ROYAL VISIT

Early in September 1988 I received from a friend a copy of a Quarterly Review issued by a firm of building materials suppliers; the front cover was a colour picture of our new entrance and the arrival there last November of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, being greeted by me as Chairman of Governors, the Head Master and others.

This, yet another beneficial bonus for our great school, brought back into vivid focus one of the most exhilarating, if not the best, days of my life, the day of the Royal visit to Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School for the official opening of the Queen’s Wing.

It was appropriate that on this picture I should be recorded introducing the Head Master, for it was entirely due to his great perspicacity, enthusiasm and enterprise that Her Majesty graciously accepted the opportunity of performing the official opening ceremony for the new Queen’s Wing.

What a great day too for the school and also for the local community and for Blackburn, and not least for me; I never in my wildest dreams imagined that one day I would be given the privilege of being presented both to the Queen and her husband, but this happened and, moreover, I then had the most exciting duty of presenting Her Majesty to my wife, Audrey, to the Vice Chairman and his wife — Bill and Audrey Goodall — and to Philip F. Johnston himself.

Months and months ago, Philip had been quietly researching and developing the possibility of such a Royal visit — the number and type of people involved are almost legion; he had travelled to London and back to other locations; he had interviewed and been interviewed, both at school and elsewhere, countless people, including Lord Lieutenant, Vice Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, County Councillors, Local Authority officials, Security men, Policemen, Members of Parliament, Town Clerks and Chief Executives of Boroughs and organisations, to mention but a few. Visiting dignitaries and high ranking officials were seen to be in the neighbourhood of West Park Road on frequent occasions, and ultimately we received the top secret news that there was a “distinct possibility” of a Royal Visit.

Imagine our immense joy when we finally heard, also confidentially, that not only Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II would be coming to the school but also Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

In the event, after making the initial presentation, I was then allocated the very pleasant responsibility, along with Andrew Booth (the then Head of School) to escort Prince Philip, whilst the Queen was being escorted by the Head Master and Joanne Iddon (the then Head Girl).

We had a very interesting and quite exciting tour of the £2.5 million buildings, including thirteen specialist classrooms, the Bell Tower Entrance, the School Sergeant and First Aid offices, the superb Language Laboratory, Library and Sixth Form Study Centre, most of which are on the site of the Old Gymnasium.

We paused in the Sixth Form Centre for Her Majesty to unveil the ceremonial plaque, sign a photograph and our visitors book, and then proceeded, via a refurbished Big School, now superbly lit by the chandeliers given by the Old Blackburnians’ Association, to the Assembly Hall for a final walk-about.

Prince Philip has the most pleasant and yet most searching ability to question and cross-examine, and he requires a speedy yet sensible answer, so it was an illuminating experience for me to listen in on his conversations, which ranged in quick succession from 7 to 19 year old boys, sixth form girls, parents, teachers, grandparents, suppliers of goods to the school, administrative staff, etc., etc.

Although the Royal visitors were only in school for just over an hour, the beneficial effect is timeless, and hopefully, nay certainly, will inspire our pupils for at least another 400 years, for such visits come rarely.

What an honour to be visited; what a privilege to be the host; what a start to my chairmanship of the governing body.

But what a debt we all owe to P.F.J. for his initiative and persuasive personality.

In the afternoon of 12 November, after joining my two predecessors in a three-tree planting ceremony outside the Assembly Hall, we all gathered in the Science block for yet another important function, i.e. the unveiling of the plaque marking the re-opening of the vastly improved teaching facilities there; this was performed by former Second Master, Fred Bury.

The local newspaper summed it all up by recording that “yet another royal chapter had been added to the long distinguished history of Blackburn’s Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School”.

J.S.S.
Anecdotes of the Royal Visit

Headmaster in an inspired moment had the three Chairman of Governors whom he has served plant trees to commemorate the Royal visit. In red a red wood, in blue a mountain ash, and in silver another ash tree. Regrettably out of the three trees well planted by Mr Hare, by Mr Marsden and by Mr Singleton only one has survived the ravages of the first summer of their life. The Headmaster believes this to be an act of God rather than any particular Chairmans inability to plant a tree.

Mr. Barry Brown and his craft design and technology department designed a triangular silver vase finished in very high polish and with the schools coat of arms as it used to appear on the junior school boys caps in Horncliffe made into a superb rose vase presented to the Queen.

The Headmaster privately wondered whether the Queen would graciously hand this back, but a highlight in the proceedings was as the Queen’s equerry popped it into a leather bag and over bounded the Duke of Edinburgh to enquire “what’s that” he stated “how charming” and the rose vase disappeared, presumably to Windsor Castle!

The remodelled Headmaster’s study now shows a picture of Thomas 2nd Earl of Derby, founder of the free Grammar School in Blackburn in 1514 and alongside this master portrait a picture of Elizabeth the 1st Queen of England and Elizabeth the 2nd Queen of England.

Postscript to the Royal Visit

In Headmaster’s study now proudly hangs a letter from Buckingham Palace of 13th November 1987 from Robert Fellowes reading as follows:

Dear Mr Johnston,

The Queen commanded me to write to you to thank you and through you the staff and pupils of Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School for a most enjoyable visit yesterday. Her Majesty said how much she appreciated the courtesy of the boys and girls and was much impressed by their confidence and readiness to talk freely to her.

The Queen sends her compliments on the design of the new wing, her thanks for your welcome, for your kindness as her escort, and for the charming silver rose vase and her very best wishes to your historic school for the future. The future is clearly in good hands judging from your head boy and head girl who looked after the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh so well.

Yours sincerely
Robert Fellowes
Secretary to the Queen

WEDDINGS

ROE - HACKETT

Helen C. Roe (1982-84) married Simon Hackett (1978-84) on 26th July 1988 at St. Bartholomew’s Parish Church, Colne. One of Helen’s attendants was Catherine Harrison (1982-84).

Helen now teaches at High Lane Primary School in Stockport, and Simon is in management with a transport firm. They now live in Manchester.

SHERMAN - DUCKWORTH

Philip Duckworth (1971-78), who read Physics at Magdalen College, Oxford married Carol Sherman at St. Mark’s Church, Bilton, Rugby.

