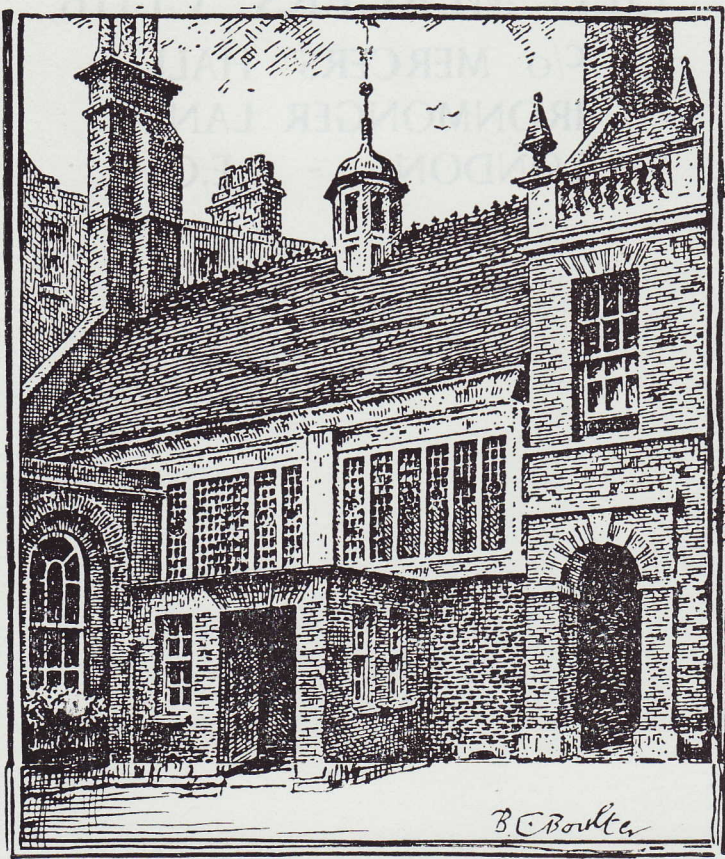




OLD MERCERS' CLUB

1972



BARNARD'S INN



F. J. ROBINSON

President, Old Mercers' Club, 1972-73

OLD MERCERS' CLUB

C/O MERCERS' HALL

IRONMONGER LANE

LONDON - E.C.I

CLUB COMMITTEE 1972-73

PRESIDENT : F. J. Robinson

Vice-Presidents : T. H. Hollings
N. S. Fosh
L. T. Gardner
D. T. Trigg
K. Jones

Trustees : L. Clifton Crick
G. Milne
C. D. Archibald

General Secretary : D. T. Trigg

Treasurer : L. T. Allen

Honorary Auditor : G. H. Searle

Entertainments' Secretary : I. C. Pearson,
The End House,
Boughton Hall Avenue,
Send, Surrey
(Ripley 3228)

Record's Secretary : R. Davey,
2A Belmont Avenue,
Cockfosters, Herts.

Past Presidents : E. S. Wilkins
H. M. Eade
C. D. Archibald
R. H. Cousens
G. C. Ives

Ordinary Members of Committee : K. F. Holmes
C. D. Fidge
H. T. Campbell
B. D. Percy
D. J. Griffin
N. Watson

Magazine Editor : R. G. Dawson,
15 Brookmead Avenue,
Bickley, Kent
(01-467 3108)

THE YEAR 1972

As we look back on another successful Annual Dinner and a "sell out" Reception in September, there are other factors in 1972 which make this a significant year for less happy reasons. The Dramatic Club have, reluctantly, decided to quit; the diminishing band of elderly footballers are finding that those knocks we used to ignore now take longer to mend. When the School closed in 1959 we recognised the inevitability of all this; it makes it no less regrettable when the inevitable occurs. As the years go by the list of those members no longer with us grows longer; the one this year contains some famous Old Mercers' names.

At such a time it is comforting to realise that the Club is now very much in the hands of the stalwarts of the Athletic Association in the post-war period. Richard Cousens, after a highly successful year, has been succeeded by Fred Robinson as President of the Club and the list of Vice-Presidents suggests that all will be well for the next five years at least. But it is up to the membership generally to ensure that there will be an active O.M. Club in an indefinite future. Fairly obviously, the time is fast approaching when the Dinner and the Reception may be the only functions at which O.M.s foregather. Let us hope that the support which has been forthcoming since the school closed will be maintained.

And so to the Magazine, this issue contains a complete list of members' addresses. Richard Davey has worked very hard on this and hopes the list is reasonably accurate; if, however, you move house, please let him know so that he may keep his records straight. We shall continue to notify address changes in the Magazine each year and the new list is set out in such a way that members may make alterations when they occur.

The Editor has unearthed another of those "guess who?" photographs, this time with a sporting flavour. He would welcome more, since these nostalgic items seem to encourage O.M.s to write and that is the only way the Magazine can continue. As he puts yet another issue to bed he reflects that he first took on the office in 1955 and that his Committee days go back to 1947; perhaps next year he might reminisce a little—but he would much prefer to publish other people's writings.

"A HISTORY OF MERCERS' SCHOOL"

Between 150 and 200 copies of "The History" have been sold. The Editor has further copies available and would be glad to hear from any Old Mercer who would like to purchase a further copy for an O.M. not a member of the Club or for a friend. Cheques for £1.50, should be made payable to "Old Mercers' Club".

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The two major functions of 1972 were both well attended and lived up to expectations. The Dinner at Mercers' Hall was staged with the usual excellence we have all come to expect and the After Dinner speeches were enlivened by those Old Mercer entertainers, Alan Woodburn and George Andrew. Perhaps, though, the highlights of this Dinner were the presentations to Frank Ward for the work he put into "A History of Mercers' School and to "Daisy" Searles to commemorate his retirement from the Old Mercers' Committee after fifty years arduous service. The Reception was held on the "Wellington" by kind permission of the Master Mariners' Company and turned out to be an inspired venue, as was evidenced by the difficulty in getting some Old Mercers and their friends to leave.

On a sad note you will have read of the death of two Past Presidents during the year. Both Geoff Parker and Jack Dewey were pillars of strength in the Club and its constituent clubs, and are sorely missed by us all.

Coming to 1973, please mark in your diaries, *Thursday, 3rd May*, and *Tuesday, 18th September*, the former date being the *Annual Dinner*, where I hope to make minor changes in the "Order of Battle" and enable all of us to congregate for a little longer in the Ante Room for further refreshment and reminiscence, the latter date *the Reception* which will be held in the Long Room at Armoury House, the Headquarters of the H.A.C. I am assured that for this function the food will be both plentiful and of a high standard. Another added attraction for those not wishing to "go on" as soon as the reception is over is the availability of a well stocked bar until 11 p.m. if we need it.

Finally, I thank the Committee for all their efforts over the past year's activities, especially all the Officers who bear the brunt of the work, but who have stayed in office to a man, singling out perhaps David Trigg for his quiet efficiency, but reminding him he is accident prone and that it is time he gave up rough games.

OUR PRESIDENT

In the summer of 1942, evacuee Mercer boys in Horsham heard reports of a fierce fast bowler in the London half of the school, by name Robinson. First hand experience, when we returned to Grove Park, showed that the original "Fiery Fred", if not as fast as reported, was certainly effective (my first encounter quickly ended by being clean bowled)—and he has taken wickets by a combination of intimidatory run-up and demoniacal delivery ever since. He was a highly successful Captain of School Cricket in 1945; his batting, and his soccer prowess, were eloquently described in the Magazine for 1969.

