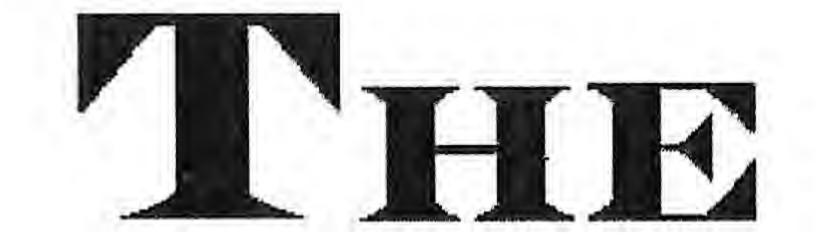


The Magazine of the Old Fosterians' Association



No. 21

Spring 2014



FOSTERIAN

The Magazine of the Old Fosterians' Association



No. 21 Spring 2014

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

of the

OLD FOSTERIANS' ASSOCIATION

2013/2014

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COMMITTEE

G. BUNTER Esq., J. HOUSE Esq., S. LOVE Esq., D BALL Esq.,

FOREWORD

The format of this year's magazine differs from previous editions as I have struggled to find both time and material to compile a full and interesting copy. However coming to our rescue has been the work done by the Museum, and in particular Barbara Elsmore. During 2013 Sherborne Museum hosted an exhibition of the life and times of Foster's School and Barbara has also compiled a document from memories etc of each decade of life at the school. The product is a "living" document which continues to develop as more and more information is provided from old Fosterians. The committee have agreed to cover sample sections of the document in each of the next 4 editions of this magazine.

I hope that you find the enclosed articles interesting and a full version is available on the museum website, for those who have access to the internet. Consideration has also been given to producing books covering all of the sections within the document.

CHAIRMANS REMARKS

I recorded some of these comments below for my Chairman's report at the AGM last October which unfortunately I missed. I was drawn away helping the next generation's education by taxiing to a Nottingham University Open Day! All a very different experience from 30 years ago. Halls of Residence like Hotels and Student Loans!

Once again I want to record my thanks to the Committee for their unstinting hard work and Tim especially. Thank you to those who have stepped in with various duties to lighten Tim's load.

Particular thanks and thoughts go to Ken who is battling ill health at the moment. As ever, very stoical about such matters!

Hon sec.

It is great to report some of the old Fosters cups still in use at the Gryphon Prize giving. The Brian Davis Memorial Shield, The Maltby Art Prize and the George Pragnel Prize to name 3.

I hope you had a chance to see the Sherborne Museum exhibition last year, the fruits of which are now providing some much needed material for the Magazine. Please do not let this be an excuse not to provide new original articles. We need them for future publications!

I look forward to seeing some of you at The Founders Day Service in May and later in the year at the Dinner – details for both are provided later,

Regards Philip

REPORT ON THE DOUZELAGE PROJECT (PART FUNDED THROUGH ERNEST HULME)

Press Release

Sherborne Douzelage continues to provide challenging and enjoyable activities to help our young people develop and increase their life skills.

In August 2013 they sponsored 13 local teenagers to sail on the Tall Ship Pelican to France and back, a real life changing experience for several of them and a way to build opportunities for future trips by local schools.

In September there was a visit by some 20 Danish students to Sherborne where they spent time in school with Gryphon students and visited local businesses and sites of interest, including of course the abbey and the castles. What they enjoyed most was playing skittles in the Weavers social club at our parents and friends evening.

In February 6th form students were taken to Granville, co funded by money from the Ernest Hulme fund to participate in the biggest Carnaval in France. They were part of one of the floats, "Stars 80" and danced through the crowded streets of the town. They visited Mont St. Michel, The Bayeux Tapestry and the D Day landings site, Aramanche. They gave a presentation to a local college and practised a lot of French!

By the time you read this Sherborne Douzelage, in partnership with Sherborne Boys and The Gryphon schools, will have held the Sherborne Young Musician final. Selected musicians will go forward to the international festival in July. Generous contributions from the Simon Digby (Sherborne) Memorial Trust, plus local sponsors/ businesses have made this possible. However further funding is still required to make a real success in July 2014 In April a Sherborne delegation will participate in meetings in Latvia, including Youth and Education workshops focused on photography and building culture into secondary education. Sherborne Douzelage is a community association open to all. We welcome all local people to participate in our activities. Also please find and follow us on Facebook.

Report from Participating Student

As part of the Douzelage, we went to Granville, Normandy. We caught the ferry from Portsmouth to Caen on Thursday 27^{th} February, and then drove to Granville to meet the family that we would be staying with. That evening, we saw our *Stars 80* float that we would be on for the carnival. It was in a large outbuilding with the other floats – a sinking ship, a boxing ring, and a princess's castle, all but to name a few!

On Friday, we visited a local school. It was very interesting as it was so different to our own. We showed the students photos of The Gryphon, which they enjoyed, but they were particularly interested in our food and what puddings we had! That afternoon, we visited Mont St. Michel which was beautiful – and very windy! Saturday was sunny, so we enjoyed watching the children's procession and throwing confetti at each other (our host explained that they find confetti in the house for several months after the carnival!). We explored many of the little shops and went for a walk along the beach.

The carnival was on Sunday. It was cold, so we were thankful of our fur coats (part of our 80's costume, along with sparkly dresses and silver boots). We had lots of fun dancing along the route to the music blaring from our float, and dodging confetti being thrown at our faces! On Monday, we said our farewells to our hosts who had put up with us for the five days. We then went to the Bayeux Tapestry and the Normandy Beaches, before driving to Caen for our ferry. I'd like to thank the Douzelage, The Old Fosterians' Association and Kevin Waterfall for taking us – it was a fantastic experience and a great opportunity to practice French speaking – and it certainly helped!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Sherborne Hotel, Sherborne, starting at 17.30pm on 12th October 2013. Twelve members attended and apologies were received from Philip Dolbear. The President, K. House Esq., conducted the meeting.

Minutes of the previous AGM

With the correction to the spelling of Barbara Elsmore the Minutes of the AGM held on 13th October 2012 were agreed unanimously and signed by The President as a true record.

Matters Arising

Geneva Bible – The committee proposed to donate the bible to the Gryphon school as the cost of restoration was the same as the value of the book once restored. *The meeting agreed with the committee to donate the book to the Gryphon School.*

Reports from Officers

President – KH. Ken House reported on the programme of events for the forthcoming year.

The Remembrance Service will be held on the Friday 8th November at the Gryphon School and all OFA members are welcome to attend but are required to give Ken notice if they wish to attend. Founder's Day service, held in conjunction with former Lord Digby's school girls, will be held on the 10th May 2014. Details of next year's reunion dinner will be arranged after the dinner this year.

The exhibition of Fosters' School is running at the Museum until the end of the year.

The President gave another request for further articles from old boys for the magazine.

Chairman – PD. Thanks given to KH, John House and Barbara Elsmore for the work done both in completion of the categorising of all the Fosters' School artifacts, and for the exhibition at the Museum.

Treasurer – PH. PH presented the financial report as at the end of September. He requested a change in reporting period to match calendar year end. The main benefits are that there are no transactions at this time of the year enabling a more accurate report to be provided. The meeting agreed to change the period for the Treasurer's report.

A full financial report for the year 2013 is provided in the magazine under "Hon. Treasurer's Report".

It was also proposed to change the authorised signatories for the OFA cheques from Mike Goode (former secretary) to Philip Dolbear. The meeting agreed on changes to the authorised signatories.

Secretary – TA. Tim Ashmore thanked those that continue to make on-going payments to the Association. Approximately £900 a year is received which covers the costs of the publication and postage of the magazine.

Election of Officers

Following the declaration from Tim Ashmore to stand down from the secretarial role at last year's AGM Simon Newell has come forth to take over the membership duties. Graham Bunter has agreed to assist with the production of the magazine. TA will talk further with others to consider the organisation of the two main OFA events i.e. the Founder's Day Service and lunch and the Reunion Dinner.

TA has agreed to remain on the committee. No new proposals for office have been received. The remaining incumbent officers have all agreed to stand and were duly proposed by John House and seconded by Ian Maunsell for a further year.

No new resolutions had been received or proposed

<u>A.O.B</u>

K.H. suggested that the 2014 magazine will include a number of the sections of a new book that Barbara Elsmore, from the Museum, has compiled. This covers all aspects of the history of Foster's School. This document is continuously being updated as further articles are provided from staff, and pupils and is available on the internet. However many of the older former boys do not have internet access.

T.A. will liaise with the committee, and in particular Graham Bunter, on the most suitable sections to include in the magazine.

