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# THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE)

VOL. XVI, No. 2

JANUARY, 1979

The editors of the *Wycombiensian* sat down to await the usual dribble of drivel to which they are so accustomed. It must be said that they were pleasantly surprised by the quantity of the entries, some of which were even written by people other than the editors themselves! You are probably wondering whether we are going to say anything nasty about the contributions which a handful of you spent so long writing. Well, you're right; we **are** going to. First of all there was the over simple pop-crossword, and the impossible pop-maze from the same industrious contributor. The other offerings ranged from the brilliant to the banal, and from the obvious to the obscene. Those pieces of creative writing which did get in were characterised by pythonesque silliness and cynicism. If you skip the perennial and, dare I say, tedious reports, which dominate the magazine, you will find a rich and slightly risqué concoction of farce, filth and philosophy. However we would like to thank ALL the artists who put pen to paper with such seduity. We hope that, in future, more people will risk running the gauntlet of editorial scorn. Finally we can take pleasure in the knowledge that those who have persevered so dutifully in reading mindless editorials year in, year out, have finally been rewarded.

*CDM*

The editors (in order of self importance):

C. Tite, S. Everson, M. Foster, C. D. McDermott, J. Broadribb, R. Dean, A. Duncan, A. Jones, M. Niekirk, A. Sendall, P. Stincombe, N. Timberlake.

## Editorial

# Examination Results

## ADVANCED LEVEL G.C.E. RESULTS 1978

The successful candidates who took the Oxford G.C.E. Board Examinations were: (Italics denote Grade A. \*denotes distinction on the "S" level paper).

S. D. Everson — *English Literature\**, *History\**, *Music*, Greek; M. Foster — *Greek\**, *Latin\**, Ancient History; C. J. McDermott — Ancient History, *French*, Economics; C. J. Pouncey — French; S. J. Richards — History, Ancient History, Economics; R. J. D. Webster — Geography, Ancient History; C. J. M. Finlayson — English Literature, French, Mathematics; N. B. Maclarens — English Literature, Geography, Art; D. M. Reid — *English Literature*, *French*, *Mathematics*, *General Studies*; R. J. F. Shaw — Mathematics, History, English Literature; G. A. Ward — English Literature, French, Economics; C. P. Brown — Mathematics, German; C. M. Chandler — Economics, Geography, Physics; M. A. Coburn — German, Economics; R. G. Dalton — Economics, Geography, Mathematics; N. A. Forrester — French, Economics, Mathematics; S. H. Hyams — Political Studies, Economics; R. M. Redwood — Economics, Geography, Music; R. A. Reed — English Literature, French, Economics; M. P. Standing — Geography, Economics, History, General Studies; K. M. Titcombe — History; P. M. Amos — English Literature; R. G. Ball — French; A. D. Bradmore — Geography, Economics, Physics; G. M. Da Costa — Geography; P. F. Gosling — English Literature, History, General Studies; C. J. Hoggett — Economics, Geography; E. J. Holland — Economics, Geography; J. R. Keen — Economics, Geography; P. J. Lee — Geography, Art; M. J. Lidgley — Mathematics, Economics, French; M. G. Noblett — Economics, Geography, Mathematics; M. G. Taylor — Art; D. S. Balmer — History; S. J. Brown — *English Literature*, *Economics*, History; R. F. Friend — History, Geography; P. J. Green — Economics, History, German; A. M. Jones — *English Literature*, *Geography*, History; N. D. McNally

— History, Geography; C. C. Tite — English Literature, History, German; M. V. Ward — *French*, History, Economics; M. N. P. White — French, Economics; A. J. Woodger — French, History, Economics; D. C. Ballance — *French*, German, *General Studies*, History\*; J. S. Bird — French, German; D. R. Carless — French, German, History; P. M. Ernest — *French*, *Mathematics*, German; N. Featonby — *Economics*, Mathematics, French; I. R. Gibbons — *French*, *Mathematics*, Economics; G. D. Heels — French, German, Economics; I. M. Holliday — *French*, Economics, Mathematics; G. A. Newell — French, German, Mathematics; P. W. Newman — German, *General Studies*, Economics, French; D. A. Poskett — Mathematics, Economics, French; G. A. Roberts — *French*, Economics, History; M. C. Thornton — French, German, Economics; D. J. Timpson — French, German, History; A. W. E. Cardy — English Literature, History, Economics; W. R. Rhodes — *Physics*, Mathematics; R. W. Stewart — History; W. J. Baker — *Mathematics\**, *Physics*\*, Further Mathematics, Chemistry; R. J. Ball — *Mathematics\**, Physics, Further Mathematics; R. J. Bush — Economics, Mathematics, Physics; A. R. D. Curtis — *Mathematics\**, *Physics*\*, *Further Mathematics*, Chemistry; A. Diack — Economics, Physics, Mathematics; N. L. Dowson — Economics, Physics; S. J. Hayward — Economics, Mathematics, Physics; M. L. Hoyle — Economics, Mathematics, Physics; I. D. Hutton — Economics\*, Mathematics, Physics; M. R. Jolly — *Mathematics\**, *Physics*\*, *Further Mathematics*, Chemistry; C. J. C. Jones — *Physics*\*, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry; S. L. Jones — *Mathematics\**, *Physics*, Chemistry, Further Mathematics; B. E. McNally — Economics, Physics; P. J. Radford — Economics, Mathematics, Physics; N. C. Spoel — *Economics*, *Mathematics*, *Physics*, Chemistry; C. G. Stainton — *Mathematics\**, *Physics*\*, *Further Mathematics*, Chemistry; R. C. Standing — *Physics*\*, *Mathematics*, Chemistry, Further

Mathematics; K. M. Butcher — Geography, Mathematics, Physics; T. M. Dibb — Geography, Physics; T. J. K. Griffiths — *Mathematics, Physics*, Chemistry; R. D. Gurney — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; N. C. Journet — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; R. M. Kelly — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; R. W. Kendall — Economics, Mathematics, Physics; M. C. Law — Economics, Physics; D. F. G. Martin — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; P. J. Maynard — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; N. P. G. Minch — Economics, Mathematics, Physics; D. A. J. Mould — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; I. Page — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; S. M. Poulsom — *Physics*, Mathematics, Chemistry; D. M. Radvan — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; Swinhoe-Standen, C. D. S. — *Physics, Chemistry*, Mathematics, General Studies; M. A. Taylor — Physics, Chemistry; P. E. Trendall — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; S. Yarrow — Physics; J. M. E. Adams — *Physics, Chemistry\**; Mathematics, General Studies; D. N. Anderson — Physics, Chemistry; N. W. A. Austin — *Physics*, Mathematics, Computer Science; S. G. Ball — Computer Science, Physics; R. J. G. Cleaver — Physics; M. C. Collingwood — Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics; D. R. A. Feirn — *Physics*, Chemistry, Mathematics, General Studies; J. D. Fowler — *Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry*, General Studies; R. H. Greaves — Physics; D. C. Hodge — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; P. Lord — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; H. K. Mann — *Physics\*, Chemistry\**, Mathematics, General Studies; J. L. Moorcroft — English, Mathematics, Physics, General Studies; A. J. Paull — Physics, Chemistry; D. J. Purdie — Art; P. A. Robinson — Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics; D. C. Smith — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; G. A. L. Tizzard — Mathematics, Computer Science, Physics; W. S. Vestentoft — Physics, Chemistry; C. J. Wood — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; T. L. Brown — Physics, Biology; R. D. Burnett — *Geography, Chemistry, Biology*; J. C. M. Church — *Biology, Physics*; A. M. Camps — Physics, Biology; I. E. Davidson — *Geography, Biology*; M. S. Fallows — *Mathematics, Biology*, Chemistry; I. D. Fuller — Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology; D. S. Heal — Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology; M. N. Jones — Physics, Chemistry, Biology; R. J. Marcinkiewicz — General Studies; J. W. Murray — Physics, Biology; S. G. Offord —

Mathematics, Biology; A. P. C. Poxon — Physics, Chemistry, Biology; N. Raistrick — Physics, Chemistry, *Biology*; M. S. Robertson — Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology; A. W. Trzeciak — Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Polish; H. J. F. Why — Physics, Chemistry, *Biology*; C. Williams — Mathematics, Chemistry, *Biology*; J. P. Young — *Physics, Chemistry, Biology\**; I. W. Baxter — History; E. D. Moehlenpah — Computer Science.

## ORDINARY LEVEL RESULTS 1978

The following boys obtained Grade C or above in five or more subjects in the G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examinations:

R. C. Austin (8); R. D. J. Bobath (8); M. G. Bull (9); M. J. Church (9); C. J. Cooper (9); C. R. Davey (9); I. R. Dempsey (7); A. K. Dilley (9); P. R. Edwards (9); M. J. Emery (8); A. Gough (9); C. S. Grayling (9); N. D. Hughes (7); N. W. Jerkins (8); F. J. Kindell (8); D. J. Leeser (9); S. J. A. Lever (9); S. E. Lugg (9); H. J. Memery (8); R. J. D. Michael (9); N. J. Morris (8); P. R. Nagle (8); W. G. Nash (9); M. I. Paines (8); S. G. Parks (8); P. D. Sleet (8); P. J. Steadman (8); M. F. Wiles (5); D. M. T. Wilkinson (9); A. M. Woodward (9); C. P. Ade (9); I. T. Ball (9); A. J. Barry (9); A. M. Baxter (8); P. A. Bell (8); A. J. Bezer (8); P. Campbell (8); D. Cheesewright (9); G. R. Davies (8); R. Ehlers (8); D. J. Evans (8); C. Goodwin (10); M. Griffiths (7); J. W. Harrison (9); A. S. Hussey (9); M. D. Ilsley (9); R. C. P. Jenkins (9); P. T. C. Jones (9); A. H. Lane (8); D. C. Orchard (8); T. G. Perring (9); C. W. Poole (8); P. K. Randev (8); P. A. Servantes (7); A. Shea (8); I. R. Smith (8); J. A. P. Steel (9); D. F. C. Stott (9); D. W. Tindale (8); D. M. Tordoff (6); P. M. Ware (9); M. R. Woodman (9); I. P. Woolfenden (8); P. D. Barker (9); S. F. Barton (6); N. J. Bishop (8); R. A. Bungey (9); I. A. Butcher (9); D. M. Carey (5); J. O. Carter (9); J. F. Clifford (9); A. J. Cooper (8); D. P. Crook (9); M. I. Davidson (9); T. J. Downs (9); S. R. Drysdale (6); J. M. Ellis (9); R. I. Eshelby (9); C. P. Gaunt (9); C. A. Holmes (7); M. A. Hughes (8); S. A. James (9); J. A. Kendall (8); J. C. G. Kersley (8); D. E. King (8); J. E. Lewis (9); T. S. Medland (6); G. J. Palmer (7); G. S. Plane (7); R. A. D. Pleace (8); B. P. Radbone (9);

S. P. Smith (9); A. J. Stevens (5); J. Taylor (8); M. A. Treadwell (9); A. D. Watkins (9); M. A. West (9); N. J. Airey (9); R. J. C. Arbon (7); M. R. D. Baldwin (8); R. M. Beccroft (9); T. S. Burgess (8); P. A. Carpenter (10); M. R. Church (9); M. Cussell (5); D. R. Dilworth (7); J. P. Dixon (9); M. S. Dowson (8); G. R. Sutton (8); M. P. Dymott (9); G. D. Elder (7); J. D. Evans (10); S. E. Evans (9); P. R. Gretton (6); R. J. Gudge (10); S. C. Harding (6); T. B. Hardy (9); D. J. Haynes (8); M. P. Howroyd (5); G. R. Innes (9); P. T. J. Irwin (10); C. M.

Januszewski (8); R. D. Jones (5); D. R. Cook (9); R. W. Jordan (7); E. J. V. Kelly (8); N. J. Lait (5); G. J. Landrock (6); J. E. Lane (8); A. Lowe (9); D. N. P. McDermott (9); B. D. McNaught (7); B. A. Martin (9); A. G. Millar (7); R. H. Millar (8); R. C. Nichols (10); N. R. J. Paul (6); C. J. Rowland (8); J. R. Saunders (5); P. R. Smith (5); D. W. Stephenson (7); N. J. Telfer (7); J. M. Thomas (8); L. P. Truman (9); P. R. Turner (9); N. J. Wadsworth (10); R. N. Waldie (7); F. B. Walsh (9); R. S. Wilson (8); M. V. Windsor (7); A. S. Winfield (7).

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# Pattinson Award Appeal

The Appeal Trustees of this Award announced last year to provide a continuing and fitting memorial to the late Lt.-Col. R. Pattinson were heartened to see the total of this Appeal pass the £2,000 mark shortly before the Trust Deed was sent off to the Charity Commissioners in the autumn. Contributions large and small from Old Boys, Parents, members of the School, Staff, organisations with which Lt.-Col. Pattinson was connected, fund raising projects in the School all contributed to this splendid total. The money has now been invested in the Official Fund of the Charities Commission inflation-adapted Unit Trust, and will provide an increasing amount over the years to fund the purposes of the Award.

The names of the first two Pattinson Award winners were announced in July, Neil Forrester and David Cheesewright. Both had

won distinction in their own way in the school and further afield, and the award enabled them to go on a most worthwhile project in Scandinavia, during July. They certainly lived up to the hopes and wishes of the trustees of the fund in what they did.

Although the Fund has been registered with the Charity Commission, and the £2,000 invested, it is not too late for any further donations to be received, by any who would like to be associated with this award which perpetuates the memory of Lt.-Col. R. Pattinson whose 40-year span of service at the School is fittingly marked by these awards, the spirit of which is so much in keeping with what "Pat" stood for. The Appeal Treasurer, Pattinson Award Trust, Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe is the address.

## SCHOOL HOUSE

"Wycombeano reports by the third of November please".

"I'll do it tomorrow".

Well tomorrow has arrived so here we go:

As usual at this time of the year the table's legs fall off (I use the word table advisedly) "Do you think you can repair it Robert?", a Mr. White-Taylorish voice says to me.

"Er, um, I'll try", I hear myself say, my speech slurred by repeated doses of Apple and Cinnamon Pie. Half an hour later the table is heavier by (yet another) 50 nails and the store lighter by 60. Almost immediately the chair leg falls off accompanied by the crash of falling bodies as once more the table falls apart. Does anybody want a matching chair and table which would go nicely with Long John Silver or Adrian Pickard? Alternatively, does anyone want a new pair of legs? Offers to School House, c/o S. Axtell, Esq., please.

This term the BH is well represented in such fields as croquet and the Tuckshop (half colours?). I also hear some ugly rumour of 1st, 2nd and 3rd XV's rugby, 1st XI hockey at the very least, U.13, U.14 and U.15's almost anything as well as caretaking and domestiking.

At the beginning of term the study inmates met an unforeseen problem; they were going to have to clean up their own mess. For long periods they remained in the dark, so to speak. Conversely the juniors have adjusted quite dramatically. Has the Big Brother Syndrome anything to do with this? Does he have any idea of what goes on in the BH?

It's time to bring this to a close but not before thanking Mrs. Symonds for Apple a la Roseberry, Apple Anna, Apple Mousse, Apple Strudel, Glazed Apples, Apple Charlotte, Danish Apple Cake, Apple Salad and Apple Flan. We look forward to trying her Apple Crumble and Apple and Cinnamon Pie.

Of course many thanks must go to Mrs. Pattinson for marking, repairing and washing our laundry on its return (?) from Leicester, as well as the countless other jobs she does around the BH for little or no thanks.

