

Lirkhamian

81

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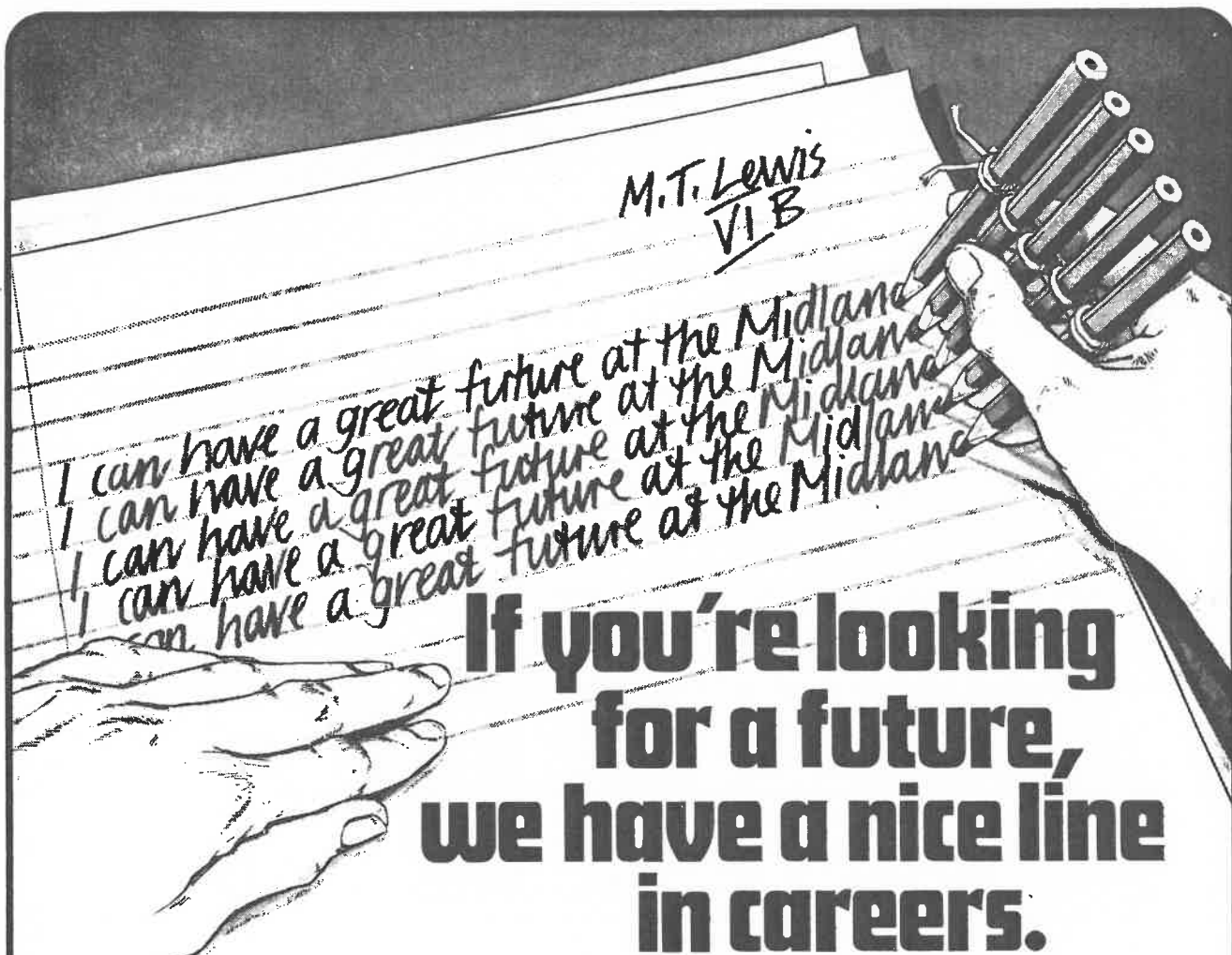
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Editorial

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Mr. R. Porter, Mr. A. R. Baines.

The school year 1980-81. After a cursory glance, it seems rather bland and uninteresting. No startling revelations about independence; no new architectural masterpieces constructed; no ministerial visits. There were plenty of non-events on the magazine front too. Unlike some of our Fleet Street counterparts, the magazine has seen no upheavals in the echelons of power, nor any take-over bids by Rupert Murdoch. What on earth could there be to write about for the "Kirkhamian '81"?

This question is blatantly answered on the following pages, which illustrate the hive of activity that nestles behind the tranquil, ivy-clad facade of our learned institution. The articles which grace these pages undoubtedly show the diversity of interests and activities in which the pupils here participate. After all, it is *their* magazine and we print what they wish to submit.

In answer to some critics, who complain that the magazine suffers a deficiency of this or is lacking in that, we endeavour to plan the format in accordance with the trends indicated by the questionnaire. However, we are, of course, limited by the relative numbers of contributions. Nobody can print non-existent articles. This edition contains more illustrations and photographs than in previous years, without turning it into comic strip form. The desire for this was clearly highlighted on the questionnaire. Similarly, in response to popular support, the C.C.F. section is more comprehensive.

It is highly encouraging to see many articles from the juniors, especially from the young ladies. It is also promising to read imaginatively written official reports, rather than the stereotypical "despite playing well, we were defeated by the superior opposition . . ." comments of previous years. The end result is, we feel, a happy balance between the role of a documentary record and an interesting, often amusing, journal.

David Burrell & Brian Watson

News From The Governors

Educational establishments at all levels are facing considerable hazards including financial cuts and falling rolls. Independent schools, although currently buoyant, are under political threat of abolition if there is a change of Government. The GBA (Association of Governing Bodies of Public Schools) is not pessimistic about the future but they do urge all member schools to use the time to the next General Election to gather more widespread public support for the preservation of ideals in education.

Cover design by B. J. Watson

Parents desire to have their children attend schools which maintain religious ethics, high standards of conduct and excellence of education. Unfortunately these aspects are seeming to be neglected in an increasing number of state schools. However, it is necessary to be sympathetic to their difficulties, and collaboration between the independent and maintained sectors is to be encouraged where this can make the best use of limited resources. It is vitally important to the future of this country that all our young people are provided with a foundation that will enable them to become enterprising citizens.

How does Kirkham Grammar School in its developing role in the independent sector fit into this scene? Adaption to change cannot always be a quick process and much of what is emerging in the school is of an evolutionary nature. Since the Appeal in 1979 which made possible the building of the Norwood Block extension, the resources generated by the running of the school permit only a mild rate of expansion.

We are primarily concerned with people and so I shall begin my report by recording the number of changes in the membership of the Governing Body which took place in September 1980. At the end of their appointed period of office, two long-serving Governors retired, Canon W. A. P. Francis who was a Governor for 25 years including Chairman for twelve years to 1976 and Mr. E. Smith, an Old Boy of the school, who was a Governor for about 20 years. We have thanked them for their long and valuable service. Their successors on the Board are the Rev. R. A. Nelson, the Vicar of Kirkham, and Mrs. A. Derbyshire, a parent and a former member of the Friends' General Executive Committee. At about the same time we were saddened by the death of Mrs. Kathleen Flenley, a charming and gracious lady appointed to the Board by the University of Liverpool. She is succeeded by Mrs. Mary Lockwood, a Liverpool graduate and a resident of Kirkham. County Councillor Richard Spencer changed positions by succeeding former Mayor of the Fylde, Mr. Jack Braithwaite, as representative from the Hornbie Charity. The Lancashire County Council appointed Councillor Brian Hodgson to fill the vacancy created by this change.

The school is numerically larger now that it has ever been and this has put an additional burden on the teachers, particularly those involved with the core subjects. The Governors have approved two additional teaching posts to relieve this pressure and to help prepare the way for developments in the curriculum. We all appreciate the good job that is done and the hard work that is put into the academic and after-school activities.

It was a disappointment not to be included in the first round of allocations in the Government's assisted places scheme. However, Baroness Young, Minister of State for Education, has said that it is open to the Governors to reapproach the D.E.S. about the possible admission of the school to the scheme after 1981. In these circumstances the Governors felt it right to make a modest amount of extra money available for additional bursaries for 1981-82.

The Friends continue to make a valuable contribution to the life of the school. A much appreciated venture, undertaken by a dedicated team, has been the

interior decorating including the tasteful, welcoming decor of the school entrance.

There can be no large-scale building work afforded at the present time but general improvements and new small projects are proceeding. Extra teaching accommodation is expected, two tennis courts are to be constructed adjoining the present courts and the pavilion is to have upgraded services. The Governors were very pleased to purchase the new grand piano after the pupils had raised £1000 towards its cost.

The School House family is still growing as the girls are progressively admitted to the school. A phased scheme to bring into use existing space for additional dormitories and to develop the dining and recreational areas is planned. A resident house-mistress is required to join the staff.

On behalf of the whole school family, I express our condolence to the Headmaster, his wife and his mother. The sudden death of Mr. Summerlee senior occurred as this article was being written. The Summerlee family have spent many hours doing a variety of jobs to help the school and particularly the boarding house. Father's willingness and expertise will be sadly missed.

I have indicated that the School is making steady progress in independence. We must not be lulled into a false sense of security by this progress, for real hazards lie ahead. K.G.S. is making a valuable contribution to education in the area and faces the future from a position of strength supported by extensive goodwill and practical help.

Peter Laws
(Chairman of the Governors)

The School Year

The traditional Founders' Day Service was held on Thursday, May 22nd, at St. Michael's Church, this year's preacher being Rev. C. Birkett, Vicar of Wesham. On the afternoon of the same day Mr. W. Paish, British Olympics Athletics Coach, was invited as guest of honour at the annual Sports Day, an event which attracted a considerable number of spectators.

For those unable to distinguish themselves at inter-house level, July 1st provided an opportunity to participate in the Sponsored Walk, through which the School received approximately £1,000 towards the purchase of the new grand piano, now located in the Main Hall.

It had long been felt that the placing of Speech Day at the end of the Easter Term had, whatever the advantages of distributing G.C.E. Certificates, been at best rather removed from the time of the External and Form Examinations, to which much of its content related. This year it was therefore decided to re-schedule the event for the beginning of the Winter Term and on Tuesday, 23rd September we were pleased to invite Dr. Vaughan Thomas, Head of the Department of P.E. at Liverpool Polytechnic, to distribute the prizes. Dr. Thomas spoke of the need for all at school to pursue a full range of activities, social, academic and sporting.

The final event in the School Calendar for 1980 was the Carol Service, which was once again attended by a large congregation at the Parish Church. The service had been preceded by the popular Carol Evenings held at School and these in themselves form only two of the many concerts reviewed separately in the Music Section of the Magazine.

Turning to matters of more individual distinction, we find no shortage of material in either academic or extra-curricular contexts. Selwyn Dixon, who intends to read Civil Engineering at University has gained one of only sixteen sponsorships offered this year by British Rail. M. P. Bedford has recently gained a place to read Natural Sciences (Physics) at University College, Oxford and a large proportion of our School leavers have proceeded to Universities and other places of Higher and Further Education. As a new departure, suggested by the Magazine Committee, we are pleased to publish our 'O' and 'A' level results on the following pages.

On the sports scene, D. A. Barnes, swimming for Lancashire Schools, came third in the U.14 English Schools 100m. crawl, while N. G. Brough was placed second in the Manchester Fencing Tournament. R. G. Turner was placed 7th in the English Schools U.15 80m hurdles and Sean Hickey is this year's Blackpool and District Intermediate Boys' Cross-country Champion. Amongst the Old Boys, Ian Aitchison is already playing for the English Students XV after only four years of playing Rugby (!), and John Montgomery successfully completed the recent London marathon in 4.01.30, another 'first', he says, for School House! Also among the record-breakers, we are pleased to report that the School House pop-group 'Dethwish' was placed third in the North of England Schools Rock-group Competition organised by the Trustee Savings Bank. In a more classical vein, we have learnt that Karl Turner has successfully auditioned for the Northern Cathedral Singers of the Royal School of Church Music.

The year has been of particular significance for the Old Kirkhamians' Association, since both its President and Vice-President, Mr. Baines and Mr. Summerlee respectively, are on the staff of the School. We are pleased to publish a number of contributions from the O.K.A. later in the Magazine, and wish to express our thanks to the many Old Boys who have made generous donations to the School.

Much of what the School is able to do is unquestionably made possible by the numerous gifts and immense commitment of time made by the Friends of K.G.S. Details of many of the items they have financed and functions they have held will be found on later pages, but a particularly noteworthy aspect of their work has been the large number of improvements made to the decoration of many rooms and corridors in the School.

A low turnover of staff has been a usual feature of K.G.S. teaching, and this year there is only one departure to report, that of Mr. R. S. Nutter. In two very short years, Robert had made a considerable impact on the School, as Head of Economics, Boarding House master and Chairman of the Film Society. He it was who, despite his Burnley origins, developed soccer as a Wednesday afternoon activity, and his enthusiasm and

enterprise which led to such innovations as the video-cassette recorder are already greatly missed.

The number of entrants for September 1981 seems set fair to maintain a good standard of pupil at K.G.S. Planning permission has already been granted for a new block of classrooms, in addition to the building of the Matron's Quarters and Norwood Block extension reported last year. Plans are in hand for further curricular developments and the extra-curricular aspects will doubtless continue to thrive, as we hope is shown by many of the articles in this Magazine. For the moment, the Magazine Committee wishes to conclude this section by thanking all who have helped in the preparation of the 'Kirkhamian' and in particular Mrs. B. Dickson for her help with the typing of much of the text.

R. Gill

O-Level and A-Level Results, 1980

The following candidates were successful in the G.C.E. 'O' level examinations 1980 in the numbers of subjects as shown below:

11 Subjects:

B. J. Watson

10 Subjects:

J. Milburn, S. J. Stokes

9 Subjects:

K. P. Bolton, A. H. Bridge, S. J. Chrispin, J. T. Curtis, B. G. Dunstan, S. A. Fletcher, P. N. K. Frodsham, R. I. Haynes, B. MacFarlane, G. Morgan, N. Parkinson, A. M. Scott, T. N. Stokes, P. S. Taylor

8 Subjects:

J. P. W. Brown, R. M. Boyes, L. W. Christopher, I. H. Collinge, G. R. Eastham, P. R. Littler, C. B. L. Malings, S. T. Richards, D. J. Uttley

7 Subjects:

R. S. Bigland, B. N. Calam, S. P. Gill, B. M. Goodridge, M. R. Gornall, C. D. Grime, R. T. Hargreaves, G. W. McIlraith, R. G. H. Parkin, S. D. Reardon, A. P. Seabury, P. W. Smith

6 Subjects:

S. R. Jarman, I. R. Kirk, I. C. Porter, C. S. Robinson

5 Subjects:

D. K. Brook, D. J. Gill, J. R. Longson, J. P. Stanford, S. J. Walker

4 Subjects:

S. P. Collins, N. I. Cross, P. R. Dobson, M. T. Lennie, I. D. Pearson, I. G. Walmsley

The following candidates were successful in the G.C.E. 'A' level examinations 1980 in the numbers of subjects as shown below:

5 Subjects:

P. Currie, N. D. Gibson, M. R. Sergeant

4 Subjects:

C. G. Barker, A. G. H. Cannell, R. J. Gilmore, G. W. Hague, J. M. Hebden, W. J. Lester, I. Little, T. J. Mackereth, T. A. Paget, D. S. Scott, D. A. Stephenson, I. Swift, M. W. Taylor, G. Thomson, T. Waite, G. R. Westhead, A. B. Williams, P. Williams, S. A. Williamson

3 Subjects:

M. V. Barker, G. Barlow, G. M. Benstead, R. J. Hiscock, J. F. Lowery, R. C. Nichols, C. J. Sugars, D. Tasker, M. R. Washington

2 Subjects:

A. J. Bentley, D. W. Dunlop, M. G. Hawe, I. Liddell, I. D. McNeillie, J. M. Porter, A. R. Taylor, C. A. Walker, M. P. Worthington, S. R. Yeadon

1 Subject:

I. W. Aitchison, M. F. Brackfield, P. J. Briggs, N. R. Fraser, D. J. M. Green, A. Parkinson, I. N. Pennington, J. P. Thomas, K. F. Youles

1 'A' level subject taken one year early:

M. P. Bedford, S. J. Dixon, C. J. Eaves, N. R. Eaves, A. J. Marshall

Oxbridge Entrants 1980

C. G. Barker: Obtained entrance to Peterhouse, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences

I. Little: Obtained entrance to Mansfield College, Oxford to read History

The Good Old Days

1919 was an important year for many reasons: the treaty of Versailles was signed, the League of Nations was founded and so on. But for a recently retired member of the Board of Governors the year was of even greater significance for it was in this year that Edward Smith started life as a first-year boarder at Kirkham Grammar School.

"Ned" was only the second boy from Woodplumpton ever to go to the Grammar School, and following a sound education there, he went on to join the army before qualifying as a chartered accountant, in a successful career from which Ned is now enjoying a happy retirement with his wife in Fulwood.

Although it is nearly sixty years since he left, he did not forget his school, but, on the contrary, became an active member of the Old Boys' Association, and has been a Governor of the school for the past twenty years. A few weeks ago, we had the enlightening pleasure of meeting him and sharing his vivid reminiscences of his school life.

In 1919 the Reverend Cresswell Strange, a much loved and deeply respected character, also started at Kirkham Grammar School — but as the Headmaster. As an ex-Warwickshire County Cricket Club player, Cresswell Strange's enthusiasm for the game rubbed off well on to the boys who presented themselves as a formidable side against their rivals from the Grammar School at Hutton.

Some much appreciated enthusiasm of a more maternal nature was shown by the second mother-cum-matron-cum-seamstress, Mrs. Strange, who, with the help of a cook, and two chamber maids, transformed School House into a home from home during term time.

Term began for the 32 boarders in very much the same way as it does today, with the boys being delivered to the school on the Thursday evening. It was the job of Mr. L. Budden to ensure that each of the 16 boys in both dormitories were happily (or otherwise) tucked up in bed for a 7.30 a.m. start the following morning. And what a sight they had to look forward to! For at about 7.40 a.m. Mr. Budden would appear in the dormitory clad in his pyjamas and brandishing a slipper to swipe at any boy who had not satisfied the requirements of a properly ragged bed or who was not dressed, or who had left tell-tale crumbs behind!

The weekends started with Saturday morning school which included geometry in its curriculum. Despite many efforts, Ned confessed he could never quite grasp the subject, so in the afternoon he and a few friends used to borrow the cleverest lad's book from the geometry master's room, copy up the necessary homework, and return the books in time for them to be unsuspectingly marked on Sunday.

School thankfully finished at 12.05 on Saturday, school football matches being played in the afternoon.

Every Sunday the boys would put on their Sunday Eton suits (or "bum starvers" as Ned accurately described them), a clean, starched collar (of which each boarder had three to last a week), don their straw hats, and would march down in two files to church — much to the amusement of the local lads. There they would invest one penny of their six-pence weekly pocket money in the collection before returning to a Sunday dinner of roast beef, potatoes, fruit and custard.

Periodically a long walk would be arranged, passing through Freckleton and Wrea Green. As an incentive actually to return, the first man back received a pot of Mrs. Strange's plum jam — a just reward. Other weekend pastimes included cross-country runs, swimming, cricket, and ratting.

The end of the Summer 1924 saw Speech Day which was, as always, a sad affair as Ned said goodbye for the last time to many school friends made over his five years there, and to his friend for five years — the school. Even today he affectionately treasures his old school cap, rug, porte-manteau, and clothes brush, much to the light-hearted annoyance of his wife who explained to us his three loves "K.G.S., Fulwood Church, and me — in that order!"

Our only hope is that Kirkham will continue to produce nostalgic and appreciative Old Boys such as —

David Burrell (Pre.)
and Giselle Daniels (Pre.)

The Friends of K.G.S.

A dictionary definition of "friend" is "one joined to another in mutual benevolence".

It is clear that the School enjoys the benevolence of the Friends but, you might ask, how about the "mutual" part of the definition? To anyone who has joined in the Friends' activities — particularly the hard working committee members — the answer is obvious but may not be so to parents who are new to the School. Our benefit comes in the fun of working together to achieve the ends which help all our sons and daughters as well as the members of staff. Until you have actually done it, it is difficult to describe the pleasure which results from working behind the bar for four hours at the summer barbeque, from sorting jumble, from decorating in the school on a fine summer's evening, from preparing and serving food for 160 people at the autumn buffet dance, from . . . you name it! The pleasure is in doing things together and in making friends with other parents. So, if you haven't done so already, why not give it a go?

