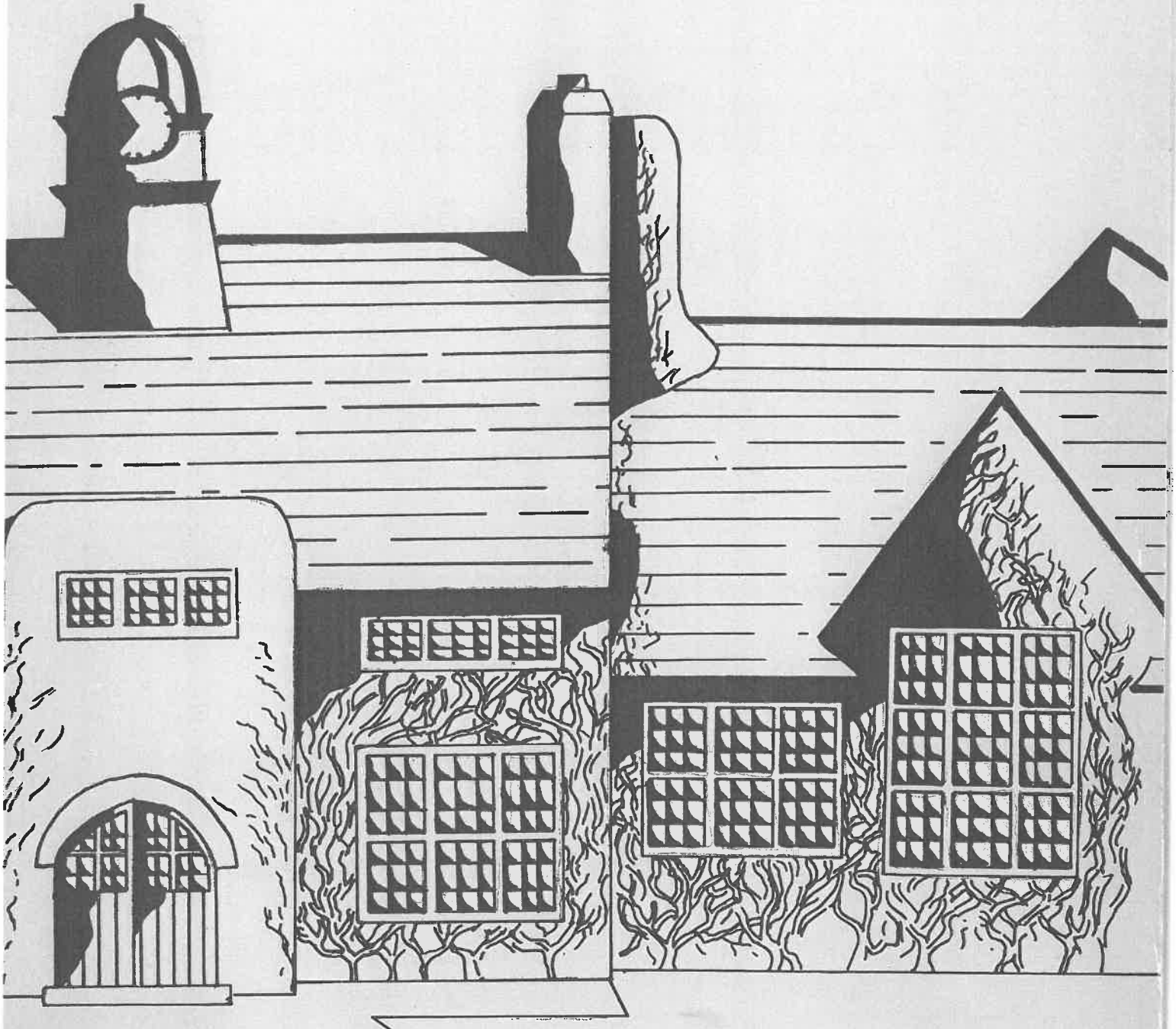

KIRKHAMIAN

'78

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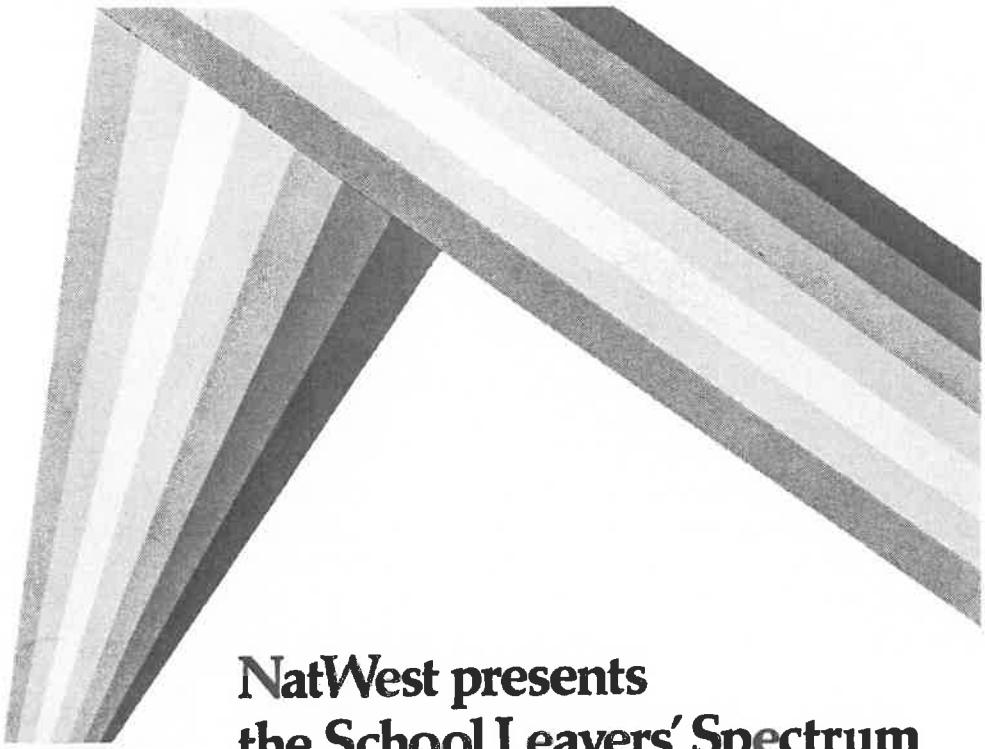

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Editorial

Chairman: Mr. A. R. Baines.
Co-Editors: P. Andrew, R. M. Garcoigne
Committee: S. Cross, I. C. Gibson, M. J. Grime, P. J. Redman, D. A. Wilmot.
Co-opted: Mrs. A. G. Boll and Mr. R. Porter.

THINK ON THESE THINGS

In 1977 a colour supplement reported upon its joint sponsorship of a competition for school publications. Some of the sifting criteria commented upon then may assist our readers now to judge this latest "Kirkhamian". In turn, an answer to the question "Quo Vadis?" may become available.

Firstly, magazine or newspaper? From its origins in 1920, our publication has been termed a magazine and so remains to its critics "one of those things grammar schools used to produce". Its appearance only once a year has to do with such things as material available, the school's year, the willingness of helpers and, inevitably, cost. The £600.00 + magazine is with us. Is this the best way of spending such an amount? With Independent status in mind, the arguments for more stringent measures must be balanced against the need for such a school to promote itself. Thus, if we argue for "The Kirkhamian" being retained in this way, we must look to the quality of its content at least.

Secondly then, should this only be a record for posterity or a cultural platform of the day? We would argue for a blend of both — not presented in discrete sections as in our 1977 offering. For this, the active support and expertise of many more individuals on our campus needs to be employed. The Editors feel that there has been a singularly disappointing response to the attempts this year, in various meetings, to convince the School that much more can and should be done to compete for space in this publication.

Finally, in our efforts to entertain we must realise the limited value of in-jokes so that we don't become too insular. Yet we would agree that the sense of community, and we hope loyalty, a centre of which can be our school magazine, needs careful preservation for our future.

Chairman and Co-editors

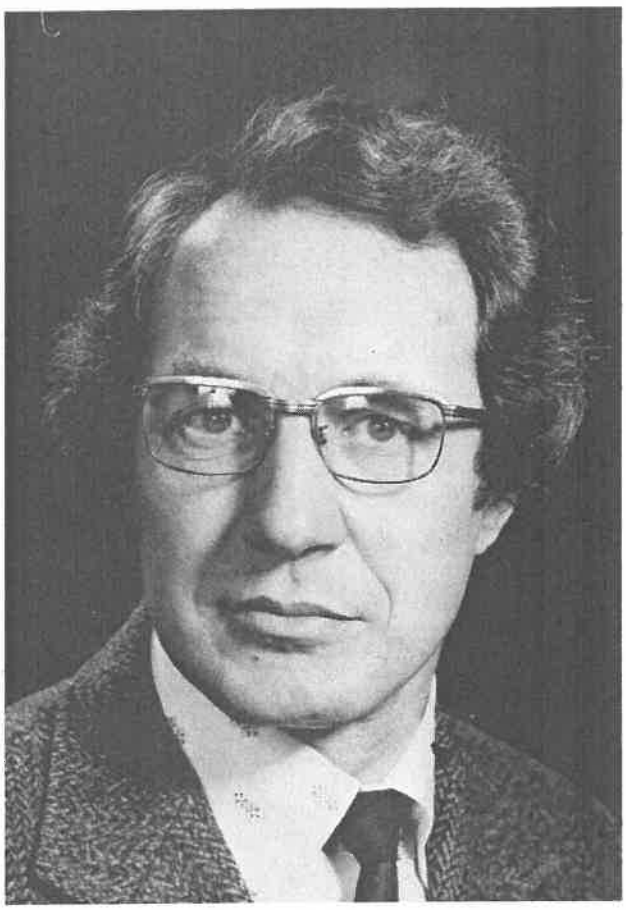
Cover Design by C. Gilbert, L6

Remember, remember — the 8th of July!

8.7.78 = Summer Fete.

Summer Fete on July 8th.

HERES AN INTRODUCTION TO...



Peter Laws
Chairman of the School Governors

Peter was born in March 1935. He was the eldest child of three and the family lived at Bexleyheath, Kent. His initial education was at the Upton County Primary School. He failed the 11+ but was accepted on appeal at Erith Grammar School. He justified his acceptance by finishing up with eight 'O' levels and four 'A' levels. He was awarded full-colours for rugby and cricket and half-colours for soccer. He also won some trophies on the athletics track as a sprinter.

Peter had been air-minded from an early age and he shared his hobby with his father for both were active members of the North Kent Model Aircraft Club. In the school A.T.C. Squadron Peter was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

An important influence on his life started when, as a teenager, he became a Christian. Many happy and foundation-forming evenings were spent at the Christ Church Discipleship Group.

He went up to university to read, not unexpectedly, Aeronautical Engineering at the Imperial College of

Science and Technology. He found this a stimulating but academically tough course. However, he also found some time for playing rugby in the 5th XV and for the activities of the Christian Union and of the Motor Club. He graduated in June 1956 with a Second Class Honours degree.

After spending part of that summer holiday as excursion leader at a Christian Youth Camp in North Devon, he set off in his 1931 Austin 7 for the North West to start earning a living at the English Electric Co. (now part of British Aerospace). To break the long journey, he stayed overnight in Middleton with the Wellens family whose two daughters he had met at the camp. The son was a boarder at K.G.S. Thus from his first day north of a line from the Bristol Channel to the Wash he had contact with the famous school which was later to occupy a considerable amount of his attention and energies.

Two years were spent as a graduate apprentice, working for short periods in many parts of the factory and several technical departments. He then became an engineer working on problems of Aeroelasticity.

Peter was introduced to teaching in 1958 when he was appointed as lecturer for an O.N.C. evening course at the Harris College, Preston. When, in 1964, the University of Manchester required a lecturer in his peculiar professional specialisation, he made a successful application for his present post in the Department of the Mechanics of Fluids (the department which teaches for the Aeronautical Engineering degree).

He is a Chartered Engineer and a Member of the Royal Aeronautical Society and of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He has been a committee member of the Manchester Branch of the R.Ae.S. for the past two years.

Because of the value of his own experience of Christianity he has been regularly helping in groups of church-based young people. For some years he served as Hon. Northern Representative for the Advisory Committee on Youth Clubs for the Handicapped.

Amongst the young adults at the Fairhaven Methodist Church he met a school teacher, Valerie, whom he married in 1961. Their two children, Andrew, 14, and Kathryn, nearly 11, were born in Lytham St. Annes. The family moved to Timperley, Cheshire in 1973 and are now deeply involved in the life of the Methodist Church there.

In a life that is full of variety his only hobby these days is essential D.I.Y., apart, that is, from a few hours flying per year. Encouraged by the desire to teach the Mechanics of Flight from first hand experience, Peter, at age 39, took a course of flying lessons with the Lancashire Aero Club. He has now held his Private Pilot's Licence for three years.

He was appointed a Governor of K.G.S. by the Council of the University of Manchester in 1966. Not, he says, through any merit other than living at the time in the vicinity of the School. He was elected by the Governors as Chairman in October 1976 and in that role he hopes to be making a positive contribution to the life of the School and to the maintenance of its tradition of high standards.

On Course for Independence

Another milestone in the School's ever changing development was reached on 9th November 1977 when the Governors decided to seek independent status once again. In the final negotiations with the Lancashire Education Authority the Governors had no choice about the future unless they had been willing to sacrifice the identity and traditions of the School.

I should like to record an outline of the events leading to the Governors' decision. The L.E.A. have, of course, been under Government direction to reorganise their schools along the comprehensive lines. The Governors had wished to co-operate with the Authority if possible, but had insisted that in any reorganised scheme K.G.S. should serve the area by continuing to provide the highest level of school education, including the preparation of young people for university entrance. The task of comprehensive reorganisation in South Fylde has been particularly complicated because of the arrangement of schools in the district.

After a decade of negotiations and professional working party reports, agreement was reached between the L.E.A. and the Governors that it should be arranged for the School to admit boys and girls mainly of ages 11 to 18 years without reference to ability. The Public Notice proposing this change in the character of the School was signed in November 1976. The cost of adaptations and enlargements to the buildings necessary to develop the intended 3/4 form-entry comprehensive school would have been in excess of £750,000. In May 1977 a letter from the Department of Education and Science indicated that because of the doubts about the availability of money from governors and public sources for a project of this nature, particularly in view of the possible effect of the falling birthrate in the area served by K.G.S., it was most unlikely that the Secretary of State could approve the proposals. The Governors were given the opportunity to reconsider their position in consultation with the Authority before any final decision was taken.

The Governors returned to an earlier proposal that the School should become a sixth-form college providing only post-16 education mainly for pupils from Carr Hill. The cost of adaptations to the School in this case would have been £250,000. In the negotiations of summer 1977 it became clear that the Authority would not support K.G.S. as a separate establishment because, on the projected population figures, there would be insufficient pupils to justify the provision of the whole range of subjects. However, with the sixth-form as part of a larger school, providing the opportunity for wider deployment of teachers, the situation would be viable. To this end the Authority proposed the formation of one school for 11 to 18 year olds in the Rural Fylde area by the amalgamation of the Carr Hill High School and K.G.S., initially using the resources and facilities of both schools. As this also appeared to be the cheapest solution it was the only one the L.E.A. would support for the entry of the Grammar School into the reorganised structure.

Although there were some advantages for this scheme, the Governors were of the opinion that these were outweighed by the objections. There was particular concern that in the short term a shambling

giant of a school of 1700 + pupils, on a split site, would be formed and that valuable assets like the boarding house and the C.C.F. would be lost from K.G.S. in the name of abolishing selection. In the longer term, the buildings on the Grammar School site would surely become surplus to requirements when, with the predicted falling numbers, all the pupils could be accommodated at the Carr Hill complex with its up to date facilities. The Governors concluded that this was not the time for them to allow over 400 years of tradition and education to be dissolved away and the monopoly of education given to a State Comprehensive Scheme formed at the expense of two good, but distinctly different, schools.

