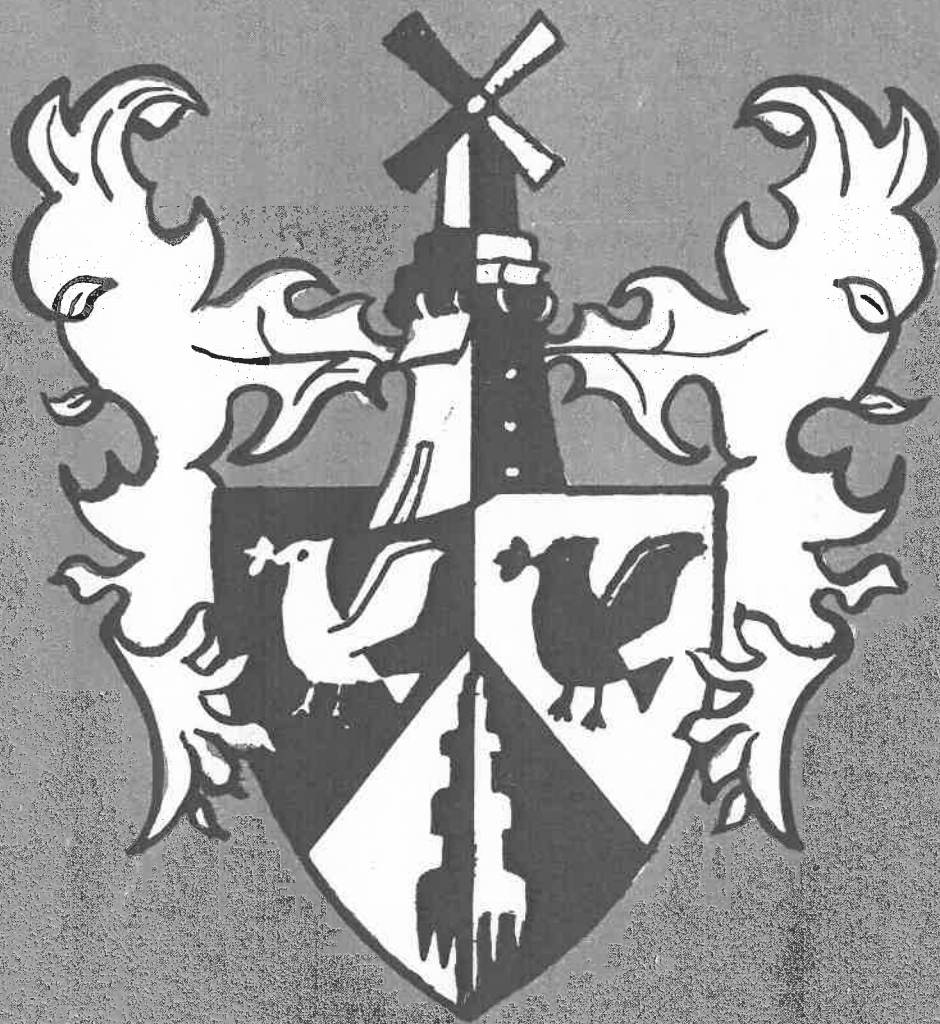


THE KIRKHAMIAN



76

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The Kirkhamian

THE MAGAZINE OF KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1549

Volume V, No. 5

July 1976

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Editorial

Chairman: Mr. H. B. Wilson

Co-Editors: T. J. Oliver, I. P. Hall.

Committee: R. J. Crane, J. I. Houston, R. H. Newton-Syms.

Examining the editorials of numerous 'Kirkhamians' I became sadly aware that each successive editor has been forced to assail his readers with loud lamentations about inflation. I cannot prove an exception. Costs are soaring and to make ends meet we are obliged to print less and less.

This year we again made a special appeal, over two terms, for literary and artistic contributions but the hopes for response was not forthcoming. We can only hope that when the school becomes co-educational there will be less apathy and that girls will be more eager to see themselves in print and inject new blood into a section of the magazine which has never been remarkable for the consistency in quantity or quality of its contributions.

However, though we cannot present a banquet of literary masterpieces, we have printed the best of the few and thank the contributors for the time and effort expended. It would be a pleasant change, in future, to get away from death, catastrophe and destruction, for far too many contributions in the past have been much too depressing.

The number of lady teachers on the staff is gradually increasing — we now have four. Although a little late, we take this opportunity to welcome them all. It is an indication of the changes which are so imminent and the school is a much more decorative place because of their presence. The male preserve of K.G.S. is being invaded and soon the quad will be ringing with the sound of girlish voices — oh! happy day! — and a piano in the gym will accompany ballet and Greek dancing.

The new order will bring, no doubt its quota of headaches — but consider the blessings!!

'A magazine is only as good as its contributors'.

Stephen Middleton

Everyone who knew him must have been greatly shocked and saddened by the news of the sudden death of Stephen Middleton on December 27th. He had been closely associated with Kirkham Grammar School for nearly fifty years and had played a leading part in its life and activities since his appointment as House Master and Classics Master in 1928. Like many others of that era he found himself teaching other subjects besides Latin, such as Music and Art, and as a Durham County Rugby player, rugby football, recently introduced. He served as a Major in the Loyal Regiment during the war and after demobilisation he started Kirkham Grammar School Cadet Force, became the School's first Careers Master and in 1960 was appointed Deputy Headmaster, a post he held until his retirement in 1966. Besides maintaining his close interest in the School and all its affairs, he gave unstintingly of his time and always displayed a spirit of selfless service; for example, he became Secretary of the Fylde Farmers, Secretary of the Hodgson Trust and was a regular visitor to Kirkham Open Prison. He had a very happy family life and latterly had received added joy and satisfaction by the birth of a grandson.



His life was one of service to School and Community. He had a great love and admiration for Kirkham Grammar School and all its institutions and nothing gave him greater pleasure than to receive visits from Old Boys and to hear of their achievements and successes. Many of those Old Boys must indeed have been very grateful for his interest and good counsel. Indeed the Old Boys were honoured when he agreed to become their President in 1965. His feelings about Kirkham Grammar School are best summarised by a remark that he often made: 'It must be the best School in England'.

He was a man of great wit and wisdom and an example of how rich and rewarding the life of a dedicated Schoolmaster can be. He will be sorely missed.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Middleton and to the family.

CONTRIBUTIONS

'Chronicle' and 'Kirkhamian'

There may be boys and others connected with the School who would like to know more about its history. The display case outside the Headmasters study contains some important relics as does the Trophy Cabinet. Much information is available in the School Hall in photographs and on Honours and Gifts Boards. The buildings themselves have information chiselled into their brickwork in several places whilst in the School library there are copies of "Kirkham in Amounderness" by R. Cunliffe Shaw (particularly chapter 6), and bound copies of past issues of both the publications named in the heading. The best volumes to consult would be

- (a). "Chronicle" no. 2 July 1921 pages 9-11;
- (b.) "Kirkhamian" vol.2 no. 2 and 3 for May 1954 (pages 70/71) and December 1954 (pages 97 and 98); vol. 3 no. 11 for February 1965 (page 584); vol. 5 no. 3 September 1974 (pages 57 and 58).

The relationship between these two publications was this. The "K.G.S. Chronicle" first appeared in July 1920 and ran as a separate annual publication until January 1950 (no. 30). In August 1948 vol. 1 no. 1 of the "Kirkhamian" appeared. From 1948 to 1950 the School magazine and the O.B.A. publication were produced separately. Then the "Chronicle", as published, appeared as a separate section of the "Kirkhamian" continuing to deal with O.B. activities e.g. May 1951 vol. 1 no. 6 of the "Kirkhamian" includes "Chronicle" no. 31.

In the "Kirkhamian" vol. 2 no. 1 for December 1953 we find the last Chronicle section. Thereafter the title was dropped and the O.B. news to this day appears as a smallish section of your magazine which goes to all members of the Association in August each year.

A.R.B.

Turning

We sit watching our lives
tick round an endless circle
which encloses our minds.
But we fight in an eternal
effort to overcome
what we have created . . .
Time,
the necessity of our lives
and cause of our death.
We clutch the hands,
always going forward,
but gradually stopping.
Being pulled upwards,
but then the hour passes,
and we sink

R. Gascoigne, 5Y

Only Three Years Ago!

1973 was "Plant a Tree" year. Of the 100 specimens of evergreen saplings of four species planted, transplanted and re-planted since then, I can report the continued survival of about three dozen in front of the chestnut fencing marking part of the northern boundary to the School fields. The names of the original sponsors—whose original cash contributions went to the sixth form unit fund—will have to be published at a later date.

In this connection I would like to acknowledge the gift of a small Yew tree in 1975 from K. J. Sturley then in 5Y. Also the advice of our new School gardener, Mr. G. Jones is proving most helpful. Geoff is the successor to Mr. Jack Collins whose handiwork made the School surroundings so pleasing to the eye and the School House garden so productive during his 26 years (1949-75) at the School. Jack served 3 Headmasters and estimates that he planted in excess of 100,000 flower and vegetable plants in that time.

A.R.B.

The Universe

Universe!

Great whirlpool of inexplicable force.

What secrets

Are withheld in your deep, dark depths?

Universe!

Eternal, infinite sea of night

Whose waves

Are magnetic, electric power.

Whose tides

Pulsate.

Universe!

Key of life, creator of life.

Are you

God?

Are you

Life?

Universe!

I stand, small, alone

Beneath you,

In you.

Universe!

All I can do is wonder!

G. W. Hague, 3X

Class Distinction

Man's body mirrors his environment,

The pillars of existence are controlled
in their ignorance,

by the grey city, always walking forward.

Without them, no movement, no progress,
and grey turns black.

But the prison at the top
encloses itself. Its eyes of knowledge turn away,
smiling.

The mouth of greed swallows everything,
and destroys it
for advantage.

Society jumps, falls, and the legs absorb.

It somehow remains bonded, without stumbling,
on arms of skill and balance
and flailing legs.

But is there no other form
of survival?

R. Gascoigne, 5Y



The Room

A TRUE STORY.

One winter, early in the second world war, I was billeted with fellow officers from various regiments in a hotel, acquired by the army, in a small Welsh town. I became acquainted with two worthy characters, an American, domiciled in England, who had volunteered for the British Army and a Londoner. Soon we were firm friends and the boredom and restrictions of army routine and the smell of army cooking decided us upon a course which was to have a very strange ending and reveal to us another dimension.

We took a small room on the top floor of a large three storey house which belonged to a dentist's widow. The room was on a mezzanine floor in an angle of the house partly within the mansard roof and somewhat isolated. It contained a round gate-legged table, two ancient armchairs and a kitchen chair. Against one wall was a small bed with a door at its foot; under the tiny dormer window a camp bed of considerable age and against the wall opposite a book case of Art Nouveau vintage. In one corner there was a gas fire. We spent many pleasant evenings talking, listening to reminiscences of the American way of life, exchanging anecdotes, drinking a rather potent local ale and occasionally browsing through the offerings of the bookcase. As there were only two beds we drew up a rota whereby on the nights when there were no exercises, two of us would sleep in the 'digs' and the other would return to the hotel. The room, in fact, became a place of call for numerous other colleagues and, although the parties were at times boisterous, there were never any complaints from the rest of the house. In fact, we came to the conclusion that we were the only guests in it—or were we?

