

**CLARION RECALL**  
**NUMBER 28 JANUARY 2010**



**JK with tower cleaned and cross re-gilded December 2009**

## Editorial

Yes, here is CLARION RECALL again! You may have been wondering if we had ceased publication, (and we've had several phone-calls to that end in which people politely said "Err.... have we missed an issue?" ....) but the answer is no, – it was just that we were waiting patiently for enough contributions from you, our readers, to provide material for another issue.

Well.... not only that – 2009 has been a busy year for the members of the Editorial team and also, we were hanging fire because we were not sure whether there was going to be another Reunion event or not in 2009..... In the end, we decided that, without a firm offer from anyone to host a day event, it would be better to delay our next opportunity of a face-to-face meeting for ex-JK-ites until 2010 – and you can read more about plans for that on page 7 of this issue.

But we guess that you might have thought that there could have been another reason – in these days of mobile-phones, texting, e-books etc. isn't a 'hard copy' magazine something of a dinosaur? Well, possibly – but asking around, we feel that enough of you like to have something substantial to hold in your hand and read (or stuff down the side of a chair), so we are going to continue publishing in print form, at least for the time being.

Here's a sign of the times, though. FOCUS, the monthly parish newspaper of JK, which has been going for over 50 years, is, from January 2010, making its copy available as an e-mail PDF attachment on its day of publication. And if you choose to have it sent to you that way, it is only half the cost of the hard copy version. (If you do want the ten issues of FOCUS sent this way, it costs £4.00 compared with a year's supply of postal delivered hard copies at £8.00. If you want either version, the person to contact is:

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However, these days so much bumph comes through on e-mail which you are asked (or even expected) to download (agendas and minutes of committees, reports, magazine articles, etc) that anyone doing that on a regular basis runs up a considerable bill in costs of paper and print cartridges. So, never fear, for the foreseeable future, your copy of CLARION RECALL will continue to plop through the letterbox– even if you (or we) can't predict when it is going to happen. Of course, it will happen more often, if you can stir your stumps to send in a contribution, however small. Let us know what you are doing now, or of some just-remembered incident from the past, or of some unexpected meeting with a JK link and we will be happy to pass on the news.

## The John Keble Restoration Project

A great many thanks to those of you who contributed to the appeal in CLARION RECALL 27 (April 2008). The sub-total came to £6805, with some gift aiding bringing the sum total past £7,000. It should be added that a large amount of this came in one very generous donation.

Work has been completed on the belfry, spire and cross, which cost about £70,000 (**see photo on front cover for visible evidence of this**). Concrete decay had meant that the wire mesh to keep the pigeons out had fallen off, and about £1,000 of the cost was for removal of guano, feathers and corpses. Looking on the bright side, at least we were not hosts to some protected species of bat.

The saga of the replacement windows drags on and on. The Barnet Conservation Officer rejected the architect's proposals out of hand and subsequent attempts to outflank the officer or go above his head on appeal have not met with success. Meanwhile, the windows to the Baptistry and Lady Chapel are falling apart, and some of them won't even close now.

If some of the above seems a bit vague, I should add that the appeal in Clarion Recall was pretty well my swan song as treasurer, since I relinquished that post at the AGM in April 2008. It was only a chance encounter with George Ramsey in the spring of 1998, some thirty years after I had left the parish that resulted in my agreeing to act as a stop-gap until someone more local and committed to the Church could be found. The gap had extended to some ten years by the time I decided that enough was enough.

The future for JK looks 'challenging' to say the least. Although some restoration work has commenced, the list of jobs required to get the building back to something like 1960 status is huge, and the cost probably well above JK's now diminished investments. The average cost of a vicar in the London Diocese is now over £60,000 per year, some of which can be subsidised from Diocesan historic sources (which have also shrunk). This cost is nearly twice the amount that comes from regular donations. The gap has to be financed from 'passing trade', tax refunds, and ancillary income such as hall lettings. Assuming there *is* to be a new full-time vicar for JK sometime in the near future, he or she should not be faint hearted.