The alternative of independence was reconsidered in parallel with the amalgamation proposals. Following the 1975 Feasibility Study initiated by the K.G.S. O.B.A., independence had been discarded as an option. If the Voluntary Aided School had been discontinued at the insistence of the Governors, a vast amount of money would have had to be found for day one of independence. However, there was a vital difference in 1977 in that with the knowledge of the impending redundancy of the K.G.S. buildings, the L.E.A. might co-operate with a phasing-out of K.G.S. from the maintained sector. This would mean that the funds could then be raised over a period of years. The Governors decided that they should seek this path to independence, at the same time expressing the hope that the L.E.A. would consequently develop Carr Hill as an 11–18 school. The L.E.A. have regretfully agreed with the decision of the Governors and are proposing to "cease to maintain" K.G.S. with effect from 31st August 1979. The Authority are working closely and helpfully with the Governors in making preparations for this important change. They have stated that pupils already in attendance at K.G.S. will be allowed to complete their secondary education, including sixth form studies, at the school with payment of fees by the Authority.

The one regret that the Governors have about independence is that a number of local children may be prevented from attending the School because of the level of the fees. The Governors feel confident, however, that their desire to preserve the standard of the School and the type of education which it offers will command widespread approval. The School is supported by the Kirkham Educational Foundation, which was created in 1898 from a combination of charities, and from which money was provided for assistance when the School was fee paying. It is the Governors intention to do all they can to re-establish these scholarships and bursaries. Existing resources are limited because inflation has seriously decreased the real value of the Foundation. Also, no capital allocation has been received from the Government in more than ten years because of the general situation of financial stringency and the uncertainty about the future of the School, although in this period the number of pupils has substantially increased. It will be necessary, therefore, for the Governors to appeal for support from many sources to obtain money from donations, covenanted gifts, low-interest loans, bequests and the like to provide an adequate Bursary and Development Fund. At the time of writing this article, Easter 1978, the Headmaster had already received £150 from people who foresaw this need.

The character of K.G.S. will inevitably change when it becomes independent, but the aim of encouraging the pupils to achieve the best results of which they are capable will not change. Academic excellence is something to be praised and certainly we shall continue to strive to achieve it. In these days of equal opportunities for both sexes the Governors intend that the School should become co-educational, with the admission of girls into both first year and sixth form in the first year of independence. This would fulfil a dormant intention of the Kirkham Educational Foundation which has a provision for a girls' day and boarding school to be established and maintained in the parish of Kirkham. It is hoped that all the present teachers will continue with the new school and their number will be increased to cater for the intake of girls. It is expected that pupil/teacher ratios will be lower than in the County Schools and that the overall size of the School will increase slightly as the girls are accommodated. To quote a School Inspection Report of 1907, "the School might also in course of time extend its sphere of usefulness beyond the limits of the area which it now serves". This is as relevant to the new development as to the development then and will probably produce a need for an enlarged boarding facility.

This all adds up to an exciting venture with the promise of a successful future. The Governors are hard at work making preparations so that actions for the transition can begin to be put into effect when the Education Secretary, Mrs. Williams, makes her final decision. It is expected that she will give her approval some time in the summer.

Peter Laws
Chairman of Governors

Do be kind, keep it in mind — the Summer Fete.

REVIEW

A School Year

In our terms, the School Year moves from one issue of the magazine to the next, from March 1977 — March 1978 in fact. Once again certain movements about and in and out of our School have not gone unnoticed by this Scoop Shop!

Apart from 70 school leavers since this time last year — and we do welcome their replacements at all levels in the School hoping that they, in their turn, will make a valuable contribution to their new school's life — the Staff Room has experienced some changes too. These have particularly occurred in the French Department.

Andrew Yeomans M.A. (Oxon), after 2 years at K.G.S., has now moved on to become Staff Tutor in Languages at the Lancashire College for Adult Education at Chorley. His successor is Roger Gill M.A. who from 1968–72 followed a joint Honours Course in French and German at Brasenose College, Oxford. During the period he spent a year in Germany, close to the Dutch Border, before completing his Certificate of Education year in 1972–3. From 1973 to March

1978 Roger, who is married with one small daughter, taught French, German and Russian at Cheadle Hulme School. This is a co-educational independent school in the Manchester area.

Mrs. Anita Devine studied French and German at Manchester University (1968–72) and formerly worked at Fleetwood Grammar School. She came to K.G.S. in January 1978 to replace Ann Kirk who, in February of this year, gave birth to a baby girl – Sarah Elizabeth. Our congratulations to both Ann and Bernard.

Such congratulations are also due to a former Head of Modern Languages, Ian Mellor (predecessor of Mr. Yeomans) who gained a third son early in the New Year. Still in this connection our congratulations to Jill and Andy Bowman on the birth of their second daughter on Jan. 20th at 4.25a.m. right in the middle of one of Andy's Astronomical practicals!

Finally, in the English Department, to replace Mrs. Christine Philip (neé Rossall), now living and working in Dartford, Kent, we welcomed, in September, Jim Roberts. He read English at Manchester University from 1969–72. Since then he has worked as an English as a Foreign Language teacher in Greece and as an assistant in a London Library. Clearly some new faces can be expected in the Cricket XI, and nearer Christmas '78, in the Magisters United side.

Lots of other things go on inside our buildings as our very full, termly calendars show and these are related in our later pages. Week-ends and holidays too see an ever increasing number of K.G.S. past and present groups meeting and travelling together, for fell walks, games, courses, C.C.F. forages and visits abroad.

For all, whatever their travels during the year, the Jubilee celebrations will have been memorable. The School had each form represented at the Guild Hall, Preston and about 50 of our C.C.F. members lined the route there on June 20th during the royal visit to Lancashire. We also had a tree planted in the School grounds by the Mayor of the Fylde to commemorate these festivities.

Fit around this the burdens of democracy as experienced by all members of the G.S.C., the numerous re-arrangements of the inter-house competition fixture lists, the extra demands of Geography English and Music Departments, a teachers' strike – although the most obvious black-leg at K.G.S. seemed to be in the filmed version of "Othello" in the Spring term – and it's little wonder that our students can become so confused. Thus are produced such offerings as this from 3Y – Man's unique feature is that "his time from birth to adultery is quite long".

ARB

James Murray F.R.C.O.L.R.A.M. A.T.C.L. 1946–1971

Mr. Murray died whilst on holiday in September of last year. During his twenty-five years at K.G.S., he was the Head of the Music Department, coming to this post from East Lancashire. In the mid-fifties, Jim began to establish the School orchestra and was finely supported in this venture by both Messrs. Norwood and Kennedy. In particular the brass and woodwind sections grew with the latter headmaster's support. The school choir too was rejuvenated and, with Mr. Murray's careful selection, soon totalled sixty efficient members. The scene was thus set for an enlightened Music Society under his chairmanship to propose, and eventually mastermind, the first House Music Competition held, with every support and encouragement from Dennis Norwood, in 1957.

The School's Honours Boards bear some testimony to Mr. Murray's influence at this School at this level of musicianship. His school classes and after-school private pupils benefited greatly from his knowledge and expertise so that, in general, the musical life of the school was enhanced. Via the private pupils and numerous guest appearances as organist at our annual Carol Service, Jim remained in contact with us. It was a source of pleasure to him to think that his good work was being continued by one of his former pupils, John Catterall.

Jim was quite unflappable, a man of expert keyboard technique at piano or organ. This he extended into his leisure hours – allowing only snooker or bowling to interfere occasionally. He was organist and choir-master at Lytham (St. Cuthbert's) Parish Church for over twenty years having held the same position at St. Thomas's Church, St. Annes between 1946–1955. To Mrs. Murray, and her family we extend our deepest sympathy and gratitude for their support of Jim in his life amongst us. I am sure that they hope that his memory may be kept green in the form of the scholarship mentioned in the Old Boys' section of the magazine.

A.R.B.

Peripatetics

The names of Mrs. B. Taylor, Miss A. S. Gregory, Messrs J. Bennison, H. Exton, G. Lloyd and, until his retirement in July 1977, Mr. F. R. Parker, in the teaching staff list of the School Calendar may be, for many in the School, something of a mystery. A thoughtful Calendar Committee addendum to each name does something to explain their "raison d'etre" but each deserves further coverage because of their interesting and varied careers.

Mr. Bennison is the woodwind specialist in the Music Department. His own student days began at the Royal Manchester College of Music where he studied his main instrument – the clarinet. On leaving college he began to play with a vast number of orchestras, and he played principal clarinet with The Halle, The National Philharmonic and The London Philharmonic. In 1938 he broadcast for the first time as a soloist in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto.

He began his teaching career at K.G.S. in 1961. It is difficult to say exactly how many pupils have passed through his hands, but certainly a great many boys have derived much pleasure from playing the clarinet, flute, oboe, bassoon and saxaphone, having received their lessons from Mr. Bennison.

Dr. Harold Exton has been teaching cello and double bass at K.G.S. since 1966. Prior to this date he played in various ships orchestras between 1953 and 1958, served as a Seagoing Radio Officer until 1959, and worked on the D.E.W. Line in the Canadian Artic. He has also written two Maths. books.

Mr. Parker was appointed master responsible for violin and viola in 1972. His interest in string instruments began at the age of seven when a great uncle presented him with a half-size viola. His early training culminated in three and a half years study at The Royal College of Music. Towards the end of this period he began playing in cinema orchestras. This was the era of the silent pictures and music was provided with each film and had to be synchronised by split-second timing. Undoubtedly this was a very hard school demanding good musicianship and quick thinking.

Between the two wars musicians suffered long stretches of unemployment, primarily due to the introduction of talkie films. Consequently many instrumentalists were forced to find jobs outside music and this included Mr. Parker. Fortunately this did not last long, as he next turned to teaching. Here he continued with patience (surely a very necessary quality in a viola teacher!) to guide pupils along the right paths. We wish Fred and Mrs. Parker a happy retirement in St. Annes.

Mrs. Barbara Taylor, A.L.C.M. (violin) became Mr. Parker's successor in September 1977. She is a native of Fleetwood and attended the Grammar School there. For a few years she was employed as a librarian but then qualified as a teacher of Music and English. Both these subjects she taught in a comprehensive school for a short time. Barbara then changed to the teaching of string instruments and this she does for private pupils as well as those in the schools.

She is a performer herself, playing viola in the Preston Concert orchestra and singing with the Preston Opera Group. The Musical Director of this group is Mr. Frank Salter who adjudicated at this year's House Music Competion.

Mr. Gwyn Lloyd is in charge of Brass teaching, whilst Miss A. S. Gregory takes private pupils for piano lessons.

J.C.

Fete on the 8th.

Careers Matter!

Careers work has gradually increased in importance in recent years as the number and variety of occupations have increased and people have become more determined not to become square pegs in round holes.

Periods are allocated in our School for this work and fourth and fifth years are given a comprehensive careers programme which includes: aptitude testing, occupational interests tests, a decision making course and specific vocational talks on such topics as the world of work, employment prospects, taxation, national insurance, legal rights, money, house purchase, leasing, the welfare state etc. The aim is to equip the school leaver with the basic knowledge of society and the complex machinery of living and we hope to provide him with the information necessary for the correct vocational choice to be made.

Much of the careers work is concerned with the individual, consequently interviews with parents and boys play a major role in the programme.

The summer and autumn terms are busy with upper sixth university and polytechnic choices.

In March all the fifth year parents and boys have the opportunity of discussing possible careers and sixth form subject choices and the third year parents and boys have three special careers evenings in April and May in which to plan their choice of subjects for the 'O' level G.C.E.

A major biennial event is the Careers Convention when over forty representatives from the professions, technical and business careers etc visis us, and parents and boys discuss in depth with practising experts any particular career of their choice.

Visits to various establishments to see people at work are also organized and external speakers are encouraged to come to K.G.S. to give us the benefit of their experiences in various careers.

Work experience weeks are also planned for the period after the exams have been completed.

If further guidance is required the facilities of the Lancashire Careers Guidance Staff are at our disposal.

J.B.

Government and Politics at K.G.S.

In recent years British Government and Politics has been one of the 'A' level options at K.G.S. It has taken its place as a useful addition to the range of subjects available to those entering the sixth form.

'How far is the Prime Minister now more powerful than his Cabinet?'
'What are the arguments for devolving power and giving Scotland and Wales their own assemblies?'
'Should the voting system we have used for years be changed?'
'Is it the Civil Service or the government that makes the decisions about how the country should be run?'

It is with questions such as these that the modified N.U.J.M.B. 'A' level is concerned. It no longer concentrates simply on the constitutional and legalistic aspects of the British political system. The concern is with where power really lies and with how the political system actually works. This necessitates a consideration of how people behave politically. The approach makes the course both lively and interesting.

However, it seems to me that the course offers more than this and more than an 'A' level which is valuable as a basis for many of the courses offered by the universities and polytechnics. I believe students are given the opportunity to think through the numerous political positions which are taken up in a pluralistic society like ours. The result is that they will become not only better informed but also more objective in their views. In a democracy where students themselves will be eligible to vote before they leave school this may be claimed to be of importance in the broadest educational sense.

D.W.

Charities '77–'78

Over the past year the School has been very active in raising funds for various charities. Two sponsored events raised over £150, with ninety pounds going to UNICEF and sixty pounds to the Jubilee Appeal. Several charities have benefited from the Friday collections and two of these deserve particular mention We raised £35 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and £40 for the Talking Newspaper for the Blind. These were excellent responses to the worthwhile work of two organisations of local interest.

There is no doubt that this year collections have risen, especially from the juniors. One first year boy raised £5 himself during the Christmas holidays. May I thank all who have contributed and put on record the debt owed to Alastair Kirkham and Roger Gascoigne, who have greatly helped to boost the Friday collections.

The total amount raised from April 1977 to March 1978 was £379. If the seniors could match the juniors in the next twelve months, we could double this year's amount.

R.M.C.

HOUSE REPORTS

Ashton

House Master:	Mr. G. S. Cheesbrough
House Assistants:	Mr. D. E. Worth; Mr. R. J. Browning; Mr. A. Bowman
House Captain:	P. Andrew
House Vice-Captain:	A. L. Whiteside
House Prefects:	J. S. Manning; J. T. Spencer; D. L. Woodings

One of Ashton's more unexpected successes came in the cross-country running competition. The intermediates won their section and, but for an unfortunate error in fielding nine instead of eight runners which led to their disqualification, the juniors too, would have emerged winners.

The juniors also did well in the cricket competition, defeating School in the final by eighteen runs, which was is no small way due to Armstrong's able captaincy. The seniors, however, found Kirkham too hot to handle and were defeated in the early stages of the competition.

Ashton also won the Sports Trophy on Sports Day. A. L. Whiteside must be congratulated on winning the senior Victor Ludorum for the second time in successive years.

The House fared well in one of the less glamorous competitions, the Shooting Competition where we eventually finished second.

For the second year running Ashton have won the Debating Competition. We defeated Lytham in a very close final. This year we may achieve the hat-trick in this competition, our opponents being School with whom we must consider the question of the fairness of British justice.

The house has had an extremely successful year in the Rugby Competitions. Within the space of three days we had defeated Kirkham in the finals of both the senior and the junior competitions, the winning margins being 12–0 and 10–0 respectively. The future certainly looks rosy for our House rugby!

P. A.

Fylde

House Master:	Mr. D. H. Butterworth
House Assistants:	Dr. B. M. Summers; Mr. B. Gornall; Mr. D. Walls; Mr. A. Yeomans; Mr. R. Gill
House Captain:	M. J. Leyland
House Vice Captains:	A. N. Kirkham; J. G. P. Binner
House Prefects:	M. J. Chandler; P. A. Edwards; M. D. Schofield

In the recent past our strength has been on the games field. Our successes so far this year have been noticeably on the intellectual side of house activities.

A senior rugby team composed largely of non-rugby players did, however, play exceedingly well in the first round, to be beaten only 15–0 by Ashton House, the eventual winners of the competition. It was a similar story for the juniors who were also knocked out by Ashton House, again the final victors.

The first triumph of the new school year came in the play-reading competition, where a cast composed almost entirely of enthusiastic juniors performed an adapted version of John Cleese's play "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation As We Know It". Our thanks go to Ian Gibson of the Lower Sixth whose persistent hard work in organising the original material and the cast brought much credit to the house.

In the chess competition this year the team has maintained a high standard, and the almost unrivelled enthusiasm of the seniors has taken the team into a strong position in the league. It now seems that the house has a good chance of finishing in second place after our defeat by School House.