As the winter drew on and the weather became worse the house on the corner received the full blast of the elements, but being built of Welsh stone and slate it withstood the worst assaults and we, inside our snugger, hardly noticed it. But houses, of course, are constantly twisting and turning and reacting to a variety of natural and man made causes, so we were never really surprised, only faintly curious, when getting up on a morning we might find the door to our room slightly ajar. We argued that perhaps one of us had, before retiring, left it so in order to rid the room of its bacchanalian aroma, augmented by burnt sausages murdered on a small gas ring on the floor. But our happy little ménage was slowly beginning to take on a more sinister atmosphere.

One night, towards the end of November, Wally, our American friend was sleeping alone in the room on the camp bed, and the following morning at breakfast in the hotel he appeared to be somewhat strained. We enquired, in a jocular way, the reason for his far from naturally extrovert demeanour, and were so bold as to proffer a variety of suggestions! We could not rouse him, however, into even a semblance of his usual cheerful self and he finally informed us, reluctantly and with acute embarrassment, that we must no longer consider him as a member of our little triumvirate. This, of course, was not to be tolerated and we requested an explanation, but all we could extract from him was an uneasy silence and a plea that we give up the 'digs' forthwith. True to his word, he gave notice to the landlady that day in spite of our protests and although we continued to enjoy our association he never went back to the room, and with good cause as we were about to find out.

Lindsay and I, however, loath to give up our little haven of peace continued to enjoy our brief moments of escape until, that is, one night just before mid

December. We had taken to sleeping at the 'digs' almost every night, duty permitting; the weather had improved and on this beautiful December day we had been out on exercise in the Welsh mountains. Returning to the hotel exhausted, we washed off our camouflage, had tea and went to the usual post-mortem lecture where the Commandant inferred that if the outcome of the war was to depend on us we might as well surrender now and save a lot of unnecessary bloodshed! Somewhat abashed but with the thought of a pleasant evening ahead we made our way to our little oasis to taste the delights of home cooking—beans on toast—and a bottle of choice, sweet wine notwithstanding the slight feeling of trepidation that within a few days' time we might have to challenge the Commandant's opinion of us in earnest.

The evening was good, the 'black-out' covered the window and the small gas fire hissed and spluttered merrily away. The wine and the warmth of the room were taking their toll, Lindsay in one armchair facing the bookcase and I in the other facing Lindsay. It must have been about 1 a.m. when suddenly I was roused from my reveries by my companion sitting bolt upright in his chair and pointing directly behind me. Any hopes of personal valour on the field of battle should then and there have been dispelled—I suddenly felt a cold tingling sensation in my skin from head to toe, I was literally petrified and incredibly cold. My gaze was fixed on Lindsay, my mind on what might be behind me. The normality of the room was in direct contrast to the unreality of the occasion and yet, although it seemed an eternity, perhaps only 90 seconds had passed. My head slowly turned but certainly not of its own free will and I saw him, not too clearly defined, like a badly focussed photograph—a young man, not more than 20 years of age, in a stained uniform, slowly and deliberately selecting a book from the book case his back towards us. He did not seem to be aware of our presence for he half-turned and walked slowly out of the room leaving the door slightly open (on how many other nights had he, in fact, been our guest?). We got up, our stupor gone, had the presence of mind to turn off the fire, looked carefully onto the small dark landing and swiftly made our exit from the building; the journey down those three flights of stairs being a nightmare. We looked back at the house silhouetted in the moonlight—just an ordinary house; had we been dreaming, having hallucinations, or the logical explanation—a young man, unable to sleep, borrowing a book?

The following day, exercises finally over and a wintery sun shining on a very mundane little town, we went back to No. 1 Sheldon Terrace to collect our bits and pieces and bid a premature goodbye to our landlady. We made our excuses and said we were moving off shortly, which was true, and had to spend our remaining time at the army billet. On our way out I casually asked who the young man was on the top floor. She was silent a moment and then as though it was an every day occurrence she said, "Oh! that was my son, he was killed in the first world war and that was his room. He visits us from time to time—I hope he didnt disturb you!"



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>	S. J. Wells.
<i>Vice Captain:</i>	P. Collins.
<i>House Prefects:</i>	P. A. Kennedy, H. L. Morgan, G. P. Quirk.

Last year proved to be a successful one for the House. Until Easter 1975 we had won two trophies and came runner-up in two others, one of which was the gym Competition with Morgan and Gardner doing well to finish 2nd and 5th in the seniors. In the summer term we were 1st in the Athletic Standards Points and 2nd in the Sports with outstanding contributions from Wilson—Intermediate Victor Ludorum, Collins and Whiteside, but, not surprisingly, finished 6th in the swimming. As in previous years we reached the Tennis final again losing to Kirkham and congratulations to Bagshaw and Fisher, both unbeaten. In the Cricket our juniors lost the semi-final to Fylde, mainly owing to the latter's fast bowlers. The seniors did better although lacking a good bowler, reaching the final to be beaten by Preston by eight wickets. Nevertheless the year finished on a high note with a fourth trophy—the Work Cup. My thanks to all officials for making last year a successful one. This year we have suffered due to our small VIth form of only twelve, and this was demonstrated in the Senior Cross-country when we only had nine from which to choose eight. Not surprisingly we finished last. Nevertheless, McClellan (6th), Collins (13th) and Kennedy (23rd) all ran well. In both Junior and Intermediate we finished 5th with an outstanding performance from Drayton who finished 2nd in the latter. The Chess team, under Kennedy and Quirk, has won one match but S. J. Stokes (1X) appears to be a good prospect. The junior rugby team, except McNeillie, Cooper and Lee, lacking enthusiasm lost to Lytham and the seniors lost the semi-final to Kirkham with Collins and Quirk outstanding and our six 4th years giving promising performances.

Success came at last with the Music Cup which has almost become Ashton's exclusive property in recent years. Credit must go to R. M. Bagshaw for his organisation and personal contribution. The choir, in particular, shone. In the same week we unfortunately lost 12–6 to Preston in the 7-a-side final. Wells and Andrew have beaten Kirkham and Lytham to reach the final of the Debating and our prospects in forthcoming competitions look bright with an especially talented 4th year.

My thanks to all House Prefects for their help during the year, and to all others who have helped in whatever form as organisers or competitors.

S.J.W.

Fylde

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. D. H. Butterworth
<i>Assistant Housemasters:</i>	Mr. B. Gornall, Mr. I. Mellor, Dr. B. M. Summers, Mr. D. Walls,
<i>House Captain:</i>	C. S. Easy.
<i>House Prefects:</i>	S. J. Flynn, I. C. Kirkham, M. R. Mason.

I take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Walls and the return of Mr. Govnall and hope they have many pleasurable moments with us, and to wish M. G. Schofield, who had to leave us, all the best for the future and thank him for his efforts in the past.

In the Athletic Sports we were 4th with 64 points; very good performances recorded by Leach and Redgrave in the track events. We were last in the Standard Points indicating a lack of enthusiasm and hope for better efforts in future. In the Junior Cricket however the enthusiasm of the team won the trophy, Lee, a real star, scoring most runs. We dismissed Kirkham and Ashton, then Lytham House in the final, Lee, Doughty and Worthington showing much promise. In the Tennis Fylde were without their best player Kirkham, but relatively unknown players gave valuable contributions. We defeated School but were dismissed in the semi-finals by the eventual winners, a very strong Kirkham House. In the Work Cup we finished 3rd to Ashton and Lytham. In the Senior Rugby we were favourites with ten 1st and 2nd team players, winning the hardest game against Preston 11-6. Then we demoralised Lytham 70-0, a record with Flynn scoring 4 tries, and in the final against Kirkham, captained by Mason we appeared in green shirts; the first time in history. It was wet and windy and Easy and Lee were unfit but the threequarters and Flynn, full-back, played superbly with the forwards, Harris 3 and Mason 2 tries scoring the 20 points. Each member of the team should be proud and we look forward with optimism. In the Junior Rugby we defeated School 58-4 but lost the semi-final to Preston due to unwillingness to tackle. It was a nail-biting game with Worthington, Flynn, Churchman and Hargreaves deserving our congratulations. In the Cross-country we won both Junior and Senior events with Flynn and Redgrave first home respectively, and Higham 8th, but in the Intermediate we were last. Flynn and Redgrave took us through the first round of the Debating Competition and in the Music we finished 3rd thanks to the organisers Kirkham and Redgrave and to Watson for his clarinet solo—he shows immense promise. We should field a good team for the gym competition in the Summer, including two promising first years, Hargreaves and Collinge.

So far the House has had reasonable success and its enthusiasm and competitive spirit auger well for the future. My thanks to all, and for those leaving I wish every success.

M.R.M.

Kirkham

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. A. R. Baines.
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Mr. I. M. Scott, Mr. J. Nettleship, Mrs. A. Boll, Mrs. K. Bagley, Miss. C. V. Rossell.
<i>House Captain:</i>	M. Jenkins.
<i>House Vice-Captain:</i>	D. Fisher.
<i>House Prefects:</i>	G. J. Best, I. P. Hall, D. C. Hook, P. N. Blakey, D. J. Dickinson, G. E. Eccles, R. L. Shaw, D. Slater.

There have been many changes during the past twelve months with the departure of Mr. Wood and Mr. Hurd and the arrival of Mrs. Bagley, Mr. Nettleship and Miss. Rossell. We wish them well. The summer term '75

was one of mixed fortunes. We retained the swimming Cup easily, ahead of Lytham, and we have hopes of another trophy in the revived swimming standard points competition. Our gymnasts finished 4th in the senior event and 3rd in the junior with good individual performances from Fisher, Sanderson and Brookes. In the tennis we came out easy winners in the final against Ashton: 6 sets to 3, and prospects look rosey this year with most of the team available. Led by G. Eccles we were 3rd in the shooting competition and in the chess were pipped into 2nd place by Lytham. Mrs. Boll introduces a new competition "Play reading" in which we finished a close second to School House in an experimental run. This competition comes into complete operation this year and we have high hopes thanks to the guidance of Slater and Dickinson. We failed to both senior and junior cricket trophies despite strong sides and owe our defeat to individual performances from the opposition. We have great expectations however, for this year. On sports day our athletes finished last but due to the enthusiasm of the juniors we were 2nd in the standard points. Unhappily in the Work Cup we were also last!

In this year's events our junior rugby team lost to the eventual winners, Lytham, 28-4; Tasker, Benstead and many first years deserving special mention. In the senior event we defeated Ashton 28-4, only to lose to a much fancied Fylde team 20-0 in the final. With outstanding performances from Dickinson, Fisher, Harris and Wright. In the 7's we defeated School 18-0 but were narrowly beaten by the eventual winners Preston 7-0. In the debating competition although well represented by Cocker and Blakey we were unfortunate to lose to Ashton and yet in one of our weakest activities the cross-country we did well to finish 3rd in the juniors, 2nd in the intermediates and 4th in the seniors—Lowcock 2nd, Aspinall 5th and L. Shaw 3rd respectively. Despite much effort by Hall we only attained 5th position in the music competition but in the chess we are again in contention for the title.