Keith Alexander (Watford)

## **A rainy day at Wendy's.....**

It seems a long time ago now, but we did have a summer reunion event in 2008, on what must have been one of the wettest days of the year. All Wendy and Peter Fisher's best-laid plans for spreading us out into their beautiful garden at Loughton in Essex came to naught, since the heavens opened early in the morning and continued all through the July day. So thirty or more of us crowded into Wendy's living rooms where she and her family had laid on a plentiful luncheon spread, and there we perched on the edges of chairs and renewed friendships and swapped stories, as the rain pelted down outside. (Wendy's children, who were helping with the catering, remarked how well everyone seemed to organise themselves and queue patiently for lunch – a notable JK trait, honed in refreshment queues at the hall hatch, which has obviously not dissipated through the years).

After lunch, many of the gathering braved the elements to drive up in convoy to the intriguing partially-restored stately home called Copped Hall, near Epping. (You can see it clearly as you drive through the region on the M 25). Here, Wendy had laid on a special guide for us and we had an excellent tour of the house (or at least of those rooms which had been brought back into use) – which was somehow all the more interesting because of its unfinished state. Though it was 'a bit of a building site' one could see how the ambitious restoration plans were already taking shape.

The story of the house is a fascinating one. Recorded history at Copped Hall starts in the 12th century when there was already a substantial building on the site. In 1564 Queen Elizabeth I granted Copped Hall to her close friend - Sir Thomas Heneage. Almost immediately he started to rebuild the mansion and the building was complete by 1568 when Queen Elizabeth came to stay.

In 1742 John Conyers inherited the property and wanted to express the latest architectural ideas of the day: this was incompatible with living in the old dilapidated house. Plans for a grand Palladian mansion were drawn up by his architect, John Sanderson, with a main block featuring a vast dome, a portico and attached curved colonnades leading to symmetrical pavilions. In the end only the main block was built - on a different site to the Elizabethan mansion. It was completed by 1758.

During the First World War in 1917, the main eighteenth-century block of Copped Hall was largely burnt-out in a disastrous fire one Sunday morning. Some of the contents were saved but many items were lost. Descendants of the Conyers family moved to Wood House on the estate. The move was supposed to be temporary but in the end they never rebuilt Copped Hall.

After World War II, the ruined Copped Hall and its grounds became a developer's dream. Large scale schemes for housing redevelopment were proposed again and again. After many battles against such proposals, the parkland was saved by the Corporation of London who purchased it in 1992.

The specially formed **Copped Hall Trust** saved the mansion and gardens by purchasing these in 1995. Apart from the extensive gardens there is a four-acre Walled Garden which is in cultivation.

The Friends of Copped Hall Trust (of which Wendy and Peter Fisher are members) was set up in 1998 to enable people who cared about Copped Hall to support the Trust and its objectives. Since then the Friends have made a substantial contribution to both restoring the building and also to fund-raising. Throughout the year the Trust holds a series of Events and organises special open days at Copped Hall. If you haven't been, it's worth a visit; Google 'Copped Hall Trust, Essex' for opening times and to see what special events are taking place in 2010.



**Some of the rainy-day JK visitors to partially-restored (see walls) Copped Hall listen to a guide explaining the features of the house. From right to left: Alan Alexander, Sylvia Murch, Paul and Sylvia Fernberg, Bob and Pat Harman, Shirley Collman**



**Wendy Fisher (nee Symondson) seems to be enjoying the visit to Copped Hall that she has organised, despite the rain. Maggi Lamb (nee Cluff) is on the left. We don't know who the Lady over the fireplace is, but she's obviously important....**

## **A reunion event in 2010 – at JK on Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>**

John Keble's famous Assize Sermon was delivered in Oxford on July 14<sup>th</sup> 1833 and is reputed to have kick-started the Church of England (C of E) into reform and renewed life in the nineteenth century. (That's how the 'Oxford Movement' got its name). Consequently the Patronal Festival of John Keble Church has always been celebrated at that time of year. The date for the 2010 Festival is Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>.

In recent years, the parish has turned this into something of an all-day event and there are plans to do so again in 2010 with a 'Summer Fair'. And so, we thought 'what better excuse to use that as the time and location for a 2010 face-to-face reunion event for ex-members of JKCYC and AYPAs?'

The usual main Communion service on that day is re-scheduled to start later – at 10.30 a.m. The Baden-Powell organizations attached to JK (Scouts, Guides, Beavers, Rainbows, etc) will attend and parade their flags. Then the sociable events begin more or less immediately afterwards (i.e. around 12 noon) and continue through the day, with a finishing time planned for 4.30 p.m.

