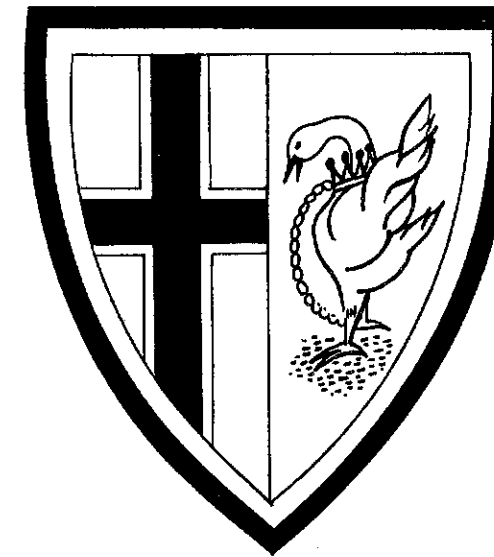


*Wylesburian*

*1978*



Production Team:

Adrian Bishop  
Michael Bloomfield  
Norman Day  
Hugh Dixon

Richard Marsh  
Derek West  
M. E. Truman  
R. L. Wilson

Manuscript Preparation:

Mrs. J. Thallon, William Thallon, John Wood, John Xerri.

## HEADMASTER'S REPORT

On my appointment as Headmaster nearly eleven years ago there were 470 boys from the 11-19 age-group on the school roll. Today, in the 380th year in the history of the school, there are over 900 boys in the slightly narrower age band from 12-19. The past eleven years have been difficult ones both for pupils and staff because of the lack of specialist accommodation, particularly for Sixth Formers. However, we can now at last enjoy the use of our long awaited new buildings. These include a splendid Science block built between the William Harding Lecture Theatre (365 places) and the new Applied Science and Technology accommodation and a Sixth Form block providing a spacious common-room surrounded by tutorial rooms and beneath a magnificent library and a non-book resources area. An adaptation programme has been used to convert the old A.S.T. block into rooms for pottery and art. The former art room has become a language studio fully equipped for the use of television; the former Chemistry Department has provided Mathematics and Programmed Learning laboratories and the old Physics and Biology block is now largely used for teaching Geography and Geology. Over 1,500 parents and visitors were able to see the new buildings in a special Open Day on 13th July when Mrs. O. M. Paterson opened the William Harding Lecture Theatre.

These have also been difficult years to balance our budget, but we owe a great deal to the efforts of the P.T.A. Fund-Raising Committee who, through two summer fetes and many other activities they organised, have contributed several thousand pounds to provide books for the library, equipment for the Lecture Theatre and resource rooms and to enable the adaptation work to be completed.

Despite problems of accommodation, through the efforts of both pupils and staff, there has been a steady improvement of academic results at both 'O' level and 'A' level. The average number of 'O' level passes has improved from six to eight in this period and the number of subject options has greatly increased with the size of the school.

In last year's 'O' level examinations there were 123 candidates from the Fifth Form; 122 of them gained the grade C level or better in English Language, 120 in French, and 117 in Mathematics. One-hundred and fifteen boys had five more subjects at grade C level and 86 of these had eight or more subjects at this former G.C.E. pass level.

In the last academic year for which we have complete information there were 118 boys in the Second and Third Year Sixth. Ninety-three of these went on to degree courses, all but seven of them in the Universities and forty-four at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, including eleven Award winners. Five others went on with courses at the Higher National Diploma level and nineteen went straight into industry, commerce or the Services.

Last year Stuart Eaton was awarded a scholarship to the Royal College of Music and Stuart McArthur won the National Final of the Young Engineer for Britain competition with the aviary heat and light control unit.

Since the last school magazine two of our most senior masters have retired. Mr. R. J. M. Lloyd-Jones, after thirty-one years outstanding service to the school including nineteen years as Deputy Headmaster, and Mr. A. J. Glover, after nineteen years dedicated work as Head of the English Department and Arts side of the school. Tributes are paid to both of them elsewhere in the magazine. Mr. H. A. J. Helliwell has replaced Mr. Lloyd-Jones as first Deputy Head and Mr. I. P. Roe has become second Deputy Head. We wish them both well in their new roles.

