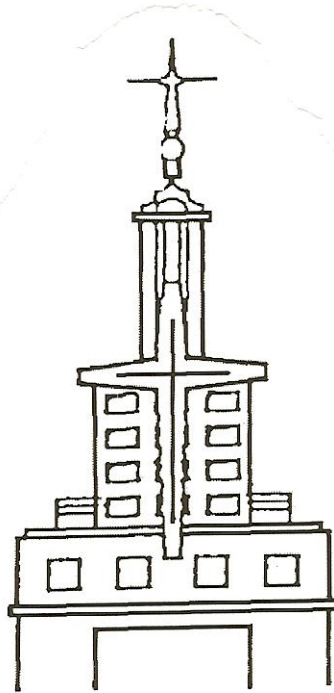


CLARION RECALL



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From The Vicar (Sent from my iPhone)

Dear Friends

It's good to be able to contribute a short message to the readers of Clarion Recall.

First, a thank you. I am grateful for the many good wishes during my short spell of incapacity late last year. Normal service has been resumed!

Second; an apology. I am sorry that at the point when my heart - metaphorically - was telling me to gather those who so far have so generously supported the emerging Friends of John Keble Church - and encourage more friends - my physical heart had other ideas!

But something beautiful has nonetheless emerged - and this is the completion of the Lady Chapel redecoration together with the repair and restoration of its windows - and similar windows elsewhere.

Much of this work - so far as the Lady Chapel is concerned - has been done in memory of George Ramsey. But the money so far collected for the Friends has been put to excellent use in relation to other of the windows as well as to supplement further generous gifts in memory of two parishioners - John Hazell and Mabel Ali - which will see new notice boards at the north and south west ends of the church.

So we are making an encouraging start on what will of course be a long journey in relation to the fabric. But one that is now well underway.

I am immensely grateful for the patience that has been shown in relation to this. And encourage readers of Clarion Recall to join us on 14 July for the Patronal Festival when we shall bless the refurbished Lady Chapel during the Eucharist. After this we shall head-off to the Great Park at Windsor where Canon Martin Poll, a former curate, will receive us and allow us to picnic, before we enjoy a tour with him of various parts of his new surroundings and an informal Evensong in the Chapel in which he ministers to members of the Royal Family.

Anyone interested in joining us should please email me on chrischivers01@msn.com.

We are engaging in further conversations on the fabric with the diocese and I hope to have encouraging news to report soon. In the meantime, readers may like to know of a new initiative to which we have contributed. During March and April on Tuesday evenings - into Wednesday mornings - the church has been used as a night shelter for the homeless in Barnet. It joins a number of local churches and synagogues who offer themselves as a base for this on rotation one night a week.

Maggi Lamb has coordinated an ecumenical team from across the churches to sleep overnight, cook an evening meal, provide breakfast and company for the clients of Homeless Action in Barnet. It has been a wonderful initiative not only giving practical expression to our faith, and providing a sign of renewed commitment to the most vulnerable in our community, but also the chance simply to spend time with a wonderful group of people. We shall be part of this in 2014 and we are looking at ways to extend our ministry of hospitality - we welcome a group from Melanesia on mission in late May, when they are joined by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, for a retreat day on 1st June which promises to be very memorable. Again anyone wishing to join us should please email me for further details.

In January I had the pleasure of staying with Sir Michael and Lady Day when I was giving a talk in Ludlow. I have met other members of the John Keble Diaspora in Bury St Edmonds and in Cambridge. It is always lovely to do so and also to welcome people back to Mill Hill.

Thank you for your continued support and for its expression in a way that encourages is most - through your prayers.

Yours, with every good wish

Chris Chivers, Vicar



Wendy Walford writes: Two years ago, at Ely Cathedral, ‘A Festival of Carols 2012’, Rex read *Christmas by John Betjeman*; this year I was invited to read *Eddi’s Service AD 687 by Rudyard Kipling*. Drama at St Mark’s is still taking up a lot of my time and I have just been involved with a theatrical/meditational event entitled Easter Diaries. The words were written by local playwright Nick Warburton (who wrote Easter Diaries – seven monologues – for BBC4 Radio last year) and the music was selected by our Choir Director. It was a very moving event and I am sure it will be done at other churches that are looking for something beautiful and devotional to present to their parish and church members.

With regard to recall 35, I wonder if it would be appropriate to include the attached extract from the memoir that Rex started writing – informally entitled Rex’s Story. I know he meant these memories to be read by family and friends, so perhaps it is particularly fitting to make them available to Clarion readers. Rex joined the cubs at 8 years old – the year would be 1942 – and the highlight seems to have been the scary war-cry. And I thought Scouting was a peace-loving organisation.....

From ‘Rex’s Story’ - Joining the Cubs

My parents had not been churchgoers in their youth, but they had me baptised at John Keble soon after I was born and like many of my school-friends I joined the local Cub Pack at the age of about 8 for something to do. There were two Cub Packs attached to the Church, and each met in the Church Hall. I joined the Toomai Pack of the 5th Edgware Group, largely because the mother of my school classmates, Donald and Brian Wright, was Akela of the Pack and they suggested it would be fun to go along.

We wore light (Keble) blue scarves with our green jerseys and khaki shorts and had a special ‘JK’ flash on them. (It was based on the coat-of-arms of Keble College, Oxford, I later discovered). I was mightily impressed by the armful of badges which our Senior Sixer, Peter Unwin, sported and resolved to cover the arm of my jersey in similar fashion. Our sworn rivals were the ‘other’ 5th Edgware cub pack --the Won Tolla Pack with whom we had many rival games and competitions.

Mrs Wright ran the Pack with a firm hand but made sure we all enjoyed ourselves at each meeting, and she had the help of several other younger helpers who, in the Kipling-esque tradition of the Cubs took their name from other characters in *The Jungle Book* -- Rikki, Kaa, Bagheera, and so on. I liked Assistant Cub mistress Baloo best, (Joyce Duckett), a most glamorous figure in my eyes, who I think had a soft spot for me and seemed always to choose me for pleasant errands and to lead activities. So in time, I became captain of our pack team which competed for ‘The Flitch’ an obscure trophy which circulated amongst groups in the Edgware District, as a prize for a General Knowledge competition. I was pretty good at that and so led the Toomai Pack to several triumphs over our major rivals in the district, the 2nd Edgware (St Margaret’s), as well as other Edgware packs --of which there were at least 20.

This rivalry continued on the sports field since there were Cub football matches and sports days. I remember one District Cub and Scout sports day at Camrose Playing Fields where to our intense delight, one of the JK Scouters, the curate the Revd Dennis Connor, won the prime event of the day, the Scouters Mile, at the very last gasp.

Since we were a church-linked pack, we attended Church parades -- at the 9.30 Family Communion service, on the 2nd Sunday in the month. I think these were probably the first times that I went to church for a proper service. As far as I can recall, I was impressed not only by the service itself and by the spare pillar-less modern architecture of the church building, but also by the solemn ceremonies which preceded and followed it. The colours (the Rover, Ranger, Scout, Cub, Guide and Brownie flags preceded by a single St George’s Cross flag, known as ‘The King’s Colour’) were taken to the sanctuary by ‘colour parties’ before the service began where they were received by the clergy. They stood against the altar-wall for the duration of the service and were returned to the colour-bearers at the end of it, the colour-parties then marching out proudly down the centre aisle of the church, trying to keep in step with each other as the organ played a stirring voluntary.

One of the Scouters, George Rust, taught the whole Scout Group a specially-devised JK yell which went (with actions) something like this

<i>(Thumbs through imaginary lapels and a swagger)</i>	We are de bo-o-o-ys!
<i>(Right-hand opened and closed rhythmically)</i>	Edg-ware Five!
<i>(Crouch low and lean forward)</i>	Keble-Keble-Keble-Keble
<i>(Sudden catching motion with both hands)</i>	<u>Catch</u> 'em all alive!
<i>(Right fist pounded into open left hand)</i>	JK! JK! JK!
<i>(Leap up, extend both hands above head and wave)</i>	Ye-o-w!

You've no idea how much fun it was to do and we thought our yell was much better than some of the yells of other Packs ("Se-cond Edg-ware", repeated ad infinitum to the tune of 'Yo-o heave-ho', was so tame in comparison). I expect they thought us insufferable.....Rex

Photo emailed by Brian & Jose Wright – 5th Edgware Group (John Keble) 1947



The Wrights must have left as none of them seem to be in this photo. Their mother – Akela – is in the middle in a white shirt.

Among the back row is Mr Brookson the Group Scout Leader, Mr Motley and Roy Streatfied.

Among the next row down, Geoff Owen, Dickie Day, Henry Tuppen

Among the row below that Donald Straughan, George Allen, Dereck Fisher and John Smith

Can you put some more names to faces?



Left picture: Roy Wright is in the front – left of him?? To the right of him is Brian Wright, George Allen, Donald Straughan and??

Seaside picture: left to right – Derek Fisher, ?, Henry Tuppen, Brian Fisher, Dickie Day

Picture below: At camp somewhere, left to right – George Allen, Geoff Owen, John Smith, Bob Harman, (Brian was not at this camp), do you know where it was?



