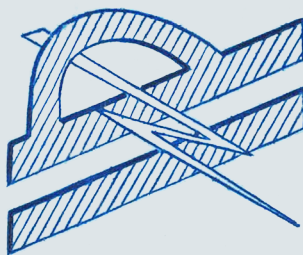


# THE SPUR

80TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

14TH JULY 2016



# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL.

*“Inspiring Learning; Achieving Excellence”*

80th Year Anniversary

July 2016.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks go to the following for their help in organising this event.  
We apologise for any inadvertent omissions.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Samantha Barnard and her COSST team | Ian Newman                              |
| Dermot Bracken                      | Ben Nicolas                             |
| Rachel Burnham                      | Alan Oakley                             |
| Roy Cook                            | Alan Painter                            |
| Claire Curtis                       | Eliane Patton                           |
| David Giles                         | Ana Peliza                              |
| Kirsten Heard                       | Dick Philpott                           |
| Kevin Laidler                       | Neil Robinson                           |
| Mark Lever                          | David Saunders                          |
| John Massey                         | Joseph White and his Pinnacle Site Team |
| Gwen Murray                         | And numerous Sixth Form students        |

## HEADTEACHER’S WELCOME

I am absolutely delighted to be the Headteacher at Raynes Park High School which prides itself on academic, sporting and creative activity. We have a rich history, clear identity and extremely strong community which I feel so privileged to now be part of.

My drive and ambition is to ensure that Raynes Park High School provides an exceptional learning experience for our students, and our commitment to academic excellence and personal well-being is at the core of everything we do. At RPHS, every student is valued as an individual and we know they benefit from the diverse backgrounds, cultures and abilities of the peers they learn alongside every day.

The school has made rapid improvements and the 2015 results are the best in the schools recent history. Our Ofsted report (October 2015) rated us as good in all categories and the staff are committed to further driving up standards in our quest to be exceptional in all that we do.

The 80th anniversary provides the opportunity to celebrate the great many traditions at RPHS and I would like to record my personal thanks to the former Headteacher, Mr Ian Newman (1995 – 2011) for taking the time to educate me on all that is important to the school and its former pupils. To be a Headteacher is a great privilege but to be the Headteacher at RPHS is the greatest of privileges and I look forward to sharing in its continued success.

MRS. K. HEARD





## JUNE 1935. THE BEGINNING

*From 'RPHS - A Jubilee History' by Peter Harris, 1985*

On June 12th, 1935, the newly established Governing Body of Raynes Park County School for Boys - due to open in September of that year - appointed John Garrett, an Oxford graduate and an Assistant Master at Whitgirl School to be the school's first Headmaster.

John Garrett's first contact with the boys was on September 19th, though by that time he had been busying himself organising his newly built but not-quite-finished school for some weeks. This was his first Headmastership, and it appears that he was as nervous as many of the boys on the first day. Turning to one of his new members of Staff and commenting, "I think I am going to be sick", he mounted the steps of the stage and addressed the boys;

My first words from this platform can hardly be other than to welcome you all very sincerely as members of Raynes Park County School. This is a unique experience for all of us and one unlikely to be repeated. It is conceivable that we may find ourselves in other schools but never shall we have again quite the thrill of starting a new school from scratch. As I have watched this school get ready for you, and as I have been working here alone during this week, I have thought I was living through a period of prelude to adventure. And now the prelude is completed and the adventure begins, and in this adventure we all share. [...] From the very beginning I want you to regard your school as a place to which you like to come, and in whose kindly walls you like to linger. We shall have failed you and you will have failed your school if you regard it as a place to which you come at 9 o'clock under compulsion, and from which you race away at the earliest opportunity. What is more, you will handicap my colleagues on the staff in all that they want to do for you, and all the avenues of interest to which they want to introduce you.

Having thus raised their hopes and interests, he informed them that lessons would begin the next day. One boy is reported as having gone home and cried since he had not been able to start his lessons there and then.



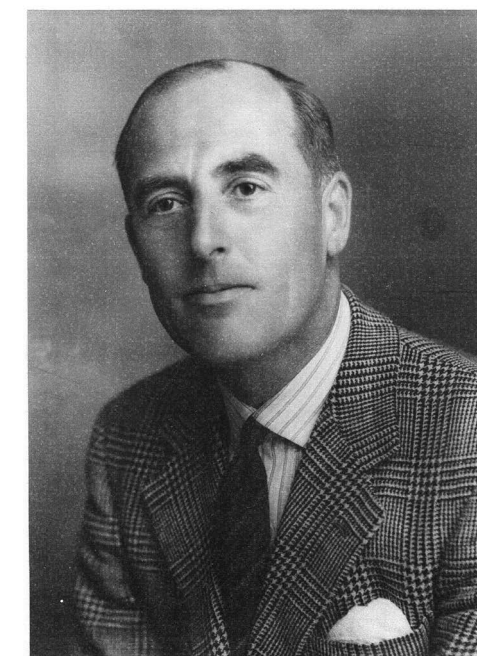
T. W. P. COBB  
HOUSEMASTER 1935-48



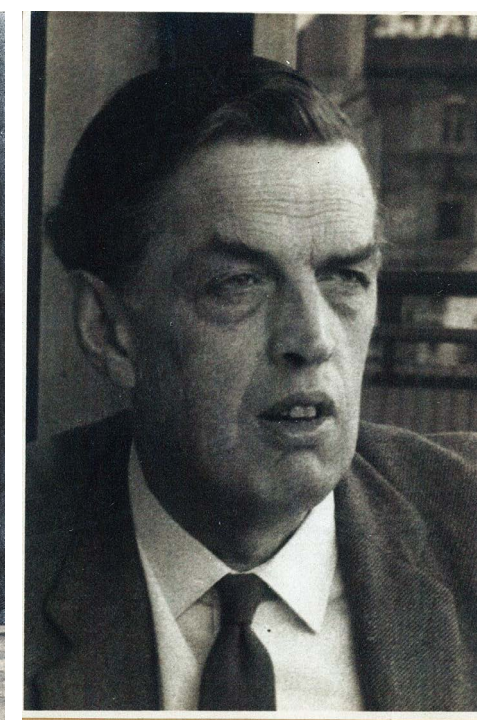
K.F. HALLIWELL  
HOUSEMASTER 1936-43



A. MILTON  
HOUSEMASTER 1936-46



R. W. GIBB  
HOUSEMASTER 1935-45



A. W. NEWSOM  
HOUSEMASTER 1936-42

## THE FIVE HOUSEMASTERS

## ORIGINAL SCHOOL SONG

*W. H. Auden*

Time will make its utter changes,  
Circumstance will scatter us;  
But the memories of our school days  
Are a living part of us.

*Chorus -*

So remember then, when you are men  
With important things to do,  
That once you were young, and this song have sung  
For you were at school here, too.

Daily we sit down in form-rooms,  
Inky hand to puzzled head:  
Reason's light, and Knowledge power;  
Man must study till he's dead.

Man has mind but body also;  
So we learn to tackle low,  
Bowl the off-breaks, hit the sixes,  
Bend the diver's brilliant bow.

Man must live among his neighbours,  
For he cannot live alone;  
Friendships, failures and successes  
Here we learn to make our own.

Tractors grunt where oceans wandered,  
Factories stand where green grass grew:  
Voices break and features alter,  
We shall soon be different, too.

Boys and cities, schools and natures,  
Though they change like you and me,  
Do not simply grow and happen,  
They are what they choose to be.

## TODAY'S VERSION

Time will make its utter changes,  
Circumstance will scatter us;  
But the memories of our school days  
Are a living part of us.

*Chorus -*

So remember then, when you are grown  
With important things to do,  
That once you were young, and this song have sung  
For you were at school here, too.

We must live among our neighbours,  
For we cannot live alone;  
Friendships, failures and successes  
Here we learn to make our own.