Carol and Philip met at Newcastle-Under-Lyme School where they both teach.
Lord Derby, School's Visitor, has kindly consented to be the president of a new £1.2 million appeal, his vice president being Sir Kenneth Durham distinguished Old Blackburnian and President of the OBA, both of whom spoke at a launch on 10 September 1988. Appeal funds are for a full size twenty five metre, six lane pool hopefully to be built on the upper quadrangle on the West Park Road site together with a splendid sports hall at the Lammack playing fields. Early indications are that parents, Old Blackburnians and well-wishers have already promised in excess of £112 million for a new £500,000 appeal, his vice president being Sir Kenneth Durham. The school has a long-felt need for a covered sports complex at Lammack in advance of the recent EEC ruling that new buildings will attract VAT from the 1st April 1989 and the Chairman of the Governors has forcibly pointed out that the School Governors have found £3.4 million in the last eight years to undertake an extensive and ambitious development programme including the purchase of nearby property for Music and English departments, modernisation and extension of the Holden Laboratories, conversion of the Florence Horsburgh Wing into specialist laboratories, and new suites for Mathematics and Computer Studies. To crown this programme, in November 1987 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened the Queen's Wing. This splendid new building provides 13 specialist teaching rooms, a language laboratory, a superb library, a new reception area and modernised administrative offices which are now fully operational and so much part of the school as to make it unthinkable as to how we managed without such a worthwhile facility in the past. The Headmaster also explains how, previously, the direct grant position affected the school by precluding the use of fees to build any form of capital works - a requirement not laid on the school by the current assisted places regulations. The Governors are determined that facilities for indoor and outdoor sports and the creative arts shall keep pace, and their 1988 plans are described below. These plans include the building of the sports hall at Lammack and conversion of the Florence Horsburgh Wing into specialist laboratories, and new suites for Mathematics and Computer Studies. To crown this programme, in November 1987 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened the Queen's Wing. This splendid new building provides 13 specialist teaching rooms, a language laboratory, a superb library, a new reception area and modernised administrative offices which are now fully operational and so much part of the school as to make it unthinkable as to how we managed without such a worthwhile facility in the past.

Further urgency has been lent to this requirement for sports provision by the increased numbers in the school now reaching 1200 pupils and the poingnt made by the school administrator that the school is in the top 5% of schools in the country without such a worthwhile facility in the past.

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The 1988 plan will require a substantial measure of outside help. The Governors therefore decided to ask all friends of the school to contribute to these new developments through an Appeal, with an initial target of £500,000.

An appeal has three main advantages:
- all can contribute according to their means, their loyalty to the school and their enthusiasm for the objectives
- we can approach individuals, businesses and Trusts over a wide area, so lessening the burden on current parents
- contributions can be made by Deed of Covenant, a method which has important tax advantages for the school and, in many cases, for donors.

To reach the initial target wholehearted support will be needed from former parents, Old Blackburnians and other well-wishers as well as from current parents.

Architects sketch of Sports Complex

**SPORTS COMPLEX**

The school has a long-felt need for a covered sports complex at Lammack so that coaching and training can be available in all weathers. A start has also been made on improving the sports ground. The 1st XI pitch has been correctly drained, and it is proposed to extend this to the remainder of the playing area, resulting in more pitches and fewer postponed fixtures.

**NEW SWIMMING POOL**

At present the school's provision for competitive swimming is hindered by the need for inconvenient journeys to swimming pools in Belper Street, Westholme School and Darwen. A pool within the main school complex, which would be of immense benefit for the whole school, will be built to county educational standards and could be made available to Old Blackburnians and other friends of the school.

**SPECIALIST ART CENTRE**

The Governors wish to respond to new developments in education by providing specialist rooms for instruction in print design, theatre studies, creative art and many other subjects in which greatly increased career opportunities have recently become available.

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Architects sketch of Sports Complex

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**PUPILS GO TOP OF THE CLASS!**

Four pupils from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, have come "top-of-the-form" in a Royal Society of Chemistry contest.

The boys, fifth-year Gavin Twistlethwaite, fourth-year Ian McGhie plus Andrew Parker and John Armstrong both from the third-year, won this inaugural competition at UMIST college, Manchester. They were assisted by fourth-year Gavin Aiken who played a part in the final.

Mr. Ellis Metcalfe (1948-56), head of chemistry at the school, said: "There was a lot of good sides in the competition and we had a little bit of luck with the questions, but I think we possibly coped with the pressure better than the rest."

CIBA-Geigy sponsored the event — to be competed for annually — which started before last Christmas.

**Diagrams:**

The finals of the quiz-type competition — which also included some crosswords and floor diagrams — QEGS beat opposition from Stockport, Oldham, Manchester, Macclesfield, Bolton, Cheadle Hulme, Altrincham, Alderley Edge, Bury and St. Helens.

Granada TV's Mr. Jack Smith, producer of Chemistry in Action, was the question master and a Manchester Polytechnic student designed the trophy which the boys will hold for a year.
Thank you so much for your kind letter dated 7th June, since which time I have become a Life Member of the Association. Though now living in Shropshire, I still get back to Lancashire fairly frequently, and would dearly love to visit the School to see what has happened over the last 38 years.

I still have very vivid memories of my time at School. I commenced in Hornciffe at the age of 8 in September 1939—a start which was delayed due to the fact that air raid precautions had not been completed. My first two years were spent in Transition under the redoubtable Nellie Roberts, whose learning methods stood me in such good stead that I went upstairs to 2C in 1941, with Mrs. M. S. H. Collier as Form Master. The class was a large one of 33, and how important I felt going upstairs, compared with the "youngsters" still in Transition, which was on the ground floor.

Regrettably, I did little or no work in that year, although I did pass the old 11+ and became a Scholarship Boy. No matter, I progressed to 3D, which Form, at that time, was one of the two small classrooms at the top of the staircase, adjacent to the Head Master's Study—a staircase which, incidentally, was only to be used when returning from Morning Assembly. I can still recite quite easily the Form List in alphabetical order, since that class kept together through 4D (the classroom next to 3D), L.V.S. (the Geography Room, making us a somewhat peripatetic bunch) and then U.V.S. upstairs in the Radcliffe Wing, next to the Prefects' Room.

I am fairly certain that the Form Masters were: Mr. A. D. Easton in 3D Miss M. P. Graham in 4D Dr. E. J. Popham in L.V.S. Mr. D. S. Miller in U.V.S.

The Form List, as I remember it, follows.

Notwithstanding the extra year in the D stream, I completed my School Certificate at the age of 15 and went on to VIB Modern, which was, in those days, always situated opposite the Office. I can still recite quite easily the Form Master was Mr. L. D. Collier. The next year I was in VIA Modern, which was then located downstairs in the newly acquired Hartley House, and I think that the Form Master was the then Senior Afock, Mr. E. M. Booth.

I remained in that form—which moved upstairs in Hartley House—until my last day at School, May 6th 1950.

Apart from staying at O.E.G.S. for 11 years, 2 further curiosities emerge—first, during that time, I was in Forms designated A, B, C & D, Lower and Upper and Science and Modern, as well as Transition. Clearly, I did not know in which direction I wanted to go. Secondly, I was never required to use the wooden huts as a form room, something which very few escaped in those days.

As I say, I had no ideas on what I wanted to do in life, and failed the medical examination when Conscription came around. That fate was shared at the same time by two notable Old Boys, both prominent members of the Football and Cricket Xfts, namely P. H. Hacking and D. H. Dunn. However, my father, being friendly with the local Manager of the Sun Insurance Office, told him one day of his wayward son's inability to determine his future, and, between them, it was arranged that he should be interviewed in Manchester by the Manager of the County Fire Office—then a wholly owned Subsidiary of Allied Assurance Co. Happily, we both got what I saw, and remained ten years with the County Fire Office in Manchester, until 1960, at which time mergers became fashionable, and we were absorbed fully into the wider world of the Alliance. Three years later, a new Sun Alliance Branch was opened in Preston, and I transferred there in 1963 as Accident Superintendent. Three years later, came the merger with the London Assurance, and a move to larger premises in Preston resulted.

