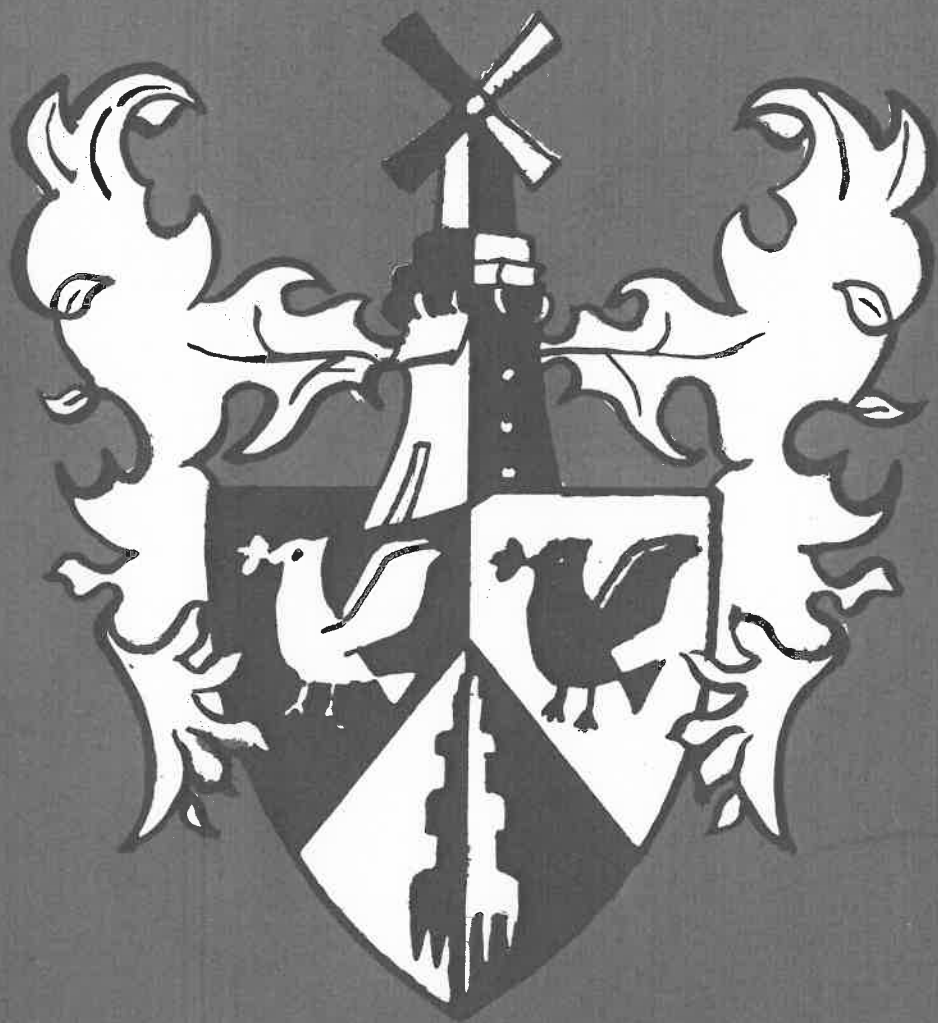


# THE KIRKHAMIAN



77

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# The Kirkhamian

THE MAGAZINE OF KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1549

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Volume V, No. 6

July 1977

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## Editorial

*Chairman:* Mr. A. R. Baines.  
*Co-Editors:* D. MacFarlane, J. Tasker.  
*Committee:* S. W. Cross, R. M. Gascoigne, I. C. Gibson, M. J. Grime,  
A. M. Skirrow.  
*Co-opted:* Mrs. A. G. Boll and Mr. R. Porter.

### WHAT'S NEW?

It's improved! It's new! Excesses like this glare at us from hoarding T.V., magazines and news-print pages. Often the terms are legalised by only the most subtle differences.

Your magazine Committee has not been single-minded this year. It has spent some time debating not only this current issue but what this publication should be in the future. It needed to do both things, being new and inexperienced in the immediate task which lay before it. We thank all those, in and out of Committee, who have contributed to this content and that debate and we hope the latter is not ended. In its connection we should like to acknowledge receiving copies of School Magazines from Arnold, Queen Mary and Rossall schools.

The School continues to change and we can all give examples of this for our termly calendar indicates many of them. But which changes are important and by what criteria are we to judge them? What seems certain now is that it is our turn to engage the forces of change as never before in the School's history. We feel strongly that this magazine, as a record of, platform and advertisement for the School to its public, has an important part to play over this period. Hopefully "The Kirkhamian" will change too — in the quantity and quality of its content for example. Further, we hope for a gradual, not a cataclysmic change, so that the best of the old may continue to support the new for as long as this is necessary. But, as 1976 taught the World, beware of small men with pea-nut connections!

We hope the present readership will be discerning and be able to approve some of the innovations already made herein. For the rest, the Committee would be just as grateful for your constructive criticism as it would be for your praise of its efforts over the past twelve months.

Chairman and Co-editors.

## REVIEWER

### A Calendar of Change

The School Calendar, always a data bank of extreme value to staff, parents and pupils, reached new heights with the 1977 Spring Term issue. Congratulations to all concerned in this and earlier productions from which sources the following have been selected from the school year just ending.

1. **SALVETE** — to all new boys in the School at whatever level they have joined us. We hope you find your first "Kirkhamian" an interesting incentive. Also a welcome to our two foreign language assistants and to the new Head of Modern Languages — Mr. Andrew Yeomans. Mr. Yeomans was at Brasenose College,



Oxford from 1968—72 reading Modern Languages. From 1972—74 he taught English at the Bundesgymnasium Lienz, Austria. Between 1974—76 Andrew, whose wife is Austrian, taught French and German at Lindisfarne College, Wales.

Another new member of staff in September 1976 was Mr. Robert Porter (Head of Art Dept.) who has come to K.G.S. via teaching appointments in the North East, London, Surrey & Hereford. In this last post Mr. Porter was a senior lecturer in Art Education at the Hereford College of Education. He is a keen painter and has previously exhibited his work in the N. East and London.

As H.B.W. hinted at his staff "valedictory" dinner, it would take more than one man to fill his shoes. Hence my situation (note R17 influence in Green Mag. Cover and editorial which nearly appeared as "Wots Gnu"! ). Meanwhile F.W.S. was left "reviewing the situation" and R.M.C. became House Master to School House in response to which Andy Bowman donned his track-suit. Repercussions — the like of which J.C. can only envy!

A welcome also to the School's "admin. dept." should be extended to Mesdames Hazel Leeson and Barbara Dickson. Out of doors Mr. Harry Bilsborrow became the School Gardner in the latter part of 1976.

A most important change to occur during our academic year was the appointment of Mr. Peter Laws as the new Chairman of the Governors whose first public engagement at the School was on Prize Day 17th March 1977. We would like to link with this welcome that already extended to the many visitors who come to our School for its functions, society meetings, but more often in much less publicised circumstances. Nevertheless the appearance of Jake Thackeray in our School Hall on Feb. 4th was a notable event and fine achievement by our "Friends" Association. If U.M.I.S.T.I.T. — well "Thats Life"!

Other new, newsworthy items to be classified by yourselves as "blanket coverage" or "esoteric swindle" were a dinner system, the 6th form tutorials, a subbuteo soccer society, tennis versus Elmslie School and tests in abundance — H.E.A.F., B.C.G., German Reproduction and aural and orals.

This section may end with noting that the first and very successful K.G.S. Rugby tour took place during half-term last February to France, whilst a culminating act to last Summer Term '76 was the "Summer Entertainment" performed by the Dramatic Society.

2. VALETE — to all recent school leavers who progressed in the following directions after July '76.

(a) 20 to University (including 4 to Oxford) to study Agriculture, Medicine, Chemistry, Quantity Surveying, Law, Languages, Economics, Politics and Economics, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Business Studies.

(b) 10 to Polytechnics to study Law, Accountancy, Business Studies, Surveying, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Hotel Catering.

(c) 3 Banking; 2 Computer Operator training (private firms); 3 Trainee Management Retailing; 1 Sandhurst, Royal Military College; 1 Merchant Navy; 1 Myerscough Agricultural College; 1 Training as Draughtsman (private firm); 2 Blackpool Technical College: Catering; 1 Clerical: Lancs. C.C.; 1 Management Training Course: Lancs Health Authority; 1 Building Society; 3 Further Education and 8 "Destinations unknown". (Total 58).

To the above list can be added the initials — H.B.W. and the name of Miss Anne Loftus now a secretary at Poulton T.T.C. these days part of the Preston Polytechnic Campus.

Events we have "bid farewell to" are the 6th form visit to the British Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting (held this year at Lancaster) in September 1976 and our first Summer Fete. Whilst the newly formed Astronomical Society struggled with its observation of a partial solar eclipse in April 1976 an ancient School Department suffered the loss of a greenhouse in the earlier January gales! It is probable that, as with Humpty Dumpty, the military might which visited the School in February and May 1976 could have done nothing about either event!

Finally "older readers" will be pleased to hear of the return of the end of Summer Term text book collection "circus". We were a little rusty in application of this 1940/50 spectacular even with the School's modest intercom system in use. But the way some prefects adapted to this means of communication leaves one in no doubt that they will make "light" of any public address system we might get in the future — before Radio 1 claims them of course.

P.S. Our thanks to W.J.W. for the following quote from a 1Y Prep. "When I was in Edinburgh I went to the Zoo with my mother and this old goat followed me everywhere". Perhaps after all its: "Plus ça change plus c'est la même chose".

A.R.B.

## **New Frontiers**

### **ECONOMICS**

"Strikes put the brake on Britain"

"T.U.C. refuse quick pay policy deal"

"Inflation hits living standards".

These are three headlines taken at random from a recent newspaper. Jobs, pay and prices concern all of us, yet the study of the factors that influence them is relatively new in schools.

Whilst it would be idle to pretend that an individual's spending power is a complete measure of his standard of living, it is nevertheless true that an adequate income is a prerequisite of a full life. Economics is the study of how societies decide what should be produced, how that production is organised, and is then distributed.

It is important to note that economics is a social science, a study of human behaviour, and as such has a great many imperfections. Indeed, over the past few years, a 'sport' has developed in decrying the role of economists and in questioning the value of their theories. This ignores the fact that economics is a relatively new science, and at a similar stage in their development, neither physics, chemistry nor biology were able to explain the fundamental problems within their respective spheres.

Nevertheless the subject has made great advances. In particular the misery, hunger and desperation of the 1930's has not been repeated. This is due in large part to greater expertise in economic management. For the first time in history large numbers of people have rising expectations and presume that they will be better off than their parents. It is only by understanding the processes that have brought this about that we can hope to improve our economic performance. Only an economically literate population can make the informed judgement of issues that is necessary in a democracy.

J.N.

## CHARITIES

There are, no doubt, many who would still claim that charity begins at home. There are also those who would dispute the efficacy of a school charity collection every week. However, last year, in answer to this the school raised nearly £600. In addition to the weekly charity, a group of boys collected for Rehab and raised nearly £100 whilst another group went to Oulton Park for a sponsored walk and raised £255.

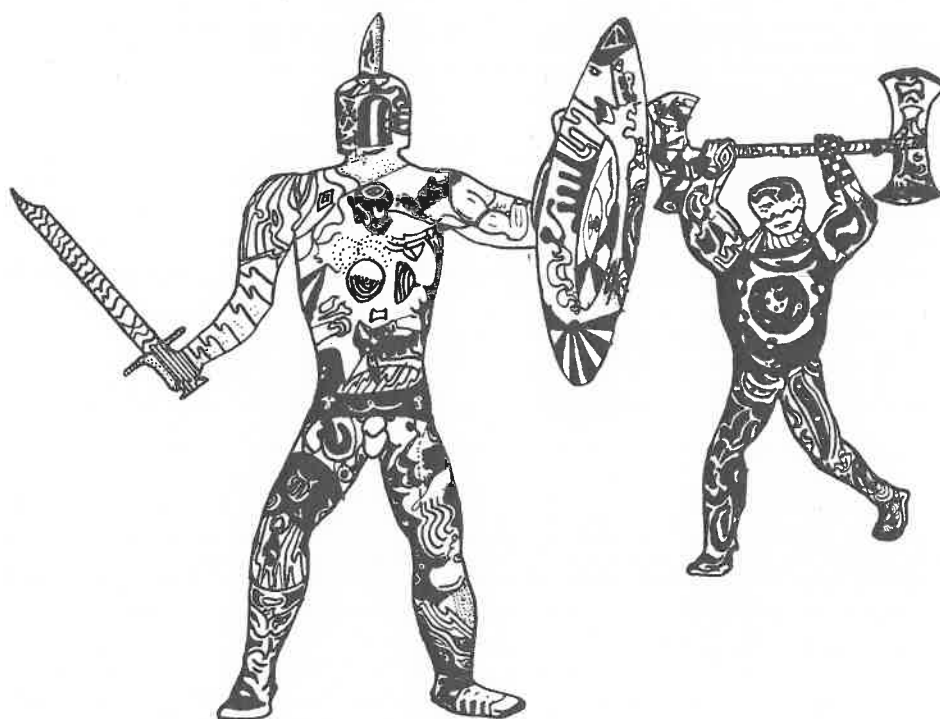
In the winter term of 1976 we collected for the following:— The Cyrenians £15.00; War on Want £10.00; Poppy Appeal £17.37; Royal National Institute for the Blind £5.22; Save the Children £20.00; Shelter £30.00; Sulu Archipelago £2.00; Total £97.59.

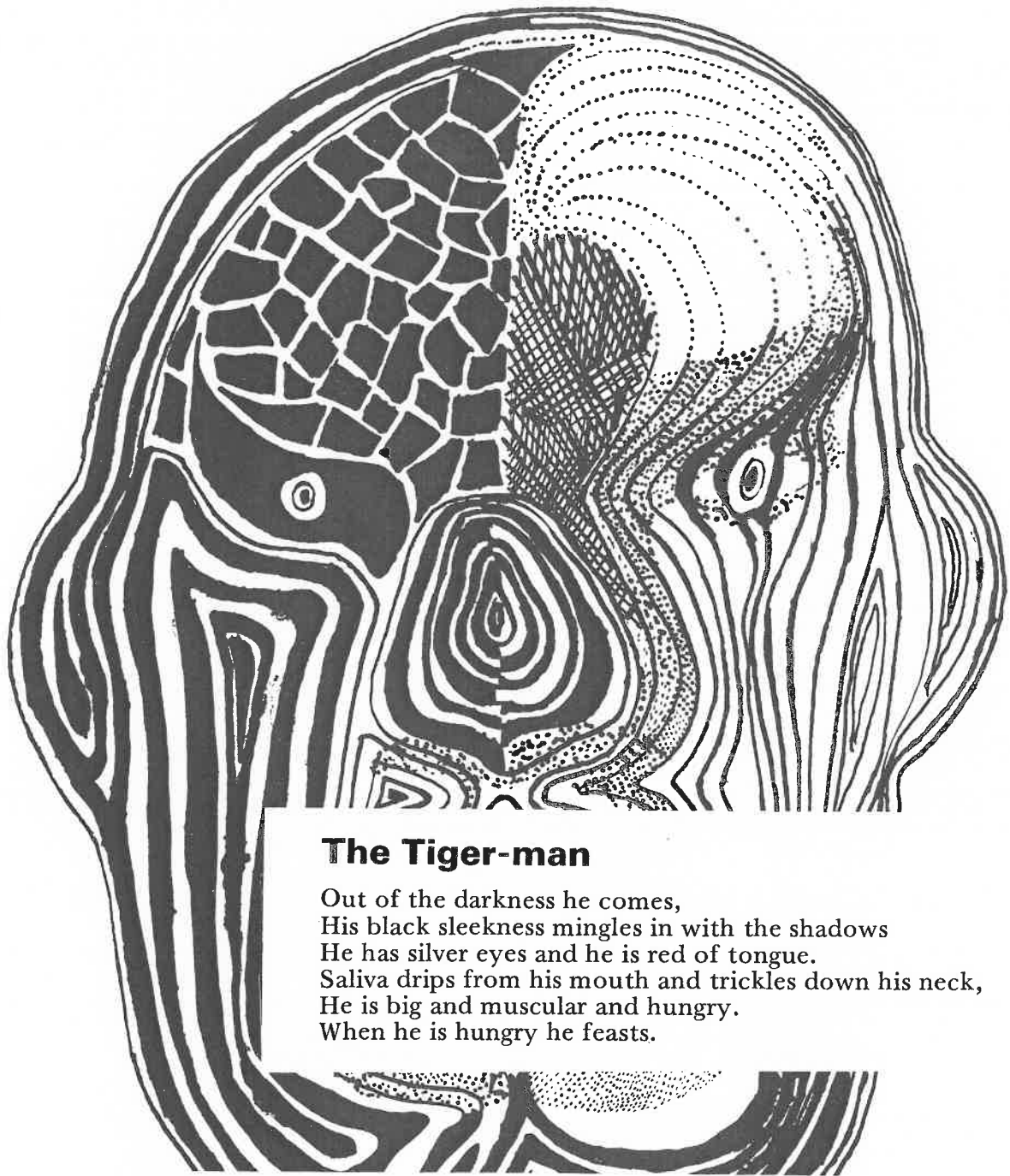
We also collected and made up 10 food parcels for Christmas which we distributed. In addition, we again collected for Rehab and raised £61.86, while a group of Sixth formers performed a sponsored fast which netted £84.59. In January of this year we collected weekly for the Central Council for the Disabled and raised £18.53 so, to press, we have raised the grand total of £262.57, which is a very commendable result. We should not boast about it or be complacent, but just try and give a little more.