F.J.R.'s speciality at school, which he joined in 1941, was mathematics and this he turned to advantage in his business career, joining Smith St. Aubyn, the discount bankers, following Army service. He is currently General Manager and he and Len Allen, school contemporary and colleague (and O.M. Treasurer), appear to their friends to have been running the City for years . . . on alternate days of course. Meantime Fred served in the T.A., rising to the rank of Major and being awarded the T.D.

He was also a keen supporter of school harvest camps and in the Minster Lovell one met our host farmer's daughter, Margaret, who became Fred's wife in 1949. However, he hotly denies it was a case of "He stooks to conquer".

They have both been captains of their golf club and Fred tried valiantly to create and continue an O.M. Golf Club; it is certainly no fault of his that it died. The energy and enthusiasm he applied to this and many other O.M. activities will ensure that the Club enjoys a very successful year, and a deservedly popular President.

G.C.I.

DATES TO REMEMBER

F.C. SUPPER, Throgmorton Restaurant, April 13th.

ANNUAL DINNER, Mercers' Hall, May 3rd.

HONOR DEO LODGE LADIES' FESTIVAL, Zoological Gardens
Restaurant, June 9th.

RECEPTION, Armoury House, September 18th.

A.G.M., Mercers' Hall, October.

OLD MERCERS' CLUB INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1972

1971	EXPENDITURE	1972	1971	INCOME	1972
£		£	£		£
235	Magazine and Handbook	...	92	Annual Subscriptions:	84
—	Cost of production of "History of	...	1	Current	...
150	Mercers' School"	507	93	Arrears	2
	Less Provision	150			
		357			86
28	Stationery and Printing	...	192	Investment Income	154
26	Postages	...	21	Deposit Interest	31
121	Rates on Gresham College	...	213		185
—	Costs of Presentations	...	77	Less tax	60
16	Sundry Expenses	...	136		
20	Depreciation	...	502	Donations (including £500 from Mercers' Company)	125
141	Contribution towards Dinner	...	—	Receipts from sales of "History of Mercers' School"	502
28	Contribution towards Dance	...	—	Deficit for Year	238
(41)	Contribution towards Reception	...	—		138
—	Contribution towards O.M.F.C. Dinner	18			
7	Surplus for Year	—			

£731

£1,089

£731

£1,089

OLD MERCERS' CLUB

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1972

1971	LIABILITIES	1972	1971	ASSETS	1972,
£		£	£		£
142	General Fund 1.10.71	149	178	Cash at Bank and in Hand	205
7	Less Deficit	138	19	London Trustee Savings Bank	—
149	INVESTMENT FUND	11	437	Nationwide Building Society	477
4,171	Life Subscriptions 1.10.64	4,171	30	Sundry Debtors and Stock of Ties	6
1,082	Capital losses less reinvested Income and invested gifts from Life Members	1,082		INVESTMENTS (held by Trustees of Old Mercers' Club):	
3,089		3,089	—	£1,069 7½% Cardiff Corpn. 1977	1,075
461	Add to adjust to M/V	153	2,014	£3,992 British Transport 3% 78/88	2,014
3,550			1,075	Redemption money awaiting investment	—
197	Uninvested Life Funds (Rule 4B)	3,242	3,089		3,089
15	Subscriptions in Advance	229	461	Add to adjust to M/V	153
315	Sundry Creditors	19	3,550		3,242
		440	11	Office Equipment	10
			1	Other Property	1
£4,226		£3,941			£3,941
			£4,226		

L. T. ALLEN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and the annexed Income and Expenditure Account with the Books and Vouchers of the Club and certify same to be in accordance therewith.

G. H. SEARLE,

Certified Accountant. Hon. Auditor.

Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Old Mercers' Club held at Mercers' Hall
on Thursday, October 19th, 1972 at 6.30 p.m.

In the Chair : R. H. Cousens.

Present : 25 Old Mercers attended.

Apologies for absence were received from P. Nailor, J. H. J. Dewey, D. F. Vanhegan, R. A. Parrott, G. H. Searle, S. C. Chapman, F. B. Angier, S. E. Holmes, L. Clifton Crick, D. Vermont, C. D. Archibald, H. T. Campbell.

1. The Minutes of the A.G.M. held on October 21st, 1971, were confirmed and signed.

2. *Treasurer's Report*: L. T. Allen expected that the meeting would be alarmed at a deficit of £138; he personally seemed his usual ebullient self and the meeting, reassured, listened carefully while he explained the reasons. Inflation was clearly a factor and annual membership was, sadly, declining. He proposed that rule 3 should be applied after a lapse of two year's subscription. Collection of subs was a problem, cost of postage was high and constant reminders merely accentuated this. Allen next pointed out that one re-investment had paid a part interest—there would be a full year's return in 1972-73. Again, in 1972-73, there would be no rates to pay on the room at Gresham College; the "History of Mercers' School" would be paid for so no further provision would be needed to cover this outlay.

Thus the Treasurer felt that the outlook was not so bleak; he paid tribute to the Mercers' Company for their continued generosity; the annual grant had been renewed till 1977. He sat down and, the accounts having been adopted, T. W. Parker and D. G. Searls suggested ways of boosting the sale of the "History"—it was agreed that further publicity would be useful.

3. *Report of the General Secretary*: David Trigg began by giving the names of the officers of the Mercers' Company for 1972-73.

Master : Struan Manwaring Robertson, Esq.

Upper Warden : John G. Barker, Esq.

House Warden : Dr. C. R. T. Lane.

Renter Warden : M. A. O'Brien Blake, Esq.

Total membership was now 752, made up of 555 life, 190 annual and 7 honorary members. 6 names had been removed under rule 3 and the Secretary reported, with regret, the death of the following 10 members :

P. S. Cassidy (1900-04)	Life Member 131
C. S. Hutchinson (1899-04)	Life Member 461
G. A. Bruntwell (1918-24)	Life Member 389
D. Bell (1891-97)	Life Member 33
A. C. New (1911-15)	Life Member 204
G. H. Parker (1918-24)	Life Member 464
W. C. McCallum (1898-1906)	Life Member 142
D. Wall (1905-10)	
E. M. Shaverien (1926-30)	
E. A. Boden (1917-22)	

Eight new members had been elected during the year, some as a result of the publication of the "History of Mercers' School". The Committee proposed to publish with the next Magazine a complete list of members' addresses; he thanked Richard Davey for his work in the thankless task of Records' Secretary.

Trigg went on to report on the year's events; the highlight of the year was the Football Club's 50th Anniversary Dinner; the Dinner Dance in January, on the other hand, had had only a luke warm response and the Committee felt that this function should be discontinued, for the time being at least. The Dramatic Club had sold out at the Cripplegate for "Oh What a Lovely War" in February; 120 had attended the Annual Dinner in April. The final function of the year had been a highly successful Reception on the "Wellington", H.Q. Ship of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, when a "full house" of 150 had attended.

The Secretary went on to describe the events which led to the decision to give up the room at Gresham College. The burden of the rates had increased annually and the Committee had felt that this was a luxury we could no longer afford. Thanks to the good offices of the Clerk, Geoffrey Logsdon, the Club was enabled to use Mercers' Hall as a Club address; Miss Jean Imray the Company Archivist, had willingly accepted all the Club documents and other items of sentimental interest were now stored at Mercers' Hall. The refectory chains and table had been offered to, and accepted by, Collyer's School. The Club Committee met at the Public Schools' Club, now amalgamated with the East India and Sports' Club in St. James's Square. It was hoped that this might become a permanent arrangement.

