. R. V.

Badminton Society

Chairman: Mr. J. A. Sutcliffe
Captain: P. T. Kennedy
Secretary: D. R. Bootle
Treasurer: J. R. Warburton
Committee: M. K. Bowser, D. C. Boys, M. A. Green, J. M. Nodder.

P. 16, W. 8, L. 8, F. 78, A. 75.

This season has been quite successful with the school team managing to win as many games as it lost. Several good victories were achieved, but unfortunately the long-awaited tussle between the school team and the Masters ended in a walk-over for the school by 9 matches to nil.

Our comparative success this season has been due to renewed interest in the club from the senior school and better co-ordination in school matches. Our thanks go to Mr. Sutcliffe, Mr. Hurd and N. R. Vaughan for helping with transport and to P. Wilmot for stepping into the team on several occasions.

D. R. B.

Bridge Club

Chairman: Mr. W. J. Webster
Secretary: S. J. Thompson
Treasurer: J. R. Warburton
Committee: D. A. Ireland, D. Lambert, N. R. Scott, A. K. Jenkinson,
G. A. Howarth.

This year has been one of mixed fortunes for the club. A set of duplicate boards was acquired, so that home matches may be played against other schools.

Two matches have been played against Arnold School (after one abortive attempt, at which the Arnold team forgot to turn up) both of which were unfortunately losses. Two matches have been played against Hutton Grammar, the first one being won by Kirkham (away at Hutton, but the second, a home match, was lost. The last match that the school team played was against Burnley Grammar School, at home, which was an absolute disaster!

The most important event in the Bridge Club calendar was the entry of a team in the National Schools' Bridge Competition at Ashton-Under-Lyne Bridge Club. A combination of good opposition (especially from Manchester Grammar School) and bad play led to the team being placed ninth out of ten in the top room.

It is to be hoped that the nucleus of lower sixth players will be able to form a successful team for next year (under the able coaching of Mr. Webster).

S. J. T.

Chess Club

Chairman: Mr. J. Bradbury

Secretary: D. A. Price

Committee: M. J. Watkinson, P. T. Kennedy, D. Bootle, I. P. Hall, T. Watkinson.

This school year has been very eventful, if not fruitful. The team has played 14 league games so far, and has only won two. The club still has four games left to play and is hoping to improve on this record. Although the results are not promising, the team members have played generally well and in some matches the whole result depended on one board, which was lost in adjudication. There is strength in depth, and next year's team should be at least as good as this year's if not better. The younger players who should be thanked for their good support and improving play are T. Watkinson and I. Hall, who have played on high boards with a good record. Apart from the 'Old Faithfuls' who will be leaving this year, J. Kirkham and M. Watkinson must be mentioned, as they will form the basis of next year's team, and hopefully a winning one.

D. A. P.

Fell-Walking Society

Chairman: Dr. B. Summers

Secretary: R. W. Cole

Treasurer: J. W. Warburton

Committee: P. Wilmot, D. Bootle, S. Thompson, C. C. Webb.

Our first walk started with the rain coming down like stair rods onto the slopes of Parlick Pike. However, once we gained the summit of Fair Snape the mist cleared, the sun came out and waterproofs were discarded, allowing for a very pleasant walk down Langden Beck to the road, where the day ended with a refreshing ice cream — something nobody would have thought of when we started out.

Our next expedition was to the newly opened Clougha access area, a thing impossible but for the magnificent efforts of the Ramblers' Association. A beautiful day gave good views over the valleys of the Wyre and Lune, through the profusion of heather and bilberry plus the occasional peat hagg made the walking difficult.

An unusual sight was a large gullery near the Backside of Tarnbrook Fell, and even non birdwatchers found this interesting. Anyone interested in this area please note that though Clougha is an access area, walkers must keep to the parish boundary (marked by posts with yellow tops) over Grit Fell and Wardstones – and please, don't be put off by mention of peat hags, they are only very occasional and nothing like the monstrosities on Kinder.

Our first Lake District trip was to the Yoke – Froswick ridge following the Roman Road of High Street. A fine, warm day was marred slightly by the presence of mist on the tops, although this did blow across the walk all day, providing us with some fine, if fleeting, views of Kentmere and Troutbeck.

Next came the Fairfield Horseshoe, a magnificent day for viewing, from Grasmoor in the west to Ingleborough in the east, and all had a coating of snow, making the fells stand out in all their winter glory. However, low temperatures and gusty winds on the tops gave some indication of what very bad conditions could be like, and I hope encouraged everybody to take that extra jumper on the next walk. The day out to Ingleborough started well, but as we neared the top we encountered hard packed snow and strong (some said 70 mph) winds. A quick dash across the summit plateau gave us the sanctuary at the cross wall shelter, and while this was appreciated, the grit we got in our sandwiches from the shelter was not. A slight error led us to take the Horton track off the summit, but once we got below the mist it was an easy walk to Gaping Ghyll and Clapham.

Finally, we went to Langdale. Mist on Bowfell, and absence of mist on the Stickles led us to change our original route at the top of Rosset Ghyll and we traversed below Black Craggs where we ate lunch. Here we decided to split into two groups, one going down Stake Pass, and the other over the Stickles. Of course, the mist was down when we arrived, but we did get a good view down the scree run of Pike O'Stickle, and sighted a pair of Peregrine Falcons above Stickle Tarn.

We hope to increase our membership now that summer is here, and if possible to do walks in areas previously prohibitive because of cost.

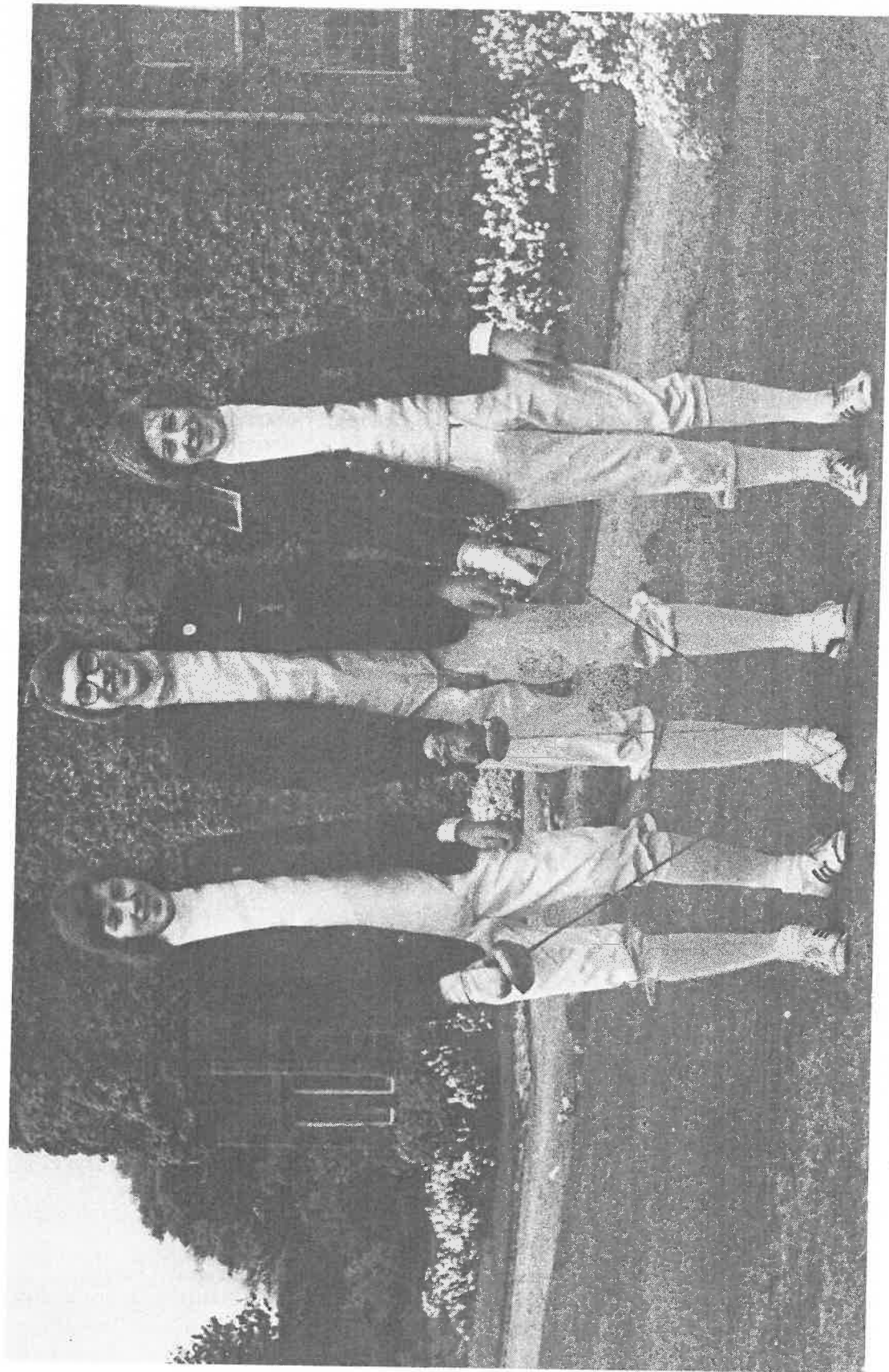
C. C. W.

Fencing Club

President: Mr. F. W. Sayer
Captain: R. A. Barnes
Secretary: F. R. Haddleton
Treasurer: A. Ellis

This year's fencing has been characterised by a lack of matches with local schools, consequently, we have had to move further afield, frequently travelling to Liverpool and Manchester to participate in events. Matches that were arranged ended in three victories for our Senior Team (who remained undefeated by any school side) and a defeat for our Novice Team.

The Tournaments we have entered, although not always successful, have provided us with a great deal of valuable experience. The Ashton (Manchester!) U.20's in November saw Barnes and Ellis reach the quarter-finals, with Ellis only just being defeated by England International, Rob Bruniges.



