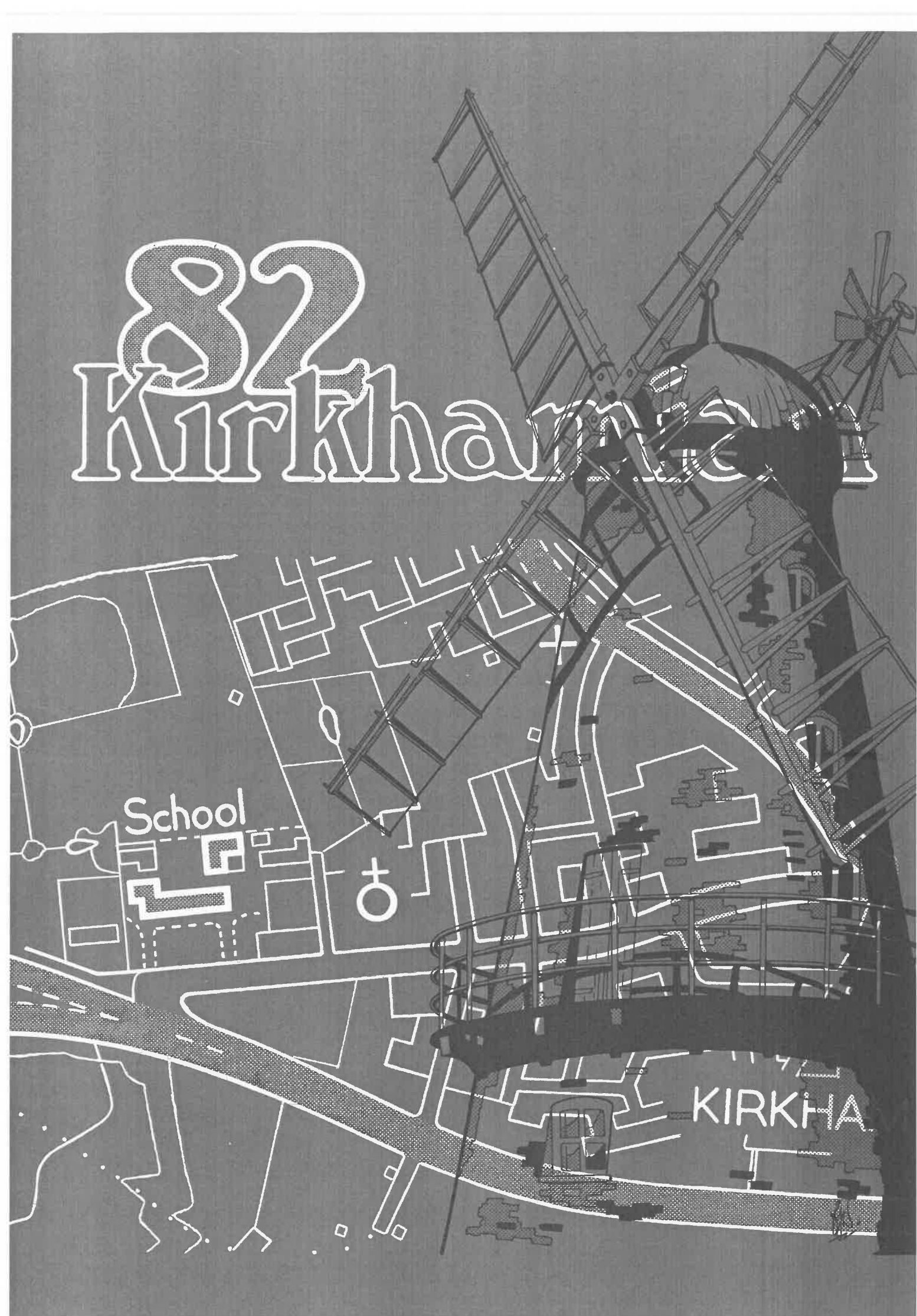


82 Kirkham



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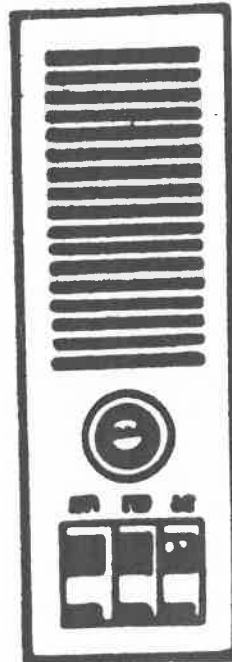
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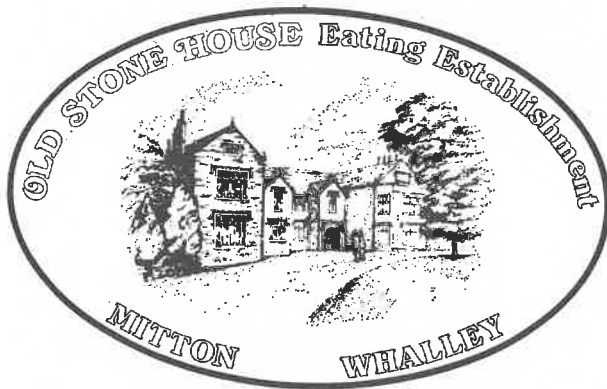
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Editorial

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P. K. Selwyn-Smith, S. C. Sumner,
S. C. Goldthorp.
Co-opted Members: Mrs. A. G. Boll, Mrs. S. Piggott,
Mr. R. Porter.

The school year evokes different responses from everyone. To some, the year drags idly past; others puzzle in amazement, wondering where it has gone as time flashes rapidly by. A young newcomer to the school, with the daunting prospect of another five or seven years at this educational establishment, will undoubtedly have a completely different impression of the school year from someone who is nearing the end of his or her studies at K.G.S., for whom examinations are no longer years or months away, but a matter of weeks. To an Old Kirkhamian, the school year would be just a cloudy memory, faded and possibly romanticised by the passage of time.

In a similar fashion, the *Kirkhamian* conjures varying reactions from its readership. Budding Bjorn Borgs, for instance, would probably be more interested in the tennis reports than the Film Society contribution. Clint Eastwood fans would think otherwise. Apart from an idle curiosity to discover what fate will overtake them in the fourth form, the juniors may, perhaps, find little to fascinate them in the C.C.F. section. However, members from the lowliest cadet to sergeant-major would relish the reminiscences of past exploits. Parents and friends outside the school would possibly treat the Magazine as an insight into the diverse activities within, whereas those more familiar with its complexities would undoubtedly read the following articles from a different perspective. Perhaps someone someday, in the dark and distant future, will scan casually over these pages, laughingly thinking, "Was school life really like that in the nineteen-eighties?"

Who knows? Time alone will tell.

Brian J. Watson
(Editor)

A Word to our Advertisers

In these days of inflation it is pleasing to note that the 1982 *Kirkhamian* has not only virtually maintained its 1981 price but is also a larger edition than ever before.

Our thanks are in particular due to those parents and friends who have taken out copy for the first time. It is hoped that they will find the Magazine a successful advertising medium and we would genuinely exhort readers to support these advertisers. Contributions of this nature enable us to continue to produce a high-quality magazine. Any other parents who could advertise with us will, we hope, seriously consider using the Magazine next year and so enable us to continue in this new format.

Mrs. S. Piggott
(Business Editor)

News from the Governors

Last year when I wrote in the *Kirkhamian* that independent schools were under political threat, little did we realise just how soon attempted action would occur. The Lancashire County Council, won by Labour from the Conservatives at the May 1981 local elections, tried, as a first measure, to cut off support for pupils entering the sixth forms of independent schools. The plan accepted by the education committee in September 1981 was dropped three months later on legal advice.

The six Lancashire schools involved, Blackburn Queen Elizabeth, Blackpool Arnold and Elmslie, Lytham King Edward VII and Queen Mary, and K.G.S. were affected to a different degree and not all had the same arrangements with the county. The schools put up united and forceful opposition to the proposal and were vigorously supported by parents and at national level by M.P.'s, ISIS and the GBA. In December 1981 they were informed by the local education authority that it would continue to meet legally binding commitments. For K.G.S. this means that financial responsibility by the local authority is assured for pupils already in the school when it reverted to independence in September 1979, including their sixth form studies.

The need for the campaign for the defence of independent schools in the political arena continues. But under the Charities Law neither the independent schools themselves nor the national bodies to which they are affiliated can engage in political activities. The campaign therefore must have two distinct parts – non-political for information, financed from charitable sources, and political, financed from separate non-charitable sources. The ISIS Association – the independent schools support group – is not a charity and can take political action. I encourage as many more members of the school community as possible to join the ISIS Association, as their modest subscription will produce a reserve of funds for the campaign. In return the termly Newsletter will keep you well informed and provide additional advice and help to parents and pupils. Details may be obtained from the Bursar.

At the end of the summer term 1981 Mr. Harry (Gentleman) Reay retired after 28 years loyal service to K.G.S. The Governors presented him with an inscribed Caithness glass bowl in appreciation. A tribute to his contribution to the life of the school is given elsewhere in this issue. His successor as deputy headmaster, Mr. Neil Gamble from Repton School, has been welcomed to K.G.S. and he has very quickly become fully involved in the life of the school.

In his address to the annual general meeting of the GBA last March, Lord Goodman emphasised the importance of the volunteer in English public life. I should like to use this opportunity to record the Governors' thanks to the staff for all the excellent voluntary work which goes into the great variety of sporting activities, societies and clubs at the school. Their support in this way engenders the strong and desirable family atmosphere at K.G.S. which shows care for the individual pupil and makes it possible for each to develop his or her personality and interests alongside challenging academic studies. With such diversity of activity available, our pupils are well equipped to serve the community adequately when they enter the adult world.

The school is responding to the increasing use of micro-chips in society by introducing computer studies into the curriculum. Initially 3rd year and 6th form familiarisation courses will be provided. Every pupil will have handled and programmed a micro-computer before they leave.

Further teaching accommodation is to be provided for September 1982, adjacent to the Norwood Block extension. This development, in addition to those of the last three years, will have produced the necessary extra facilities required by the introduction of the girls and the transition from two to three forms of entry. There remains the need for improvements to the sports facilities and in this connection the projects of additional tennis courts and upgraded services in the pavilion are proceeding.

The school hall is recognised as inadequate for the numbers in the school both for regular use and for public functions. However, it is not possible to build a new hall at this time. In an attempt to overcome this difficulty and allow more of the school family to be present at the annual

review of school activities and distribution of prizes and trophies on Speech Day, the Governors have recommended a change of venue to St. Michael's Church by kind permission of the Rev. R. A. Nelson.

The boarding house continues to be in great demand and regrettably the Headmaster is having to refuse many suitably qualified children. An extension into the roof-space of the girls' wing is being built to provide a further six places. This project concludes the possible development of the boarding house utilising existing structure, but it then permits the house to accommodate acceptably the complete age range of girls from 11–18 years, separately from the boys. A resident housemistress has joined the staff.

Reviving the theme of volunteers and the importance of their role, the Friends give their time and talents voluntarily to help the school. I know they find satisfaction and enjoyment in making their donations of equipment and decorating. This valuable contribution is much appreciated.

I must pay tribute to the excellent work of the Governors which, I emphasise, is also voluntary. The considerable variety of their expertise is spread through the work of seven hard-working committees. It is fair to say that, together with the administrative staff, they have already achieved a successful transition of the school into independence.

There is considerable competition to gain entrance to the school and the first-year places are fully allocated. We have been delighted to receive the invitation from the D.E.S. to be admitted to the Government's assisted places scheme from September 1982. Ten boys and girls of high ability can now be assisted with the tuition fees. A school bus service will be provided from the Preston area.

Kirkham Grammar School, by its standards of academic success and discipline, its moral and Christian principles and many out-of-school activities has established itself as an attractive independent school to the parents of Lancashire. We shall continue to work so that "all who enter may derive profit" – *ingredere ut proficias*.

Peter Laws

(Chairman of the Governors)

The School Year

The School Year 1981–82 has very much been the one in which Independence has begun to make a lasting impression on K.G.S. and in which it has become possible to visualise the emerging shape of the School. It was during the course of this year that the number of forms containing girls became the majority and also that further members of staff were appointed to cater for our smaller sizes of forms and sets. The Chairman of Governors has mentioned already the building of additional classroom accommodation, the arrival of the computer, and the increasing number of pupils seeking School-House accommodation. Lastly, in the wake of any anxieties arising out of the short-lived threats of the new L.C.C., we received the welcome news from the Department of Education and Science that we were to be admitted to the Assisted Places Scheme.

This is proof indeed that Kirkham Grammar School has successfully made its claim to be considered amongst the best group of the independent schools, and it is sincerely hoped that this Magazine reflects the wealth of academic, sporting and social activities in which we are engaged.

Foremost amongst our academic successes it is with pleasure that we report the following Oxbridge results:

- C. J. Eaves – Entrance to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, to read Natural Sciences.
- S. J. Stokes – Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences, St. Anne's College, Oxford.

T. M. Stokes – Entrance to read Medicine at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

B. J. Watson – Entrance to read Engineering at Churchill College, Cambridge.

We have furthermore been informed that C. J. Eaves has won a sponsorship from British Nuclear Fuels Ltd., and he himself writes as our "China Correspondent" later in this Magazine, following his success in the Lloyd's Bank "China Clipper" competition. B. J. Watson, too, has gained a sponsorship, from British Rail, and it is important to note that many of these industrial sponsorships are as scarce, and as coveted, as Oxbridge places, not least in the current period of financial restraint.

On the sports field, J. Bennett and R. G. Turner have both played for the Lancashire U16 XV, and S. Hickey represented the County in the 800-metres event at the England Schools' Championships. C. P. McCreadie is this year's Lancashire Intermediate Hurdles Champion, and we can take pride in the fact that for the first time ever we have become both Senior and U16 Champions at the Senior Schools Athletics Championships in the same year.

We are also pleased to record the following events from our School Calendar 1981–82:

Thurs, 14th May, 1981 – C.C.F. Inspection by Group-Captain Lawrence, O.B.E., Officer Commanding R.A.F. Sealand.

Tues, 19th May – Sports Day. Principal Guest, Mr. H. J. Reay, Deputy Headmaster.

Fri, 22nd May – Founders' Day Service. Preacher, Rev. R. A. Nelson, Vicar of St. Michael's Parish Church, Kirkham.

Sat, 11th July – Open Day.

Fri, 25th Sept. – Speech Day. Guest Speaker, Mr. Albert Laugharne, Q.P.M., Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary.

Fri, 11th Dec. – Carol Service at St. Michael's Church.

Sat, 6th Feb. – 11+ and 13+ Entrance Examination.

We were particularly glad to invite Mr. Reay to be our guest at the Sports Day since this year was to see his retirement after 28 years of service to the School, most recently, of course, as Deputy Headmaster. Many friends of the School as well as its members past and present will enjoy reading on later pages the account of his considerable contribution to the life of the School. He is succeeded as Deputy Headmaster by Mr. N. W. Gamble, B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., M. Ed., formerly Head of Economics and Politics at Repton School.

Such other staff changes as there have been are as much in the nature of additions to the staff as replacements for those who have left. The School photograph of 1978 shows only seven members of staff who have left since that date, whereas there are in fact a total of fourteen who have joined us since then.

Mr. D. J. A. Fathers left us in July to take up a post at the Friends' School, Ayton, North Yorkshire, after three years with us as Assistant Master in Physics. Amongst his many extra-curricular interests, he was Chairman of the Electronics Society and was an active member of the C.C.F.; his presence at C.C.F. camp will be especially missed. Mrs. Angela Francony, who had taught both French and German, left School to have a baby at the end of the Summer Term. Her close contacts with France were of particular value to us. She has since revisited the School several times and we are delighted to find her, and baby Nicholas, in the best of health. Mrs. L. V. James, whose move was dictated by her husband's appointment to BAe at Hatfield, had completed two years' service as a part-time teacher of French. She was a keen protagonist of the

16+ exam and we learn that she has settled well into her new school. All these colleagues take with them our warmest good wishes for their futures.

At the Social Evening kindly organised by the Governors on Tuesday, 1st September we had seven new members of staff to greet, in many ways a direct reflection of the increasing numbers of sets within the School. Apart from Mr. Gamble, who is featured in a later article, Mr. T. J. Bruce joined the staff of K.G.S. to be our new Head of Economics. Holding a B.Sc. (Econ.) Wales which he received at UWIST, and a Dip. Ed. which he subsequently gained at St. Martin's College, Lancaster, Mr. Bruce has had a period of some eleven years' previous experience at King George V Grammar School, Southport, which has in more recent years become a Sixth Form college.

Mrs. Susan Gill, who joins the Physics staff, took a B.Sc. (Hons.) at Nottingham University and proceeded to Salford University where she gained an M.Sc. She subsequently studied for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education, again at St. Martin's College, Lancaster. Mrs. I. C. Gault has joined us as an Assistant Mistress in English and Maths. Following her studies for the Certificate in Education, at Glasgow, she has had many years of teaching experience in England and Scotland.

Mr. Ian Rushton, an Old Boy of Arnold School, took Joint Honours in German and French at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. He had one year's teaching experience in Austria, and later gained a P.G.C.E. Mr. Adrian Long was educated at Bolton School and Exeter College, Oxford, where he, too, took Joint Honours in Modern Languages. Prior to taking the P.G.C.E., he spent his year abroad in the region of Metz, in France. Conversely, Mrs. Ghislayne Haworth spent her year "abroad" teaching in England, in the middle of her studies for the degree of L. ès L. (the equivalent of a B.A.) at the University of the Sorbonne in Paris.

All our new members of staff appear to have settled well into the Staff Room and are already involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities. We extend a warm welcome to them all and wish them a long and happy association with the School.

I should like to close by thanking all those who have contributed to the production of this year's Magazine, whether by advertisements, articles or other efforts behind the scenes. The Committee very much hopes that the new format is to your liking and that you will be encouraged to contribute new material and ideas for next year's edition.

R. Gill

O-level and A-level Results, 1981

The following candidates were successful in the G.C.E. "A" level examinations 1981 in the numbers of subjects shown below:

5 Subjects:

M. P. Bedford, D. A. Chandler, S. J. Dixon, C. J. Eaves, N. R. Eaves, R. G. Gibson

4 Subjects

D. T. Anderson, D. A. Armstrong, M. S. Bertolini, A. P. Brooks, D. B. Burrell, M. Corbishley, Giselle Daniels, I. Greenhalgh, A. S. Gregson, N. M. Harper, R. S. Ingleby, M. S. Lewis, C. J. Lofthouse, P. R. Longworth, D. C. Mackereth, A. J. Marshall, M. D. Pearson, A. J. Raisbeck, J. D. Sidebottom, R. L. Stuart, J. T. G. Sumner, R. H. Tattershall, J. Wood

3 Subjects:

C. I. Anthony, K. Barlow, N. G. Brough, B. E. Butterworth, G. R. Derbyshire, P. K. Greening, D. E. W. Greville, J. M. W. Oldroyd, J. M. Sully, C. R. Whiston, D. M. G. Wilson

2 Subjects:

S. J. Nelson, I. Skelly, R. D. Whipp, D. Williams

1 Subject:

R. J. Bullough, D. A. Corner, I. Patel

Lower VI (Passes in 1 subject)

J. T. Curtis, B. G. Dunstan, S. J. Stokes, B. J. Watson

The following candidates were successful in the G.C.E. "O" level examinations 1981 in the numbers of subjects shown below:

10 subjects: Grade "C" or above

S. R. Dewsnap, K. G. J. Frodsham, R. T. Gibson, M. G. N. Linington

9 Subjects:

I. Bellingham, I. F. Campbell, R. A. Eckton, J. A. Hardiker, G. E. S. Hewitt, N. D. Kitchen, A. R. J. Ross, D. N. Sarti, N. Williams

8 Subjects:

N. J. F. Barton, N. B. Bernie, A. P. Bracegirdle, S. Clay, M. Dobson, B. Dugdale, P. A. Leeson, R. G. Lewis, D. Marsden, D. A. Pearson, R. C. Robinson, D. W. Rosser, G. J. Rowlandson, M. D. Short, A. E. Uttley

7 Subjects:

D. N. Gillibrand, D. Hunt, R. W. Jobson, J. S. Porter, A. Rhodes, C. J. Swift, M. P. Tucker, C. Whiteside

6 Subjects:

G. M. Ainley, A. M. Clarke, D. A. Hall, S. F. Hickey, J. Liddell, S. R. Littleton, C. P. McCreadie, C. N. Stewart, S. J. Taylor

5 Subjects:

T. S. Allan, K. Davidson, W. H. Halsall, C. A. Nuttall

4 Subjects:

M. J. Evans, I. Glenholme, P. Judge, M. J. Parker, J. D. Smith, R. D. Thomas

Mr. Neil W. Gamble

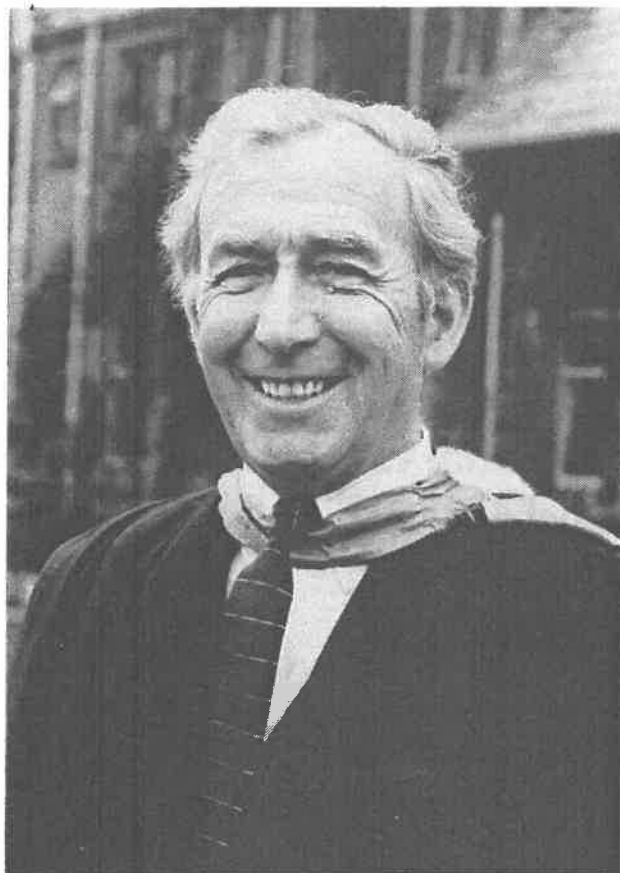
We were delighted to welcome Mr. Neil Gamble to the staff of Kirkham Grammar School in September 1981 to take up the post of Deputy Headmaster. Mr. and Mrs. Gamble and family moved into the Dowbridge area in December 1981 but Mr. Gamble and elder daughter, Helen, experienced one term of Kirkham Grammar School boarding, whilst house affairs were finally settled. Mr. Gamble came from Repton School where he was Head of Economics and Politics.

Educated at Stockport Grammar School, Mr. Gamble gained a second class honours B.A. degree in Economics at Manchester University, completed a Diploma in Education at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford and an M.Ed. at Nottingham University. Apart from his teaching at Repton, he had taught at Moseley Hall Grammar School, Cheadle, Cheshire.

He is a keen sportsman, particularly in lacrosse and cricket, in both of which he gained representative honours; we hear he may play for Lytham Cricket Club this season.

