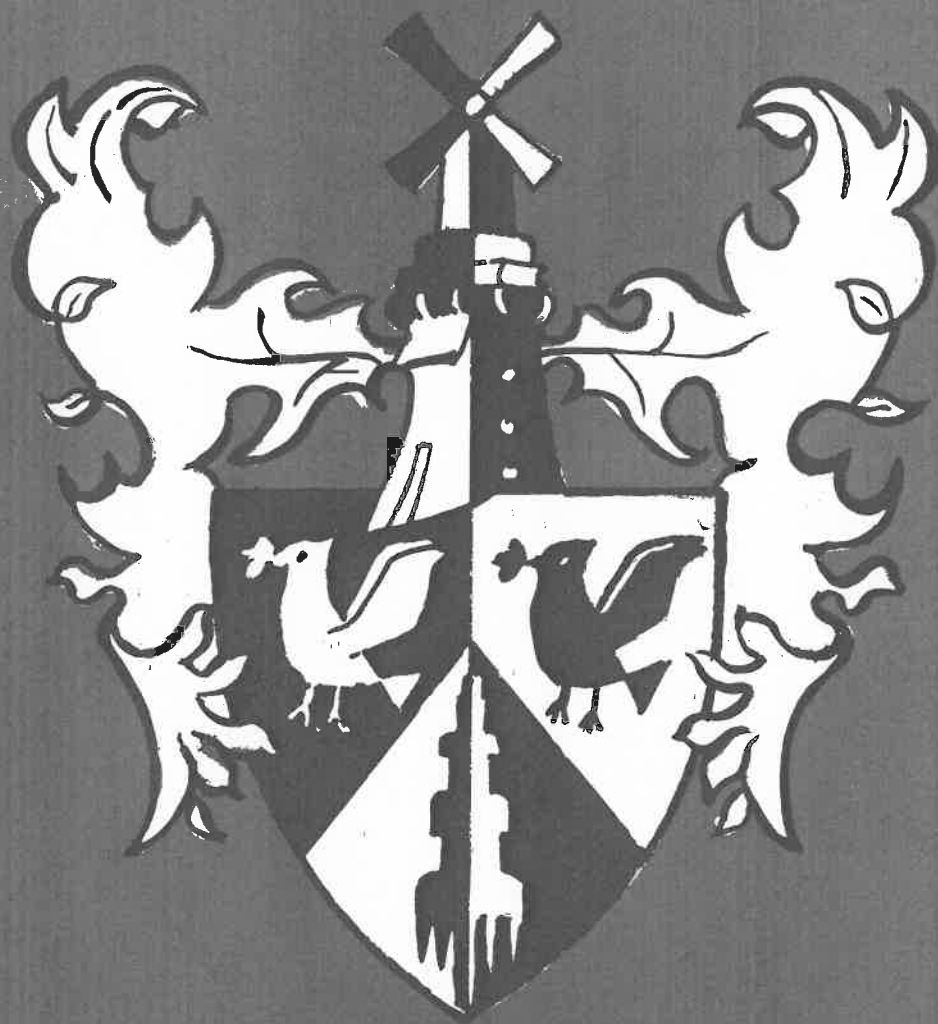


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The Kirkhamian

THE MAGAZINE OF KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1549

Volume V, No. 4

July 1975

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Editorial

Chairman: Mr. H. B. Wilson

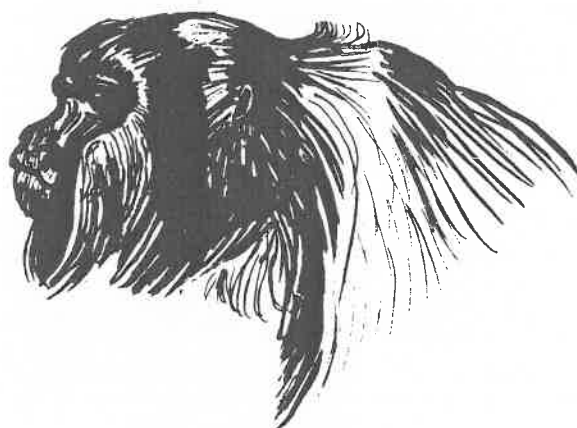
Editor: J. A. Blaikie

Committee: A. N. Jones, M. J. Watkinson, I. B. Jones, J. I. Houston

Having perused several back-copies of this magazine and having listened with a ready ear to Mr. Wilson's eloquent advice, I feared I might be spending one or two precious evenings voraciously nibbling at my fingernails in the quest for ideas for an editorial. However, one year's experience as editor of "The Kirkhamian" has given me a close insight into the "work behind the scenes"; not least, it has given me plenty to discuss.

As an avid contributor from the first year onwards, I have instinctively turned to the Contributions section at once on being issued with my copy of the magazine. Indeed, whether a magazine is good or bad, as far as most pupils are concerned, depends on the strength and depth of literary – and latterly artistic – contributions. It was thus most gratifying when, in response to our appeals, a whole deluge of articles arrived. The sad fact is that only a few select contributions have been published since there is just not the space to print even one-quarter of the articles. Costs are prohibitive and, no doubt, before the magazine has been paid for people will be asking "Why did you cut out my funny about Pakistani hockey players?" or "Where did my Athletics Report get to?" The simple answer is that despite cutting our costs by transferring to the offset-litho. process, our old friend inflation has caught up with us. Much as we would like to expand, the funds are just not available.

Nevertheless, page restriction does mean that only the best articles are creamed off, and if quantity is not present, then quality should be. Any contributions for a School Magazine come from an age group where the imagination is most pronounced and one extraordinarily prolific in poets. Of the articles published, several show great perception and reflect a deep social concern – surely an encouraging thought in a vastly apathetic society.



D. J. Archer, UVIM

'He spoke sixteen languages fluently and could say nothing sensible in any of them – including his own.'

CONTRIBUTIONS

'Poltergeists'

The silence of the still October evening was suddenly and alarmingly broken by an ear-splitting sound as of pottery being smashed forcibly against a solid surface. Along the length of Thornton Avenue, in one of the sleepy suburbs of Preston, dogs pricked up their ears, cats instinctively stiffened, and birds flapping overhead paused in mid-flap, astonished at the disturbance below.

Had they decided to hang around, they would have heard a second, and louder, crash, and seen Mrs. Marjorie Jackson burst out of No. 34 with a strangled scream, headed for the horizon at a considerable rate of knots. Five seconds later husband Jack, similarly disorientated, raced out into the wide open spaces. Going away, as the song has it, with no word of farewell.

The whole of this 'Coronation Street' type drama, was enacted in less than half-a-minute, yet those who witnessed it talked of it, and tried to analyse the reasons behind it, for days afterwards.

Here, it is perhaps necessary to examine the principal characters in our story in greater detail, for it was the nature of their personalities and their relationship which made their odd behaviour of that particular evening the enigma which it undeniably turned out to be.

For years, Mrs. Jackson, had ruled her household and her husband like a female Hitler. Velvet gloves were cast aside in disdain, and the iron hand was brandished threateningly. Poor old Jack, for whom everyone felt the deepest sympathy, was treated like a dog which, while being an annoyance in many respects, was indisputably useful around the house. No sooner would he arrive home from work than he would be set his task for the evening: whatever the weather, hammering could always be heard from Jack's shed as he made a garden fence. Four days later, the fence would have been erected, Marjorie would announce that she no longer liked it, and Jack would demolish it, only to be told later that, well, perhaps the fence was all right after all.

Regardless of the attractions of the armchair and television, Jack would be out there, cleaning windows, cutting the grass, putting flags down in the garden, painting the garage, taking flags up again, making an ornamental pond, cleaning out the gutters, converting the ornamental pond into a flower-bed, or, if there were no jobs to be done, he would be banished to the garage to make industrious noises with his electric drill, so that passers-by and neighbours wouldn't be able to accuse the Jacksons of being shirkers.

Sympathy, then, was felt for Jack, but for the lady of the household the neighbourhood held only animosity. Marjorie, you see, was an imitator. If the next-door-neighbours bought a new car, it was generally only a matter of hours before the Jacksons bought a bigger and better one; if the lady at No. 38 decorated the lounge, Jack would instantly be called upon to wield paper, brush and paste throughout the entire house; if the woman down the road placed an attractive ornament on her windowsill, an identical one would adorn the Jackson sill the next day.

It can be clearly seen, then, that Marjorie's flight from the house hotly pursued by Jack and a cloud of dust, caused a few eyebrows to be raised among

their acquaintances. Mr. Seed, short of sight and leaning on his garden gate, merely felt the sudden gust of wind as the Jacksons flashed past; grumpily, he complained that the weather had "never been right since them bloody Socialists got in", and staggered inside. Mrs. Clough took in the entire event with a good deal of pleasure. Things were looking up she felt, the worm had finally turned; once a man has thrown crockery at his wife and chased her, screaming, from the house, he can never again be reduced to the standing of a mere menial.

However, after six days had passed without any sign of a return, the natives began to grow restless. The general feeling was that if the Jacksons were still running, then they must be somewhere between Aberdeen and Inverness, and such a situation seemed rather unlikely.

With its usual scintillating reportage and incisive journalism, the "Lancashire Evening Post" revealed the true facts in a short feature which uncovered the truth behind the Jackson's exodus.

A bird, was the chief reason behind the panic-stricken flight — a budgerigar, in fact.

Mrs. Jackson had always kept budgerigars in her kitchen, but, while giving them more consideration than she afforded her husband, the attention she paid them was at best cursory. If they wanted food, they were left to use their initiative to devise methods of getting it. They were like prisoners in Colditz — except for the feathers, of course.

One Saturday morning, Marjorie came rushing into the kitchen of her next-door-neighbour — my mother — shrieking hysterically "My budgie's dead! It flew onto the cooker!" On the point of tearing her hair out, she dragged my mother back into No. 34, where she was confronted by a blackened mass of meat and feathers sizzling quietly on the hotplate. It was thought that, while Marjorie had been in the back garden nagging at Jack, the budgie — Dinky by name — found the door of its cage unlocked and, with hunger gnawing at his vitals, rashly decided to make a dash for the frying-pan, in which were several rashers of bacon. Somehow, though, possibly overcome by the glorious smell of real food, the ill-fated bird toppled backwards onto the other hotplate, and rapidly became a Budgie Flambé. Such is life.

Like husband Jack, Dinky had also had to put up with a fair amount of bad feeling and vicious words from the lady of the house, and this, coupled with her "once every public holiday" attitude towards feeding him, had left our feathered friend feeling more than slightly peeved. To put it mildly, Dinky hated the sight of Mrs. Jackson, and in retrospect, it seems quite understandable that Dinky's poor opinion of her didn't die with him.

He clawed his way back from the grave, bent on vengeance, and determined to wreak his wrath on the woman who had been the bane of his life.

Mrs. Jackson, apparently, was standing at the sink on that October evening watching Jack washing the dishes, when suddenly a luminous white object began to materialise on the windowsill. As she staggered back in horror, she realised that it was Dinky. He kept on growing and growing until he was several times his normal size, and coming towards her, causing ornaments and kitchen utensils to fly haphazardly about the room, he held out a ghostly packet of birdseed, almost pushing it into her face as if chastising her for all her past misdeeds. Thoroughly terrified, she seized her chance to rush out into the night, and as she looked back she saw the huge budgie silhouetted in

the doorway, casually eating the birdseed with a satisfied smile on its face.
"You will never return here", he seemed to be saying.

The Jacksons haven't so far returned and no-one else has dared to move in. On those nights when the full moon is riding in the sky, strange noises can still be heard: pottery is broken, bacon sizzles, and frightened passers-by have told of huge wings flapping at the window, and heavy objects flying about inside the kitchen of No. 34. Hammer have bought the film rights, so before long, Granada should be screening "Curse of the Budgie" in its "Appointment with Fear" slot, probably followed by "Return of the Budgie", "The Budgie has Risen from the Grave", and "The Satanic Rites of the Budgie".

Thornton Avenue hasn't seen the last of Dinky

M. P. Leech, (Pre)

Friday Night was Alive and Wet

No sun to touch the waves beneath,
but Blackpool lights shine wet on tar roads
where taxis hover in the cadmium.
This is life, compressed and intense,
compacted into sea-food stalls and greasy hamburgers.
This is the frail parade of artificial schemes,
the Golden Mile of glitter that awakes.
Sawdust and strippers and Madame Rose Lee —
photos of the stars, green ink and brown edges, fading enterprise.
A bonanza of burlesque that invites the bloodshot eye,
the neon virtue of cash, and trash, and people;
perpetuation of cardboard pinned to concrete,
but it works where the slut is painted like a clown.

Vulgar sculpture of nursery rhymes; wires and bulbs and plastic
(the atmosphere will not tolerate detail).
You must dive into the tangle and surface
with blurred eyes.
We walk along wet pavement, cross streets, walk under scaffolding —
for what is imperfect should never be complete.
This is the night of the workers who paid their bus money
and came to express themselves.
Words are cast,
dog-ends go soggy in puddles,
a race of umbrellas.

We tried a photo booth (but you didn't co-operate).
A man and a Dalmatian
and honky-tonk wallpaper muzak.
In the rain, hot breath leaves everyone's mouths;
it merges in the flooded images of colour,
with carnival smells and voices —
an aching atmosphere of folk who smoke,
in coats.
The sawdust has been dampened
and the black mascara runs.
Tonight we sleep in rock palaces.

J. A. Blaikie (Pre)

'Danger: Catastrophe Imminent'

Literature-fans be warned: we are seeing at this very moment the complete collapse of our once-great tradition, due to our declining powers of vocabulary.

In these days of "ultra superlatives" — when a "fantastic" goal is a lucky rebound, a "brilliant" record (according to Tony "the teeth" Blackburn) is a vinyl form of a malignant disease (but then, so is T. B.), a "really great bloke" is a bit of a drip — too many words and phrases have clearly become mere expletives, to be bandied around at will by people too ignorant or lazy to search for the correct word, people undesirous of improving their vocabulary or expressing precisely what they mean.

Unfortunately for us all, one word that must be included in this category of abused words and phrases is the word "Love". In fact, this is probably the most overused, debased and inoperative word in the whole of the English Language. Who could argue that a once-revered, near-sacred word now possesses very little of the specific meaning that it must once have had? (in the same way that fantastic once meant "out of a dream", brilliant meant "shining brightly to the point of blinding", and petrified meant "turned to stone".)