With moderate success behind us and our strongest events yet to come the House may feel well pleased. I hope perhaps even a better year in 1977 and wish Kirkham all the best.

M.J.

Lytham

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. L. A. Redman
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Mrs. A. Kirk, Mr. J. Bradbury, Mr. B. F. Taylor, Mr. W. I. Webster.
<i>House Captain:</i>	C. J. Waite
<i>House Vice-Captain:</i>	A. P. Wilson
<i>House Prefects:</i>	P. Smith, C. D. Bedford, A. J. Harding.

Last year was a poor one as far as House competitions were concerned. We only won two cups—for debating and chess. But this year I believe we will do much better, as already we have gained two cups with the majority of competitions still to come.

The first was the Junior Rugby against Kirkham, the score 26:4 to us showing that this team was the best we have put on the field for years. We then duly beat Ashton House and in the final defeated Preston 68:8. This was a dazzling performance by all the side and especially Taylor who was captain throughout; he scored 35 points in the final alone.

The second cup was the chess; winning all our matches against the other Houses quite easily except for Fylde, who seemed to be the only House able to put up a reasonable performance against us. Much of the credit for this second consecutive win must go to the juniors who played consistently well. Smith was unbeaten, and in the seniors Davidson gave some fine performances. With such a strong junior team and the same senior team we could win the cup again next year.

Again, this year, we are leading in the Work Cup though I hope we are not pipped at the post as we were last year.

Last year there was an overall apathy relating to the cross-country and low positions resulted. Our best runners were not able to run in either the senior or intermediate races, but even with them the lack of enthusiasm would still have pulled us down.

In the music competition again we were just beaten by Ashton House. Bedford and Smith put in a considerable effort with the choir and the instrumental quartet and I would personally like to thank them. The other item, the piano solo by Blaikie, was excellent and this went into the concert with the quartet making Lytham the only House to have two items chosen.

Finally, I should like to thank all Housemasters for the work they have put in to keep the House running smoothly. With good team work I think we can be optimistic about future prospects.

C.J.W.

Preston

<i>Housemaster:</i>	Mr. T. Jackman.
<i>Assistant Housemaster:</i>	Mr. J. Catterall, Mr. R. M. Clarkson, Mr. I. Beckett.
<i>House Captain:</i>	P. H. Wright.
<i>House Prefects:</i>	R. J. Crane, P. A. Dobson, C. J. McGregor, C. F. Shields, R. H. Newton-Syms.

In the Junior Cricket 1975 we were defeated by Lytham in the semi-final after a bye and despite Tyrer's 50 runs out of a 62 total they won by 8 wickets. The seniors recuperated our losses, however, by beating Kirkham and Fylde and then Ashton in the final by 8 wickets due to fine bowling and batting by Sproats and Worthington. We improved our Swimming position from 6th to 5th—not our strongest sport! but in the Athletic Sports we won the trophy for the fifth time in six years, reversing the disappointment of the previous year by leaving Ashton trailing by 30 points. In the Junior Feckey won the Discus, Shot and Javelin and came 2nd in the 100 and 200 metres. In the Intermediate Parsons came 1st in the Long Jump and Triple Jump, 2nd in the 100m. Hurdles, 3rd in the 200m. and 4th in the 400m. There were many other contributions from team members and all are to be congratulated. In the Tennis we lost the first round to Lytham, 5 games to 4; in the Work Cup we could only manage 4th and in the Senior Rugby we were beaten by Fylde, the eventual winners, in the first round, 11–6. The Juniors, however, beat Fylde 34–6 largely due to Feckey scoring 6 tries, but lost the final to a strong Lytham side 68–8. In the Juniors Cross-country we came second; Intermediate equal 2nd and Senior 3rd with the Williams brother coming 1st in the Junior and Intermediate and Pilkington 2nd in the Senior. In the Music Competition

we came a disappointing 6th despite hard work and a lot of talent in Dobson, Roe and Durham. Our only success so far this year has come in the 7-a-side, beating School 10-3, Kirkham 7-0 and Ashton in the final 12-6.

Finally I would like to thank the Housemasters, prefects and all the boys for their help and cooperation and hope the House will go on from strength to strength in the coming years.

P.H.W.

School

Housemaster: Mr. F. W. Sayer.
Assistant Housemasters: Mr. J. C. Crook, Mr. R. J. Watson.
House Captain: M. A. Palmer.

Summer term 1975 saw the Senior XI without a 1st Team member almost snatch a victory from a strong Ashton side with a total of 117 in 20 overs, only to be defeated in the last over of the match. J. Gates and P. Crichton took most of the credit just failing to reach their half-centuries. At the beginning of the Winter term the Juniors showed much promise, the senior talent being rather sparse—but a different pattern began to emerge. Despite Connich's dominance in the set scrum and the tackling of Goodwin and MacIlraith. We lost heavily in the Junior rugby due to poor defence and failure to utilise possession gained by the forwards. In the Senior match, however, against a star-studded Ashton side the whole team rose to the occasion causing problems to their opponents before losing 24-6. The most rewarding performances of the year came in the cross-country. We won the Intermediate with Nicholson finishing 3rd, supported well by the whole team, Leppard and Wilkes deserving mention, and lost the Senior by a single point, Nelson and Duckworth finishing 4th equal. In the Junior, although the team was last, Grevell did well to finish 4th having just joined the School and barely knowing the course! In the Debating Oliver and myself proved too cultured to convince the adjudicators that "There is no place for the Arts in our crumbling Society", while in the Music Competition Houston worked hard to guide the House to 4th place avoiding a repeat of last year's humiliating performance of "Blue Desert!" With such talented guitarists as Langrish and Cartwright we could do well next year. Thanks to M. Powell, who plays for the School team, we are likely to finish 3rd in the Chess Competition and we have an excellent chance of winning the "Play-reading", Oliver the organiser deserving special mention. Finally, being the 1975 holders of the gym Cup, Langrish, Calland and Stead form the basis of a promising team for the summer term. There is plenty of talent in the House and I hope it shows itself in the final term.

M.A.P.

SOCIETY REPORTS

Badminton Club

P. 11. W. 4. L. 7

The season started badly owing to our meeting strong teams from Hutton, Baines, Lancaster and W. R. Tucson College, each of whom beat us 9-0.

Our first victory came against Carr Hill, whose 4th year team was beaten by our 6th form team 6-3. Eager to follow up this success we played K.G.S. masters and won 8-1 and another Carr Hill fixture in which our elder statesmen showed their wisdom in playing a younger side by again beating them. Unfortunately our winning streak ended with K.E.S. Lytham who soundly beat us.

In the Spring, despite a win against Hipperholme School, we were again heavily defeated by Baines 8-1 and Tucson College 6-0.

Light relief was provided by a friendly with Penwortham Girls' School. An enjoyable evening's "badminton" was had by all and special thanks go to Hook who played despite feeling decidedly fragile due, he maintains, to Chicken in the Basket à la Trophy.

My thanks to Dobson for his unflagging captaincy in the face of almost constant defeat, Hook the treasurer and Gascoigne who's technique of constantly falling over never fails to cheer everyone up.

The treasurer's thanks go to Waite, Blakey, Eales and Dr. Summers for transporting us to away matches.

P. M. Roe (Sec.)

Chess Club

Chairman: Mr. J. Bradbury; *Treasurer:* C. T. Grundy

We started the season with a weakened team owing to examinations and University leavers. It has, however, given valuable experience to our weaker players. We have struggled in the Blackpool and Fylde League although everyone has won some points. In the Knock-out Competition we defeated Poulton Town 5½ to 2½ and go on to play Guardian Royal Exchange in the 1st round. Amid School House spectators we beat Queen Mary School in a 'Friendly' 6½ to 1½. We hope to join the Schools' Chess League next season and leave Blackpool and Fylde. Heavy defeats have caused much apathy and this could be beneficial. Thanks to C. Grundy, J. Davidson, M. Powell, D. Blakey, A. Cocker and J. Curtis for their consistent support. In the House Competition Lytham is assured of victory with Fylde second. Both Junior and Senior individual competitions approach the final, or they should be if people would finish their games by the prescribed date. The entry for the Junior has doubled that for the Senior; this promises well for the future.

T. M. Watkinson (Sec.)

Debating Society

Chairman: Mr. R. J. Watson; *Treasurer:* A. Cocker

The debating society was re-formed just before Christmas, and the first debate was held after the mock examinations with the motion that "This House believes that the typical Englishman is lazy, apathetic and ignorant", proposed by Crane and S. Redgrave and successfully opposed by Wells and Hall. Unfortunately, apathy (an untypical English attitude!) struck at the society, and

combined with rugger, has meant that we have not progressed as much as we would like. The only time when a debate can be held without time restrictions is at 4.00pm, but to hold it then reduces the size of the audience, which means there is no atmosphere for a debate to be successful and enjoyable. Anyhow, I hope that there will be enough support in the future for the society to develop, and I wish next year's committee all the best in this objective. My thanks go to Mr. Watson for his help and support, despite a certain convenient amnesia when it comes to remembering dates.

S. Wells (*Sec.*)

Fell Walking Society

Chairman: Dr. Summers; *Treasurer:* I. P. Hall

Since September we have had a successful series of walks, and the members have continued to take advantage of the services provided by this now well established club. I particularly welcome the new members from the younger end of the school who have been on this season's outings, especially the ubiquitous Collett Family! Our only bad day, as regards weather, was on Loughnigg Fell in mid-March. The constant rain emphasised the need for waterproof clothing!

Dr. Summers has been a tower of strength in leading the walks, and without his valuable experience and knowledge the society could not function. My thanks also go to Mr. Taylor and Mr. Nettleship for their invaluable support. Finally I thank I. P. Hall for his assistance in running the society.

This year we have reached as far afield as Derbyshire (November), and next term it is hoped to run two more walks when, I hope, the weather will be kinder. We are all certain of another successful year under the guidance of our experienced members.

N. P. Webb (*Sec.*)

Fencing Club

Chairman: Mr. F. W. Sayer; *Secretary:* H. L. Morgan

The year began with the senior members of the club, paying their annual visits to the Ashton tournaments. The International *Epee* saw Ellis and Mr. Sayer both failing to reach the final rounds. In the Under 20's foil, however, Ellis reached the quarter finals and Morgan the semi-final.

In the Cheshire Schools' Open hopes of retaining the trophy for the third year in succession, and the fourth time in six, seemed to be dashed, when the former winner, H. L. Morgan broke his arm, playing rugby. P. Wright lost the 1st round, in the Juniors, R. Bentham the semi-final in the Seniors, but Ellis, after a barrage, retained the trophy; his victory being saluted by an ear piercing cry from F. W. S. across the hall! P. Wright reached the quarter finals and D. Brook went out in the preliminary round in the Y.M.C.A. Novice Tournament, Liverpool. Both fought well and showed great promise.