The meeting closed at 18.35.

HON. TREASURERS REPORT

The balances of the OFA accounts are as stated below for the year end 2013. As an association we remain in reasonable health with just a marginal decline in our assets as compared to 2012.

Assets at 31st December 2013

Barclays Savings A/c	£169
NatWest Reserve A/c	£ 23
NatWest Current A/c	£110
War Stock	£ 16

Hon. Secretary

Hon Treasurers Report At 31st December 2013

91.473.00)3.5055.00 place, the Conduit, as I first remembered it, it was boarded up and used as a store for the stands of those who sold on the Parade. The timber fronted house adjoining the Abbey gateway was then partly an inn and partly a fish and fruit monger's shop – neither of them of very wholesome or attractive appearance. Nearest the Conduit was an old shop which later on became a grocery shop.

From the Parade one could reach Half Moon Street in three ways. You could go by the passage to the churchyard or by Cheap Street as you go now. But the quickest way was by a partly covered passage almost adjoining the grocer's shop. This passage, closed when the present buildings were erected, had on one side a very old building with two bow front shop windows on its Half Moon Street front. That was Sherborne's post office and also a stationer's business kept by two brothers bearing a name well known in Sherborne the brothers Penny with courtly dignified ways so often missing from today's life.

Outstanding from the end of Mr R Adams house was a drum-shaped clock prominent to all who passed up and down and presenting a mystery to my younger mind: how was it wound and adjusted?

At the end of Messrs Dorlings drapery stores in South Street there stood a house jutting out into the road. This was an old tollhouse and its tenant was a one-armed Bathchair man.

Passing along Half Moon Street

we should presently come to the Town Hall occupying the grass slope, where now stands the War Memorial, down to the Weighbridge. How old it was when it was pulled down to open up the view of the Abbey, I do not know, but it was in use over 100 years ago. At one end was a small shop, kept by a working jeweller and later on rented by my father as a store. I have some recollection of taking part in a juvenile entertainment in the Town Hall but I remember better the sensation caused by the appearance, at a ball held there, of an officer of a Highland regiment in all the glory of kilt, bonnet and shawl. The Ball was given by the officers of the Dorset Militia then encamped on Lenthay Common. The camp was a great attraction to the towns folk especially its field cooking equipment. At another time a regiment was encamped in Sherborne Park and the wonder of that camp was a floating bridge across the lake. I still have a tollticket for 1d which was the price of crossing the bridge.

Coming back to Half Moon Street the weighbridge was then nearer to Mr Francis Stokes' grocer's shop with low front and modest bow windows. In Westbury, where now are the Roman Catholic church and school and the adjoining terrace of houses, was a field with a low wall known as the gravel pits. In the cottages along the top of the field lived a number of old parishioners. We often called on one, an old friend, and invariably left with some flowers from her little garden and to this day the scent of Southernwood (Boy's Love) will always bring me a picture of those cottages and of some of their gracious and kindly tenants. Where now is the beauty of the Pageant Gardens, in my view a gem amongst public gardens, was also a field, sometimes flooded in Winter and Spring and occasionally available for skating. Here also the shows and attractions of Pack Monday Fair were sometimes staged.

The Surrey Dairy company's factory occupies the site of a number of old cottages and when at times the river overflowed they were flooded as well as the roadway as far back as Ludbourne Hall. The road leading to the Corn Company's premises and the row of houses did not then exist. Where now a broad road connects Long Street and Newlands was a narrow badly lighted sometimes foul and disreputable lane which at night it was safer to avoid. The island garden in Newland contained and filled the triangular space, which is now open, with its trees and seats. Beyond the first four or five houses of the Avenue there was only the pathway to Cold harbour whilst the entrance from Newlands was blocked by a very small house and garden. North Road also was approached from Newlands by a very narrow passage.

In Cold Harbour there was no steam laundry and none of the houses beyond were then built. Wootton Grove with its school, Kings Road and Vernalls Road were all fields and allotments and the Priestlands estate was allotments also. The shops facing up Bristol road and the Fair field are of course quite recent and the only entrance to the Fair was in Coldharbour.

To be concluded R W F 1896-1900 Now we have the initials and by reading on in another report in the same edition of The Fosterian a name is revealed at last—Reginald Foot. In the school admission book he is no 139 admitted to school 6 May 1886 the son of a seedsman. Old Boys of his time will be very interested to learn that R. W. Foot, FSMC, FBOA, FIO (1886-1890) opened a practice as Consulting Optician at Thornton Heath at the beginning of the year (1933), and, like us, they will wish him success in his enterprising venture. Three years ago he set an example to Fosterians of past generations, which several have been led to follow, by sending us an article by an Old Boy for insertion in the magazine; and we are therefore more than ordinarily glad to include in the present issue a further contribution from his pen, of great interest to all who are or have been connected with Sherborne.

The 1933 December edition and the last instalment:

Sherborne Fifty Years Ago (Part 2) (as seen from the 1930s)

I have seen stalls and booths for the Pack Monday Fair bordering Cheap Street from as far up as beyond the present Post Office, and along

Total

Expenditure at 31st December 2013

Magazine printing / posting	£69
Founders Day Church Ex.	£13
Annual Dinner Advert	£25
(BMV magazine)	
Poppy wreaths	£50
T Ashmore Expenses	£12
Total	£91

Just to remind members that I do not itemise the income for either the Founders Day lunches or the Annual Dinner (nor their expenditure) as both these events are fully self funding. All income received by whatever means is accountable and traceable through the NatWest current account statements. Expenditure likewise is all through the single cheque book operating on that account.

To reassure our newest member (at time of writing) Gordon Webber (56 - 62) your cheque was not banked until the New Year and will be in the general income for 2014.

P R Holden

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30/01/14

FOUNDER'S DAY 2013

LORD DIGBY'S and FOSTER'S SCHOOLS

10th MAY 2014

Programme

11.30 am

Service at Castleton Church, Sherborne Preacher; To be Confirmed

1.00 pm

Luncheon at the Sherborne Hotel

PLEASE NOTE OFA AGM WILL BE HELD AGAIN THIS YEAR BEFORE THE REUNION DINNER IN OCTOBER

Tickets £12.50. Available through the Association Secretaries. Foster's School.- Hon Secretary OFA, Lydeard House, Bradford on Tone, Taunton TA4 1HB. Cheques made payable to 'OLD FOSTERIANS' ASSOCIATION'; please include a SAE or e-mail address.

Final date for tickets. 25th April 2014

Menu

Beef and Pork carvery

Vegetarion option

Homemade Lemon sponge and Custard Black Forest Gateaux **Fresh Fruit Salad**

or Cheese and Biscuits

Tea or Coffee and mints

OLD FOSTERIANS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

th SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2014 at 5.30 pm (Preceding the reunion dinner) At the

Sherborne Hotel

Agenda

- - Resolutions
- AOB

Members are reminded that should they wish to submit any resolutions for the consideration of the meeting, copy(s) must be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary of the Association, 21 days prior to the meeting.

Minutes of the AGM. 2013 Matters arising from the Minutes Election of officers and committee

THE ANNUAL DINNER & REUNION 2014

For all Old Fosterian's and partners **PLUS Former Lord Digby School Girls and partners**

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

THE SHERBORNE HOTEL 6.45pm for 7.15pm

Tickets £17.00

Obtainable from the Dr Ian Maun, 13 Higher Brimley, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8JS or e-mail to wordsmith@eclipse.co.uk

Cheques made payable to the 'Old Fosterians' Association' Please include a SAE, or e-mail address and provide your dates at school. Early indication is requested, thus allowing for arrangements to be confirmed.

Special discounted rates for accommodation have been negotiated with the hotel (including breakfast) for the Saturday night. Please book directly with the Hotel giving the OFA dinner as reference.

Places will be reserved on a first come first served basis

Saturday, 11th October 2014

AT

LOOKING BACK 3

DAVID GIBLING

David Gibling—a Schoolboy in the 1930-40s

M y father, Robert, taught at Foster's School from 1909 – 1947 with the exception of about two years during the First World War. My mother, Gladys Kathleen Parker, must have joined the staff before my father left for the trenches (he wrote poems to her from there) and probably continued teaching at Foster's School until shortly before their marriage on 20 December 1920. I was a pupil from 1932-41 and my brother, Robin, from 1933-42. My sister, Gillian, was at Lord Digby's School from 1940-47. All I recall of the move itself was helping to carry some of the oldfashioned desks from Hound Street to the new site in Tinney's Lane. It was a novel experience having the whole school - assembly hall, gymnasium, classrooms, laboratories, woodwork and art rooms – brought together on one site. Previously, they had been scattered over a wide area. The original stone building was probably much as it had always been, divided into two classrooms (1st form and 5th form) by a movable wood and glass panelled screen in sections. It served as the Assembly Hall. The screen was removed for

events such as Speech Day and performances of the school play. These were produced by Ernest Hulme (French). Maurice Welcher (Science) managed the lighting (possibly stage management also) very efficiently. There was some improvisation; I recall a drainpipe forming part of the dimming mechanism. My father would act as prompt. A recording of Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance' marches was played during the intervals. All the other classrooms were 'temporary' wooden huts dating from the early twenties or before. They were heated by coke-fuelled tortoise stoves supervised by a monitor. They warmed the first few front rows, but in frosty weather overcoats and scarves would be worn and lessons might be punctuated by a run round 'the field' to get the fingers tingling again.