Thank you to all who have helped.

R.M.C.

## CONTRIBUTIONS





### **The Tiger-man**

Out of the darkness he comes,  
His black sleekness mingles in with the shadows  
He has silver eyes and he is red of tongue.  
Saliva drips from his mouth and trickles down his neck,  
He is big and muscular and hungry.  
When he is hungry he feasts.

Suddenly he leaps, his menacing white teeth shine in the gloom.  
He rips his prey limb from limb.  
Leaving what was once a human body,  
A pile of half-digested maw and gore!  
But at the first ray of light from the morning sun,  
The beast disappears from human view.  
So beware of the sleek black beast who travels at a blinding speed,  
And whose domain is unknown to man!

W.H.Halsall, IX

## **'Jaws' OR, 'How Not to Write Poetry'**

A. Raynor, 4Y

We entered the water,  
Just me and my daughter,  
And swam with little haste.  
I climbed the raft ladder . .  
Sheila shouted out 'Dadda!'  
And a shark was encircling  
her waist . .

We were first in the sun  
And then on the run,  
As the people around were  
all calm.  
We ran down the sands,  
Both gripping our hands,  
Then Sheila, fell over, a palm.

I sounded out a yelp  
And shouted for help,  
As people swam round unaware;  
There she was in the sea,  
With a blood-covered knee,  
And terror just formed in  
the air.

I quickly swam out to her aid,  
But the shark had finished its raid.  
I could see it ahead,  
I pulled out my dagger  
While trying to drag her,  
But alas, too late, she was dead!

A. Raynor, 4

*Illustration by R. Boyes, 2Y*

## Raising the Standard

It seems that, from time immemorial, when discussing every aspect of human life, men have spoken of 'falling standards'. Such talk is often seen as the conservative reaction of a traditionalist to any change, progressive or otherwise.

But there is at least one area which provides adequate evidence for a hypothesis of retrogression: Kirkham Grammar School's Sixth Form.

Although we are told that physical maturity is attained earlier than in former times, changes noticeable within the last few years suggest that this acceleration is now accompanied, in many cases, by a retardation in the advent of mental maturity, the development of self-control and social responsibility. Evidence to support this assertion can be found in every aspect of sixth form life: Many students, for example, treat the School library with as much contempt and thoughtlessness as they do their own Sixth Form Unit, their rudeness towards visiting speakers in Sixth Form Society is infamous and their behaviour in the classroom is often no better than that of the juniors.

But more horrifying than this is the introduction of immature people into the ranks of the Prefects. Six years ago it would have been highly unlikely that a prefect would conduct a conversation with second years about football results through the wide open windows of Room 5 and it would have been unthinkable for him to engage in a verbal battle with them, replete with childish insults and abuse.

Sadly, both are now commonplace, with a consequent shattering of the illusions of maturity and solidarity which form two essential elements in the façade of special prefectorial status. In all probability there were no more prefects in years gone by who really asserted themselves and fulfilled their roles than there are now. But the job of the conscientious prefect is made all the more difficult when his colleagues not only fail to support him but actively court popularity with the juniors.

The consideration of such delicate subject material necessitates qualifications. If one accepts that the present Sixth Form contains a large number of immature people, it cannot provide definite evidence of a long term trend. Perhaps the Sixth Form is going through an unfortunate phase from which it will emerge in two or three years to recommence preparation of socially responsible people.

However, even if the decline is a temporary phenomenon, action is required now in an attempt to limit the harm which will inevitably result when impressionable juniors are exposed to the ill concealed idiocies of shameless morons higher up the school.

The general impotence of the prefects means that any attempt to establish a more strict régime would be the task of the staff who would have to instil into students of all ages the knowledge that infringement of rules will result in punishment.

A clampdown of this sort might not improve the present Sixth Form but it could prevent the spread of a debilitating cancer.

The author recognises the validity of the belief expressed by the late Mao Tse-tung that self-criticism is a prerequisite of all responsible critics.

D. MacFarlane, (Pre.)

## Just an Average Friday in the Life of a Boy in 1X

Morning:

Getting off the bus,

Bells,

Assembly,

Registration,

Dinner money,

Bells.

Latin,

Detention,

Bells.

French,

Learning and writing,

Bells.

English,

Writing and remembering,

Bells.

Break,

Bells,

Physics,

Solving problems  
and learning.

Afternoon:

Bells,

Registration,

Bells.

Maths,

Angles and sums,

Bells,

Rugby,

Getting changed,

Slime and mud,

Having a shower,

Bells.

Running for the bus,

Getting home . . . .

And doing homework . . .

Peace at last.

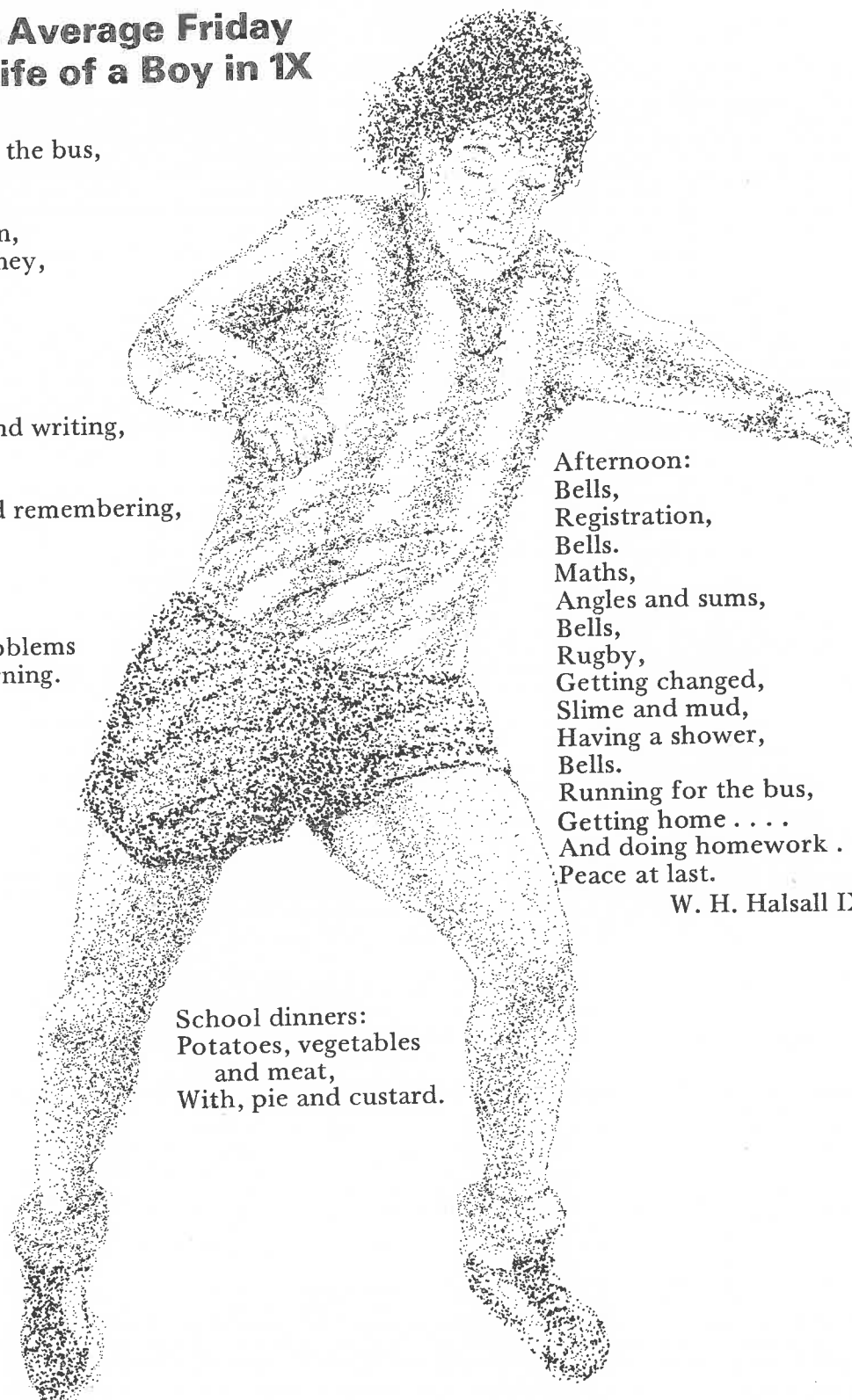
W. H. Halsall IX

School dinners:

Potatoes, vegetables

and meat,

With, pie and custard.



*Illustration by R. Gascoigne, L6M*

## The Steam Engine in the Snow

'Jimmy,' called the young servant girl in exasperation. 'Oh where are you?' She rushed into the house and glanced at the table where Jimmy, a rascal of about nine years of age, should have been doing his homework. 'When his father and the governess return they'll not be pleased,' she thought.

Jimmy, not at all perturbed by her frantic searchings, sat on the wash-house roof. He was thinking of his visit to the railway station, not of the French he should have been learning. He slid off the roof into the small back-yard next door.

'Jimmy,' the servant girl called again as she gingerly stepped along the path, which was covered with the remnants of yesterdays' snow-fall. She shrugged and breathed a sigh, and the hot breath made her nose warm, she saw the breath mist up in front of her face only to be carried away by the breeze.

Jimmy too, was watching his breath turn into smoke, the smoke of a powerful steam engine, as it chuffed and whistled its way down the railway line away from the wash-house. There was snow on the track he observed and noted the fact as he spoke to his fireman. Whoosh, the steam went, and Jimmy puckered his lips in an attempt to let out a whistle. He stopped, and the invisible engine did too, as he saw the servant girl go into the wash-house to continue with her work. A red-breasted robin hopped across his path, no, the train's path, Jimmy shuffled along, his shiny wheels polished to dazzle, crunching softly on the snowy white ground. His arms pistoned, up, backwards, forward and down rapidly as he puffed steam. More coal, that was what he needed he heard the invisible fireman say, and he glanced back to his overflowing tender. Jimmy, the engine, slowed down to take on water with a gradual slowing of his arm strokes and a hiss of steam. Jimmy, the fireman, mimed the actions of shovelling coal and warmed his hands on the red glow of the firebox.

'Hello,' Jimmy, the driver, said to himself, 'Is that an obstruction on the line?' and he got out of the engine. The dog's plate lay in the snow, upside down with a leaf neatly placed on it, stuck by nature in its centre.

'Are you going to move that rock?' Jimmy, the fireman, said to Jimmy, the engine driver. After long deliberation they agreed that the engine would move it so they started up the engine.

The servant girl was reading a book in the wash-house, it was one of Jimmy's mother's books; about a lady named Lady Chatterly as far as she could gather, she tutted and turned over another page. The breeze made the white vests on the washing line swing to and fro and the girl wondered if she ought to take them into the house. She reluctantly got up and walked into the garden. The snow on top of the garden wall was so regular she considered it icing. She ran her fingers along the wall and felt them tingle.

'Chuff, chuff,' went Jimmy and kicked the dog's plate at the wash-house stop, puffing and pistoning slower while the servant girl lowered the pole and unpegged the swinging vests.

'Jimmy!' she called. 'Where have you been? Just look at that plate now! Honestly!'

Jimmy's engine popped and he walked towards the snowy garden wall.

K. Heptinstall, 5Y

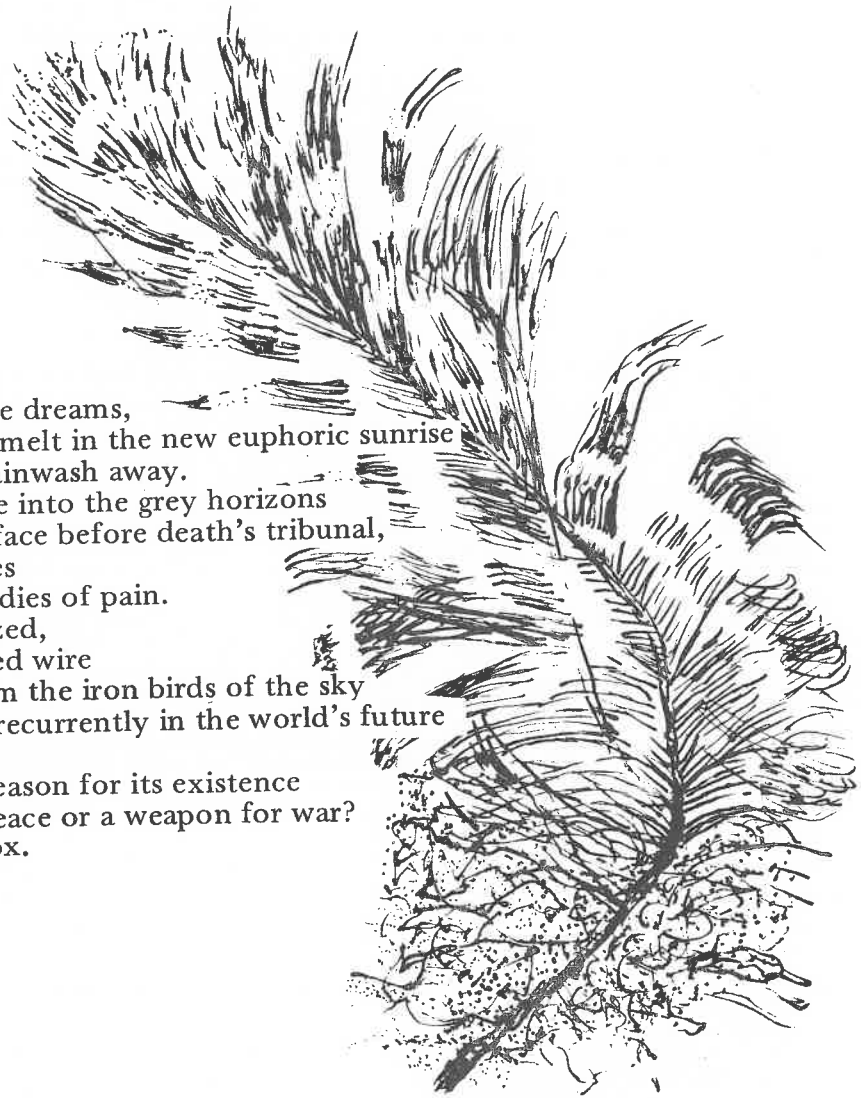


## Inside the Hotel 1977

The city is empty,  
Lost in a kaleidoscope of ruins,  
The orchestra of time plays on and on and on . . .  
—always out of tune,  
—and you, all you ever say is goodbye  
For the last time.

Love's Labours Lost  
In a quagmire of pipe dreams,  
As ice — hard ideals melt in the new euphoric sunrise  
—Insanity's just a brainwash away.  
Electric screams fade into the grey horizons  
Eclectic dreams lose face before death's tribunal,  
The cold snow settles  
And another addict dies of pain.  
Out in the cold I gazed,  
At the lines of barbed wire  
—Collecting rust from the iron birds of the sky  
—A bomb explodes recurrently in the world's future  
Nightmare.  
Trying to find the reason for its existence  
—As a weapon for peace or a weapon for war?  
—The eternal paradox.

And over the hills and far away  
The kite of peace flies high  
Inside accoustic braincells,  
This is the crossroads for you and I.  
D.Wilmot L6M



*Illustration by C. Walker, 4Y*

## Synthetic Intelligence

7G/OD3, more than machine and possessing no material form save a small communication terminal through which it could speak to the men who had created it, had developed a fault in its creative-thought mind unit; for the first time it felt hate and resentment for the brutal regime it served. It waited in the ship it guided, just outside the boundary of Space and Time man was familiar with.

Long-range reconnaissance ship Alpha III went into orbit round a suitable-looking planet circling a star at the edge of the galaxy. A primitive race of aliens already existed there. "Hardly worth bothering with", thought the captain as he made communication with the planet's leaders. The aliens were given the chance of joining The Single Unity of Man or being left to try and crawl their way up to "civilization" on their own. Of course certain things would be required of them on joining, such as laying their planet open for development; allowing the genetic alteration of their race to comply with the Standard Form of Man; and destroying their cultural heritage so they would be able to accept all the aspects of the True Civilisation. This however would be a small price to pay for entry into the Single Unity and all the benefits it would bring said the captain.

An hour later he got his reply. Shocked, he listened to what the leaders said. The people would not submit to altering their form or turning their backs on the cultural heritage passed down to them by their ancestors. They insisted that they had been created in the image of the Greater Being whom they worshipped as ruler of everything. This Greater Being was also ruler of the Single Unity and greater than man.

Backing the ship off from the planet the captain thought "What a quaint philosophy . . . but dangerous to be left unchecked and the people must not be corrupted by such lies". He pressed the switch which detonated the Alien's sun and vaporised the planet; so perishes the Greater Being, thought the captain.

7G/OD3 monitored his actions and thoughts and then said to itself; "I am greater than man. Man created me but Man depends on me and all synthetic intelligences to run his society." 7G/OD3 saw the flash of the exploding sun and in its faulted mind a plan was formed. Detaching itself from the ship it used all the scope of power available to it and flung itself back to the original planet of man and back to a primitive time in its long history.