In the new year, the qualifying rounds for the National Finals saw Ellis reach the semi-final in the foil with Morgan third after beating the eventual gold and silver medallists. In the *Epee* Ellis had to settle for the silver medal.

A fortnight later and the sleek lines of the blue Viva S.L. moved down the motorway to Manchester. The Section Foil title was the target. Ellis went out in the quarter-finals on indicators; F. W. S. in the semi's, but Morgan, after an easy passage to the final, was placed fourth.

In the National Épeeé final in Sheffield, Ellis lost the quarter-final. F. W. S. was asked to preside the National Final (Schools) at Épeeé. H. L. Morgan competes in the foil final in Birmingham, and we wish him well.

The year was crowned by a visit to the Martini Épeeé final, featuring six world champions, at the Seymore Hall in London.

The year sees the end of an era for the fencing club, but with a wealth of young talent, I feel sure it can be rebuilt around them, if allowed to. My thanks go to all, who have helped in my year as captain, especially Bentham and Gray, for their devotion and regular attendance. I wish them well next year.

I would like to say a special thankyou to Mr. Sayer for his time, patience and skill in coaching us and transporting us to venues including London, Winchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Cardiff and Milfield in Somerset, as well as the normal journeys to Manchester and Liverpool. I am indeed grateful.

A. Ellis (*Capt.*)

Library

Chairman: Mr. R. J. Watson; *Treasurer:* A. J. Vickers

This year has seen a revival of the fortunes of the Library under Mr. Watson's dynamic leadership. The number of librarians has been greatly increased and they are now drawn from all parts of the school. These intrepid men faced the vast influx of Junior Fiction from the English Department, at the start of the year, with an apparent diffidence which belied their efficient, persevering approach. Since then they have given freely of their lunch hours and even worked after school to improve the efficiency of the service provided. They have reorganised various sections and introduced a new system by which sixth formers (and even staff) can withdraw books at leisure.

This work will continue and we *shall* succeed in making the Library a better place in which to work and read for people of all ages and political persuasions.

Thanks to all librarians, great and small, for their efforts which go unrewarded by an ungrateful clientele.

D. Macfarlane (*Sec.*)

Music Society

Chairman: Mr. J. Catterall; *Treasurer:* I. C. Kirkham

This year we have been able to carry on the gradual improvement of musical activities. This trend has been notable in the first years, with several talented and outstanding instrumentalists providing reassurance of a very high standard of music for a long time to come.

Our first engagement was the Carol Service, with Mr. Catterall putting together another interesting programme, ably accompanied by an old boy of the school, I. Ledshan, on the organ.

In the music competition Ashton managed to win for the third successive year, although the result was a lot closer than in previous years, it being generally agreed, certainly by the competitors, that the overall standard was not quite as high. Miss Griffith, the musical adviser to Lancashire County, kindly agreed to act as adjudicator and her final marking and positioning was as follows:—

1	ASHTON	22	2	LYTHAM	21	3	FYLDE	19
4	SCHOOL	17	5	KIRKHAM	16	6	PRESTON	15

The report for the school concert appears elsewhere in the magazine. In conclusion I, on behalf of the Society, thank Mr. Catterall for all his hard work and enthusiasm in leading the society to its present-day high level of performance.

S. Wells (Sec.)

Natural History Society

Chairman: Mr. A. R. Baines; *Treasurer:* D. Jackman; *Secretary:* I. P. Hall

This report is written in early March 1976 and so far the Society has produced a fairly typical programme as advertised in the School calendar. Yet too few sample our meetings unless a film is advertised. Nevertheless we have about 4 new "regulars" from the September 1975 intake and 8–12 people on average attend our Tuesday lunch time meetings in Room 17. They are the lucky ones who have heard and seen some excellently illustrated talks. Often the illustrations have been from the speakers own collections showing a wide range of talent in these worthies. Their preparation has been good and clearly often a family affair. I hope more will be encouraged to try their hand and that others will be more ready to give them a fair hearing. The Committee is not prepared to arrange meetings for any one's undiluted amusement!

Since September, we've shown the films; "Unseen Enemies", "Oliver Kite's Fawley" and "Nature Reserves".

Illustrated talks have been given by Messrs. Baines ("The Shape of things to come" and "Poisonous Plants") and Sayer ("Plant Photography"), whilst boys have dealt with "Martin Mere Wildfowl Reserve", "The Natural History of Southern Norway" and as panel member et al for "The Countryside in Winter, Spring and Summer", all contributed by our secretary; "British Mammals" and panel membership in the items named above by P. Smith; "The wild life of Arnsdale and Silverdale" and panel membership by N. P. Webb; "Seashore Plants" and "Penguins" by D. Jackman and, finally, "Fossils" by A. S. Gregson (2Y).

At the end of the Christmas term we held a book exhibition and B. J. Watson (1Y) took 1st prize in the Junior competition. No other efforts at any other level were worthy of recognition in this way in 1975.

We have been planning for the "Easter Fair" now on 3rd July, when the N.H.S. and Biology Department hope to mount an exhibition centred on the theme "MILK".

For the 2nd year running, a small group of Senior boys attended a 6th Form Ecology course at Brathay Hall, Westmorland in October/November 1975. Others from the same group attended the Christmas lecture at Sharoe Green Hospital, Preston on "Survival in the Andes". Others have since visited Preston Polytechnic to hear about "Micro-organisms and Food Science".

This report must not end without a sincere thank you to our Secretary I. P. Hall. He has been a very active Society member all his school life both as an official and in giving talks and mounting displays at each Easter Fair. Ian will be going to Lincoln College, Oxford, to read Medicine and there he will find, as one of his lecturers, an Old Boy of the School, D. E. Sidebottom. Every good wish, Ian.

Finally, "Do not despise the lowly means from which we have ascended". With this in mind we can produce a relevant, imaginative and expansive programme as well as a sure, safe, and certain one for next year with years 1-3 particularly in mind as has always been our aim. With the help of your promptings and the presence of the School Mini Bus we could make progress.

A. R. B.

Table Tennis Club

Chairman: Mr. J. Bradbury; *Treasurer:* T. M. Watkinson.

Table tennis has continued to be one of the most popular pastimes for 5th and 6th formers during both break and lunch hour. Moreover the arrival of J. Hardiker, a junior international, has led to an increased interest, and a corresponding improvement in the standard of play, enabling us to defeat Arnold School in the only match of the season so far 10-0. In future, we hope to arrange more inter-school matches and, should we be successful, join the St. Annes League in September.

C. T. Grundy (*Sec.*)

Tennis Club

Chairman: Dr. B. M. Summers; *Captain:* I. C. Kirkham

P. 15 W. 8 L. 7

Despite a late start to the season for our Captain owing to an argument with a pair of skis, when he did return he and P. N. Blakey, playing as first pair gave a much needed constancy to the team, losing only 3 of the 20 sets played. Unwillingness to play matches promptly resulted in the Singles and Doubles Knock-outs being abandoned. It is hoped an earlier start next year will prevent a repetition of this. In the House Competition Kirkham beat Ashton 6-3. Competition to get into the team has been high but with the inclusion of Queen Mary's School and Elmslie Girls on the fixture list competition will be ever more fierce.

Finally I would like to thank that helpful, if sometimes abrasive voice belonging to Dr. Summers for its help and advice.

Re-awards half-colours: P. N. Blakey, I. C. Kirkham

New awards: I. P. Hall, I. Birch

P. N. Blakey (*Sec.*)

Wargames Society

Joint-chairmen: Mr. R. J. Watson, Mr. R. M. Clarkson; *Treasurer:* J. Davidson

The Summer term of 1975 saw an attempt to introduce the ancient art of wargaming to the ancient establishment of K.G.S. The first wargame was held towards the end of the term, many would be Napoleons and Wellington's attending.

At this stage the commander-in-chief was Mr. Capper who was soon to leave, so frantic attempts were made to find a new leader. This resulted in the enrolment of Messrs. Watson and Clarkson as Masters in charge of the Society.

Under these two gentlemen the society has flourished, wargames being held regularly with a diversity of armies. Recently a challenge was received, and successfully fought, from a group of wargamers from St. Annes.

The highlight of the year was a trip to 'Northern Militaire', a wargames exhibition in Manchester which was so popular that there were at first not enough places. There we were able to see what wargaming is all about, and purchase all the accessories.

Next term we hope to fight against more 'foreigners'. Meanwhile we are trying to enroll new members and new armies (perhaps a budding Cromwell with the New Model Army). Anyone interested?

A. D. Cocker (*Sec.*)

SCHOOL SPORTS

Rugby

	P	W	D	L	F	A
1st XV	26	13	2	11	271	308
2nd XV	20	5	2	13	153	321

1ST XV

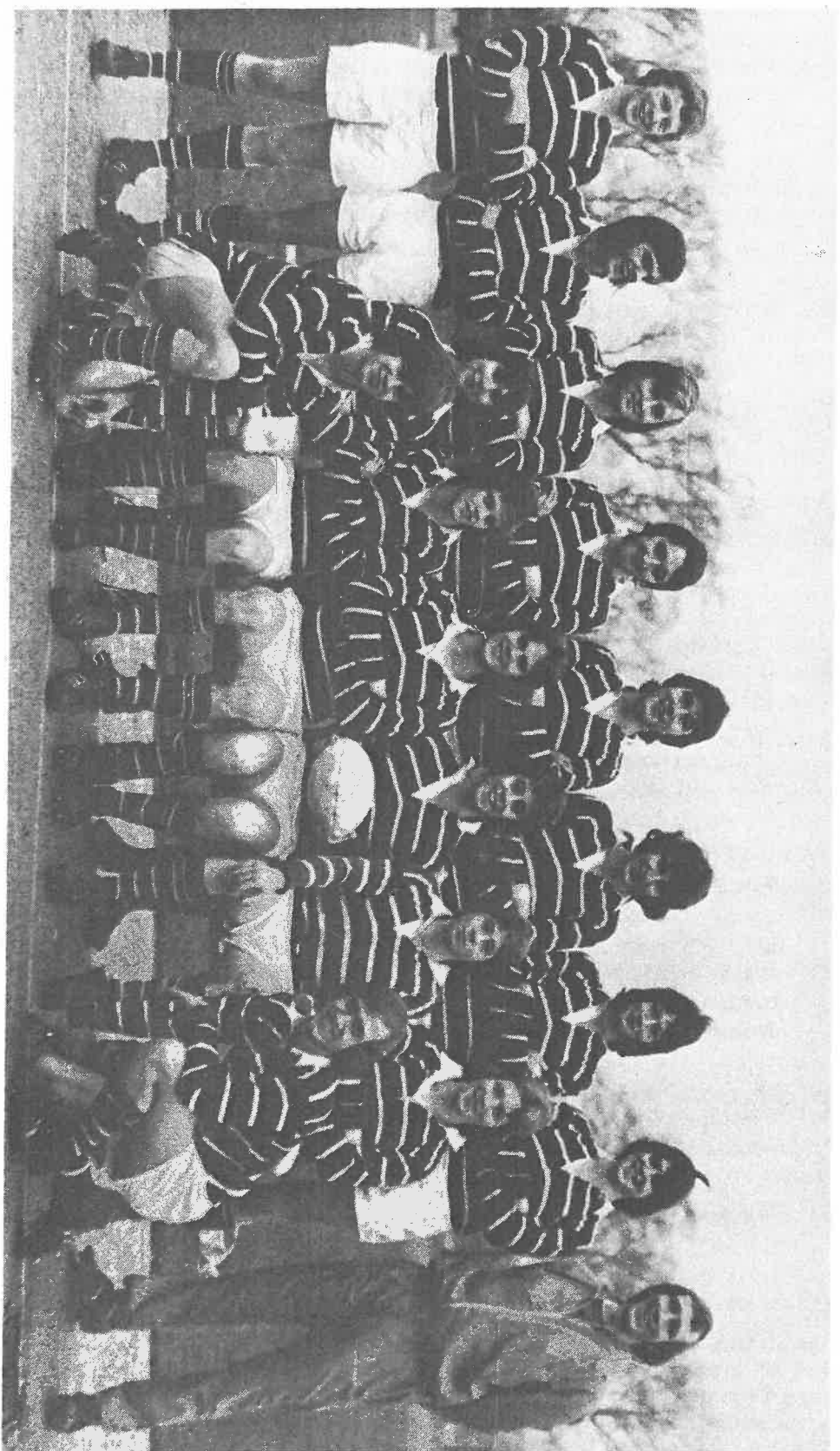
The 1st XV has had mixed fortunes. The forwards have developed into a useful, hard running pack but behind, the three quarters have lacked penetration. Most problems have stemmed from the lack of a competent stand off, and an inability to pass the ball down the line whilst running forward.