In 1976, I was asked to go to Shrewsbury, where I was later appointed Underwriting Manager, and, subsequently, Branch Manager. Life here is extremely pleasant and, outside working hours, I am kept very busy being on the Committee for the prestigious Shropshire Horticultural Society, where run the Shrewsbury Flower Show. I have many connections with the Church, being a member of Lichfield Diocesan Trust, responsible for all properties in the Diocese; the Lichfield Diocesan Panel of Lay Assessors (responsible for every Parish Church's Quota or Share), as well as being Treasurer to the Deanery Synod, a Church Organist and Hon. Organist to the local Chapter of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary. This is in addition to being a member of several Church Committees in Shrewsbury. I also work for the R.N.I.L. (or which I am a Governor—strange, is it not that that Charity should prosper far so near from the sea. This is an interest shared by my wife, Sybil, who likewise involves herself in many charitable works, as well as Church activities. (Incidentally, her brother Jim Cunliffe—who lives in Whalley—is also an Old Boy, as is his son, William, now an F.R.C.S. in Newcastle.)

Together we indulge regularly in cruising holidays to faraway places, having visited 36 countries and a similar number of islands and states that do not really qualify for that status. By and large, we enjoy life to the full, and I have much to be thankful for in my formative years at O.E.G.S., all of which have left a lasting impression upon me. I am proud to be an "Old Boy", and cannot really understand why I neglected the Association for so long.

I suppose I could reminisce for some time about life at School during the Second World War, when Speech Days were held in Big School and only senior boys could be accommodated. Nevertheless, I remember well the walk to the Cathedral for the Morning Service—why in my recollections can I never remember it having rained on that day? I clearly remember, as we entered the Cathedral, that the Organist—T. L. Duerden—was improvising on the music of the School Song. Ah well, memories—memories.

Anyway, my best wishes to the School and, in particular, to anyone who might remember me all those ages ago. I suppose it won't be all that long before I can be talking of 40 years back, rather than 40 years on. With that sobering thought, I will close.

Yours sincerely, Keith G. Power


I think this is fairly accurate. A small group, which doubtless explains our accommodation in the two classrooms overlooking West Park Road in 1942-44.

John R. Clayton (1951-58)

My long-standing resolution to write to you has been prompted into action by the Autumn 1987 edition arriving by a circuital route while the last one never did arrive.

I moved to Dover in 1985 as Director of Planning and Technical Services with the District Council. The District, which is about 15 miles north to south and 10 miles east to west, includes Dover, Deal, Sandwich and a large chunk of the Garden of England Kent countryside as well as the whole Kent coalfield.

For years, Dover has coasted along on the back of the cross-channel ferry industry, but as I arrived, Mrs. Thatcher decided there should be a "fixed link" to France, so I dropped into the hot seat.

Currently, besides monitoring the tunnel workings, we are working very hard to change the employment base from mainly ferry dependent to tourism and business.

Dover, as a district, has the potential for both, with fantastic historical attractions, wonderful coast and countryside, as well as a proximity to the new tunnel portal. My greatest challenge is to persuade the locals to accept change.

Of course, the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster, the worst winter in living memory and the recent hurricane have all helped to keep the pressure this year on my Department. I took my appointment through management consultants, and had little idea of the wide range of responsibilities that were hidden in the generalised terms of engineering, planning, architecture, recreation and works. As a trained Bridge Engineer, coastal defences and dangerous structures are not too bad, but I ask you—pair closet emptying.

I relax by membership of Rotary and the occasional day trip to France. My French, classified as "pathetic" by Mr. Ingham in 4B has been more recently described by my medical student daughter:--

"When we first went to France I thought your French was wonderful. When I got older I realised it was wonderful because you made yourself understood. "Now I realise the French people are wonderful understanding you."

My only reservation is thanks to Dr. Tyler. I can quote Hookes Law in Latin!

As for many O.B.'s, I am sure Magister brings two things

— happy memories and news of lost friends—

and a realisation of the truth in the Speech Day final song:—

"Forty years on, growing older and older, shorter in wind as in memory long, twenty and thirty—

— stop! That is as far as I have got so far.

Yours sincerely,
The O.B.I in Dover
John R. Clayton
23 November 1987
OLD BLACKBURNIANS' GOLF COMPETITION

The 57th competition was held at Blackburn Golf Club on 7th July, 1988.

The winner of the Judge Walmesley Cup was Andrew Norman (75-10-65) with Harold Coupe (86-19-67) second. David Lee won the Sir Gilbert Gerrard Cup with a gross score of 73.

Only 13 competitors turned out this year which was very disappointing. All golfers should made an effort to compete next year at Wilpshire.

Ray Smith, who has organised the competition for several years, has handed the duty to Andrew Norman (Chorley 68633) for 1989.

Our thanks go to Ray for his efforts.

JOHN BERGUS

As from September 1st my new address will be: The Boarding House, Dallam School, Heversham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria LA7 7EH.

I was recently appointed Head of Economics/Head of Boarding at Dallam School which came into being 4 or 5 years ago when Heversham Grammar School and Milnthorpe Secondary School were merged together by the County.

We leave here in August after seven happy years, but at heart I am still basically Lancastrian and I look forward to returning 'home'. My parents still live near Carnforth and Blackburn will only be a 40 minute drive down the M6.

I am a little out of touch with QEGS news, these days, but I recently bought some paintings off Brian Healey and Steve Monk and his family have been over to stay with us this week. Steve tells me that 14 new teachers are joining QEGS staff next term!

John Bergus, (Staff 1974-1981)

OBITUARIES

THE RIGHT REVEREND H. VICTOR WHITSEY (1928-33)

The former Bishop of Chester died on Christmas Day 1987, aged 71. After attending Queen Elizabeth's, Hubert Victor Whitsey went on to the Blackburn Technical College after which he spent six years with the Midland Bank. During the war he rose from the ranks to lieutenant-colonel with the Royal Artillery. After the war he read philosophy, politics and economics at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford then went to Wescott House, Cambridge as a theological student before ordination at Blackburn in 1949. He was appointed vicar of Langley near Middleton in 1960 and became an honorary canon of Manchester in 1963. However a breakdown in health caused him to move to the rural parish of Downham in 1968 for a three year period of recuperation. He was appointed Bishop of Chester in 1974 and retired in 1981. He is survived by his widow Jean and by two sons and a daughter.

RAYMOND ETHERINGTON (1939-43)

Raymond, who took early retirement at the age of 58, died at his home on Yew Tree Drive in March 1988. After leaving school Raymond worked for the North Western Electricity Board in Blackburn and Preston.