Since the last school magazine Mr. W. J. D. Young has left us on his promotion as Head of Geography at Desborough School, Maidenhead, and Mr. P. R. Limm has taken up a senior History appointment at Wellington College. They both take with them our gratitude and very best wishes.

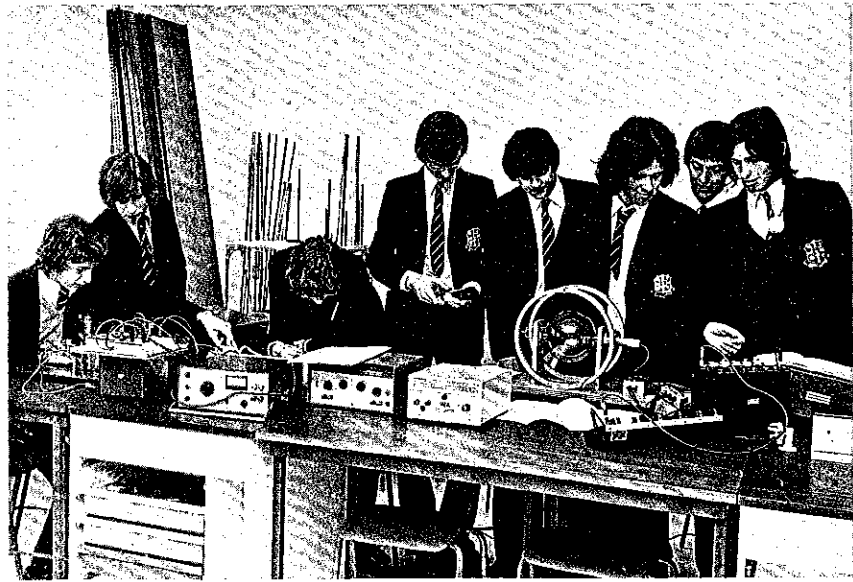
The teaching staff in January 1978 includes twelve teachers who have joined us in the last two years. We welcome Mr. I. C. Curr (English), Mr. M. Hammett (Geography), Mr. T. Hancock (Mathematics), Mr. P. Horsfall (Modern Languages), Mr. A. C. Jessop (Mathematics), Mr. D. N. Powell (Physics), Mr. W. A. Price (History), Dr. C. N. Rodgers (Geology), Mr. M. J. Sheen (R.E.), Miss F. Webb (Pottery and Sculpture), Mr. R. L. Wilson (English), and Mr. C. Winnick (Geography).

Games results have also been very encouraging in recent years. The most outstanding achievement has been by the school squash team who have become the first team to win both Open National Tournaments, and also the first team to win the Premiere Products Open Tournament twice. Sean Flynn, at the age of sixteen, is Captain of the England Under-19 squash team. Simon Trevor was Captain of the County Under-19 squash team last year, and he and Robert Last were quarter-finalists in the All-England Under-19 Tournament.

