

7 THE FIRST MASTERS & THE BURSAR

Interesting, perhaps inevitable, all but one were serving officers in The Second World War



RICKARDS David Ayscough. CBE. MA. b. 27 Sep 12. d. 10 Apr 73. Sedbergh S. and Pembroke C. Cambridge. Army 1940-46: Duke of Wellington's R. Staff Capt 3 Inf Bde. DAQMG Plans HQ Second Army. Instructor, Staff C. Lt-Colonel. Blundell's S. 1934-39, Housemaster 1939-40, 1946-53. Headmaster, Welbeck C. July 1953-Jul 1972. Cross Country Blue. R. Ocean RC. m. one d.



GAUSSEN Charles de Lisle. CB. MC. b. 1 Aug 1896. d. 18 Jul 1971. Berkhamsted S. and RMA Woolwich. c. RE 1915. Chief Engineer XIII Corps. El Alamein. E-in-C India. Retired Jun 1950. Major-General. Bursar, Welbeck C. May 1952-Mar 1957. President OWA 1960-66.



Housemaster, Monmouth S. 1944-53. Head of Science Dept., Welbeck C. Sep 1953-July 1963. Second Master 1953-62. Hon Secretary OWA 1960-65. Hon Life Member OWA 1965. Cadet Forces Medal 1951. m. one s. 188 Kingston Road, Taunton, Somerset.

DAVEY Vivian Frederick. B.Sc. b. 20 Jun 02. Hele's S. Exeter and London U. Taunton S. 1925-35, Housemaster 1930-35. Head of Science Dept. Pangbourne C. 1935-43. Head of Science Dept. and



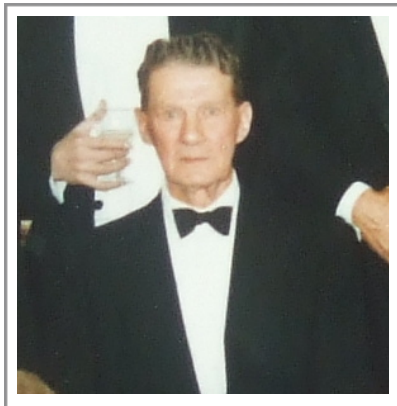
YORK Norman Arthur. MA. b. 24 Nov 10. Northampton GS and Exhibitioner of St. Catharine's C. Cambridge. Army 1940-46: Royal Signals. Ulster, Iraq. Captain. Worksop C. 1933-39, 1946-48. Housemaster and Head of Science Dept, Hilton C. Natal 1948-53. Housemaster, Welbeck C. Sep 1953-Dec 1955. Headmaster, Royal Hospital S. 1956-. Rugby: England Trial Cap, E. Midlands XV, Notts, Lincs & Derby XV. m. two s. one d. Holbrook House, Royal Hospital School, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 2RU.



BARKER-HARLAND Godfrey Claude William. MBE. MC. TD. MA. b. 27 Nov 18. Dover C. and Emmanuel C. Cambridge. Army 1940-46: KOYLI. Major. Iceland, Europe. TA 1947-56. OC Welbeck C. CCF. Lt-Colonel. Housemaster, Trent C. 1947-52. Welbeck C. Sep 1953-. Housemaster Jan 1954-. m. one s. one d. 2 Oxford Wing, Welbeck College and Lottisham Manor, Glastonbury, Somerset.



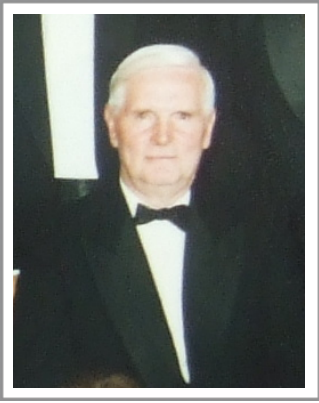
MOSS Leicester Cecil. MA. b. 5 Jul 17. Rossall S. and Jesus C. Cambridge. Army 1940-46: R West Kent R, R Warwicks R, CMP (India). Captain. Senior English Master, Kimbolton S. 1946-53. Head of Arts Dept, Welbeck C. Sep 1953-. Second Master Sep 1962-. Librarian 1953-. Editor, Welbexian 1953-71. m. two d. 1 Stable Court, Welbeck College and The Cottage, Great Wishford, Wilton, Wilts.



WARD Thomas Geoffrey Camden. ERD. MA. b. 28 Aug 10. King James' GS, Almondbury and Sheffield U. Army 1939-45: Yorks and Lancs R. Reconnaissance Corps. Norway, India, Persia, W. Desert, Europe. Lt-Colonel. KCS Wimbledon 1932-39, 1945-46. RMAS 1947-53. Head of Maths Dept, Welbeck C. Sep 1953-Jul 1956. RMAS 1956-70, Head of Maths Dept 1967-70. Retired Aug 1970. m. two s. Higher Westways, 4 Uplowman Road, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4LU.



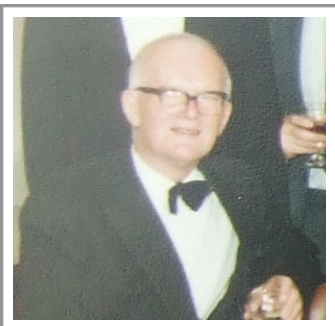
HAWKER Derek Charles. MA. b. 13 May 17. City of London S. and St. Catharine's C. Cambridge. Royal Navy 1940-46: Lieut (G) RNVR. HMS Curacoa, W. Africa. Loretto S. 1939, 1946-49. Pangbourne C. 1949-53. Welbeck C. Jan 1954-. Housemaster Jan 1956-. Hon Secretary OWA 1965-. m. two s. one d. 1 Oxford Wing, Welbeck College and 15 Valley Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.



STEEL James. Dip.Ed. b. 29 Mar 18. Kilmarnock TS, Kilmarnock A and Jordanhill Training C. Army 1940-46: RE Airborne. N. Africa, Italy, Arnhem. POW. Kilmarnock A. 1946-53. Welbeck C. Sep 1953-. Head of Workshops Dept Sep 1967-. m. one s. two d. 4 Stable Court, Welbeck College.



THOMSON John Godred Christian. MA. b. 2 May 26. Trinity C. Glenalmond and Jesus C. Cambridge. Army 1944-47. Intelligence Corps, Captain. Rossall S. 1953. Welbeck C. Sep 1953-. House Tutor Jan 1954-. m. 1 Chapel Court, Welbeck College and Thorpe, Tirrel, Penrith, Cumberland.