Thanks, too, to Mr. Skipp for putting up with Mr. White-Taylor and us.

R. A. Pillidge

# Boarding House Reports

## TYLERS WOOD BOARDING HOUSE REPORT

Autumn, season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, and of course, the start of another school year with all the horrors that that entails.

This term has seen the departure of Mr. Wardell as house tutor who had been with us for a year, and to whom we are grateful for his contribution to the boarding house. (The piano will never be the same again). He is replaced by Mr. Ruff, a very able successor whom we hope to retain for many years (by force if necessary). We also say farewell to Malcolm Noblett who is studying Business Studies in London, and to Chris McDermott who is taking Oxbridge examinations this term.

On the sporting front, Tylers Wood displayed a dazzling array of football skills (some legal) in defeating Uplyme 4-2. Our expensive new international signing from Italy, Pierre Leoni (45p in used coins to the Mafia), surprised us somewhat by his attempts to throw the ball into his own goal only to flick it away at the last moment. The referee, who shall remain nameless, came under heavy criticism after remarks such as "I'll give you a free kick because you support Watford", but seemed equally biased against both sides.

The House is still fortunate enough to have the privilege of Mr. Hornsby's presence who keeps us endlessly amused with his original "Irish jokes" and generously allows us to ride in his car.

As ever, we are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Samways for their efforts on behalf of the House, and to the domestic staff.

D. M. Reid

## UPLYME HOUSE

Another summer holiday has seen yet another set of good examination results with one or two exceptions (no names, Guy!). In fact the average was approximately 7 "O" levels. This term has seen a number of changes in the House with regard to the "inmates". Neil Featonby has finally left us (after seven years) to "get his teeth into" a sandwich course in business studies at Loughborough University, and we wish him the best of luck. We have also said goodbye to David Dilworth who, after an astonishing set of exam results, has gone on to an apprenticeship with Molins and is doing very well there. The familiar face of John Ward has returned again (groan!) to retake his "O's". There are only two new second-formers although we hope to have another after Christmas.

As far as sport is concerned we had representatives in cricket, swimming, rowing and

tennis in the form of Neil Featonby, Daryl Phillips, Nicholas Morris and Guy Moultrie respectively.

All in all the House is rather quiet with such unusually low numbers. However our car parkers and general helpers at school functions have kept the House Fund thriving. As a result our customary end of year barbecue was another success and no amount of wet weather could dampen our "flaming" enthusiasm. I have neglected (purposely) to mention the football match against Tyler's Wood but I will say that we are going to play them at basketball, hopefully with better results!

As always thanks must go to Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs for generally watching over us and ensuring the smooth running of the House and of course to Mr. Edwards for his never-ending patience with pocket money.

N. Holland

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## BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund was started, according to the records in the Treasurer's possession, in 1959 by Mr. A. C. Hills who recently retired as Head of English and Director of Sixth Form Studies, and in the first term for which records exist £19 9s. 5d. was raised, with the then Headmaster providing the odd 10s. 7d. to make it £20. Since then the Benevolent Fund has gone from strength to strength, but, so far as the Treasurer knows, its activities have never been recorded in the *Wycombiensis*. This article is an attempt to put that omission right.

Each Monday, during Form Period, representatives of every (or nearly every) form in the school go round trying to extract or extort money from their form-mates. The proceeds of this collection (this is the polite term!) are then delivered to the Treasurer. Every five or six weeks the form representative receives a chit telling him how much his form has collected to date. By the end of the year as much as £40 can be raised by one form. In the last two years the total raised by the school has been £575 and £585. This year the money was distributed as follows:

N.S.P.C.C., Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust, £35 each; Dr. Barnardo's, National Society for Epileptics, Wycombe Hospital (Booker), Wycombe and District Spastics Society, Shelter, Help the Aged, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Royal National Institute for the Blind, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, British Empire Cancer Campaign, National Federation for Research into Crippling Diseases, R.S.P.C.A., Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, World Wildlife Fund, £32 each. These are just 18 of the 80 or so Charities on the Treasurer's list.

It is now that the real reason for this article can be revealed. It seems to the Treasurer that all the effort which goes into raising this money, especially that put in by the Form representatives, but also by all those who contribute, might not go unsung. The Treasurer would like to put on record his sincere thanks to all concerned.

P.H.G.F.

P.S. We must break the £600 barrier this year.

## MUSIC SOCIETY

# Clubs and Societies

The major public appearance of the summer term was the Summer Concert, to which both orchestras, the Wind Band, the Choral Society and the Junior Choir contributed. The Choral Society started the concert with three contrasting part-songs.. They were followed by the Second Orchestra, whose performance of pieces by Mozart and Elgar showed that the future of orchestral playing at the R.G.S. will be in very secure hands. The Junior Choir, ably supported by Tom Hardy and Andrew Stainton on guitars, Richard White on percussion and Anthony Houska on the double-bass, gave a refreshing performance of Hazell's pop cantata, "Holy Moses". The Wind Band completed the first half of the Concert with very competent, musical performances of pieces by Handel, Saint-Saens and Trombey. In the second half, the Choral Society performed Geoffrey Bush's highly original set of three songs entitled "A Menagerie". The First Orchestra followed, playing pieces by Berlioz, Sullivan and Holst with conviction. The Concert was brought to a close with the Choral Society, accompanied by Mr. Geoffrey Heath, performing Redman's five songs "From the West Countree"

Since the Summer Concert, the Wind Band have played at the Prize Giving Evening, and a section of the Choral Society have sung at the Confirmation Service in the School Chapel earlier this term. The Music Society is now working hard for the Christmas Concert on December 13th, and the Carol Service to be given in All Saints Parish Church on December 20th. The Society is always looking forward to future events, and a major concert is being planned for March 27th next year in which the choir of the R.G.S. and Wycombe High School will come together for a performance of Brahms' German Requiem with the world-famous baritone Mr. John Shirley-Quirk and other distinguished musicians.

Finally, the Music Society warmly welcomes Mr. Bernard Trafford to the school, and extends its thanks to all the staff who give of their time to support the Choral Society, and especially to Mr. Holmes for his tremendous dedication.

*C. Goodwin*

## DEBATING SOCIETY

Once again, the old clique has vanished and a new committee has taken over, vowing that it will hold more debates than before. Although this has happened, the hoped-for one-a-week debates have not come about yet, but our ideas have progressed from the Library to the New Canteen, and the Queen's Hall is in sight.

The A.G.M. was held at the tail end of the school year, and attendance was poor, but with the help of two General Meetings in September, we have formed a committee of fourteen, which has been given the task of writing the constitution. One of our aims is to keep the interest of both ends of the school by holding Junior debates at lunchtime.

Let me bring you up to date (5.11.78). Besides the two public speaking competitions about which you read in the last *Wycombian*, nothing happened during the Spring term, but in April we went to Desborough School, Maidenhead to see our friend? Tom Gill, Biggles, destroy Lucifer, known to some of us as Stephen Everson (who?). Dennis Healey and Montgolfier, although both brilliantly represented, didn't get a look in.

As a sequel to this occasion, Desborough invited us, along with a number of other schools, to take part in their "Zeppelin Game" at the beginning of July. A huge crowd saw the Incredible Hulk (the infamous Tom Gill again) narrowly defeated by Joan Baez, presented to us by Cathy Shaw from Wycombe Abbey. The standard of speaking was astounding, and the audience was hard put to it to select these two finalists from the eight characters, who also included Enid Blyton, Ally McLeod, Pope Alexander VI and Amy Johnson. Zeppelin II is to be on 19th December.

Shortly before this, a disappointingly small gathering heard David Ballance "fervently supporting the present Irish struggle against British Imperialism in Northern Ireland" in his usual magnificent style, but entirely without preparation. The debate, from which the High School had withdrawn at the last minute, was won, however, by the ever-serious Chris Tite.

The new season was begun with a controversial debate intended to present the contrasting styles of Stephen Everson and Chris Tite to the society. The motion, "This

House believes Queen Elizabeth I made a grave mistake in granting a Royal Charter to a paupers' school in High Wycombe", was defeated, perhaps because of the presence (by invitation) of both the present and former headmasters, but the debate was lively and served its purpose as publicity for the society.

On the following Monday, for (I think) the first time ever, we held two debates on the same day. At lunchtime we agreed with Chris Tite that the Lib-Lab pact would result in the total eradication of the Liberal Party at the next election, despite the able opposition of Neil Timberlake.

The "Zeppelin Game" was successful for us because we made several new friends there, and the first of the debates resulting from it was at Furze Platt, where David Ballance and I attempted to lend our support to the Gunpowder Plot, arguing for tolerance and against racial prejudice. The opposition, however, greatly outnumbered us and insisted that we were terrorists and "traitors and heretics" and would have had us hanged drawn and quartered on the spot.

Unfortunately, this active start was followed by a series of cancellations, but shortly before half-term we met Desborough on home ground to debate "This House deplores the extent of Public Expenditure on the building of Stonehenge". This was enormously successful, but John Forbes (an active member of the committee) and I were unable, despite our extensive research, to defend the monument against the attacks of Paul Kaye and Simon Pitt, who variously suggested that it was a neolithic bingo hall or the Druidic equivalent of Cape Canaveral. After this debate we decided to record all of our home debates on cassette.

After half-term (and after the VI form conference about which you can read elsewhere) we went to the Marist Convent School, Sunninghill, Ascot (the furthest we've been?) to see Colin Cameron and Paul Ashdown, as Desperate Dan and Mickey Mouse, defeated by Batman, who was "the only one who could save the world from final damnation". The Queen also went down in the same balloon.

The first Junior Debate was held in November, on the subject of School Uniform. After two short but well-delivered speeches from K. W. Haylock and S. M. Bown, a

somewhat rowdy debate ended in a unanimous vote to keep it.

Our next two fixtures are against Furze Platt and Altwood from Maidenhead, whom we also met at the Zeppelin Game; these are for the 4th and the 11th of December at home. Membership of this thriving Society, which actually holds debates and doesn't exist solely to put on UCCA forms, costs a mere 20p, and buys you regular coffee and biscuits, transport to far-away places (Maidenhead) and intelligent mixed company. Any budding orators, people with zany titles for debates and those with connections in new places should contact me sometime.

*Paul Taylor, 6M2*

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY REPORT

This year the Society is under the management of Chris Davey and Graham Innes. Meetings are held regularly on Mondays at 1.30 p.m. in G2 in the Science Block. During these, the above worthies have (so far) succeeded in providing lecturettes concerning some of the hazards and difficulties encountered in the photographic process. Membership is high and so the Club funds are (relatively) good. This, along with equipment supplied by the school, has enabled refurbishment of the darkroom. Older developing trays, negative carriers, etc., have been replaced with more functional new ones.

The darkroom is now available at three times during the day: 8 to 9 a.m., 12.45 to 2 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. It can be booked any day except Thursday when it is required for afternoon activities. Since the start of term it has been in virtually constant use, so interest must be high!

Any prospective members, irrespective of photographic know-how, are welcome at any of the meetings. We regret that, for the moment at least, colour printing is not a viable proposition but if anyone has an old automatic colour enlarger or the two hundred plus pounds to buy one we would like to hear from them!

*Graham Ryder*

#### CHAPEL NOTES

The Confirmation service, which took place on Thursday, October 19th, was, in every sense of the word, an inspiring occasion. Eleven candidates were presented to the Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt. Rev. Simon Burrows, who was visiting the school for the first time. The Chapel was filled by the families and friends of the candidates together with members of the Choral Society whose singing added so much to the beauty of the service.

The following were Confirmed: Stephen J. Boreham, Peter A. Carpenter, John F. Darroch, John P. Draper, Jonathan F. Fricker, Jonathan R. Harris, James N. Hopcraft, Robert C. P. Jenkins, Thomas J. Petersen, Sean O. E. Reid, Mark C. Williams

*A.J.S*

#### CHRISTIAN UNION

When someone becomes a Christian, God gives him a new life with tremendous possibilities. Since the Holy Spirit comes and lives in his heart, he has all the potential to be a true disciple of Christ and to experience that quality and fulness of life which Christ alone can give. The Bible describes this new way of living and tells us that we must grow in faith and get to know our risen Lord in a much fuller way if we really want to discover the reality of this life.

This is where the C.U. can help. We invite good speakers to come and share their own experience of God and to teach us more about our Lord. We make use of soundstrips and tapes and arrange some Christian music concerts to tell others of Christ and to grow ourselves. We pray together, share together and learn together.

Christianity in its fullness is a most wonderful way of life, for it involves not a moral and religious exercise, but a relationship with a living person, Jesus Christ, God over all, and that is truly a real privilege for any man! So, if you are a Christian, do come along to the C.U.—we look forward to meeting you.

*G. A. Madgwick, 6C2*

## MODEL RAILWAY CLUB REPORT

The Model Railway Club has had a very successful start to the school year. The finances are in a reasonably healthy state with £8 in the funds. However we have already invested in some track and points. Since the last report Mr. White-Taylor has retired from the post of Master-in-Charge and Mr. Leighton-Jones has taken over where Mr. White-Taylor left off! Woodman returned to the post of Treasurer at the beginning of term but was politely asked to retire three weeks later when his appearances at lunch-time became non-existent.

During half-term, the Club's annual outing to a B.R. installation took place. The trip this time was to Stratford in East London. After the visit in the morning the group split up and spent the rest of the day visiting places of general railway interest. The cost of the trip was only £1.50 for the day. Another excursion is planned for February and a visit to the National Model Railway Exhibition is on the agenda.

At the moment work is starting on the Club's display for 1979's R.G.S. show day. We hope to have at least two layouts functioning with some static displays.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. White-Taylor for his assistance during the year and also to hope that Mr. Leighton-Jones will fit in well with the running of the Club. Everyone (well nearly everyone!) is welcome to come down to the Club at lunch-time and at other specified times (P.E. department permitting). One final point. There is no truth in the rumour that the Club has acquired a bulldozer!

*D. J. Ball, Secretary;  
M. P. Dymott, Chairman;  
A. A. Simpson, Treasurer*

## WYCOMBE ACTION GROUP

Many vile and unprecedented rumours have been echoing around the dusty walls, fathomless pits and gleaming spires of the Royal Grammar School. The purport of these wildly embroidered rumours was that a noble institution had ceased to exist, an institution with its roots in the immense and rich culture which forms the backbones to day-to-day existence in High Wycombe. In not so many words, rumour had it that Wycombe Action

Group had ceased trading. But, O Charitable Ones, life has not sunk this far: Wycombe Action Group indeed functions, nay, flourishes. Throughout the dying days of September, W.A.G., not to be confused with The WIMBLEDON ASSOCIATION for GOYS (misprint), surfaced at The Multi-Racial Centre, where on Wednesday, 6th September, twenty cream-faced and naive innocents witnessed the frightening spectacle of reinchoation. As the sinister plot unfolds, naked . . . (Enough is enough, Ed.)

Ah, yes, well, after being signed up, the twenty deranged lunatics (of these ten were female and the other ten lecherous) were told about the machinery of W.A.G., and the noble intentions of such an institution.

Coming attractions for the near future are: A sponsored tea-drink and a sponsored grass-cutting, with scissors, at Bovingdon Green (where?). Events which have probably already taken place are: a world-record breaking Table-tennis marathon and a sponsored fast, which was intended to counter-balance the effects of the W.A.G. disco.

*Written and typed by N. Morris, S. G. Parks*

## POLSPON OMEGA

Observant members will notice that there is no Military Society Report in this *Wycombiensian* (or the last one). The reason for this is that the Military Society has been amalgamated into the new club (Polspom), run by Mr. Talbot and Paul Taylor. (There was no report in the last *Wycombiensian* because of plain apathy).