From GEOFF OWEN

Hello Shirl !! Geoff Owen on the end top left, group photo and second left in camp photo.

A bit slow in responding since I am once again doing a Newsletter for the Club. It's out of the way now. I remember Mrs Wright as Akela but I think I was in the Scouts at the time. I have a couple of memories about the Scouts but it is hardly Clarion material. Anyway Don Wright and I did our Navigation training in Winnipeg, Canada but we were treated to three weeks acclimatisation in London, Ontario as a prelude to the hard work. Don and I were walking down the main street in London when we noticed on the other side of the road, the imposing figure of former Senior Scout leader of the 5th Edgware, Harry Arfield.

Harry was about 6'7" tall and his claim to fame was taking the Scouts to a Camp at Nuneham Courtney, Oxon where the main activity was playing cards but it seemed Harry was the only one who knew the rules and he finished up with all our money!!

He was working in the big London Store, Simpsons, and offered us big discounts if we wanted to buy anything – we never saw the discounts or Harry after that.

The other experience was Senior Scouts again, this time at Martlesham which had a dodgy Rector who we will not name. He did not approve of George Allen and I having a liaison with two of his choirgirls. On the last night we missed a 'drink up' in his study – I think Drambuie was on the menu. What happened after that is not printable but the Rector was not impressed with George and I.

I have the cricket scorebooks for the 5th Edgware cricket team – my team was the Sioux and the other 5th Edgware troop were known as the Iroquois. Not that long ago I had lunch with some of my old friends from Broadfields – 15th Edgware. Derek Holden came along and obviously they remembered some of the names from 60+ years ago.

Geoff Owen

Audrey Putman recalls her JK Bownie, Guide and Ranger memories – Brownie Sprite Six. Doris Judd. Brown Owl 6th Mill Hill Pack. Guide 1st 6th Mill Hill Company. Then the 7th Mill Hill, shown in the photo below, July 1945. Barbara Warland and Shirley Putman are named on the back



During the war, until they were called up, Joyce Wright was Captain. Lily Napier Lieutenant, (Lily still comes to church!).

The photo below was taken in July 1947 of the 6th and 7th Mill Hill Guides and JK Rangers



Camp at Lurgashall in Surrey, when we cooked on open fires come rain or shine. We went by lorry sitting on our kit bags! Kim was Captain.

Dorothy Garner was Guide Captain later, with camp at Radlett, when she was taken ill. I took over supposedly temporarily, but I was Captain until, in 1958, I went to live in Canada.



Left photo of Camp 1947, including: Helen Hickson, Ann Daker and Brenda Simons.

Before going to Canada we had the first Queen's Guides in E Middlesex County – Teddy Pitman, Barbara Warland, Barbara Connor, shown in the photo below. Babs Carline and Peggy Pitman followed.

Photo bottom left: First Class Guides 1947. Barbara Warland, ??, Teddy Pitman, Barbara Connor, Peggy Pitman.



Teddy Pitman became the Captain of the 7th Mill Hill Guides and Barbara Connor the 6th Mill Hill Guides from 1958.



(Both of these I am in touch with and could fill you in of this period).

I think it was 1966 when Pat Valentine, Dorothy Bisson and I took on the 7th Mill Hill Company. (Catherine King was District Commissioner). During this time Pat Valentine took the Guides twice to Switzerland. The first visit we stayed in a chalet in Adelboden and visited the World Chalet, 28th May 1971.

On our return some of the senior guides decided to work for their Queen's Guide Award enabling them to stay in the World Chalet, whilst the rest of us stayed nearby. i.e. Caroline Butler, Sharon Webb, Hilary Cooper.

Pat Valentine became District Commissioner, and Dorothy and I retired.....**Audrey Putman**



Sixty years ago

With the Jubilee of the Queen's Coronation coming in June I am reminded of the happenings at JKCYC at that time.

We were a very sporty lot in 1953. Within the limitations caused by so many of our boys going off to National Service we managed Football, Cricket, Table tennis, Hockey and Netball teams. (Somehow many of those in the forces managed to get home on leave at the weekend!!)

With the advent of the Coronation several members decided to go up to London the night before and camp out to get a good spot for watching all the ceremonial proceedings. The girls' Netball team had been successful during the season and had reached the final of a knockout competition. It was decided that the final would be played on the day of the Coronation as part of the celebrations at The Burroughs in Hendon, thus preventing those of us taking part from travelling to London. Together with my family I went to watch the events on a friend's small black and white television on the morning of June the 2nd. In the afternoon I joined the rest of the Netball team for our match. Fortunately we won and recently I came across the medal which was awarded to us nearly 60 years ago.

I also have a black and white photo of the Netball team. I recognise several of the faces and wonder how many of them remember that day? Jean (nee Bertram) Cockerell

Jean's photo - Top row, left to right: Valerie Dempsey, Janet (Rook) Saffery, Joan (Warland) Ford, Vivienne Bennington. Below: Wendy (Symondson) Fisher, Patsy (Pinner) Wray, Jean (Bertram) Cockerell.

A Reunion in 2013 We are pleased to announce a visit to JK by kind invitation of the vicar to join them on 14th July for the Patronal Festival (see page 2). Cost of coach from JK to the Great Park at Windsor will be in the region of £15. Please email: chrischivers01@msn.com.

If you are unable to email you can write or phone Shirley to let us know. Please do try and come. It will be good to see some new faces! More information will be posted on the web site.

Professor Richard Whitfield (Scientist, Educator, Human Development Specialist, publisher and Poet) writes 'I have noted the event scheduled for 14th July. I note that a visit to St George's Chapel is anticipated, so though I am now officially retired – an overdue orientation – I will do my best to attend remembering my role as Warden and CEO for 4.5 years (1993-97).....Every blessing Richard'.

Thank you to all of you who have sent donations for Clarion Recall. Please note that cheques need to be made out to S. A. Collman. If anyone wants email or postal addresses for anyone on our mailing list please let us know.


Web Site News ...www.clarionrecall.org

Hi Shirley: Here are the items added to the website since last November. I had hoped to add the final Chapter of Mary Pack's 'History of Deansbrook' but all the original formatting was lost when I captured the teacher lists and it is an arduous 'cut and paste' job putting it back together in the right order. When it is published I'm sure readers will know many of the names – even if they didn't go to Deansbrook.

Date posted	Description	Click to view
30 th November 2012	Clarion Recall 34 now available on-line	http://clarionrecall.org/?p=889
29 th December 2012	The bombs that missed us – cont'd	http://clarionrecall.org/?p=895
24 th January 2013	Winter pick-me-ups	http://clarionrecall.org/?p=905
15 th February 2013	Winter pick-me-up from Norfolk	http://clarionrecall.org/?p=911
12 th April 2013	Spring 2013	http://clarionrecall.org/?p=921

Readers shouldn't miss Muriel Olin nee West's 'Winter pick me up from Norfolk' photos. They are great – especially when viewed 'full-screen'. (The way to view photos full-screen is explained in http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=520.)

Alan sent the following article to Focus and it was published in the October 2012 issue.

<p>Clarion Recall </p> <p>Greetings to all readers of Focus from the editors of the Clarion Recall print newsletter and website. The newsletter was started in 1987 by ex JK Church Youth Club member Rex Walford to help maintain and reinforce the strong connections between past members of JKCYC and AYPAs (and other JK based youth organizations) as they progressed through careers, marriage, family rearing, and retirement – in the process moving to every corner of the UK and beyond. As many of you know, Rex drowned in a tragic accident just over a year and a half ago. The newsletter he was half way through completing was published as a memorial issue by Shirley Collman. Several months later former JKCYC member Alan Woodford helped set up and now administers the Clarion Recall website www.clarionrecall.org.</p> <p>Inevitably the people who have remained connected through Clarion Recall are mainly those Rex had contact with at JK. We are hoping our new website will attract other former JKCYC and AYPAs members to reconnect and reestablish that special JK bond with former friends as well as form new ones with older members.</p>	<p>Some examples of articles you will find on the website and in the newsletters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptions of the memorial service for Rex Walford at Ely Cathedral • Photos of Michael Palin (of Monty Python fame) with Wendy Walford at the 2012 Royal Geographical Society Awards ceremony. • Details and photos of the July 2012 Clarion Recall Reunion hosted by ex JK Curate Revd Malcolm Cherry at Bury St Edmonds. • Reprints from Mary Pack's 1981 History of Deansbrook School • Ex JK Choir member John Hack's article on church music • Photos and description of the 1977 Silver Jubilee Year fly-past of Buckingham Palace led by an ex JK Choir and Youth Club member Tony Woodford <p style="text-align: right;">Alan Woodford</p>
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We are pleased to receive material from Catherine King, Audrey Putman and Ron South for this issue. Please do put pen to paper, dig out your old photos and go on the web site. We can't keep going without you!