It is to be hoped that Mr. and Mrs. Gamble and family will enjoy living and working in the Fylde and we are certain the School welcomes them with its usual friendly well-being.

M. J. Summerlee
(Headmaster)



Photograph by kind permission of the Blackpool Gazette and Herald Ltd.

Mr. H. J. Reay (K.G.S. 1953–1981)

In 1953, a number of significant events of national and local interest occurred. There was the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, Blackpool won the F.A. Cup for the first time and four new masters were appointed to the staff of Kirkham Grammar School because of the retirement of a long-serving teacher, the promotion of other teachers and the growth of the School.

In 1981, a number of significant events of national and local interest also occurred. There was a royal wedding, Blackpool descended to the Fourth Division of the Football League for the first time and six new teachers were appointed to the staff of Kirkham Grammar School because of the retirement of a long-serving teacher, the promotion of other teachers and the growth of the School.

One person is common to the events of 1953 and 1981. Harry Reay, B.A., was appointed Senior French Master at K.G.S. in 1953 and he retired in 1981, after 28 years of devoted service to the School. H. J. R. was one of the many students who started their university studies just before the Second World War, and as a result of that conflict, had to cease their academic studies and join one of the services. He had distinguished service with the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946 in North Africa, the Balkans and finally in Austria, where he was an Air Liaison Officer with the Royal Air Force, holding the rank of Captain. Many stories are related in the Common Room about his North African service and the mention of Rommel or Sidi Barrani was certain to set the ball rolling.

On demobilisation, he returned to Sheffield University to complete his honours degree course in French and then to take the Teaching Diploma Course. After teaching in France for a year, he was appointed an assistant master at Sir William Turner's School, Redcar, a post which he held for four years before coming to K.G.S.

It was clear from the start that he had settled into the family of K.G.S., and after one year he became the Contingent Commander of the C.C.F., an appointment he held for twenty years. He relinquished this command in 1973 on his appointment as Deputy Headmaster of K.G.S. He was one of the few cadet officers to hold the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. During his time as Contingent Commander, the nature of the training in the C.C.F. gradually changed from all-military training of square bashing, arms drills, weapon training and the like to the much wider emphasis on adventure training of the present time.

Language teaching at K.G.S. has also seen many changes in those twenty-eight years. Gradually as the number of pupils in the school increased, the number of teachers of modern languages also increased from the two in 1953; German was introduced, first of all for Sixth Form Scientists, then for potential Sixth Form Scientists in place of Latin, and eventually for all pupils for some of the time.

In 1954 he succeeded Mr. B. Stevenson as Housemaster of Kirkham House and guided its fortunes until 1973, when, like his predecessor, he was appointed Deputy Headmaster.

As Deputy Headmaster, his tact and diplomacy were always well to the fore and he tried to be scrupulously fair in his dealings with everybody. He always had time to listen and his advice was given generously and graciously whenever it was requested, whether by the youngest first-year pupil who was feeling more than a little bewildered at the start of a grammar school career, or by an experienced teacher on the staff.

No social event connected with K.G.S. was complete without Harry, especially the Old Boys' Dinners locally and in Oxford, and whenever possible, he was accompanied by his wife, Hilda, who was always a very loyal supporter of the School. We were all thrilled when, in 1972, Her Majesty the Queen decided that one of her garden parties at Buckingham Palace required the presence of Lt.-Col. H. J. Reay and Mrs. Reay, but unfortunately certain members of the Parachute Regiment needed some convincing of the fact when he tried to join the K.G.S. C.C.F. at their camp at Brecon in the early hours of the following morning.

His work for the Kirkham – Ancenis Twinning Committee, of which he was Vice-Chairman, has been very much appreciated by many people in Kirkham, particularly the young people who have been able to take advantage of the exchange schemes which have taken place each year.

It is impossible to mention all the things that Harry and Hilda have done on behalf of K.G.S. Nevertheless, our appreciation of their contributions to the whole life of the School is sincere and we wish them a long and happy retirement in the Lake District, at Keswick, which they both love so much.

T. Jackman

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From The Old Kirkhamians' Association

President 1981-82

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Treasurer:

D. O. Slack
34 Coulston Road
Lancaster LA1 3AE
Tel: (0524) 68889

Future Events

Saturday, 18th September 1982 – Annual General Meeting and Dinner held at the Lantern Restaurant, Lytham. This is the most important event in the Association's calendar. Changes in the constitution are discussed and voted upon and the election and installation of the Annual President is performed.

Friday, 4th February 1983 (provisional) – Annual Dinner. Dance at the St. Ives Hotel, St. Annes-on-Sea. On this occasion members bring along their family and friends to enjoy a most convivial evening.

Sunday, 20th March 1983 – O.K.A. XV v. K.G.S. XV. This is a new date for this event. It was felt that with many of the O.K.A. team playing for other clubs during the season, putting the match to later on in the rugger season would possibly enable the O.K.A. to field a better side.

Old Kirkhamians' Bursary

2(c) of our constitution declares as an object of the Association "to do all things necessary for the advancement of the Association and of the School." Ever since the School has been Independent the Association has wanted to provide a Bursary. The Association has played no small part in the fight for the School in 1974-75 when members contributed funds to conduct a Feasibility Study on Independence. Once again the Association is to make a contribution to the School by giving a Bursary from September 1982. It is hoped to make more Bursaries available in the future.

Sky-high Funds

Mike Hobbs (1957-63) told me of a scheme used at his son's school to raise funds. The idea was quite simple – a number of parents were sponsored for a parachute jump! With his heart in his mouth Mike included himself, and eventually 25 parents were selected.

The course was run by Skybirds Parachute School. The jump was performed on 22nd March and all of them landed without incident (good training!!) It raised £110 and a total of £2,000 is expected.

The jump was actioned from 2,500 feet with a 3.2 seconds' delay from the time you left the aircraft to the parachute opening. Mike goes on, "If you wish to experience total fear then sit on the edge of an aircraft floor at the open door and jump out – it really is terrifying. How people love doing 'free-fall' I have no idea. Once the chute is opened it is delightful and the silence is overpowering.

"All in all enjoyable, but one which I would only do if I had to and not from choice."

Who knows – knowing our ingenious President I can see parachute jumps on the cabbage patch at the 1983 Open Day.

Secretariat

At the AGM in September the Association is to elect a new Secretary. I have held the position for the last eight years. I have enjoyed the job most of the time – but most of all it has kept me in close contact with the School. I believe that after eight years in the post the only positive way to enjoy the benefits of the Association is to play an active part in its affairs. The Association is in good heart although you would not think so if you saw the number of members who support the events.

The new Secretary is to be Eric Waite (1945-53). I wish him well in the job and assure him of my help whenever he needs it.

Finally, my thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Summerlee who have made my visits to K.G.S. very rewarding with their hospitality. My thanks to all the Presidents who have chaired the meetings and to the Committee who have played an active part in the collective decision-making.

D. W. Stirzaker

From the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School

When the Association of "Friends of Kirkham Grammar School" was formed in 1953 the objects of the Association were defined as follows: "To promote the general advancement of the interests of the School in all its aspects, and the co-operation between parents and masters; to foster cultural, academic, sports and other activities of the school; to provide facilities for discussion of educational problems as they affect school and home; and to provide means of social fellowship amongst the members."

I never thought, when the Association was formed in 1953, whilst I was still a pupil at K.G.S., that in October 1981 I, as a parent, would become Chairman of the Friends. My year as Chairman has been very different from those "good old days" of the 1950's. Although times have changed during the last thirty years some of the staff are still at the School. One member of staff who taught me was Harry Reay who, as you know, retired recently. When Mr. Reay left K.G.S. the Friends lost one of its most loyal and active members who had served the Association over many years. As an expression of thanks the Friends offered Mr. Reay Honorary Life Membership of the Association and I am pleased to say that this offer has been accepted. I am sure we all look forward to seeing him and Mrs. Reay at our future events.

The objectives of the Association have been achieved time and time again over the years, and I feel the School can look forward to many more years when the Friends will provide in its many and various ways.

Each year the Headmaster provides the Association with a "shopping list" of items required by the School and this year has been no exception. We are therefore hoping to provide £2,460 to fill this year's "shopping basket". The breakdown of requested items is as follows: Purchase/rental of copier £500; departmental requests for books, shelving, tapes, art material and various items of equipment – £1,590; magazines for Library £150; fencing masks £50; Prize Fund £20; Headmaster's Fund £100; and the Boarding House £50. The Friends also help the School by carrying out work projects and this year we are hoping to decorate the inside of the Cricket Pavilion. This method of contribution saves the School many hundreds of pounds and is, of course, added to the value of the above "shopping basket". It is only with your support that we are continually able to meet these requests and I would, on behalf of my very hard-working Committee, ask that each and every one of you play your part in providing these extras.

The Committee are always looking for new ideas for future events (both fund raising and others) and I should be glad if you would let either myself or any Committee Member have any suggestions which you feel would be useful to the Association.

I hope the School will continue to benefit for many years to come as a result of the sustained efforts of the Friends' Committee. My aim during my year as Chairman has been to ensure the continued success of the Association. I look forward to meeting you at future events as it is only by *our* efforts and *your* continued support that the Friends will continue to thrive.

Eric Butterworth, J.P. (Chairman)

K.G.S. AT LARGE

Day Trip to Calais

Just a few hours after the beginning of half-term a party of 28 pupils accompanied by Mrs. Haworth and Messrs. Clarkson, Rushton and Taylor left K.G.S. at 9.30 p.m. for a day trip to France.

On the way to Dover spirits were high and a game of cards evolved at the back of the coach, which soon became the centre of attraction, with even two members of staff joining in. The reclining seats proved to be a useful asset for the eight-hour journey and everyone was initially pleased to see that the coach had a TV set, although there is little to watch in the early hours of the morning. After a brief stop at a motorway service station, some people managed to sleep, others tried to sleep and others just did not bother. The final stop we made was just outside Dover, where some of us managed to change our money into francs at what the staff assured us was a good exchange rate.

We arrived at Dover in good time to catch the 6.30 a.m. ferry to Calais. Having boldly refused sea sickness tablets, we boarded the ferry and decided to explore the "luxury" ferry, managing to catch sight of the "white" cliffs of Dover. Fortunately, the ship was well provided with various video machines, which some of the party found useful for occupying time whilst crossing the Channel. The crossing, however, was smooth and we were soon in sight of Calais.

We must admit, we were slightly disappointed with our first sight of Calais. There were dirty factories as far as the eye could see, and as we neared the town centre in the special articulated bus, things did not appear to be improving. Then, suddenly, a picturesque town appeared. Once we were in the centre of the town we were let loose for a few hours, and split into several groups.

Some, combining their mental abilities, headed towards a café, where croissants and cups of coffee were ordered by the score. At lunchtime Laycock's attempts to buy a marshmallow, ending in his buying two bars of chocolate, provided amusement, although after several minutes of frenzied gestures, he abandoned his attempt and retired gracefully to a pâtisserie. For most of the party, however, our initial successes in a café provided a great confidence booster, and we took Calais by storm, entered every shop in sight and bought various souvenirs.

In the afternoon the staff decided a trip to the hypermarket would be of value as it certainly was. However, a short delay was caused when a bag containing an identity card was stolen, but here Mrs. Haworth proved a great asset for us in dealing with the situation.

The return journey, beginning with the 4.30 p.m. ferry back to Folkestone, was relatively uneventful, mainly because the party was so tired that no-one could remain awake, despite the attempts of Mr. Clarkson and a group of second years to raise the dead!

We arrived back at K.G.S. at around 11.45 p.m. on the Saturday evening and returned home for a good night's sleep, which for many extended throughout Sunday morning as well.

On behalf of everyone, we would like to thank the members of staff who organised the trip and accompanied us. The trip was extremely enjoyable and well worth while.

D. G. Laycock, 4X; A. W. Wright, 4Y
S. P. Carruthers, 5Y; S. C. Sumner, 5Y

Diary – U15 XV Trip to the Isle of Man

Monday

Arrived Isle of Man at 4.45 p.m. after uneventful sea trip. During trip monotony relieved by M. Herrington threatening to jump overboard after losing 10p in card game invented by Mr. Smith.

Hired 10-seater mini-bus in Douglas. Eighteen bodies and luggage moved in two trips. First attempt to find hotel ended with Dr. Hall showing his rally expertise by taking us into a pedestrian shopping centre.

Tuesday

Morning training session in park adjacent to police station.

Invited to lunch at King William's College for 12.30 p.m. Played their U15 XV in the afternoon and lost 9–4, John Calland scoring our only try. Stayed in and watched TV at night.

Wednesday

Mr. Smith, Dr. Hall and nine members of the team went on a tour of the island in the mini-bus. They visited Peel, Port Erin and Castletown. Played 5-a-side football at Summerland before dinner. Went roller skating in the evening.

Thursday

A planned training session on the beach was cancelled because the tide was in (thank goodness!) Spent the morning shopping in Douglas. Played Douglas High School in the afternoon – convincing win – scorers were – (tries) Preston (1), Barnes (1), Richmond (1), Cook (2) – Hull 4 conversions. Stayed in after dinner.

Friday

Tour of the island in the morning. Lunch at Port Erin. Saw Marine Museum in Port Erin where Mr. Smith aired his vast knowledge of marine biology.

Basketball in Summerland in the afternoon. After dinner presented Mrs. Corlett (landlady) and waitress with flowers for all their patience. After packing went roller skating.

Saturday

Up at 5.20 a.m., had a good breakfast and arrived at the boat terminal by 7.30 a.m. Mr. Smith and Dr. Hall slept during sail in lorry drivers' quarters. Arrived in Heysham at 11.30 a.m. Superb holiday. Must thank Mr. Smith and Dr. Hall for making the holiday a success.

M. T. Herrington, 4X
and D. M. Preston, 4X

The 1982 Geography Field Course

The venue for the Lower Sixth geography field course was, for the third year running, the Prince of Wales Hotel, Scarborough; we were seventeen strong including party leaders Mr. I. M. Scott and Mr. S. J. Turner.

Our first whole day was taken up with a village study which consisted of surveys and questionnaires. The urban transect on our second day was probably the most tiring day of the course. We had to produce a questionnaire for the people shopping in Scarborough.

On the Friday we studied the drainage basin of the River Derwent; the weather was extraordinarily kind to us. One group studying a small tributary of the Derwent encountered what we could only describe as being a strange religious cult bathing in a deep pool. Ian Glenholme demonstrated his need for Mr. Turner's guiding

geographical hand by shouting for him and his famous hand-outs whilst standing waist deep in one of the rivers.

Saturday was the coastal study day, and on Sunday everyone carried out several farm studies. At the end of the day we were all tired but Mr. Turner's dog, Kate, was on the whole "whacked".

On Monday everyone in the group was ready for an early finish to the day's rural transect study but we were delayed by our resident railway enthusiast, APT/HST Eckton, who was searching for evidence of neolithic railway lines in Farndale. Whilst tabulating the day's results we wondered whether there was a positive correlation between the high acidity of the North Yorkshire Moor soils and where Mr. Turner's dog, Kate, sought relief.

Amazingly we arrived back at school on Tuesday after suffering a week in the hands of Jacques Laffite Scott and co-driver Mr. T.

It only remains for us to thank them for a very tiring but enjoyable week and for providing alternatives to Rooms ten and eleven for our geographical studies.

M. J. Parker, L6A
and A. Rhodes, L6M

Germany – Easter 1981

It was at half past five on a cool April morning that a party of weary pupils and five members of staff left Kirkham on a ten-day holiday to the Rhineland in the North-West of Germany.

As dawn broke and the M6 stretched before us like a shimmering ribbon in the soft morning sun, spirits arose and the coach was alive with excited chatter. We weaved our way through the London traffic and soon arrived in Dover, our coach heralded by a flock of noisy seagulls.

After a calm crossing, we landed at Calais in the early evening and followed the coast road north towards Belgium, as the sun set in an orange glow over the plains of Dunkirk. We arrived in Ostend at about seven o'clock and spent a quiet evening in our overnight accommodation, the Ostend Palace Hotel.

The next morning took us to Brussels and its Atomium, and finally, through Aachen, into the land of "Loreley" and

"Leberwurst". The hotel where we were to spend the week was situated in Dieblich, a small and picturesque village to the south of Koblenz, wedged between the Rhine and the Moselle.

On the first day of our stay, we spent a leisurely morning exploring the surrounding area, and in the afternoon we visited Koblenz, a beautiful town actually situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers. The next day we travelled north into the Siebengebirge region, a popular tourist area with its seven distinctive peaks. Here it was that we ascended the Drachenfels, by means of a funicular railway, which was later christened, by Mr. Clarkson, the "Van Roger's Express". From there we crossed the Rhine to Bonn, the capital of the Federal Republic. After being unable to gain entrance into the "Bundesthaus", the seat of the German Parliament – security was apparently exceedingly tight – we spent the afternoon seeing the sights, and sampling the "Kaffee und Kuchen", which developed into something of a daily ritual.

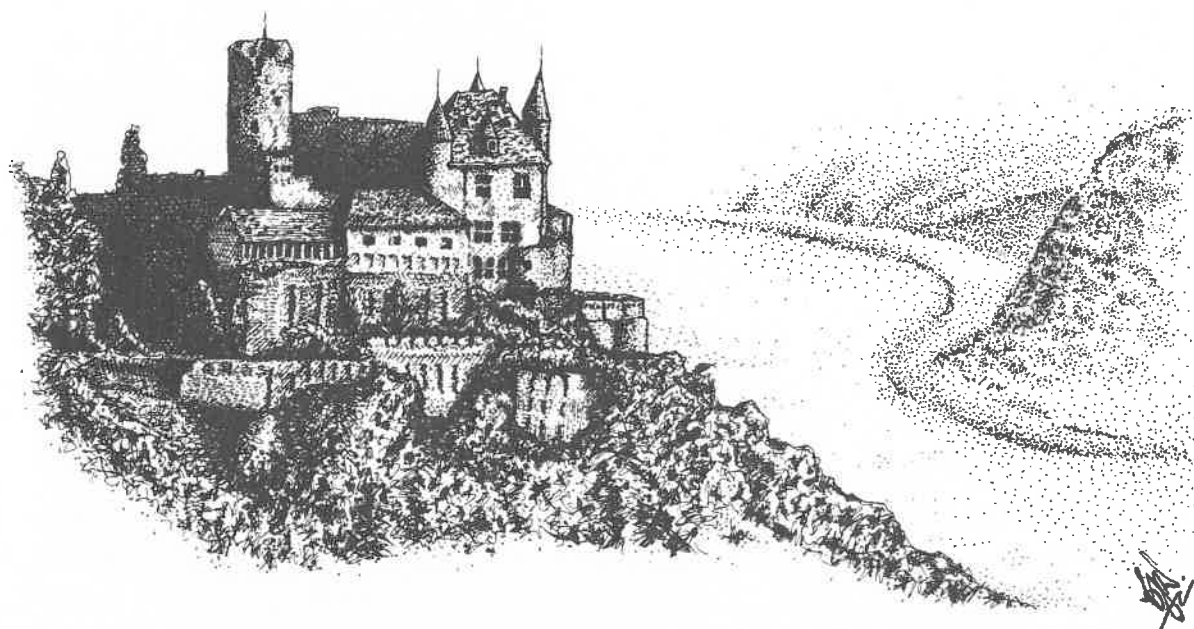
The following day was, for me, the most enjoyable of the holiday. We boarded a boat at Boppard on the Rhine and sailed up-stream, to St. Goar. The many and varied hillside castles provided tremendous fascination, and the calm waters and still air created a haven of tranquility and a relaxing morning in the gentle sun. The boat was also the source of inspiration for a musical extravaganza which was later performed "live" in the hotel.

The next stop was in the small but famous town of Rüdesheim, on the bank of the Rhine. Here, Mr. Clarkson's linguistic talents came to light. After tasting various samples of local wine, he announced to the officiating Hausfrau that he would have "ein of each, please".

The climax of the holiday was certainly the sixth-form rendition of the Clarkson-Taylor-Porter melody, which was received well by the pupils, if not by the members of staff!

My thanks must go to Mr. Gill, Mr. Browning, and Mrs. Taylor for their valuable support, Mr. Clarkson for his never-ending joviality and marvellous sense of humour, and Mr. Taylor, without whom things would never have run so smoothly. A truly memorable holiday!

P. Taylor (Pre.)



"Zhonghuo Chuan Yiqian Jinbai Bashiryi" (1)

Following his success at Cambridge, Christopher Eaves won a 19-day "all expenses paid" trip to China in the China Clipper competition organised by Lloyd's Bank. Here he gives us some of his first-hand impressions of life in this fascinating country, normally forbidden to the outsider.

Like most of the tourists we found the itinerary, arranged and co-ordinated by Luxingske, the Chinese Travel Service, exhausting but comprehensive. During the thirteen days we spent in China itself we travelled from Hong Kong to Canton, Guilin, Changsha, Xian, Peking and finally back to Hong Kong via Canton, a total of nearly 3,000 miles. For all except one of these journeys we flew by Chinese Airlines; a little cramped but restful once the initial apprehension faded away. Apparently on cloudy days the Russian Ilyushin passenger jets fly low and follow natural ground features since the pilots have no confidence in their instruments!

Our first journey by air was from Canton to Guilin. The contrast with the former large, crowded and oppressively hot trading-city and Guilin, sometimes called the "Garden of China" was remarkable and refreshing. Thankfully most of the time we were insulated from the city in the air-conditioned minibus supplied equipped with driver and guide. In Canton, now Guangzhou (2), airport hung an enormous portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung with an inscription below which read "Long Live the Chinese People". This, as it turned out, was the only picture of Mao in a public place that I saw. Most political slogans and portraits were taken down after the political fervour of the Cultural Revolution which finally came to an end in 1977. I'm sure that had we visited China four or five years earlier the apparent freedom that we experienced to walk round the streets unhindered and to mix to a limited extent with the people would have been severely restricted.

The foreigner has become a familiar sight to the inhabitants of cities on the tourist route but a teenage group was still treated with particular interest. In the major cities that we visited, there were always Chinese tourists who had perhaps come to see relations (though only a lucky few can afford to travel further than their nearest large city). This meant one was always conscious of being watched. It wasn't unusual to gather a small crowd of simple-minded inquisitive peasants staring disarmingly such as when we sheltered from the rain in a gift-shop doorway as we waited for our errant driver Huan. Huan was a marvellous character of Mongol stock who could make himself understood without a word of English and considered himself the best driver not only in Xian, but in the whole of China. Whilst we looked around the sights in the environs of Xian, such as the Qin Tombs guarded by 558 life-size terracotta warriors (a civilised substitute for the real thing buried with more ruthless emperors) he was not averse to gambling with fellow drivers!

The highlight of the visit to Guilin was a paddle boat trip down the Li river winding lazily through the grotesque limestone mountains rising out of neat, green paddy-fields. Each mountain was imaginatively named with endearing child-like innocence; Elephant Trunk Hill, Old Man Peak, Nine Horse Hill. The area has provided inspiration to Chinese artists and poets since the Tang dynasty (618-907 A.D.).