The word is now used in so many different contexts it is quite incredible. Can an acne-faced seventeen year-old Glaswegian, wearing trousers half-way up his legs, singing "All of me, loves all of you; ba dooby, ba dooby, ba dooby, ba da" really mean the same as, for argument's sake, Bob Dylan singing "Without your love I'd be nowhere at all?" When Lawrence expresses a love for his mother in "Sons and Lovers" is he referring to the same as Georgette Heyer in "Catherine at Home" when she says that farm girl Catherine loved Master Percy from the Grange, having only seen him fleetingly twice? Was the inspiration behind Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" similar to the hidden force which prompted Picasso to paint "The ballet dancer?" When Billy Bunter tells us he loves cream buns and Napoleon tells Josephine he loves her, are both objects receiving the same sort of affection?

The answer to all of these questions, for most of us with a mind of our own, must surely be a resounding "NO!"

The word Love means something different to all of us: when a person uses it the recipient's own concept of what he or she means will most probably be entirely different from what the person intended. It should therefore be banned altogether from this island fortress's vocabulary. Persons caught using it should be asked to state what it really means, and after a little thought they will realise what a crass, silly word it is.

Silly is another of these words: once upon a time it

S. Flynn, (L6M)

Hypnotism

Last week I was hypnotising the cat. Ever tried that, hypnotising the cat? What you do is wait until it is settled on the back of the settee, then stare deep into its eyes. You say, "Daft cat you are in my power. You are going to sleep, a deep deep sleep."

The cat's eyes cross and eventually close and it sinks rapidly into bybyes. It's never been known to fail.

Anyway, what I thought was that, instead of wasting time on the cat, I could use my power on fish and transmit them by telepathy (at which I have become a master.)

So there I was down by the canal, at a spot where some record roach have been caught. I baited up and cast out. All systems go. NOW for the hypnotism:

"You are a roach of about 3 lb. in weight. You are ravenously hungry. You are totally unafraid. You are approaching a maggot of gigantic proportions and irresistible seasoning. You are sucking in the bait. You are By gum, that gudgeon must have nipped in a bit smartish. Try again."

"You have been shoved aside this time, roach, by big brother who weighs 4½ lb. and needs plenty of nourishment."

"NOW big brother your beadies have spotted that delicious maggot you are moving in for the kill forgetting your manners and going"

"Darn it another gudgeon. Gerofff!"

I realise now why the roach are being so shy. It's that 50 lb. carp which is putting them off.

"Come here ol' carp to where the maggot is Singleton's here, have no fear Now One Two Three"

"If I see another gudgeon I'll scream."

. All of which goes to prove that gudgeon are more receptive to hypnotism than 4½ lb. roach and 50 lb. carp — so completely in my power that they elbow the monster fish out of the way to get at the bait first.

Oh well, "Come here, daft cat. Look deep into my eyes You are going to sleep A deep deep sleep."

S. Singleton (1X)

The Spirit of Destruction

As dying leaves will glow with sickly hue,
Society's last lights flare up to fail.
Once, springtime grass bedecked itself in dew
Now, oily puddles wear a rainbow veil.
The great machinery of life runs down,
Steps out of time, falters, sways and stops.
On endless winter sets the last sundown.
Inglorious war destroys, the trapdoor drops:
The noose of knowledge, as in Edens's bliss
Condemns us now to ravages of hell.
The holocaust imparts its Judas-kiss,
And Man's creation rings his own death knell.
Implanted in his soul from ages past,
Destruction's Spirit triumphs now at last.

M. J. Watkinson, (Pre)



A. N. Jones, UVIM

The Grim Reaper

Look around the room,
Look through the house,
Look at their faces.
Listen to the silence,
Feel the atmosphere.
The curtains are closed
And the laughter has gone,
The Grim Reaper has been here.

Follow me to the cemetery,
Look the soil is still wet.
See how the new headstone
Reflects the cold sun.
The grass is short here
And the flowers still fresh.
For the Grim Reaper
Another job is done.

Come, down the street,
Feel his presence.
Look, on the battlefield
He is everywhere.
See how he makes
The hanged men dance.
Look, he stands behind you
Waiting, just waiting.

So beware my brother,
Don't make a slip.
Children, heed your mothers,
Make him wait.
Cheat him, ignore him,
Loathe him, fear him.
But you cannot win;
Only he knows real success.

When the heart fails
You will feel him,
When the steel bites
You will see him,
When the bomb explodes
You will find him.
Your prayers and chants are useless,
All your blind faith is wasted,
For all means nothing
In the face
Of the Grim Reaper.

I. B. Jones, UVIM

Rats Revisited (Suburban Dream)

Oh Gods of insecurity
Where are ye now?
Towing the line of future cost,
To time intervention to perfection,
And then slyly slip away,
Into winds of blue-eyed wonder,
Till the time come again.
How long is it since,
I could honestly say,
The Spirit of Hiroshima ruled this place,
But now I see neatly symmetrical council flats,
— Duplicated
Like the bricks I saw,
But now are gone,
I cannot help but ask myself
“Which is the more beautiful?”
Construction for destruction.
One regulates the other —
So simple but yet so strange,
And I stand here in moral defeat,
While you,
Chat in foreign tongue
To personal friends, property speculators,
And say they should have gone all along.
If I should never see a rat again,
I would still know that they would come,
To destroy this place,
And I have a vague impression
That the next time will be the last.
Farewell, for I shall never return
To look at life and changes,
Farewell to the paint scrawling that I never read,
And to the men in black who blame us.
Leave these ice-washed boulevards,
Snub of the rich and pride of the poor,
“Personally Jacques, they’re only good for the rats,
Les hommes que nous nourrissent.”
I turn to leave,
The destiny of those who laboured,
Those who wanted to see the reward for their toil
But died too soon,
Uncomfortable, hectic suburbia lives on.
Turn away, and life goes on
Turn again, and they are gone.

D. Wilmot, (4Y)



A. N. Jones, UV1M

HOUSE REPORTS

Ashton

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. H. B. Wilson
<i>Assistant Housemasters:</i>	Mr. G. S. Cheesbrough, Mr. D. E. Worth, Mr. R. J. Browning, Mr. A. Bowman.
<i>House Captain:</i>	N. M. Fisher
<i>House Vice-Captain:</i>	S. C. Holderness
<i>House Prefects:</i>	R. K. Ashworth, P. R. Bagshaw, J. Bellamy, S. P. Marsh, J. H. Roberts, S. J. Wells.

I would like to welcome Mr. A. Bowman into Ashton as an Assistant Housemaster, and express the desire that his stay with us will be both long and enjoyable. I also hope that new members have settled in and have found the past year profitable.

In the 1974 Summer Term, the Athletics team, under the captaincy of D. C. Stevens brought the House its 3rd trophy in one of the most exciting competitions for some years. Whiteside, Gardner, Collins and Roberts were all outstanding and Collins achieved the personal honour of being joint senior Victor Ludorum. Both juniors and seniors failed to go far in the Cricket, and our hopes for the swimming were not realised, the House finishing 4th. Having conceded only 2 sets to Preston House in both preliminary rounds of the Tennis Competition, the team was confident but Kirkham House managed to foil our attempts with a 5-4 win in an equally-balanced final.

With few regular chess players in the House, our team did well to defeat Fylde, although they subsequently lost to Kirkham and Lytham. This record has since greatly improved with victories over School and Preston, team Captain G. K. Williamson remaining unbeaten so far. The logic of Ashton's argument failed to impress the adjudicators in the Debating and the first round saw the hasty exit of Wells and myself.

As holders of the Senior Rugby Shield, a determined Ashton XV disposed of Kirkham 42-7 and, Lytham, 17-4. We look forward to the prospect of meeting Fylde in the final. Our Junior XV were unlucky to be drawn against a heavy Kirkham side, losing 24-14. Nevertheless all played well and Collins must be thanked for the time and effort he spent at numerous practices.

Success came in the Music Competition, the winning of which gave the House its first cup in '75. Excellent performances were given by the two Bagshaws, who, with Wells, deserve credit for training the choir. P. R. Bagshaw was awarded a maximum 10 pts. for his flute solo — the only item to do so in the entire competition.

A few days later came the Cross-Country running. Our Juniors had already run themselves into 4th position with good efforts by Lanigan (10th) and Murray (12th), but the Intermediates only managed 5th, despite a good performance by Sessford (9th). In the senior event, McClellan (7th) was our best runner. Ashton finished 4th overall.

In the Sevens we gained our second trophy in under a week. The team played hard against Kirkham and Lytham whom they defeated 32-0 and 4-0 respectively, and so went into the final, facing the favourites, School. After going behind early on, the team came back well and, with brilliant tries from Bellamy, Roberts and Collins, emerged victors 12-6.

With talented gymnasts, athletes, cricketers and tennis players, Ashton can look forward to the Summer Term with confidence. I wish to thank Housemasters, Prefects and members of Ashton for the advice, co-operation and support which has been forthcoming during the past year, and I wish the House success and good fortune in the years to come.

N. M. F.

Fylde

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. D. H. Butterworth
<i>Assistant Housemasters:</i>	Mr. T. E. H. Capper, Dr. B. M. Summers, Mr. I. Mellor, Mr. J. Powell.
<i>House Captain:</i>	L. Gent
<i>House Prefects:</i>	D. A. Lambert, L. J. Dennis, S. Taylor, M. Barratt, C. Walker, M. G. Schofield.

I would like to welcome Mr. Powell to the House and wish Mr. Gornall every success in the future.

Last year was a poor one as far as success in House competitions was concerned. We only won 2 cups — the Senior X-Country and Senior Cricket, in which Dennis was outstanding. However, this year has been successful. In the first round of the Senior Rugby we met a very strong School House team whom we beat 12–0 putting us into the semi-final against Preston. Here we won 14–0 but it was a more convincing victory than the score suggests. In the final we met a potentially good Ashton team, but neither team gave a good display and the result was a 12–3 victory for Fylde after we had dominated a scrappy match.

This season House Sevens was re-introduced and I think all players enjoyed it and it has been a great success. In the match against School we surprisingly held them to a 3–3 draw. They had already beaten Preston 49–4 and so we had to beat Preston by at least 45–0. We only managed 36–0 and so went out of the Competition. In the Junior Rugby we met a strong Kirkham team but our inexperience showed as we lost. However there is hope for the future.

The success story of the year was in the X-Country. Although we came last in the Intermediates we won both Junior and Senior events. In the Senior section Redgrave, Taylor, Leech, Lambert, Dennis and Mason came 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 13th and 15th respectively.

We were 5th in the Music Competition and I would like to thank Kirkham for the many hours of work he put in.

L. G.

Kirkham

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. A. R. Baines
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Mr. H. H. Wood, Mr. S. J. Hurd, Mr. I. M. Scott, Mrs. A. Boll.
<i>House Captain:</i>	J. Kirkham
<i>House Vice-Captain:</i>	D. J. Swift
<i>House Prefects:</i>	R. I. Bullough, J. P. Coates, I. C. Mynott, M. I. Newton, A. Best, T. J. Edensor, P. R. Jackson.

On behalf of the House, I wish Messrs. Sutcliffe and Wallace success in their new environments — and hope Mr. Wallace hits the big time selling Cockney underwear. At the same time, we welcome Mr. Scott and Mrs. Boll as their replacements.

We kept the Tennis Cup after exciting matches against Fylde and Ashton. Both matches were won 5—4, the final outcome depending on the last set.

In the Cricket, the Seniors beat Ashton by 9 wickets, Jenkins, D. and Fisher doing the damage with both bat and ball. However, in the semi-final, against Fylde, we performed miserably, going down by 29 runs; thus ending a long run of success in recent years. The Junior Cricketers regained the trophy, beating Fylde, Ashton and Lytham, in that order. Special praise must go to A. Swift for his fine captaincy and performances.

In the Athletics we came last with 11 points with only 5 people placed.

The Shooting Competition was a rather hush-hush affair with School inevitably winning by a comfortable margin. However, our marksmen finished second and their performances were extremely creditable.

The Swimming Cup was regained from School House. Our swimmers trained hard and almost everyone was placed in the Junior and Intermediate events. Brookes swam especially well in the Seniors. We won with 60 pts.

Unfortunately, the old grey matter seems to be running short and we were narrowly beaten into 6th place in the Work Cup.

With the Senior Rugby team at half-strength we went down 7—40 to a strong Ashton side in the first round. Fisher tried hard, scoring an early try and penalty, but was sent off for retaliating against continuous unnecessary provocation.

Our chess team started well with wins against Preston (16—8), Ashton (18—6) and Fylde (16—8). The crucial match against Lytham is still in progress — on this the Trophy depends. Thanks to Hall for organising matches.

With experienced mouths having left, Debating was left to Hall and Hook who proposed the difficult motion "This House believes that the playing of sport in schools is of no value whatsoever." The experience of Blaikie and Barlow Jones proved too much.

Our Junior Rugby players proved too much for the opposition. In the first round Fylde were victims, losing 28—10. In the semi-final, the much-fancied Ashton side gave way to the ferocious rucking of Smith, Wright and Robinson; with Benstead and Carter knocking down bigger opposition, Tasker and Crawford breaking consistently and Barker hooking excellently the team won 24—14. In the final against School the team was, once again, well led by Wright to a 26—12 victory.

The House Sevens was organised on a league basis. The first match against Lytham we won 10—0; in the match against Ashton we lost narrowly 0—4.

In the X-Country we were unlucky to be beaten twice into 2nd place. The Juniors amassed only 78 pts., but, alas, Fylde had 77. Aspinall won the race and Thompson and Aspinall were 4th equal. The Intermediates were narrowly beaten by School. Creditable performances came from Shaw, C. J. and Ward who were 1st and 4th respectively. The Seniors did predictably badly, through lack of effort, and only managed 5th place.

Thanks to Crawford's ability and Mynott's coaching, our entries in the Music Competition were creditable and we finished 4th.

I hope that success is imminent and I wish the House all the best in the years to come.

J. K.

Lytham

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. L. A. Redman
<i>Assistants:</i>	Mrs. A. Kirk, Mr. J. Bradbury, Mr. B. F. Taylor, Mr. W. J. Webster.
<i>House Captain:</i>	J. A. Blaikie
<i>House Vice-Captain:</i>	A. N. Gray
<i>House Prefects:</i>	I. Barlow-Jones, R. W-Cole, R. S. Smith, J. Swire.