Through our efforts this year we have donated over £2,500 to all parts of the School's life as well as contributing substantially in kind through the decoration of the main entrance hall, the School House corridor and points beyond! In making gifts we try to ensure that all members of the School benefit and a few examples illustrate this point. £500 p.a. for the rental purchase of the Rank-Xerox photocopier, £200 to the Biology Department for four microscopes, £300 towards the cost of a new display cabinet for the School trophies, £250 towards the cost of Encyclopaedia Britannica, £100 to the Astronomical Society for a telescope, £100 to this School Magazine, £250 to general sporting activities, £50 for reference material for the Careers Department, £150 to the Geography Department for an overhead projector, £200 for general art materials. We are particularly pleased to be able to help in this way and other ways.

Can YOU help us to do more?

To those who work hard, who consistently support our functions — our thanks; we look forward to seeing you again and again. To those who rest content that THEY will do it — let 1981/82 be the year to become one of THEM!

On a personal note — my heartfelt thanks to the b committee a chairman could ever hope to have.

Dr. A. R. Anderson



KGS AT LARGE

NETBALL TOUR TO PORTSMOUTH 1981

On the morning of Friday 20th February a party of 13 very excited second year girls and two teachers set out for Portsmouth, Hampshire, on the first netball tour every undertaken by a party from K.G.S. Driving the school mini-bus, and in general charge of the party, were Mrs. Piggott and Mrs. Black.

One of the most pleasant stops during the journey was at Banbury where we stopped during mid-afternoon for a cursory look around this picturesque little town. At approximately 7.15 p.m. the party finally arrived in Portsmouth where we were met by the girls from St. Luke's School. These girls were to be our hostesses for five nights. So, tired after the long journey, we were escorted to individual houses.

We played our first match against Atherley School on Saturday morning. This was an exciting game, the result being a very creditable 5-5 draw. Wendy Jennings (3) and Jayne Pickervance (2) were our goal-scorers. Jayne deserves special mention as she was the only first-year girl in the team, making this a very good performance against older girls. In the afternoon we went ice-skating in Portsmouth and the evening's entertainment commenced at 7 o'clock with a disco.

Monday proved to be a very enjoyable and rewarding day, because we competed in a tournament involving seven teams. Kirkham entered a combined team with St. Luke's, as well as our first team. Our combined team won one match by a convincing 4-0 margin. Overall, though, we won 3, drew 1, and lost 2, managing a very rewarding 3rd position. Afterwards we were each presented with certificates and a souvenir postcard of St. Luke's School.

On Tuesday we played our hostesses, winning 12-8. This really was an exciting game, and a marvellous performance. All credit must go to St. Luke's as well for making it such an exciting game.

Early on Wednesday morning we reluctantly left our genial hostesses and drove out of Portsmouth, picking up two members of our party on the way out, because they had stayed on the outskirts of the town — the rest of us had been quite close to the centre.

Many thanks must go to Mrs. Black and Mrs. Piggott for driving the mini-bus and allowing us to have an unforgettable tour. May there be many more to come!

Lisa Green, 2X (Captain)



Girls' Netball Tour Team

THE U15 RUGBY TOUR OF PORTUGAL

Sunday, 22nd February

At 2.45 p.m. twenty-two boys from KGS and two members of staff all gathered together at Manchester International Airport. The party was bound for the sunnier climate of Portugal on a seven-day, two match rugby tour. After a most enjoyable flight the party arrived at Lisbon where they were met by the President and other honorary officials of the Portuguese RFU. We then travelled by coach to our hotel which was situated on the coast in Estoril about 15 miles outside the capital.

Monday, 23rd February

This was to be a day of rest and was spent by most of the party on the beach, where we played football, volleyball, and went swimming in the sea. With the

Tuesday, 24th February

The morning was spent training at the National Stadium in Lisbon. With the temperatures being so high many people found it extremely hard to keep going but with plenty of breaks and drinks, we managed to work on most of our moves. The rest of the day was spent sightseeing.

Wednesday, 25th February

This was the day of our first match. We travelled by coach to see various sights including the monument to the Discoverers which stands on the banks of the river Tajos, and then on to the National Stadium. The match kicked off at 4.00 p.m. in front of about 300 spectators who constantly cheered and shouted throughout the game. The opposition consisted of 15 players chosen from club sides in the North of Portugal, ten of whom had played in the National U16 XV that had previously beaten the French. It was not surprising that with their strength and experience they proved far too strong for us and we eventually went down 55-0. However, we were well complimented by our hosts for never giving up until the end. The team certainly learned a lot from this match and realised for the first time how other sides must have felt back home when we had thrashed them.

After the match a marvellous reception and meal were laid on with lots of free wine. Speeches and trophy exchanging took place.

Thursday, 26th February

After a hectic and very tiring previous day, the Thursday was spent relaxing. Many people played cards and the remainder went sightseeing.

Friday, 27th February

Friday morning was spent by the group on a fitness run to the town of Cascais and back. After this, swimming was the order of the day. In the afternoon a party of about ten ventured into Lisbon where they visited the 'Christo Rei' statue and the new suspension bridge.

Saturday, 28th February

Saturday was the day of the second match. At around midday the team once more travelled by coach to the National Stadium where they were to play the National U15 XV. The game kicked off at around 2 p.m. in front of a crowd of about 500 spectators. At

half-time the team were losing 6-0, but in the second half they were overcome by the strong running Portuguese and eventually went down 31-0. After the game the party stayed to watch the full international between Portugal and Switzerland. The rest of the evening was spent enjoying the last night in Portugal.

Sunday, 1st March

Sunday morning was spent packing, while the afternoon was once again dedicated to the beach. At 5.30 p.m. a most contented rugby team set off from Lisbon Airport and were very soon back in the cold air of Manchester.

On behalf of the team, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the various people who helped us financially to go on this tour; The School group, Dethwish, who performed two superb concerts in aid of the tour; the Blackpool Gazette for their kind donation and Ray's Melody shop in Kirkham. Finally, I would like to thank the parents and staff without whom none of this would have been possible.

R. G. Turner, 4X

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP 1981

We had been told that this was strictly not a holiday and that in the past sixth formers had been up until half past ten at night collating the day's work. Yet reports from the Upper Sixth claimed that it was something of a holiday — reports which were later to be proved sadly wrong!

And thus it was with mixed feelings that eighteen ardent geographers set off on their geography field trip on the 24th March this year with the destination of Scarborough, where they were to stay at the Prince of Wales Hotel.

Arriving there just after lunch we were taken on a guided tour of the town and its castle. It was during this brief tour that the gravestone which read, "Here lies Anne Brontë, daughter of Rev. P. Brontë, inspired Richard Bigland to ask whether Anne Brontë had any relation to Rev. P. Brontë. Was this a symptom that

The next six full days were spent gathering data on a variety of field studies ranging from Coastal Geomorphology to Urban Transects and village studies, and from farm-land uses to the most eventful of all, the river studies. The greater part of each evening was spent collating the day's data and discussing the next day's field-work.

By the end of a thoroughly tiring yet enjoyable week I think most of our field work questions were answered. However, a number of other questions remained decisively unanswered, such as: was the fact that Ian Kirk was discovered dancing with an O.A.P. one night due to his persistence in trapping his head in the minibus-door? I think I should also mention the numerous people (including myself — much to the amusement of an onlooking policeman) who were thrown bodily into the sea on the last day.

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I should like to thank Mr. Scott and Mr. Turner for a most interesting and informative week and also the staff of the Prince of Wales Hotel for their excellent service.

G. R. Eastham, L6A

NETHERLANDS RUGBY TOUR

Although we were not attended by a gloomy, wintry day as such departures often are, this scarcely dampened our spirits as we set off on a 4½-hour journey, which included stops at the picturesque stations of Leeds and Manchester. Eventually, we found our berths on the ferry and settled down to a crossing which was to prove rough at the very least, and suffice it to say that not many of us were laughing.

Once through customs we met our assigned coach and driver, Pierre, who took us from Zeebrugge, through Belgium and Holland to the town of Valkenswaard. We ran out the long coach-journey with a refreshing practice in adjoining fields. The same evening we walked into the town where half the party found a discotheque, while the other half of the party mistook a wallpaper shop for a bar.

The following day we travelled to Breda for the afternoon's game against Bredase R.F.C. Colts. The team, apprehensive about playing in a foreign country and against unknown opposition, was unsettled by the size of the Bredase pack, five of whom played for the 1st XV, and by the unorthodox interpretation of the laws of Rugby Football by the referee. Nevertheless, K.G.S. played good rugby in patches and this was enough to overcome the enthusiastic Bredase side. Unfortunately, as the side found its rhythm, a spate of injuries occurred, forcing three substitutions and numerous rearrangements of position. With the prospect of harder matches to come and the possibility of having a shortage of fit players, the final whistle at 18-0 was welcome.

Ian Greenhalgh, captain for this game, made an inspired speech at the reception afterwards and presented the Bredase team with a brochure of the School and in return we received a roadsign with the town's name upon it.

We visited Amsterdam the following day, and Messrs. Browning and Gornall accompanied us on a boat trip of the town.

The following day we visited the Philips' Technological Exhibition in Eindhoven. Although complicated and incomprehensible for many, the 'Evolun' exhibition was very interesting, informative and enjoyable. The afternoon saw a light practice which included the inspired comment from our H.B. — "Keep your eyes open so you can see the ball." By the time it was time to leave for the R.F.C. Colt's ground, all injuries had cleared. On arrival at the ground we were greeted with the prospect of playing on a rock-hard pitch which had frozen after sunset.

This match was an excellent game of Rugby Football with the team giving an excellent performance of open, running rugby. The forwards dominated all

phases of the game and supported the three-quarters quickly in the loose, while the backs took full advantage of their possession. The team at last showed the full extent of the progress they have made during this season and played with great flair and style. Although it was a superb team performance, special mention must be made of the efforts of Gary Bretherick at loose-head prop and Raymond Ingleby who scored a superbly taken hat-trick of tries.

After a relaxing day in Valkenswaard, Wednesday night's game was against the Ettes-Leur Colts. When we arrived after a long coach drive, it was still doubtful whether we would be able to play, but having mutually agreed that it was playable, the game went on. By kick-off time, 8.00 p.m., the pitch was somewhat akin to concrete, and a clammy fog crept around the poorly flood-lit ground. No-one was worried by minor factors like these — the hardest match of the tour had to be played, and had to be won!

The team put every ounce of effort into winning this game, sometimes trying too hard — snatching at crucial passes or hurtling blindly into rucks and mauls. Nevertheless, K.G.S. won convincingly over a side containing two Dutch national players and which gave only a few scares. The team held out the Dutch with the forwards driving well. John Nelson played very well in a three-quarter line not as fluent as the night before while Nick Harper and the captain, Philip Longworth, played outstandingly in a dominant pair.

Not only could we now celebrate a win over the hardest of the three teams we played, but also a fitting conclusion to a tour in which we fell only two points short of a hundred, with no points scored against us — a credit both to our captain and the performance of the whole team. It was here that Chris Anthony and Ian Collinge gave their famous display of Sumo wrestling, much to the envy of the Dutch. Here too that Messrs. Gornall and Turner led the singing — the latter of the two in particular has a promising young voice and should find his place in the School Choir as a healthy tenor quite soon.

Thursday saw us leave Holland from Rotterdam, after we had looked around the new part of the city.

On reflection, the team played their rugby well, being a credit to the country and the school in their behaviour on and off the field. We were most impressed by the Dutch mastery of the English language, their hospitality and their desire to learn and improve their game of rugby football.

Thanks must go to Philip Longworth, who led his tour party by example, and to all the staff who provided support, advice, encouragement, repudiations, and first aid where necessary.

RESULTS K.G.S. v Bredase R.F.C. Colts 18-0
K.G.S. v Eindhoven R.F.C. Colts 58-0
K.G.S. v Ettes-Leur R.F.C. Colts 22-0

With over half the touring players scoring, there is little space to name them all but mention should be made of the top scorers, Raymond Ingleby and Richard Hargreaves.

A. S. Gregson (Pre.)

Special Features

The Astronomical Society at K.G.S.

The Society has been dormant since Mr. Bowman left several years ago, but from the "dark ages" of the late 1970's we have undergone a sparkling renaissance. In the last two years we have jumped to the forefront of active societies with regular weekly meetings, as well as observation evenings and visits to local astronomical establishments. Subsequently a hard core membership has built up not just of senior-school society officials, but also of enthusiastic junior form members who will help the society continue for years to come, and avoid completely any chance of another period of dormancy.

The past twelve months have been even more fruitful than the year before as momentum and interest have built up. The highlight of the Summer Term was the School's Open Day. For the Astronomical Society it meant a chance to show ourselves in full colours both to parents and pupils. Our exhibition consisted of large and various displays of books, models and telescopes. A popular exhibit was the mechanical orrery ('mini' solar-system) which lent itself to dozens of small practical demonstrations. By far the most popular items were, however, three slide-shows that all commanded full houses. The topics of these were "Jupiter's Moons", "Galaxies and Nebulae" and "The Planet Jupiter". They were given by S. R. Dewsnup (Secretary), C. J. Swift and S. C. Sloane (Committee Members).

The most important event for the society this year took place in the Winter Term. The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School donated the sum of £100 for the purchase of a new telescope. The new 3-inch altazimuth mounted reflecting telescope replaces the 3-inch equatorially mounted reflector, even though the latter had a re-aluminized (or re-silvered) mirror and a new eyepiece from last year; one of the crucial counter-balances was missing and therefore still rendered the whole apparatus useless. The new telescope was presented to the Headmaster and the senior officials of the society by the Secretary of the Friends, and the event was reported in the local press



Photograph reproduced by courtesy of the Lytham St. Annes Express

The Winter Term of 1980 turned out to be very busy as we started a campaign to increase our membership. The campaign commenced with the showing of a film entitled the "Spectroscope". The film explained how the spectrum of the light from a star can tell us how old the star is, what it is made of and how fast it is moving away from us. This was soon followed by another fact-filled slide show and talk by C. S. Sloane about Jupiter. These initial meetings were very well attended with numbers being between thirty and forty-five, apart from several members of the teaching staff who also came.

On Friday the 31st of October, during half-term, there was a trip to the Edge Hill College of Higher Education, near Ormskirk, to see the astronomical and electronics departments.

It is in the Winter Term that all the clocks of the nation revert to Greenwich Mean Time and therefore the evenings get dark that much earlier. And as we get nearer the shortest day of the year in December, our intrepid optical astronomers tilt their faces upwards to the sky during our Observation Evenings between 7 and 8 p.m. on Friday nights. On one single crystal-clear evening it is possible to see four or five satellites, three meteors, perhaps two planets, two star clusters, a galaxy, a nebula and a whole host of constellations. The rewards of such an evening are well worth staying out for in the sub-zero temperatures on the school car park or on the 1st XV rugby pitch.

The highpoint of the winter in terms of observations was the Geminid meteor shower. The 'watch' that was set up for this occurrence was organised by the Astronomical Society between the 13th and 14th of December last year.

Hurting through our Solar System at the moment are countless clusters of space debris, possibly from comets, which orbit the sun, like ourselves. At certain times of the year these clusters literally collide with the earth's orbit.

When this happens we are occasionally privileged to see a fire-work display in the heavens above us.

The exercise went very well, and perhaps at future times we may be able to submit accurate reports to the various astronomical associations who ask for such sightings to add to our knowledge of meteor showers.

The Winter Term was finished off with a film entitled "One Giant Leap". This film traced the history of mankind's attempts to reach the moon and the devices he has used to get there, with both his successes and his failures. The film culminated with the Apollo II landing on the moon in the Sea of Tranquility and with Neil Armstrong's famous saying, "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

The Spring Term of 1981 was very busy for the Society with a talk on the Thursday of every week save one. The first was a cassette talk from the U.S.A. that was shown in two parts, on a consecutive Thursday and Friday, entitled "Viking on Mars". The slide-accompanied talk followed the full history of the

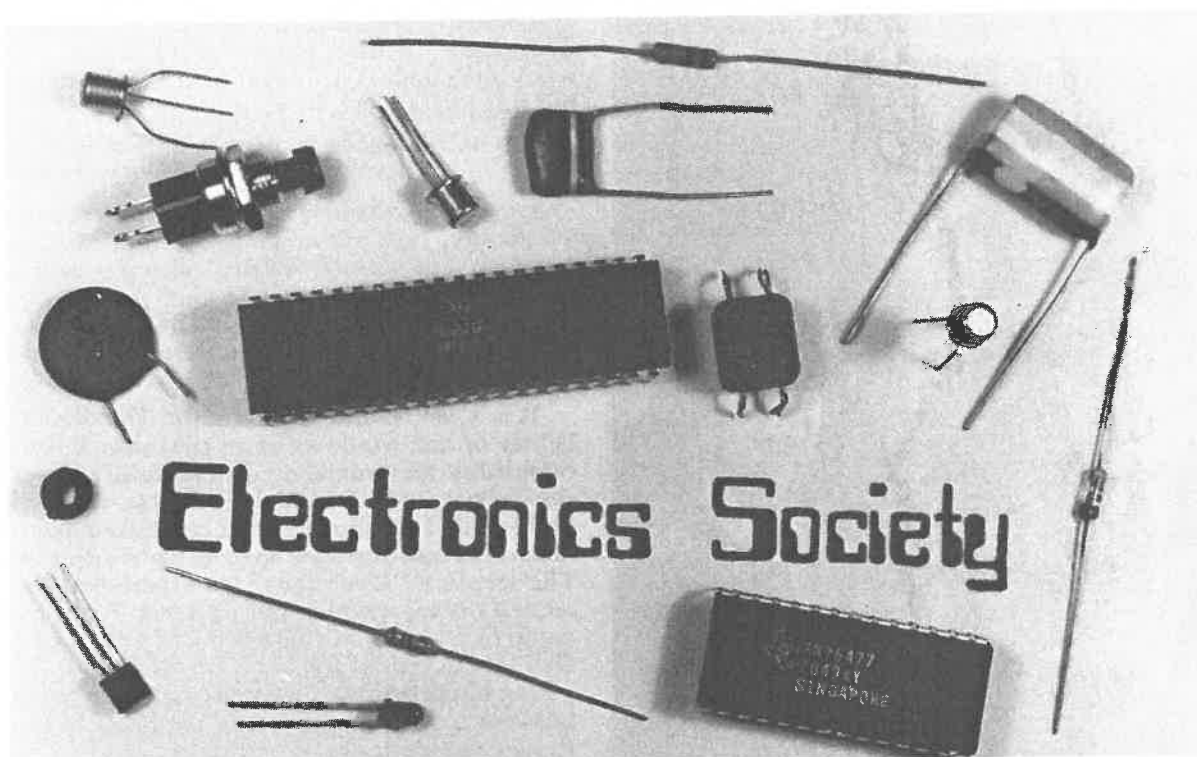
two Viking landers that touched down on Mars in 1976 in their search for life on the red planet. The following week there was another taped talk with slides called Black Holes; this was very "absorbing", one might say! The week after the mock examinations there was a talk on Nocturnal Dials by C. J. Swift. (A nocturnal dial is an instrument by which it is possible to tell the time by the stars).

"Astronomical Terminology" was the subject of the talk by Mrs. K. Bagley (Chairman) the week after

half-term and was quite well attended and very interesting. In the following weeks there were talks about Scintars, the Sun and Saturn.

In conclusion, the Society's thanks must above all go to our Chairman, Mrs. K. Bagley, for her devoted work, as she gives up so much of her free time to arrange our meetings.

S. R. Dewsnup, 5Z
and C. J. Swift, 5X



This year the Electronics Society has well and truly entered the 'micro-chip age' with about eight out of every ten projects built incorporating a silicon chip.

The beginning of the year saw a great leap in membership with many of the new members coming from the fourth year, although it would be good to see still more members from the lower forms. So far, we have built many projects and, in the main, we can report that they were successful after a few teething problems.

The Society presented its customary display at Open Day, and this year the main exhibit was a programmable model-train controller which we had built ourselves and it certainly attracted a good deal of attention. During the Autumn half-term holiday the Astronomical Society organised a trip to Edge Hill Training College and some Electronics Society members accompanied them to see the many computers there; we naturally found the trip most interesting.