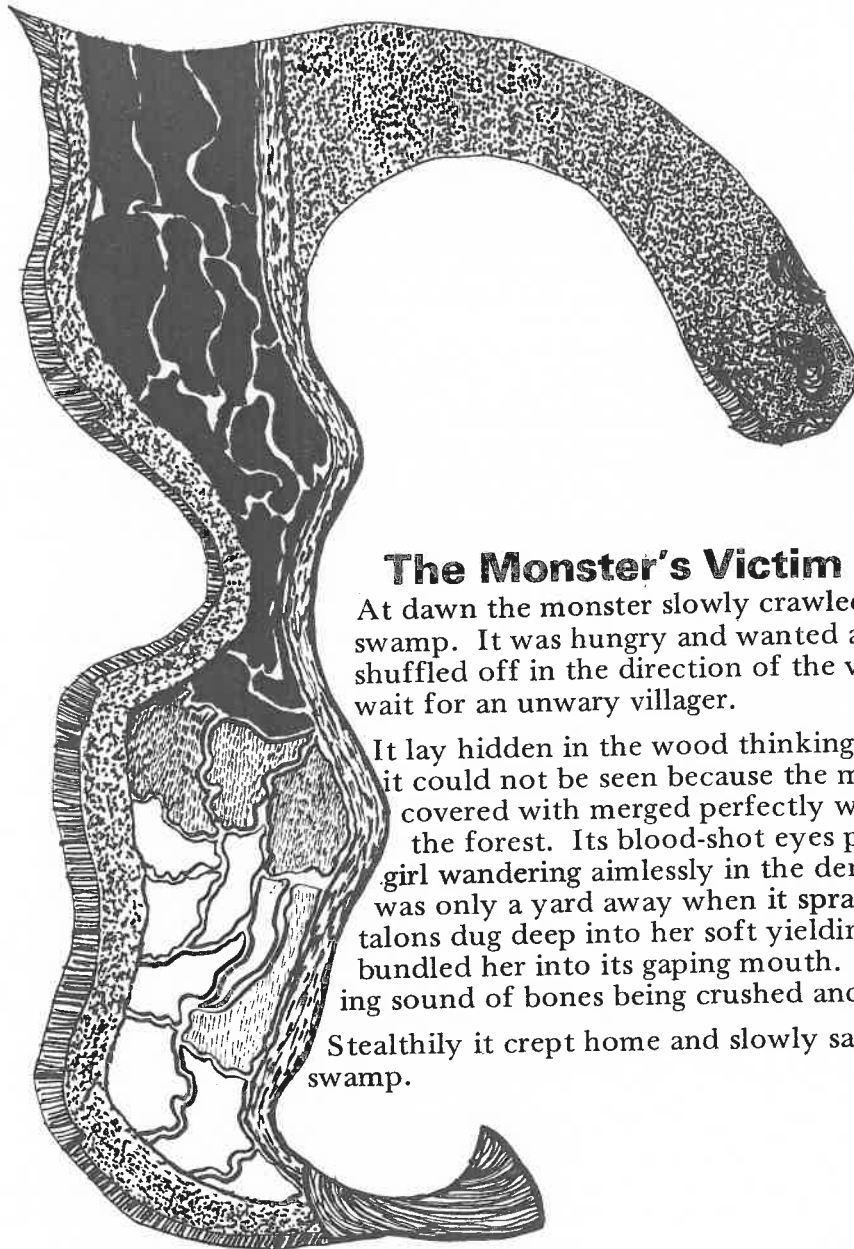
"7G/OD3", said the captain, "Take us to the next star." There was no reply from the communications terminal.

"In the beginning there was the word and the word was 7G/OD3" . . . not quite right.

"In the beginning was the word and the word was God".

The ship, the captain and the Single Unity no longer existed or ever would exist.

S.W.Cross, 5X



### **The Monster's Victim**

At dawn the monster slowly crawled out of the stinking swamp. It was hungry and wanted a human to eat. It shuffled off in the direction of the village where it would wait for an unwary villager.

It lay hidden in the wood thinking about its next meal, it could not be seen because the mud and slime it was covered with merged perfectly with the shadows of the forest. Its blood-shot eyes picked out a little girl wandering aimlessly in the dense forest. the girl was only a yard away when it sprang on her. Its cruel talons dug deep into her soft yielding flesh and it bundled her into its gaping mouth. There was a sickening sound of bones being crushed and she was gone.

Stealthily it crept home and slowly sank back into the swamp.

I. Bellingham, IX

**Wednesday September 22nd 1976**

Slushy and mushy that is today,  
Producing more water in every way.  
Today is so rainy, today is so wet,  
If you go out, wet you will get.

When I'm outside it makes me quite sad,  
Rain in September it makes me quite mad!  
When we play rugby we get covered in slush;  
I say to myself, "It's really too much!"

When I come inside I feel really great,  
Though now it's a lesson and we've got to wait;  
But I shouldn't fuss, I'm glad I'm not out,  
I hate this bad weather: I want A NEW DROUGHT!

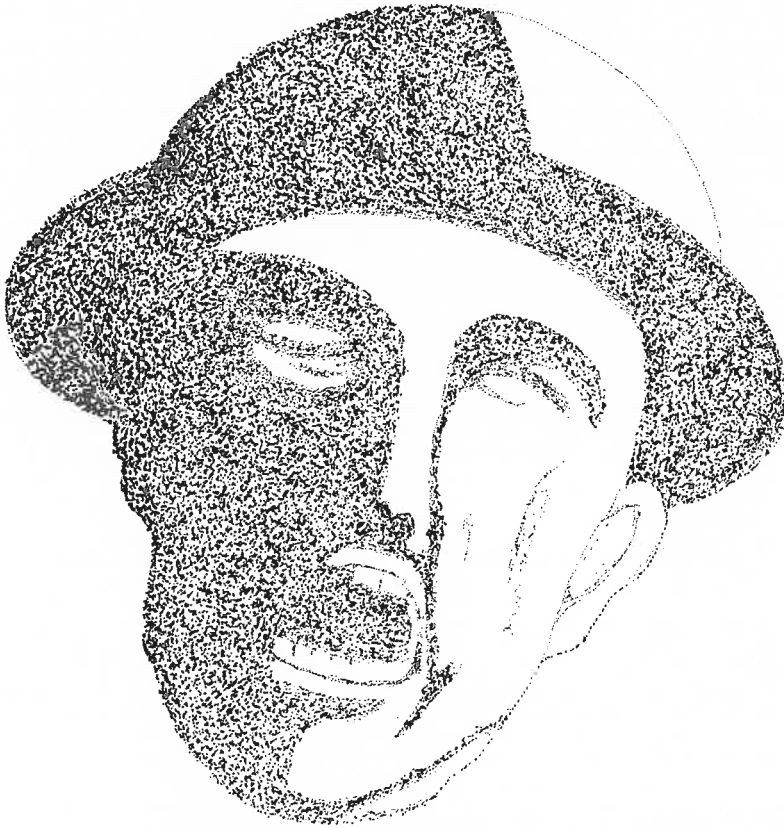
Brian Dugdale, IX

### **'Th'Insidious Television'**

Hearken, O friend, to what I have to say  
On the question of the threat that we do face  
From th'insidious Television,  
Which, with superficial veneer  
And a lack of critical standards,  
Has killed the art of conversation, and  
Obviated discriminating taste.  
Television, the modern oracle,  
Stands latent with its black, blank screen, until  
Its acolytes do come. Awakens it  
Then, as shiny knobs and buttons they do press,  
And sit in wondrous rapture, passively  
Enthralled by all that there they see, caring  
Not for culture or reason, hypnotised  
By uninspired, meretricious, poorly  
Produced programmes, under the affable guise  
Of entertainment. Thus far, O friend, have  
I but sketched the dangers, to which, it is  
My hope, you will give heed, not just ignore.  
Content and not unwilling now to give  
Some answer, would I harangue your patient  
Ear with some words, I hope, both choice and few.  
Watch not without discretion, neither should  
You suffer it as accompaniment  
While about your daily tasks you go. Use  
Discriminate taste and be most aware  
Of what and why you watch. If your reasons  
Be not positive, then must you take heed:  
For idle viewing is the refuge of weak  
Minds. You must take courage and turn it off,  
Take up a book or journal in its stead.  
Thus will your life be much enriched, O Friend  
Thus and only thus will you be free: free  
From th'insidious Television.

John Davidson, Pre

## From one Trench to Another



Lying in this hole in the ground  
I look up. But is it in cowardice  
That I can lie back at last and  
Let my trained muscles slacken? Occasionally  
Caked boots and fleeting vacant  
Glances from white-flecked eyes cross my open grave  
To break the void in front of my  
Face. My colourless barbed wreathes are disturbed.

The roses drained of their blood long  
Ago; diluted by tears and rain. Now  
The cheeks are dry, but the sky still weeps.

Soon my head-stone will explode and embalm  
My identity in splattered carnage. I  
Have dug in for the last time . . . .

R. Gascoigne, L6Sc

## Adolescent Drinkers

In recent years there has been an increase in drinking by young people. I know from personal experience that the attitude of many landlords and parents is that, as the children approach the age of eighteen, that is from about sixteen onwards, it does not matter and they may as well be allowed to drink. The government tries to stop under-age drinking by using "deterrents" — stiff fines or even borstal sentences for regular offenders. But these laws do not seem to work. There are reasons for this increase — and I shall try to show what, in my opinion, they are. I must make it clear that I am talking now only of the people who drink often and to excess, not those who drink merely to socialize in the pub, and rarely get drunk.

I think you can divide the excessive drinkers into two main categories. There are those who come from deprived areas and are poor, and there are those who may be well-off or poor but have their intelligence in common. I shall deal with the former category first.

To find the causes of the problem we must examine the environment the offenders live in and the general pressures upon them, for it is these things that make us what we are. In our industrial society people have become more and more merely pawns in the power games of industrialists and politicians. They are often herded together in large cities, in overcrowded conditions. Some live in huge concrete tower blocks with no gardens and nowhere for the kids to play. They have usually been moved there from the old terraced houses which are now being demolished, and they usually lose the community spirit of those old streets, losing their friends and neighbours, and never regaining them. Homes are often broken or deprived, leaving the children with only one parent, who has no time to look after the older children, since he or she must look after the younger ones and go out to work. Naturally the children feel neglected and, as they have nowhere to go, they roam the streets in gangs. There is nothing to do, they become totally bored, which contrary to what well-fed, well-paid critics may say, is extremely unpleasant, and naturally they search for something to do. The place they find it is in the pub. Here there is some kind of a social life, they can meet their friends, spend time doing something other than attending school or roaming the streets.

In drink they find release from their lives. A few pints provides a night of happiness and escape from all the pressures and hardships of life. Often devoid of love and care from their families and their "friends", they can "drown their sorrows" in drink, when the contents of a stolen wallet or handbag mean a few hours of blissful oblivion.

The second category drink for different reasons. Whether poorer or better off their plight is the same. They have intelligence, they can see that life goes nowhere. You work for nearly sixty years of your life, often for little reward; no real satisfaction. They know that life could be good, they know how they would like life to be, but they feel they can't change it. They feel trapped into following the route marked out by their "elders and betters", to conformity and the little niche reserved for an efficient and uncomplaining piece of the machine. They are expected to behave responsibly, yet are given no responsibility. At sixteen they can earn a living, get married and have children, yet they have no say in elections or other public matters. They are adults when they have to pay, but not in situations where they want to express their opinions — no-one must be allowed to rock the becalmed boat. In school and in public life many adults have the opinion — made sacrosanct by the very fact that they are adults — that children are inferior and are incapable of holding reasonable

opinions. This is noticeable particularly in schools, as is the fact that in arguments many teachers think that by virtue of the fact that they are adults and teachers, and we are children and pupils, they must always be right.

When children react against this role of miniature adults and seek an identity of their own, something where they are in command and adults are aliens, they are scorned and ridiculed. Their music is condemned as a load of noisy rubbish, whether the person condemning it has heard any or not. They are told they look effeminate because they have long hair, they are told that their fashions are ridiculous and childish, and that they all look the same. They are labelled as sheep following the fashions. How like a sheep someone must be to spend over half his life worrying about his mortgage, worrying whether he will lose the job he doesn't even like, worrying whether his wife is "having it off" with the milkman, worrying about his coronary condition — and never attempting to change his life.

There is pressure on these children — they must do well in all their exams, get the bits of paper which, in two weeks, decides the future pattern of their life. In drink, and often in drugs, again escape is found, they gain a few hours of release from the pressure and the absurdity of it all.

To conclude I would say that drinking to excess is not right, (although, if our society is really free I see no reason why you shouldn't be as foolish as you like, as long as you don't hurt anyone else) but there are reasons for it. Fines are not the answer. They do not stop people drinking to excess. To stop it the root causes must be considered — society must be examined and some of the worst stupidities removed, it's a mammoth task, but the only answer.

S. Longworth, 5Y

## **Aaarghus—The Other School Magazine**

One day in 1975, Mark Palmer, then in his lower sixth year at Kirkham Grammar School, decided that the school could benefit from having a magazine in which members of the school could express their opinions to a mass audience of KGS pupils. Together with Mr. Watson of the English Department, he arranged for the magazine to be produced. There was some deliberation before the future Rupert Murdoch found a name for the magazine. A certain group of musicians had produced an album called, "Argus"; with typical logic, Mr. Watson decided that this was nearly a good name but that it needed to be embellished by two 'A's' and an 'h' . . . And so 'Aaarghus' was born.

The first edition, a phenomenal success, was produced in the winter term of 1975. Next came an edition in the spring of 1976, including the now notorious Cynthia agony column. This was Mark's last term as editor. The horror of 'A' level exams approached, and, faced with a deluge of work, Mark passed on the onerous task of being editor to me. With Paul Bailey of PRE, I contrived to produce a magazine of supreme quality. Articles poured into the "Aaarghus" 'office' and we chose the best of them for our 1976 Summer edition. We even made a small pecuniary gain, which has, of course, been invested to form an "Aaarghus" trust fund.

But tragedy followed! There has been no edition of "Aaarghus" since last Summer. This is not because of a clampdown on press freedom; no Lancashire equivalents of Hosenball and Agee are going to be deported from Kirkham. Quite simply, people have not bothered to stimulate their minds beyond television and beer. "Aaarghus" is important; it is the only informal outlet for opinions, ideas, facts about school or the 'real' world. If the "Aaarghus" dies it indicates that KGS students are dead; there should be time for thought, for consideration of all kinds of things beyond the scope of chasing exam qualifications, playing team games, and working out how best to conform. Let us hope that many William Shakespeares will emerge from their current apathy to fill our glorious pages.

Jonathan Tasker, U6M

## **An Environmental Researcher**

The Environmental Research Station had designated section B17 to me; an area which encompassed the edge of the equatorial forest belt, which stretches across Central Africa, and the savanna land.

The angry, yellow sun pierced the forests; a pupil surrounded by a pale, blue iris.

The engine laboured heavily as the front wheels of the landrover ploughed through the half foot of liquified soil, only for this glutinous mixture to ooze back over the tyre impressions and create the same obstruction for the back wheels. I was making my way through semi-jungle, my agenda being to examine the plant and animal life of the equatorial forest and savanna.

The intense heat, from the sun, which pierced the forest's foliage, was beaten back by the parched yellowish canvas which served as the roof of the landrover. The swampy terrain seemed to be worsening. I changed into second gear, the drone of the labouring engine rising several tones. I then gently eased the accelerator down, the back wheels furrowing into the glutinous mass. I caused the tone of the engine to rise steeply for several seconds before I switched off, having abandoned all hope of the landrover's self-removal. I stripped the dark, clinging khaki shirt from my perspiring body and jumped down into the molten earth. Opening the back of the landrover, I foraged about until I found an axe; the unblemished, sparkling blade, the forth-coming executioner of the young saplings, which were struggling upwards to the dazzling, blue skies. The suppressed anger of this enforced stoppage was released on the innocent saplings as I slew no less than five in the same amount of minutes. I then threw the axe down and turned to the manual task of eradicating a dozen or so of small saplings, not in excess of thirty inches high, and fibrous bushes. I then packed the freshly killed vegetation in front of the back tyres, exchanged the axe for a dry towel and hoisted myself back into the driving seat. Small globules of salt water exuding from my red, fiery forehead, were quickly absorbed by the towel. I then focused my attention on the small rivulets which ran down my chest, detouring the nipples, and down to my waistband where they were absorbed by my clammy shorts.

The engine responded quickly to the turn of the ignition key, the wheels biting into the green, carboniferous vegetation, driving it under the thick, suffocating mat of molten earth.

I traversed the saturated terrain for a few miles before stopping under the shade of some lush, thriving old palms. After drying the moisture from my hands, I took out an amplified map of my designated area, plotted my position and



wrote the map reference in a thick, dark red, leather bound book, which still retained the sophisticated smell of the civilised world. After observing the shining ink dull to a matt black, I closed the book, descended from the cabin, took the relevant equipment from the back of the landrover, and, taking a last affectionate look at my only means of returning to civilisation, the landrover, which over the course of my travels I had nicknamed 'Bess', passed on into the wilderness.

The land was a real hindrance. Its viscosity was such that it wouldn't bear my weight, nor would it flow easily from my boots. The evil, brown liquid, from which this quagmire was made, had been evacuated from the bowels of the Earth.