In conclusion the Secretary thanked the President and Committee for their efforts during the year, thus making his job much easier.

4. *Report of the General Secretary, Old Mercers' Athletic Association.* R. S. Dean reported the results for the 1971-72 football season as follows :

Played 28, won 11, drawn 3, lost 14.

102 had attended the 50th Anniversary Dinner—Dean paid tribute to Peter Wainwright whose efforts had made this occasion possible; he had now retired as Secretary to be replaced by John Gransbury. There were at the moment only thirteen fit playing members of the Club—a number of regulars were nursing injuries with the General Club Secretary a notable case in point.

The cricketers had had another enjoyable summer with the Old Citizens. Graham Hargrave-Smith had been prominent in various sides but the O.M. contingent had appeared mainly in the aging Third Eleven.

In conclusion Dean paid tribute to Charlie and Pat Parker at Grove Park, whose welcome remained as hearty as ever.

5. *Report of the General Secretary Old Mercers' Dramatic Club.* Brian Pearcy reported that "Oh What a Lovely War" had been well supported. However, the Club proposed calling a Special General Meeting to wind up the section since numbers were small and no permanent acting base was available.

He paid tribute to Eric Wilkins whose illness now meant that he was no longer able to take an active part in the Club—the D.C. owed him—and Margaret—a tremendous debt over the years.

6. *Election of Officers.* The President now rose to suggest that the meeting might be interested in the election of Fred (Chucker) Robinson as President for 1972-73. Cousens outlined Fred's many talents as financier and games' player and the proposition was carried with acclamation.

A list of other officers elected appears at the beginning of the Magazine.

7. Robinson, now in the Chair, proposed "that a cordial vote of thanks be accorded to R. H. Cousens, Esq. for his very valuable services in the office of President for the Club year, 1971-72."

This was carried with acclamation and the meeting passed to :

8. *Any Other Business.* There was none, so, after votes of thanks to the Master and Wardens of the Mercers' Company for the use of the Hall and to the two chairmen, the company moved on to the "Plough" for refreshment on the stroke of 7.30 p.m.

ANNUAL DINNER, 1972

The 56th Annual Dinner, held at Mercers' Hall on Thursday, 4th May, was a memorable evening for our President, Richard Cousens. The usual large gathering sat down after the enjoyable get-together over sherry. What a pleasure to see George Finch up from the West Country, for his first dinner in 20 years.

After an excellent meal the President proposed the toast of the Mercers' Company; his speech is printed below. In his reply the Master thanked the President for his history lesson—he had learnt

a lot about the Company of which he was master. After giving an account of the Company's activities he announced that the bust of Dr. Scott, and other pictures which had been in the Club room at Gresham College would now be displayed in the Hall.

Alan Woodburn now proposed the toast of "Our Guests" in his own inimitable style (and those of us who have attempted to re-tell his stories over the years will testify to his originality). He ranged over the sex habits of the elderly and entertained so deftly that all were sorry when he sat down. In reply, E. A. Calnan, a business associate of the President, had some comments to make about the Presidential handwriting, before graciously thanking the Club for a most enjoyable evening.

And so to the first of the evening's special toasts; Graham Ives, who had pioneered the idea of a "History of the School", presented a decanter, on behalf of the Club, to Frank Ward in recognition of his work in writing the history. In his reply, Ward gave an entertaining account of teaching in Africa; clearly African generosity had sometimes caused him unexpected problems.

The President now rose to make a presentation to D. G. (Daisy) Searls, who had recently retired from the General Committee after serving for forty years. Cousens' main theme was Daisy's unfailing kindness to new young members on the Committee. He had, too, the gift on an often noisy committee of keeping quiet and then producing the perfect answer to the problem his colleagues had been thrashing around. The toast was endorsed with acclamation and "Daisy" expressed his thanks briefly but with the deep sincerity which has always been so typical of him.

And so to the final toast of the evening; completing a hat-trick of Annual Dinner Speeches, H. G. Andrew arose, apologised for appearing again, made some remarks about "working to rule" and, more seriously paid tribute to the President, a former captain of Gresham who had, at the end of the war, made possibly the finest speech he had ever heard at a House Tea.

The President, in thanking his House Master, coined the phrase to describe him as "the unscalpable one with the prodigious thumbs" and then gave some account of the year's activities; he was grateful to the Committee for their work during the year and he thanked, particularly, his toastmaster, Peter Nailor, and Jack Dewey who, yet again, had been the perfect Master of Ceremonies.

TOAST TO THE MERCERS' COMPANY

Master, Wardens, Old Mercers, Gentlemen,

Your President, during his year of office has to make two speeches, both on the occasion of this dinner. The Master, on the other hand makes two or three speeches a week during his term of office and must almost qualify for a trade union ticket with Equity. In view of this near professionalism I think it might be appropriate if,

during our little entrance ceremony, your President entered by a door marked "Gentlemen" and the Master by a door marked "Players".

However, let me hasten to say, Sir, that no matter how you enter, you are most welcome as our principal guest. No Old Mercer dinner is complete without the Master and we are also very pleased to see your Wardens and the Clerk here.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, most sincerely, for the Company's continuing generosity to the Club and for inviting us to use this beautiful hall as our dining room. Its only blemish, as far as I am aware, is the fact that it is difficult for after dinner speakers to make themselves heard all over the room. It is for this reason that your entertainments' committee spend hours arranging the seating plan so that the loud snorers are placed at the outer sprigs while the quiet sleepers are placed in the middle. In this way the speaker can talk to himself quite undistracted, while the audience slumbers undisturbed.

As we all know the Mercers' Company has a very long history, whose commencement is lost in the mists of antiquity. Much of this is well documented and familiar but there must be much fascinating detail that is lost, or very hard to find. There is, for example, the story of the first Mercer to introduce that beautiful fabric known as shot silk into the country. Now you might have supposed that this man would have been hailed as a great innovator and benefactor to the trade, but not so. He was expelled from the guild because it was thought to be not fitting that the young gallants of the day should have to consider carefully which way the light was shining on the young lady of their fancy before they could determine whether she was wearing iridescent purple tights or just plain blue stockings.

It is interesting to note that the Mercers' Company, in common with many other livery companies, has long since ceased to have any connection with the trade that gave it birth. This dissociation was a gradual process but there was one incident that finally finished it off. The argument arose over weights and measures. Now, as every schoolboy knows, in the good old days the measures were based on Henry VIII's vital statistics, thus the foot was the size of his foot and the ell, about 45 ins. was his waist measurement on his 38th birthday. But in the 17th century the younger Mercers agitated for reform and demanded, among other things, that cloth should be sold by the yard. The Master of the time disagreed and withdrew the Company from the trade, saying that it was all a lot of nonsense and could not last. And, of course, he was quite right because, here we are, a mere 250 years later, changing again, this time to the metric system introduced by Napoleon Bonaparte. I feel, Sir, that it is a pity that the Master of Mercers' Company is no longer in a position to protect our interests in this respect. After all no well built man minds admitting to requiring a *yard* of cloth to make him a pair of trousers but what right-minded Englishman would ever admit to being a metre around the midriff.