A JK source reports 'There will be a BBQ lunch available for everyone who comes and other alternative menu options. An all-day bar is planned, (subject to a licence being granted), and there will be plenty of fun things to do throughout the day – everything from a bouncy castle and a tombola stall to throwing wet sponges at local dignitaries and games on the vicarage lawn. Since this is World Cup Final day, there will almost certainly be a TV on hand. Various groups connected with the church (e.g. the Dance School which uses the church hall) will provide 'displays'. Should there be a new vicar for JK appointed and in place by then, it will be a good chance for visitors to the parish to meet him or her for the first time. Tea and refreshments will be available through the afternoon, and of course, there is plenty of room in the JK grounds to just wander around or sit and talk. If the weather should happen to be bad, the spacious surroundings of the Halls, the B-P centre and the church can be put to good use.

Revd. Ian Godfrey, JK's curate (who is in charge during the current inter-regnum) told CLARION RECALL "If RECALL readers would wish to have a reunion at JK on that day, we would be delighted. Do keep me informed and we will make every effort to accommodate and welcome you".

So, for those who live some distance away, this seems an ideal chance to come back to JK again, sample current parish life, and meet old friends in familiar surroundings – and with plenty of time to chat. The 2010 Reunion Event is – put the date in your diary NOW – SUNDAY JULY 11<sup>th</sup>. Make your way back to JK for any or all of the time between 10.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. on that day.

**To help the Festival organization, if you plan to come, please let Shirley or Rex know by the beginning of July, so that we can pass on an estimate of numbers of RECALL readers attending. Our E-mail addresses are on page 9.**

## **Oliver Osmond leaves JK after 28 years**

JK vicars come and go - but not very often. Oliver Osmond, who has been Vicar since 1981 retired from the post in April 2009 and the parish as of now (January 2010) awaits the appointment of a successor. There have not been all that many vicars of JK in its 77 years of existence – six, in fact: Oswin Gibbs-Smith (1933-41), Edward Motley (1941-57), Rennie Simpson (1957-62), John Ginever (1963-70) , John Dennis (1971-79) and Oliver Osmond (1981-2009).

Of these, as can be readily seen, Oliver has been by far the longest in post, and he has piloted the parish through changing conditions and challenging times. Although his incumbency has not overlapped with most RECALL readers time in the parish, he has been a strong supporter of the magazine. On our most recent return visit to JK a few years ago (which was combined with lunch at the Old Finchleians Club) he gave an interesting talk about the parish and how the demography and the faith allegiances of parishioners were much more mixed than in ‘our day’.

Interviewed in FOCUS in the month before he left and asked about his first impressions of JK he said “I certainly remember the stunning impact on first entering the building . I was quite unprepared for it”. He went on to say that he thought the impact of JK on the local community remains “very considerable”. “And while I don’t know that it’s ever been on the same scale as in the 1930s, we are still at the heart of the community here – our halls are used 7 days a week and most nights”. Asked for his most memorable day at JK Oliver nominated “31<sup>st</sup> December 1991, when the hall burnt down. It was a very traumatic experience. It took 20 months to re-build...but out of it we have a better church hall, a more modern and flexible space”.

After a farewell service on April 26<sup>th</sup> RECALL readers did their bit. Maggi Lamb and her helpers fed 250 people a substantial lunch in the hall, at tables adorned with beautiful arrays of flowers provided by Sylvia Daker and her team. Displays of Oliver’s involvement in parish events through the years covered the walls. The Bishop of Willesden spoke of Oliver’s substantial contribution to Diocesan affairs and churchwarden John Stevens added a parish perspective. A superb painting of the church by Rob Saffery was given to the Osmonds as a gift, along with three tapestries. Oliver and his wife Rosalie made speeches in reply. They are off to live in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Rosalie’s home area, though they expect to return to England for some months of each year.

And so inevitably to the uncertainty of an inter-regnum. There is no news yet (January 2010) of a successor. Let’s hope there’s a new vicar in place by the time the Summer Fair takes place in July.



## Clarion Calls

Since it is some time since we were in print, we have to record with sadness the deaths of several ex-members of JK who were either RECALL readers or who were known to many who are:

ANN COSSEY (nee ARNOLD), formerly of Gibbs Green, was a loyal and regular member of the JK Youth Club in the 1950s. She left Mill Hill to train and then pursue a career in nursing. On her death in 2009, her husband Douglas wrote to us from Broadstairs in Kent and sent us a copy of a long obituary from the local paper. This showed that in later years Ann had been a pillar of her own local community in Kent and a much appreciated and loved active member of her parish church.