A. Ellis (Epee); F. R. Haddleton (Foil); H. L. Morgan (Sabre); National Finalists 1974

During the same term the club entered the Cheshire Schools Foil Tournament where Haddleton won the Senior Event and Barnes was placed in fifth position. The Lancashire Schools Foil Tournament was held two weeks later and in this event, Morgan won the Intermediates, Haddleton was placed third in the Seniors and Barnes was placed fifth also in the Seniors. Two Novices, Nicholson and MacKenna were placed second and fifth respectively in the Junior Event, fine performances from inexperienced fencers.

The Winter Term was dominated, however, by a 20 hour sponsored "fence-in", designed to try and raise enough money to buy a new electric apparatus, the original equipment having been returned to Stonyhurst College after a four year "loan"! Through the efforts of about twenty valiant swordsmen enough cash was raised to pay for our needs.

Three of our pupils qualified for the National Finals in three weapons — a distinction for any School club.

Morgan, qualified for the Sabre, Ellis for the Epee and Haddleton for the Foil. Although none of them reached the final pools, the events, held at Winchester College and Millfield School, were enjoyed by all and provided experience of fencing at top school level. We are very grateful to the G.S.C. for money enabling us to attend these events and to Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy for proving a refuge for weary fencers in Taunton and a mascot wearing red "wellies"!

Our grateful thanks must, of course, go to Mr. Sayer for providing funds and giving up his time to train us and acting as an "excellent" driver by chauffeuring all over England, although his temper has become frayed on more than one occasion because of "suspect navigation"!

F. R. H.

Film Society

Chairman: Mr. W. J. Webster, (Mr. R. M. Clarkson)
Secretary: A. Jones
Treasurer: C. S. Roshon
Committee: P. Bagshaw, I. V. Gascoigne, M. Berkly, A. Best

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those concerned in getting this new venture off the ground. It has been highly successful so far; two films having already been shown. We have another two planned for this summer term, with a further four for the winter term.

Special thanks are due to certain members of staff, noticeably Mr. W. J. Webster and Mr. R. M. Clarkson, without whose invaluable help, advice and co-operation this society would hardly have thrived.

A. J.

Music Society

Chairman: Mr. J. Catterall
Secretary: A. J. Bedford
Treasurer: S. J. Wells
Committee: P. R. Bagshaw; A. N. Gray, I. C. Kirkham, A. N. Kirkham, I. C. Gibson.

The year started well for the Music Society, with the Trebles winning their section in the Blackpool Music Festival for the second year in succession.

The Carol Service at the end of the term went extremely well, and our thanks must go to Mr. J. Murray for stepping in at the last moment to play the organ, whilst Mr. J. Catterall conducted.

The Spring term was once again the busiest term for the Music Society with the Music Festival, 2 Easter Concerts and the School Play.

The Madrigal group sang in the School Play, "Murder in the Cathedral", which was performed in Kirkham Parish Church. They sang the plainsong necessary for a complete production of the play.

The Music Festival came next, and our thanks must go to Mr. Salter from the Department of Educational Research at Lancaster University for giving up his time to come and adjudicate, and for his helpful criticisms and remarks.

The final marks out of 75 were:— Ashton: 62, Kirkham: 48, Preston: 47, Lytham: 46, Fylde: 46, School: 41.

The Easter Concerts were an even greater success than ever. In the first half many of the items from the Music Festival were performed, including a very professional version of "The Last Thing on My Mind", by the melodic voices of the School House choir. In the second half of the evening the Treble Choir sang a cantata, "Captain Noah and his floating zoo"; the Madrigal group sang some well known madrigals; the Wrea Folk, a folk group consisting of P. Brown and S. Carter, both 6th formers at the school and Joan Berry a 'friend' from Queen Mary's, St. Annes; and the School Choir who sang "Mass" in G by Schubert. Our thanks must go to Mr. Parker, Mr. Exton, Mr. Wolstenholme and the two young ladies who augmented a reduced School orchestra to play for the Mass, our thanks must go to Mr. Webster who played the piano so ably and to Mr. Wood who introduced the items, with a finesse all of his own.

To show our appreciation of the work Mr. J. Catterall put into the concerts, a presentation was made to him by P. H. Brown on behalf of the choir and orchestra.

All our thanks must go to Mr. J. Catterall for his continued efforts and successes throughout the year, and we wish him the best of luck with next year's programme.

A. J. B.

Natural History Society

Chairman: Mr. A. R. Baines
Secretary: D. C. Boys
Treasurer: A. J. Bedford
Committee: C. D. Bedford, W. A. Bedford, R. L. Bleasdale, A. N. Gray, I. P. Hall, D. Jackman.

At the A.G.M. in 1973 there was much support for the Society to be used for the benefit of its members rather than for the rest of the school. After 6 years as Chairman I, however, felt that we had an obligation to the less committed, and these have been catered for this year by showing such films as: "On Safari", "Lake Wilderness" and "The Changing Forest". An average of 36 attended. Disappointingly small audiences (average 8) have attended talks based on hobbies e.g. "Come fishing" W. A. Bedford, "Bantam keeping" M. C. Ovens. In March Mr. S. Hurd gave an illustrated talk on first hand experiences in

the "Wild Life Parks of Uganda". Only 30 people submitted answers to the Christmas Quiz on the theme "Biological Howlers" and the prizes went to P. J. Partridge (5y), J. P. Kelly (5z), A. Best (L6M). For the Easter Fair we provided an exhibition on the theme "Biological Models".

Complimentary to the above programme, and due largely to the vision and enthusiasm of I. P. Hall (5Z), there have been talks in such subjects as "An Introduction to the N.H.S." by the Secretary, D. C. Boys; "Your School Grounds" A. R. B. and I. P. H.; "The Hedgerows" I. P. H. As a result of these meetings several members have expressed interest in taking on projects such as "Moles" I. W. Marshall and A. R. B.; "Migrant Geese" D. Jackman; 'Lichen Growths' R. L. Shaw and M. C. Ovens. Other suggested titles are still posted on our notice board near R.17.

During the Easter Holidays we organised a day trip to the Nature Trails at Brock Bottoms and Beacon Fell and this was well supported and enjoyed by some twenty boys and Staff.

All these students would no doubt welcome every assistance with their projects. Here is your opportunity to make use of your time and talents (or develop new ones?) on behalf of this society, linked as it is to the Science Departments and indeed to the School itself to which I also belong. From such small beginnings mighty Old Boys grow. Joe E. Blossom (1952-59), a contemporary of A. R. B. and who left to qualify as Art Master, Illustrator and photographer is now Education Officer to the Slimbridge Wild Fowl Trust whose director is Peter Scott. At school his speciality was looking after the fresh water aquaria. If the gap still seems enormous may we end by reporting that senior students, in their own time and at their own expense, have visited Preston Post Graduate Medical Centre to hear the Christmas 1973 lecture for young people on "Organ Transplantation", Salford University to hear about "Recent advances in Cell Membrane Structure", Lancaster "Biology as a Career" and Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology for one day conference on "Science - its contribution to Modern Medicine".

A. R. B.

Photographic Society

Chairman: Mr. G. T. Brown

Secretary: J. R. Warburton

Treasurer: M. K. Bowser

Committee: J. H. Bagley, A. Torkington, N. Fisher, I. Fisher, P. Wilmot.

The earlier activities of the school year were somewhat limited due to the very little enthusiasm shown by the members of the school, juniors in particular. Recent months however have brought a sudden and large influx of new members. It has not been uncommon during the dinner hour for the darkroom to contain twelve people at one time, fifteen have even been recorded.

The Easter fair darkroom exhibition, film and slide show could only be said to have been a disaster and very few people seemed remotely interested in the Society.

One new event this year was the printing of photographs for the school play, and judging by the interest shown by people at the Easter Fair, these proved extremely popular.

J. R. W.

Scientific Society

Chairman: Dr. B. M. Summers
Secretary: S. J. Thompson
Treasurer: D. A. Ireland
Committee: N. R. Scott, D. C. Stevens, A. K. Jenkinson, L. Gardner,
G. A. Howarth, D. Lambert.

This has been a very successful year for the Scientific Society. We have shown a number of films on wide-ranging subjects, for example; distilling, conservation, radiation, brewing and the laws of thermodynamics.

Last term a visit was arranged to the laboratories of B.N.F.L. (British Nuclear Fuels Limited) at Springfields. The laboratory experiments and the discussion afterwards were interesting and rewarding, and everyone who went found it very useful.

The Scientific Society exhibition at the Easter Fair made a total of £22 (together with the Natural History Society) and an extra £2. A lot of effort was put in, both before the day, and on the Saturday morning, and thanks are due to everyone who helped.

Another visit which has been very over-subscribed, is the one arranged for the Wednesday before Easter to the Whitbread brewery at Samlesbury. A coach has been arranged to take the party to and from school.

In the summer term after the exams., it is hoped that a trip can perhaps be made to the Science Museum in London.

Finally, the thanks of the Society are due to N. R. Vaughan and D. C. Boys, the two projectionists who have shown our selection of films, and to our Chairman for his support and help in the past year.

S. J. T.

Sixth Form Society

Chairman: Mr. A. R. Baines
Secretary: J. M. Nodder
Treasurer: N. R. Scott
Committee: Mr. T. E. H. Capper, N. G. Allan, P. H. Brown, M. G. Berkley,
R. M. Wood.

This society became a member of the General School Committee in the Winter Term of 1973. Our termly grant has enabled us to bring in lecturers and films on such subjects as Epilepsy, Abortion, Motorway Construction, Indian Refugees and Rheumatism. This is a wide variety of topics, and each one proved interesting in its own way.

Besides the above activities, most other events have focused on the Public Speaking Competition, and also many discussions and variations on word games such as 'Call-my-Bluff,' and 'Just-a-Minute!'

Members of staff, too, have played their part in the society's activities. We must thank Messrs. Wood and Coates, for talking to us about 'Public Speaking' and 'University Entrance' respectively.

Finally, thanks are due to our film projectionists, and the junior members of School House who have often helped out in arranging the Hall for our meetings.