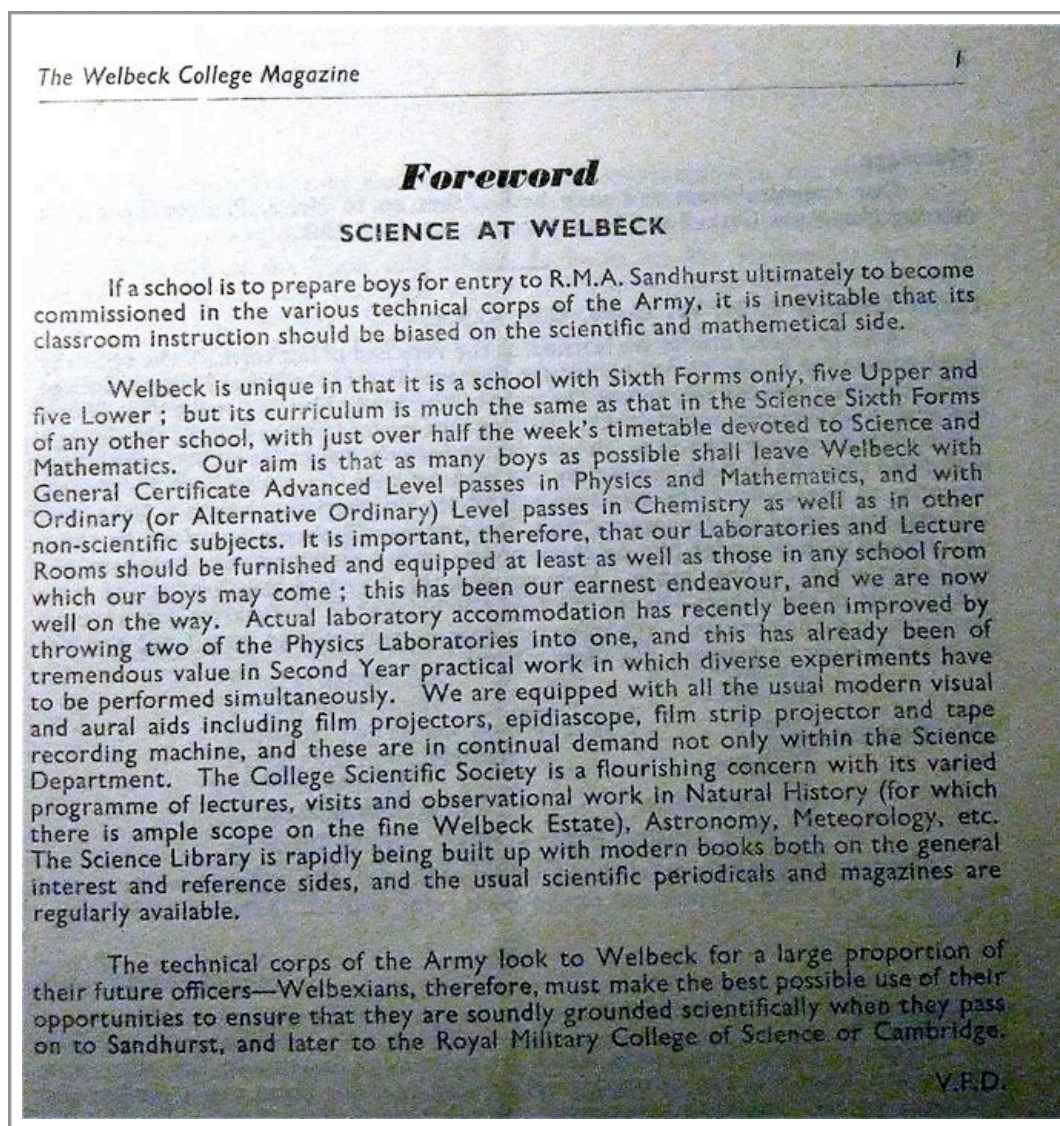


PARTINGTON Gordon. TD. MA. b. 2 Dec 26. Merchant Taylor's S. and Exhibitor of Pembroke C. Cambridge. Army 1946-48, RA, 2 Lt. TA 1949-69, 8th Argylls, Captain. Gordonstoun S. 1951-52. Salem S. 1952-54. College de Normandie 1954. Welbeck C. Sep 1954-. House Tutor Sep 1956-. Hon Asst Secretary OWA 1965-. Welbeck College.

8 ACADEMICS

Now we come to the serious part. The College, established so as provide officers for the technical arms, clearly had to concentrate academically on the science subjects, particularly maths and physics. The entry qualifications for the College were maths and a science plus one other subject at O Level. Whilst never stated explicitly to us, the entry requirements for a “technical” degree which led to a London University External degree at The Royal Military College of Science, were a minimum of Maths, Physics, Chemistry, English and a foreign language at O Level, plus A levels in Maths and Physics. Certainly , at Welbeck in those initial days, boys had to strive to achieve these standards.

The foreword to the magazine May 1955 from Vivian Davey explains the basic approach to academics at the College.



| WEEKLY ROUTINE | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Weekdays | 7-50 | Breakfast |
| | 9-00 | Chapel |
| Monday to Friday | 9-10— 9-50 | 1st Period |
| | 9-50—10-30 | 2nd Period |
| | 10-30—11-10 | 3rd Period |
| | 11-10—11-30 | Break |
| | 11-30—12-10 | 4th Period |
| | 12-10—12-50 | 5th Period |
| Saturday | | Lunch |
| | 9-10— 9-50 | 1st Period |
| | 9-50—10-30 | 2nd Period |
| | 10-30—10-50 | Break |
| | 10-50—11-30 | 3rd Period |
| | 11-30—12-10 | 4th Period |
| | 12-15 | Assembly in Library |
| | 12-30 | Lunch |
| Tuesday | 2-10— 2-50 | 6th Period |
| Thursday and Friday | 2-50— 3-30 | 7th Period |
| Weekdays | 5-45 | Tea |
| | 6-15 | Free time |
| | 7-15— 8-35 | 1st Prep (not Saturdays) |
| | 8-40 | Supper |
| | 9-00 | House Prayers |
| | 9-20—10-00 | 2nd Prep (not Saturdays) |
| Sunday | 10-30 | Lights Out |
| | 8-00 | Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays each month) |
| | 9-00 | Breakfast |
| | 10-00 | Prayers in Chapel |
| | 1-00 | Lunch |
| | 5-00 | Tea |
| | 5-30 | Chapel |
| | 8-40 | Supper |
| | N.B. 10-00 | Lights Out |
| C.C.F. Parade | Wednesday afternoon | |
| Preps | During weekends boys will do two ordinary and one Divinity prep in their own time | |
| Tuck Shop | Open 3-30—5-30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday | |
| Detention Period | Monday, 6-15—7-15 p.m. in Classroom 2 | |
| Lock Up | 7-15 p.m. Monday to Friday | |
| | 9-30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday | |
| Society Meetings | 7-30 p.m. Sunday | |

The weekly routine, extracted from the calendar roll, is on the left. Mon - Fri five 40 minute periods in the morning on Sat four, and on three of the weekdays two afternoon periods a total of 35 periods per week. There was just over two hours prep on each weekday split into two periods, with three own time periods of prep (one divinity or RK) at the weekend. The timings varied in the winter so that we could get out into daylight and so the after lunch periods were moved towards the evening.

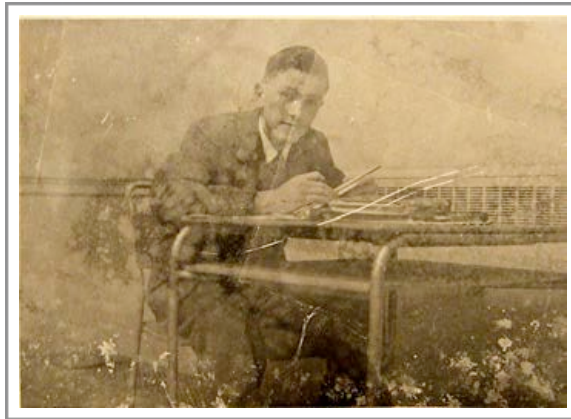
Mr Davey was responsible for the timetable and during DAR's set up meetings had suggested 3 Weekly reports on each boy's progress. It had been agreed that marks be entered in a marking book and form orders displayed in the MCR. Grades of A, B, C or D were to be allocated and Mr York suggested that a + or - be also entered as a sign of effort/progress.

Mr Ward was in charge of examinations. Exam marks awarded were 100 for Maths and Physics with 50 for the other subjects.

Godfrey Harland, writing an obituary for Leicester Moss in the WCM of 1997, commented:- "Before 1 Entry arrived, The Board of Governors in their wisdom had ordained that only two thirds of classroom teaching was to be spent on the essential A Level subjects of Maths and Physics and that the remaining third was to be devoted to the "humanities" which were to be

allocated ten periods each week. Leicester was the major domo for the Humanities and the periods were split into three English, three History/Current Affairs, three of French or German and one "vaguely" termed RK - Religious Knowledge.

Derek Baughan sent me this evocative photo along with his own caption (why a slide rule for RK?).



*A well known swot at his desk on a Sunday morning.
Note the slide rule - cutting edge technology at the time"*

Weekly Timetable

Vivian Davey was in charge of Time Tabling and a rather scruffy version from intake 17 is below.

FORM 6.6 TERM ^{SPRING} ~~Sept~~ 1962 TIME TABLE NAME V.G. HOYLE

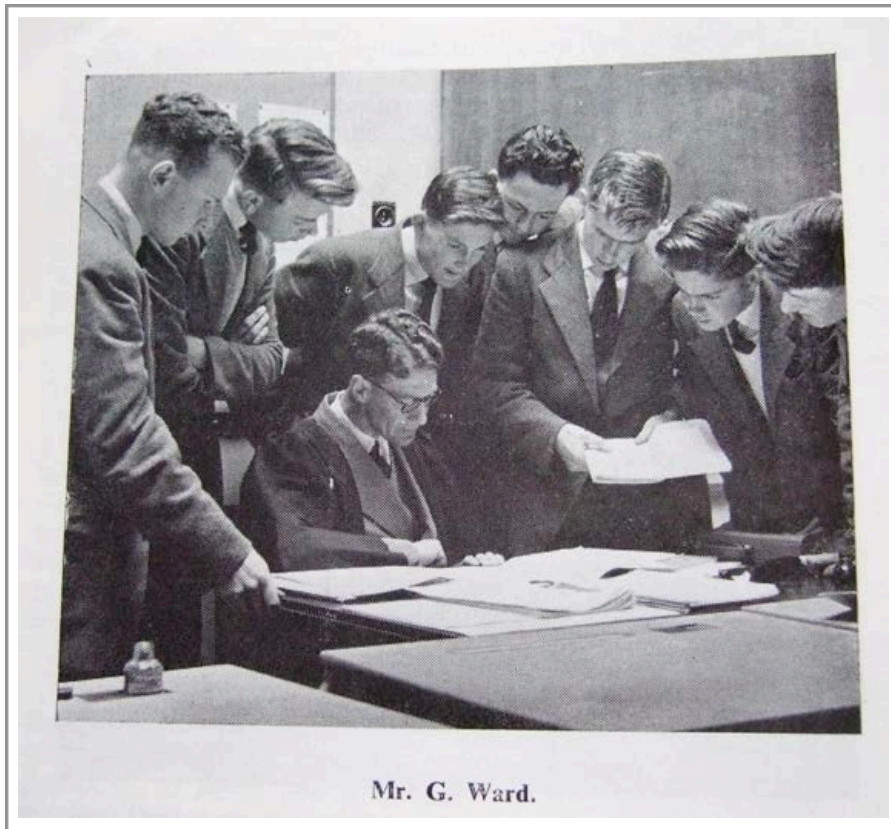
| PERIOD | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | PHYSICS W.D. | MATHS | T.D. T.H.W. MATHS | MATHS | NUCLEONICS W.D. | ENGLISH |
| 2 | PHYSICS 9 | MATHS | HISTORY | MATHS | MATHS | ENGLISH |
| 3 | LANGUAGE R.M.L. | CHEMISTRY | MATHS | MATHS | MATHS | LANGUAGE L. |
| 4 | P.T. | PHYSICS | CHEMISTRY | PHYSICS ENGLISH | W. SHEPES | HISTORY |
| 5 | HISTORY S.P. | PHYSICS | CHEMISTRY | LANGUAGE | W. SHEPES | |
| 6 | | HISTORY | | PHYSICS LAB | PHYSICS LAB | |
| 7 | | LANGUAGE | | PHYSICS LAB | PHYSICS V.D. | |
| PREP. 1 | MATHS | MATHS | MATHS | PHYSICS | CHEMISTRY | PHYSICS |
| PREP. 2 | PHYSICS | CHEMISTRY | PHYSICS | MATHS | ENGLISH | HISTORY |
| PREP. 3 | LANGUAGE | LANGUAGE | ENGLISH | HISTORY | LANGUAGE | |