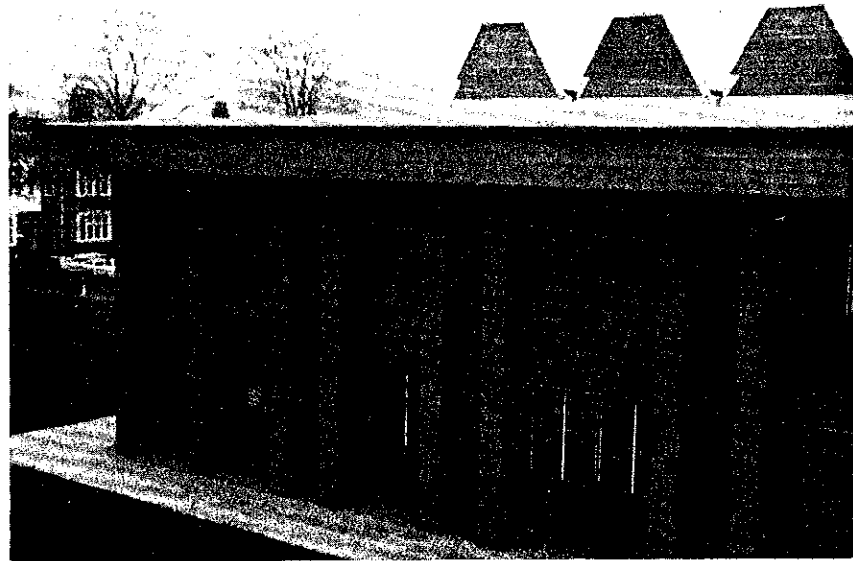
The school rugby teams had a run of three years without defeat until losing to Sir William Borlase's at Marlow. The cricket team has done equally well only losing one school fixture in the last three years. Last year eight of our boys had represented the County at rugby, six at hockey and four at cricket. Our boys, of course, are competing with boys from forty-three Secondary Schools as well as with boys living in Buckinghamshire, but attending independent schools.

It is clear that academic and sporting results reflect highly on both the efforts and enthusiasm of the boys and also the skill and dedication of the teaching staff. At a great time of uncertainty about the future I can nevertheless assure parents that we will continue to do our best to ensure that each of your boys can develop to the full his own abilities and potential and in this way achieve his own highest standards.

K.D.S.



*Aylesbury Grammar School Open Day 1977*



*New Buildings*



**Mr. R. J. M. Lloyd-Jones**

In July, 1977, Mr. R. J.M. Lloyd Jones, better known to staff and boys alike as L.J., retired after thirty-one years of devoted service to this school. At that time, staff, pupils, parents and governors were able to express, in various ways, their respect and admiration for an outstanding schoolmaster. His contribution to this school was such that it would be almost impossible to cover all its aspects. Consequently, we thought it better to ask L.J. himself to give an account of his time at A.G.S. and his impressions of some of the changes he has seen here in the past thirty-one years.

**AGS in 1946**

Buildings consisted of the main block excluding the hall. Four classrooms existed in the area recently vacated by the A.S.T. Department. The gym was the present canteen. The Art Department was housed in a wooden hut that was a First World War relic. Domestic Science was taught in what is now the main cloakroom. There was no library and there were four staff rooms – two for masters and two for mistresses. Playing facilities consisted of one rugby pitch which became a boys' hockey area during Spring terms, one hockey pitch for girls, two girls' match tennis courts in the present quadrangle, two other grass courts now under asphalt, and one cricket pitch. One garden, now the area outside the gymnasium, was tended by First Year girls and boys under the direction of Miss Talk.

School dinners were supplied in a hut in the present Teachers' Centre and for fifteen years a daily trek took place with staff on duty risking life and limb to hold up traffic while pupils crossed the road.

The total staff consisted of the Headmaster, ten mistresses, ten masters, one secretary and two caretakers/groundsmen.

On the roll were approximately four hundred pupils including twelve in the sixth form who automatically wore Prefects' badges.

The curriculum was much more restricted than today and subjects added since 1946 are Chemistry, German, Latin, Spanish, Greek, Economics, Political Studies, Sociology, Metalwork and Engineering Drawing. The Boys did Woodwork and the girls Domestic Science.

During World War II the school premises were shared with Ealing Grammar School and school societies ceased to



*Mr. R. J. M. Lloyd-Jones*

exist. By 1946 a recovery had begun, and through unheralded power cuts occasionally interfered, after-school activities became possible. Music under Mr. Pope and dramatics with Mr. Farley came to life again and the first new society – the International Club – came into being. Gradually the number of subjects taught increased, an ever larger number of boys and girls stayed on into the Sixth Form, more school societies were formed and the process has continued to the present day.