DAVID WITH YOUNGER BROTHER ROBIN

'The Field' was the favoured breaktime area in fine weather. It sloped down from the iron railings bordering the Headmaster's vegetable garden to the woodwork hut. (The woodwork hut, incidentally, was also a form room). On the second Monday in October, the field became the site of the sheep auction associated with Pack Monday Fair, thus necessitating, to the pupils' satisfaction, a day off school, even though the field itself was unusable for several days afterwards. Beyond it, reached by a tarmac pathway, was the Congregational schoolroom, where 'gym' lessons took place (except in July when it was commandeered for the pupils sitting the School and Higher School Certificate exams). At one end was the platform with seats and on the wall a large sepia photograph of a foreign missionary station. RSM Brown (a redoubtable and popular teacher) also ran 'Evening Gym',

a club for which one paid a small fee. This dispensed with formal exercises in favour of various vaults over the horse and swings and handstands on the parallel bars. We customarily rounded off the annual school gym display by building a carefully rehearsed multi-tiered pyramid, which at a given signal would abruptly collapse (sometimes on



a summer evening the club would

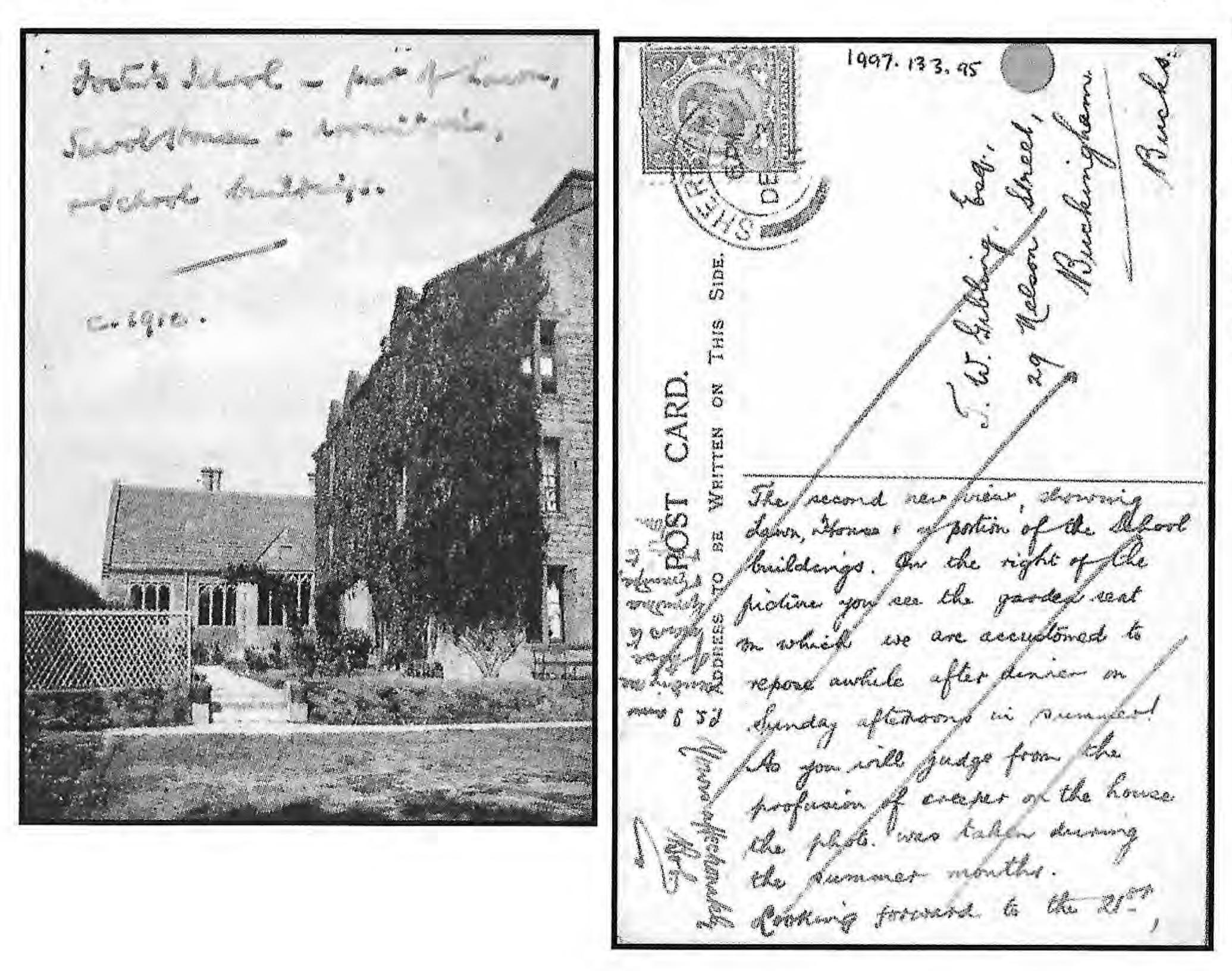
cross Long Street for the Brewery Field to indulge in a free-for-all game of football 'No rules!').

Among regular members of the Evening Gym, apart from my brother and myself, I recall Philip Wood, George Treasure (whose father kept the bakery on Green Hill), Dick and John Ballam, and 'Nab' Baker who sadly lost his life when his troopship was torpedoed on the voyage to Australia.

Mr Lush's vegetable garden was separated from the tarmac playground by a privet hedge. On the playground side on a low plinth stood a field gun, which we understood had been captured form the Turks. Such trophies were common enough in public places after the Great War, until taken away to be recycled for metal for another war effort. At the top corner of the playground was the Headmaster's garage with the staff room above it. One master obtained his mid-

SUMMER CAMP 1937. DAVID IS PICTURED HERE AS ARE HIS SISTER GILLIAN, BROTHER ROBIN, HIS FATHER ROBERT AND HIS UNCLE MICHAEL.

morning coffee by arrangement with a house in Hound Street. It would be carried to him by one of the boys. Beyond the steps leading up to the staff room were the primitive toilets – just a row of wooden closets with, on the other side of the narrow passage, a cemented stone wall with a channel running below open to the elements and used by all. The cloakroom was located inside the main door of the original building. One of my memories is of H R F Young, son of a (or the) Milborne Port Policeman: his bicycle light was an oxy-acetylene lamp with a tendency to flare up when lit; if this happened he would seize his macintosh, already to hand, and deliver several blows with it until the flames went out. It was also he, as I remember, who was responsible for signalling the change-over between lessons, standing on the steps of the entrance to the main building and vigorously swinging the heavy handbell so that its jangling notes might be heard in the furthest huts.



There were no school dinners then, except for the boarders. They would be joined at the tables in the long narrow, stone-flagged dining room by the 'country boys' who cycled in from as far away as Thornford and Yetminster bringing their lunches with them. Everyone else went home for lunch. My father, who always seemed to have something on in the dinner hour, barely had time for a hasty bite before hurrying back for the afternoon session.

Soccer (as it was called then), cricket and athletics took place on the Terrace, a good mile away but a wonderful site with the woodlands of Gainsborough Hill rising steeply to the south and the valley of the river Yeo spreading mistily westward. There was Saturday morning school in those days, with voluntary games in the afternoon, but my father would be there in shorts and boots encouraging St Bedes to play up and do their best to beat St Dunstans or St Adlhelm's. By this time (mid 1930s), Mr Miller

> had replaced 'Johnny' Walker as mathematics master and taken over the running of the 1st XI soccer and cricket teams. Under

David's father Robert was responsible for many of the wonderful items that found their way into the school archive - here is a postcard he sent home to his parents just before Christmas 1911.

his purposeful training and tactical knowledge of both games, we enjoyed two or three very successful seasons, beating schools much larger than our own (we numbered at most only about 120 pupils). Before the war, cross-country meant more or less that. From Newland, the course crossed Purley Meadow, continued along New Road and from the Thornford Road headed up through Honeycombe Woods and so along the Blandford Road to eventually plunge down the stoney path through Gainsborough Woods to Purley again. Competitors were left to their own devices and evening practice runs in March and April are a pleasant memory of mine. There were, of course, no showers in the old school, just a few wash hand basins.