Under new management, the Club is doing better than ever. A system of democracy has been introduced. Large numbers of second formers have joined, and have been given free handouts of rules, club propaganda, etc. Several tournaments have been planned, and for the R.G.S. Show, a display of modern aircraft of the R.A.F. is going to be put on.

Anyone who (despite reading this) is interested in figure wargaming (not playing with toy soldiers), military modelling, collecting militaria and such like, is welcome to come along any Thursday at 1600 hours to Room 18 in the Geography Block. The subscription is still only 20p (I've got plenty of money in my Swiss bank account now).

*M. Nieirkir (Treasurer)*

## THE LITERARY SOCIETY

The Literary Society is once again thriving in the school after years of silence and abortive beginnings, we are back with a vengeance; revived with new blood; going where no man has dared to go before, etc. Its recent history maps it from humble beginnings in the Biology Lab (?), accompanied by surreptitious whisperings in the staff room and furtive meetings in dark corners to an effervescent, up-to-date, unfettered, esoteric and occasionally whimsical society in which enthusiastic literateurs read and discuss literature together.

The society allows those interested to explore some of the vast expanses of literature omitted from school examination syllabuses. Where else but in the Literary Society is one likely to taste the delights offered by that well-known late eighteenth century clergyman-poet Cornelius Whurr? The theme of each meeting depends on ideas provided by the members— the most recent at the time of writing was on the subject of which character from literature one would either most like or hate to live with. The idea of some of the literary creations breaking forth from their fictional world into one's own home was indeed terrific to contemplate.

Future plans include visits to poetry readings in Oxfordshire. The first is to hear the Liverpool pop poet Brian Patten. Visits to hear Ted Walker and Norman Nicholson are also planned.

The Society is grateful to Mr. Ruff who opens his rooms and his packets of biscuits at Tylers Wood for us. Without the whole-hearted support of him and Mr. Gibson the Literary Society might never have left the ground.

Even though membership of our esoteric band is extremely difficult to obtain, any new aspirant will be warmly encouraged.

*Martin Church, Nicholas Airey and others*

## AERONAUTICAL AND MODELLING SOCIETY

The start of the school year saw an influx of new members from the second year. The consequent increase in club funds has allowed the purchase of a new pair of wings for the

radio control glider. Among the equipment possessed by the club are: two radio control outfits, a powered radio control model, a control-line trainer (under repair at the time of writing), several glow plug engines and various accessories. Design of the "Dragmaster Mk. I", radio control trainer is now at an advanced state (or should be when you read this). The prototype is due to make its public début at the next School Show.

Activities so far this term include competitions to which there has been an encouraging response.

Flying this term has been difficult owing to windy weather, poor piloting, construction of models and a certain kamikazi approach to landing. However, we shall carry on until all the balsa forests are exhausted.

Thanks go to C.P.S. and D.B.T. for help with supervising flying and for volunteering to drive us to the Model Engineering Exhibition in January.

*The Committee  
(C.P.G., G.S.P., J.E.L.)*

## CHESS CLUB REPORT

After a fairly slow start the Chess season is now getting under way. The Senior Bucks League teams are having to fight strong opposition in the Second and Third Divisions. The Junior League fixtures started just after half-term and the *Sunday Times* Schools' Competition (in which we have a considerable past record) is on the horizon. We are still playing regular friendlies against other schools in the area, fielding both Senior and Under-16 teams.

The Chess Club meetings in the Geography block on Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunch-times are attracting more members, not least due to the inspired organisation of Andrew Campbell. The lower school attendance is particularly promising and we hope to have some very strong teams in a few years. I would like to thank Mike Church, the captain and Chris Rutherford, the treasurer for their efforts and also Mr. Ian Clark for helping to arrange the matches, driving us to away matches and generally holding everything together.

*G. Barraclough*

## WHAT IS WARGAMING ?

I seem to remember describing the former Wargames Club as a "phoenix-like society" once before, and with the rise of the new and united Polspom Society, my aspirations in this respect have at last been realised, after four years' effort. I have been—to my surprise—asked to write something for you on the theory of wargaming, which I have been developing on mathematical principles, but I shall restrict myself to a few verbal comments and queries designed to provoke discussion.

Most people seem to subscribe to one of the following doctrines, each of which I believe to be quite inadequate.

First, there is the "toy soldiers" camp. This is surely a view held only by the most naïve of "onebugs" and one quickly shattered by a few weeks' membership of Polspom. "Bang-bang, you're dead" wargames are fit only for the nursery carpet and are given scant respect by any kind of experienced wargamer. Clearly some sort of rules are necessary, and from here we may branch off into military history, strategic theory, physics or the organisation of a wargaming association such as Polspom.

Secondly there's the "you've got Napoleon's tunic the wrong colour" brigade. Some people spend months on end perfecting the paintwork on their figures and models, and inventing enormously complicated rules and procedures to accurately reconstruct some battle or other, and delude themselves into believing they're actually refighting Waterloo or Jutland. Of course this is impossible and a waste of time, since they learn nothing except history, which is well known to be bunk anyway. Several wars have already been lost by this philosophy, and it's highly likely WW3 will be, too, if we're not careful.

There is a third party, whose ideas are novel but equally barren. These are the "hexagonal" people. They have a healthy contempt for the traditional historical or geographical approach, preferring a more formalised system. One hears of such things as "units" and "victory points" and those beautifully painted figures have gone, but they still haven't decided what wargaming is, and don't get anywhere simply because they

are content always to use somebody else's rules. Surely this isn't the right state of affairs in a school which makes such a fuss about "academic excellence"?

Now that I have offended everyone equally, let me consider the features of a wargame. First, it is usually in some sort of historical setting (even if a fantastic one), and the "units" have certain intrinsic properties or specifications. These are historical details, which the mathematician would describe in algebraic equations ("the weight of a tank is that of its body, plus that of its fuel, its ammunition and its crew").

Second, the units interact, and so there must be some rules by which they move and in which their intrinsic destructive capability is depleted. These rules are derived from a study of physics and are written as differential equations ("the rate of change of armament is proportional to the armament of the enemy").

Thirdly, there is the tactical principle. In military terms, one may say that the army cannot function without orders, or, mathematically, the equations which constitute the historical and physical principles are insoluble (not integrable) without some condition which determines which of two or more allowable courses is to be followed. This is called optimisation and is expressed, for example, as "the extent of the victory depends on how the units were deployed at each stage, and the best strategy (i.e. the one to be followed) is the deployment at each stage which gives the greatest victory". This is called a variational equation.

So a wargame consists of three principles—historical, physical and tactical. The definition which I am putting forward is as follows:

"A wargame is a casual sequence of stages, determined by the actions of two or more sides, in which each side has an intrinsic capability which it deploys in order to destroy the capability of its enemy more quickly than it itself is being destroyed".

Perhaps readers may like to ponder on this definition.

*Paul Taylor*

P.S. Some readers may already be able to see some flaws in it, on physical grounds.

## POLSPON SOCIETY POLSPON-OMEGA (Naval Games)

Amazing though it may seem to some, Naval Wargaming has managed to live on (just!) to fight another day. Our rules, though basically the same as before, have been produced in a simplified and much shortened form, to enable newcomers to the game to grasp the basic principles very quickly. There is an abundance of equipment, but as yet, not a great abundance of people to use it. Any-one interested should come and see us in Room 19 during any Tuesday evening meeting, that is if they can find us amongst the vast numbers of 1/300 scale model tanks!

*Frank*

## LIBRARY REPORT

The Library still continues to invest in new books (about 250 so far this term) despite the numerous attempts to deplete our resources. Suggestions for new books are gladly received (no snide comments about Frank please!), and most of the suggested titles are usually added to our shelves. To the few people who persist in taking out books which have not been stamped, returning books straight to the shelves, or late, or not at all—give a thought to us and follow the rules—it will make our lives much easier!

“Manwatching” remains as popular as ever—so popular, in fact, that if it’s to be saved from a fate worse than death (namely the book-repairers) it will have to be treated with care.

Thursday afternoons continue to flourish with ever-ready(?) helpers eager to perform the menial tasks of compiling late-lists, repairing and covering books—we won’t remind Eamon Kelly how he destroyed a certain geology book will we, Michael! New recruit David Smith has been learning the true meaning of choice—he now obeys orders! John Ball and Patrick Skidmore try to look keen on Thursday afternoons, but do anything to avoid bookcovering, shelf-tidying, late-lists . . . The other 5F members

of the team spend more time day dreaming about far-fetched takeovers by 5F than trying to cover new books, but apart from these minor hitches everything continues to run smoothly.

Thanks go to Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Goldthorpe, super-efficient Frank Collins; and to former Headmaster, Mr. Smith, for making such a good job of rebinding our books.

*N. D. Hughes, F. G. Collins*

P.S. Sorry brothers, we couldn’t think of anything printable to say about C. Davey.

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## QUAND LE CIEL BAS ET LOURD . . .

French lit. you know, I’m not so “Kean”,  
To see the meanings in between.  
But Maupassant was quite a wizz  
Yes death and madness, both were his  
And Baudelaire’s a laugh a minute,  
The light frivolities found within it.  
Just imagine over there  
Sitting comfortably, Molière  
Who wrote in what one might well say  
Unintelligible, high faluting préciosité.  
Then Troyat’s men in Neige en Deuil  
Those hardy peasants, come what may,  
Went climbing, and one lost his way  
And Isaïe, a trusty soul,  
Not too bright, but on the whole  
A decent sort, not on the dole,  
Resembled outwardly a mole.  
And not forgetting Mauriac  
Who thought, indeed his brains did rack  
Waiting for that stab in the back—  
Trust this “pauvre” man did lack.  
But in the end, why make such fuss  
’Bout what’s been inflicted on us?  
We must remember when we cuss  
We’re all, including Sartre, quite superfluous.  
Dedicated to what remains of C. Baudelaire.

*Peter Newman*

# Macbeth

As you probably know by now the school's last dramatic production was Shakespeare's "Macbeth". We had a star-studded cast including such household names as "Dicky" Weiss and Stephen "I'm very full of myself" Everson. As usual there were three performances which took place on December 6th, 7th and 8th.

However I expect many of you less knowledgeable readers are unaware of the new interpretation seen in this production. Most of you are probably of the opinion that Macbeth is the dominant character, merely because the play was named after him. Thinking that this was the case is nothing to worry about, it's all part of growing up and being British. You can take some consolation from the fact that people have been making this very same mistake for hundreds of years, and in fact it was only very recently that the true meaning of the play was discovered by Paul Machin, a Liverpudlian stevedore and T.V. quizmaster. In his article published in "The Daily Scouse", a learned journal mostly concerned with breeding ferrets, he postulates that by far the most significant character in Macbeth is the Third Murderer. Mr. Machin, a particularly erudite young man, believes that Shakespeare was at the zenith of his career when he wrote this masterpiece and says of his construction of the play, "Shakespeare uses the character of the Third Murderer in a unique and most intriguing fashion. As opposed to all his other plays, in 'Macbeth', the main character appears as infrequently as possible (Act 3, Scene 3 and Act 4, Scene 2) and his speeches are kept short, sharp and to the point (he has a total of 42 words). This is done in order to maximise the dramatic effect of his presence on the stage and to keep the audience in suspense, wondering whether he will appear again. On two occasions in the play, namely Act 3, Scene 2 and Act 3, Scene 4, the audience are really on the edge of their seats waiting for the Third Murderer to appear with the first two, but each time their hopes are dashed with all the true finesse that we have come to expect from this playwright. This, of course, in turn increases the excite-

ment during Act 3, Scene 3 and Act 4, Scene 2 where Shakespeare explores many of the facets of his main character, but, as is typical of Shakespeare at his best, much is still left to the imagination. The ambiguity is complete, the implications are too numerous and profound for the human mind to contemplate. This character is a skilful, original, but above all, subtle blend of pathos, litotes and split infinitives".

I trust this will explain why this production of "Macbeth" was slightly different from any other one that you may have seen.

Next year we hope to put on a production of Paul Machin's version of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, which reveals that the story is basically a symbolic representation of the underlying motives of William the Conqueror before and after 1066, in which William the Conqueror is portrayed as Tiny Tim.

## Reviews of the School Production of "Macbeth"

"Tremendous", *The Times*.

"Tremendous", *The Guardian*.

"The interval was good", *The Sun*.

"Tremendous", *Daily Mail*.

"Amazing but not as good as the session from the 'Desperate Bicycles'", *John Peel*.

"Tremendous", *Daily Mirror*.

## Reviews of Paul Machin's work

"I didn't know Shakespeare's play was called 'The Merry Wives of Wendover' until I saw Paul Machin's version". *A silly Tory Lady*  
"I still haven't figured out the best way to treat Paul Machin". *Paul's Psychiatrist*.

"I didn't know Prospero was a Communist until I saw Paul Machin's version of the 'Tempest'". *Morning Star*.

"I am glad to see that someone is taking Paul Machin seriously at last". *Mrs. Gladys Machin (Paul's Mum)*.

*A. J. Sendall (Third Murderer)*

# Drama Weekend

The annual R.G.S. aspirant Oliviers and Jacksons (Glenda!) convention was supposedly based on the 1950's working-class theatre; apart from various appalling puns about "kitchen-sink drama", the final product, entitled "My Kitchen Sink's Blocked" (Ha, ha, haaaaargh, snigger) had few concessions to its theme.

On Friday evening the Gielguds and Redgraves assembled, after drinking plastic cups of used bathwater disguised as tea, for the film "Look Back in Anger"—oh dash, not obtainable . . . er . . . "A Taste of Honey"—oh bother, they couldn't get that either. Ah yes, we retreated to "The L-shaped Room", an excellent film typical of this school of drama. Then we went home to bed. (Is this necessary—Ed.).

We got up the next morning. For breakfast we had cornflakes . . . (Enough of this inconsequential drivel—Ed.).

After a warm-up session with several absentees ("Oh, my bus was late."—J.S. "It's a long way from Uplyme"—N.J.M. "My bike had a puncture"—W.R.). Tom Wilde, Lecturer in Drama at Reading, gave us a very interesting talk on the movement, which was followed by a dramatic reading of "Look Back in Anger", a fine performance marred only by Stephen's presence. (Some people went to Indians at the Town Hall in the afternoon—we didn't so we can't tell you what it was like).

Then on Sunday morning, we were confronted with an ongoing improvisation inchoation\* situation: we were all given newspaper headlines, and, resisting such punatistic gems as "Onion Ace in Vegdetta" and "Giant opener to release man sealed in tin can" (which of course reminds one of social problems), our couples or quartets put together diverse sketches, which evolved through excellent first rehearsals, good second rehearsals, to a moderate performance, which

received mixed reactions, a slight come-down after the hysterical rehearsals. It is difficult to single out any one performance, but we nominate, after long discussions and deliberations, N. Morris, J. Cooper and P. Nagle for Oscars.

Many thanks to Messrs. Smith, Ruff, Mitchell, Edwards and Dorrance for the usual patience and encouragement through our dubious efforts—the Oscar-winners and their entourage are hoping to return to full-time acting next Spring (?).

Anyway, why did the kitchen sink ?

Composed by N. Morris and J. Cooper;  
First draft: N. Morris; Second draft: J. Cooper. Inspiration: school meals.

*N. Morris and J. Cooper*

(This is the only genuine editorial comment in this magazine—Ed.).

\*Good word, eh ! Means beginning, incarnation.