The music competition was another success for Gibson who organised our entries and indeed performed a piano solo himself. We were placed third after a very close contest, just two points behind the winners. The junior choir deserve a special mention on gaining twenty out of twenty-five possible marks for their performance of "Consider Yourself" from the musical "Oliver". The adjudicator commented "The attack was well-rehearsed and splendid. Very enjoyable, and the setting allowed 'croakers' to be sensibly incorporated." B. Watson, on solo clarinet, contributed a much-appreciated rendering of "Killing Me Softly With His Song".

My thanks go to the house prefects and a number of other sixth formers who have been very willing to help with organization, and we now look forward to great things in the summer term.

M. J. L.

Kirkham

House Master: Mr. A. R. Baines
House Assistants: Mrs. K. Bagley, Mrs. A. Boll, Mr. J. Nettleship, Mr. J. S. Roberts, Mr. I. M. Scott
House Captain: A. J. Banks
House Vice-Captain: I. W. Marshall
House Prefects: F. P. Attwater, S. R. Benson, D. Butcher, N. Eccles, D. J. Gregg, G. W. Lees, N. T. Rutter, N. Sweet, A. Swift

The beginning of this year saw the departure of Miss C. Rossall from and the arrival of Mr. J. S. Roberts to Kirkham House. On behalf of the House, I would like to wish both of them well.

The Summer term 1977 was one of mixed fortunes for the house for we lost three of our four trophies. However in the senior cricket, thanks to the abilities of Fisher, Timms and Swift, we easily won our two preliminary games and had a nine wicket victory over Lytham House in the final. In the last week of that term the house play readers, under the direction of Miss Rossall and J. Tasker, gave a magnificent performance and deservedly won the competition. After the startling success of the Athletics team in 1976 (which was placed first) we came down to earth and resumed our more usual position of 6th. Only Bridge and Benstead gained first places. The tennis team reached the final beating Lytham House but unfortunately lost to a strong and sober Fylde House. We finished fourth in the shooting but, with our top scorer Manley still with the House, an improvement on this position is likely in 1978.

The Chess team, under the leadership of I. Marshall has beaten Fylde House 13—11.

The play reading competition for 77/78 was brought forward to the Winter term. Performing part of "The Devil's Disciple", by Bernard Shaw, we unfortunately lost the trophy won last year. The Debating team, in opposing the motion, "This House believes that the separation of races is both inevitable and desirable", lost despite the valiant efforts of I. Marshall and Wilde. Both senior and junior rugby sides reached the finals of their respective competitions. The juniors have been aided by the enthusiasm of the first years and the seniors by the goal kicking of A. Wright.

We finished sixth in the Music competition, largely due to penalty points gained for over-running the time allotted but it was still well worth hearing the unique bell-ringing team who performed for us. We quickly went on to win the Swimming Gala by almost 40 points but as yet the three cross-country race results are not to hand. It seems likely that all will have to work hard — as I am sure they will — to achieve even third place in the work cup by the end of the academic year.

A. J. B.

8.7.78 = Summer Fete.

Lytham

Housemaster: Mr. L. A. Redman
House Assistants: Mr. B. F. Taylor, Mr. J. Bradbury, Mr. W. J. Webster, Mrs. A. Kirk/ Mrs. A. Devine
House Captain: J. S. Abraham
House Vice-Captain: P. J. Redman
Senior House Prefects: C. T. Grundy, J. Davidson, S. M. Hames
House Prefects: I. G. D. Blaikie, W. A. Bedford, D. F. Deacon, D. A. Wilmot

During the summer term of '77 the House gained its first two trophies of the year, they were for chess and swimming standard points. The retention of the chess trophy for the fourth year in succession was due mainly to the senior team of Grundy, Davidson Platt and Sawer or Yeadon, who between them didn't lose a game. Thanks must also go to the junior members particularly Bedford and Smith for creditable performances. The swimming points cup has also almost become Lytham's exclusive property in the past three years.

After a bye in the first round, the senior cricket XI secured a place in the final against Kirkham. Despite a valiant innings of 31 runs by Wilmot, our score of 93 runs, all out, did not deter Kirkham from finishing winners. However, a good team performance augers well for the future. The juniors were unlucky to be defeated in the first round and better luck must be hoped for next year.

In the tennis competition, the potentially good junior team was upset by the delaying tactics of Fylde and as a consequence, were eliminated in the first round. The seniors reached the semi-final but were narrowly defeated by Kirkham four sets to five. With the team all remaining at school, hopes must be high for this year's competition.

The shooting is notoriously one of Lytham's weaker events and this was proved the case — our team having no chance to practise.

In the '77 Work Cup we came to a close second to Preston, and pleasantly surprised ourselves, and the other Houses, by coming second on Sports Day. This was due to an excellent all-round effort particularly by Taylor and Bigland who won the intermediate and junior sections respectively.

The winter term was a little disappointing, particularly the rugby. The juniors were beaten 4—10 by a large School team — credit going to Bigland and Walmsley (Capt.) and first years Sharmann, Bolton and Critchley. In the seniors, the score in the semi-final was 3—12 in Ashton's favour, their first and second XV backs eventually proving too much for us.

The final of last year's debating was held against Ashton and although excellent speeches by Davidson and Cross kept the result in doubt to the end, the verdict went in Ashton's favour. Once more our team, now Wilmot and Cross, had to face Ashton in the first round of this year's competition and once more Ashton narrowly won.

Winning the Music Cup for the second year in succession calls for thanks to Blaikie who once more organised the excellent choir. The other two items

were also commendable particularly the violin solo by Boyes in which his virtuoso talents showed through again.

I take this opportunity to welcome Mrs. Devine into the House as an assistant and to say farewell to Mrs. Kirk. We wish her luck for the future.

In conclusion, although only three Cups have been won outright, we have been runner-up in three others. I would like to thank all organisers, Prefects and Staff for their hard work and wish the House all the best for the years to come.

J. S. A.

Preston

Housemaster: Mr. T. Jackman
House Assistants: Mr. J. Catterall, Mr. I. R. Beckett, Mr. F. W. Sayer, Mr. R. Porter
House Captain: R. M. Gascoigne

The last year has seen another series of poor Preston House performances with teams being eliminated from most of the competitions in the first round or finishing in low positions. There have, however been many notable efforts by members of the House. In the first round of the Junior Cricket against Lytham, Preston batted first and reached the surprising score of 114 or 0. I. Sharples and M. Lewis scoring 57 and 43 respectively. Our opponents were all out for a mere 19, but the team was unfortunately beaten in the next round.

Although the House finished a disappointing fourth in the Music Competition, two of the items were chosen to appear in the Concert. These were a trumpet solo by M. Lewis (4Y) and a violin solo by J. Spereall (L6) who played a minuet by Fritz Kreisler. The latter scored the highest mark in the Competition and was highly praised by the adjudicator.

In the Junior Cross Country we failed by only one point to regain the Trophy. Our greatest triumph of the year was in the Work Cup, a competition which is perhaps the most important; not only because it reflects academic ability, but also because all members of the House contribute to the overall result.

Finally, with Preston House once again commanding a strong lead in the Work Cup, I hope that the enthusiasm shown by a few individuals will be matched by the efforts of the House as a whole.

R. M. G.

School

House Master: Mr. R. M. Clarkson
House Assistants: Mr. S. C. Crook, Mr. R. J. Watson
House Captain: S. A. I. Watkin
House Vice-Captain: G. J. Spencer
House Prefects: J. R. S. Calland, P. R. Hill, D. P. Hold

The beginning of the academic year saw fourteen new first years arrive. Some have still to reveal their hidden talents, but several are proving their worth to the House and are regular members of the School junior rugby teams.

The senior section of the House has had a fine year. We won back the Shooting Trophy, with J. R.S. Calland scoring a remarkable 115 (out of 120) to end up with the highest individual score. Sunday cross-country practices paid off, with the seniors easily winning their trophy, but the intermediates just failed to clinch victory. We came fourth overall in the Athletics, but won the Athletics Standards Trophy due to the good efforts of all the athletes throughout the summer. The juniors put up a fine performance to win the Junior Tennis Trophy, under the supervision of G. Lee.

Unfortunately we lost "our" Gym Cup by two points, due to injuries to team members, but I. Langrish gave a fine display to win the individual trophy. This year's Rugby Competition saw the senior team beat the favourites, Preston, in a hard fought match, but lose to Kirkham in the semi-final. The junior team lost to Kirkham in the semi-final, but C. McCreadie deserves a mention for the outstanding effort he put into the games.

The House is strongly represented in School activities. For example, ten out of thirteen sixth formers regularly play for the School in various activities.

Under the guidance of M. Thackwray, we were narrowly defeated by 1 point in the Music Competition by Lytham, but managed to have two items in the School Concert. We look forward to the final of the Debating Competition against Ashton, with M. J. Grime and J. St. J. Wilkes representing the House.

Academically, the greatest success the House has had this year was when A. D. Cocker was awarded a place at Oxford University. We all wish him the best of luck in his future studies.

Finally, we all hope G. J. Stewart is doing well at his new school and that he will not forget his years here.

My thanks must go to Mr. Clarkson, and to Mr. Crook, for the effort they put into running the House, and to the house prefects for their help.

S. A. I. W.

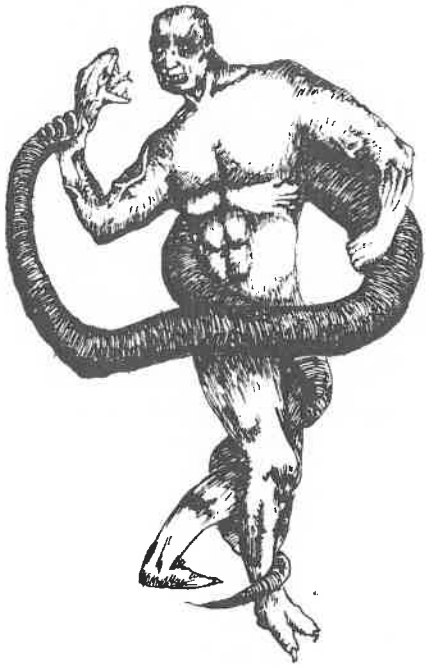
Do be kind, keep it in mind — the Summer Fete.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Hero

"He died with honour," they solemnly said.
"He died courageously," they said.
He faced the reaper in his comrades' stead,
He faced the reaper and now he's dead.
"But cry not, Madam," they blithely said,
"Your son's a hero, and though he's dead,
We've got a medal, plated gold,
And though he's dead, we hope you'll hold
This medal dear. It should comfort you
Till death's dread grip shall seize you too,
For through your life," they kindly said,
"It will remind you that, though he's dead,
He died with honour." Let no-one say
His life was futile, with death came pay.
But I saw her cry and it was not pride
That stirred those tears, and as she cried
She said, "honour", and laughed, tears on her face,
"I'd give all my honour, and die with good grace
To see the boy I used to hold
Before those grandiose posters told
Of money to spend, adventure and glory
Riding to fame, like a knight in a story.
No mention of death, and filth and fear,
Come to the war and be home by next year!
With medals and tales to tell wide-eyed women,
Don't mention the slaughter and hunger and famine."
And in ten year's time his young son will say,
"Was daddy a hero? I will be some day,"
But mother will sigh, for she knows it's true,
Cowards grow old, but heroes die soon,
And though they say the war is won,
"We've lost," she cried, "the cause is gone."

S. Longworth, LVIArts



C. Edensor, 4Y

Thought

A thought is like a dream,
It is but in the mind.
It can be any size,
And can be any kind.

A thought is like a maze,
It never, never ends.
When one thinks it's finished,
It turns another bend.

A thought can be quite good,
It also can be bad,
A thought can be quite happy,
And sometimes be quite sad.

A thought can lift a fork,
It also drops a knife.
A thought can save a person,
And it can lose a life.

A. J. Davies, IX

Holocaust

The barren, dead desert erupts into a glowing, living
ball of fire.
The flaming mushroom cloud roars and rears skyward,
Like a great billowing brain full of malice and evil
intent.

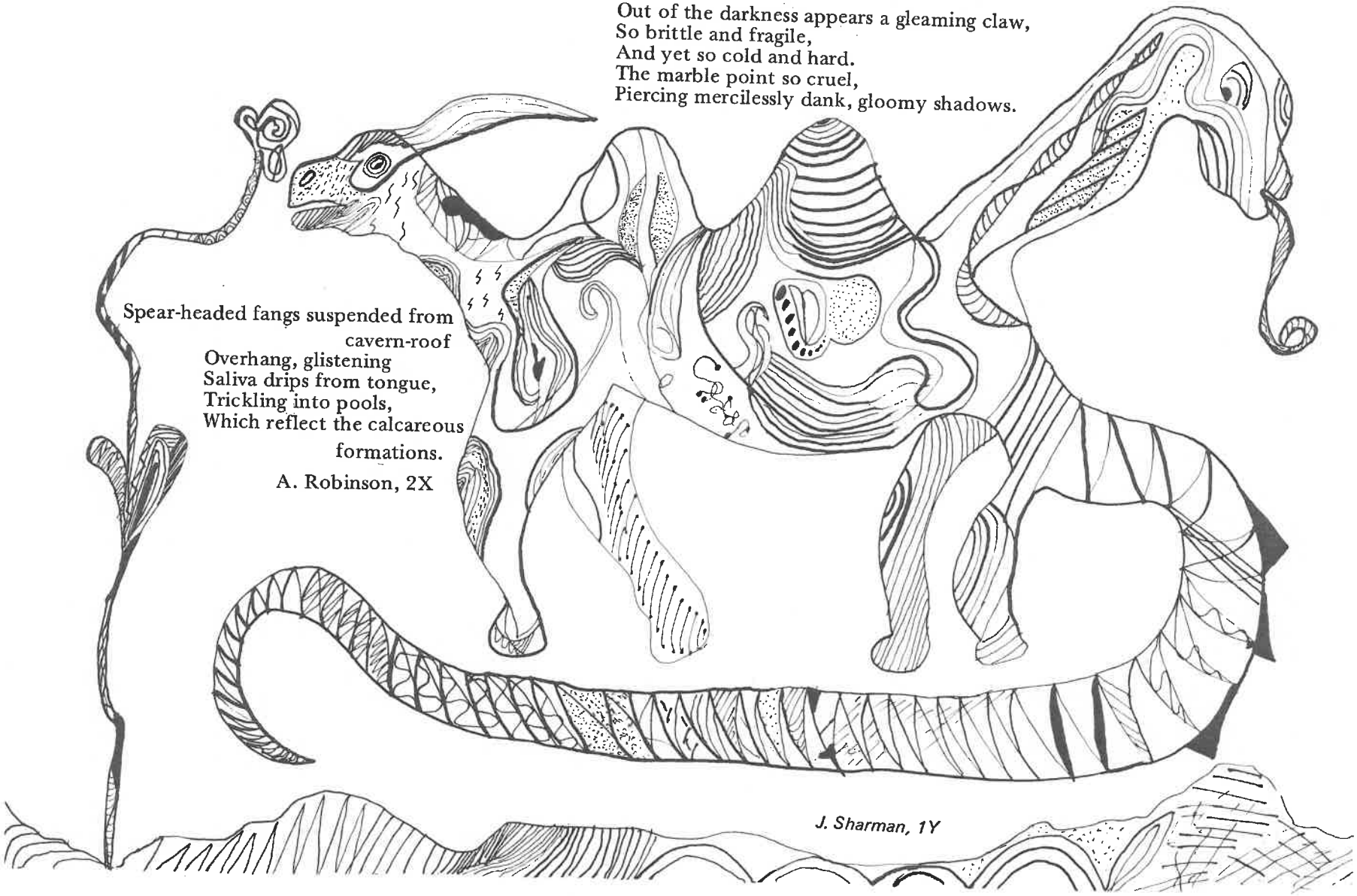
Our sun is dimmed by a light a thousand times
stronger.
The watcher dies, blinded and bemused, as savage
winds tear at his body.

All around burns and disintegrates to grey ash,
Destroyed by that which none can stand against.
The whole earth shall turn to ash,
Killed by fire, by man's doom: the atom bomb.

I. Bellingham, 2X

Stalactites and Stalagmites

Out of the darkness appears a gleaming claw,
So brittle and fragile,
And yet so cold and hard.
The marble point so cruel,
Piercing mercilessly dank, gloomy shadows.



Spear-headed fangs suspended from
cavern-roof
Overhang, glistening
Saliva drips from tongue,
Trickling into pools,
Which reflect the calcareous
formations.