My father began or organised a number of activities during his time at Foster's School. Among them was the Old Fosterians' Association. He would put aside the first week or so of each holiday to writing both the School and Old Boys' sections of The Fosterian. The latter was largely based upon the meetings he had and letters he received from old boys, and it meant a great deal to him, especially during the war years. He would reply in detail to every letter he received, so many of them from old boys serving overseas. He, with much help I imagine from my mother, also founded the 'Commoners' Society'. Regular meetings were held at which speakers would be invited to talk about their work (e.g. a central post

office official, or a local figure such as WG Pike an expert on clocks and watches), or a debate would be held. The Commoners' Society led to the Commoners' Concert. Held annually, it drew on the varied and sometimes surprising talents of boys, old boys, masters and their wives, and was a great success. Mrs Lush, my mother and father were regular performers - Mrs Lush with her rich contralto tones, my mother with her romantic ballads, and my father with his humorous ditties typical of his self-deprecating sense of humour. Among other countless turns over the years, one could mention the illuminated Indian club-swinging of the Hann brothers of Milborne Port and the wailing notes of the musical saw as played by Robin Ridout, a small-holder from Purse Caundle. Between them, my father and mother organised the fortnight's annual summer camp, which ran from 1932 - 1938. Mr Lush would drive them in his Swift to a possible site and if thought suitable arrangements would be agreed there and then with the farmer. Bell tents were used, except for the ladies who might have a caravan (e.g. my mother and sister, Gillian). My mother, Mrs Hulme and her sister, Grace Blease, did the cooking, assisted by the school caretaker, while orderlies for the day cut sandwiches and kept the wasps at bay, laid the tables and did the washing up. On returning home, the tents would be dried out on the 'Field', and everything cleaned and packed away ready for next year. In 1940, instead of camping we spent

the time in August digging the zigzag trenches down the edge of the field in Tinney's Lane – and proved their worth during the bombing of the town soon afterwards.

The maximum salary my father earned during his 38 years at Foster's School (mostly as Second Master, for which there was no additional remuneration) was about £480 in his last year there. He resisted to the last the doctor's recommendation that he should retire early. I see him now, walking up The Avenue marking dictations on his small attaché case as he came. He had always kept a note of every domestic payment he made, down to the last box of matches. This was solely from prudence as he was generosity itself. I don't know what pension he received, except that wives of teachers were not included in the scheme. On his death I think my mother's official income was limited to the weekly £10 old-age pension. She once told me that her salary as a teacher at Foster's School was £100 a year, payable in three instalments at the end of each term, and that the then Headmaster, Mr Hutchins, advised her not to agree to the Governors' proposal after WW1 that she should take a £10 cut for that year. She and her colleague, Miss Laing, ran the Cub Troop, to which I imagine most of the boarders belonged. In Mr Hutchins' time as Headmaster (until 1929), we would sometimes encounter a crocodile of boarders headed by my father out for a Sunday afternoon walk. Whether this was a duty

performed in rotation by all the masters I cannot say. Mr Hutchins rode a motor-cycle and sidecar for which he would dress in leather garments with helmet and goggles. In my time at Foster's School, there were never more than six, at most seven, masters and one part-timer (Regimental Sergeant Major A.T. Brown who was in charge of the armoury at Sherborne School and taught 'Gym').

The Headmaster, Hubert Lush, taught History and Divinity (now RE); my father (English and Latin); Maurice Welcher (Chemistry and General Science) – he had been 'demonstrator' at Sherborne School; PDF Miller (Maths) – he succeeded my father as second master in 1947; Ernest Hulme (French); Geoffrey Hewitt (Geography and Music); and Frederick Marks (Art and Woodwork) - on his retirement Mr Wilkins took over Woodwork and Frederick Colcough took over Art. Just before the outbreak of the war, John Gabe an officer in the Territorials did a student term assisting Ernest Hulme in the French department and later Margaret Hulme took over from her husband when he was called up into the Army. Frederick Colclough and Geoffrey Hewitt also departed for active service.

I should say the teaching in Grammar Schools then was orthodox but competent, with an emphasis on acquiring and passing on knowledge. Homework was taken for granted; perhaps being sons of a schoolmaster and doing our homework in the same room (the 'Study') as he did his work and preparation in, we may have been more assiduous than some. Ours was probably the age of the five-year textbook, e.g. the French syllabus followed the systematic course set out by Marc CEPI over his fivevolume series; and there were textbooks for History and Geography, and useful selections of English Literature for English. Lessons were orderly and rowdiness extremely rare. There was a half hour detention in the dinner hour.

The small size of Foster's School is illustrated by the fact that for a year I was the first and sole member of the 6th form, though subsequently numbers rose to five or six. As a result of Pat Miller's enthusiastic (and demanding) teaching, George Treasure became a lecturer at Loughborough College and Philip Wood a senior teacher at a large Grammar School in the Southampton area.

One pupil for a time at Foster's School was R P Pedley (son of the draper in Half Moon Street). He rose up through the profession to become Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference and something of a pundit at the time. I remember him coming in the holidays and engaging my father in earnest discussions about education.

David Gibling 1932-41

LOOKING BACK 2

REGINALD FOOT

Reginald Foot—a Schoolboy in the 1800s

The following extract has been taken from The Fosterian (Summer 1930) and it is the first of what would become a continuing correspondence amongst the 'Old Boys'

'An Old Boy Looks Back'

One of the great privileges of youth is to look forward, to dream of days to come and of things to be but it is a prerogative of age to look back, and to reflect, with joy or regret, on the years that are past.

Perhaps you who are going to Foster's School now sometimes give yourself to thinking forty years on. I have been thinking of over forty years back, when morning and noon, I trotted up Hound Street, joining with others whose names and doings have been recalled by recent issues of The Fosterian.

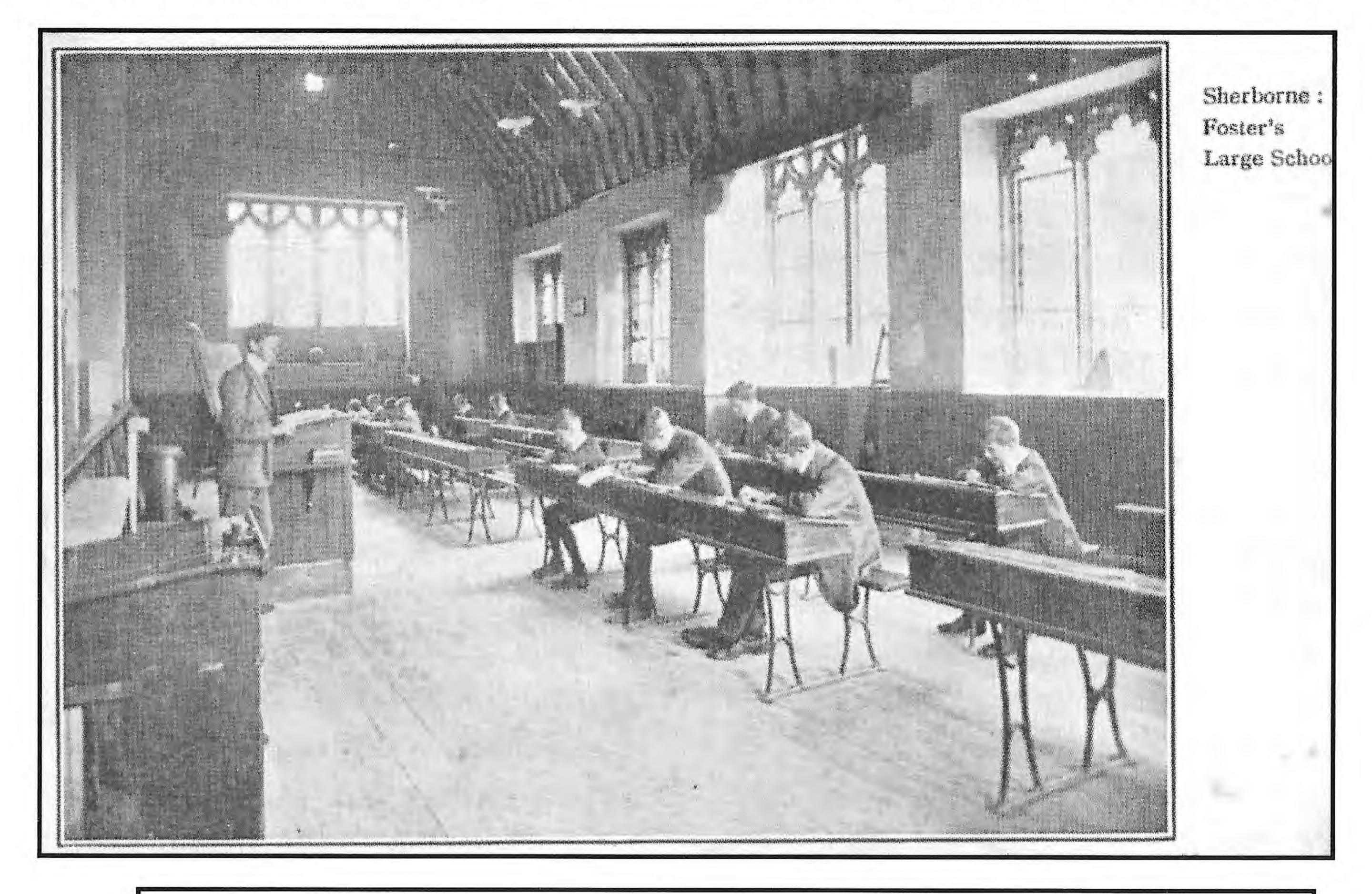
School days then were, I expect, very much what they are today, times of not always too pleasant or welcome work, hours of evening prep. Or sitting for exams, and days, yes really days, of cricket football and sport.