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## PANTHER

Silent shadow creeping through  
The darkened trees and  
Tangled undergrowth;  
Flitting, like a gentle breeze,  
In smooth rapidity;  
Unseen, unheard,  
Only sensed.  
A breath of sliding motion  
Leaving no trace behind;  
Pawing lightly on  
Damp grass and moist brown earth;  
Curving in feline sleekness  
Around gnarled tree trunks  
And twisted vines,  
Under leafy canopies, wet  
With fresh rain;  
Through the steamy night air,  
Confident steps padding out,  
In delicate rhythm.  
A silent, even tattoo.

*Simon Church, 5ME*

# C.C.F. Reports

## ARMY SECTION REPORT

Over the May Bank Holiday a party made an expedition to North Wales with Captain Hollingworth and Flight Lieutenant Sollars.

At Summer Camp at Longmoor almost as soon as cadets had settled in on the first evening, they were off on an energetic orienteering exercise. The main training consisted of a series of "packages"—basic training, range, adventure training (watermanship and assault course) and advanced training with a 36-hour exercise. We also arranged an excellent evening's canoeing on Frensham pond.

It was an interesting amalgam of army direction and self help worked out on an admirably friendly basis.

We found it most useful to be brought up to date on tactics by the Royal Anglians. Their host platoon normally gave a demonstration with a clear explanation and then split up among our own sections to give them direct training. The training area lent itself well to this approach with its variety of close cover and more open areas.

We were very pleased indeed to welcome Mr. John Prior, M.B.E., Chairman of our Governors, for a visit on the Monday morning.

On the 36-hour exercise we were visited by the G.O.C. South East District, Major General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C. He took a full interest in our training in general and the exercise in particular—even to the point of clearing one cadet's rifle which had jammed.

It was encouraging to know that the attitude, hard work and standard of training of the section was favourably commented on at the Camp.

Although the Army did much of the work, it is clear to me that the time, energy and thought put into the planning of our camp owed much to Captain Hollingworth and to the discussion and organisation in the months that led up to it between him and our two invaluable Old Boys, Mr. Richard Wallen and Colour Sergeant Robert Harry and our senior N.C.O.s.

During the Camp, Sergeant Summers was on a Leadership Course at the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley, which was visited by Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip.

Subsequently Sergeants Sinden and Coups and Cadet Preece went on parallel Leadership Courses, Corporal Coburn successfully completed both a Catering and Physical Training Course, R.S.M. Watts a Signals Course, Staff Sergeant Scott-James a Port Operating Course, and Under Officer Swinhoe-Standen a gliding course.

This term we welcome Second Lieutenant S. J. Grundy who is coming to help us both with one of the Companies in the Section and with the Signals Section.

The recruits' "circus" has just ended and a promising group of cadets now form the new B Company.

A range day for all sections is to be held on December 3rd.

As always a great deal depends on the N.C.O.s. They recognise the value of this side of their training to themselves. But it is because they seem in an efficient and unfussy way to put their contribution to the Section first that it is flourishing and for that I thank them most warmly.

F.N.C.

## R.A.F. SECTION C.C.F.

As usual, many exciting events took place on Thursday afternoons last summer term when we moved from the classroom to more adventurous outdoor activities. Events included flying at Abingdon, shooting at Halton, learning how to climb over brick walls at Wilton Park assault course and visits to see the interesting aircraft types at Booker Air Park. Drill, which is not generally regarded as the speciality of the R.A.F. Section, seemed to deteriorate towards the end of term, when we lost most of our Senior N.C.O.s and Bob Webster (yes he finally left us!).

Chris Wood and Nick Dowson are now training to be officers and gentlemen and, eventually, pilots in the Fleet Air Arm, while Pete Smith has remained loyal to the R.A.F. and is undergoing pilot training too. Dick Gurney and Bill Vestentoft have also got off the ground as they have been selected for training as pilots with British Airways.

During the summer break, there were again some very worthwhile activities occurring. The major event was Summer Camp(ing) at R.A.F. Kinloss, Moray. We also had three more members of the C.C.F. on gliding

courses: F. S. Lindsay, Sgt. Staynor and R.S.M. Swinhoe-Standen all gained their wings. Mike Standing managed to gain his private pilot's license with the help of a Flying Scholarship and a plane.

This term training has included drill with W.O. Mitchell and Sgt. McKenny; we thank these N.C.O.s from R.A.F. High Wycombe for helping us make drastic improvements in our drill. We must also thank Squadron Leader Turgoose who has been giving lectures on navigation every other week.

There has been regular flying at R.A.F. Abingdon and lectures for Parts 2 and 3 of the Proficiency Examinations. We have gained very promising new recruits who are presently undergoing various forms of brain-washing. When you read this we will have had a visit from the Martin Baker Aircraft Company which should include talks on the ejection seats and films showing U.S.A.F. pilots crashing their Tomcats.

Thanks to Sqn. Ldr. Smaje, Flt. Lt. Sollars and Plt. Officer Boutland for their enthusiasm and the smooth running of the Section.

*M. F. Hill*

## R.A.F. SUMMER CAMP

Between 21st and 29th July, when most people were sunbathing in Spain or going to parties and discos, three officers and forty-one cadets, including an R.N. and Army presence, went to sunny Kinloss (on sea). Here they had a dream of an experience under the auspices of the R.A.F.

After a guided tour of London, by Underground, the hospitality of a B.R. vandal ravaged coach was accepted for some fourteen hours. The trip to the North of Scotland was enlivened by a fire in the engine which caused many scenic stops before Inverness was finally reached.

Some indication of the short notice which Kinloss had been given was seen on arrival at the Unit, as the tents were not all erected. However after a substantial breakfast the cadets set to with a will and before long were able to flop down on their beds for a rest, just before a practice fire drill pulled them

out again. Later the C.C.F. cadets at the camp were joined by some tired and weary A.T.C. cadets from the Mersey Wing whose coach had taken them to Kinross, a diversion of two hundred miles. Hot and sweaty they may have been on arrival, but they were soon accepted as part of the camp.

Among the activities enjoyed by cadets, sport had a high priority but was closely followed by flying in Nimrods, Chipmunks and gliders. Most sections which offered interest to cadets were visited. Very popular were the visits to the Nimrod simulators in the evening when cadets could try their hand at flying these large aircraft without disastrous consequences if things didn't go quite as planned. Another popular visit was to the local fish and chip shop. Flying in Nimrods was on the whole due to the persistence of our officers and was "appreciated" by those who avoided airsickness during the long flights in these aircraft.

The cadets organised their own night exercise, even to the extent of positioning the "enemy" (officers) and then chased the escapers up and down a wood for half the night. On return to the camp it was found that some inconsiderate characters had thought that letting tents down and fire extinguishers off was a good idea, the cadets couldn't agree at that time in the morning. Next day the tents were moved, by the cadets, to a more secure site.

Finally the time came to leave, once more a long journey ensured that we were pleased to return home. However camping must have left its mark, as M. F. Hill went off on a further camping expedition shortly afterwards.

*S. Evans, M. F. Hill*

#### R.N. C.C.F. REPORT

With the start of the new school year, the Royal Naval Section was involved with demonstrations for the 4th year recruits, with talks on the section at school and canoeing, sailing and boating at our new river base at R.A.F. Medmenham. The recruits who have joined the Section have doubled our ranks.

Among last term's activities was a field trip to "H.M.S. Excellent" in Portsmouth, the Royal Navy's Gunnery, Missiles and Ceremonial Drill Establishment. About 15 cadets were involved including members of the Army and R.A.F. Sections. Among the activities there were arms lessons dealing with the Royal Marines' weaponry including the G.P.M.G., Stirling S.M.G., S.L.R. and the 9 mm. Browning pistol; but the highlight of the day was a lesson on the battle trainer, a 4.5" open mounted gun on a moving platform, complete with pyrotechnics and water. A Royal Naval gun crew had set the record of firing 10 rounds in 42 seconds and one of our crews narrowly missed the record on the field day with a time of 43.5 seconds.

During the summer holidays some cadets went on R.N. courses, including gunnery, submarine acquaint and arduous training with the Royal Marines, at various R.N. bases throughout the U.K.

Again we would like to state that we beat the Army Section in the Inter-Section shoot and rub salt into a very embarrassing wound for some (sorry Bob).

The R.N. Section's general inspection went extremely well with the Inspecting Officer looking at our activities at school and at Medmenham, but so far we have not received his report. We wait with bated breath.

The R.N. Section's C.C.F. Regatta at Chatham was not a great success. One crew suffered from broken equipment and although they were able to repair the damage they consequently came last. The other crew fared no better, also coming in last.

Finally our congratulations to Lt. Hornsby, R.N.R. on his promotion; to Cox'n "Masher" Maynard Retd. and "P.O." Stew Robinson on their acceptance by the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and to Cox'n Chalmers on his award of Best Sea Cadet P.O. in the country. We also give a hearty and warm welcome to Sub. Lt. Claye on his arrival in the Section. Thank you to the officers and assisting personnel for their tireless help.

*P.O. Andrews*

P.S. The Seamanship Room still thrives nicely.

# SPORT

## Cricket

## Swimming

## Rowing

## Tennis

### CRICKET 1978

#### 1st XI

Played 13, Won 4, Drew 7, Lost 2

The weather in 1978 was not kind and several games were cancelled, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of a keen and spirited 1st XI.

Wickets were variable, and a side of batsmen who were still learning the game and looking for confidence did not find things easy, but it was wonderful to see those who had struggled in 1977 come good in 1978. Mark Redwood, Philip Newport and Malcolm Robertson scored their maiden fifties, and Doug McIndoe scored his first in a minor game. The side, lacking any established "star" batsmen, relied on the character and depth of their batting to see them through and it made for some fascinating struggles. In their darkest hour against Emanuel, where they were in danger of an innings defeat after a certain B. Hardwick had hit 203 not out against them, they fought with great bravery on a rapidly deteriorating wicket and earned a draw that at times looked most unlikely. A less characterful side would have given up the ghost. Such in fact was the spirit and application of the side that one wondered in the first half of the season if they would be beaten by any side, but they slumped against Watford and allowed them to recover from a desperate 7-3 position. They were also beaten in a very good match by R.G.S. Worcester, whose last over victory was largely due to an unbeaten century by T. Curtis.

Our bowling attack looked quite strong--against all but Hardwick on an uncharacteristic day. Philip Newport emerged as a very promising pace bowler, and he and Steven Vladar could form a hostile attack in 1979. Malcolm Robertson occasionally bowled well as a support seamer, but lacked consistency, Doug McIndoe, while always steady and admirable, lacked penetration. The spin attack enjoyed mixed fortunes. The captain, leg-spinner David Poskett, and slow left-armer Rowan Healey both looked possible match-winners in May and June, when both bowled well, but they both lost some control later in the season--Rowan Healey, in particular, suffering one of those nightmare crises of a spin-bowler's confidence. As a result, the bowling attack became somewhat unbalanced. Nevertheless prospects for 1979 are very good.



The fielding was always liable to be very good, although there were lapses. Malcolm Robertson and Julian Shaw often shone, but there were few weaknesses in the whole side.

Congratulations are due to Philip Newport, who captained the County Under-15 side and represented the South of England Under-15's v. Wales. David Poskett, Malcolm Robertson and Chris Hoggett all appeared for the County Under-19 side.

Full Colours were awarded to: Mark Redwood, Doug McIndoe, Malcolm Robertson and Julian Shaw. Half-colours to: Andrew Price, Bret Rivett, Steven Vladar, Rowan Healey, Philip Newport, Geoff Heels, Dick Highton and David King.

I would like to thank and congratulate those who have now finished their School 1st XI days: Captain, David Poskett, Mark Redwood, Chris Hoggett, Malcolm Robertson and Julian Shaw. All played 1st XI cricket for two seasons or more and did credit to R.G.S. cricket.

### Averages

#### Batting

	Inns.	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Av.
Robertson .....	9	5	163	62*	40.75
Newport .....	9	1	215	73*	26.88
Redwood .....	13	1	260	60	20.00
Vladar .....	6	3	45	19*	15.00
Shaw .....	10	4	88	25	14.67
Poskett .....	13	0	183	30	14.08
Hoggett .....	14	3	148	59*	13.45
McIndoe .....	14	1	154	31	11.85
Rivett .....	12	1	129	26	11.73
Price .....	12	1	92	28	8.36

#### Bowling

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av.
Newport .....	87.3	30	211	21	10.05
Poskett .....	122.5	18	369	26	14.19
Robertson ...	94.3	27	234	15	15.60
Healey .....	96.2	25	298	19	15.68
Vladar .....	107	39	191	10	19 10
McIndoe .....	88.5	30	159	8	19 88

Catches: Robertson 14; Hoggett (wicket-keeper) 9 plus 6 stumped; Shaw 8; Poskett 6.

S.R.G.

### U.15 CRICKET

Played 9, Won 1, Drew 4, Lost 4

This was not a bad season for the lively Under 15 side. The season was marred, however, by one strange incident. R.G.S. were well on the way to making the Emanuel total of 150 all out when a phantom groundsman apparently rang up and abandoned the match because of the light rain that had been falling.

Our one win was a good one. Playing away at Bartholomew Tipping School one evening, we made 85 for 5 in 20 overs. Wagge and Coles then set about destroying the opposition batting and routed them for under 30 runs. The all-day matches against Emanuel and Worcester R.G.S. proved to be a great test of our skill and stamina. In both cases, after good starts the middle order collapsed giving our opposition the upper hand. Our match away at Watford proved to be very close and finally Watford won by 2 wickets. Both teams played with a great amount of skill and the bowling was exceptionally accurate.

It was noticeable throughout the season that the early batting missed the strength of Newport and a lot of responsibility rested on the middle order. Andrew Frost was a sound captain, well respected by all team members and although the team did not win a match under him, he contributed a great deal in every match, picking up some outstanding catches. Murray Scott made a few high scores but lacked his usual composure.

The match against St. Benedict's enabled us to try out new players. Injuries enabled Howick to make his debut at wicket-keeper in place of the superb Hargreaves. R.G.S. batted first making 60 but the total was reached easily by them with the loss of only 5 wickets.

Overall the season was a good one but Lady Luck wasn't on our side. However, it was good to see such a good team-spirit. Many thanks to Messrs. Gamester and Samways, who gave up so much of their time to coach, watch and umpire.

Squad: Frost, Stokes, Scriven, Coles, Gamble, Hargreaves, Peach, Brown, Greene, Wagge, Norris, Scott, Hunter, Naylor, Howick, Keen, Wattis.

J. Stokes

## **U.14 CRICKET**

Played 12, Won 6, Drew 4, Lost 2,  
Cancelled 2

As the playing record suggests, the team has enjoyed a very successful season which culminated in winning the area final of the Lord's Taverners Cricketer Colts Trophy Competition. The only defeats were against Hampton School who scored the winning run from the last ball of the day and Watford G.S. The opposition declared after tea on 144-9 (the only time during the entire season when our attack conceded over 100 runs) and in reply the R.G.S., without Noyes and Gillingham who were involved in an athletics competition, were dismissed for 55 in only 22 overs, with Atkins the acting captain making 22.

Apart from this match, the team, which remained settled throughout the season, performed very well. The batting was generally strong. Opening batsman Gillingham after a disappointing start to the year made regular scores of around 30. Campbell, his partner, worked hard to overcome his leg stump weakness and was rewarded with a solid 79 out of 175-6 declared against Emanuel who, finishing at 49-9, were all but beaten when very heavy rain curtailed play. Noyes, the Captain and main run-scorer, had an exceptional season highlighted by an undefeated century. He gained regular selection for the Bucks U.15 team and played a match-winning innings of 44 not out against Eton College. When the chance arose Atkins, Cowdery and Gibson-Smith made useful contributions with the bat.