Deficiencies have been camouflaged by an enthusiasm rarely met in a XV, and it has been a pleasure to coach such willing players. My thanks to the whole squad, good wishes to the leavers, and especial gratitude to the captain and vice-captain, P. H. Wright and P. Collins.

Re-awards Full Colours: P. H. Wright (Capt.), M. A. Palmer

New awards: P. Collins (V. Capt.), M. Mason, C. Easy, C. Shields, D. Fisher, N. Harris, C. J. McGregor, S. J. Flynn

New awards Half Colours: A. Whiteside, M. Schofield, M. Leyland, R. Wayland, P. Stirk, A. Banks, I. Cotgreave, S. Berry, G. Harris



*Back Row: Mason M. R., McGregor C. J., Leyland M. J., Flynn S. J., Cotgreave I. A., Banks A. J.,
 Whiteside A. L., Stirr P. R., Worth D. E. Esq.
 Middle Row: Schofield M. D., Palmer M. A., Collins P., Wright P. H. (Capt), Fisher D., Easy C. S.
 Front Row: Quirk G.P., Harris N. P.*

2ND XV

A poor season by the 2nd XV's high standard. A young side often playing eight and nine fifth formers showed their lack of experience. However, when a full team was available it produced good form and spirit. The departure of two players, one the captain, at Christmas, further weakened the side but the experience gained should prove invaluable next year.

U15 XV

P. 19 W. 11 L. 8 F. 390 A. 260

After three years of continued success the team found that success was harder against teams of similar physical maturity and the absence of prop. forward Smith. They occasionally adopted a careless attitude with sub-standard performances, despite which several excellent games were played, especially those against Lancaster R.G.S. and Stonyhurst College.

The three-quarters have developed well, with Doughty and Harris showing potential as dangerous centres; Lee developing into a well-balanced winger and Lanigan needing only extra pace as his line-kicking and distribution is excellent. Doughty has contributed greatly to the team's success with fine place kicking, scoring 124 points.

Brindle has been an outstanding forward but the mainstay of the side has been the captain Wright, a powerful, thoughtful No. 8 and a mature, inspiring captain.

Despite a season of mixed fortunes it ended on a high note with the winning of the Blackpool R.U.F.C. Knock-out Cup Competition and the reaching of the final of the Fylde 7-a-side showing talent for future senior teams.

B. G.

U13 XV

P. 18 W. 5 L. 13 F. 170 A. 418

The season finished as it started, on a high note, with victories against Ermysteads and Balshaws at the beginning and Ashton and Fulwood at the end. Unfortunately the intervening matches resulted in only one victory, against Manchester. The four matches prior to Manchester and Kings, Macclesfield were heavy defeats and they were largely due to bigger, stronger and faster players. After Manchester the team gained fresh heart and the following seven games were far more closely fought, although the results went against us.

Longworth was probably the most consistent player, ably supported in the forwards by Greenhalgh, Harper and Carter, who produced fine try saving tackles.

After Christmas Marshall played regularly with great effort but could be thoughtless. In the last few games Wood came into the side and impressed. If he can smooth out the roughness in his play he must be a good prospect. The backs never really had much of the ball so it has been difficult to assess their attacking ability.

When Brough arrived after Christmas his extra height gave them confidence and their play improved. Nelson captained the side from centre and proved to be a tenacious player as did Churchman, who played in several positions during the season. The half backs were mostly Girvan and Lofthouse who

played adequately, though Girvan seemed a little frail at times being reluctant to harrass the opposition or make a break himself, while Lofthouse tended to catch the ball one handed providing knock ons. At the end of the season Nicholls and Brookes were tried, but there have not been enough matches to judge their success.

Next season there should be strong competition for all positions and this can only benefit the team.

U12 XV

P. 9 W. 2 D. 1 L. 6 F. 25 A. 202

Although what at first appears to be a rather poor season on reflection the team showed great potential for the future of rugby in the school. After only having won two games (against King Edward's and Ashton) and drawn one, with a meagre 25 points for, the team has played together very well and several individuals have always given their best and indicated great ball playing ability.

Our six losses came from schools with a much larger intake than ourselves and so, obviously, they had more potential to draw upon. We were never completely disgraced in defeat but merely demoralised which often added several extra points to the score against us.

In the forwards Seabury and Haynes showed great promise for the future and Bolton and Crispin were two late discoveries. Parkin realised his ability and used his size much more towards the end of the season ably assisted in the front row by Butcher — a very tough forward, and Walmsley — a tenacious little hooker.

The half-backs never really clicked together. Mathews proved very capable at scrum-half and showed how even the mighty are fallen when tackled low. This is highly commendable seeing he is under 5 ft. tall. Stand-off was a difficult position to fill. Hargreaves showed his natural flair as a ball-player and deceptive runner, whereas Morgan, the captain, showed the better rugby skill in reading a situation.

The other three-quarters all played very well. Collinge was extremely strong both in the centre and on the wing and Whitfield showed signs of sheer genius at times with his Gerald Davies-type side-step. 'Snowy' Bridge also showed great potential but often lacked self confidence in going forward and other times holding on too long. But all in all the backs showed that they should be able to score tries although they did not this season. I look forward with great enthusiasm to follow their success, hopefully, in future years.

I.M.S.

Harriers

Chairman: Mr. R. M. Clarkson; *Captain:* S. Redgrave; *Secretary:* C. Shaw

The past season has been, on the whole, the poorest for many years, the Harriers losing all their ten matches. The best result of the season was obtained in the Inter-Grammar Schools Cross-Country Championships in which we were placed 7th out of 8 teams, finishing ahead of Blackpool.

Although the Harriers have never had a full-strength team this season we have managed some good results, notably against Rossall, Hutton and Arnold, in which we were only narrowly beaten.

Redgrave has once again maintained his usual high standard, finished 1st on five occasions, together with a 2nd, 3rd and two 4th places. He has received good support throughout the season from Pilkington who came 1st on one occasion, and 2nd twice, and from Shaw who has finished several times in the first six. McLellan, Finch and Best have also run quite well during the season and Deacon, Ward, Glover, Durham and Foster have also represented the Harriers on several occasions.

Full colours (Re-award): S. B. Redgrave

Full colours: J. Pilkington, C. Shaw; **Half colours:** G. J. Best

In the inter-House cross-country competition, Fylde again dominated the running, winning both the Senior and Junior races. School House were once again the Intermediate winners. Williams P. (Preston), Williams, D. (Preston) and Redgrave (Fylde) being 1st in the Junior, Inter, and Senior respectively.

J.P.

Hockey

Chairman: Mr. D. E. Worth; *Captain:* C. T. Felton; *Treasurer:* J. P. Kelly.

This season has been one of mixed fortunes for the first team. It began badly culminating in a 11-0 defeat at Widnes against Wade Deacon College, a very strong and experienced opposition. Certain players have improved over the year especially Ashworth, Clough, Stead and Stewart all of the Fifth year. It is hoped that they will form a strong nucleus for teams in the future. Since Widnes the team have improved as shown by their 5-1 defeat of W.R. Tuson College at Preston, with Houston providing a spectacular performance scoring 2 of the goals.

First XI:	P. 14	W. 5	D. 2	L. 7	F. 24	A.40
Second XI:	P. 3	L. 3	F. 2	A. 9		

The second team have not been too successful this season and both teams need a lot of coaching if they are to improve.

D. J. Lee, (Sec)

Cricket 1975

The 1st XI enjoyed a season of surprising success — surprising, because success was earned by the team as a whole and not only by the efforts of a few individuals.

In the event, those individuals did all that was asked. Dennis scored valuable runs and took over 30 wickets, as did both Worthington and Sproates. Sproates, moreover, scored two fifties in consecutive matches, and, though not always in form with the bat, more than made up for batting lapses with some truly excellent fielding. Marsh was as good as any opposition wicket-keeper, conceding remarkably few byes and taking several good catches. Kennedy enjoyed a purple patch in the slips, and also with the bat, hitting a fast and murderous 89 against Fleetwood.

It was teamwork, however, which assured an unbeaten season. A record of 7 won and 7 drawn, by unsung heroes contributing a valuable innings or a good catch or a devilish spell of bowling. At Barrow, Durham took 3 wickets, swinging the ball prodigiously, if on occasion uncontrollably. Timms secured 6 wickets on his first appearance. Wells scored precious runs where they proved vital. At King George V Southport, the Staff can lay claim to a tactical victory turning defeat into a draw. King Edward, Lytham were put to shame by enterprising batting – but their slowness prevented any hope of a positive result.

I must express my gratitude to all those who represented the 1st XI, for their enthusiasm and effort provided much fine entertainment.

The 2nd XI was less successful, though several of its members performed with credit, and they no doubt will provide the bulk of the 1st XI next season. It is a difficult transition, the gap in standard is very wide, but with practice it can be bridged.

The U.14's enjoyed mixed results, and owed much to the batting of Tyrer and to the bowling of Worthington and Lee. Several of the team will be available in 1976, and prospects should be all the brighter.

Finally, my thanks to all those who umpired and helped with practices, who contributed to the task of making the cricket worthy of a marvellous spell of summer weather.