When I joined the school in 1886 the Head was Mr Patrick Irwin, who had not long succeeded to that position and, I think, was not then married. The impression that remains with me is of a genial, happy, lively man, hottempered but always generous, very encouraging and a most interesting teacher.

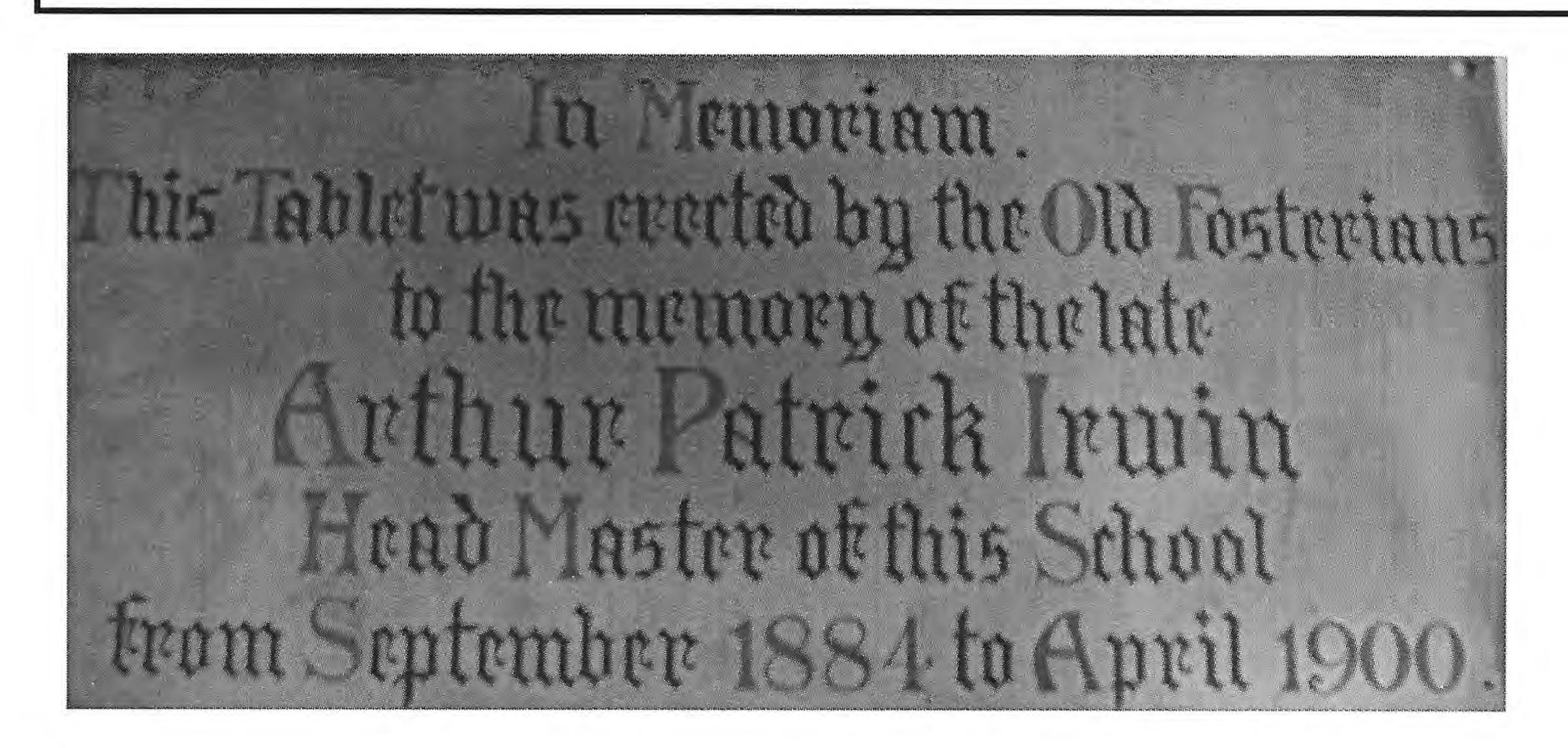
The only other master who I recollect was Mr Biggs, tall and rather stiff in manner, and I vividly recall my consternation when, at football on the Terrace (he being on the opposing side), I charged impetuously for the ball, and somehow managed to knock him clean off his feet.

The school buildings were then quite modest, just the main school as it is today, the School House being built during my school years. Beside the large room two classrooms were used, as I expect they are today; one immediately in front of the entrance lobby and the other, Mr Irwin's room at the top left of the Schoolroom. l cannot ever remember being in the room, over the entrance, which was reached by outside steps. We had no science class, no laboratory or handicrafts room, but just plain, sound preparation for business life. English, French, Latin, maths with the usual groundings in history etc. But in later years I have had reason to be thankful for the smatterings of languages that I have retained for the joy of getting over that 'Pons Asinorum', and for such algebra as I assimilated (Oh! how I detested the beastly equations and the silly problems of X and Y!).

Once or twice a week Mr Lyle, organist at the Abbey came to give us some training in singing, and to practise the part-songs with which we were to charm (perhaps!) the ears of fathers, mothers and friends on the annual Prize Day! A great day, that, the annual Prize Day! That is, if there were any prizes to take. Still, there was the afternoon when we could work off our elocutionary accomplishments. Generally there



This photograph, taken inside the school, was found in the Sherborne Museum postcard collection and was originally donated by Gerald Pitman. It is difficult to date but it is possibly early 1900s. It may be that the brass plaque to commemorate MR A P Irwin, headmaster of the school 1884-1900 is mounted on the wall between the last windows on the right hand side.



was a good supply of declamations from the classics, recitations, some of which would, I am afraid, be voted 'sob stuff' today, and then an act from Shakespeare or Sheridan's 'The School for Scandal'. The livelier language of a past age was, of course, modified to suit our more tender years and ears. Prize books were really good solid stuff, well bound, and some of them fine stodgy reading. I have three or four on my bookshelves still, but it was some years before I began to appreciate them, not only for their association, but for the value of their contents. In the evening we gave our concert, when we could work off our energies in the choruses and part songs we had prepared.

For drill we had Mr Ffoulkes, and as befitted an ex-Sergeant Major, his appreciation of our movements, were at times, scarcely complimentary. When Mr Taylor came to the gymnasium some of us older lads were allowed to go there for exercises, and to learn how to give or to get black eyes or sore noses. For a long time there was some amount of ill feeling between the town boys and the boys of King's School. They wore toppers then and a topper was a fine incentive for bashing as well as a strong temptation for taking pot-shots. In this I am afraid we in Foster's School were not always guiltless. Whether this was due to resentment at a loss of old privileges I do not know, but I believe that the last to enter the King's School by scholarship was R Adams who gained his scholarship just before I joined. Of course we had occasional fights amongst ourselves, and one such I remember was an occasion of much scandal. It was the volcanic explosion, after much underground rumbling, caused by strife for the Headship of the school between A and D. One day

a trivial thing brought the bursting of the storm, and we juniors looked on awed and silent, while these to us big hefty giants, fought a most terrific bout, which left its mark on both faces for many days. Another fight was an occasion of much delight to us spectators. Some ill will had arisen between H, a very tall lanky country boy, and B who scarce reached to H's armpits. H, who had not the remotest idea of using his hands, while I, who had many a friendly box with B, knew that B could use his hands very well indeed. We encouraged them to have it out and forming a ring, yelled with glee at the sight of H, his arms swinging and beating the air like a windmill, rushing about, trying to meet his competitor, who just dodged in below the swinging arms, planted a few stinging punches on H's body (he could not reach his face) and was out again before H knew where his tormentor was. We so enjoyed the fun, that we persuaded them to go on again until both were quite fagged-out. Happily they made it up and were good friends afterwards.