I wish to welcome Mrs. Kirk into the House as an Assistant and, whilst welcoming the return of Mr. Redman as Housemaster, I would like to thank Mr. Taylor for ably filling that slot last year.

The academic slant in the House was indicated at Speech Day when we collected the Work Cup and Chess Trophy. Indeed, it is in the more "cultural" activities that we have since flourished. The Chess team, competently led by Swire has had a whole string of successes and the House Trophy, with one match still undecided, looks certain to be ours again. D. Archer has reached the final of the School Chess competition whilst A. Wilcox looks set to join him and S. Yeadon is in the final of the Junior competition. Not surprisingly, Lytham House members form the nucleus of the School team.

With our position in the Work Cup ratings fluctuating between 1st and 2nd, good results in internal exams. should again secure the trophy. In the Music Competition we were 2nd, a result which somewhat disappointed Gray whose thorough efforts in training the choir and arranging scores, perhaps deserved better.

We have reached the final of the Inter-House Debating where the team of Barlow Jones — a dynamic and witty speaker — and myself stands a good chance, having proposed, successfully, the near-impossible motion that "This House believes women are inferior beings" in the semi-final.

The Junior Rugby team beat Preston 18—16 in the first round of their Competition with a superb display from Captain Taylor coupled with coherent, attacking play from the forwards, where Dunlop and Pennington excelled, and fluid back play notably from Cole and Ingleby. However, in the semi-final against School we lost. Having gained a bye into the semi-final of the Senior Rugby we came up against a strong Ashton side. Although we lost, the margin was close. Cotgreave and Wayland fought well for possession, and Smith, despite an early ankle injury, was outstanding in the forwards. The backs, unable to match Ashton's array of 1st and 2nd XV stars, gave of their best. In the Sevens we lost to Ashton and Kirkham Houses, the match against the latter almost ending in a draw. Lytham House cannot boast of strong rugby sides at present, but the enthusiasm shown at junior level and the potential ability of such 4th years as Wayland, Wilmot and Abraham augurs well for the future.

An overall lack of desire to participate was shown regarding X-country, and, although Abraham's position of 2nd in the Intermediate was most commendable, the feeble response to Wilson's diligent efforts at coaching is reflected in the final House placings. Although we did little better in the Gymnastics, the readiness to perform shown by Croft and Scholefield was encouraging whilst Clifton and Blaikie (1G) must be thanked for coming in as last minute replacements.

We look forward to a Summer Term crammed with tennis, cricket, athletics, shooting and swimming, a term, I hope, in which the House will pull together and achieve sporting trophies to put alongside Chess, Work and Debating Cups. I thank all House prefects and staff members for their help and co-operation throughout the past year and I wish my successor luck in harnessing the abilities of what is undoubtedly a talented House.

J. A. B.

Preston

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. T. Jackman
<i>Assistant Housemasters:</i>	Mr. R. M. Clarkson, Mr. J. Catterall, Mr. I. Beckett.
<i>House Captain:</i>	I. V. Gascoigne
<i>House Prefects:</i>	F. R. Haddleton, D. R. Lambert, B. D. Sproates.

The Summer Term of 1974 began with a great disappointment. In the Inter-House Athletics, there were only two Houses in the running — Ashton and Preston. But, a faulty baton change during the Senior relay cost us the trophy. Nevertheless, congratulations are due to D. E. Williams for winning the Junior "Victor Ludorum".

In the Junior Cricket, having dismissed School with 8 wickets to spare, the team was defeated by Lytham in the semi-final. The Seniors reached the final, having disposed of Lytham and School en route. However, the final against Fylde was ruined by intermittent rain. Even when play was possible, the Fylde bowlers (particularly Dennis) used the wet wicket to their advantage. Nevertheless, their eventual 9 wicket victory was a little flattering.

The Swimming team was sixth, with only 3 points, thus illustrating lack of talent and enthusiasm. In the Shooting we were 5th and the Tennis team (thanks mainly to the efforts of Scott and Fielding) reached the semi-final to be beaten by Ashton.

In the Debating, Scott and myself lost to School House. We unfortunately didn't convince the adjudicators, even though we had evidently convinced the audience!

In the Junior Rugby, in a game of fluctuating fortunes, we had 50% of the play, but Lytham were eventual winners by 18 points to 16. In the Senior Rugby, after a bye to the semi-final, we met the favourites, Fylde House. They proved too superior but the team fought hard, Howarth, Shields and Wright being outstanding. In our Sevens group we were drawn against Fylde and School, being outclassed 0-28 and 6-34 respectively.

Success eluded us too, in the more cultural activities. In the Music Competition we were third — due to the organising abilities of Dobson and Roe and the piano playing of the former, who scored 9/10 for his piano solo. I would like to thank all Preston House members who participated and Durham, Dobson and Roe, especially, for their work behind the scenes.

The Debating Competition was our greatest disappointment. Hopes were high of reaching the final but Fylde defeated us. The adjudicator said it was an easy victory since Preston concentrated on humour, which was not always relevant.

This year we were defending the Junior Cross-Country Cup and last year's winner D. E. Williams could only finish 3rd. Many proven runners returned relatively poor performances and we were placed a shameful 5th. The Seniors lived up to expectations and finished a creditable 2nd. All the team deserve congratulations, especially Pilkington who beat everyone (except Redgrave!), and Sproates (9th). The Intermediates finished 3rd, with the younger Durham coming an excellent 5th.

Finally, I must thank all Housemasters, prefects and the majority of boys. A small group always refuses to co-operate, but I am grateful to those who are willing to think of others, as well as themselves. Although we have not had much success recently, I think we can be optimistic about future prospects.

I. V. G.

School

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. F. W. Sayer
<i>Assistant Housemasters:</i>	Mr. S. C. Crook, Mr. R. J. Watson
<i>House Captain:</i>	P. R. Atkinson
<i>House Vice-Captain:</i>	G. S. Harris
<i>House Prefects:</i>	M. N. Leppard, A. J. Gerrard, M. G. Berkley, R. M. Wood.

The House has again diminished in size. Many say this must surely be a handicap against other much larger Houses. We in School House dispute this and here are the facts to support us.

In the Senior Rugby, despite a good performance, we were defeated 12-3 by Fylde. My thanks go to the team, especially K. W. Pierce and J. Gates, for their efforts. The story of the Junior Rugby is quite different. Never have I seen such a spirited and eager performance as our Juniors showed. The annihilation of Lytham brought them up against Kirkham House. Here they met their match and, in spite of an excellent display of heavy tackling by Grime and Goodwin, we lost 22-12. A very creditable performance - my thanks to all concerned. In the Senior Sevens we reached the final but were beaten 12-6 by Ashton, though we should have won and only lost because of a lack of stamina.

In the Cross-Country, under the expert guidance of Alan Gerrard, the House put up their best display of the year. In the Senior event we were 3rd and a fine Captain's performance was shown by A. Gerrard who came 6th. The Intermediates won their event outright with six runners home in the first eighteen. B. Duckworth came in 3rd. In the Junior competition we were once again third and my thanks go to one and all for their performances in this gruelling event.

In the Gym. Competition, we swept the board, R. M. Wood winning the Senior event and P. Harrower third. In the juniors I. Langrish was first with J. Calland second and M. Stead 4th.

The House also put up good performances in the Music Competition with three of our juniors — Corbishley, Nichols and Pajet — getting into the concert and "Blue Desert" getting the loudest applause.

To conclude I would like to thank the House Officials and the kitchen staff for their magnificent performances during the past year, particularly Mrs. Summerlee and Mrs. Taylor, and I wish them all the best for the future.

P. R. A.

SOCIETY REPORTS

Astronomical Society

(*Chairman:* Mr. A. Bowman; *Treasurer:* D. C. Hook)

In our first term as an active school society we have attracted considerable support. Unfortunately, the films booked so far have been withdrawn, but we hope to obtain some in the near future.

The society has the use of a 4" equatorial reflector and with this several members of the society have observed the Moon and Jupiter (and its four major moons) on clear nights.

As the evenings draw out we are switching our attention to the Sun, and we intend to do some work on sunspot frequency, solar flares and, hopefully, solar spectroscopy.

Our thanks must go to Mr. A. Bowman for his help in forming the society whilst his home affairs have been so pressing.

I. P. Hall, (Sec.)

Auto Society

(*Chairman:* Mr. D. H. Butterworth; *Treasurer:* P. R. Jackson)

This year has been one of mixed fortunes. A series of films, kindly loaned by "Castrol" during the Winter term proved to be very successful with audiences regularly in excess of 70.

A visit to the Motor Show at Earl's Court was organised, but this was unfortunately cancelled at the last moment.

A large number of sixth-formers have taken to the road, and it has been encouraging to see revived interest in the running, driving and (in one particular case) breath-taking performances of their (parents!) cars.

A full programme of films had been planned (including one on "Winter Driving Techniques" at the Easter Fair), but, because of a fault on the projector, these have been postponed. However, a visit to the police headquarters at Hutton has been arranged for an evening in July and this should prove interesting.

Good wishes go to my successor and my gratitude to Mr. Webster for the privileged use of Room 11 and its projector; last, but not least, to my hard-working committee for their work throughout the year.

D. R. Lambert, (Sec.)

Bridge Club

(Chairman: Mr. W. J. Webster; Treasurer: C. Waite)

This year has not been a successful one. The season began with Mr. Webster gaining many lower-sixth recruits for the club. Practices were held on Monday nights but we could not get into match practice. In the North West Schools' Bridge League we lost heavily to Burnley's "A" and "B" teams, losing by 6 victory points to nil on each occasion.

With the "Oxbridge" candidates leaving at Christmas, the new recruits were drafted into the team to play Accrington and Hutton, but again we lost heavily both times. Against Stonyhurst College the team played well and confidently and lost narrowly by a margin of two victory points. Indeed, next year promises to be a good one with the nucleus of the team returning.

My thanks go to Mr. Webster for giving up so much of his valuable time for practices and transport to away matches.

G. A. Howarth, (Sec.)

Chess Club

(Chairman: Mr. J. Bradbury; Secretary: M. J. Watkinson;
Treasurer: T. M. Watkinson)

The team has had quite a good season in the Blackpool and Fylde Chess League and achieved a respectable record, with convincing victories over St. Joseph's College, Poulton Training College and a strong Guardian Royal Exchange side. This year is unfortunately the last for most of the current team, but we have some promising new players.

As regards individual achievements, the juniors have quickly reached the final stage of their knockout competition, where Dugdale (3X) plays Yeadon (2Y) for the championship. The seniors have almost completed their matches. M. Watkinson (PRE) and A. Wilcox (UVIM), the current holder, battle to play D. Archer for the championship.

Two of these 3 finalists are members of Lytham House a fact which is reflected in the Inter-House Competition, where Lytham look like certain winners, with one of their matches still to play. The expected results are:

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

A. Wilcox and M. J. Watkinson

Fell-Walking Society

(Chairman: Dr. B. Summers; Secretary: N. P. Webb)

Since the last report, the society has held 3 walks and has 3 more planned.

The first walk was enlivened by the discovery that the coach company's only spare driver was a certain Mr. Webster! He got us to Langdale safely, and, in beautiful autumn sunshine, we climbed up to Crinkle Craggs Ridge and along to the col between the Craggs and Bowfell. We had wonderful views of the Scafell Range, and certain members of the Society decided that the sprinkling of snow on the summit was ideal for snowballs. Most descended down the Band, but a few continued over Bowfell to finish off one of the most enjoyable walks the Society has ever held.

November found us with a few additions from a local girls' school, climbing Pen-y-Ghent on a rather dull, misty day. Some interesting photographs were taken of Mr. Taylor jumping over walls and falling down steep slopes. The walk was an interesting hike in Limestone country, rounded off in a Horton café which sold glorious pint mugs of tea. This was a discovery of Dr. B. Summers, whose intimate knowledge of Pennines' watering places is exceptionally useful.

January found us trekking around Malham, on a day when we experienced almost every weather condition imaginable: it rained, snowed, sleeted, hailed and, just as we returned to the coach, the sun came out. For this walk, we had a record attendance, which necessitated having 2 parties.

We intend to visit the Lake District and the Peak District in the near future. R. Cole, the 1973-4 secretary has left the Society and the post has been ably taken over by N. P. Webb. Our thanks are due to Dr. Summers and Mr. Taylor for their keen support.

I. P. Hall, (Treas.)

Fencing Club

(Chairman: Mr. F. W. Sayer; Captain: F. R. Haddleton;
Treasurer: H. L. Morgan)

This year has consolidated our position as top fencing School in the north-west. Of the 4 major schools' titles contested this year, we have won three, the first being the Cheshire Schools' Open title, which was won by Morgan, with Haddleton second, and Ellis fifth. The next tournament was the Section, the top 4 fencers in each weapon qualifying for the National Finals. Haddleton dominated the foil, with Morgan just pipping Ellis for a qualifying place. Morgan went on to win the sabre, and hopes were running high, with 2 épéeists in the last four. However, this was not to be — Ellis finished 3rd and Haddleton 4th.

Club members have had notable successes. Haddleton's victory over Rob Brunigeos, the top British foilist, springs to mind, along with Ellis's victory over Brian Green, the bronze medalist in the Ashton full International Épée Tournament.

In the Hawksworth Épée Tournament, we had 3 representatives in the final. Mr. F. W. Sayer, after beating the eventual winner, finished 2nd with Haddleton and Ellis 4th and 5th respectively. Mr. Sayer showed his prowess in the Section, finishing 5th, with Ellis and Haddleton failing in the quarter-finals.

The National Finals for Foil proved our downfall, with hopes of an England place dashed when Morgan went out in the 2nd round and Haddleton in the quarter-finals.

Next term, we look forward to the National Épée and Sabre Finals in Cardiff, and the team tournament, the title of which we hope to retain for the 4th time in succession.

Once again our many thanks go to Mr. Sayer for the time and money he has spent in coaching and transporting us around.