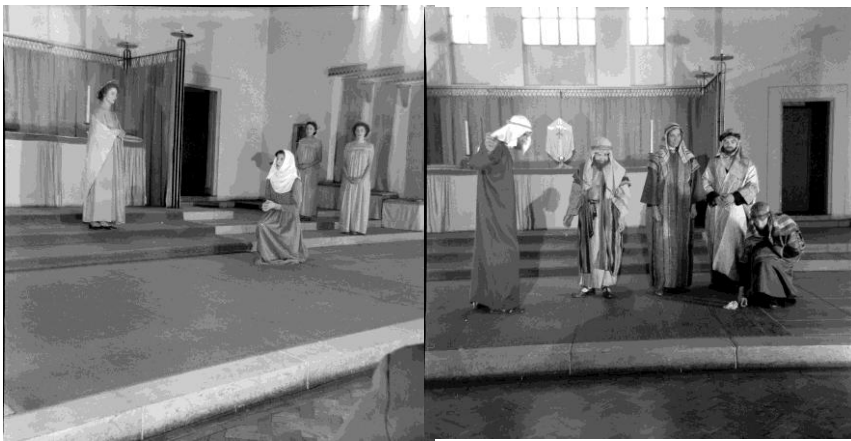
Alan has been busy with our web site. It has become the main contact for Clarion Recall members and we hope that you will all make an effort to go on line and send your news, articles and pictures for publication.

Alan has to post new material each month and would like to hear about your activities, past and present. Please respond to the articles in this issue for publication on our web site. You may have some more photos to add. If you are unable to email photos we will scan and return them to you.

Henry and Veronica Tuppen received their emailed copy of Recall 34 'loud and clear – well, clear. Well done Alan Woodford, what wonderful memories of happy times and lovely people'.

Marian Pratt 'enjoyed reading the last Clarion Recall. It is always sad to read of another soul moving on, but at this end of life, I find I attend more funerals than weddings.' No obits in this issue Marian!

Ron South emails: "I have found some photos of a Passion Play performed by the AYPAs and other members of the JK congregation at Easter time in the 1950's.



Among those taking part I recognise Barbara Warland, Brenda my sister, Margaret Singleton, Thelma Barton (Lady Worker) and in the scene of Judas Iscariot: Frances Bisson, Humphrey Tyte and Colin Brodie."



Were you in the passion play?
Can you name some more people?



7th Mill Hill Guides Summer 1948 from Audrey Putman

Second row, right end Janet Rook, Joy Farmer

Front row left to right Vivienne Bennington, Gillian Grantham, Joan Warland

PEEPS FROM THE PAST – 80 YEARS AGO

Catherine King was enrolled as a Brownie in 1930 at St Mary's Church Finchley. She writes: 'We moved to Mill Hill on the day the foundation stone of the Church Hall was laid, in February 1932.

Naturally, as soon as the Baden Powell organisations were started, I joined the Brownie Pack and was made sixer of the Imps.

I flew up to Guides having gained my 1st Class Brownie Badge (this enabled me to wear a pair of wings over the left pocket of my Guide uniform.

I continued at Pack meetings as Pack Leader, and in time I became a ranger, and when old enough became Tawny Owl, and eventually Brown Owl, with a break when I was serving in the WAAF during the war.

The pack was known as 6th MILL HILL, JOHN KEBLE CHURCH PACK and was always full, with a waiting list. Eventually another pack was formed, to be known as 7th MILL HILL. A second Guide unit was also formed, such was the demand.'

Catherine has sent some photos spanning her Brownie, Guide and Ranger days from 1932 to 1959 shown on the following three pages.

The photo on page 11: Top from left:	Muriel Foster
Bottom from left:	Catherine King, Mona Saxby, Phyllis Brunton
The photos on page 12:	Catherine King off to Guide Camp
	Catherine as a Ranger
	Wedding of Betty Hayden
The Photo on page 13	Catherine as Tawny Owl 6 th Mill Hill JK Pack



1932-3 ^{1st} Mill Hill Brownies Sixers
_{6th} JK Church



1932-3 ^{6th} ~~1st~~ Mill Hill Brownies
JK Church



1938-9 Off to Guide camp



1941 Ranger



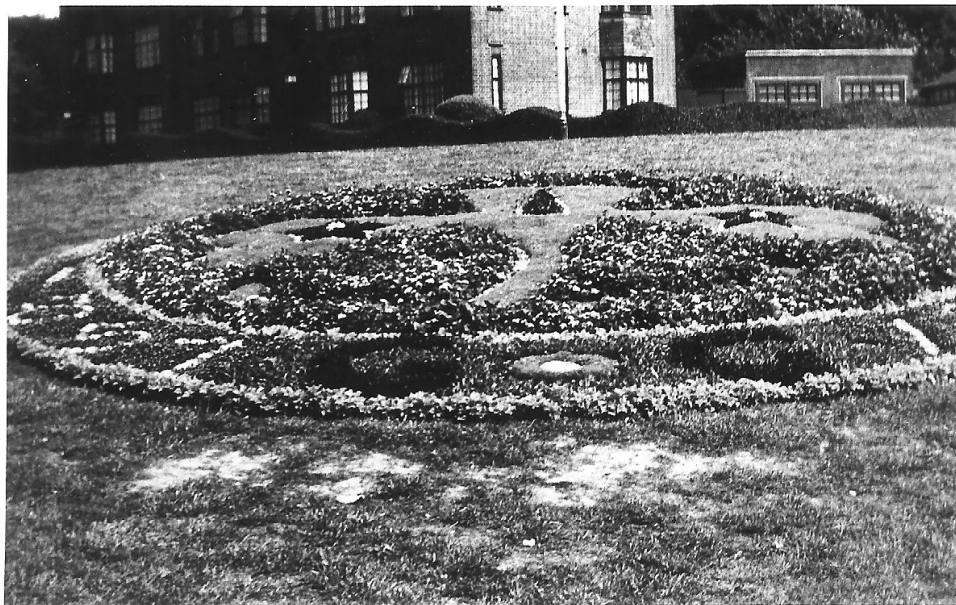
1939 Wedding of Brown Owl



1941 Tawny Owl 6th Mill Hill
John Keble



1959 Browne 6th Mill Hill
John Keble



1957 Simmonds Mead

NEWS FROM NEWZEALAND -**Elizabeth Taillie [tail@extra.co.nz] writes:**

Hi Everyone – Shirley has asked me if I have any memories of years gone by. I've already contributed a few over the past issues but maybe there are one or two I haven't recounted, but first I must mention that I have had the result of my first post-operative scan (half my right lung was removed with cancerous tumour for those who don't already know) and no cancer was found – thank goodness! We just hope future scans all prove to be clear too.

When Beryl Stratford, Margaret Stewart and I were about thirteen we used to be rather high-spirited in church and were often convulsed in fits of giggles. We used to sit in the front rows but Mrs Motley gave us a talking-to and told us to sit further back as we were distracting the choirboys! I can't recall the name of the bible class teacher (although I can visualise her clearly) but I do recall her telling us we'd quieten down as we matured! At that stage we had classes in the small room behind the stage in the church hall. I remember when the then Princess Elizabeth became engaged to Phillip Mountbatten, Deaconess Chloe said she thought he was very handsome!

When we were about fifteen or sixteen we were all excited about the New Years Eve dance to be held in the church hall. We were all going to get new dresses and wanted to look our very best of course. My mother took me down to a shop in Watling Avenue in Burnt Oak and bought me a lovely red dress with a lace insert in a square neck. I was so happy and so excited. On New Year's Eve when I walked into the hall there was Jean Smith (who wasn't a JK member but had a lovely voice and sang in the Deansbrook Social Club concerts) in the very same dress and Peggy Sturgis in the same dress but in yellow not red!! Oh the mortification! Especially since Jean was prettier than me and had a much lovelier voice than I did! Jean was very miffed and she said she was going to have all her dresses made by her dressmaker in future! I have often wondered if she did.

Who remembers carol singing under the lamp posts in the freezing cold evenings before Christmas? Who remembers riding our bicycles up to Mount Mount and Scratchwood to watch the sunset in the warm summer evenings? We are experiencing a heat wave here in Mangawhai as I type this and have been officially declared a drought zone – as has most of North Island. This weather reminds me of the summers we used to have in the halcyon days of my childhood and teenage years. I remember playing tennis with the JKCYC members on the courts in Mill Hill Park as last as 9.30 p.m. and it was still light.

It's so nice to have so many happy memories to look back on.

Greetings to everyone who remembers me!..... Elizabeth

Picture from Rex's Quiz. YC dinner 1955. *Who is the bald man with glasses on the top table?*



Can you put names to the faces?

The Lindum Fayre

The Lincoln Christmas Market, otherwise known as the Lindum Fayre takes place annually, last year it took place on December 8th. I had read about it a few weeks earlier and after mentioning this to Paul and Sylvia Fernberg we decided to go to the fair. The major attraction for Paul and me was going from Stevenage station to Lincoln and back again in a train hauled by the A4 class Pacific steam locomotive No 60007 'Sir Nigel Gresley'. He was British Railways Chief Mechanical Engineer. I think shopping was the main attraction for Shirley and Sylvia.

Shirley made the bookings and at 10 o'clock on 8th December we arrived at Stevenage station to find the platform where the train was coming to, crowded. Part of the deal was that we would be served with morning coffee and a Danish pastry on the journey to Lincoln and afternoon tea on the return journey. The train stopped at Peterborough and then went to Lincoln. After the passengers boarded the train at Peterborough the train was packed. Most passengers were quite elderly but all were steam train enthusiasts.