Acceptance of such indignities has not always been so supine. Around 1457 and again in 1517 there were pitched battles between the Mercers and the Lombards, a general name for foreign merchants. A great deal of damage was done and lives were lost but although the monarchs punished the Mercers, it seems to have been done in a rather half-hearted manner. Who knows, with our entry into the Common Market the livery companies may rise like phoenixes from the ashes to man the ramparts of London Wall, or perhaps to picket the English end of the Channel Tunnel?

Of course, it is very easy to poke fun at ancient institutions; some would go further and say that the livery companies are an anachronism and should be abolished. To them I would say that I am very grateful that amidst all our pre-occupation with efficiency and modern American business methods, we still have room for institutions that do not lend themselves to cost benefit analysis but nonetheless add colour and pageantry and a contact with the past, and are indeed a source of envy to some nations that are short of history.

I think I can offer no better tribute to the Mercers' Company than that made by John Colet. He was, as you may know, a pupil at the School of St. Thomas of Acon, the predecessor of Mercers' School, he was Dean of St. Pauls and he was founder of St. Pauls School. He left a great fortune in trust with the Mercers' Company to maintain St. Pauls School, and it caused considerable surprise that he chose to do this rather than make the Church or the Crown his trustees. When asked his reasons he said, "There is no absolute certainty in human affairs but for my part I have found less corruption in such a body of citizens than in any other order or degree of mankind".

Events have not disappointed Colet's expectations and so Master, I wish you, and your successors, sound judgement in the discharge of your responsibilities.

THE RECEPTION

Another time, another place; the reception this year took to the water, and since the September evening was mild and still, there was much to enjoy besides the company.

That was as cheerful as ever. The evening obviously fits smoothly into O.M. timetables, and there were many familiar faces among the 150 who attended this last function of Richard Cousen's Presidency. The "Wellington", moored on the north bank of the river, near the Temple, is the headquarters of the Worshipful Company of Master Mariners, the youngest of the City Companies. Their generosity provided us with an unusual and interesting setting, a splendidly spacious room for the reception itself, and the freedom of the ship to wander in. After food, drink, and the rather strenuous conversation which such occasions demand, it was pleasant to stroll on the upper

deck, to gaze across at the lights of the South Bank, and to watch a solitary sculler slide noiselessly by below.

We are grateful to Ian Pearson and to Len Gardner for their efforts in organising such an enjoyable evening.

B.M.D.

PRESENT AT O.M. RECEPTION 21st SEPTEMBER, 1972

H. A. Andrews, L. T. Allen, R. A. Briggs, J. G. Bailey, J. B. T. Bird, G. J. Chandler, R. G. Corfield, H. F. Cochrane, M. J. Cato, R. H. Cousens, D. Complin, H. T. Campbell, J. Doig, E. Dobson, J. H. J. Dewey, Peter Dewey, R. G. Dawson, R. J. C. Davey, H. M. Eade, F. J. Elliott, C. P. Ellis, W. J. Fairbairn, N. S. Fosh, C. E. Fenton, L. T. Gardner, H. J. Goldner, J. Gransbury, D. J. Griffin, P. L. Garrood, S. F. H. Glynn, M. J. Herniman, H. J. Holmes, S. E. Holmes, K. F. Holmes, J. W. Howie, M. A. Hobson, G. C. Ives, D. C. R. Jenkin, K. E. Jones, A. V. Keats, M. Lee, W. R. Lewis, B. L. Jacobs, P. Lockyer, R. Lansdown, J. Morgan, D. J. Moys, C. P. F. Mazinke, R. Mazinke, P. H. C. Moys, K. H. Neville, A. S. Parker, J. C. Pearson, Bill Parker, R. A. Parrott, B. D. Pearcey, J. L. R. Roberts, G. O. Robinson, F. J. Robinson, G. A. Riocreux, D. G. Searls, D. Trigg, T. P. Veitch, R. Worthy, A. C. Winn, P. G. Wainwright, N. Watson, Mrs. Wilkins, Miss Imray.

O.M. OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE CLUB DINNER, 21st NOVEMBER, 1972

Thanks to the good offices of Leslie Jackson, twenty-two Old Mercers gathered at St. Catherine's College, Oxford, for an informal dinner. The O.M. conception of informality differed somewhat from that of the undergraduates at a "Disco" session in an adjoining hall. Happily, the sound proofing was excellent and we had a thoroughly enjoyable evening; good wine, good food, good talk abounded. Michael Jepson, we learnt, was now farming; Nicholas Selly was there, back from Nigeria; Stanley Epps made Bath sound the ideal spot for retirement though the Headmaster clearly enjoyed the far north for this purpose; Stuart Moss and the Editor compared the problems of the Deputy-Head.

As the Eastgate party wended their way back, by a rather more direct route than on the outward journey, across the river, the talk was of next year's reunion at Cambridge. The conversation at the Eastgate went on till the early hours with the former Head of Science in especially good form.

Next morning, after an excellent breakfast, the sun shone on Oxford and a large party enjoyed the Botanical Gardens before, regretfully, going various ways. This is an O.M. function which seems to have an indefinite future.

Present : R. H. Cousens, R. A. Blease, H. G. Andrew, W. D. Haden, D. Vermont, G. C. Ives, F. J. Robinson, Rev. S. Epps, J. Morgan, H. Nash, M. Groser, M. Harman, M. D. Jepson, H. Whate, W. J. Fairbairn, N. J. Selly, H. S. Moss, L. C. Johnson, R. G. Dawson.

Three others did not sign the Editor's menu !

OLD MERCERS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL SECTION, SEASON 1971/72

The results for the season were as follows :—

Played 28 Won 11 Drawn 3 Lost 14.

The season's results proved to be only average after a remarkably successful start in which 6 wins and 2 draws were recorded in the first 11 games. These early victims of the Old Mercer onslaught included Cholmeleians, Brentwoods, Tiffinians, Foresters and Norsemen, none of whom are considered "easy meat". It is widely known that goals must be scored in order to win matches and the early success in the season must be attributable to the fact that our marksmen, including some from the defence, were firing on target. Thirty goals were scored in the first 11 games and these were sufficient to more than offset the sprinkling of goals that our opponents managed somehow to score against us.

During December and onwards the goals just did not seem to come and only 31 were scored in the remaining 17 games. Unfortunately our lack of success in the forward line coincided with some loss of efficiency in the defence, and consequently the results deteriorated.

There was mixed fortune as far as injuries were concerned. John Holder returned to the fold after missing a considerable part of the previous season, and no doubt our early successes were partly attributable to his return and to the good form of Colin Fidge. Reg Vanhegan and John Gransbury both missed several matches and a back injury to Neville Watson kept him out of the side from February onwards. Subsequently, David Trigg deputising "between the sticks" contrived to dislocate his thumb when dealing with a high ball. This was, of course, done deliberately because David was fed-up with playing in goal, but unfortunately he made such a good job of the injury that he was not allowed to play anywhere again before the end of the season !

In his first season as captain, David Griffin continued to hold the defence together and could be relied upon to be in the right place at more or less the right time. Such a high standard is, however, expected from such a youthful member of the team ! His predecessor, Mike Cato, continues to exert himself until the last ounce of energy has drained away. The season's report would not be complete without mentioning his fine hat-trick scored against Old Foresters on their new ground.