Children, cities, schools and natures,  
Though they change like you and me,  
Do not simply grow and happen,  
They are what they choose to be.

---

## OUR SCHOOL SONG

*by Alan Wright (student 1945 - 1953)*

I have it on the very best authority that W.H.Auden, one of the finest lyric poets of the twentieth century, claimed, when sitting in a coffee bar in the Cornmarket in Oxford, that he had only the faintest recollection of what he actually wrote when composing the lyrics of our school song. The date of this claim was the Autumn of 1956, some twenty years or so after Auden had put together the verses which most of the readers of this article have sung on several occasions, and the most informal interview, which the poet found himself giving in Oxford, went on to suggest that the six verses and their accompanying chorus were assembled in the company of founder headmaster, John Garrett, over a tippie in The Duke of Cambridge. "I certainly remember writing it," murmured Auden in the transatlantic accent which his wartime in America had encouraged, "but I can't remember what I wrote."



Yet despite his vagueness when looking back at the pleasant evening out with Garrett, Auden did succeed in jotting down, in scansion that makes the words easy to remember and with rhymes which come trippingly off the tongue, a brief and palatable catalogue of some of the important issues which we all have to take seriously if we are to have reasonably happy lives. We must keep our minds awake, the poet tells us (because “Reason’s light and Knowledge power”); we should not forget the importance of physical fitness (for “Man has mind but body also”); we have to live accommodately with those around us (“For he cannot live alone”) and we ought to make the most at all times of the dignity and importance of our own freedom of choice since (“They are what they choose to be”). Above all, Auden reminds us we have to be mature enough to take with equanimity the frequently unforeseen changes that the passing of time will make in our lives, for these changes can scupper the best laid plans. Perhaps the poet is right when in the chorus he suggests that what happens to us in our schooldays may help us to enjoy or endure any tricks that Fate plays later.

But this is beginning to sound too reverential and Auden would have no truck with reverence, avoiding as he does any danger of preaching, or of sounding like the older person - he was about thirty years old when he wrote the song - telling the younger how to run his or her life. He avoids a personal didactic tone by arranging the words of the song as a sung monologue with ‘we’, the school students, singing the shrewd or contemplative verses, and addressing “you”, the unconvinced, perhaps, in the choruses. As a consequence, it is the students themselves who hand out any moralising advice which is included. The song, far from being solemn is also a jolly creation, thanks to a large extent to Thomas Wood’s jaunty music, and it is also an interesting social document portraying the preoccupations and the physical changes of south-western London suburbia in the nineteen-thirties. From the language point of view, it has its attractions, too: there is a memorable personification (“Tractors grunt”), neat alliterations (“green grass grew”) and one metaphor (“the diver’s brilliant bow”) which Auden liked enough to use again in his poem, “One Evening”:

*Time breaks the threaded dances  
And the diver’s brilliant bow.*

Nevertheless, this acknowledgement of the various skills involved comes as no surprise for we know that no headteacher or board of governors would have accepted the song if it hadn’t included the requisite amount of unobtrusive good advice, if it had been poorly written or had sounded like a cacophony,

and the quality of our school song is less important and less interesting than the effect it has had or does have on us as students or former students of Raynes Park School.

When I was at Raynes Park (1945-1953), the school song was sung at every end of term assembly. This means that I sang it at least twenty-four times, but since it is possible that it figured at the beginnings of terms as well, I may have contributed to forty-eight renditions. And then, of course, there were practises with various music teachers, which would have taken the total to above the half century.

In my youth I could possibly have sung a hymn or two as frequently, but it is likely, since I have an execrable singing voice and have never been a member of a choir, that the school song is the only piece which I have sung, almost from beginning to end ( - the poor second verse with its inky hand was usually tactfully omitted - ) with any genuine frequency. For many readers the experience will probably be similar.

The end of term versions were the more important because they signified freedom, and the imminence of the holidays led to the assembled students bellowing the words and drowning a piano accompaniment. For members of staff on the platform, or perhaps for innocent by-passers making their way to Carters’ Tested Seeds nearby, the din was no doubt appalling, but nevertheless the memory of the song as an expression of release at the end of a term is the most affectionate of my recollections. W.H.Auden’s predictions for the future have become apparent only more recently and with retrospection, and I am a little disappointed to recall that my awareness of camaraderie within the school was never enhanced, as tradition no doubt intended it to have been, by my bellowing of Auden’s lyrics.

The Raynes Park school song is a card of identity to be proud of, and it is far too important a work not to make the fullest use of in spite of its obvious inadequacies for today. Among these inadequacies was the feeling in the nineteen-thirties that it would be inappropriate to list among the future issues of concern the successful organisation of one’s emotional life, and since it was written for a boys’ school the gender balance is all awry as well, and one’s imagination is taxed by the prospect of modernising it in order to include quite proper reference to both sexes. So, perhaps for some of us who sing it today it will remain an historical document, but it may also be important for individuals in many different ways.

A. WRIGHT



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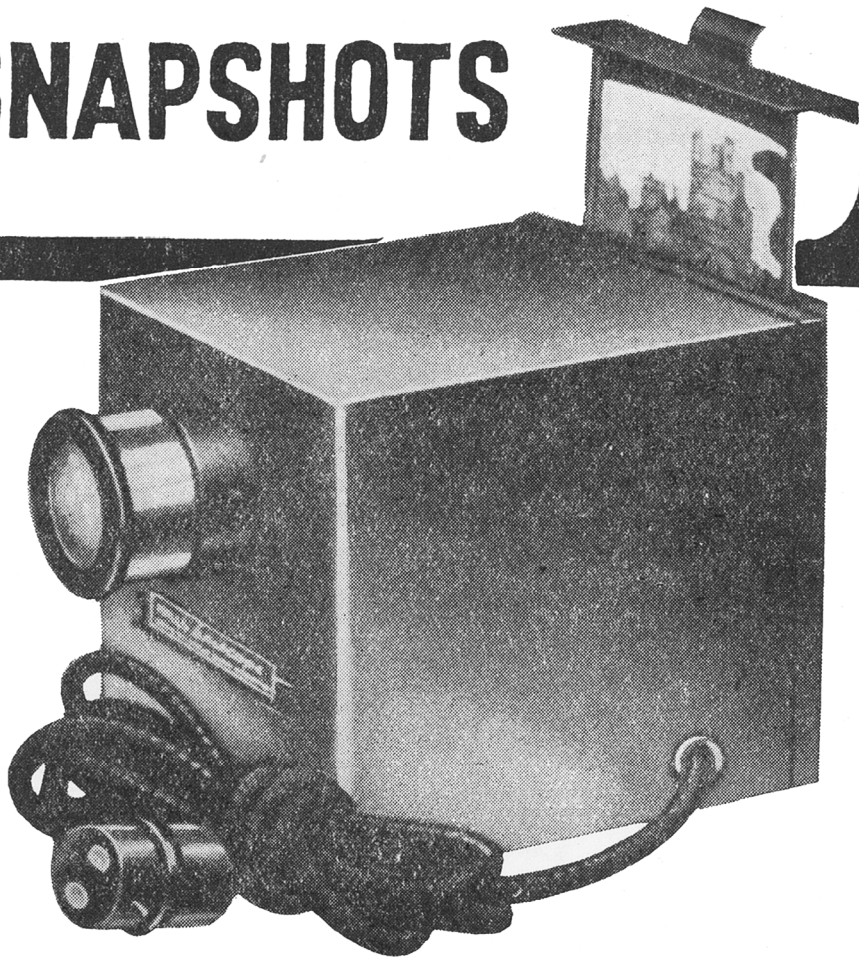
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## NOVEMBER 1935. THE OPENING

*From 'RPHS - A Jubilee History' by Peter Harris, 1985*

The school was 'officially' opened by Alderman J. Chuter Ede, DL, MP, Chairman of the County Council, on November 28th, 1935. It was the 34th Secondary School in Surrey. The event was presided over by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Councillor B T King who was sadly to die the following year, and in whose memory the 'Cock House' Cup was to be presented. Raynes Park's first Headteacher, John Garrett, had gone down with chicken pox on November 14th, but he sent a telegram from his sick bed: "May the ship be well and truly launched. Greetings to the School and the assembled company." Introducing Alderman Chuter Ede, Councillor King commented, "What [he] does not know about education is not worth knowing". Speaking to the boys, Alderman Ede said;

What you are starting today is going to live for hundreds of years. The pace you set will largely determine the way in which the school will stand in the race of honour in which all healthy schools are engaged, and I hope, therefore, you are going to realise your opportunity.