BRIAN ROGER MARLOR (c 1945-51)

Brian Roger Marlor died suddenly on August 9 at his home in Tasmania. He emigrated in the mid sixties and worked as a sports co-ordinator. He was associated with Roy Marlor Ltd., Gents Outfitters in Blackburn.

He leaves a wife, Vera sons Stephen, Paul and Christopher and brothers Colin, Roy and Guy Marlor.

The funeral was held in Tasmania.

FREDERICK RUSSELL HARTY (1946-54)

Russell, well known for his broadcasting and journalism died in a Leeds Hospital on 8 June 1988.

After leaving Oxford in 1957 he was appointed Master at Giggleswick School followed by a period from '64 to '66 as lecturer in English Literature at the City University of New York. On return to the UK he became a radio producer (67-69) and then producer of Aquarius from 1969-71. There then followed a period with London Weekend Television until 1980 moving to BBC TV from 1980 to 1988. He appealed to a large cross section of people as is reflected in the number of tributes to him in the visitors book of St. Alkelda's Church, Giggleswick where the funeral service and burial took place.

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CHECK IF THERE'S A BRANCH NEAR YOU

WE should like to take this opportunity of reminding Old Boys up and down the country that we have active branches in Yorkshire, South Lancashire and Cheshire, London area and at Oxford and Cambridge. They provide a variety of activities and most of them have a Ladies' Evening. They are all keen to widen their membership and we invite those who are interested to contact the appropriate secretary whose name and address is given below.

O.B.'S SECRETARIES 1988-89

BLACKBURN:
D. Forbes, 46 Preston New Road, Blackburn. Telephone: 0254 54374

LONDON:
J. A. Whittaker, Rylands Lodge, Bulstrode Way, Gerrards Cross, Buckingham, SL9 7RB. Telephone: 0753 88 7578

OXFORD
J. Rumfitt, Christ Church College and P. Das, Oriel College, Oxford.

CHESHIRE AND LANCASHIRE
H. Ramsbottom, 157 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire. Telephone: 0625 87 3344.

YORKSHIRE
C. M. Sloan, 42 Howden Avenue, Skellow, Nr. Doncaster, DN6 8LJ. Telephone: 0302 722973.

DURHAM AND N.E. BRANCH
Miss J. L. Newton, 199 Diston Road, Fenham, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE4.

Old Boys will be interested to know that we have an active group of members in Canada who meet regularly in Calgary. For further information, Old Boys in Canada should contact Dr. J. Roger Malby, Box 59, Site 2 S33, Calgary, Alberta, T3C 3N9, Canada.

OXFORD DINNER

The Oxford branch of the Old Blackburnians Association held their dinner on Friday 30th October 1987 in the Old Dining Hall of St. Edmund Hall, and the guests who were welcomed by the joint presidents Giles Slinger and Ian Schofield enjoyed a meal which was excellently served and of high quality. The Headmaster thanked the joint presidents for their organisation and gave a brief resume of the School's activities after which there was ample time for informal talking. Present from Oxford were: Helen Hoyle, Giles Slinger, Ian Schofield, Alison Cartwright, Michael Hodgson, Susan Taylor, Michelle Waterworth, Paul Das, James Rumfitt, Indra Hughes, Nigel Hitchman, Albert Eastham, Cliford Waring, Jack Lee, Rev. Peter Mayhew.

From Blackburn: Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Johnson, Andrew Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. F. Roby, Mr. J. S. Read, Mr. E. J. Kay, Mr. J. B. Venit and his guest.

CHESHIRE DINNER

The Cheshire and South Manchester Branch of the Old Blackburnians Association held their annual dinner on Friday 23rd October 1987 at the Bowden Hotel, Cheshire. The branch is enjoying renewed interest and attendances at the meetings have increased during the last year.

Mr. Harold Ramsbottom, Secretary/President of the branch, welcomed the guests and commented that the 33 people attending was the largest turnout for some years. The Headmaster, in his reply, gave details of the arrangements for the forthcoming visit of the Queen to the school.

Those attending: Mr. and Mrs. B. Batey, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Liversedge, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pearson, Dr. and Mrs. H. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. E. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. E. West, Mrs. and Mrs. G. M. Walton, Mr. and Mrs. H. Ramsbottom.

From Blackburn: Mr. P. F. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Roby, Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Metcalfe, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Kay, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gillibrand, Mr. and Mrs. K. V. Newton.

NORTH EASTERN BRANCH DINNER

February 19th, 1988

For the second year the Annual Dinner was held in the awe inspiring surroundings of the Balmoral Room, The Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. As last year, the dinner was well attended, in particular by those students now at Universities in the North-East. It is hoped that for future dinners, those Old Blackburnians now living in the area will be encouraged by the success of these evenings and also be eager to attend.

The guests gathered in the Windsor Room for pre-dinner drinks, a new idea which proved to be well received by those present. Julia Newton welcomed the 35 guests and invited acting Headmaster, Mr. E. J. Whittle to give an amusing insight into the new developments at present occurring at Queen Elizabeth's.

It is hoped that now this branch dinner has become established it will prove to be a regular event — and it was proposed at the dinner that the N.E. branch dinner should be held once again at The Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle on February 17th, 1989. It is hoped that this evening proves as much of as success.

The guests attending the function were: Mr. E. Whittle, Mrs. P. F. Johnson, Mr. E. Kay, Mr. J. S. Read, and Mrs. F. Roby, Mr. P. Cowburn, Mr. V. Hajela, Mr. H. Grimshaw, Miss K. Ashworth, Miss L. Warburton, Miss H. Dempsey, Dr. and Mrs. P. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. E. Beaumont, Mr. S. M. Patelfield, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mothersole, Mr. N. Johnson, Mr. B. Castling and guest, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Dr. P. Mahoney, Miss B. Dixon, Miss V. Johnston, Mr. A. Johnston, Miss J. L. Newton.

CAMBRIDGE DINNER

November 20th, 1987

The annual dinner of the Cambridge Branch was this year held in the Old Kitchens, Trinity College. Trinity was, in fact, the most appropriate venue as Mr. E. C. Marsden, retiring chairman of governors, was himself an undergraduate here before the war and had not been back since 1934. So it was, I suppose, a fitting tribute that the dinner was attended by a record 49 people, which was double the number that was anticipated.