As briefly reported in the last magazine, we have bought new shirts in the modern fashion but retaining the claret and gold. These, coupled with our new all gold socks, give the Old Mercers' the appearance of a soccer team, but there is no truth in the rumour that in the coming season the whole team will be trotting on to the pitch in single file for the K.O. That would be impossible anyway because someone always turns up late !

Sadly, this season marked the end of Old Mercer participation in the Royal Exchange Six-a-Side Tournament. Happily we received an invitation to enter a side but this was declined as the feeling in the team was that in recent tournaments we had been having great difficulty in providing our opponents with a hard game. It is certainly a pastime designed for the younger and fitter soccer players. Many Old Mercer players, past and present, must have nostalgic memories of those 20 minute matches at East Molesey.

We must again thank Charlie Parker and Pat for their efforts at Grove Park. We are very grateful too to the referees who helped to keep our opponents in order !

Let us not lose sight of the fact that although the season produced only moderate results we enjoyed our games and the company of our opponents, and these are the reasons we play.

At the Annual General Meeting in April, David Griffin and Peter Crawford were re-elected team captain and vice-captain respectively. Reg Vanhegan stood down as Hon. Team Secretary in favour of Ted Richardson. Reg had performed the unenviable task for three years and we are all grateful for his efforts. After seven years as Hon. Secretary, Peter Wainwright gave up his post and John Gransbury was elected in his place. We hope that our presentation of an engraved tankard and cricket bag to Peter on the occasion of the dinner held in November to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the re-formation of the Football Club, adequately expressed our thanks to him for his work on our behalf.

J.G.

CRICKET MEMORIES



No prize for guessing the names of the third and fourth from the right in the back row; but when? and why? and who are the others?

1921-71

The wonderful 50th Anniversary Dinner of November, 1971, caused one person at least to do some homework and it seemed appropriate that part of that homework should be marked by members of the Club not present on that great occasion.

To begin with it was a wonderful tribute that no fewer than seven of the "originals" were on parade; "Jenks" who wrote the letters and became the first of a line of long suffering secretaries; his problems probably included pitches, players and pence—his successors had fewer headaches; Nick Carter, Harold Eade, still dreaming of sausage and mash suppers, Daisy Searls, that most devoted of O.M.s, Taffy Williams who, in the 1930s used to ensure that even the youngest member of the 4th XI got to the Team Supper at Pym's at the end of the season, and J. H. G. Bender who could always be called up on Saturday mornings when somebody cried off, the most loyal of O.M.s, the man who was—and is—much too kind to be a referee—he always balanced a doubtful decision with an equally doubtful one in the other direction.

It is difficult to do justice to the many who, over 50 years, served the Club so loyally. To turn out four elevens for so long from a school whose numbers only once exceeded 300 is a praiseworthy record in itself. Some of those who laid the foundations are, alas, no longer with us. A. H. Appleyard (Apples), George Thomas, the Willises, Jim and Jack, Sam Hall, Edward Hill, that most staunch supporter and keeper of the purse, Jack Dewey and Geoff Parker, whose recent deaths have saddened Old Mercers, all these gave much to the Football Club in its early years.

The 'Thirties, indeed, could be called the Geoff Parker era, with his brothers, "Roli" and Eric Axten in close support. Geoff was secretary for many years; many will remember the Monday evening selection meetings when the captains of the lower sides jealously guarded their riches—team spirit was very real. In the 'Thirties, too, the Club achieved its moment of greatness in the Old Boys' Cup, led by a young man whom a discerning Headmaster had the good sense to appoint to the Staff and who influenced the games' careers of so many boys at the School. To "Tab", and to all the other members of the staff who turned out with, refereed for, and drank with the Football Club and became part of it, we of the Club owe a great debt of gratitude. George Andrew, of whom his greatest friend, Gordon Allen, once said (with apologies to Cleopatra), "Age cannot wither him nor custom stale his infinite variety", was at the Dinner to represent this fine body of men.

Then came the war; thanks to the efforts of Bunny Angier, the Club continued to raise a side to play the School. In 1947, miraculously, four sides were again in the field, Geoff Parker was back as secretary and "Tab" was captain of the 1st XI. There followed another prosperous period.

Bill Parker became secretary, Tommy Hollings played for the 1st XI for over twenty post-war years, Arthur Downes, aggressive, competitive on the field and the perfect host in the bar afterwards, terrorised the opposition, and fading memory recalls Freddy Withall of the lethal left foot, Bill Eatenton, a magnificent goalkeeper, "Archie", who had the unenviable job of reducing the fixture list when the School closed, Don Jackson, Len Allen, Fred Robinson, Dick Cousens, Alan Woodburn, "Goldie" Graham (play-it-with-the-knees) Ives, Les Aspden, Len (the Rock) Gardner, "Come-on-Chaps" Jack Morgan, Jimmy Bailey; all these, and many more, played their part in the story of the post-war Football Club.

But with no youthful intake from 1959 onwards Anno Domini was catching up. A determined band of enthusiastic thirty year olds have kept the flag flying for the last few years, threatening to replace the title "veteran" with that of "geriatric". Prominent among these have been Bob Corfield, Mick Cato, Graham Hargrave-Smith, Dave Trigg, Chris Garrett, Mick Manning, John Marchant, John Holder, Peter Crawford, Dave Griffin, John Gransbury and the fearful threesome of Dean, Vanhegan and Peter Wainwright, whose imagination and hard work made the magnificent reunion possible.

There would seem to be much common ground between the pioneers of 1921 and the Peter Pans of '71. The Club always liked to win, but there has never been much inclination to become part of league football, though it would have been pleasant to have been invited to play in the Arthur Dunn. What has really mattered has been the comradeship of Saturday afternoons—and evenings—which has been forged with so many other Clubs and which was epitomised by the presence of representatives from twelve other Clubs at the Dinner, led as ever, by "Bobs" Roberts from Ibis. The O.M.F.C. can be justly proud of its record of hospitality. A recent visit to Grove Park showed that the O.M.s still see nearly everyone else out of the bar. Whatever the future, the hundreds who, over the past fifty years, have been fortunate enough to be members of the Club will remember and be grateful.

HONOR DEO LODGE, No. 3562

The sixty-second Installation Meeting of the Lodge was held at the National Liberal Club on 2nd November last, when Bro. George Andrew was installed as Worshipful Master by W.Bro. K. H. Neville, D.F.C., the Senior Warden, Bro. Commander Bernard Robinson, R.N., was unfortunately prevented by illness from undertaking the duties of Master for the ensuing year; he is, however, making good progress and all look forward to his occupying the Master's chair during the year 1973-74.

W.Bro. J. F. Gray, Assistant Secretary of the Lodge, was on 23rd March, 1972, honoured by the Provincial Grand Master for Essex, with the rank of Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, for which he has the warm congratulations of his fellow members in Honor Deo; and during the current year Neville J. Watson (1946-54) and Alan A. Redbond, D.F.C. (1931-39) were initiated and welcomed into the Lodge.

The Lodge, in common with Old Mercer activities in almost every field, has suffered severely by the deaths on 22nd July of W.Bro. G. H. Parker and on 31st October, 1972, of W.Bro. J. H. J. Dewey, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. The services to the Lodge of both Geoff and Jack were immeasurable and their presence will be sorely missed for very many years to come.

The annual Ladies' Festival will be held again this year in the Zoological Gardens Restaurant, Regent's Park. This event is open to all Old Mercers' and their friends and a most enjoyable evening under the presidency of George Andrew is certain. The date—Saturday, 9th June, 1973.