A statement from Mr Garrett was read, which began:

Although, like Macbeth, we are as yet 'young in deed', I have been asked on several occasions what traditions this school can boast, for all the world as if traditions were goods purchasable by the pound over the counter [...] My answer to such enquiries has been brief and invariable [...] Our opportunity lies in our freedom from tradition, for thus we are able to create our own. [...] The motto of the school is no latin tag, but rather the words of the contemporary poet, W. H. Auden: 'To each his need; from each his power'.

The total cost of the opening is recorded in the Governor's minutes, (17.12.35), as £9.6.3 including 15/- for flowers and refreshments at 7d per head. The Governors voted to contribute 11/6 each to cover these expenses.





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BECOME  
A  
MARCONI  
WIRELESS  
OPERATOR?**

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## JULY 1939. WARTIME

From 'RPHS - A Jubilee History' by Peter Harris, 1985

In The July 1939 issue of The Spur, Garrett wrote:

Threat of war had meant invasion of our grounds. In the near future, we shall be equipped with trenches at the expense of much green grass. It is presumably the price we pay for relative security. [...] It is devoutly to be hoped that our precautions will never be necessary, [and] it is our job to carry on our work with quiet efficiency [...] undisturbed by the horror of war. Any other course means chaos and capitulation."

The school was unable to function normally until shelters were provided. Luckily, Raynes Park was just outside the officially evacuable area, but until the shelters were completed the school buildings could not be used. In the meantime Garrett organised a tutorial system in the home of masters and at one point he records that they were giving 33 tutorials a week to groups of not more than six, in the homes of eighteen different masters. On October 7th they began digging up the grounds for the growing of potatoes, and the biology garden found itself disrupted by the digging of ARP trenches.

The cultural life however continued, even if the school play had to be postponed due to lack of black-out curtains. The 1938 Prize Giving had been done by Lord Davis Cecil. The 1939 one was to welcome T S Eliot. By November the shelters were ready and most of the boys returned. Very few of them had been evacuated by their parents. Blackout curtains having been obtained (at a cost of £96), the play went ahead.

Just after midnight on October 18th, 1940, a 500lb bomb dropped on one corner of the school. The bike sheds and the southern lavatories were completely destroyed and a lot of damage was done to the neighbouring parts of the school. Repairs were soon put in hand. After all, there were 273 boys still attending the school and Garrett was determined to be able to continue:

Come what may, education must go on [...] an education rooted in free enquirey has no place in the Nazi policy: it has in England's. It is therefore on the traditions of this country which we are fighting to preserve.

Both boys and staff undertook the duties of Fire-watching every night. Garrett reported to the Governors:

Since January 20th[,] every night we have here two masters and two prefects from blackout until dawn. The boys do their homework and go to bed, only to be awakened in the event of their being needed. It is idle to pretend that masters are as fit for their work in the classrooms on morning following their vigil, but we are willing enough to perform the duty if the County Council think that is the best or only way to protect their buildings.



Life continued apace. Garrett continued to work on the cultural reputation - Nevill Coghill judged the House Plays; L A G Strong became a Governor of the school and Mr Robert Graves set the subject for the Head Master's Essay Prize and agreed to judge the entries.

On October 21st 1942, it was recorded in the Governors' minutes that the Head Master had submitted his resignation, effective from Christmas 1942. In December the Governors appointed Charles Wrinch to be the new Head Master. At the December 1942 Prize Giving, the Chairman of the Governors,

[...] paid tribute to the work done at Raynes Park by the Headmaster in the last seven years. The school, he said, had been planted among pickle factories in an area of ground that had no culture, no traditions. The Headmaster, by his persistent policy of putting the best before the boys, had made the school a centre of culture in the district[.]

Charles Wrinch took over the school at the beginning of the Spring term. He had 368 boys in a school built to hold only 330.

By October 1943 the first war casualties amongst the Old Boys were reported. During the war many staff were called up and there weren't enough other teachers around to replace them. Charles Wrinch on occasion had to be satisfied with sharing teachers from other schools.

The two major events for the boys during 1944 were the flying bombs and the evacuation camps. The Cricket Report in the Summer 1944 edition of the Spur finished "The Flying Bombs brought a most successful season to an untimely end." The school itself was fortunate. Many windows were broken, "But our only casualty was a stuffed bird in the physics laboratory."

With the deteriorating conditions due to flying bombs, Wrinch felt that the vast, thinly populated and safe areas of the country offered an obvious invitation. On June 29th, 1944, three parties set out for the country. Boys took part in school studies and were able to obtain work on the land and were paid accordingly. The parents who cooked received no wages and the services of the staff were entirely gratuitous. For the equivalent of a term the boys lived under boarding-school conditions. The health of many of them improved to an astonishing degree. Wrinch concluded in his account of this time:

Good has come out of evil. In June it appeared that members of the school would be dispersed. Instead of this our unity has been strengthened more effectively than ever before. The credit for this goes to the staff who have voluntarily sacrificed their leisure and time for study [...] Their services [deserve] greater recognition than it is in my power to give.

In September 1945, Wrinch submitted his resignation to the Governors. He had only been Head Master for three years, yet in that time he had held the school together and maintained its sense of community. Now that the war was over, the Old Boys Society organised a Memorial Fund in memory of those Old Boys who had died in the war. Charles Wrinch would return for the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque which the Old Boys were to commission.



School Exterior, 1939

## REVISITING RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL

*From The Spur, 2003. By former pupil John Ellis.*

Anybody passing by the school on a recent weekday would have been surprised to see an elderly blue-suited gentleman peering over the wire into the slow moving waters of Pyl Brook. This surprise would have grown when the man solemnly picked up a twig and cast it into the water. Reasonably, the passer-by would have decided the gent was a bit dotty, and gone on his way. I was the twig pitcher. I had last done this in the sombre time of 1940 with a close friend. Our pleasures then were not elaborate.

I had come to the school at the kind invitation of the Head for a conducted tour which I was most ably given by two courteous and competent students. It was a strange mix of instant recognition of some parts and pleased surprise at the splendid additions made in the intervening years. The remembered parts were so familiar that I began to wonder if my homework assignment would be adequate or if I would make 4a next year. Did I even detect a scent of incubating boiling cabbage from the long abandoned kitchen area?

My main impression? Of vibrant and enthusiastic activity. The art class with its energetic students making bold sweeps of colour at once recalled the days of Claude Rogers who taught me. He was exhibited at the Tate who still have six of his pictures. Claude urged us to 'slap it on - don't think too much about it.' This we did with gusto - so much so that my mother said she needed a second washday to cope. The computer room with its rows of staring screens was an evident newcomer. In 1940 these were hardly dreamt of. Although a pulp magazine titled *The Modern Boy* did make odd references to mysterious mechanical brains. Corny by to-day's standards but we loved it

After my tour I was delighted to have a question and answer session. There was no lack of lively interrogation. Some wanted to hear of the war years. I recalled a day in assembly when the siren sounded its baleful alert. The Head, John Garrett, who had a personality that could silence the school at a glance, thundered 'Any boy wishing to go to the shelters may do so' - nobody moved.