After pulling out from Peterborough the train got up a full head of steam and for me, nostalgia took over. It reminded me of the times during the war when my mother, brother and I used to travel to Blaydon on Tyne, near Newcastle, to meet my father at my grandparents' house. As he was stationed at Scapa Flow it took him about 5 days to travel home and then back. By seeing him at Newcastle this saved him at least two days of his leave.

When we went under the bridges the steam (and soot) from the engine billowed across the countryside. We were surprised at how many people were standing at level crossings and lanes leading to the railway lines waiting to see the train pass by. A large number had video cameras, with telephoto lenses, mounted on tripods, so obviously enthusiastic amateurs. Paul made the point that the distinctive noise (clackety clack) that one thinks of when remembering train journeys was missing. This became audible when we turned off the main line and picked up a side line with the discontinuous rails.

We pulled into Lincoln at 13-15 hours, the predicted time and as we were disembarking from the train the couriers gave some information that completely changed our programme. This was that as so many people were going to the Fayre, there was only one entrance and that we would have to walk around the Fayre until the exit was reached. This was a distance of about 2 miles and due to the number of people was predicted to take about 3 hours. The return journey started at 17-15, four hours later, and as both Shirley and Sylvia suffer from knee trouble we decided to give the Fayre a miss and instead wander around Lincoln.

We had planned to visit Lincoln Cathedral, the magnificent building on the hill overlooking Lincoln, but as the Fayre was between the railway station and the cathedral, the crowds would have delayed us for a similar amount of time. After we had lunch we went shopping. Shirley and Sylvia purchased various Christmas cards and other small items, until it was time for tea. We were staggered at the prices for lunch and tea and when I enquired, was told that Lincoln is one of the, if not the, cheapest places in England.

The time was fast approaching for us to be at the station and so we went to the station car park. All the people were in organized queues similar to those at the airport security sections. There were many trains to various destinations all over the country. Despite the very well organized arrangements for people to form queues, the car park was overflowing. Our train was not due for about 15 minutes. Owing to the number of trains entering and departing from the station our train was about 15 minutes late, so we froze. The only good thing about this was that it was not raining.

Soon after the train left Lincoln the couriers served afternoon tea with scones, jam and cream. The service on the train was extremely good and we arrived at Stevenage at 20-30 hours, the scheduled time. By the time we collected the car and returned to Stotfold, it was just in time to miss the fish and chips from our village fish and chip shop we had been looking forward to. The fish and chips we bought from the shop in Baldock were adequate but nothing special, but we were lucky to get this as the cooks had just gone home.

The Railway Touring Company who organized this tour organizes tours to various other places. For those nostalgic souls amongst us it is well worth an enquiry for the various destinations. The tours can be booked on line.....Richard Collman

Ann Young (nee Brookson)Home thoughts from....the Aged



As I was lying in bed pondering the problems of the world, I rapidly realised that I don't really give a rat's arse. It's the tortoise life for me!

1. If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.
2. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, and is fat.
3. A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years.
4. A tortoise doesn't run and does nothing, yet lives for 450 years.

And you tell me to exercise? I don't think so.

“Not that I'm suggesting you're like this, but it is funny. Ann”

From Rita Harvey (nee Neill)

I really enjoy reading the Clarion. My father was one of the first shopkeepers in Burnt Oak in 1930. Both my brother Dennis and I were born over the shop. We both attended a very small school in North Road which was pulled down years ago. Although we had a car we had no garden and I remember my mother looking out of a window which overlooked Barnfield Road and saying “I wish I lived there with a garden.” Her wish was granted in 1942 when we moved to Gibbs Green and had a large garden. My brother Philip was born there.

I found my first Deansbrook report the other day and there were 51 pupils in the class when I joined. I was there with David Norman and Barbara Warland.

Little did I know then that I would return as a teacher – huge classes then until Fairway and Courtlands were built. That is where I met Pat Baulch and we have stayed lifelong friends.

I look forward to the next edition.....**Rita**

Geoff Owen has found a cricket score book which gives details of a cricket match at Deansbrook School between the 1st and 2nd Class in July 1945. He writes: ‘The 1st Class team was Kenneth Hague, Geoffrey Nunn, Roy Sharp, Tony Dunger, Brian Richmond, Brian Bennett, Keith Wiles, Douglas Hall, Michael Day, Alan Stern and yours truly. The 2nd Class team were – Michael Crosskey, Clive Bastin, John Faccini, Alan Thomas, Ron Holmes, Brian Lavers, John Reeves, Henry Tuppen, Brian Lattimore, Donald Straughan and P Edwards.

Anyone old enough will recognise a few JK ites in that august selection of players. Incidentally the 1st Class won comfortably by 83 runs.

Two weeks before the Deansbrook team played Barnfield School on our minefield wicket and after being bowled out for just 30, we dismissed Barnfield for 22 thanks to Michael Day taking 5 wickets for 13.’

From 'A History of Deansbrook School Mill Hill' by Mary B Pack

CHAPTER III

THE SEPARATE SCHOOLS 1934-1939

After the Midsummer Vacation the school was re-organized. Miss M. M. Chick took up her appointment as the Headmistress of the Infants' Department whilst the juniors moved to a new building near the present school. It was not surprising to see the new Junior School at Deansbrook erected with some improvements and appearing to be a more permanent construction. Now the veranda had a solid footway and hot water radiators for heating were installed.

As Misses Bamber, Hawkes, Rackham, Robinson and myself were instructed to stay in the older building to act as a nucleus staff for the new Headmistress I will continue my story mainly from that angle. But, it must be stressed that there was close liaison between the two schools especially with regard to the children's scholastic abilities.

Obviously, a period of re-adjustment in both Infant and Junior Departments followed. The Board of Education specified that both schools could have four hundred scholars each. However the Infant Department began with 286 children and the Junior Department had 294 children on roll. After the crowded conditions of the first school it was a relief to have room to expand. During the Christmas Term an innovation took place in the Infant Department. Miss Ann Driver gave musical movement classes on the Radio and the four top classes were allowed to follow it. November 9th, 1934 was the beginning of Radio Broadcast Lessons at Deansbrook and there was one solitary radio in the hall!

The following four to five years could be summed up as a period of consistent hard work interspersed with additional day's holiday each for the wedding of Prince George and Princess Marina on the 29th November, 1934, Ascension Days, the Wedding of the Duke of Gloucester on the 6th November, 1935 and the funeral of King George V on the 28th January, 1936. As the Infant School numbers were increasing rapidly it was decided to transfer fifty of the oldest children to the Junior Department at the beginning of the Spring Term. The initial visit of the Police took place and Sergeant Ellis spoke to the children on Road Safety. This was a new idea which was welcomed as the volume of traffic on the roads was increasing.

The Infant Department concentrated their combined efforts on giving each child a good basic introduction and knowledge of the three R's. The aim was to make certain that every child could read before leaving the Infant School at the age of 8+. Miss M. M. Chick was a strict disciplinarian who made herself responsible for teaching reading to the less able pupils and she enquired regularly into the progress of each child in the school. She was responsible for introducing a reading test which was designed by a H. M. Inspector who visited the school regularly. Her purposeful approach was a very good example to the young teachers on the staff. She expected punctuality at all times from children and staff. Each day staff had to record their times of arrival and departure in an attendance book which was placed on the Staffroom table. Miss Chick was a very kind, understanding and humane person especially in times of adversity. The H.M. Inspector's Reports were good ending with, "A pleasing feature is the care which the children show for the flower borders and other school amenities."

The number of children in both departments continued to increase. The school's catchment area included children from Lyndhurst Avenue, the Broadway, roads around Apex Corner, the roads in the school's vicinity and on to the Watling Estate. Pupils represented a good cross section of the community and the intelligence was high as the catchment area contained the families of many professional people. Of course in those years the 11 + examination was being held yearly and the Junior Department concentrated its efforts on that. In July 1937 40% of the pupils who left transferred to Grammar or Selective Central Schools, whilst in July 1938 51.5% transferred to Grammar or Selective Schools and in July 1939 52.6%.

Each year between ninety and one hundred children transferred to some form of Secondary education. In addition the school provided Sports Days and Physical Training Displays when four hundred visitors attended including Aldermen and Councillors. "On the 29th June, 1939 the Parents' Committee organised Teas on Sports Day and handed over a profit of £6 to the School Fund. Mrs. Hay followed in the tradition of Whitelands College in which she was trained and inaugurated the May Day Festivities. On one occasion John Groom's Crippleage was asked to create the May Queen's crown. Forthwith they provided a most elaborate crown. It was felt that the Junior School May Day did not require such a grand headgear and so Mrs. Hay was asked to cannibalise it and make a simpler crown! During the function May Pole dances were performed and the scene appeared to echo the past as everyone entered into the spirit of May time.