When cricket came with the summer term, there were long evenings and half days of real enjoyment, and when the lists went up, showing who were picked for the First XI, the lucky ones felt they had grown an inch or two and were now the men of the school. But the events of the season were visits to other schools such as Hendford School, Yeovil and Crewkerne grammar school. No motor charabancs in those days, but a good pair of horses and a large waggonette, and a leisurely drive through the country. I think we looked forward to the Hendford match most, because of the spanking teas which followed, but Crewkerne generally gave us the stiffest cricket.

For several seasons we were allowed to play football after school in the fair-field below the school. The condition of our boots and frequently of our clothes was eloquent testimony of the rough and wet state of the field.

One boy I recall for the single fact that he taught us how to spin a peg top. His name was Pfleger and we often used the large stone step at the school entrance for the game. I wonder what would be said to that now.

The institution of the Sports, now so well known and eagerly anticipated, was a very great event, and I remember there was much excitement, when it became known that the late Sir George Pragnell, himself a runner of no mean order, had promised to take part in the open mile handicap.

Holidays were then, as now, keenly looked forward to and not half long enough for us, but twice too long for our parents. But school days are soon over, and through the mists of the years only the happy, jolly times stand out in the memory. That is as it should be, but perhaps too it is a tribute to the happy atmosphere of Foster's School. May it always be so to every boy, who, in the years to come, has the fortune to subscribe himself. 'An Old Boy' When I first discovered this article it was disappointingly signed 'An Old Boy' but no matter because as I read on his name would be revealed when in the Summer 1933 edition came another article:

Sherborne Fifty Years Ago Part 1 (as seen from the 1930s)

In his short history of Sherborne Wildman repeats Hutchins' statement that in the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth it was the most frequented town in the county. He adds that the size and shape of the town were very much what they are now (1902) though it had probably more inhabitants than at present. I have often tried to picture what it was like in those and succeeding days. With its many timber fronted houses and its shops gathered about the Shambles and the churchyard. The pictures are none too vivid so many are the changes that the years have brought.

In our day we boys thought it a town where very little took place and where, if there were changes, they were very few and far between. Perhaps those of you who go to Foster's School today still think the same. Well let us see.

Fifty years in the life of a town particularly a town like Sherborne with its 1230 years of history is a very small slice. Can there have been much change in the town's appearance in that short time? Let us go to what has always been the centre of the town the Parade and look about.

To start with the monks' old washing

Half Moon Street each side, whilst around the Weigh House and at the top of Digby Road were shooting galleries, boxing saloons and other shows with wonderful and fearsome pictures of what might be seen within.

The Yeatman Hospital was of very modest dimensions and could look out on fields below, for Sherborne School had no gymnasium or tuck shop, no sanatorium in Acreman Street and in fact with the exception of the four or so houses next to the Drill Hall – at that time a rather forlorn thatched barn – there was no building of any kind down to Finger Lane, and no butter factory on the opposite side.

The fine block of buildings for Sherborne School for Girls is of course fairly recent and the Preparatory School, though older, had not made its appearance. In the Marston Road the limit of the town was set by some cottages set at right angles to the road, whilst the Isolation Hospital did not exist. At Newell Water for many years there was a prosperous gloving business. Cheap Street is full of changes, by the conversion of house fronts into shops and the modernisation of older shops. The uncovering of old timber fronts has added immensely to its interest.

The playing field of Sherborne School was confined by its present fine cricket ground and did not extend towards Lenthay, as now, whilst in the road leading to the Common there were no houses beyond the first few cottages. Neither was there a road or any houses leading out to Horsecastles opposite the Abbey School.

And what of the old School? Well, Foster's School had no Headmaster's house and garden, no laboratory or additional classrooms. Thus the few changes in the town's appearance that I have mentioned have been seen as to make it by no means easy to visualise the Sherborne of only half-a-century ago.

Let me add just a word or two on some things that Foster's boys will never see but which added something to the gaiety of life when I was a schoolboy. Even before I was going to Foster's School, I remember the gay toot toot of the horn as Squire George Digby drove through the town his coach and four or perhaps six horses; whilst not so many years since, the late Colonel Goodden could frequently be seen sitting on the box of his coach and responding to the salutations of passers-by with that stately grace and smile which were so truly a part of one of England's gentlemen. During the summer the town would occasionally be enlivened by the appearance of a battery of artillery on their way to Devonshire for gun practice. The guns were always drawn up in front of the Digby Hotel, where the officers stayed, and men and horses were billeted in various hotels, inns and private houses. They were off again for Okehampton the following morning, and a good number of folk were sure to assemble to watch them move away. Then who could forget the marvellous transformation wrought on many a well known farmer, when the Sherborne troop of Yeomanry, in all the glory of their wonderful uniform, would ride through the town with Colonel John Goodden or Major John Digby at their head? Perhaps we were sometimes inclined to smile at their playing at soldiers, but we would not know how they would cover themselves with glory in that charge at Agagia, not many years after.

What flower shows there were, too, in Sherborne Park in those days! tent after tent of the most marvellous plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables. It was at one of those or at some fete that I saw the famous Blondin wheel the barrow across the tightrope and, halfway across, cook something on the stove which was in the barrow. Yes before the days of the motor car or the charabanc we had our little excitements, and most of them remain only in the buried past, buried with pictures of a bygone Sherborne in the memories of those who were boys and girls playing in the streets fifty years ago. Reginald W. Foot 1886-1890 It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to extract these three reports from copies of The Fosterian from the 1930s. The vivid verbal picture that Reginald Foot paints of school life together with what it was like to live in Sherborne at the time can now be enjoyed by all.

LOOKING BACK 1

HERBERT LUSH MBC

Herbert Lush Headmaster1929-1959

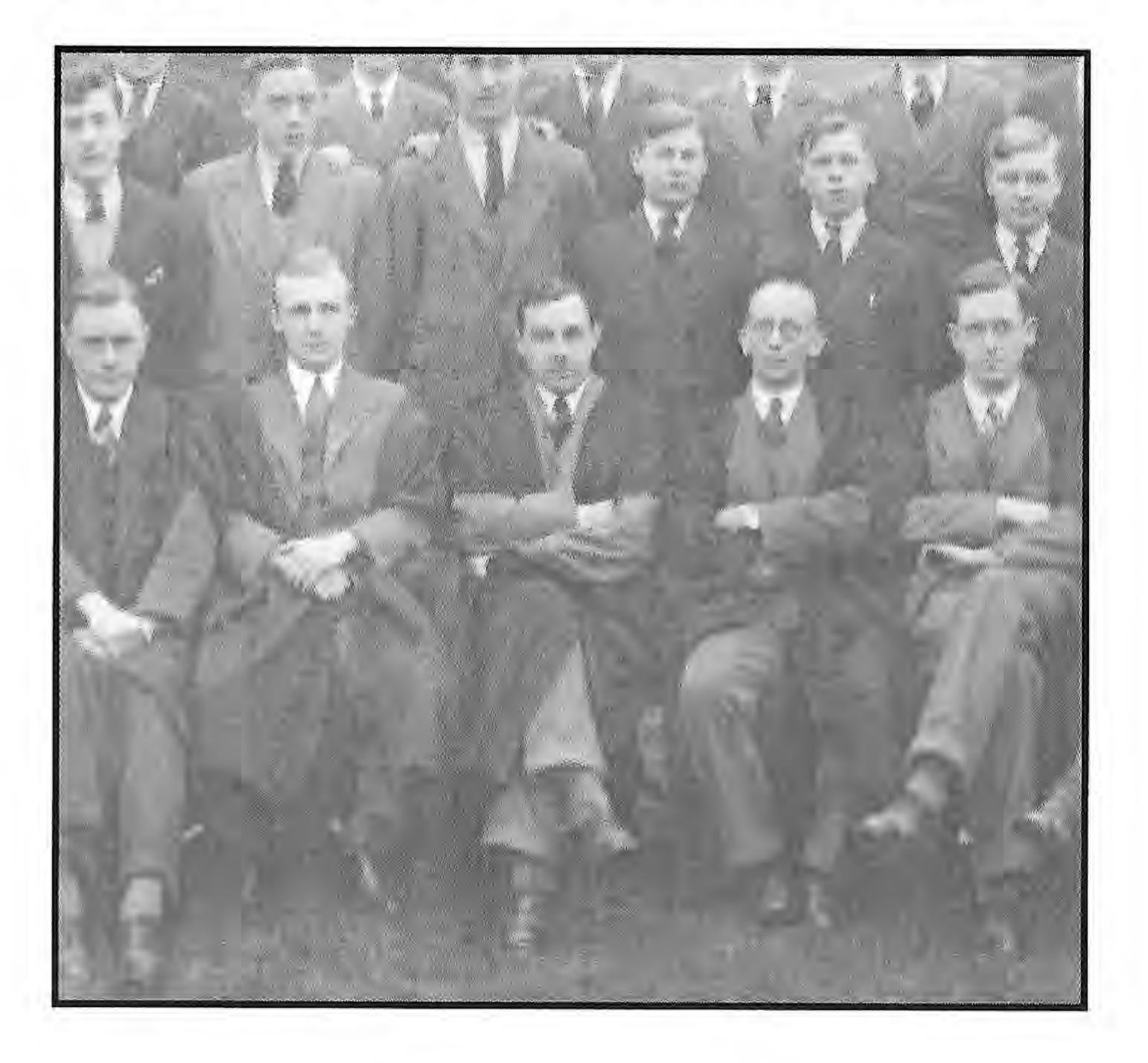
Herbert Lush gave the following address at the first speech day in the new school in Tinneys Lane, June 1940.