Students asked me if I had a particular friend. I did. His ambition was to be a fighter pilot. Sadly, he realised it. His name, E. Fisher, is on the School's memorial plaque.

It was he with whom I floated twigs on Pyl Brook in those sultry, desperate days.

J. ELLIS





School Dinner, 1939

## WAR-TIME DINNER

*A poem from The Spur, April 1941*

The School is very hard to please,  
For, having paid its dinner fees,  
It will not feed on bread and cheese :  
A food with proteins in profusion,  
Fats in glorious confusion,  
As, it is a grave delusion  
Wanting other foods than these.

It calls for ingenuity  
To make a superfluity  
Of pudding nice and suety.  
For wartime rations, when acquired,  
Still leave a lot to be desired,  
And seldom are as is required  
In quantity and purity.

So cook must needs work hard and well,  
That, when, at last, the dinner-bell  
Rings out, an appetising smell  
May filter through the kitchen door,  
Suggesting that the food of war,  
Though meagre, will suffice, and more,  
A schoolboy's appetite to quell.

FORM IV.

## RAYNES PARK 10TH ANNIVERSARY

*from The Spur, January 1946*

On September 19th John Garrett, our founding Headmaster, speaking to the School for the first time since he left us in 1942, gave a Tenth Anniversary Address. Mr Garrett rose to speak amid loud applause, and commented that he found the occasion a particularly embarrassing one. But he had certainly left a great deal of his heart in this School, and there was no doubt that one bore an especially intimate relationship to one's first child. He remembered, in his speech, those first hard-fought months of the School that laid the foundation not only of all the achievement and fame we have known in the first ten years, but of all that we shall ever do in the future. He remembered the original staff and the original complement of boys. He told us how the rugger, the garden, the library and the theatrical tradition grew, and waxed strong with the help of the staff and the School's indomitable parents. And how some of those who went on from the School to the battlefields of the world, gave up their lives willingly for our cause, while yet in the beginning of their days.

Mr. Garrett ended by recalling his last speech to us on December 23rd, 1942 : he has then spoken principally on the commission which had been given to us. That which was committed to our trust has been preserved since that time. He remarked that his going did not lessen the fair name and reputation of the School, and that we had prospered exceedingly. If other changes occur, they will not matter so long as that devotion to the community which we have always practised among ourselves is maintained in the School which so many have loved and served. He finished with these words, "God bless Raynes Park County School."

C. E. P.







# RAYNES PARK FORMER PUPILS' SOCIETY

*For more information about the Society and the benefits, go to [www.rpfps.co.uk](http://www.rpfps.co.uk)*

RPFPS is a society for pupils who have attended Raynes Park High School both past and present. Society membership is also available to school staff. The Society was created shortly after WWII and with money from the compulsory purchase of the sports field for the construction of the A3, the Society has always helped support the School. More recently this includes a donation of £40,000 towards the sports ground on Westway Close and this year the Society installed two commemorative oak benches at the sports ground. One was inscribed in memory of those former pupils who have lost their lives in war. The other was inscribed in memory of Peter Pritchard, a founder member of the Former Pupils' Society who died last year.

Currently the Society is undergoing a makeover to increase membership and interest with the Society. This is essential to the survival of the Society for future generations and we ask for your consideration to join us. Part of the improvements is a new dedicated website for the Society at [www.rpfps.co.uk](http://www.rpfps.co.uk). This website has updates of forthcoming events and news as well as details of benefits made available to society members. Some of these benefits are included here. The Society is always on the lookout for ways to improve the benefits for members and are open to suggestions. Please feel free to contact us with any suggestions no matter how big or small at [members@rpfps.co.uk](mailto:members@rpfps.co.uk)

## THE ANNUAL DINNER

The Society has organised a very successful annual dinner every year since the conception of the Society in 1950. The meal is subsidised by the Society and currently a 4 course meal with a half bottle of wine costs a Society member just £20. It is the ideal occasion to reunite with old school friends and have a good night out. The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at Glenmore House in Surbiton. Invitations will be sent out to society members nearer the date.



## LARGE DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERSHIP AT PACHESHAM GOLF CLUB

RPFPS also has a Golf Society based at Patchesham Golf Course near to Leatherhead. The Golf Society meets for a friendly roll-up every Saturday morning and has Society Days at other clubs each month between April to October. Membership of the Golf Society is open to former pupils and teachers, their spouses and offspring providing they are members of the Society. Membership prices for the year starting 1st April 2016 are £60 for a full seven day membership at Patchesham plus an optional £30 to upgrade the membership to full competition handicap level and includes insurance and affiliation fees. This really is a sizable discount with normal cost of membership being £349.

With a lifetime membership costing just £20, there really is no reason for not joining. Please email [members@rpfps.co.uk](mailto:members@rpfps.co.uk) to join.





G. Thomas R. Birch D. Lines H. Kohlbeck R. Simpson G. Pegrum J. Hopkins J. Ashley M. Cameron C. Parker  
R. Sleight B. Newman D. Saunders J. Taylor D. Thompson  
M. Welby T. Champney

## FORMER PUPIL: DAVID SAUNDERS

Former Head Boy and Captain of the 1st XV, David Saunders (pictured above, centre) attended the school from 1939 until he was called-up in 1946. He shared some extracts about Raynes Park High School from his memoirs with us.

So we come to 1939, a year when all our lives were changed with our entry into the WW2, and mine also by the move into the Grammar School. The first deeply affected the second, for no one quite knew what to do. For a time we just went into the school to get registered and collect homework.

He talks about two main ambitions, one to go to Oxford university, and the other is rugby related.

I had achieved my other ambition already: that was to play for the School in our 1st XV. Moreover since I had decided to stay at school until call-up, I was also elected as Captain. I don't think I was a very good one, but at least we had an unbeaten season. I played for the school one day and was in the army the next after only about eight weeks into the winter term [...] Our current Headmaster, Charles Wrinch approached Keble College Oxford on my behalf and was able to tell me that I could have a place there after doing my National Service.

We also found mention of David Saunders in the Winter 1946 Edition of the *Spur*:

Miltons have had their most successful season within the memory of any present member of the House. The whole team is to be congratulated [...] We have before the end of the this term to suffer a great loss in the departure of David Saunders. His enthusiasm for all House activities and his forceful convictions have assuredly raised the standard of work and play within the House. We feel very proud that he was also Head Boy and Captain of the 1st XV. The very best wishes for success and luck go with him from every member of the House, and we hope we shall see much of him in the future.

## THE KINGFISHER

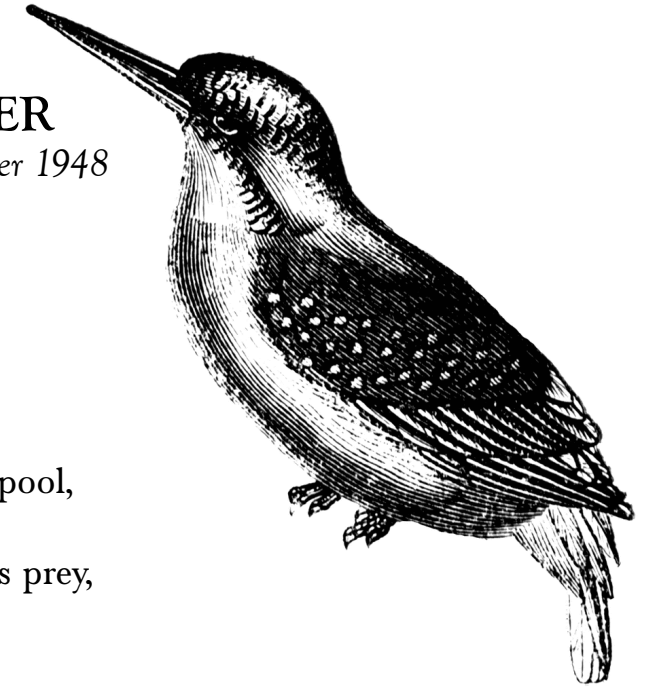
*A poem from The Spur, Winter 1948*

The kingfisher is a beautiful bird,  
With his glorious rainbow colours ;  
His brilliant feathers glow and flash  
In the bright sunlight.