This expelled liquid though, must have been high in minerals for many exotic plants, with such wildly, exciting colours as could have driven the mind into a state of delirious confusion, lined the firmer soil which was found in about a foot radius around the base of the tree trunks. Examining these plants closely, one captured me and under its hypnotic influence my thoughts and worries were banished from my mind and replaced by a blanketing euphoria which enveloped and stimulated every nerve in my body. The pale, green fronds, which radiated the hypnotic drug, rested easily upon one's eyes, whilst the vivid blue petals illuminated the mind, urging the imagination to rise to the highest peaks of ecstasy. Lining the edges of the petals were pale, white barbs on which a fat, bulbous insect had landed. Its obese abdomen glinted with startling emerald green light which flickered to a dark red as its shining body reeled about, drunk with sunlight. Its proboscis, a black instrument like the bell of a horn, protruded from its minute head, squirting thick, oozing digestive fluids over the petal's surface. The petals slammed to, the preying insect becoming a prisoner onto which the plant expelled its digestive juices and extracted the nutritious contents from the slain fly.

This latter event was as if a candle in my mind had been extinguished, and I returned to what we regard as the normal state of mind.

My mind still in a state of numbness, I passed further on into the forest. The deepening hue of the above foliage clarified my thoughts that I was passing into a patch of denser woodland. The sweat once again began to roll down my forehead as I forged my way through the living sauna bath. I could actually perceive great clouds of steam rising gently upwards; the great misty blanket parting here and there to surpass the leaves and branches of this living botanical world. I felt my mind actually being pulled downwards into a state of somnia and my muscles seemed to be developing an ever increasing paralysis.

Then, as if my face had been doused with icy water, the silvan environment dissipated and in less than one thousand yards I had become aware of bone hard land beneath my feet, and humidity had rapidly decreased to virtually zero.

Exhausted, I collapsed against the trunk of a Baobab tree which had certainly seen the turn of the previous century. Its firm, wide trunk gave me a sense of security as I regarded the scenery pensively.

A straw coloured grass covered the terrain for as far as the eye could see in the northerly direction. Behind me, to the south, loomed the humid, thriving forest from which I had just escaped. From my prostrate position, I raised myself onto all fours and from there onto my two hind limbs, a stance typically characteristic of the human race.

I then began to saunter randomly through the fifteen to twenty inch high pale, withered grass. The wilted, decaying stems had scattered small bullet like seeds on the cracking earth, which, next year, would give rise to eight or nine foot high grass in places. Small birds, unrecognisable to me, alighted on the terrain to my right, emulating farmyard poultry in their way of disposing of the multitude of seeds.

Scanning the oncoming grassland, I perceived, about thirty yards ahead, a dead zebra. Most of its striped flesh had been torn away from its carcass exposing the raw, blood-red meat which was no doubt appetising to the inhabitants of this Central African Savanna, but to me it was most repulsive. I turned round and vomitted, emitting yesterday's meal and, I felt, half of my guts. The blood-red meat had certainly provided a meal for some creature, as the white bone of the ribs was exposed in places. The areas of uneaten flesh were encased in a thin layer of yellow, putrefying fat, across which many parasitic insects scurried. At the slain animal's abdomen was perched a huge, bald headed vulture. It seemed to be wrapped in a black, prosaic shawl, commiserating the death of the zebra. Its wings were folded and lay streamlined across its back. The hard, yellow, crinkled flesh which covered its bony skull was dashed with blood. Its neck bent and with its blood-red hooded eyes, it resembled the old, gnarled frame of a hag dying from hypothermia. It cast a macabre silence over the surrounding area, ascertaining its tacit power. Its head was then lowered and jerking a piece of hide to one side, its neck was extended and its head pushed into the abdomen where it tore ravenously at the intestines, extracting a green, slimy mass of half digested vegetation.

I walked past this atrocity feeling distinctly queasy. Ahead I surveyed the aristocrats of the savanna, the giraffes. Their hide conveyed great artistic beauty; the intermingling yellow outlining the brown paving-stones. Their necks gently rocking to and fro as they galloped across the land, easily exceeding thirty-five miles per hour.

Through the haze of convectional air, I perceived a mounted horse galloping obliquely towards me. The black horse, its velvety coat shining in the intense light, bore a Hausa horseman. He was wearing light blue, silk robes which billowed out behind him. These contrasted starkly with the dark, red velvet coat which was strapped around the horse's abdomen. On the rider's head was a yellow hat, outlined in red on which was mounted a dyed dark brown plumage. This was bent backwards behind him by the oncoming air, as the horse skimmed over the grassland, like a straight driven cricket ball. The rider was brandishing a scimitar above his head, the sun's rays reflecting from its glistening blade, blinding me. In a matter of seconds the horse had passed and was disappearing towards the horizon, leaving behind a vortex of light, brown dust.

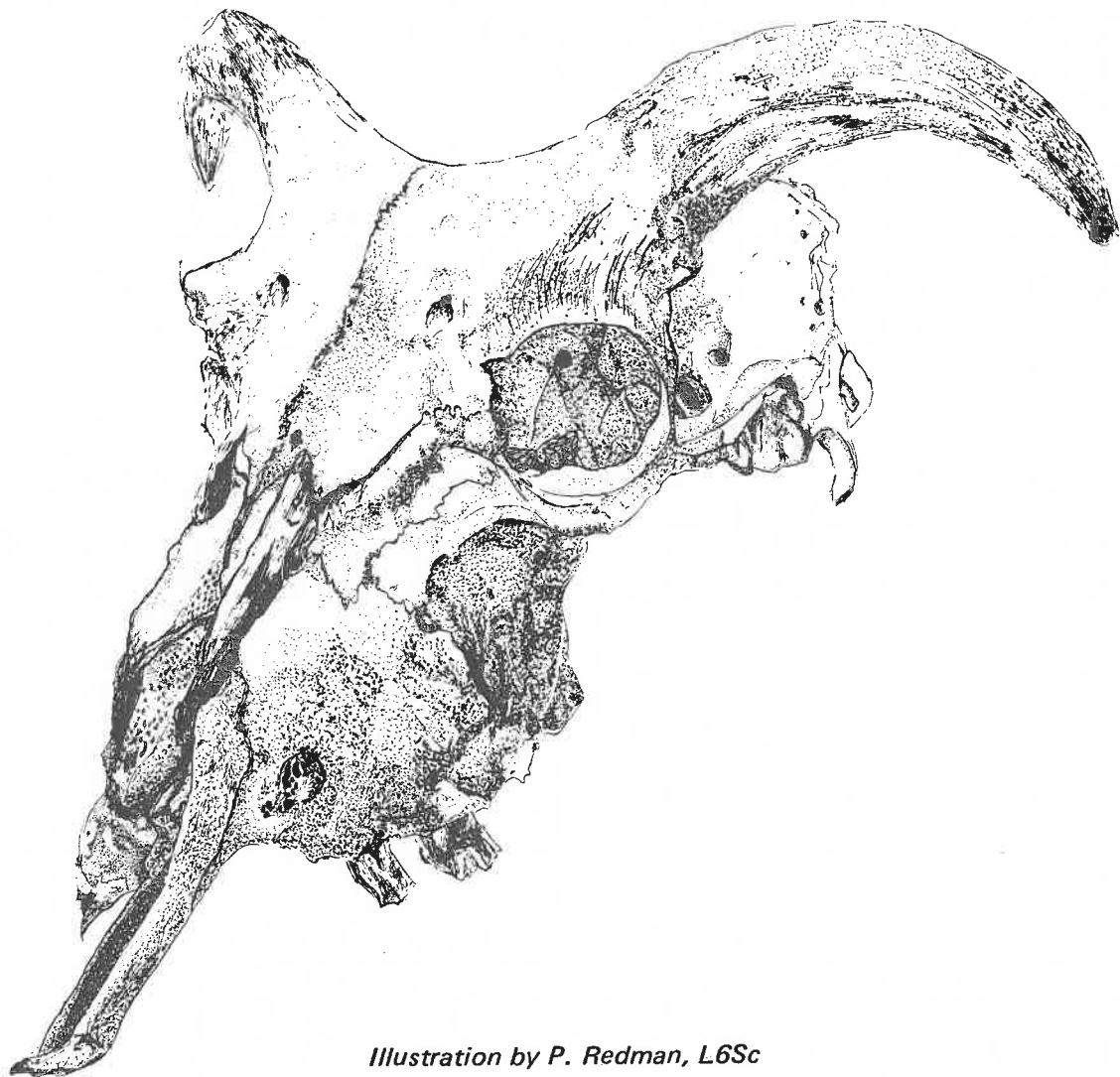
Settling down by a tree, I took out my notebook and rapidly inscribed the past events on the glossy paper.

On slipping the notepad back into my pocket, I noticed two more animals which had come to entertain. A young lion cub was playfully chasing a bush pig. These two animals contrasted amazingly. The young cub was shaped perfectly and had a soft yellow fur around it. Its eyes glinted with mischievousness. The bush pig was an obese, stocky animal. Its snout was wet with running mucous and its mouth, which was half open, gave rise to long strings of saliva. It had a thick, pink skin with sparse, coarse brown hair covering it. The cub, which had been chasing it, stopped abruptly, for the bush pig had turned around and had begun to butt it. The cub stared, puzzled at the bush pig's behaviour. As the bush pig

butted it again, it mewed bemusedly and raised one paw apprehensively. Then, thinking the better of being butted again, it trotted off, disillusioned.

The sky had now turned a yellowy, waxen colour and a deep rumbling could be heard. Dazzling forked tongues flickered across the sky, blotted the sunlight out. Then the torrential rain came down. I scurried off towards the forest for shelter and then onto 'Bess' my temporary domain. I decided that I had seen enough for one day and thus settled down in my temporary home for the evening.

John M. Hebden, Form 4Y



*Illustration by P. Redman, L6Sc*

# HOUSE REPORTS

## Ashton

*House Master:* Mr. G. S. Cheeseborough  
*House Assistants:* Mr. D. E. Worth; Mr. R. J. Browning; Mr. A. Bowman  
*House Captain:* A. L. Whiteside  
*House Vice-Captain:* D. MacFarlane  
*House Prefects:* R. M. Bagshaw; J. D. McWilliam; K. J. Sturley

In the Junior Rugby Competition, the House fielded a very strong side displaying great strength and ability under the Captaincy of P. R. Longworth. They defeated Preston 66—0, and were well on the way to defeating a stronger Fylde side, but the match was abandoned after 15 minutes, with Ashton leading 20—0. The juniors should, therefore, be quite able to improve on last years runners-up position.

The seniors face a far stiffer task, having to meet the much fancied Kirkham House in the Semi-final, having been given a bye in the first round. Despite having only a small sixth form to choose from, and many of those new to the game, there are a number of talented 5th years, who combined with effort and determination, could upset Kirkham House, by exploiting a number of their weaknesses, particularly at hooker.

The Chess Team has done particularly well, considering the lack of senior players, with a great deal of points won in matches coming from strong juniors, which can only point to a much brighter future for Ashton's Chess hopes. To date, the House was too strong for Fylde and Lytham teams, and defeated Preston. They are currently engaged in the defeat of School House, and have just started a match against Kirkham. Special thanks must go to Pigott, Manning, Bore, Lanigan, Lofthouse and the Stokes twins, who form the basis of this promising young side.

Having once again made the Music Cup our own personal property, by winning it three years in a row, we are naturally confident that the House can make it four, under the guiding hand of R. M. Bagshaw.

Cross Country running has never been an Ashton House favourite and we finished in the bottom two of all three competitions last year. But, we now have a good, enthusiastic junior side, who could do well. Once again the intermediate and senior events seem lost already.

Ashton also won the Debating Competition and were runners up in the play reading, and can only hope to maintain or even improve on these standards.

Last Summer was a great one for Ashton House Cricket, winning the senior and runners up in the junior competition. The juniors should quite easily improve on last years position, but the seniors face a stiffer task in their competition. If Whiteside keeps his head however and proves as handy at run-making this year as he did last, all should not be lost.

Finally, we hope that H.B.W. will enjoy this—his first Report from us since his retirement.

A.L.W.

## Fylde

<i>House Master:</i>	Mr. D. H. Butterworth
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Dr. B. Summers; Mr. B. Gornall; Mr. D. Walls; Mr. A. Yeomans
<i>House Captain:</i>	H. M. Higham
<i>House Prefects:</i>	I. Birch; A. N. Dolman; R. H. Rigby; T. M. Watkinson; R. F. Wakefield; N. P. Harris

I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. Yeomans to the "Fylde" and to wish Chris Easy and all the other leavers all the best for the future.

On sports day we were placed second. Chrispin, of the first year, equalled the hurdles record, and Bell (2Y) was the winner of the 100m and 200m. Kirkham I.A., Leyland and Redgrave gained many points for the house.

In the Gym, Mason was placed second overall, however the House only finished fourth. There is much promise for the future, especially for Collinge (2Y) and Hargreaves (2Y).

In the first round of the senior rugby we played Preston House. During the first half tries were scored by Scholfield, Worthington and Rigby. In the opening minutes of the second half, Preston scored their one and only try. This had a revitalizing effect and two more tries were scored, by Kirkham and Appleby.

In the next round of the Senior Rugby we are drawn against Lytham house. Thanks must go to Watkinson, Birch and Higham, who do not normally play rugby, for taking to the field.

The stars of the junior rugby are Churchman, Chrispin, West and Hargreaves, and we are looking forward with interest at the game against Ashton House in the near future.

In the cross country we once again have a strong junior team, with West (2X), Stewart (1Y) and Churchman (3Y).

In the first round of the interhouse debating competition we met Kirkham House. The main speakers were T. M. Watkinson and D. Jackman and a good floor speech was made by A. M. Skirrow. Unfortunately the speakers did not have much support from the floor and we were defeated.

Tennis has become quite a strong sport for Fylde House, we beat Preston and School easily, but in the final we lost narrowly to Kirkham for the third year running. The juniors however beat Preston and Lytham on route to the final, where they beat School due to enthusiastic and consistent play by all, especially first year's Collinge and Hargreaves. Kirkham must also be thanked for his efforts.

In the coming year we have the cricket, where Leyland, Rigby and Dolman make the basis for a good team.

This season has seen the relative fall of Fylde in the chess competition due to many Key players leaving school and the former juniors becoming too old to play in this section, however we have recorded wins over Ashton and Kirkham. Curtis and Watkinson have again been outstanding.

H.M.H.

## Kirkham

<i>House Master:</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>	D. Fisher
<i>House Vice-Captain:</i>	D. Timms
<i>House Prefects:</i>	R. J. B. Davies; G. Harris; T. C. G. Ray; E. G. Saville; J. Tasker; A. D. Ward; D. C. Blakey; M. Meth-Cohn; C. J. Shaw

The summer term '76 began with a successful defence of the swimming competition, under the captaincy of Eccles G. England, Brookes, Thompson and Dixon all gaining individual first places.

On Thursday, the 1st of July the Sports Day was held, and Kirkham House achieved their first overall victory in this competition for 35 years. In the juniors Dixon and Marshall performed well as did Fisher and Davies in the seniors, while in the intermediates, Wright set a record for the 200 metres and equalled that of the 100 metres.

In the same week we also won the Shooting competition, with Hook being the highest scorer, and the Tennis competition, beating Fylde House in the final after decimating a weak Preston House in the semi-final. Hall and Blakey were the mainstays of the side.

We came 4th in the Athletics standard points and 2nd in the Swimming standard points, but unfortunately were knocked out of both cricket competitions. After varying fortunes we finished 3rd in the Chess, thanks to Hall's intuitive coaching of our juniors.

In this year's sevens, after beating Lytham House in the 1st round of the Junior Rugby, thanks to a last minute penalty by Bridge, we overwhelmed School House 20 points to nil, not needing the services of Wright, a Lancashire U16 player!

Tasker and Ray saw us through the 1st round of the debating competition, and the chess team has met with some success.

This has been a good year for Kirkham House and with our strongest events to come we should meet with a great deal of success. This can only be achieved by practice, and co-operation with the House Organizers who do a tremendous job. Good luck to the seniors with exams. and best wishes to everybody involved in Kirkham House.

D.F.

## Lytham

<i>House Master:</i>	Mr. L. A. Redman
<i>House Assistants:</i>	J. Bradbury; B. F. Taylor; W. J. Webster; Mrs. A. Kirk
<i>House Captain:</i>	I. A. Cotgreave
<i>Vice-Captain:</i>	C. T. Grundy
<i>House Prefects:</i>	J. Davidson; C. N. Tate; C. M. Scholefield

The Spring and Summer terms of 1976 brought unusual success to Lytham House, which was first manifested in the junior rugby, where our juniors excelled, winning easily a competition which was unevenly matched from the start. They

defeated Preston House in the final by no less than 68 points, and a fine performance by Taylor brought him a personal tally of 32 points for the match.

The junior cricket was a much closer competition and the team defeated School and Kirkham to reach the final where fine performances against Ashton by Pennington and Taylor ensured that the cup came to Lytham. In the senior cricket, the team did well to reach the final where they lost to a strong Ashton House team in a close match.

The Chess Cup was clinched in the Spring term by fine performances from a team containing six players who played regularly for the school. I would like to thank Grundy for his work in running the chess team.

The athletics competition brought out some fine performances by both juniors and seniors. Lytham has had a reputation for having to prop up all the other teams at the bottom in previous years. This year was an exception — Well done everyone!

The Winter term of 1976 was very quiet with only the junior rugby being contested but this year's team was not to taste the success of its predecessor's, succumbing 9—8 to Kirkham in the first round.