A. Robinson, 2X

J. Sharman, 1Y

N. Percy, 1Y

The Football Match

The morning showers have held off,
And the afternoon is clear.
As the teams run out onto the pitch,
The fans begin to cheer.

The captains toss the penny up,
And decide to change their ends.
The whistle blows, the game begins,
And the supporters cheer their friends.

The actions fast from end to end,
Our goalie makes a dive.
With fingertips he saved us then,
And kept our hopes alive.

It's half time now and still nil all,
We sink onto the floor,
Our manager says "Come on lads."
One of you must score.

It's over now and their teams won,
We enjoyed it just the same.
Cause it's not the way you win,
It's the way you play the game.

David Brookes, 1X

The Big Match

The crowd were waiting very patiently,
The players were coming out,
At three, the ref. blew the whistle,
The match started with an enormous shout.

The game got rough,
The red card came out,
The centre forward was sent off,
The crowd began to shout.

Still the game was rough and hard
The score was nil-nil.
Then suddenly there was a goal,
This was the kill.

At the end the best team won,
Liverpool won the game,
The other team walked off the pitch
Feeling the tremendous shame.

The ground was empty,
Rubbish all over the place,
You should have seen the frown,
On the groundsman's face.

Robin Jobson, 1X

Wetheral

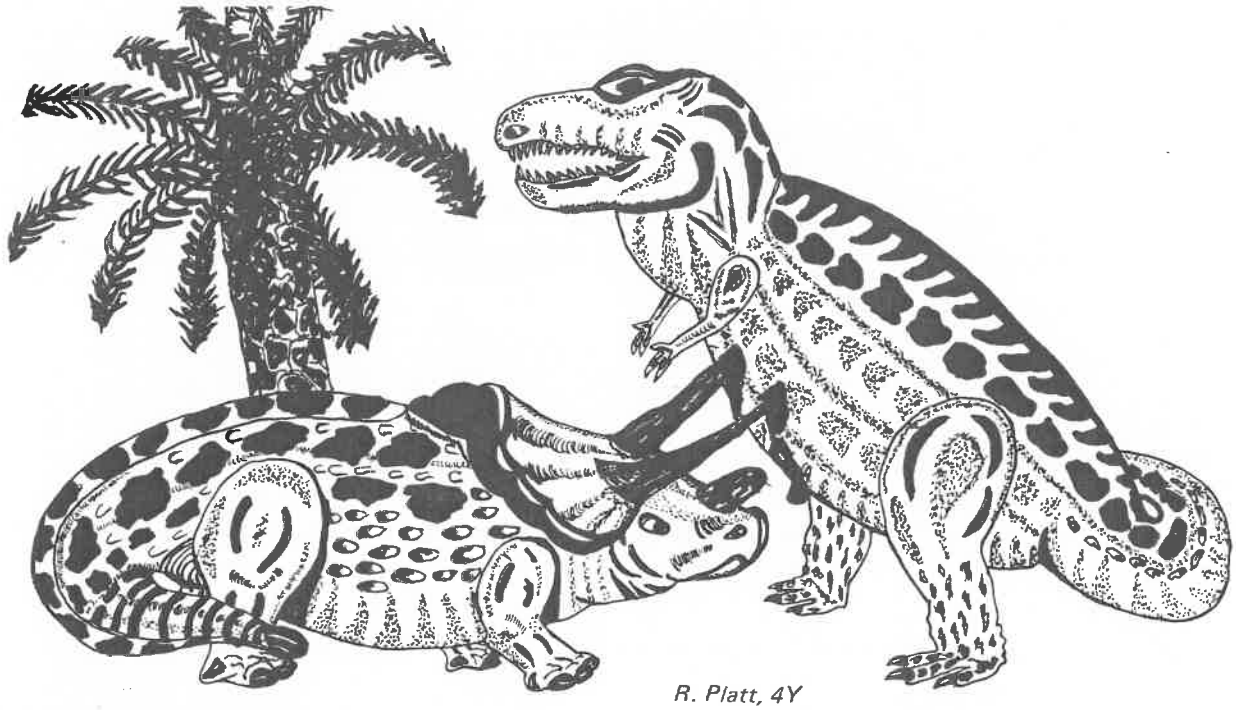
Wetheral is a village
Where I have often been
It only has one shop, two
Pubs and a village green.

My gran she lives in Wetheral,
Quite near the village school,
But soon they will be closing it,
It is a council rule.

And then the village children
To Scotby school must go,
It isn't really very far
Just a mile or so.

The River Eden flows nearby
With trees on either side,
In Autumn it is beautiful
Just like a colour slide . . . . . .

David Littleton, 1X



R. Platt, 4Y

The Seafront

I licked my lips and tasted the bitterness of the saltwater. This is what attracts them, I thought. A jibbering mass of day-trippers, bubbling with mischief and malevolence, would, on every hot, sticky summer day, hold their 'tea-party' in Blackpool. They would plant themselves in rented deck-chairs and send forth their dynamic offspring to continue the work. They would work together as an efficient team; soiling the pavements and sands with empty cans and sticky paper, kicking railings and fingering their 'verbal art' over the steamed cafe windows. Then, at night, elders and offspring alike would meet their match in the form of those flashing, whirring, greedy amusements.

The sly 'one-armed bandit' would stand in the corner, and, showing off its 'goods' in the forms of lemons, cucumbers, cherries and apples, somewhat copying the form of a crude prostitute, would entice the family over. Then, with a quick turn of the lemons on the two outer wheels, and the slow, agonising spin of the fruits and the vegetables on the middle wheel, the devious machine would steal another few 'coppers' from the boggling family.

Outside, 'Bert's Hamburger Stall' would come to rest and dead meat with a coating of fat would be dished out to the self-indulgent throng. The 'fish and chip' shops would come to life at night, especially the dirty, back-street places, where the fat was stale and the table-tops dirty, and the morsels of food were wrapped up in last year's news.

So different, I thought, from now. Now the place was deserted and the shops were bare and the gaily-coloured shop hoods were retracted. The resort of Blackpool was convalescing. The vending machines were padlocked and the horse-drawn carts in for repair. The clowns and giants were disappearing from the sky, as men from the Council came round in wagons. The gutters were full, extracting the last gaudy remnants of the summer season. Up ahead though, the air was still fresh and the salt sea bitter. They, alone, had won the battle. The raucous gulls wheeled in the sky like knives, threatening the rest of the world away. And the sea groaned. But it was a groan of satisfaction; a comment on its own immensity and strength.

There was another groan and my hair was once again salted.

I looked round, and thought. I thought deeply. Blackpool was on the mend. But, as I thought, my attitude changed. My patriotism faltered and my resentment grew. I looked round again. Was Blackpool really the better for the rest? The streets were now dull and bare and the ground was devoid of litter, and the town of thugs. My face tightened as I realised my misguided thoughts. Blackpool was not improved by clean streets and parks and fresh air and food. The two were like scissors and paper. Blackpool was not renewed and invigorated by the rest, it was simply depressed and forlorn. It was like a wizard with its wand taken away.

Blackpool was simply a coarse, dirty town, which revelled in the vulgarities which it attracted. Where would the sea-front shops be without the brightly coloured postcards with various exaggerated shapes of bottoms and breasts? How would the town be able to trade if it were not for the oily food and tepid beer? Where would the glamour, excitement and zest of the town be without the "Let's have a dirty weekend in Blackpool" title?

No, I thought, I should not be feeling happy that the day-trippers have gone; I should be feeling sorry for the town. The cheap town and vulgar people belong to each other, they function together, they live symbiotically, and, in their own strange ways each benefits by the other's existence: to deprive one of the other would be like depriving a baby of its milk.

John Hebden, 5Y

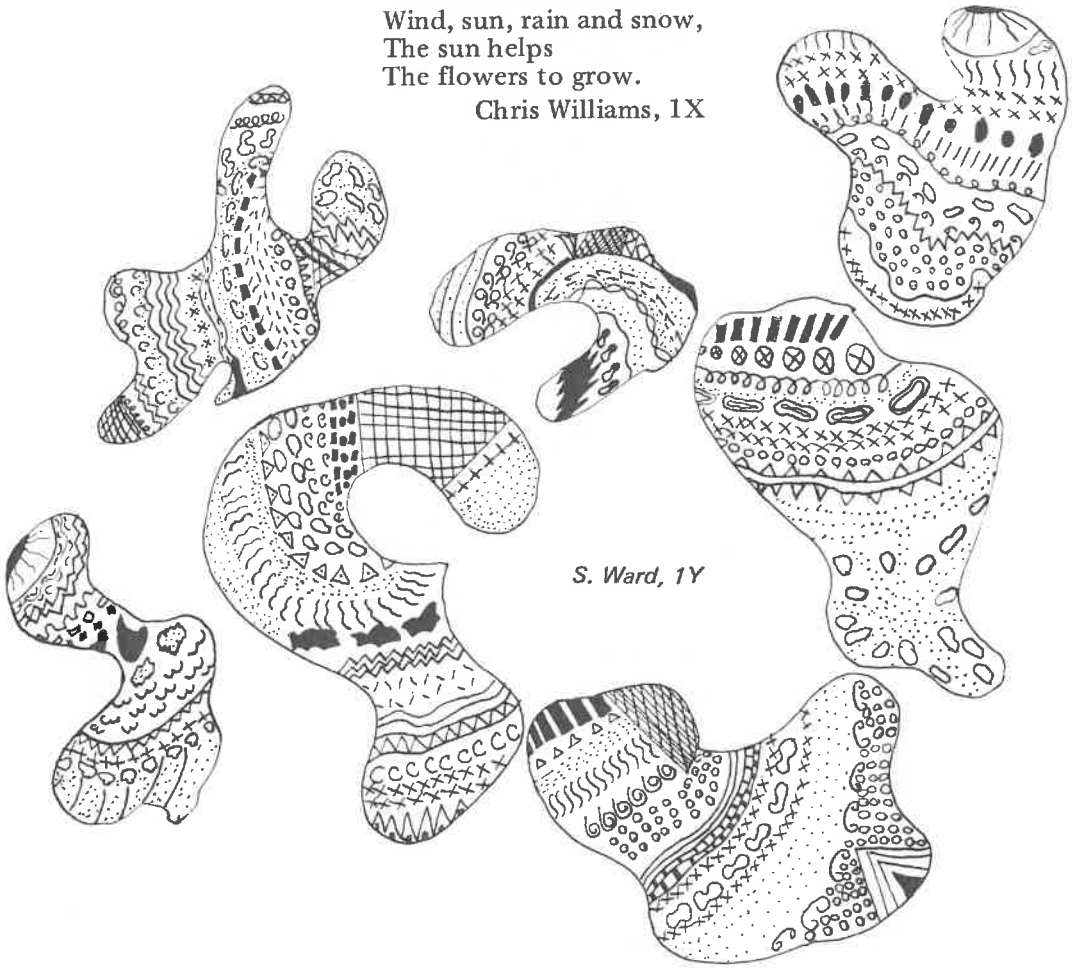
The Weather

Snow, wind, sun and rain,
Day after day,
Again, again and again.

Snow, wind, sun and rain,
The rain's pattering
On the window pane.

Wind, sun, rain and snow,
The sun helps
The flowers to grow.

Chris Williams, 1X



S. Ward, 1Y

My School

Five days a week I go to school,
Where working hard remains the rule.
My head is filled with thoughts anew,
From Latin and French, I quote a few.

In English, I struggle for words to tell,
But if a job's worth doing it's worth doing well,
That's good advice for boys who are bright,
But I need a dictionary always in sight.

At least some afternoons we have a break,
When to the playing fields we take.
Returning home, heads bowed low,
Covered in mud from head to toe.

A shower and tea, and then T.V.,
But again tonight it's homework for me,
And so it goes from day to day,
The truth, I fear, is that school's here to stay.

R. J. Ward, 1X

Democracy?

What do you want me to say, Sir?
My knowledge is all second-hand,
You shaped my mind, my thoughts are yours,
Well-tuned, but drowned by the band,
And father you want me to grow up
To be a responsible man,
But when I try to escape from your dream
I'm selfish, my life is all planned.

But what do I tell my children,
When they ask me to say what I think?
Do I say what I think; or what I should,
Do I teach them to shout or to sing?
When I die will their minds at last be free,
Or just pictures of you and me?

S. Longworth, LVISc

The Modern Man who Changed his Mind

Karl Stephenson was dead.

At least he thought he was dead. His car had spun off the edge of a cliff. He had seen the rocky ground rush up at him; He had felt the unbearable agony wash over his body. Then nothing, just a darkness, a black silence which seemed to his tortured mind to be more painful than the instant of his death. If he was in fact dead.

The reason for his nagging doubt was the very fact that he could reason. Karl had always thought that death would be nothing, just an impenetrable nothing. Instead he was . . . For some reason he didn't know in what position he was. He couldn't feel anything, not even the sweat cascading down over his face. It was all wrong: it could not be like this. Karl went through the actions of screaming, but he didn't feel his jaw move. Then a light, far away, out before him, burst through his desperation and flooded his nervous system with a flow of sensual stimuli that stung and tore at his already worn body.

The light gave him reference points that produced vertigo on such a scale that he vomited until his stomach contained only the substance of the limbo he occupied. The light brightened and advanced on the man till he had to close his eyes if he was to maintain his sight. With time the light became so bright that he could see through his eyelids. The light took on a purple hue and began to scintillate as thousands of brilliant silver specks shot through it. As Karl watched an awesome form began to coalesce out of the brightness which by now occupied the whole of the man's conscious.

The thing that grew out of the light began to change colour, the whole spectrum of radiant light sped across the body which was taking a definite shape. The body was humanoid, but of massive proportions. The strange feature of the giant being that dwelt in the light was the head. It was glazed over so that no features could be seen and out of the head shot flames of bright orange. Where the eyebrows would be in an ordinary person, originated twin beams of light that flowed through the ether until the end of time. An incredible fit of trembling seized the human's body as it lay insignificant at the feet of the giant. The human stayed as he was for a time that lasted for over three seconds, then the mighty giant spoke:

"Cease."

The voice was gentle, but loud and it reverberated through the man's body, sweeping away the anxiety and pain of the ordeal until the human felt replenished and strong as he had never before.

"Right yourself, child," spoke the universe, and the human rose to his feet.

"You have risen to your rightful place, so be proud."

The man was suddenly fit and upright. He felt glad and high as if he too was endowed with a bright and shining body.

"Human, you shall be clothed in what you deem right".

He sensed his skin being gently touched and when he looked down he saw that he was covered in a tight green velvet suit.

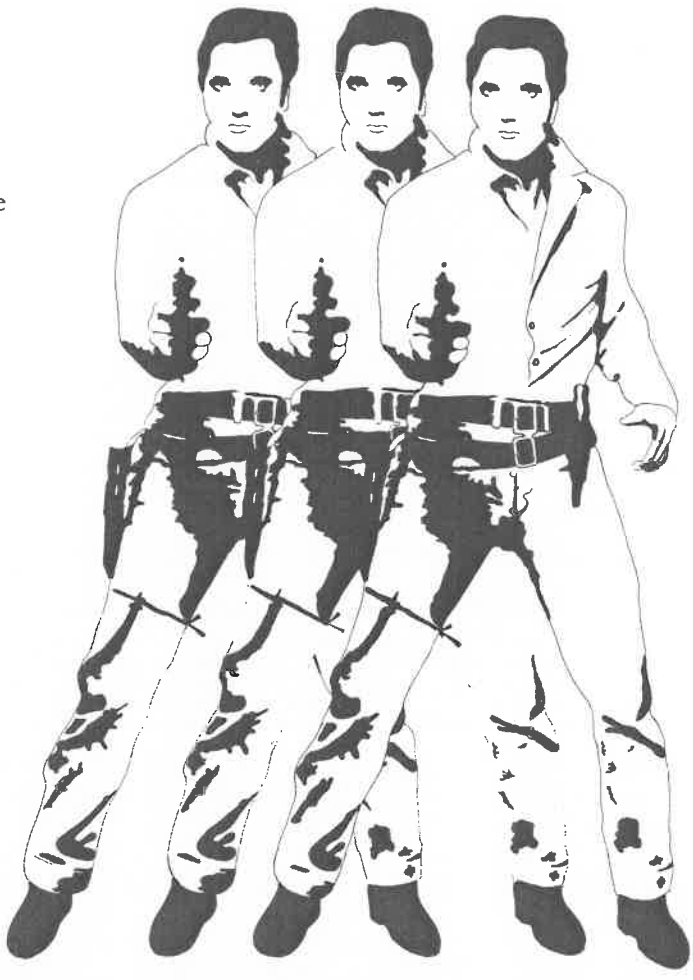
"Karl Stephenson, you are now at your highest post, you may make of it what you like; you may speak when you feel it is appropriate; you shall be as one in the minds of others and as such shall consider all others as one with you. Go into a world you have made for yourself and of yourself."