A great deal of rethinking of teaching methods was done with an increasing emphasis on pupils thinking for themselves and visual aids became part of normal teaching. More money became available for equipment and in the Science department this made possible an emphasis on individual practical work in the laboratories, culminating eventually in the adoption of the Nuffield methods. Mathematics changed from its traditional division into Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry to its present form, to the total bewilderment of parents brought up under the older system! Probably the greatest change has been in the teaching of languages with its present day emphasis on the spoken word. There can be no question of the value of the change, helped immeasurably by the language laboratory and audio-visual rooms together with the efforts made by staff to ensure that boys go abroad. The results speak for themselves and contrast sharply with the days when a foreign language was a bugbear to a majority of the pupils.

This was always a happy school with a very low staff turn-over, and with only a tiny minority of pupils anxious to leave. It was possible to do well academically, to join all school societies and to play all games. Today this is impossible. Boys now have to answer their own questions. Which societies shall I join? Which games shall I play? What social service shall I give? How much can I do while still giving of my best academically? That most boys have found the right answers to these questions is shown by the results of the external examinations, by the fact that more boys than ever before represent the school very successfully at an ever increasing number of games, that school societies are thriving so well that they jostle each other for space on the calendar – and more social service is given than ever before. A far cry from 1946!

Boys have not changed. There were very bright boys- and girls - in the school in 1946. There were boys - and girls- taking an active part in school societies. There were boys- and girls- willing to help in all ways. What has changed is, first of all, the increased recognition by boys and parents of the value of higher education. Aiming for university is now the norm: thirty one years ago it was the exception. Second, the greatly increased number of pupils leading to more staff: this has made possible the greater number of subjects available at 'O' and 'A' level. Third, the extra staff has meant more teams being coached and refereed, more school societies and more social service activities. Fourth, the involvement of parents from nothing to the very active and valuable part they play today, in complementing the efforts of staff, gives the maximum help to all boys in the school

With scarcely a halt, there has been steady development in the last thirty-one years with the minor hiatus of the fire in 1953 leading to all kinds of improvisations and the greater upset when it was decreed in 1959 that A.G.S. would be for boys only, and the girls departed to the High School. Today, the school stands firmly upon four legs- academic excellence, great achievement in physical education, strength of societies and thriving social service activities. None of this was true in 1946. Boys have shown that these demands on their time are not mutually exclusive. The school does well to offer opportunities. Most boys do well to take advantage of what is offered.

L.J.

Typically, L.J. gives little impression of the contribution he, himself, made to what he terms, 'the four legs on which the school stands'. He was a great believer in academic excellence and, as Head of the Geography Department, he was an excellent teacher of his subject, one who insisted on the highest standards from all those he taught. Consequently, the results the geographers achieved in external examinations were always exceptional.

A gifted games player, L.J. has always shown a keen interest in every aspect of physical education and the help he gave to this side of school life did much to lay the foundations of the games tradition the school enjoys today. Indeed, for many years he coached school teams in all the main games activities. In later years, members of the 1st XV in particular have appreciated his valued support at virtually all their home games. It is most pleasing to report that he is still to be seen at Wendover Way on Saturday mornings supporting 'his school'. As one member of a recent 1st XV was heard to remark, 'It wouldn't be the same without L.J.'

He was also involved with the many school societies which he so obviously thinks are a vital aspect of school life. Many will know that he founded the International Society but fewer, perhaps, that he was also involved in producing plays and helping with music.

Someone so clearly concerned with the well-being of all the people he met would naturally have a particular interest in Social Service and his great organisational skills were of tremendous value here as elsewhere.

All of this is evidence of a total commitment to this school and L.J. will be sadly missed by everyone involved with Aylesbury Grammar School, not least for the friendship, help and encouragement he was able to offer to staff and boys alike.

B.J.R.