一千八百九十年
十一月
船
回

Believe it or not I'd never had a Chinese meal before going to China! This was no disadvantage to me since genuine Chinese cooking and service are radically different to those in Chinese restaurants in this country. The food arrives without warning or menu which is just as well since jellyfish, snake and dog could sometimes be served. Following the first plate of food further dishes are served at five to ten-minute intervals with the rice often served last, something which was a little annoying since after a few days we were hooked on the stuff. This late arrival stems from a custom which supposed that the host should fill the guest with exotic delicacies and only serve rice as a token. For the guests' part it is insulting to the host to eat the rice.

Most food was edible and often tasty except for the soup which was transported in a large tureen and looked, tasted, smelt and even sounded like dishwater. All meals were served with insipid beer, usually Tsing Tao, or orange squash. The latter arrived in bottles which judging by the appearance looked as though the orange squash wasn't the only invasion from the West and had floated across the Pacific at about the same time! We had most of the meals in the hotel but occasionally we had a meal in a local restaurant in a small enclosure separate from the Chinese where the food was of a higher quality and served at a proportionately higher price. Of course that didn't worry us! But this kind of segregation occurred all too often.

Foreigners, including expatriate Chinese mainly from Hong Kong, and those with money were privileged to travel in air-conditioned train carriages. Indigenous Chinese, if they can afford to travel at all, had to be content with shabby, stuffy carriages with wooden seats. Friendship stores (3) invariably had a guard on duty to keep out ethnic Chinese who attempt to gain entry in order to purchase goods not available in other shops.

Televisions are in great demand even though a small black and white set costs one year's wages - 500 to 600 Yuan, approximately to £165 to £200. Just one example of the convoluted values produced by the mixture of technology and a poor country.

There are many advantages of the Chinese communist system as I see it. The most important is the spread of wealth or more accurately poverty, in evidence wherever you looked. The chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, Hua Guofeng, earns one tenth of the salary of a Western school teacher. There were two more instances of this narrow spectrum of living standards. We were invited to the head office of the Bank of China in Peking for a chat.

The manager and his two young assistants were our hosts and were obviously well educated and spoke impeccable English. The manager even began to talk about the I.R.A. hunger strikes. Yet despite their position and education, all three appeared very humble and spartanly dressed.

The second example was at the Ming pottery factory in Changsha. We were approached on our guided tour of the factory by somebody who appeared to be an ordinary worker anxious to practise his English—a craze in China at the time of our visit. Later we ascertained he was manager of the experimental division, a position worthy of at least a pin-striped suit in an English factory.

Although there is a measure of political and economic stability the Chinese people are very economical; after all their resources must support 1,000 million people.

A few examples will suffice to indicate this emphasis on economy. Paper napkins were torn into two, soot was compressed into blocks for domestic fuel, hotel staff switched off the electricity and hot water to your room during the day; the minibus drivers attempted to set off in 2nd gear and did not change down a gear when climbing steep hills. All machinery was repaired over and over again by women as much as men; for example in the quiet quarter of Guangzhou, women welded bicycle frames in the streets.

As I expected Peking was a highly Westernised and modern city with wide, well-surfaced streets and dominated by high-rise apartment blocks in which whole families inhabited single rooms. Although there were many cars the bicycle still dominated, ridden with complete disregard for other road users despite the incessant ringing of bells and honking of horns.

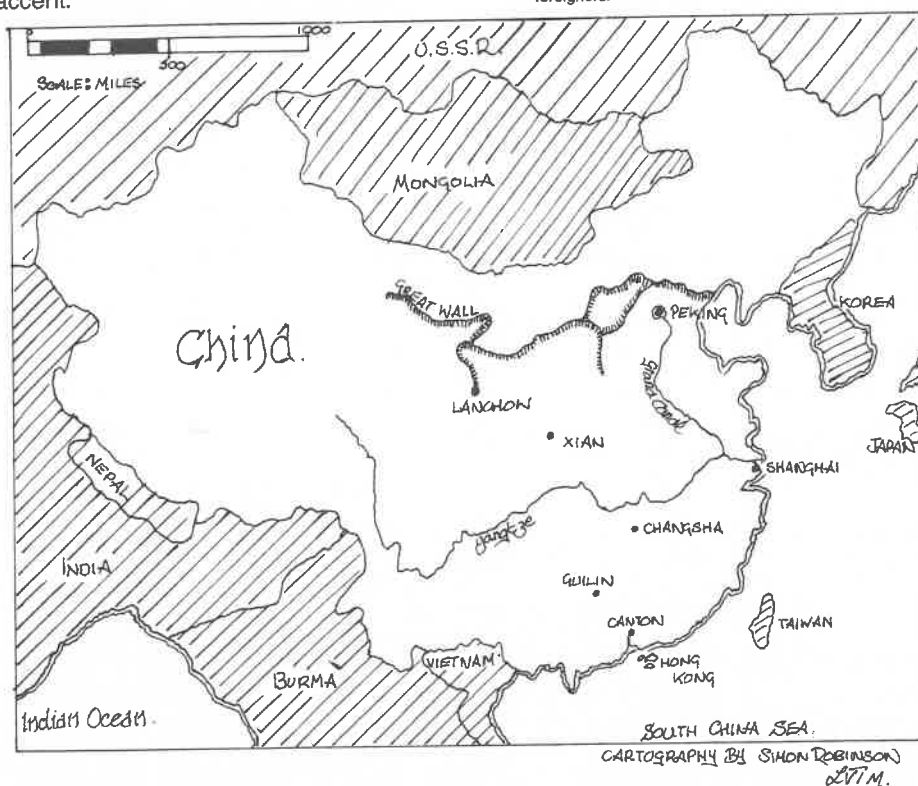
Whilst in Peking we visited a middle school on a Saturday morning when the school was empty except for a few classes of older students. The school appeared conventional and well equipped. A typical day in school consists of seven forty-five minute periods beginning with political education which varies with new political trends, and is taught initially at junior school until the "hit" slogans of Mao and nationalistic songs can be recited by heart. Indeed we attended an English lesson which consisted of the reading and recitation of the life and works of Marx during which yours truly was requested to read a couple of pages in his best accent.

Other periods consist of mathematics, science, traditional music, sport, Russian (classes have been small ever since Sino-Soviet relations cooled), and Chinese literature and language. The latter is a gruelling trial even for the Chinese themselves who are expected to know at least 3,000 characters at the end of primary schooling. Halfway through our visit the class was interrupted by soothing music emanating from somewhere down the corridor. This signified "eye-massage time", a necessary precaution to prevent eye-strain after reading the complex and detailed Chinese characters. Even so, short-sightedness is a big problem in China.

On the return to Guangzhou we finally visited the Dai Li Commune after being refused by our guide the first time we asked to visit a commune. Of all the institutions we saw this epitomises Chinese life. The Dai Li commune was fairly typical, if a little larger than average and more affluent. It controlled 75 square kilometres and had a population of 85,000. The main crop was rice but fruit and cereals were grown and livestock kept. In the small town the commune organised some light industry. Any excessive production is distributed to other less fortunate communes via the state. For the Dai Li this meant the state takes 30–40% of their food production. The commune was further divided into 19 brigades each consisting of about 15 production teams made up of local family groups.

We were consistently shown the best China had to offer even though it often wasn't much to get excited about. The "typical" school we thought we visited in Peking had the greatest number of successful university entrants, a staggering 70% instead of the national average of 3%. Also the actual farmhouse in the Dai Li commune that we saw and the very room that we sat in to question the family were pictured in a glossy pamphlet produced by the commune presses. The time we spent at the farmhouse was the most uncomfortable of the trip for it was the only occasion we came so close to the reality of life in China. Our discomfort wasn't due to any lack of hospitality by the family but the guilt we all felt due to the unbridgeable gap between their living standards and our own.

- (1) "China Clipper 1981".
- (2) Most names are now given in the modern Pinyin romanisation which replaced the Wade-Giles system in 1958. For example Peking has become Beijing and Mao Tse-tung has become Mao Zedong.
- (3) "Friendship Stores"—Stores set up in large cities specifically to sell export goods to foreigners.



CARTOGRAPHY BY SIMON ROBINSON
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Computers at K.G.S.

In November of last year a new piece of technology quietly entered K.G.S. With the aid of a Department of Education grant, the School took delivery of a Research Machines Limited (RML) 380Z computer. It was decided to house it temporarily at the back of Room 19 and at the time of going to press that is where it remains. By September of this year it may have a new and permanent home, and Computer Studies will appear on the time-table for the third year. If the third year course is successful, then a decision could be made to introduce it as an O-level course, starting in September 1983. It is already an option in the Sixth-form General Studies lessons.

At the moment a Computing Club meets on Monday lunchtimes in Room 19 and is open to anyone in the School. Those with no experience are given help to write simple programs*, while those who have their own computers at home, such as Sinclair machines, are advised on how to use the more complex facilities of the 380Z. At other times it is being used by members of the fifth and sixth forms who, having already gained experience elsewhere, are using the machine to run quite sophisticated programs.

Already the school is forging links with other establishments, and after Easter ten pupils from the first two years are attending a twelve-week course on Friday evenings run by the Guardian Royal Exchange of Lytham. It is hoped that more pupils will be able to attend future courses at G.R.E. or elsewhere.

Computing has therefore arrived at K.G.S. and in the years to come it could play its part in teaching most subjects, as well as being a subject in its own right. In fact, the Careers Department has obtained a program which it is hoped will inform pupils of various job requirements and thus will help them complete their option choices. There seems therefore to be no reason why every pupil, at some time or other, should not come into contact with a computer before he or she leaves K.G.S.

R. J. Browning

* Those with an eye for detail may be interested to learn that after heated editorial discussion, the *Kirkhamian* has chosen to adopt the spelling used more frequently in computer literature – and also given, albeit in second place, in the O.E.D.

Musical Activities at K.G.S.

The year began with the Annual C.C.F. Parade in which the School orchestra played a variety of pieces, including the R.A.F. March Past and the Washington Post. This was followed shortly afterwards by the Founders' Day Service. The choir performed, amongst other pieces, "O Thou, the Central Orb" – by Charles Wood, and "Come, Holy Ghost" – by Thomas Attwood, with soloists Karl Turner, Stephen Licence and Steven Weare. Just before the summer holidays the School held its Open Day. On this occasion the Madrigal Group, Girls' Choir and the Tea-garden Orchestra performed (indoors, unfortunately, because of the summer weather!)

At the Carol Concerts, staged for two nights, there were performances by the Special Choir and the Girls' Choir. The programme included carols for a capacity audience. Amongst the soloists, David Shakespeare, Steven Weare, Karl Turner, Stephen Licence and Mark Sowerbutts sang particularly well. Also on the programme we had a clarinet arrangement of carols played by Tracy Rogers and

Jonathan Waite. The Carol Service consisted of the traditional nine lessons and carols. On this occasion the church was full to overflowing. Our thanks are due to the organist for the day Mr. John Tait. There were once again trumpet accompaniments to the congregational carols by Stephen Collins. Unfortunately we could not make our annual carol-singing visit to Wesham Park Hospital as "snow had fallen, snow on snow".

1982 began with the House Music Festival and we are most indebted to the adjudicator, Mr. Ian Hare. The results were 1st Lytham House, 2nd Ashton House, 3rd Fylde House, 4th Preston House, 5th School House, and 6th Kirkham House. The winning House performed with a violin solo by Rodger Boyes (accompanied by James Hardiker on the piano) and a Baroque ensemble playing the Trio and continuo in D major by Joseph Bodin de Boismortier. The ensemble consisted of Rodger Boyes on violin, James Spicer and James Hardiker on cello, and John Webster on the spinet.

Both of these items were also played in the Easter Concert, which followed one week later. It included the best from the "House Music"; with Haydn's Trumpet Concerto (2nd movement) played by Stephen Collins; the School House harmony choir (direct by Christopher Grime and accompanied by Roger Cartwright) singing "I'd like to teach the world to sing"; and Bach's Prelude in D played by Andrew Wright on the piano. The orchestra performed the March from "Scipio" by Handel, Haydn's Divertimento, and "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin. Also performing in the first half were the Madrigal Group, and then the Junior Choir who sang "Swinging Samson".

In the second half the School Choir and Girls' Choir performed a concert version of H.M.S. Pinafore which was directed by Mr. A. R. Baines and accompanied by Mrs. Greaves. All solo parts were ably performed by Mr. A. R. Baines, Fiona Dickson, Monique White, Tracy Rogers, Simon Richards, Jonathan Waite, Andrew Eckton, Christopher Whiteside and Andrew Bracegirdle. Finally the School Madrigal Group performed a Wednesday lunchtime concert, along with soloists Stephen Collins, David Shakespeare, Andrew Wright and Jonathan Waite.

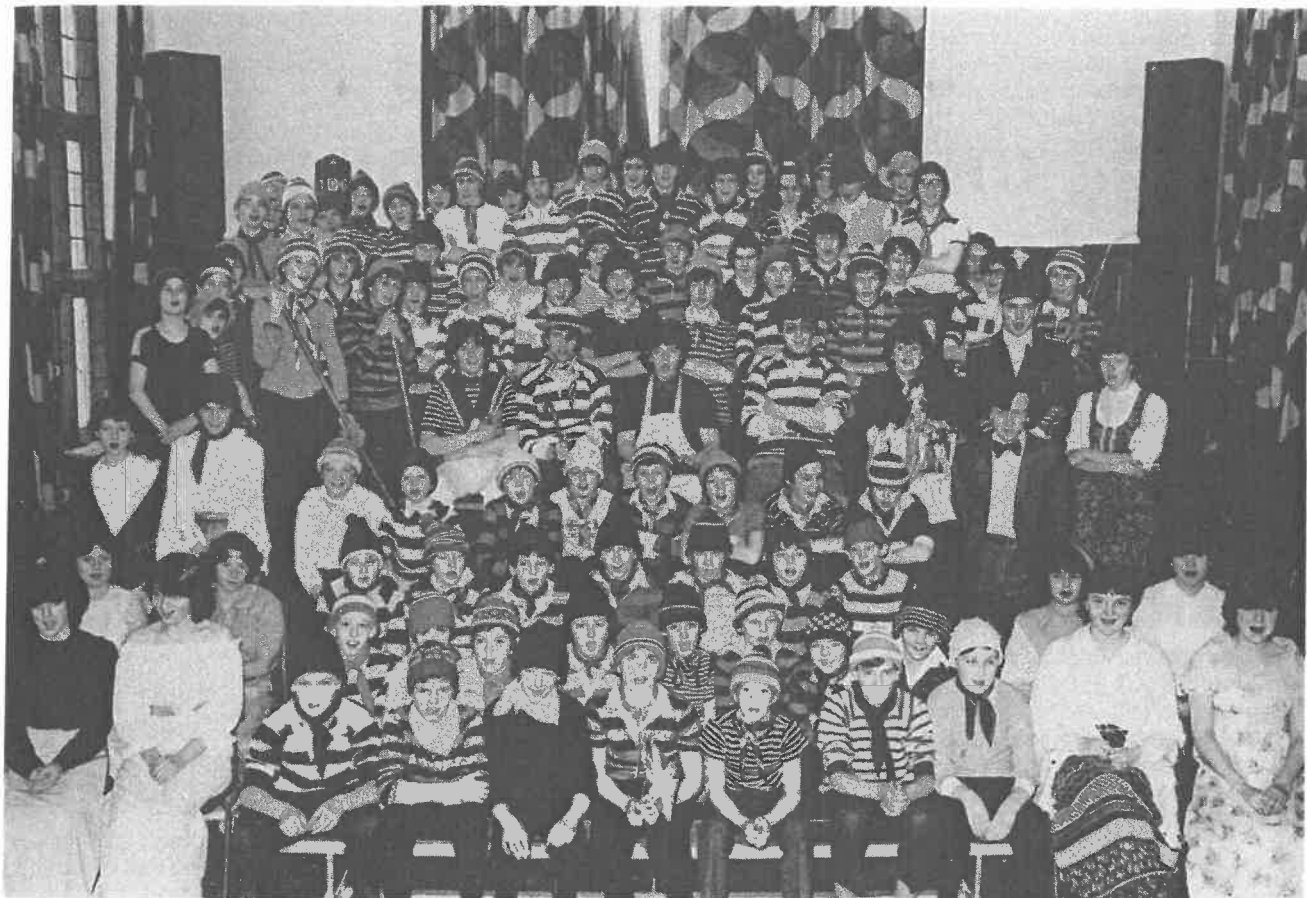
Overall we have had a busy time, and it is worth noting that during the year, almost half of the School has been involved in some music-making outside the classroom – over 150 took part in the Easter Concert!

This year has seen four further awards of School Honours for Music to pupils who have made an outstanding contribution to the musical life of the School. These have been awarded to Stephen Collins and Rodger Boyes, Stephen Gill and James Hardiker. Finally, I would like to thank, on behalf of everybody, Mr. J. Catterall and Mrs. R. F. Greaves for the time and effort they have put into making this musical year such a successful one.

S. P. Collins, U6
(Secretary of the Music Society)

Opposite: The Chorus and Soloists in "H.M.S. Pinafore".

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Drama at K.G.S.

Last Summer's Productions

On the 9th and 10th July, K.G.S. Dramatic Society presented two one-act plays, which we hope were as enjoyable to watch as they were to prepare and perform. The evening began with "Arthur" by David Cregan, acted by the junior section of the society, whose struggle against repressive authority escalates from the simple desire to "go out with the girls" to the unmasking and overthrow of the Mayor, Corporation, the computer-ridden Fire Brigade and the Women's Police Force. P. Selwyn-Smith gave a spirited performance in the title role, while Anne Rhodes (temporary transfer from the seniors) battled against a sore throat to give us a convincingly bossy Aunt Alice. R. Baldwin portrayed the baffled Fire Captain, Justine Mackey the police inspector with a heart of gold, and D. Phillips the power-mad mayor. Matinée idol A. Hewertson and a charmingly lisping A. Fotheringham supplied romantic interest. P. Goodridge, D. Barnes, Nicola Nice, Kathryn Gladstone, Linda Morgan, Susan Scambler, K. Cottam, L. Fenton and M. Howells completed the cast.

The Seniors presented an adaptation of Tom Stoppard's radio play, "Albert's Bridge", the story of Albert who, recently graduated in philosophy, decides to devote his life to the painting of the Clifton Bay Suspension Bridge, a Sisyphean task as when one end is reached, the other end is in need of repainting. P. Taylor played Arthur, and Julie Budd his long-suffering wife. The other major roles were B. MacFarlane's seemingly efficient but disastrously incompetent Fitch, the aptly named A. Bridge's chairman of the bridge sub-committee, and C. Swift's disturbing Fraser, the potential suicide who proposes to use Albert's bridge as his instrument of self-destruction. B. Goodridge, S. Clay and G. Eastham were the painters; J. Milburn and Beverley Dewhurst assisted at the sub-committee's deliberations; Joanna Craig played Albert's mother, and Mr. R. M. Clarkson, a last minute substitute, added his inimitable touch to the proceedings.

Special thanks to C. Grime, B. Watson, M. Linington, I. Chadwick and A. Traviss for their assistance backstage.
J. S. Roberts

Theatre Visits

The organisation of theatre visits is a hideous task, entailing as it does hours on the telephone trying to get through to box offices which remain obstinately incommunicado; lengthy negotiations with all interested over which night of the week is the least inconvenient; and extremely complex problems in logistics. It is for these reasons that we visit Stratford less often than we would wish; however, in October these problems were overcome.

Messrs. Roberts and Watson nobly drove the temperamental school mini-bus and thus a large group of sixth formers were able to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's excellent production of "The Winter's Tale".

Sheila Hancock's interpretation of the role of Hermione was extremely moving and the high quality of the whole performance proved that it is worth making every effort to see a really good company.

"Twelfth Night" which a large group of fifth and sixth formers went to see performed by a touring company at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool, was a very different kind of experience. The play was very amusing – seldom in the expected ways – and provided many lessons – of what to avoid – to budding actors.

Undaunted by our trip to "Twelfth Night", in March we went to see "Macbeth" at the Grand. Our fears that it was to be performed by the same company that had provided the previous unusual production, were unfounded. The Oxford Playhouse Company's "Macbeth" was uneven but the dramatic force of the play triumphed over local inadequacies.

Mrs. A. G. Boll

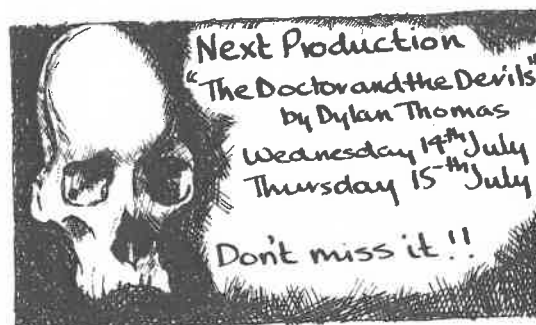
House Play-reading

The house play-reading competition is one of the few house events which does not rely on physical prowess and it is remarkable in the number and range of people that it involves. Each house presents an extract from a play and relies on the talents of its sixth formers for the production of its offering. The competition usually takes place at the end of the Christmas term, but this year's, which had to be postponed because of the great snowfall, brightened the last Friday afternoon before the Spring half-term. It is most unfortunate that the size of our hall severely limits the audience since the energy and enthusiasm of those taking part really deserved a full school audience.

The fact that this is a play-reading and that therefore lines do not have to be learnt means that the known Dramatic Society talents are supplemented by many unexpected figures – Bretherick and Chadwick spring to mind – whose contribution is often extremely valuable, and amusing. It is also possible, with a careful choice of play, to involve a wide range of ages; this was particularly true of this year's joint winner: Lytham used a cast of thousands in their extremely well-rehearsed version of an extract from Dylan Thomas' "Under Milk Wood". The other winner was very different: a small cast read a very tense scene from "Journey's End" by R. C. Sherriff.

I was impressed by the range of talent and the amount of enthusiasm shown by all those who took part in the competition: they gave the audience a very interesting and amusing afternoon. I hope that all the talented participants will be auditioning for the summer production.

A. G. B.



The Inter-House Debating Cup

Once again, this year's debating has been limited to the inter-house competition, though this has still provided plenty of excitement. The competition began in October when the intellectuals of Preston House (who struggled to find a team of two) took on the might of Kirkham House. The latter, A. H. Bridge and C. Swift, ruthlessly crushed J. Milburn and S. Dewsnup, defeating the motion "This house believes that the American Cruise missiles should not be sited in Britain", and moved through to the semi-final.

Thursday, 8th October saw Lytham House, in the shape of G. R. Eastham and A. Dale, take on Fylde House in the

form of B. J. Watson and Fiona Dickson. "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die" provided great amusement when Dale lowered himself by concentrating his attack on the physical rather than the mental assets of the opposition and despite a most eloquent denial of the proposal by the Fylde team, Eastham's constant references to "The Queen's" and "The Grapes" ensured that Mr. J. S. Roberts, the adjudicator on this occasion, was convinced by Lytham's arguments.

The first semi-final between Ashton and Kirkham brought up the topical motion, "This House believes that Britain should give Ireland back to the Irish". Kirkham had what they naturally regarded as the more difficult task in proposing this (since they lost) and were subsequently defeated by those two heavyweight intellectuals, T. N. Stokes and B. MacFarlane.

The second semi-final brought the rather fortunate School House pairing into the competition for the first time, after having yet another bye. (One wonders whether it is significant that the competition is organised by R. J. W., who has spent a number of years in School House, and not by the House Committee!) Their team of Porter and Grime were victorious in opposing the proposition of Dale and Eastham of Lytham House that "This House believes that Christianity is outmoded".