Her perches on a stone in a shallow pool,  
Watching the gleaming fish ;  
Then, quick as a flash, he darts at his prey,  
And returns with a speckled trout.

His silken feathers glitter and shine,  
As the water glistens on them,  
Then he opens his wings, and flying downstream,  
Glows gorgeously across the day.

D. N. SALTER



## HAPPY MEMORIES OF RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

*by Alan Oakley (student 1952 - 1959 Miltons House)*

In the area I was born and brought up in, the Coombe area of New Malden, most of my contemporaries went to Kingston Grammar School or Tiffins Boys School, but my parents had good reports of a grammar school at Raynes Park, possibly from the parents of a near neighbour, Brian Jackson, who was at the school from 1942 to 1950, and who I still meet regularly. Thank goodness they did, because I can't think of a better school to go to!

One of the great things about it was the teachers: not bossy or arrogant, but really friendly and involved with their pupils. I'm afraid, at my age, memory of names is rather poor, but a few names I do remember were the Headmaster, Henry Porter (who gave me a really friendly and welcoming first interview), Peter Smith (science teacher and play producer), Bill Herdman and his Wife, Mrs Herdman (who we had to call "Sir"!), H Dennis Jones (a classics teacher who also, as I discovered later, was a regular contributor to the *Geographic Magazine*)



(‘Happy Memories of Raynes Park County Grammar School’ continued)

Unlike many other schools, we also had classes in practical skills such as pottery (which I made a bit of a mess of!) and carpentry, which gave me very helpful DIY skills which enabled us, many years later, to convert a chapel in Wiltshire to a holiday home. On Monday evenings we had a Model Railway Club (at which dads were allowed to join in) and at lunchtimes there were many clubs such as the Da Vinci Society, the Gramophone Club (Classical), the Jazz Listening Group, Debating Society, Chess Club and many others). There was also a very active Scout group and the School Orchestra. And to take our interests further afield, we had a Classical Society trip to Canterbury and Richborough Fort and a Geography Society walk along the Mole Gap from Leatherhead through Norbury Park (which, coincidentally I was responsible for many years later as Countryside Manager at Surrey County Council). There was also a super holiday trip to Switzerland arranged by the School.

In the quiet period after O-Levels and the end of the Summer term, equipment borrowed from the Film Society enabled fellow pupil David Hammond and me to make a film about London “So This Is London” which was another memorable experience.

No, I haven’t mentioned sport! Following being thrown into the front row of the rugby scrum at my prep school, I spent all my energy getting out of sport! Also, my parents frequently drove down to the coast at weekends, and friends and I did a lot of cycling at weekends, so team sport was out of the question. However, we had super cross-country runs across Wimbledon Common (where we became skilled at finding short cuts!) and a fellow pupil and I had permission to go canoeing on the River Thames at Kingston (where we were able to meet friends at Tiffins Girls School!).

Just a few of the wonderful memories of Raynes Park Grammar School, which we will always “remember then, when we are men, with important things to do”!

A. O.

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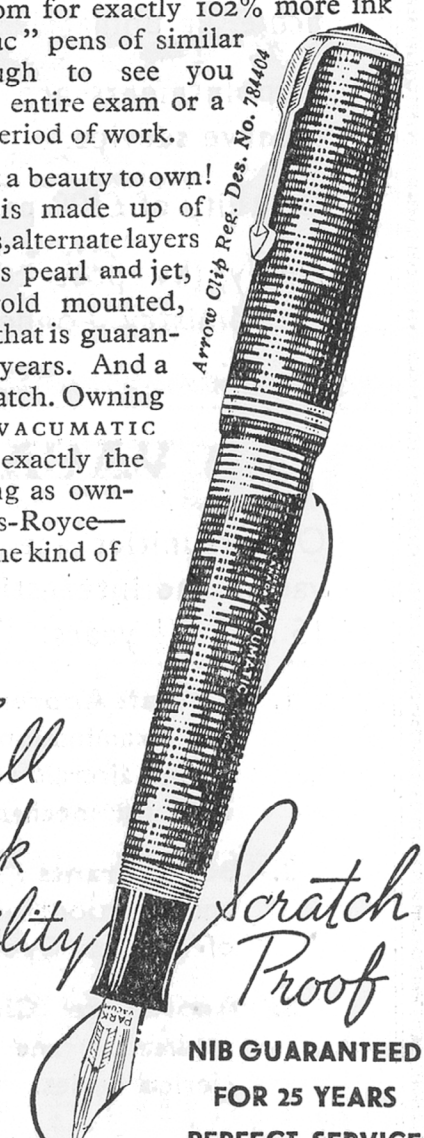
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## RAYNES PARK MEMORIES : THE GAMES

by Ian Dollery (student 1954 - 1960)

The best memory of my time 1954-1960 was the 'Games', both inter-house and inter-school.

One afternoon a week when one term was hockey - when the annual match with the local girls' grammar was a nightmare - another term of rugby and the next the endlessly boring cricket. During the daytime breaks football dominated and we were good enough to beat the adjacent secondary at their prime sport - much to their chagrin.

Then my favoured cross country from the Oberon and athletics in the summer. This was the most inclusive as every house member earned either A or B rating (2 or 1 points) for each athletics event prior to the competition on Sports day. With everyone contributing, Sports day was a major end of year event at the Oberon screamed on by the whole school and doting parents.

Elsewhere a myriad of games choices were available: tennis, squash, swimming and even rowing. Then on a Saturday you could represent the school at weekly inter-school competitions across all of these sports.

Then we had a gym class twice a week and at lunchtimes with the frantic 'pirates' where we were chased around the equipment whilst avoiding putting a foot on the floor - a bruising test. Lunchtimes could also feature the banned 'Bulldog' where on the cry the whole school would rush to form a pile of screeching bodies on the field - when being first was not advisable.

Many an hour was spent gazing out of the window at sports on the field as Cæsar droned on to triumph in some lost battle. Gaining the school colours on your blazer for representing the school throughout the term, was our definition of 'cool'.

The sports made school a much more attractive proposition and were a real social asset after you left and was probably a foundation for fitness and sport throughout your life.

## DOGGEREL A LA MOD(E)

A poem from *The Spur*, Summer 1964

If you want to be a real he-man like Ringo,  
You'll have to let your hair grow long, by Jingo !  
Wear Chelsea boots, and a dapper little jacket,  
And get yourself involved in a 'Mersey-beat racket.'

If you want to show your manhood, be sure to grow a beard,  
Dress yourself in fashions politely known as 'weird'.  
Abhor punctuality, carry an umbrella,  
And don't conform to rules, like any normal fella.