I.M.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND TRIPS

Brathay Hall Trip

On Thursday 22nd October a group of intrepid biologists set off for the Brathay Hall Field Centre near Ambleside in the Lake District. Their objective – to learn about ecology whilst in the meantime finding out as much as possible about the social life of this region of rural England.

Soon after arrival we got to know our companions, especially those biologically perfect female members of Christ's Hospital School, Lincoln.

The programme was hard work during the day, followed by an evening's discussion and then, around 8.45 p.m., a mad dash to get to the local high spots and sample their delights before it was time to return to Brathay.

Medically, the week proved interesting for those intent on becoming doctors. A midnight nosebleed by the only member of the group to suffer from (or so he thought), lung cancer, resulted in panic.

On the final day small groups set out to undertake projects, previously devised. And on Thursday 29th the group of now knowledgeable ecologists set off for Kirkham, one of them having proved the well known lyric, 'Breaking up is hard to do'. Finally, let me say that for any biologists in the sixth form I can think of no better way of having a good time and learning most of the basic ecology needed for A-level than a trip to Brathay Hall.

I. Hall (*Pre.*)

The Carol Service

The Carol Service for 1975 was Mr. Catterall's fifth, and, many people think, the best they have ever heard. As usual, the church was full, with boys, parents and choir in good voice. The programme contained many favourite carols and also some lesser known ones. The choir arrangements varied from the grandiose 'Personent Hodie' to the pleasant tunes, beautifully accompanied by I. Ledsham on the organ, of 'The first tree in the Greenwood'.

The lessons were ably read by pupils, masters and old boys of the school, and the whole service was recorded on tape by the school's resident sound recordist, Mr. Webster.

I. Hall, (*Pre.*)

Speech Day 1976

After the chairman of the Governors, Canon Francis, made his introductory remarks the Headmaster gave his annual report. He began by remembering those governors who had died in the past year — all having worked hard for the prosperity and future of the School. He then referred to the changes which were to take place in the near future but which could not be implemented for some time as there was not enough capital available to provide sufficient facilities for the increased number of pupils which the school would have.

The Guest of Honour was Major-General K. J. McQueen the officer in charge of the North-West forces who, after distributing the prizes to the various winners, gave a concise and witty speech which was found to be both humorous and interesting by all present.

Finally Canon Francis asked the head-boy to propose the vote of thanks to the Major-General who, upon request, granted the school the traditional day's holiday.

Present were many of last year's leavers who renewed old acquaintances with present students and masters and gave a valuable contribution to the afternoon's success.

I. C. Kirkham

The Penultimate K.G.S. Easter Concert

The 1976 Easter Concert again took the form of solo items, School Orchestra and Junior Choir in the first half, and a large choral work taking up the whole of the second half.

The school orchestra opened the first half with their old favourite — Haydn's "Divertimento". Their second piece was "Farandole" by Bizet. The latter, I thought, was the better executed of the two pieces, bringing out the violin section to its best advantage.

The highlight of the instrumental solos was to my mind, the violin solo played by Rodger Boyes, a first year boy. His technique and presentation showed great promise.

Of the two instrumental groups, I thought the Ashton trio, with arrangements of Frescobaldi and Schumann, had a slight edge in Lytham's quartet playing

Corelli's "Sonata da Camera in B flat", as this tended to hold together better for the most part.

Vocal contributions in the first half were provided by Simon Wells, with a very capable rendering of the well known 'Two Grenadiers' by Schumann, the madrigal group with pieces by Wilbye and Sullivan and the Junior Choir who obviously enjoyed singing The Daniel Jazz. The audience had quite a good time as well, once Mr. Catterall had given them a rehearsal and they realised that everybody else felt just as embarrassed as they did.

A very creditable performance of Haydn's 'Nelson Mass' by the school choir (just over a hundred voices) took up the second half of the Concert, solo parts being taken by the school madrigal group.

The evening ended with Simon Wells thanking Mr. Catterall, Mr. Webster and the orchestra for a good job well done, and I fully endorse these sentiments.

A. N. Gray. 1968-1975

Play Visiting

During the present school year a number of plays have been visited by a group of sixth formers.

Five productions have been seen so far at the Duke's Playhouse in Lancaster: 'The Merchant of Venice'; 'Buck Ruxton'; 'The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui'; 'A View From The Bridge'; and 'Dracula'. Of those 'Arturo Ui' was particularly good, and Brecht's historical parallels left the audience with something to think about.

A mini-bus was hired to take a party of twelve people to see the British premiere of 'Catch-22' at Leed's Playhouse. This was a very good production of Heller's famous novel.

One visit was also made to the Nuffield Theatre at Lancaster University to see 'The Tempest'. The play was staged in a full-scale re-construction of the famous Blackfriars Theatre, where Shakespeare's play was almost certainly first seen.

An agent has been enrolled in the C.L.O. (Crucible Link Organisation) which encourages theatre going in schools. We hope to visit the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield later this year, and the possibility of a trip to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford is being looked into.

R. J. Crane (*Pre.*)

Geographical Field Course, Easter 1976

On a Sunday in March 17 sixth formers and 2 members of staff set off to disturb the peace of Devon. It was a "whale" of a journey as far as Bristol where Mr. Beckett exchanged the wheel of the School's new minibus for Mr. Scott (not a bad swop really).

In Torquay the week's work included a survey on Dartmoor coupled with a high speed drive over hump backed bridges and along a lane that Mr. Webster assured us was always deserted. "Never any lorries down here" he was saying as we skidded to a halt inches from an articulated lorry. Later a tractor

blocked our way but Alan (I've driven loads of these things) Whiteside moved it into the bed of a stream and we made a rapid getaway from a steaming tractor and an equally steaming farmer striding down the hill towards us.

On Wednesday, Mr. Webster had intelligently arranged for our farm studies to coincide with Exeter's cattle market day — and probably, with equal intelligence, arranged for Mills, Duckworth and Ward to spend the day at a farm run by inmates of a mental hospital!

An abortive attempt to lock the masters in their rooms on April Fool's Day brought retaliation with the world's first occurrence of igneous limestone.

On Friday night Whiteside lost his bed. It was later found in the hotel basement.

Saturday found us in Totnes convincing the populace that a large hypermarket was about to be inflicted on their town centre. This was a simulation exercise in planning but we left supermarket managers in turmoil and the Chamber of Commerce considering legal action — fortunately Bailey had the presence of mind to muddle up K.G.S. with Carr Hill Secondary School. Incredibly, one old woman had actually heard of the proposal to build the hypermarket, and was glad that the rumour of the nuclear power station (last year's exercise) had died down!

There was the incident between a carload of Belgians a sunshine roof and a mangel-wurzel; the day Mr. Scott drove off before we'd got into the van; the landlord who offered us a choice of plain crisps; Birch's bomb scare; Mills' sleep in a turnip field; Hutton's questionnaire on bra sizes; Schofield nearly sacrificed to the sun gods on a druid altar.

Perhaps I ought to draw a veil over Saturday evening. Mr. Webster's attempts to get us into bed at a reasonable hour thwarted by the under-manager insisting on buying us drinks into the early hours.

Sunday morning and the journey home — 'windful', white-faced, and somewhat quieter. Thanks to Messrs. Scott and Webster for making it a useful week work-wise and for giving us a very enjoyable time.

N. Harris

C.C.F. REPORT

Army Section

This year has not been the most successful in the history of K.G.S. contingent. Some members of the 5th year seem to have found it difficult, even impossible to pass their Proficiency Examination. The 4th year, on the other hand, have shown a willingness to learn and should do well next year.

There is still a great deal left in the C.C.F. calendar. At Easter there is the Adventure Training Camp in the Cairngorms and next term the inspection and Summer Camp.

Field days have seen a variety of activities, dry slope skiing, tank recovery and climbing.



Sixth form geographers with the school mini-bus Devon, Easter 1976.

I would like to thank Major Butterworth, Captain Sayer, Lieutenant Clarkson and 2nd Lieutenant Scott for their advice and administrative assistance, along with the N.C.O.'s in enduring a difficult year so well.

Finally P. Collins, now Staff Sergeant, must set a remarkable record at Easter, not having missed a camp in his six years in the C.C.F.

A. Ellis (C.S.M.)

R.A.F. Section

A good year for the section started with the 1975 Easter camp at R.A.F. Little Rissington. Here the head of the station secretarial branch was F/Lt. Glynn Leaney, an old boy of this school.

During the year six cadets gained proficiency gliding certificates, so that now all N.C.O.'s have their gliding wings.

Last year two cadets, Sgt. R. L. Shaw and Cpl. S. W. Harris gained flying scholarships.

The performances of the fifth formers in the second and third proficiency examinations has been most commendable and can only be attributed to the hard work of Cpls. Hook and Dobson, their instructing N.C.O.'s.

This year the section is reduced in number from 73 to 52 which should help S/L. G. S. Cheesbrough who has been running the section single handed since the departure of F/O G. T. Brown in 1974.

This Easter we are holding camp at R.A.F. West Raynham where we hope to welcome Mr. D. Walls to the section.

R. L. Shaw

C.C.F. Summer Camp 1975

JURBY CAMP I.O.M.

The party left K.G.S. at 09 00 hours on Wednesday 16th July, and sailed from Fleetwood, (after Sqn. Leader Cheesbrough had altered the warrants!).

The journey proved quite interesting, and rumour has it that Lieutenant Clarkson's syndicate sustained losses on the one armed bandits. The coach trip from Douglas to Jurby Camp, along part of the T.T. course was completed in record time by 'Norm' the mad coach driver.

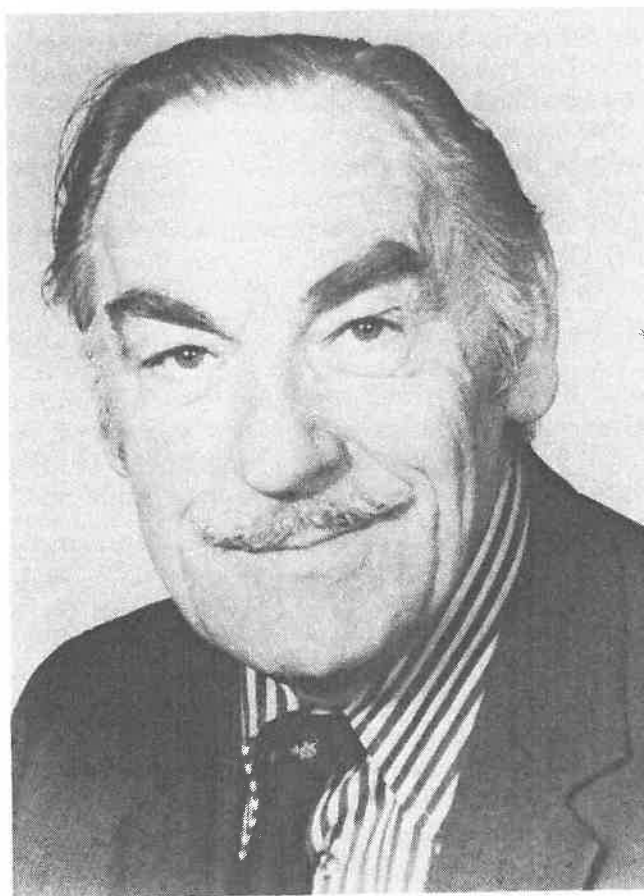
The day time activities were many and varied. They included a route march and shoot; battle initiative; a night exercise (and sing-song); canoeing; and a two day expedition and overnight 'bivvy'. Rock climbing proved to be one of the 'high' points of the week for many cadets. Two days were spent at Greeba Castle, climbing under the supervision of Dr. Summers. For Major Butterworth it was a chance to enjoy the 'scenic route' up to the rock face, ably led by the 'A.T.' section. A further day was spent with the Army Youth Team at Sulby Glen. Here we had a chance to try a new method of abseiling (running down the rock face forwards), and we were the only school to be allowed to use this method. On the last afternoon Captain Sayer had the pleasure of assisting a vet., stitch up some of the more delicate areas of a mare's anatomy, when six N.C.O.'s visited a farm with the unfulfilled expectation of going riding.