A. Ellis, (Sec.)

Film Society

(Chairman: Mr. W. J. Webster; Treasurer: C. S. Rostron)

It has been encouraging to notice the enthusiastic response of first-year boys, and with their help the Society's membership has now reached an outstanding 154. However, a problem with the booking of films has meant that only 3 have been shown. These have not always been of the highest quality, but the delights of Raquel Welch in "Kansas City Bomber" must have compensated for this.

To try to decide what type of films Society members preferred, a questionnaire was distributed. The result showed overwhelming support for "action-packed" films, such as the James Bond series, thereby indicating the level of cultural interest in the school!

There was a suggestion that we should establish a joint Film Society with Carr Hill Secondary School. But alas! their Society had folded up 2 years previously. It seems that if "good" films are required by members, they will have to be prepared to pay more.

One innovation this year was the introduction of a Christmas Quiz. This was not the most successful of our ventures, but thanks are due to those who took part. First prize was awarded to A. Hargreaves (LVI) and C. Gornall (4Y) won second prize.

Finally, I must thank all those who have helped with the organisation this year, not least Mr. Clarkson, who, it seems, will never tire until we show his favourite film ("The Secret War of Harry Frigg"), and to Mr. Webster, who has acted as P.R. Officer, projectionist and, on occasion, typist. Without his drive, nothing would have been possible.

I. V. Gascoigne, (Sec.)

Hockey Society

(Chairman: Mr. T. Capper; Captain: N. Grayson; Treasurer: R. Jones)

Hockey has pushed its way into the K.G.S. games curriculum and produced enough players to form an XI. Considering our inexperience, results (shown below) are not bad:

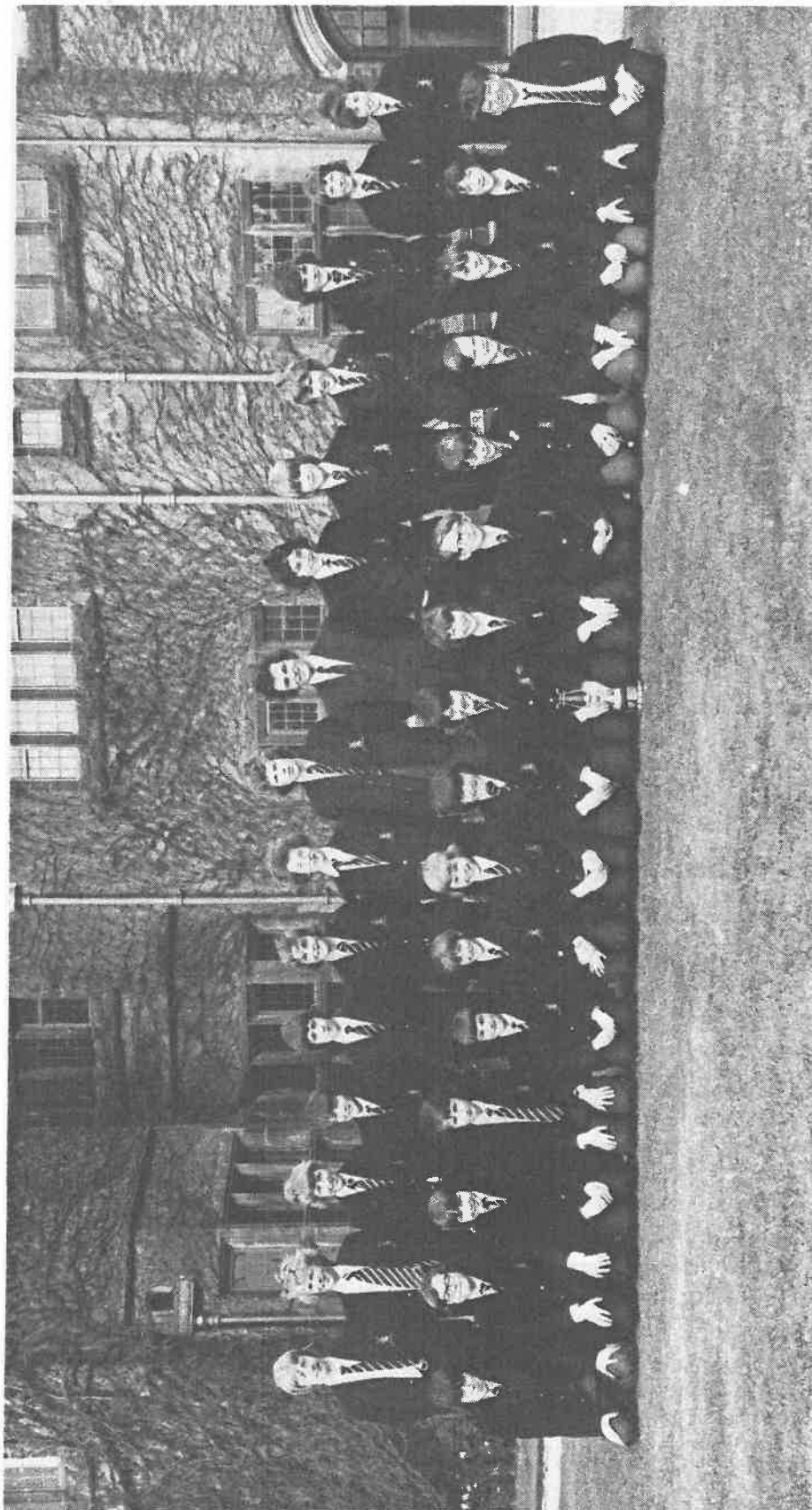
Played — 4; Won — 1; Drawn — 1; Lost — 2; Goals for: 8, against: 11.

Our début was against Preston 6th Form College, whom we convincingly defeated 5-1. However, in our next match we were heavily beaten (5-0) by a strong St. Anne's Hockey Club XI. We again played Preston 6th Form College but this time only managed a 1-1 draw. Our last match against King Edward's, Lytham, we lost 4-2.

Only 3 team members had played before — Grayson, Cole, R. Jones. The remainder were new to the game and have done well to reach their present standard. Probably the most promising of the "new" players are the inside forwards, R. T. Durham and S. W. Harris, and goalkeeper, W. Vickers, although all the team deserve praise for their efforts.

I'd like to thank Mr. Capper for all the time, money and effort he has put into the Hockey Society, and I hope this will be repaid next term with a better results sheet. Half-colours have been awarded to: N. Grayson, R. Jones, S. Harris, R. Durham and J. P. Kelly.

S. W. Harris, (Sec.)



School Junior Choir. Winners of Lomax Trophy, Blackpool Musical Festival. 1974.

Music Society

(Chairman: Mr. J. Catterall; Treasurer: S. J. Wells)

The year started with the treble choir again winning their section at the Blackpool Music Festival, although competition was less severe than in previous years.

The Carol Service went very well, with Mr. Murray again playing the organ under Mr. Catterall's baton. A new feature was a quadrophonic (!) tape recording made by Messrs. Beckett and Webster. The quality of the recording was perhaps marred by a certain bass voice in the front right-hand speaker and also by the cries of a young child, belonging to a member of staff, in the rear speakers.

The Spring Term saw the formation of a "dance band" by Mr. Lloyd, the brass tutor. The band has unfortunately, as yet, made little progress, due to Mr. Lloyd's illness. The Music Festival had to be moved forward a week due to unforeseen circumstances, thereby causing untold panic among those responsible for organising their respective Houses. Mr. Hockey, the adjudicator, came from William Temple School, Preston, and our thanks are due to him for giving up his time to come and listen. His marks out of 40 were as follows:

Ashton — 32, Lytham — 27, Preston — 26, Kirkham — 25, Fylde — 24, School — 23.

The highlight of the afternoon was perhaps a performance of "Blue Desert" by School House which, it is rumoured, had Mr. Webster nearly falling out of a window at the back of the hall in fits of laughter. The Easter Concerts were also a great success (see report).

Our thanks go to Mr. Catterall for his unending support and enthusiasm for most of our ideas, and we wish him success with future programmes.

A. N. Gray, (Sec.)

Natural History Society

(Secretary: I. P. Hall; Treasurer: A. N. Gray)

So far, this school year, we can look back on the following: (a) Films — "The Vanishing Coast", "Legend of Birds", "The Wild Life of Ceylon" and "The Swallowtail Butterfly"; (b) Members' illustrated talks on "Mountain Flowers" (I. P. Hall, LVI Sc.), "Home Brewing" (A. N. Gray, Pre.), "Wild Life of the South Downs" (N. P. Webb, LVI Mod.), "Amphibians and Reptiles" (P. Smith, LVI Sc.), "Prehistoric Animals" (W. A. Bedford, 4Y), "Big Cats" (J. Lowery, 2X), "Keeping Japanese Quail" (R. J. Bentham, 5Y). (c) Our "celebrity" lectures have been by five members who attended an "A" level biology field course at Brathay Hall in October–November 1974, namely: D. J. Archer (U6M), A. Best (U6M), R. S. Johnson (U6Sc.), R. I. Leech (U6Sc.) and S. P. Marsh (U6M). The Society was also pleased to welcome Mrs. (sic!) S. J. Hurd to talk about, and show slides of Wildlife in Ugandan National Parks. Mr. F. W. also spoke enthusiastically about "Growing Pot Plants".

On February 21st a coach party, of 24 pupils and staff, visited the Wildfowl Trust reserve recently opened at Martin Mere. We hope to have a joint excursion with the Fell Walking Society in the near future.

Room 17 on Easter Fair day was its usual interesting and informative self, this year's theme being "MILK — food for thought".

I must thank most sincerely our enthusiastic, willing secretary, I. P. Hall for his organisation and liaison on behalf of us all. Thanks also to our conscientious P.R. members, W. A. Bedford and D. Jackman for keeping the school informed of our programmes.

Mr. A. R. Baines, (Chairman)

Photographic Society

(*Chairman:* Mr. S. C. Crook; *Treasurer:* J. Bagley)

We have been operating quietly, darkroom facilities being in regular use by senior members. Due to financial trouble, however, it has not been possible to make optimum use of Club facilities — our first term's grant was spent immediately on replacement chemicals and equipment. The Society looks forward to next year, for with increasing junior support it is hoped to revive the Ciné-Club and to re-edit the School Film.

R. W-Cole, (Sec.)

Scientific Society

(*Chairman:* Dr. B. M. Summers; *Treasurer:* J. Bagley)

This has been an active year for the Society. In July, a contingent of members boarded the London train at Kirkham and panicked at the last moment on realising that R. Leech had not yet arrived. He never did arrive. The day proved most enjoyable, with a trip round Kensington Science Museum and a lecture entitled "Science and Crime" being the highlights.

The Winter Term began with a batch of films by Prof. E. R. Laithwaite and ended with a trip round the I.C.I. plant at Thornton, cars being used as transport, with R. Leech late again. The Spring Term started with some films on thermodynamics and we now look forward to the Easter Fair where there will be a display of scientific equipment and chemical reactions.

My sincere thanks go to Dr. Summers for his helpful support and to D. R. Lambert for being our projectionist.

G. A. Howarth, (Sec.)

Sixth Form Society

(*Secretary:* R. M. Wood; *Treasurer:* S. Taylor)

Administration caused a problem this year with new C.C.F. parade arrangements causing a fluctuation in our weekly membership from 60 to 140 (approx.). I hope, however, that the Society will be seen as one which broadens the VIth Form curriculum and assists in the recently introduced courses for "A" Level General Studies.

The core of our programme remains speeches, discussion of human problems, and attempting to make one's own verbal communication better by exposing ideas to our contemporaries — surely the most critical audience anyone can have — enabling these ideas to crystallize aright.

Members have heard from extra-mural sources about "Land Reclamation and Landscaping", from Dr. R. P. Gemmell, a botanist who works for Lancs. C.C.

Planning Dept. Joint Reclamation Team; "Being an Earnest Lancastrian", from Mr. H. Thornton (founder of the British and Overseas Common Law Council; British and Overseas Magna Carta Assoc. and the Honest Money Demand Soc.); "The Leprosy Mission" — in this their centenary year — from Rev. J. A. Pollard, Secretary of Merseyside, Lancs. and S. Cumbria Leprosy Mission; about "Judaism" from Rev. L. Book of St. Anne's. Finally there was a film called "What's Yours?" about alcoholism.

The Committee is most grateful for staff members for their participation in the following ways: Mr. L. A. Redman (on "Publishing"), Dr. B. Summers (on "Mountaineering"), Mr. F. W. Sayer (on "Boarding Education") and Herr H. Hang (on "My Home Town in Switzerland"). Other members of staff have helped to form panels for discussing "Why I always buy this product"; "Election Aftermath"; "Just a Minute" and "Call my Bluff" parlour games; mock interviews for entrants to other educational establishments; "Does the Team Think?" and "Any Questions" (in which both foreign language students participated entertainingly). The remainder of our programme reflected this variety with members in discussion groups reading dramatic dialogue, making impromptu and prepared speeches (or listening to the staff show them just how it should be done!) and competing for this year's Public Speaking prize, to be awarded on Speech Day.

Mr. A. R. Baines (Chairman)

Tennis Society

(*Chairman: Dr. B. M. Summers; Captain: J. Swire*)

Results for the 1974 season were as follows: P-8, W-5, L-3. The season began with little success, with us losing 2 of our first 3 fixtures, which were, however, away matches. Once the team capitalized on their knowledge of the Kirkham courts, several fine results were achieved against good opposition, including an 8-1 win over a somewhat bemused Masters' team. Blakey and Kirkham — the "third pair" — proved by far the most successful members of the team, winning 22 of the 29 sets which they played. The whole team can be proud of their performances in a season in which we remained undefeated at home.

Half-colours were awarded to P. N. Blakey, P. H. Brown, P. Fielding, N. M. Fisher, I. C. Kirkham and J. Swire.

In the final of the School Singles Knock-Out Competition, I. C. Kirkham defeated N. M. Fisher 6-0, 6-4 and in the Doubles, the result was a walk-over victory for P. N. Blakey and M. A. Palmer. The pair were again in evidence when they represented Kirkham in the final of the Inter-House Competition, against Ashton House, which they won narrowly 5-4. "Winter Tennis" has enabled team members to maintain a high standard of practice in preparation for the coming (Summer) term. New fixtures, against Rossall and Preston Catholic College have been arranged, and with 4 members of last year's team still here, hopes are high for the 1975 season.