We now await the final of this competition to be battled out between Ashton and School. The motion, "This House believes that the time has now arrived for capital punishment to be re-introduced to Great Britain" is once again both topical and interesting. May the best team win!

Finally, thanks must go to Mr. J. S. Roberts for adjudicating, Mr. R. J. Watson for organising and adjudicating, and G. R. Eastham for attempting, and sometimes succeeding, in chairing the various debates, in this competitive and demanding house event.

A. H. Bridge (Pre.)
(Secretary of the Debating Society)

Library Report 1981-82

The Library has continued to function smoothly and effectively thanks largely to the efforts of Sixth Form Librarians who have given up their lunch times in order to supervise the issue of books and the maintenance of a good working atmosphere in the Library. I would like to thank A. H. Bridge, I. H. Collinge, S. J. Chrispin, C. D. Grime, J. Milburn, S. D. Reardon, A. M. Scott, S. J. Stokes, T. N. Stokes, and others who have helped out occasionally. They have been ably led by G. R. Eastham who has always ensured that substitutes have been arranged when necessary. Several juniors have also lent a hand with the onerous task of returning books to the shelves, and the School should be grateful to both these groups of people.

The rest of the Geography Departmental Library has been restored to the central library, hence making the books more easily available, and Geographers in the School seem to be taking advantage of this facility.

Many new books have been added to various sections at departmental request and both senior and junior fiction sections have been further expanded. A policy of displaying these new books - and indeed others which have been accessioned in recent months - has been adopted in order that people may be more aware of new books on the shelves.

A generous donation from the Friends has meant that a number of new magazines have been added to the Library. The Library now receives "The Spectator", "The Listener", "New Society", "The Economist", "Paris-Match", "Geographical", "New Scientist" and "Punch", as well as

"The Guardian", "The Times", "Daily Mail", "Sunday Times" and "Melody Maker". It is hoped that members of the School will continue to read and respect these publications.

Because of the constantly increasing price of new books, many old books have been repaired and given a face-lift. Members of the School should recognise that these books need treating with special care if their useful life is to be extended.

R. J. Watson

Sixth Form Society

This year, Mr. West took over from Mr. Clarkson as the Society's mentor. Our aim was to produce a society which would cover the topical and relevant subjects of the world in which we live.

The main theme this year has been Nuclear Power and Weapons Policy. Mr. Keohane of Keele University gave a talk on the latter subject, and this was followed by probably the most interesting and thought-provoking film ever to be shown at K.G.S.: "The War Game". Although slightly dated, the film is still a very disturbing documentary about the effects of nuclear war; so disturbing, in fact, that it has been banned from the public screen.

In September, one of the School's regular visitors, Dr. Salthouse of Manchester University, gave us a display of "Son et Lumière", a series of chemical experiments which almost literally blew our minds.

Other films shown included "The China Syndrome" and "Dr. Strangelove", starring Peter Sellers.

On behalf of the Sixth Form, I would like to thank Mr. West for his re-organisation of our society. It has proved very successful indeed. Thanks also to B. J. Watson, our projectionist, and to Treasurer Ian Campbell.

S. J. Chrispin (Pre.)
(Secretary)

Charity Committee Report

Receipts for the twelve months to Summer 1982 totalled £982.24.

Payments for the same period were:

April - £150.00 The International Year of the Disabled.

May - £40.00 Save the Children Fund.

June - Nil.

July - £205.00 Unicef and the Royal Commonwealth Fund for the Blind.

September - Nil.

October - £50.00 International Christian.

November - £107.00 The Across Trust, Army Benevolent Fund, Oxfam, International Fund Animals.

January - £115.00 RNLI, Shelter, and Handicapped Children.

February - Nil.

March - £75.00 N.S.P.C.C.

Total - £742.00.

This was an extremely good year for the Charity Committee's work in the School, and our sincere thanks go to Mr. Clarkson for organising it.

C. J. Swift, L6A

School Fees Hit The £4 Mark!

From the "General and Commercial Directory of Preston, Blackpool and Fleetwood", published in 1895 by P. Barrett and Co., at a cost of 7/6d. – 9/- to non-subscribers

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Founded 1549; re-modelled by endowed Schools' Commissioners, 1880.

HEAD MASTER—

The Revd. E. SPRY LEVERTON, M.A.,

Formerly Scholar of Exeter College, Oxford, and Assistant Master at Eastbourne College.

Second Master: E. G. GUEST, Esq., M.A.,

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; late Goldsmith Scholar; Int. B.Sc., London.

Third Master: E. V. MARTIN, Esq.,

London University.

SCHOLARSHIPS & EXHIBITIONS.

1.—There are two leaving Scholarships, each of the annual value of £50, tenable for three years at the Universities or other approved place of education.

2.—The sum of £100 may be awarded annually, in Scholarships of various value, on the recommendation of the Head Master and report of the Examiner.

3.—Five entrance Scholarships are offered every year for boarders of the value of £20 each, tenable as long as the holder is at the School.

FEES FOR TUITION:—

1.—For boys residing in the ancient parish of Kirkham	£4
2.—For boys residing elsewhere	£6
For Greek	£3
Boarding Fee	£45

The use of all School Books is included in the above fees.

SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION.

The School Course embraces instruction in the English, Latin, French, and German languages and Literature; Mathematics, Elementary and Advanced; Geography and History; Drawing, Drill, Harmony, and Class Singing.

Recently an excellent Chemical Laboratory has been equipped, with every convenience for practical work in that branch of Science. The Governors have spared no expense in fitting up the room and procuring the necessary apparatus, and there is now suitable accommodation for a number of Students in Analytical Work. The Laboratory is under the supervision of the Second Master, Mr. E. G. Guest, M.A., Int. B.Sc., who also holds classes in Agricultural Chemistry.

GAMES.

The boys are encouraged by every means to throw themselves heartily into all healthy athletic exercises, Cricket, Football, Hockey, and Lawn Tennis. Clubs are organized and supported.

BOARDERS.

The Head Master receives boarders in the School-house; the domestic arrangements are under the immediate supervision of Mrs. Leverton, and great pains are taken to promote the comfort and welfare of the boys.

For further information, with Prospectus, application may be made to the

Rev. E. S. LEVERTON,
THE SCHOOL-HOUSE,
KIRKHAM.

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C.C.F. SECTION

General Report

This year has again continued the success applicable to the running of the cadet force in previous years. The new fourth year cadets are already through their "Recruits' Test" and well into the Weapon Training Test. The fifth year have just finished their Drill and Turnout Test with very few failures. The credit for these successes must be given to the NCO's for their hard work and effort.

Summer '81 saw an excellent annual camp at Warcop in Cumbria. Here we must give our thanks to Mr. Fathers who has given a lot of his time to supervising our activities – especially those of the adventurous training section. The Warcop camp was his last activity with K.G.S. and I speak on behalf of everyone when I wish him all the best for the future.

All the field days, which involve the entire training a cadet has at school (map-reading, camouflage and concealment, etc.) have been a success mainly due to the efforts of the officers of the contingent. Thanks must go to Capt. Sayer for his organisation and to our recently promoted Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Butterworth.

Looking to the future it seems there will be a major change in the composition of the Cadet Force. This year there were seven girls in the contingent, next year, however, half the intake will be girls. Mrs. Piggott has kindly joined to look after them. Next year may well be an interesting exercise for the present Cadre.

S. Richards, C.S.M.

R.A.F. Easter Camp 1981

Thirteen cadets of the R.A.F. section of the C.C.F., led by Squadron-Leader G. S. Cheesbrough and Corporals Ainley, Eckton and Swift, visited R.A.F. Scampton, near Lincoln, during the week beginning Wednesday, 1st April.

Corporal Eckton, our mobile railway time-table, successfully got us to Lincoln on the Wednesday, where we, and a contingent from Lancaster Royal Grammar School, were met by the R.A.F., and taken by bus to the station. After being briefed on arrival, we were given an interesting talk and film-show by the Padre.

Following a "quiet" night (except for the irregular movements and use of several tins of shaving foam), Thursday was a busy day, in which the K.G.S. Contingent were shown round the "in's and out's" of a Vulcan bomber, were subjected to a "pleasant" P.T. session, and went to see the Air Traffic Control and Fire section.

On Friday, we visited the R.A.F. Police-dog Flight and the Electronic section. Also on this date, the night exercise was held, the object being for half the cadets to protect two imaginary Tornado aircraft, and the other half to try to attack and destroy the planes. One of these "Warsaw Pact" assaults was led (unsuccessfully) by Corporal Swifterensky.

On Saturday, Kirkham lost the morning sports competition to Lancaster, but swept to victory in the Space Invaders (thanks to Ward) and the billiards (thanks to Parker). Sunday saw the section attending church, where readings were given by cadets from both schools. During the afternoon, in brilliant sunshine, the orienteering competition was held, which Kirkham unfortunately failed to dominate.

The .22 and .303 shooting competitions took place on Monday and Tuesday respectively, and a trip to the R.A.F. College at nearby Cranwell was arranged. Tuesday afternoon saw the pride of the Contingent restored, when Corporal Ainley led us to an overwhelming victory in the drill competition.

One G. Bretherick, Esq. gave the station food his seal of approval, and everyone agreed that overall, the camp had been very enjoyable.

Finally, our thanks must go to Squadron-Leader Cheesbrough, for his help and guidance throughout the week.

Cpl. C. J. Swift and Sgt. R. A. Eckton

Summer Camp 1981 – Warcop

Yet again a band of hardy cadets set forth to join cadets from several other schools at Warcop on the North Yorkshire moors. We left K.G.S. in the pursuit of physical endeavour, mental exhaustion and respite from the gastronomic delights of the school canteen.

A full programme ensured a hectic time for all present. The river crossing led Lieutenant Fathers, after a "helping" hand from Lieutenant Scott, to demonstrate the art of sky-diving twenty feet into a stagnant pond.

Other activities included Capt. Sayer instructing on the rights and wrongs of orienteering (a certain Cpl. would have benefited from paying more attention!), and the cadet training team teaching the skills of canoeing. Before any cadet was allowed to paddle a stroke he had to show his instructors that he could recover from a capsize and swim back, through the icebergs, to the shore of Derwent Water.

The march and shoot proved to be as strenuous, as in previous years, if not more so. Before setting off we were meticulously inspected by the sergeant in charge who discovered a few necks still black from the previous night's exercise.

The finale to the week was an exhausting fourteen-hour exercise for the older members of the contingent. The morning was spent practising leopard and monkey crawls, obstacle crossing and section battle-drill. The afternoon's programme consisted of a reconnaissance trip into the surrounding hills and valleys to obtain information for the dusk attack. Once evening came the planned assault on the local tank-range control-tower began. K.G.S. was given the honour of leading the important right flank. Needless to say, the attack was a complete success and we received congratulations, for the first time in the day, from the N.C.O.'s in charge.

The camp was very rewarding for all concerned. Our thanks go to the enthusiastic team of officers and especially Lieutenant Fathers, who has unfortunately now left the School. Look out, Monmouth, here we come!

L/Cpl. R. Lewis

Cairngorms – 1982

The adventure training camp in the Cairngorms in February of this year got off to a shaky start when the British Rail strike threatened to leave us stranded at Preston station. We eventually set off only one day late and after a windfall for the Dunstan-Robinson card syndicate we arrived in Aviemore only to find that there was no snow – a condition one has learned to expect after the previous two years' expeditions!

Not to be put off, the very next day we all braved 60 m.p.h. winds and Capt. Sayer took us to what must have been the only patch of snow in the Cairngorms to practise our ice-axe work. Unfortunately, these simple manoeuvres proved too difficult for Miss Fiona Dickson who, failing to stop herself, careered recklessly off the ice and rapidly disappeared head first into the heather.

The rest of the week saw various groups of cadets running up and down the mountains of Scotland, generally looking confused and lost as they stared hopelessly at their sole means of survival, the map and compass. The difficulty of these exercises progressed throughout the week, and so did an understanding of the uses to which the map and compass could be properly applied; (the map cases made particularly good sandwich boxes!)

The climax of the week was a marathon 17-mile trek against the clock with penalty points incurred for the slightest inaccuracies and bonus points for answering correctly questions about the week's activities. The competitive element in all teams came to the fore and credit must go to the worthy winners (well, no-one saw them cheat!), Dunstan, Lewis and Gillibrand.

I would like to thank Sgt. Hodges for his expert tuition, particularly his demonstration of how tie an Alpine basket; Mrs. Piggott and Capt. Sayer for keeping things running so smoothly and finally to Lt.-Col. Butterworth for his gourmet cooking which surprised and delighted all members of the party. This has always been a most enjoyable week spent in what must surely be some of the most breathtaking scenery in Britain.

Cpl. C. Robinson

A Last-Minute Addition

Sixth Form Economics – “Stockpiler” Competition

This year, the Economics Department entered this nationwide competition once again. The school was allowed two syndicates of six members each, and these were made up mainly of students from the L6.

The object of the competition was that, each syndicate having been given an imaginary £50,000, they should deal in stocks and shares, and make the highest possible capital gain, by buying and selling stock on six decision days over a period of six months. The incentive . . . several cost-free days in London, visiting famous financial institutions, such as the Stock Exchange.

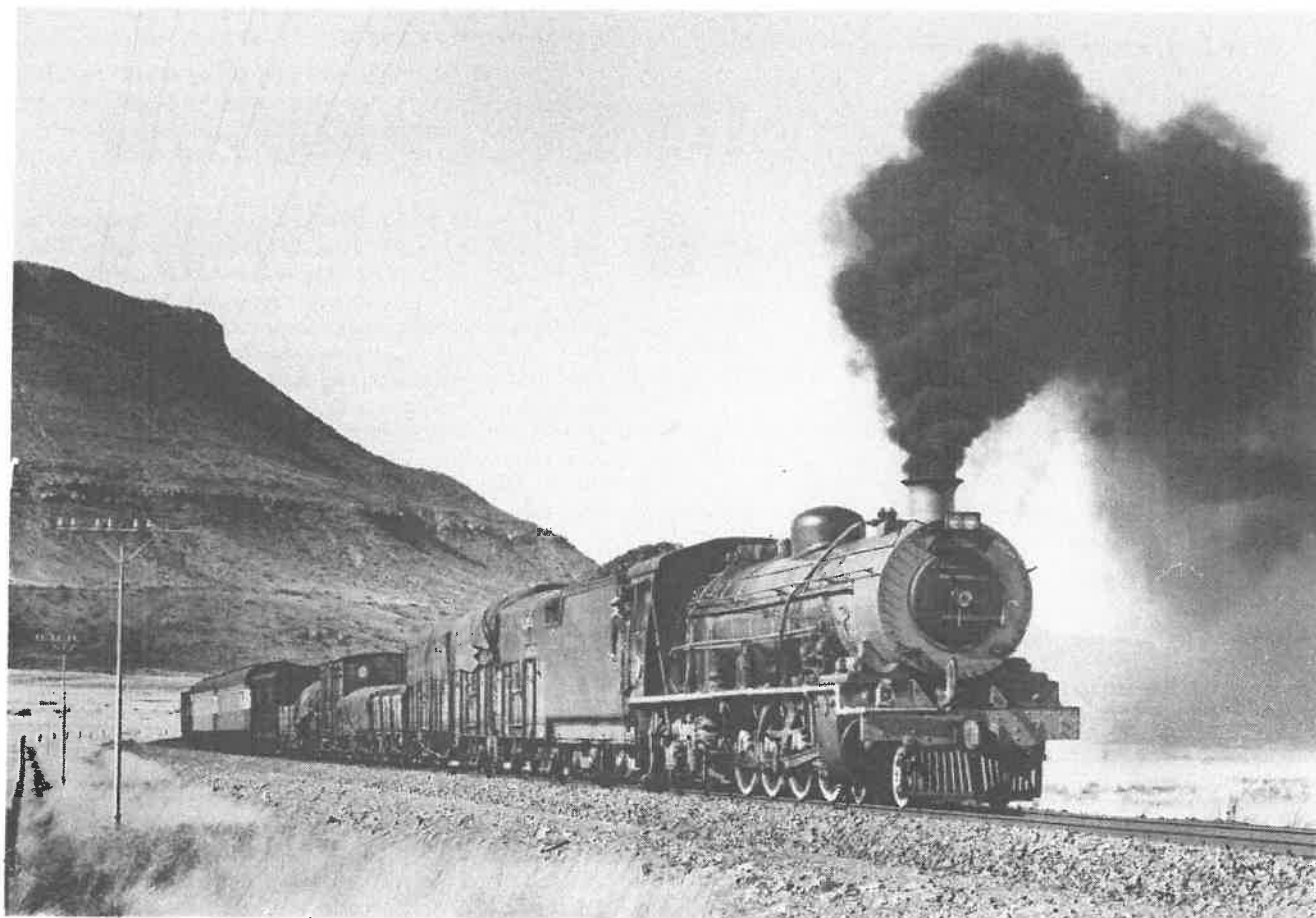
After receiving some (un)inspirational advice on the volatility of mining shares, from a master who shall for the moment remain anonymous, both syndicates delved into the depths of the strawberry-pink paragraphs of the Financial Times, to choose some companies.

Unfortunately, after six months' untiring speculation, one syndicate made a loss of £10,000, and the other £23,000!

The sad conclusion is that Mr. Bruce will have to wait at least another year for his free trip to the “Capital” (£, £, £, ?).

R. A. Eckton, L6A

CROOK'S TOUR – No. 1



Mixed train near Burgersdorp, S. Africa (1981).

CREATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS



C. J. Kay, SX

The Stone Circle

Dark rocks deeply rooted,
Dark-faced guardians of dark years,
Shrouded in dust-covered memories,
Dark ages are buried and decayed in your presence.
Your sharpened edges have crumbled in the time's decay.
Proud standing grey stones,
Touched by the minds of creation,
The wind has blown rain against your skin,
The snow has built walls against your flesh,
And the great sun has cracked your substance and
warmed your shadow

J. Dobson, 4Y

Winter

Clean white fields and hedge rows,
Black streams between white banks,
Leafless trees their branches laden with snow,
Trails of footprints leading along the road,
Icicles long and pointed hanging from the roofs.

The cries and chatter of the winter birds,
The crunch of feet on crispy snow,
The shouts of children in snowball fights,
The sound of wheels turning snow to slush,
Making bow waves like boats in water.

People turning collars up around their ears,
Angry drivers trying to start cold cars,
Weary people moving snow from drives,
Shouting children making slides, and pulling
Sledges up slopes to speed back down again.

A. Todd, 1Z

"The Doctor and the Devils", July 14 and 15

The Morning After

Far from human habitation toiled the robots. So far away because the humans loathed their steel servants, the "on men," and hated and feared their perfection and strength.

Despite this the robots toiled in their industrial units, each performing his one allotted task, supporting indolent humanity. While the robots ran every industry, there was for the majority of humans a lotus-eating life of total leisure, while for the restless few there was a lazy war with the Enemy; they pursued some hoary old territorial dispute with a distinct lack of fervour.

The robots supplied everything, even literature, which was mass-produced on computing machines which created variations on a few basic plots, in a similar way to the ancient author known as "Millanboon".

For those who desired culture at the risk of bearing the onus of intellectual snobbery, there was the creative output of the past twenty-five centuries to draw on.

K-14 was one of these innocuous supermen, working in a robotic unit. The name "Charlie" was stencilled on his burnished chest, but that was only to reassure any humans that might, through some mischance, see him. To his fellow automata, he was K-14.

K-14 was what you might call "general editor" of a unit that produced a daily news review, the only form of contact for many humans with the world outside their city. The method of collecting news was simple. A group of robots, elsewhere in the building, monitored the radio and television channels, collated information, and drew logical conclusions from it. K-14's job was to decide which information to print, which to withhold, and which to discard. He then spiced up the news with lurid scandal reporting, mostly invented, the juicy details supplied by huge memory banks.

Now, this job was causing K-14 a certain amount of trouble. There had been no really newsworthy news for several weeks. This had set up in K-14's circuits a potential of inefficiency, which could be interpreted as "unpleasant".

But a robot could not mope.

It was usual for a robot to rest - "shut-down" - for twelve hours every week to recharge and repair. With K-14 this coincided with a period from nightfall to dawn.

When he was roused from his torpor, he found a building humming with efficiency. There was news! The airwaves had been buzzing during the night! There had been a resurgence in the old war, following an insult by a politician. Atomic ally had been followed by nuclear counter strike. The radio channels had been jammed all midnight, and then had fallen silent. The robots had collated the data, and drawn conclusions. The most sensational headline of the century!

K-14's circuits glowed efficiently. He felt "pleasure" at the success of his newspaper scoop.

The presses ran, and off came the papers, ready for distribution to retail shops, with their blazing headline:

"HUMANITY EXTINCT!"

And do you know, they didn't sell a single copy!

J. Howells, 4Y

Is Patriotism a Virtue?

Patriotism is a concept which urges one to be zealous for one's country's prosperity, freedom of rights. Defending our nation against the onslaught of Nazi Germany can be considered patriotic as we are standing up for values our country holds. Likewise, buying a British car can be considered patriotic as our own economy benefits rather than Japan's, for example.

Patriotism, because of its cohesive nature, can be used to bring stability to a turbulent nation. It can be one of the reasons why the people of an oppressed nation rise up and fight for basic human freedoms. It can be the means whereby a fragmented country can be unified, for example Garibaldi and the formation of Italy.

Patriotism can also be the cause of economic exploitation. The desire for one's country to be prosperous can cause poorer countries to be exploited for the gain of one's country. The economic success of one's country takes first priority over ensuring every one of the world's population has a bearable living standard. The cohesive effect patriotism has on one country alone is more than offset by the divisive effect this has upon other countries. Soon these divisions become more acute as each nation tries to enforce its "God given" right to seize more territory and resources and eventually war ensues.

An appeal to one's patriotism can be used to consign a generation to death on the battle field. "Britain needs you" and "dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" are used to urge a nation's valiant youth to take up arms against the foe who have perpetrated a heinous offence against some divine law which is always in favour of one nation alone. Patriotism has been behind every war from the days of Virgil to the present. It is inconceivable how such a motive for carnage can be considered virtuous.

Patriotism is not a virtue, it is a cardinal sin responsible for the loss of human life on a huge scale. In a world which is already divided and destabilised, patriotism further heightens the tension by the economic deprivation and petty divisions between nations it produces. Patriotism has its origins not in the pure and virtuous spirit, but in the flesh; it originates from the baser aspects of man's soul and embodies greed and pride, rather than humility.

S. Stokes, Pre

Beware! Beware!

Slunkagants approaches
His smell is repulsive,
His manner atrocious.
It's ten feet tall,
Six feet wide,
With satanic striped tail,
To slay all alive
No respecter of persons,
They all go in its gullet -
Especially the bullies,
And masters - I like it!

J. Bill, 2Y

I'm a Bonfire

Twigs, branches and
Well-read papers,
With news of by-gone days,
Are kindled with a glowing splint,
And I'm alive again.

I crackle and sparkle hungrily,
Greedy to get warm,
I sparkle with rubies and spit
The timber,
Keen to burn once more.

A kaleidoscope of colour whirrs
Around my feet,
I'm happy, warm, contented,
Cheery faces watch
As I perform a lively dance
In the chill night air.

But alas the store is empty,
And my audience departs,
Golden embers now are fading
And all will soon be dark.
My heart is just grey ashes
On this cold November night.