The loan of a "Research Machines 380-Z" computer to the School during the Spring Term was much appreciated by the Society and it was used extensively during all of the meetings and at other times as well. It was not long before some members were even writing their own programmes and since the computer has

had to be returned the Society is eager for a replacement!

Also in the Spring Term, the School entered into a "Inter-Schools Computing Quiz" run by the British Computer Society (Preston and District Branch) and the North Lancashire Education Group. The team consisted of three members of the Electronics Society and in the first round we were drawn against Queen Elizabeth's, Blackburn. The final score turned out to be Kirkham 34 points, Blackburn 35. We feel, however, that we did very well since Computer Studies 'O' level is part of the Q.E.G.S. syllabus. I hope that we will be competing next year and that our narrow defeat will encourage us to improve our performance. An outing to Preston Polytechnic has been arranged for the end of the Spring Term.

In the past by far the main activity of the Society has been the construction of projects by individual members, but next year we plan to include more diverse items, such as talks and to undertake a group project.

Our thanks are due to everybody involved with the Society over the past year, and I hope their interest will continue for years to come.

Photograph and Article by J. P. W. Brown, L6 S

Musical Activities at K.G.S.

Last year's Founders' Day Service had been the last service at which the Rev. W. A. P. Francis would officiate and so the new vicar of Kirkham — Rev. R. A. Nelson — formed his first associations with the full school at the Carol Service. The service passed very smoothly with the choir in full voice and the school providing solid support. The soloists — Karl Turner, Stephen Weare and Adrian Gregson — all performed well and our thanks are again due to Mr. John Tait, the accompanist for the Service.



Photograph by courtesy of Blackpool Gazette and Herald Ltd.

To repeat last year's successful Carol Concerts, this year saw a collection of readings and carols performed in the School Hall in early December. The Girls' Choir performed under the direction of Mrs. R. F. Greaves, and Mrs. Boll's readers were greatly appreciated. The Boys' Choir also made a visit to St. Cuthbert's Church, Lytham, where the proceeds from the concert were donated to the Fabric Appeal Fund.

This term sees the Easter Concert which will include items from Houses, the Madrigal Group and Girls' Choir, as well as the main item for the choir, Schubert's Mass in 'G' Major. The orchestra will be playing Elgar's "Homage March" and Tchaikovsky's famous piece the "Marche Slave". School House has won the House Music Competition and we hope to include items from them and other competitors in the concert. We have recently learnt that Karl Turner, Head Chorister at Kirkham Parish Church, successfully

auditioned for the Northern Cathedral Singers of the Royal School of Church Music and will be singing in several Cathedrals throughout the North of England during 1981.

Within the School the Music Society has been particularly active in seeking a system of honours to be awarded on similar grounds to the colours given for rugby and hockey. The first recipient of honours was accordingly Alec Marshall, for his achievements in Music and his outstanding service to the Choir and Orchestra at K.G.S.

Finally I should like to thank the Chairman and Committee for their support this year and I look forward to Founders' Day and next year with uninvolved, but not unattached, interest.

A. S. Gregson (Pre.)
(Secretary of the Music Society)

The Definitive "Dethwish" Article

It is a wet Saturday afternoon. The drizzle beats lightly on the windows of an educational boarding establishment somewhere in Lancashire, for, back in the dark ages of 1978, School House was the bellows that kindled the glowing embers of four young musicians into the now roaring flame of . . . Dethwish. The sceptical "Rock-fans" who scoffed at the experimental noises creeping out of Room Eight have now come to realise that there is music after Led Zeppelin, and have accepted the band for what it is: five talented young musicians who have proved their undoubted potential by gaining places in the finals of two recent Rock competitions, and giving two stirring performances on the school stage.

As you may have read last year, the band first launched itself in December of 1979, when three members of School House (guitarists Roger Cartwright and Ian Porter, and bassist/vocalist Mike Corbishley) together with Wrea Green drummer Nick Johnson, played to an unsuspecting audience of disco-goers at the Park Street Youth Club in Lytham. Unfortunately, as Heavy Rock music was at that time considered an anachronism by the fashion-orientated members of the Lytham populace, only a meagre smattering of applause was raised from the six pairs of hands of the Lytham division of Fylde Rock fans. However, by the 13th February 1980 (the date of the group's second live appearance, at Freckleton) the soi-disant "New Wave of British Heavy Metal" was in full swing, and the band (with new drummer Chris Robinson) was welcomed by a 200-strong crowd of new converts to the aforementioned musical genre. They were given a hard time by a surprisingly abusive section of eleven- and twelve-year-olds who insisted on shouting for old Deep Purple and Jimi Hendrix numbers, giving the impression that they had been stalwart fans of these men since the age of three!!! The overwhelmingly extravagant sound-system (100 watts-worth of sheer Simon Fletcher genius!!!) was plagued by technical faults; the main problem being a section of gregarious arborials who persisted in clambering on to the vocal

speakers, thus preventing the sound from being carried beyond the first row of frantically waving hair!

After this thoroughly disappointing effort, the band enlisted the vocal talents of Simon Richards in the September of 1980. They began intensive rehearsals for a "next concert" that eluded them until late December, when Mr. Paul "I can spot 'em good" Smith was busily searching for an attraction to raise money for a tour to the Rugby capital of the world in Portugal. The band agreed to help, and on the 28th of November, the self-styled promotion team of "Smithall Productions" gratefully accepted a final gross of £110. This time there was only one misfortune — once again a faulty sound-system was to blame for the incoherence of the vocals. Nevertheless, the audience gave its full support, with tumultuous demands for three encores, and total participation in the chaotic rendition of Motorheads' "Ace of Spaces".

As a result of demands for a repeat performance, Dethwish took the stage again on the 31st January this year, and played a near faultless concert to a packed house of Rock fans from all over the Fylde. With their inclusion in the regional final of the T.S.B. "National Rock Schools" competition, the band's name has reached as far as Manchester, where they played on March 18th, and attained third place in the competition.

So, over the space of two years, something that started as a joke on Saturday afternoons has now become a serious pastime for five pupils who possess a highly accomplished degree of instrumental skill in their chosen musical field.

Finally, the band wish to thank the following people: their critics, for providing a most determined will to succeed; Mr. Keith Robinson for giving up his time to lending encouragement and attending to the technical side of the band; Mr. Smith and Dr. Hall for their organisation and handling of the "K.G.S. Tour"; Mr. Summerlee and Mr. Clarkson for putting up with the noise in the early stages; Mr. Catterall for his encouragement and support in the T.S.B. competition; and, of course, the fans, especially the nucleus that has followed the band since its inception, and the new converts who hopefully will continue to give their support in the future. Thank you.

I. C. Porter, L6A



C.C.F. SECTION

General Report

This year has seen another successful and commendable period of activity. The fifth-year cadets continue to train at an advanced stage and the new fourth year have enthusiastically and successfully tackled the elementary stages of their training. The Easter Term has witnessed an historic event in the history of the Contingent with the arrival of the first female recruits, who have brought a touch of "je ne sais quoi" to the stores.

A notable success for the fifth year cadets has been the excellent pass-rate in the weapon training test. Much of the credit for this success must be attributed to recently promoted Sgt. Ingleby. The small-arms cadre was recently formed and is progressing well, and they will form the future complement of N.C.O.'s. Despite shortages of uniform, the fourth year cadets have progressed rapidly with their basic, and all cadets except one passed their recruits' test first time. They are now following a syllabus of such varied activities as weapon training, map-reading, orienteering, abseiling, battlecraft and shooting.



It may be of interest to the junior forms and to parents to know exactly what the C.C.F. entails. Every fourth-year pupil is required to spend two years in military and adventure training on Thursday afternoons. Besides the basic military training, each cadet learns useful skills, supplementary to the school's academic work: abseiling, climbing, canoeing, etc. These are enjoyable, worth while and character-building activities, which provide a unique opportunity for the cadets. All activities and equipment are provided or financed by the Army and thus are of no cost to the school. The climax of the Contingent's training is a Field Day each term and the Easter and Summer Camps at various locations around the country and occasionally abroad. In 1979, for instance, the Contingent was the guest of the Royal Horse Artillery at Paderborn, West Germany.

Thus the C.C.F. is a valuable, often exciting and unique opportunity for pupils to learn a variety of skills. It also helps foster an understanding of the Armed Services and leads to possible career opportunities. C. S. M. Greenhalgh is himself expecting to take up a commission with the Contingent's parent regiment, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

C. S. M. Greenhalgh
and C. S. M. Sumner

Summer Camp—Monmouth, 1980

This year the Contingent's annual Summer Camp was held at a Territorial Army base. The camp provided little other basic accommodation and a vast area of Ministry of Defence training ground. Since we were the only occupants all activities were planned and organised by our officers, who are to be congratulated on providing such a varied programme with the few facilities available. This could explain the rumoured sighting of five loaves of bread and two fishes on the table in the Officers' Mess.

Almost immediately after arriving Messrs. Summers, Walls and Cheesbrough left to set up a secondary base at a small campsite some twenty miles away in the Brecon Beacons. Throughout the week groups of cadets travelled to and from this secondary camp, where they spent three days rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing and on a two day hike over the Beacons. Each cadet was issued with his own supply of "compo" rations for the three days. Consequently every meal was accompanied by a bartering session where cadets exchanged rations until they had a meal that appealed to them, with those experienced in the delights and pitfalls of "compo" rations often coming off the better.

Back at Monmouth, cadets spent the rest of the week on activities ranging from a strenuous march and shoot to an exercise in river crossing. Bill Lester deserves a special mention for his brave and determined effort to cross the river on a single suspended rope, since he alone succeeded by this method.

On the final day the entire Contingent visited the shooting range at Chepstow for a days firing of 303's. On one occasion shooting was halted in order that a herd of cows [Cpl. Lewis needs a lesson in classification and in anatomy — they were actually horses. — Capt. F. W. S.] which wandered freely about the range could be moved out of the line of fire. Beef butties were not on the scheduled menu! Despite this setback all enjoyed their chance to fire more powerful rifles than those used on the school's indoor range.

The camp was a great success and in the light of this may I thank all the officers for their considerable effort in making the camp as enjoyable as it was.

Cpl. M. Lewis

Lakes 3000

Following the struggle with the weather in the summer of 1979 on the Dales Way, it was decided to attempt a lightweight camping expedition in the Lake District in the summer of 1980. It is interesting to note that the expedition members, or most of them, were the same in both years, proving that we either produce durable and hardy cadets at K.G.S. or else masochistic monsters. Here are some comments from the expedition log, suitably censored and corrected for style, spelling and punctuation.

Day One. Eskdale to Wasdale

Mac. lost his boot on the railway line at Lancaster — a good start. Got wet. Clarkson on time!! Will these train journeys be worth it? Was wetter with cagoule on than off. Sherpa Sayer somehow produced a reasonable cup of tea but no pancakes.

Day Two. Wasdale to Wasdale (via Scafell Ridge)

Cadet looking up Lord's Rake in mist: "If you're going to be silly, I'm going home." (This became the catch phrase of the expedition and was used often, and sometimes with feeling.) Malings shows distinct inability to retain his balance over long periods of time. The views should have been magnificent. F. W. S. lost his way because of a fit of hysterics. R. M. C. met old flame in St. Bees — F. W. S. distinctly miffed when told of this.

Day Three. Wasdale to Borrowdale

Who needs complicated Army training to cross rivers when you can roll up your trousers? A day of hazards — soul-destroying whirlwinds at Sty Head Tarn, twenty-three Irish Venture Scouts coming up Taylor Gill Force as we were trying to get down, one small cadet feeling the pace, F. W. S. hidden in cagoule with head-ache, but all cheered up at Seathwaite because café was open and full of females and steaming cups of tea.

Day Four. Borrowdale to Thirlmere. ("O" level results day!)

At last — views! Got two boots full of Armboth Fell and wondered if it was G.S.C. driving the R.A.F. jet which kept flying below us? R. M. C. has no idea of how to read a shopping list! Have improved my animal noises today — can now do duck, sheep and

chicken. Glad we can move into a larger tent tonight as we can now sneeze without blowing the flysheet off. Have got hay-fever again.

Day Five. Thirlmere to Skiddaw and back

Gone totally broke — now £2 in debt! All the tourists in the Lakes want to visit Skiddaw today, some most unsuitably dressed! Bitter wind but glorious views and a super-fast descent down the scree from Carlside col. It's no joke at 3000 feet in a high wind when you only weigh six and a half stone! I've never seen so many girls in one town (Keswick) before!

Day Six. Bridge End (Thirlmere) to Helvelyn and home

Hot day and super views. Everyone on top from toddlers to people older than R. M. C. Met ex-K.G.S. pupil who greeted F. W. S. with horror. A great day to end a great week on. Today will be scratched on my mind for a long time — perfect weather! Welcome bottles of lemonade on return before 'bus to Windermere (chips) and tiring train ride home.

Cadets Armstrong, Calam, MacFarlane,
Malings, Stanford, Uttley and Walker.
Capt. F. W. S.

C.C.F. R.A.F. Section

The year started with the promotions of Cpl. Greening to Flight Sergeant, and Cpls. Williams and Burrell to Sergeants.

At the end of last summer term Cpl. Bedford and Cdt. Parkinson both attended a gliding course at R.A.F. Uphaven. Both successfully completed the course and gained their Proficiency Gliding Certificates.

The section had two camps last year: at R.A.F. Lynham and R.A.F. Wildenrath, both of which were very enjoyable and are reviewed separately here.

The exam results were again good with most cadets passing some with credits.

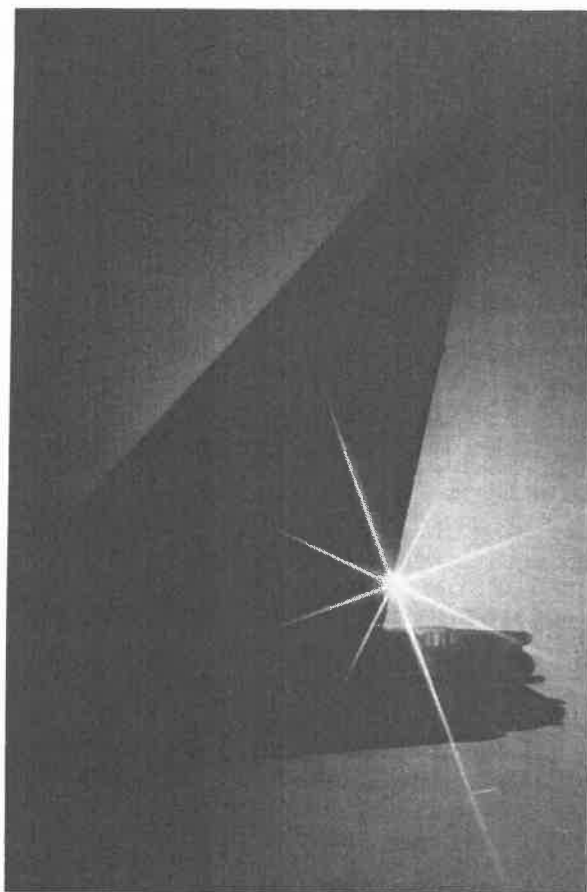
Thanks must once again be expressed to Mr. Cheesbrough and to Mr. Walls for all their efforts in organising the section.

F./Sgt. P. K. Greening

Visit to R.A.F. Wildenrath

Last Easter, six R.A.F. cadets — Sgt. Andrew Williams, Cpls. Paul Bedford, Philip Greening and Ian Sharples, and Cadets Michael Gornall and myself (we were outranked as the only non N.C.O.'s on camp) set off for a week at R.A.F. Wildenrath, accompanied by Sqdn. Ldr. Cheesbrough. R.A.F. Wildenrath is a front-line operational air base situated between Düsseldorf and Cologne in Germany.

Time: 0939; date: 9-4-80; location: a cold, wind-swept Kirkham station. We squeezed on board the London-bound express, which was jam-packed with the "bucket and spade" brigade returning from a wet and miserable bank holiday in Blackpool. "Express" turned out to be rather an understatement. The train was reluctant to exceed 30 m.p.h. and, because of power failure in Nuneaton or some other hackneyed excuse, entertained its enthralled clientele with an impromptu excursion around the delights of the West Midlands. Two hours later than scheduled, the train crawled into London Euston.



It was night-time in Wildenrath when we landed and and filed through passport control. "Air attack! Air attack" cried a voice over the p.a. system for no apparent reason. Everyone just laughed. Obviously someone had had one over the eight in one of the scores of bars selling duty-free liquor on site. But we were to change our minds. There were plenty of things going bump in the night. Rapid outbursts of gunfire filled the air with their staccato rhythm. Such occurrences were to continue all week with jet fighters screeching over the rooftops on low-level sorties, and heavy transport planes landing in the early hours of the morning, their whining propellers wakening even the comatose.

In the morning, figures bedecked in tin-hats, gas-masks and oddly patched overalls, and reminiscent of something out of 'Star Wars', were frantically milling around outside. The officers had to share the same mess as we did for breakfast, as their mess had

apparently been burned down during one of the night's raids. Was this some bizarre illusion, or had the Third World War actually begun?

All was clarified by our liaison officer, a young pilot officer who had just graduated from Cranwell. This was just one of several evaluation exercises, a large game dreamt up by the powers on high, in which the Luftwaffe, Belgian and American airforces, and the remainder of the R.A.F. and the British Army of the Rhine all turned their spite against one poor little airfield. It was, as one pilot said, the beginning of the silly season!

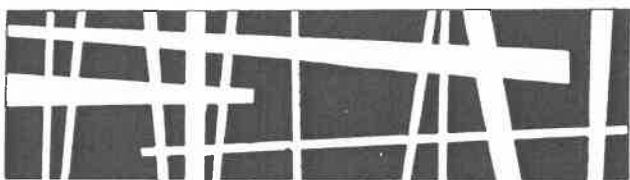
Despite all of this, and the fact that two squadrons were stationed there, we never actually saw a Phantom fighter plane taking off. One squadron had flown off to the 'Med.' for the week while the other had to be maintained on 24-hour readiness in case the 'Ruskies' really did attack.

The first impression gained of the camp was one of immensity. It was a fully self-sufficient town. Close to our billets were a church, a supermarket, a cinema and a bowling alley; a bus was required to show us around the site. As well as the Phantoms, there was also a squadron of ageing Pembroke light transport aircraft for carrying V.I.P.'s or casualties, several army helicopters, and a formidable array of surface-to-air missiles. Their potential use was somewhat limited, considering the other lines of American and German missiles deterring aggressors between Wildenrath and the Iron Curtain.

Activities arranged for us included firing self-loading rifles on the range, and a visit to FantasiaLand, a poor relation of Blackpool's Pleasure Beach. We had two day-trips over the boarder into Holland. On one, we visited Eindhoven, some time before the 1st XV Rugby team. It is the home of Philips and their fascinating exhibition, Evoluon, which traces developments in science and technology. At Overloon, the site of a large battle in World War II, we saw the Dutch war museum, containing many tanks and a large, absorbing display illustrating the work of the resistance. We scarcely had enough time to appreciate them fully. The final day was spent in Mönchengladbach, the nearest town, which, as well as boasting a world-famous football team, has a good shopping centre for purchasing last-minute gifts and other items.

The camp had, above all, provided an insight into a front-line air base and the pessimisms and optimisms of the staff who work there.

B. J. Watson, L6Sc



R.A.F. Easter Camp—1980— Lyneham

Date: 16th April 1980.

Place: R.A.F. Lyneham.

Mission: To enjoy a full week's Easter camp!

How can fourteen enthusiastic cadets be entertained with a full and varied programme of educational, recreational, physical and experience-gaining activities in eight days? This must have been the daunting question posed to the organisers of the Easter camp at R.A.F. Lyneham well before our arrival, since when we did arrive the personnel of the station were ready to try out any number of answers.

At the top of the list of activities was flying. All cadets managed a flight in a light Chipmunk, catching a rare view of Bristol and the Avon from the air — some upside-down or on their sides! The majority of cadets were also given one or two flights in the giant transporter aircraft, the Hercules; unfortunately for most the view was restricted to the walls of the invaluable "NATO Stock No. 1 40D — 8105 — 130 — 2180 — Bag Air Sickness"!