The bowling attack was dominated by pace. The combination of swing from Boyes and Gibson-Smith, the seam of Price and accuracy of Cowdery and Carr proved too strong for most opposing batsmen. On only a few occasions was the spin of Noyes and Atkins used.

The fielding was generally good and was maintained at this level by Evans who kept wicket tidily and competently throughout. Special mention must be made of Otter who became a regular backward square leg, an important position in Junior cricket. He took some very good catches, was always quick to the ball and created several run-out opportunities.

Williams and Clarke are to be thanked for the support that they have given this year.

Messrs. Stone and Wilson wish the team success as they enter the Colts Trophy National Competition in 1979.

D.G.S.

## **U.14 Averages 1978 Season**

### **Batting**

	Inns.	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Av.
Noyes .....	10	5	362	100*	72.4
Gillingham ...	9	2	155	43*	22.14
Campbell ...	12	3	171	79	19
Atkins .....	8	0	131	33	16.4
Gibson-Smith	7	4	49	23	16.33
Cowdery .....	8	1	94	28	13.4

### **Bowling**

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av.
Boyes .....	70.2	22	110	19	5.79
Carr .....	40	7	93	12	7.75
Gibson-Smith	93	38	123	13	9.46
Price .....	78	27	156	13	12.00
Cowdery .....	97	32	182	13	14.00

## **U.13 CRICKET**

Played 5, Won 3, Drawn 1, Lost 1

The side enjoyed a fairly successful season that was unfortunately affected by some poor weather, resulting in the cancellation of three fixtures. Some of the best team performances came early in the season with the win against Thame being particularly emphatic. However, the match against Emanuel was easily the most extraordinary game seen at this level for many years. R.G.S. made 191-6 declared and Emanuel in a magnificent fighting display, scored 190-9. Both sides deserved tremendous credit for playing an all-day game of such outstanding quality.

John Scott captained the side well and learned much about this difficult job as the season progressed. Of the batsmen, Richard Jones and Jason King made a solid and technically sound opening pair, whilst Mark Sullivan and Guy Lewis showed much promise lower in the order. Ian Rundle, who took four wickets on three separate occasions, and Sullivan were the pick of the bowlers but the fielding was rather variable. The side can feel quite pleased with its first season representing the school, and we look forward to all the players developing further next year.

*D.R.C., R.J.D. and S.J.E.*

## TENNIS 1977-78

### 1st VI

Played 11, Won 5, Lost 6

Contrary to pre-season expectations, the results this year were an improvement over last year's efforts. Notably, the matches won came towards the end of the season, after an impressive performance (which must have struck terror into the hearts of our opponents) in front of the I.T.V. cameras.

Aylesbury G.S., however, could not have been watching and consequently narrowly defeated the R.G.S. 5-4 in the final of the Bucks Cup.

The settled team predicted at the end of last year never really came into operation though the following represented the school on the majority of occasions: P. Morrish, B. Morgan, M. Fallows (Capt.), M. Coburn (who will take over as Captain next year), and C. Smith, Moultrie, Lever and Pleace played well on a number of occasions and Molesworth, Naylor, Shakespeare and Corfield also played during the season.

Finally, thanks must go to Peter Raymond for his help throughout this and previous years, and the team wish him well in his new job at Aylesbury G.S. (if he can find it, this time)

### Colts

Played 6, Won 2, Lost 4

The Colts, despite a bad start to the season, made improvements towards the end and, indeed, won their last two matches.

Hellier, Lever, M. Smith, C. Smith, Owen, Voûte, A. Bobath, R. Bobath, Pleace and Moultrie all represented the side and the youthfulness of the team augurs well for the future.

Mr. Earl admirably took charge of the team and, unless he can persuade Mr. Grundy to replace him, will be promoted to 1st VI duties next season.

*M. Fallows*

## ORIENTEERING CLUB

The Orienteering Club has begun the season successfully. Eighteen members have so far found their way to P2 — more are always welcome.

Before half term we took part in two events, one at Youlbury near Oxford and the

other at Ashridge near Tring. On both occasions we have had at least two people in the top ten out of a field of over 100.

For most of us it was obviously worth while having two practice runs at the Bracknell permanent course.

At the time of going to press we were looking forward to taking part in the Bucks and Oxon School Championships on November 12th at Goring Heath. We have got six people entered in the M15 class and eleven in the M13 class. Because of this large number of entrants we are confident of success this year.

Many thanks must go to Mr. Boutland and Mr. Sollars for driving rather ailing mini-buses.

*I. Bell, 3M*

## SWIMMING 1978

The requests for fixtures were met with rather disappointing replies. We were unable to arrange any matches at senior level and so the honour of the school was placed squarely upon the Junior and Intermediate teams.

The first match of the season was against Watford Grammar, the Intermediates were equally matched, but unfortunately the Juniors from Watford were strong enough to sway the result against us. We fared slightly better in the next match against Aylesbury and were rather unlucky to end up 10 points down.

Sir William Borlase provided the venue for our third and final inter school swim. This match also provided us with our first win of the season by 96 points to 67.

On Friday, 23rd June the District Schools' Swimming Gala came around again. Right from the start there was only one team in it, and we duly won for the 3rd or 4th time in as many years. Sir William Borlase were a distant second followed by John Hampden.

The following boys, as a result of trials held at Wycombe Abbey, were selected to swim at the County Gala: M. Law, D. Lowe, C. McKinley, M. Walshe, A. Bobath, G. Crighton, J. Hopcraft. D. Lowe came 3rd in the senior butterfly event and C. McKinley took two seconds in freestyle and butterfly. McKinley also beat long standing school records in 3rd year and senior individual Medley.

Harris, Hopcraft, Bernard and Williams passed their Honours survival awards.

*P. N. Timms (Team Capt.)*

## BOAT CLUB

Hi, folks, it's us again . . . It has been rumoured that this is the report on the Summer regatta season—but you don't want to hear about those boring regattas, do you? You do. Oh, well, it will hurt us more than it will amuse you.

On the face of it, we didn't start too badly. In the first three regattas we got to the final each time. The fact that we should have won them is irrelevant—we lost them all, narrowly. We did beat Strodes' College, for the first time in three seasons, at Wallingford, but in the next regatta, on Gloucester's sparkling, crystal, sewer, we lost by  $\frac{1}{2}$  length to their "big" four.

We regained our confidence, eventually, with a "convincing" (sic) win at Reading Junior Regatta in Junior B IV's. For this exploit, we gained medals all round. However, finding difficulty in ducking out over medals, we agreed to forego the honour of silver ones at the National Schools Regatta. (Well, we've got to say something). After some interesting, and also instructive, comments from our friendly coach, we lost in convincing fashion at Stratford. Next we moved confidently down to Reading Town Regatta. Here we actually won the final by some mere 6 lengths and elated by this new-found talent we adjourned rapidly to the beer-tent. However, owing to a clerical error or lack of knowledge (for fuller details, write, enclosing a s.a.e. to Mr. Blyth, c/o The Staff Room, but not if you enjoy life at the moment), we found ourselves sans trophy et pots. Clutching at straws after a dazzling but inauspicious attempt at Egham, we made a final fling at Molesey Sprint Regatta. The result? Well, need we say? The Semi-Final revealed all.

The J.16's performed well, reaching the semi-final at Bewdley, and getting very close to several bigger and more experienced crews later on. However, their ability to row a fast second-half was outweighed by their weak start.

Now for this year. The land-training has got off to a good start with a high-level of fitness all round and first-class attendance from all the 1st and 2nd IV's. (Except one who shall remain nameless—but he'll get a

croquet mallet wrapped round his neck if he misses again). The 1st IV is currently Tim Sinden and Mick Orr, plus Julian Allcock and Steve Laws who replace Dan Havard (defunct) and Mike Jolly (Oxbridge), not forgetting our minuscule cox, Stuart Parks. The 2nd IV is last year's J.16 IV but are temporarily coxless. A sponsored row looms ahead along with blistered hands and backsides, but we are all looking forward to winter training on the Thames. Moreover, with the advent of J15 rowing in the school, plus the usual J16 and 6th form entry, our numbers appear to be the highest ever.

Our gratitude to Mr. Blyth is inexpressible (or unprintable) and thanks must go to the other coaches, especially Mr. Box, whose keenness and application constantly astound.

*Timothy Edgar, Jeremy Sinden  
(Capt. of Boats),  
Mick "The Boot" Orr (Capt. of Vice)*

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## SNOWMANICIDE

I was born in the evening;  
    awake all the night.  
My scarf became stiff and  
    my hat frosty white.  
I felt well till morning  
    but out came the sun.  
I caught a bad warm,  
    made my nose drip and run  
My scarf became soft and  
    my hat changed to black  
My body got heat-stroke  
    and started to crack.  
I really felt ill with  
    a pain in my head  
Which melted and fell  
    and by noon I was dead.

*N Hayes, 4EP*

# Norfolk

As I write these words, I cannot help reflecting how fortunate I am to be retired and living in such a lovely and interesting area as North Norfolk, which is now my home.

The sun is hot in a cloudless sky; it is 8 a.m. and my wife and I have finished breakfast which we took "en plein air".

The corn in the adjacent field is at last ripening after an unusually dull and retarding early summer in spite of which we picked quantities of strawberries, raspberries, currants, peas and beans at a farm less than a mile up the road. All of these of course, at prices well below those of the local retailers!

We live in the last bungalow of the last road on this side of town, and are lucky enough in consequence to have fields on two sides which give us uninterrupted views across the countryside towards the coast which is only four miles away.

There, mile upon mile of sandy beaches stretch from Great Yarmouth in the south just over the Suffolk border, right the way round the coast past Cromer to Hunstanton (pronounced Hunston, please) and Kings Lynn on the south shore of The Wash.

North Walsham is the name of our town, and it boasts some 7,000+ inhabitants.

Small compared with High Wycombe perhaps, but it has a large and beautiful church which is steeped in history. The present building dates from the 14th century, but there has been a church on the site for nearly 1,000 years. The original structure may have been of wood. It was built out of the profits of the wool industry which thrived throughout Norfolk in the Middle Ages, as were many of the Norfolk churches.

Much of this wool was exported to the Continent for weaving into cloth, and this

helped to make Norwich a port larger and more important than even London for many years, and Norwich City was second only to London in the whole country.

Subsequently, Flemish weavers were brought over here and developed an active and powerful weaving industry of our own

To come back to North Walsham however, readers of this magazine may be interested to learn something of the Grammar School here. Its full title is Paston Grammar School, after Sir William Paston who endowed it in 1606 (not so very long after the R.G.S.).

It is of course, very different from our school, but is justly proud of its most famous pupil, Lord Nelson, who was a boarder from 1768-1771.

Although much smaller than the R.G.S., it is known far beyond the bounds of Norfolk.

It has 400+ boys and a Staff of 20+ and the 6th Form generally runs about 60 boys.

The school has fine playing fields a mere two minutes walk away which accommodates an open-air swimming pool and a rifle range, and also a flourishing contingent of the Combined Cadet Force which has Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force sections.

Norfolk has a great deal to commend it as a place to live, and in my opinion is much underrated by many people.

Perhaps I may have the privilege of expanding on this in future contributions to this magazine, although this must rest with the Editors. Meanwhile, there is a new garden to be constructed, friends to visit and a hundred and one other things to do all of which go to make the mosaic of our new life.

If any reader is nearing retirement, my advice is don't dread it as some regrettably do; it is not the end, but a beginning, or should be.

# An Archaeological Dig

I spent three weeks this summer digging on the site of the Roman town of Wroxeter just outside Shrewsbury. Wroxeter or "Urcionum" was the fourth largest town in Roman Britain, growing up as a civil tribal capital after some thirty years of military occupation.

For several years now the D.O.E. have been financing a systematic excavation of the site, the first there has been. The Baths have already been excavated and are open to the public and work is currently being done on the remainder of the town centre, especially the site of the "Basilica", or town hall. So far only the surface has been scratched and work is expected to go on into the 21st century.

The digging has been done on the assumption that every stone, every pile of rubble has a significance in the overall picture of the development and collapse of the town. The work as a result is painstaking with the rubble being removed layer by layer once its position has been recorded either by drawing or photography.

The volunteers were split into two groups; one worked on the ruins of the Basilica while the other, the one I was in, excavated a feature known rather ingloriously as "the gravel street". It was a feature unique in Romano-British archaeology. It appears that for some reason late in the occupation some 100 yards of one of the beautifully made main streets was removed and in its place a new section made up of gravel and sifted

building rubble was laid. When this feature was first opened up it showed no signs of erosion and must therefore have been some kind of covered walkway with shops on either side. We were excavating the first ever covered pedestrian shopping precinct.

Using just 3" trowels we removed the street in 5 cm layers. This dig was better than many others in that experienced and totally inexperienced (like myself) worked side by side. The novice was not condemned to pushing wheelbarrows, but could even help on the more complex features. Finds from the street were of two kinds: there were animal bones by the ton, building debris, pottery and nails which went into the finds trays, and "small finds" such as coins, brooches and pins which were marked, bagged and later plotted. My finds included several coins, a number of bronze and bone pins and a fishing hook.

Volunteers had the opportunity to help in photography, drawing and surveying of the site and there were guided tours, talks and a visit to the conservation lab. I also tried my hand at environmental archaeology. This included the examination of snail shells to determine climatic and other conditions and "floatation", the separation of organic matter such as seeds, pollen and charcoal using the tiny pockets of air found inside them.

There was a well-equipped camp-site and the food was good. We worked from 8.30 until 6.00 with breaks for breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea, six days a week with Saturday off. The pay was £2.50 a day, of which £1.25 went on food so there was no money to be made. As an indication of how worth while I found the dig, however, I intend to return for the full five weeks next year.

## ANOTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

Why go on a dig? There is no point if you want the money:

The subsistence allowance is	£2.50
Travelling expenses	£2.20
Net balance	£0.30

No, the answer must be that it is extremely interesting to help discover the history of a particular area—in this case Central London.

The site I was working on, Watling Court, is situated half-way between St. Paul's Cathedral and The Mansion House. Soon, the area will be covered by an office-block, so that nothing but the most important work can be undertaken. Finds date back to the early Roman period, and, from that era include the foundations of four upper-class merchants' villas and some fragments of mosaic. Of almost equal importance is the area which has been found to be the site of a Saxon house. This is one of only a few

sites of Saxon houses known in London, and so provides important new evidence as to the type of place our capital city was in the Dark Ages. An interesting feature of the site is the number of cess-pits it contains. These pits provide invaluable information of the time they were in use (dating in this case from the eleventh to the eighteenth centuries) because of their contents. For the decomposed cess acts as a superb preservative, leaving any object within in almost perfect condition. As an example, objects found in my pit included bronze coins in the region of 500 years old and a Tudor bronze statue.

Imagine the enjoyment of discovering something as important as this and helping to reveal more about our own history. Surely this outweighs the disadvantages of getting wet and dirty very occasionally?

S. G. Parks, 6C1

If anyone is interested in going on a dig a directory of sites requiring volunteers is available from The Council for British Archaeology, 7 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5HA.



# A Holiday Out West

At the beginning of the summer holidays in 1977, I decided to do something which I had longed to do for some time. And that was to spend a holiday with a relative in Vancouver, Canada. I told my parents of my decision in such a way that they could not refuse my audacious request. So, by Christmas, a four-week holiday in Canada had been arranged.