H. C. Dickson, 3X

A Winter Poem

In winter I see the crisp, crunchy snow,
The brown, bare trees like hands reaching into the sky,
The Robins scratching for food,
The snow coming down like planes.
That's what I see in winter.

In winter I hear people's car wheels skidding in the snow,
Children shouting, laughing and crying,
The birds chirping for food,
The crunching of the snow when people walk on it.
That's what I hear in winter.

In winter I skate on the slippery ponds,
I make big, fat snowmen in the garden,
I go sledging down the long, steep, snowy hill,
I fill a hot water bottle at bed-time,
That's what I do in winter.

S. L. Lansom, 1Z

The Junk Shop

Windows stained with raindrops and grime,
Door bell tinkles with a rusty ring,
Room is filled with musty smells,
Worn down carpets cover creaky boards,
Fluttering moths hide spindly staircases.

Newspapers brown near odd black shoes,
Mahogany tables, badly scratched,
Ships in bottles sail on broken chairs,
Embroidered cloths over grandfather clocks,
Old books dust woodwormed shelves.

Proprietor greets with short sighted stare,
"Genuine antiques in this month,"
Comment as false as his plastic dentures,
Alcohol breath forced on unwilling browsers,
Grubby-nailed hands frighten customers away.

H. Gamble, 1Z

Guilt

The childish games we played that night,
the pointless dares,
trying not to lose face;
aimlessly showing that you're as good as the others.

You break a window,
climb a fence,
empty a bin
on a front lawn.

But later on, lying in bed,
feeling a strange sense of guilt,
wickedness,
culpability.

The unnerving knowledge that the onus is upon you
that you are the wicked one,
that you are a criminal,
that you have erred from the path of innocence,
incorruptibility,
irreproachability,
and have sinned.

The wish to go back,
to wipe clean the slate,
be once again pure,
blameless,
with clean hands,
and the conscience of a lamb,
fills you.

But this sin is irreversible
and all that can be done
is not to do it next time,
to strengthen the moral fibre,
harden the mind,
and say, "No,"
decisively.

D. Hurton, 3Y

I am Fire

I can see them watching me as they sit in their chairs.
They don't know that I can see them.
I try to look friendly and warming
By flaring my coloured wings upwards,
By blowing out my warmth to them.
But when they are not there,
I relax and burn quietly to myself.
Sometimes I get annoyed because they don't watch me,
So I curl, jump and spit.
Trying to draw their attention to me.
When they return from the cold darkness outside,
I show off my radiant shades,
And try to look gentle and comforting.
I can be cruel and fierce.
When they throw rubbish at me,
I devour it with my heated fangs.
I become savage once out of control.
My temper rises
And I destroy all that is in my path.
When they forget to feed me,
My energy gets lower and lower and I die.

If I am treated with respect,
I remain well-behaved,
And will be a companion through the long, cold winter.

S. Butler, 3X

The Auction

It was a Sunday and I had been at an auction for several hours browsing round the items. Suddenly a rather attractive sheet of a hundred Victorian two-penny blues caught my eye. I wandered across and glanced at them, trying not to look too interested.

They were fantastic and just what I was looking for. Suddenly I was aware of someone behind me looking over my shoulder. It was John Tanner, an old enemy of mine.

"Beautiful aren't they?" he said. "Do you think they're worth buying?"

I was immediately on the defensive. He was clearly interested and it would take a lot of tact to dissuade him.

"No, I don't think so," I said hesitantly, "not compared to that block of penny blacks."

"That's a point, not many large blocks of penny blacks knocking about, are there?"

"No, and I think these two-penny blues aren't in perfect condition, slightly faded."

"Oh, I don't think so, definitely not faded, but the penny blacks do seem to be the best buy."

He hadn't changed a bit. I could twist his opinions round my little finger, but he was still a difficult person to deal with when it actually came to money matters.

"Anyway, see you later, Smallbridge."

I did not care very much for the way he said my name. It had a certain air of contempt to it.

Tanner was a tall, thin man with tight, pink skin, drawn across his face. His cold blue eyes shifted mischievously below his bushy, black eyebrows. They never missed a thing. He was a little bit baldier than the last time I saw him but the mode of his dress had not changed: he still wore the same old shabby tweed jacket and baggy cords.

I had first met him when he opened his stamp shop across the road from my store. He was in fact closing down now due to lack of trade. I thought he must be here today to buy for his private collection. His trade had been low principally because he was unfair. His selling prices were too high and his buying prices too low.

It was only recently, in the last year or so, that I had gone into collecting the really valuable stuff. And today I was going to go to town. A week or so ago I had come up on the pails and today I could meet Tanner on his own ground. You see, normally whenever I am interested in any stamps at a fair or auction, Tanner is there and always outbids me or offers a higher price than me. But not today, today I would bid higher; today Tanner would not get what I wanted; today I would beat him at his own game; today I would win the battle and claim those Victorian stamps as my prize.

Of course by now I had convinced myself that I had persuaded him that the best buy was the penny blacks. But I know that if he noticed that I was bidding then he was sure to join in.

After lunch we both took our places in the hall where the auction was due to take place. We sat as far away from each other as we could manage, but as near to the front as possible. The auctioneer started with lot 1. Heavens above, it would take ages to work through to lot 246! His words sped over my head like machine-gun fire once the bidding had started. It was too much effort to keep pace with him so I resigned myself to boredom. I could think of nothing else but the stamps and, alas, I couldn't, wouldn't let Tanner get them.

Suddenly I came back to reality with a bump. Lot no. 246 was being called.

"Lot no. 246, ladies and gentlemen, a fine sheet of mint two-penny blues, 'small crown' watermark, two letter, dating 1840. Who will start the bidding at £30,000? You sir... £40,000... £45,000... £50,000."

It was time for me to drop by bomb and catch Tanner sleeping. My heart was in my mouth as I spluttered the words... "£60,000!" The auctioneer repeated quizzically, "...£60,000... going once, going twice... sold to the gentleman on the second row."

I was overjoyed, the stamps were mine. I was quite content to sit and gloat for the rest of the auction. I could just see Tanner's face, he would be livid. At the end of the auction I walked past him with a big grin on my face and quite unexpectedly he congratulated me on my buy. He must have been thinking £60,000 was a little above his head.

I entered the office and enquired after lot no. 246.

"Ah yes," said the auctioneer, "would you like to pay by cash or cheque?"

"Cheque please. Who do I make it payable to?"

"To Mr. J. Tanner."

R. J. Vaughan, 4X

Last Journey of the "Evening Star"

Slowly the train pulled out of the station on its last journey of the day. The journey was from Darlington to Halifax. The locomotive was the *Evening Star*, the last and most famous of the British Rail class 4F locomotives – also the last steam engine to be built in Britain. They had been introduced in 1954 and since the railways had been nationalised in 1948 no train had been so economical. It was economical because it had ten driving wheels, meaning the weight of the engine was spread out as far as possible. Behind the locomotive were seven cream and canary coaches, each fifty-seven feet long and carrying around sixty people. About four hundred yards from the station the train rounded a corner, then built up speed on the straight afterwards.

In the goods yard the six-wheeled shunter had just finished its day's work and was slowly approaching the diamond crossing, on the other side of which was the engine shed.

The *Evening Star* approached the diamond crossing. Only a few more minutes to go before it reached Halifax.

The shunter was moving on to the diamond crossing slowly, when suddenly the dark shape of the *Evening Star* loomed over it. The train smashed into the side of the shunter. The side of the shunter collapsed under the weight and turned over.

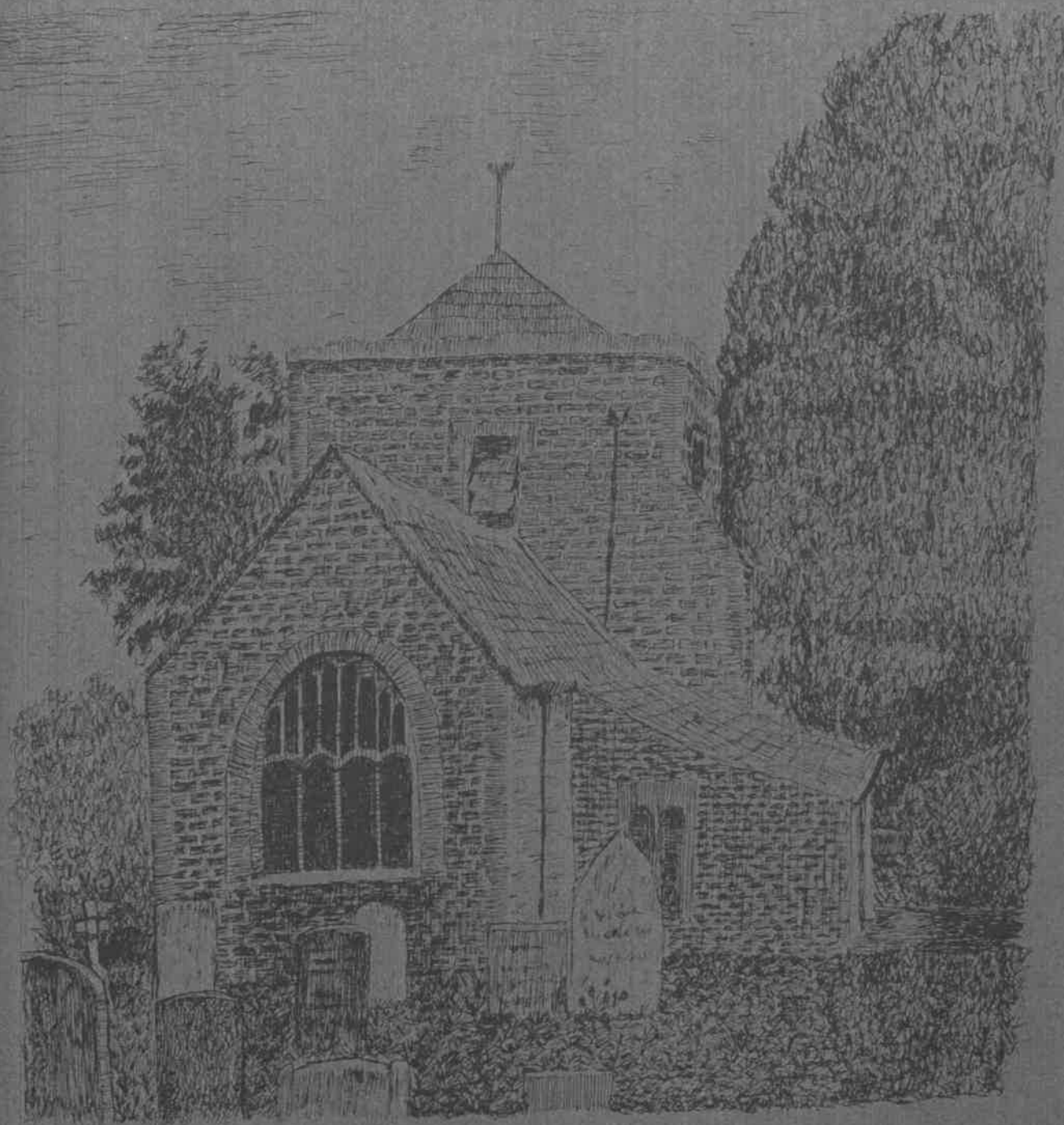
"Damn!" exclaimed Mark. "That's ten quid down the drain."

"Oh, shut up," said Robert. "It was done for anyway."

"Oh, all right – switch off the transformer. We'd better go for tea I suppose."

The two boys walked out of the room and slowly went down stairs leaving the two locomotives and seven coaches strewn along the track.

J. Warburton, 3X



C. J. Kay, 5X

The Judgement Day

Missiles roar overhead, gleaming
Like unholy spears from the bowels of Hell,
People stagger and run, screaming
Like dying banshees, from the tolling bell.

The ever-tolling bell,
Which, mournfully ringing,
Accompanies celestial choirs,
Who are sweetly singing
The Final Amen
For Man and his Earth,
Where never again
Will he rejoice in a birth.

All life is gone,
The planet is still,
Man's soul has been taken,
Against his will
Into the depths of this world's Hell,
Away from the eternal ringing
Of the planet's Death Knell.

Man never knew
What was coming his way,
He didn't believe
In the Judgement Day.

G. M. Organ, 4Z

"The Doctor and the Devils", July 14 and 15

A Slow Death

It was Wednesday. Maths third and sixth lesson.

Roger and I sit in English dreading that third lesson, will we survive to see break? The second bell goes and Mr. Roberts dismisses us. Slowly we walk across the quad towards the new block, looking out for land mines. As we approach room 2 we see him, a tallish figure in grey German sergeant's suit, Luger in one hand, he has a deadly grin on his face. We can always tell whether he is in a bad or even worse mood from the vigorous propulsion of the eyebrows. We went into the chamber which he liked to call a classroom and sat down. Roger looked at me in terrified fashion. Then I remembered, I hadn't done my homework. Neither had Roger. I sat there rooted to the spot. What could I do? At that moment he saw Roger trying to confer with me.

"Roger! Was machst du?" he bellowed. Then followed a very famous expression, this time translated.

"It's like the blind leading the totally blind," he said in a fake Scottish accent.

While he was telling off Roger, another boy, who was sentenced like myself and Roger to a year's maths lessons, started to fool around. Hitler (the name of our so-called teacher) was already in a bad mood so all he did was run to his desk and pull a gun on the boy. There was a deadly silence as he said, "Du bist ein Dummkopf!" This, roughly translated means, "You stupid boy." There was a terrible sound of a slug hitting someone when the poor boy fell off his chair and onto the floor with a muffled thud.

At this there was an uproar, everyone trying to get out and into the free world. This was too much for Hitler, he didn't have his army or anything, only his gun. So after he'd shot down a couple of us, the tension grew among us knowing we were approaching a terrible fate. He went over to his desk, sat down, pulled out a gas mask and button panel. He put the mask on and pressed a red button. Suddenly, above his head, the harmless-looking clock swung to one side and a deadly vapour started to pour out. So that's how we were going to go, was it?

It didn't look as if we would see break after all.
M. Livesey, 3Y

The U15's Rugby Team

This season we've played fifteen matches.
We've performed quite poorly, but well in patches.
We're always spirited and give our all.
But we've got to learn to pass that ball.

The team is good and full of skill.
But our highest score seems to be nil.
We're always looking up to the sky,
To try and get help to score a try.

Our backs are talented, but we are quite small.
We need someone who is six foot tall.
Our forwards are big and strong,
But they never seem to last that long.

The teams we play seem to be stronger,
And always seem to last much longer.
But seriously we've won a few
And in September we'll start anew.

We hope to win the seven at Fulke.
We should do well if the weather is mild.
If we win we'll have no fear
And that should cap an indifferent year.

Anon.

Mondays

Monday morning, the very words inspire thoughts of dread: going through a full day, half-awake, recovering from the weekend. At 6.55 some horrifying noises wake me up could it be Martians? No, they're more sense than to get up at this unearthly hour, it's just the radio off station again. I doze off again, there's five more glorious minutes before I have to get up. Now what's happening? My face is all wet—oh, it's the dog licking my face. Give up, and get up, that's the only thing for it.

I arrive at the breakfast table looking and feeling like death warmed up. Mum doesn't look much better either! Breakfast eaten, dogs, cats, hamster, goldfish and hens all fed too. My clean school uniform is now covered in muddy paw prints—it's a hard life.

I set off for the station, thank heaven mum gives me a lift there. I would never live if I had to walk to the station as well as from it at Krikham! The train should get in at 8.09 a.m., but one never knows with B.R.!

I board the train. Ten minutes and I'm in Krikham. A rather brisk walk to school, it's raining, of course, just to add the finishing touch to Monday mornings. It's double games today as well, the weather's always has something against second year games lessons.

I collapse in the cloakroom. The weather has woken me up a bit, but the warm radiator soon remedies that. Next stop the hall. About twenty people stomp up to the stage, a whole troupe of bat people, gowns flapping in their daily exercise.

We all sing a hymn. Some people do it so energetically. Do they sleep all weekend? There is a stampede out of the hall, we're all so eager to get to lessons.

Now it's double English, the highlight of the day! No chance to have a little dream though. Mr. Watson just doesn't allow it—he has no feelings at all.

Geography, now it's time to really wake up, it's compulsory in Mr. Bruce's lessons. His voice echoes round the room, getting through to the most far away people. Morningschool is over. BREAK! Now here's a good bit to add to the day. However, as you just finish your Kit Kat a bell interrupts the pleasure. Time for chemistry. Now here's a lesson with a bit of excitement, beakers, test-tubes breaking, bunsen burner tubes on fire, and that's just Doctor Hall! Bangs, explosions, disasters, the lesson just flies by.

Lunch time, freeze time, there are two options, stay in the cloakroom, risking detention, or quietly freeze outside. Sometimes Mr. Watson takes pity on us and lets us sort out books in the library, a nice, warm job.

Back to lessons, Maths first, not a lot happening there, then games. It drags by, my fingers get number by the second. Now it's raining again, oh, what have I done to deserve this? The whistle blows, it's time to go in. Horror, there is only five minutes to get back to the changing rooms, get showered, and changed. Can I make the train? Ten minutes later I'm running to Krikham station. I get there just in time. Next thing I'm home. Bliss.

J. Kershaw, 2Y

Wrea Green

The sun rises, setting long shadows on the dew filled grass on the picturesque village green. It's a bitter morning and the blue sky reflects in the glittering pond.

The few people about are either in their brightly coloured tracksuits jogging around the perimeter of the village, or out for a brisk walk to fetch their papers (in their pinstriped suits ready for their venture out to church). The paper boys begin to roll up on their bikes, wearing gloves, and just beginning to awaken.

As the cows slowly trot away from the milking parlour, the morning fishermen are venturing out of the field, away from muddy pit that they have been fishing in. After the cows are in the field and the fishermen have gone, the road is covered with trodden in mud and manure, which leaves an odour of a true country village.

As the day goes on a cool breeze picks up and makes the village pond reflect the sunlight with a glittered effect on the nearby brilliant white cottages. The wind carries the tune of the bells from the church all over the village.

Old ladies wrapped up in woollen scarfs and coats take their dogs for a walk on the green, and to watch the ducks on the pond.

Later on in the day the main pub starts to fill out with people from a wide area. A little triangular green in front of the pub soon gets parked with holidays makers from all over the North coming to spend their holidays at a holiday camp in Blackpool. Soon the whole pub and the immediate vicinity is packed with an unruly mob of tourists.

This is the part of the day when motorised hang-gliders buzz around the air annoying everyone.

Cricketers pile out of the pub to enjoy another match of cricket and hundreds of cars stop around the green to watch the 'nerve-rocking' game, and to feed the plump white ducks.

The sun begins to fade behind the elm trees and cottages leaving cricketers playing with long shadows and tall wickets.

J. Lee, 42

The Mill

As I entered I noticed a smell, that of stagnant water. The floor was slippery. It was mould which had set into decay the draughty silent mill. In the semi-darkness tiny drops of dew were forming then dropping from the ceiling. Among the shadows there were old cogs which were once powered by the water wheel which had finally rotted and become buried in silt.

The next room was big but seemed quite small. A claustrophobic atmosphere was upon me for the room was filled with sacks of mouldy corn. In the corner there was a rat sitting on its back legs gnawing at something. As I got nearer I saw a rotten carcass of a dog. The rat saw me, turned and bolted into one of the sacks.

On my right I could just make out some steps. So I slowly and carefully advanced, checking the floor for a rotten patch or grain chute. The stairs were mostly safe, but one fell through when I tried it.

As I entered the next room I noticed a small bed and a splintered chair. On the small table, which was positioned in the centre of the room, was a metal basin and also a dented water jug.

Suddenly an owl hooted. It pierced through the silence as an arrow does flesh.

N. Smith, 1X

The Transport Café

A carelessly erected, large wooden building stood by the dry dusty road that stretched into the distance. Small lorries stood, contented with the rather shabby conditions in the small, uneven forecourt. Inside, through the weak unpainted door, was an atmosphere of cigarette smoke and greasy knobs. Cutlery continually rattled and the commotion of the jukebox occasionally broke the monotonous semi-silence with ancient recordings of ancient artists.

Two grubby-haired women were standing, smoking cigarettes, behind the coffee stained counter, thoroughly bored. Several of the younger customers argued about who was next to play 'Space Invaders', but they eventually got bored and prepared to leave. They heaved on their leather jackets and duffles and weaved their way out down the aisles between the many empty plastic-topped tables and benches.

They mounted the steps up to the cabs of their lorries and rolled on their ways to their never-ending destinations.

P. J. Cross, 4Y

Alone at Last

I'm alone at last! For five long weeks I've sat staring from out of my own dark imagination at the world outside. My once tidy hair is now a matted mess resembling a crow's nest. I wash, but my face is unshaven and a beard now protrudes from my chin. The lights in my room are never on as I try to hide from myself and them.

At night I stare out of the window and my memories reflect on the actions of those outside. All the birds have disappeared, and the most prominent sign of life is a cat running stealthily across the rooftops. A drunk is bent double leaning against the lamp post by the gutter, and my thoughts are like his, lonely. The lights in the houses across the street just shine out through the heavily-draped curtains that are drawn, as if the people inside know that they are coming, and are trying their hardest to act inconspicuously. No cars move, but they like the pavements like a funeral procession. The sky is black, and the cold breeze blows hauntingly through the trees, playing havoc with the drunk's sense of balance. The uncut grass slowly bends, and the dried leaves roll along the road.

Life is leaving as the cat scurries away, and the shadow slowly moves away from the lone working street light as the drunk feels his way home along the wall.

I'm alone at last! My wife has left me and has gone forever. She won't be seeing me again, and my God, I miss her. I've been alone for five weeks now. I will be in company soon when they come.

My eyes no longer focus on the scene outside, but my mind goes back to the last day, the last time, the last argument, the fatal mistake.

I'm alone but I can sense their coming and my heart starts to race. I'm paranoid now. My wife has gone. I look out of the window and through my blurred vision caused by tears, I see a blue light that speeds down the road and comes to a halt above the ground in front of the house. My brain asks the questions, "Shall I run?" and the answer comes back like a punch, "No!" My heart stops racing, and although not physically, mentally I'm alone. They have come, my wife is gone. I knew I shouldn't have hit her with the axe.

J. Youll, 4Z

Rugby

Rugby is a much played game
Founded in a school of that name,
Fifteen players on each side,
On the field there is nowhere to hide.

All the rules we had to learn,
But a place in the team we had to earn.
Soon we knew about scrums, mauls and rucks,
And we couldn't learn it from our books.

The full back to kick and catch,
Four three quarters to run and match.
The opponents with speed and tackling,
Two half backs to get things cracking.

Eight forwards form what is called a pack,
Their job is to get the ball back.
They need to be strong and tough,
Keen and fit, fair but rough.

A. Cookson, 2Y

Half-awake Thoughts

Every night, when I go upstairs
I hear noises that sound like the scraping of chairs
I try to investigate, but what do I find?
The noises have gone and the silence is kind.

I climb into bed, then tuck myself down
And, suddenly, I see my dressing-gown.
It slides off the hook, then falls to the ground.
My heart beats so fast that my head's turning round.

I turn on the light to see who is there
I throw my head back and pretend I don't care.
I look round the room with wide-awake eyes
But all I can see is the fire as it dies.

The clock in the hall begins to chime,
It strikes only once: "Oh, what is the time?"
I wish it were morning with the sun streaming in
So another beautiful day could begin.