ANON

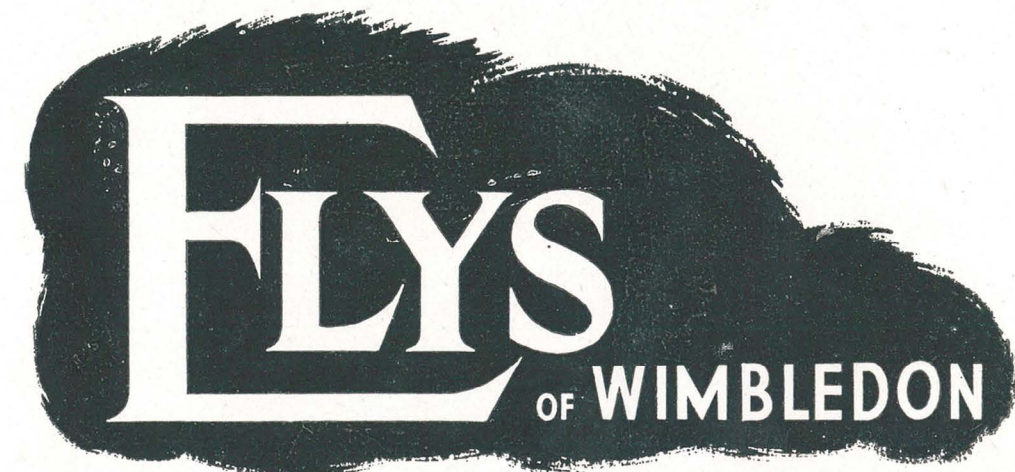
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## RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL OUTFITS

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## PARIS TRIP 1961

*From The Spur, Summer 1961*

When everyone had assembled at the Boot's Kiosk in Victoria Station, we made our way to the train bound for Newhaven. Everybody managed eventually to manoeuvre themselves down the awkwardly narrow corridors, with cases in their hands and duffle-bags slung around their necks into the party's reserved compartments.

There was an air of excitement as the train left Platform 15 and rushed through the slums of Battersea. We soon reached Newhaven where we went on board the waiting cross-Channel steamer. A calm, three and a half hour crossing bought us to Dieppe, with its picturesque shuttered windows and quayside shops.

Having disembarked we had no time to appreciate the thought of stepping onto French soil, but had to drag our suitcases to "Voiture 28" of an extremely long, dull-green train. "Voiture 28," as if we didn't know, was at the farthest end of the train.

After a surprisingly short journey, the train arrived at Saint Lazare, where we found that there was some trouble over the coach, which seemed to have disappeared, but that was soon cleared up. Our coach journey pass the famous Moulin Rouge and then turned into a side-street not far from the Place Pigalle. Apparently this was it! We lugged our suitcases to Numero 7, Hotel Cretet, went to our rooms via a twisting staircase, and fell, exhausted, on our beds.

Our first Continental breakfast consisted of wonderful coffee, croissants and creamy butter. After breakfast we took the Metro to the Madeleine, with its huge Corinthian pillars, the main features being the bells which seemed to ring from nowhere, and the hundreds of candles. We then visited the Arc de Triomphe, which meant climbing up what must have been about three hundred spiral steps. We soon realised that the French did not care particularly if anyone fell from the top, as the only prevention of this happening was a low parapet.

The following morning, after a wonderful breakfast, we packed our cameras and took the Metro to the Eiffel Tower. We walked across the Seine and then joined a queue to book a lift to the top. The doors closed, the lift moved and then we started to ascend the massive network of steel girders. The tower became steeper and steeper until it became necessary to change the lift to reach the final stage. The tower was being painted at the time and we passed many paint-splattered "spidermen" clinging onto the foot-wide girders.

In the afternoon most of us went to the Louvre with Mr. Marks, the main attraction being the famed "Mona Lisa".

The last day in Paris was begun by shopping and wandering around Montmartre. After dinner we went to the Seine at the Eiffel Tower and had a final view of Paris from a boat : past Notre Dame, under Pont-Neuf, the Eiffel Tower, the Bois de Boulogne and back again.

Then back to the hotel and packing. The rest of the day was spent generally lounging around the hotel, and packing forgotten Eiffel Towers.

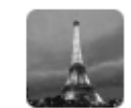
## PARIS TRIP 2016

*In Tweets*



**RPHS French Trip @RPHSTrip · May 20**

Thanks to all for getting to school on time this morning. We're now on our way to Dover! @officialRPHS



**RPHS French Trip @RPHSTrip · May 21**

We've had a good day so far in Disneyland. Time for a spot of dinner! We've had an enjoyable sunny day!



**RPHS French Trip @RPHSTrip · May 22**

We've been to the Notre-Dame and the Louvre today.



**RPHS French Trip @RPHSTrip · May 22**

L'Arc de Triomphe @officialRPHS



**RPHS French Trip @RPHSTrip · May 23**

Good morning from an even wetter day in Paris! We've had our breakfast and are on the road to Calais. @officialRPHS





## THE NEXT STEPS FOR BUSHEY ROAD

from 'This Is Local London', Summer 2016

For years, the dark, dreary building at 88 Bushey Road had been a burden for our otherwise amazing school.

The harrowing architecture remained an eye-sore of a reminder to me (and many of my fellow classmates) of how many inactive businesses were in the area. Fortunately for us, however, there has recently been demolishing and rebuilding of the site to pave way for the emergence of a new Next Home Store.

As of mid-June, months of demolition and reconstruction have already produced exciting changes to the community - this three-storey building, which is expected to be open in time for the Christmas rush, would pose as the ideal place for buying Christmas gifts for loved ones, as well as providing vast amount of jobs in a seemingly endless flood of economic depression.

However, Next Home is not the only major store that could be settling happily along Bushey Road... Planning permission has recently been sent into Merton Council Aviva Investors, Friends Life Ltd Shearer Property Group in regards to building a high quality retail park along 80-86 Bushey Road. If granted, a plethora of local community benefits would be reaped!

Stewart Underwood, Director at Shearer Property Group, heavily endorses the change; he commented on how it could "create new jobs for 550 people: that's seven times the current number of jobs on the site." In addition, he claims it would also act as "an excellent location for retailers" - as it is so close to a main road such as the A3 - "and we would expect to attract some big household names... the kind of companies that provide great career opportunities for their staff, and especially for young people."

With the support of such large corporate companies in the area, it would also be very likely to see "opportunities for apprenticeships and other training schemes," something greatly beneficial for students who would prefer to go straight into work, than continue further academic education. From the website's proposal, over 100 jobs would be provided for young people like me alone, allowing us to find accessible work incredibly close to home (or at least school, in this case!).

In addition, an average of 75 construction jobs every month will be created over the year-long construction and fit-out period, which upon completion, would bring a "fantastic range of new places to shop and eat for students, parents and staff" associated with our school. With overwhelming support from the local community, I for one can't wait for an acceptance of the plans!

## A BUILDING SITE

A poem from *The Spur*, Summer 1961

Along the walls that hedge the brickyard  
Pipes of brittle clay reside,  
Standing and stocked in endless lines  
Watching helpless whilst a crane  
Whines and cracks in motion bending,  
Snarls, and bites the clinging earth,  
Sweeping upwards in its triumph  
Opening wide to laugh in mirth.

R. HIGGS

## FOREVER THE BUILDERS ARE HERE

In 1959, boys were invited to record their impressions of the builders as the dining room and the buildings around the new quad took place. There follows a selections of extracts from what they wrote.

"The sucking mud, the drowning planks, the battered buckets, the chugging mixers, the bursts of furious drilling - these are now part of our working atmosphere. Yes, the school is "breaking up." To those who knew the old building at all well, it is a wrench - though an exciting one."

A. S. GORMAN

"My impressions of the builders are that they are a noisy, dirty and pleasant bunch of chaps."

L. FULTON

"It is very interesting to have such a selection of humanity in the School grounds, digging their holes, filling them in again and drinking tea; it gives one a taste of what a man's life is like."

N. BOREHAM

"The only think I really dislike about the builders is the way they walk about the School. I reckon the people who walk past our School must think what a lot of scruffy masters we must have, and most of them carry some sort of tool with them. They must think that they are going to clout the boys."

J. YOUNG

"I find that it is very distracting to have painters peeping in though the windows and the builders coming in to apologise for putting their drill through our blackboard."

I. CULPIN

"Classes are often interrupted by jovial inquisitive faces peering through windows and making wild gestures at boys who entertain these visits with thorough enjoyment"

P. SILVER

"The magnificent building that has risen up out of the mud and rubble is a tribute to the builders' skill, and I think they have made a lovely job of it. The large airy corridors and light classrooms and shining washbasins make the little primary school I went to look like the black hole of Calcutta."