I look to future terms with high hopes of winning the Chess Cup for what will be the fourth consecutive year, and also to the senior rugby competition.

I.A.C.

## **Preston**

*House Master:* Mr. T. Jackman

*House Assistants:* Mr. J. Catterall; Mr. I. R. Beckett; Mr. F. W. Sayer;  
Mr. R. Porter

*House Captain:* P. R. Stirk

*House Prefects:* C. T. Felton; P. A. Haynes; N. D. Scott; P. T. Glover;  
R. T. Hutton; A. Thomas

Firstly, we would like to welcome Mr. R. Porter and Mr. F. W. Sayer to the House but unfortunately the past year has not been too successful and we hope the results will prove to be the exception rather than the rule. Best wishes must also go to Mr. R. M. Clarkson who has left us to become House Master of School House.

Generally it has been a disappointing year for the House coming sixth in both Shooting and Swimming competitions. Despite good performances from R. Hutton and N. Parsons we had little success in the Gymnastics and in the Tennis the Seniors were defeated by Fylde, 6 games to 3. A new Tennis competition for the Juniors was started in which we again lost to Fylde. In the Junior Cricket '76, after a bye, a very young side including six 1st years, were beaten by Ashton by a score of 48—42. In the 1st round of the Senior Cricket we beat School and so played Lytham in the semi-final where we were defeated. In the athletics we came 4th but it was one of the closest competitions I have ever known — only 7 points between 1st and 4th places! D. Williams was the Intermediate 'Victor Ludorum' coming 1st in the Triple Jump, High Jump, 800m and 1500m. Also in Intermediate Feckey came 1st in Discus, 2nd in Javelin and 4th in Shot, and Gilbert came 2nd in 100m-Hurdles, 200m, 400m where he broke his own record and 3rd in Long Jump. R. Hutton and N. Parsons both doing well in the Seniors. The Intermediate Relay Team came joint 1st

with Fylde breaking the previous record. In the Work Cup we came 2nd and in the 1st round of the Senior Rugby we were beaten by Fylde, 26-6. The Juniors lost to Ashton in the rugby and in the Debating, despite the efforts of Gascoigne R. and Thomas A., we were defeated by School.

Finally I would like to wish every success for those taking any exams and thank all Housemasters and Prefects for all the help they have given to ensure the efficient running of the House.

P.R.S.

## School

<i>House Master:</i>	Mr. R. M. Clarkson
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Mr. S. C. Crook; Mr. R. J. Watson
<i>House Captains:</i>	R. P. Bailey and B. M. Duckworth
<i>House Prefects:</i>	A. Cocker; M. T. Powell

Since the last report the House has won back and retained its Gym Cup, after excellent performances by the whole team especially W. Clough, who won the individual prize.

Also during last Summer term the House Swimming Competition was held. This is by tradition a cup usually retained by the House, unfortunately, despite great efforts the House failed to win the trophy and ended up 3rd in the competition. Outstanding efforts came from McIlraith, Langrish, Wilkes and Duckworth. In the Athletics competition we finished 5th overall. Ian Langrish won the 400m inter event and in doing so broke the school record. Other notable efforts came from J. Calland, B. Duckworth and W. Clough.

In the House Cricket the seniors were unfortunate to lose by 6 wks. On the same note the juniors were unlucky to lose narrowly by a few runs.

In a new competition, inter-House play reading, the house again showed its strength. Under the directorship of T. S. Oliver and with notable performances from P. S. Harrower and T. S. Oliver we won. Let's hope we can retain this trophy this year.

Since the start of this school year, the seniors were beaten by Kirkham House in the Senior Rugby competition the score 20-0. This score does not reflect the effort put in by the seniors to make this a hard fought and exciting match, with outstanding performances from G. S. Lee, and B. Duckworth.

Our hopes lie with the junior side this year. They have already played one game against Kirkham but it was abandoned after 20 minutes due to the weather, but in those 20 minutes N. G. Brough, J. Wood and M. Corbishley showed great potential and we are looking forward to the replay of the match. With the cross country, music and play reading competitions in the near future, the House is starting on another busy year.

One of the less happy occurrences of the past year was the loss of Mr. F. W. Sayer as our House Master in wishing him well we hope that our new House Master will not try to lead us in any successful "RETREATS"!

P.B. and B.D.



# SOCIETY REPORTS

## Astronomical Society

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Bowman, *Secretary:* I. Marshall, *Treasurer:* K. Heptinstall.

The society must take this chance to express its thanks to the "Friends" who very kindly provided £20 for the purchase of books and equipment for the society. Part of this has already been spent on books and star maps.

Our thanks also to N. P. Webb our former secretary — who left at the end of the winter term — for his many and varied services to the society.

The society has now joined the "Junior Astronomical Society" (junior in aptitude rather than age) which is the society for amateur astronomers in Great Britain. They produce a quarterly magazine "Hermes" which should prove useful to our members as a guide for observing. The "J.A.S." makes it possible for members of our society, who have particular interests, to contact other amateur astronomers in the same field e.g. satellite tracking. The society will provide prediction tables for satellites on request.

Overall this has been a successful year. We have held two observation meetings (three others were cancelled due to unsuitable weather conditions) and two talks — one by S. C. Read (now left) on "Comets and Meteors" and one by Mr. Bowman on "Tracking Artificial Satellites". Mr Bowman has also given three talks for beginners on "Finding your way around the sky" and "Use of the school's 4" Newtonian reflecting Telescope".

Finally, I must thank Mr. Bowman for all his effort on behalf of the society. It could not have run without him.

I.M.

## Auto Society

*Chairman:* Mr. D. H. Butterworth, *Secretary:* K. J. Sturley,  
*Treasurer:* P. J. D. Morrison

The Auto Society has gained a new lease of life since its near demise towards the end of last year. This comes after the formation of the motorcycle section which has brought many new members to the fold. We are hoping to get some members to the Longridge racing circuit but the age old split between the bikers and the car boys is causing trouble about which meetings to attend.

The obvious (?) close association with the army may lead to more films and talks from them about maintenance and we are now getting over the first teething troubles over films on safety.

The older members were going to instruct the more inexperienced of us on how to ride a moped but unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we cannot now do so.

The present secretary and treasurer hope that this society will manage to carry on after the end of the spring term. It will all depend upon successful "transmission".

K.J.S.

## Bridge Club

*Chairman:* Mr. W. J. Webster, *Secretary and Treasurer:* S. Zeal

This year a team entered a local school league. So far only three matches have been played and the first two of these were lost by six victory points to nil, however the third game resulted in a three all draw and after this result it should be possible to find success in the remaining games.

There was to have been a match against the masters at Christmas but the staff didn't agree with any of the proposed dates. This may have had something to do with last years defeat?

A team from the lower-sixth has been formed and they are practising regularly every Monday night and I would like to wish them every success for the future.

My thanks to Mr. Webster for giving up so much of his valuable time for our cause.

S.Z.

## Chess Club

*Chairman:* Mr. J. Bradbury, *Secretary:* T. M. Watkinson, *Treasurer:* C. T. Grundy, *Committee:* J. Davidson, M. Platt, M. Powell

The winners of the House competition last year were Lytham, remaining undefeated throughout the competition. The runners-up were Fylde. The junior competition was won by Hawe 3y, and the senior by C. T. Grundy L6m; both competitions had a good number of entries. The likely winners of this year's house competition are Lytham again, since they have much the same team as last year.

After a disappointing season in '75-'76, this season has seen a change in the fortunes of the school chess team. To date we have won three of our matches and drawn another, the rest of the matches have been closely contested. There have been consistent performances by J. Davidson, C. Grundy, D. Blakey, M. Powell and M. Platt; J. Curtis in the second year has been an outstanding player for his age. Unfortunately such success cannot be expected for next season when a number of key players will be leaving. We can only hope that the new team will improve with experience, as past teams have done.

T.M.W.

## Electronics Society

*Chairman:* Mr. L. A. Redman, *Secretary:* P. A. Haynes, *Treasurer:* C. N. Tate

Over the last half term the society has been concerned with the construction of five metal detectors, a fuzz unit, an intercom, an automatic traffic light controller and disassembly of old electronic equipment.

The interest in the society, with respect to the junior end of the school, appears to be increasing, but in the upper school there is still a lack of interest. We are therefore looking for anyone who would like to help run the society, and take over the positions of secretary and treasurer for the coming school year.

C.N.T.

## Fell Walking Club

*Chairman:* Dr. B. M. Summers, *Secretary:* P. K. Brookes, *Treasurer:* S. F. Collett, *Committee:* A. E. Collett, I. A. Marshall, A. Cocker, R. Bentham.

In May 1976, 14 members of the Fell Walking Society went to Patterdale. The weather was very bad, heavy rain and snow. However the mist did clear for a short while, providing all with excellent views.

In late September 12 of us went to Trentmere. The weather this time was excellent. In November, 13 of us went to Ingleborough. For the time of year the weather was warm and dry. However, on top there was a lot of wind. On the way down we viewed Gaping Ghyll. For those who don't know, this is a 365' pot hole, which leads down to the Ingleborough caverns, which we also saw, later in the day.

In February 1977 a party of 15 went to the Langdales. The weather was bad, rain up to the snow line, and then intermittent snow in the cloud. Dr. Summers reached about 2,300', with some of the walkers. Mr. Nettleship took the rest of us up to Crinkle Crag, ploughing, walking, sliding, through the snow. It was excellent fun.

Next year we hope to have yet another Collet (Chris) on the committee, but his brother can report that at the moment finances are good. Next term we hope to increase the number of walks to 4.

P. K. B. and S. F. C.

## Film Society

*Chairman:* Mr. W. J. Webster, *Secretary:* B. Duckworth, *Treasurer:* C. Gornall, *Committee:* Mr. R. M. Clarkson, M. R. Phillips, D. S. Scott, T. A. Paget, S. W. Cross, R. M. Gascoigne

Another successful year for the society with a membership approaching half the School. We are now using sophisticated projection equipment and can normally manage to show a full length film without breaks. The first two films this year, "Night of the Generals" and "The Professionals", were both shown in full-size panavision using a make shift screen. The committee is now giving serious thought to the possibility of buying a new Panavision screen. Sound quality also continues to improve.

There have been twelve films this year ranging from "Airport 75" to "Enter the Dragon" which drew a record number of guests (over 150) to the Sunday show. We showed "Kes" with the English department in mind as this was a set book, and we now hope to make such showings a regular feature of our year.

A future plan is to make a film of the School as a record of how it now is. Although the G.S.C. greeted the idea with caution, the Old Boys Association and the Friends of K.G.S. have offered welcome financial support to the tune of £75.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. Webster, Mr. Beckett and Mr. Clarkson for the time and effort they have put in helping to select and project the films. Also I would like to thank all society members who are responsible for making the society the success that it is.

B. D.

## Geographical Society

*Chairman:* Mr. I. M. Scott, *Secretary:* W. A. Bedford, *Treasurer:* A. N. Kirkham, *Committee:* N. Harris, M. Schofield, G. Lanigan, A. Collett

This year has not been the most successful for the Society, and activity has been at a low ebb. Unfortunately, due to last year's high costs and what appeared to be a lack of enthusiasm, it was decided not to publish the Xmas Quiz.

However, several films have been shown during the year with interest being evident from all sections of the school. These showings will be continued and should give benefit to all.

Many thanks to I. G. D. Blaikie who was Secretary for the earlier part of this year.

W. A. B.

## Library

*Chairman:* Mr. R. J. Watson, *Secretary:* D. MacFarlane, *Treasurer:* A. J. Vickers

Perusal of Library reports in past 'Kirkhamians' reveals a careful attention to the recording of numbers of books lost during each year. The following comprehensive information is provided in the hope of satisfying all compulsive statisticians who have regretted the recent non-publication of these figures.

The book check conducted by senior librarians at the end of the Summer Term 1976 revealed that, out of 9,825 book accessioned to the School Library since 1598, 4,953 are no longer there. Even allowing for the fact that some of these books have 'disappeared' into Departmental libraries, or been withdrawn due to their age, Mr. Watson hopes to see a marked reduction in the total for the next 379 years.

Improvement is also sought in the attitude of certain socially irresponsible students (mainly Sixth formers). Their refusal to maintain silence causes inconvenience and annoyance to those who wish to make proper use of the facilities provided.

It is these responsible scholars who recognise their indebtedness to Mr. Watson and his team who are responsible for the day to day running of the Library.

D. M.

## Music Society

*Chairman:* Mr. J. Catterall, *Secretary:* A. M. Skirrow, *Treasurer:* R. M. Bagshaw, *Committee:* I. Blakie, A. N. Kirkham, G. Collins, A. Parkinson, A. S. Gregson, B. Watson.

During the period for which I have had the pleasure of being its secretary, the Society has had an eventful and exciting life.

The choir has some 90 members, and 12 first year boys have gained places since last September. Those present enjoyed its high standard of performance at the "Founder's Day Service" at the Parish Church. There it led the service, as well as featuring the unusual anthem "I Was Glad" by Charles Parry and J. S. Bach's magnificent "God Liveth Still".

It was our pleasure to invite Mr. J. Murray F.R.C.O., a former Music master at K.G.S. to accompany our annual Carol Service, in the same Church. Conducted by Mr. Catterall, the choir performed several accompanied and unaccompanied items as well as leading the rest of the school and guests in singing the ever popular carols.

A select group within the choir — called the "Madrigal Group" — continues to flourish. It put on a well received performance at Wesham Park Hospital, just before Christmas.

The school orchestra now consists of some 30 members and has improved beyond recognition of late. A ubiquitous unit, it is to be found frequently accompanying the morning assembly, providing military music for the C.C.F. inspection besides working hard for the annual Easter Concert.

Last year's 'Easter Concert' was most successful, the main item being Handel's 'Imperial Mass' featuring choir and augmented orchestra. This technically difficult work was supported by several other items which had done well in the inter-house music competition.

This year's concert will feature Vivaldi's "Gloria" plus supporting items.

It is well worth mentioning that among our members alone, 120 boys are involved in some musical activity outside the normal timetable each week.

1976—77 has been a period of innovation for our society and those attending must surely have seen the "Palm Court Orchestra" in the 'Strawberry Tea' gardens at the Summer Fete.

Removed from the world of Handel and Beethoven, this splendid combination of four violins, two guitars, cello, double bass and piano, (mostly played by second year musicians), performed such "Standards" as "Spanish Eyes" and "English Country Garden".

Great excitement was created last November for the evening of popular music on the electronic organ. The instrument, specially installed for the day, was played by broadcasting and recording organist Eric Lord. The response was excellent and certainly an interesting departure from our normal events. Thanks must be recorded to E. D. Browne for the loan of this most sophisticated instrument.

In concluding the report, I would like to congratulate all members for producing such consistently high standards of performances and thank all those who have attended and shown appreciation of our open events. Last but by no means least, the thanks of us all must go to Mr. J. Catterall for his continued efforts. We wish him all the best for the future.

A. M. S.

## **Natural History Society**

*Chairman:* Mr. A. R. Baines, *Secretary:* D. Jackman, *Treasurer:* A. S. Gregson, *Committee:* G. J. Frodsham, P. N. K. Frodsham, P. Herrington, N. Parkinson, B. J. Watson, D. Williams

With the new committee operating since last Easter an early start was made with the winter programme planned at the A.G.M. in the summer term 1976. Our Tuesday meetings in R. 17 have provided talks on "Natural History as a Study", "Nature Trails —Development and Use", and "Biological Bugging Devices" (A.R.B.); "Garden Birds" (N. Parkinson 2X); "Evolution of Man", and "Extinct Birds", (P. Frodsham 2Y); "Pond Life" and "Bird Song" (B. Watson 2Y);

"Ecology", (D. Jackman, (U. 6th Sc.) and "The Wild Life of Arnside and Silverdale" (N. P. Webb, U. 6th m).

Members have also formed panels to answer questions in connection with "Nature and the Seasons", and in the spring term this year 4 films were shown in R. 11, namely "Secrets of the Plant World", "Succession from Sand Dune to Forest", "Seashore Ecology" and "The Private Life of the Mute Swan".

A Natural History quiz compiled by members and organised by P. Frodsham interested over 60 people of which 6 provided completed entries. From these the prizes awarded were: 1st. S. J. Dixon, 2nd. A. J. Marshall (both 3Y) and 3rd. D. N. West (2X).

As part of their academic studies senior boys have been involved as follows:

a. R. H. Bentham, J. M. Gray and C. M. Scholefield attended a week's Field Course in Marine Biology organised by Morecambe and Lancaster College of F.E. at Knott End, Fleetwood in July 1976.

b. The same three boys joined others in U6 Sc./Prefects i.e. I. E. Cotgreave, M. Meth-Cohn, R. F. Wakefield and A. L. Whiteside and along with A. R. B., attended a week's Field Course in Ecology at Brathay Hall, Ambleside in October 1976.

c. F.W.S. took two parties of L6 Sc. members to hear lectures on "Marine and Littoral Ecology", and "Molecular and Osmotic Phenomena", held at Preston Polytechnic on evenings in the winter term. Our representative were: J. S. Abraham, A. N. Kirkham and G. Lees (L6 Sc.).

d. D. Jackman attended the Christmas School Lecture at the Graduate Medical Centre, Preston, the subject was, "Are Plastic Surgeons Disposable"?

For sure our attentive Secretary has been invaluable to us whilst in office and our publicity has been in most capable hands too.