Vanessa Feely and Russell Taylor, who had organised the event, welcomed everybody to the dinner at Trinity, whose good food and high catering standards were appreciated by everyone. After the meal Vanessa proposed a toast to the Queen, Russell tried to make a funny speech and the Headmaster reported on recent events at the school. Mr. E. J. Kay then spoke as representative of the O.B.A. about forthcoming events, thereby bringing the dinner to a close. Those present were:

Mr. Peter Anderton, Mr. Philip Anderton, Mr. D. N. F. Attridge, Miss A. J. Battersby, Mr. D. Battetsoy, Mr. S. R. Boardman, Miss I. J. Bush, Miss S. A. Davies, Miss R. Dearden, Miss H. Dempsey, Miss A. H. A. Dugdale, Mr. M. P. Eddleston, Miss V. E. Feely, Miss A. F Lloyd, Mr. R. G. Gate, Mrs. C. Heald, Mr. P. G. Heald, Mrs. C. Johnson, Mr. P. F. Johnston, Miss C. L. Jones, Mr. M. A. L. Jones, Mr. P. Joshi, Mr. E. J. Kay, Sq. Ldr. R. B. Lamb, Miss S. K. Mahoney, Mr. E. C. Marsden, Miss M. Maxwell, Mr. L. G. Medlock, Miss J. M. Myat, Mr. M. Pearson, Mr. P. T. Pearson, Mrs. E. M. Raby, Mr. F. Raby, Dr. R. Robson, Miss A. Rutherford, Mrs. E. Sagar, Mr. T. Sagar, Mr. J. J. Sherlock, Mr. P. D. Simm, Mrs. A. Singleton, Mr. J. S. Singleton, Mr. J. D. F. Smith, Mr. R. B. Taylor, Mr. D. Walker, Mr. D. Walmsley, Mr. E. J. Whittle, Mrs. J. Whittle, Mr. N. J. Whittle, Miss M. Wragg, Miss Ann Singleton.
OLD BLACKBURNIANS' BRANCH MEETINGS 1988 - 1989

The following dates have recently been fixed:

1988
18 Nov. Cambridge Branch Dinner, Magdalene College, Cambridge.
22 Nov. O.B.A. Annual General Meeting in the Radcliffe Room, O.E.G.S. at 8.00 p.m.
17 Dec. O.B.A. Annual Dinner, Big School, O.E.G.S. 7.00 p.m to 7.15 p.m.

1989
18 Jan. London Branch Pub Evening, Red Lion, 1 Kingly Street (off Regent Street — Oxford Circus Tube) from 6.30 p.m.
17 Feb. North Eastern Branch Dinner, Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle.
8 Apr. Young Old Blackburnians' Annual Dinner and Disco (to be arranged).
22 Sept. Yorkshire Branch Ladies Evening, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. D. W. Carr, Scotton Orchards, Lands Lane, Knaresborough.

Further details from — E.J. Kay, Esq., Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn. BB2 6DF.

OLD BLACKBURNIANS' AFC

REPORT 1988

After a number of disappointing seasons, it is sad to report that the 1st XI finally succumbed to relegation from the Premier Division of the Lanc. Amateur League. One more point was needed to save them but it was not to be and together with Lymm O.B., the bottom club, the Old Blacks started the new season in the First Division. Hopefully performances can be improved with manager, Steve Gray and new Club Captain, Craig Hindle at the helm. It will need a great effort and some inspired performances if promotion can be achieved at the first attempt and we wish them well.

The 2nd and 3rd XI on the other hand had good seasons and again it was a case of what might have been. A final position of 3rd from the 2nd XI was very respectable, although a further eight points would have been needed for the championship. Keith Taylor has done very well again in his second year in charge.

The Thirds had the best chance of all for ultimate success, leading the table for most of the season and finally leaving the door open for Burnley Belvedere 'A' to creep in and steal the championship. Even so, a good season for Steve Woolley's team and new captain, Pete Halloren, now takes over.

With Alan Upton looking after the 4th XI once again, the season started promisingly in the same division, but a series of defeats near the end left them hanging precariously one point adrift from the drop to the 'B' division. The 4th XI, of course, always suffer though last minute team changes during the latter part of each season, and last season proved to be no less frustrating for Alan than in previous seasons. Roger Masters as team sec. also did an excellent job finding players to fill in the gaps.

Once again, after preparing for the Annual 7-a-side competition in August, the atrocious weather forced cancellation for the second successive year, not a happy state of affairs. Hopefully we can successfully run this competition for L.A.L. sides next year, and re-establish it on the calendar before it becomes a distant memory. The Sevens has now been running off and on for approximately 20 years.

At this years' Club Dinner and Presentation Evening we welcomed Dave Edmundson, Head of P.E. and Radio Lancashire Sports Presenter, as our guest speaker. This was a new venture for Dave and his contribution undoubtedly helped the evening's overall success. Individual team awards went to Neil Clayton, Pete Halloran, Phil Dixon and Alan Upton, with Roger Masters winning the 'Clubman of the Year' award.

Work to the tune of £1200 was completed on the two pitches in May, by a local contractor, in order to keep them up to trim. This mainly involved draining work, mole-ploughing, re-seeding and the spreading of 80 tons of Southport sand. The small pitch, in particular, has been the problem one having developed very spongy areas over the last few years and finding a complete cure may involve more work in the future.

A new change in training methods started last season with the use of the Witton Park Astroturf pitch on a fortnightly basis. This proved a popular venture with attendances being quite healthy. The other weeks were spent in the school gym and we are grateful for the continued use of such excellent facilities.

The new season is now well under way and in spite of the usual player shortages at this time of year, the results have been encouraging. The 1st XI showing only one defeat in their first seven games and the 2nd XI also unbeaten in three. Let us hope that results go as well for the remainder of the season, particularly at 1st team level.

Our new steward, Warren Smith, appointed last August, has settled into the club life very well and is doing an excellent job for us. He has turned out for the forths this season and is a welcome addition to the playing side.

As mentioned before, the club is used on a regular basis for private parties and if any old boy or girl would like to use the Club's facilities for a 21st Party, Wedding Party, etc., please do not hesitate to contact either Warren or myself at the club or home (tel. 52153 or 40055). We would be pleased to accommodate you if at all possible.

Finally, we would also like to hear from any players who now live in the area and would like to play for the Old Blackburnians A.F.C., and enjoy our excellent facilities. Please contact Roger Masters (team sec. on 40805).

Phil Sumner, September 1988

FINAL TABLE

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</table>

BIRMINGHAM (BRANCH?)

In the period prior to Christmas I greatly enjoyed reading 'Magister'. The articles and reports brought back some very pleasant memories of my 7 years at O.E.G.S.

However, one thought did occur to me as I was reading the magazine — there is no O.B. branch in the West Midlands. I do not know if there is any particular reason for this, but as Birmingham is reputed (by Brummies) to be the 2nd city of England (a fact hotly disputed by Manchurians!), I have no doubt that there must be many Old Boys (and Girls) working and living in this area. If this is so, would it perhaps be possible to arrange some sort of social gathering in Birmingham.

Ian S. McNulty, 20 Hart Road, Erdington, Birmingham. B24 9ES
Tel: 021 350 9375

HONG KONG BRANCH

I wish to inform you that the Hong Kong Old Blackburnians Association — Hong Kong Branch has been formed with myself as the coordinator.