I would like to thank P. H. Brown and P. Fielding for their efforts during 1973-4, when they served as Captain and Secretary respectively. All team members appreciate the enthusiastic support and advice which has been so readily given by Dr. Summers. His help has been especially useful in providing transport, and we are glad to see that he has recently purchased a longer car — possibly with next term in mind!

N. M. Fisher, (Sec.)

SCHOOL SPORTS

Rugby

	P	W	D	L	F	A
1st XV	21	10	2	9	202	195
2nd XV	17	14	0	3	397	134

The start of the 1974/75 season saw a much changed team with only 2 regular players left from last season's three-quarter line up. However, the pack was almost unchanged. At Ermysted's Skipton, the 1st XV played a scrappy game ending in a 3-3 draw. As the team improved, results began to come, and although often lacking penetration from the backs, the forwards won some good possession. Against Cowley, all the team played well, and were worthy winners by 17pts to 10pts, but success was short lived, and we lost to a strong Rossall team the following week.

The period after half term saw a run of wins, with only one slip against St. Joseph's College, and the term ended with an extremely good match against Widnes College which resulted in an 11-11 draw.

The Spring Term brought perhaps the hardest section of the fixture list, with matches against Blackpool, Lancaster, Stonyhurst, Arnold, De La Salle and King's Macclesfield. Of these we won only two against Arnold, and Stonyhurst - a very pleasing victory which avenged last season's defeat. The forwards at last played at full stretch, and all the backs tackled well. During the later part of the season the forwards really began to play well, and although we were powered out of the Waterloo Cup by rather dubious tactics from a much improved Cardinal Allen School, the pack was rarely dominated with Dennis, Smith, Lambert and Kirkham leading the way.

The last match of the season, at Macclesfield, saw one of the best games played. Against a big, powerful pack and very good backs we were 7pts up after 10 minutes. The pack was really playing as a unit with Wright at scrum-half linking well with his back row. Once again, however, the backs were unable to capitalise on good possession, and injuries to Smith and Fisher eventually contributed to a narrow 7-12 defeat.

Behind the pack, the team has lacked running power, and although Bellamy has tackled outstandingly well, we have made little ground from stand-off. One great discovery was that of Flynn, who had played no rugby before joining the School. He has adapted to the game well, and is a formidable winger. In the pack Shields has made a place for himself, and his aggressive play has given heart to the forwards.

The main needs of the team have been in the backs, who lack a leader. Had we had a more decisive stand-off we could perhaps have done well, for there is plenty of pace in the backs. However, credit is due to both McGregor and Pierce who filled this problem spot; both talented players. Finally, the front row have had a hard time this season. Easy, Palmer and Mason should all be back next year.

In the County sides both Dennis and Lambert have represented the U-19XV and Harris the U-16XV.

D. E. W.

Colours

Re-Award Full Colours: L. J. Dennis, D. Lambert, P. H. Wright, J. Bellamy.

New Award Full Colours: J. Kirkham, R. Smith, M. A. Palmer.

Re-Award ½-Colours: R. Wood, P. Collins, K. W. Pierce.

New Award ½-Colours: D. Fisher, M. R. Mason, S. Flynn, C. Easy, C. Shields, R. Leech, N. Harris, C. McGregor, J. Gates, P. Atkinson.

2ND XV

Performances have been extremely pleasing and the team has usually played keen, attacking rugby. However, against Cowley, youthfulness and lack of size up front was shown up. Defeats against Rossall and Lancaster were primarily due to injury problems. Despite this we have not been unduly worried about playing reserves because they have fitted in well. Two such were Eccles and Abraham (4th yrs.) who performed creditably against De La Salle.

Success has been initially derived from forwards' ability to win good, clean ball for Schofield, and the pack has worked well as a unit, motivated by the performances and captaincy of Yates. Outstanding in the pack have been Quirk, Rowe, Cotgreave and Harris. Although Harris has been missing on 3 occasions on County duty and "shopping sprees", his absence has not weakened the team in any way.

Schofield has fed his backs well, and helped out in defence when needed. Gardner has secured his spot at stand-off and has improved tremendously, although lacking some of the control of McGregor and Pierce earlier in the season. After a bad injury, Whiteside has produced and developed a great deal of flair, making his own breaks or setting up Harrower on the wing, the latter being top try scorer with 12 tries.

Outstanding players have been McCann and Sproates. McCann has excelled in his control and reading of the game, while Sproates has defended and kicked extremely well setting up attacks from defence at every opportunity with a team consisting mainly of 5th. years the potential talent in the School is shown. Although lacking in size, the fighting attitude is there. This was shown at Cowley when, losing heavily, they came back and scored a good try through P. Harrower with only 13 players.

J. M. P.

7-A-SIDE

The U-19 team has entered 4 competitions. At Blackpool they played consistently well throughout and eventually won. At the Manchester G.S. tournament we went through our group games unbeaten, scoring 47pts in 4 games, defeated Blackpool in the quarter-finals, 10-0 and in the semi-finals lost to Wakefield who eventually walked away with the final, winning 30-0. Our losing by only 24pts to 12 was a creditable performance, Wright and Pierce being especially outstanding.

At the Manchester University Tournament we lost to Arnold in the first round, thus entering the Plate competition. We reached the final, but unfortunately lost to Birkenhead in a rough game where Pierce had to be taken off with an arm injury.

At Fylde the team played their best rugby of the season but were unlucky. They qualified for the final stages by beating Whitehaven 12-0 and Heath

28-6. They then faced Cardinal Allen but due to inconsistency in the referee's decisions, they lost 12-10 with the last kick of the match.

With Ilkley and Birkenhead sevens still to come, we are optimistic about winning a major tournament. We have good players in Lambert, Dennis, Bellamy, Collins and Wright, but luck has been absent.

The U-17 team lost in the semi-finals, against Rossal, at Southport whilst in the Stonyhurst Sevens the U-16's lost, again in the semi-finals, to Blackpool. In the final of the Inter-House Sevens Ashton beat School by 12pts to 6pts.

J. M. P.

U 15 XV

P	W	L	F	A
12	4	8	123	304

A disappointing season, due to the small pool of players available. The team as a whole failed to function with any degree of consistency and I was often disappointed with the attitude of some players towards training, and even playing. Highlights of the season occurred at Cowley, where Kirkham held them to three scores at half-time; Manchester, where the pack destroyed the opposing eight, and Lancaster where, despite the smell, slope and referee, the team managed to score six excellent tries.

I. R. B.

U 14 XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
16	10	2	4	348	157

The U14 team has been one of the most consistent in the school playing good attacking rugby. In the pack players such as Smith, Pigott and Wright provide real power, although they will have to improve their distribution. In Brindle, Gilbert and Williams, the team has 3 players of great potential, both in the loose and in the set. These six are the basis of the pack, and they have consistently won good possession for the three-quarters.

Behind the pack, Jones and Lanigan have played well together and set up good ball for a talented back division, where Harris, Manning and Doughty have all shown great ability, especially Harris whose aggressive play should open the way to higher levels of rugby next season. We have been fortunate in 3 very good wingers, Ward, Crawford and "soccer convert" Lee. All are fast, capable players and the problem has often been who to leave out. Behind them, Richardson is fast developing as one of the best full-backs we have produced. His tackling powerful and counter-attacking effective. The whole team can feel confident with him behind them.

Finally, a word about the reserves, most of whom would have gained regular team places in any other year. We rely on Hartley, Hutton and Whan to maintain standards in case of injury.

U 13 XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
15	4	3	8	154	325

This season has shown the lack of strength in depth at U-13 level. Without 3 regulars the team suffered heavy defeats at the hands of Ermysteds (0-36) Blackpool (0-38) and King Edward's (18-36).

The first turning point was during the 2nd. half at King Edward's when, 26pts. down, the team closed the gap to 8pts. From then until the end of January came the most successful phase when the team beat Manchester (38-10) and Kendal (26-7), drew with St. Joseph's (4-4) and lost by the odd point in 23 at Southport.

In the final phase, the team, again without several players, were defeated 4-66 by Lancaster and 0-46 by King's Macclesfield.

All too often the team took a long time to settle down, and they were not helped by failure to tackle and cover. If defensive work had been better, matches lost heavily would have been much closer and the Southport game would have been won in convincing style. The team showed in patches that they were capable of producing good rugby and if they could get a full season without too many changes, I am sure they would be a force to be reckoned with.

Worthington settled down well at full-back and produced numerous fine tackles, while Taylor played consistently well. Liddell showed that he could pass the ball fluently either way and has the makings of a good fly-half. The other 3 positions were strongly contested by Swift, McNellie, Gibson and latterly Benstead and Herrington, while Scott and Tasker shared scrum-half responsibilities.

The forwards played well together at times with Fecky the leading scorer and Lee the most aggressive, ably supported by Hague, Dunlop, Bentley and Pennington. Flynn showed that he has a tremendous place kick for his age and could be a real asset.

B. J. B.

U 12 XV

P	W	L	D
7	1	5	1

Disappointing but enjoyable season. We started with a difficult game against tough opposition at Cowley. After a heavy defeat, we were narrowly beaten by King Edward's and St. Joseph's. We improved considerably to play well against Blackpool, but were beaten by sheer size. Arnold brought a draw and Ashton provided our only win.

Our only game in the Spring Term brought defeat by King's Macclesfield (a game Singleton will not forget!) Other forwards who played well were Corbishley, Greenhalgh and Longworth, and, in the back row, Lofthouse has proved to be an excellent captain with the right aggressive attitude and the will to win. Similarly, Carter has shown that he would tackle an elephant if necessary! When Dixon and Marshall have played together they have produced good rugby and Nichols and McKenna have recently shown promise. In the half-backs, Girvan has indicated his great ability and served Brookes, who has shown some very capable handling and running at stand-off.

The three-quarters have worked well, despite initial difficulties. Nelson has proved to be a strong runner and Ingleby has found his best position on the wing, partnered ably by Churchman who makes up for what he lacks in size by sheer tenacity and Grant Batty-like arrogance.

Many thanks to all players, reserves and spectators who have turned out, often in abysmal conditions, to support the team.

I. M. S.

Cricket 1974

Everyone looked forward to the 1974 season, for not only did the First XI have an impressive batting side but also a devastating bowling attack. However, it was only in the latter half of the season that these 2 factors worked in conjunction.

Against Blackpool C.G.S., the team hit 124 all out. With 2 Blackpool wickets down for 20 runs, rain stopped play. The highlight of the season was Jenkins's superb innings of 89 against Arnold. King Edward's again provided an interesting fixture. They were dismissed for 72 — in 3 hours. With less than 50 minutes to reach the required total, a spirited innings from Kennedy brought KGS to within 6 runs at the close.

Only one team scored 100 runs against us in 1974, and that without winning. In the latter half of the season the team really hit form. Following an unfortunate defeat at Batley, where they were bowled out quickly for 93 — a credit to the bowlers of whom Holland took 6/34, Sproates 3/10 and Dennis 1/11 in 17 overs. In the last 6 games, only one side scored over 45 runs. Catholic College scored 74, and they were beaten by 9 wickets thanks to an innings of 50 by D. Jenkins in which he and Sproates shared an opening partnership of 49, after Dennis had demolished the opposition's batting with accurate pace bowling. Time after time Dennis and Holland ripped through batting sides with sheer pace and aggression. When this failed, Kennedy often mopped up remaining wickets. The depth of our bowling is reflected in that 4 bowlers took over 20 wickets, Holland the greatest wicket-taker taking 6 wickets on 4 occasions.

Credit goes to all, but especially to Jenkins, the captain, who was an example to his team both on and off the field, and to Mr. Sutcliffe whose efforts and persistence with fielding practice contributed greatly to success.

The 2nd. XI and U 14 XI also had successful seasons. The 2nd. team, under the expert guidance of Mr. Webster, lost only one match — to Southport — with Sheppard prominent in both batting and bowling analyses. The U 14 XI, tutored admirably by Mr. Taylor, showed promise and one can look forward with optimism as cricketers of the promise of Swift, A., Wayland and Gascoigne develop their potential.

B. D. Sproates

Harriers

This seasons results are:—

v Hutton (A)	Won	v Blackpool (A)	Lost
v St. Josephs (A)	Lost	v Lancaster (A)	Lost
v Lancaster (H)	Lost	v Hutton (H)	Won
v Stonyhurst (A)	Lost	v Rossall (A)	Lost
v Arnold (H)	Won	v Rossall &	
v Arnold (A)	Won	St. Josephs (H)	2nd

The headline in the "Evening Gazette" following the Inter-Grammar School race probably sums up the season for the harriers — "Stewart romps in, but team trails". Stewart Redgrave has had another successful season winning 10 out of 11 races. At Rawtenstall in the Lancashire Senior Cross Country

Championships, after finishing 4th, he was chosen to run for Lancashire in the English Schools' Championships at Derby. J. Pilkington was also selected to run at Derby but was unable to do so as this clashed with the Geography Field Trip.

The captain, S. Redgrave, has been given good support all season by J. Pilkington, who was also first home on two occasions. S. Taylor and A. Gerrard have run consistently through the season. However, it has been the inconsistency of the remaining runners that has let the team down. C. Shaw and A. McLellan have run reasonably well in their first year and should improve for next season, but A. Wilson hasn't produced the same form as he did last year. A. Ward, G. Best and W. Lowe have also represented the harriers.

There have been good wins over Hutton and Arnold, both at home and away. In a triangular race with Rossall and St. Joseph's we were second to Rossall by only four points. In the Inter Grammar School event at St. Joseph's we finished 5th out of 8, although, as usual, S. Redgrave won the race. The winners were Lancaster followed by Blackpool, Rossall and St. Joseph's.

Colours

Full colours	Re-award	S. Taylor
	New award	S. Redgrave, A. Gerrard
Half colours	Re-award	A. Wilson
	New award	J. Pilkington, C. Shaw, A. McLellan

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

In the Senior race Fylde House, as expected, gained an easy victory with a score of 46 points, 48 points ahead of their nearest rivals! The Intermediate and Junior races were more keenly contested with Kirkham House coming a close second on both occasions. School House won the Intermediate race by two points with Fylde House recording another win in the Junior race by only one point.