In addition to the light and airy classrooms, laboratory, art room and handicraft room and the beautiful hall I would like you to see our well equipped gymnasium with changing rooms and shower baths and our fine library upstairs. The oak panelling and much of the oak furniture in the library is a gift of the late Mrs Palmer, in memory of her son F R Palmer who was killed in the last war. I think you will agree with me that we now have what we have needed for so long - a school building in which we have every opportunity of doing good work – and one in keeping with the dignity of our old foundation.

We have gone into it at a time when we are about to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the school by Richard Foster on 20 July 1640.

I should like, if I may, to say a word to you about the history of our school during the 300 years since its foundation. I am indebted for much of the information to Mr Simms who has just completed a piece of research into the Foster Foundation

and he has very generously placed it at my disposal and to Mr Fowler (Rev Fowler local archaeologist and historian) whose help, guidance and interest are always valuable. Richard Foster was a Sherborne Yeoman who played a part in local government during the early part of the 17thC. His will is dated 20 July 1640 and according to the parish registers he died on 24 August the same year. By his will 57 acres of meadow and pasture at Boys Hill in the parish of Haydon were left for various purposes amongst them being £13.6.8 per annum for the: 'education and breedeinge of up to ten poore boyes of the town of Sherborne to be instructed to read the English tongue', £6.13.4 per annum for the salary of the master appointed to teach the boys and £10 per annum for the education of 'ten



MR LUSH SEATED IN CENTRE OF STAFF AND BOYS CAPTION: MR LUSH SEATED IN THE CENTRE OF THIS SCHOOL PHOTO TAKEN IN 1932. poore maids of Sherborne'. Surplus money (if any) was to be used for the purchase of plate for the Commoners' Table in the Abbey Church. £5 per annum for the maintenance of a poor boy at the University – 'such poore boye to be one of the charity scholars' and for the relief of the townspeople living in the almshouse.

In a register preserved in the Almshouse dated 1689 we are given the name of the first recorded schoolmaster of Foster's School curiously enough John Foster by name. It appears that the children were originally taught in the house of the master appointed as their instructor. Hutchins in his History of Sherborne says – 'the house in which the school is now held - situate on the west side of the Church Yard, between the vicarage and the Almshouse is the private property of the present master'. A map in this book places the school on a site which appears to be now covered by the modern part of the



almshouse, but it may have been the offices of Messrs. Bartlett which are still standing.

This building may not have been used continuously as the school, it is possible the boys moved from one house to another whenever a change of mastership occurred By the will of John Woodman, dated 12 December 1717 a sum of money was left for the payment of a schoolmaster who would educate as many poor boys 'especially some of poor widows' as the money would allow, these boys seem to have been educated with the Foster's boys by the master appointed under the Foster foundation – for Hutchins refers to the School of the Churchyard as having been founded by Richard Foster and John Woodman – and a voucher for clothing for 1864-5 is entitled 'Fosters and Woodmans'.

The Foster deed made no direct provision for clothing the children elected to the foundation – but the accounts show that such clothing was in fact given. The 4th Order said that they 'shall be yearly clad or apparelled with: a blew coate, a bonnet, two shirts, two cravats, two pairs of stockings and two pairs of shoes'

From the accounts it can be gathered that long coats of blue cloth were worn. Canon Lyon said that the boys in the 1830s and 1840s wore 'long blue coats with hats having a little red tuft on top'.

During the second half of the 19thC – the need for educational reorganisation was being felt. On the

one hand the Elementary Education Act of 1870 made the original charity schools no longer needed in their original form – and on the other – some of the old Grammar Schools had been losing their local character and developing into public schools. So in 1872 a new scheme was approved. The Trust was that Richard Foster, whose legacy with eleven other charities, became the endowment of the new school. The new scheme set up a Governing Body of 17 to replace the Almshouse Brethren. New buildings were built for the boys with accommodation for 100 scholars. A certain piece of land - representing one of the charities was exchanged for a site in Hound Street – formerly part of Fair Field. These buildings bear the date 1874 and were formally opened on 5 April 1875. These were the buildings we left in October. They are now being used by elementary schools evacuated from London. At various times since then the curriculum has broadened as the purpose and meaning of education has changed in the minds of succeeding generations.

Richard Foster's deed mentions only 'reading the English tongue'. John Woodman's boys were taught 'to read English and write and cast accounts'.

Chemistry and Physics are not mentioned until 1884, Art and Manual Instruction until 1897, Music and singing, physical education and gymnastics until 1900 – when 26 carbines were presented to the school – I have recently handed

them in to the police station. Cricket and football were played from 1876 and in 1905 the school was granted the tenancy of the terrace, conjointly with the Sherborne Cricket Club, by the owner of the Digby Estate. A new scheme was adopted in 1905 re-organising the foundation and amended in 1909 - making more liberal provision of free tuition and maintenance grants. After the war of 1914-18 Foster's found its buildings of 1874 becoming more and more crowded, as the reputation of the school grew, and the value of education began to be more appreciated. A number of wooden huts were added in 1918 as a temporary expedient and as you know the school moved into these buildings in October 1939. I wish we had more details of our past history but it seems appropriate in 1940 to tell you what I could about the history of the school during the 300 years since its formation. Had it not been for the war we should no doubt have commemorated this great occasion more fully than we can now do but I hope to hold a service of commemoration of founders and benefactors on 20 July and I also hope many parents will join boys on that occasion, as also Old Boys and others who are interested both in our past history and future progress. May I conclude by expressing my thanks to the governors of the school for their help during the past year and especially to you Mr Chairman for your never failing interest in our welfare; to my colleagues for their

loyal co-operation and to you Sir Charles Petrie for your kindness in coming here this afternoon to present our prizes and speak to us at a time when guidance and inspiration have never been more needed.

(Transcribed from Mr Lush's original handwritten notes found in the school archive)

Mr Lush Retired in 1959 and the following tribute to him appeared in The Fosterian

1929-1959 - AN APPRECIATION At the end of the Spring term we said goodbye to Mr H Lush, M.B.E., M.A., who retired after having held the post of Headmaster for thirty years. From the beginning he took a deep and sincere interest in every aspect of the life of the school. He took over the teaching of English and History in the Sixth Form, warmly supported the production of more ambitious plays, encouraged the Commoners' Society to engage in wider activities, and on the sports field was for some years a member of the combined Masters and Boys cricket and football teams. His greatest contribution to the school was, however, his quiet but persistent advocacy of new buildings at a time when, owing to a falling birth-rate and somewhat straitened financial circumstances, the school was in grave danger of being closed. His determination was rewarded when the present buildings came into use in 1939. He believed that a Grammar School should produce

not merely academicians but also well mannered and kindly citizens inspired to give service to their fellows. Himself thoughtful for others and always courteous, he instilled a happy spirit of co-operation between staff and boys, a spirit which showed itself on many occasions, in particular those of out-of-school activities. At the boarding house he received invaluable help from Mrs. Lush who happily devoted long hours to the care of some hundreds of boarders and yet who found, somehow, the time to share in the many-sided life of the school itself. Their daughter, Miss Anne Lush, latterly matron, also gave valuable service to the school, and we shall long remember her prowess as a cricketer when playing for the Staff. Their son Mr John S Lush made up a family all of whose members, we all knew, had the welfare of the school very much at heart. To Mr Lush's work as a co-founder of the Old Fosterians' Association tribute is paid in the Old Boys' Notes. Upon his retirement Mr Lush was presented by the boys with a garden seat and by past and present teaching staff with a voucher for horticultural purchases. Mr and Mrs Lush are now living at Eastbourne in a retirement which we sincerely trust will be long, healthy and happy. In a recent letter Mr. Lush has written to say how much he and his family have appreciated the kindness of the boys in presenting them with "such a splendid garden seat." They have made very good use of it this summer and it has been greatly

admired by numerous friends. He says that it will give tremendous pleasure to Mrs Lush and to himself if any boy can pay them a visit. Failing this he suggests a letter; the ones which he has already received have been read and re-read.