N. HOSKER

"The dining-hall is a bit too small but it is better than the old hall. Why? Because more food is dished up, and you are more likely to get seconds, thirds, fourths, fifths and sixths."

B. WOODALL





## SCHOOL

*A poem from The Spur, Summer 1965*

School is a necessary evil,  
Sometimes a bitter pill ;  
Its value is indubitable,  
No matter what you will.

Its benefits are manifold,  
Of that there is no doubt ;  
You soon will begin to realise this,  
When time is running out.

It is, however, difficult  
To remember every fact :  
When pop record and cricket bats  
Are waiting to attract.

The moral of this little rhyme  
Is clear for all to see :  
Instead of sport and the top twenty,  
You must study wisely.

A. LEYDEN

## DAY AT RAYNES PARK

*A poem from April 2016*

What a fun day it is  
We play in the playground  
We study in sync  
We play in the playground  
We eat our lunch  
We play some football  
The bell goes  
And it is time to go  
Going to our lessons  
Finishing the day  
With a smile on my face.

A. CONSTANTINIDES

## RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST

*a brief history and an appeal*

The RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST came into being in 1998 to provide additional support to the school with specific objectives formally defined as follows:

1. to provides assistance to the pupils of the school (including former pupils who have left the school within the previous six years);
2. to support the provision of equipment, facilities and resources to Raynes Park High School which are not the statutory responsibility of the local education authority to provide.

An additional function has been as a critical partner in big projects eg to enable the school to meet the eligibility criteria when making applications for significant funding from grant giving organisations ie offering a secure destination for ring fenced funding. This has been critical during the (eventually successful) fundraising campaigns for the lottery funded astroturf (£900.000) in 1999, our designation as a specialist technology college in 2002 (£150.000)and the £1.6 million required to make the new sportsground a reality. All of these campaigns involved working with community, charitable and commercial organisations and in this respect the trust has been a decisive facilitating partner.

The Trust has contributed to over 80 school projects, mostly based in subject departments, but also promoting extra curricular activities including school trips. 15 individual current or former pupils have also received small grants to assist for example with the purchase of equipment or to enable participation in school or research trips. The Trust has also made significant contributions of its own to the more abitious projects mentioned above.

The Trust has to raise its own funds and relies on parental donations eg through direct debits or occasional one off contributions plus donations from former pupils or from friends of the school. Occasionally fundraising events have been organised jointly with the school (eg concerts in 2001 and 2010). As with all small or medium sized charities, fundraising has become very difficult in recent years. The school needs additional funding to provide the extras which its budget cannot hope to manage and also to secure matched funding for the 'bigger' projects which would otherwise be put on hold.

Following consultation with the school, we are pleased to announce our support for a long held plan to restore some kind of permanent staging in the hall. This would enhance both the appearance and functionality of the hall and complement the newly purchased flexible staging. As representative of the wider RPHS community, we would ask for your support too – tangible financial support, large or small. You will be hearing from us with more details on the project and how you can support us in the near future.

The Trust has provided consistent support to the school for the last 18 years and intends to continue its mission into the future. It can only achieve that ambition with the support of its community – school, local, regional and national. Much work remains to be done. Offers of support are very welcome and I can be contacted via email or via the trust administrator, Alan Painter.

ELIANE PATTON, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES. PREKELINDEN149@ICLOUD.COM

ALAN PAINTER, TRUST ADMINISTRATOR. RPHS\_CHARITABLE\_TRUST@YAHOO.COM



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**December 1941**

Dear Sir,

It is nearly a year since I was uprooted from my pleasant and exciting life at Raynes Park and my metamorphosis into a soldier began. My period of initial training lasted three months; by far the most unpleasant months I've ever experienced, but by now I have forgotten them and most of the things I learned then - although I still remember what to do when I am called on "pay parade."

Since last May I have been living a life of luxury and leisure, in a large private house on the outskirts of Gloucester. Never, since I first attended kindergarten, have I had so little to do. My chief task has been to prevent myself from becoming enormously fat. Latterly I've been playing a great deal of hockey in order to reduce my size, as I found I was top-heavy and continually overbalancing.

My job during these months has been the relatively uneventful one of helping to keep healthy a largish body of airmen. I cure colds, bandage limbs, take temperatures, and do all the other jobs connected with a Sick Quarters. The only interesting job I get to do is dispensing medicines, so you'll realise that my life is not very exciting - not at all what you'd expect in the R.A.F. Most people forget that only a very small fraction of R.A.F. have exciting work. There is very little really interesting work in a war; just plenty of dull routine business, such as filling in forms.

Only one thoroughly exciting thing has happened to me, I learned how to gargle. I have always been faintly ashamed of my inability to wobble liquid in the nethermost regions of my throat, but I suddenly found myself doing it, when I spent a week in hospital last Spring. I was so pleased I made the nurses bring me great quantities of liquid, with which I practiced.

I did try to learn the clarinet, but I blew off one of the key springs, and smashed the reed. As the reeds were imported from France, I'll have to wait till we invade before I can continue.

I'm coming down to Raynes Park soon, to see one of the few places - outside the workshops - where any real hard work is done.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours etc.,

R. J. DOOLAN.

N. B. - The July 1938 edition of The Spur mention's Mr Doolan's appointment to the school in July 1938. He held an honours degree in zoology and agriculture from Queen's University, Belfast. He is mentioned in the 1939 Spur as having helped the students develop the Twelfth Night photographs in the RPHS Camera Club (below)



"TWELFTH NIGHT," 1939.



**Summer 1961**

Sir,

I wish to add my protest to that of that of the Hon. Rugby Secretary about the scandalous insult to the noble art of Rugby. The suggestion that Rugby can be played simply by the use of brute force is patently ridiculous. To add insult to injury, a person styled the "Chess Captain" - obviously not prepared to come out in the open and reveal his identity - makes the sterile excuse that this remark was intended as a joke. May I tell him that Rugby is no joking matter and one on which no true Englishman would think of making a joke. I would suggest to your readers that they treat the "Chess Captain," whoever he may be, and the game of Chess, with the contempt they deserve. Chess is a game invented by the Russians, and was originally based on warfare. He is obviously unpatriotic and unBritish to play it. Rugby, on the other hand, is a healthy British way of working off surplus energy. I advise your readers not to have anything more to do with the seditious game of chess.