Mrs. Hill recalls in the 1930's there was a shortage of reading books for the bright children who learnt to read when only five years old. She remembers how she spent her evenings at home making First Readers, number apparatus and games and paid for many of the materials herself. Such a resourceful, artistic teacher skilled in using scrap materials was invaluable in those days. Upon reflection Miss Robinson recalls that "in the 30's Empire Day was not a maligned name, it was a special occasion and celebrated with great spirit at Deansbrook. It was the custom to present a small pageant in the quadrangle. Many days previously groups of children had been chosen to represent various parts of our great Empire. Songs, poems, and prose readings, with an Empire flavour had been rehearsed and these with the national dances were blended together to form a pageant. Miss Reed was the expert in teaching the national dances. When the great day arrived there was a general atmosphere of excitement as the children were dressed in their various national costumes. When all was ready the pageant opened with the grand procession of Britannia and her retinue. After she was safely seated on her throne, the signal was given for the programme to begin. Groups of children representing each country of our Great Empire came forward, recited, sang and danced and took up their position in the grand tableau. When the programme was completed the final touch was the raising of the Union Jack. This was done by Miss Trott who had been hidden at the back of the platform waiting for her cue and the singing of Rule Britannia. Today, one may smile at these memories, but for all of us it was a great occasion, thoroughly enjoyed by everybody and hopefully the children learned something of other parts of the world."

In both Departments progress in work and activities was highly commendable. The parents were very appreciative and Staff and pupils were happy and stabilized in the new schools. Also at this time the Director of Education, Mr. I. E. Cuthbertson, initiated a fund to provide footwear for school children who were found to be in need in the Hendon Borough. An entry in the Log Book for Christmas 1938 states: "Collection at the children's breaking up tea parties realised £2.10 - in aid of the Boot and Shoe Fund." This is indicative of the poverty which existed in some families at this time.

CHAPTER IV

DEANSBROOK IN WARTIME

The European scene was ominous. Thunder rolled, clouds darkened and on September 3rd, 1939 War was declared. The Deansbrook Schools were closed until further notice because the construction of the schools with large areas of windows constituted a hazardous situation for the inhabitants. Some teachers were drafted to Air Raid Precaution work and others had to pack all stock ready for transportation to Edgware School (a more permanent building).

Early in October discussions were held to provide some form of instruction for the children. It was recommended that a scheme through home visitation would be possible. Accordingly, the Staff were asked "to canvas parents to ascertain how many would agree to their children meeting in home groups and how many parents were ready to place rooms at our disposal." "Owing to the extended area from which the scholars were drawn it was found impossible to keep the class as a whole under the direction of its own teacher. To save unnecessary travelling and waste of time it was decided to deal with children of whatever age, living in the same road, in groups of eight children at one centre."

In the Junior Department 250 children were instructed and in the Infants 210 children. It was arranged that each teacher should teach three groups of children during the morning session and at least one session in the afternoon. In this way each child received a minimum of one hour's instruction daily. Although we found this form of teaching very demanding interspersed as it was by the long walks it was nevertheless a very gratifying and happy time. The children loved the novelty of going into a neighbour's house for lessons and new friendships were formed.

The mothers were marvellous - they opened up the dining tables, borrowed forms or chairs and always had a cheery fire burning in the hearth because Central Heating was uncommon in private homes in those days! The resourcefulness and kindness were really amazing. The Staff felt that they had an opportunity to know the children and their parents far better. There were bonuses to - often the group's numbers were swelled by a younger member of the family possibly age three who wanted to learn to write and so we obliged. Doubtlessly, many incidents can be recalled of these days. I can remember being asked to stir the family's Christmas pudding and wish before commencing my tuition. Before we moved on to the next home we were always given a cup of coffee. So everyone was happy to be working. This form of education became so popular that by December 254 Infants were receiving tuition.

Meanwhile, several over ground brick built air raid shelters had been erected on the playground and field and so early in January 1940 it was possible to resume lessons in both school buildings. Due to evacuation the numbers of children on roll had dropped in the Juniors from 331 to 301. In the Infants 53 children had left and so only 311 were on roll. Until air raid shelter accommodation was available for all scholars each department worked on a half time basis but each child had tuition daily. Each department strove to provide its usual standard of education as soon as sufficient air raid shelters were built. It is interesting to record that in July 1940 69% of the pupils in the Junior Department were transferred to Grammar or Selective Central Schools. This was a record achievement despite the interrupted form of teaching. Many days were interrupted by Air Raid Warnings and we spent hours in the cold, dimly lit shelters. In those days the children knew their tables perfectly. Recitation, singing and storytelling made interesting alternatives.

The following extracts from the School Log Book indicate the strain of working conditions for Staff and pupils in those days.

13th September, 1940

"Air raid warning lasted from 9.50 a.m. to 2 p.m."

3rd October, 1940

"Air Raid warning at 2.20 p.m. and lasted until 5.30 p.m."

25th October, 1940

"An Alert Signal was sounded at 12 noon exactly and the children had not left the building.

They were conducted to the air raid shelters. The majority of children were fetched by parents before 3p.m.

The All Clear sounded at 3.55 p.m."

About this time the Education Committee asked teachers and parents to undertake fire watching duties at the school at night. This was worked out on a rota system but the spells of duty were nevertheless irksome. To sleep fully dressed on a bunk bed in the Staff room, to be ready to operate the stirrup pump if need be in an emergency and then to cope with life at school in the day time was an arduous task. But everyone was cheerful and the parents rallied to the call with their greatest good will. Luckily no incendiary bombs landed on either school.

In 1941 Hendon Borough launched a Hendon War Weapon Week. Savings Certificates and Bonds were sold and a total of £2,451 was raised in the Junior Department. In July 1941 a total of 57.9% of the Fourth Year children left to go to Grammar or Selective Central Schools. The School Log Book on 19th November, 1941 records, "School canteen dinner service commenced today."

During the summer of 1942 the schools remained open as Holiday Centres and each member of staff had to be on duty for one week of that period so that children who wished to be present could be supervised. 50% of the pupils were awarded places at the Grammar or Selective Central Schools that year. Also Mrs. C. Thubrum became a member of the Staff in December. 59% of the pupils were successful in 1943 whilst in 1944 it was 62.5%. However 1945 broke all records and achieved 70%. All this was the result of hard work by Staff and pupils in spite of periods in the air raid shelters and the flying bomb attacks which began in 1944 and reduced attendances. Miss Robinson remembers a frightening experience, "No one who experienced the dangers of the flying bomb is likely to forget the horrors of those times. One experience I will never forget occurred during this period. Dinners had just been served to the children when the air raid warning was sounded. We hurriedly took our meals and went off to the air raid shelter. I was on duty that day with the youngest children and remember clutching the register and carrying a small handicapped boy as we made for cover. When we were all safely in the shelter and had started to eat our dinner I heard the approaching sound of the flying bomb. One had to act quickly in these circumstances to reassure the children so I told them we would see how loudly we could sing. Never before or since have I sang so loudly - "She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes . . ." The children joined in with great gusto, not realizing that a bomb was flying over our shelter. Some minutes later we heard the 'All Clear' signal and we were able to emerge from the shelter. I was feeling somewhat shaken, as I learned from a member of the staff that the bomb had fallen in Glendor Gardens only a quarter of a mile from the school. My first reaction was one of grateful thanks to God for His mercy and protection."

A Log Book entry for the 8th and 9th May, 1945 states - "Holidays granted to celebrate the capitulation of the enemy in the Second World War, VE day and VE+ 1 day." So ended the most hazardous and trying chapter in the School's History - namely of visits to the air raid shelters, V bombs, fire-watching and the carrying of gas masks to school.

CHAPTER V

THE POST WAR YEARS

The years which followed the declaration of Peace were devoted to readjustment at school, home and throughout the world. The good standard of results was maintained for in 1946 52.1% were transferred to Secondary Grammar and Orange Hill Grammar School.

After twelve years service Miss M. M. Chick retired from her post of Head Teacher and Miss A. E. Reed, the Deputy Head, became the acting Headmistress. During the Winter of 1947 there were prolonged cuts of electricity and as the Infant School relied solely on electric heating panels situated in the corner of each room near the ceiling, the programme of work was frequently suspended to allow the children to perform Physical Exercises to keep warm. Mrs. Hill remembers the children's milk being frozen in the bottles and it had to be carried into the Staff room and thawed out there before the children could drink it. She reports, "the rooms were so cold we stuffed paper into the cracks in the partitions." Meanwhile the Head Mistress's report stated that the type of heating even when the cuts were not operating was quite unsatisfactory for young children. The power cuts lasted for a few weeks and attendances were low because of the extreme cold, measles and influenza. In mid February the school was closed for one week until the situation improved. The improved heating system that had been built into the Junior School was satisfactory and the school did not close.

In March 1947 Miss E. M. Wilson became Headmistress of the Infant School. At this time both schools were overcrowded by an excess of 100 children in each department. The Infant Department had two classes in the School Hall and as the hall was also used as a dining room considerable work and organisation was involved to ensure a smooth lunch hour. During Miss Chick's time the children had been arranged in classes according to ability and this system applied in the Junior School too. Although originally Deansbrook (1931-34) had un-streamed classes it became necessary to introduce the streaming of children in order to cope with the large classes of between 40 and 50 children. The Mill Hill area was becoming more densely populated and some children had returned from evacuation in the war years. For several following years there were backward readers to be helped with considerable problems and great skills were employed to ensure that the children were up to the standard so that the good results would be maintained in the Fourth Year of the Junior School. In the Summer of 1947 the Boys in the Junior School won the Boys' Championship and the Girls were runners up in the Hendon District Sports. Two of the boys were chosen as sole representatives at the Middlesex County Sports Meeting and finished 1st and 2nd in the Junior Boy's Race. So the school had a good record in athletic and academic work. At the end of the school year 58.5% of the pupils were transferred to Grammar Schools.