L. Akers, 1X

The Lion

He eats and kills and stalks all day,
His eyes are red like a bloodshot ray.
His coat is glossy, silky and bright,
He loves to eat, to kill and fight.

The lion, the African lord,
Pounces hard like a jagged sword.
The jungle is his only home
And from there, he rarely roams.

M. Oliver, 2Y



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Astronomical Society

Chairman: Mrs. K. Bagley
Secretary: C. J. Swift
Treasurer: I. Campbell

The Society has now settled down to a steady pace and regular pattern after the vast increases in activity which witnessed the Society's reforming in the Spring of 1979.

After members had given weekly talks for the first two years of the Society's life it became clear, at a meeting of the committee, that such a profusion of excellent talks could not be maintained because the number of topics was now becoming exhausted. A slight change in the number of lectures was therefore agreed upon.

In the Summer Term of 1981 six meetings were held, and talks were given by S. R. Dewsnap, C. J. Swift, C. S. Sloane and A. D. Proctor. Titles of the talks ranged from "The Sun" to "The Space Shuttle"; they were all of an excellent standard and were thoroughly enjoyed.

The Society also went on a Junior Astronomical Society trip to the observatories at Preston and Aston Hall. The Members' thanks are due to Mrs. K. Bagley and Mrs. Sloane for providing the transport on this enjoyable day's outing.

The Summer Term closed with the Society's "pièce de résistance", namely our Open Day display. The Secretary and two distinguished members of the committee gave talks which attracted "crowds" of over forty people. The committee's sincere thanks go to the army of junior volunteers who worked behind the scenes.

During the summer holiday several members of the society took part in a "meteor watch" at C. Sloane's house. However because of the cloud that covered the sky after midnight few of the Perseid meteors were seen, and we eventually saw more of Mrs. Sloane's biscuits, for which we are "astronomically" grateful.

During the Winter Term five talks were given and three observation evenings were held. The first talk was given by C. S. Sloane on "Features of this Term's Sky", and was followed with talks by J. Spicer of the third year, and J. Porter and R. A. Eckton of the Sixth Form.

One of the special events of the Winter Term was a total eclipse of the moon which the Society observed at one of its observation evenings. Another special event was the Society trip to the Planetarium in London for the Sixth-Form members.

In this Spring Term three talks have been given, including one by A. P. Bracegirdle and one by C. J. Swift. The other talk was given by our Chairman, Mrs. K. Bagley, based on her visit to Florence, during the summer, where she saw many of Galileo's belongings (including his pickled finger!)

Four other talks are planned, including one by Mr. J. D. Greenwood, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Finally, I should like to thank all those people who have helped in the running of the Society over the past year, particularly those who have given time up in order to prepare their talks so very well. I should also like to give the Committee's special thanks to our Chairman for all the time, and energy, she gives to the Society.

C. J. Swift, L6A

Bridge Club

Chairman: Mr. I. Rushton
Secretary: S. R. Dewsnap
Treasurer: R. A. Eckton

At the start of the 1981-2 academic year the Bridge Club consisted solely of pupils who did not know how to play the game. This was simply because the players of the previous year were all in the Upper Sixth and had left school after the summer examinations.

The new committee, under the guidance of the Chairman Mr. I. Rushton, brought about an interest in the club from members of all years, and has ensured that bridge will be played at the school for many years to come.

Our meetings at Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes have always been well attended, and as the standard of play had improved so markedly by the end of the Winter Term, it was decided to enter a team into the Daily Mail Schools National Championships. The Heats were held on 26th January in Toxteth, Liverpool. Our team of four did very well for their first match and finished midway through the field. This was not, however, good enough to qualify for the finals.

It is hoped that we will enter more competitions in the future, and with more experience of such events I am sure that our results will improve substantially.

Finally we are greatly indebted to Mr. Rushton for his constant assistance in the activities of the club.

S. R. Dewsnap, L6Sc

Chess Club

Chairman: Mr. I. Rushton
Secretary: S. J. Stokes
Treasurer: R. M. Boyes
Match Captain: S. J. Stokes

Last year saw Lytham coming first in the Inter-house competition, winning a trophy which seems to have become their preserve in recent years. However, this year Lytham do not seem destined to win, for at the moment Ashton are in the lead, with Fylde a close second.

A much weakened School team last year managed to stay off the bottom of the Blackpool and Fylde Chess League second division, thanks to two victories over Poulton third team and draws with King Edward's and Warbreck High School second team. This year the team has yet to win a match, although we have drawn twice with Lytham St. Annes second team, and, as there are still nine matches to play, we should finish the season with at least one victory.

Mr. Rushton replaced Mr. Fathers as Chairman at the start of the year, and under his guidance, weekly chess practices have once more started in earnest – a good sign for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all players for their continued support and especially their parents, who have helped to transport the team to matches all over the Fylde.

S. J. Stokes (Pre.)

G. H. Sowerbutts

L.C.S.P. (Assoc.)

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Electronics Society

Chairman: Mr. L. A. Redman
Secretary: J. P. W. Brown
Treasurer: S. J. Stokes

The beginning of the year saw the return of the chairmanship into the capable and experienced hands of Mr. L. A. Redman who, apart from the previous two years when Mr. Fathers was with us, has held the office since the Society was formed in 1974. I am sure that it will continue to flourish under his guidance.

This year it was pleasing to see an increase in members from the lower school, especially from the Second Year. In fact, the influx was so great that during the Winter Term we had to stagger the meetings, half the members coming on the Tuesdays, half coming on the Thursdays. We began, as is the tradition, by showing the new members how to solder and then letting them build a simple circuit – they are now progressing to more advanced projects.

Both the Winter and Spring Terms have been very busy, but, as is usually the case, the Summer Term is not so active because of examinations and other school activities.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody involved in the Society.

J. P. W. Brown, U6

Fell-Walking Society

Chairman: Dr. B. M. Summers
Secretary: A. W. Traviss
Treasurer: C. J. Kay

Since the last report the society has suffered some setbacks mainly because of lack of support for fell-walks. During the summer term there were no successful walks and there were grave doubts about the society's future.

The new school year, however, brought an influx of new members from the enthusiastic first year. A campaign to gather fresh interest from the senior part of the school paid off and, together with the rise in cost per outing to £2, this helped the society to its feet.

On Sunday, 18th September, a party of eighteen went on a very strenuous but interesting walk along the Langdale Pikes. Weather conditions were exceptionally good and we were rewarded with spectacular views at the summits. The second fell-walk of the term had to be cancelled because of transport problems.

Our fell-walk on Sunday, 15th November was great fun; we spent a day in the Bowfell area. The most memorable part of the walk was watching Eric Waite battling on the floor with a bright yellow cagoule in an attempt to remove it. The weather conditions were fair, but when we reached the summit of Bowfell a heavy mist descended, obscuring any views.

As usual the walk to the summit of Parlick in the Trough of Bowland was a wet one. Adverse weather conditions spoiled the walk and some of the thirteen were glad to return to the mini-bus.

An enthusiastic party of eight climbed Conistone Old Man on Sunday, 14 February in superb weather conditions. The day couldn't have been more perfect; warm sun and a thin layer of snow added to the most enjoyable walk of the year. We stopped for lunch at the summit and admired magnificent views of the surrounding lakeland. After a meal we carried on over to Dow Crag where again we witnessed outstanding views.

Unfortunately we had to ask the eight members for an additional fifty pence to cover some of the loss we had incurred; everyone willingly paid the extra and agreed that it was all well worth it.

It only remains for me to thank our dedicated members for their support (including I. Chadwick and his incessant jokes), Christopher Kay (our Treasurer), parents who have offered transport and Mr. Taylor and Dr. Summers without whom the society could not function.

A. W. Traviss, 5X

Film Society

Chairman: Mr. R. J. Watson
Secretary: B. J. Watson
Treasurer: R. Lewis
Technicians: J. Brown and S. Dewsnap

The video business is undoubtedly a rapidly expanding market at the present time. Video film libraries are sprouting and flourishing in most of our high-streets. Amidst all the furor, it is easy to forget the old, large-screen cinema film, from which the video trade draws the blood essential for its existence. Cinema attendances are falling; picture houses are closing – the outlook is cloudy for the British cinema. However, prospects seem much brighter at K.G.S. Cinemascope entertainment here is alive and quite well (apart from when the sound system failed during a screening of *Apocalypse Now*, and one of our trusty committee members had to stand nursing a faulty jack plug throughout the three-hour film!)

The Film Society is in a very healthy position and can boast the largest membership of all the school's societies, save the Music Society. A programme was chosen so that as broad a spectrum of films as possible would appear on the silver screen. "Silver Screen" is, perhaps, something of a misnomer, as it is a large, dusty, white construction, and has been accused by many of being an eyesore, ruining the acoustics of the Hall. Nevertheless, it has been deployed to the utmost, displaying nine society films to almost capacity audiences, and a selection of six films, including *All the President's Men*, *The China Syndrome* and *Dr. Strangelove* to the Sixth-Form society.

Comedies ranged from the zany foolery in the spoof disaster film *Airplane*, to the more sophisticated humour of Woody Allen's *Sleeper*. Western addicts were treated to Sam Peckinpah's *Wild Bunch*, a film which brought the over-generous portions of tomato ketchup, popularised in Spaghetti Westerns, into the traditional Hollywood recipe. Stars abounded in the epic wartime tale of heroic expectations turning to the sour reality of defeat in the quest to reach *A Bridge Too Far*. However, the most popular offering proved to be the "sci-fi" film *Alien*, with scores rolling in to watch a mutating monster run amok through an intergalactic freighter. What a blood-thirsty lot!

Francis "Godfather" Coppola had to mortgage most of his personal property to acquire funds for the completion of his brain-child, *Apocalypse Now*. This was nearly the case with the Society too, as it was the most expensive film ever hired. The result was, I think, very worth while, as the film is one of the most visually stunning to be fixed on celluloid in recent years. An action-packed thriller was provided by Don Siegel's production, *Dirty Harry*, the first, and probably the best, of the Clint Eastwood police trilogy. And, of course, I must not forget to mention the James Bond movie *Moonraker*. A film society programme would not be complete without a "Bond" film, said one member of staff. What more is there to add after such words of wisdom?

B. J. Watson (Pre.)

Natural History Society

Chairman: Mr. A. R. Baines
Secretary: C. Whiteside
Treasurer: J. Howells

The past year has been quite an active year for the Society. Many Society members and members of staff have generously given up their time to give excellent talks about widely differing subjects. May I take this opportunity to thank all these people. Mrs. Piggott gave us all an excellent talk about "Man's Understanding of Man" and Mr. Baines talked about "Bones" in the Summer Term last year. Talks by society members include "Haematology" by N. Ross, 5Y, "Parapsychology" by J. Howells, 4Y, "Life in the Solar System" by S. R. Dewsnap, L6Sc, and "Aquatic Plants" by C. Whiteside, L6Sc. Mr. Sayer gave us two very interesting talks this year, namely "Asexual Reproduction in Plants" and "Cuttings".

The society has also shown a wide variety of films throughout the year, and we thank the Geography Department for allowing us to use Room 11 so often. Over the year, the society has shown seven films which include "Woodland Ecology", "Seashore Ecology", "The Private Life of the Great Crested Grebe," and "The Amoeba".

In the Winter Term of last year, the society held a very successful library day, where Society members brought books along to school and exchanged them between each other.

been no activity whatsoever during last summer term. It was with this in mind that the society treasurer, Chris Grime, and I set out to rectify the position at the start of the autumn term.

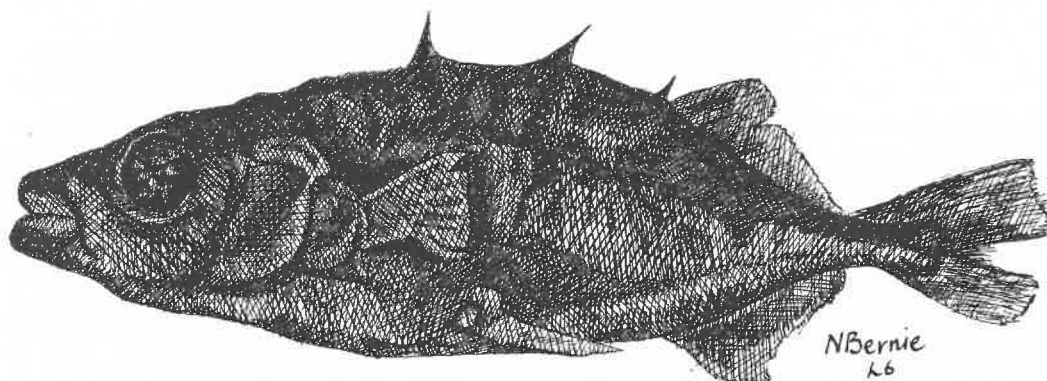
Three films were shown during this term and were selected with the intention of being of more general interest than a strictly geographical one. All three films were particularly well attended especially the final one entitled *A town called Charlie* about life on a North Sea oil rig.

On Thursday, 15th October fifteen members of the Sixth Form found themselves plunging to the bottom of a pit shaft at what seemed like twice the speed of sound in order that we could be shown round the Bold Colliery coal mine. We were then given lunch in the training centre cafeteria followed by a tour of the surface training area in the afternoon.

At the end of term we launched the Geographical Society Christmas Quiz. Out of the one hundred entrants, the competition was won by D. Hurton in the Juniors and P. Goodridge in the Seniors, each winning £5.

The end of term also saw our twice-yearly trip to London shared with the Economists and "Artists". The day was spent observing Central London urban development whilst the Lower Sixth visited the Geographical Museum. A "thoroughly enjoyable day" was had by all.

Since Christmas the society has had only one trip, this being to Whitbread Breweries at Salmesbury on 12th January, in order that we could study the location of



During the Winter and Summer Terms of last year, the livestock bench in Room 17 housed seven gerbils (increasing in numbers extremely quickly!) and tropical fish. Fortunately, all the gerbils were found good homes!

One of our members, G. Irwin, 4Y, is at present working on a project which involves the assembly of rabbit and other skeletons.

Thanks must go to Mr. Baines for allowing us to meet in his Biology Lab, and special thanks to D. Shakespeare, 1Y, a very dedicated society member, for the numerous form-room notices he has kindly produced.

C. Whiteside, L6Sc.

Geographical Society

Chairman: Mr. I. M. Scott
Secretary: G. R. Eastham
Treasurer: C. D. Grime

The Geographical Society, unlike most other societies, suffers in popularity from being too directly associated with a school subject.

Past records showed that few people attended the occasional films that had been shown and that there had

industry. Having been shown round the production areas we were then invited to sample the numerous Whitbread brews. Needless to say a "thoroughly enjoyable day" was again had by all.

I would like to thank Chris Grime for helping with the organisation of visits and managing the society finances so ably and also Mr. Scott, the society Chairman, who has been invaluable, particularly in his role as mini-bus driver.

G. Eastham (Pre.)

Subbuteo Society

Chairman: Mr. A. P. West
Secretary: J. Buckley
Treasurer: S. Walker

Each term the Subbuteo Society holds cup competitions, and the Summer and Winter Terms saw victories for Mr. West and C. Akers respectively. The Spring Term final, still to be played at the time of writing, will be between Rawcliffe and Akers. Akers has already competently disposed of Mr. West in a 4-1 thrashing, when the latter's more cumbersome tactics failed to make an impression on Akers' quick one-touch style, and this now leaves Akers favourite to retain the Cup.

J. D. Buckley, 4X

Scientific Society

Chairman: Dr. B. M. Summers
Secretary: B. MacFarlane
Treasurer: C. J. Kay

In the past the Society has tended to cater largely for its Sixth-Form membership, with Junior members being somewhat neglected – as exemplified by the not infrequent visits arranged to local breweries, entirely for their scientific and educational interest, of course!

This year, however, we have attempted to diverge from this course to some extent. Unfortunately, circumstances beyond our immediate control have conspired to render these attempts only partially successful.

We had hoped to arrange a trip to the research laboratories at the British Aerospace military aircraft establishment at Warton. It was felt that this would be of interest to a wide spectrum of our membership. However, two requests for a visit both failed to elicit a reply.

Fortunately we have been more successful with the other aspect of our new image – the screening of scientific films. This year we have included more films of interest to our Junior members. These include "A History of the Discovery of Oxygen" and "The Germ War". We have once again screened several films relevant to the "O"-level science syllabuses, including "The Electrolysis of Brine". All of our films obtained audience ratings to rival those of the Film Society (almost), and were much appreciated by all who saw them.

We would like to thank Jeremy Brown and Brian Watson for their invaluable help in mastering the intricacies of the film projector; and, of course, we could not end without thanking Dr. Summers for his enthusiastic support and advice at all times.

B. MacFarlane (Pre.)
and A. M. Scott, U6

Wargaming Society

Chairmen: Rev. R. M. Clarkson and Mr. R. J. Watson
Secretary: A. Bracegirdle
Treasurer: S. Forster

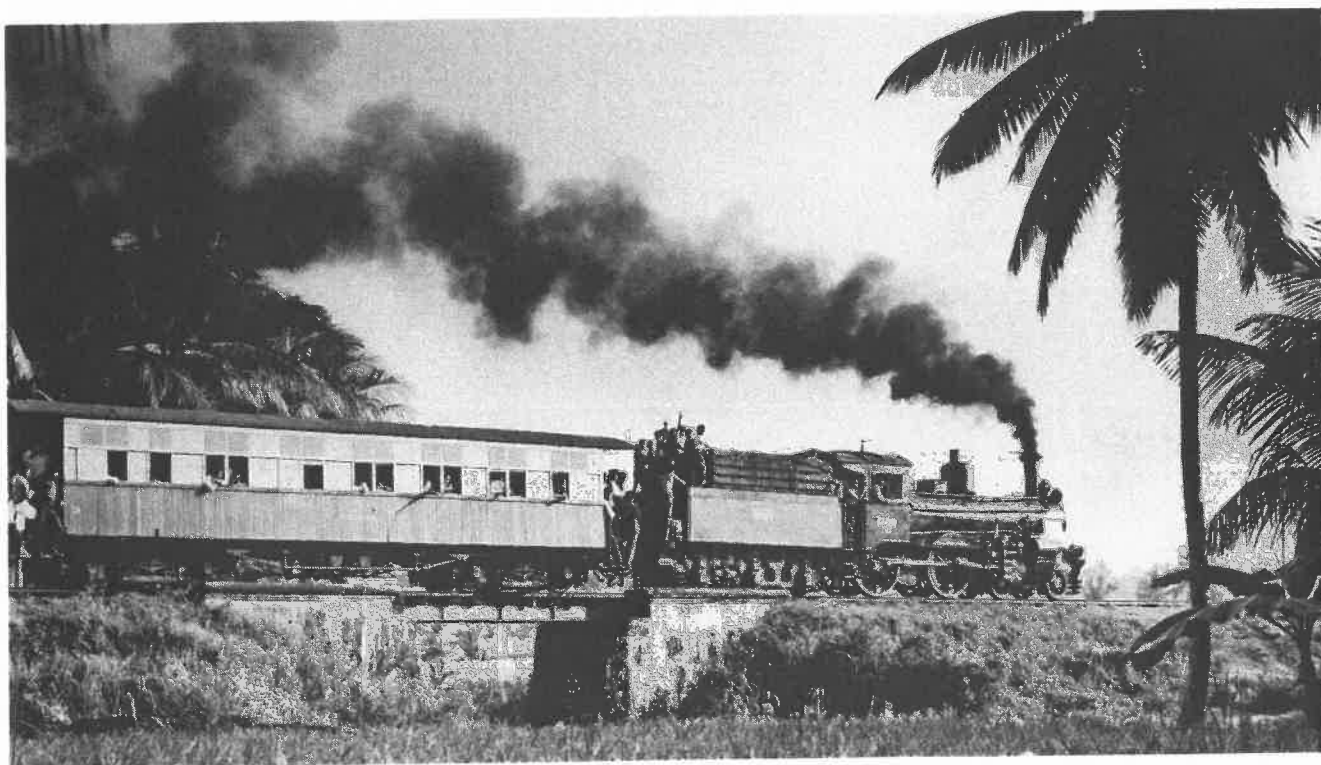
This year, like last, has been a great success for the society, with, at the time of writing, 14 wargames completed. The highlight of the year was the visit to the "Northern Militaire" exhibition on 15th November, for which the society owes thanks to Mrs. S. Piggott for driving the school minibus, thereby losing a day of her half-term.

The majority of the society members are in the third and fourth years; but there are members from other years too, so a good balance has been maintained. The most popular game is still of the "Dungeon and Dragons" type, and at the time of writing the possibility of using the school computer for the "D. and D" wargames is being considered, though the traditional figure games are resuming popularity.

Finally I must thank the English Department for the loan of the Library on frequent Saturdays, and also Mr. Rushton, frequently the staff representative at meetings.

A. Bracegirdle, L6Sc.

CROOK'S TOUR – No. 2



Local train near Pandeleglang on the island of Java (1979).

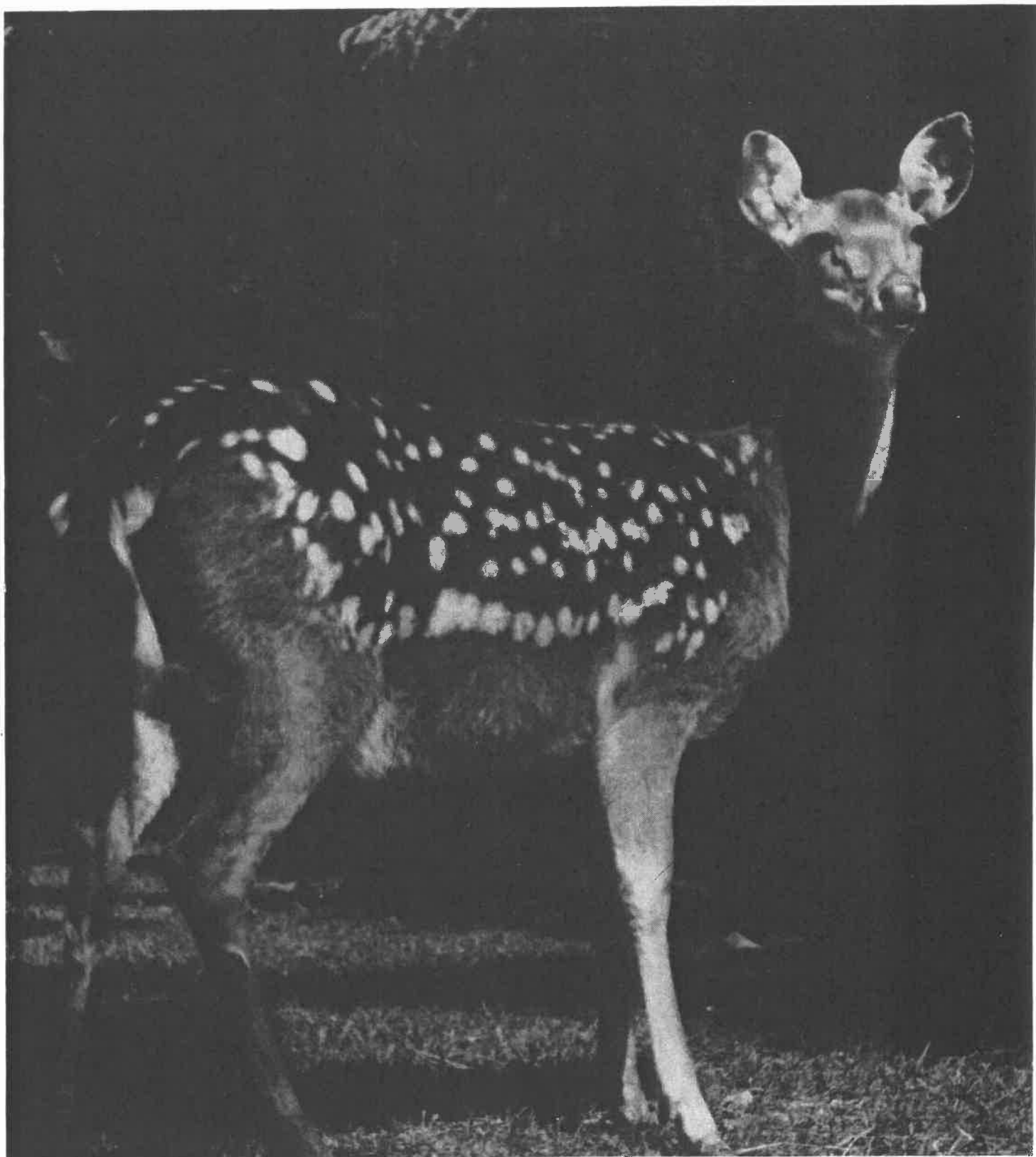


Photo by M. Hamilton, 5Z

Predator

The predator listens for the slightest of noises.
There is nothing but desolate, empty nothingness.
Then a crisp sharp cry from a curlew up above.
But now a branch cracks, the slight noise of a deer's hoof.