Through David Jeremy, we have heard of the death of IRVING ('BUNTY') ARNOT who used to live in Birkbeck Road, Mill Hill, and who was a regular at JKCYC, well-known to many as an accomplished musician (both on the church organ and on the stage piano). Bunty served as a bandsman in the Middlesex Regiment and later ran his own 'big band' in Australia after he went to live there with his wife Margaret. Now, as David, says, a recruit to St Peter's Big Band.....

Another friend known to many RECALL readers who died recently was DOROTHY BISSON, formerly a member of JK's AYPAs and widow of Francis Bisson, long-time ace columnist Critic on the Hearth on JK's parish newspaper FOCUS. Dorothy had been an active member of the JK congregation for many years. She recently moved from the family home in Manor Drive, Mill Hill to sheltered accommodation in Blyth in Nottinghamshire to be with her sister, but her funeral was back at JK (and taken by Oliver Osmond) just before Christmas 2009.

We have also heard with sadness of the death of JOAN LAST (nee TAYLOR) a former JKCYC member, who used to live in Stanway Gardens. An elegant dancer, she performed in many of the Deansbrook Social Club shows of the 1940s - 1950s. She had lately been living in Cranfield, Bedfordshire.

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Do please send us news of yourselves and your doings so that we can also supplement this section of the magazine with news of the living! Send your messages or news – however brief – to one of the addresses below.

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## John Betjeman's visit to Edgware

Sir John Betjeman (1906-1984) died twenty-five years ago, and remains a vivid figure in British life. He was a beloved Poet Laureate, his Collected Poems have sold over three million copies, and his radio and TV appearances have made him something of a national institution. And he was, of course, a loyal member of the Church of England throughout his life, a man who adored churches. He explored many of England's church buildings (often in company with the artist John Piper) and was a steadfast champion of the Gothic revival, reserving his particular ire for mediocre modern office-blocks and housing estates ("Come friendly bombs and fall on Slough....." being one of his best-known tirades in this sphere).

As far as we know he never visited John Keble Church, despite its eminence as an icon of the modernist architecture of the 1930s. "Look once and look again, you will never have seen a church like it" said Eric Milner-White, then the Dean of King's College, Cambridge "Not only all England but all Europe will come to see the church of St John Keble".

But not John Betjeman, apparently. There is an entry for JK in Betjeman's *Collins Pocket Guide to English Parish Churches* but it merely says 'D F Martin Smith, 1936; Square plan' and is probably the transcription of a note from one of the researchers employed to provide information for the book. Otherwise it would surely have attracted more notice (either praise or criticism) from him. The published volumes of his letters record that he made more than one sortie through north-west London looking at modern 1930s/1940s churches but he journeyed no further than St Anselm's Belmont and St Alban's North Harrow.

Betjeman did get quite close to JK on one occasion, however, since we know that he visited Edgware in connection with a TV programme which he made (*'From Marble Arch to Edgware Road'*, transmitted on BBC1 on January 31<sup>st</sup> 1968).

When he was nearing the northern end of his journey up the Edgware Road from the heart of London, searching out possible locations to be filmed, he was attracted by the historic associations of St Lawrence Whitchurch with Handel and by the leafy surroundings of North London Collegiate School. "We should also see the exterior of Edgware Parish Church (very Low) but it is not worth close inspection inside" he told his director.

Though he liked the old half-timbered buildings of Edgware High Street he was clearly not impressed by the modern office-blocks which had been built along Station Road. Writing to the director with a 'treatment' for the programme and suggestions of pictures for the screen he said "(We need pictures of) a tea-trolley in the Green Shield Stamp building in Edgware, or in any similar anonymous post-war building and a sense of typewriters and corridors. There are two enormous buildings just erected between Cricklewood and Edgware that would lead in to the Green Shield building that defaces Edgware itself".

*(See the picture on p 12, taken in 2009, which shows the Green Shield Stamp building (now Premier House) towering over older Station Road buildings, including the boarded-up-and-soon-to-be-demolished mock-Tudor Railway Hotel).*

Betjeman's verse commentary for this section of the TV programme (unpublished until very recently) caught the spirit of his comments:

One after one rise these empty consecutives  
Now we have come to the uppermost floor  
Where in the car park are Jags of executives?  
Where, far behind them, the bikes of the poor?