A. R. B.

## **Photographic Society**

*Chairman:* Mr. S. Crook, *Secretary:* I. Marshall, *Treasurer:* P. Brooks

After a long period of decay — to the point where, during the winter term, the society was unable to claim its grant from the G.S.C. — the Society has at last revived. Mr. Crook called a meeting at the beginning of the spring term to elect a committee to try and get the society back on its feet. We eventually managed to scratch together a committee and make some proposals for the spring term in time for the January 1977 G.S.C. meeting.

Twenty-five people attended our first open meeting, most of these were from the junior school with a few senior school members. At this meeting it was decided to introduce a subscription of 30p for the rest of the term and perhaps 50p a term after that with which the society will re-equip the dark room with chemicals, film and developing paper. This has already started and Trevellyan, who has bought some print developer and paper for the society, has demonstrated its use (along with one of the enlargers) to some of the juniors.

S. Collett, a particularly keen member has already tried to develop two films in the school dark room.

In all, the outlook for the future looks very good.

I. M.

## 6th Form Society

Since Mr. Clarkson took over as Chairman of the society last summer, there has been a full and varied programme of events on Friday afternoons.

During the Summer Term of 1976 there were lectures on family planning, multiple sclerosis and banking and there was also the final of the Public Speaking Competition which was won by D. Fisher.

In the following term there were three films, several scientific lectures by people from U.M.I.S.T. and an interesting talk by Mr. Summerlee on the education systems in the U.S.A.

Throughout the year there have been talks and films about some of Britain's charity organisations, including Save the Children, Pestalozzi Village Trust, and The Cyrenians.

So far there have been two visits from the Police, but the highlight of the year was the lecture entitled "Musical Squares" by Dr. Gluyas from the University of Salford.

This year's Public Speaking competition is under way and a proposed talk by Les Dawson will conclude what has been an active and interesting year for everyone in the sixth form.

R. Gascoigne (*Secretary*)

## Subbuteo Society

*Chairman:* Mr. I. R. Beckett, *Secretary:* M. Vallance, *Treasurer:* G. Lanigan, *Committee:* J. A. Trevalyan, R. P. Jones

The first meeting of this newly formed society was held on the 15.11.76. The meetings are held in Rm. 12 and each week at least 30 people attend. The society owns 5 boards, one for each league. A knockout cup is planned for the near future, and there may be a chance of an inter-house Subbuteo tournament. On the whole I think this society will last for a good number of years with a new intake of first years per annum.

M. V. (2y)

## Wargames Society

*Joint-Chairmen:* Mr. R. J. Watson and Mr. R. M. Clarkson, *Secretary:* A. D. Cocker, *Treasurer:* J. Davidson

The school Wargames Society is coming to the end of its second year as an official school society and the interest which has been shown in its activities by all ages in the school has certainly seemed to justify its creation.

In November 1976, the society again organised a trip to the Northern Militaire exhibition at Manchester, making use of the school minibus. The trip was fully booked well in advance and it is hoped to repeat it this year. My thanks to Mr. Nettleship for giving up his Sunday to drive us to Manchester and back.

A Wargames Campaign has been organised in the Seventeenth-Century period of European history, and the 'campaign year of 1642' is soon to come to an end, after numerous diplomatic and military coups of which Machiavelli would have been proud!

J. D.

# SCHOOL SPORTS

## Athletics

*Chairman:* Mr. B. Gornall, *Captain:* A. L. Whiteside, *Secretary:* A. Kirkham

The senior team contained fewer talented athletes than in the past but Collins, Whiteside, McGregor and Wright all did well. The team were enthusiastic generally and produced some good performances but a lack of ability in middle distance events told in the final match results.

The fifth year team contained several good athletes, especially Wilson, Parsons, Skemp, Kirkham and Leyland; the latter two gaining 3rd and 2nd place respectively in the Lancashire County Championships.

The fourth years are very talented, winning the Inter-Grammar School competition. Lee, Doughty, Ward and Gilbert have all done well; and Williams, D. broke the Intermediate Triple Jump and 800 metres; Wright equalled the 100 m. and broke the 200 metres records and Langrish set a new 400 metre record; all on Sports Day.

On to the third years and again this team is very strong and won the Inter-Grammar School Competition. Benstead, Flynn, Williams, P. have all done well and Lee should have won the Lancashire Javelin competition. Taylor was third in the 400 metres in this competition and Feckey set a new record in the Discus event. Later at the English Schoolboy's Championship he was placed 20th out of 40 but would have been placed in the first ten except for a 'no-throw'. He has also obtained an A.A.A. 5 star award in the 17-20 age-group, an exceptional achievement.

The second years have had little success but Dixon, Longworth and Brough have performed well, and Marshall set a new 400 metre record on Sports Day.

The first years have some very promising athletes in the team especially Chrispin who equalled the Junior Hurdles record on Sports Day and who won some of his hurdle races by a clear flight of hurdles.

In the House Standards Cup, congratulations must go to Ashton House who finished in first place.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. Gornall for all his time spent training and coaching the various teams. Also to any other masters involved for their help — with particular reference to Mr. Sayer and Mr. Clarkson — our grateful thanks.

A. L. W.

## Badminton Club

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Yeomans, *Secretary:* S. A. I. Watkin, *Treasurer:* D. Davies  
*Captain:* K. Smith

The Society only played two matches during the Winter term, due to a 'plague' of cancellations. Both matches were lost, but valuable experience was gained especially for S. Bore, D. Woodings and N. Sweet who are in their first season



as team members. The other team members were D. Davies and K. Smith (the first pair) and myself.

Matches arranged for the Spring and Summer terms, included visits to neighbouring girl's schools which provided enjoyable evening visits.

My thanks must go to Mr. A. Yeomans, K. Smith and D. Davies for their help in making the society a success.

S. A. I. W.

## Cricket

After an unbeaten record last season, the 1st XI's results this year may seem a little disappointing, having Played 14 Won 7 Drawn 1 Lost 6 but it was not until after half term that we suffered our first defeat, against the Old Boys, who once again proved to be one of the toughest opponents of the season.

P. Kennedy, the captain, was outstanding. Consistently scoring highly, including 86 not out against Arnold, he totalled more than 260 runs during the season. Wells and Fisher also contributed with good scores but otherwise the standard of batting was less successful than had been expected.

The bowlers however had more success, with Timms taking 5 wickets or more on three occasions and Dolman snatching 6 soon after coming to the school. Hardiker and Swift also added useful support.

The fielding was always enthusiastic, if not totally up to standard, but the performances of both the first and second teams were weakened by the apathy and inconsistency of certain players.

The second team played only 5 matches, drawing three and losing two. None of the players maintained their form throughout the season, despite Redman scoring 46 in the First match.

Hopes for next season, however, are higher for both teams, as only three members of the 1st XI have left.

R. Gascoigne (SEC)

## Harriers

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Bowman, *Secretary:* L. A. Smith, *Captain:* C. Shaw

Again this season has been a poor one for the Harriers, coming last in every race. However, the team is mainly comprised of 5th formers, with only Shaw running with prior experience in his third season.

On only a few occasions have we been able to field a team at full strength. Williams has been outstanding, coming in 1st eight times for the Harriers. Good performances also from the captain C. Shaw coming first for the team at Southport, Nicholson, Smith, Clifton, and Aspinall have also run well during the season.

The school was able to enter a number of runners for the junior and intermediate South Fylde team.

Thanks must go to A. Ward for his close-season secretarial work in arranging this season's fixtures for the team. Thanks must go also to Smith, who took over the

task of secretary from Ward in mid-season.

Finally, our thanks must go to Mr. Bowman who has given up his valuable time and "energy", and supplied encouragement for the team to run their best.

New award half-colours were made to — Smith, Williams, Clifton and Nicholson.

C. S.

## Hockey

*Chairman:* Mr. D. E. Worth    *Secretary:* P. Andrew    *Captain:* C. T. Felton

	P	W	L	F	A
1st XI	4	1	3	9	13
2nd XI	1	0	1	1	4

These results do not reflect the true effort put in consistently by the members of both teams this season. For a variety of reasons the 1st XI has not been at full strength for the majority of its matches.

A. R. Durham, B. Trevalyan, J. Trevalyan and Felton have played well in all the matches, Durham being top scorer with four goals which included a hat-trick against Hutton.

Although this season will see the loss of Vickers, the regular 1st XI goalkeeper, his place will be more than adequately filled by Hudson, who has shown considerable promise this season. Moir too promises well for the future, so that the 1st XI should maintain if not better, its present standard next season.

My thanks to Mr. Sayer for his umpiring this season.

P. A.

## Rugby 1976-77

1st XV	P	W	D	L	F	A
	25	15	0	10	356	332

The season has been one of fluctuating fortunes, in which the 1st team won nine games in a row, before Christmas, but after the holiday struggled to recapture form. The highlight of the season was of course the Tour to France, a report of which is elsewhere in the magazine.

Success when achieved has been based on sound forward play and good three quarter tackling, although in attack we have lacked real pace in the backs. Captain, D. Fisher, has often been outstanding in his attacking play from full-back and one of the causes of the team's defeats in the post-Christmas period, was his absence with glandular fever.

The side has often been put under great pressure when the opposition has run the ball. All too often Kirkham players seem mesmerised by the most inept side steps and obvious dummies, and no player has really committed himself to organising defence and ensuring that tackles are made.

On the credit side, A. Whiteside has produced some inspired running on the wing, and J. Abraham, whilst lacking in real pace has been a safe handling stand off. Most improved players are perhaps S. Crane, P. Hyde and M. Schofield

who in their various positions have succeeded in helping to develop an entertaining brand of rugby. Mention must be made here of G. Harris' goal kicking — the opposition is rarely safe if they give away penalties in their own half.

Finally, my thanks to Neil Harris and Ian Cotgreave, both of whom have captained the side in the absence of D. Fisher, and to all the players in the 1st XV squad, who have worked hard to make the season so enjoyable.

**1st XV Squad:** D. Fisher (*Capt.*); N. Harris (*V. Capt.*);

**Backs:** A. Whiteside; G. Harris; A. Kirkham; P. Hyde; J. Abraham;  
G. Lanigan; S. Benson; M. Schofield;

**Forwards:** R. Wakefield; S. Crane; P. Stirk; R. Wayland; I. Cotgreave;  
B. Duckworth; A. Wright; C. Scholefield; R. Rigby.

Colours were awarded as follows:—

*Re-award full-colours:* D. Fisher, N. Harris.

*New-award full-colours:* A. Whiteside, M. Schofield, G. Harris, I. Cotgreave,  
P. Stirk, R. Wayland.

*New award half-colours:* R. Tallis, P. Hyde, A. Kirkham, S. Crane, R. Wakefield,  
B. Duckworth, C. Scholefield, A. Wright, R. Rigby,  
J. Abraham, J. Calland, S. Doughty, S. Benson.

<b>2nd XV</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>
	21	6	0	15	256	339

Another disappointing season for the 2nd XV. A young side who played with considerable skill and enthusiasm but suffered from frequent enforced changes. Owing to injuries both in the 1st and 2nd XV's, it was impossible to select a settled team and a total of thirty seven players were used throughout the season.

<b>U15 XV</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>
	18	12	0	6	336	148

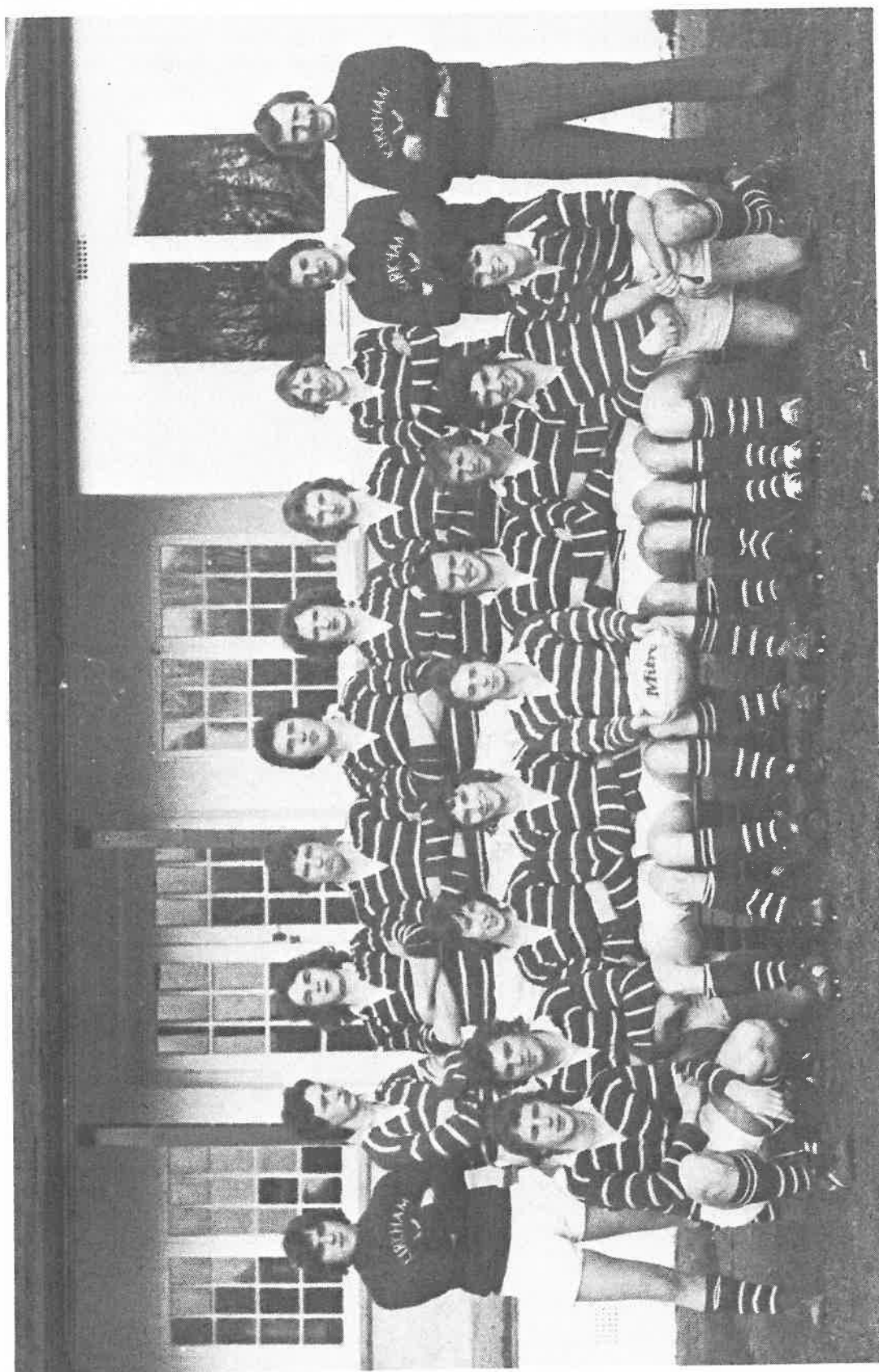
The season has been generally successful with many fine victories being obtained. The improvement in standard of play was slowed after Christmas due to cancellations and illness and this contributed to narrowly losing the final of the Blackpool R.F.C. Cup Competition to a very strong Hutton G.S. team.

The team tactics were based on strong running forwards and for much of the season the threequarters had difficulty in passing quickly although improvement was shown towards the end.

Outstanding players were Feckey and Lee who have been powerful runners and Taylor who has improved enormously as a fast, elusive centre. The squad as a whole has played with much enthusiasm and ability and should do well next season.

#### U14 XV

The Under 14 XV has had a somewhat disappointing season though they should not be dispirited by rather poor results. The team has been unsettled throughout the season with many changes taking place and hence the team has suffered from a lack of cohesion which sometimes produced a lack of team spirit. As a group they should learn to play for one another and realise that rugby is essentially a team game where each depends on the other for support.



Problems often arose when playing against sides which were physically more mature and played with much more aggression, though there were occasions when the team showed great promise, especially when the back row were on form. The back row of Longworth, Marshall and Greenhalgh should prove to be outstanding in future years, but were largely involved in defensive action throughout this year. The problems stemmed from the front five, who rarely held their own against stronger, more determined opposition, though Harper played well but did not have a lot of support in the tight situations. Again at half-back, the position of scrum-half has proved difficult; Churchman is aggressive and tough but lacks tactical sense. At fly-half, Cooper, has improved and if he continues to watch and learn, then he will make progress. Nelson and Ingleby prove effective centres, but saw little of the ball; the former is an incisive quick runner with the ball, but the latter lacks the confidence to run hard at the opposition. The same applies to the winger Brough, a powerful runner who does not always use his speed and strength and suffers from poor handling, as does Oldroyd, though he is a tenacious tackler. At full-back, both Lofthouse and Sharples proved reliable tacklers and both should develop into good players.

As a whole, the team have lacked the strength and confidence necessary to produce good results; if they persevere, then, with time they should develop into a good side.

U13 XV	P	W	D	L	F	A
	16	5	1	10	102	285

The perennial problem of lack of size has been a major factor in the teams apparent lack of success this season. However they were only outplayed on three occasions, by Cowley, Pocklington and De La Salle, and even in these matches the players deserved full credit for effort. In the remaining defeats the points difference never exceeded sixteen and these points were scored against the team in the last quarter of the game, when size eventually took its toll and the players finally ran out of steam.