DNB 36300/17-500 11/55 DL

Mathematics

This was the province of TGC Ward, (Geoffrey) who proclaimed it an "Art" not a "Science". It's a good job it wasn't for if so would only have attracted three periods a week! He sought constantly to improve our appreciation of the subject and if any answer came up to his exacting standard he would describe it with glee as an "elegant" solution. An example of this elegance, both in the solution and in teaching, was to demonstrate the use of the infinitesimal calculus in a live example from the world of cricket. He developed on the blackboard a set of differential equations showing first how a cricket ball was made to swing and the forces which caused this phenomenon.

He then explained how to hit the ball as a batsman (assuming he was not beaten by the swing!) He developed the equations showing the optimum place for the bat to strike ball with maximum hitting power and minimum strain on the wrist - "The centre of percussion".



*Curly Reynolds, Terry Neyland, Rob Matthews, Ron Taylor, Alan Knipe,
Bob Mansfield and Nick Thompson "spellbound" by TGCW*

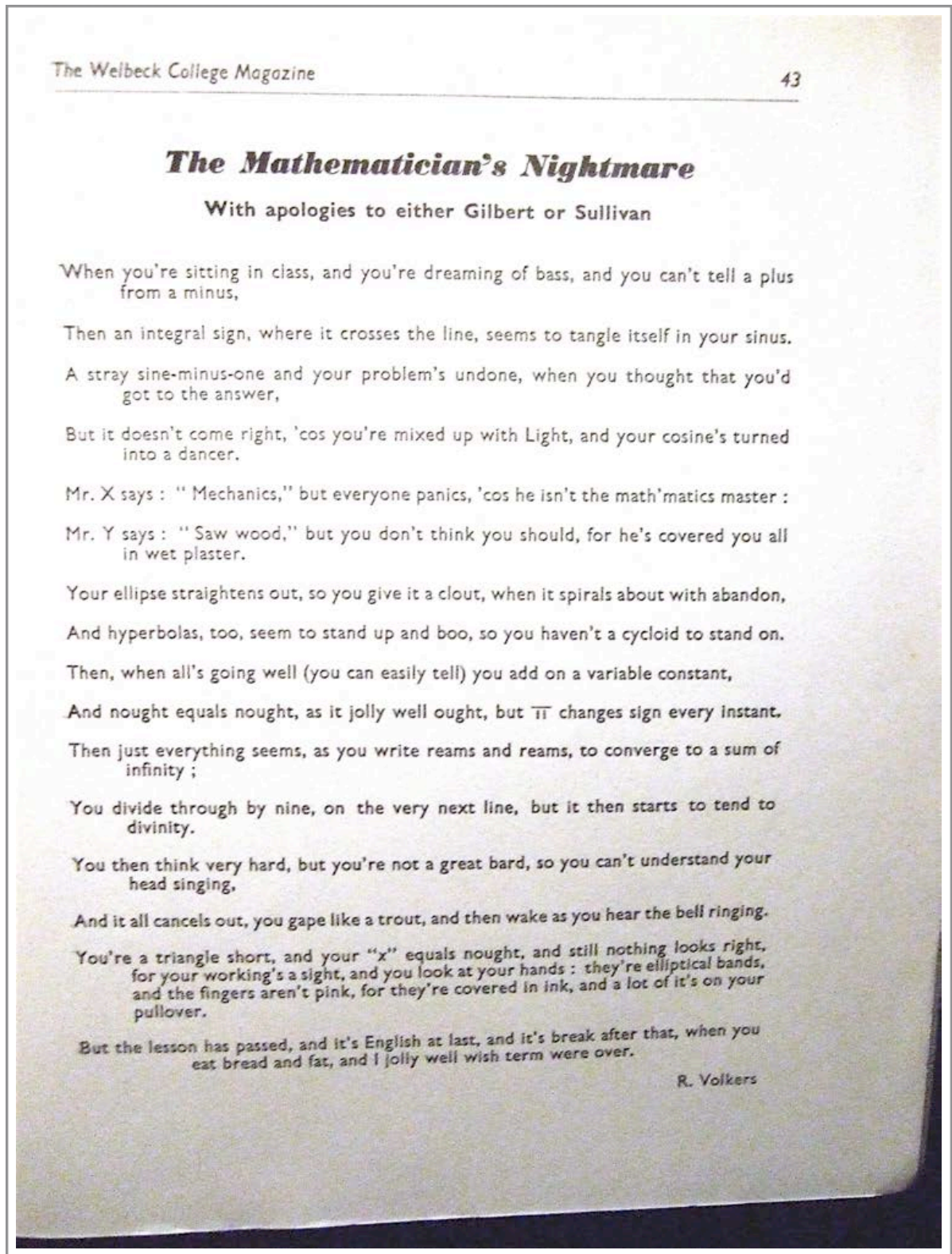
Derek Baughans memories are a touch different:

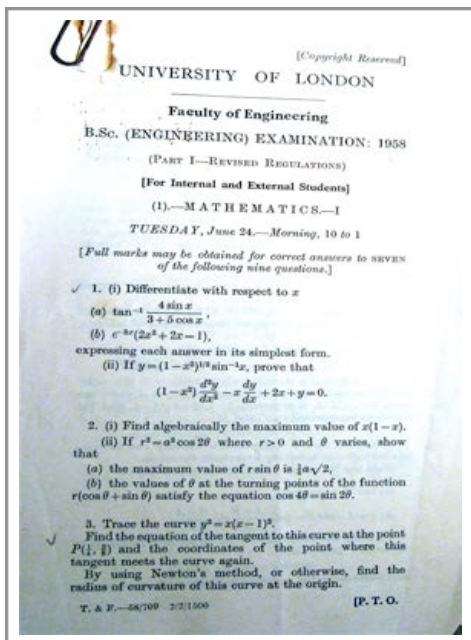
" Mr Ward ,the maths teacher, when teaching subjects like the infinitesimal calculus, used to call on members of the class to go through the various steps, which he then wrote on the board. When, inevitably, the pupil went wrong, he would strike the board with his clenched fist, and shout " Dammit man! " - followed with something like " how many times do I need to explain this before it sinks in". He thus became known as "The Dammit Man" - I can't remember what his first name was, probably because we only used his nickname."

A keen fisherman (one of his memories of Welbeck was "silent fishing" with Jim Steel) the only time he was thrown of subject in class was discussing a rather well made "Fly Vice" a workshops product by Ted Bateman. However one thing he couldn't stand was anyone yawning - this was met with being thrown out of the class immediately.

Robin Volkers, who won the prize for mathematics in the first year (see the prize list below), penned the lovely piece shown on the next page, in the WCM 6/1/43. Robin was not only an excellent mathematician but had a nice feeling for musical adaptation. Robin made a great contribution to the life of the College and went on to Cambridge after RMAS.

This a parody of "When you're lying awake..." from Iolanthe.





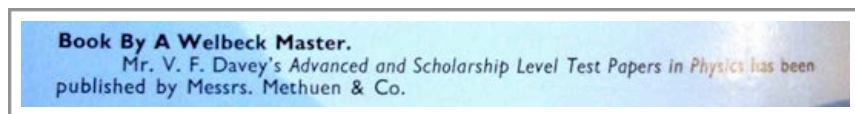
Here is the first year Maths paper at RMCS only 3 years after leaving the College; this only goes to show we were well prepared by TGCW. To which, in 1954, a boy might well retort “tarrold” along with the facial and hand expressions!

Geoffrey Ward was the complete maths teacher and in addition ran the examinations and a number of societies as well as playing against the College first teams in rugby and hockey - I think he was secretly very pleased to be chosen.

Physics.