J. M. N.

SCHOOL SPORTS

Rugby

	P	W	D	L	F	A
1st XV	22	17	1	4	461	203
2nd XV	19	14	0	5	413	141
3rd XV	5	2	0	3	72	90
U16 XV	3	0	0	3	27	128

School teams are constantly changing, and the greatest problem is to weld together what will be successful as a team. I think that anyone, who has seen this season's team playing at its best, will agree that it is probably the best 1st XV the school has seen. Success has been due in part to the great individual talents of some players, to the willing 'workers' of the side, and to the fact that the nucleus of the team has been together over the past three or four seasons.

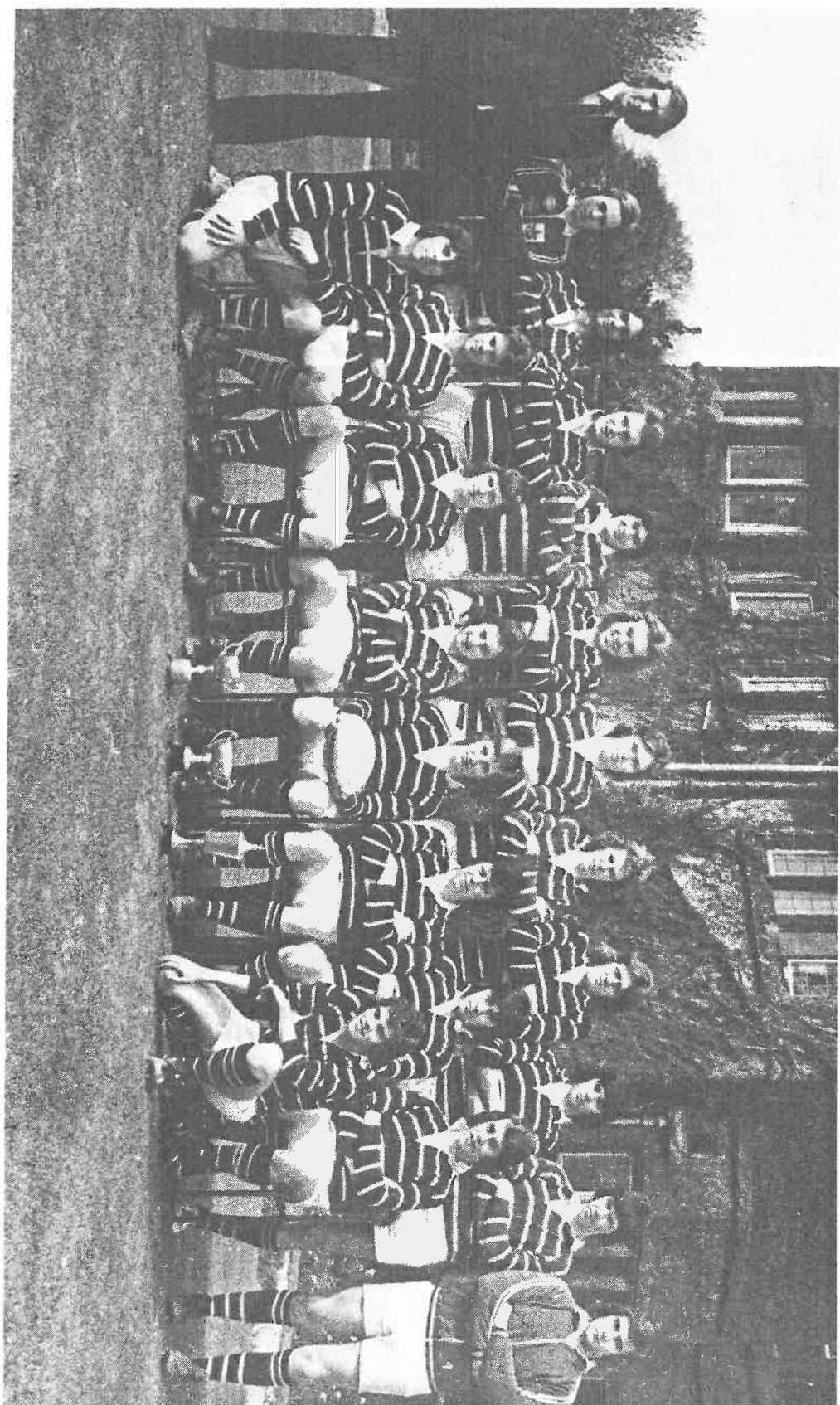
At the end of the last cricket season, Mr. Sutcliffe reported that for him it was the end of an era, and so it is for me. Such able players as Aitchison, Allan, Lambert, Hart and Morgan have seemed to be automatically selected for the side over the past four seasons, and between them they have gained more individual honours than any other players in the School before them. I think that anyone who has seen them play will have derived enormous pleasure from their talents and I would thank them sincerely for their enthusiasm and help in both past and present seasons.

It would be uncharitable to the other players in the side if one did not mention the part they played. Some such as Stevens, who has played for the North-West Counties U19 XV and Lancashire this season, Dennis (Lancashire U19), Wright and Green (both Lancs U15 players) will be returning next season, together with players of the quality of Bellamy, Pierce, Collins, Kirkham and Palmer, and around these players will be built the nucleus of the side for 1974-5 season. Others such as Smith, Heath, Jenkins and Price have played valuable parts in the team's success, and in particular my thanks go to R. Smith for leading the pack so well.

Obviously, the season was very successful and perhaps the highlights of it were wins over a very strong Whitehaven G.S. team 11 - 10; Cowley, whom we so rarely defeat; Lancaster R.G.S., one of the new fixtures, 7 - 6, and revenge in the final of the Waterloo Cup by 10 pts - 6 over Merchant Taylor's, Crosby. Even the four defeats will be remembered, usually for the high standard of the Rugby!

If results, cups, and caps are the criteria of success, then we have been very successful. D. C. Stevens played vs. Australia for N/W. Counties, he and N. Morgan also played in the final North of England trials. K. Aitchison has captained Lancashire U19 team, and we have had other representatives in Allan, Stevens, Dennis, Morgan, Lambert and Woodward - the last two gaining places some two hours before the last match of the season. It is a personal triumph for Woodward, who had not played rugby until eighteen months ago, when he came to the School.

The 2nd XV has been one of the best on record. Often the second team is a poor relation; not so this one. Ably led by Price the team has played with spirit and enthusiasm, and several players, Price, Jenkinson, Strong, Walton,



*K.G.S. 1st XV Squad 1973-74
with Manchester Univ. 7-a-side Cup; Waterloo R.F.C. Schools' Trophy; Blackpool C.G.S. 7-a-side Trophy*

Wilmot and Easy have all played well in the 1st XV. It is this enthusiasm and determination to gain 1st XV places that has helped to make the first team so strong, as everyone has had to play for his place, and perhaps this year it is true to say that the 1st team is only as good as its reserves strength.

The 3rd and U16 teams have had mixed results, and have often lost players to the senior teams, in fact the best U16 players are in 1st or 2nd XV's. The players have, however, enjoyed their games, and the 3rd XV has been well led by Blaikie, who should himself do well in the future. Next season, more emphasis will be laid on the U16 group as the county age group changes from U15 to U16. I hope that the teams continue to be well supported as they do provide the link between the Junior and Senior XV's.

Colours

Re-Award T. S. K. Aitchison (1st XV Captain)
Full-Colours N. G. Allan (1st XV V. Captain), D. C. Stevens, N. H. Morgan, N. L. Hart, D. Lambert

New-Award
Full-Colours P. H. Wright, A. A. Woodward, L. Dennis, J. Bellamy

Re-Award S. A. J. Green
½-Colours D. W. Jenkins

New-Award R. S. Smith, D. A. Price (2nd XV Captain)
½-Colours S. D. Heath, J. Kirkham, M. A. Palmer, K. W. Pierce, A. K. Jenkinson, P. Collins, R. M. Wood

U15 XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
12	6	2	4	204	156

The team has played soundly for most part of the season, usually being beaten by only the best sides.

The pack has scrummaged well and has usually gained at least 50% possession in the lines out and loose.

The threequarters have played soundly but the weakness of the side has been a lack of pace which the best sides have been able to exploit.

Rowe, Cotgreave, Stirk and Harris N. have been outstanding in the pack and Harris must have a good chance to play for Lancashire next season. Schofield and Harris G. have been the most consistent threequarters.

Harris N., Harris G. and Stirk were all chosen to represent Mid-Lancashire versus Manchester schools, all playing well with Harris N. being the outstanding player of the game.

UNDER 14 XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
11	6	0	5	197	186

After a patchy start to the season, with some poor away performances last term, the team has played consistently well and were undefeated apart from the first match of the term at Blackpool.

One or two changes have been made in position, the half-back partnership of Calland and Abraham looking particularly good, but there will have to be further changes next year to tighten up the poor defensive tackling and lack of speed in the backs, where Wilson must surely find a place.

The team has shown a splendid spirit, unless points have been scored against them, and they must tighten up the tendency to give away more points in these circumstances.

However, the team has been ably led by John Calland, who has provided a fine example of how the game should be played; and Wayland in the pack and Leyland in the backs have been outstanding.

The overall performance promises well for the future. The victories have been based on a large and strong pack, where Blaikie, Crane, Banks and Eccles have had sound performances, and on a talented set of backs — where Wilmott, Drayton and Berry have played well in attack.

Mention must be made of the selection and good performances of Wayland, Crane and Leyland in the mid-Lancashire U14 team — where Wayland scored a try.

UNDER 13 XV

P	W	L	D	F	A
12	10	2	0	300	84

The Under 13 XV have had a very successful season as can be seen from their results. This success has been due to their enthusiasm, willingness to learn and train and a large amount of talent. Crushing defeats were inflicted upon Ermostead's, Skipton (60-0), Ashton Comprehensive (72-0), and comfortable victories were recorded against K.E.S., Lytham (20-0), Manchester Grammar School (28-4), and West Bank, Skelmersdale (34-8). All the other games were fairly close and the two defeats against Balshaw's (14-18) and West Park (6-12) could easily have gone our way. The team always showed great courage and determination even when things were not going well and showed a maturity well beyond their years to come from behind in defeating Blackpool C.G.S. twice during the season (16-14; 16-10). Close victories were also recorded in a new fixture against Fulwood (8-6) and against old rivals Arnold (12-6) and St. Joseph's College (8-6).