One year and one week later, on July 25th, 1978, I was in a Boeing 747, rolling down the runway at Gatwick, going at 200 m.p.h., just about to take off. The aircraft's destination was a Pacific seaport, four-and-a-half thousand miles away and the third largest city in Canada: Vancouver.

The flight itself was an exciting way to start, what was to be an exciting holiday. It took us north over the U.K. and then over Iceland. Its most northerly point was over Greenland, at which time the sky below was very clear, enabling me to see some unbelieveable scenery. Greenland is a very mountainous and, throughout the year, an extremely cold desert. Its frigidity was proved by the sight of massive glaciers, flowing extremely slowly down wide valleys into the ice-filled ocean, where they terminated steeply and abruptly. The flight path was

then a large curve southwards to Vancouver, flying over the tundra and lakes of the Northwest Territories, the Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River, and finally over the spectacular snow-capped Rocky Mountains. Suddenly Vancouver appeared round the corner of a mountain.

My first taste of North America was on my way from the airport. Everything was so different from the country I had just left. The cars were huge, and had bonnets (or "hoods" as they are called in North America) stretching out several feet. The lorries or "trucks" were tall, wide and long, and dwarfed the pedestrians on the "sidewalks". Downtown Vancouver itself epitomized a North American city. Skyscrapers of at least thirty storeys were not uncommon. Under the skyscrapers were shopping malls, luxuriously furnished with carpets, mirrored ceilings and exotic plants. At the bases of the skyscrapers were situated vast department stores, the most famous being the Hudson Bay Company. Meanwhile, in the streets, the incredibly prompt buses brought in passengers, who had paid their standard 35c (about 15p) from suburbs as far away as twenty miles.

Having had a taste of the city, I moved out into the countryside of British Columbia, which is very different from that in the U.K. In British Columbia, working east from the Pacific coast, there is a Coastal Mountain Range, then a hilly region and finally the Rockies themselves. My journey through the Coastal Range took me past the famous Hope Slide (a huge landslide which occurred in the sixties) and past some enormous eight thousand-foot mountains. I then entered the second region, which is called the Okanagan Valley (named after a lake in the Valley). Here the thick coniferous forests of the Coastal Range gave way to a grass-sloped, very hot, arid region. Here I stayed with a Canadian family in a small town called Vernon. From Vernon I went, on one of the renowned Greyhound Buses, through what must be some of the most spectacular country in the world, to Banff in Alberta. The scenes of fast-flowing turquoise rivers and green forests could have come straight out of

"World About Us". The forests were the homes of a variety of wildlife, ranging from chipmunks to bears. The real danger of bears came home to me when I was given a leaflet which gave instructions of what to do in the event of encountering a bear. It finally stated that if all methods of frightening the bear away fail, the unfortunate hiker should "play dead"! While I was camping I was told that it was essential to hang food up in a tree at night in order to discourage bears from entering the tent. Not far from Banff, I was able to take a cablecar to the top of a 7,000 ft. mountain. From the top of that mountain I saw some of the most majestic sights I had ever seen. I felt I was on top of the world, looking down on creation. I was surrounded by valleys carpeted with forests and by ice-capped mountain ranges, stretching as far as the eye could see.

After returning to Vancouver for a day I set off on a 1,000-mile journey, by train, to San Francisco. The journey took 26 hours, during which time I made friends with many fellow passengers. I was fortunate enough to

meet one family who offered to have me to stay for a few days. The family lived in a residential area, about 20 miles away from San Francisco. I spent one day rushing round the city, trying to see as much as possible. I managed to see the Golden Gate Bridge and the world famous Fisherman's Warf. The most exciting thing I did in San Francisco was to play the film star and hang off the side of a San Francisco tram. However I returned from San Francisco feeling rather disappointed. The city is definitely not all it is made out to be.

Both the American and the Canadian peoples were extremely hospitable and made me most welcome. The classless society (in Canada especially) appealed to me very much. It is only after visiting Canada that I have noticed how conscious of class barriers the British are. However, Canada is not entirely a land of milk and honey, it has its fair share of economic and social problems. But, nevertheless, Canada must be one of the most exciting places in which to spend a holiday!

### A FISHY PROBLEM

John owns an aquarium. In it there are five types of fish. Four Gobblers who eat every other kind of fish except Yellowtails who swim too fast to be caught, and poisonous Bluefins which they only eat if there is no alternative; three Bluefins who eat Yellowtails and Greenbacks but they become poisonous to Gobblers if they eat Greenbacks; two Yellowtails who only eat the scum which forms around the gills of live Gobblers; ten Greenbacks who only eat poisoned Gobblers. Five Redgills who eat plankton which also forms the scum on the Gobblers gills. All the fish must eat once per day.

Which of the fish are the last left alive in the aquarium?

How many of them are there?

How long does it take?

He stands erect, noble and proud.  
Around Him, His subjects,  
Rows and rows of gleaming Basf boxes,  
Stretching away to the misty horizon.  
Cellophane wrappers unbroken, pure,  
Unsullied by use.

Mere boys shuffle past,  
Gaping at His Costliness,  
Whispering in awe, pointing, staring.

With a supercilious sneer  
He looks upon those poor, useful books.  
Opened, read, handed on.  
"Thou shalt not use **me** so" he declares,  
And no-one does.

He is God,  
Revered from afar.  
He is the colour T.V.

*Dallas Reid*

# Freedom Of Frontiers

**21st October, 1978**

When we arrived at Wycombe Abbey, I think it is true to say that none of us had any idea of what we were to do. I had been appointed a "Group Leader" at 5 p.m. the previous day, but had had no help from Stephen Everson, who was apparently an old hand. We had been given ten pages of quotations, etc., and a reading list with more than seventy books. Our friends from Desborough were also there, and there were contingents from Eton, Harrow and Stowe.

There were three guest speakers: Mr. Ian Trethowan, Director-General of the B.B.C., Mr. James Ferman of the British Board of Film Censors and Superintendent Richard Wells of the Metropolitan Police. Each gave a long address, followed by questions, and in the afternoon the groups set to work on the five questions we had been given and their leaders reported, in their various styles, on the proceedings. Remarkably, Stephen Everson had no complaint about either my dress or my speech (one doesn't know how to react to his approval).

The first two speakers spent most of their time discussing Sex and Violence, and outlined the history of "moral" censorship, and the possible effects of the material on crime. Mr. Trethowan explained that sometimes programmes were produced which investigated the causes of violence, which gave rise to protest from those who interpreted them as condonement of the I.R.A. or other groups.

Mr. Ferman discussed the role of taboo in evolution, and said that it was because of the taboo of previous generations that we now

have a sophisticated society which can afford liberal views. In answer to the criticisms of those who believe that extremist political parties should not be allowed to broadcast their views, Mr. Trethowan asked, "Is our democracy so unstable that we cannot occasionally afford to expose ourselves to extremist views?". He cited the example of the American Democracy, which had survived the traumas of McCarthyism, Watergate and the Vietnam War: it was a sign of the strength of that democracy that it had passed through these periods unscathed.

Lunch enabled us to take stock of what had been said, and we feared lest the third speaker should be a non-sequitur, but in fact everyone was impressed with what he had to say.

He first questioned the purpose of the conference, and claimed that what we had heard about "protecting our free institutions" was defensive and contrary to what he believed the title meant, namely the extension of our freedom. He spoke on three themes: individuality and order, freedom and security, and right and obligation. He described the sanctions imposed by society on its dissenters, and how they increase with the extent of its fear; such sanctions, he claimed, were a measure of society's inadequacy. Sometimes the cure was worse than the illness, he said.

In the progress from the jungle to a communal settlement, the individual cashed some of his personal liberties for the good of the society, and now people are delegating their duties and responsibilities, from the hue-and-cry to the police, from neighbourliness to meals-on-wheels, and from self-control to the censor boards. Some people considered it their "duty" to submit to rationing during the war, yet to campaign for nuclear disarmament.

After the group discussion and the reports, we all had tea and punch, and would have discussed this and that far into the night, had we not been politely pushed out at seven o'clock.

## THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

At last, after years of uncertainty caused by considerations that were related to national politics rather than to education, it would seem that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Or, as one young gentleman put it recently, "Don't say they're actually going to do something about it!"

As the months went by, it was becoming more evident that—despite the efforts of the Local Education Authority—the standards of all-round excellence at our school were likely to be just as seriously threatened as those of so many other first-class schools elsewhere.

If the boys' scope and opportunity were to continue to be extended and the School's traditional value to the community to remain, there had to be an end to the shuttlecock situation in which we were embroiled.

The Governors, with the strong support and encouragement of the parents, staff, old boys, and many other well-wishers, therefore asked the L.E.A. to consider allowing R.G.S to resume its former role outside the maintained sector, a status it had lost 31 years ago after nearly 400 years of independence.

When the County's alternative proposals were rejected by Whitehall, they agreed to start discussions with us, and the Secretary of State, in whose hands the ultimate approval lies, has intimated that she expects these negotiations to proceed with despatch.

Obviously, there are serious financial implications in all this, but 20 other schools have recently managed it, so there should be no reason why we and the L.E.A. cannot work together towards an amicable and suitable arrangement. This would probably take effect at the same time as the implementation of a comprehensive system in the Wycombe Division.

We have explained the situation in detail in a booklet issued to parents, and a copy of this is enclosed for Old Boys too.

We have assured parents that the cost of the education of all boys in the School at the time of changeover would be safeguarded up to the end of their sixth-form studies.

We have undertaken to arrange a bursary and scholarship scheme for assisted places for the new entry where possible.

We have assured the staff that their financial, career and pension prospects would be at least maintained.

We have declared that a degree of preferential treatment would be given to Wycombe and other Bucks boys, subject, of course, to their meeting the standards of entry that will continue to be set.

We shall endeavour at least to maintain the present boarding facilities and to run the R.G.S. as an efficient, viable, forward-looking and strongly academic school, thus keeping faith with the generations of staff, boys and governors who have done all they could, in the words of our charter, to ensure that the Royal Grammar School shall ". . . continue for ever hereafter".

J. K. Prior

## BRING BACK THE BOOK

Sir Suffering Losses, M.P., N.B.G. says that empty places on library shelves are a constant reproach to us all, and only the most draconian measures will return a modicum of books to the places where they belong. His solution is, without fear or favour, to

## BRING BACK THE BOOK

Search your conscience—search everybody's conscience, if he has one. Scrutinise your bookshelves and seek high and low (especially low) for those missing books. Wherever your eager eye catches a glimpse of a book belonging to the bookshelves of R.G.S., seize upon it, and earn the undying gratitude of Sir Suffering for your meritorious efforts to

## BRING BACK THE BOOK

(*This is an advertisement*)

## THE ANTI-SMURF SOCIETY REPORT

The Smurf peril was only noticed this term, or at least it was only recognised as a danger recently when they began to breed at an alarming rate in petrol stations and in recording studios. Since then of course, they have flourished with the irrepressibility of a rabbit colony fed on aphrodisiacs, and have been swarming across this once green and pleasant land.

As soon as this dire threat was recognised, the anti-Smurf society was formed and its forces mobilised. Cricket bats which had lain dormant in attics since the tête-à-tête with Wellesbourne were seen glinting in the sunshine, positively dripping with linseed oil, describing wicked arcs through the air, attached to new members of the society whose blood lust had been aroused. Continual practice in the art of armed combat against a much smaller, vastly nicer, and completely unarmed opponent soon converted this boyish enthusiasm into an effective destructive force. The first step in the campaign was to ambush lone Smurfs who strayed near our secret hide out, camouflaged

by the garishly painted sign saying "Anti-Smurf Battle-group I Headquarters. Secret. Keep Out". Soon the sight of happy warriors returning to base covered in glory, not to mention bits of Smurf, precipitated the decision to step up operations. Whole families of Smurfs were then attacked in their lairs, pulped by large blunt objects, and fried in a light sauce to nourish the troops.

By this time, however, the Smurfs began to sit up and take notice. They took to travelling in packs and at the least sign of danger they would launch into song and drive away our troops. Our first casualty was reported as one poor lad walked straight into a crowd of singing Smurfs. His mind went completely. Seeing this success they hounded our men unmercifully, cornering them in barns, ditches and especially garages, and then singing them to mental breakdown. They even discovered I was the leader. They started chasing me. They are always chasing me. I can hear them coming. Oh God, they're going to sing. Aaaa . . .

D. M. Reid

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## THE R.G.S. BOVVER BOY CLUB, 1977/78

This year the club has enjoyed an unusually full fixture list. Altogether 1977/78 has proved a not unsuccessful season and with a bit more experience in some positions and more height and weight in the second line of attack, the team could prove even more formidable in the coming years. As it was, the enthusiasm and aggression of our 1st team has paid high dividends, as our record shows.

Played 20; Won 18; Drawn 2; Lost 0.  
Casualties for 1077; Against 2.

The hardest of our matches was an away fixture at Old Trafford. The home side proved considerable opposition, with their speciality mob-attacks catching our less experienced team off guard. Nevertheless the match was an honourable draw with two casualties for each side; all occurring in the second half.

*P. A. Kibasher (Capt.)*

## CHESS

The game of Chess has been played for 1,500 years. It is thought that it originated in India and then went to Persia. It then spread to the Far East and possibly Russia. It was then taken by the Arabs to Italy and Spain. From Italy it spread to Germany and Northern Europe and from Spain to France and England.

The game, which is played with thirty-two pieces, requires a lot of patience. It is interesting to note the spread of interest in recent years among children—in some cases from the age of three!

Various countries have dominated the Chess world at times including England, but now the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. are well ahead of the others. The recent championship match in the Philippines between Korchnoi and Karpov (who won six games to five) attracted world-wide interest.

*B. P. Church, 3RB*

"There are two typeson this world," remarked the Mad Hatter sagely.

"What's a typeson ?" asked Alice impertinently, gloating over the Mad Hatter's typing error.

"Those who give pain and receive pleasure," he continued ignoring her, "and those who receive pain and give pleasure."

Alice began to perk up at the thought and looked wistfully in the direction of the Dormouse, snoozing peacefully by the teapot.

Gradually an evil smile spread across Alice's face and she shuddered with anticipated pleasure.

"Of course we could feed him to the Cheshire Cat," interrupted the March Hare brightly.

"Slowly," gasped Alice.

Deciding that the passage was becoming a little bit too crude for publication, the Mad Hatter poured a jug of iced orange juice into Alice's lap which instantly cooled her ardour, not to mention her thighs.

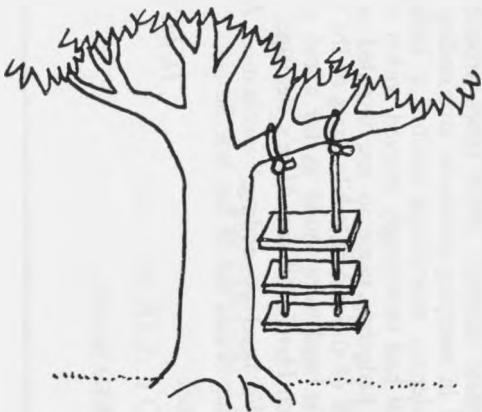
As Alice gasped with unrequited passion, the Queen of Hearts burst in upon the party, pursued by the King. "Stop pursuing me" screamed the Queen, "it's disgusting."

"I'm sorry dear," mumbled the King, blaming it on yet another typing error.