The members are as written below:

Dr. Christopher D. Adamson-Lund (1961-69)
Drs. Anderson & Partners, 601A Ocean Centre, Kowloon, Hong Kong.
3-7213778 (D) 3-7236116 (0) 3-686030 (H)
Michael C. Gregson
Flat 7B, Block 1, Eden Gardens, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong.
SMDR. (Dr.) Alan Hirst (1947-57) (Julie)
HMS Tamar, Hong Kong. 5-28933760
Brian Hood (1963-70) (Esther-Margaret)
1D, Beverly Court, 2C Shui Fai Terrace, Hong Kong. 5-8911543 (H) 5-652291 (D)
Norman Howarth (1940-46) Margery
Flat B16, High Cliff, 42 Stubbs Road, Hong Kong.
5-266211 (0) 5-251011 (0) 5-749530 (H)
Robert Cheong Kong. 5-891 15 43 (H) 5-652291 (D)

Further details from — E.J. Kay, Esq., Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School, Blackburn. BB2 6DF.

CLUB DINNER — JUNE 1988

L. to R. Peter Hargreaves (Guest), Phil Dixon (3rd Team), Phil Sumner (Chairman), Peter Halloran (2nd Team), Dave Edmundson (Guest Speaker), Neil Clayton (1st Team).
REPORT OF ANNUAL DINNER, DECEMBER, 1987

Last year’s dinner was held on December 19 in Big School. Pressure of applications for tickets was such that, at a late stage the Dinner Sub-committee allowed the ante-room to be used for dining. In the event, all who made written application were able to be accommodated. The total number of diners was 194. Of these, 176 were members who had paid for their ticket. The number of “young” members who had left school in the last five years was 38 and there were 27 ladies present.

The chief guest was Mr. P. W. Cunliffe, an old boy and former chairman of the Pharmaceutical Division of Imperial Chemical Industries. Other guests were current head boy Andrew Booth, head girl Joanne Iddon and special guest Derick Lund, the school’s former domestic bursar.

The meal was not inspiring, the best feature being the leek soup. A few members commented adversely on the main course and sweet. The caterer herself was not happy with the beef and recommended a return to the roast pheasant we enjoyed so much last year. The service was smart and efficient, the meal being concluded well in advance of the specified time.

The speeches were kept short and, with the absence of a specific toast to the guests, there was much time after the formal proceedings for members to meet old friends. Before the formal proceedings were concluded, Dr. Christopher Lund presented a book from Hong Kong to the Association as a token of the greetings he brought with him from the Hong Kong branch of the Association.

The arrangements in the new building seemed to work quite well, though the space behind the bar turned out to be too cramped. The accounts showed a rather large surplus of £96.60 but it was suggested at an OBA committee meeting in September, that some of this money could be used to replace the glassware on the Illingworth Plate as the vases were broken. It was also decided to buy several corkscrews to speed up opening wine bottles before the meal.

The Association thanked the Headmaster and Governors for their generous help in supporting the dinner and made a special mention of the contribution of School Sergeant Mr. Stanley Bamber and his staff to the successful evening. Mr. Bamber made his first appearance as Toastmaster and carried out these duties most effectively. The committee thanked John Read for organising the dinner and for his full report on the proceedings.

Members will see a big difference in Big School this year. Mr. Bamber and his staff have scraped, polished and generally renovated the wooden floor to make the whole effect lighter.

The committee decided in September to stick with last year’s caterers and pheasant will once again be the main course this year. The committee decided to ask the newly co-opted members Ronald Barham, Peter Singleton, Philip Thompson and Andrew Norman to assist in organising the Young Leavers “Do” around Easter.
OLD BOYS SPEND MEDICAL ELECTIVE PERIODS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

EIGHT WEEKS IN SOUTH INDIA

As part of my medical training, I had the opportunity to travel abroad to study medicine in a foreign country and chose to go to India which proved to be an unforgettable experience.

I left Heathrow on 13th November, and after a journey of 5,600 miles by air, train and bus, I arrived at my destination, Vellore, tired, sweaty and very dusty. This was the cool, dry season in southern India and the temperature was about 32°C during the day and 20°C at night.

Vellore is a small, very poor town, of 200,000 people. It is surprising that such a town was chosen as the site of one of the best hospitals in the whole of India — the Christian Medical College Hospital — and as good as any London teaching hospital.

It is a very large hospital with 1,300 in-patients, and fully equipped with even its own CT scanner. Ninety per cent of its income comes from patients’ fees and most patients have to pay a proportion of the cost of their treatment, although exceptions are sometimes made.

The wards are large, 40-bed airy rooms, with metal grilles at the windows to prevent the monkeys getting in! Patients are usually with their relatives, who can be seen lying around the hospital corridors or underneath the beds! Despite this, the wards are well-organised.

By contrast, the out-patients department is much busier. Usually two or more consultations occur simultaneously in a tiny room, into which all the waiting patients can see, and they regularly interrupt to ask how long they have to wait for their turn! Well over 200 patients are seen by a team of 8 doctors in a session, and, unlike some hospitals I know in England, they are used to, which required some initial difficulty as they liked to keep their clothes on! I was struck by the stoicism of the patients when they were in pain.

The doctors were very knowledgeable and, as English was the hospital language, they were able to teach me a lot of medicine. Patients came to the hospital from all over India, and spoke a variety of Indian languages. Most of the doctors were able to communicate in two or three of them. I learned a few phrases of Tamil, so I could ask patients to ‘Stick out your tongue’, and ‘Take a deep breath’! Examination of women was difficult because they liked to keep their clothes on! I was allowed to ride on the footplate of a 100-year-old steam train! Then I also went to Goa, with its idyllic beaches, and to the state of Kerala on the south-east coast, where I took a boat trip down some coconut-fringed inland waterways.

I left India from Bombay in January. I had had a very useful time in the hospital in Vellore, and made some great friends there. I enjoyed my travels in the south, through the beautiful countryside, and the peculiar and amusing sights which were everywhere to see. India is a fascinating country, and I look forward to the day when I can return.

Richard H. Webster
King’s College Hospital
Denmark Hill, London
(1975-81)
ATTAINMENTS and SUCCESES

JENNIFER ROBB recently qualified as a dentist with degrees of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Dental Surgery at the William Turner Dental School, University of Manchester, recently met the Head Master at 1.30 in the morning on Preston station, en-route to Inverness by sleeper, where her family are now located.

MITCH PRESTON has won RAF training prizes for the best performance in ground school, best in instrument flying and the best overall student on his course.

DAVID GREGSON (1980-87) has been admitted to ‘Soccer Hall of Fame’ at Oneonta, New York.

Ronald Barham, a former Estates Assistant with the County Borough of Blackburn twenty years ago, was then Senior Estates and Valuation Officer for the Chief Valuer’s Department in the County Borough of Bolton, has been a consultant for the last thirteen years and is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a Fellow of the Rating and Valuation Association, and a Fellow of the Construction Surveyors Institute, as well as being a professional engineer.

He had three sons in school (two at present), the eldest of whom, Paul, has just gained five Grade As at A-level and is going to be reading Computing Science at Churchill College in the University of Cambridge from the autumn of 1989.