#### Mr. A. J. Glover

It was all because of Colonel Nasser. He was ambitious, not only for himself but also for Egypt which he wanted free from the British influence, which had dominated the country for so long. He could not have known, however, and even if he had one wonders if he would have cared, that his coup would have had such affects as far away as Aylesbury Grammar School! The point is that his take over happened at the same time as the Head of the English Department at A.G.S. decided to retire. This was Mr. Harry Deeming, who had held the post since the twenties and had also been Deputy Head for almost as long. Finding a new Deputy Head was fairly simple. Several members of staff were interviewed by the Headmaster and Governors and the post went to the celebrated Mr. Lloyd-Jones. The Head of English, however, was not quite so easy. The usual advertisements brought response from a large number of young hopefuls and only one reply was in any way outstanding. It came from Mr. John Glover, who as a British subject, had just been evicted from Egypt and was stranded in England with his wife and little more than a suitcase between them. A glance at his qualifications will give just a brief idea of his abilities: graduate in English Tripos from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, teacher in three Grammar Schools before the war, lecturer in English at Alexandria University for nine years, Inspector of English in Egyptian schools and Deputy Head at the British Boys School. Added to all this he was the author of five very successful text books on English Grammar. Such talent and experience was too outstanding to be ignored and Mr. Glover was promptly appointed as Senior English Master here in April 1957.

Those who know about the regional types of Englishmen would immediately recognise him as an East Anglian. Tall and strongly built, he has the calm, unemotional expression which is also typical of men from that area and yet it conceals a warmth and kindness which has been a pleasure for all who have known him as teacher or colleague. His teaching over the years has been a success because of this underlying concern for his pupils and also, perhaps, because he expected the highest standards and set an example himself. If one adds to this his vast knowledge of literature and poetry, his razor-sharp eye for spelling and correct grammatical expression and the long list of simple rules for difficult exceptions that he devised, then one can understand his success.

Hampden House was fortunate, too, in that he became the Housemaster only a few terms after he arrived. He undertook the duties with a willing interest, displaying a knowledge of games which came as a surprise to many boys

and, it might be added, to other members of staff! Out of the classroom he has been a delightful colleague - not only friendly and helpful but with a ready wit exemplified, usually, in one or two short words which are direct, apt and highly appropriate to the occasion. He recovered very well from his arthritic hip problems, although he was left with a limp. One also likes the Cambridge touch in his use of an upright bicycle, complete with front basket for books and shopping, which he always uses for round Aylesbury transport.

Now that he has retired, he is able to garden with less sense of urgency and without his conscience being burdened by the stacks of books waiting to be marked. Writing is also in his mind and he has a number of new ideas in the sketching stage. Living in Aylesbury and not far from the school, we know that he will maintain close contacts and interest. The staff room, of course will still receive news from Mrs. Glover who will be teaching with us for a while yet. The Grammar School has had twenty years or so of fine teaching and Hampden House has enjoyed his leadership - who will forget that memorable last year of his when Hampden won both Brodie and Watson trophies? This was achieved by a tremendous effort from all the boys of the House and formed a fitting tribute and a reflection of their regard and respect. May his retirement be long and healthy - we know it will be full of activity and interest.

D.C.L.

#### School Fete - July 1977

I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking once again those members of the school who so enthusiastically and efficiently gave their time and energies to the business of making this, the second School Fete, a great success. We raised just over £1400 - an increase of nearly £400 on last year's total. Such a magnificent result is a most gratifying bonus on top of the obvious personal enjoyment the boys themselves got out of this occasion. Each year we learn a little more about the problems associated with organising such a venture, and we must look forward to a blazing July, 1978, and more staff volunteers to sit in the stocks!

R.E.B.

The day dawned cloudy and dull but this did not stop the fete from being held outside. The band started the proceedings with a rousing concert which included 'March of the Bowmen' and an English Folk Song Suite. Later on in the afternoon the sun broke through the covering of grey clouds showing that summer was here. One of the most fascinating stalls was the 'Mouse in a Hole'. It featured a live mouse which was induced to enter one of a number of holes by pieces of cheese concealed in each hole. The fete was given a touch of class by a croquet stall, which was well attended. One of the most popular stalls was the stocks. This aroused particular attention when boys were offered the chance of revenge on certain members of staff, namely Mr. Wilson and Mr. Blaxter. The younger visitors were enjoying rides on long-suffering donkeys. Budding Arnold Palmers were able to