The predator looks and sees a desolate empty nothingness.
His head turns as he looks about himself warily.
He sees the curlew, its wings swiftly flap.
And then he spies the deer hidden in the trees.

He gets down from his feet and lies on his stomach,
The dew on the ground saturating his clothes.
This does not matter to him.
The butt of his powerful rifle is brought up to his shoulder.

The sights are lined up and the trigger pulled.
A direct hit between the eyes.
A sinister sense of satisfaction overcomes him.
He runs forward to claim his prize.

S. Atkinson, 3X

HOUSE SECTION

Results of Inter-House Competitions

SUMMER TERM 1981

Competition	First	Second
Hockey (7-a-side Girls)	Preston	Ashton
Tennis (Junior)	School	Lytham
Tennis (Senior)	School	Kirkham
Cricket (Junior)	School	Lytham
Cricket (Senior)	Fylde	School
Shooting	School	Lytham
Gymnastics (Girls)	Preston	Fylde
Swimming (Standards)	School	Kirkham
Athletics	School	Lytham
Athletics (Standards)	School	Lytham
Chess	Lytham	Fylde
Work Cup	Lytham	Preston

WINTER TERM 1981

Competition	First	Second
Netball (Girls)	School	Kirkham

SPRING TERM 1982

Competition	First	Second
Rugby (Junior)	Fylde	Preston
Rugby (Senior)	School	Preston
Rugby (Sevens)	School	Fylde
Play Reading	Preston and Lytham	
Music	Lytham	Ashton
Cross Country (Junior)	School	Preston
Cross Country (Girls)	Preston	Ashton
Cross Country (Inter)	School	Kirkham
Cross Country (Senior)	Fylde	School
Hockey (7-a-side Girls)	Preston	Ashton
Shooting	Kirkham	Lytham
Swimming	School	Kirkham
Debating	Ashton	School

T. Jackman

House gave us yet another close run for our money. The result was a good advertisement for the grouping tactic adopted by the team. Richardson, Chrispin, Barton and Stewart occupied places three to six respectively. Leeson came home sixteenth, and Ainley clinched it in 27th place. A tremendous effort, well done!

Barnes came home in second place for the intermediate team which finished fourth. The girls finished in third position, but this was one of their best results of the year. They have not achieved as much success as I had hoped for, but I am sure that all that feminine talent will not go untapped again.

Away from the games fields, the annual play-reading competition brought out a fine performance of "A Field of Fashion" given by Julie Budd, Fiona Dickson, Stephen Littleton and Gary Bretherick. The adjudicator awarded first place to Preston and Lytham Houses jointly, but I feel that Bretherick's hat was desperately unlucky not to win an Oscar.

On the music scene, the House finished third in the Music competition. Stephen Collins played Haydn's "Trumpet Concerto", the choir warbled the compulsory song, and a jazz trio of Ross Jobson, Brian Watson and Stephen Collins improvised well. We finished in a very creditable third place.

Under the guidance of James Curtis, our chess team finished second; currently we are in a position to take the title, so come on, any budding Karpovs or Fischers, your House needs you!

Finally, I must thank my Vice-Captain Brian Watson and the other sixth-formers who helped to organise teams, practices and fixtures, especially Fiona Dickson, Julie Budd, Nick Barton, Colin Stewart and James Curtis. Most of all, my personal thanks to Dr. Summers, without whom the House would not function.

S. J. Chrispin (Pre.)

Fylde House

House Master: Dr. B. M. Summers
House Captain: S. J. Chrispin
House Vice-Captain: B. J. Watson

This year has been one of mixed fortunes for Fylde House. We have had our zeniths of achievement, whilst at other times I have been disappointed by performances which have not done credit to the House.

One of the aforementioned high spots came last summer when our noble senior cricketers won an exciting Final against School House. We experienced one close finish against Preston when there was a little controversy. After consultation of the rule-book, however, we were awarded the game. In the semi-final Fylde thoroughly destroyed Lytham, thanks to a fighting knock of 78 by Ian "W. G." Collinge. School House were similarly disposed of in the Final.

The outstanding team effort from the Juniors came in the rugby competition. They swept aside all challengers, eventually overcoming Preston House 52-0 in the Final. Robson, Tracey, Goddard, Captain Musson and "hard-man" Wilkinson played well in this convincing win, as they did in the semi-final against School House, a match which we won 42-0.

The senior cross-country team were favourites to win this competition, which we duly did, but not before School

Kirkham House

House Master: Mr. A. R. Baines
House Captain: A. H. Bridge
House Vice-Captain: B. G. Dunstan

Kirkham House has had a mixed year so far with many outstanding performances, but a distinct lack of trophies to show for them. This began way back in October when our fine junior rugby side played some tremendous, open rugby in defeating Lytham 48-4, only to lose heavily to a much larger side in the second round in the shape of Preston House. Fenton, Hurton and Turner all made great contributions to this team.

In the senior rugby, we won through easily to the second round, only to come up against our age-old rivals, School House. The ensuing match was tense and exciting with very creditable performances from the whole side, particularly the fourth year contingent, of whom Lowcock was outstanding. Eventually we lost 22-8 because of a ten-minute lapse in concentration.

The chess has also seen strong supporting play from the the juniors, who backed up the senior side against Fylde House to earn a draw.

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In the debating competition, some skilful speaking backed up by Hurton from the floor, helped the team to beat Preston House. In the second round, we were drawn against the intellectuals from Ashton House. Unfortunately we lost, faced with the much harder side of the topical debate on Northern Ireland.

Once again, the girls of Kirkham House won through to the final of the netball competition, dismissing Ashton easily, but then having a much closer match against Fylde. In the final, we lost 6-3 to a strong School House side, but the team was a credit to the House. Excellent performances from the two first-years Gail Hull and Micaela Parkinson bode well for the future.

In the play-reading, a professional performance by the whole cast created great amusement for the all-too-small audience. A tremendous afternoon's entertainment culminated in the trophy being shared by the two more serious plays, although Kirkham's "patent potted pantomine, Cinderella all in rhyme", proved to be very popular.

The music competition saw Kirkham finish sixth, although this does not reflect the effort made. The choir gave the best performance, finishing second in their section.

Well-hidden talent came to light in the shooting, which we won, with only one competitor failing to attain the marksmanship standard.

The swimming was once again fought between ourselves and School House. Their stronger girls' section finally made the difference, although we were noticeably stronger in the senior events.

So far, we have won only one cup, but have finished second on countless other occasions. It is hoped that with extra effort we will be able to move up that one important position. However, many thanks to all competitors, organisers and staff members for their enthusiastic approach.

A. H. Bridge (Pre.)

Lytham House

House Master: Mr. B. F. Taylor
House Captain: G. R. Eastham

This year has been one of mixed fortunes for Lytham House, winning a number of events early on and yet failing dismally in others.

Last summer term saw the senior tennis team lose in the first round to Kirkham House and the junior team lose in the final to School House; the junior cricket team were beaten in the first round by Preston and the seniors defeated by Fylde House in the semi-final, despite S. Reardon's splendid "knock". In the shooting cup we were squeezed into second place by a margin of two points by School House.

What would otherwise have been a disastrous term was saved by R. Bigland who excelled on Sports Day to win the senior championship, and by our chess team who, with excellent performances from all the seniors and S. Sharpe of the juniors, brought the Chess Cup to Lytham House.

As as a result of the abysmal weather very few events were completed during the winter term. In the Rugby both our junior and senior sides fell in the first round despite S. Reardon's ebullience in the senior event. In the only other event of this term, the debating, M. Dale and I, proposing the motion, "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die", defeated Fylde House in the first round but were ourselves defeated by School House in the semi-final,

unsuccessfully proposing the motion, "This House believes Christianity is outmoded".

Our thus-far uninspired run was terminated in the Spring Term when we became joint winners of the Play Reading. The performance was an excerpt from "Under Milk Wood" by Dylan Thomas and gained particular credit not only for its originality but also for our use of a large cast from all the years of the House. I would like to thank B. Dewhurst for her splendid organisation of the cast and choice of play.

Two weeks later Lytham House found itself the easy victors in yet another cup, the music competition. The House choir, chosen from the first three years gained the top mark for the choirs and our third item, involving R. Boyes on violin, J. Hardiker on cello, J. Webster on spinet and J. Spicer on cello received the highest overall mark. It was subsequently chosen to be performed in the Easter Concert. Special thanks must go to R. Boyes and J. Hardiker for producing what proved to be a first-rate performance by Lytham House.

The swimming competition, never our forte, was predictably disastrous for Lytham House. We were equally unsuccessful in the cross-country with the senior team, the highest placed of our teams, in third position. There was, however, an exceptional individual performance by M. Yates of the first year who came fourth in the junior cross-country, beaten only by third years.

I must complete this report by acknowledging the industrious efforts of those sixth formers who have organised the various events over the last year. Lytham House is now preparing with its customary enthusiasm for the exertions of the forthcoming term.

G. R. Eastham (Pre.)

School House

House Master: Rev. R. M. Clarkson
House Captain: C. D. Grime
House Vice-Captain: G. W. McIlraith

The Summer Term, 1981, will be remembered as one of School House's best ever. This romp of successes was started in the two tennis competitions. A very strong senior team consisting of six members from the School 1st and 2nd Teams recorded an impressive victory over Fylde House of six sets to three in the final. This was then followed by our junior team who beat Lytham House by five sets to four in their final.

There was a similar situation in the Junior House cricket final, where the team beat Lytham scoring 104 for 5 in their innings with an impressive knock of 48 from David Taaffe. An excellent fielding effort then routed the Lytham batsmen for 18 runs. The House's winning sequence was unfortunately broken in the senior cricket. An eleven of high team-spirit managed to battle its way through to the final when it met the big hitters of Fylde House. The team's batting ability left much to be desired, although D. K. Brook scored 28. A useful team performance in the field did not manage to stop Fylde reaching their target within the twenty overs.

Another impressive team performance came in the prestige event of the Summer Term, the Inter-House Athletics. A special mention must go to Mark Livesey who won the Junior "victor ludorum". Other wins for the House came in the Swimming Standards, Athletics Standards and the Girls' Netball.



Autumn

Autumn is here –
The in-between time.
No longer summer,
Not yet winter,
Time of transition and change.

Look back on long, lazy, hazy, days of summer.
Look forward to cosy, warm evenings in winter.
Days drop from the calendar like the leaves from the trees.
Mornings are darker.
Nights draw in.
Conkers, bonfire smoke, animals hibernating:
These are signs of autumn.

Trees stand lonely.
Branches become bare.
Only single, crinkled leaves here and there.
The rest have fallen like bewildered butterflies.
They form a colourful carpet under-foot.
Russet, red, orange, brown, gold:
These are the colours of autumn.

A cold, soft sunlight teases the world.
Inside, it's warm behind glass windows.
Outside, there's a frosty feel to the air.
Coal fires are lit, central heating systems turned on.
Winter is around a lonely corner.

K. S. Turner, 3Z

Photo by M. Hamilton, 5Z

At the beginning of this academic year the House was keen to see if it could repeat its success of the summer. There was not long to wait before the House added to its trophies. This success came in the Senior Rugby where the House team reached the final by defeating Kirkham by 25 points to their 7. The side then faced Preston House in the final, scoring eight tries to produce a final score of 37 points to 4. All credit must go to both teams in what was a match played in fine spirit, under very difficult weather conditions.

A very young Junior rugby side was defeated in the first round of their competition by a strong Fylde House team, but it was a creditable performance, particularly from Anthony Bagshaw.

The House's play-reading team were determined to redeem themselves after the disaster of "Kes" in the previous year's competition. The group's production of "Unhand Me, Squire" was very well received, but did not manage to secure the trophy for the House in what was a contest of a very high standard. There was a particularly encouraging performance for the future from Justine Mackey, one of the junior girls in the production.

Other competitions this term included the House Music, from which the House Choir was chosen to perform "I'd like to teach the world to sing" in the Easter Concert. An excellent team performance in the House Swimming guaranteed the House first position by a landslide of 25 points. This included a record-breaking swim by Nicholas Hamer in the individual medley.

The Senior cross-country team managed to get all six of its scoring runners in the top twenty, only to come second overall, behind Fylde. Excellent individual performances came from Sean Hickey and Ian Duckworth (first and second respectively). The Intermediate Team went one better, winning their competition with good performances from Adrian Hickey, Darren Brook, Paul Farrer, Andrew Richmond and Glyn Bowen.

Hopes for the future lie in the Debating Cup, where the House's combination of Chris Grime and Ian Porter has reached the final of the competition after defeating Lytham House. A last-minute result has just come in (the Rugby sevens competition) from which the House emerged victorious from a hard-fought final against Fylde with a final score of 8 points to 6, after defeating Kirkham 32-0 and Ashton 18-7.

Thanks must go to all the members of staff who give up their time to do School House duties, particularly those who come in at weekends. I extend my gratitude to the other House Prefects, as well as giving special thanks to Mr. Clarkson, for keeping the House running smoothly after the initial upheavals of the introduction of girls into the boarding house.

C. D. Grime (Pre.)

Preston House

House Master: Mr. T. Jackman

House Captain: R. I. Haynes

Ten of our Senior boys have departed since last year's report and Mrs. Francony left to give birth to a baby. Happily, the Sixth Form leavers were not irreplaceable and we were pleased to receive Mrs. Gault into the House in Mrs. Francony's stead.

In the Summer Term of 1981, Preston's endeavours were not conspicuously successful. The Junior cricket team fell to Lytham and the Seniors went out of the competition after an eleven-over farce. However, although we achieved only third place at Sports Day, all was redeemed by the girls' victory in the gymnastics competition, in which Ashley Fallon was outstanding.

During the Winter Term a "small but skilful" Preston Junior Rugby XV outclassed their less cultured opponents, Kirkham (Whitworth, the captain, master-minding this success), but succumbed to a physically superior Fylde side in the final. Similarly, the emphasis was on thoughtful, stylish rugby as the Seniors cruised to the final with wins over Fylde and Lytham. Richard Turner, Andrew Pearson, Tony Ross and Chris Robinson gave particularly splendid performances in these matches but with two key players missing. Preston did well to hold School to a score of 37 points to 4 in the final. In the Senior 7's with the sorely felt absence of an important "link in the chain" once again, only Turner had the fitness to sustain "good 7's" and we failed to reach the final of the tournament.

The House play-reading competition was described as the best for many years and we may consider ourselves fortunate to have been awarded first-equal place with Lytham. Preston's representatives, amongst whom Angus Scott was outstanding, were directed with great sensitivity by Nick Bernie and read competently, but no more so than their opponents. However, the judging of such a competition is necessarily subjective and their rendition just happened to appeal to Madam Adjudicator. Our thespians were, indeed, honoured to receive her approbation.

Success was less easily won in the music competition in which Preston's players finished fourth (despite the urbanity of link-man, Chris Robinson) and although Simon Dewsnup prepared his case conscientiously for the inter-house debate on the subject of Cruise Missiles he went perhaps over the heads of his audience in putting this case. Mr. Watson, adjudicating, was therefore, we felt, justified in giving our adversaries, Kirkham, the decision.

Traditionally, Preston House is not blessed with many great athletes and this year is no exception. However, Craig Pinnell, our cross-country organiser, managed to mould very respectable teams from severely limited resources. The Junior boys came second, with Lee, although only a second former, achieving fifth position; the junior girls "went one better" (as they say), coming first, led by Joy Bucklow. Even the intermediate boys did rather better than is normally expected of Preston's adolescents; they came third but events moved back inside the planes of reality when the Seniors were faced with the five-or-so miles of their course. Craig Pinnell put in a fair time, though not at his best, but the team finished fourth overall.

The girls' netball team, captained by Vanora Rankine, met with limited success in their competition but the Hockey XI, coached superbly by Angus Scott, Giles Hewitt and Roger Lewis, conceded not one goal in winning theirs. Garner, Lee, Moss and Connell all surpassed themselves.

Not for some time has a Preston House swimming team given such a splendid performance as that witnessed at the Annual Gala. We came third with 96 points. The Juniors swam magnificently, without exception, as did Chris Collett and the extraordinarily versatile Chris Robinson and, unusually, we were able to provide a swimmer for nearly every event. However, we managed only fourth position in the House Shooting. Simon Fielding was our most consistent marksman and Chris Robinson again did his utmost for the House.

I should, in conclusion, thank all those who have participated in House activities this year, and must acknowledge the debt owed to my comrades in the Sixth Form who have organised these activities with authority, patience and enthusiasm.

R. I. Haynes (Pre.)

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Ashton House

House Master: Mr. G. S. Cheesbrough
House Captain: B. MacFarlane

The end of the last academic year saw the departure of Mr. D. J. A. Fathers. On behalf of the House I would like to wish him well in the future. I would also like to welcome Mrs. S. Gill and Mr. A. R. Long and I hope that their association with Ashton House will be a lasting and happy one.

The Summer Term of 1981 saw defeat in the House cricket at both junior and senior levels. The senior team was decisively defeated in the first round by a strong School House side. The junior team played well but were narrowly defeated by Lytham House. However, we redeemed our good name in the debating competition by defeating Fylde in the final.

Our team of Adrian Gregson and Timothy Stokes successfully opposed the motion to bring Ashton its only trophy of the term.

The first competition of the Winter Term 1981 was the senior rugby. A combination of illness and injury prevented Ashton from fielding a full side, and hence we lost by default to Kirkham House. Our junior rugby side, coached by Andrew Seabury, played enthusiastically and bravely against an undoubtedly superior School House side, and did well to achieve an honourable defeat.

In the first round of the debating competition the Ashton team of Bruce MacFarlane and Timothy Stokes successfully opposed the motion that "Britain should leave Ireland to the Irish" against Kirkham House.

The Spring Term 1982 saw the play-reading competition, postponed from the previous term. Ashton's small-scale production of "Gladly Otherwise" by N. F. Simpson received favourable comments from Mrs. Boll, and our budding thespians, especially Deborah Clarkson of the Fourth Year, showed great promise for the future; nevertheless, we still failed to pick up our first trophy of the year.

The senior cross-country competition did not bring any comfort, with Ashton obtaining a disappointing sixth position despite a fine solo run by Ian Glenholme, and good packing by the rest of the team.

We did, however, fare much better in the House shooting competition. The team, which included two members of the school shooting team, brought the House a creditable third position with a total of 322 out of 540.

Another encouraging performance came in the music competition. Our three items all scored well, particularly Andrew Wright's piano solo. But a total score of 86 points out of 100 only brought second place, behind Lytham.

With the chess team now placed in a strong position at the half-way stage of this competition, and with the final of the debating still to come the House has high hopes of a trophy this term.

The academic standard of the House is as high as ever, and our congratulations must go to the Stokes twins who both obtained places at Oxford.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the masters and house prefects – seven out of eight of whom are School Prefects – and especially Mr. Cheesbrough, for their help in running and organising our entries in this year's competitions.

B. MacFarlane (Pre.)

CROOK'S TOUR – No. 3



Suburban train at Izmir, Turkey (1980).

K.G.S. SPORTS

1st XI Cricket Report

Although the 1st XI played with much spirit last season, the performances were disappointing. The side achieved victories over Barrow, Kirkbie-Kendal and Baines School but lost four matches and played out a draw in six matches.

The side was ably led by Rodger Whipp who batted and bowled consistently well and ended the season as top run-scorer and wicket-taker. He scored 65 n.o. against K.E.S., 47 against Old Boys and 44 against Baines and Barrow. With his medium pace he frequently troubled batsmen and his 6 for 26 against Batley was the highest of the season.

Other fine individual performances were S. J. Chrispin's 100 against Baines, I. Sharples' 80 n.o. against Barrow, A. Seabury's 47 against Ratcliffe College and D. Armstrong's 4 for 36 against Barrow.

The side fielded well all season and played with much enthusiasm; however on one or two occasions a lack of concentration meant that victory was allowed to slip from our grasp. Nevertheless there were some pleasing individual performances from new members of the side and there is hope for a successful season this year.

Colours and caps were awarded to R. D. Whipp, S. J. Chrispin and I. Sharples.

Half colours were awarded to J. Milburn, A. Seabury, D. Armstrong, D. Brook and I. Haynes.

S. J. Turner

1st XI Averages - 1981

Batting

	Total	Inns.	H.S.	N.O.	Average
Whipp R. D.	370	14	65	1	28.4
Milburn, J.	113	11	39	4	10.1
Sharples, I.	166	14	80	2	13.8
Chrispin, S. J.	160	13	100	0	12.3
Seabury, A.	116	13	47	2	10.5
Haynes, R. I.	61	10	25	4	10.1
Brooks, A.	80	11	27	2	8.8

Bowling

	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.	Average
Seabury, A.	32	9	94	8	11.4
Chrispin, S. J.	112.3	26	229	20	11.9
Whipp, R. D.	171.4	54	422	33	12.7
Armstrong, D. A.	34.2	7	99	6	16.5
Haynes, R. I.	123.3	30	329	12	27.4

U15 XI Cricket

This was another season in which the inclement weather restricted the number of fixtures. Of the four matches that were played, defeats were suffered at the hands of Hutton, King Edward VII, Lytham and Baines. In sharp contrast to these results, the last match saw a decisive "revenge" win at Baines, with Carruthers scoring an unbeaten 51 with some vigorous hitting.

There were seven players who gained automatic selection for the team as they had shown signs of talent and technique in the nets. It was unfortunate that these more able cricketers did not always reveal their talent in matches. Knowles always looked capable of scoring many runs but lapses in concentration prevented him doing justice to his ability. Nixon topped the bowling averages as a useful swing bowler, whilst Rae's left-arm spin added variety to the attack. Jobson was a useful all-rounder but his performance in matches lacked consistency, a fault which also affected Aspinall's bowling. Bowen was a confident captain and contributed a good all-round performance,

featuring prominently in both the batting and bowling averages.