This was Vivian Davey’s domain. He was a very clear and precise teacher who filled the blackboard developing Boyle’s Law or some other Physics phenomena; he expected us to copy the notes into our own books in full. He was intent on ensuring that we understood the basics entirely so that we could move forward as the subject got more complicated.

Mr Davey was the Master who suggested 3 Weekly gradings when DAR had his September setting up meetings. Although there was no mention at that time of “exams” I do remember that we had written tests every 3 weeks in Physics



and I think the other main subjects. For Physics this amounted to a complete repetition, from memory, of the entire notes we had been given in the previous 3 weeks! This would have been a problem for Chris Wade who could and did write his notes in mirror writing at the speed of normal script! Physics became a “by rote” subject, vital but not overly exciting - except for the nitro glycerine incident!

Chemistry

Bull York took chemistry and physics. Derek Baughan recalls one lesson:- *“Bull and Bryndley Griffiths - Bryn was a good rugby player, and very different on the field from his usual mild and cheerful self. In physics, Norman would often ask him a question to do with the lesson, and sometimes, he would get it wrong. I remember one occasion when Bryn got a question wrong, Norman’s face darkened and he said “Griffiths you are never on the ball!!” - but then he seemed to reflect, his face changed to a friendly and avuncular smile, and he said “except on the rugby field”. Bryn was embarrassed but quietly pleased. As you know,*

Norman placed much store in rugby skill, and appointed his prefects from the first fifteen.” Nick Thompson remembers the “metre rule” which Bull used to wave at a boy for an answer, although he never used it on the person. Nonetheless quite intimidating from a man of Bull’s stature.

English

Godfrey Harland, in the eulogy to Leicester, (WCM 1997 p 46) says:- *“He made clear from the outset the aim of teaching English at Welbeck. As I recall it the aim was “To ensure that Welbexians became confidently articulate in writing and speaking clear English”. This was to be achieved by basing the course on literature, encouraging the reading habit. He let boys have their head in choosing books. Reading plays aloud with members of the form reading parts served the dual purpose of widening their knowledge of English Literature whilst at the same time providing practice in public speaking and articulating intelligibly.”*

My own recollection is that he most certainly did all of that and led us from science into another world with some dramatic techniques - or at least they were to me. I recall one period of lessons when we read Othello aloud, each of us in a different part, and he made it come alive. My own part was Iago, Othello's Chief of Staff and I was entranced by the character. Later we had to write an essay about the play and my theme was the duplicitous Iago for which I received the highest mark I had ever had, indeed probably ever have had, for a written essay.

On the left, courtesy of The Sphere a picture of Leicester at work. Some years later whilst at RMCS Gordon Partington popped up and invited me to Stratford to see Othello at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre. His childhood friend Mary Ure had the lead part of Desdemona, she was married to John Osborne of the Angry Young Man set; I think Gordon was secretly in love with her. Othello was played by Paul Robeson and Iago by Sam Wannamaker. What a brilliant evening - capped by supper with Mary Ure! I still have the programme - bit parts played by Diana Rigg and other soon to be famous actors. But I digress.



Tony Iveson, Robin Volkens, Dave Massey and Mick Clifford facing Big Ears (Me!) third back from left

Godfrey Harland also took us for English his aim, I believe, a touch more educative. What stays with me is his lesson on how to reply to a formal invitation and *“The Rolling English Drunkard, made the Rolling English Road”*

Tony Iveson remembers:- *“Godfrey Harland writing on my school report that I was a ‘Hedonist’, a word I hadn’t come across before, but rather clever as I came from the Borough of Hedon in Yorkshire!”*

History/Current affairs

John Thomson taught these subjects. In current affairs, as far as I remember, we had to read The Spectator either a specific article or a chosen one which we then discussed. What every one will remember is one history lesson at a point when all was quiet. The silence was broken when something hit the floor with 'kerplunkk" and bounced its way towards John's desk at the front of the class. He watched it bounce as if in slow motion and then bent down, picked it up, and with a beaming smile looked at it and exclaimed:- "Ah, an aniseed ball!" That incident obviously gave rise to Steve Gilmore's memories.

German

Now we come to the fun bit. Gordon Partington arrived in the second term. He strode into the first class with "Guten morgen mein herren". This was our introduction to Gordon and his quirky, effervescent teaching style. He continued for some time in German, this many years before the language laboratory came on the scene, although not for one moment am I suggesting Gordon's methods were at all mechanical. His novel approach soon won everyone over. He employed so many techniques to gain our interest including memorizing slabs of poetry some linked to music. The most memorable for me was from Goethe:- "Ver reitit so spat durch nacht und wind; es ist ein vater mit seinem kind..." immortalised in music by Wagner. Never a dull moment with Gordon in or out of the classroom!

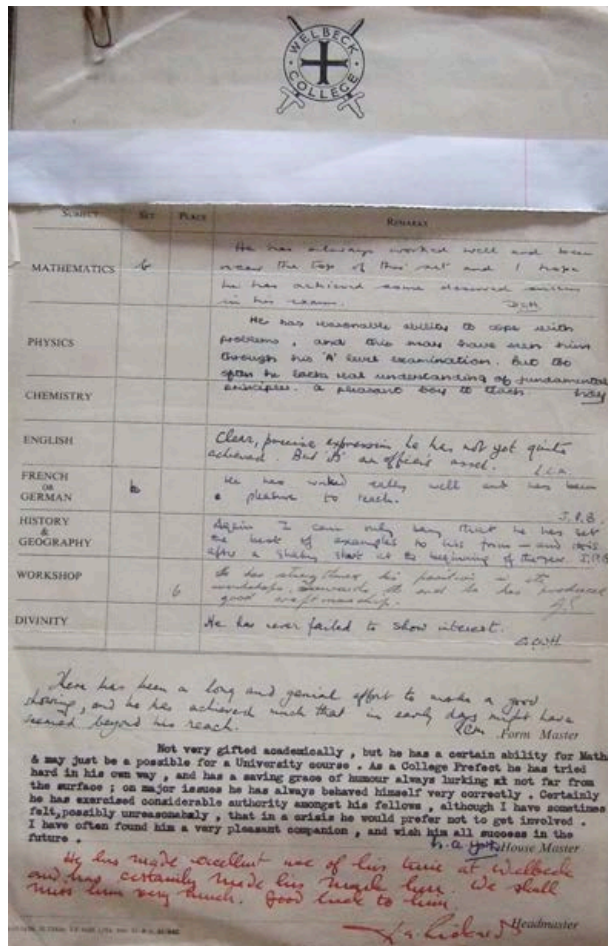
A level results

The results of A levels are shown in WCM 1/7/4 and below. Thus from the 46 who, one assumes, sat their A Levels 23 or 50% passed a Maths exam and 34 or 74% Physics. By present day standards not at all good; there must have been some disappointment at this poor pass rate.

| First Entry, Examination Results | |
|--|---|
| G.C.E. "A" Level Maths and Physics | |
| <i>Maths, Further Maths, Applied Maths</i> | Barker, Dennis, Goodman, Mahon, Peace, Skinner, Taylor, Volkers. |
| <i>Maths, Applied Maths</i> | Bidwell, Elkins, Haskayne, Learner, Massey, Oakley. |
| <i>Maths</i> | Abson, Matthews, Roberts, Soar, Wade, Potter. |
| <i>Applied Maths</i> | Bateman, Mansfield, Thompson. |
| <i>Physics</i> | Abson, Allan, Barker, Bateman, Bidwell, Brown-Squires, Cornish, Dennis, Elkins, Gilmore, Goodman, Haskayne, Iveson, Jukes, Kavanagh, Knipe, Learner, Mahon, Massey, Matthews, Morton, Oakley, Peace, Phipps, Potter, Reynolds, Roberts, Skinner, Soar, Taylor, Thompson, Vine, Volkers, Wade. |

Reports

The reports, an example shown below, were the standard school report of the day, exactly the same format as that at my previous Grammar school. Divided neatly into the subjects studied, with comments from the Form Teacher, Housemaster and the Headmaster. It told a parent, succinctly, all they needed to know on one piece of A4 paper. Compare this to present day reports compiled by a computer programme:- tick box, pre prepared word processed comments, running into many pages which need an explanation as to how to understand them! There speaks a grumpy old Grandad!



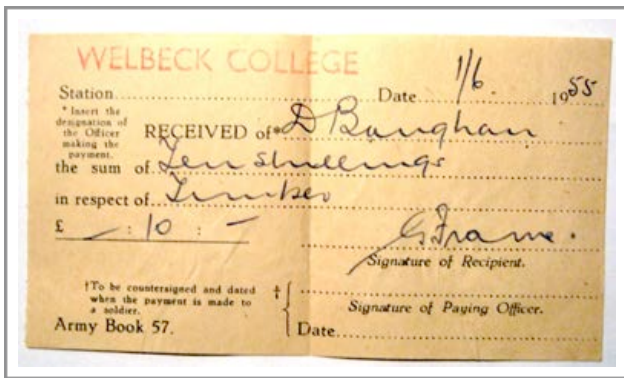
Masters workload

Just eight masters were involved in these studies. However their workload was considerably more than would be thought. Everyone of them was involved in setting up and running the College. All played and ran a the variety of sports on offer and set up, supported and encouraged us in the many societies. The following sections show their immense contributions.