Yours, etc.,

H. A. GLASS.





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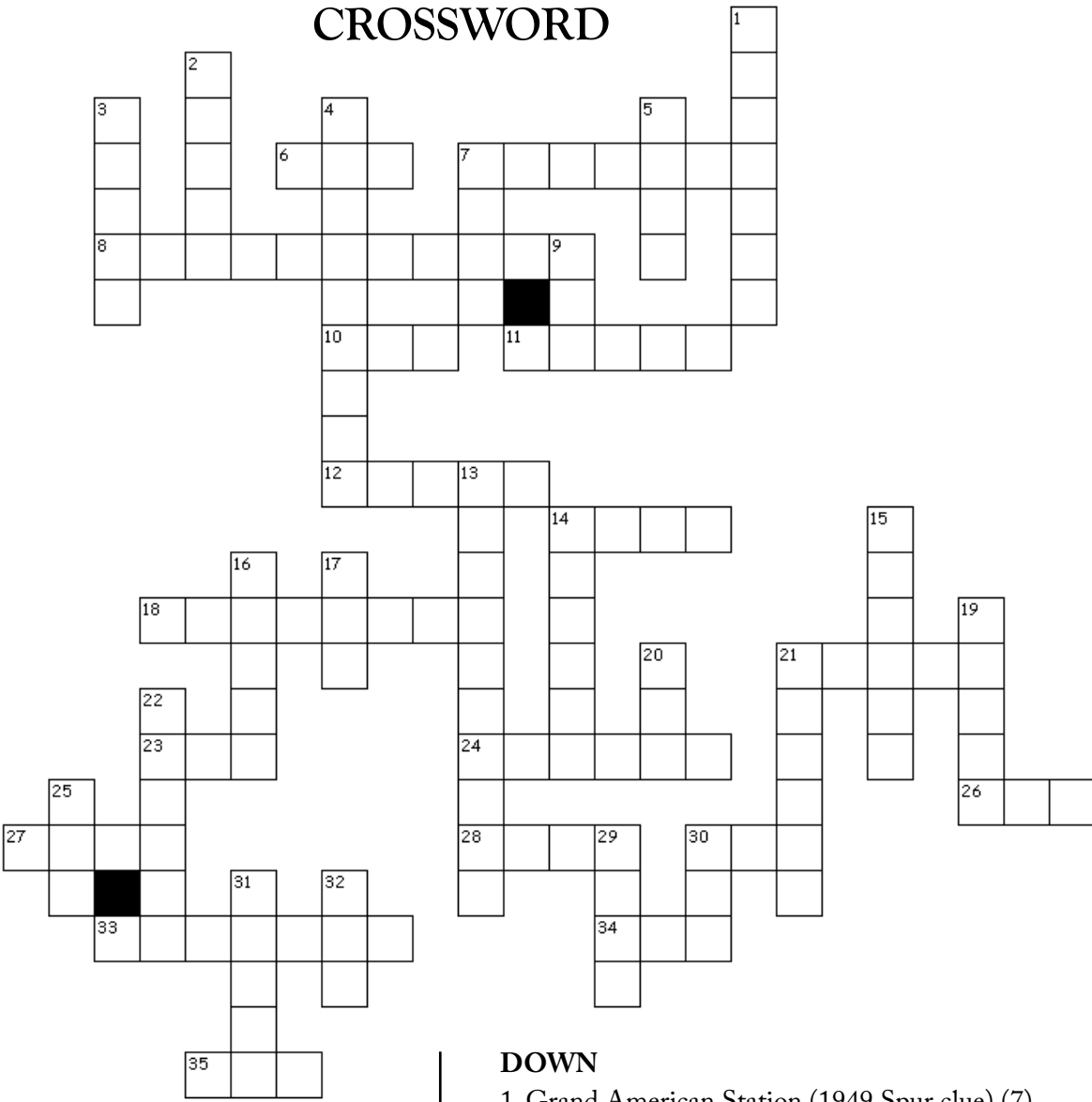
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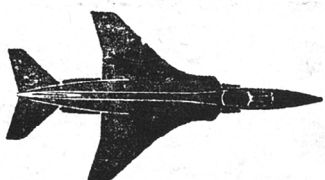



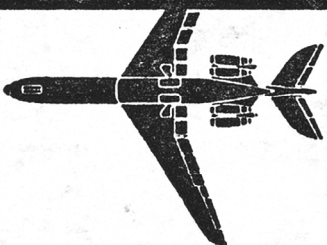
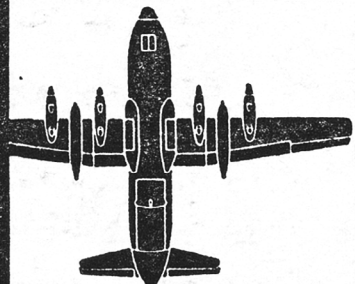
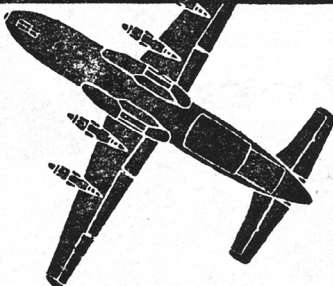
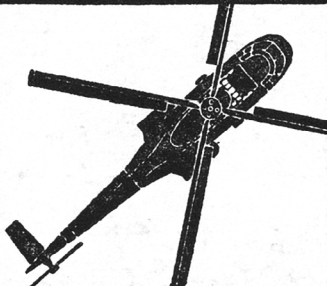
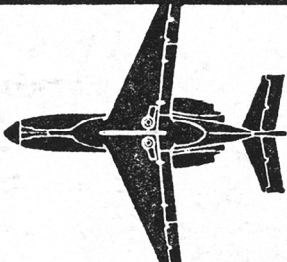
### ACROSS

- 6. "And Phibbus' ---" *Midsummer Night's Dream* (1946 Spur clue) (3)
- 7. First Headmaster's surname (7)
- 8. Fred Gwynn plays Herman (1966 Spur clue) (3,7)
- 10. "Why" in Latin (1966 Spur clue) (3)
- 11. A short walk to this supermarket (5)
- 12. Current Head of Maths (5)
- 14. Original Housemaster's surname – no longer a house (4)
- 18. River which runs alongside RPHS (3,5)
- 21. Newspapers go to it (1937 Spur clue) (5)
- 23. The colour of Gibbs house (3)
- 24. RPHS Maths building (6)
- 26. "Cheek beautified with plastering ---" *Hamlet* (1947 Spur clue) (3)
- 27. Weld (1947 Spur Clue) (4)
- 28. Dead or delayed (1946 Spur clue) (4)
- 30. Lubricating fluid (1966 Spur clue) (3)
- 33. Poet who composed the words for the school song (1,1,5)
- 34. Goddess of mischief (1946 Spur clue) (3)
- 35. Welkin without a win (1946 Spur clue) (3)

### DOWN

- 1. Grand American Station (1949 Spur clue) (7)
- 2. 'Make It Rayne' excel at this (5)
- 3. Aegean island (1937 Spur clue) (5)
- 4. Current Head of English (9)
- 5. A pulse (1946 Spur clue) (4)
- 7. Gaelic Valley (1949 Spur Clue) (4)
- 9. "--- what I ---" (*Hamlet*) (1947 Spur clue) (3)
- 13. Dwayne Martin is the coach of this school sport (10)
- 14. Head of Art (6)
- 15. Chris -----, former professional footballer and RPHS alumni (6)
- 16. "and overcame us like a Summer's -----" *Macbeth* (1949 Spur clue) (5)
- 17. Wander (1947 Spur clue) (3)
- 19. Carl -----, former professional footballer and RPHS alumni (5)
- 20. Prosecute the girl (1937 Spur clue) (3)
- 21. The colour of Newsoms house (6)
- 22. Second Headmaster's surname (6)
- 25. Palindromic small drink (1947 Spur clue) (3)
- 29. He bought a mess of pottage (1949 Spur clue) (4)
- 30. Poetic address (1946 Spur clue) (3)
- 31. Of the ear from "Laura" (1946 Spur clue) (5)
- 32. Encountered (1947 Spur clue) (3)



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|---|---|--|
|  <p><b>Jaguar</b> Anglo-French supersonic battlefield support aircraft and advanced jet trainer.</p>                   |  <p><b>Harrier</b> World's first V/STOL combat aircraft; can operate from a 50 ft. farmyard or jungle clearing.</p> |  <p><b>Phantom</b> Supersonic multi-role aircraft. 15 times a record breaker.</p>               |
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|  <p><b>Belfast</b> Strategic freighter. R.A.F.'s biggest-ever aircraft</p>   |  <p><b>SA330</b> Air-portable tactical support helicopter.</p>  |  <p><b>Dominie</b> Fast, twin-jet advanced navigation trainer, already in R.A.F. service.</p> |

## Have you any plans for the future?

Above are some of the R.A.F.'s

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get him to arrange for you to meet your R.A.F. Schools Liaison Officer for an informal chat.

Or, if you prefer, write to Group Captain M. A. D'Arcy, R.A.F., Adastral House (25HDI), London, WC1. Please give your date of birth and say what qualifications you have or are studying for (minimum 5 G.C.E. 'O' levels including English language and mathematics), and whether you are more interested in a flying or ground branch career.