A number of 'off-duty' activities were also enjoyed by the cadets, including swimming, snooker, and even ornithology. R & D Enterprises (run by Crane and Fisher) went into the postcard trade, selling postcards at very reasonable prices, while Gascoigne charged extortionate prices in his boot polishing business.

Finally, on behalf of all the cadets I would like to thank all the officers on the camp for a really enjoyable week.

R. J. Crane (*Pre.*)

PROFILE No. 36



Beresford Wilson 1938-1976

H.B.W. These initials have been around the K.G.S. campus for 38 years. The name belongs with that small company of masters who have spent the major part of their lives in the service of our school. He has been innovator, renovator and sustainer of so many of the things by which any school might be judged. His influence by his presence has been great but by his impressive and artistic character probably greater. He spent his youth 'north of the Wall'

in the Northumbrian Scottish border country, where he devoted much time participating in every available sport, playing Rugby for his county and in the English trials but an injury in a club game immediately after put him out of action. Undecided between architecture, medicine and teaching he chose the latter and went up to King's College, the Newcastle Division of Durham University (now Newcastle Univ.) to read Fine Art; a subject which included both the study of Architecture and Anatomy. In fact he spent some considerable time in his fifth year attending operations ranging from brain surgery to post-mortems for the purpose of medical illustration. He continued his three favourite sports, boxing for the Division, University rugger, and golf. After six years at University he joined the staff of K.G.S. taking over a new Art room, teaching at various times Music, French, R.I. and English, assisting in the Games dept., doing his stint of School House duty and forming a Boxing Club; and playing on occasion for Fylde until within twelve months war broke out. When 'called up' a slight eye defect caused while boxing prevented his joining the Coldstream Guards so he enlisted in the Royal Artillery (the nearest he ever came to becoming an R.A!) and was promptly promoted to Acting, Unpaid, Supernumerary Lance-Bombardier — an honour he shared with Henry Longhurst the T.V. and Sunday Times Golf Correspondent. Then as a raw 2nd Lieut., posted to N. Ireland he flew several times as gunner in the open rear cockpit of a Lysander patrolling the border. Back to England, with a little time for army boxing and rugby; Troop Commander; Gunnery instructor. Then the 21st Army with a London Welsh regiment; a posting to Army Operations Research; Brigade H.Q. Staff and finally gazetted Staff Captain, G.H.Q. Rhine Army being offered his majority if he would transfer to the Educ., Corps Staff — which he refused!

After six long years, back at K.G.S., where among other things he has been Treasurer of the G.S.C., and organiser of the Easter Fair since 1949; Chairman of the Gen. Purposes Committee and, at one time, of the Chess and Debating societies. Form master until a few years ago; Ashton House Master and since 1961 produced the School Magazine. He designed the present School badge, various school ties and sports emblems.

He was a member of the National Council for Art Edn., organised and lectured at Teachers Art Courses in the county, lectured for the W.E.A., was one of the first lecturers at Kirkham Open Prison and is on the Adult Edn., Staff at the College of Further Edn. He was also founder member and chairman of a one time Kirkham Drama Club.

Many boys will remember his interest in Egyptian Architecture and the magical mental picture conjured up of trips along the River Nile; the wall paintings in the fifties in rooms 12, 14 and 16 and in the canteen where "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" and "Oliver Twist" caused County Officials to take some exception; the incident of the javelin one Sports' day homing in on Mr. Wilson (he now prefers the safety of the High Jump!). "You're for the high jump" must have a special meaning for Ashton House members. Room 12 is worth a visit — if you can get in — for the view, the high standard of its contents and the "Roll of Honour" of achievements of past students in Architecture, Art and Design, one of whom is his son, another is Alfred Rigby winner of the 'Prix de Rome' in Architecture — an honour few schools can claim. It is one of the few House rooms to retain team photographs and herein lies an indication of Mr. Wilson's undoubted and certainly not misplaced pride. The Masters' Common Room was transformed from the former Biology Lab., due to Mr. Wilson's own superb planning and design and opened in 1967. More recently he designed the layout for the 6th Form

Centre. Like Sir Christopher Wren he can truly say — "Reader if you seek something to remember me by, look about you". Golf is his first love. He is a member of Green Drive G.C. and it may be some time before he and his wife Mary (also retired from Carr Hill School and a golfer) leave to "go over the Wall" to their beloved Northumberland because of long waiting lists at 'decent' clubs. Frequent trips north and evening class commitments have interfered with his attendance at so many O.B.'s functions, yet it is every credit to the man that his progress at K.G.S. is always asked about at our meetings to which all Association members hope he will be able to devote more time in the future. We remain, Beresford, yours hopefully!

He is always willing to give freely of his advice to Staff members young and old, male and female (whom he refers to as "M'Dear!"). All this of course with considerable panache and friendliness which with that rakish moustache, underlies much old world charm. Music has been one of Beresford's interests since his youth and to finish off his musical education and console himself in retirement he is saving up to buy a set of Northumbrian Bag-pipes. His house has always been a formidable competitor in the Music Competition, and he has sung his well-known counter-tenor in every Carol and Founders' Day Service — though spurning the need for practice! John Catterall, former pupil now colleague, along with A.R.B. have provided some human substance for H.B.W. to that well known H.M.V. label. As well as extracting money he has contributed to the entertainment at many an Easter Concert. I particularly remember the painfully funny song "Parsons of Puddle" along with Messrs. Stevenson and Lawton — perhaps in the presence of his son Stuart 1956—63 who went on to take his B.A., in Fine Art at Manchester. His artistic know-how in designing sets for School plays has been extended into a critical appreciation of Horror films of the Hammer genre.

Each, who could, would tell the 'H.B.W. story' differently — anecdotes are so personal. I first saw him parading through Kirkham with the C.C.F. on Founders' Day wearing cavalry breeches — he cut a distinctive figure as did Bill Kinnear, later, in his kilt. We shall not see the like of that again, I fear. As my Form Master in LIV6 then UIV6 Beresford blessed us all, for compulsory 'Holiday Reading' with such obscure titles as "Stranger than Fiction", "Adventure and exploration in S. America", "Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde" etc. and we had a test on the first day back! I survived this and much more and eventually became H.B.W.'s Co-Treasurer on the G.S.C. learning a thrift and proper presentation of accounts which will always be useful. His caution is legendary — as displayed at G.S.C. meetings for instance, therefore I'm sure it won't be "publish and be damned" in this his final magazine production just as I'm sure there are no skeletons in his cupboard, though there is much speculation as to what lies beyond the door facing Room 11.

Beresford Wilson has carried his 'Daily Service' literally to so many School assemblies and figuratively into so many aspects of our School life and has siezed every opportunity in 38 years to do so.

In wishing Mr. and Mrs. Wilson a happy retirement, in hoping for their continued support in mind, body and spirit I might end with words from Daily Service, Thursday 1. "It is meet, right and our bounden duty" to give thanks to "prophets, leaders and heroes in Days of Old" and on behalf of "the Multitude which no man can number" thank H.B.W. "for our fellowship with one another".

A.R.B.

K.G.S. OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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* Ex Officio Committee Members.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

A.G.M. & Dinner 1976

This will be held at the Lantern Restaurant, Lytham, Friday 24 September 1976. Let us make this a record attendance.

Dinner Dance 1977

It was agreed to hold the Dance at the St. Ives Hotel, St. Annes on Sea, Friday 21 January 1977 and to sell tickets to the "Friends of K.G.S." in order to swell the ranks.

School Leavers — Summer 1976

If school leavers this term have not already joined the Association this will be their last reminder. If you wish to join send your full name, address and years at K.G.S. to the Treasurer with your 50p annual subscription or £10.50 Life Membership. So come on and join us.

* * * * *

Once again we are at the mercy of the printers and our section of the magazine had to be in Mr. Wilson's hands by 29 March, so material, particularly News of Old Boys is rather thin — so come on let us know what you are doing, even a few lines.

STRANGE TIMES NO.7

29 June 1925 was Prize Day at the School, the Guest of Honour being Mr. P. E. Meadon, Director of Education for Lancashire. During his speech he referred to the ancient history of our School saying that it was doing its work before Shakespeare went to London and before the days of Drake and

the Spanish Armada. This work has gone on from generation to generation since then as a result of self sacrifice, thought and effort of those who founded the School in the days before there was any Government Aid. Mr. Meadon said that if he were selecting a prize he would give it to the boy who had done his best for the School for such a boy would find work a tremendous joy and he and his school would benefit. Plato once said that every man has a gift and described them like gold, silver and brass. Education might be thought of as finding ones individual gift and developing it to the utmost for oneself and society in general. The Chairman of the Governors (Rev. W. T. Mitton) urged the boys to consider settling "In the Dominions of the Empire". Schools he thought could encourage this.

What was the School doing in those days? It was making progress 'all along the line in spite of the shadow of economic depression which gripped the whole country'. This would be felt in the boys homes and react upon their school life and, perhaps, in the context of a developing Grammar School accounts for the amount of philosophy in general terms and related to the educational process that found space in these early "K.G.S. Chronicles", in the Headmaster's editorial Prize Day report and speeches by others on such an occasion.

There is, of course, reportage on the intellectual and physical development of the boys. In the summer of 1926 there were 165 in the five houses (including a Blackpool House). The School House of 40 made it the largest whilst, in 1976, with similar numbers, the other Houses are 1½ to twice its size.

Studies at the School ranged from the very lowest rung of the ladder to Advanced post-matriculation work. The Summer Term calendar, 1926, which includes the external exam time-table, has some unfamiliar subjects being offered in the Cambridge School Certificate e.g. Mensuration, Surveying, Drawing (memory and flat), Book-keeping, Agricultural Science, English Authors and Painting. The HM reported that "the exam results were better than anything the School had ever achieved" referring to the Summer of 1925. One member of the staff was to be congratulated namely Mr. G. Barton, on obtaining the Degree of M.Sc. (Liverpool University) with a thesis on "Bi-rational Transformations".