Ghosts of the future are waiting to settle here  
Click of the typewriter, buzz of the boss,  
The tea-trolley's tinkle and hiss of the kettle here  
"Hurry up, Myrtle, he's ever so cross!"

Pig trough of light will hang down from the ceiling  
Holiday postcards this bareness adorn  
Brave indoor plants give a tropical feeling  
Eyes will look lovingly, hearts will be torn

Somewhere they'll raise, where the views are extensive  
Beige, pink and soundproof, a partition wall  
On fine figured walnut and leather expensive  
Here will be sitting the top man of all.....

Dear Middlesex, dear vanished country friend  
Your neighbour London killed you in the end



**The Green Shield Stamp building (now Premier House) towering over older Station Road buildings, including the boarded-up-and-soon-to-be-demolished mock-Tudor Railway Hotel**

### **If You Want To Know More About Betjeman.....**

The commentary and verses reprinted above are to be found in the London section of Stephen Games's anthology of Betjeman's radio and TV scripts. 'Betjeman's England' (John Murray 2009). There are three other similar anthologies edited by Games, ('Trains and Buttered Toast', 'Tennis Whites and Teacakes' and 'Sweet Songs of Sion') which have recently been published and which bring to light much hitherto unpublished Betjeman material. John Murray also publish two volumes of Betjeman's entertaining and revealing letters, edited by his daughter Candida Lycett-Green.

There is a massive but readable biography of JB in three volumes written by Bevis Hillier (now also available in a shortened one-volume edition) and another by A N Wilson. Many of Betjeman's TV programmes are available on DVD including a version of his verse autobiography (covering his life up to the age of 23) SUMMONED BY BELLS. There are several CDs of his poems (some read by the author, and others by well-known actors), the best with appropriate musical accompaniments by Jim Parker's musicians. There is also a double CD (Right Recording 2006) in which pop stars such as Cliff Richard, David Essex, and Gene Pitney sing versions of Betjeman's poems to rather bland music written by the DJ Mike Read – some of these are quite well done, and others are terrible!



**The 'new vicarage' taken from the gate into Deans Lane in Dec 2009**

## **Maintaining the JK Vicarage is no tea-party...**

Older readers of CLARION RECALL may remember the residence of the Vicar of JK when it was Holbrook House, an old farmhouse which had been built close to the corner of Sefton Avenue and Deans Lane. It had been there from Edwardian times, and long before the suburbs sprang up round about it in the 1930s. Edward Motley used to hold his Boys Senior Bible Class (known obscurely as 'The Posh Push') in its spacious front drawing-room - its members saw it as a real step up from attending Sunday School in the church or hall. And there were annual parish garden-parties on the lawn to the east of the vicarage and in the orchard which the house adjoined.

The house had a basement, put to immediate use when the first sirens of World War II sounded on Sunday morning, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1939. JK's first vicar, Oswin Gibbs-Smith, led the more nervous of his flock over to the house and into the basement to sit out the first air-raid warning of the war (a false alarm, as it transpired). Gibbs-Smith remembered afterwards "When everyone had gone home, I found that the meat I had acquired for Sunday lunch and put on a bench in the cool basement well and truly flattened, as a lady had been sitting on it for 45 minutes".

In the early 1950s, it became clear that Holbrook House was suffering from subsidence (the result of having foundations in the notorious yellow clay which covers the JK hillside, and which has also caused problems for the 1936 church building). The vicar and his family moved out to 59 Hale Lane for a year. The church architect D F Martin-Smith (brother of 'Harmonics', the long-time Master of the Music at JK) was assigned the task of designing a new vicarage to complement the church, to be built eastwards of Holbrook House (which was demolished), but there is no doubt that the views of the then vicar, Edward Motley, also helped to shape the plans. These plans included a vast living-room with a long raised dais at one-end, covering most of the ground floor of the new house, a slatted-wooden staircase internal to the large living room, and an innovative central-heating system that blew hot air into every room, rather than warmed them by pipes or radiators. **(See the picture of the 'new vicarage' p 13, taken from the gate into Deans Lane in Dec 2009).**

The **Hendon Times** ran a story on the new house in October 1952, headed **UNIQUE VICARAGE: MODERN IDEAS AT JOHN KEBLE CHURCH**, commenting that the new vicarage was a fitting complement to the church and 'far from the conventional residence of a clergyman'. Perhaps that was the problem. As the years went on and other vicars came and went, it became clear that though the house may have fulfilled the Motleys' modern ideas, other incumbents were not so happy. To add to the problems, cracks in the walls and slippage in the foundations began to occur.