Soon after her arrival at Deansbrook Miss E. M. Wilson organised a May Day Ceremony. It was a delightful occasion staged on the small field at the back of the Infant School with a back-cloth of elm tree foliage. Mrs. Cuthbertson (wife of the Director of Education) and Miss M. M. Chick crowned the May Queen. At Christmas times a Staff play was introduced when the Staff acted a pantomime for the delight of the scholars. Mrs. R. Harvey (nee Neill, a former pupil and now on the Staff), remembers the highlights of the pantomime, "members of staff chasing each other with a string of sausages, lighting the candles on a cake with the naughty one blowing them out. Pure slap-stick but how the children enjoyed it." Mrs. Harvey commenced her teaching career at Deansbrook Infant School with a class of 47 children. What an ordeal for a beginner! For several years she was the pianist for the May Day function. Her brother Philip and her daughters Jill and Ann also attended Deansbrook. Another member of Staff Mrs. Bisson (wife of Francis Bisson, one of the earliest pupils, and mother of three daughters who have attended Deansbrook) writes that - "For many years the Staff pantomime was a highlight of the Christmas festivities. Costumes were kept in a large hamper, and among them was a splendid satin dress. I had seen this dress worn several times before I learned its story. During the day of clothes rationing Mrs. Banfield (Deputy Headmistress) had had to provide herself with a costume for her pantomime role and with great self-sacrifice had dyed her wedding dress orange. Thereafter it was lent each Christmas to a succession of teachers of various shapes and sizes and eventually came to rest in the property hamper. I was sad to recognize it, not so long ago, cut into tiny pieces and incorporated in angels' robes in a Christmas collage.

The pantomime provided perhaps my favourite recollection of Miss Wilson. She was playing the part of a dwarf in Snow White and also doubling as the orchestra, when an urgent phone call came from the Education Office. With splendid dignity she said, "Please say that I will call them when I am disengaged." Then she perched her glasses on the end of her red-painted nose and turned to the piano. In stocking cap, red tights and an enormous jumper she struck up the pantomime chorus." These functions took place annually during Miss Wilson's time.

It was at this time that Children's supervisors made their first appearance in the school playground. One of the earliest was Mrs. Bishop who was assisted by Mrs. M. Luke. The latter also gave devoted service as secretary in the Junior Department from 1945-73. At present in the Infant Department Mrs. Savage is serving in her eighteenth year as a Children's Supervisor. Her husband and children also attended the school as pupils. This continuity of service and interest to the school by many families has contributed to the friendly atmosphere, of a happy family, which has always prevailed at Deansbrook.

In 1948 the Infant School became so crowded that it was decided to use John Keble small Hall as a classroom. Whilst in 1949 the number of children on roll was 529 and eight of the eleven classes had fifty children in each. During that year I returned to the school for three months supply teaching and remember the introduction of the Essex Agility Apparatus in Physical Exercises.

Sadly in August 1950 Mr. Hay died. For almost nineteen years he had worked to lay the foundations of a happy school based on co-operation between parents, Staff and pupils. He is remembered for many individual characteristics. He was a firm advocate of the open veranda. Although conditions appeared to be somewhat rigorous he claimed that the pupils suffered from less infectious diseases than other comparable schools. In those days strict checks were kept on attendances recorded in the registers. Correct weekly, monthly and quarterly totals were demanded and if a mistake was made no member of the Staff was allowed to leave school on Friday afternoon until it had been detected and rectified. Mr. Hay's mathematical prowess was invaluable. He was a wizard with figures being able to add three columns of numbers at the same time. Finally, Mr. Hay's enthusiasm kindled the interest of the Mill Hill Rotary Club. They presented the Rotary Shield to be awarded on Sports' Day. Also Mr. George Lett, another Rotarian, was generous in his provision of prizes for the winners.

In the Autumn term Mrs. Westcott was appointed as Acting Head Teacher. When the Autumn term started 250 children were promoted to the Junior School. Up to this date the transition from Infant to the Junior school took place at the age of 8+. Now, it became policy to make the transfer at 7 plus. This readjustment gave the Junior Department 497 children on roll and the Infant Department 390. To accommodate the Junior children a room in John Keble Hall and a hut in the Infants' Playing Field were used in addition to the two classes in the school hall. Admiration must have been felt for the Staff who taught under crowded conditions, maintained the high standard of work, organised displays and helped Student Teachers who came from Whitelands Training College and Wall Hall Training College to practise Teaching Methods. In the Infant Department the New Activity 'Method' was continued as an experiment. Each child had a "free choice period" when it could choose any form of work connected with the 3R's.

On the 9th January, 1951 Mr. A. A. S. Downing, B.A., commenced his duties as Headmaster of the Junior School. His directorship was to span some twenty years. This period was to be a truly remarkable time at Deansbrook. Mr. Hay's friendly personality had created a school where parents, teachers and children worked harmoniously for the welfare of all. The children were happy and purposeful in all their school work and activity. They had a pride in their school and wore the brown and gold uniform with dignity. These were some of the factors that Mr. Downing inherited. Everyone was aware that the type of education was changing but restrictions were imposed by the large classes. However Mr. Downing gradually improved on the old and introduced some good features.

As the school was too large to congregate in the Hall for corporate worship, arrangements were made for the school to use John Keble Hall every Friday morning from 9.20-10 a.m. The Meads School loaned a small platform which was erected at the end of the school hall. This enabled assemblies for half the school to take place alternately. In this way the school was a unified group.

In the Summer at the Hendon District Sports the boys were again the winners of the Rotary Shield and the girls were runners up in the Alderman Maughan Cup, thus echoing the successes of 1947. The Headmaster reallocated the Houses in the school. Blue House became Hale, Green House became Marsh, Red House became Nicol and Yellow House became Page. He chose these names because of their significance in Mill Hill. Also in this arrangement pupils remained in the House to which they were allocated during their four years in the school. At the next School Sports Day Nicol won the championship and it is interesting to note that Red House won at the First Sports Day on the 20th July, 1932.

After the Summer holidays the classes were organised on a three stream basis. Each year group had A, B and C classes and in addition the Medical Room was occupied by a very small class of very retarded children. This was known as a "special opportunity class".

148 children (comprising three classes) had been transferred from the Infant Department and that is an indication of the sizes of the classes in both departments. It was in January 1952 that I returned to Deansbrook but this time into the Junior Department. I was employed helping the retarded children and as a relief I was given the opportunity to do 4th Year Boys' Craft Work and Nature Study. This was something I had always longed to do. In college I had been inspired and taught by a Scottish lecturer from Loch Lomond to spin, vegetable dye and weave wool. It was a fascinating study and one which later gained me a First Class Froebel Certificate in Handicraft.

When I first joined Deansbrook there was a teacher (Miss Brown) who taught weaving to the Junior Boys. I looked longingly at the hand looms. Infant teaching did not give me much scope for practising my favourite craft but when I joined the Junior School I had my chance. The classes were very large for craft and I organized the boys into groups. Hours were spent preparing the work and the boys were fascinated. To help the cause a Weaver's Club was formed which operated before school and during lunch hours. The members were keen to come to school half an hour earlier and fathers made the hand looms that were required. One father even made blue print copies of my requirements and these were circulated. The mothers made a large bag to hold the loom etc. and it was an interesting sight to see the 4th Year Weavers trudging to school with a bag on their backs. The standard of work was excellent and the woven bags, scarves and tea cosies that were made proved acceptable gifts to the family. At this time the school uniform colours had been changed to a light blue, dark blue and gold. Together in the weaving club we designed the school scarf in bands of these colours. The scarf along with other articles of school uniform were purchased from Reeds Outfitters in the Broadway. Parents were encouraged to make their daughters' summer uniform dresses. The Staff, under the supervision of Miss Hughes, collected the orders and cut up the rolls of material after school hours to the specific requirements. Some of the weavers chose to weave their own school scarves and wore them proudly. The 4th Year Girls were sorry that they had to do needlework when the Boys were learning weaving and so the Weaving Club was extended to a mixed membership and everyone was happy. This weaving activity was a very valuable exercise-it showed the child's artistic talents and also their tenacity of purpose and integrity in pursuing a task to its completion. I am a firm advocate for special craft training for young children because it encourages the powers of concentration in the academic and non academic pupils.

In the Spring of 1952 the School took part in the Netball Rally and the two teams that were entered gained 1st and 3rd places. Also at this time the word "Project" made its debut. Accordingly Miss Hughes took a party of children to Kensington to study aspects of their project work. A Musical Festival was arranged in Hendon and the children took part. Meanwhile the Fairway School was being erected and in May 1966 children from the Junior Department and 71 from the Infant Department were transferred to that school. This helped to alleviate some of the crowded Deansbrook classes. In the Infant Department an Open Evening displaying an exhibition of art and handwork was attended by approximately 800 parents. The function was opened by the Mayor Alderman Knowles together with the Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. Sully and the Borough Education Officer, Mr. Butcher.