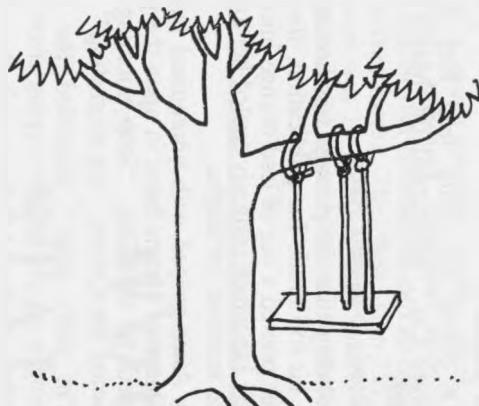
"What is that girl doing with the orange jug ?" shrieked the Queen, swinging an unfortunate flamingo seven times around her head in sweeping parabolic arcs ending in a thunderous concussion against a hedgehog which had unwittingly strayed within range. The hedgehog came to rest impaled on the spout of the teapot, while parts of the flamingo's head were found as far afield as the March Hare's tail and Alice's cleavage.

"We need an ending," exclaimed Alice, picking brains out of her bra. So . . .

*D. M. Reid*



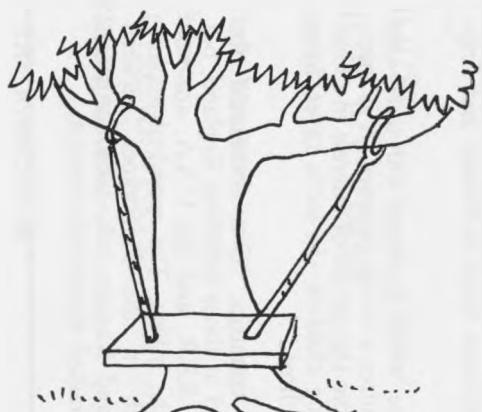
1. AS THE ARCHITECT DESIGNED IT.



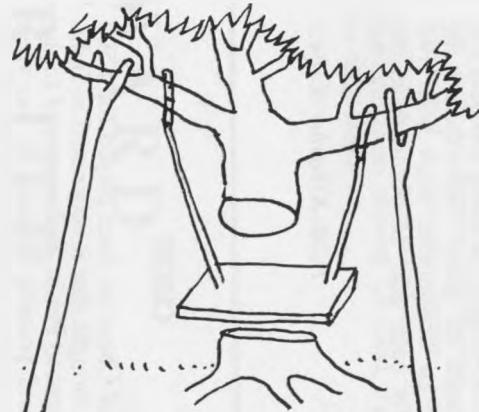
2. AS THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER  
DESIGNED IT.



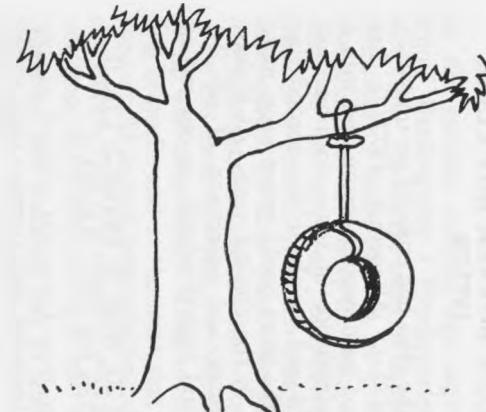
3. AS THE QUANTITY SURVEYOR  
PRICED IT.



4. AS THE CONTRACTOR ORIGINALLY  
BUILT IT.



5. AS THE CONTRACTOR EVENTUALLY  
COMPLETED IT.



6. WHAT THE CLIENT REALLY WANTED.

# The Old Boys

## DEATHS

J. R. D. BUSHELL (1908-11) died on March 16th, 1978, aged 83 years.

J. R. D. Bushell went to University College, London where he obtained a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. He joined the Army and served in the Queen's Own Regiment. He was badly wounded by machine gun fire on the Somme, spent 4 years in hospitals and underwent over 100 operations. He was a cripple for the rest of his life. On discharge he was unable to continue with Civil Engineering so he again studied and became a qualified Chartered Accountant. He formed his own company Humphries, Bushell & Co. Ltd. and practised until 1967 when he retired. He remained a bachelor, was a very active Mason and was Worshipful Master of his Lodge and later Secretary for many years.

J. H. CASTLE (1935-40) died in Australia, aged 55 years.

J. H. Castle was a Prefect, Captain of Arnison House and a Platoon Commander in the O.T.C. when he left school to join His Majesty's Forces. He was a Royal Marine Commando and was taken prisoner at St. Nazaire. After the war he qualified as a quantitative engineer and worked in Australia.

C. J. EVERITT (1959-61) died during the early part of 1978, aged 29 years.

Flt. Lt. Christopher Everitt was killed when his single seat Jaguar fighter crashed near Lossiemouth.

R. G. UDEN (1930-35) died suddenly this summer, aged 59 years.

R. G. Uden worked for Shell for 40 years. He was awarded the British Empire Medal. When he died he was living in retirement and loved to receive his copy of *The Wycombiensian*. When he lived in High Wycombe he was a devoted member of the Old Boys' Masonic Lodge and held high office. His widow lives in 23 The Rottyns, Rottingdean, Sussex.

## THE OLD WYCOMBIENSANS' CLUB

### OFFICERS

M. W. COOK, Esq., B.A. (Wales)

The Committee of the Old Wycombiensians' Club has met and has elected Mr. Malcolm Cook as Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Club. Mr. Cook who came to the School in 1968 to teach Geography, was born in Oldham, Lancs., and gained his B.A. degree in Aberystwyth.

He has always shown considerable interest in the affairs of the Club and particularly in the Old Boys themselves. The Committee is delighted that such a suitable man has accepted this position.

## NOTES

BANHAM, M. J. (1943-51) is now Senior Lecturer in Drama and Director of the Workshop Theatre at the University of Leeds. He hopes that any R.G.S student at Leeds will make himself known to him.

BERENDT, N. J. (1967-74) graduated from the University of St. Andrew's last July with an Honours M.A. in Economics after four idyllic years. He wanted to work in sales and abroad—to this end in the face of fierce competition he joined a company called Foster Refrigeration (U.K.) Ltd. based in Kings Lynn. His area will be possibly the Middle East or Africa. Refrigeration is the fourth biggest industry in the world. He has joined the Pelicans Hockey Club and went straight into the 1st XI, which contains the England coach and international and county level players. Brother A. R. BERENDT (1969-76) was awarded a "first" in his first year at Pembroke College, Cambridge and spent the summer working at G. D. Searle in Sands. He was involved in very high powered research into Chromation. He was in the University Revue at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and it was well received. Back at Cambridge he is studying and is also busy producing and directing a play.

BOWMAN, J. C. (1955-61). We last heard of him when he'd left the R.A.F. and started to teach in a prep. school. Mixed ability classes wore him down and he left. He became a car driving instructor with the British School of Motoring but one day saw a vacancy for a tutor in the Schools' Traffic Education Programme. He got the job and is now running one week courses for teachers on traffic education (all aspects of using the road). The teachers learn how to instruct beginners on mopeds and at the end of the course each teacher is given a moped to take back to his or her school. Many schools now have Traffic Education on the time-table and one can do a C.S.E. in it. The Government is fostering this because of the horrific accident figures among 16-19 year olds driving around on two wheels.

BRADMORE, A. D. (1971-78) is enthusiastic about the B.A.(Hons.) Geography course he has just started at the University of Southampton.

BURROWS, K. F. (1925-30) joined the Bucks Free Press 47 years ago. He retired on November 10th, 1978 as Deputy Editor, a position he filled with distinction for more than 20 years. He won a scholarship from Green Street School to the R.G.S. and reached the then matriculation standard with rare distinction in English composition. He was a good sportsman and played for the School in both cricket and soccer. One of his great "memory days" is when he reported the 1931 final when Wycombe Wanderers brought back the coveted Amateur Cup to the town.

CAVEY, M. J. (1963-70) wrote from Jericho, Oxford. During 1973-74 he started a B.Phil. in Middle Eastern Studies but gave it up to play rock music. He played in a group called "Tiger Lily" and did well for a while, but there was no real living in it so he did part-time teaching ("A" and "O" Level Politics) at a College of Further Education and also took a weekly guitar class in H.M. Prison.

He realised he was getting nowhere so he applied to St. Antony's to go back and do the B.Phil. in Middle Eastern Studies. He was accepted. He is now learning Arabic to help him with his course.

CHADWICK, J. W. M. (1967-75) was captain of the Christ Church team taking part in the last series of the I.T.V. University Challenge programme. In *The Observer's Colour Supplement* of 3rd September, 1978 there was an article on Christ Church, Oxford. In it reference was made to Julian, "a chubby-faced student, who takes it as perfectly normal that one single educational institution should have produced so many Prime Ministers and rulers of India". He is now training to be a solicitor at the College of Law, Lancaster Gate.

COPCUTT, A. D. (1940-46) is now, after 32 years with Wycombe Borough and Wycombe District Council, Assistant Chief Building Control Officer. His son, M. D. Copcutt (1969-76) is in his 3rd year at Bristol University studying Aeronautical Engineering.

COX, J. A. (1949-55) has described a full circle since leaving school to read Modern Languages at London University. He did his military service in the R.A. in Germany which suited him fine. He then became a graduate trainee with Tube Investments, then Export Manager, busy all over the

world. Now he is back in High Wycombe at the College of Further Education concerned with the new B.A. Honours course there in European Business Studies.

DEVLIN, B. E. (1950-56), Vice-Principal of a school in Borno State, Nigeria, wrote to the Headmaster asking for help to fill the shelves of the "library" at his school. It contained at the time some lizards and a few childish reference books. His 5th year pupils are not even semi-literate. On their behalf he was begging for books, magazines and comics. In his letter he somewhat ashamedly confessed that at the R.G.S. in 1956 he vigorously pursued only Rugby footballs and the Hockey captain of the Convent School.

DOLPHIN, P. (1969-76) was in the Manchester University cricket team which won the Universities' Athletic Union Cricket Championships in June 1978. He met P. G. HARVEY (1968-75) when Manchester played Lancaster University. He was also captain of the Bucks Young Amateurs XI this summer.

FEATONBY, N. (1971-78) has started on a Business Administration with French course at Loughborough University. He finds University life similar to life in his School boarding house.

FINLAYSON, C. J. M. (1971-78) has obtained a position as Trainee with Standard Chartered Bank, Clements Lane, London.

FOWLER, J. D. (1971-78) has won a £500 year National Engineering Scholarship. The award recognises the high calibre of 150 students throughout the U.K.

FRANCIS, M. J. (1943-47) has returned from his long holiday in England to Cape Town. On May 1st he competed in the Comrades Marathon (56 mile race from Pietermaritzburg to Durban) and finished the course in 9 hours 9 minutes. The winner took 5 hours 29 minutes. He is busy learning Portuguese which he often has to deal with in his legal insurance work. It is more difficult than Afrikaans which he found easy after learning German at school.

GAY, S. M. (1967-74) and LOWE, D. A. (1965-73) gave a song recital on November 16th in the Queen's Hall. Simon Gay (alto) and David Lowe (bass) are becoming distinguished. Simon went up to Cambridge as a Choral Scholar at King's College

where he soon became leading alto. He has since joined the B.B.C. Singers and has sung solo roles in many of London's leading concert halls. David is on the threshold of a professional career and has attended master classes with some of the world's most distinguished teachers in Vienna.

HOLE, A. E. F. (1925-30) has just retired as group secretary and financial director of Davenport Vernon Holdings Ltd., the High Wycombe motor engineering and garage group, after 31 years with the firm. At a luncheon given in his honour reference was made to his tireless work as financial director of eight companies. His financial wizardry is of great help to the School. In Rotary he has been secretary, president, district officer, now district senior vice-chairman and likely next year's district governor, one of the most senior posts in the movement. He is a Freemason and former Worshipful Master of his Lodge.

HOLMES, L. N. (1972-77) wrote from Dublin in June. He had completed his second year of Business Studies at Trinity College. He was particularly proud of having won two medals in three days (League Winners' and Cup Winners') playing Rugby for Trinity College R.F.C.

HOWE, P. T. (1970-77) now lives in Kincardineshire. He has successfully completed his first year at Nottingham University studying Mining Engineering. He spent eight weeks 650 yards below the surface down a Doncaster area coal mine. Life down a pit was an eye-opener. He also spent four weeks in Aberdeen working for B.P. He visited a North Sea oil-rig which was like something out of a Bond movie. In October he wrote from Pittsburgh, U.S.A. where he was spending 10 days selling Rag mags for Nottingham University. Brother Philip HOWE (1967-74) has finished at Tees-side Poly—he thinks he may join the R.A.F. or B.P. in their computer department, but while thinking about it he was a lifeguard during the summer at one of the local swimming pools.

HUGHES, J. C. (1957-64) is now Chief Programmer at Chubb Electronics in St. Albans. He has been busy designing Chubb's new range of cash dispensers, based on the new microprocessor technology. In his work with microprocessors he has met R. SIMMONS (1953-61) and

R. A. KEELEY (1953-61) both directors of a firm in Slough called Columbia Automation. Last April he and his wife Janet gloried in the birth of their first child—Rebecca Elizabeth.

HARRIS, L. F. (1917-21) retired on 31st December, 1978 after 45 years in the insurance business. In 1953 the late Mr. Jake Bennett, the founder of J. Bennett and Son Insurance Brokers Ltd., Corporation Street, High Wycombe and son John Bennett invited him to join them in partnership. He distinguished himself in the business. He was admitted an Associate of the Corporation of Insurance Brokers and was elected a Fellow of the Corporation in 1961.

HORLEY, G. F. (1920-28) enjoys retirement at Lee-on-Solent very much. Son G. H. HORLEY (1952-58) is a Chartered Accountant in High Wycombe. D. G. HORLEY (1957-63) gained a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering at Birmingham University, then a Ph.D. and recently M.I.C.E. He is a Consultant with Ove Arup.

IRELAND, J. (1968-74) wrote from Leeds, where he had completed his degree in Law, just before going to America for 10 weeks. He intended to hitch round the East Coast and then take a Greyhound bus to California. G. J. TINN (1968-74) is going to Leeds to work on his M.Sc. He is moving in with S. R. ATKINSON (1968-74) and S. D. BAINTON (1968-74).

IVESON, A. S. (1968-75) is in his final year at Warwick reading for a B.A. Hons. Degree in Modern German. He spent a year at Göttingen University (in one of the International Student Houses) with 25,000 other students.

JOHNSON, H. W. (1930-36) lives outside school at last, after devoting 40 years of his life to boarding at the R.G.S. and King Edward VI, Louth. He has bought a flat in Louth and just teaches.

KIRBY, D. D. (1945-51) took over the helm as Sealink's general manager 3½ years ago. Sealink is Britain's largest short sea shipping group and is a major division within British Rail. B.R. continues to make tax-payers wince but Sealink is sailing into profitable waters. Last year profits of £9 million were reported.

LOVEGROVE, D. W. (1955-61) has been appointed Lecturer in Church History at St. Andrew's University.

MADELIN, R. P. (1968-75) has completed two years at Magdalen College, Oxford and is active in the Junior Common Room and in the University Conservative Association. He has to work hard—his demyship seems to bring him a stream of exceptionally keen and exhausting tutors. He doesn't complain—he was awarded last term an "Underwood Exhibition" by the College for his pains. He will miss W. H. MEALING (1968-75) who gained an Upper Second in Modern History and has joined the merchant bankers Guinness, Mahon and Co. The College will be much quieter now. He gave news of friends outside Oxford. J. F. ALDOUS (1968-74) gained a 1st at Southampton and has a job as trainee actuary with Eagle Star. B. R. NEWTON (1968-75) was President of Pembroke Junior Parlour last term and as Labour candidate was a strong contender for the Presidency of the Cambridge Students' Union last year. Brother P. J. MADELIN (1970-76) is carving out a career for himself in the Trustee Savings Bank.