The team's forwards have played a large part in the success and though they did not always make maximum use of their weight, their technique in line-out and rucking was improving towards the end of the season and they began to realise the need to play together. Smith and Wright were particularly prominent, while Longworth, Piggott and Parr always worked hard in the loose. Brindle and Williams used their height well in the line-outs and their speed about the field was invaluable, while Gilbert and Langrish played well when called upon to do so.

The backs always used the ball well and were not afraid to experiment with various moves which teams far higher up the school would have been proud of. Jones gave good quick service to his stand off, Lanigan, who usually got the backs moving quickly and also made some useful and penetrating breaks.

Manning, the captain, controlled things well from the centre and set an excellent example with his tackling, while Harris, the other centre used his speed and power well to set up tries for the wingers, Hartley, Hutton and Doughty, the

latter being particularly effective. Behind them, Richardson at full back could usually be relied upon to deal with any breakthroughs.

U12 XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
10	4	1	5	98	158

1973/4 was a season of mixed fortune. After opening with a draw and victory, there followed a run of three defeats in four matches. In two of these, against St. Joseph's and West Park, the team came up against two very good rugby sides and the magnitude of the defeats was not too surprising. The season ended with two victories and two defeats. This record would undoubtedly have been improved upon if the players had realised that rugby is played as a team game.

The form of the backs tended to hinge on the half-back partnership of Tasker and Taylor and if they handled the ball well, the backs, in particular the strong running Worthington, played well. Of the other backs useful performances were turned in by McNellie, Liddell and Gibson, while Little showed that he could play well when he wanted. Lowcock started the season at Full Back, before being converted to Wing Forward, and he was followed at Full Back by Swift who linked very well with the threequarters when on attack.

Feckey was the outstanding forward, and he received good support from Bentley. Dunlop propped quietly and efficiently throughout the season and Hague was noticeable for his size, though he could do to play with more aggression. The hooking was shared by Barker, Herrington and latterly Porter, who could turn out to be the best of the three.

SENIOR HOUSE RUGBY FINAL

Ashton House: 19 pts Fylde House: 18 pts

It was certain that this final would be a fine match even before it began. It was the classic confrontation, one team basing their play on the speed and skill of their three-quarters playing a side with exceptionally strong forwards. The team with the 'heavies' in this case was Fylde, while Ashton virtually fielded the entire K.G.S. 1st XV back division.

During the opening part of the game no definite pattern emerged. The Ashton House pack were just managing to hold their own, with Bootle coping very well with the ape-like Morgan, at prop. Whiteside, at No. 8, covered plenty of ground and looked very dependable. The Fylde House backs also looked useful with Ainsworth and Woodward having some penetrating runs. It was during this period when the Ashton forwards were winning some ball that their backs took the opportunity to score nine points, and although Dennis kicked a good penalty for Fylde, Ashton looked in command at half-time.

However the fun was only just beginning. The Fylde House forwards seemed to realise their potential and Fylde shot into a 12-9 lead. Price scored a fine try, taking a loose, bouncing ball on the burst after good work by Lambert. However Ashton once again fought their way back into the game, regained the lead and increased it to 19-12. During this time the best try of the game was scored by Collins, Ashton's left winger, who received the ball in his own 25 and set off on a blistering run, leaving four attempted Fylde tackles in his wake before scoring under the posts.

With only a few minutes left to the end the balance of power shifted once again to Fylde, who scored a converted try which brought them within one point of their opponents. Despite continuous frenzied attacking Fylde were not able to breach Ashton's defence again and so at no-side Ashton House had won the Senior Rugby shield by the slenderest of margins.

Temporarily at least the backs hold the ascendancy over the forwards. We shall have to wait until next year for justice to be restored.

D. W. J.

Harriers

This seasons results are:

v Hutton (A)	Won	v Lancaster (H)	Lost
v Arnold (H)	Won	v Arnold &	Won
v Heversham (A)	Won	St. Josephs (A)	
v St. Josephs &	Won	v Stonyhurst (A)	Lost
Southport (H)		v Clitheroe &	Lost
v Lancaster (A)	Lost	Hutton (A)	
		v St. Josephs (A)	Lost

The harriers have also had three other fixtures. Early in the season the team lost at home to 1st Cheshire Regiment, Weeton Camp. In March we staged a relay race and our 'A' team finished 2nd to Hutton 'A' team with the 'B' team finishing 5th out of 7 teams.

In the Inter Grammar School event at Baines G.S. the school were placed 4th behind Blackpool, Lancaster, and Rossall, out of a field of eight. Notable performances were Redgrave who finished 3rd and Bramwell 7th.

The season began well with four wins but after two defeats by a strong Lancaster side the team found difficulty in getting onto the winning track once again. We were narrowly beaten by 4 points at Stonyhurst and the last two defeats occurred with an understrength team where otherwise we may have won. However we did score convincing wins over Hutton, Arnold, Heversham, Southport and St. Josephs.

S. Redgrave has emerged as the best runner the school has had for some years. In eleven races he finished 1st on 8 occasions, 2nd twice and 3rd once. He was joined by Bramwell and Taylor, who backed him up well all season, each in 1st position on three occasions. Wilson, Clifton, Webb and Gerrard have run well throughout the season. Ainsworth came into the team for the last 4 races and ran well, and Roberts also did well when required.

Thanks must go to Mr. Clarkson whose great spirit and enthusiasm must surely have rubbed off onto the team. Although he didn't manage to get his tracksuit out this year his efforts and Mr. Bowman's, who was seen once or twice on Monday lunchtimes in running shoes and vest, are appreciated.

Full Colours have been awarded to W. Bramwell (capt.), S. Taylor, C. Webb and J. Clifton.

Half colours have been awarded to S. Redgrave, A. Wilson, A. Gerrard and S. Roberts.

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

In this year's races as expected, Preston and Fylde were the leading Houses. The results of the Senior and Junior events are as follows, with the Intermediate race, introduced this year, yet to be run.

Senior

1. Fylde
2. Preston
3. Lytham
4. School
5. Ashton
6. Kirkham

Junior

1. Preston
2. Fylde
3. Lytham
4. School
5. Kirkham
6. Ashton

The individual positions were:—

Senior

1. S. Redgrave (Fylde)
2. W. Bramwell (Preston)
3. J. Kirkham (Kirkham)

Junior

1. D. Williams (Preston)
2. S. Halliday (Fylde)
3. R. Jones (Fylde)

Inter-House Gymnastics

The competition was held at the end of the Easter term, and it had been hoped that the Houses would profit from the time available to practice the set and voluntary activities. This was partly so, and the competitors who had taken the trouble to practice did well, but the standard generally was disappointing. I would hope that in future the Houses will make more use of the time available and that those gymnasts, who this year failed to live up to their reputations, will show how good they really are next year.

HOUSE RESULTS

1st	School	247 pts
2nd	Ashton	216½ pts
3rd	Kirkham	201½ pts
4th	Fylde	190½ pts
5th	{ Preston Lytham	161½ pts

INDIVIDUAL

Senior

1st	R. Wood (School)	49 pts
2nd	A. Whiteside (Ashton)	47½ pts
3rd	S. Heath (Lytham)	46½ pts

Junior

1st	J. Calland (School)	41½ pts
2nd	I. Langrish (School)	38½ pts
3rd	M. Gardner (Ashton)	37 pts

Cricket 1973

It was generally agreed that in 1973 Kirkham Grammar School fielded their best 1st XI ever, so there was considerable disappointment among the members of that side that we ended the season with two defeats, at the hands of Preston Sixth Form College and Batley G.S. Yorkshire. By any other side, this record would be considered excellent, but it was hoped, and confidently expected, that we would have an unbeaten season.

The batsmen and the bowling attack performed well in several games, but usually separately so that few well balanced performances were achieved. There are a number of reasons for this, not the least being that the captain, R. Fisher, was unable to bowl all season due to a muscle strain incurred before the season started. Despite doubts being expressed on how he received this handicap, he maintains it was due to bowling in a practice without warming up first — a warning well worth heeding for other bowlers of all types. Another pace man, D. Holland, was troubled with a back injury most of the season. However S. Berry and L. Dennis bowled excellently and D. Loxham's special brand of 'fin spin' captured many wickets. Another cause of our performances being below the best was that, although the wickets at home were immaculate, we had to play most of our matches away from home. However this does not excuse rank bad batting in some matches — shown by the fact that only three people, Berry, Fisher and Jenkins, scored fifties, all season. These three topped the batting averages, Berry and Jenkins both scoring just under three hundred runs.

The Second XI once again were undefeated, but the opposition was usually weak. Kennedy led the side brilliantly, scoring runs and taking wickets, and was supported by some very keen, young players.

The Under 14 XI also had a good season. The pace and accuracy of the bowling of Timms (Captain) and Ross proved too much for many of their opponents and Timms, A. Swift and Rigby looked sound batsmen. Indeed Rigby scored a faultless fifty at King Edward's G.S., something previously unheard of in a junior school match.

Taking all into account cricket at K.G.S. is in a healthy state and at the time of writing (Easter '74), cricketers are confidently looking forward to the new season.

D. W. J.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND TRIPS

The School Play— 'Murder in the Cathedral'

The production of T. S. Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral' by the Dramatic Society has been one of their most ambitious ventures in the past few years. The complexity of the play was supplemented by holding the play in Kirkham Parish Church (which gave extra difficulties of production and lighting), but these points just highlighted the success of their production.

The central character of Archbishop Thomas Becket was brilliantly portrayed by Mark Nodder, who caught both the pride and the piety of the man. In contrast to him were the Tempters, who voiced the rational arguments against his actions, played by Mr. A. R. Baines, Tim Oliver, Chris Strongand (aptly!) Stephen Hitchen.