RICHARD HULYER joins Mortimer Gorse and Ross, assisting with residential sales, commercial and industrial sales and lettings, after three years at the Inland Revenue Office in Blackburn. After leaving Queen Elizabeths he gained a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Business Studies at Sheffield City Polytechnic. He is currently studying for the final examinations of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.
Nothing, not even the advice and warnings of my predecessors on the Sail Training Association schooners, could possibly have prepared me for my time on the Malcolm Miller—a beautiful three masted top-sail schooner. The S.T.A. is a charitable organisation, the aim of which is not to teach people to sail, but to teach them about themselves, their capabilities and their weaknesses. This is not done gently, but with a bump and a thump!

Life on the schooners is by no means a pale imitation of the working ships of yesteryear—although thanks to technology, they are now blessed with flushing toilets, and an engine for use in emergencies. The thirty-nine (all female) trainees were split into three ‘watches’—Fore, Main and Mizzen, of thirteen trainees each. You ate, slept and worked with the girls from your watch—led by a watch leader—a girl who had sailing experience, probably on the schooners, and a watch officer, usually an adult with good technical sailing experience. Out of each twelve hours, each watch gets four hours sleep (by no means always consecutive), the rest being spent eating, cleaning the ship (a heart-warming occasion called ‘Happy Hour’) or on ‘standby-watch’ in case the watch on deck requires extra hands setting and stowing sails whilst sailing. After three days, I realised that the permanent feeling of tiredness was here to stay, and resigned myself to it. The only way to combat it is to keep smiling (not always easy) and be positive. This is not done gently, but a beautiful three masted top-sail schooner. The S.T.A. is a charitable organisation, the aim of which is not to teach people to sail, but to teach them about themselves, their capabilities and their weaknesses. This is not done gently, but with a bump and a thump!

After two days of easy sailing in the Solent, mostly for the benefit of a BBC TV Crew from Leeds who wanted to film in reasonably calm waters, we set out into the Channel. Unfortunately, much to our disappointment, there was no wind and we had to motor out into the North Sea. It was here, after three days at sea, we hit real sailing weather—and real seasickness weather. Due to the rather easy start, most of us had become rather lax about taking sea-sickness tablets, and were now cursing ourselves, and the ships American nurse who hung on to her supply of tablets grimly, maintaining that seasickness was ‘all psychological’. It certainly didn’t feel like it was in the mind! We arrived in Amsterdam, and extended shore leave of over 36 hours was granted to enable the crew to recover and start eating properly again. After being issued instructions on where NOT to go in Amsterdam, we all set off to find the no-go areas! Amsterdam certainly lived up to and surpassed its reputation as the sleaze capital of Europe—quite an eye opener to say the least. All good things must come to an end though, and we had to get back to the routine of hard work and little sleep to sail on to Kiel in West Germany. We arrived for the end of ‘Kiel Week’—a boating festival. Our ship was lucky enough to be moored in the middle of a huge fireworks display in the harbour.

Next stop was Travemuende, a small German holiday town on the East/West border. A visit to the border was made doubly interesting as it lay right in the middle of a nudist beach. This state of personal freedom was in sharp contrast with the empty beach patrolled by armed soldiers on the Eastern side of the railings. We were by now in the Baltic Sea, and the weather was glorious. Our last stretch of sailing was to our final port-of-call, Copenhagen. By now most of us were getting to grips with the technicalities of sailing and thoroughly enjoying it, but disembarkation was growing near. However, we concluded our journey on the “Malcolm Miller” in fine style, by ‘manning the yards’ coming into Copenhagen harbour. This is where all but a skeleton crew of 5 take up positions on the upper yard, lower yard and riggings in a symmetrical pattern. In centuries gone by it was a gesture of peace by the incoming ship, to show that no-one was maneering the guns. In modern times it is a quite amazing spectacle for those on the quayside and a breath-taking experience of a life-time for those poised precariously on the rigging for twenty minutes with thick wire cable cutting into their feet and knees aching with trying to stay stood straight!

So, with more than one glance back at the graceful ship, and more than a few tears shed, we boarded a coach followed by a train for Esbjerg—rather mundane means of transport after the ship of which we had all become so proud. An overnight ferry to Newcastle finished our journey and we spent the last night with the people with whom we had become so close—an unavoidable outcome of the hard life at sea. Despite the amazing experience of sailing on such a ship as ‘Malcolm Miller’, it was the people who made the trip what it was for me. Ranging in age from 16 to 22, they came from widely varying backgrounds—six Swedes, a German living in Canada, an American, people from public schools, detention centres, and those who had saved up every penny of the hundreds of pounds a trip of the ‘Malcolm Miller’ costs. I doubt any one of my fellow trainees went home not thinking as I did—that it was an unforgettable experience from which they learnt a lot about themselves and others.

CARA SULLIVAN
A.G.M. REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET

OLD BLACKBURNIANS ASSOCIATION—BALANCE SHEET as at 31st JULY, 1987

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| Association's series of £100,000 for building work and showing members round from time to time and also on behalf of the Committee members and other members of the Association invited in that capacity for his assistance. The meeting also thanked those other officers and members of the Association who had assisted in making his job a relatively easy one.

3. ACCOUNTS
The Treasurer presented the accounts and made certain comments therein, in particular the fact that Inland Revenue had waived its entitlement to payment of Corporation Tax previously provided for in the accounts and also mentioned that the current accounts did not include the cost of Magister. This was because since the date of publication had been changed from summer to November, ie, after the immediately preceding financial year, the Treasurer had estimated the cost of Magister and had found it increasingly difficult to estimate this accurately. It was decided that the actual cost of Magister should not be inserted in the accounts until the year in which it was actually incurred, ie, the following year and obviously the cost of the 1987 edition of Magister would appear in the accounts for the year ended 31 July 1987. The accounts were adopted with a vote of thanks to the Treasurer and to the Auditors.

4. ANNUAL DINNER—Covered separately.

5. MAGISTER
Mr. Smith reported on what was regrettably a slightly smaller edition of Magister which was quite simply due to the lack of information and copy forthcoming. He emphasised again the need to be supplied with material and hoped that next year a twenty page edition would be possible. Once again he thanked his sub-committee and the printer, Garry Readett, for their invaluable assistance. The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to Mr. Smith for what was, despite its size, nevertheless a very satisfactory and effective publication.

6. BRANCH ACTIVITIES
Mr. Kay reported on the recent branch activities and reported that generally speaking interest in the branches was increasing. In fact the recent Cambridge Dinner had been attended by some 50 people. Details for the Young Leavers Dance, scheduled for Easter, had not yet been finalised but he would keep members informed.
Headmaster Mr Philip Johnston was given sabbatical leave by his Governors to spend the 1988 spring term at the Gertrude Cole Fellow at Rollins College, Winter Park, Orlando, Florida.

The headmaster was there to observe the working of a 1200 strong liberal Arts College awarding BA Degrees, to discover their methods, to take part in seminars, to attend meetings, and generally to involve himself in the life of a great American institution whilst basking in the balmy palm tree atmosphere of glorious fun loving, sun soaking Florida.