A host of other activities included swimming (as a result of which all cadets received their traditional swimming Proficiency Certificate); a drill competition, a night exercise — which incidentally was a Grand Slam Victory for Kirkham, the two N.C.O.'s being the only two cadets to complete the exercise and plant their eggs!; assault courses; .303 shooting; and a trip to Bristol, where the financial merits of exhibiting the rusting shell of the S. S. Great Britain were made apparent.

Opportunities for cadets' own recreation were not only available but enthusiastically encouraged. As a result, an inter-flight rugby match was admirably contested but unfortunately lost. In reply, however, despite fruitless attempts of psychological warfare by our Worcester opposition, an inter-flight cricket match was deservedly won under the capable captaincy of G. Bretherick.

Although "free" evenings were there, they were far from wasted, cadets following such pursuits as finding the canteen — a good 20 minutes jog away from the billets (or 5 by Arnold mini-bus, thanks again, Miss Raby!) —; bowling; films; table-tennis; the air-men's mess; and cadet demonstrations including remarkable buccal displays by the cricket captain.

Many thanks must go to F/O D. Walls and Major D. Butterworth for their invaluable assistance and accompaniment on camp, and to S/L G. S. Cheesbrough for organising the whole camp.

— In our opinion the R.A.F. deserve full marks for getting the answer correct.

Conclusion: Mission accomplished!

Sgts. D. Burrell
and D. Williams

From the Old Kirkhamians' Association

President 1980–81: A. R. Baines

Hon Secretary: David W. Stirzacker, 112 Thorn Court, Salford, M6 5EL. Tel: 061 736-8358

Hon. Treasurer: David O. Slack, 34, Coulston Road, Lancaster, LA1 3AE. Tel: Lancaster 68889

OLD KIRKHAMIAN XV v. K.G.S. 1st XV

Played at the School on Sunday, September 21st, 1980.

Match Report by A. N. Wright.

This annual encounter kicked off in rather blustery conditions which were to have a marked effect on the kicking of both sides.

The game opened at a brisk pace with the Old Kirkhamians playing down the slope. The first quarter of an hour provided the crowd with some good open rugby, but the strength of the Association's forwards was beginning to tell in the set pieces; and the scoring of two quick tries by John Abraham and John Porter, whose effort was converted by Tim White, established an early lead.

The School XV showed good technique in most aspects of play and underlined the benefits of organised coaching, but were unable to prevent a good three-quarter move culminating in a try for Graham Benstead just before the interval to increase our score to 14–0. The conversion attempt was unsuccessful.

Soon after the re-start it was the turn of the School team to impress and, after some good running and support play, Alex Marshall went over for a try following a pass from Winger Richard Bigland. Again, the wind misdirected the conversion attempt.

After a quarter of an hour Keith Aitchison broke free of the cover to score under the posts to make the score 18–4. The School forced us back into our own 22-metre area only to have the frustration of seeing Scrum-Half Steve Berry pick up at the base of the scrum, evade several tackles and race through for a superb solo try.

In the last move of the match John Porter rounded off what had been a fine match for him by scoring a second try after some good play between Keith Aitchison and Tim White.

The game was played in a good spirit and was enjoyed by all, particularly by the 'Old Boys' who had had the opportunity to play rugby at K.G.S. again.

Thanks are due to Mr. M. J. Summerlee and his Staff for making everybody so welcome, and to the Boys of the School team for providing such good opposition.

THE RIVENDELL SINGERS

On Saturday, 18th October 1980, the Old Kirkhamians' Association sponsored the visit of the "Rivendell Singers" to the School.

This is a group of amateur singers — some 24 men and women — which was formed about 9 years ago in Northwich. They specialise in unaccompanied music,

particularly of the 16th and 17th centuries — e.g. madrigals and motets etc., — both English and Foreign.

The "Singers", under their Director of Music and Conductor, Clifford Peartree, have given a considerable number of concerts in Churches and music clubs throughout Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.

This sponsorship was a new venture by the O.K.A. and we hope that similar evenings will be repeated, so providing another event in their annual Calendar of functions. On this occasion the Rivendell Singers' appearance in our School Hall was very much due to the good offices of O.K.A. member and former President John Renshaw who sings with this group. He also had the co-operation of another of our members, John Catterall, and the Committee of the Association many of whom, along with parents of students in the school, provided a fine array of raffle prizes.

The "Singers' " programme contained music by Bennett, Bruckner, Carter, Dvorak, Gibbons, Morley, Stanford, Vaughan Williams and Weelkes.

In addition to this wide selection, John Catterall, assisted by Mrs. R. F. Greaves, arranged for four of the School's pupils to play instrumental items. These were Roger Boyes (violin) of L6, who played the Sonata no. 12 by Corelli and "Chanson de Matin" by Elgar; Stephen Collins (trumpet) of L6, who played trumpet tunes by Stanley and Purcell and the well-known "Trumpet Voluntary"; Simon Heath (guitar) of 1Z who played "Folia" by Gaspar Senz and "Wilson's Wilde" and "A Toy" (both by unknown composers); finally Linda Morgan (clarinet) of 1X played "Cats" by John Noble. All these young people gave performances of a very high standard.

All the above, artists, audience and helpers in any way (not forgetting the flower arranger) were warmly thanked at the end of the evening by the Headmaster and O.K.A. Vice-President, Mr. M. J. Summerlee, to whom in turn the Association is once again indebted for his interest and support and for the use of what, to all former students, is the ideal setting for any K.G.S. gathering — our School itself.

A. R. Baines

— "an Hour of Pomp and Show"

Of course this quotation is from a musical! Just before the final curtain falls on Wright and Forrest's "Kismet" (based on themes of Borodin), the solitary figure of Hajj, the former beggar and public poet, is allowed to reflect upon what might have been. Princes and Wise Men will come and go, will each have their "hour of Pomp and Show". Only lovers, he concludes, will ever know all there is to know!

This President, if not yet at the end of his tether, is certainly nearly at the end of his year of office, and can see the truth of these words — with perhaps the need to change "lovers" to "loyalists". The Old Kirkhamian Association exists "to do all things necessary for the advancement of the Association and the School" and, hopefully, those most keenly loyal to their school will always be the major part of the membership, which elects its President annually.

I'm sure that our members and all former students of K.G.S. will be glad to know that the Headmaster, Mr. M. J. Summerlee, having duly completed his term

as Vice-President 1980–81 and of course, for the time laying down his ex-officio Committee Membership, will become our new President in September 1981 “by popular acclaim”.

For many, Mr. and Mrs. Summerlee’s hospitality, Committee meeting evenings especially included, is something easily remembered.

One thing is sure, try as he may, a President on our local circuit cannot avoid that musical link! Three of the six Association Dinners I have attended as a representative of my Association and School have had their own School Song. I was meant to feel very much at home, because one such song was “lifted” complete from Act II of “Pirates”. I also feel there is scope here for our School’s Music Department in future years. In any case some tasks need music to help one through them, others are such a joy to do that “music” is a result of them. The latter I hope will always be the case for holders of the President’s office, indeed I found it so and the “banquets” have in no small way been responsible for this. On all occasions — Old Arnoldians (Imperial Hotel, Blackpool) and Old Lidunians (King Edward VII, Lytham — at the Clifton, Lytham) in December 1980; Blackpool & Collegiate G.S. (Savoy Hotel, Blackpool) and Baines School Association (Queen’s Hotel, Blackpool) — so far (with St. Joseph’s College and Hutton G.S. functions still to come at the time of writing), the fare and hospitality have been enormous.

Representation of our School at the Dinners of many of those who were the “former foe” on the games field in our day too is necessary, essential and pleasant. But our Association’s own business is of great importance and that is carried on by the Committee in at least four meetings held per year in the School library in the evening, with the traces carefully removed by Caretaker Weston before the next day! At these I have sat like some unlikely Goliath between two Davids — Stirzacker as Secretary and Slack as Treasurer. From these meetings come the events we provide for the membership though it can never be emphasised enough that all are welcome to attend these functions, members or not. The mutual publicising of events organised by ourselves or the Friends of K.G.S. along with Harry Reay’s great work for both organisations — like being “our man on the Friends” — are steps in the right direction of further co-operation. We have never considered ourselves to be a fund-raising body for the School but my wife and I have immensely enjoyed being at more than our usual number of the Friends’ events during my presidential year.

Our Calendar of events is not lengthy but it is varied and this year featured a new item. This was our sponsorship of the Rivendell Singers about which there is more to read in this magazine. The proceeds of this function have been set aside to begin a fund to provide a bursary in the Association’s name to be awarded to future pupils at the School. It is anticipated that many former students would wish to contribute to such a fund, particularly those living distances from K.G.S. which prevents them from being the active members that otherwise they would wish to be.

All Association members will be contacted separately over this matter in a circular sent to them. I commend the fund to all former students of the

School as a very worthwhile and most direct contribution to the School’s future success. If, comparatively, it seems modest it still remains something we can do! Please go to it!

However, after his installation at the September dinner, the President first appears in his official capacity at the Annual Speech Day held in September. I’m sure that more informal, “home-spun” engagements should be found for the Association’s highest officer. Perhaps next year he will K.O. the Staff v Prefects Soccer match! At least this year his approach from the choir stalls to read the sixth lesson was “different” enough but I did, with our Vice-President’s help, arrange an internal speciality for January 19th. On the Monday we had a full assembly in the School Hall with, as a theme, the Association’s impending 61st birthday in this, the second year of our reversion to independence.

Our Annual Dinner Dance took place in February at the St. Ives Hotel, St. Annes. At the moment this is the only mixed event we have but this won’t be the situation for long, I feel.

Yet to come, as I write this article in March 1981, is the Oxford or Southern Dinner. The success of this event has a history of its own. Suffice it to say that a special mailing list of about 80 people seldom fails to bring together some 30 members for Dinner (and much later breakfast then squash for those with the constitution) at the most often used venue, St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

We are often told that the School is people and not buildings. If so, it is people past, present and future, former boys and girls who have learnt something at our desks and continue to learn something at our Association’s members’ hands. That something is loyalty to this place with the added incentive, this year, of a President to lead us whom they know very well and with plans for an Annual Dinner in 1982 to be held in the School Hall, for the first time since 1970. This was the year of our Golden Jubilee when I had the honour to be the Association’s secretary.

In 1970 the Hall was filled to capacity, 150 winners and diners (with the essential bar in room 3). There it was that this local yokel with about thirty years’ direct contact with the School — 7 as a pupil, 5 as Association secretary, 9 as a Committee member and 14 as Staff member now — first saw at close quarters the President’s Jewel. It was being worn by the current Headmaster, Mr. W. H. Kennedy, having been presented to the then Old Boys’ Association by John (1932–41) and Winifred Saunders in 1960 in memory of Harry Clifford Turner (1916–23) and Hon. Sec. of O.B.A. 1946–54 and Governor 1947–58. The neck ribbons now hold 24 name plates, mine the most recent. It has brought me great satisfaction and honour to be so chained from September 1980–81. Anyone taking on this task is virtually saying the Association will continue for another twelve months, I and my contemporaries will see to that! I do hope that what I’ve seen and heard about the Association and from its members augurs well and indicates a continually evolving and growing Association well able to survive along with its *raison d’être* — our School.

A. R. Baines

CREATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

The Present

"Oh hurry up, Roger!" came the cry from the figure sitting in the car.

The rain was lashing down on the little car which sat to one side of the lonely little road. A figure could be seen at the back of the car struggling with the spare wheel. Through the torrents of water that gushed over the windscreen a woman could be seen who was huddled in the back trying to keep warm. "Roger, hurry up!" she shouted. Outside, the figure walked around to the other side of the car and opened the door. The rain started pouring in.

"Roger, what is it now? Close that door! I'm getting soaked!"

"If you want the wheel changed very quickly, you do it!"

With that he swung the spare wheel onto the seat. With a shriek Olivia pushed the wheel out and slammed the door shut again.

It was pitch black when the little car came up the drive of the estate and the lights of the house ahead beckoned invitingly.

"Mama!" cried Olivia, when she stormed through the front door. "Roger's been an absolute beast, he's soaked my new dress!"

From the adjoining room the sound of a wireless filtered out and her mother's voice said calmly, "Never mind dear." The door opened and her mother stepped out. "You pop off to bed and I'll talk to your brother in the morning."

The next morning Roger could not be found anywhere; his car was missing also. But at a quarter past twelve he arrived, his car laden with boxes all wrapped up for Christmas, which was in three days' time.

After making several trips, with the servant's help he had carried all the presents under the tree. By now the family had gathered and Roger came in with the last present. It was wrapped in what was obviously expensive paper and tied with a gold ribbon.

"This," said Roger, "is for you, Olivia."

Olivia came up and looked at the box; it was big and heavy. While she was trying to guess what it was, Roger said that he was going to spend the Christmas week with a friend and so he went upstairs and started packing.

Three days later, after Roger had left, Olivia was still thinking of her present. She told her mother that she would spend that night, Christmas Eve, in this room so that she would be the first to open her present. "I'll bet it's a new dress to make up for the one he totally ruined the other day. If it is I may forgive him, but I doubt it. Or perhaps it's a mink!"

Olivia was awake at the crack of dawn. Without any thought she shredded the expensive paper, like a ravenous beast searching for food. Then out of the paper it came like the phoenix from the flames. The family were awoken by Olivia's screams. For all Olivia's ranting, it was a perfectly good spare wheel.

A. Hewertson, 4Z

The Joys of Learning English Grammar

The joys of learning the grammar of the ancient English language are manifold and illuminating. For instance, how far could we get in our complex present day society without being able to reel off a few dozen assorted phrases and/or clauses, or being able to intersperse a conversation with gerundive verbs? Not to mention three different styles of participles.

The average English grammar lesson has a great intellectual and emotional impact. It has been likened to being savaged by an enraged rabid thesaurus. Such is this impact that authors of English books often adopt false names to cushion themselves from the recoil. (How can anyone really be called J.R.C. Yglesias?)

It is my opinion that these pseudonym-using writers actually hate English teachers. It is this hate that causes them, even in a simple exercise, to throw in the odd question specially designed (with about four phrases and ten verbs) to baffle and humiliate the analytical efforts of the entire English Department.

However, this same fact proves that writers of English books are not all bad. The sight of two or three shaggy, English teacher-type heads bent over a dog-eared copy of "Mastery of English" while shaking in simple bewilderment can provide the only spot of light relief in the average interesting, super-stimulating lesson.

Returning to the famed Senor, Monsieur, or Herr (certainly not Mr.) Yglesias, I suppose that, while I say he is not all bad, the popular opinion is that, after all, he is all bad. How can anyone be fond of a megalomaniac Pole (or is it Greek?) who tries to teach English men how to speak English?

Unfortunate as it may seem, learning English grammar has a use. An English book holds many pleasures for a long winter's night (it keeps the fire going) and adds to your vocabulary with useful, vitally necessary words like "pseudo-antediluvian" or "antidisestablishmentarianism".

At least, that's what the people who have to earn a living by teaching the stuff make out.

J. Howells, 3Y

Attack

The sun struggles to rise in a sullen sky.
Dawn.

A new day is born and beginning.
Warriors sigh softly, deep in dreams, around a fading fire.

Stealthily, Saxons surrounding the silent, sleeping camp.

Then,
The peace is suddenly shattered by blood-curdling battle cries.

Saxons smite the sleepers,
splintering bones, and bodies.
Broad blades send scarlet, spurting
blood everywhere.

Sleepers slaughtered, the Saxons move on.

K. Turner, 2Z



Brian J. Watson

dulce et decorum est . . .

Out of the stench of death and dying,
Out of the sound of people crying,
Away from the pall of grief and fear, away.

Back to the peace and calm I'm going,
Back to where the tree of life's still growing,
Under the shade of its balmy branches I'll stay.

I look at the crushed and broken faces,
The beauty once there now shows no traces,
Hidden by the gnarled and twisted hand of death.

You are the one to blame, no other,
You have no feeling for Man, your brother,
You are the one who knows he'll have to pay.

You are the one who gave the order,
You are the one who committed murder,
You are the one who's reached his Judgement Day.

It's too late to try and change it,
Decision's been made, you can't rearrange it,
You're gonna go to Hell, General, sir, do what you may.

I'm here in the blissful calm of heaven,
Here, where the tree of life's in blossom,
Knowing what you're going through,
. . . And it makes me smile.

B. MacFarlane, L6Sc

Requiem

The sirens blast.
The silence explodes.
You have two minutes to live.

The panic starts.
Must get out!
The end of the world has come.

You see it approach.
It fills the sky.
The missile of death is here.

Houses collapse.
Earth splits apart.
The city has ceased to exist.

The explosion fades.
Silence returns:
Poisoned air, toxic dust.
Buildings have gone:
Homes of millions,
Piles of smouldering ash.

Once a metropolis,
Now a graveyard.
The city of the dead lies still.

S. R. Wood, 4Z

First Day

It was 8.45 on the morning of the fourth of September. A car drew up on the roadside and three apprehensive looking figures brandishing satchels alighted. They paused a moment to watch the car disappear and then walked slowly up the tarmac path leading off from the road. Once inside the grounds they were totally lost and wandered round until they bumped into a prefect who told them the way.

My two friends and I were standing awkwardly in a fairly small room crammed full of coats, bags and girls. Yet another prefect came in, this time a girl, who ushered us out of the room, along corridors and through hundreds of doors into the hall. After a while, "Shhh's" rang out through the hall and everyone was silent. A man, looking like batman with his black gown flying behind him, strode down the centre of the hall and up onto the stage. He peered over the top of his spectacles at us, obviously thinking what intelligent beings we looked! He then told us the important details of school life:— which sports we had, where the canteen was, what the tuck shop sold. We were also told the less important information about things like homework and lessons! We were filed off into three groups — 1X, 1Y and 1Z. We then followed another prefect to our form room, the Biology Lab. There were locusts and frogs at the back of the room and a billiard cue (broken in two places) behind the front desk. They all made you feel very welcome! Our form master, Mr. Sayer, arrived and we were soon able to recite after him — "1X is the best form in the school", and the three reasons why — "Mr. Sayer is our form master, we have the best form prefect and (the most important one, or so we thought) we're in it!"

At approximately one o'clock a loud ringing reverberated through the building. What did it mean? Was there a fire? Was this the end? . . . Oh! nothing so dramatic — just the bell for dinner, the best part of the day. In the canteen a line of dejected looking figures stood hungrily eyeing the menu on the wall. It was rather different from our primary schools. The only choice there was "take it or leave it", but here there was a choice of beans and chips, pizza and beans, steak pudding, chocolate sponge, salads and so on, or all of them if you wanted! I at last found the reason why I'd come to Kirkham Grammar!

After lunch exploration was the order of the day. Across the fields and into the woods we rushed. Oh, this was fun. But out of the distance came a loud booming voice. "Get out of there!", it roared. Perhaps exploration was not such fun after all! After being taken on a guided tour around the school in the afternoon and carefully making notes as to where the tuck shop was, we were at last allowed home — tired, dejected, bemused, bewildered and shell-shocked — but still looking forward to tomorrow morning at nine.

L. Morgan, 1X

The Accident

The great leaden monster stands silent,
Blood dripping from its evil chromed mouth,
Its eyes staring out into nothingness:
No remorse, no sympathy, no feeling.

On the ground lies the lifeless form,
Crumpled shapeless bulk lying on the road.
Its eyes staring out into nothingness:
No life, no pain, no feeling.

A. Pearson, 5X

Blue Peter

It's Thursday again. The long, three-day wait from Monday is over. It's five past five, "Blue Peter" time again. My homework books lie discarded on the floor, left to lie there for half an hour. The whole family is sitting around the television, eagerly awaiting the famous signature tune which heralds half an hour packed with entertainment.

The tune has finished and Sarah says, "Today we are going to make a useful Christmas present for Dads and Uncles so if they are watching send them out of the room for the next ten minutes". Despite his efforts we manage to get him out, but he keeps trying to get in so we move the settee in front of the door so that it only opens about an inch; we close the curtains so he can't listen. Then our Julie scribbles down the instructions on how to make a "toe-nail collector".

After about nine minutes Dad is let back in just in time to see five hundred pygmy warriors coming in through the "HUGE STOODIO DOORS" doing a four thousand-year-old rain-dance. After an in-depth interview with the one-foot-high leader, which gave us a fascinating insight into the life of a pygmy, we are entertained by Simon telling us the story of the Battle of Hastings. What amazes us most is the way that he skilfully slips in a few mistakes to prevent the programme from appearing to be too formal. Then, as if to prove that he is only human, he pretends to forget his words and has his memory jogged by Peter.