The priests, especially in their candlelit procession, showed their dramatic worth, and the chorus, representing the down-to-earth view of the common people was very professional, with exceptionally good performances from Stewart Redgrave and Simon Whan, who will both surely go on to fill leading roles in future productions.

My only criticism of the play could be its complexity. I saw the play three times, each time using a script, and each night I caught another aspect of the story. This would be a shock for audiences used to Coronation Street-type drama!

The backstage work of 'make-up' and lighting was ably done, thanks to Reg Hughes, Mrs. Sutcliffe, Messrs. Jackman and Butterworth and the lighting crew.

Thanks must also go to the Rev. W. A. P. Francis and his Staff, for the loan of the church for numerous rehearsals and for the performances themselves.

Lastly, the gratitude of all involved with the play, whether in the cast, the staff, or the audiences, must be due to the producer Mr. Sutcliffe. His high hopes for the play have been fulfilled, thanks only to his very hard work in the months preceding the presentation. He tried to do an ambitious play in an ambitious setting and succeeded wonderfully! I hope that this play has set a new standard for drama at K. G. S.

S. J. Thompson, (Pre.)



J. M. Nodder as Thomas Becket

Plant a Tree in '73- and other years!

This is the first progress report since the planting of 100 trees at K. G. S. during Easter 1973 and I hope general satisfaction will be felt when it is reported that things are going well.

45 people (19 staff, 9 students and 17 Old Boys) sponsored the planting of the trees donated by the Forestry Commission which, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, sponsored 'Plant a Tree Year'. We had 25 specimens each of Sitka Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, Western Hemlock and Silver Fir. The latter is growing well whilst the Hemlock is fairing worst. Trees 1-41 including Lodgepole Pine and Sitka Spruce were planted, alternately, parallel to the bottom fence beyond the long-jump pits, 41 nearest Score Box. 42-64 are parallel to the rugby pitch on the 'cabbage patch'; 64 nearest to tennis courts. They are alternate Silver Fir and Western Hemlock. The remainder, 30-45 cms. high on arrival, were planted in a nursery section of the School House garden - a mixture of all species. There has been no real sign of vandalism as yet but numerous canes marking the sites and 16 trees are missing. No. 57 is dead. The nursery specimens can fill these gaps.

In 1967 the Friends of K. G. S. gave money for the planting of trees along the western boundary, but earlier, in 1928, 30 trees were planted from the pavilion end of the hedge, north to south, to blot out the view of the Mill at Wesham much disliked by the Headmaster, Rev. C. Strange and so secure a truly rural setting for his beloved cricket ground. At the same time he thought some of the senior boys and possibly some Old Boys might like to perpetuate their memory by each planting (and paying for) a tree. A plan numbering the sites and naming the donors was framed and hung in the Hall for many years but no one seems to know what happened to it after a vast painting and decorating scheme during the time of Mr. Norwood. H. W. Montgomery's tree, No. 7, grew faster than the others and it was discovered he was secretly feeding it with well rotted grass clippings.

An interesting point is that the trees near the pavilion end grew much better than the others. An old man who dug the holes for planting complained bitterly about the "Ornery Stuff" in which he had to dig as he neared where is now the canteen - clay, gravel, cinders and broken bricks. The Agricultural Form investigated. Much of the Fylde is covered in glacial drift - sand alternating with clay. Before the School was built in 1911 the site was farm land. Against the bottom hedge of the field was a small claypit pond. The farmer took his carts from the road, down by the hedge to the pit to dig clay to spread on the sandy areas (the ancient practice of claying) and since clay is heavy he would have to put down cinder, gravel, broken brick etc., to prevent the carts sinking in, but as the pit was to the west of the present pavilion that corner would be unused and uncontaminated with rubble. Later when the trees were established their roots would have gone beyond the "Ornery Stuff" into good soil.

Should anyone who reads this have further information about the 1928 planting project would they kindly write to Mr. A. R. Baines at the school.

A. R. B.

'A good memory is often mistaken for intelligence.'

Geographical Field Trip to Torbay, Easter 1974

Too early one fine Sunday morning 30 odd shipmates of the good ship K. G. S. weighed anchor bound for Torquay under the expert guidance of Captain Webster; 1st. Mate Ian (Black Jake) Beckett and Rear Admiral D. Wallis. Estimated time of arrival — 5.30; time of arrival — 9.30. Captain Webster's ship did flounder on the rocks north of Keele. In somewhat rasher mood than earlier he exclaimed: "I've blown me head gasket!" But Mr. Beckett sailed on regardless, so at least some people got a hot meal, even if other beverages were markedly absent. . . . "owing to circumstances beyond our control"

The first day brought us the revelations of Kent's Cavern, Torquay, Cockington and Exeter. The inimitable Mr. Beckett broke down — well wouldn't you if your steering locked — but a certain specialist shop in the vicinity provided interesting light relief. On the second day we viewed the coast and Totnes and sampled the first of many apple pies. Day three, we had the coast walk in the company of Prof. D. Chapman, an expert on geology who was heard to say: "God, this lot are thicker than mine." The afternoon brought us Dawlish Warren, where L. Dennis, G. Yates and J. Roberts gave 2 members of Goldsmith T. T. College a rather nasty shock. Wednesday and Saturday were concerned with group work on villages and land-use respectively. On Friday we received a guided tour of Dartmoor where Mr. Beckett attempted to run over a workman. As Alex Ainsworth remarked: "I bet that's the first time a navy's ever sweated." Also, on this memorable day, John Roberts received a Derwent special apple pie full in his face.

However, some of the more hilarious events happened after the day's work. Ask Jeff Yates about his attraction to wingmirrors; Andy Best and Les Dennis about their more dubious night-time activities. Ask Doug about his ring of confidence — well, he came out flushed. One could go on forever, and why not? By the end of the week a minor menagerie had been collected. This consisted of parrots, lions and bull seals. Added to this were the activities of a rather over-conscientious member who attempted to rebuild Everest in Room 9 and a budding Fellini. Thursday gave us the chance to fly the flag of K. G. S. vs Urmston School in a football (?) match. Alas, we went down 2-0 (or was it 3) despite Mr. Beckett's and Mr. Wallis's valiant efforts. — Who's that wasp on the wind they call Beezer?

Thanks must go to several people: the Derwent Hotel for its packed lunches and jamming lifts; Messrs. Webster, Wallis and Beckett for their patience; and to the waitresses, especially Mick.

I. B. Jones/J. A. Blaikie, LVIM

Ski-ing Trip to Norway

The coach laden with 21 boys and two masters with their impedimenta left school promptly on Sunday April 7th on the first leg of our journey to Norway. We arrived early at Luton only to find the flight postponed first to 11 45 pm and then until 9 00 am on Monday. To compensate for the delay we were entertained overnight in a luxurious hotel in Luton.

Next morning more delays both at the airport and on the plane but eventually we left England and had a wonderful view as we landed in Bergen. Then came a five hour coach ride among the valleys to Vinje.

The evening was spent being fitted with boots, skis and sticks ready for our first ski-ing lesson.

We were encouraged next day by our instructor's shouts of "Well dan son but band your knees" or "Well dan Brian."

On Thursday ski-ing was too dangerous on the steep slopes of Oppheim so we made a toboggan run. We watched Dr. Summers risk his life and red woolly hat hurtling down the slope over jumps and through bushes.

Our instructor Runnie, kept us busy in the afternoon on a cross country 'hike' across the ice.

Dr. Summers persuaded the tour operator to let us try the shallower and safer slopes of Mykrdalen where we learned the rudiments for our 1st. star. The afternoon was delightfully spent ski-ing in and out of the trees.

We were entertained that evening with slides taken by the Vinje family.

Saturday was judgement day when we had to show our prowess and take our tests.

After evening entertainment by Folk Dances we were presented with awards and badges. 1st. stars including Dr. Summers and 2 second stars I. Cessford and C. Bedford.

The braver members of our party climbed to the Summer Farms on Sunday in a snow storm for a snowball fight in which both Mr. Watson and Dr. Summers were given snowbaths. The journey down was painfully slow as the skis stuck to the virgin snow.

After changing at the hotel we returned by coach to Bergen for an uneventful flight back to Luton and a cold coach journey back to Kirkham where we arrived at 8 45 am on Easter Monday.

A most enjoyable holiday. Our thanks to Dr. Summers and Mr. Watson.

C. Bedford, 5Y

Magister Utd. v Aitchison's Animals

On a pitch reminiscent of the Florida swamps, exaggerated by a near monsoon, two fine teams of footballers gave us a display of mud-wrestling for our entertainment. Nevertheless, a brave set of masters gave up the welcome warmth of their changing rooms and trotted out into the icy blizzard to do justice to a national sport.

There were moments in that match which still linger in the minds of spectators. I remember a fine save, for instance, by Dave Holland — what a pity that he wasn't the goal-keeper! Eventually, the Paul Raymond of teaching, Mr. Watson, was able to slide in a goal for his team.

This seemed to put life back into the masters, and soon Mr. Clarkson made a break. Under divine guidance, no doubt, this King of the Fancy-Footwork ran a whole ten yards, before being tackled by Bill Bramwell. Somehow Billy had managed to shake off his Teutonic shadow, Mr. Capper.

Mr. Summerlee had a good game for the masters, as referee. After Nick Hart had fouled Mr. Wallis, and nearly making him unfit for the forthcoming "Osmonds"

tour, all eyes turned to Mr. Summerlee. The track-suited referee, from his vantage-point in the centre circle, did not hesitate in awarding a penalty. Things looked black for the Animals until Captain Taylor took his penalty and put the ball somewhere in the direction of the canteen.

Just before half-time, blitz-krieg tactics were used by Mr. Capper, and Bill Bramwell limped off to be replaced later by a desperate Ted Heath.