The Revd Ian Godfrey, JK's present non-stipendiary minister, has lived in the parish for many years and brings the story up-to-date. He told RECALL recently: *The Vicarage was subject to much debate during the course of the last inter-regnum. The Diocese was keen to demolish, sell the land for redevelopment and acquire a new Vicarage in the neighbouring road. The PCC at that time resisted this as the Vicarage was seen as an integral part of the Church, offering easy access both for the Incumbent and the parishioners. There were however, major structural problems and these were resolved by reconfiguring the area which was previously used for a meeting room and indeed where the PCC used to meet. The staircase still travels up a west wall but was enclosed as part of the work prior to Oliver Osmond's arrival. A new vicar's study on the western side was created. The front door was also moved to the opposite side of the house to face out towards Deans Lane. That was all done, of course some 28 years ago. The situation has now changed and the vicarage requires further refurbishment and modernisation. Concerns that the Diocese might revisit the redevelopment option first raised back in 1979 have been dispelled, thanks in part to the current situation in the property market. Their architect has already drawn up plans for upgrading of the property which is still considered suitable as a family Vicarage. It now offers combined dining/living room, study and a further room which could be used for various options. There is also a kitchen-diner area although this is to be converted into a larger kitchen. Upstairs there are 4 separate bedrooms and a bathroom facility. There is still a substantial garden and until recently, a front garden which, although overgrown, contained many evergreen shrubs that had been planted during John Ginever's time and were used as a source of greenery for the flower team.*

*Sadly, as often is the case, the instruction from the London Diocese to its garden contractors to 'trim' was either misunderstood or incorrectly communicated: the front garden now resembles 'cleared land' as every plant has been torn up including roots. On the positive side, Sylvia Daker has already formulated plans to replant the area. (See picture below, taken in Dec 2009)*

Present JK churchwarden John Stevens reports: The diocese has now committed to keeping the vicarage, which we are all happy about. The foundations for the load-bearing walls appear sound and have not moved. This means repairs are more straightforward than first thought, as we do not have to underpin the structural walls of the house. When a new incumbent is appointed, the diocese will undertake repairs and replace the kitchen, bathroom and central heating. The parish will then take on an extensive redecoration which should leave the whole building in pretty good shape.



**Across the 'garden' looking towards the church with the 'new' vicar's study at the extreme left of the picture**

## **Peering at the Past: 49 -- A Childhood Incident**

*From Elizabeth Dawson (JKCYC 1947-1953) and now living in Mangawhai, New Zealand*

I cannot remember which year this event in JK parish happened, but think it would probably have been around 1945/46. It was in summer because it was light after 8.00 p.m. I think the war must have been over because we were all out and about in the evening with no fear of air raids so it may have even been 1947. Margaret Stewart, Beryl Stratford, Ruth Gibson (all from Stanway Gardens) and I still played together or hung out with each other. On this particular evening two of Beryl's friends, Beryl and Lillian Ryder, who lived in Rudyard Grove, had come around to hang out with us. Lillian was older than us but a little naive and therefore didn't mind being with girls much younger than herself. We weren't generally unkind to Lillian but probably did take advantage of her child-like nature, although I can only recall this one instance when we did that.

We must have been a bit bored on this particular evening. Often we played with the boys in our street (Donald and Brian Wright, Douglas Hall, Brian Richmond and others) – games like Cannon or King-ey - but this was the night they were all at their Scout meeting in John Keble Church Hall and perhaps we missed them. I have no idea who suggested it, but we ended up walking round to the church and telling Lillian to bang on one of the hall windows and then run away. We all stood a long way away from the hall and urged Lillian forward. Her first attempt was a bit feeble so we called out to her to bang harder. This she did, but this time so hard her fist went right through the window. We were absolutely petrified! We turned to run as the scouts came rushing out of the hall whooping their Red Indian war-cries. I remember they called themselves the Sioux and the Iroquois. I can't recall ever having been so frightened in my life – not even during the blitz!