9 THE WORKSHOPS

Whilst not strictly speaking an academic subject, two periods of workshop activity were included in the timetable which increased the weekly number to 37 periods a week. And what a exhilarating addition to the curriculum in every way. The workshops became a central part of College activity. Instruction in skills was superb and led into the societies, into very enterprising activity and even on one occasion acting as the Royal Army Ordnance Corps!

The inspiration behind all of this was a great Scottish character - Jim Steel. A veteran of Arnhem, he seemed to have an instinctive rapport with the boys. He introduced his subject with a thorough explanation of tools and materials and then imparted and practiced the necessary skills. Although the basics were well brought home he did not spend an inordinate amount of time on repetitious tasks and quickly introduced an enterprising element encouraging us to design and make all sorts of items for our own use.



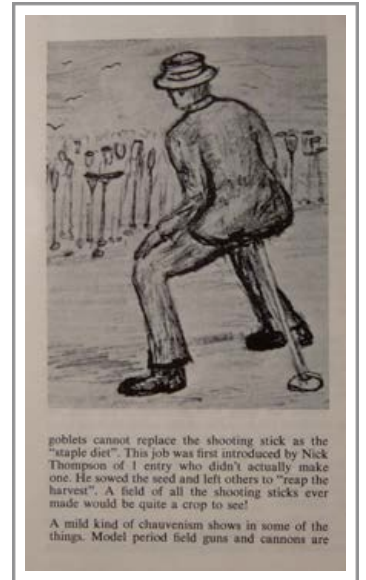
I made a bookcase in quartered oak. A shaped top required a spokeshave, the doors were topped with a horizontal band to prevent warping and finishing was with a blade from a wood plane - some hours spent sheering the wood to a fine finish. Derek Baughan told me that he "made a table in the workshop club and that he was sitting writing to me on the very table". He sent me the bill, the soon to be familiar Army Book 57, for wood to make the table which had been presented to his parents

(see above). Ten bob! That was 2 1/2 weeks pocket money! It was certainly worth ten bob having survived nearly 60 years given all of Derek's moves.

It was the practice to display "Workshop handmade items" on Speech Day and at the first Ted Bateman's "Fly Vice" was shown. This was an intricate, beautifully crafted small vice made to hold a trout fly hook so that exotic feathers could be stoutly attached to attract the fish. It was this piece that distracted Geoffrey Ward in a maths lesson - and such distraction was no mean feat!

On one occasion in the CCF we were all looking forward to firing blanks from the Bren gun. At this distance in time I must assume we only had one Bren gun - and the firing pin snapped. Aficionados will know this was a finely machined piece some 2 inches long with a complicated profile. We could not get a replacement so it was decided to "knock one up" in the workshops. After a number of attempts a few which fitted the desired specifications were produced. The first one snapped immediately - the solution - heat treatment. Here we were delving into the metallurgy we would encounter at RMCS and guided by Jim Steel we pressed on to success.

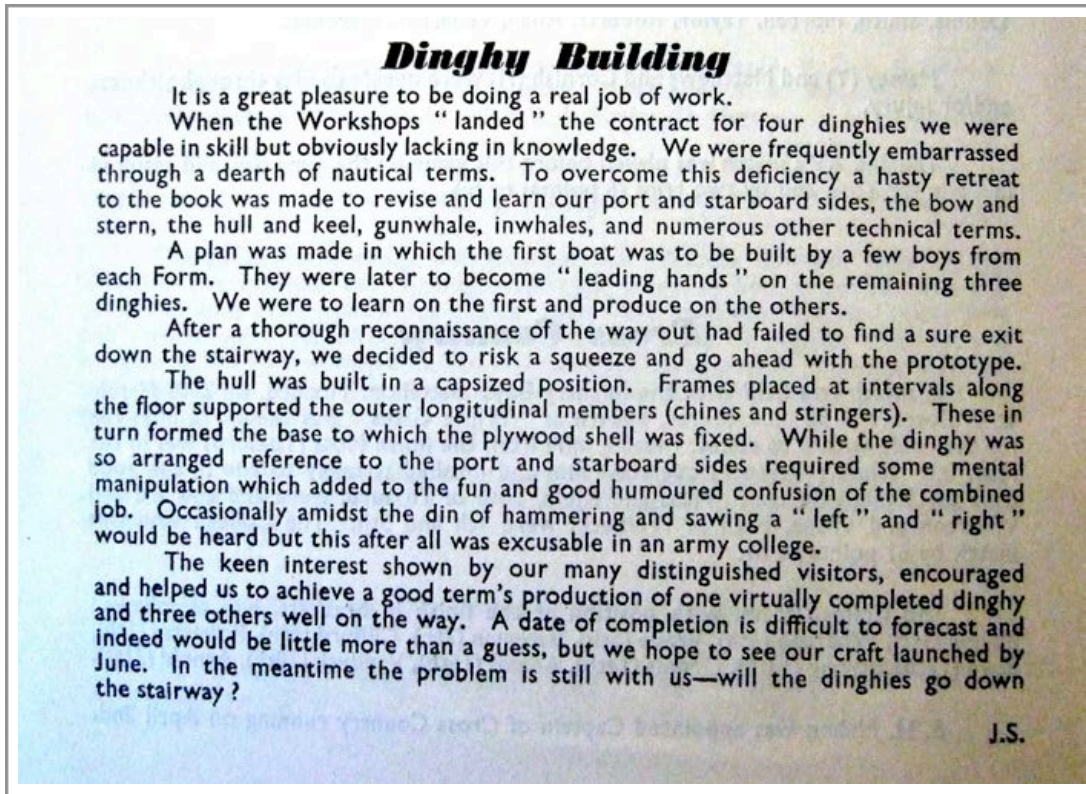
Nick Thompson says: *"I was keen on making things and workshop practical work (under Jimmy Steele (sic) - Arnhem veteran and para Sapper) was my most favoured activity. I still have a tea trolley and a shooting stick I made, and the canoe I constructed in the second year was sadly involved in a fatal accident, but thankfully well after I left the College. The picture on the left shows Nick in his canoe with Sam Roberts at the front. In the bottom one, at a guess forward Mark Fillingham rear Graham Williams or Mick Clifford.*



The picture on the right from a copy of the Welbeck Magazine credits Nick with the introduction of the shooting stick into the production schedule of the Workshop but goes on to say he never made one! Well Nick knows otherwise! It may be his which David Rickards is proudly showing at Speech Day



The piece de resistance however, which everyone will recall, was the the very rapid production of six GP Dinghies. Jim Steel's account is shown in an extract from a Welbeck Magazine below



This piece speaks volumes - it is interesting to note that building went ahead without knowing whether the completed boat would get down the stairs! The dinghies went on to form the basis of a very successful sailing club- reported later under the sports section.

The picture below show the team building the first "prototype", and in the one below DAR is seen lending a hand.



The "first team" in the picture are L to R: Mark Fillingham, Trevor Elkins, Derek Baughan, Martin Wilson-Brown and Mick Clifford.

In the picture below DAR is seen lending an enthusiastic and probably knowledgeable hand - he himself was an experienced international sailor of some repute.



Trevor Elkins was a prime mover in the building of the dinghies and later in the Sailing Club. He won the Wilfred Perry Prize for the "Greatest contribution to the College". This is shown below.



Among the prizes was the Wilfred Perry award presented this year for the first time to the boy who, in his own time, was adjudged to have done most for the life and welfare of the college. The prize, a pair of engraved cuff links, is provided from a donation by Mr. Wilfred Perry, of Leicester, himself a soldier under training at a Welbeck Abbey camp in the First World War, in memory of his Welbeck comrades who died on active service. The prize on Saturday went to T. L. Elkins, a student from Anglesea.



The workshops went from strength to strength as described by Jim Steel in WCM 5/1/21 below. Curly Reynold's is operating a lathe in the picture with Steve Gilmore at work on the other one.

Forging Ahead

A simple beginning followed by a firm natural development is a good foundation for any organisation. So it was in the workshops. Metal was hewn by the chisel and filed down laboriously to an elusive dimension. To some, this was a "grinding" lesson on the idea of a limit. Beginning with 3 ins. to reach 2 ins., it went like this—3 ins. minus $\frac{1}{2}$ in., minus $\frac{1}{4}$ in., minus one-eighth in. etc., and although 2 ins. was seldom reached, a defaulter, not a mathematician, found himself beyond the limit, and at the beginning again with a new piece of metal!

The Welbeck College Magazine 21

These were trying days. What did we gain? We were trained to achieve our aim through the medium of improvisation, using the simplest tools. We earned the privilege of saying, "It was all made by hand." This is no mean boast in these days when civilisation is so closely linked to machines.

What is there now? In a glance, in the woodwork room, one can see two "manly" lathes, a band saw and a jig saw, all electrically driven.