Inevitably the pace began to tell among the older, more unfit members of staff. It came as no surprise to see Messrs. Watson, Clarkson and Capper leave the field. One of the most spectacular substitutes in the history of football then made his appearance. Our hero was dashingy clad in long brown cords, electric green polo-neck and an amazing blue balaclava designed to keep your shoulders warm as well as your head. Yes, Mr. Crook, the scourge of Room Nine, came like a brave gladiator to the aid of his depressed comrades. "Veni, vidi — non vici!"

To cut a short story even shorter (Mr. Summerlee blew a premature final whistle in face of the bad weather), the Animals were the eventual winners, with a score of 4 goals to 1. An amusing aftermath to the match was that two boys appeared at Room Five after the match, both holding a programme with the winning Lucky Number! Rather than find who the forgery expert was, the prize money was divided between the two of them. Overall, we had an entertaining game, and our applause must go to the two teams — and first prize to Mr. Crook in the Fancy Dress Section!

J. M. Nodder (Pre.)
S. J. Wells (L6M)

C.C.F. REPORT

ARMY SECTION

This year has seen the departure of Mr. Reay from the C. C. F. I would like to thank him for his splendid service, and we welcome his successor, Major Butterworth.

Last summer witnessed two good camps, one at Jurby in the Isle of Man, and one in Germany. I am informed that both weeks were huge successes — and this year we look forward to going away to Senny Bridge, in South Wales.

Field days have encompassed a variety of activities, such a fell walking, map reading, assault exercises, overnight camps and shooting. All in all, these exercises have gone according to plan, thanks often to the supervision of the cadets by N. C. O.'s and by officers.

Finally, I wish all the best to the next C. S. M., and hope the Army Section next year continues to flourish as it has done in this.

P. R. A.

R. A. F. SECTION

R. A. F. Bruggen: Germany April 1974

We were passengers by rail from Preston to Gatwick via London Euston and Victoria Station. Then passengers by British Caledonian (the stewardesses were most obliging — I can highly recommend them) from London Gatwick to

R. A. F. Wildenrath, West Germany and thence to R. A. F. Bruggen by ye olde navve busse.

The K. G. S. nine man team of freshly shorn members under an outrageously smooth international playboy called A. H. Carter (alias F. O. Brown) faced A. C. L. O. John Middleton that evening in billet-room 5. He made it quite clear that the camp would be over for anyone caught imbibing of any alcoholic beverage. If so the culprit would immediately be exported back to England on the first available plane. Needless to say spirits sank.

The A. C. L. O. further suggested that "if you'll play ball with me, I'll play ball with you", a promise he was to regret later that week when a powerful K. G. S. soccer team thrashed an A. C. L. O. team 2-1.

Happily things looked up later in the week after the initial swimming, shooting and evening exercises with a trip out off camp to a marvellous Philips science exhibition at Eindhoven in Holland and a stop for light refreshments of Aimsdel Pils on the way back. Other delights awaiting us were a Safari Park where the camels were trained to steal 50 D.M. notes out of locked wallets, a War Museum (quite interesting) plus a local football match culminating in a half-dead Kraut full-back being carted off, and another exercise in which Sgts. Kennedy and Bedford constructed a hide worthy of mention.

The week culminated in a great day in Cologne: sipping Schlossbräu, the most-promising-cadet-of-the-year, Joe Fisher, worrying if English eggs would fit German eggcups and Our Leader, 'Tufty' Bedford buying himself a new head.

Standing like sardines in a brake-van on the train back whilst other less fortunate people had a first class compartment to himself, we could only ponder what German girls thought of our bezoerkers. My life it was a rum do!

Sgt. S.



'Small ideas are usually clothed in big words.'

'If you want to succeed in life you must be as solemn as an ass.'

—American Senator

'Culture in our time does not come from above. It percolates from below.'

'Even a fool when he holdeth his peace is considered wise.'

—Book of Proverbs

'Discretion of speech is more than eloquence.'

—Francis Bacon

PROFILE No. 34



*Mr. J. A. Richardson (1936–1940)
President: Old Boys' Association 1973–74.*

Throughout the farming fraternity in the Fylde there is a bewildering number of John Richardsons, but only one 'Jonty' — this year's president of the Old Boys' Association. He is one of a class of whom the school had many between the wars — sons of farmers who went on to farm places of their own and have done very well under the difficult conditions of today. Swarbrick Hall, Weeton is Mr. Richardson's address.

Jonty started K.G.S. in 1936 and left in 1940 when the shortage of labour on farms demanded his presence. He is the first to admit that his career at school was not exceptional but that he gained a lot of friends. (Not a bad testimonial to K.G.S.!). He tells amusingly of the cycle rides to school when the Singleton contingent met the Weeton contingent and the pack of Richardsons, Martindales, Bradleys etc., could if pushed, get to school in 20 minutes. Unlike Shakespeare's school boy, 'dragging like snail unwillingly to school' they used to 'drag' back

home and the return journey could take 1½ hours because of games round the back streets of Wesham and larking about on the Weeton road. The motorcar has put an end to those capers forever.

Jonty has many ties with the school. His cousins, the Singleton Richardsons, attended in force; he married Miss Joyce Cumpstey whose father was a boarder in the early years of the century and he has a son at school at present. One never ceases to be amazed at the extent to which K.G.S. is interwoven into the private lives of Fylde dwellers.

Local Government work has been his chief relaxation for many years. He has been a member of the Fylde Rural District Council for 20 years and in 1966–7 he was Chairman. He had the reputation of getting through the agenda very expeditiously and it is reported that one Councillor, who arrived three minutes late, found that the meeting had reached 'Any Other Business'. (It is rumoured that OB's committee meetings are in this year of grace 1974, conducted with equal celerity!). He has been a member of Weeton Parish Council for 24 years and in addition has been Chairman of several National Farmers Union local committees — truly a praiseworthy record of public work.

It is a curious paradox that whereas distinguished Old Boys leave school, qualify creditably and often are never seen again at any of our functions, less eminent Old Boys settle in the district and often attend our functions, festivals or fêtes most assiduously. It is a feature of the annual Old Boys' Dinner to see a table completely filled by our loyal farmer members. And no one is more loyal in his support than Jonty Richardson.

K.G.S. OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

President: 1973–1974 J. A. Richardson*

President Elect: 1973–1974 P. J. Hosker*

Vice Presidents: Messrs. O. Aiken, J. E. Axten, J. O. Bullock, A. Clift, S. Crane, J. Dandy, J. Davy, B. Dodson, A. Haworth, R. Haworth, P. T. Hodgson P. J. Hosker, J. Kirkham, G. Livesey, W. T. Loftus, W. D. Molyneux, J. F. Morse, J. K. Platt, R. Pye, E. T. Redfern, J. Richardson, J. A. Richardson, W. H. Robson, J. L. Roscoe, R. Russell, B. Stevenson, F. Sutcliffe, V. Tattersall, E. Thomson, J. Tomlinson, C. C. Toyne, E. O. Walton, R. O. Wilson.

Hon. Secretary: G. R. Howarth,* Esq., 10 Normandy Road, Woodplumpton, Preston, PR4 0AY. Tel: Broughton 862729.

Hon. Treasurer: R. W. Kirkby,* Esq., 7 Myrtle Drive, Dowbridge, Kirkham, Preston, PR4 2ZJ. Tel: Kirkham, 2421.

Committee Members: Messrs. A. R. Baines, S. Crane, J. Davy, P. T. Hodgson, D. R. G. Hunt, M. Kirkham, R. E. Kitchen, W. D. Molyneux, H. Reay, E. Smith, M. J. Summerlee,* R. O. Wilson.

*Ex-Officio Committee Members.

N.B. This letter for the magazine had to be in the editor's hands by 30th April, but it was understood that the magazine would be delivered to the School as late as September — our apologies for the unavoidable late delivery.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

8th Southern Dinner (Oxford) 20th April.

I am again in the unenviable position of not having attended the recent excellent Oxford Dinner. Instead of enjoying the conviviality of the occasion I was sequestering in New York City — but there were consolatory things happening to me out there! Eric Sidebottom — may I, on behalf of members thank you once more for organising a magnificent get together? Perhaps when I have shed the cares of Secretaryship this Autumn, the fates may deal with me more kindly and enable me to be present at your gathering. I have diared next year and thus you have my application now. Ex-President Ralph Tomlinson told me of the goings on at the 1974 dinner and he is now going to make the pilgrimage annually. This and other tributes speak volumes for the success of the event.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. By the time you get this I trust that we will have beaten the School at Cricket, Tennis, and Shooting, at our annual get together at the School on June 15th.

2. Please note that the A.G.M. and Dinner has been arranged for Friday, 27th September, 1974 at The Lantern, Lytham and that our Principal Guest will be J. J. (Jesse) Gardner, Chief Executive of the County Council of Tyne and Wear. The Rugger match will take place the following day.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

We are rather short of up to date information because of the requirement to submit copy to Mr. Wilson at so early a date, but here goes with what is available:

A. R. Baines (still there): Our erstwhile Secretary was the 4th Tempter/Knight in the recent K.G.S. Dramatic Society production of T. S. Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral'.

J. Catterall (1954–61): Conducted the School Madrigal Group during the performance, presented at Kirkham Parish Church in March.

R. J. Berry (the 50's): We are pleased to hear from Professor Robert Berry who has taken life membership of our Association. Bob is a regular broadcaster and writer in scientific journals. Amongst other works he claims authorship of the book "Teach Yourself Genetics". He is Professor of Genetics at London University. He also has the dubious distinction of being related by marriage to your scribe.

S. Berry (1966–73): Steve is currently playing for Preston Grasshoppers 1st XV.

P. R. Capper (1965–70—): We are pleased to record the marriage of Philip to Margaret Billington.

G. E. Clothier (1914–15): Has written for the address of J. A. Miller with whom he wishes to have a chinwag about old times (antidiluvian some would say with affection) at K.G.S. His retirement hobbies are bird watching and short wave radio listening.

F. J. Coleman (1920–28): We regret to record the death in February 1974 of Mr. Frederick Coleman in his 62nd year.

D. E. Cowell (1963–70): Still at Grey College, Durham University, but now (at last) in his final year! Currently playing centre for Durham City 1st XV.