There then follows the most important part of the show, the latest news from the "Great Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale", a rise of nine thousand pounds towards the fifty thousand pound target to pay for a month of Mrs. Thatcher's hair-dos and to buy Geoffrey Howe a new brief-case.

Then news of the new competition. "We're calling it 'Design a Wellington Boot for Percy Thrower', " says Peter. "The winner will see his or her design actually made into a pair of wellingtons made by the Dunlop Rubber Company. As well as this, winners will get autographed copies of the Blue Peter book and some precious Blue Peter badges.

The programme then draws to a close with Sarah saying, "Don't forget that Monday is Wiggy the earwig's birthday, so we are looking forward to receiving your cards!"

J. Bennett, 4Y

Loneliness

The old, lined, sad face peered through the window,
Watching the world go by.
How he wished someone, anybody at all would knock
on his door,
Just to relieve the monotony.
Perhaps the home help would arrive soon,
Perhaps the lady who brought his dinner would sit
and chat,
Oh no! it was only ten o'clock.
He felt so lonely.
His thoughts strayed to happier, good old days,
When he was needed by his family,
Now occupied in different ways and not needing his
help and advice.
His only true friend was his faithful dog,
A black and white old mongrel who knew he was
trusted,
As he sat by the old man's side.
He felt so lonely.
All his friends had passed away,
Leaving empty gaps in his life;
It was hard to be the last of a generation.
The young ones did not understand, always rushing
here and there,
Never having any of their time to spare.
He felt so lonely.
As he chewed at the end of his pipe — another bit of
company,
He thought of when he was young and when he
chewed at a bar of candy.
His house looked cold and empty.
He felt so lonely.

S. Butler, 2X



The Battle (or, The Kirkhamians Kame)

I hear the clash as weapons meet
While thunderous throngs to battle move;
The mingling monumental moans
As wild-eyed cohorts push and shove.
The croaking cries of anxious men
Pervade the earth and fill the sky,
And stop the ears with dirge of death,
And race the pulse as minutes fly.
Mighty battalions move and rear
And send aloft their battle cry,
While overhead 'neath menacing clouds
Their coloured pennants bravely fly.
Invincible, the enemy strikes,
And one by one they fall to ground,
Where broken bodies fill the field,
And stench of sweat still lingers round.
Defeated men still wrought with wrath
Discard their arms and make for home;
The weary figures halt their pace
The whistle blows; the match is done.

E. J. Waite, 4Z

Traffic Jam

The fog descended like a pall of smoke,
Causing the traffic to snarl and choke.
Havoc created:
Commuters belated.
Swishing of tyres on rain-spattered ground
Add to the strident percussion of sound.
Hazard-lights flashing,
Shoes and feet splashing —
spirals are clearing,
Passengers cheering.
Full speed ahead for the homeward bound:
Vision ahead clear, snarl unwound.

D. Marsden, 5Y

The perilous descent

'Go on, go on', they urged me forward,
Over that dreaded drop,
The sky above, the rocks below.
And only a rope to stop
The slip, the fall that would bring an ultimate end.

"Go on, go on, hold on, hold on",
Was all their whispered breath.
Just that one slip or misjudged rock,
Would bring a gruesome death.

All that small time,
A thousand thoughts encircled me;
I breathed deep breaths,
As though my feet would never be
Upon that sand of so long awaited sighs.

Foot after foot, hand after hand.
My fingers cold with sweat,
I clambered down another stretch
And on a rock my feet were set.

And then black cliffs clung round me,
As I climbed down to rocky crags below,
And then the smooth soft sand lay bare.
The secret silence of a long-held breath revealed,
And finally I touched God's earth again.

T. Allan, 5Y

Geography Summer Field Project

"The reasons for, and explanation of, the development of the Town of Kirkham from its foundations to 1851".

The initial selection of this project, set by the Geography Department to be done over the summer holidays, was most welcome, as I have a great interest in local history. What appears here is a brief look at local historical material; as the project itself is lengthy only about one seventh of edited material is given.

After selecting the title, my aim was "to find the geographical reasons for the choosing of the site of Kirkham with the greatest reference to population possible". I built up a skeleton history of Kirkham from my own knowledge and on this basis I found all the factual information as and when I needed it from the Lancashire Records Office and various other sources.

Before 79 A.D. there is very, very little information to work on. Kirkham was an area of high ground with 100–200 feet contours. In a later charter dating from between 1220 and 1246 the "Kirkland Wood" is mentioned, giving indication that the area was wooded.

A map from the Roman era indicates that a tribe known as the Setantii lived somewhere on the western coast of this area, but no definite claim can be made that they lived at Kirkham, or for that matter, in the Fylde. But it should be noted that Treales, near Kirkham, has the unique claim of having the only definitely Ancient British name in Lancashire, and there may have been some activity there.

In A.D. 79 the Romans directed a campaign against the North and at this time the Roman fort may have been built at Kirkham; excavations have proved that one existed. The obvious geographical advantages: its height and commanding view — including the River Ribble, made it an ideal site.

Often, when such forts as this were set up, a town or village grew up around the fort; and it could have been this fact, together with the existence of the Roman road, that ensured the town's survival during the Dark Ages, after the Roman army had left. The first documentary evidence of a community at Kirkham came seven hundred years later in 1086 in the Domesday Book. "Chicheham (Kirkham)," it says, "four carucates." (One carucate being 100 acres). The name "Kirkham" is significant in that "Kirk" — Danish — means that there was a Church sometime between 787 A.D. and 1086 A.D. (787 A.D. was the date of the Danish invasions and 1086 A.D. the Domesday records).

The 'ham' suffix suggests a small — often ancient-dwelling, and comes from the Anglo-Saxon. The Church would have made Kirkham an important religious centre in the Fylde.

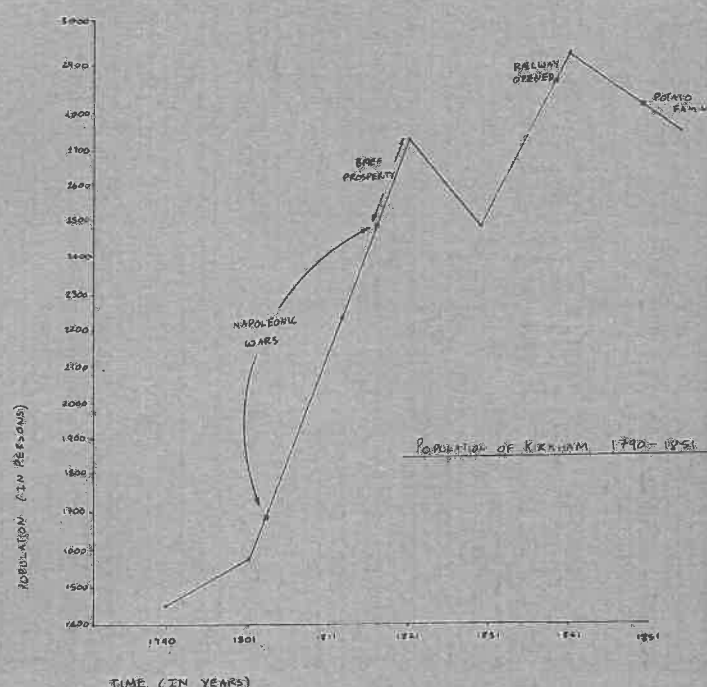
The most commercial aspect of its development was the granting of a charter, then unique to this area, by Henry III between 1269–1270, which allowed Kirkham to hold a market. This would greatly affect the town's development all through the period being studied.

For the next 300 years Kirkham had little notable distinction. It was affected by the Black Death in 1349 just as almost everywhere else was. But slowly the town acquired some of its more familiar aspects such as the setting-up of the "Free Grammar School" in 1549. Little prosperity was possible when the plague of 1631 came, shortly followed by the 1642–1648 civil war, in which Kirkham was depleted of its able men.

By 1694 it was reported that there were 405 persons in Kirkham. In 1715 there was a bumper harvest and with the instigation of many new charities things took a turn for the better.

The Napoleonic Wars came and went — some Kirkham men did fall, but throughout this time — as the graph implies — the population appears to have steadily increased.

On 25th July 1840, the Preston and Wyre Railway was completed. Kirkham was shown (in W. Yates' Maps of Lancashire, 1786) to have been privileged enough to have had its own road to Preston — the only



marked road in the Fylde. The railway and the presence of a Station in Kirkham is another mark of its importance.

The study ends in 1851 as information after this date deserves a project of its own.

G. J. Swift, 5X

Answers																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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Who Durnit?

Quite a while ago here at K.G.S. there was a break in and some cups were taken from the display cupboard above the main doors to the hall. The theft was not noticed until J. Catterall Esquire — super sleuth — saw they were missing. At first it was thought that they had been sent away for cleaning, but this was not so. "I say, some blighter's done a bunk with the cups", was the cry (or words to that effect).

In the style typical of an independent school, two pupils decided that it would be a "spiffing wheeze" if they were to find the criminals. Here is a list of suspects drawn up by our two heroes:

1. The butler — he always does it; one problem here — there isn't one.

2. Mr. Scott — likely to be our man; he got a new car after the theft.

3. Mr. Watson — we've been watching him for a long time.

4. Mr. Gornall — maybe — he always has a new Adidas tracksuit, but he may be sponsored by them.

Our heroes also tried lying in wait for the criminal to return to the scene of the crime, but on that Friday about four hundred people passed near by.

Do you have any information? They would like to hear from you.

H. Bolton and K. Cottam, 4X

Saturday Sport

"The match is on the crowd's smoke and drink fill the room like the Rock of Gibraltar with a steady stance he takes aim throws twenty sixty twenty ..."

"Wan hun-dred!" shouts the caller:

Echoes of frenzied applause.

"Crafty smooth and classic he approaches the ockey no room for error in the bed

eyes on one place only sixty twenty fifteen ..."

"Nine-ty fyeeve!" shouts the ...

"Bright Highway on the nearside

Groovy Girl coming up fast

into the last furlong from home

the shouts are rising

Groovy Girl goes ahead

Groovy Girl'll make it Bright Highway makes a final bid

last twenty yards to go Bright Highway Groovy Girl

it's a photo for the cup —"

BBC 2's not much good either.

A. Rhodes, 5Z

At First Light

Awake!

Brilliant beams cast the sleep from my eyes.

It would be a thing most wise

At this fine hour, today, to rise.

No need to get up,

I went to get up!

No bus to rush for

No head endlessly spinning,

Before I finish my cup

I want to fill my cup

Of luke-warm coffee.

With a fresh beginning.

D. Brook, 4X

The death throes of a monumental oak tree in a gale

At first, there was no wind, only an expectancy, as if an important announcement was about to be read out. Then it came. First of all it came in solitary gusts, each a long interval from the next, but now it was the real wind's turn. It moaned and whistled and shrieked like no earthly creature ever could do. It hit the oak with a shuddering blow and started taunting it, buffeting it from one side to the other, tossing its branches to and fro, ripping off its branches as a farmer's wife would pluck a chicken. Without its leaves the oak looked as forlorn as if it had lost diamonds. As the wind grew even stronger, the tree creaked continually — almost as if it was pleading for mercy, but the wind was relentless and put even more force behind its blows.

Slowly the wind was winning and the oak began to bend to the right, looking as if a heavy weight had been tied to its branches and was pulling it over. The tree started tilting. It was beaten. The ground started coming nearer and nearer to the branches of the oak, and then, with a heart-rending moan, the tree crashed to the ground. It lay there, no longer a grand, old sentinel, but a fallen ruin. Now it was as insignificant as a blade of grass in a field.

P. Hardman, 2X

Loneliness

Silence, peace, all is quiet,

I sit on the beach at this hour,

All is still,

I am alone.

The crowds have gone,

The deckchairs, dinghies and screaming insistent

children,

All are back at the hotel,

I am alone.

The sea is coming inexorably closer,

Destroying sandcastles, obliterating moats,

Erasing footsteps,

I am alone.

Nothing stirs,

It is an uncanny truce,

The beach and people are separate,

I am alone.

It is ten o'clock,

I wait for the sea,

But until it arrives,

I am alone.

Before it comes,

The rock-pools are dead.

Limp sea-weed and grey stone,

I am alone.

The sea arrives,

The rock-pools are freed,

Myriads of creatures move,

I am not alone.

D. Hurton, 2Y



Deserted Beach

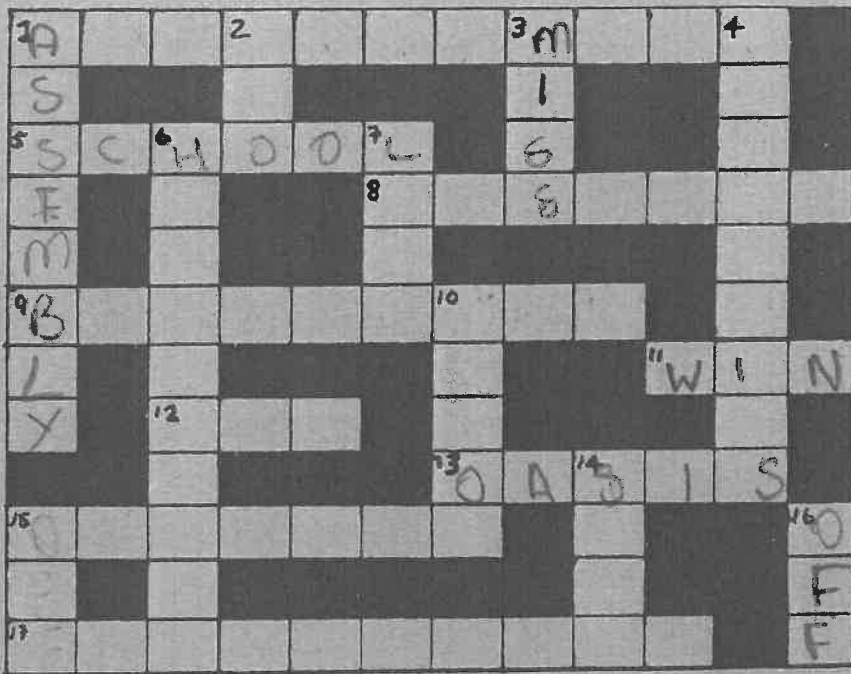
The glassy, distant sea approached slowly up towards the high stone wall that marked the end of the smooth, flat sands broken only by the solitary standing figures of an old man and dog, walking.

He coughed the deep, painful cough which he knew was the price of cold and cigarettes, muffled by the gusting wind. He coughed again, cursing the misty, cold, grey sun hanging from the sky.

He walked on, the dog limping after, across the endless sands. He disappeared under the shadow of the looming pier and never returned.

J. Hardiker, 5Z

PUZZLES



ACROSS

1. The white house
5. A collection of pupils or porpoises
8. Third year choices of subjects
9. Game-horse trials?
11. What every house aims to do
12. Monet's favourite subject?
13. A fertile place in the desert
15. Someone who might take meat to the school canteen
17. The first period of the school year

DOWN

1. 9.00 a.m. gathering
2. After one, send owt back
3. To leave out
4. 21a subject
6. Mr. Summerlee's principal
7. Beg, steal or borrow. What's the alternative?
10. Do the juniors see a scrambled trout on Thursday mornings?
14. A mark left from a cut
15. Submarine goes back for another form of transport
16. It's not on!

J. Hutchinson, 1Y

Seaside Posers

Time allowed 10 mins

1. If a girl takes half an hour to bury her sleeping father up to the neck in sand, whereas her brother can do it in quarter of an hour, how long will it take them working together?
2. The eight figures on a beach Aunt Sally stand bear the numbers 9, 12, 21, 26, 30, 39, 41 and 45. There is a special prize for anyone who can knock over figures totalling exactly 100. Which figures should you aim at to win that special prize?
3. If the slope of the beach is constant, and the beach-ball rolls down 5 ft in the first second after you drop it, how far will it roll during the next second?

IN EACH set below the same rule of arithmetic links each bottom number with the one above it. Fill in the blanks.

EXAMPLE:

1	3	4
2	4	5

EACH bottom number is one greater than the above one.

4.

6	3	2
5	2	

6.

2	9	3
6	27	

5.

4	7	9
11	14	

7.

3	7	13
-2	2	

The Mischens

My astrophysical friend, George, has just returned from a trip to Mischa, to study the local black holes etc. While there he encountered the Mischens, a race of previously unknown people who speak in a cipher of English e.g. SJM = a container. It took him several days to realise this and when he did the Mischens gave him a set of instructions to follow:

1. Z ROZBD NCXRRDX LHMTR LZQHQZFD NE PTDDM UHBSNQHZ ZMC ZKADQS.
2. SN DMC NE.ZANUD ZCC NMD MNTFGS.
3. HM ZANUD XDZQ JHMF GDMQX -- NE EQZMBD VZR LTQCDQDC.
4. ZCC F -- E SN LZJD DMFKHRG MTLADQ
5. OTS ZANUD HMSN DPTZSHNM ZESDQ +.

(W - 30) ÷ -- = 8

What is X and who claimed the prize for finding it first?

N. Ross, 4Y

8.

45	24	12
60	32	

IN EACH of the next five questions write the letter

9. FEDCB (...)
10. ABBCBDEFBIGHI (...)
11. GRCDEGRFGGRH (...)
12. ADGBEHCF (...)
13. CDECGHIHKLMM (...)

D. Kirkham, 4Y



Darryl Corner

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Bridge Club

Chairman: Mr. D. J. Fathers
Secretary: R. H. Tattershall
Treasurer: M. S. Bertolini
Committee: M. P. Bedford D. Wilson

This school year has witnessed a long-awaited revival in the fortunes of this society. In October we applied for and gained entry into the Lancashire Schools Bridge League. The same team has played throughout the school year and has consisted of D. Wilson, M.P. Bedford, M. Bertolini and myself. Our first match was away at Accrington, where we gained an encouraging 3-3 draw. We lost the next two matches by the same result 0-6 to Burnley Grammar School 'A' at home and to Arnold School away. Our fourth match was against Hutton Grammar School whom we defeated 4-2 at home. In January we played in the First Round of the Daily Mail Schools' Bridge Cup at Manchester. Unfortunately we came 10th out of 14 teams and so did not qualify for the next round.

My thanks to Mr. Fathers for his help, and I wish the Society every success in the future.

R. H. Tattershall, U6

Chess Club

Chairman: Mr. D. J. Fathers
Secretary: M. P. Bedford
Treasurer: R. Boyes

Our School Team for '79-'80 fulfilled its early promise. We won 12 matches, drew 2 and lost 2. Had we not disgraced ourselves by losing to the bottom team in the league, we would have been promoted to the first division.

In '80-'81 we started at a decided disadvantage when all but two of the team and reserved left school. Accordingly we had to start afresh with a younger, inexperienced but enthusiastic team. We have lost 6 matches, drawn 1 and won 1 so far. Our sole triumph in the face of several humiliating defeats was, I must confess, during the University Vacation!

The experience gained this year should make for a stronger and more successful team next year.

M. P. Bedford (Pre.)

Dramatic Society

Chairman: Mrs. A. G. Boll
Secretary: D. Phillips
Treasurer: Mr. G. S. Cheesbrough

Apart from presenting a brief dramatic interlude on Open Day, when some of the junior members of the Society performed some scenes from Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', much of our time has been taken up with the selection of a suitable play for our summer production. In the end it was decided to present a double-bill of one-act comedies: 'Arthur' by David Cregan, and 'Albert's Bridge' by Tom Stoppard.

In March several members of the Society attended a performance of 'The Merchant of Venice' at the newly-refurbished Grand Theatre in Blackpool. Everyone greatly appreciated the opportunity of seeing a professional production of this play — the company was The Old Vic, with Tommothy West as Shylock and Prunella Scales as Portia — for once presented locally. We look forward to future visits.

After the hard work which we have already been — and will be — putting into the summer productions, we can assure you that they will be well worth your attending. My thanks to all those who have attended meetings and rehearsals, and particularly to Mrs. Boll and Mr. Roberts for their help and encouragement.

D. Phillips, 4X

Debating Society

The "Inter-House Debates" for 1980-1 began on October 2nd, when Preston met School House to battle over the title:

"This House believes that those people in employment should be willing to work shorter hours for less money in order to reduce unemployment."