"Hello below! Are we on fire?" The reply is a clang on the anvil and we know that someone has stoked the forge and is fashioning metal in the smithy. Here a dreamy youth can live in two worlds simultaneously. Over the forge he sees a furnace electrically fanned, and on the anvil he practices a craft well known to the Romans.

Beyond are "legions" of machines, all marshalled to a plan. The universal woodworker assaults the timbers. Two shaping machines "straight left" the metals. Two drilling machines make holes in the toughest iron. Two metal lathes will round off to any shape, and a polishing machine "sees" to the brasses. In the rear are the comp followers, Julia, Portia, Lavinia and Octavia, our treadle lathes, despondent and deserted, for youth prefers more modern pieces. This heterogeneous company is kept in order by the recent arrival of the mobile guillotine who is undoubtedly a male with a heavy hand, for he is described in Army voucher language as a "machine, shearing, hand, heavy."

The drawing office is our temporary shipyard. On the stocks are two new dinghies due to join their four sisters early in the summer term. Under the heading of "Allied Hobbles" and hidden in cupboards everywhere are canoe skeletons which are coming to life rapidly. These and many other models are made during voluntary periods which are hive like for their disciplined industry and ruthlessness. A tarrying drone is soon eliminated.

We have seen the actors play their parts, but behind the scenes on the line-of-supply, Messrs. Revington and Brunt are doing much patient work. We thank them for their help and also the Bursar for his successful diplomacy with the authorities. Then, back on the stage again, we thank Mr. Hinshaw for his energetic co-operation.

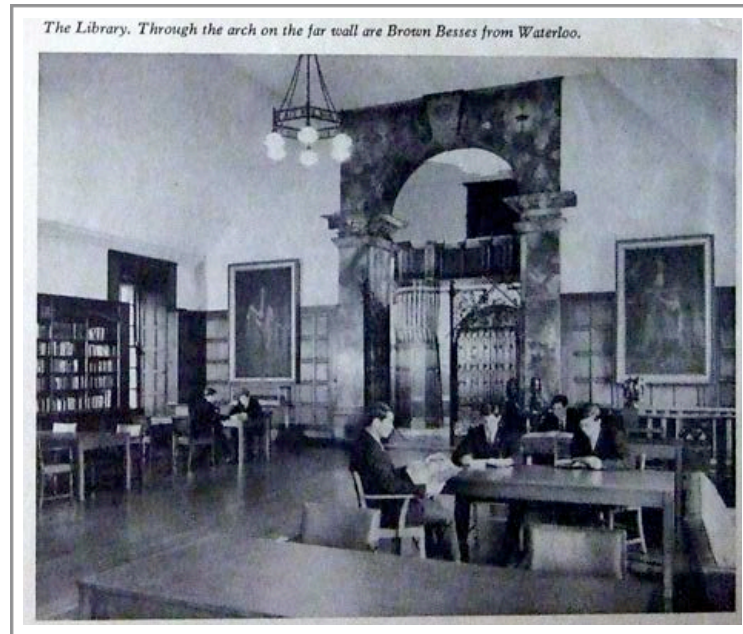
J.S.



Mr. Steel in the engineering workshop.

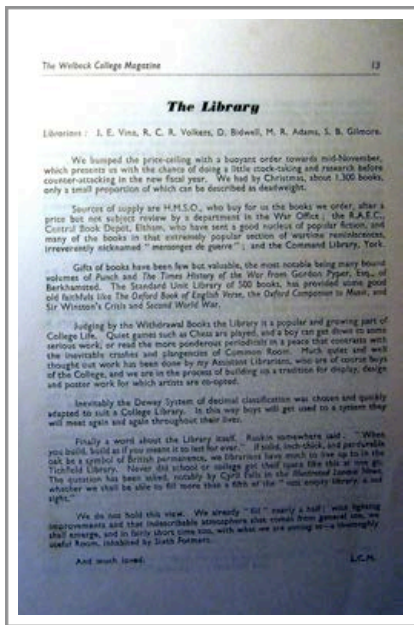
10. THE LIBRARY

The “best” classroom of all, pictured in all its splendour below. The domain of Leicester Moss and a most suitable place for so many activities: Speech Days, assemblies, study, casual reading, a storage facility, the venue for so many societies, quiet contemplation and a place to hide!



A view from the Chapel end (after the removal of the bookcases) - from the September 1954 edition of the Magazine.





What a challenge for Leicester and his fledgling Assistant Librarian team of Jim Vine, Robin Volkers, David Bidwell, Mick Adams and Steve Gilmore. And what a testament to the wholehearted endeavors of these new boys to set about creating a useable library from scratch. In the first magazine shown on the left, Leicester points to 1300 books before the first Christmas, gifts of bound copies of Punch and The Times History of War. *“Never did a school or college get shelf space like this”* and that with the a comment in The London Illustrated News that *“we would never fill more than a fifth of this vast empty library - a sad sight”*; (notably there was no drawing of the magnificent Titchfield library in the ILS piece at Annex C). To which Leicester replied *“We do not hold this view - we already fill nearly a half - what we are aiming at is a “thoroughly useful room inhabited by sixth formers - And much loved”* One aspect I do remember very early on was Jim Vine wielding an

electrically heated hand writing implement and painstakingly inscribing Dewey Decimal System numbers on to each new volume. I have often benefitted in quiz games and even responding to a University Challenge question by displaying my knowledge of this system - all thanks to Jim!

The success of the Library is chronicled in every issue of the College Magazine. The May 1954 edition tells of the removal of the huge central bookcases with the shelves gradually filling up alleviating any sense of bareness. Jim Vine, in 1955, now the “Chief boy” writes of welcome additions of books from the Royal Engineers and Northern Command (these a result of the suggestions book) and improved lighting. In the May 1955 edition, Max Bygraves (2 Entry) says that much work was done, particularly by Gordon Partington, to ensure that the books listed in the accession list were in the library and nobody else’s! Statistics showed that each boy read 1,635 times as many books in February 1955 as in the corresponding month of 1954!

In the same issue LCM pays tribute to Jim Vine who had retired to swot for the exams and says *“He has done a fine job and much of what is best in the library and its organisation is directly his gift to the College. I am happy to say how much I owed to his mature judgement when we started our Library from scratch. On the Historic List, J.E.V. will be Number One”*

By the same token on the left is pictured the the tribute to Leicester Moss which reads:

Dedicated to the Life & Work of Leicester Cecil Moss MA who established this library. Founder member of Staff, Head of Arts and Languages & Second Master.



11 CHAPEL

*"I want this Chapel to be the centre and focus of all our aspirations".
DAR in discussion with Rev Lound prior to the College opening*

THE CHAPEL

D.A.R.'s FAREWELL SERMON 2nd July, 1972

We don't usually have a sermon at our Services at Parents' weekends, but as this is my last service as Headmaster, I do hope you won't mind if I say just a very few somewhat personal words.

During these past 19 years this Chapel has meant a very great deal to me—perhaps even more than I now realise, for I suspect that, in my coming retirement I shall miss it very much indeed.

It has given me a good start to every term time week-day, a few minutes to reflect and to commend the forthcoming day to God, for this is what I have always tried to do—often unsuccessfully I fear.

Then there have been the alternate Sunday morning Communion Services, which I have valued so much and when I suppose I have felt nearest to God. If I have had a worry or a problem I have taken it to Him then and so very often these have been resolved by His help.

But I think I shall miss most of all these Sunday morning and evening services which have an atmosphere which perhaps we staff and boys take for granted, but which visitors almost invariably remark upon most favourably. One just cannot help being delighted by the sheer beauty of the building itself, by the marble floor and the domed roof which displays all the major and many of the minor prophets; by the Honthorst picture and the Sheffield plate altar front recently brought to its present state of burnishment by the devoted polishing of Mrs. Dakin; by the marble pillars and the exquisite wood carvings on the pews; by the pulpit lectern with its semi-precious stones; by the alabaster font with its mother of pearl inlay and by many other treasured features. And, week after week, by the fresh flower decorations so devotedly and skilfully arranged by the ladies of the staff.

The Chapel has been greatly improved as a place of worship since the College opened. The original lectern Bible was a badly worn one with small print and the lectern itself was quite unsuitable for day to day use. The

redoubtable 1st Entry put this right by presenting this lovely Bible, emblazoned with the College crest and with the following proud inscription on the inside of the cover: "Presented by the First Entry of all Entries on leaving for Sandhurst, July 1955. Their names are inscribed herein." And on the next page their names are indeed inscribed for all to see, and include that of Jim Dennis the reader of the 1st Lesson this morning.

Meanwhile Mr. Steel had designed this most suitable lectern and made it in the Workshops assisted in one way or another, I believe, by every single member of No. 1 Entry. Many other improvements were effected in those early days, particularly to the lighting, to the organ and to the drapes. Most of these were the inspiration of the first Bursar, General Kim Gausson, who, sad to say, died last year. It is very fitting that a small plaque should have been placed over the Bursar's pew in General Gausson's memory.