M. Darlington (1948-53): Michael is now manager of the Crewe branch of Barclays Bank. He is married with two children, lives in Bolton but will shortly move to Cheshire.

D. T. Elliott (1959-66): Congratulations to David who has been awarded a Ph.D. in physics at London University.

D. Farquahar (1949-54): He is now central lending librarian under the re-organised County Council. Duncan is married and lives in Raleigh Road, Fulwood, Preston.

J. P. Grime (1949-56): The Reverend J. P. Grime, M.A., Dip.Ed., Curate of St. James Church, Blackburn, has been appointed Chaplain of St. Martin's College, Lancaster, effective Sept. 1st.

G. Leeming (1965-72): Glen has enjoyed a very successful season as hooker at Fylde Rugby Club. The side remained unbeaten at home since early October last year.

H. R. T. Metcalf (1966-72): 'Taff', who now lives at Neston in the Wirral, is an articled clerk with a Liverpool firm of Chartered Accountants. Plays hockey for Neston.

R. J. Rhodes (1965-70): Has moved from Galgate to "The Grapes", Wrea Green, where his father is landlord.

S. Middleton: In the news again. As guest of honour, he was invited to present the prizes at the Inter House Athletic Sports at K.G.S. on 22nd May.

B. Stevenson: The K.G.S. Chronicle No. 5, July, 1924 records:— "Stevenson — Blakeway. On April 22nd 1924 at Knolls Green Congregational Church, Cheshire, Bernard Stevenson, N.D.A., Assistant Master K.G.S. to Gladys Blakeway of Greater Arford." Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson on their Golden Wedding this year.

D. H. Sykes (1965-72): 2nd year Leeds Polytechnic — Town Planning. Recently selected as one of the three goalkeepers in the squad for the British Polytechnics' football team.

D. M. Thomas (1965-72): Leicester Polytechnic 2nd year Architecture. Now Old Boys' Rugby Secretary.

M. A. Tomlinson (1965-71): Mike recently announced his engagement (Christmas) to Miss Helen Watkinson of Newton, Nr. Kirkham.

G. R. Tomlinson (1965-72): Also at Grey College, Durham University, 2nd year. Honours Law. Hoping to become a solicitor. Playing rugby for Durham University and Preston Grasshoppers.

SECRETARYSHIP

I now bow out as gracefully as possible. I have done the job for three years as promised. I would like to thank all those who have helped to make the job stimulating and well worth while and in particular those who have written to provide interesting information. Arthur Baines has been and remains a valuable source of such facts and fiction. Painstakingly he regularly accumulates news gleaned from papers and journals and sends it to me. We all remain indebted to him. He personifies all that is best in an active member of an Association such as ours. The Committee hopes that it can persuade David Stirzaker to replace me. It is so important that the younger membership is represented and

encouraged to take part in our activities and we hope that David will enable this.

The Association is in good heart. I have no fears about its future.

G.R.H.

MEMBERS LETTER by P. D. Mitton 1907–1913.

(who got a mention in A.R.B.'s "Strange Times," July 1973 magazine)

Dear Sir,

I read with interest your "Members' letter" at page 55 of the Kirkhamian Vol. V No. 2 for July, 1973 by F. Sutcliffe.

I was myself at Kirkham Grammar School for 6 years from 1907–13 both at the old School in Church Lane and the new one on Ribby Road. Paul Schweikker did well in America where he became a School Inspector.

He lived in Cleveland, Ohio and my wife and I stayed a week with him and his wife there in 1940 when we were over in America on business from India. He had a pet racoon and a very attractive little dog. His son, Ernest, also lived in Cleveland, he had been born in Kirkham and we met him and his wife while there.

Later Paul Schweikker retired and went to live in Orlando, Florida where he had an orange "farm". He and his wife are both dead now. Miss Budden went out to India as a missionary and lived in Lahore which was of course in the India that was. She has now retired and lives at the Falconry, Ashley Road, New Milton, Hants. She is, or was, on the Committee of the Indian Church Aid Association, now called the South Asia Church Aid Association and it was there that I renewed my acquaintance with her as I was the Hon. Treasurer. Her brother W. L. Budden, became blind and died some years ago.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. Mitton

STRANGE TIMES – No. 5

July, 1924. The Summer Term Calendar for that year reflects the activities – voluntary and otherwise – like exams (of which there was no shortage) with H.S.C., School Entrance, Cambridge S.C. and Entrance Scholarship amongst the external "events" and the internal exams for "the rest". There should have been enough time to get through it all too, for the term ended on July 30th, being almost 13 weeks long. But for those who still needed that little extra "Extra physics" was time-tabled for Form V students on Fridays, 4.00–4.30 p.m. "to compensate for time lost by swimming." Prize day in 1924 was on that last day of the summer term, the presentations being made by the Headmaster of Rugby, W. W. Vaughan, Esq. M.V.O., M.A.

By this date of July 30th, 1924 the most recent edition of the K.G.S. Chronicle (No. 5) would have been available, its content telling the reader mainly about the events of 1923 of course. There were 146 boys in the School then (and an equivalent number of Old Boys Association members – (the Association having been in existence for 5 years) – 37 in Kirkham House, 33 in Fylde, 28 in School, 27 in Lytham and 21 in Blackpool (sic.) House. The Old Boys Association had gained 14 (paying) members during the 1922–23 year and hoped for an even better response from that year's "crop".

Sporting fixtures account for many of the entries in the Calendar as is the case in 1974, with most space going to "The XI" which at that time played Preston Town C.C. (3rd Team!) — who beat The XI; Blackpool Secondary School; Mr. H. C. Turner's XI; Mr. G. G. Atkinson's XI; Arnold House and the Old Boys of K.G.S. which had formed its own C.C. in February 1924. The H.M. arranged the fixtures e.g. versus East Lancs. Wanderers and Preston Garrison whilst, by popular demand, the O.B. Sec. had to cope with an O.B. "A" Team XI. The "first" XI won 3 and had one match abandoned (R.S.P. of course) out of their 4 fixtures. However the School defeated them but this did not stop O.B. J. H. S. Matthews from presenting a bat to "the most promising School boy in "their" XI and after all "they" had rolled the pitch regularly for weeks before (for 30 minute sessions by Houses).

The Old Boys did better at Soccer however, beating the School 2—1 on Nov. 21st 1923 before the A.G.M. and Dinner that evening at the School. On pages 14—15 of the Chronicle further correspondence appears about the idea of K.G.S. taking up Rugby football — was there any connection here with that soccer defeat? House Competitions seemed to go happily — nay to even begin — after School was over. This did not apply to the Athletic Sports (1.30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21st 1924) for which many heats however had already taken place after school hours e.g. ½ mile and mile race heats and finals respectively. A cross country race was an event in the Athletic Sports too. The long jump was won with a leap of 15 ft. 3 ins. and an old boys race took place over 220 yards.

One House Competition we no longer have was the "Tug of War" with divisions for heavy weights and lightweights. Swimming "to which all boys are expected to go unless medically unfit" was on Monday and Thursday from 3.30 p.m. Admission to the Kirkham (?) baths was 4d. (season ticket 7/6d) and, incidentally, the Old Boy's Annual subscriptions then was 5/- (it's only 50p in 1974 yes, 50 years later) whilst the Association tie cost a mere 4/-. 63 boys were able to swim one length at least and 8 could swim a breadth — School House won the cup by almost 20 points, nearly all its members being able to swim at that time. The Shooting Competition in 1923 was decided over the (open air) 25 yd. range. Two new B.S.A. rifles with open sights had been purchased for this competition which Fylde House won with W. Wilson (78/100) being awarded the Miss Birley Prize.

The 1924 Calendar showed that School House had "weekend leave" whilst about twice that Summer Term Saturday was declared "Holiday", for Saturday morning was a "School Day" normally until the late 1960's in fact. Some of the subjects examined (therefore presumably taught) were "Memory Drawing", Bookkeeping, Painting and Agricultural Science. There was an invitation to "boys from other Houses who may attend School House preparation (supervised) from 7.30—9.00 p.m. each evening" and a directive that "the 1st XI practice 2 hours each Tuesday and with the 2nd XI have a practice match each Thursday (for 2¼ hours), boys should make arrangements for tea and preparation accordingly".

The Chronicle tells one more about people of course and the Staff at that time. Mr. W. E. Rose joined in January, 1924 whilst Miss F. G. Stephens resigned in December, 1923. Mr. B. Stuttard (on the staff 1866—1885) attended the O.B. Dinner whilst two assistant masters, Messrs. Stevenson and Hughes were married in 1924 within a week of one another in Cheshire and Anglesey respectively. Perhaps two calendar entries suggest that History is indeed repeating itself in 1974, for in 1924 (Thursday, 15th May) an L.C.C. deputation visited the School and on 28th May the Governors met at 3 p.m. — reorganisation?

A.R.B.

K.G.S. RE-VISITED

There may well be a magic ring about the letters K.G.S. for past and present students of the school so that when we meet an Old Boy of our school unconsciously we slip back ten, twenty even fifty years and live again those days of joy, fun and youthful freedom.

Over fifty years ago in 1923 K.G.S. was re-visited by an Old Boy namely Mr. William Munro of Howard Park, Kilmarnock who was one of the Old Boys' Association's Life Members. He tells what happened in 1923 in an addendum to a booklet he wrote and had published and sent to the Old Boys Association Membership which at that time was just over 100. The booklet is called "Reminiscences of Kirkham Grammar School 1870-72" and was passed on to me by the late Harold Parkinson (1867-71) whose appearance in the School Hall at the Golden Jubilee Dinner will not have been forgotten.