Commenting on his experiences the Headmaster nearly swooned on to his typewriter whilst describing some of his more extraordinary experiences. He omitted to say that the temperature was never less than 85°F and that towards the end of his stay the open air swimming pool alongside Lake Virginia (and surrounded by 15 other small lakes) had to be water cooled lest the swimmers found it uncomfortably hot! He spoke rapturously of his enjoying water-skiing, running, fitness training, hours spent in the library in a private research department following Microfiche documents, catching up on American education, and above all being a member of a living university (he also seemed to have some difficulty in explaining his somewhat fuller figure which he put down to the size of steaks, the quantity of orange juice consumed, and in particular to his terrible weakness for "Keylime pie").

Highlights of Mr Johnston's trip included the visiting of a series of schools throughout Florida, (in 12 days he visited 15 private schools) particularly talking to their fund-raisers and their headmasters about reports on their Capital Expenditure and how they maintained their academic standards. Film after film was shot by him of the sort of standards that a good North American independent school has, both in terms of plant and in terms of outreach to the general public. He was also privileged to attend the National Association of Secretary school principals at the Anaheim conference centre at Los Angeles in California jetting across America like others jump on Darwen bound buses! He was also able to preach in Rollins College Chapel, attend workshop sessions both with students and with staff, act as the private assistant to the College Principal President Thaddeus Seymour and attend a whole series of lectures, public recitals, and concerts.

Mr Johnston admitted that he found the heat somewhat trying, but said that unlike most Northern Englishmen who throw open the windows and let in the sun, the typical Floridian pulls down the blinds, switches up the air conditioning and has much recourse to the various forms of cool non-alcoholic drink available on every hand. He says that he regularly attended staff meetings which were punctuated by the grinding of ice, the hissing of coke (diet coke, cherry coke, traditional coke, new coke, caffeine free coke, calorie free coke etc), and ate so much salad and steak that he has subsequently gone off on food. Interestingly enough he was also able to meet up with several Old Blackburnians and was able to visit Robert Groves, an Old Blackburnian enjoying an English-speaking Union scholarship (now studying law at the University of Durham) who was at St Georges School, Providence, Rhode Island. There Mr Johnston became much interested in ice-hockey and was also able to inspect their library and swimming pool. On another weekend he flew north to Connecticut, deep snow, to Loomis Chaffee near Windsor where he visited with Peter Kennedy former headboy and Old Blackburnian (now reads law at the University of Durham) who was at St Georges School, Providence, Rhode Island. There Mr Johnston became much interested in ice-hockey and was also able to inspect their library and swimming pool. On another weekend he flew north to Connecticut, deep snow, to Loomis Chaffee near Windsor where he visited with Peter Kennedy former headboy and Old Blackburnian (now reads law at the University of Durham) who was at St Georges School, Providence, Rhode Island. There Mr Johnston became much interested in ice-hockey and was also able to inspect their library and swimming pool. 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N. D. DONAGHY (1976-85) Graduated B.Sc., Class 2, Div. 2, Honours Psychology, Psychology, Truro College. Proceeding to work at the University of Exeter.


S. DAVIES (1976-85) Graduated B.Sc., Class 2, Div. 2, Honours Political Science, University of Oxford. Appointed Assistant Director of Planning, University of Kent.

Charlotte Hindle will be the OBA's fourth woman guest in 59 years and only the second to speak at an annual dinner when she proposes a toast to the school in Big School in December. She follows former Transport Minister and Blackburn MP, Mrs. Barbara Castle, who spoke at the 1965 dinner. Mrs. Castle went on to become a member of the European Parliament and has since retired.

The OBA's chief guest this year is another MP, Mr. David Trippier, member for Rossendale and Darwen. The second woman to grace the top table was Mrs. Nen Bramley-Haworth, who attended the 1977 dinner as Mayor of Blackburn. Mrs. Bramley-Haworth, wife of George (1928-37) and mother of Nigel (1958-67), did not speak although son Nigel proposed a toast to the School on that occasion.

Mrs. Pat Case, former leader of Lancashire County Council, was the third woman to be invited to an OBA dinner. Charlotte, a television presenter, attended School from 1980-82 before studying drama and theatre at Birmingham University. She became a receptionist in London, working for agencies from September 1985 until the following March, when she auditioned in London with 300 others for presenter with the Saturday morning children's show, "Get Fresh".

She was successful and has been travelling the country working with several TV companies on the show for the past three years.

Professor Ray Billington
Prof. Ray Billington left school in 1945, to transfer to Birmingham studying in the Modern Languages area. He read Theology and Philosophy at the University of Birmingham before successfully taking further degrees at the Universities of Bonne, London and Bristol. Expelled from the Methodist Ministry following the South Bank Theology controversy of the '60s, he has occupied a series of distinguished academic posts and, since 1972, has been Professor of Philosophy at Bristol Polytechnic. Professor Billington's home address is 5, The Park, Frenchay, Bristol, where he would be delighted to see any Old Blackburnians in that area, and is always anxious to introduce students to the richness of courses at Bristol Polytechnic, particularly the Humanities course, where he is about to become Admissions Tutor.

1988 ANNUAL DINNER

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 Cheers as the lads of 2B roll back the years

The years rolled away when old boys from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Form 2B staged a reunion at the Halfway House, Samlesbury. It was sparked off by a picture of the form's cup-winning football team, pictured in 1937 and featured three months ago in our Leaver's Lancashire. A few of the team members were among the 14 who attended.

Organiser Mr. Denis Bleasdale said "We had a good time talking over the old days and finding out what we had all been doing since then". "One man travelled from Worthing and another from a village near Southampton. We're hoping to organise another reunion because we contacted more people who were unable to get to this event".

He married barrister Ruth Worthington 13 years ago and the couple have two sons. He was educated at Bury Grammar School and was promoted Command Officer of the Royal Marines Reserve in 1968. It comes as no surprise therefore that he is a member of the Army and Navy Club.

Mr Trippier, who is 42, was elected a member of the Stock Exchange in 1968. It didn't take long for the Parliamentary powers-that-be to recognise his potential. He was appointed to the All Party Parliamentary Footwear Committee shortly after election in 1979 and served on it for four years.

During that time, he also served on the Conservative Parliamentary Defence Committee for two years, at the end of which, he had published "Defending the Peace". It was at this time, he was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Health for about 12 months. He then moved to the DTI, followed by a couple of years at the Department of Employment until last year.

He was made a JP at Rochdale in 1975 and was national vice-chairman of the Association of Conservative Clubs from 1980 - 84. When he is not busy doing all that — he likes to relax with his hobby, gardening.

Professor James Houghton (1955-1962) who is Professor of Microbiology at University College, Galway, Eire; M.A., Ph.D. University of Liverpool, recently visited the school and toured the new buildings. In renewing his contact with Queen Elizabeth's Professor Houghton joined the Old Blackburnians' Association and bids a warm welcome to any Old Blackburnian to visit him in that lovely part of Galway where he has been for the last quarter of a century.

Professor Houghton is Master of Fox Hounds of the North Galway Hunt; is married to a geneticist and has three children.

VISITOR FROM THE EMERALD ISLE

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