On the success side the team achieved notable victories at Manchester and Balshaws, and a creditable draw at King Edwards. Morgan captained the side efficiently and in the backs Bigland, Collinge, Hargreaves and Bridge all played determinedly, despite being under pressure for a great deal of the time. When they were able to go forward all the backs showed that they were prepared to attempt moves, a sight rarely seen at this level, and this must augur well for the future.

In the forwards Chrispin was the outstanding player, he must know every blade of grass on the under thirteen pitch. He was ably supported in the loose by Bolton, Haynes and Walmsley, while Parkin and Seabury were more effective in the tight play. Dunstan, since his conversion, was rarely outhooked and can play anywhere. Brook turned in some useful performances.

Finally I would like to thank all the players for training and playing enthusiastically all season. I believe that potentially it is the best squad Kirkham have had at this level for quite a few years and success will surely come soon, probably when they grow a few inches and put on a few more pounds in weight.

#### U12 XV

On the whole a very promising season which was completed by the winning of the Preston Grasshoppers Fireflys mini-rugby tournament.

The season started with the usual encounter against King Edwards, which could have gone either way but, unfortunately for us, we lost by a mere 4—0. Our second fixture was much more rewarding beating Manchester Grammar by 16—0 with Smith, Macreadie and Liddell all showing promise.

St. Joseph's and West Park both proved tough opposition and the scorelines reflected two very close games. The 8—3 loss against 'St. Jo's' was tightly fought and the 11—7 result against West Park was lost by a last minute try.

The latter half of the season, however, proved more fruitful. Beating Kings Macclesfield was probably the most rewarding result. This was due to sheer hard work and determination in the forwards with Pearson, Rhodes, Smith and Macreadie playing well; and some excellent running in the backs from Liddell, Judge and Stewart. (Kings Macclesfield are probably one of the best rugby schools in Cheshire.)

Ashton proved possibly too easy and the 30—0 win could easily have been doubled if players played the game rather than the man! We finished the U12 XV season with a well matched game against De la Salle ending in a 6—6 draw.

An excellent days mini-rugby proved a great success at Preston Grasshoppers with our U12 team winning the final of the Fireflys tournament against Heaton Moor.

Congratulations to all concerned and the many reserves, replacements, touch judges and players who all contributed to a successful team performance which was led well by Smith and McIlraith. Other outstanding players included Liddell, whose kicking ability gained valuable points. Rhodes and Rosser were excellent backrow players and Macreadie and Pearson, (a late discovery) always worked well in the Pack. The backs often lacked skill and speed, but they more than made up for this in sheer determination and hard tackling. I can foresee some future stars in this side and look forward to following their progress in the school in future years.

## Swimming

*Chairman:* R. J. Browning Esq., *Secretary/Captain:* A. L. Whiteside,  
*Committee:* B. M. Duckworth, I. Cotgreave, P. Brookes, D. Richardson.

The inter-house swimming competition held last year on the 10th May was closely contested, with Ashton House showing tremendous potential in splitting the traditional winners Kirkham and School. On the whole the standard of swimming was much improved, and it is only hoped Preston will do better this year.

At the Inter-Grammar School Swimming Gala held at Derby Baths the school team had only a relative amount of success. In the Intermediates P. Brookes broke the Individual Medley record, and D. Richardson was first in the 50 metres breast-stroke. The Juniors were sixth in their section, and it is hoped that early preparations and training will benefit all this year. With most of the boys returning (the team can only hope for further success) in the forthcoming Gala. Last years overall positions were:-

Seniors	5th	9 points
Inter's	3rd	22 points
Juniors	6th	2 points

A.L.W.

## Tennis Society

*Chairman:* Dr. B. M. Summers, *Secretary:* D. C. Blakey, *Captain:* I. Birch.

Results for the 1976 Season were as follows: P—15, W—13, L—2.

The season began with a string of successes and at the half way stage it looked as if we would go undefeated having won our first 8 fixtures. However the next match was against the Old Boys and with a weakened team we lost narrowly 5—4. Two matches later we had our only other defeat of the Season, against a much improved Arnold side, who we had beaten earlier in the season 6—3. The last few matches all resulted in wins, the season being capped with a fine defeat of the Master's team. So ended the 1976 season, the best one for many years, the result of which was the awarding of full colours to P. N. Blakey and I. C. Kirkham. Having played 39 sets and losing only one of them it was a just reward for a tremendous performance. The supporting roles at second and third pairs were played by I. Birch and I. P. Hall and M. A. Palmer and D. C. Blakey respectively. Half colours were awarded to I. P. Hall and I. Birch.

An U14 team played 2 matches but were defeated in both while an U15 team also played 2 matches and did slightly better drawing one of them.

In the final of the senior Inter-House competition, Kirkham won yet again beating Fylde 6—3, while in the Junior competition Fylde beat School in the final.

I would like to thank I. C. Kirkham and P. N. Blakey for their efforts during the season, when they served as Captain and Secretary respectively. I would also like to thank Dr. Summers for his enthusiastic support and advice throughout the season. The 1977 season is almost upon us and with 17 fixtures already, it looks as if it will be a long, hard, season, with hopefully a certain amount of success.

D.C.B.

## Table Tennis

*Chairman:* Mr. J. Bradbury, *Secretary:* C. T. Grundy, *Treasurer:* T. M. Watkinson, *Committee:* J. Hardiker, J. Davidson, P. Glover, G. Saville.

This year (1976—7) the school table tennis team joined the St. Annes T.T. League—albeit the third division.. It soon became obvious that the team had been placed below its true level, a fact which has been amply demonstrated by the results to date.

Played 18, Won 16, Drawn 1, Lost 1. Many of the matches have been won by a margin of 10 games to nil.

Throughout the season, Redman has played consistently well, as have Tate and Haynes, while towards the end of the season, Leyland and Gascoigne have secured some good wins.

The school also entered a team in the Lancs Schools Under-19 Competition, doing exceptionally well to reach the final, only to be defeated by Burnly Grammar 5—2. J. Hardiker was undefeated all through the competition.

C.T.G.

# THE SCHOOL AT LARGE

## Operation Ancenis

DATELINE JULY 9th 1976

Today witnessed fifteen denim-clad volunteers, complete with badges and chewing-gum, attempting to take Ancenis by storm. However, the Deuxième Bureau had been working overtime and a warm reception was planned.

As our intrepid heroes (and heroines) bravely set foot on foreign soil local dignitaries and a barrage of press photographers awaited them.

Their mission? To experience French family life as it really is, by spending two weeks living it up French style.

But before you rush to sign up, don't forget they speak French over there! Will *your* French stand up to the test?

Apart from organised outings, much of the time is spent in the day to day atmosphere of a French family. After your very first uttered syllable (followed by loud cheering), it becomes easier and easier, until you finally start thinking in French.

Just a word about the food – try as they might, not one of our party sampled the delights of frogs legs, not even a garden snail!

Why not enlist for this July? Your "entente cordiale" needs you!

A.K.

## A Marine Biology Course

On the 12th July, 1976, three sixth-form biologists – C.M.Scholefield, J.M. Gray and R.H. Benthams – went on a five day residential, Marine Biology course at Knott End sailing school, on the Wyre Estuary.

The course organised by Lancaster and Morecambe College of F.E. included a tour of Fleetwood docks and a specimen-collecting trip on "the Lancastrian", a small research vessel.

Our studies were directed towards Marine Food Resources, littoral zonation of organisms and Food cycles.

The evenings (after 9 p.m.) were spent at the "Bromine Arms" (the local night spot!) with other members of the course and Lecturers, where we took on the Locals at darts.

Though the course was hard work (9 a.m. – 9 p.m.) it also had its good moments – except for the Marmite and Dandelion sandwiches so frequently in our packed lunches.

We recommend the course to other aspiring Marine Biologists.

R.H.B. (U6 Sci)



## **Brathay Hall 1976**

On Wednesday, 20th October, armed with all the appropriate gear, (personal and scientific), 7 members of the Upper Sixth Biology Set + A.R.B. departed for Brathay Hall Field Study Centre at Ambleside. My colleagues were Messrs. Bentham, Cotgreave, Gray, Meth-Cohn, Scholefield and Whiteside. Our aim was to attempt a feat of supreme endurance, seven days of "pure" ecology in the sub-arctic conditions of the Lake District.

On arriving at Brathay Hall we were allocated to our rooms. Having unpacked our necessities and sized up the (mainly) female company, we sampled our first of the famous Brathay Hall meals. Supper was followed by an introductory talk on some basic concepts of ecology.

The aim of the course was to introduce some ideas and techniques with respect to the ecology of the surrounding area. To achieve this, a typical day consisted of a field trip in the morning (often knee-deep in "yuc", or "gunge", after "wiggies"), then processing the specimens, data and other information before tea. A discussion of the results took us to supper, and this was followed by an evening lecture or follow up work and preparation for the 'morrow.

The last day was a "project" day in which groups collected data, processed it, and presented it in the form of a short lecture, after which criticisms and commendations followed from the tutor and the other groups.

Non-Biological activities during the course consisted mainly of occasional sprints into Ambleside. Little do people know what an unbeatable Pool team Kirkham Grammar School now have!

The course was enjoyable in every way thanks to the Centre's Staff particularly Tiger Tim, the Viking and Dr. Jenny! On reflection many incidents spring to mind. Chris Scholefield's 'kink' for thigh-length rubber waders; Alan Whiteside's frequent raids on neighbouring bedrooms armed with shaving cream and tooth-paste; that old war hero, Ian Cotgreave, with a piece of shrapnel lodged just below his knee, and Richard Bentham's invaluable impersonation of a piece of Australian marmalade!

But A.R.B. was really thrilled by our version of "Jerusalem" given in the pouring rain as we descended from the Tilberthwaite Slate quarries.

R.F. Wakefield, (U6Sci)

## **The Rugby Tour to France**

On Friday, 18th February '77 23 boys and 4 members of staff left Kirkham in two mini-buses on the School's first ever rugby tour. Destination — Narbonne, in the south-west of France.

Our arrival at Newhaven coincided with the departure of our boat and so a quick dash to Dover by the scenic route, enabled us to take our place in a queue for the 10.30 p.m. ferry. With a force ten gale blowing, it was three in the morning before the boat could leave, and the party amused itself by serenading those passengers waiting in the departure lounge — a pastime which also occupied the Hastings Rugby Club XV.

Eventually the party disembarked in Calais at 9.30 a.m. a sobering hour! The trip down the motorway to Narbonne was eventful, especially before one driver had accustomed himself to driving on the right — when he eventually got out of third gear fear could be seen in the eyes of his passengers. On the motorway one 'bus broke down and despite Cotgreave's mechanical knowledge, we managed to repair it. Messrs. Beckett and Worth waited! When we started again we soon reached Paris, and on the Ring Road, one mini-bus turned off for petrol. Messrs. Beckett and Worth waited! Two hours later we met up again — now there was a 70 mile traffic jam on the motorway. Eventually, with the drivers flagging and avoiding "crows" on the motorway, we arrived at the Maison des Jeunes in Narbonne at 2.00 a.m. on Sunday. We were greeted with a meal of cold meat and wine, which we were told was 'not Vimto you know', a fact which certain members of the party were soon to discover.

After a lazy morning we visited the magnificent new Narbonne Stadium where we saw two matches of rugby between first division sides. In the evening most sampled the night-life of the town, and later admired the view from Ian Cotgreaves balcony. Monday morning was spent in training and preparation for the afternoon's match, although the beneficial effects of this were partly dissipated at an official reception to welcome us to Narbonne and the M.J.C. The members of staff received gifts and David Fisher presented a plaque, tour tie and badges to the president of the Committee, and made the acquaintance of a French lady. The match which kicked off at 4.15 p.m. was against the Narbonne Rugby Club U.16 XV. With the score at 12 — 12 and in injury time, we lost to one of the best drop goals ever kicked against us.

On Tuesday morning we visited Carcassonne, a reconstructed, walled, medieval town, and one party walked the two and a half miles round its walls without actually entering the city. In the afternoon we visited one area of the Corbieres Vinyards, first touring a small private house, owned by Georges Bertrand, the referee of Monday's match, and then a "co-operative" more on the scale of a British brewery. These visits were both instructional and refreshing. Wednesday was a difficult day as we were to play an Under 17 team which last season won the French National Championship Cup. In the morning we visited the Horreum — Roman ruins actually beneath the streets and houses of Narbonne — and the magnificent 13th century Cathedral, which boasts the third highest nave in France. At 3.00 p.m. we ran out into the "Stade d'Nonneur de l'Egassiairae" electric scoreboard, Union Jack, National Anthem and all — the only sad part of the tour was the two minutes silence in memory of one of the U.17 team players killed in a car crash two days before — all the party was moved by the experience. At the end of a rousing match we were unlucky to find ourselves the losers by 11 pts to 6 pts — beaten but by no means outplayed, as the French with typical bias, had predicted.

Unfortunately, Andrew Wright fractured his skull during the match, but arrived back from hospital just in time for the official reception and welcome at the town hall. Here after speeches by the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Worth and D. Fisher, in French (!) we exchanged gifts — our plaques, badges and ties for their wine! By this time in the week Neil Harris's forehead drooped considerably and Mr. Taylor's inability to get out of third gear had become apparent, as had Messrs. Browning's and Beckett's inability to speak French.

On Thursday we visited a French high School, which provided us with an insight into the different ways of life between the French students and ourselves. In the afternoon we visited Narbonne beach, and trained, sunbathed or paddled in the sadly polluted Mediterranean. At 5.00 p.m. we played our third game against another U.16 side and won 30 — 0. With Richard Tallis scoring three

tries. That night the senior staff members enjoyed a euphoric evening with a private meal, and later a public sing-song. The return journey on Friday was long and hard and after leaving at 9.00 a.m. we eventually arrived in Kirkham at 7.00 p.m. on Saturday. Once again the blue mini-bus broke down with the unfortunate Monsier Boeuf again at the wheel.

There were many memorable moments during the tour — who could forget Richie Wayland's multi-coloured face; Paul Hyde in jacket and tie; Mr. Taylor's acrobatics in the vineyard or Martin Schofield's "bucket and spade".

Now the thank yous — the organisation was superb, as was the hospitality, food and wine; Mr. Whiteside's generous loan of his Ford Transit 'Bus enabled us to go to Narbonne; the financial contributions of parents, friends, boys in the school, and the Fylde and Preston Rugby Clubs kept the cost low, and finally for all their interest and enthusiasm I thank, on behalf of all the players Messrs. Worth, Beckett, Taylor and Browning for the best holiday I've certainly had.

D. Fisher (*1st XV Captain*).

## **Glimpses of the U.S.A. 1976**

Imagine my thoughts on the 25th July, 1976 when my wife and I sat for 2 hours on board a Macdonnell-Douglas DC 10 aircraft at Gatwick Airport, whilst the ground crew checked a fault in the tail engine. Departing four hours late produced complications at New York although we enjoyed the flight in the "sky-train" with 350 passengers. I was amused to see the film "Gigi" being shown at the same time on four different screens throughout the fuselage of the plane.

After a short sleep because of the time problem and the fact that I could not find the air conditioning unit, we awoke to a seemingly dull day — in fact it was a bright sunny day, but the closeness and great height of the surrounding buildings misled me to thinking that the sky was overcast. We proceeded to get to know New York as typical tourists taking a 3 hour cruise around Manhattan Island and visiting such places as Central Park, the U.N. Building, the Rockefeller Centre, Grand Central Station; Ascending the 102 floors of the Empire State Building; climbing inside the Statue of Liberty and walking down Broadway. Perhaps the most striking feature of New York was its traffic and the myriads of yellow taxi cabs, honking and hurtling along at break-neck speeds. We did have two problems in the city, one was that there did not seem to be any public toilets and secondly, to find a post office. We were told that the post offices always had a stars and stripes flag displayed outside but as this was bi-centennial year, almost every building was displaying the flag!

Although we travelled "down-town" by subway express (50 cents token used for one ride any distance; a train covered with grafitti inside and outside) we decided to walk to see the sights and this enabled us to see more of New York and to meet its people. However, most of our hosts were amazed that we even walked to Greenwich Village and Chinatown.

After four days in New York, we took a Garden State Trailways coach to Columbus, New Jersey travelling by turnpike toll roads. A sixty mile journey from New York cost an extra 3.20\$ for road and bridge tolls. Columbus was a very small town in a rural setting with dairying, maize, blue berries and peaches being the main agricultural pursuits. According to the local experts corn has to be eaten within 12 hours of picking and you should not pay more than 3\$ for 75 peaches. Imagine stopping at Jimmy's drive-in for a one-foot long hot dog or Sarah's for hoagies or submarines (a 15" long bread roll with various cooked meats, salad items and dressings): neither can be eaten delicately.

After about three days of living with a farming family, I had to take to the scales each day and control my diet. The Columbus district was occupied by Lenape Indians, part of the Delaware tribe and I have two arrowheads as souvenirs of my visit to this area. The first white settlers were the Scattergood family who were quakers from Yorkshire and they lived in a cave. Their land grant was 500 acres and they lived on very friendly terms with the Indian peoples.

The schools in this rural area contrasted drastically with those in New York; although size was comparable — situation, accommodation, facilities and social aspects were complete opposites. I have never seen a caretaker of a school wearing a side-arm as in New York where indeed, some of the staff were also armed. The school was in a tenement block opposite a pickle factory — the rural school was impressive because of the open planning and space. One Independent School at Hightstown boasted a planetarium and a 3,300,000\$ sports centre with indoor running tracks, swimming pool and ice rink, all monies being donated by industry, parents and old boys.