Mr. Munro tells of his own school days but devotes two pages to another visit he paid to the school fifty years after leaving it. The buildings where he had been taught were now abandoned and an entire new set of buildings had appeared on the other side of Kirkham. The Headmaster Mr. Munro met in 1923 was the Rev. C. Strange who with his wife and Old Boys Association Secretary, Mr. Rigby, welcomed him yet again to K.G.S. Twelve years earlier Mr. Munro had met Mr. Walton and was "particularly struck with the exceptional geniality of mine host and I thought what a remarkably fine type of man Kirkham had procured to train the young, for he did not domineer like the old school of teachers, but introduced a friendly co-operation with the boys." Thus in 1923 Mr. Munro was pleased to see the Headmaster's chair in the School Hall given by Old Boys in memory of Mr. Walton.

Mr. Munro's account of the rest of his visit goes as follows: "During my disciplinary days there were only three forms, which were known as the Top (Classical), Second (English) and Lower (Kids) Schools, while French and Drawing were taught twice a week as special subjects by a visiting instructor from Blackpool, but who was a native of France. I now found that several other subjects had been added, such as Chemistry, Woodwork, Agriculture, etc. while the boys were encouraged to indulge in healthy recreation to keep them fit and well, so football, cricket, swimming and rifle shooting were all practised.

Mr. Strange willingly introduced me to the various masters, and to the boys with the comment that "Mr. Munro attended the School fifty-one years ago as a boarder from Fleetwood and has now come from Scotland to see you." From the happy intelligent faces before me it was apparent that the masters were not only imparting useful knowledge, but that the pupils were reciprocating the friendly feeling which ought always to exist between teachers and taught.

When Mr. Strange brought me before the notice of the boys, I bowed to them, for there entered my head at the time a story I had read many years ago about Martin Luther who had been deeply impressed by a Professor so recognising the youths at the University. When remonstrated with for so doing by the stiff Germans around him the erudite Professor, remarked, "I show my respect to the boys, for in them I discern our future Professors, Politicians and Burgo-masters" and although I did not indicate what was in my mind it occurred to me that perhaps before me was our future Premier, Leader of the Church, principals of the Universities, or captains of industry.

When I inspected the bedroom I quickly detected the same facilities for pillow fighting as I revelled in fifty-one years ago, but I did not query Mr. Strange if he inflicted the same punishment on the culprits as I used to get when caught;

for our sentence was either two hundred lines of English History or a chapter of the Bible to learn by heart.

The ancient Roll Book was produced and the names of all my contemporaries were read over, which brought many reminiscences of the past, and my memory became wonderfully refreshed as I related many little anecdotes concerning some of the boys of those days. There were many interesting matters talked over, and I enquired if any historical sketch had been written about the school, but it seems that most of what is known is fragmentary. However, it would confer a great benefit on all Kirkhamites, and the man would deserve to be knighted who would undertake to sift all past records, gather together all known facts, procure biographical details of the masters and stretch his imagination to fill in all blanks, so that some authentic account could be published about Kirkham and its famous seminary.

I hope that Mr. Strange will pardon me if I make another suggestion, which is that a Visitors' Book should be kept at the school, so that anyone calling will be asked to sign his name and address, and in the event of a past pupil a column should be reserved, in which the years could be stated when the signatories entered and left the school. This idea was used by Mr. Strange's successor, Mr. D. Norwood and by at least one of the latter's pupils as visitors to Dr. Eric Sidebottom's house in Oxford will know.

A.R.B.

FRIENDS OF K.G.S.

President: Rev. W. A. P. Francis.

Chairman: Mrs. M. McGregor.

Treasurer: Mr. A. Spencer.

Secretary: Mr. H. Scholefield.

We have had another reasonably successful year for which our thanks are due to a full and active committee.

At the Annual Garden Fete in July we introduced as a new feature an "It's a Knockout" type of competition between the School Houses. Despite some of the contestants becoming slightly damp, a good time was had by all and the winners were presented with a cup donated by Mr. Summerlee, who also acted as commentator.

The New Parents' Evening in September last, took on a new format in that we had a Wine and Cheese party to which all members were invited. This proved to be a huge success and is likely to become an annual event.

The Christmas Draw again proved to be one of our major fund raisers and we look forward to the support of everyone in selling tickets for future draws.

The Annual Dinner Dance was again held at the Fernlea Hotel in November, when our guests of honour were Mr. and Mrs. Summerlee. We are now achieving attendances of about 100 at the Dinner Dances and the Small Room at the Fernlea is becoming too small for our requirements. Next year's Dinner will therefore be at the Glendower in St. Annes and we look forward to continued support for this enjoyable event.

A Whist and Domino drive was held in January which was enjoyed by all who attended. These functions are very light-hearted, a good supper is provided, and are worthy of better support.

Jumble Sales continue to be great fund raisers. We held one on 1st December 1973. These sales are only successful by virtue of the material sent in to be sold, so please make an effort to clean out your lumberroom and wardrobe in time for the sales. Addresses to which jumble can be sent are in the News letters, and the school will accept jumble the week before a sale.

There was another sell-out of tickets for the Samlesbury Hall Supper Dance in March, which was unfortunately the last as the Hall is being converted to a museum. We are looking for an alternative venue for this popular event.

Other forthcoming events! There will be a repeat of the Wine and Cheese party for all new and existing parents and anybody else who would like to come on Friday 20th September 1974 at 8.00 p.m. A Mannequin parade will be held in October. The Annual Dinner Dance will be held at the Glendower Hotel, St. Annes on 8th November. There will be a Jumble Sale at the School on 16th November, and other events will be arranged later.

For all details of Friends' events please refer to the School Calendar. These are very good value for parents at 4p each, from the School.

We look forward to your continued support for all our activities during the coming year and thank you for your generosity.

H. Scholefield
Hon. Gen. Secretary

20 Clitheroe Road
Lytham St. Annes, FY8 3QN
Telephone: St. Annes 726904



'We now demand to be personally conducted through life, all risks to be taken by someone else.' —Dean Inge

'The ability to use knowledge effectively is more important than the number of facts remembered; in other words, wisdom is more important than learning.'

'If you can say in a dozen words what can easily be said in four then you will be considered brilliant.'



'Intuition is the ability to arrive at a conclusion without the effort of thinking.'

'A benign State looks after our everyday needs from womb to tomb thereby giving us the means and the time to destroy it.'

*'The more we know the less, we know, we know.
The less we know the more we think we know.
In other words, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.'*

'Churchill, as a boy, was a poor scholar, Einstein failed his maths., exams., and Cézanne never passed the entrance exam., to the École des Beaux Arts.'

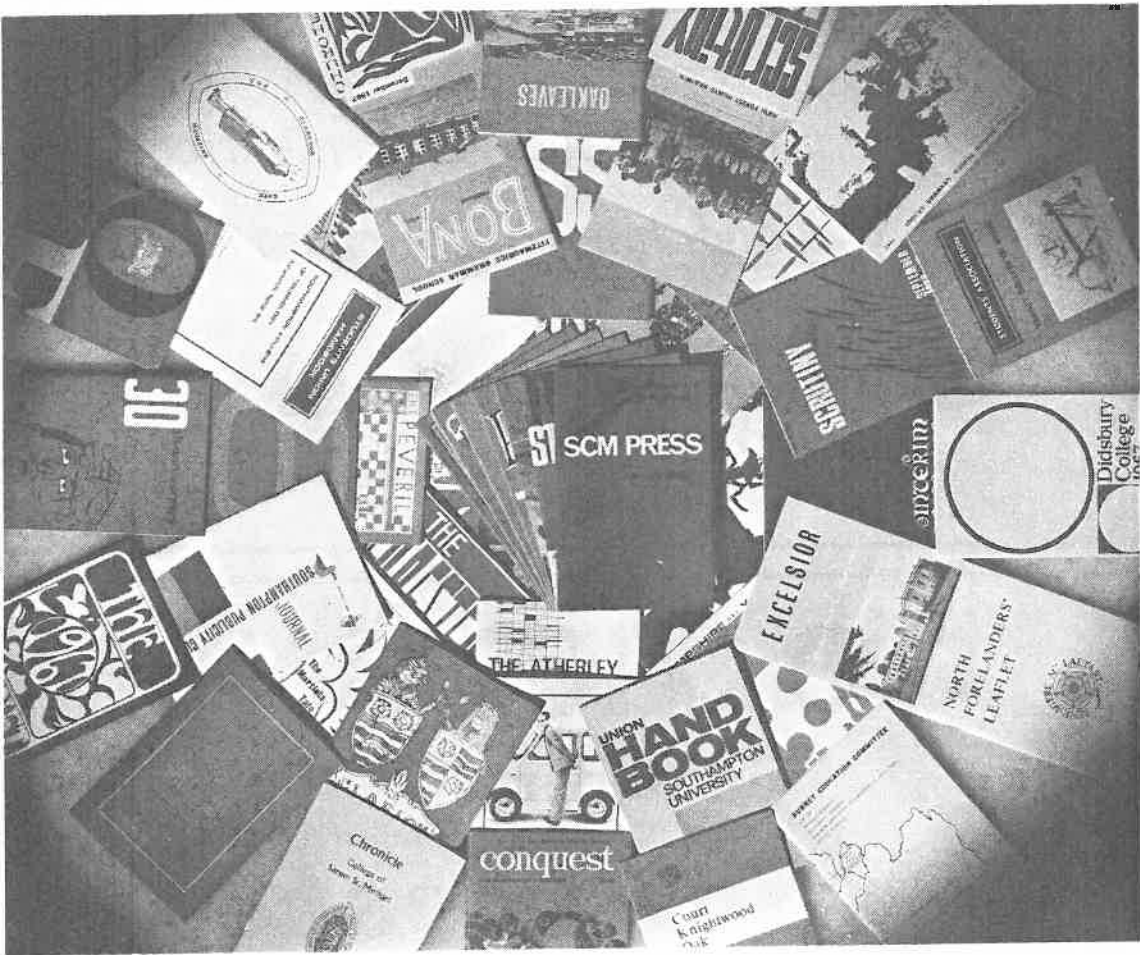
'Education is loaded with the acquisitive at the expense of the creative, yet the world was created not acquired.'



'Opinions based on self interest are worthless.'

'Everything is worth what its purchaser will pay for it.'
—Publius Syrus 43 B.C.

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