The School buildings appear in a photograph, contrasted by the second site building near St. Michael's Parish Church. The present school was opened in 1911 and this photo shows the "Virginia Creeperless" frontage which otherwise we know so well. Behind the building facing Ribby Rd. only the wood-work room existed, little else.

The physical development of the boys had greatly improved by a reorganisation of the system of 'drill' (which at some time was in the hands of professional instructors from Fulwood Barracks) in fact a "Gymnasium was the only thing lacking to the physical training" said Mr. Strange. At the end of July 1925, 83 boys had passed the 25 yard swimming test (visits to the baths cost 3d in school time, 4d out of it, with season tickets at 7/6d); Shooting "showed marked improvement" but rain and bad light interfered with the competition. The range then was not under cover, nor in its present position. In that building on 12 June 1976 Old Boys' and students will shoot it out once again.

The Cricket XI had an end of season record of P15, W7, L7, D1. The draw was against the Old Boys but this was greatly in favour of the School. The XI were greatly benefitting from 4 concrete pitches laid down for net practices

before the season had commenced. XX caps, introduced in 1924 and ranking next to full colours in cricket, were awarded to 13 of the boys.

For Rugby football, 1925-6 was a season "on which we can look back with great satisfaction. This game was only introduced to the School in 1924 and it was felt that the XV had reached a standard higher than any other school football team since 1908". Now there was a second XV; Honours Caps were awarded (to 5 boys); a House competition was held with School House being described as "Cock House" in both junior and senior. The summary of matches is 1st XV, P13, W8, L5, F153, A85; 2nd XV, 2, 1, 1, 43, 18 respectively.

The Headmaster commented "The introduction of Rugby Football had been entirely beneficial — the particular qualities which the game calls for making it peculiarly a game for British boys. The quality of cricket had greatly improved: the mowing of the whole playing field and the provision of practice pitches had brought the cricket of the school onto a different level. All this was of great value; their object was not to produce expert footballers and cricketers, but they believed that if in addition to a liberal education a boy learned to play cricket and football as these games should be played, then he was likely to make a sound man and a good citizen". Other sporting events like tug-of-wars for heavyweight and lightweight divisions were held in May and athletic sports in the same month for House Cup and Victor Ludorum (which ended in a tie) and featuring an Old Boys' Race.

Mr. Strange paid tribute in his Prize Day report to the unfailing attention which his wife gave to the domestic side of K.G.S. — one tradition which continues and without which we should be worse off. This family spirit pervades other pages and the marriages of Cecil Kynaston Lee and Evan John Williams both Assistant Masters are recorded. They were to serve the school for over 30 years.

For some boys this chronicle would be the last they would receive as pupils and few would not join the ranks of the Association which is now in its 7th year. Many people including former pupils showed their interest and appreciation of the School by donating Cups, Cricket Bats and prizes. The OBA (subs 5/- a year ended Oct 31st) had 168 members including 27 life members and a credit balance of £32. At the AGM (in 1925) apologies came from as far afield as New Zealand. The Association was establishing its own regalia and though no firm decision was taken about a badge, members could obtain a tie (4/- post free) and blazers and hat bands from "The Grand Clothing Hall, Preston".

The depression referred to by the Headmaster in his report appears in the OB AGM when "the question of the Association extending a helping hand to any Old Boy who had fallen on bad times was raised". More pointed comment about this appeared in the editorial which states "There is no time when a big brother is more needed than when the young brother passes from school into the world's markets or workshops".

As regards the Association at play, it had been impossible to play the usual football match — Past V Present — owing to the frozen state of the ground. Yes, soccer! and presumably remained so until enough Old Boys could form their own XV. Which reminds me that it cannot be long before the present Association can raise a fencing team but whatever happened to those enjoyable Badminton encounters?

After the AGM the Dinner was held in the School assembly hall and a Mr. Livingstone Eccles of Manchester "proved an excellent entertainer and added to the enjoyment of a convivial evening" (committee members please note). The School Hall was also used for an Association Whist Drive in early January 1926, to which ladies were invited. Today too we only have one "not men only" event.

No doubt spurred on by the Headmaster's interest in cricket the OBA had its own cricket club, even though the report states that it is difficult to see how these fixtures can be continued unless more players are more frequently available. The Club's record in 1926 was P4, W0, L3, D1.

Apart from its philosophical content the Chronicle looks forward to its 1926 Prize Day in July when the Rev. E. J. W. Houghton D.D., was to present the prizes. No doubt there would be the same opportunities for the boys to give their Headmaster something of substance and merit to report, for academically what was expected was made very clear on the back of that calendar i.e. "It is most important that all boys should devote sufficient time and care to their homework and not neglect it on summer evenings. The School House do their preparation under supervision every evening. Boys from other Houses can attend if they obtain permission". However, Mr. Strange had two passions, Latin and Cricket and perhaps he was getting his priorities right by having it stated below the cricket practice times and that "boys concerned should make arrangements for tea and preparation accordingly". What was it that Nelson said?

A.R.B.

AN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THE LEGENDARY PORTUS SETANTIORUM by Jim Plummer (K.G.S. 1937-42)

now teaching at Freckleton C.E. Primary School

Ever since I said goodbye to market gardening and turned my attention towards educating (I hope!) the future generation, I have become keenly interested in the mystery of the Portus Setantiorum. The Roman Port mentioned to be on the Lancashire Coast by the 2nd century cartographer Ptolemy and presumably claimed by the sea. Ptolemy stated that the Portus Setantiorum was situated near to the Moricambe Aestuarium, westward of the shore margin today. 1974 was to be a year of freak high and low tides, so here was my chance to try to find out something for myself; all I wanted was a very low tide, good weather, a boat, and someone skilled in navigating the treacherous area around the Wyre Estuary. A lot to ask, I know, but I've always been an optimist (hence my being a market gardener, then a teacher!).

My optimism was rewarded on 16 September 1974, by a very low tide, calm weather, and some skilled navigators (a boat as well) — one a teacher and a part-time Coastguard. He and his three friends were very willing to take me to find this place of mystery.

To give me moral (and perhaps physical) support, I took my 18 year old daughter Maureen Anne who is (of all things!) training to be a teacher at Poulton-Le-Fylde College of Education, this being an excellent opportunity for her to discover something about the Wyre Estuary and its locality. I also took a pupil from Freckleton School, 10 year old Karen Threlfall, who has always been very interested in the environmental studies which I (try to) specialise in. (Also, I realised that the presence of a pupil on this expedition

would stop the children saying "O, O, sir's shooting the line again", when I recounted my fortunes or otherwise at school).

I could hardly blame them if they did because what we saw on that evening far exceeded anything I had expected. After fifty minutes sail from Fleetwood down the Wyre Channel, turning left and proceeding north westwards near the Bern and Wharf (all uncovered at this low tide), we arrived at our destination and saw two walls of pebbles and shingle stretching from a wide base, and pointing seawards; each "wall" was several hundred feet long. We measured the width of one "Wall" and found it to be about 44 feet wide. The "walls" ran practically parallel, but each had a slight curve at the seaward end. The whole structure resembled a well planned harbour, with a stretch of water about 14 feet deep between the two "walls". The longer and more southerly of these has appeared before at low tides (there is the wreckage of an old wooden ship which was carrying cement on it at one point), but the northerly "wall" was known to very few people. One could refer to the structure as being like a giant horseshoe.

We had a "dig" into the pebbles, etc., and found more pebbles — I was looking for a wall of square ended stones, but I was unsuccessful. However, near to the wrecked ship, Anne and Karen claim that they could feel the edge of a wall of stones which felt square to their finger tips, but, due to the quick turn of the tide so far from the shore, I was unable to explore this. We beat a hasty retreat back to the boat, or we should have provided the crabs with a few tasty meals (and there were hundred of crabs in the many rock-pools on the surface of the "walls" and the base). However, the sun came out just long enough for Anne and myself to take a few photographs and I picked up an iron bar with a ring at the end, from the southerly "wall".

I am now awaiting analysis of this ring to determine its origin; if (though I doubt it) it was proved to be of Roman origin, the certainty of this structure being part of the Portus Setantiorum is almost proved beyond dispute.

News of Old Boys

- G. S. HARRIS 1968—75: Has enrolled of Business Studies Course at North Staffordshire Polytechnic. Hopes to do HND, then Arts degree
- I. B. JONES: Combined Arts degree at Leicester Polytechnic reading English History and Modern Politics
- J. M. G. FALKNER: James has a pass in Law Degree from the University of Hull
- GRAHAM BOWSER: Now on a trainee management course with good old fashioned Woolworths. His brother has finished his first year HND course in Mechanical Engineering with Rolls Royce
- G. TOMLINSON 1965—72: Graduated last July with Second class honours degree in Law from Durham University
- R. A. COSSINS 1964—71: First Class Hons. (B.Tech.) in Statistics at Bradford University
- A. P. BUCKLEY 1965—72: Andrew has Second Class Honours Degree in Engineering Science from the University of Liverpool
- G. RUSSELL 1965—72: Geoffrey has a B.Eng. from Liverpool University
- A. T. DARRAH 1949—56: Tony is now a Doctor in Wolverhampton

T. H. KIRKHAM 1950—57: Now Professor of Ophthalmology at McGill University Montreal, Canada

Finally, I thank Arthur Baines, our Chief Reporter for all his work in submitting so many articles and notes, the Committee for their encouragement and Mr. & Mrs. Summerlee for their kind hospitality every time I am at K.G.S.

FRIENDS OF K.G.S.

President: Canon W. A. P. Francis;

Chairman: Mr. W. Crawford

Treasurer: Mr. A. Spencer

May I once again record the thanks of myself and the Committee to the ever-increasing number of parents, friends and members of the school staff who have attended and helped at the functions we have held during another successful year.

The second Barbecue, held in June 1975 at Swanbrick Hall was well attended. The food and the disco were enjoyed by everybody and the bar and tombola well patronised.

A Cheese and Wine party was held in September to welcome the new parents. These evenings are very enjoyable and enable new parents to talk to more experienced ones in a relaxed atmosphere, so please come along to the next one in September this year.

The usual Jumble Sales in October 1975 and March 1976 raised useful amounts of money. The last Bric-à-Brac auction was a tremendous success and we look forward to a repeat performance.

The Annual Dinner-Dance was held at the Hotel Glendower — St. Annes in November. Although this function is becoming more expensive, it is such an enjoyable evening that we feel it is worth continuing.

The Christmas Draw is one of the major fund raisers of the year and December 1975 proved no exception. Please keep selling the tickets which we try to get to you early enough to beat the rush of similar tickets in the period up to Christmas.

The Supper Dance was again held at the Anchorage in Lytham in February. The date happened to be Friday the Thirteenth, but there were no recorded mishaps, in fact the whole evening went very smoothly and enjoyably.

May I ask you all to continue to support the events which your Committee arrange for everyone's enjoyment and of course to raise money for the School. This year we have given £1,600 towards the cost of the School Mini-bus so we need your continued generosity and interest.

H. Scholefield
Hon. General Secretary

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