The almighty began to fade. The new man itched all over with a desire for knowledge. So he used the second of his powers.

"Who are you?" he asked.

"I Am", came the fading reply.

G. Lees UVISc



S. Gardiner, L6

SOCIETY REPORTS

Auto Society

Chairman: Mr. D. H. Butterworth
Secretary: C. J. Gornall
Treasurer: G. P. Knowles

This has been a rather disappointing year for the Auto Society. Numerous schemes have been proposed by committee members, but apart from starting a subscription for the weekly newspaper "Motorcycle News", very little has taken place due to the lack of interest shown by other members of the school, especially those in the 6th Form who could benefit most from this society's activities.

It is hoped that next year's committee will have more success and co-operation, for otherwise the future of the Auto Society looks bleak.

C.J.G./G.P.K.

Chess Club

Chairman: Mr. J. Bradbury
Secretary: M. H. Platt
Treasurer: J. M. Sawer

Once again Lytham won the House competition making it three in a row, and could again be winners this year. The individual Junior Champion was J. Curtis and the Senior Champion was A. Cocker.

The school team had quite a successful 76—77 season, winning three matches and drawing a further three, but the loss of five regular team members this year has resulted in a young inexperienced team fighting hard against much older and more experienced teams. There have been good performances from J. Sawer, N. Williams, M. Brackfield, S. Yeadon, P. Currie and Mr. Nettleship. The experience gained this year will no doubt stand the team in good stead for the future.

M.H.P.

Debating Society

Chairman: Mr. R. J. Watson
Secretary: P. Andrew

The activities of the Debating Society during the past year have been almost wholly restricted to the Inter-House Competition. This seems to be due to the reluctance of the senior school to stand up in public and impart their wit and wisdom to the rest of the school. One can only confess to some surprise at this when one considers the "witty" remarks that emanate from the floor of the House during debates.

The 1976—1977 competition was won by Ashton House who defeated Lytham. In the 1977—1978 competition Ashton have again reached the final, but this time it is School against whom they must pit their rhetorical talents.

The quality of the debates has varied and sometimes there has been the desire for "More matter with less art!" It is also my pleasure to give the annual award for "Blunder of the Year". The prize is a gold-plated dummy which can be inserted into the recipient's mouth to prevent any such future disasters. This year the prize goes to I. Marshall, whose assertion that a Russian shot-putter was no different from a Paris fashion girl left the audience, well . . . . stunned!

Thanks to Mr. Watson for patiently adjudicating our debates.

P.A.

Dramatic Society

Chairman: Mrs. A. G. Boll
Secretary: P. Andrew
Treasurer: Mr. G. S. Cheesbrough

Anyone who was lucky enough to see the plays presented by the junior and senior sections of the Dramatic Society in the Summer Term of 1977, cannot help but agree with the verdict that this past year has been an extremely successful one for the Society.

Thespis himself would have been proud of the manner in which the juniors presented "Julius and the Bront". Their acting was confident and reached such a good standard that it was often hard to remember that for many this was their first venture onto the stage.

The senior production, a Victorian melodrama "Hiss the Villain", was also performed to a high standard and was well received by the audience on both the nights it was presented. That the prompter's services were not needed once is indicative of the standard of the acting of both the juniors and the seniors and I feel sure this is a record that even the Royal Shakespeare Company would be proud of.

Despite all the hard work and anxiety during rehearsals, there were, nevertheless, many light moments. Who involved can forget Mrs. Boll's hysterics, the Secretary's missed cue (followed by "Can we take that again please?") Whan's consumption of the 'roasted chestnuts' during rehearsal or Gibson's party trick to shock us all, which consisted of snarling a pistol in the depths of his artificial beard on the opening night?

It is hoped that the Dramatic Society can follow up its undoubted success of last year when it presents "The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew" by Robert Bolt in the Summer Term of 1978.

Finally, my thanks go to Mrs. Boll who endured little short of fire, flood and famine to present last year's plays and indeed to all whose help made those productions possible. I know I speak for all who appeared on stage when I say that it was an enjoyable and extremely rewarding experience.

P.A.

Electronics Society

Chairman: Mr. L. A. Redman
Secretary/Treasurer: A. J. Banks

This year has been a hectic one for the electronics society with many varied projects being built. Several

supposedly " . . . simple and easy to build . . ." metal detectors have been built and are now working.

The beginning of the year saw the influx of many new members who, for their first project, built a simple flashing light or a "Heads and Tails" game. It is good to see so much interest in the junior forms, but it would also be nice to see more senior boys at the meetings to help with construction.

Next year the society will progress under the guidance of S.T. Stokes as the new secretary. We hope that many of the more experienced members will commence building more complex and interesting projects.

A.J.B.

Fell Walking Club

In the year 1976/7 there were 5 fell-walks, in 1977/8 there were 8. Such is increasing popularity of the club.

On March 20th last year eighteen of us should have set out for the Lake District, but, due to someone forgetting to alter his clock, only seventeen went. Our walk was to The Old Man of Coniston. We stopped at The Pudding Stone – a large boulder about twenty feet high – for lunch and the more adventurous members climbed it. We then went on to the summit and had a pleasant stroll back to Coniston.

On April 3rd we held a special walk for juniors. We went to Malham. The walk involved a climb up the waterfall at Gordale Scar – a breathtaking sight for those who had never seen it before. On the way to Malham Tarn it started to snow! Our lunch was a cold, hasty one while the snow descended. Our return journey to Malham Cove was marred by the thick mud, which proved the need for good footwear – which some did not possess.

On May 15th twenty people went to Yorkshire to sample part of the Pennine Way. We walked from Malham Tarn via Fountains Fell and Pen-y-Ghent to Horton, a long, hard walk. The weather started off with brilliant sunshine, but ended in pouring rain. It was good to see so many people enjoying themselves in spite of the rain.

On July 3rd the club broke new ground, we had a joint walk with Elmslie Girls School. Thirty-five people made an assault on Helvellyn, the second highest mountain in England. The weather was good, but on the highest part of the walk – on Striding Edge – there was a thick mist which obscured the view (and probably stopped some people being too scared!!)

On October 2nd the club was inspired by magnificent weather, so much so that we walked fourteen miles with apparent ease – a few didn't!! We walked round the Fairfield Horseshoe, from Ambleside and returned via Rydal. The sixteen members had a marvellous day and it proved to be a fine welcome to our new members.

On October 23rd we ascended Bowfell via the tortuous Rossett Gill. Sixteen people went on an interesting walk, in wet, windy weather. The highlight of the day was watching the failure of Brookes and Collett, trying to cook Irish Stew for their lunch!! They had to eat it cold, but said they enjoyed it!

On November 13th the club visited the Access Strip Wardstone – in the Bowland Region. This was a tremendous walk, the weather was sunny and there was snow underfoot. From the top the views were superb, right over the Yorkshire Dales, up to the Lake District and over Morecambe Bay – where the extensive flooding, due to the high tides of the previous few days, could be seen.

On December 11th the club walked up Tarn Crag, via Easedale. Fourteen people went and got soaked!! The weather was disgusting! We had to wade through streams and jump across bogs or, as in Mr. Nettleship's case, jump in them!

On February 12th we should have been in the Lake District, but due to the fact that our staff members could not be present – for one reason or another – we had to cancel the walk. A good job we did because that Sunday was the day that many people were killed or injured in the Lakes.

A good year as far as all in the club were concerned. It was nice to see the adventurous girls who came along with us and brightened up some of the walks. Our thanks to Mr. Collett for the loan of his landrover on several occasions, and to Dr. Summers, Mr. Nettleship and Mr. Taylor for their inspiration, driving and entertainment!

P. Brookes, LVISc.

Fencing Club

President: F. W. Sayer, Esq.
Captain: T. M. Waite

The Club has a plethora of junior fencers, some of whom show considerable ability, but at the senior level it is not so well provided for. Good performances have been returned by Waite and Barker in the Liverpool Beginners Tournament, they being placed fourth and fifth in the final. There is much promise for the future if the juniors continue to train and work at technique: good results at this sport take a long time to achieve.

F.W.S.

Summer Fete on July 8th.

Film Society

A record membership of 240 and a decision to spend much of the accrued profits on a giant Cinemascope screen, a new twin-speaker sound system and a second set of Panavision lenses has made this year the most successful in our five year history. The Sunday shows continue to attract many guests especially parents. We hope that they enjoy the films and that they will continue with their support.

In the winter term we showed 'The Odessa File', 'Wait until Dark', 'Cat Ballou' and 'The Man who would be king'. The New Year was heralded in with 'Murder by Death' and 'Gumball Rally' and we have since screened 'The Outlaw Josey Wales' in which a fault in loading the second projector caused the only blank moment on the screen this year. With the epic,

'Towering Inferno' still to come we have high hopes for a record profit this year.

My thanks to G. J. Stewart who took on the task of secretary for the winter term but unfortunately had to leave the School at Christmas. My thanks also to Mr. Webster who projects all the films and works very hard for our fantastic success.

I. M. Langrish, *Secretary*

Geographical Society

Chairman: Mr. I. M. Scott
Secretary: W. A. Bedford
Treasurer: A. N. Kirkham
Committee: G. J. Spencer, J. R. S. Calland, M. Thackwray and G. J. Stewart

This year on the whole has been reasonably successful, especially with regard to the showing of films. Three films were shown during the Summer Term, three in the Autumn term and a further two this last term – all were well attended. All the films were educational with such topics as "Bottle Manufacture", "Pollution" and "Oil production".

Unfortunately after the Christmas break we lost one of our committee members, G. J. Stewart who was unable to return to school due to illness.

The Secretary now is M. R. Thackwray and the Treasurer G. C. Ward.

S.A.B.

Library

Chairman: Mr. R. J. Watson
Secretary: P. Andrew
Treasurer: J. T. Spencer

Even in these austere times the Library has continued to flourish, with many new books finding their way onto the shelves, particularly in the Senior Fiction section.

Most members of the school take advantage of the facilities that the Library offers, the good turnover in the Junior Fiction section being particularly encouraging.

Despite the high degree of literacy that the above suggests (and the presence of the ironically long "Shorter Oxford Dictionary" in the Library) many members of the school still have difficulty in comprehending the meaning of the word "silence". The sooner this is achieved the better, especially for those in the school who do possess a genuine desire to work in peace and quiet.

Thanks to Mr. Watson and the indefatigable librarians for all their hard work.

P.A.

School Play: 'The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew' by Robert Bolt – Tuesday and Wednesday, 11th and 12th July.

W. Bedford, U6

The main event of the 1976 Summer Term was the annual Founder's Day service which included two ambitious and very successful anthems, 'Insanae et vanae curae' by J. Haydn and 'O Come ye Servants' by C. Tye, the renderings of which were beyond any criticism. Also very successful was the music for the congregation, Vaughan Williams's version of the 'Old Hundredth' and G. Jacob's arrangement of the National Anthem with trumpet fanfares played by A. N. Kirkham, M. S. Lewis and S. P. Collins, were outstanding.

Over the summer holidays it was encouraging to see Alan Skirrow, a former secretary of the music society, being interviewed on television following his success as one of the country's most promising young theatre organists.

The next item on the year's agenda was the Carol Service which maintained the high standard to which we have become accustomed, its popularity was shown by the fact that the church was full to capacity. The standard was so high this year that consideration was given to making a record of the choir. The patients of Wesham Park Hospital also enjoyed their yearly visit from a group of carol singers.

The House Music Competition proved very entertaining this year, and although the overall standard was maybe not as high as expected, there were several notable performances by individuals. The violin performances of both R. M. Boyes and J. A. Spereall stood out amongst these and a highly accomplished performance on handbells by the senior boys of Kirkham House added a novel touch to the events.

The results after the very strongly fought competition were:– 1st – Lytham; 2nd – School; 3rd – Fylde; 4th – Preston; 5th – Ashton; 6th – Kirkham.

The best items from the House Music Competition were selected for this year's Easter Concert which was the most enjoyable for many years. This year the choir, which now accounts for one third of the boys in the school, sang an international selection of songs, all of which had been conscientiously rehearsed and I'm sure everybody had their own particular favourite. The junior choir, the madrigal group and the fast-growing orchestra all contributed to very enjoyable Friday and Saturday evenings, both of which were well attended. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. W. J. Webster for all his valuable assistance, without which rehearsals and the concert itself, could not have taken place.

Meanwhile, enthusiasm for music-making in the school is an ever-increasing trend. This is especially encouraging at the junior end of the school where the seeds for a very promising future are being sown. In addition to the already wide range of instrumental classes, several boys now take lessons from Mrs. B. Taylor, our new violin teacher, and piano lessons from Miss A. S. Gregory.

Also there are several boys in the school orchestra who regularly attend the Poulton Music Centre and play in the Lancashire Schools Orchestra. Roger Boyes having also gained a place at the Royal Northern College of Music's junior school.

Overall, this year's programme has not only been a very successful and enjoyable one, it has also started to reflect the true musical ability which people have put so much effort into achieving. I hope, and I'm sure Mr. Catterall does, that this enthusiasm will continue and that the musical future of the school is brighter now than ever before.

I.G.D. (Secretary)

Natural History Society

Chairman: Mr. A. R. Baines
Secretary: A. S. Gregson
Treasurer: B. J. Watson
Committee: G. R. Derbyshire, K. G. J. Frodsham, P. N. K. Frodsham, D. C. Machereth, N. Parkinson.

Whilst perhaps not ranging "From Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand", our programme over the past year has shown a fair spread of the interests of members. It is pleasing to note the number of new boys who have come to and contributed at our meetings so regularly.

Our film programme was "The Geological effects of Ice" and "The Use of Water in Biology". Talks, illustrated with colour slides, were given by the Chairman on "Poisonous Plants" and by E. J. Waite (1Y) on "Leighton Moss". Other individuals lead successful discussions on "Man's best Friend" (J. A. Gregson (1X); "Butterflies and Moths" (B. J. Watson (3Y)); "Birds of the South Atlantic" (K. G. J. Frodsham (3Y)); "Birds of Prey" (A. S. Gregson (4Y)).

Whilst a visit in connection with "Greenhouse Management" was overlooked by too many, seven senior boys did attend the annual guest lecture at the Preston Post-Graduate Medical Centre in December. The intriguing title this year was "The Captain of the Men of Death – His History and Imminent Death". Three other seniors attended a Marine Biology Course at Knott End in July 1977 and account for themselves elsewhere in this issue.

Finally the Committee provided a book exhibition, a challenge quiz and a "What Do You Know?" panel.

My thanks to all officials – particularly publicist G. R. Derbyshire (4Y) – and members for a very worthwhile year.

A.R.B.

Scientific Society

The society has been relatively successful during this year. A large number of films have been shown to variable audiences at lunchtimes. The topics of the films have been wide ranging, covering 'A' level work – 'Electromagnetic Induction' – and general subjects which have appealed to all e.g. 'Chromatography'.

We are due to go on a day's visit to the atomic power station at Calder Hall on July 11th and hope that this visit will be both informative and enjoyable. (Last year's visit to Whitbread's Brewery at Samlesbury was certainly both those things!!)

We would like to thank Dr. Summers for his efforts on behalf of the society.

P. Barton, UVISc

6th Form Society

Once again Mr. Clarkson's promise of a visit to the Sixth-Form Society by Les Dawson was successful if only in ensuring the rapid payment of subscriptions by a largely unsuspecting Lower Sixth. However, Mr. Dawson remains elusive and the School remains doubtful of Mr. Clarkson's faith in him.

For the rest of the year the Sixth-Formers were entertained by informative lectures on a variety of subjects ranging from Oceanography to University Admissions. In the Public Speaking Competition Jonathan Tasker eventually emerged as the winner following an amusing speech in the final round.