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

The individual positions were:—

1. S. Redgrave (Fylde)	1. C. Shaw (Kirkham)	1. J. Aspinall (Kirkham)
2. J. Pilkington (Preston)	2. J. Abraham (Lytham)	2. M. Corner (Fylde)
3. S. Taylor (Fylde)	3. B. Duckworth (School)	3. D. Williams (Preston)

S. T.

The Round Ball Report

This year has seen the re-emergence of K. G. S. Soccer team, after the School went over to Rugby 50 years ago and soccer became frowned upon. The team has overcome hardships in organisation and has succeeded in bringing together a squad of 15 players.

The team remained unbeaten throughout the season. All fixtures have been away games since there are no home facilities. However, we hope for improvements in the future. The squad includes: S. Marsh, C. P. Walker, D. Williams, I. Gascoigne, C. Rostron, S. Payne, D. Slater, D. Swift, S. Roberts, T. Edensor, A. Ainsworth, R. Bullough, M. Jenkins, S. Wells, D. Dickinson.

Results:

Ansdell Staff	3 v 3 K.G.S.
Springfields Youth	2 v 2 K.G.S.
St. Annes Tech.	3 v 4 K.G.S.
Hutton G. S.	2 v 3 K.G.S.

Scorers

Payne (2), Edensor
Williams (2)
Williams (2), Ainsworth (2)
Walker (2), Edensor

C. Walker and S. Marsh

'School Swimming, 1974

Once again the School teams took part in the Inter Grammar School Swimming Competition at Derby Baths. The Seniors did exceptionally well and were narrowly beaten, by one point, into 2nd. place by Arnold.

J. Kirkham won the 100m. freestyle and was 2nd. in the 50m. freestyle; D. Archer won the 50m. butterfly; P. Brookes was 2nd. in the 200m. freestyle and R. Smith was 3rd. in the 50m. backstroke. The freestyle squadron was won by A. Gerrard, T. Downs, J. Kirkham and R. Smith.

The Junior team was 7th. out of seven. There were some good performances, from Gates (4th. in 50m. freestyle), Brookes (4th. in 50m. butterfly) and Whiteside (4th. in the Medley).

The Senior team is virtually unchanged and so a good result is expected this year.

INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

This was a long-drawn-out affair, due to external exams. After the Senior races had been completed, Lytham were in the lead, closely followed by Kirkham. After Junior and Intermediate events had been swum the final positions had changed and the results were as follows:

1st—Kirkham (60pts.); 2nd—School (44pts.); 3rd—Lytham (32pts); 4th—Ashton (27pts.); 5th—Fylde (13pts.); 6th—Preston (3pts.)

R. Smith

Inter House Athletics: 1975

(1) Preston: 114	(2) Ashton: 93½	(3) Lytham: 71	(4) Fylde: 64
(5) School: 52½	(6) Kirkham: 44		

SCHOOL EVENTS AND TRIPS

Brathay Hall Biology Field Course

On the 23rd. October 1974, we all met in the plush surroundings of the common room at Brathay Hall Field centre. The group of biology students from K. G. S. consisted of Andy Best, Steve Marsh, Dick Leech, Rick Johnson and David Archer.

Our first meetings with the other students were brief, until the meeting with Mike Mortimer, Director of Studies, who explained the rules and regulations whilst giving us a warm welcome to the Course. We then split into respective geography and biology groups and met our teacher, Ian Deshmuk.

From that evening until Tuesday evening the following week we worked on nearly every type of ecological habitat, making good use of the excellent laboratory facilities. Our work ranged from fishing for small animals in a pond at the top of a Lake District mountain to grovelling in a slate tip for mosses. The work was absorbing and full of interest.

The nights became more interesting as the week passed, with a gradual progression from the normal hostel jokes — such as suspending my bed from the bedroom window — to a full devastating attack on one of the teachers' bedrooms.

Our week at Brathay proved to be overwhelmingly rich in ecological information. Added to this were the midnight pranks and a survey of the local attributes of Ambleside, with its numerous public houses and gift shops frequented by Sixth-formers from Brathay — truly a memorable seven days.

D. J. Archer, (U VI Mod.)

Ski-ing Holiday 1975

This year's holiday was to Weistannen in Switzerland. We set off at 6.30 on the Friday morning with rumours about French fishermen not letting ships into Calais spreading rapidly among the party members — we did not realise, at that stage, how our fears were to turn into reality.

On reaching Folkestone docks we were told that there would be no more sailings until Monday and were directed to Dover East. Here we were told that no boats were landing passengers in France. There remained a chance of a hovercraft which could, however, just miss our train connection. The only alternative was an evening boat to Dunkirk which was being allowed to dock.

Dunkirk, I am sure, must be a very nice place, but their station!! The waiting room must have been designed to accommodate a maximum of ten people, so when 40 schoolboys plus luggage entered, there wasn't a great deal of room. Perhaps the only thing that made it worthwhile was Simon Whan's meeting with an over-friendly French tramp trying to sell stale bread.

We arrived in Basle about lunchtime on Saturday and eventually reached Sargans at 7.30 p.m. when we transferred to a coach which took us to the hotel. The evening meal was a pleasant sight after eating sandwiches for so long.

Opposite the hotel was a ski-slope with a ski-lift floodlit at night, and further along the road was an easier slope where we were to receive our lessons from Dolf. During the week we had six lessons from him and had our skis to use all the time. During the second lesson, Gary Collins had the misfortune to fall awkwardly and break his leg. We were all sorry that it happened and he was missed both by his friends and those who had just go to know him.

At night, since we were the only party in the area there was no chance of us meeting other English school parties — to quote Mr. Watson, “a bit of a blow, chaps!” Instead, we pumped money into the bowling alley, football machine and jukebox. On the Monday night we were joined by Georg Djunga who spent an amusing evening with us.

Then, on Saturday morning, we had the dreaded ski test. After lunch we were told the results by Dolf who presented those who had passed with a badge and certificate. We left the hotel at 8 p.m. and caught the Arlberg Express through to Calais. (Thanks to someone’s mistake we travelled back in couchettes instead of the ordinary compartments we had used on the way out.)

There are moments which we will remember for a long time to come — Philip Kirby’s love for Simon Whan, Iain Summerlee’s love for a female Alf Garnett and, of course, Richard Bentham’s love of “Dairylea” Cheese and people north of the border.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Watson, Alistair Summerlee and Dr. Summers for the way in which they helped to make this trip a success.

P. Bailey (5X)

Speech Day, 1974

As the hall began to fill with neatly groomed schoolboys, vases brim full with carnations and many a Sunday hat, I felt that I was in for a repeat of my first Prize Day — all very formal, traditional and, dare I say it, downright boring. However, this was a Speech Day with a difference. The theme as begun by Canon Francis in his opening address, was the School’s future.

The Headmaster did not confine his remarks to the immediate topic of interest, but gave a comprehensive account ranging from observations and opinions on educational developments since the war right down to rugby successes. Regarding education generally he felt that we need to “stop and plan the route much more carefully.” Moving from a universal to a local plane he ran through G.C.E. results, sports and future plans. Outstanding were the memorable rugby season (“As a soccer enthusiast I was almost converted”) and the School play which, he said “set a new standard of drama at the School.”

The Guest of Honour, Mr. J. C. D. Rainbow M.A., stressed the need for governmental authority. The New Lancashire wanted to build afresh. Wholesale comprehensive education would not solve all the problems, but neither were there enough places in grammar schools to give all bright children a fair chance. Changing the tone of his speech to the more personal subject of character, he said that we could face the future with optimism. The country was in a mess but “the quality of life will only be raised by the young people” who thus had a responsibility to realise their full potential in pursuing individual interests.

Councillor Aiken, in his Vote of Thanks, stuck rigidly to defining the position of the School, sharply criticizing plans to go comprehensive in favour of independence.

We then departed to the canteen where hot collars could be slackened and dry throats refreshed in a more genial atmosphere. Mr. Bentley, I noticed, had not forgotten his first love at the School!

J. A. Blaikie, (Pre.)

Music Concert: Easter Fair 1975

The concert this year adapted a somewhat different format to that of previous years, due to the entire second half being taken up by a choral performance of Solomon, complete with orchestra. Consequently the first half was rather more varied than in previous years including House items, school orchestra, madrigal group and the treble section of the School Choir performing 'Swinging Samson.' The warmest applause of the first half went to the two school House 'gendarmes', who adapted very well after their third partner had unfortunately lost his voice. If they provided courage, then class was provided by P. R. Bagshaw on the flute, ably accompanied by his brother, R. M. Bagshaw, on the piano. Efficiency was provided by the Fylde House choir, whilst the Ashton House instrumentalists showed the professional touch (except for the double bass player). The Madrigal Group sang a limited programme to their usual high standard, whilst the Orchestra, with the very young violinists showing a talent which augurs well for the future, showed their Monday morning critics that they do have some musical ability.

The second half consisted of a performance of Handel's oratorio 'Solomon', by the school choir. This was accompanied by Mr. Webster on the piano and members of the school orchestra, assisted by friends of the school, to whom the Music Society are most grateful.

The voices of the three treble soloists were completely different in tonal quality, but the parts for which they had been chosen fitted their voices exactly, especially that of the Queen. This part was sung in a very clear voice by S. Lowcock. Another interesting and very well sung solo was the air, 'Stay thy hand', sung by I. Gibson. The bass continuo in the accompaniment certainly brought out the mood of the piece, when combined with the voices of the soloists. The bass solos were sung with great confidence by S. Wells over a not quite so competent bass continuo. The performance ended on a triumphant note, with the brass playing in unison with the choir in the chorus 'Praise the Lord with heart and voice.'

A. Ellis ended the concert on the Monday with an (almost!) impromptu speech in which he thanked Mr. Catterall, for organising the concerts, and the 'budding Bobby Crush on the piano'. In conclusion, we can only endorse his vote of thanks, and add our own congratulations, to Mr. Catterall.

S. Wells, A. N. Gray, (Pre)

'Them Trees'

This is the second progress report since the planting of 100 trees (30-45 cm. tall) at K. G. S. during the Easter Holiday of 1973.

If you remember, there were 3 sites. Site 1 (trees 1-41) was given a face lift in November 1974 when men arrived to remove the hedge between the

wood and pond in the north-west corner of the playing fields and up to the cabin which houses sports equipment near to the cricket score box. A few trees were salvaged and placed for the winter in the nursery plot (Site 3) behind the Norwood Block in the School House garden. The numbers on those trees salvaged, and therefore their corresponding sponsors, must forever remain a mystery, now, I'm afraid.

At the moment (March 1975) these few spared trees are still there with the Site 3 indigenous species (nos. 65–100), although not all the latter have survived the past 12 months either. It is planned to re-transplant these trees close to the new fencing erected last November and parallel to the long-jump pits. Of course we can't offer this planting for sponsorship (can we?), but if anyone would care to sponsor a metre of new fence let me know! All contributions to the Baines "Bic" Biro Fund, of course.

Site 2, beyond the tennis courts on the east side of the "cabbage patch", proved to be too wet – even before the past winter's rains. Nearly all the Silver Fir and Western Hemlock (nos. 42–64) have died.

Nevertheless, the remaining trees represent each of the 4 species (Hedgepole Pine and Sitka Spruce were the other two) in the total of 52. I hope that the next report will list names of sponsors against tree numbers before and after what, I hope, will be the last of the great plantings.

A. R. B.



Sixth Formers on Dartmoor, Easter 1975.

Lower Sixth Geographical Field Course, 1975

Between Wednesday 19th March and Wednesday 26th March, 20 boys went to Torbay, South Devon, on a geographical field trip with Messrs. Webster, Scott and Pinnock. We travelled down by rail for the first time, previous journeys being by minibus. Many advantages accrued, most of all the lack of breakdowns, of which there were numerous last year.

Each night, except Saturday, was occupied with a work session, between 8 and 10 o'clock. On Thursday Torquay was examined and on Friday we studied Land-use. Saturday was spent on Dartmoor. Most people wore boots, jeans and anoraks, but Myles chose flared brushed denim trousers, brown platform shoes and a tartan-tweed bomber jacket from the Spring Collection by Christian D'or. The prospect of a Saturday night "on the town" was too much for Mwamba "J. B." (Jungle Bunny) Vickers who stripped off, ably assisted by various friends, on the journey back to the hotel. On Saturday night some 15 members of the party went to see Torquay F. C.'s evening game, while K. Pierce attempted various feats of bravery. C. Easy chose to sleep on the floor, and Vickers was beaten up by a hotel guest. The sighting of flying saucers marked the end of the evening's entertainment.

Sunday was occupied with studying coastal geomorphology. Mr. Webster managed to get locked in his room — many thanks to S. Flynn for providing such an enjoyable occasion — and Grayson got trapped in a dumbwaiter, though no-one knows how. On Monday, village studies were done in groups and on Tuesday there was a long ride around S. Devon since Mr. Scott got hopelessly lost. A tombolo was examined, at which L. Grayson got thrown into the sea and T. Read dived in voluntarily. On Tuesday simulation (sim, not STIM) exercises were done in Totnes. In the evening work session Mr. Webster was presented with a pig's tail. Much merriment followed, helped along by 5 litre bottles of scrumpi bought on the day's excursions.

The train journey was subdued, and one look at J. Cox's face (green) would have told you why. Packed lunches were largely neglected, especially those succulent apple tarts. Mr. Webster loved them though. (They'll eat anything won't they?)

Sincere thanks go to all 3 masters from all the boys in appreciation of the hard work they put in. The trip helped one find out about oneself and about other people. It helped confidence and broke down barriers in the classroom. Lessons have become less formal, more enjoyable, and more is learnt. It was well worth the £20 expenses.

Adespota, (i.e. C. Easy/S. Flynn, LVI Mod)

Carol Service 1974

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, held at Kirkham Parish Church on Friday 13th December, is, along with rugby and the House system, one of those time-honoured irrelevancies to academic life which this school seems to delight in producing.

To some proud mothers, the event was probably moving and significant, but to others (i.e., the vast majority of the school) its religious importance was lost in the grandiloquence of the King James Bible. It may be doubted whether the festival could be called a religious celebration at all, rather an event on the social calendar of the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School.

However far from the true Christmas spirit the service might have been, the technical brilliance of the choir, ably coached by Mr. Catterall, cannot be denied. They sang with power and accuracy, and Ian Gibson's solo in 'Once in Royal David's City . . .' was particularly good. The hymns chosen were a mixture of familiar and not-so familiar, and the words to one medieval song were interesting, to say the least!