John Sumner, the first speaker for Preston House, and professing to "state his case for the workers", as he brandished a cheap, checked, flat cap, managed with the help of the usual fast-moving magnetism of John Sully to defeat the School House team of Giselle Daniels and Ian Porter.

The second debate, between Ashton and Lytham House, concerned the statement:

"This House believes that *all* people who continue in full-time education after the age of 16 should be paid to do so."

This led to a discussion of the social lives of some of the contestants, and saw the winning combination of Adrian Gregson and Bruce MacFarlane in action, against the equally eloquent Duncan Williams and Graham Eastham of Lytham House.

The first semi-final, held on November 6th, saw the debut of Kirkham House, in the very capable hands of Alec Marshall and Andrew Bridge. The title they concerned themselves with was:

"This House believes that there is no place for monarchy in today's Britain."

Unfortunately, the Kirkham team, taking "monarchy" to mean an "absolute ruler", as defined by what was an undeniably fine dictionary, led both teams to argue that some sort of monarchy, as we understand it, is needed today. This led to the second win for Preston House.

The second semi-final, held a week later saw Ashton v. Fylde debating:

"This House believes that a married woman's place is in the home."

Adrian Gregson was backed up well by Timothy Stokes and together they managed to beat the strong team of Darryl Corner and John Oldroyd.

The Grand Final of the inter-house debating contest was held in the Hall on 2nd April, in front of a large audience including a number of juniors. It was adjudicated by the gang of three: Mr. Watson, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Clarkson and was chaired by Mr. Sayer.

The Ashton and Preston House debaters had the difficult task of arguing whether:

"This House believes that England expects every man to pass the buck."

It was evident that both sides found difficulty in interpreting the statement but it led to an impressive final, which was enjoyed by all. A number of good questions were asked by the audience, thanks to Mr. Sayer's inductive provocation, and the Preston team managed to turn the final against their adversaries.

All in all, this year's debates were well attended and enjoyed by many.

D. E. W. Greville, U6

Fell-walking Society

Chairman: Dr. B. M. Summers

Secretary: J. Milburn

Treasurer: G. Eastham

In the ten months or so since I last made my report, the Fell-Walking Society has suffered one or two setbacks, and we have been worried, constantly, by rising costs.

The Summer Term was disastrous. All three projected fell-walks were cancelled for one reason or another and interest in walking in the school seemed to be falling off; we feel this was largely a result of the fact that many members were facing exams at the time. This was the first inactive term for many years and we hope it will not happen again.

I am delighted to report that the Winter Term brought a complete reversal in our fortunes — three excellent fell-walks were organised.

On 21st September we had intended to climb Scafell Pike but the fear of adverse weather conditions forced us to lower our ambitions slightly to the hardly less rewarding summits of the Langdale Pikes. Some of the senior walkers gained their first experience of rock climbing, negotiating the 'Jack's Rake' route up Pavey Ark; (this is in fact the easiest climb in the Lake District, being no more than a short scramble). In the event, the weather stayed fine and the party of sixteen enjoyed a splendid day out.

A month later twelve of us enjoyed a fairly long but gentle stroll over the low fells south of Shap in superb weather conditions — it was an autumn day and we were afforded magnificent views over the Lakes and on to the Pennines.

Some of the sixteen walkers who battled to the top of Ward's Stone, to the north of the Trough of Bowland, were pleasantly surprised by Mr. Taylor's remarkably accurate compass navigation in very thick mist. This was a short walk over rough moorland and although fine weather is preferable for such an expedition, the sense of achievement on reaching a mist-obscured summit is enhanced by the conditions.

The fell-walk on the 15th February went ahead despite the break-down of the school mini-bus, and we were very grateful to those people who were able to provide us with alternative transport. However, the walk to the top of Skiddaw, in the Lakes, was a disappointment to those of us who had expected plenty of snow. The Lakeland tops have been sadly denied their usual covering of snow by the mild weather this year and, even at 3,000 ft. there was insufficient snow for poly-bagging. Even so, the younger members put in the effort, battling through harsh winds up Skiddaw's steep southern sides to the summit at 3054 ft.

Thus, despite our troubles in the summer, this has been another active and successful year for the society and its future is assured. Of the nineteen who tackled Skiddaw, most were juniors.

It only remains for me to thank our financial 'whizz-kid' Graeme Eastham for his unstinting efforts on our behalf, and Mr. Taylor and Dr. Summers, without whom the Fell-Walking Society could not function.

Jonathan Milburn, L6A

Fencing

Chairman/Coach: Mr. F. W. Sayer

Captain: N. G. Brough

The beginning of the school year saw an influx of would-be Musketeers, although the number soon dwindled after the participants realised that more hard work was involved than was first anticipated. However, the club still thrives and is at present around 25 strong.

The Club entered the A.F.A.'s Manchester Novices competition, with N. G. Brough attaining second place and C. Benson reaching the quarter-finals. Both performed commendably and we expect success to continue in the future.

One school fixture was arranged against Queen Elizabeth's, Blackburn. All competitors performed well and we were unfortunate to lose by a narrow margin.

I would like to thank Mr. Sayer for his enthusiastic coaching and encouragement through the year.

N. G. Brough (Pre.)

Geographical Society

Chairman: Mr. I. M. Scott

Secretary: M. Lewis

Interest in geography outside the classroom has not proved as strong as was hoped, and accordingly the society has confined itself to showing a number of films, ranging from the development of a settlement to the extraction and processing of oil. Perhaps a new approach contrasting with the type of geography taught in the classroom is called for.

I should like to thank Mr. Scott for his help in arranging films and giving up his time to show them.

M. Lewis (Pre)

Film Society Report

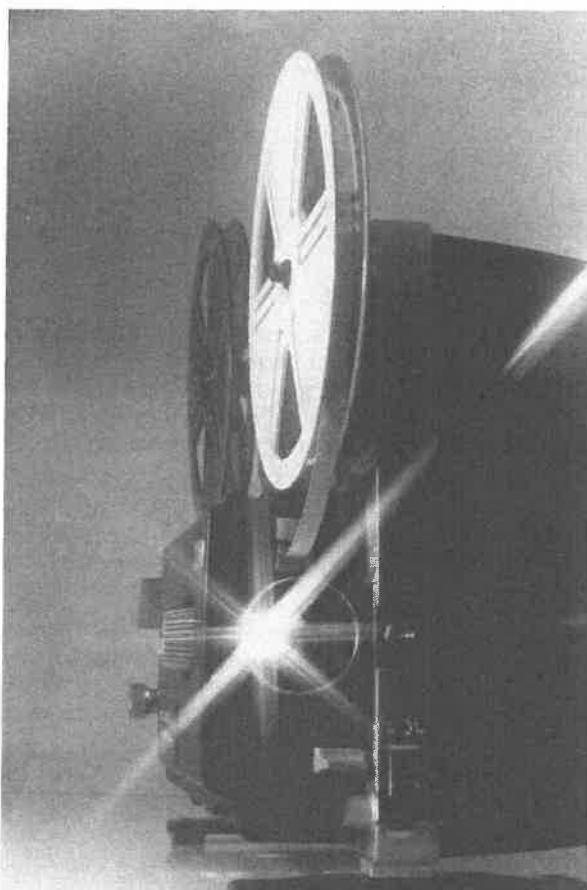
Chairman: Mr. R. S. Nutter

Secretary: N. G. Brough

Treasurer: D. Armstrong

The year 1980–81 has been an eventful one for lovers of films of every cinematic genre, ranging from the blood and terror of "Hang 'em High", to the musical delights of Led Zeppelin's "The Song Remains the Same", which was unfortunately marred by the poor sound reproduction. "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" proved extremely popular, producing a near sell-out with the hall nearing maximum capacity.

Peter Sellers once again brilliantly portrayed the hilarious, accident-prone Inspector Clouseau in the award winning film, "Revenge of the Pink Panther". After picking themselves up off the floor, the large audience gave rapturous applause.



Brian J. Watson

"Capricorn One", another modern cinematic success was maybe a little boring with not much action at the start, but, improving as it went on, ended on a humorous note with the star running to attend his own funeral!

"King Kong" arrived unexpectedly in the place of "Close Encounters". This film epic was welcomed, though, and enjoyed by all present.

The action-packed "Roller Ball" proved extremely popular, but perhaps "Assault on Precinct 13" was the best film of the season.

After the unexpected loss of celluloid genius Mr. Nutter, Mr. Scott and Mr. Watson have been instrumental in maintaining the smooth running of the society. Regrettably, though, the privilege of having guests at the Sunday night performances had to be curtailed.

Even though this year's titles were selected by the pupils, there still exists a predominant element of juniors and the problem of catering for all tastes and ages still remains.

Finally we would like to thank Mr. Scott and Mr. Watson for giving up their valuable time on the Friday night showings, and Mr. Clarkson for providing a touch of expertise during the Sunday night extravaganzas.

N. G. Brough (Pre) and N. Percy, 4Y

Scientific Society

Chairman: Dr. B. M. Summers

Secretary: C. J. Lofthouse

Treasurer: D. Wilson

The Scientific Society has shown a number of films this year, including a series of sixth-form films on "Thermodynamics", as well as less specialised films for the junior members.

The main events of the year have been the society visits. There were three in all: to I.C.I. at Thornton-Cleveleys, to B.N.F.L. at Salwick, and last but not least the trip to Thwaites Brewery at Blackburn. The I.C.I. visit for the fifth-form proved most enjoyable with a trip around the P.V.C. production site and a talk on the manufacture of caustic soda. The visit to B.N.F.L. Springfields Works at Salwick was arranged for the sixth-form and included a tour of the fuel-element production on the site. Transport to the Works was provided by the School Minibus and although this was lost to the Geography Department on our arrival, speedy negotiations by Dr. Hall provided an alternative. We would, therefore, like to thank Mr. Cookson of B.N.F.L. for organising our transport back to school, and for the interesting tour of the site he provided.

The climax of this year's activities must undoubtedly be the recent visit to Thwaites Brewery at Blackburn. Again the trip was cast into doubt by transport problems as the School Minibus had broken down but, thanks to the generosity of some members, transport was provided by them. We were shown the different stages of brewing by our guide, Annette, who gave us a comprehensive insight into the process. Everyone who attended was presented with two free cans of Thwaites Own; a can of Pale Ale and a can of Lager. This was, needless to say, greatly appreciated by all concerned!

Many thanks are due to Dr. Summers and Dr. Hall for their efforts in obtaining transport and for all the help and support they give to the society.

C. J. Lofthouse (Pre)

Natural History Society

Chairman: Mr. A. R. Baines
Secretary: E. J. Waite
Treasurer: C. Whiteside
Committee: A. S. Hewertson, A. W. Traviss, N. Ross, J. Webster, C. Sloane

This year has seen a marked increase in the number of pupils attending meetings; the number has in fact ranged from six to thirty-five, with an average figure of twenty.

The Spring Term saw the first talk in which a girl member of the school took part. This was a talk on "Fossils" given by Tracy Kilner (1Z) and John Webster (4X). Other talks have been given on subjects ranging from "Bones", by the Chairman, to "Wild Flowers", by the Treasurer. Richard Cuttle (2Y) and Peter Davis (2Y) gave a talk on angling which was much appreciated as there is a strong interest in it in the middle years of the school.

Other talks included "The Robin" by the Secretary, "A slice of life" by Nicholas Ross (4Y), "Keeping Rodents as Pets" by Andrew Traviss (4X) and Andrew Hewertson (4Z), "Butterflies" by Charles Sloane (3Y); and very kindly a talk on "Ecology" by Mr. F. W. Sayer.



Mushroom — Julie Budd, L6A

Several films were shown to large audiences. These were "The Private Life of the Great Crested Grebe", "The Honey Bee", "Small Animals of the Plains", and "White Wilderness".

This year we were also very pleased to welcome our first outside speaker, Mrs. P. D. Ross, who kindly came to give us a lecture on modern operating techniques. Mrs. Ross is a theatre nurse at Lytham Hospital. I

would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Ross for an interesting talk.

Lastly, I think everyone would like to thank the respective staff members in charge of Room 17 and Room 11 for their co-operation over the past year.
 E. J. Waite, 4Z

Subbuteo Society

Chairman: Mr. A. P. West
Secretary: J. D. Buckley
Treasurer: M. Bullock

After a slow start this season, the society has organised two cup competitions. Following the departure of Mr. R. S. Nutter as chairman, Mr. West has taken over the position and refereed the Cup Final which was won by P. Nixon. He then entered for the new cup, and is in the final against Buckley and has not conceded a single goal. Plans are being made for new competitions, and the society is hoping to hold an all-winners Cup Final.

J. D. Buckley, 3X

Table Tennis Club

Chairman: Mr. P. Smith
Organizers: M. Snape, M. Herrington

The Table Tennis Club was re-formed in October, 1980, and currently has 19 members who play regularly at practice sessions which are held in the School Hall every dinner time between 12.35 and 1.45 p.m.

Recent internal competitions have included double and singles knock-out tournaments and it is hoped to complete a team knock-out tournament before the end of the Summer Term. The winner of the singles was Graham Ingham, who beat Mark Herrington in a closely fought match. David Lowcock and John Calland were the winners of the doubles.

If the progress of two or three of our members continues, it is possible that we could be re-entering a team in the Lytham St. Annes Table Tennis League (which is affiliated to the E.T.T.A.) within a couple of seasons.

M. Herrington, 3X

Charity Report

This year has been a particularly successful one for the charity collections and charity work of the school. The weekly collections made throughout the forms have consistently realised more than fifty pounds per month, and the total amount raised this year is well in excess of four hundred pounds. This is a very commendable effort, especially on the part of the junior forms.

It has always been the aim of our charity committee to help as many diverse charitable causes as our funds will permit. This year, the following organisations have benefited from our financial help: The Muscular Dystrophy Group, Save the Children, Royal National Institute for the Blind, Italian Disaster Fund, Imperial Cancer Fund, Blackpool Community Centre Appeal and the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

The major project which has occupied us this year, has been the raising of money to help to send several local handicapped children to the United States this Summer. In connection with this, the culinary talents of the junior girls have been employed in the baking and sale of cakes. This very successful and enjoyable venture realised nearly twenty pounds and I would like sincerely to thank all the girls for their generous efforts.

The school sixth-form also performs admirable community service, with a dozen lower and upper sixth-formers visiting Pear Tree House, Kirkham, and Wesham Park Hospital each week. The thanks of the school, as well as those of the institutions involved, go to those sixth-formers. I would also like to thank Mr. Clarkson for tireless work, despite his many other commitments, and finally I would like to thank the pupils of the school for making this such a successful year.

A. J. Raisbeck (Pre)

Wargaming Society

Secretary: D. Sarti
Treasurer: C. J. Swift
Committee: A. Bracegirdle, I. Campbell, S. Forster, J. Howells, D. Hurton, G. Parkin, E. J. Sarti

Once more the year has been fruitful for the Wargaming Society. At the time of writing, eight Wargames have been held, all of which have been well attended by a wide range of students from most years throughout the school.

The highlight of the year, however, was the society's fifth annual visit to the 'Northern Militair' in Swinton on November 2nd, the success of which must be attributed to Mr. J. S. Roberts who kindly gave up a day of Half Term to drive us to the exhibition. A most enjoyable day was had by all despite interference from an old lady, a mad dog and a council roadblock.

There has been much interest in the society from the first year and due to the rush of new members the society can look forward to continued success next year.

D. Sarti, 5X

Sixth Form Society

The Society has had a varied programme of talks and films.

Among the talks, the highlight was a visit by the police who talked about crime, drugs and gave a display with a police dog on the quad. Those Sixth formers who were "shepherded" against the wall of the 38 Block were suitably impressed. We also had a visit from Mr. Robert Atkins, the Preston Member of Parliament.

We have also seen a selection of films among which were 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' and 'Assault on Precinct 13'. A nucleus of Sixth formers have become very interested in film and it is hoped this interest will continue. I am grateful to the Committee and the Secretary, Andrew Raisbeck, for all their work.

R. M. Clarkson

"Books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a potency of life." (Milton)

Library Report

There has been a considerable expansion in the number of books in the school library once again this year. Last summer some two hundred books were bought, backed and placed largely in the Junior fiction and General Studies sections. The Junior Library was also added to by the donation by Mr. Redman of a large number of elementary science books and the inclusion of approximately fifty books from the History Department.

The major expenditure this year has been the purchase of the 1980 edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. This was made possible by a generous donation of £250 from the Friends and by the increase in the allowance to the library. The Encyclopaedias are in constant use and I am sure that the Friends will be pleased that their donation is appreciated. The old set of Encyclopaedias have been placed in the School House Library and continue to be widely used.

Whilst the majority of the library allowance was spent on the Encyclopaedias, the remainder has been spent on departmental requests for their various sections.

The Geography Department has decided that its books would be more easily accessible to pupils in the main library and in January approximately half of their library was accessioned and added to existing stock. The remainder of the Geography Department library will be accessioned when the new shelves arrive.

Because of the increased demand for shelf space and the reorganisation of the Careers Department within the library, two island units are to be incorporated into the library in the near future. These units, less high than the present ones but of similar design, will form the basis of a new Junior library which will make books more easily accessible to the smaller members of the school and will release the present Junior section shelves for the expanded Geography section.

I would like to thank the librarians, B. Butterworth, G. Daniels, A. Gregson, J. Oldroyd, A. Raisbeck, J. Sidebottom, R. Stuart, J. Sully, D. Williams, J. Wood and various other sixth formers who have stood in on occasions, for doing, during their lunch breaks, a thankless task which has little reward. These duties have been carried out under the supervision and prompting of the senior Librarian, D. Greville, who has been a great help over the last year. My thanks also go to those people who helped with the 1980 book check which proved, by the decreasing number of missing items, that the majority of the school, if not all, are honest; and to Katherine McDiarmid who has done some sterling work in returning books to the shelves at lunchtimes. Any other juniors who would like to assist in this way, please see me.

Finally, an appeal to Old Boys and parents: if you do find any K.G.S. Library books gathering dust in attics, on shelves or under beds, do not hesitate to return them to school. An amnesty has been declared — fines will not be implemented!

R. J. Watson

HOUSE SECTION

Results of the Inter-House Competitions

SUMMER TERM 1980

Competition	First	Second
Swimming	Kirkham	School
Swimming Standards	Kirkham	Lytham
Tennis (Junior)	Fylde	Preston
Tennis (Senior)	Fylde	School
Cricket (Junior)	School	Fylde
Cricket (Senior)	Ashton	School
Shooting	School	Lytham
Athletics	School	Preston
Athletics Standards	School	Kirkham
Gymnastics (Girls)	Fylde	Kirkham
Chess	Fylde and Lytham	
Work Cup	Lytham	Fylde

WINTER TERM 1980

Competition	First	Second
Play Reading	Preston	
Net Ball (Girls)	Preston	Fylde

SPRING TERM 1981

Competition	First	Second
Music	School	Lytham
Swimming	School	Kirkham
Rugby (Junior)	Kirkham	School
Rugby (Senior)	School	Ashton
Rugby (Sevens)	Cancelled	
Cross Country (Junior)	Kirkham	School
Cross Country (Inter)	School	Preston
Cross Country (Senior)	Preston	School
Cross Country (Girls)	Preston	Ashton
Debating	Ashton	Preston

T. Jackman

Kirkham

<i>House Master:</i>	Mr. A. Baines
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Mr. I. Scott, Mrs. K. Bagley, Mr. J. S. Roberts, Mr. A. P. West, Mr. B. K. Skirrow
<i>House Captain:</i>	A. Marshall
<i>House Vice-Captain:</i>	S. Dixon
<i>House Prefects:</i>	D. Anderson, R. Bullough, B. Butterworth, M. Fenton, M. Pearson, R. Whipp

Spring '80: an ecstatic welcome was extended to our junior and intermediate cross-country runners by a radiant Mr. Baines displaying the pride of the House. Cross and Lowcock finished first and second in the junior event while Pearson and Bridge came second and fourth in the intermediate. Some success at last!

A dramatic climb to third place in the music competition was capped by a 90% mark to the now familiar "bell team".