The highlight of the year's events was a lecture entitled "Son et Lumiere", a demonstration of chemical reactions and experiments. The title was perhaps unfortunate because the sound of one of the numerous explosions was responsible for breaking several of the lights in the Hall; an occurrence which resulted in Dr. Summers rushing around, nervously clutching a fire-extinguisher.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Clarkson for his tireless efforts and tolerance in attempting to entertain a largely unappreciative audience every Friday afternoon.

R. Gascoigne

Wargames Society

Joint-Chairmen: Mr. R. J. Watson and Mr. R. M. Clarkson
Secretary: M. H. Platt
Treasurer: I. Marshall

There continues to be increased interest in our society and different Wargames frequently take place on Saturdays in the School Library.

Once again in November 1977 a visit to the Northern Militaire exhibition at Swinton was a great success and our thanks must go to Mr. Nettleship for giving up his usual Sunday activities to take us in the school minibus. It is hoped to go again this year so book early to avoid being disappointed.

For the first time we demonstrated our Wargames at the Spring Fair and it proved such a success that we hope to repeat it next year.

M.H.P.

SCHOOL SPORTS

Athletics

The Senior team was very weak this year, being placed last in the Inter-Grammar School Athletics Competition, when many athletes performed below their expected level of performance. The team relied too heavily on the Captain, Whiteside, Leyland and Kirkham and if these athletes were off form then the overall team performance suffered greatly. Whiteside showed his true ability on Sports Day when he won the 110 metre hurdles in 15.4 seconds. The team could perform well, and did so in the match v Stonyhurst and Lancaster, beating Stonyhurst and being narrowly beaten by a very strong Lancaster side. The team should be much stronger next season, when better results should ensue from a determined effort.

The Fifth Year team has been strong although weakened by the unfortunate injury to Wright. Williams D. and Gilbert have again been outstanding.

The Fourth Year team has also done very well only losing first place in the Inter-Grammar School Competition, in the final relay event. There are many fine athletes in the team, notably Taylor, Benstead, Feckey, Lee and Williams P.

The Third Year team tried very hard and improved steadily as the season progressed. Bell has developed into a good sprinter and Longworth a competent javelin thrower. Marshall was placed fifth in the final of the County Athletics Championships in the 400 metres.

The Second Year team has many promising athletes in its ranks, notably Bigland and Chrispin, two of the fastest sprinters in the County.

The First Year team is a promising team also with McCreadie, Liddell, Smith and Pearson performing well this season.

B.G.

Badminton

Chairman: Mr. A. W. Yeomans
Secretary: S. A. Bore
Treasurer: M. Helm
Captain: S. A. I. Watkin

Although our results again do not make pleasant reading there has been a definite improvement in our play this year. Our two newcomers J. Cara and D. Pearson have proved most valuable as has M. Helm who is also in his first season. My thanks must go to Mr. Yeomans for his help and to Mr. Clarkson for his 'little joke at Tuson'. Thanks also to my partner S. A. I. Watkin for his persistence in arranging matches against Penwortham Girls, and for ensuring that the Society runs smoothly.

S.A.B.

Cricket

This was another disappointing season for the First Team, having played 12 matches, won 5, drawn 4 and lost 3, however, it was perhaps the small number of fixtures and lack of practice which meant that many of the senior players failed to find their real form.

Out of the batsmen, S. Benson was particularly reliable, consistently scoring well and finishing the season with more than two hundred runs and leading the batting averages. Although there were many individual scores in the thirties and forties throughout the season, it was not until the last match that D. Timms became the first player to achieve a half century.

It was Timms who topped the bowling averages. Against a visibly quaking Masters' XI he took 4 for 13, whilst D. Fisher, the Captain, spurred on by personal incentive took 5 for 18. The most successful match was against Batley Grammar School, when, defending a seemingly poor score of 67 of which Benson scored 30, the First Team dismissed their opponents for a mere 35 with Timms taking seven wickets for the same number of runs. Swift and Hardiker contributed some useful performances during the season, whilst the general standard of fielding was improved by the introduction of the A. Smith Award for Dropped Catches.

The Second Team, captained by P. Redman, made an impressive start to the season, by beating Arnold by nine wickets, with Calam scoring 47 and Edwards 54 not out. However, their glory was short lived and they finished the season having played 4, Won 1, Drawn 2 and lost 1 match, with Schofield bowling consistently, and the whole team enjoying their cricket.

R.G. *Secretary*

Cross Country

This year's performance has been an obvious improvement on the somewhat poor performance last year. We have had four victories, and a second in a triangular match with Stoneyhurst and Bury.

The team was based on a number of last year's teams, with the addition of Blower, who has proved

to be a very capable runner. Good performances from D. Williams (Captain), L. Smith, and M. Corner, and early in the season P. Williams, Lowcock, and J. Hebden have also proved to be useful runners.

A number of runners were entered into the U20 Lancashire School Trials.

Finally, our thanks must go to Mr. Bowman and Mr. Roberts, who have not only given up their time but their energy.

L.A.S. and D.W.

Hockey

Master in Charge: Mr. F. W. Sayer
Captain: B. Trevalyan

A mixed season with some fine games and some of a very poor quality. The team often plays extremely well and at other times they are made to look extremely agricultural in approach!

Next season should see a settled team and we hope for a settled fixture list with none of the unfortunate mix-ups of this season.

F.W.S.

Rugby

1st XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
23	15	1	7	398	235

As the end of a long season arrives once again, we can look back with satisfaction at the success achieved since September 1977. Apart from some small blemishes the performance of the 1st XV have been marked by some fine defence, speedy attacks, and a high level of sportsmanship.

Although early season problems of selection occurred they were soon resolved, and one of the contributing factors in the team's success has been the regular appearance of a small number of players. The Captain, Whiteside, Schofield, Wayland and Crane have provided valuable experience, which when linked to the skill of some of the younger players has developed a sometimes irresistible style of Rugby. A feature of the season has been the development of players such as Taylor and Long, both of whom played for the Lancashire U16 team, and Pigott who is as good a second row player as were his brothers.

One of the strengths of the XV has been the back row play. Vice-Captain Wright at No. 8 has set an example by his style of play, and has encouraged Tallis and Calland (whose play now that he is fit is outstanding), to greater efforts. A pleasing aspect of forward play has been the resurgence of Abraham as a back row player of real pace and ability, ably supported by Gregg and Spencer.

It is often said that the team is only as good as its reserves, and in this respect we are fortunate to have players of the quality of Pennington, Benstead and Manning who may well claim 1st XV places next season.

What of the future? Whilst the team will be weak in terms of experience there will be a core of players from this season. Longworth at prop, Lanigan and Aitchison in the backs, together with those fifth and Lower VI players returning, will I hope combine to form a team which will be as successful as this one has been. There will be the incentive of another tour to look forward to, and of new fixtures to play, and again the emphasis will be on attacking rugby.

It remains only to thank all those players who have given up so much time to the game; Alan Whiteside and Andrew Wright for their enthusiasm and help as Captain and Vice-Captain, and to wish all those, whose playing time with the school is ended – good luck in their future play. Who knows – there may even be an international amongst them!

1st XV Selected from:
Backs: A. Whiteside (Capt.); G. Lanigan; N. Parsons; M. Taylor; D. Long; A. Kirkham; I. Aitchison; M. Schofield.
Forwards: S. Longworth; S. Crane; I. Pennington; R. Wayland; M. Feckey; D. Gregg; G. Spencer; W. Pigott; R. Tallis; J. Abraham; J. Calland; A. Wright.

Colours awarded to
Full Colours (Re-award): A. Whiteside; M. Schofield; R. Wayland
New award Full Colours: A. Wright; S. Crane, J. Abraham; J. Calland; A. Kirkham; R. Tallis.
New award Half-Colours: S. Longworth; I. Pennington; D. Gregg; G. Spencer; G. Lanigan; W. Pigott; N. Parsons; I. Aitchison; D. Long; M. Taylor.
Re-award Half-Colours: A. Banks

. . . . . *and finally:*

Spare a thought for Paul Stirk, who won his full-colours last season as first choice prop. In the match versus Blackpool 1st October 1978 he damaged his neck, and has not played since. We all hope that he is now recovered and his return to Rugby will be speedy.

D.E.W.

2nd XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
20	11	2	7	450	156

A better season than the record suggests. The team was well served in most areas, but, unfortunately, injuries to many 1st and 2nd XV members resulted in considerably weakened teams at times. A pleasing feature of the play was the willingness to run the ball from almost any position. Over half the regular team were members of the Upper Sixth, so the team had a great deal of confidence and experience. Highlights of the season were the victories over Blackpool Collegiate and the 1st XV's of Morecambe High and Runshaw College.

Richardson played in all but one game and was a reliable defender under pressure. Leyland, Redman and Barton between them played centre in most games, and, in addition to scoring a number of tries themselves, sent the wingers over thirty-four times! This was a pleasing feature of the open game played, with Benstead (15), Parsons (8) and Drayton (5) taking their chances well. Manning D. at fly half produced

Second XV v Cowley
Back: N. Eccles, G. Benstead, W. Pigott, G. Spencer, G. Brindle, E. Lee, P. Redman, Mr. I. Beckett
Front: D. Long, J. Thomas, P. Drayton, S. Longworth, D. Richardson, S. Benson
Very Front: S. Colman, C. Gilbert

some good, straight running, gave good service to the other backs and formed a sound partnership with Benson, who fed the scrum well all year.

The forwards were never settled all season, but Longworth played well at loosehead before departing to the 1st XV, to be replaced by Attwater. Thomas enjoyed his conversion to hooker, while tight head was well served by Feckey or Lee – depending on which one was in school. Spencer, Banks and Pigott provided the second row in most matches, and always won much ball both in the tight and the loose. The back row proved to be a problem for most of the season. Gilbert, Greenwood and Hill occupied the positions early on but failed to win possession. The situation improved after Christmas, when Bentley and Dunlop arrived on the scene with youthful endeavour. Neil Eccles must be mentioned for both his enthusiasm and versatility, playing in five positions and never letting the team down.

Finally, I should like to thank the other twenty-eight players for turning out throughout the year in matches and training, during a successful and enjoyable season.

I.R.B.

U15 XV

P	W	L	D	F	A
18	6	11	1	226	231

Taken at face value the record of the team is poor with only a third of all matches played being won, but this does not reflect a steady improvement over the season.

At the start of the season the team was lacking in confidence as a result of a poor record in past seasons. This inferiority complex lead to several matches being lost which should have been won because the team did not believe in itself enough to fight back when under pressure.

Despite an appalling performance against Arnold the team improved greatly after Christmas and played the rugby it was capable of, drawing with West Park and beating Hutton Grammar School. It was a pity that influenza decimated the team when matches against 2 of the strongest opponents, Kings, Macclesfield and King Edwards, Lytham were played, thus robbing the team of the chance to prove themselves against such teams.

The strength of the side has been a hard-working pack with an outstanding lead set by the captain, Longworth. Singleton has developed into a top class hooker, being a mainstay of the pack with Harper, Anthony and Greenhalgh, with strong support from Wilkins, Wood and Marshall. The threequarters have suffered from a lack of pace but Nelson and Sharples have improved greatly, Brough and Ingleby have run strongly in all matches and Churchman has played gamely at scrum half.

B.G.

Under 14 XV

P	W	L	D	F	A
17	9	7	1	256	334

Despite one or two rather heavy defeats, the season has been a successful one for the Under 14's, and ended with two fine victories over De la Salle and King's, Macclesfield. The team is beginning to realise its potential and play to its strengths and should be successful next year.

The pack, under the aggressive leadership of Seabury, is learning the value of playing as a unit and not as individuals and their technique has improved with each game. Dunstan and Gardiner have proved to be a strong front row and Bolton has adjusted well to his role of hooker. In the second row Parkin is developing the hardness necessary for that position, but Chrispin has yet to gain the determination to really "bouncer" the opposition, though he covers a great deal of ground. Seabury, now playing at No. 8 has had a fine season, particularly since St. Edward's, Liverpool where he seemed to discover that he was quite a strong lad, and reacted accordingly. Brooke's speed to the breakdown has been instrumental in the team winning the ball from broken play and his tackling and commitment have been tenacious.

The backs have had mixed fortunes and several permutations have been tried, Morgan, the captain and scrum-half has a good tactical brain but could improve his speed of service to Hargreaves, who has plenty of skill but must learn when to kick and when to pass. In the centre, Collinge is a talented if somewhat inconsistent player who will be more effective when his confidence and determination have increased; and Walmsley's aggressive running and tackling have added penetration to attack and greater solidity in defence. Frodsham and Gill have played well on the wing, though Bigland's size, strength and speed have meant that he has proved a match winner on the wing, scoring many tries after an unsuccessful attempt to convert him into a No. 8. Bridge has played well in nearly every position in the backs with some success, but now seems to fancy himself as a wing forward!

At full-back Milburn has had an excellent season, his tackling becoming safer and harder with each game.

These players have formed the basis of a fairly settled side though on the occasions when they have been called on Reardon, Haynes, Stanford, Rowlandson and Grime have stepped into the breach adequately.

R.J.W.

Under 13 XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
18	8	3	7	335	264

The 1977/8 season has undoubtedly been the best season for an U13 team for a considerable number of years, having won more matches than they have lost and scored more points than they have conceded. Though the team suffered its annual defeat at Cowley, ample revenge was gained against Balshaws, Arnold and De La Salle. The remaining matches were all very close and with a bit more luck, especially at Kings Macclesfield, King Edwards and Hutton, the team's record would have been even better.

The success of the team has been largely based on a strong, mobile pack, in which Rhodes, Smith and MacCreadie have been particularly outstanding. The latter two scored 44 of the team's tries between them and the former covered a lot of ground to snuff out opposition attacks. Of the rest of the forwards Bretherick, Pearson and Rosser played well in the loose, while Roberts and Halsall were more effective in the set scrums, though the latter could do to be more aggressive, and Linington was able to use his height in the line-outs, even if he did have trouble catching the ball at times.

Having mentioned the forwards one must realise that they form only half the side. The backs, while perhaps lacking a bit of initiative in attack, have always given their best and have tackled well in defence. Liddell at stand off has been a reliable place kicker, converting about half of the tries, and towards the end of the season Dugdale at scrum half produced some good touch line kicking both in attack and defence. Clay and Bowen both proved to be tenacious players, though at times they hung on to the ball too long and ended up in trouble. The remaining places in the backs were competed for by Evans, Frodsham, Glenholme, Judge, Lewis and Stewart (a pity his enthusiasm dwindled towards the end of the season).

Finally, my thanks to those who trained so willingly, though I'm sure that team spirit would have been better if all possible team players had trained at all times.

R.J.B.

U12 XV

P	W	L
6	1	5

The season began with a rather heavy defeat by Manchester, caused mainly by the lack of mobility and size in the forwards, which was one of the problems throughout the season. Behind the pack there were, however, some promising players discovered, particularly the strong runners, Bennett, Aspinall and Bolton and the good tackling of Brook.

One of the major problems of the team was to find a suitable combination of half backs. Collett seemed to fit the post but due to his injury was unavailable for most of the season. Kirkham fitted in well and Brookes also looked promising, and a player to watch in the future is Wilkins.

The pack played well against St. Joseph's but unfortunately lost with the last kick of the game. Outstanding workers were Critchley, Davies and Selwyn-Smith, (who led the side rather vociferously!) and late discoveries like Waite and Rae added impetus.

Our next three fixtures were also defeats against St. Edwards, Arnold and West Park but we did avoid a whitewash by just beating Macclesfield 4–0. Probably the best performances of the season came in the Mini-rugby Tournaments at Fylde and Preston, where in the former we played well, for inexperienced players, and just failed to reach the final. Nixon showed potential as a runner and kicker, but was rather reluctant to "give" the ball. In atrocious conditions at Preston, the whole team played well to win 3 out of 4 games, only being narrowly defeated by the eventual finalists, Fylde, (who included two players from K.G.S!) Davies, Fielding, Atkinson, Rae and Knowles all worked well up front, and the threes, despite suffering from hypothermia, ran and tackled well, with Wilkins and Bolton being outstanding.

On the whole a disappointing season but with time and practice the team should improve next year, and should not be too disheartened with this season's results.

I.M.S.

Tennis

Chairman: Dr. B. M. Summers
Secretary: G. Lanigan
Captain: J. Abraham

P	W	L	D
18	6	11	1

After a very successful season last year it was anticipated that this year would be somewhat disappointing – it was, but much effort was expended by the team members who tried hard to win. In some cases the defeats were very narrow ones.