Already in the Junior Department the seeds of a wider educational syllabus were germinating. A class visited the Express Dairy Farm and another visited the Port of London. After the latter visit a letter was received from Alderman Sully congratulating the children on their excellent behaviour in the Underground trains. At the commencement of the new School year in September 1952 an experiment to eliminate the "C" class attitude was launched. The streams of each year group were reorganised into one "A" stream class and two parallel B-C classes. There were now 538 children on the Junior School roll. The Christmas Term ended with each class and Staff performing a play for the enjoyment of the school. This practice was continued every Christmas time and the standard of the plays improved with practice. I often wished that the school had performed for the Parents too because many of the plays were delightful in their improvisation of wardrobe and scenery whilst the actors were equally natural and uninhibited. Many of the Staff wrote their own plays to incorporate all members of the class. Again we were generously allowed to use John Keble Hall. Present day Good Companion productions recall those early plays. Many of the actors are ex-Deansbrook pupils and so these productions appear as an improved mirror image of Deansbrook.

It was during these post war years that a wide spectrum of people who were to contribute towards the educational and physical needs of the pupils were introduced by the Hendon/Barnet Authority. Regular visits by the Borough Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Child Guidance Centre Representative, the Speech Therapist, the Audiometrician, the Doctor and Dentist became a noteworthy feature of school life.

CHAPTER VI

Exploration AND ADVENTURE

1953 heralded a new venture - School Journeys. Many months of investigation, planning and discussion by the Staff contributed to the success and enjoyment of these educational journeys. It was on the 13th May, 1953 that the first School Journey set out with 40 children in charge of the Headmaster, Miss Hughes, Mr. Webb and Mrs. Cursons. They had a week's visit to Somerset and stayed at Penscot House in Shipham. After the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II the second party left for the repeat visit with 41 children. This venture gave great benefits and pleasure to the 81 children and Staff and afterwards it became an annual event for all 4th Year pupils after the Scholarship Examinations had taken place in February. This wider scope approach of learning through travel appealed tremendously to all concerned. It provided a purposeful stimulus for pupils' research on individual topics for the last six months in the Junior School. A high standard of craft work in models in all subjects was achieved. The climax was the "Journey Evening" which took place at the end of the Summer Term when the children gave their report of the Journey and presented the exhibition of their work about the project. At this first occasion the Mayor and Mayoress, and Aldermen were present. It was a real team effort - everyone in the school and parents helped in some way. To round off the evening refreshments were served in the garden afterwards. The Daily Sketch showed interest and the Headmaster accorded them an interview. To finish the school year open days were held in all classes and finally a prize giving Evening in John Keble Hall. The school recorder band and school choir performed to a packed assembly of parents and Mrs. Freedman distributed the prizes.

At the beginning of 1954 I joined the full time Staff and that year it was decided that the School Journey would take place in Ilkley. The following teachers were responsible for various aspects of the journey - Mrs. Westcott, History; Mrs. Gray, Biology; Mr. Hobson, Geography; and myself Industrial Visits. This was a wonderful opportunity and I contacted the Director of Education for the West Riding of Yorkshire who linked Deansbrook with a school in Ilkley. Pen friend correspondences between the two schools developed before our visit. I wrote to the well known wool factories, Dormy Blankets of Dewsbury, Wormalds, Crossleys Carpets of Halifax, Mackintoshes, Rowntree at York etc, and had excellent cooperation.

Dates for the visits to all the factories were arranged. It should be explained that I always taught the Weaving as it had been developed by early man. The children had to invent looms made from sticks and spindle whorls from clay. So by the time the children visited the factories they had a good basic knowledge of the development of spinning and weaving. Hence they were ready to appreciate the huge carpet looms and the spinning machinery. Some early experimental work had been carried out in the dyeing of wool with plants we had collected on our nature rambles. But searching in a new habitat gave us new plants to recognise and collect.

Words cannot express the fascination of the different facets of our studies. The thrill of clambering around Malham and Gorsdale Scar with their outcrops of limestone, entering the depths of Stump Cross Caverns near Grassington, roaming the Ilkley moors around the Cow and Calf rocks, wandering on the Roman Wall and around the Castle Museum at York or nibbling the titbits received at the sweet factories were novel experiences which made lasting impressions. The factories received us warmly and gave us a wonderful tea after each visit. We were given samples of wool which we saw being dyed and an opportunity to ask questions from the men operating the looms. In the automatic weaving loom department we could not hear ourselves speak! All the samples were transported back to school in readiness for the Journey Night Exhibition. Ilkley was an excellent centre and the Hollybrook Guest House where we stayed was on the edge of the moor. The many historical places and geographical interests of my native county added to the success of an inspiring Journey. Before our departure the School which had befriended us gave a party in our honour one evening and the local newspaper requested interviews.

When we returned to school more excitement followed. I persuaded Hendon Technical College to loan us their spinning wheel and so enabled a group who had previously mastered the art of spinning on their home-made spindles to be taught to use it. Others began more experiments of dyeing wool using the different plants we had found. The lichens were particularly easy to use as dyes. Eventually at the School Journey Exhibition one room was devoted to a working demonstration of all aspects of the Weaver's Craft. Thus one of my life's ambitions had been fulfilled. In addition realistic historical and geographical models made by the children were shown in other class rooms. The Mayor and Mayoress, and the Chairman of the Primary Schools attended the function. During the Summer Term 83 children were transferred to the newly built Courtlands School. Meanwhile at Deansbrook a full programme of activities was pursued. Each week recorder classes were held in lunch times and 'after' school by Miss Hughes, Mrs. Telford and Mr. Webb. Furthermore the children interested in Country Dancing practised for one hour after school once a week. These extra sessions brought the performance in recorder playing and country dancing to a high standard. So we read in the Log Book - "During this term the recorder players contributed towards the 'Hendon Music Festival and 96 children took part in a Country Dance Display at the Hendon Show." Swimming Instruction was arranged and in addition to the previously mentioned activities, a daily lunch time library session and Chess Club became regular features.

In 1955 the School Journey was to Castleton in Derbyshire. Extra mural activities were interwoven into the school's curriculum and helped to make the process of learning more interesting. A party of students from the Institute of Education attended the school to hear an account of project work and to see the children at work on their School Journey project. As visits to museums etc. were frequently undertaken, parents were invited to assist the teachers in their task as the Education Authority stipulated that "four adults must accompany 40 children." The children were encouraged to wear their school uniform and they looked very well groomed and easily identifiable. In the Infant School on the 27th June, 1955 a Flower Service was introduced. Flowers were brought by the children who entertained an elderly party from St. Martin's in the Fields. At the beginning of the new school year in September 1956 the Junior School had 391 children on roll. At last, the school was accommodated fully in its own building although the classes were still large. The Infant School had the smallest number on roll since 1934, namely 170 children. First Year projects in the Junior School at this time included an environmental study of Mill Hill and a visit to Mote End farm Nan Clark's Lane which was managed by the two Misses Weedon. The high standard of the written accounts and drawings which followed the visit to the farm bore testimony to the lasting impressions of the milk parlour activities and the prize bull. This year the Infant School held its Flower Festival in the garden. During the severe Winter in 1956 pipes in the Infant School were frozen and the Log Book records that- "24 ft. of piping was required and this had been renewed a few years ago." At the Christmas Party an ex-pupil, Rex Walford, acted as Father Christmas. Collections of presents for old people and Save the Children Fund were made. By 1957 the number on roll in the Infant School was 168 children and there were 355 children in the Junior School. The catchment area was limited. Every class in the Junior School was now engaged in some form of project work. Each year all 80-90 children in the 4th Year group were encouraged to take part in the School Journey. When Derbyshire was again chosen as a centre a Flower Service was held in the Quadrangle and a Well Dressing Ceremony executed by the children was the centre piece. The Rev. Simpson attended. Although Deansbrook is an un-denominational school there has always been a close friendly liaison between John Keble Church and the School. At the Prize Giving in July 1958 Miss I. Colwell, The Children's Librarian of Hendon Libraries, presented the prizes. Earlier she had given invaluable assistance in presenting the children with suitable books for their investigations in their project studies and later she accompanied the children on their School Journey.

1959 was the last year in which the 11 + Entrance Examination was held. By 1960 the sizes of classes were approximately 40 in number. In October Mrs. Westcott the Deputy Headmistress and a member of staff for eighteen years died. A small rose garden was created as a memorial and a plaque and apparatus were presented to the Cancer Research Institute. Miss B. T. Hughes became Deputy Headmistress.

It was evident that during these first nine years of Mr. Downing's service as Headmaster the education of the children had developed a more liberal character. Although the 11+ examination existed until 1959, the children had a full, varied and interesting education. The new streaming of the classes allowed the brighter children to be extended and the less able were in smaller class units and given more individual help.

Twice a year examinations and reports were given for each child. The Ridout English Workbooks were used to give the children a little homework and hence train them in readiness for the secondary education.

The Junior School in 1963 had 301 on roll. In the severe Winter of 1963 parents of the Infant School were advised to keep their children at home-the lavatories were frozen and there were thirty burst pipes. Again it was proved that the heating system was inadequate and this had been apparent for many years. But action was taken and on the 3rd December, 1964 the Log Book entry records "the veranda has been glassed in". So, it was goodbye to the snow that piled up outside the East side classroom doors and to the slippery, wet, windy verandas. The delightful view of the central garden had gone but the children's physical welfare was more important.