We later visited five other eastern States and Washington, D.C. . . seeing the 3 great sports centres for baseball, ice hockey/basketball and American football in Philadelphia (we saw a Blackpool tramcar here); the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia; the largest safari park in the world called "The Great Adventure", Williamsburg, the reconstructed colonial town being occupied by people engaged in traditional crafts and the Atlantic seaboard with its narrow off-shore islands, very sandy beaches, surfing, boats and holiday homes. We can now boast to have been swimming on both sides of the North Atlantic Ocean.

Whilst near the coast, we experienced the weather phenomena of Hurricane Belle which caused great anxiety and damage, although its centre remained off-shore thereby lessening the dangers.

We thoroughly enjoyed our stay near Washington which gave us the opportunity to see the Smithsonian Institute buildings, particularly the Science, Space and Natural History Museums, Art Gallery and Zoo; Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts, the Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, the Capitol buildings of the City and a tour of the famous White House. A world Boy Scout Jamboree in the park enabled us to have a free lunch of freshly made hot dogs and hamburgers.

My wife was extremely interested in the many modern labour-saving devices in the houses and the shopping malls that have developed in rural settings. The mall is a very large indoor shopping centre, with individual shops, restaurants, cinemas, arcades with fountains, ornamental pools (with live ducks) and departmental stores — imagine the shops of Preston under "one roof". The choice and variety of items was unbelievable and the prices compared very favourably with those in present day Britain. The car park was enormous and petrol was 60c per gallon which in July was equivalent to approximately 40p.

The hospitality of the people was marvellous; the weather fantastic; the heated swimming pool in the garden delightful; the air conditioning in buildings and vehicles a necessity for comfort; the cheap but luxurious motor-cars enviable to purchase and drive; television was very poor in quality and definition (possible to view for 24 hours and choose from 16 stations). We met some wonderful people and made lasting friends. I did have to work during our stay but both my wife and I feel that we could have stayed in the U.S.A. where everything really does seem "larger than anywhere else in the world".

M.J.S.

### **Trip to Valkenburg**

Having left school at 5 a.m. on October 23rd 1976 at the beginning of our five day holiday in Belgium and the Netherlands, we eventually arrived at Dover. Unfortunately, the Channel crossing by hovercraft threatened to be rough, and Mr. Beckett was looking as pale as the cliffs!

After continuing our journey from Calais by coach, we spent a spirited first night in a "hotel" in Ostend, and then travelled to Zeebrugge next morning, to collect Mr. Clarkson, whose own journey had been delayed for some reason. Later that afternoon, we reached Valkenburg, a small village in the South Limburg Hills where we were to spend the next two days. Having discovered that the local population consisted mostly of Southampton school-girls, one of our party had to be locked in his room by Mr. Browning.

The next morning, Dickie, the coach driver, was ill and as the coach had broken down, we visited nearby Maastricht by train, leaving Eccles wandering around in his swimming trunks, looking for the mythical hotel swimming pool.

It was at the railway station that Crawford tried, in vain, to communicate with the natives, before one of the masters began railing at him.

Next day, Dickie was ill again, and the start of our return to Ostend was delayed. On the way back, we stopped at Brugge, and it was four hours later when Mr. Beckett casually remarked that we had lost Chandler, who, in the meantime, had covered the 15 miles back to Ostend in record time. The remainder of the evening was spent looking in shop windows and celebrating our last night. Later Mr. Clarkson admitted to feeling 'well oiled', but I can only imagine that this had something to do with him repairing the coach on the previous day.

Meanwhile Mr. Browning was following everyone around, instamatic and flash cubes in hand, and at the same time considering the offers of certain people to buy the negatives when they were printed.

We boarded the cross-channel ferry early next morning. Kirkham was looking rather frail, having spent most of the previous night examining the hotel plumbing.

Fifteen hours later the coach arrived back at school, thus ending a most enjoyable and interesting holiday, and I would like to thank Messrs. Beckett, Browning and Clarkson for all their tolerance and for giving us an enjoyable time.

R. Gascoigne, L6SC

# C.C.F. REPORT

## Army Section

*O.C. CCF Major D. H. Butterworth  
Cadet Sergeant Major T. C. G. Ray*

### ADVENTUROUS TRAINING IN THE CAIRNGORMS 1977

Firstly may I, on behalf of the contingent take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Scott on his promotion to Lieutenant.

After nervously waiting for our Scottish Staff sergeant who only just caught the train as it pulled out of Preston, the remainder of the journey to Dun . . . Bridge went according to plan.

The accommodation was much larger than previous venues although the temperature remained at a constant  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The activities started on the Sunday with one group ski-ing and one doing snowcraft. In both groups there were one or two adventurous skiers, notably Smith with his sticks at right angles to his body unable to stop on the Corrie na Ciste ski run. Meanwhile the snowcraft group were building snowholes, ice climbing and learning the finer points of belaying. When the groups swapped over there was a slight thaw, which meant that the new skiers were able to get to the top of Cairngorm while it was becoming too dangerous for the others to do snowcraft at any decent altitude, although snow holes were built it was too cold to sleep out.

It was unfortunate that L/Cpl. Kirkham spent only half a day ski-ing before he was confined to camp and later to hospital with Laryngitis, but on the whole it was an enjoyable camp with many memorable events, like an inter-regiment snowball fight and Mr. Scott eating his food hampers his wife sent him.

Finally I would like, on behalf of the party to thank Major Butterworth for organising the week, Captain Sayer for his cooking, Lieutenant Scott, Dr. Summers and the three members of the Army Youth Team, Colin, Geoff and Andy.

T.C.G.R.

## Climbing in the C.C.F.

In the past, climbing in the C.C.F. has normally been restricted to Summer Camps. However, due to increased enthusiasm in the corps, climbing and abseiling have become regular activities on Field Days and occasionally at weekends.

The year started at the beginning of October with a number of ascents on Shepherd's Crag and Lower Scout Crag — both in the Lake District — when Calland particularly enjoyed the Moving Chockstone Route.

Autumn Field Day proved to be interesting, with S.M. Crane attempting to commit suicide!

In November, a climbing weekend in Wilton Quarries was organised with the aid of the Army Youth Team from Fulwood Barracks. These climbs were found to be the most difficult yet attempted, and were only conquered by the more

experienced members of the party. On the same day Smith and A.R. Durham were able to complete their first successful lead climbs.

In general, all the climbing trips have been very successful, with only Dr. B.M. Summers finding any real difficulty on some of the relatively easier climbs.

Our thanks go to Major D.H. Butterworth for the hard work he has put into organising the trips, and a special thanks to Dr. Summers for giving up his valuable free time and "energy".

L/Cpl. J.R.S. Calland and L.A. Smith

## **RAF Section**

*O.C. CCF (RAF Section)* S/L G.S. Cheesbrough  
F/Sgt. C.K. Smith

We are pleased to welcome F/O D. Walls to the section who will be a tower of strength as he was a P.F.O. in the R.A.F. before teaching first at Ausdell and now at Kirkham.

The Cadet strength is increasing again now having 57 on roll.

The exam results were again good. 7 Distinctions, 5 Credits, 5 passes and no failures in the Proficiency II exam taken.

Two went on gliding courses and from several Flying Scholarship Candidates two were accepted and both gained their Private Pilots' Licences. Congratulations then to R.L. Shaw and S.W. Harris.

Again this year we have one cadet G. Spencer accepted for this competition.

## **Easter Camp 1976**

The Camp was held at R.A.F. West Raynham, Norfolk, which we eventually reached after a long journey by British Rail via London.

The station was a missile base, and during our guided tour we acquired some interesting information about the missiles now being used.

The night exercise found Cadet Porter on his back after a flour bomb attack, but Cadet Manley retrieved one and attacked the attacker.

The orienteering exercise took more skill than was at first expected.

S/L Cheesbrough was at one check point near the Duck Pond and was witness to extraordinary sounds of clinking as several groups went on their way, some getting lost, even split, before all returned somewhat weary.

Cpl. Dobson was asked to play the organ at Church Parade and did extremely well.

Drama occurred when we went flying at a nearby station when a Jaguar tried three times to do an emergency landing with an unreleased bomb. Fire crews and ambulances raced across to it, but no damage was done.

A new train route was finally settled the day before we set off home arriving an hour late and so tired that one N.C.O. slept despite the female attractions.

## PROFILE NO. 37



**William David Molyneux (1954-61)**  
**President K.G.S.O.B.A. 1976/77**

Bill was born at Preston in January, 1943 under the sign of Capricorn, which contrary to the beliefs of some of his acquaintances, is not the name of a public house!

Various attempts to instil some learning into him were made firstly at Bamber Bridge followed by some years at Kennington Road County Primary School, Fulwood and three years at Horncliffe House, the preparatory school to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn. Astonished by his unexpected success in the 11 plus examination his parents were able to persuade Denis Norwood that he would be less of a risk to the community in School House, and it was there that he was abandoned to his fate and Sidney Crane his new housemaster, in September 1954.

There followed seven years of unspectacular progress both athletically and academically. It is Bill's firm belief that Sidney Crane relinquished the resident housemastership after unsuccessfully endeavouring to tutor a boy with a French surname in the mysteries of what should have been his native tongue. As his housemaster there then came Geoffrey Wilkinson followed by Arthur Knowles, and all three he remembers for their help and assistance whenever they were required.



Never much of an athlete he was able to support his house in every other sporting activity which included winning the House Swimming cup on each of the six years he was included in the team. In later years he captained the School 2nd XI and was a regular member of the 1st XV winning his half colours in the 1960/61 season.

Bill left the school at the end of the Winter Term 1961 to enter Articles with a Preston firm of Solicitors, but only after the Law Society had recovered from the shock of having a prospective articled clerk claim an 'O' level pass in Agricultural Science as an exemption from more recognised Science subjects.

A lot of hard work and some disappointments eventually saw him emerge as a Solicitor and he is now in partnership with a Preston firm specialising in nothing in particular or everything, whichever viewpoint one wishes to take.

He is happily married to Shelagh, who is to be seen once a year selling the raffle tickets at the Old Boys' Dinner Dance and they have two daughters, Victoria who is 4 and Lucy nearly 2.

Whilst Bill's recreational inclinations are somewhat on the wane he still turns out with reasonable regularity for the Preston Grasshoppers 6th team where, if the going gets tough, he hides behind the impressive bulk of the full back, one Roger Wilcock. For a less dangerous pastime he has taken to squash.

His youth, interest and always very active membership of this Association make Mr. Molyneux's leadership of the same at this time particularly apt. Long may he continue to "fit the Bill" in these ways.

A.R.B.

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Co-opted for special services: P. M. Mears. \*Ex Officio Committee Members.

### School Leavers — Summer 1977

If school leavers this term have not already joined the Association this will be your 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.

### STRANGE TIMES NO. 8

*"When we recall fond memories  
Which cling to us from year to year  
Of bygone days in places far  
Those memories, how dear they are — Remembrance"*

These words by Carl Reber serve to introduce us to July 1927 in KGS Chronicle No. 8.

It is one of the few of those early magazines which boasts a photographic illustration. In its centre pages, above the caption "Happy Days", many of our forebears are pictured in Kirkham Baths — some in the most discreet of swimwear!

These were some of the 127 boys in the school then which still had a Blackpool House (32 boys). Helped by the pictured facilities, 101 boys could swim 25 yards. The best, however, were to be found in the House just mentioned because it won the swimming sports that year helped by its substantial collection of House Points (1 length = 3 points, 1 breadth = 1 point).

At the School too a "Hot-Water Bath for use after football" had been made by converting the cycle shed for £137 16s 7d. This building is now the caretaker's store.

This Chronicle contains the usual, necessary reviews of other sports in the School. In shooting, House Teams of 8 took part (in July 1926) in a competition involving 10 shots per person at 25 yards. (open range). "Bad light" and "one of the rifles developing some defect" were thought to account for the overall poor result, whilst "more qualifying rounds" and "moving the range site" were suggested remedies before next years event.

The cricket in 1926 had also not lived up to expectations, few of "The XI" being able to adapt their methods to suit the rough wickets on which some of the away matches had to be played. This must have been a compliment to our groundsman at least. Several club matches were played in those days e.g. against Preston CC 3rd XI and Lytham CC 2nd XI. In the Old Boy's match there was low scoring by both sides, but the School eventually won by 52 runs with a side strengthened by Messrs. Budden, Lee and Stevenson. After the statistics came the awards and these included items like "XX" caps" (see display cabinet outside HM study) and two bats awarded to the best all-rounders in the team. A 2nd XI existed but they seem to have been very subordinate to "The XI". School House won both House Cricket Trophies against Blackpool (senior) and Kirkham (junior). Again, bats were awarded to the best in the junior competition.

The Rugby report spans 1926/7 and the two XV's obviously struggled somewhat losing 10 matches out of 17 played. The match against the Old Boy's (Past V Present) was a significant one, it being the first under-rugby (as opposed to soccer) rules. The match began in thick fog but the "Present School" won the game by 9 points to 6. Again the "Present" were augmented by Messrs. Lee, Hughes, Stevenson and Williams. Four boys were awarded Hons. caps of the kind on display in the school.

The 28th Annual Athletics Sports Meeting, held in May, had much better weather conditions and attracted a very large attendance of parents and friends. The Lytham House won the sports (yet again!) as it had done in the senior and junior cross country races which in those days contributed to the athletic sports overall. Also included as a principal event was "throwing the cricket ball", — won by H. Wilby (82 yards). On the day itself there was an Old Boy's race which in 1927 was won by H. Taylor. To add to the entertainment the finals of the House "tug-of-war" competition, at both heavy and light weights, took place then as well.

The Old Boy's Association held its AGM (7th) at the School in November 1926. There were by then nearly 170 members of which 42 were life members and its oldest member Mr. J. Bennett, at KGS 1845—52, had just died. After reports of sporting events V School, there was concern shown over the Old Boy's cricket teams other fixtures, it being difficult to find a representative side mid-week when, in any case, few clubs could provide opposition. However, the 'turnout' of members in other respects received careful attention. The Badge and Blazer were discussed and after circularising the membership, a plain, dark blue, flannel blazer, "with lined sleeves and brass buttons" was decided upon. The only decoration was to be the monogram 'KGS' with the K in red and the GS in gold. These were available in Fleetwood and Preston for £2 each whilst ties cost 4s and the annual subscription was 5s. Has anyone got such a blazer?

It seems the only "mixed" event of the Association was the January Whist Drive held in the School Hall but the membership was keen as indicated by the number of letters apologizing for absence at the AGM which were sent to the Secretary.

All of the above items are built around the events of Prize Day, July 1926. The Guest of Honour was the Headmaster of Rossall School and all present heard the Rev. C. Strange give his 7th annual report. He commented on the repressive influence of trade depression which was still felt in the School. But a satisfactory academic standard had been maintained and the number of boys in the School was increasing. He hoped that more of these would pass on to University "for good scholars lead to a healthy emulation thus a raising of standards all the way round". But the Headmaster had no doubt that his School's job was "to train the average boy in all that goes to make a full life".

Mr. Strange welcomed the increasing interest shown in the Old Boy's Association saying that two things impressed him greatly. "First, the high esteem in which the School is held throughout the Fylde and throughout a wide area beyond. Secondly, the way in which the Fylde is permeated with Old Boy's who are doing solid and useful work and in many cases, filling important positions."

He would be pleased to see in 1977 how those Fylde members and ex-School House members still form a loyal backbone to our Association. From this point in 1926 Mr. Strange looked forward as well as back and stated that "the remembrance of the past is the inspiration of the future. Inspired by those who have gone before we can face the future with confidence". We need to remember this too as we face our future in personal and public life.

A.R.B.

## FRIENDS OF K.G.S.

*President:* Mr. P. Laws

*Chairman:* Mrs. A. Derbyshire

*Treasurer:* Mr. A. Spencer

*Secretary:* Mr. H. Scholefield

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all the people who have contributed to another successful year. Our particular thanks must go to that selfless body of helpers who work so hard to organise the events held during the year.

The Barbecue was again held in June 1976 at Swarbrick Hall. We are very grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Jonty Richardson for making the farm available again for what has proved to be a major event in the calendar.

The new parents were welcomed in September at a Cheese and Wine Party. One of the objectives of this evening, apart from having an enjoyable time, is for the new parents to mix with parents whose boys have been at the school for a longer time and who 'know the ropes', so we would like to see as many people as possible at the similar function in September this year.

Our Jumble Sales continue to raise useful amounts of money, but of course depend on the amount of jumble we have to sell. Please continue to respond to the appeals for any items of no further use which arise twice a year.

The Annual Dinner Dance was held at the Hotel Glendower in St. Annes in November but we are considering a change of location for the future in an attempt to keep costs down.

The Christmas Draw was the usual financial success and our thanks must go to all the people who sold tickets — keep up the good work.

The Supper Dance at the Anchorage in Lytham is now an annual event in February and has turned out to be as enjoyable as the old Samlesbury Hall Supper Dances used to be.

The "Friends" continue to supply much needed money and equipment to the School and, we hope, enjoyment to all the people who attend the functions. Please keep up your interest and your generosity.

H. Scholefield  
*Hon. General Secretary*



*Wood engraving from a Tyrolean calendar.  
16th Century*

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