With only two members of last year's team left, I. Birch and D. Blakey, the team faced a struggle with local schools where tennis has gained in popularity. The standard of the opposition was certainly higher this year. Birch and Blakey played together as first pair, but struggled with superior opposition throughout the season. However, they held their own against most of the lower pairings. P. Redman and J. Abraham played a valuable role, but proved rather inconsistent when consistent play was needed. When both were serving well they were very good, particularly against King Edwards, however, these occasions were all too rare. G. Lanigan and G. Lee played an important part and showed much promise – if they could obtain more practice together, they could become a force for the future. D. Manning, A. Kirkham and others played in some matches and their efforts were much appreciated.

Full colours were awarded to Ian Birch, half-colours re-awarded to D. Blakey and awarded to J. Abraham and G. Lanigan.

An U14 team played 2 and won both, with good performances by all – especially Brough, Girvan and Eastham. The U15 team lost both their matches, while an U16 team had a very close and exciting match against Rossall winning by 5 matches to 4 (or losing 48 games to 51!!)

In the final of the Senior Inter-House Competition, Fylde beat Kirkham, gaining sweet revenge for last year's defeat. In the junior competition School beat Fylde – again a reverse of last year's result.

The School Individual Competition was won by Ian Birch when he defeated David Blakey in the final; these two were the top seeds and met after a long knock-out competition which continued for most of the term.

Many thanks to all who took part so enthusiastically and to those who helped with the transport. 1978 holds out the promise of tennis competition to an U13 team and it is hoped that all in the junior forms will take all opportunities to fight for places in the team – since the opponents are girls!

THE SCHOOL AT LARGE

Ancenis, Summer 1977

Our party of twenty included six boys from KGS this year, all of whom had an interesting and enriching stay, with little to complain about and much to afford them the most pleasant of memories. Everyone quickly recovered from the rather tiring journey, and settled down to enjoy the kind of hospitality which from experience we know will be offered, and yet which continues to surprise us in its fulness and wholeheartedness. Much French was spoken, though quite a bit of English, too, down at the swimming-pool, and many a frog's leg and snail passed through initially wary mouths.

The holiday included a coach-trip to 'La Venise Verte', where a good soaking was had by all whilst skimming along the tree-lined waterways. Otherwise each participant was left to his own devices in the bosom of the French family, and by all accounts our KGS boys comported themselves in exemplary fashion. The few individual problems there were concerned others, who, when visited, were mildly surprised that I should wish to intrude at all.

The anglo-french journey home passed with much jollity and anticipation, and was rendered even more enjoyable by the beautiful new ferry we travelled on. If spirits were doused at all, then it was only when the French first sampled the delights of a British motorway cafe at four o'clock in the morning!

Overall the stay was a wonderful and eminently useful experience. It is only to be hoped that more KGS boys will realize this in future, and present themselves more readily for an exchange. Obviously there are those who, for one reason or another, cannot take part; but so many miss their chance for no reason other than apathy!

A.Y.

Geography Field Course—Devon 1978

The first thing we learned on this particular trip was that twenty-two beings plus assorted luggage into two minibuses won't go (very well). Despite this traumatic experience, where, in order to get out at a service station, you had to liberate parts of your own body from the cursing, octopodous mess, we made the journey in good time.

Mr. Scott started the trip by having a fight with a Chewit sweet, and losing – which resulted in numerous visits to the dentist's. Not content with this situation, his stomach proceeded to go on strike, and thereafter, everything that went down was given a return ticket. Nor did driving in circles around country lanes at a steady fifty achieve anything to improve the situation.

In midweek, Jake Thackwray and Ian Langrish conducted a carefully controlled experiment, entitled, "To calculate the effect of a 200°C coffee percolator on a plastic bench top". The results of the experiment were fairly conclusive, but had the unfortunate side effect of sending geriatrics flying from their rooms screaming, "Fire, fire!"

We shall also remember with amusement such events as Mr. Scott being presented with a potted plant by a rather addled old lady during his lecture on the first night; Max Sugars waltzing with his seventy-five year old date; Jan Trevalyan's rock 'n roll on cabaret night; Norman the Newt, who staggered into the hotel dining-room from the street, apparently attracted by the bright light; Jake's brief encounter with a farm dog at Beenleigh; the discovery of a pig called John at a farm during the land use survey; and the gentleman who, when asked if he could tell us where Teignmouth's Public Library was, replied 'Yes' and then walked away.

Contrary to some people's opinion about the course, it forms an integral part of the A-level syllabus, and, although it was enjoyable, we had to work very hard. In this respect, I would like to thank Mr. Webster and Mr. Scott for their hard work in organising the trip and for managing to make things run as smoothly as possible. Now it only remains for me to say, "Arternoon, arn oi 'ope oi be seein' eeh arl zumtoim".

M. J. Grime, LVI Arts

A Marine Biology Course

It was a sunny morning and John and I were the first to arrive at the sailing centre. We left our kit by the door and went off to explore Knott End. Five minutes later we were back. The others had arrived by that time, all except for Dominic Geddes, who was late as usual.

That afternoon the course began and from that day until the end of the week it was hard work all the way. Breakfast at eight a.m., then solid work till seven-thirty p.m. with only a break for meals. These were excellent and plentiful.

The work consisted basically of going out and collecting specimens by various methods, such as quadrats and dredging, then returning to the sailing centre to classify our finds. Interspersed with this were exercises in the centre itself such as bacteria counts from mussels and titrations to find the oxygen content of sea water.

After the hard work we all managed the stroll up to the pub and at about ten the seemingly longer walk back. We then dropped into bed following an exhausting day.

C. Gilbert, L6

The conditions at the sailing centre are good and on a sunny day even Biology can be fun to do. Apart from that the work is different enough from that at school to be interesting in its own right. The course is recommended to those interested in Marine Biology.

G. L. and J. A.

Remember, remember – the 8th of July!

Fete on the 8th.

Theatre

Unfortunately, this year, we've only managed to see two plays so far. This is not to imply that our organizers, Mrs. Boll, Mr. Watson and Mr. Roberts, have been idle, but funds for cultural activities have been sparse, to say the least. This is surprising considering how much money disappeared over the horizon to France with our group of jolly winetasters in search of rough physical exercise.

Nevertheless, the two we did see were very good, so it's a case of having quality rather than quantity. The first was "Hamlet" at The Opera House in Manchester, with Derek Jacobi playing the leading role. I was pleased to find that even without numerous layers of stick-on wrinkles and a false nose, (we got used to seeing him like that in "I Claudius") he is an excellent and vitally expressive actor. His interpretation of the agonised young prince, and the production as a whole, was unpretentious, sensitive and polished. The curious omission of certain short but vital speeches and the over-emphasis on Ophelia's sensuality (even hinting at an incestuous relationship with her brother) were not really to my taste, but they marred only minutely what was otherwise an impressive and very professional production of this most difficult of Shakespeare's plays.

Later in the year, we again went to Manchester, this time to see "Twelfth Night" at the beautiful new Royal Exchange Theatre. Despite the unorthodox, modernistic approach and zany props such as a shotgun, a 1920's bicycle and even a set of frogman's equipment, the production stuck closely to the text and was hilariously funny. The portrayal of "Olivia" as a lusty, nymphomaniac was a little gauche I thought, but besides this and a few other slight exaggerations the individual performances were excellent. Especially impressive was Tom Courtenay as a sour, conceited Malvolio, whose appearance, wearing Marks and Spencer's pyjamas, 'long Johns', size twelve black oxfords, a bowler hat and carrying an electric torch, produced tears of laughter.

Strong evidence for a future trip to the Royal Exchange to see Tom Courtenay in a new production of Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment" fills me with joy. Perhaps also worth a mention is the film of "Othello" which was shown recently in the School, at four o'clock: an unfortunate choice of hour I thought as I dozed; the bright sun streaming through the flimsy blackout curtains and dancing on the screen, coupled with the rather distorted soundtrack, resulted in "Othello" being the invisible Moor, ranting passionately in fluent Arabic.

But, it was a brave and worthwhile attempt, and I hope we'll see more films in the future – they would prove a stimulating alternative to the commercial pap that the Film Society has come up with to date.

Sheridan Morley (alias John Eastham)

School Play: 'The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew' by Robert Bolt – Tuesday and Wednesday, 11th and 12th July.

C.C.F. REPORT

Army Section

O.C. CCF Major D. H. Butterworth
Cadet Sergeant-Major F. S. Hames

CAIRNGORMS '78

The Adventure Training Camp in the Cairngorms in February of this year promised to be the most successful ever, since the largest amount of snow some of us had ever seen was waiting for us. The train journey to Aviemore was very pleasant, and so, to a lesser extent, was the journey to the Hostel, which was threatened to be cut off by the snow. However, once we were all safely installed, the activities could begin, with the unexpected bonus of two days of downhill ski-ing, along with cross-country ski-ing and snow and ice work. For those who were lucky with the weather, the second day's ski-ing on the official slopes, must have been the high-point. It will be some time before Aviemore forgets the budding Franz Klammers of K.G.S.

The other activities, I'm sure, were enjoyed by all, and in particular, the "moles" who created the only "luxury detached snow-hole with landscape garden" this side of the Alps.

The thaw caused the creation of ski-ing on gravel tracks, an unusual experience indeed. Many other incidents spring to mind. The amazing water finding techniques of one of our Officers, who gave one or two of us an embarrassing moment. I could not let this report end without mentioning the "romper suit". Our thanks go to all Officers and Major Butterworth, whose amazing feat of driving a lorry up an almost impassable road, must go down in history. Also thanks to Ken and Colin, our instructors, who pushed some of us to a most amazing height of excellence. I finish with an encouragement to all cadets to support these camps, which are not only very enjoyable, but also, relatively inexpensive.

S. N. Hames *C.S.M.*

I.O.M. '77

We left for the Isle of Man with apprehensive glances at the sky, since a rough crossing had been forecast. In the end, the journey turned out to be an anti-climax, but the camp turned out to be the contingent's most successful Summer Camp, to date. The week started with three days of training, devised by ourselves, which were enjoyed thoroughly by all, abseiling, being particularly popular. The rest of the week was given over to the programme of the camp team. These included the three parts of the Intercontingent Competition, March and Shoot, Night Patrol and Section in Attack. In the first and last parts the contingent excelled itself and won both Shields for the March and Shoot, and the Section in Attack. A good effort by all Cadets in the pouring rain ensured us second place in the Night Patrol, being beaten by Marlborough School, who pushed us close in the rest of the competition.

On the humorous side, many will remember the pool table, which, with a little persuasion produced free games, and the last night where practical jokers caused a lack of beds in the billet, many of which were later found scattered around the camp.

My thanks, and the thanks of all those Cadets who attended, go to all the Officers, who, with hard work, made the camp very enjoyable.

S.N. Hames C.S.M.

RAF Section

O.C. CCF (RAF Section) S/L G. S. Cheesbrough
F/O D. Walls
Flt/Sgt S. A. I. Watkin

Again, this year has seen an increase in the number of new cadets to bring the section strength up to sixty. The fourth form cadets show a great deal of enthusiasm, which promises strong N.C.O. ranks in the years to come. The majority of the fifth form cadets show interest, but are hampered by a small unruly wing, (identifiable below by the lack of success in the exams!).

The exam results were of "mixed blessings";
Proficiency 2; 17 passes, 6 failures.
Proficiency 3; 2 credits, 7 passes, 7 failures.

This year we have a wealth of experience in the N.C.O. ranks, for example:- Sgt. Spencer, Cadre N.C.O., Sgt. Edwards, Cpl. Andrew, and Cpl. Ashworth, Glider Pilots. This is only a small section of the expertise we have to draw upon.

My thanks go to S/L G.S. Cheesbrough, F/O D. Walls and all the N.C.O's who have made the section a success.

S. A. I. Watkins

R.A.F. EASTER CAMP 1977
RAF WILDENRATH

RAF Wildenrath, the first RAF section overseas camp to be held since April 1974, highlighted by the fact that there were seven places but twenty-two prospective applicants. We were to travel there by train from Kirkham and fly from East Midlands airport.

After an uneventful flight, no hijacks, no bomb scares, no engine failures, we finally landed at a cold and wet Wildenrath at 9.30 p.m. The first day was taken up with meeting the station Commander and looking around the control tower and radio/radar rooms.

On Tuesday we were to have played football but unfortunately it snowed. Other items of interest during the week included visits to the armoury firing ·303s on a 25 yard range; the Harrier simulater, unfortunately not operational; the fire station, which included rides on fire engines and squirting lots of foam about, and the Stores and Supply depot. We also went to the other side of the airfield to look at the Bloodhound missiles. Trips of interest of the station were also arranged for us. These included a visit to a very interesting war museum at Overloon, around

Cairngorms '77

which some of the fiercest fighting in Holland took place. Another day was taken up with a visit to the excellent Philips Exhibition at Eindhoven; we recomend it. We also visited Cologne, with its fine cathedral. But perhaps the best day was when we did a field exercise. In groups of three, we were given . . . a landrover, complete with two field radios and a driver plus a map and a code book as used by the British Army of the Rhine. We then spent the rest of the day motoring around the German countryside receiving and sending messages over the radio. It was a most enjoyable day.

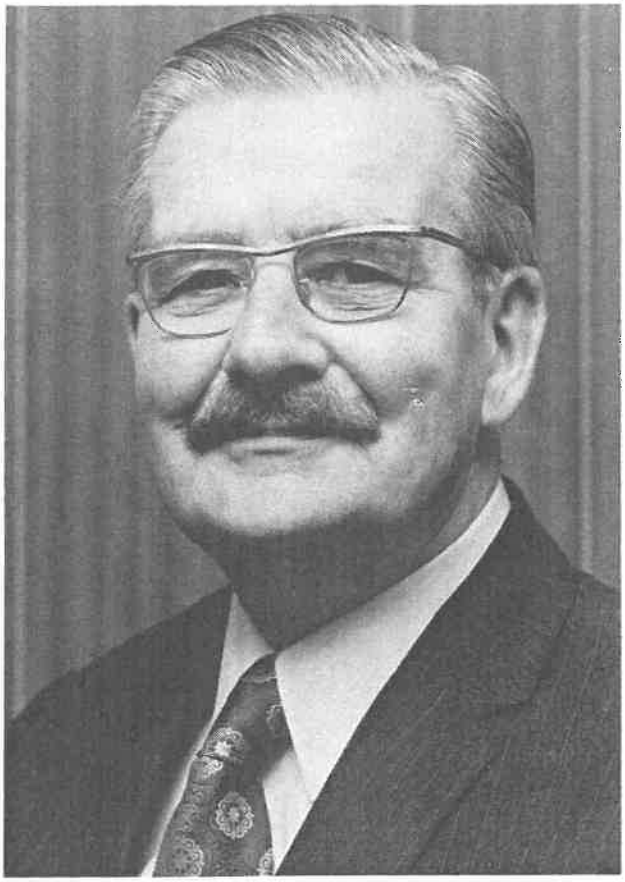
The evenings were spent relaxing at either the station bowling alley, the cinema or one of the three pubs in Wildenrath village. Overall, it was a most pleasant and enjoyable camp and may I take this opportunity to thank Sq.Ldr. Cheesburgh for making it so.

Cpl. Ashworth

PROFILE NO.38

Henry H. Wood 1955–1975

Although Henry left the School and Kirkham some time ago, he still corresponds regularly with some staff members (rightly expecting them to do the same!). A good proportion of the pupils, too, will still be able to penetrate his disguised features and



Henry H. Wood 1955—1975

remember — along with Old Boys and former colleagues — from his twenty years service to the School much of this man of independent and forceful character.

Throughout his K.G.S. days he was attached to Kirkham House and a member of the Maths Department. Henry also had strong connections with the English Department and was the producer of a number of school plays including "Murder in the Cathedral" and "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme". His interest in Drama he followed in his leisure hours as an acting member of "The Green Room Players" at Blackpool.

It was Mr. Wood who began to organise the R.I. Department. With this responsibility he touched upon each of us each day through his plans for morning assemblies. His personal readings held our attention and created the proper atmosphere; those performances he was able to extract from others were to the advantage of both our Carol and Founder's Day services. More often than not on these occasions, Henry himself would be a member of the choir's tenor Section.