In 1965 the erection of a school kitchen was discussed and finally erected. This necessitated the construction of a new service road and path. As the Deans Lane Entrance was becoming more dangerous with the increasing volume of traffic it was closed and a new entrance in Church Close was created. On the 1st April, 1965 the Borough of Barnet, Borough of Finchley and the Urban Districts of Barnet, East Barnet and Friern Barnet were amalgamated to form the London Borough of Barnet. To ensure smooth working and continuity in educational services working parties of Head Teachers were formed by Dr. N. F. Butcher, the newly appointed Director of Education. Mrs. Hill (nee Hawkes) retired after 32 years and established a record for unbroken service in the Infant School.

The Infant School roll in 1966 was 309 and that was the largest number since 1954. To help during the long dinner times when there were two sittings more child care supervisors were employed to look after the children in the playground or classrooms in inclement weather. In the new Autumn Term 1965, Miss Wilson introduced Pitman's new approach to reading I.T.A. (the Initial Teaching Alphabet) in the Infant School. In this year too the numbers of children in the lower part of the Junior School began to increase and so a hatted classroom was erected on the field adjoining the West side of the playground. Mrs. W. Graham was appointed to teach music and the school's musical achievements increased dramatically. In that year a T.V. set was hired and "tried out as an experiment". Meanwhile the Infant Department was working very happily. A percussion band was formed and the youngsters gave concerts to the old people. In addition there was a yearly collection of food parcels for the old people of Hendon and the W.V.S. made the deliveries. Many thankful letters were received. In this way the children were encouraged to think about others. They delighted their parents and friends at the Summer Festival when all the children in the school took part and the May Queen was crowned. Also, "A revised teaching of Arithmetic giving more time to practical than written work aimed at a deep understanding rather than rapid progress" was introduced.

In 1967, as the Junior School was now organised on a three form basis throughout, there was a need to have two more new hatted classrooms erected on the field. In September 150 children were admitted, 113 from the Infants' Department, 27 from the Meads School which had closed and 10 from other schools. At the end of the year work commenced on bull-dozing the underground shelters away which were almost the last reminder of the war years. These shelters had been used by the public during the Air Raids. This allowed the playing field to be levelled and reseeded. Then it was possible to use all the area for playing space. The programme of work continued smoothly with special function interspersed throughout the school year: School Journeys (see appendage), Musical Concerts, Art Competitions, numerous visits to museums, factories, libraries and places of historical, geographical and scientific interest. Throughout the year children were engaged in making models at home and school for individual and class project work. Large friezes were made using the collage techniques which involved the use of many and varied materials to stimulate the pupils' imagination and creative abilities. Many old scholars still treasure the School Journey books they wrote and illustrated. These they bound into individual books in their book binding lessons with Mr. Webb. These activities were echoed throughout the school. In the First Year the project work developed from a child's love of animals (this had been fostered by keeping pets in the Infant School). I launched the farm project and it seemed the natural progression living in an area which was mainly agricultural in bygone years. I recall the great pleasures from our visits to Mote End Farm, the nature rambles in the adjoining woodland? (now designated as an open space), the walks through the Forge fields whilst I recalled the earlier inhabitants of Mill Hill (Raffles, Wilberforce etc.). Even in the First Year children wrote and illustrated their own project books and made pressed flower books. These too are treasured possessions now. The value of this work was tremendous - there was an impetus to be able to read the quiz papers, to write their individual stories and therefore to be able to spell. The children were learning to use their powers of observation of the world around them and to appreciate the beauty of the countryside in their environment.

This type of work escalates and when I was fortunate enough to be able to take the First Year class into the Second Year our programme of work was very interesting. Many children had traveled on the Continent with their parents. Together we pooled our information and continued our farming interests to encompass the farmer-fishermen of Norway, the dairy farmers of Holland and the cheese makers of Switzerland. The models that were displayed on Open Day were remarkable and at the end of the year the long collage frieze of Holland with windmills, flower barges, Dutch houses and people dressed in National Costume was given to the School for Handicapped children on Flower Lane. They were most grateful for it. The highlight of the Second Year was a visit to Arkley Windmill. All this evolved from a conversation with Miss F. Weedon a native of Mill Hill and farmer at Mote End Farm. She recalled her visits to the windmill as a girl. Her parents farmed the Mote End Farm and it was her duty to carry some grain that had been harvested, to the windmill so that it could be milled for bread making.

Accordingly Miss Weedon suggested that I paid a visit to see Mrs. Saunders in whose garden the windmill stood. How well I remember calling after school on a dark wet Autumn evening. After tea in front of a blazing log fire the gardener was called. He offered to escort my husband and myself up to the top of the windmill. It was an unforgettable experience! A hurricane lamp provided the only light whilst we climbed the ladders. We were shown the main working parts of the windmill - the brake and great crown wheels, the hopper and damsel. Meanwhile the gardener recalled the romantic history of the windmill and the part it had played in the lives of people in Mill Hill and Arkley after it was built during the Napoleonic Wars. It is worth mentioning that there are octogenarians living in Mill Hill now who recall the miller from Arkley selling the flour in Mill Hill as late as 1919.

All these investigations led to several visits over the years by my Second Year classes. Energetic mothers accompanied us and every child climbed to the top floor of the mill and admired the panorama. They looked at the door through which the sacks of grain were hoisted. The gardener accompanied us throughout and as we stood in the beautiful garden he drew word pictures of the scene of great activity around the mill. He described how the steam wagons rumbled in carrying sacks of grain. Then, how the grain was milled and loaded back onto the wagons again. He recalled how at the pond the steam wagons had their water tanks replenished before commencing their journey. The surroundings enabled us to recapture a more recent phase of Mill Hill history.

With such an inspiration, the children's work was most original and picturesque. Windmills became a fascination and this led quite naturally in the Spring Term onto the structure and different workings of a Dutch windmill. Before then we had to give the Christmas Play. I too was inspired and wrote the play for my class and resolved that each child should take part in the play. The theme was developed around a windmill and to enlarge the cast, so that every child played a part, there were gypsies. Songs which were set to well known tunes with the help of Mrs. Graham (the music teacher) were included. Also a windmill with boy-powered revolving sails was made. Many ex-pupils will recall this colourful production. It should be recorded that during these years of very large classes the children who left for Grammar School was consistently over 50%. My largest class was the one whose activities I have described. The number on roll was 54 A stream children.

At the beginning of the school year in September 1968 there were 435 children on roll and that year 53% had gone to Grammar Schools. The variety of work ensured that all children received a good education and each year the School Journey project developed larger dimensions. In 1970 the Journey Centre was Conway, North Wales. Bardic poems were written by the children and an impressive Eisteddfod was held in the school's quadrangle garden at which the Chief Bard was announced. In July that year Miss B. T Hughes retired.

This rhythmic pattern of education and activities was jolted severely on the 28th November, 1970 at 8.30 p.m. when it was announced that the Junior School was on fire! Three Fourth Year classrooms were burnt out and the roof of the administration block was virtually irreparable. It occurred the weekend before the school examinations were due to take place. With outstanding foresight the firemen saved all the examination papers from destruction. They cast a huge tarpaulin over the piles of paper in the Headmaster's room. The school was closed for two days whilst parents and Staff helped to salvage stock and books. We formed a human chain across the playground from school to the hatted classrooms and in that way transported hundreds of library books and stock. For weeks we lived with smoke impregnated books and paper. It was a distressing spectacle to behold the charred timbers piercing the blue skies when school reopened two days later on the 2nd December, 1970. Calor gas heaters were brought to heat the remaining part of the original building. Four new hatted classrooms were ordered. Many gifts were sent by old scholars to replace losses. Unavoidably the Christmas Concert was postponed but the examinations took place as planned. A letter was received from the "Chief Education Officer expressing on behalf of the committee appreciation for the manner in which the staff of the school had faced up to the difficulties created and especially in re-opening after only two days." This just epitomizes the true Spirit of Deansbrook-Everyone to pull together in work and play in times of need. The last few months of Mr. Downing's teaching career were spent trying to adjust and re-plan after the ravages of the fire for in July 1971 he retired after twenty-one years service at the school. The Fourth Year Journey took place again and visited Castleton and on the School Journey Evening Mr. J. Dawkins, The Chief Education Officer, attended the function. As usual the parents enjoyed watching their youngsters in action on the Journey through the cine film shown by Mr. Webb. The children dressed smartly in their school uniform seemed to excel themselves as they spoke with eloquence and confidence about the different aspects of their activities. Their voices rang clearly as they sang their familiar journey songs. Excitement ran high when the House points for tidy bedrooms, rock and flower collections and general service to others were announced. Small gifts were awarded to the winning House and to children who had earned them by outstanding thoughtfulness. This procedure for School Journeys had been the custom throughout all previous journeys.

In due course the ground area of the burnt out classrooms was put to good use. It was paved to enable children to practise ball games more easily in P.E. lessons. Whilst during playtimes in the Autumn Term this space was reserved solely as a playing area for the First Year children. Thus the new arrivals from the Infant Department were provided with a haven away from the more boisterous games of the older children.