There were plenty of enthusiastic cricketers who regularly attended net practices but unfortunately it was not possible to include them all in the team, though occasional changes were made to give some an opportunity to play.

A. P. West

U14 XI Cricket

A most disappointing season, in which we only won one and drew one of eight matches. The low point of the season was being hit for 162 for 0 by Lancaster R.G.S. and then being dismissed for 23.

There was potential in the side but only rarely was this realised. Rawcliffe, Hull and D. Taaffe batted well on occasion and Boyd and Hull turned in some adequate bowling performances, but overall the whole side lacked concentration and application when batting, and all too frequently the bowlers could find neither line nor length. We can only hope for better things in the future.

B. F. Taylor

Athletics Report 1981

Seniors

After a poor start to the season, during which time we lost to Rossall and Arnold, the team improved to such an extent that the Senior School Championship was won. The last time K.G.S. was placed first in the Senior section was in 1978. The dramatic improvement came about because of several reasons. Firstly, Stephen Chrispin, who had played cricket during the first two months, competed in the Championships, thus greatly strengthening the team. Secondly, Raymond Ingleby emerged as a fine 400-metre runner on Sports Day. Thirdly, Sean Hickey and Christopher McCreadie, who had competed for the Under 17s previously, ran for the Senior team.

The first sign that the team was developing came at the Blackpool and District Championships, which we entered for the first time, when we were placed third. Stephen Chrispin and Richard Bigland were placed first and second in the 100 and 200 metres, their positions being reversed in each race.

At the Senior Schools Championships the winners were: Stephen Chrispin (100 metres), Richard Bigland (200 metres), Raymond Ingleby (400 metres), Sean Hickey (800 metres), Christopher McCreadie (110 metres Hurdles) and the 4 x 100 metres relay team of Raymond Ingleby, Trevor Allan, Richard Bigland and Stephen Chrispin. All the individual winners were awarded colours as is the tradition for winners at the Senior Schools Meeting. The Under 16s won their age group also, thus we completed the double, a feat which had not been achieved previously.

At the Lancashire Championships, Alex Marshall was fourth in the 400 metres, Stephen Chrispin and Christopher Grime were placed third in the 100 metres and long-jump respectively; Richard Bigland and Raymond Ingleby were placed second in the 200 metres and 400 metres hurdles respectively, the latter being an exceptional performance for someone who had not been a 400-metre runner until this year and had never run a competitive 400-metre hurdles prior to the Lancashire Championships. Our Relay team of Ingleby, Marshall, Bigland and Chrispin, who represented Fylde against other area teams, were placed second, a very fine performance.

Under-17

After beating Arnold in the first match of the season the match against Rossall was lost, as some of the best athletes were promoted to the Senior team. This defeat was the first for three years for this team.

At the Blackpool and District Championships we were placed second, despite having five individual winners, in Sean Hickey in the 800 metres and 1500 metres, Trevor Allan in the 200 metres, Christopher McCreadie in the 100-metre hurdles and Andrew Pearson in the discus. Allan's performance was exceptional as he was ill at the time and showed determination in competing, let alone winning.

At the Lancashire Championships, Gary McIlraith was fifth in the 400 metres, Robert Gibson third in the 200 metres and Andrew Pearson second in the discus, thus confirming his development this season as a fine field-events athlete. Christopher McCreadie beat last year's champion to win the 100-metre hurdles and Sean Hickey won the 800 metres and was selected for the Lancashire team to compete in the English Schools Championships. Both are to be congratulated on fine performances.

Under-15

This team had a mixed season partly because effort was not always made as readily as that of the other teams. St. Mary's and Arnold were beaten, but we were beaten by the very strong Blackpool C.H.S. in school matches, while being placed third in the Blackpool and District Championships and fourth in the Senior Schools Championships, when we could have won if luck had been on our side.

At the Blackpool and District Championships, David Barnes was first in the discus, Roger Cook first in the shot and Graham Ingham first in the high jump. Barnes and Ingham were placed first in the Senior Schools Meeting also. Cook was fifth in the shot at the Lancashire Championships and Barnes third.

Other athletes who performed particularly well were Mark Herrington in the discus and shot, Stephen Swift in the triple jump, Paul Reid in the hurdles and David Barnes who showed his versatility by running well at middle-distance events.



Under-16

The development of this team continued, as it won its four school matches versus St. Mary's H.S., Blackpool C.H.S., Arnold and Lancaster R.G.S., and also the U16 section of the Senior Schools Championships U16s, despite the injuries to Turner, who hurdled for Lancashire last season. Andrew Rhodes was first in the high and triple jumps, Kevin Stewart in the shot, Adrian Hickey in the discus and Eric Waite, Andrew Rhodes, Alan Fotheringham and Lee Knowles in the 4 X 100 metres relay.

Obviously all the team performed well in an unbeaten season but mention must be made of the efforts of Adrian Hickey, Kevin Stewart, who is often overshadowed by Hickey but who is a fine field-events athlete, Andrew Rhodes in the jumps and Lee Knowles and John Bennett who have developed greatly from an ordinary and non-existent runner respectively into most promising sprinters.

Under-14

The development of this team was most pleasing last season. Arnold and Blackpool were beaten in school matches, but we lost to St. Mary's H.S. At the Blackpool and District Championships we were third and at the Senior Schools Championships second, a competition we could have won if athletes had been on form as much as the previous day.

At the Blackpool and District Championships Ian Whyham was placed first in the shot, Mark Sewart first in the high jump while Shaun Wilson, a first year, was second in the 100 metres and 200 metres. At the Senior Schools Championships, Shaun Wilson was first in the 100 metres and Craig Seed first in the long jump. Other athletes who performed well were David Whitworth (in many events), Derek Hurton and Mark Livesey, while Mark Craven showed great promise as a discus thrower.

Under-13

The team started well and but for a disaster at Lancaster in the relay and in the 200 metres they should have been unbeaten. Blackpool C.H.S., St. Mary's H.S., Arnold, Lord Lawson Newcastle and Carnforth H.S. were beaten in school matches while Lancaster R.G.S. and Morecambe H.S. beat us in the above-mentioned match.

Shaun Wilson has been an exceptionally fast sprinter this year while Michael Bailey was faster than any other sprinter in the area apart from Wilson. David Lee performed well both in track and field events while many others including Richard Stevenson, Nicholas Hamer, Simon Heath, Christopher Dodenhoff and Julian Wilkinson show promise for the future.

B. Gornall

Tennis

	P	W	L	D
1st Team	16	10	6	0
2nd Team	4	3	1	0
U15 Team	4	2	1	1

The 1981 season was quite successful for two main reasons. The first was that we actually won more matches than we lost and secondly we managed to field the same team on the majority of occasions.

The first team, which consisted of G. Eastham, I. Pearson, S. Reardon, M. Pearson, A. Bridge, I. Collinge and R. Hargreaves, played well and with good spirits in victory or defeat. However, I feel that as a team we failed to reach a peak. The third pair pulled off many amazing victories over opposing first pairs. S. Reardon played extremely well on many occasions and he tells us that with his new racket he will play even better this season! A. Bridge with his dynamic serve will prove invaluable this year.

Once again the second team had a good season with many players showing promise, particularly I. Duckworth.

Finally, on behalf of the players in all teams, I would like to thank Dr. Summers for all his help in the organisation of the fixtures.

Re-award of Half Colours: M. Pearson, G. Eastham, I. Pearson.

New Award of Half Colours: S. Reardon, A. Bridge.

I. Pearson, U6

Harriers Report

Coach: Dr. A. C. Hall
Captain: S. Hickey
Secretary: C. Pinnell

This season has been the most successful for many years, with the most important result being the team's victory in the Fylde Coast Schools Cross-Country Championships at St. Mary's School in January.

The team this season retained Hickey, Pinnell, Gillibrand and Pearson from last season, and new recruits were Richardson, Stewart, Barton, Eastham, Boyes and Milburn.

The season started well with the team showing plenty of optimism, and soon the results started to come, decimating Arnold (away) 28-57 and following this with a 26-55 rout of St. Mary's (away) where we had our six scorers in the first seven places. Then the team hit trouble with Hickey, Richardson and Pearson all picking up injuries and the results started to go against us. However the rest of the team performed well in defeating Bury Grammar School and narrowly losing to Blackpool Collegiate High School.

After the Christmas break the team, now getting back to full strength, started to pick up again and in late January we were "runaway" victors in the Fylde Coast Schools Cross-Country Championships, beating many of the top teams in the Fylde. The team, which performed well in heavy conditions, was Hickey (3rd), Richardson (5th), Eastham (8th), Pinnell (10th), Pearson (11th), Stewart (12th) and Boyes (16th). After this victory, success went to our heads and the team started to perform badly. In the Lancashire Senior Schools Championships, held on our home course, we finished a disappointing 5th, and following that an even more disappointing 13th in the Dennison Cup at Rossall.

The team looks certain to continue its success next year with many of the present team being eligible to run, and some very useful intermediates coming to join the team, notably Cross, who shows much promise for the future. Special mention must be made of Paul Richardson who improved with every performance and became one of the outstanding performers of the team.

Finally, special thanks to Dr. A. C. Hall who coached the team to its success, managing to get the team training in temperatures barely above freezing; this did however have a side-effect on Dr. Hall because it meant he also had to come out training with the Harriers. With his coaching skill, success looks certain for the future, and I'm sure it will come.

C. G. Pinnell, U6

Swimming Report

This has been another very successful year for swimming at K.G.S. The early-morning training sessions have continued throughout the year and have played a major part in that success. The year began in May 1981 with the Senior Schools Swimming Gala at Fleetwood in which we entered five teams. The intermediate boys were overall joint winners, the intermediate girls were placed third and the junior boys and girls, all swimming in an age group above, performed well. Fine individual performances came from Barnes in the freestyle and butterfly, and S. Goldthorp in the freestyle and individual medley who both set new records, as did the intermediate boys relay team of Barnes, Swift, Collett and Kirkham.

Later in the Summer Term, Barnes and S. Goldthorp were placed 3rd and 4th respectively in the 100 m freestyle in the Lancashire Championships, both swimming in an age group above. The intermediate relay team was placed 5th in the final which was an exceptional result for a school swimming against district teams. The same relay team, with I. Davies, was later placed 2nd in both the medley and squadron in the English Schools Team Championships.

It has been rather difficult this year to acquire many swimming fixtures, because of pressure on pool facilities, but we have had three matches. We convincingly beat Fulwood H.S., and De La Salle, but lost narrowly to Lancaster R.G.S. The U13's and U15's are both still unbeaten.

This year's Inter-House Swimming Gala was again won by School House with many fine performances from their team, especially the girls who were outstanding. The overall standard of the gala has risen dramatically and new records were set this year by Barnes, Hamer, Kirkham and the intermediate boys relay team from School and Kirkham House. We now look forward to a very busy Summer Term ahead.

P. Smith

Girls' Athletics '81

In athletics the U14 team had two matches, losing one to Arnold School and coming second in their triangular match at Carr Hill.

Karen Moss and Julie Billsborough were the most consistent performers, with Julie later going on to qualify for the Blackpool and District Sports at the long jump, and coming second in the final with a jump of 4.42 m.

The U13 team had two matches, coming second in their triangular at Carr Hill and winning a close match against Arnold School.

Good performances were produced in particular by Laura Sylvester in the high-jump, Elizabeth Green in the long-jump and Sharyn Rhodes in the 200 metres.

N. A. Black

Girls' Hockey

The hockey matches were severely affected by adverse weather conditions, which caused a large number of matches to be cancelled. I do however have it on the highest authority, that next year the hockey pitch is being transformed into an outdoor swimming pool, and water polo will replace hockey as the major winter game!

The Junior hockey team have slid through 7 matches, winning 1, drawing 2 and losing 4.

This is a very commendable performance in their first season since our Junior team consists of 1st, 2nd and 3rd years combined, and our matches are played against teams comprising third years only.

N.A.B.

Hockey

P	W	D	L	F	A
12	5	2	5	34	23

This season has been one of mixed fortunes. The 5-2 defeat by Darwen - our first by F.W.S.'s old school - was equally compensated for by our first victory over Hipperholme, by 6-2.

The team has improved considerably this season as is shown by the three final massacres of 6-2, 5-0 and 5-0. The defence has generally played well; it has however often failed to get out of trouble by attempting to dribble the ball away, and the attack has squandered many chances by persistently trying to dribble the ball into the goal.

The goal scorers this year have been I. Duckworth (9), R. Lewis (9), A. Scott (6), G. Hewitt (3), J. Porter (3), A. Traviss (2), P. Smith (1), A. Dale (1).

I would like to wish the team every success next year - which it should achieve as few of its present members will be leaving.

Finally I would like to thank N. Calam, Vice-Captain, for his support and Mr. Sayer for his continual enthusiasm - and Mr. Smith for his inspiring comments from the touchline.

P. W. Smith, U6

Netball 1981-82

This year the bad weather has severely affected the netball programme and a number of matches have had to be cancelled.

The U14 team have unfortunately had rather a bad season, winning only 1 of their 9 matches. The team as a whole needs to display much more conviction and dedication to the game, but I feel that if they can do this they will improve. One of their major handicaps is that they have never played a match without one or two team members being absent.

The U13 team began the season rather badly, losing their first five games. They have, however, worked from then with determination winning 4 and drawing 2 of their 9 remaining matches.

The U12 team have had an excellent season, winning 12 of their 13 matches. They have displayed the team work and determination which, because we are a small number, we must attain at all times. They have made a 100% effort in all of their matches and, even when losing, they have never stopped trying.

N.A.B.

Rounders '81

In rounders last "summer" we had two opponents: the weather and the other team, with the weather winning six of the matches.

The U14 team played 4 matches, winning 2 and losing 2, and the U13 team won 1, drew 2, and lost 1 of their 4 matches.

Both teams showed a progressive improvement and it was unfortunate that so many matches had to be cancelled.

N.A.B.



Rugby Reports

1st XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
21	6	2	13	181	246

The season overall was disappointing, as the record suggests. After the season 1980-81 when considerable improvement of an inexperienced side was seen it was hoped that the experience gained would prove invaluable and this season would be successful. However, when the players returned from pre-season training some faces were missing. R. Bigland had "gone west" to find fame and fortune on the Fylde Coast, G. Parkin's back trouble necessitated a major operation and nine of the highly successful Under-16 team left school. Thus the carefully laid tactical plans were blown apart and the team strategy had to be revised.

The forwards selected had generally little 1st XV experience and were small compared with most opposition packs. This fact could be used as a partial argument by those looking for a ready excuse for lack of possession but this theory was exploded when it was found that three of the most competitive packs encountered were those of Hutton G.S., Lancaster R.G.S. and King's School, Macclesfield, who were no bigger than our own. These games proved the point that determination and technique can often compensate for lack of size.

After a very poor start to the season, when an in-form Cowley was encountered by an inexperienced side bedevilled by injuries, a rout ensued. This led to a crisis of confidence and local "derbies" against Hutton G.S., K.E. VII Lytham and matches against the powerful Wirral G.S., and Marple Hall were lost because the team did not believe in itself. All of these matches were in the balance for most of the game but the side seemed to be waiting for incidents to occur instead of having the conviction to attack and win the game themselves. It is three seasons since we last beat Cowley but the impression given was that the team did not believe it had ever beaten or could ever beat them. This lack of conviction and determination was evident throughout the season.

On occasions the team performed very well as in the Lancaster, Stonyhurst and King's School, Macclesfield matches (against three of our hardest opponents) showing the team had talent. On others, like the Cowley and Arnold games in which a total of 109 points out of a season's total of 246 were scored against us, and in matches against some of our lesser opponents, the side played without the same commitment or application of techniques coached. Eight of the thirteen defeats were by ten points or less and with more application and conviction many could have been won.

Without doubt the most competitive part of the team was the mid-field of the Captain I. Collinge, D. Brook and G. McIlraith, the last playing as if three stone heavier than his bathroom-scale weight. A. Seabury played consistently well at lock, B. Dunstan was a hooker of high calibre while G. Bretherick and A. Pearson improved considerably as the season progressed. J. Bennett and R. Turner both played for Lancashire Under-16 XV and are to be congratulated on this achievement.

As most of this season's pack, with considerable 1st XV experience, intend to return for season 1982-83 it is to be hoped that the promise shown for the future is not another false hope and that no unforeseen losses in the playing strength occur. In the second-day matches at the Preston Festival the pack played consistently well, and despite winning only two matches out of six through enforced errors, it was evident that the forwards have the capability to produce good performances consistently next season.

B. Gornall

2nd XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
19	8	0	11	193	246

The side played with much enthusiasm all season but owing to 1st XV demands, it was unsettled and rather inconsistent.

The team was enthusiastically led by S. Reardon, and the pack by J. Longson. A number of young players made good progress this year and played for the first team.

Unfortunately the three-quarters lacked pace and penetration in midfield, and against bigger packs we found possession hard to come by.

The best performances were against Kirkbie-Kendal, Hipperholme and Q.E.G.S.

S. J. Turner



U15 XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
23	9	1	13	354	233

1981-82 proved to be rather a mixed season for the U15's. The overall results do not look at all impressive and at times neither did the rugby. There were, however, occasions when the team proved themselves to be a most skilful unit. We suffered very much early on in the year from lack of fitness, confidence in our own ability and a real understanding of "team play". The fitness was easily remedied, but the understanding and confidence took a lot longer. It wasn't until the second half of the Autumn Term that the team really began to play rugby of a high standard. Victories were gained over Heversham and Marple Hall and a well-earned draw was achieved against St. Edward's. In the Spring Term, the team had fine wins over Kendal G.S., Manchester G.S., Douglas H.S. and St. Mary's. All defeats were in fact very narrow losses, many being by only one point. If we had only played to our true potential in every game, I'm sure that we would never have been beaten.

In March the team entered the Fylde 7's competition and on the day looked the most skilful side there. They were, unfortunately, only runners-up in their group, and so went through to the plate competition which they won easily, beating St. Mary's 32-4 in the semi-final, and Hutton G.S. 56-0 in the final.

As the season has progressed, several players have developed into very fine prospects for the future. Herrington, Cook and McIntyre have all represented North Lancashire, and Ingham and Preston have been outstanding at full-back and stand-off respectively. I hope to see these players pushing for first-team places next year.

P. Smith

U14 XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
20	8	1	11	178	222

Having reported last year that as Under-Thirteens the team had improved throughout the season, it is very pleasing to be able to report that this last season the improvement has continued. Staff of several teams commented after very hard matches how surprised they were at the way the Under-Fourteens had played. The team had very good wins against Blackpool (twice), Lancaster and Heysham, all these teams having beaten them last year. Arguably the best result of the year was the draw at Heversham, who had previously won all their games. Macclesfield, with three newcomers to their side, Cowley and St. Edward's were the only sides whose forwards managed to get on top of the pack. It was in this area that very good performances against Stonyhurst, Manchester, Hutton and King Edward's produced very hard matches. The first two resulted in very close defeats while the latter two teams had very good backs and the margin of defeat was wider.

Whitworth appears to be developing into a very good leader and his presence in the centre seemed to give the backs more confidence than last year. Turner's tactical kicking improved throughout and in a number of matches gained the team a lot of ground. Goddard, as the other centre, linked well with Whitworth and while Hurton played regularly on the wing before Christmas, an injury to Harrison meant that he played most of his rugby towards the end of season at scrum-half. Seed at full-back is developing into a very good attacking player, as well as a defensive player, and his intrusion into the line caused trouble to numerous defences. The two wing positions were generally contested by Birtwistle, Ferguson and Musson.

The pack was really a workmanlike unit without any real star player. Welsh, who could develop into a very fine wing-forward if he maintains his interest, and Robinson, covered a lot of ground from wing-forward. Scholefield occupied the Number 8 berth before Christmas, with Craven taking over on the former's injury. Tracey and Whyham, a much improved player this year, formed the powerhouse of the pack, with Atkinson, who hooked well all season, and Robson holding down two of the front-row positions. Barnes played in the majority of the matches in the other position though Noad and Calland both made a few appearances.

My thanks to all who gave up their time to practise and play, and I hope that next season will show as much improvement as the last two have done.

R. J. Browning

U13 XV

P	W	D	L	F	A
19	14	1	4	376	142

A successful season on the whole with notable victories in the Winter Term, especially against Lancaster R.G.S. and St. Edward's College, Liverpool. At times we played positive and aggressive rugby against much bigger opposition. Injuries disrupted the team after Christmas and the results were not as good.

In the backs, Heath and Wilson both played well, the latter being a match winner on numerous occasions. The back row of Bailey, Lee and Green put in a lot of work as did Cookson and McIntyre in the front five. Many of the team played in a joint U13/U14 XV against the Victor Hugo School from Narbonne. In the sevens competition at King Edward VII, Lytham, the U13 won their group but lost narrowly in the semi-finals.

T. J. Bruce

U12 XV

	P	W	D	L	F	A
'A' Team	13	5	1	7	106	198
'B' Team	2	0	1	1	8	22

The U12 XV have enjoyed a successful season spoilt only by a disastrous final week in which they suffered three defeats and a total of 102 points against without reply.

The season began promisingly with a good performance in the Fylde R.F.C. 10-a-side competition, where the team, playing good, open, attacking rugby, won two of their three group matches and would have won the third and qualified for the final but for one sleepy moment in their final group match against Lytham St. Annes High School.

The 15-a-side campaign began with convincing victories over Fulwood High U13 XV and Marple Hall by 18-4 and 28-0 respectively and the side went to Lancaster R.G.S. full of confidence only to go down 0-28 in a match which was closer than the score suggests. The next five games produced three defeats, in close games, at the hands of St. Edward's, Manchester G.S., and King's, Macclesfield and two victories over Heversham G.S. and a 24-0 thrashing of Hutton G.S.

The highlight of the season, however, was the *Tour of London* which took place over the three day period from the 11th to the 14th March. A party of 18 boys and two staff travelled by train from Kirkham to London Euston and stayed at the Holland Park Hostel, Kensington, for what was to be three hectic, crowded but totally enjoyable days of sightseeing and rugby.

The first evening was spent touring the sights of London by street-light in a vain attempt to tire the boys, an effort which served only to excite the boys and exhaust the staff. Consequently day two started early, and the morning was spent visiting the Natural History and Science Museums, hardly the ideal preparation for the afternoon match at Eltham College. On taking the field the boys looked tired and drained but found hidden reserves of energy and produced what can only be described as a gutsy performance to defeat Eltham College 12-10. That evening they *did* sleep!

Saturday provided the biggest test, a match against St. Joseph's Academy, a far bigger and stronger team than ours. The response was fabulous, the team performed superbly, they tackled like tigers and succeeded in frightening the opposition to such an extent that they were looking for the man and not the ball. We spent the last quarter of the match encamped in the opposition 22 being denied victory only by the width of the touchline, the final score being 0-0.

The evening celebrations took the form of an ice-skating extravaganza at the Queen's Club where the triple salcos and double axles flowed freely. The party returned home the following day with staff and boys alike having thoroughly enjoyed their time away.

In contrast to previous years the strength of this U12 XV lies with the backs. At fly-half Kelly is excellent and calls the tune for the rest of the back division who can at times play with flair and imagination. The forwards are competent but small and require a diet of steak-and-kidney pudding, and some "muck in their boots", if they are to develop into a powerful unit.

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