Summer '80: "Kirkham expects every man to do his duty!" cried Mr. Baines as he charged down the

field trailing his long-jump measuring-tape, adding "and the girls too" as he remembered the four debutantes in the House. However, despite a good team effort and winning performances from Reid, Herrington, Benstead and myself, fourth place was scant reward. The Pearson brothers played well in the senior as did Snape and Herrington in the junior tennis, but no cups this year, I'm afraid. The junior cricket team won in the first round, Snape and Cross performing well, but advanced no further. Grand controversy surrounded the swimming competition which we won and then lost overnight. On the day the rejoicing was immense as our final swimmer, Selwyn Dixon, came home before School House's swimmer. All the relay teams did well and individually Dunstan, Kitchen, Watson, Parkinson and Dixon swam like professionals. We finished third in the work cup which was a great improvement. On Friday 17th October history was made and Mr. Baines' happy, red face could not overshadow Susan Vipond's modest pride in having trained an unfancied Kirkham side to win the first girls' event in the school, the junior girls' netball. A great team performance was due to J. Billsborough, C. Swinn, L. Walsh, J. Dickinson, K. Gardner, A. Hawe, L. Morgan, A. Baron and J. Newton. A ruling in the debating robbed us of victory but we won't whine over sour grapes or monarchs, Dr. Watson.

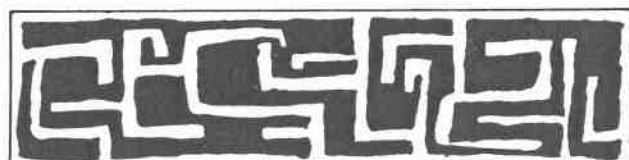
Our friend R.M.C. thought that School House had already won the junior rugby. Having seen our juniors thrash Fylde by 54 to 3, under the capable leadership of Herrington capably backed up by Organ, Hull, Lowcock and Reid, let me warn him that he may yet need to eat his hat when the final is eventually arranged! The play-reading team were unlucky to be beaten, giving a funny, well-planned performance of an adaptation of "Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy". Bridge played Zaphod Beeblebrox despite the wet conditions, while Swift managed to be in-cr-E-dibly nasty. The chess team has performed creditably with new players Turner, Weare and Sarti all showing promise. We do not expect to win this competition this year, however. In the newly timed gala we again came second. It was disappointing not to win but all swimmers did their best.

Our thanks must go to Mr. Baines for without his bubbly, effervescent appearances, the character of Kirkham House would simply not be the same.

The Kirkham youth trooped through the House;
They are many, the House is one;
Today's youth vanishes,
The House remains.

Apologies to R. L. Stevenson.

A. J. Marshall (Pre)



Lytham

<i>House Master:</i>	Mr. B. F. Taylor
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Dr. A. C. Hall, Mrs. S. Piggott, Mr. S. J. Turner
<i>House Captain:</i>	D. Williams
<i>Vice-Captain:</i>	S. J. Nelson
<i>House Prefects:</i>	M. P. Bedford, C. J. Eaves, N. R. Eaves, P. K. Greening, R. S. Ingleby, S. J. Nelson, D. Williams, D. M. G. Wilson

As the years progress the number of competitions available for houses to enter appears to increase in direct proportion; this year has been no exception, and with the sudden influx of separate girls' events running parallel to the boys' and the increasing numbers in the school and consequential increase of school teams, the timetabling and positioning of people for practices and events is reaching climactic limits that tax the minds of all organisers and totally confuse the participants — not that it doesn't make life interesting!

After the previous year's resounding victory for Lytham in Sports Day, we only managed third place this year, despite a meritorious performance by Mark Taylor who won the Victor Ludorum and Lorraine Anderson who was runner-up in the corresponding junior event.

The shooting competition revealed some of the true talent in the house, with creditable performances by Williams and Tucker who scored 92% but still only managing second place to School House.

Our contribution to the play-reading this year was yet another Goon script, — will anyone ever discover a different book?! The play "The Dreaded Batter Pudding Hurler" was performed with gusto by all and secured us second place.

The debating turned out to be another loser for Lytham, with Paul Bedford and myself being beaten by Ashton House in the first round, although I do feel the deficit of speeches from the floor on Lytham's side and some good floor oration from Ashton's members swung the result somewhat.

A date for the senior rugby competition was eventually found late in the Easter Term when we played School House in the first round on what passed as the First XV pitch, but it would have done a troop of hippos proud. The hours running up to the game had been filled with incredible rumours of secret tactics, coded names for manoeuvres and Raymond Ingleby seen banging his head on walls and hitting himself in an attempt to out-psyche the opposition. The game itself was an extremely good one and enjoyed by all. School, however, the stronger side, dominated for most of the game, apart from the dynamic Lytham tries for which Richard Bigland is so well known. Lytham lost 26 points to 8.

The Music Cup, part of Lytham's furniture over the past few years, was just snatched from our grasp by School House in the competition this year. The cause of this loss was solely due to the junior choir's persistence in not memorising the words of "Paddy McGinty's Goat", of Val Doonican fame. This was a great pity as the other contributions from the house, — Roger Boyes' perennial, impeccable violin solo, and a good trio, both only dropped a few marks, and

were chosen for the Easter Concert. My thanks must go to Paul Bedford and to Christopher and Nigel Eaves for their hard work in organising this event.

The junior cross-country was plagued with injuries from the start. However a team was fielded, and despite Dr. Hall's enthusiasm the team only managed fourth place; congratulations though must go to R. D. Stevenson, 1X, for being the first 1st year home.

The swimming competition I felt showed Kirkham Grammar School at its best. The competition was well run, fiercely competed, and loyalty to one's house was strong; everyone thoroughly enjoyed their morning at the baths. Perhaps our House was enjoying it a little too much as reflected in our low position but they do say it's the competing that matters, and we'll believe that for now — but next year . . .

Before closing this report I'm sure all of Lytham House are proud to have amongst its members one who gained admission to Oxford University this year to read Physics — very well done Paul Bedford. May I also thank Mr. Taylor for his work throughout the year together with the other members of staff in Lytham House.

This year has been a good one for the House and there should be a good deal more success in the future, but this can only be achieved by practice, and co-operation with the House Organizers who do a tremendous job. The very best of luck to the seniors with exams, and best wishes to everybody involved in Lytham House.

D. Williams (Pre)

Fylde

<i>House Master:</i>	Dr. B. M. Summers
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Mr. D. Butterworth, Mr. R. Gill, Mr. B. Gornall, Mr. D. Walls, Mrs. N. Black
<i>House Captain:</i>	J. Oldroyd

Under the House Captaincy of R. Washington, both the junior and senior teams won the Tennis Trophies, the seniors, I understand, being pushed to a nail-biting finish by Ashton. Andrea Fish won the girls' gym competition and the chess team drew with Lytham in the final.

The first event of the new school year was the senior Rugby Competition. As usual in this event the House team seemed almost totally devoid of 1st XV and 2nd XV members and consequently we lost quite heavily to Preston in the first round. Thanks must go, though, to those seniors who hadn't played for a great many years and who were "volunteered" by S. Chrispin for the match!

The junior team began with a promising start by comprehensively beating Lytham House in the first round. Unfortunately this success was not echoed in the second round when the team was defeated by Kirkham.

In the debating competition the pressure was on for the duo of D. Corner and myself to reclaim the Trophy

won by last year's team. We received a bye in the first round and in the second round met Ashton House to debate the motion "This House believes that the married woman's place is in the home". I think the relative inexperience of the Fylde House partnership was the overwhelming factor in our defeat.

This year's playreaders consisted of many who had taken part last year and consequently an ambitious "Fawlty Towers" sketch was chosen. In rehearsals, though, the team found it hard to turn the visual comedy of the original into a viable entry, but even so, on the day the play went better than any of us expected and Mrs. Boll even congratulated us on the slapstick element it contained.

In the Swimming Competition the House's hopes were very high for certain events as we had two of the best intermediate swimmers in the school. Our eventual position was the same as last year, 5th, and two of the team, namely D. Barnes and D. Kirkham, both broke existing records.

On the female side, the House has had mixed fortunes. The Hockey team has only to beat Ashton to be in the final. In the Cross-Country the girls only came 5th, but this was mainly because of injury, and in the Netball, the team was unexpectedly beaten by Kirkham in the final.

Lastly, just finishing as I write this report is the Music Competition, and I believe we were just beaten for third place by Kirkham House. Two of the three pieces that were entered have been selected for the Easter concert, and I gather that if the team had consisted of some junior members, our eventual position would have been higher.

I would like to thank everyone who has organised and competed in events this year, and thanks must also go to the members of staff for their moral support. I am sure that with more events to come and with the House's forte lying with the more passive sports, we will be more successful next term.

J. Oldroyd (Pre)

Our return in September was heralded by the immediate start of the House scene. A junior rugby team met Preston early in the year but despite the efforts of Calland and Dobson, they failed to suppress a strong Preston side.

In the junior girls netball, despite the efforts of the team, we were defeated in the heats; creditable performances were put in by Monique White, Wendy Jennings and Deborah Clarkson.

In the play reading the House presented an adaptation of the "Blood Donor". Despite excellent performances by our band of thespians we were unable to defeat competition winners Preston.

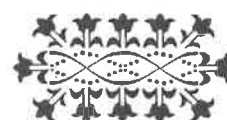
The Spring term has seen an improvement in the Ashton performances, the junior girls cross-country team coming second, with excellent performances by Jane Gillett, Monique White and Elizabeth Green (1st, 6th, and 9th respectively).

The swimming competition (not one of Ashton House's strong points) saw several individual victories: Michael Craven (Junior boys breaststroke), Gareth Morgan (Senior individual medley), Jane Gillett (Senior girls freestyle) and the Senior squadron relays, the last two of which broke previous records.

With the Senior Rugby, Cross Country Debating final and a bid to retain the cricket trophy Ashton hopes must be high.

Although not so successful in terms of results, Ashton House has become synonymous with effort and enjoyment, which is reflected in our all-round performances. I would like to thank all members of the House for this and particularly those members who have put much time into organising the events, namely: Philip Longworth, Adrian Gregson, Paul Stanford, Tim Stokes and Joanna Craig.

D. Armstrong (Pre)



Ashton

<i>House Master:</i>	G. S. Cheesbrough
<i>Assistants:</i>	R. J. Browning, A. G. Boll, D. J. A. Fathers, P. Smith
<i>School Captain:</i>	N. Harper
<i>House Captain:</i>	D. Armstrong
<i>Vice-Captain:</i>	C. J. Lofthouse
<i>House Prefects:</i>	D. Burrell, A. S. Gregson, P. R. Longworth, A. P. Brooks, R. L. Stuart

The Summer Term 1980 ended on a high note for Ashton House who managed to secure the senior cricket trophy in the last competition of the year, thanks mainly to the able captaincy of Andrew Brooks. This was not a one-man show, however, as vital support was needed from Seabury, Calam and Harper. The non-cricketers too deserve special mention and praise for their efforts, especially Judge and Morgan.

Preston

<i>House Master:</i>	Mr. T. Jackman
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Mrs. A. Francony, Mr. J. Catterall, Mr. R. Porter, Mr. F. W. Sayer
<i>House Captain:</i>	J. T. G. Sumner
<i>House Prefects:</i>	I. Greenhalgh, M. S. Lewis, R. G. Gibson, D. C. Mackereth C. R. Whiston

In the academic field Preston has achieved considerable success. Of last year's Upper Sixth, I. Little gained a place at Oxford, N. D. Gibson at Southampton, T. J. Mackereth at Sheffield, P. Williams at Bangor, and I. W. Aitchison at Liverpool Polytechnic. The House

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has this year gained the Work Cup — congratulations to all our young academics.

On the rugby field Preston's early successes instilled enthusiasm and determination in the House. A strong junior side began with a 14–3 victory over Ashton and went on to meet School in the semi-final. The result, 20–16 against us, in no way reflects the determined efforts and hard play of the junior side. General opinion amongst the Preston cheer-leaders was that Preston had deserved a victory and a place in the final.

In the senior rugby-competition, Preston began with a 44–4 "massacre" against Fylde who put up a gallant if hopeless resistance. However, this victory was unfortunately not repeated in the semi-final against Ashton. This time Preston received the thrashing, with a score of 4–20.

Both junior and senior sides have performed creditably and were unfortunate to have been knocked out in the semi-finals. Notable performances come from M. Preston, P. V. Nixon, S. J. McIntyre, G. P. Ingham, and S. Forster in the juniors, and C. I. Anthony, I. Sharples, A. Pearson, and J. Milburn, not to mention the industrious efforts of J. Sully and D. Mackereth.

This year has also seen the advent of Girls' Sports. Despite the limited numbers of girls, we managed to put a team together quickly and credit must go to the girls for their enthusiasm and efforts. In the Netball Competition, the girls won against School, but lost against Kirkham. In the Hockey, the girls have reached the final and we have hope of a victory here. My thanks to Anne Rhodes for her organisational ability.

In the Swimming Competition the House came third, a big improvement over previous years. Credit here must go to David Mackereth for his enthusiastic organisation.

On a more cultural note, the House has had mixed fortunes in the Debating, Chess, Play-reading and Music Competitions. In the Debating, the team reached the final after wins in closely contested debates with School and Kirkham. Unfortunately, though, the team lost narrowly to Ashton. The Chess Competition has not provided much joy despite the determined efforts of the team. The Play-reading revealed hitherto unknown comic acting talent in the House. Preston's adaptation of scenes from "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" gained a good audience reception and was acclaimed as the competition winner.

In the Music Competition, however, Preston's musical talents were not appreciated by the adjudicator who complained that in order to hear our very own Rock group's rendition of Chuck Berry's "Johnny Be Good", he needn't have left Salford! The House unfortunately finished last.

In the Cross-Country Competition, the House performed well, coming third in the junior competition, second in the intermediate and first in the senior. All three teams performed well against strong opposition.

Thus, overall the House has had a number of notable victories and defeats, both reflecting nothing but credit on the participants. We have high hopes for the

Girls' Hockey Final. My thanks to the staff and prefects for their patience and organisation, and to the active members of the House for their efforts and determination.

J. T. G. Sumner (Pre)

School House

<i>House Master:</i>	Mr. R. M. Clarkson
<i>House Assistants:</i>	Mr. M. J. Summerlee, Mr. Mr. S. C. Crook, Mr. R. J. Watson
<i>Heads of House:</i>	G. Daniels, N. G. Brough

The summer of 1980 brought several School House successes in the sporting field, with the house winning the athletics cup and standards, the senior tennis, junior cricket (once again), the shooting cup and a win by a single point in the swimming cup, with H. Davies swimming particularly well as our junior girls' team.

Come September, the House was attacked by a severe dose of femininity, with the influx of ten more girls. The heavy-metal fans were lifted to the heights of musical euphoria by a concert given by our own reside stars 'Dethwish', given in aid of the U-15 rugby tour which really 'rocked' the house into the spring term.

The new year brought more house successes, both in sport and musically, with the house repeating its win in the swimming cup, following intense effort on everyone's part to increase the win to a more substantial 14 points. Special congratulations to M. Simpson, who set a new record in the junior girls' breaststroke. The music competition fulfilled the ambition of our two house-grown rock-stars, Ian Porter and "Bodge" Cartwright, who have long wished to beat Lytham house. This was achieved by their own composition "Monkey's Wedding" (played by themselves and other budding guitarists in the house), by M. Mears' rendition of "A Song for Guy" on the organ and the House choir's enthusiastic cry of "Mud, Mud! Glorious Mud."

Our senior rugby team has played extremely well this term and had a convincing victory in the house final against Ashton House of 32–3. Captained and coached by C. P. McCreadie, the junior team has also won a place in the house final.

The House has run very smoothly this year, with only a few hitches especially since this is the first year the House has been really "mixed". The House is very grateful to those members of staff who give up their time to do School House duties and was sad to lose Mr. Nutter and Mr. Scott, both of whom contributed a great deal to the House. Special thanks to Mr. Clarkson who makes everything run with that extra smoothness and whose cries of "Bonglebogger" will live with us all.

G. Daniels (Pre)
and N. G. Brough (Pre)

K.G.S. SPORTS

Cricket

P 12, W 4, D 4, L 4

The 1st XI had a mixed season but steadily improved as the season progressed.

The side was captained by I. Aitchison and towards the end of the season by M. Worthington.

The season started disastrously with a 68-run defeat at Cardinal Allen H. S. but as the harder pitches arrived there were good performances against King George V, Southport, The Staff XI, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn and Baines School.

Against King George V the batting was rather frail but after scoring a meagre 81, we managed to bowl out King George V for 66, Aitchison taking 6 for 30. The Staff game was the highlight of the season. The Staff scored 146, all out and the school replied with 148 for 8 due mainly to a fine 60 by M. Worthington. The final game against Baines School provided the fourth victory and the most satisfying batting performance. Baines batted first and scored 196 for 4 declared. The school managed to win by three wickets thanks to another fine innings of 61 from Worthington and 45 from S. Chrispin.

The bulk of the bowling fell on the shoulders of R. Whipp who bowled consistently well and was the top wicket-taker with 23 wickets.

The performances of the junior members of the side were very pleasing and in Bretherick, Brooks, Patel, Seabury and Sharples we look to have the basis of a strong side for the 1981 season.

Colours were awarded to Worthington, Whipp and Swift. Half colours to Chrispin.

S. J. Turner

1st XI Averages Season 1980

Batting

	Runs	H.S.	Inns.	N.O.	Average
Aitchison	141	55	6	1	28.2
Patel	55	24 n.o.	5	2	18.3
Swift	169	52	12	0	18.08
Seabury	31	15 n.o.	5	3	15.5
Chrispin	131	45	10	1	14.5
Worthington	172	61	12	0	14.3
Brooks	61	27	6	1	12.2
Whipp	108	21	12	1	9.8
Bretherick	68	33	8	0	8.5
Brook	11	5 n.o.	5	3	6.5
Sharples	48	18	11	1	4.8
Liddell	14	8	4	1	4.66
Lewis	33	19	9	1	4.1

Bowling

	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.	Av.	Best Per.
Whipp	127.5	26	161	23	7.0	5-41
Aitchison	78	17	183	19	9.6	6-30
Seabury	26.2	1	99	8	12.1	3-26
Chrispin	47.4	6	166	13	12.7	5-19
Worthington	74	17	199	12	16.5	3-10
Armstrong	34	10	89	5	17.8	3-18
Sharples	24.2	5	101	4	25.25	3-32

Qualification 4 Innings 4 Wickets

U13 XI

1980 was a disappointing season as far as results were concerned. The team managed a draw in the opening match at Fulwood, but were then defeated by King Edward's, Hutton and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn.

On the batting side only opener Shaw and, to a lesser extent, Boyd looked capable of batting with a straight bat and staying at the wicket for any length of time. The others were apt to swing the bat with gay abandon and were consequently dismissed cheaply, though Plummer and Reed did manage double figures.

Hull was probably the most consistent bowler, bowling quite a good line and length. Boyd, Lowcock and Plummer, with his unorthodox style, made useful contributions in various matches.

The fielding was generally quite tidy without being outstanding, with Rawcliffe taking some excellent catches in the slips.

R. J. Browning

U12 XI

P 5, D 1, L 4, W 0

The side was captained by D. Whitworth and although the U12 XI did not win a game they showed signs of improvement as the season progressed.

Wilkinson and Craven look to be useful bowlers while Goddard has the making of a good all-rounder.

A little more application will be needed this season, particularly in the batting, if results are to improve.

S. J. Turner

Athletics

P 45, W 33, D 2, L 10

Senior Team

P 11, W 6, D 1, L 4

Before the season commenced it was feared that the team would not be strong and fears appeared justified after the first four matches had been played when only one victory had been recorded. The team was fairly strong at track events but relatively weak in the field events where we have traditionally been better, and few points were amassed in these events in too many matches. However, at the Senior Schools' meeting a vastly improved performance was produced with the help of I. Aitchison, S. Chrispin and R. Washington who were not always available owing to tennis or cricket commitments. A creditable second position ensued which could have been first position had a fully healthy team been available for selection. Washington was the only individual winner, being successful in the Javelin Throwing event, while the Captain M. Taylor with Aitchison, Chrispin and N. Gibson won the 4 x 100 relay.

M. Taylor was consistently outstanding in all matches, being rewarded with a win in the 110 metres Hurdles at the Lancashire Schools Athletics Championships, J. Thomas, N. Gibson and G. Benstead who made a remarkable recovery from a broken leg, sup-

ported Taylor well and were largely responsible for team morale and successes achieved.

The first girl to enter the Sixth Form set an example for the others to follow when Giselle Daniels won the Senior Girls Discus Event at the Lancashire Schools Athletics Championships.