Another thing which very quickly strikes one about the Chapel is the excellence of the acoustics, both for speech and for music. Acoustics which particularly lend themselves to our almost all bass singing. And I will let you into a secret here—I usually have nothing to do with the choice of the Chapel music, but on this special occasion I have been allowed a sort of ecclesiastical Desert Island Discs—for the Choirmaster, Mr. Roy Plumley Way, asked me to choose the hymns, so if you don't like them blame me and not him.

Another very great factor which contributes so much to the atmosphere of these services is, Sunday after Sunday, the quite remarkably good attendance of the staff and their families and on these Parents' weekend Sundays, the wonderful attendance of the boys' parents and friends. This makes the atmosphere a truly family one, which is, I am certain as God would want it to be.

It is my fervent prayer that, under the guidance of my successor, of the Chaplain, of the Staff, of visiting Clergy and of all those of you here present and others to follow who are, or will be, interested in and love this Chapel, that this goodly spiritual atmosphere will be sustained and strengthened so that future generations of Welbexians may be given the grace to draw from it help and comfort and strength.

I know that 35 Entry, one of the very best Entries Welbeck has ever had, an Entry that has done so much to help to create the sort of atmosphere I have been talking about—I

know that they would wish to join me in bidding you goodbye—a short and corrupt way of saying God Be With You.



Photos: H.L.W.

Four

And indeed it was. We all sat together at each Morning Assembly, a simple service which included the reading of the lesson by each boy in turn (see David Bidwell's heartfelt piece below). Every Sunday followed a time honoured format with early communion, matins and an evening service.

The pencil drawing below from the London Illustrated London News published in October 1953 shows one of the first morning assemblies held with the First Entry in the first month of the life of the College.



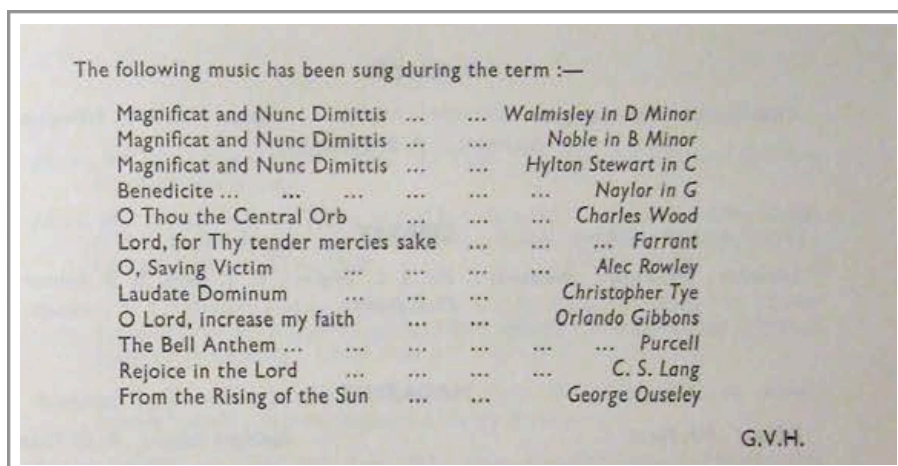
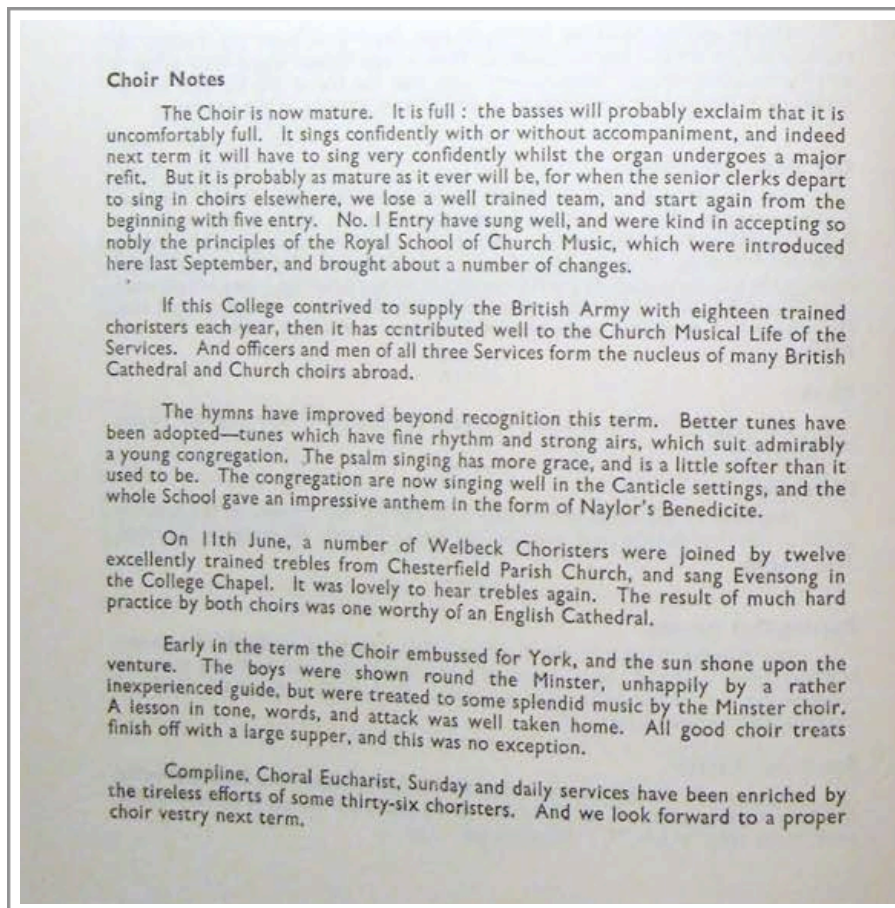
The picture below left is taken from The Sphere and shows Bernie Cornish reading the lesson with Vivian Davey, Peter Broadbent on the rear stall overlooking the Harland House Prefects in front with, by the pillar, Nick Thompson? It looks as though we were all in CCF uniform. The one on the right shows, in good perspective the Altar surmounted by Honthorst's "Adoration of the Shepherds".



The September 1955 magazine announced the Confirmation of 22 boys by the Bishop of Southwell on 29 May 1954.

The same issue contained a thank you to Mr E Hodgkinson who had been the Organist and Choir master over the first year.

The January 1955 magazine states that the choir "Has improved out of all recognition under the direction of Mr G V Holroyd, and Mr Partington has joined thirty boy choristers as a member of the choir". The following notes were in the 1955 Magazine:



The Headmaster, after morning assembly, stayed in the Chapel to rehearse the reading of the lesson for the next day with the boy whose turn it was. I remember my ordeal and have no words to describe my own absolute terror. But David Bidwell did and the piece he penned for the magazine is below with, below, that of the "*Dreaded Spot (sic)*"

Torture

"Blood shaking my heart, the awful daring"

Every day claims its victim. Every day we see a brave man walk to his doom. All eyes are on him. He is just like a curio in a museum. His sole comfort is the knowledge that everyone else has to suffer this same indescribable agony. Everyone that watches him also watches that fateful list, dreading, despairing, as his turn approaches. Today I am one of the watchers; but I know only too well that my name is the next on the list. I carefully scan the sacred writing, for I must make no error. I reflect that better fellows than I have stumbled, tripped and writhed beneath those rows of gleaming eyes.

Fitfully I sleep that night. I mutter, turn and moan in my sleep, then at last exhaustion causes me to fall into some sort of jerky trance.

Breakfast is over: the time of the ritual is at hand. I take my seat and suddenly the gathering rises. The singing begins, swells and fills the air. Vainly I try to raise my voice but my nerves fail to respond. All too soon I realise the song is nearly ended and with faltering step proceed to the dreaded spot.

The singing stops and the assembly seats itself. I see their eyes, some pitying, some interested, but others gleaming in anticipation of enjoying the sacrificial agonies. The silence becomes stifling. I experience a moment of dread and a terrible urge to flee, but I gather my forces and, trying to keep my voice from croaking, I shatter the oppressing silence with: "The lesson is taken from . . ." As I read my confidence grows and I make no slip and when I have finished and taken my seat again I feel immensely pleased that my trial is over. I will watch some other victim take his turn tomorrow, not without something approaching enjoyment.

Well, a keen interest, anyway.

D. Bidwell.



Sunday was a more relaxed day and in the main was centred on the beautiful Titchfield Chapel. There was communion early in the morning followed by a traditional morning service at 10.30 which included the choir and a sermon along with readings. We also had a Sunday prep - RK - and there was chapel in the evening.

The Roman Catholic boys were shipped off the Worksop in the "school lorry" for their service. Nick Thompson recalls *"They came back with stories of their extra curricular activities with girls and drink which gave me both a feeling of envy, innocence and a touch of disapproval"*.

Steve Gilmore refers to them as the "Welbeck Mules" - see his essay on food! I think I was an innocent for I don't remember any great stories other than the import of fags and beer. However Robin Volkens did give me a few stories when replying to my plea for anecdotes for this memoir. There was nothing they could be locked up for but I gather they made a thorough reconnaissance of the State Apartments - trying out the "Thrones" I suppose! The rest is for them to know and you to find out! At a later stage a Roman Catholic Chapel was arranged shown below.