M. J. Watkinson, (Pre)

C.C.F. REPORT

Army Section

This year, despite a wider choice of activities being offered, the weather has spoiled much of Major Butterworth's programme. However, we have managed to pass the 5th year through their Proficiency Examination and plans have been made to start the 4th year off on their Apex syllabus. Field days have basically been enjoyable, despite near Arctic or Monsoon conditions, although they were found to be, technically speaking, minor disasters at times.

Although much work has already been done, we have much yet to do with two camps — one in the Cairngorms and one at Jurby Camp, I. O. M. — and a general inspection. We are all hoping for better conditions in the future and for a possible repeat this summer of the 1974 Sennybridge Camp which was a great success, despite Houston losing himself on quite a basic map-reading exercise.

My thanks go to Major Butterworth, Captain Sayer, Lieutenant Capper and 2nd Lieutenant Clarkson for their expert advice and administrative wizardry and to the other N. C. O's for enduring quite a difficult year so well.

Easter Adventure Training Camp, Cairngorms 1975

This was one of the most enjoyable C. C. F. events for several years for in the Cairngorm Nature Reserve Area there was ample opportunity for walking, camping, orienteering and ski-ing.

The weather, though windy and wet for the first half of the week (see Pete Collins for details of the windy conditions), finally broke, giving way to 3 days of blistering sunshine. The highlight of the week for all, except Scott, Kirkham and Quirk (injuries) and Ray (preferred to ascent of Cairngorm), was the 3 days ski-ing.

Thanks must go to the instructors, Dave "The Mad Clansman" and John (Bill Oddie's brother) from the Glenmore Youth Hostel, for putting up with us all despite great pressures from the extreme heat, the melting snow and "Gollum's" inability to stand up. Apart from the officers, all of whom, I am sure, must have enjoyed the week as much as we did, only one person remains unmentioned. For all her help, especially in the kitchen where she managed to place an entirely different tone on the meals, I am sure everyone involved in the camp would like me to extend their thanks to Christine, who spent all week working very hard.

G. S. H.

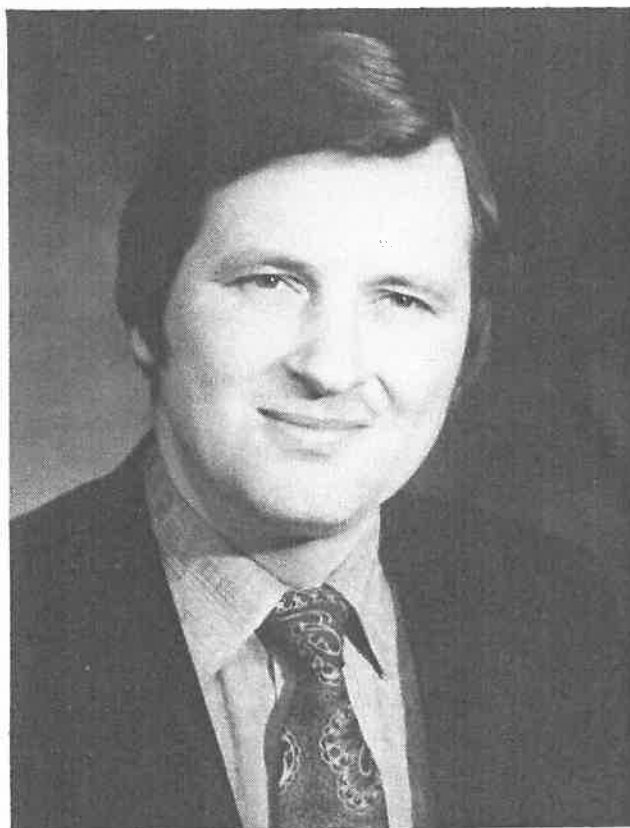
PROFILE No. 35

After completing his primary education at Leyland, Peter entered K. G. S. as a boarder in 1951 at the age of eleven. His educational development was influenced considerably by the Headmaster, the late Dennis Norwood. During the next five years his sporting prowess increased to the detriment of his academic attainments but he managed to recover sufficiently to scramble through the G. C. E. 'O' levels, after which he left School House and joined Preston House as a day boy. When he set about trying to achieve a better

balance between his sporting and academic activities. The fact that in his last year he won the prize for 'the boy who had done most for the sport of the school' perhaps indicates that the imbalance was far from being corrected.

He was Captain of the Athletics' team and Chess team, a member of the 1st XV, 1st XI and Badminton team but athletics was his great love. He won the high hurdles at school and at the Fylde Inter-School sports three years running, breaking the school and Inter-Schools' records in the process. In the last year, 1958, he was Captian of the Athletics' team when they were the Victores Ludores of the Fylde event.

Fortunately his 'A' level results were good enough to get him into Manchester University to read Law, and he performed as a high hurdler in the University Athletics' team. In 1960, however, after returning from an Athletics' tour of Holland and Germany, his left leg was seriously injured in a car accident and his athletics career, which had shown so much promise, came abruptly to an end.



*Mr. P. J. Hosker (1951-58) President:
Old Boys' Association 1974-75.*

In 1961 he became a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and he embarked upon his Articles of Clerkship with a large Manchester firm of Solicitors. In 1964, enrolled as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court, he returned to Preston and in 1966 went into partnership in private practice as a Solicitor. He belongs to several Societies and Organisations and as a member of Preston Golf Club he is a keen golfer when time permits. He is happily married with two children, Joanne aged 7 and Richard 6.

Peter has been an active member of the Old Boys' Association since leaving school and he is particularly concerned with and interested in the school and its future. He is passionately opposed to the doctrinaire and ideological policies in education at the present time, which threaten to engulf and swallow up K. G. S. As a Governor of the school and as the current President of the Old Boys' Association he intends to continue to use his best endeavours, with others, in preserving all that is good at Kirkham Grammar School. We fervently hope his efforts on our behalf will meet with the success they so richly deserve.

K.G.S. OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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* Ex Officio Committee Members.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Independence Report

The Feasibility Study for Kirkham Grammar School with particular reference to 'Independence' has been completed. In my opinion the Study clearly demonstrates 'Independence' is a very real and practical alternative for the school.

The route to 'Independence' is complex and the section in the report headed "Legal Studies" details every aspect of the legal position. Suffice it to say that even if Independence is decided upon, many legal and ancillary problems have still to be overcome. The section "Possible Benefactors" has produced some interesting results, particularly following the recent approach to the members of the Old Boys' Association. Although the approach was in the form of a general enquiry, on present figures, which are increasing daily, the School can expect to receive from the members of the Association, over £10,000 (inclusive of the tax recoverable — assuming that contributions are made under Deeds of Covenant) over a period of seven years. One Old Boy is prepared to make available a gift of £50,000.

There is evidence to suggest that if a specific fund raising activity was embarked upon, say for a particular building, Old Boys would be prepared to donate.

In this field, other independent schools who were approached, stated that parents of the boys at the school at the relevant time, always give the best financial support; clearly, they have a vested interest.

I should mention that, in addition, Charitable Trusts and Industrialists are being canvassed concerning possible financial support for independence, but again this can only be in the form of a general enquiry.

Investigations reveal that the demand for day-boy places is likely to be very substantial and calculations support the premises that fees will be able to support the day to day running costs of the school.

The efforts and work of our Headmaster, Mr. Malcolm J. Summerlee, in connection with the Feasibility Study have been considerable, and the Governors of the School, our Association, and myself are indebted to him for the same.

The special Sub-Committee, comprising Old Boys and Governors, and the Old Boys Committee itself must also be thanked for their efforts in connection with the study.

As I see it, the following sequence of events, inter alia, must now take place:—

1. A Governors Meeting to discuss the Feasibility Study
2. Further and detailed discussions between the Governors and the local Education Authority on the "comprehensive" proposals for the school.
3. A full meeting of the Old Boys' Association to consider and compare the alternatives available thereafter to make recommendations to the Governors. Formal Notice of this will be duly given at the appropriate time.

It may interest you to learn that Mr. R. O. Wilson (Dick Wilson to many) and myself have now been appointed Governors of the school.

This Report is, of course, only an interim report on the up-to-date position being brief and hopefully to the point.

Finally, may I thank all the Old Boys who have replied to and supported my circulars and appeals.

Peter J. Hosker

A. G. M. and Dinner 1975

Please note that once again we are returning to the Lantern Restaurant, Lytham on Friday 26 September 1975.

9th Southern Dinner — Oxford — 19 April 1975

Once again this will take place at St. Edmunds Hall, Oxford on Saturday 19 April. At the time of writing this letter I understand that there is going to be a record attendance. I hope to be in the happy position to be able to recount the event in a subsequent Newsletter.

Christmas 1974

The Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held in Kirkham Parish Church on Friday 13 December 1974. Lessons were read by Peter Hosker,

H. J. Reay and M. J. Summerlee. Arthur Baines, T. Jackman, and H. B. Wilson swelled the choir. The programme was conducted by John Catterall (1954-61) Old Boy now Music Master at K. G. S.

News of Old Boys

With having to do the Spring Newsletter and Magazine Newsletter within two weeks of each other I am rather short of News. Nevertheless, I must thank Arthur Baines for his constant vigil for any news of Old Boys.

Ronald Brown: Now ordained Bishop of Birkenhead. He preached at Kirkham Parish Church on Sunday 1 December 1974. Many Old Boys including myself were in the Congregation.

W. M. Lowe (1972-74): Now on course at Bootle College of Art.

D. T. Bowe (1949-57): David is now based in Les Davys, Bonneville, France as an overseas representative for Wickham Machine Outils.

C. C. Taylor (1963-70): He has now graduated from Lanchester Polytechnic with an Upper Second Honours Degree (CNAAB) in Business Studies. He is now working for British United Shoe Machinery in Leicester as a Chemical Buyer.

M. Stanyard (1969-74): On a Radio Course at Fleetwood Nautical School.

I. R. Langley (1907-13): Mr. Langley has donated three K. G. S. prize books in binders. The books were awarded to him in 1910/11. The books have been passed to Mr. Summerlee for inclusion in the special section of Old Books in the Library.

STRANGE TIMES NO. 6.

A record of the school year 1924-5 is available in "the K. G. S. Chronicle" (No. 6 July 1925), one of the many kept in the School Library and a summer term calendar for 1925 made available to me. There were several innovations many of which have been revived in later years and claimed to be "new ideas". See how often the words "new" or "first" occur in this article and the sources mentioned above.

In Summer 1924 there were 150 boys in the five houses which included a Blackpool House for boys from Preston and Wesham also, but no Ashton or Preston Houses. 75 boys had passed their 25 yards swimming test in 1924 and this must have been a source of satisfaction and a basis on which to build for the new member of staff Mr. C. K. Lee. Up to the 1950's Mr. Lee was very interested in coaching boys in Life Saving Classes of boys at the school and others in Kirkham by organising meetings in local primary schools and at the local swimming baths. In another sport, Junior cross country running, Mr. A. E. Penny of Salwick had presented a Silver Cup — perhaps one of those auctioned at the Old Boys' A. G. M. and Dinner 1973.

Staff always come and go and Miss F. G. Stephens had resigned in 1923 after nearly 7 years at K. G. S. Today of course the boys come under plenty of feminine scrutiny from Mrs. A. Kirk (French), Mrs. A. Boll (English), our two new school secretaries as well as our well established domestic staff in both the day boy canteen and the boarding house kitchens. May the humanising effect of these ladies presence always be appreciated.

The new staff member in September, 1924 was preceded by a new school event – the House Concerts in the Spring Term. Each house gave in turn a concert to the rest of the school and so through to today's "Catterall Sound" at Easter time. The Inter-House music competition in its modern form began in 1957 with a win for Ashton House.

If the Old Boys look carefully at the "Chronicle" they will see that the Association was appointing Honorary Life Members (to Messrs. Stuttard and Bennett) 50 years before it thought it was doing so for the first time (Rule 21, passed in September, 1973) – to Messrs. Middleton and Crane. This association had 151 members including 24 Life Members. At its A. G. M. in 1924 it gave money to the school towards providing a new and larger motor mower for the cricket field. Other donations enabled the 30 inch 4HP "Green" to be obtained for £130. The Headmaster, Rev. C. Strange, (hence "Strange Times"), stated at the Speech Day 1924 that the Association was becoming increasingly evident in its helpfulness to the school. It was also active on the actual fields of play too. At the 25th school sports the Old Boys race (220 yards) was won by Crozier R. S. with Mullineaux F. second. In what time is not stated but the senior cross country race was taking the best runners 26 mins to complete and this and the junior event was then part of sports day itself. In 1925 the mile race was run on the road – too hazardous now of course. The Victor Ludorum was won by R. Robinson in 1925 and included a long jump performance of 18ft. 1¼in.

The old boy cricket XI won against the School by 50 runs in 1924 but the following year the match was drawn (O. B. 131 for 8 in reply to School 257 for 2 due to a record partnership by Messrs. Budden and Stevenson – as photographed between pages 14/15). The School was playing teams with strange sounding names like East Lancs Wanderers, Preston Garrison, Arnold House, Blackpool Secondary School, Preston IIrds, Turners XI Atkinson XI and a combined team of K. G. S. past and present played Kirkham and Wesham CC at "the Town Ground". For such endeavours a new cricket honour known as the "XX Cap" was instituted in the 1924 season. It ranked in distinction next to that of full colours. First XV honours caps were also awarded as photographs in the corridor outside rooms 2 and 3 show. But the 1924/25 sports season was memorable for the introduction of the rugby game though the match v the O. B. preceding the Dinner was one of soccer which the school won 4–3. Like its cricket team the school had a staff member (G. Hughes) in its soccer XI. Incidentally this Annual dinner was the first to be held in the school assembly hall as opposed to the school house dining room. The former was also used for events like whist which the O. B. organised at the School, and even the Annual dinner in those days was followed by "entertainment of humour and music".

In spite of the difficulties of playing under both codes the school seems to have made rapid progress in the game.

Codes	Played	Won	Lost	Pts/Goals for.	Pts/Goals against.
Rugby FB	10	1	9	37	379
Assoc FB	12	3	9	24	57

The School House went the honour of winning the last(?) house soccer competition scoring 47 goals and conceding only two whilst Fylde House won the first rugby competition also run on a league basis then it seems by scoring 174 points and only conceding 6. It was confidently announced that in the 1925/26 season only rugby would be played except in the O. B. Match. The first junior rugby competition was won by Blackpool House.