R. G. Williams, Lodge Secretary.

HONOR DEO CHAPTER No. 3562

An enjoyable year was experienced with E. Comp. F. W. Lyons as First Principal, E. Comp. G. H. Parker as Second Principal and

E. Comp, A. J. Cutting as Third Principal, marred only by the sad death of Geoff Parker on 22nd July, 1972.

The Chapter welcomed Bros. C. W. Davis and P. J. S. Squirrel into Royal Arch Masonry during the year. E. Comp, F. Gordon Harper, P.D.G.S.N. (Rhodesia), was honoured by the First Grand Principal with the rank of P.G.St.Br.

The following were elected for the year 1972-73 :

E. Comp. F. W. Lyons—First Principal.

E. Comp. A. J. Cutting—Second Principal.

E. Comp. B. A. Rollinson—Third Principal.

Old Mercers' who are already Freemasons and who would like any information concerning the Chapter, should contact E. Comp. F. W. Yardley, Scribe E, at 5 Gloucester Road, Hampton on Thames, Middlesex. (01-979 1454).

CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS

The following constitute the Court of the Guild for 1972-73 :—

Guild Master	H. F. Cochrane
Guild Renter Warden	B. A. Brewer
Guild Junior Warden	M. J. Herniman
Guild Assistants	All Past Guild Masters H. J. Goldner P. J. Rae B. C. Boreham
Hon. Clerk	A. H. Hall
Hon. Assistant Clerk	K. H. Neville
Apprentice Warden	M. J. Herniman

The membership at the end of the Guild year (30th June, 1972), stood at 105, consisting of 23 liverymen and 82 freemen. During the year the Court conferred Honorary Membership on Past Guild Masters Stanley Wells (O.M. 1899-1909) and Arthur Watts (O.M. 1909-12) in recognition of their services to the Guild.

On the 1st May, the then Guild Master, Rev. Canon J. A. Burley, arranged a visit to St. Paul's Cathedral. Some 60 Guildmen and their guests attended and were met by Guildman Rev. W. M. Atkins, a former Canon of the Cathedral and one of its historians, who conducted the party round as guide-lecturer. After the visit the party adjourned to the "Rising Sun" nearby.

The Installation Dinner was held at Tallow Chandlers' Hall on Friday, 16th June, 1972, with the new Guild Master presiding. There was a large attendance of Guildmen and their guests, numbering in all 82 persons of whom 59 were Guildmen and 17 guests of Guildmen. There were 6 guests of the Guild, amongst whom was the Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, His Honour Commander L. K. A. Block, D.S.C., D.L., the President of the Old Mercers' Club, R. H.

Cousens, B.Sc., Ph.D. Also amongst the official guests was The Rev. Gordon Huelin, B.D., Ph.D., F.S.A., Chaplain to the Mercers' Company, and Vicar of St. Margaret Pattens, whose church the Guild had visited earlier in the year for an illustrated lecture by him on "Unknown London". At the Dinner the toast of "The Guests" was responded to by the Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, having been proposed by the Guild Junior Warden M. J. Herniman. A musical interlude, between the speeches, was provided by three students from the London School of Music, whose Director is Guildman W. S. Lloyd Webber, D.Mus., F.R.C.M., etc. The amount received in the Alms Dish was, as last year, given to the Lord Mayor's St. Paul's Appeal Fund.

The Court will be very pleased to welcome to the Guild any Old Mercers, their sons, grandsons, or near relatives, who wish to be associated with the City of London and to see its traditions maintained. Before being eligible for membership, the applicant must be a Freeman of the City, but the Court will be very willing to assist with this, if required. The Court again brings to the attention of Old Mercers its Apprenticeship Scheme for their near relatives between the ages of 14 and 21 years. The object of the Scheme is to encourage young people to become freemen and members of the Guild, when they are 21 years of age, by arranging talks and visits of City interest.

Further particulars of the Guild and the Apprentice Scheme may be obtained from the Honorary Clerk, A. H. Hall, 23 Uvedale Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 6HA.

OBITUARIES

G. H. PARKER (1918-24)

A wide circle of friends were shocked and distressed to learn of the death, on 21st July, of Geoffrey Parker, a month after having been admitted to hospital. His loss will be keenly felt, not only by those of us who were privileged to enjoy his warm hearted and convivial companionship regularly over a long period, but also by many who were not so fortunate, but who nevertheless appreciated his many excellent qualities.

Although it had been impossible to conceal the effects of a malady borne with courage, cheerfulness, and determination, which had over the years seriously restricted his movements, and prevented the enjoyment of the more strenuous activities during retirement, to which he had so eagerly looked forward, it was in no way allowed to limit his interest or participation in the less arduous occupations which he pursued with zeal to the end.

The Old Mercers' Club held a special interest for Geoff, and much of his leisure time was devoted to furthering its interests. He held every important office in both the Mother Club and the Athletic Association. He spent many years as Football Section Match Secre-

tary, and played regularly, first as 2nd XI Captain, and later in the 1st XI, being a member of the team which reached the final of the Old Boys' Cup Competition in 1934. After returning from Wartime Service in the Royal Navy, he was instrumental in getting the Football Section back on its feet, resuming his own active participation in the 3rd XI.

In later years, as his business influence spread around London, from North to West, and finally to the centre of the City, many more friends were made. As commitments mounted, it might have seemed appropriate to reduce his Old Mercer activities, but this was not the case, and the records show that Geoff rarely, if ever, missed an O.M. function. He was Master of Honor Deo Lodge in 1969/70, and would have been Installed as First Principal of the Chapter in September this year.

We offer our sincere condolences to his wife, Peggy, and sons David and Christopher.

B.H.R.

J. H. J. DEWEY (1910-16)

To be asked to write an Obituary on behalf of my great friend Jack Dewey, is certainly a privilege—for so many reasons.

For Jack and I passed through life almost step by step. We were at school together and we shared the tremendous pride in it held by Mercers throughout so many ages.

We both joined a Livery Company and became Freemen of the City in which we were taught: we entered the masonic order at an early age and both of us, in due time, were accorded Grand Rank in more than one realm of Freemasonry.

For the best part of sixty years, Jack and I kept in close touch—usually on a weekly basis: for while he remained in London, my family and I came to live in Rhodesia a quarter of a century ago.

On the dozens of trips I have made to Europe in recent years, every one has been intertwined with—even dictated by—the frequent occasions on which we have met, to chat about every topic under the sun: for Jack was “au fait” with so many varied things, that to talk with him was indeed a joy.

Always, throughout these many years, Jack was his kindly self. And never, from the time we went to school together until his sad passing, have we quarrelled—never. This in itself must be a pattern worthy of emulation in these turbulent times.

There are so many spheres in which he will be sincerely missed; in insurance, where he rose to spectacular heights; in the church, where his tremendous work in connection with the restoration of the City Temple is, in itself, a hallmark of outstanding effort and faith; in his record of both World Wars and the fine work put in with Service bodies ever since; in Rotary, in which he so quickly attained high office; in Masonry, where his advancement was spectacular to

say the least; in sport, for not only Victor Ludorum in his schooldays, he daily swam the creek outside his attractive Thameside residence, almost to the end; in public life—an outstanding orator at all times; in music, for he was an accomplished organist; in the home, the possessor of a happy life and a treasured family that most of us could so easily envy.

Jack and I had no secrets from each other and we shared precisely the same philosophy.