THE LATE HEADMASTER'S NAME LIVES ON IN THE PATHWAY NAMED AFTER HIM ON THE FOSTER'S FIELD DEVELOPMENT .

LOOKING BACK 4

Kenneth House

Kenneth House — A Boarder in the 40s-50s

Kenneth House occupies a unique position in the history of Foster's school. Not only was he educated there, he was a boarder 1947-1954, but he went on to teach at the school from 1960 onwards, finishing his term as Headmaster before retiring in 1990. He is also President of the Old Fosterians' Association.

Kenneth House, or Ken as he would always be known, walked through his first set of school gates in 1941 when he entered Sturminster Newton Junior School. He remembers, as a very small boy, being taken to Sherborne by his much older sister who was at the Digby school at the time, and seeing the bomb damage to the buildings following the air raid on



KEN IN 1949

Sherborne in 1940. He also saw the boys of Foster's school out walking in the town in their brown and gold uniforms and he was determined, from that moment, to attend the school. He went home and told his parents of his decision. He also knew he wanted to be a teacher, again from a very early age, and was encouraged at every stage by his mother. She was the eldest child and had left school, as was the norm at the time, on reaching 11 years of age to go into service in one of the big houses. By the time her youngest sister was at school there were more of the siblings working and so this last sister was able to complete her education and go on to train and become a teacher. Ken thinks that his aunt probably influenced the creation of his clear and early ambition.

Foster's School was outside the catchment area for Sturminster Newton and so it was necessary to apply to take the 11+ at the school itself. So early in 1947 Ken travelled over to Sherborne and duly sat the entrance exams. He remembers having to write an essay and this was followed by an intelligence test. Having completed the 100 questions in the IQ test he sat back and felt quite pleased with his efforts. He was justified in his assessment of himself as the result came through and he had passed. His sister had travelled daily by train, changing at Templecombe, and getting to the Digby School in time for the start of the school day. However, it was decided that Ken

was to be a boarder. Before the first term started his parents were issued with a clothing list and a luggage trunk was filled and sent on, by train, in advance of Ken who arrived on the day before the start of term. After the usual couple of weeks of homesickness, common to all new boarders, he fell into the routine of school life. There were exeat weekends during the term but other than that they all stayed at school. There were over 40 boarders when Ken joined their ranks, so not all could be accommodated in the boarding house in Hound Street and some were billeted in the area. They would return to their billets at bedtime. There were two dormitories, senior and junior with 12-15 boys in each, on the top floor of the boarding house in Hound Street. There was no heating so in Ken's words it was a little fresh in winter and they did not hang around when it was time to get up and get dressed. Full uniform was worn at all times with short trousers up to the age of 13. Proper kit was worn for PE sessions, but kicking a ball around, usually a tennis ball, at playtimes and other spare time resulted in Ken 'kicking out' many a pair of school shoes, which his father would set to and repair when Ken took them home. He remembers spending many happy hours playing at anything that involved a ball, a bat or a racquet. Boarders took all their meals in the school canteen and they were joined at lunchtime by some of the day boys, while others brought their own sandwiches and some went home

to eat. Boys had a set place at a table, for a term, where groups of boys of different ages sat together. Boys from each table went up to collect the food served by masters and senior boys because there was never enough staff. All the meals were cooked on the premises and Ken remembers that he ate most of what he was given without complaint. He also remembers "At the end of the school day we would go back to the boarding house, if we were not involved with activities, and we could make toast or something to eat on a very smelly old coke stove in the dining room. We used to fag for the seniors making toast, running errands, cleaning shoes etc. This lasted for two or three years and then came the day and it all turned round and it was our turn to be on the receiving end. This practice did run out after my time and is all part of the changing times."

The Headmaster and his family lived on the ground floor and middle floor of the boarding house. There was also a sick room on the middle floor where matron could be consulted if the need arose. The building that housed the old classrooms was empty and unused at this time. Mr Lush was the Headmaster in Ken's time and he describes him as "a gentleman in the right sense of the word". He did not find him frightening or intimidating when he arrived as an 11 year old and clearly he was highly respected and well liked by all the boys. Ken remembers that the Headmaster would look in on both dorms every evening before lights

out. Living and working on the school premises, amongst the boys, clearly came with a huge built-in level of commitment, not just from the Headmaster, but also from his wife. There was school on Saturday mornings for boarders and day boys alike. One afternoon a week was given over to sports, Wednesdays for seniors and Thursdays for juniors. All school sporting fixtures were held on Saturday afternoons. Sport was popular amongst all the boys and Ken does not remember there being any shirkers. He played for the under 14's in both cricket and football when he was about 12. Jimmy Bogan took the boys for PE at the time, and he was highly committed to engendering a love of sport in his charges and gave up much of his time after school to this end. He was assisted by the masters who ran various sporting teams. Ernest Hulme and PDF Miller ran teams alongside their other duties. Arthur Critchley took over from Jimmy Bogan at some time during Ken's schooling. There were away fixtures at Beaminster, Bridport, Weymouth, Shaftesbury, Blandford and Ilminster for soccer and cricket. Yeovil Grammar School was played only at cricket in Ken's day. They went by bus hired from Deweys coaches or Bere Regis coaches. In the beginning Ken was always travel sick and had to take an appropriate 'sickbag' with him, luckily this improved over the years. In the summer the boys would troop down to the outdoor swimming pool, belonging to the Sherborne Boys' School, in

crocodile fashion, once a week with additional swimming time on Sunday evenings for the boarders. The water could be cold and would start the year with the temperature in the high 50sF!

Every Sunday the Head would lead the boarders to the Abbey, again in crocodile fashion, for the 11.00am service. On Friday afternoons the school operated an Army Cadet Force (ACF) to which the majority of the boys, who were old enough (13+), belonged. Later this changed to the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Permission had to be sought to go out into the town and most of the time would be spent on school premises or walking to and from variously located school buildings or facilities. In the evenings all the boarders would return to the school



BACK ROW: MR LUSH, CLIFF MOGG, TERRY HAM, EDDY SHIRE, JOHN TUFFIN, JOHN CURTIS, MARCUS JOHNS, MR HULME. MIDDLE ROW: Bob Earnshaw, Ken House, Phil Antell, Dennis Ball, Tony Roberts. FRONT: John Doe, Brian Moore

for homework. Juniors had an hour long session and seniors around two hours. Most, if not all, of the band of dedicated teachers lived in Sherborne and they would oversee the homework sessions on a rota. After homework there was some free time and then bed. Boys were allocated one slot a week for a bath and if it was missed, for any reason, they would have to wait another week. Luckily there were communal showers after sport.

There was much healthy inter-house rivalry between the three school Houses - St Aldhems, St Bedes and St Dunstans. Boarders were automatically put in St Aldhems house in Ken's day. All the scholastic or sports achievements were entered into the school house book and the state of play was announced each term with the awarding of the cup at the end of the school year. As Ken became one of the senior boys and a prefect there would be extra duties to be undertaken including involvement in the general running of the boarding house. He is remembered to this day by some of his fellow pupils for his prowess on the cricket pitch and on the football

field, where he was known as 'Cannonball House' because of the power he could put into his kicking of the ball.

Ken was in the first intake to sit 'O' levels when the change came from the School Certificate. He refers to himself and his fellow pupils as 'Guinea pigs'. Having successfully completed his 'O' levels he joined the 6th Form where he spent two years studying at 'A' level. He made many friends during his time at school not least with Terry Chubb and with Bob Earnshaw who started as a boarder on the very same day as Ken, 66 years ago.



OBITUARIES

J. Stubbings 42 - 50

R Gay 39 - 47

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A Matthews 47 - 52