MAYO, R. H. (1955-62) graduated in 1966 from Jesus College, Cambridge and went to work for G.K.N. Reinforcements Ltd. in Smethwick, on the design of reinforced concrete buildings. He left G.K.N. in 1971 and went to the Department of Civil Engineering at Loughborough University of Technology as a research fellow. He joined the staff there in 1977 and would be pleased to help and advise any R.G.S. men who care to call. Brother H. F. MAYO (1960-66) spent seven years at Bristol University (two periods of three years with an industrial year) reading Architecture. He then went to Sheffield University and did two years post-graduate study of Landscape Architecture. He now lives in Peterborough and works for the Peterborough Development Corporation.

MERRIMAN, D. W. (1969-76) is shrewd. He is studying at Sheffield University (sponsored by Tube Investments, who look after him well) and has bought a house there. He says it is cheaper than renting.

MINTER, C. (1949-54) writes faithfully from his Post Office in Aberangell, Gwynedd Stocktaking prevented him from attending the Annual Dinner. He studied for five years under the Guest of Honour, Mr

Hills, who broadened his outlook on literature but who couldn't overcome his strong aversion to Jane Austen and the use of the English language as a mode of expression.

MUNFORD, P. G. (1969-76) was a short while with the Inland Revenue but he is now making a career for himself in the National Bus Company as Traffic Planning Officer with London Country Bus Services Ltd.

OSBORNE, J. P. (1949-53) was sponsored by I.C.I. Paints Division for four years at Aston University where he gained a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering and has remained with them ever since. He has worked in Research, Development and Production and is now Works Manager, Paints Division, Slough. He was a double colour in Rugby and Tennis at school but now concentrates on Golf at Burnham Beeches.

PACKMAN, C. J. (1957-64) spent three years commuting to Brussels on E.E.C. negotiations but is now managing a VAT office in London—demanding but interesting work. He has settled well at Croxley Green but Customs and Excise have work all over the country and a forced move cannot be ruled out. He notes various familiar names disappearing from the staff and also with some unease the appearance of some names, masquerading as staff, of people junior to him at school. Brother G. R. PACKMAN (1953-59) is working at present at an alarmingly high level in the Treasurer's Department of the City of Westminster.

RANCE, R. (1937-43) writes from Ipswich where he is back at Head Office of the Eastern Electricity Board after having been a district manager in three different places in 13 years. General management brought considerable stress and he is glad to be back doing work he enjoys. He now hopes to devote more time to sailing his boat among the estuaries, creeks and sandbanks of the fascinating East Coast. P. J. RANCE (1940-46) is a civil engineer in the Hydraulics Research Laboratory at Wallingford where he heads a team doing work on such things as the Wash Barrage. D. A. RANCE (1950-57) is the musician of the family and teaches at Bognor Regis. School friend K. A. GOODEARL (1937-43) is, he thinks, still designing bridges with Freeman, Fox and Partners.

ROBERTS, P. A. (1960-66) is establishing himself as one of our leading young pianists. In 1970 he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, in 1974 he received a substantial award from the Leverhulme Trust and the following year made his Wigmore Hall debut. For the past few years he has been invited to the Ponta Delgada Conservatoire in the Azores to adjudicate the annual competition and to give recitals. He has given illustrated talks on Radio 3 in the series "Music Maestro, Please" and more recently in the series "Music in Principle".

ROSE, C. A. (1940-44), a member of the British Railways Board, appeared on B.B.C. News speaking on behalf of B.R. at the Confederation of British Industry Conference in November. The commentator said he talked sense. This was much appreciated.

ROWLAND, C. J. (1974-78) was lucky to find a job that suited him. He is working in Padstow Bird Gardens in Cornwall. This is a tourist attraction with softbills and a few parrots. He is one of the three people who work there. He lives in a cottage, does his own cooking and washing and is very content.

SCRUTON, R. V. (1954-61) has left Birkbeck College for a short while to act as Visiting Professor of Philosophy and the Arts at Princeton University in America. He continues to write controversial reviews in the *Times Literary Supplement* and has written two more books—one on the Aesthetics of Architecture and the other on the Philosophy of the Conservative Party.

SEARLE, R. A. (1969-76) wrote from Gonville and Cains College, Cambridge to inform us that he had passed his Bishops' Selection Conference and had been recommended for training for Ordination. He was thrilled about it. If all goes according to plan he will be trained at St. Stephen's House, Oxford.

SHARP, D. J. (1959-64) is now flying the single-seat Jaguar at R.A.F. Cottishall—"a fantastic job". He has bought a house on the Norfolk Broads. It was he who sent the sad news of the tragic death of Chris Everitt, a good friend and fellow Jaguar pilot.

SNODIN, D. N. (1959-66) was one of the two people who dramatised and produced the "Wuthering Heights" serial on T.V. recently.

STACEY, N. C. (1915-19). Golden Weddings are very popular this year. Norman Stacey celebrated his recently. He married Miss Eleanor Thompson on 16th June, 1928. School friends O. W. BANHAM (1916-20) and F. W. GRACE (1915-20) were at his party. "Jim" Banham married Miss Molly Cox on 18th July, 1928. "Fred" Grace married Miss Mary Pugh on 12th September, 1928. B. A. STACEY (1906-13) was also there with his wife and wondered what all the fuss was about. He married Miss Edith Davis on 4th August, 1922.

STEVENS, D. W. (1933-40). Professor Denis Stevens writes from Santa Barbara, California. He left England for America in 1962 and taught musicology in California, Pennsylvania, Washington, Michigan and New York, holding two distinguished professorships and receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Fairfield University, Connecticut. From 1964 until 1974 he was Professor of Musicology at Columbia University. He has published several books, numerous articles and editions of early music from the Middle Ages up to the early 19th century. He has conducted at the leading international festivals, including Bath, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London, Lucerne, Salzburg and has made over 75 records. In 1979 Faber and Faber will be publishing his translation and edition of the Letters of Monteverdi and Novello will publish the new edition of the Monteverdi "Christmas Vespers", of which he will conduct the world première at the Lucerne Festival in August. In October he will tour the U.S.A. with his ensemble, the Accademia Monteverdiana. He will also be seen on television in the series "Music of Man" with Yehudi Menuhin as host.

STEVENS, P. G. (1927-33) has retired after 43 years with Customs and Excise. J. A. STEVENS (1959-66) is still in Munich working for a publisher of educational books. R. B. STEVENS (1961-68) is a Chartered Accountant working for Deloitte and Co. in Nairobi.

THOMAS, P. F. (1965-72). Lieut. Peter Thomas wrote from the Wardroom of H.M.S. Pembroke, Chatham. He left

school to read Mathematics at Imperial College and was sponsored by the Navy. He continued his R.N. training at Dartmouth and at sea on H.M.S. Diomede. He is now in the Instructor Branch at Chatham. He teaches Maths and helps with Adventure Training and radiation safety. He keeps in touch with W. H. BARKSFIELD (1965-72) computer programmer with Hillingdon Borough, A. H. MASSEY (1965-72), computer analyst, R. E. NICOL 1966-71) a doctor in Birmingham, P. M. STEVENSON (1966-72), Physics research at Imperial College, M. S. SPENCER (1965-71) R. and D. Engineering, J. J. SZWER (1965-71) computer analyst, M. J. WILD (1965-72) R. and D. with Standard Telegraph and Cables.

THORNE, R. W. (1951-57) left H.M.S. Ariadne some months ago after two years on her. He is now on the Staff of C. in C. Fleet and in the last half yearly service promotions he was made a Commander. He has a degree in Engineering and engineers are a rare breed in the R.N.

TORRENS-BURTON, B. A. (1954-60) is a Chartered Surveyor specialising in Valuation. After qualifying at the College of Estate Management he worked for Sheffield Corporation and is now at the Oxford Property Services Agency, part of the Department of the Environment. Brother W. J. S. TORRENS-BURTON (1954-57) did Law at the London School of Economics and is now teaching it.

VERE, R. F. S. (1952-58) and D. W. S. (1958-63). The High Wycombe furniture firm of William Vere Ltd., whose expansion in recent years has put them among the "big guns" of local industry, had an unexpected honour when they exhibited at the Hanover Trade Fair in Germany. The Duke of Kent showed special interest in their display and admired the versatility of the Wycombe-made chairs demonstrated by R. O. DAVIES (1963-69), export manager.

WATTS, G. (1969-76) spent four weeks in the U.S.A. after his "A" Levels and then 13 well paid weeks in a boring job before going to U.M.I.S.T. In the two years he's been in Manchester he has grown to like the town very much. He thought it would be dirty—but great efforts have been made to clean it up. He left Manchester in September 1978 to teach English for one year

on the west coast of France, in Soujon, near Royan. It is an experimental school where they teach many subjects in English. Friend P. B. YAGHMOURIAN (1969-76) is also in France working in a hotel near Orly for a year as part of his Business course. P. L. EDWARDS (1969-76) spent the summer evenings playing in the orchestra of a West End theatre.

ZANDER, M. (1946-51). Professor Michael Zander, Professor of English Law at the London School of Economics, delivered his inaugural professorial lecture in November. He urged that a new independent body should be set up to be responsible for the reform of the administration of justice, both civil and criminal and the legal system. He pointed out that there were two part-time bodies and one full-time one (the Law Commission) concerned with the reform of substantive law but none of the three had concerned itself with the administration of justice or the operation of the legal system.

The following boys did well in their final examinations last summer:

P. I. POSKETT and F. G. HARRISON both gained First Class Honours in Electronic Engineering at Southampton. A. J. LONGWORTH gained a 1st in Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College. J. N. PEARCE, a 1st in Electrical Engineering at Imperial. J. P. NEWELL, a 1st in Civil Engineering at Bristol (the previous year). S. BIRD, an Upper Second in Civil Engineering at Bristol. S. P. HOPKINS, an Upper Second in Physics at Imperial.

### THE OLD WYCOMBIENSANS' MASONIC LODGE

In October 1978 Frank Bravington (1933-38) became Master, Phillip Ray (1958-65) Senior Warden, John Millbourn (1939-44) Junior Warden of the Old Boys' Lodge.

The Treasurer is Lt./Col. S. E. Hands (1915-20) and the Secretary J. P. Lord (1933-39) whose address is 10 Keep Hill Drive, High Wycombe.

### THE OLD WYCOMBIENSANS' CAMBRIDGE DINNER

The Annual Dinner was held on Thursday, November 9th, 1978 in Peterhouse. Twenty-nine Old Boy undergraduates, Mr. Roland Brown, Mr. Malcolm Smith and eleven members of staff were present. It was without any doubt a record gathering. K. D. Bennett was the organiser. R. H. Edwards introduced the Headmaster who was able once again to give a glowing report of the School's progress. The toast remained "The Royal Grammar School, long may it flourish".

### HIGH WYCOMBE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

#### Golden Jubilee Season 1978-79

At a grand Golden Jubilee Dinner held in the Town Hall on November 10th, 1978 congratulations and good wishes for the future were sent by the Old Wycombiensans' Club to the High Wycombe R.F.C. Mention was made of the pride of the Old Boys in having founded a Club which had gone on to such vigorous success.

The Founder Members in 1928-29 were:

G. W. Arnison, President  
H. G. Brand, Hon. Secretary  
S. E. Hands, Hon. Treasurer  
E. G. Read, Assistant Hon. Secretary  
N. Barnes, Captain  
T. K. McAusland, Vice-Captain  
G. L. E. Eyles  
L. F. Harris  
J. H. Hunt  
A. V. Keen  
C. N. Locke  
T. H. Redington  
J. F. Walter

Old Boys continue to play a very full part in the running of the Club.

### THE ANNUAL DINNER 1979

Date: March 17th, 1979.

Time: 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Venue: The School.

Guest of Honour: P. J. Prior (1929-36),  
Chairman of H. P. Bulmer Ltd.

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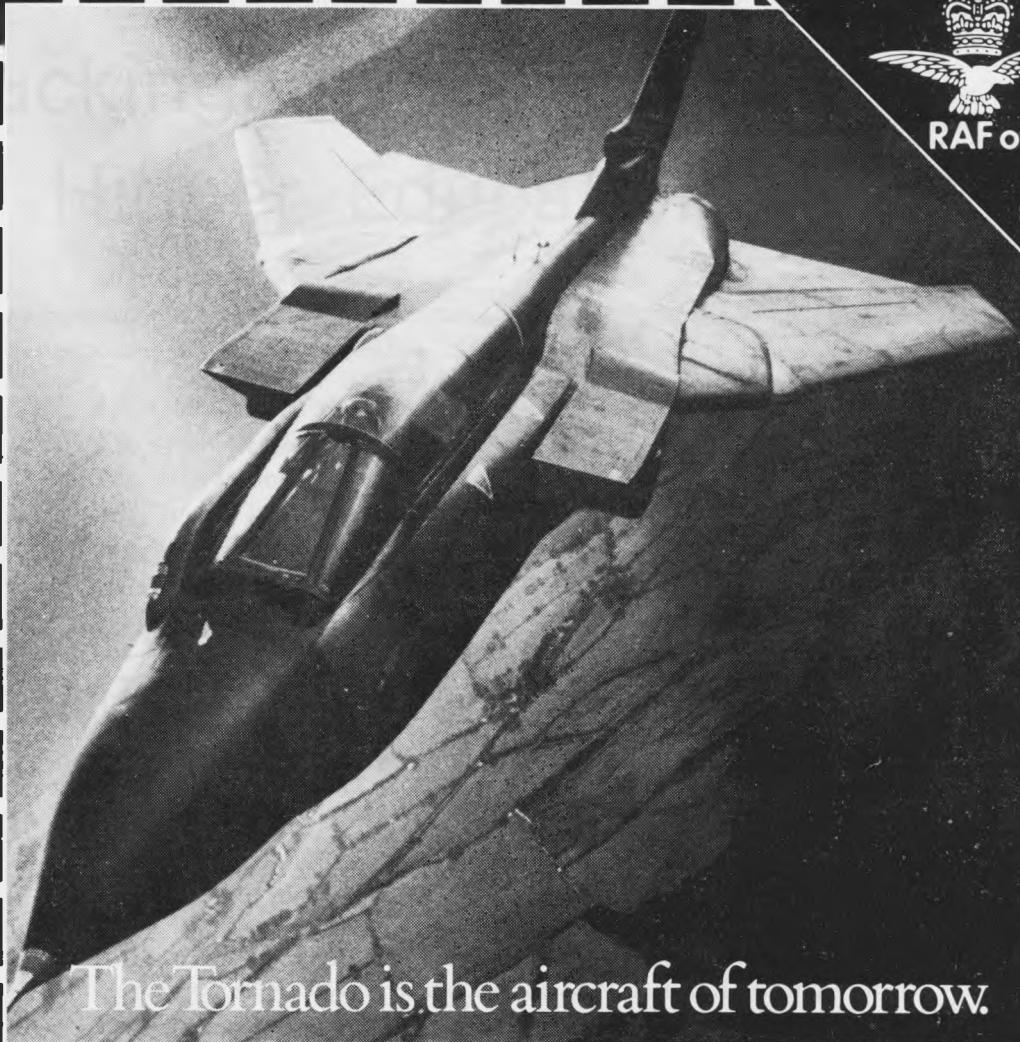
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