We often chatted about two fundamental things. Firstly, we believe that the effect of any good that we can do on earth carries on, even after we ourselves have passed away, much as the influence of that small group of men two thousand years back still pervades every corner of the globe today.

We believe, too, that the level of our happiness and joy in the after life, depends on the extent to which we use the talents with which God has blessed us. There is no greater incentive to the fullest use of our skills and attributes.

Thus, with such a fine record of effort and tireless application in so many, many walks of life, Jack has now found his just reward. Of that there is no doubt at all.

So while, we mourn, we remember that few folk can have led a more useful and productive life; Jack Dewey lived his to the full and the world is a poorer place now he has left it. Honor Deo.

J.G.H.

Ven. D. A. BAILEY (1924-28)

Archdeacon of Bloemfontein for twenty years; the pastor of lonely people in Dealesville and Boshof; in Thaba N'chu and Hoopstad; the Warden of the Sisters and Chaplain to St. Michael's School, always remembering the girls he had prepared for confirmation; a friend to forgotten people; a servant of prisoners in his work for social services and Nikro; a valued councillor of the Institute of Race Relations, a member of the Joint Council; for many years before he came here, a mission priest in the Western Transvaal. He cared for the Diocesan Library, registers and Archives, he edited the *Sword* and later, this *Diocesan Link*; all his work for the Afrikaans and Tswana committees was performed with care and accuracy; and in everything was a joyous sense of humour, though he had known suffering.

One could go on; Donald's passing leaves many gaps in the city and diocese of Bloemfontein.

I will mention two more things. At Provincial Synod 1970, his work as secretary won high praise, and on the last morning he really enjoyed himself as he read some rather involved minutes in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was waiting to address Synod.

I knew him in a special way, for he normally heard my confessions. In that ministry to me, I learnt something of his profound faith, the depth of his prayer and the breadth of his sympathy.

"A great priest, who in his days, pleased God".

Our sincere sympathy goes to Marion, to their children Neo, Bridget and Michael, and to his sister Margaret. They may well be proud of his life and work.

"FREDERICK BLOEMFONTEIN"

The Bishop of Bloemfontein.

MARY ALLEN

The death of Miss Mary Allen earlier this year brought to an end a wonderful line. Countless O.M.s will remember Gordon Allen, whose death soon after his retirement saddened us all. Mary, who had been his support for so many years, continued to live in Worthing—and suffered in turn the death of her other brothers, Dick in Hastings and Gordon's twin, James, in Worthing.

She rejoiced to hear of things Mercer and welcomed any visits from Old Mercers and others connected with the School, prominent among whom was Sally Manley, a regular caller. Mary was a lady of the highest intelligence and quick wit—she loved literature, music and good conversation. Her latter years must have been lonely ones, but visits to her remained a joy almost to the end, even though movement had become slow and difficult. Kindness, unfailing courtesy and dignity, these were the virtues we shall remember in Mary Allen; to those of us fortunate enough to know her well her passing reflects the end of an age.

R.G.D.

CORRESPONDENCE

4th September, 1972

Dear Dawson,

You asked for memories of any of the boys whose photographs appeared in the last issue of the O.M. magazine. I cannot identify any of those with Doc Whitehouse but the second photo must have been taken in the early 1950s and is part of the Arts Sixth, from left to right : Ken Lovett, John Locke, John Werner, G.G.A., Richard Lansdown, Martyn Holden and Peter Miles.

We were not particularly distinguished academically but we enjoyed our History. Ken Lovett was a jazz and cycling enthusiast, whose ambition was to set up a world record for a tandem tricycle. Peter Miles once came to school wearing a kilt (he didn't stay very long) and went on after school, I think, to train as a teacher. Despite some efforts I have not been able to trace either of them recently.

John Locke went into the Royal Navy for two years National Service on leaving school and then, as many will know, took a prominent part in O.M. activities for some time. He now lives in Cheshire, is married with two children and is Marketing Manager of a firm making, I quote, "bogs, bidets and basins".

Martyn Holden qualified as a pilot during National Service and then trained as a Chartered Accountant. He lives in Warwickshire, is also married with two children and is Financial Director of an engineering company.

John Werner took the Russian Course during his National Service and then went up to Oxford. He took a degree in English and then trained as a teacher and is now Headmaster of a Secondary School in Kent. He, too, is married with two children.

On leaving school I promptly went into hospital with polio and was exempt from National Service. I took a degree in History at Oxford, trained as a teacher and taught for several years before taking further qualifications in psychology. I am now Principal Psychologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, live in London and am married with one child.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Lansdown (1945-53).

22nd July, 1972

Dear Old Mercer Dawson,

Last week I attended a reunion of the Bombay Light Horse at the Cavalry Club and one of the first men I saw there was G. A. S. Norman. It must have been 1936 when we last met in Bombay. I remember he was wearing an Old Mercer tie at some party or other. After the first war I was sent out to Singapore to join Dunlop; on arrival I was invited to join a Mess or Chumery near Tanglin and in one of the bedrooms I saw a framed picture of my old headmaster, Doctor Scott. When the occupant of the room appeared that evening I found he was an old school friend, E. Lohmeyer, who was pretty active in Old Mercer affairs some years ago.

By the way, George Norman is younger than I am because Doctor Scott was not headmaster when he was there.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Stringer (1904-11)

Dear Dick,

The 1971 Magazine has just reached me and as usual has been read from cover to cover.

Its of great interest to me to note that my contemporaries are mentioned with increasing frequency both in office and activities. I

don't know whether this means we are getting old or have just reached that stage of life where leisure time is more available.

After 13 years in aviation, with all its uncertainties and stress, I called it quits last year and entered the teaching profession on a full-time basis (I'd taught 10 years part-time at the University) at one of the new junior colleges. After one year, I now wonder why I didn't take the plunge long ago. Apart from now being fully immersed in the subject I learned to love under Messrs. Fyson and Elliott, I also have the time to pant after a soccer ball. Maybe if I take a break one winter to visit U.K. I'll show Mick Manning I can still blast a ball past him.

The "do you remember?" photos caused me to rummage through my own collection. The Doc Whitehouse photo states Lower VI (Science) 1947. I recognise A. St. G. Dawson, Hulls, Napardlo, Thearle (Wheeler?). I wonder what they are doing now. Would you believe it, I also found the Whittington team of 1944 that won the gym competition.

It's been 14 years since we moved to Montreal and not a single phone call from an O.M. passing through. Must be the most stay-at-home club ever. Whether we will return to the U.K. permanently is a topic now under discussion as our family is getting closer to university entrance, and in education we still tend to believe that "British is Best".

My best regards to all my old cronies.

Yours sincerely,

Norman Dobson (1941-48).

19th June, 1972.

Dear Dawson,

Every year when I receive the O.M. Magazine, I intend to write and congratulate you on the excellence of its quality—indeed on its very appearance. I am not an active O.M. but I am a very interested one, and I share with so many others the constant irritation of feeling that my two sons should be at Mercers'. After all, I think my family holds the record of 17 years unbroken attendance; 1933-50.

Like many other O.M.s I have climbed up the teaching ladder, and have been for the last two years Head of an I.L.E.A. Comprehensive School in Hackney, Brooke House (incidentally in the constituency of Stanley Clinton-Davies, M.P., an O.M. who would join if you sent the necessary forms c/o House of Commons). My younger brother (1942-50) is i/c of his firm's office in Istanbul, married with two children. He expects to be there two more years.