Full Colours Re-awarded:— M. Taylor
J. Thomas

New Award Half Colours:— N. Gibson
R. Washington

U.17 Team

P 2, W 1, L 1

The team has played only two matches owing to cancellations and the short season leading up to 'O' level examinations. In past years the strength of the team lay in the track events but owing to R. Bigland's illness and S. Chrispin's being needed to play cricket, performances have suffered. A fully fit Bigland would have taken a lot of beating in the 200 metres by any Lancastrian and Chrispin was second in the 100 m. at the Lancashire Athletics Championships. G. Parkin improved greatly as a shot-putter after working hard in training, and G. Morgan, N. Gardiner, A. Bridge, S. Walker, C. Grime and B. Dunstan performed creditably.

U.16 Team

P 10, W 9, L 1

The outstanding performances of this team have continued: the only defeat in the last 3 years occurred whilst the team was severely weakened through illness. This defeat was amply avenged at the Senior Schools Athletics Championships when the cup was won in grand style. At this competition S. Hickey completed the double of 800 m. and 1500 m. and was unlucky not to come very close to a new record if it had not been for the close attention of an unfortunately friendly dog down the final straight. A. Clarke completed the double of Triple Jump and Pole Vault, the latter feat being notable by the fact that he had only practised it 3 times previously. J. Smith won the Shot, G. McIlraith won the 400 metres easily, and the 4 x 100 m. relay team of C. McCreadie, T. Allan, G. McIlraith and R. Gibson won the relay. All these athletes performed well all season but excellent performances were often forthcoming from C. McCreadie (despite never reaching full fitness after being ill), R. Gibson, T. Allan, G. Bowen, J. Liddell, P. Judge, M. Tucker, A. Niland and A. Pearson, the last developing well as the season progressed.

In the U.17 age group at the county championships, G. McIlraith was placed 6th in the 400 metres and S. Hickey 7th in the 800 metres. Regret must be expressed that McCreadie could not compete as he was not favourite to win the 100 metre hurdles.

U.15 Team

P 10, W 9, D 1

The improvement shown by the team since the first year has continued and this year they have remained unbeaten, being joint winners at the Senior Schools Meeting and contributing greatly towards the retention of the J. J. Breeze Trophy. The strength of

the team can be gauged when it is realised that only R. Turner in the 80 m. hurdles and A. Hickey who equalled the Shot record were winners. A good team spirit has been evident and J. Sharman, L. Knowles, G. Critchley, K. Stewart, J. Williams, A. Fotheringham, D. Brook, D. Wilkins, A. Davies, G. Bowen, A. Rhodes, E. Waite, J. Aspinall have performed well this season. A. Rhodes has made a great improvement.

A. Hickey won the County Discus title, R. Turner won the 80 m. Hurdles event and J. Sharman was placed third in the same event. Turner was selected to compete for Lancashire in the English Schools Athletics Championships held at Kirkby on 11th and 12th July, where he performed excellently, although he had never competed on Tartan previously, and was seventh in the final.

U.14 Team

P 10, W 8, L 2

Many good performances have produced many good results, the two defeats being at the hands of teams which included outstanding athletes. The enthusiasm of the athletes involved is infectious and one season will probably produce an unbeaten side. At the senior schools meeting we were placed second, helping in no small way to retain the J. J. Breeze Trophy, despite this being at the end of a week including a sponsored walk, a swimming championship, and home tennis and cricket matches for many of the athletes involved. P. Cross won the Javelin event and D. Barnes the Discus. During a successful season N. McDonald, R. Cook, R. Robinson, G. Hull, I. Davies, P. Reid, D. Mackey, P. Brewer, S. McIntyre, D. Lowcock, S. Swift, M. Herrington also performed well, while G. Ingham and Captain M. Preston were outstanding.

U.13 Team

P 2, W 0, L 2

The first year team has tried hard and made improvements over the term. D. Whitworth shows promise as an all-rounder, A. Wilkinson is a versatile athlete while I. Whyham has developed considerably as a thrower. S. Musson, C. Seed, M. Livesey, R. Ferguson, D. Hurton, A. Rowe, A. Goddard, A. Ashworth, P. Barnes, R. Crisall have all tried hard whilst representing the School and it is to be hoped the team will develop further next season.

B. Gornall

Tennis

1st Team P 15, W 8, L 6, D 1

2nd Team P 1, W 1

U15 Team P 3, W 1, D 2

The 1980 tennis season had its up's and down's, with most credit once again going to Bob Washington for his consistently high performance.

The old problem of cricket requiring tennis players meant that Ian Aitchison was badly missed from many matches. However the usual team of R. Washington, S. Yeadon, M. Pearson, I. Pearson, G. Eastham and the ever-willing S. Reardon coped very well.

Though the second team only played one match, they played very well and showed that there are many skilful players in the upper school. Likewise the U15 team showed that they had great skill, with a good performance from G. McIlraith, which earned him a place on the Lancashire Coaching course.

These performances provide encouragement for the future.

Finally, I would like, on behalf of all those who were involved in matches during the 1980 season, to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Summers, who gave up much of his valuable time for our benefit.

Full Colours:	R. Washington
Reaward ½ Colours:	M. Pearson, S. Yeadon
Half Colours:	I. Pearson, G. Eastham.

I. Pearson L6M
(Secretary)

Cross-Country

This year, the Harriers have enjoyed their most successful season for a number of years, under the guidance of Dr. A. C. Hall.

The team began the season with a win against Arnold, coming second in a triangular match with Birkenhead. They went from strength to strength beating Bury, Lancaster, Carr Hill and Arnold (away), not forgetting the biggest disappointment of the season, where the team lost by a mere three points against St. Mary's.

During the season the team took part in three championships. These were the Blackpool and District Schools Championship, where we finished third; the Senior Schools Championship, where we finished fifth; and the Dennison Cup Cross-Country Relay, where we finished fourteenth, in a field which included the strongest teams in the North. The team was picked from a squad of eleven runners, who were S. Hickey, Pearson, Pinnell, Burrell, Patel, Tattershall, Ainley, Gillibrand, Simpson, Uttley and Whiston; we also owe a special mention to Bigland and Chrispin who ran with the team on one occasion and a tribute must be given to S. Hickey who won every school match.

In addition to school matches we had six individual runners taking part in the Lancashire Schools Championships. These were Pearson and Pinnell for the seniors, S. Hickey for the intermediates, and Cross, Lowcock and Robinson for the juniors.

Very special thanks to Dr. A. C. Hall for his devotion and encouragement throughout the season, even though it meant he had to run with us.

C. R. Whiston (Pre)

Netball

To date both teams have had six matches cancelled though not, I am sure, because our opponents are afraid to play us.

Second Year — The Second year team have won only two of their eleven matches, and need to apply themselves more fully to the game, instead of losing interest immediately they have one goal scored against them.

We hope their success on the Portsmouth Tour will motivate them into more concentrated action in the future. Their play can be both fast and skilful when they really try, although their finishing does need more practice.

First Year — The First year have played eight matches and, after rather a nervous start to the season, they have won six and lost two. The team are playing well together, showing enthusiasm and developing an understanding of each other's play.

N. A. Black

Swimming

Over the past twelve months, swimming at Kirkham Grammar School has developed into a very serious competitive sport. Swimming standards have always been good, but it was not until last Summer Term that the true potential was realised. In the annual inter-house Gala many fine times were recorded by many of the swimmers with Kirkham, Barnes and Davies all setting new records. The whole competition was a closely fought battle with School House just pipping Kirkham House by one point to take the trophy.

Two weeks later we entered a team in the Senior Schools Swimming Gala at Fleetwood. It was here that we really excelled. Barnes won the junior freestyle and butterfly, setting new records in both, and Halstead was placed fourth in the back crawl. The junior boys' freestyle relay team of Barnes, Swift, Halstead and Davies came first and in doing so broke by two seconds the existing record which had stood for some time. The junior boys thus took the overall trophy and were presented with a silver cup.

At the beginning of this academic year it was decided that the wealth of swimming talent in the school could go untapped no longer. The School applied to the Fylde Borough Council for extra swimming time for training and was granted two sessions per week; Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. — 9 a.m. The early morning swimming club was thus formed. The numbers of pupils wishing to train was so great that some had to be restricted to once a week, and even now there is a waiting list to join.

Training gradually became harder and the team fitter. In March we organised our first swimming match which was against Kirkham and Wesham Swimming Club. The evening proved most exciting and rewarding with the final result being a draw — 210 points each. Our strengths lay mainly with the first, third and fourth year boys and the first year girls who all won their individual age groups. The senior boys performed exceptionally well but were up against experienced opposition. More inter-school matches should be organised during the Summer Term and we hope to have a full fixture list next year.

This year's Inter-House Swimming Gala was again won by School House with new records set by Kirkham, Barnes, M. Simpson and J. Gillett.

The highlight of the year came with the news that the following pupils had been chosen to represent the Fylde District in the Lancashire Schools' Swimming Championships: —

Juniors: Lee, Kenward and Sharyn Rhodes

Seniors: Barnes, Swift, Collett, Kirkham, Watson and Sarah Goldthorpe

Finally, this report would not be complete without the results of David Barnes' year in the swimming world:

- i. U.15 (An age group above) 3rd in the Lancashire 100m freestyle and 5th in the Northern Counties 100m freestyle
- ii. U.14 (his own age group) 3rd in the English Schools Championship 100m freestyle.

Overall an exceptional year.

P. Smith

Hockey XI

This year has once again proved successful for the Hockey XI. Our only defeat was at the hands of Blackpool Men's Hockey Club (2-1) in a game which was fought hard by the 1st XI against a more experienced adult side. The School team has performed very well and has not lost a single game against other schools.

At times we have played what can only be described as Champagne Hockey. We have had the benefit of two good wingers but at times we allowed our game to drop to the level of some of our opponents.

There were moments of uncertainty in the defence. Along with a failure to capitalise on the chances we created in attack, this meant that we did not win some of our matches as decisively as we should have.

The combination of the development of some of the experienced players and flair of the new blood has worked well.

I would like to thank all the players (especially David Anderson who has proved to be an excellent Vice-Captain) and our coach/chauffeur/umpire Mr. Sayer for all the time put in and for all the enjoyment I (and I hope they) have received from K.G.S. Hockey. I would also like to wish the team well for the future; they have the potential to become an excellent side.

D. Armstrong (Pre)
(Captain)

Rugby

1st XV

Overall record

P 19, W 7, D 1, L 11, F 198, A 202

Autumn term

P 10, W 2, D 0, L 8, F 62, A 161

Spring term

P 9, W 5, D 1, L 3, F 136, A 41

The overall record of the team shows that we have had the worst season for many years but does not show that a great improvement has been made over the season. The main problem to be overcome on returning to School in September was that of lack of experience with only three regular members of last year's side and no full colours being available for selection.

This lack of experience showed itself in aspects of the game such as speed of thought, speed of execution of movement, fitness levels and commitment needed to succeed at 1st XV level; these can only be improved upon by practice and playing over a period of time. Early in the season the team played poorly and a below average sized pack won little ball and the threequarters moved too slowly to utilize the ball they received.

However, after a couple of months, improvements were shown and in November two unbeaten sides plus the always formidable St. Edward's College were given hard games.

In the Spring Term more matches were won than lost and if two close matches against Stonyhurst College and King's School, Macclesfield, had gone our way then the record in this term would have been impressive.

As the season unfolded the pack developed into a cohesive scrummaging unit with B. Dunstan developing into one of the best hookers in the North West. A. Seabury usually secured more than his fair share of lineout possession although the support play was never as tight as it should have been. The threequarters developed from a unit simply playing robot-style rugby in pre-planned moves to promising players who could move the ball quickly and adapt to changing situations on the field spontaneously. I. Collinge is a good link and kicker at fly half, Richard Bigland is developing well as a powerful, elusive centre and the other threequarters have grown in stature and confidence. The Captain, P. Longworth, led the team with increasing authority as the season progressed and spectators were in no doubt as to who was the K.G.S. Captain. He is to be congratulated on leading the team well in a difficult season.

As most of the team are returning next season it is to be hoped that the promise of the Spring Term can be turned into a fine season next year. On tour in Holland the team showed that it is capable of playing fine attacking, running rugby and if a reliable good kicker can be found then with the spirit shown by the team this year, a successful season should ensue.

AWARDS: Full Colours P. Longworth, B. Dunstan
(New Awards)

Half Colours I. Collinge (Re-Award)
R. Bigland, J. Nelson,
I. Greenhalgh (New Awards)

B. Gornall

2nd XV

P 19, W 6, L 13, D 0

A generally disappointing season for the 2nd XV who lacked real consistency and a settled side. In the Christmas term the side played with much spirit but generally they gave away a lot of weight to the opposition and struggled to win possession. Under the leadership of Marshall, they had good wins against Ermysteds, De la Salle, Blackpool C.H.S. and Kendal.

Special mention should be made of Fenton, Bridge, Bretherick, McCreadie, and Bamber who played with much enthusiasm in the pack, and Hargreaves, Judge and Lewis in the threequarters.

S. J. Turner

Under 15 XV

P 23, W 17, D 1, L 5, F 438, A 189

There can be no doubt in anyone's mind that the U15's have had an extremely successful and exciting season with results that have proved them to be one of the strongest teams in the North-West.

They made a very impressive start to the season with eight consecutive wins against strong opposition such as: Hutton G.S., King Edward VII, and the renowned Cowley School from St. Helens. Unfortunately, after half-term, the effect of losing to Lancaster R.G.S. by a highly disputed conversion, and having several games cancelled seemed to have an adverse effect on team spirit. Consequently they went down 12 points to 4 to St. Edwards and drew with St. Marys 6-6. Nevertheless, they had still scored over 300 points before Christmas and conceded only 66.

In the New Year the success of the team continued with fine wins over Kendal G.S., (who had not previously been beaten), Stonyhurst, Kings Macclesfield, and the Victor Hugo School who were on tour from Narbonne. The highlight of the Spring Term was the rugby tour to Portugal where the team played two games, the first against the North of Portugal and the second against the National U15 side. There is a full report of this elsewhere and so I think that it is sufficient to say that probably more knowledge of rugby and 'life' was gained during that week than the rest of the season put together.

Unfortunately the Fylde 7's were cancelled through bad weather and so after the Spring half-term, all efforts were concentrated on winning the North Lancashire U15 XV knock-out cup organised by Blackpool

R.U.F.C. In this competition victories were gained over King Edward VII, Balshaws, and St. Mary's to reach the final against Morecambe H.S. This game certainly proved an exciting and fitting end to a marvellous season. At half-time Kirkham were up by 4 points to 3, but in the second half a wealth of fine support play coupled with plenty of aggressive open running by the backs proved too much for the opposition and they finally won 25-3 to become the champions of North Lancashire.

Their success has been due mainly to a totally dedicated and determined approach to both training and 15-man attacking rugby by every member of the squad. Their strength lies in having a very strong and mobile pack, the best back row in the County and a stand-off whose strong aggressive running, tactical kicking and superb defensive qualities have been devastating to the opposition. Throughout the season Turner, Hickey, Bennett and Davies have been outstanding with Turner scoring 175 points which includes 20 tries. All four boys were chosen to represent the North Lancashire U15 team and obviously have a bright future ahead of them. The season has also seen the development of players such as Fielding at tight-head prop, Stewart and Watson at second row and Knowles who changed from second row to full back, which quickly proved to be an excellent decision. The introduction of Rhodes into the threequarter line during the latter part of the season was an added advantage.

The squad as a whole have always given 100% effort in everything that they have done and in the majority of games have demonstrated an attitude and style of play which any team would do well to emulate.



The U15 Touring Team. Photograph by Mr. F. W. Sayer

Finally, on behalf of the team, may I take this opportunity to thank the Captain, Andrew Davies, who has always set high standards of both attitude and performance on the field for the rest to follow. Special thanks also to Mrs. Dunstan, Mrs. May and the rest of the dinner ladies for so many welcome late but substantial lunches, and also to Mr. Kevin Hickey whose help and support have been invaluable throughout the year.

On a more personal note, may I sincerely thank the team for a most enjoyable and rewarding season.

Team Squad: Knowles, Farrer, Wilkins, Critchley, Sharman, Rhodes, Aspinall, Fotheringham, Turner, Bowen, Thornton, Baldwin, Phillips, Hickey, Davies (Capt.), Bennett, Stewart, Watson, Houtris, Selwyn-Smith, Rae, Fielding, Carruthers, Milburn, Kirkham, Collett.

P. Smith

U14 XV

P 16, W 8, L 7, D 1

Rather a mixed season — at times the U14's played excellent running rugby, yet for some of their games they looked like a completely different team. Notable good wins came against some fair opposition such as Balshaws, Pontefract, Ermysteads, Arnold and Ripley but these were evened out by severe losses against Stonyhurst, Cowley, King Edward's and Blackpool.

After three consecutive wins in the early season, the team looked set for a good year with forwards developing well as runners, such as Organ, Herrington and Cook (the latter showing his strength in the ruck and maul); and in the set pieces Sillery, McIntyre, Plummer, Youll and Mackey all worked very hard. The backs linked well, with excellent runners in Preston (the Captain), Robinson, Hull and Reid together with sound attacking and tackling by Calland and Lowcock, (who shared the scrum-half position) Ingham and Davies, always a reliable full back who came up well in the time.

The winter weather, however, took its toll and many potential wins were cancelled. This lay-off also probably created the lack of togetherness and match practice that was noticeable in the latter part of the season. With continued effort and training next year this team should do very well. There is great rugby ability in many of the players and a potential as yet, I feel, untapped.

I. M. Scott

U13 XV

P 16, W 4, D 0, L 12, F 116, A 294

As the playing record shows, the 1980-81 season proved to be a very hard one, the highlights of which were undoubtedly the excellent victories at Kendal and Ripley. However, in most matches the opposition seemed to be bigger, stronger and quicker. Consequently the under thirteen's spent a good deal of time defending their own line and this they did with great tenacity, proving to most teams that they were no "push-over". At the other end of the field there was unfortunately nobody with the speed and power to make the decisive break to set up scoring chances.

Whitworth led the side by example from wing forward, where he was more than ably supported by any two out of Robinson, Scholefield and Welsh; the latter should remember that Rugby is not a game for individuals. With Tracey, Craven, Robson and Barnes holding down four of the five front places, and with Hulme waiting patiently in the wings, Calland and Atkinson, who developed a lot during the season, were left to compete for the hooker's spot.

There was little to choose between Harrison and Wilkinson at scrum half. Musson played stand off before Christmas before moving to centre, giving way to Turner, who was beginning to develop into a commanding player and useful kicker as the season ended. The remaining places in front of Seed at full-back were usually competed for by Goddard, Hurton, West, Ferguson and latterly Birtwistle.

I believe the team as a whole improved a lot as the season progressed and the time will come when they will be equal in size and speed to their opponents and their playing record will undoubtedly improve. Finally my thanks to those who practised and played, and particularly to Whitworth for his organisation.

R. J. Browning

U12 XV

Record:	P	W	D	L	F	A
'A' team	7	2	1	4	68	62
'B' team	1	1	0	0	16	12

The season has been decimated by the weather and the U12's seem to have been particularly badly affected, having played only twice since Christmas and seven games in all. The weather has not only severely disrupted the fixture list but has also hindered the progress of a very promising U12's squad.

The season began with the Fylde 10-a-side competition in October. Kirkham entered two teams, the 'B' team fought hard but did not progress beyond the first round, the 'A' team however played some excellent rugby showing flair, imagination and great determination in winning five consecutive matches to reach the final. In the final they were eventually defeated by a well drilled and much more experienced Rossall side, but on the day both teams were a credit to the school.

On the face of it, the 15-a-side record does not look all that impressive, but the defeats were suffered at the hands of strong teams in closely fought games, two of which could of gone either way. The two victories 20-6 and 36-0 over Fulwood H.S. and St. Mary's H.S. respectively were very impressive displays and were as convincing as the scorelines suggest.

The strength of the side lies with the forwards, and in particular with the back row of Cookson, Lee and Wilkinson (Captain), who have been as good as or better than most of their opposite numbers this season. The forwards are very strong in the loose play and always win plenty of ball during the course of a game. The backs are competent handlers of the ball and are also good tacklers, but are a little lacking in imagination, although Wilson is an extremely fast winger and a potential match-winner if he could catch the ball consistently.

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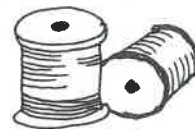
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