There is interesting correspondence about this metamorphosis from soccer to rugby between the school and others printed in the "Chronicles" nos 4 and 5.

If shooting for goal was dying out the schools' riflemen were receiving a boost because "new BSA Rifles with opensights" were proving a much surer test of accurate shooting on the 25 yards open range in the school grounds, which lay in the direction of the present day landing pad for hop skip and jump contenders.

In these "Chronicles" much space is always taken up by the editor himself who was the Headmaster. Much is written about views of the world and the educational objectives of the school in these two particular places. In his school report at prize day on 30 July 1924, at which the chief guest was the Headmaster of Rugby (!), the Rev. C. Strange said "K. G. S. is a real and distinct community — a school, and not merely a building where instruction is given. We recognised our connection with the past and future and herein lies no small source of strength". He said that if he were to assess the value of a school the first two departments he would enquire into would be that of Latin and Cricket. If they were good, there would be little need to inquire further, because the mental discipline involved in learning Latin and the qualities called for in playing true Cricket revealed the best sides of character, and mind. In reply Mr. W. W. Vaughan (H. M. of Rugby) stated that he hoped that in the schools there would be a feeling of distrust and even loathing of that spirit of bargaining, which at present was one of the worst features in the country. He thought the only remedy was that the generations brought up in the schools should put aside all ideas of bargaining and that what was done should be done because it was right or because it was generous, irrespective of reward and gain.

Some opening remarks made by the Chairman of the Governors (Rev. W. T. Mitton) may as well end these extracts for they are as true now as then and show that the schools position now is not entirely new. He observed that Governors of schools needed to be students of economy and also the possessors of a lively imagination and that between the two they had an exceedingly difficult task to fulfil. There were things that the Governors decided were desirable but which were out of the question with the resources at their disposal. I am sure the Association will wish Messrs. R. O. Wilson and P. J. Hosker, two of our membership much involved with our yearly events, every success as newly-elected members of the Governing body and hope that they can assist in the years to come this body along its precarious path so much highlighted at the moment.

A. R. B.

The Pennine Way

My summer holiday this year took the form of an endurance test i.e. walking the Pennine Way. It was an experience I enjoyed overall but many of the pleasures and delights of walking the hills were lessened by an interminable succession of peat in the form of hags, grouches, bogs or, as on Black Hill, just solid masses of it. Threading your way through mile after mile of the stuff with a reasonably heavy pack saps one's energy, lowers the spirits and provides plenty of practice for one's cursing abilities. An apt description of

a typical stretch is provided by Wainwright in his book "Pennine Way Companion" — "At the best of times, even in sunshine, the crossing of Sleight-holme Moor is like walking in porridge. After heavy rain it is like walking in Oxtail soup".

But enough of peat! There were many delightful stretches of countryside and interesting experiences along the 270 mile route to command one's attention. The limestone scenery of north Yorkshire provided a refreshing contrast from the gritstone moors. The ascent of Pen-y-Ghent, plus an inspection of some of the potholes, at the end of the day's crossing from Malham crowned a wonderful day's walking. Other highlights included the traversing of a seven-mile stretch of Hadrian's Wall; a night at Ponden Hall (Thrushcross Grange in Wuthering Heights) with its huge bedroom in which were five double beds, two single beds, two wardrobes, three dressing tables and two chests of drawers; the wonderful views across the Cheviots; walking through the middle of a grouse shoot; seeing Hardraw Force for the first time; traversing Cross Fell in the mist; listening to the Billingham Silver Band in the village of Thwaite on a Sunday afternoon; walking through a thunderstorm; sampling the delights of the various hostelrys along the route.

The most rewarding day, however, was the stretch from Middleton-in-Teesdale to Dufton which follows the course of the upper Tees for 21 miles and takes in Low Force, High Force, Cauldron Snout and High Cup Nick. On this occasion we were blessed with fine weather and it really was a day to remember.

The last day was also one to remember — starting by Byreness at 6.40 a.m. and arriving at Kirk Yetholm to claim Wainwright's free pint at 6.50 p.m. after covering 28 miles of arduous walking.

Two of us did the walk starting from Edale in Derbyshire on the 5th August 1974 and arriving in Kirk Yetholm, Roxburghshire on the 18th August at the end of 270 miles.

Harold G. Longstaff, 1934–1939

Pause for Thought

The Junior Chamber of Commerce in the Colorado city of Boulder has a simple but effective way of enlarging its membership. A pregnant rabbit is passed around among the old members. A person must keep the animal until he has found a new member. Only then can he pass it on to the next member on the list who, in turn, must also find a new member before he can give the rabbit to someone else.

The one caught with the rabbit when she has her babies has to get a whole litter of new recruits. Membership is growing fast!

Any good for K. G. S. O. B. A.?

Finally, in conclusion I would like to thank my predecessor, George Howarth, for the help after taking over the Secretaryship of the Association. My thanks also to Mr. Summerlee and members of the Old Boys Committee for their help in the many tasks now being undertaken by the Association.

D. W. S.

FRIENDS OF K.G.S.

President: Canon W. A. P. Francis

Chairman: Mrs. M. Scholefield

Treasurer: Mr. A. Spencer

Secretary: Mr. H. Scholefield

Since my last report we have had a very successful year which has been entirely due to the very active support of a large number of parents, friends and members of staff. To all these people I extend the thanks of the Committee.

We held Jumble Sales in May and November which again produced a great deal of money for the expenditure, only, of the time of your Committee in running the event. Jumble sales are dependent for success on the contributions we receive and I would like to ask you once again to respond to our appeals for jumble when the sales come around.

A completely new venture this year was a Barbecue in place of the usual Garden Party. This was held at Swarbrick Hall, Weeton by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Jonty Richardson and was a tremendous success both in terms of money raised and in enjoyment by those who attended. We will probably repeat this event this year, so watch out for the announcement of sale of tickets as these are likely to be in short supply.

The New Parents' Evening was again a Cheese and Wine party. This was even better than last year's event thanks, in no small measure to Dr. Summers's punch which proved to be more popular than the more conventional wines.

The Annual Dinner Dance was held at the Glendower Hotel, St. Annes — a new venue which proved to be ideal in all respects. Our guest of honour was Mr. Sidney Crane and a good time was had by all.

For some years now we have been receiving articles for Jumble Sales which were too good to let go for the few coppers which they raised in the Jumble Sale atmosphere. It was therefore decided to have an auction sale of bric-a-brac. This was held in December. The bidding was fast and furious, and the amount raised exceeded our most optimistic speculations. The auctioneer was Diane Corner, one of your Committee, and our thanks are due to her for her unflagging and professional performance.

The Christmas Dinner again raised the usual income. There was a longer prize list this year which helped to sustain the sale of tickets. This is a fund-raiser which is entirely dependent on you, the ticket-buying public, so help in supporting this event.

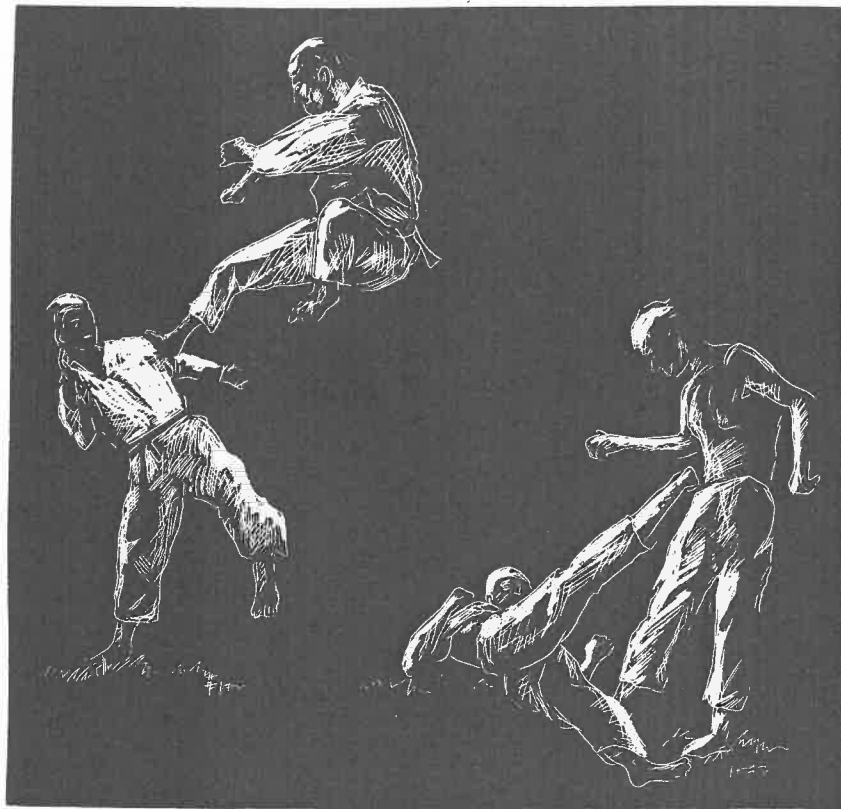
A Whist and Domino Drive was held in January, but was poorly supported. The Committee works hard to promote these evenings, and in view of the poor response, future events of this nature must be in doubt.

The Supper Dance has usually been held at Samlesbury Hall, but, as the hall is now a museum and is not available for functions, we had to find a new place. We were very fortunate in finding the Anchorage at Lytham, where we held the St. Valentine's Day Supper Dance. This was well attended and we were so pleased with the hall, the supper and the group that we have provisionally booked all three for next year.

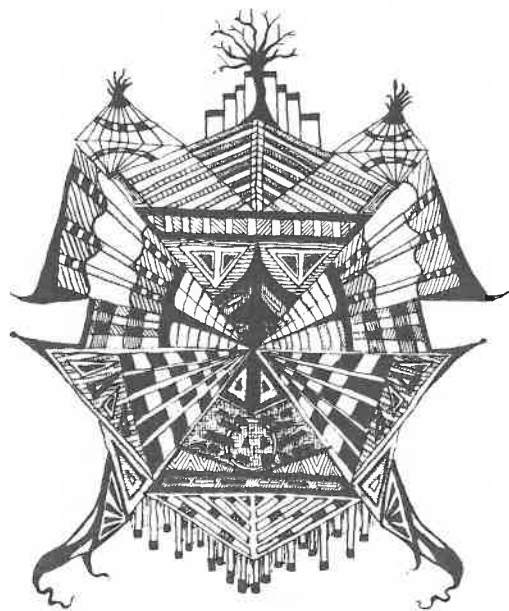
Details of other forthcoming events will be notified in the near future. This School Calendar is also a good guide to Friends' functions.

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H. Scholefield
Hon. Gen. Secretary

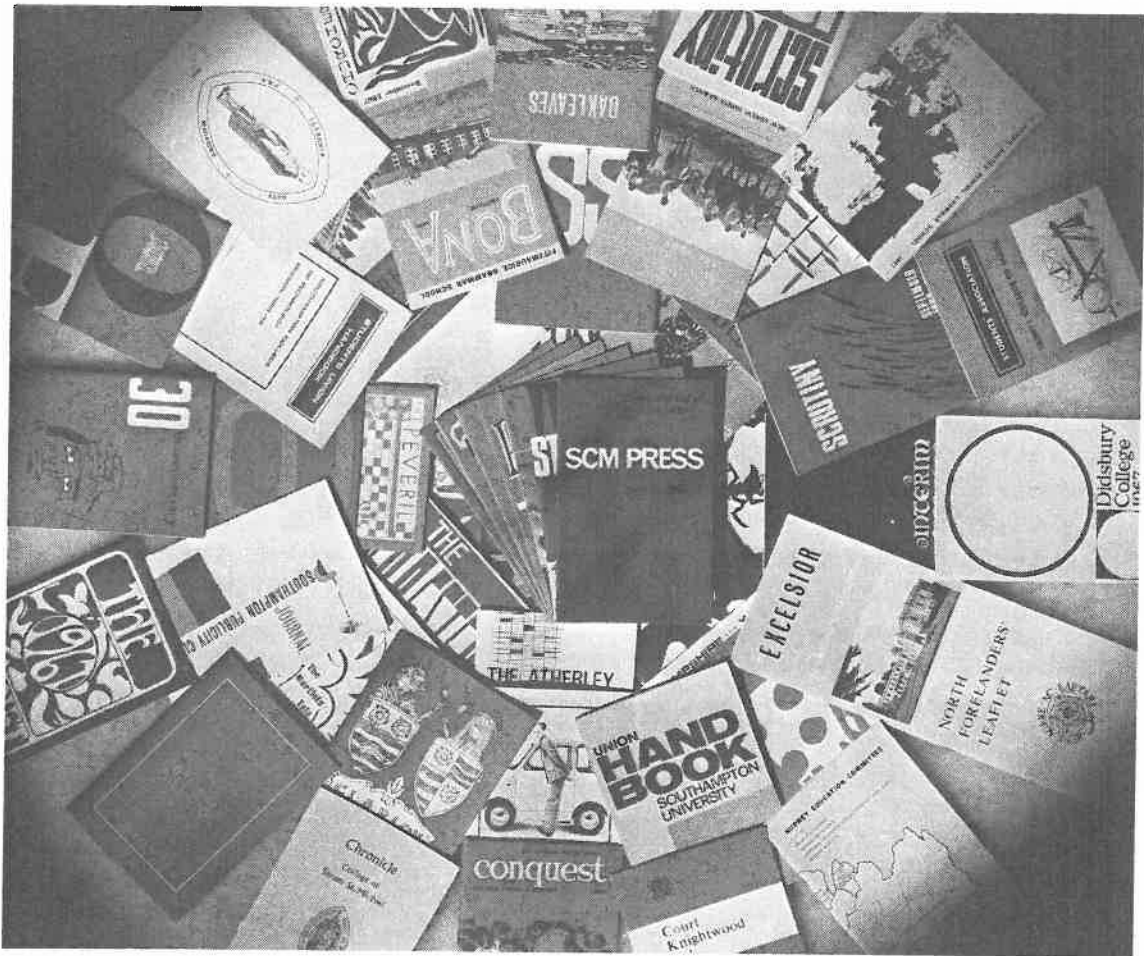


A. N. Jones, UV1M



T. J. Edensor, UV1M

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