Once again, there must be many like me who are silently most grateful to you for your work.

Best wishes,

Dennis Felsenstein (1939-44).

Dear Dickie,

Delighted to receive the O.M. Magazine on Friday, and the news it contained was read as always with great interest and not a little nostalgia. I might also add that it was read with a sensation of advancing age which reached its climax when I saw your request for memories about the boys photographed with dear old Doc Whitehouse. It was as if none of us could have survived to the present day.

Photograph 1947. I am taking a transverse section of something; Dennis Hulls of great goalkeeping fame is dissecting something. Doc is demonstrating to Michael Alan Napardlo—I can almost hear him saying: "Now Napardlo, you really must buck up". Behind Doc, with glasses, is Ken Cameron who, I suspect, is now farming somewhere in the West Country and indeed was one of the chaps responsible for setting me firmly into the agricultural world. He followed me to the Royal Agricultural College (after some attendance at a lesser place, probably Harper Adams) and distinguished himself there by winning the Gold Medal for his year. M. J. Carlisle is next to him and front right is R. J. P. Thearle whose name I came across recently in "Agriculture" as joint author of an erudite technical article on some fiendish agricultural pest. He is at some Ministry research establishment as a zoologist. He, as a member of the School H.A.C. Cadet Force, had a name which seemed to be quite unpardonable by the Coldstream Guards Sergeant who was drilling us: "Corporal Three-all" he used to shout! Incidentally I think Napardlo has changed his name to Naylor and is a toothwright somewhere.

As always the magazine was full of names—and of course the owners of the names—whom I remember. Among them are N. R. Dobson (selling aircraft?), J. D. Marchant, Alan Wintersgill, Barry Atkins.

Much as I love this part of the world where I am still advising pig farmers for BOCM Silcock, it does have the drawback of remoteness from London and Mercers' functions. One day I shall get to one of them, and prevail upon N. P. B. Marshall as usual for a bed somewhere nearer than Norwich in order to sober up!

There is plenty I find to do—three daughters keep Elizabeth and I fully occupied! However I find time to spend about ten weekends with the R.N.R. and a fortnight each year. I also do some technical writing and an occasional article for the local daily paper hiding my light under the pseudonym Richard Acon (which I trust a previous House Captain will approve). My last article would have brought tears to the eyes of H.G.A. on the closure of the Bell Hotel in Norwich; it was an evocative lament!

I hope to see you before many moons are past. Meanwhile regards to all O.M.s I have heard many of our wives asking themselves: "What is it about O.M.s? They're all so different yet all so alike!"

All best wishes,

Alan Dawson (1942-48).

Dear Sir,

When I was lunching at the "Old Blues" Club, of which I am a member, I saw a copy of "A History of Mercers' School". My brother F. J. Neal (now deceased) was a scholar at the School from 1897-1901 under Dr. Scott whom he always respected and loved. In 1912 my brother went to Canada where he died in 1970. I would like to give a copy of this book to my brother's school time friend Arthur Griffin Kennard who is a Life Member of the Mercers' Old Boys' Association, and now lives in Peacehaven.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Margaret Hill.

Dear Mr. Ward,

10th January, 1972.

I have read your book with great pleasure, learning much from the interesting chapters of the earliest days, and dreaming nostalgically over 1915-19 as I read the later pages. I sailed up the Lower School in three or four terms, under Mainwaring, Towsey, Boon, and Davis. After that my progress slowed down, mainly owing to frequent absences for both kinds of measles, and chickenpox, in the course of two winters! I remember vividly, even 55 years later, the incomparable teacher, B. C. Boulter, the pleasant-mannered Crampton, a gentleman of the old school, Green, with his explosive outbursts of anger and Northumbrian pronunciation of the letter 'r';—last, and most memorable, Jimmy Grant, so well described in the book. At this point my father sent me to another school; I never knew why, but believe that he had a disagreement with the Headmaster over something that did not concern me! I was doing quite well, and was only just 14—nearly two years below the average age of the form, as a weekly mark book still in my possession testifies.

I have a feeling that we may have overlapped, and wonder whether you knew my dear friend A. W. Foster ("Bill"); we were close friends until his death, when navigating a fighter-bomber, in 1943. I still visit his widow when I am in the South.

Yours sincerely,

Fred J. Tackley.

Dear Old Mercer,

I was very pleased to receive a copy of "A History of Mercers' School". Very great credit is due to all concerned in this effort of real worth for the old school.

The historical matter clears up many points which were puzzling at the time I was at the school, and it is curious on reflection that they were not cleared up at the time.

The reference to the masters teaching at the end of 1914/18 war strike a very sympathetic chord. They were a fine bunch of men.

I am glad that the school orchestra is mentioned in the history as I had the job of pianist. Williams' clarinet tended to squeak and toot, but this contributed to the fun enjoyed by all. I do not think Bicknell had much time for music, indeed he told my father that it

did no one much good, as for example a City Church Organist he knew, and who was rarely sober.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

F. Furneaux.

OTHER NEWS OF OLD MERCERS

D. G. (Daisy) Searls (1910-13) reports that David Oliver (1905-12) reaches the age of 80 in 1973 and whether he is the earliest surviving O.M. President? "Daisy" described a recent walk in Ruislip Woods with another stalwart Past President, Harold Eade (1913-18), in which "D.E.O." seemed 50 rather than 80.

Another Past President, Norman Atkins (1915-18) finds getting about difficult but is determined to attend the Dinner in 1973.

N. R. Assiter (1930-35) writes from Hong Kong: "Although I live in Hong Kong, I am only here a third to half the time as I have all the Bank's property under my wing! This covers every continent in the world except South America! I am this weekend getting ready to go on a two-week trip to Djakarta, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. The projects on this trip include big projects and vast expenditure involving major studies into cash returns, local taxation, controls over remittance of profit from the various countries, etc. An extremely interesting life but very exhausting as it never seems to stop. To give some indication of expansion in Hong Kong alone—we have increased our own banks (H.S.B.C.) from 4 to 72 in 11 years, purchased a subsidiary and increased their branches from 1 to 5. Other subsidiaries have been bought out and new ones formed—all of which generate Real Estate holdings and Property Management problems.

However, the time seems to pass all too quickly and before I know it, I will be on my way home for good for retirement in my house in the countryside of Aberdeenshire. I have made Aberdeen my base in U.K. since I married in 1942 and, due to this, my son has received his education mainly in Scotland. He is now at Trinity College, Glenalmond. He is following in my footsteps for size as he is now almost 6ft. at 15 years of age."

Maurice Boucher (1931-39) has become Professor of History at the University of South Africa in Pretoria. He again mentions his debt to Gordon Allen in inspiring a lasting interest in History.

F. J. Ordish (1904-11) recalled his days at school. "Old Springett on the gate and his missus in the tuck shop, cricket and football at Wormwood Scrubs, fights in the lower playground, etc." Ordish also sent greetings from "brother B" in Australia

John Cookman (1938-43), a governor of Christ's Hospital, made sure that "A History of Mercers' School" has reached the library at

the school. He recalls that Dr. Scott and Mr. Bicknell were both Old Blues.

Cookman also revealed that Patrick Montague-Smith, editor of *Debrett*, is a former member of Mercers' School.

STOP PRESS

The Editor has to report, with deepest regret, the death of his old friend and staunch Old Mercer W. G. (Bill) Bailey (1899-1907).