He knew Kirkham Parish Church particularly well because for most of his twenty years amongst us, he was a very active licensed lay reader there. He carried a particularly heavy burden of parish responsibility, prior to the appointment of the present vicar. In a wider sphere of service Mr. Wood has for a number of years been a reader for the "Talking Book Service" of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Whilst at K.G.S., Henry saw two changes of Headship and many other alterations. He particularly remembers his time here because during it he took up golf and eventually became the proud possessor of a hole-in-one tie. The development of his swing has been a painful experience to others over the years, but characteristically he was always ready to share his expertise, here or in and around the Biology Department's greenhouse (R.I.P.) and the cabbage patch. But what of those forty-one years before ever reaching K.G.S.? Here lies perhaps some reasons for his dogged, no-nonsense approach to life.

He was born in Barrow-in-Furness and educated at Ulverston G.S., holding places in both the 1st IV and 1st XI teams and gaining his H.S.C. Whilst a schoolboy, Henry had a 5/- flying trip with Alan Cobham's Flying Circus and in the war years flying was to play an important part in his life. At the same time he was bitten by the stage bug and after school and then drama school he went into Rep. doing seasons at St. Annes, Derby, Manchester amongst other locations.

When the war came he volunteered and enlisted as an observer but soon he became a pilot and, whilst returning from an air to air firing exercise over the Irish sea, had to ditch his aircraft near St. Bees Head, Cumbria. Soon Henry found himself in the Middle East and then on the west coast of Africa, where he began ferrying aircraft. Once again his aircraft let him down and he had to land in French Equatorial Africa from which he was rescued after five days by a unit of the French Foreign Legion. "Riding a horse for fifteen miles in khaki shorts in a temperature of 90°F is only funny on reflection", he has told me. The El Alamain campaign found him in and around Cairo. During this period he was shot down twice, but had himself by this time shot down a Junkers 52 and been involved in the destruction of a second.

Whilst in Cairo, Henry played a lot of cricket— and remembers one period of twenty-one matches in seventeen days, his team being called "Churchill's XI". A second dose of aircraft ferrying between Cairo and India followed, then "D-day + 6" saw his return to England, to Crosby. Here he got his B licence, joined 233 squadron, flying Dakotas and began carrying equipment over to the western front and bringing wounded men back. Henry then moved on to flying spitfires from Port Reith in Cornwall. His destination in Algiers was Bleeda, at which station Bob Bentley (former Head of Chemistry at K.G.S.) was the Arms Officer. His last job for the R.A.F. was flying trainee navigators from Tilstock near Crewe, from which station he was eventually demobilised.

Henry fully intended to return to the stage, in fact he soon did two plays for B.B.C. radio (light programme). He also had small parts in two films (Flying with Prudence and Hungry Hill, film society please note!). But whilst on tour in a play his health broke down. In hospital for three weeks, he had time to consider his future, his wife Marion and the two young children they now had. He decided they all needed something more stable and eventually Henry took a place in the Teacher's Emergency Training Scheme, in Camden, specializing in History and Maths.

Here he was put in charge of the Drama Festival and produced "Julius Caesar." He did two years evening work at Goldsmiths' College, London and eventually obtained his first teaching post at Archbishop Temple's school in Lambeth. Here he remained for seven years and obtained an M.C.C. coaching certificate, whilst playing for the Blackheath XI.

When, in 1951, the Royal Festival Hall opened for three nights a week, he operated the stage and house lights and this brought him into contact with several celebrities. He took his lay-reader's exam. at Southwark and was associated with St. Nicholas Church, Kidbrook, until he and family moved to Kirkham. He also left behind a position as adjudicator in the elocution section of the annual Literary Institute Eisteddfod.

After such experiences we can only wish Henry and Marion happy days ahead. Along with the joy son Robert (an old boy of the school) now in Canada, daughter Mary and their children will undoubtedly bring, we hope that, although far removed now from K.G.S. at their retirement home in Hythe, Hants, this message of goodwill from us all will be welcome.

A.R.B.

K.G.S. OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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*Ex-officio Member of Committee

School Leavers – Summer 1978

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. The Dinner this year is on Saturday 23rd September, 1978 at the Lantern Restaurant, Lytham.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PRESIDENT

Harold G. Longstaff (1934–1939)

Harold Longstaff was born in Blackpool in 1922 and up to 1950 lived at various places in Blackpool and St. Annes-on-Sea. At the time he was admitted to K.G.S. in 1934 he was living in St. Annes and thus became a member of Lytham House under the guidance of Mr. C. K. Lee and R. O. Wilson. He served the House with distinction and was a House Prefect.

He was a useful sportsman and represented the school at cross-country running, athletics, rugby and cricket. He also learned how to swim whilst at Kirkham but this was not one of his strong points.

There may be some of you who remember how he had to be ignominiously hauled out of the deep end (bottom of) by 'Ticker' Bond whilst competing (compulsorily) in the Breadth Race at the Annual Swimming Gala.

He passed in seven subjects at School Certificate level and four at Higher Subsidiary. Upon leaving school in 1939 he joined the Highways and Bridges Department of the Lancashire County Council at Preston until 1942 when he joined the Royal Navy and served until 1946.

Harold G. Longstaff 1934–1939
President 1977–78

After the war he took up teaching and is at present Head of Fifth Year at Haydock High School. For the past twelve years he was Principal of the Haydock Adult Education Centre, a post which he resigned last year.

In 1950 he married Betty Taylor (a native of Kirkham whose father was Fred Taylor, Clerk to the Fylde Rural District Council) and now lives at Rainhill near St. Helens. They have two daughters, Pauline aged 24 and Norma aged 19.

He has many leisure interests which include bridge, gardening, amateur dramatics, golf, tennis, fell-walking, badminton and quizzing.

He has been a member of the Old Boys' Association since 1946 and is the Association Tennis Secretary.

THE JAMES MURRAY SCHOLARSHIP

The Parochial Church Council of Lytham Parish Church has opened a memorial fund in memory of Mr. James Murray, the income from which will be used to send a suitable member of the choir to a Royal School of Church Music course each year, probably one held at Rossall School. It will be known as "The James Murray Scholarship".

The Secretary of the Parochial Church Council has asked our President to inform you of this Scholarship and if you wish to be associated with this fund then donations may be sent to Mr. A. H. Bedford, 13 Green Hey, Lytham FY8 4HL.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

R. A. Barnes (1968–75) Roy joined Lucas as a trainee in management after achieving a II, I in Metallurgy and Mechanical Engineering.

O. C. Whalley (1967–74) Owen is now employed in the London Borough of Lambeth as development officer in Town & Country Planning.

T. D. Harris (1966–73) Trevor is teaching Geography in Yorkshire.

S. J. Martindale (1966–73) John has gained a second class honours degree in Genetics and now intends to continue working in the department in Aberdeen for a further three years for a PhD.

A. Skirrow (1973–77) Allan has reached the pinnacle of organ playing. He is the youngest player professionally of the Wurlitzer at the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool. Appeared in the Granada TV documentary "This England".

P. Blakey (1969–76) Peter was awarded an Open Exhibition in Chemistry in recognition of his excellent first year work at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. Also given CEGB Exhibition for next year.

D. R. Bootle (1967–74) Donald has been awarded the Institute of Electrical Engineering Prize 1977. It is awarded annually to outstanding undergraduates at selected universities and polytechnics in the United Kingdom.

C. T. Robinson (1965–72) Went to Lanchester Polytechnic and gained a BA in Business Studies and Marketing.

S. Redgrave Stewart is now taking a BA Hons. Degree at Crewe and Alsager College of Higher Education.

M. Redgrave Mark, brother of above, is spending a year in Austria at a Christian Trust.

C. Haynes (1967–74) Christopher gained BA Hons. (3rd) in Legal Studies at Trent Polytechnic.

D. E. Cowell (1962–70) David is a sports journalist on the European Sports Desk of United Press International. Last December he married Betty McBride a researcher at the BBC. His address 17, Bolton Gardens, Teddington, Middx.

A. Taylor (1965–72) Gained MB; CH.B; from Liverpool University. Now working at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool.

I. Palmer (1946–49) Ivan is in St. Johns, Newfoundland on Industrial Development.

A. Caine (1960–67) Allan has just been awarded a Ph.D in Genetics. He went to Liverpool University gaining a B Sc in Biological Science in 1970 plus a B Sc.(Hons) in 1971 in Genetics. He is now with the Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow in the Dept. of Medical Genetics.

R. P. Bailey (1970–77) Paul is working for the Road Haulage Association Ltd.

J. Davidson (1970–77) John has been awarded an Exhibition at St. John's College, Oxford (Law).

A. Cocker (1970–77) Anthony has been awarded Commoner's Place at Lincoln College, Oxford (Maths).

P. S. Smeaton (1940–44) Lieutenant Commander Peter Smeaton received an MBE in the New Years Honours.

C. D. Matthews (1950–58) Colin is a University Lecturer in gynaecology in Australia.

W. J. P. Grime (1949-56) is to be Vicar of Seascale & Brigg in the Diocese of Carlisle.

John Charles Renshaw (1948–1956)—President 1978–1979

Notwithstanding a rather nomadic childhood which, whilst remaining within the confines of the old Lancashire boundaries, found him at five various addresses, and three different primary schools by the age of eleven, John succeeded in arriving at K.G.S. with a County Scholarship to cover his basic school and boarding fees. The preparations to mark this milestone in his erstwhile fairly uneventful life were achieved amid a flurry of clothing lists and name-tapes, and those most prized possessions for a small boy – a large travelling trunk, and a tuck-box, the latter had lately been the tool-box of a friendly local carpenter!

Some twenty years on, the day to day events of one's school life tend to become blurred, but several

events seem more memorable than others from those eight years: the Quarter centenary celebrations in 1949 (when an *extra* School photograph was taken in addition to the usual one every five (?) years, under the roving camera of Messrs. Arthur Winter); collecting train numbers before school, when in his haste to get back to school in time, John fell out of a tree and dislocated his wrist; official weekly pocket-money given out on Saturdays by the late Denis Norwood, starting at one shilling per week for Juniors! School House Suppers on the last night of term, with a "bonus" in the Christmas term in the shape of Sidney Crane playing Carols on his violin . . . . . ; and a certain visit to Kirkham Fair in the Summer of 1954 after lights-out "to keep up the tradition," which ended disastrously for J.C.R., J.D.R.J., and P.W.F.J., (the last two otherwise known as "Jeff" and "Flossie") — whilst crossing the quad, en route for the dodgems they were betrayed by an over-zealous Dinah (the Head's "bloodhound") and ultimately gated for the rest of the term, deprived of all privileges, and received a very painful whacking. Visits to France, where John lived en famille with a French family and has remained in sporadic contact ever since; playing with the newly-formed School orchestra, and taking part in sporting events seem to complete the picture — almost There were of course, lessons to attend — who could forget those!

All too soon, it seemed, the time came to leave that cloistered existence for the big world outside and the fates decreed a career in Accountancy, in which profession, in an industrial environment, John is still to be found. Now married to Liz, with a small son Ross Barnaby, and a large mortgage, he lives in rural Cheshire, though firmly a Lancastrian at heart.

Competitive squash and unaccompanied choral singing absorb a large part of John's spare time, together with a very real and active interest in the Old Boys' Association. At School it sometimes used to be said of him — "last, as usual" (because of a rather unpunctual nature). "Last" he may well be again — perhaps the last President of the Association formed exclusively of Old *Boys*, since K.G.S. becomes Independent, and, co-educational in September 1979.

John C. Renshaw

He is, however, very much looking forward to his year of office, he says, and is proud and honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve the Association in this way.

The Veteran

The distinction of being the oldest building on the site of Kirkham Grammar School is usually attributed to the long length of the frontage with its handsome creeper covered facade.

But the real Veteran of them all, with wooden sides supported on dwarf brick walls, is tucked away elsewhere. From it nowadays, can be heard the sounds indicative of the manual activities decreed by Derek Butterworth for his Woodwork classes.

This wooden structure was once part of the former school buildings opposite to the Parish Church Vicarage in School Lane. Its woodenness was its salvation, for thus it was portable, and in 1911 it was brought up to form extra classroom space on the new site, whilst the old school, by then called "The Hermitage", was later demolished. Within those wooden walls, in 1922, I gave my first lesson.

When I go up the stone steps and lift the heavy iron latch of the door to peer inside, the memories flood back and I see the place as it was in 1922. A wooden partition, neatly bisecting the space between two swing doors, effectively divided the building into a large and a small classroom with a swing door to each.

The small room was for me and my special Agricultural Form: in the large one Miss Stephens coped with 3B in general and with the Winkley twins in particular!

In the area of my old classroom I see the rickety easel on which is propped the inadequate little blackboard, grey from the effects of constant rubbing, the tall master's desk on castors, with adjustable wings on which to rest my books, the Windsor chair, the funny lockers in the corner housing sundry tomes both ancient and modern, and the wicker waste paper basket.

Of course the Veteran was not always tucked away from sight. In those pre-1938 days its western window had a fine uninterrupted view of the brown cinder covered playground and the Headmaster's house and garden beyond.

I used to appreciate that view — chiefly because it gave me plenty of advance warning of the approach of the Headmaster.

During morning breaks there was always a certain amount of illegal entry — boys eating lunch in the room and throwing their food scraps into my waste paper basket. As a result we used to maintain a fine healthy family of house mice, "venturesome but at the same time wary" — a trait shared, by other regular occupants of the room!

Here, at home in Dorset, I often think of that original class. Fifteen of them as I recall, in double desks arranged in two rows — five Vth Formers on the back row — Swarbrick and Dobson, Houghton and Abram,

and then Fowler – ten from IVa and IVb on the front row – Atherton and Cock, Haythornwhite and Marquis, Brown and Harrison, Matthews and Bateson, Sumner and Fielding. Where have they all got to? Sadly Matthews, Swarbrick, Dobson and Abram are no longer with us and I have lost touch with the rest. Most of them should be grandfathers of some years standing by now. Time marches on – but one thing remains fairly certain – the Veteran will outlast the lot of us.

B.S.

FRIENDS OF K.G.S.

President: Mr. P. Laws
Chairman: Diane S. Corner
Treasurer: Mr. Alan Spencer
Secretary: Mr. R. M. Clarkson

Since our last report, we have had a very successful year, which is in a large part, due to the unflagging support of parents, friends and members of staff. To all these people I extend the thanks of the Committee.

Our Jumble Sales continue to be extremely successful, and this year, we have introduced a 'Uniform Market'. This was the brain child of two new members of the Committee, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Preswich, and was a tremendous hit. The response from parents in both sending and purchasing 'New to You' items will ensure that it remains a regular term event.

The Barbecue, held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jonty Richardson, and our Cheese and Wine Evening – as a welcome to new parents – continued in their popularity, and contributed greatly to our funds.

The Christmas Supper Dance, held at the Pendale Hotel, South Promenade, will remain forever indelibly etched in our memories, as it was held on the night of the combined high tide and gale. We were still marooned in the hotel at 2:15 in the morning, waiting for the waters to recede sufficiently to allow us to wade out to our acquatic vehicles.

Due to Mr. Spencer's hard work and organisation, the Christmas Draw gave its usual large donation to funds, and we thank all those who supported it.

Our main event this year, was the Silver Jubilee Dinner Dance, held at the Clifton Arms Hotel, Lytham. This was the most enjoyable and well-supported evening, and thanks are due to the Social Sub-Committee for their hard work and meticulous attention to every detail. It was a great pleasure, in this our 25th Anniversary Year to count two past Chairmen (Chairpersons?) amongst our guests.

Details of forthcoming events are published regularly in letter-form, which come from our hard-pressed Social Secretary, Charles Baylis, but should your sons be as non-forthcoming with information as mine, you can double check our 'Happenings' in the invaluable School Calendar.

We sincerely thank all of you who gave so generously of your time, effort, – and of course, money – this past year, and look forward to seeing you at this year's functions.

Diane S. Corner, *Chairman*

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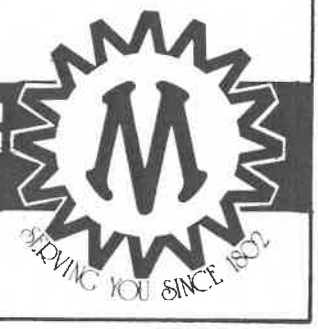

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