Ruth and I ran round the church and out of the side entrance into Deans Lane and then ran for our lives. We sprinted up to The Green Man and then down Hale Lane and went on running until we reached Farm Road and then Deansway and at last Stanway Gardens. We didn't see the others but they must have run into Church Close and then into Deans Lane but the Scouts would surely have caught up with them before they got much further.

I can't remember ever discussing it with anyone after that – which is very strange. Did Beryl and Lillian Ryder and Beryl S and Margaret get caught? Were they admonished? Did Lillian hurt her hand when the window broke? (I seem to remember she wore gloves so perhaps it wasn't summer?). Surely Ruth and I would have been dying to know, but if we ever did find out it has been erased from my memory.....



## Peering at the Past: 50 – Some Sports News

*GEOFF OWEN has been searching his archives for past news of JKCYC cricket. He reports on finding an old score book.....:*

My earliest recorded match involving the Youth Club is 7th May 1950 when we played St. Mary's Hendon. There is no indication where the game was played but we were all out for 56 – Peter Williams took 5 wickets and Robin Weston 2 for the opposition. Our batting order was: Michael Day, who was the second highest scorer with 10, followed by Roy Streatfield, Ken Pinner and Brian Fisher who all scored 'ducks'. Roy Goodall (7) and I (top scorer with 18 !!) added a valuable 17 for the 6th wicket and after that there were more 'ducks' from John Streatfield, Roy Wright and Roy Smith with George Allen (12) seeing us past the 50 mark. Eric Claydon was left stranded on 0 not out. A noticeable thing was the strange batting order; we must have had a lucky dip!! St. Mary's knocked off the runs without losing a wicket.

The same score-book shows an even earlier match that must have been played while we were at primary school. Rex Walford's XI played against Douglas Hall's XI at Deansbrook School on 22nd June 1945. There was another entry for a game between Deansbrook School (all out 30) against Barnfield School (all out 22) on 3rd July 1945. Michael Day, Colin Marshall\* and I all got 'ducks' for Deansbrook but Michael took 5-13 in a narrow win on a perfect batting wicket(!)

August 4th 1952 – JKYC v a UCS XI at Mill Hill Park – Match abandoned – rain.

The UCS team was – K.O. Morgan\*\*, W.J.S. Cockburn, M.H. Dulcken, J.M. Punshon, K.T. Bailey, C.J. Heyhoe, R.C. Whitfield, R.A. Elrick, M.I. Davis, R.A. Walford. Total: 81-6 declared  
JKYC bowling: Keith Avery 4-21, Paddy Hayes 1-2, Douglas Hall 1-9  
JKYC had scored 9-0 when it rained!!

After 1952, the JK youth club side began to play regularly and entered the Hendon Youth Cricket League. Many of that team were playing in 1955 which was our first year as a Senior Cricket Club (one year after Hendon St. Mary's were born). Our first match ever was at King Alfred School, Golders Green and I have the score-book for that game also. Our home ground was at Copthall and we used the Hendon Rugby Club's premises for teas. After several years we moved to the Daws Lane ground (Mill Hill Park) where initially our 'Clubhouse' was an old Nissen Hut.

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### **Editor's Note:**

Geoff's scorebook will no doubt bring back memories for some of us. The senior church cricket side was later led by Geoff with great dedication for over two decades.

\* Now Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, ex-Chief Executive and Chairman of British Airways

\*\* Now Lord Morgan of Aberdyfi, ex-Chancellor of the University of Wales, and official historian of the Labour Party.

## **Tailpiece - MONOPOLY – THE WORLD WAR II VERSION**

**Editor's Note: An American friend sent me this story recently.**

**Can anyone confirm if some or all of it is true?**

In the Second World War, an increasing number of downed British airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Military bosses were looking hard at ways and means to facilitate their escape. One of the most helpful aids is a map showing the locations of 'safe houses' where an escaping P.O.W. could go for food and shelter. However, paper maps had some real drawbacks – they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush. Someone in MI5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort. By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war. Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied P.O.W. camps were.

When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny packages that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece. While they were at it, the workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

- 1) A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
- 2) A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
- 3) Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British, Canadian and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set - by means of a tiny red dot, cleverly made to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square. Of the estimated 35,000 Allied P.O.Ws who successfully escaped, one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war. The story wasn't de-classified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, and the firm itself were finally honoured in a public ceremony.