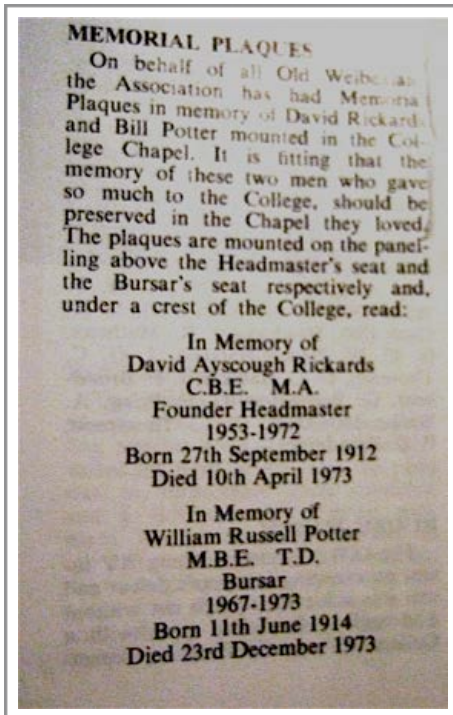
The magazine of September 1955 told of the Gifts to the Chapels from the First Entry.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Gifts from No. 1 Entry</p> <p>The parents of boys of No. 1 Entry have presented the College with a magnificent lectern Bible and an altar Prayer Book for the Chapel, and also a Missal, Epistle and Gospels, and altar cards for the small Roman Catholic Chapel which will shortly be brought into use. These gifts were presented to the Secretary of State for War, after the speeches on Prize Giving Day, by the Head of College and by a senior Roman Catholic boy. Mr. Head received them on behalf of the College.</p> <p>The maroon leather bound Bible is embossed with the College crest and on the inside of the cover it bears the dedication :</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">" Presented by the First Entry of All Entries on leaving for Sandhurst. July 1955. Their names are inscribed herein."</p> <p>The names of all the boys of No. 1 Entry are inscribed on the next page.</p> <p>The Missale Romanum is dedicated thus :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">" ALUMNI PRIMITTI MXMLIII MXMLV "</p> | <p>followed by the names of the Roman Catholic boys of No. 1 Entry and continuing : " SOCII SANDHURST PROPECTURI D.D. PIO AFFECTU "</p> <p>The new Bible now rests on a new oak lectern designed by Mr. Steel and made in the Workshops, largely by the boys.</p> <p>The Bible, Prayer Book and lectern were consecrated by the Chaplain and brought into use on the day after Speech Day.</p> |
|--|--|



The altar — the Roman Catholic Chapel.

Shown below are two College memorial plaques installed in the Chapel (I wonder if they are still there) and below detail of the altar metal work and The Titchfield and Bentinck memorial.



Jim Steel became a very keen painter with the Art Club and the pictures show an oil of his of Godfrey Harland reading the lesson and the one on the right Jim himself, aged over 90, looking at it and no doubt full of memories.



Finally a lovely story recounted both by Bernie Cornish and Tony Iveson - we all remember it well!

“At the Christmas Carol service on the last evening of the first term, as Head of Harland House I was in the pews, where Godfrey Harland was, and the Duke of Portland. When the time came for the collection, I took out my regular contribution from my pocket and promptly received a sharp jab in my ribs from the Duke. Whereupon he exclaimed loudly, “Can you lend me some money, I haven’t got a bean on me.” Needless to say, I am still waiting for it to be repaid!”

Tony’s version is: *“At one of the early services in the College Chapel, which was of course the Duke of Portland’s personal chapel, the Duke was present. He was quite a tall handsome man and located on the LHS in the side back pew nearest the altar, and I was on collection duty that day. During the hymn singing I approached him with the collection bag open, and held it towards him, and he said out loudly (as one does if you’re a Duke and it’s your chapel) “Sorry old boy, I haven’t got a bean” at the same time pulling out one of his pockets to show me. It was probably imagination, but I thought the music and singing waned at that moment!”*

My own recollection is as follows:

“A final anecdote concerns the Titchfield Chapel and the College end of term at the first Christmas Carol Service. The Duke was there, in his own pew, looking very distinguished and totally at home. Come collection time the Head of School stood by his pew with the collection plate. The Duke felt in his jacket pocket and looked somewhat non plussed. After a few seconds he raised himself up out of his seat and began systematically feeling in every pocket of his huge thick and heavy tweed suit which looked as though it had been constructed not tailored. He tried every pocket turning out the linings whilst the Head of School looked on undecided as to what to do. Finally the Duke beamed down upon him and in his mellow deep voice proclaimed “Sorry old boy, I haven’t got a bean!”

12 SPORTS

General

Peter Broadbent in the Welbexian Silver Jubilee edition 1978p 53 said that “Rugby was the No 1 sport when Welbeck started” so it no surprise that I shall start with “Bull’s Game”. It is remarkable, in my view, how just a handful of staff, with meagre resources, marshalled the latent but effervescent energy and skills of first 48, then 75 rising to 150 boys in the first two years into a variety of sports.

Rugby

I shall start in the 21st Century by pondering what it takes to “manage” and produce a successful sports team? Why is Alec Ferguson a seemingly permanent fixture at Manchester United whilst the majority of other managers or coaches in variety of sports fall by the wayside? Although United continue to be a world wide success how does he do it? He has, as we all know, a volatile nature and when needs be a temper. He is certainly a strict disciplinarian - put a foot wrong and its a “boot at the head”! His autobiography , ghosted by Hugh MacIlvenny using all of Ferguson’s memories, recollections and archival material, is a rattling good read. I don’t think it fanciful to regard the book as one about “leadership” (as is Clive Woodward’s “Winning” the story of England’s Rugby Union World Cup win). So in recollecting the rugby experience in the first couple of years at the College I am minded to see Bull York as a similar figure to those two colossi of the current sporting world. I trust that in what follows you will “See what I mean ‘Arry” to use another modern sporting metaphor!



MR. NORMAN YORK

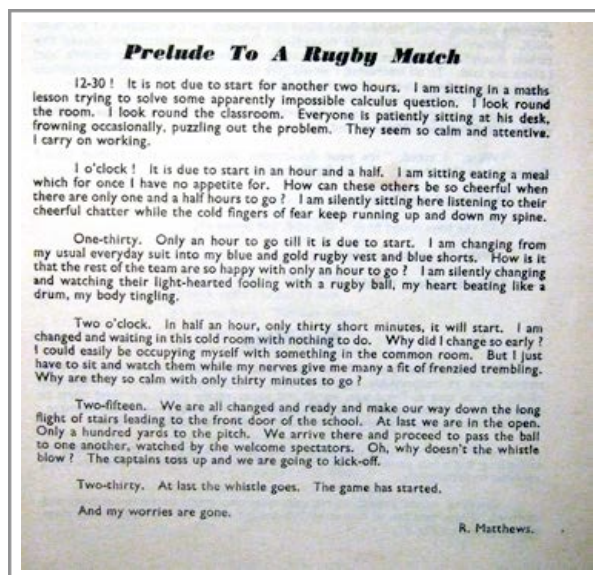
It began on the first Saturday afternoon when the 48 of us gathered at the pavilion where Bull and John Thomson sorted us out. Bull followed this up over three succeeding Saturday mornings in the Library threading through the laws of the game before the whole College. As noted previously there were not enough boys to form two XV’s to practice a whole game so the masters all “volunteered” to form a XV. Geoffrey Ward, John Thomson and later Gordon Partington played as did Bull. In the first game, refereed by Vivian Davey (a first class referee) I can remember a very untidy loose maul on our try line when Bull had the ball and was hustled over, (I know because I was there) and he scored! However led by an aggressive Dave Massey we managed to pick him up and shove him back over into the field of play. Vivian blew for a 5 yard scrum leaving Bull muttering “But Vivian I did ground the ball!” He was not best pleased!

Bull, an England trialist, had I believe played for Northampton in the front row and really knew his stuff. He had come to Welbeck from a Public School in South Africa where he had run the rugby team. So he knew the game backwards and, in particular, how to get the best out of schoolboys.

Way back then there was not the modern emphasis on getting fit through running, weights and the variety of current day routines. The nearest most of us got to running was in the College Run, Thus on every sports afternoon, we had at least three a week, we were divided up into skill groups. In Term 1 the 26 who had played before were Game 1 and the rest in Game 2. Later there were up to 6 Games each with a member of staff in charge. Bull took Game 1 which he split into the forwards and the backs. He ran the former and I believe Geoff Ward ran the backs until Peter Broadbent arrived. Bull's modus operandi with the forwards was to instill the very basics and then practice the drills over and over again until we were "word perfect". Classic amongst these were: bunch and take at the line out, falling on the ball, loose scrummaging followed by the quick heel, the push over try, following up high kicks as a pack, grubber kicks and a few other techniques. The mantra for the backs was beat a man draw a man pass (see WCM1/1/4 pp 8), one break per half if successful, one more until it failed then get it out to the wing.

The first game was against a Worksop College 2nd XV on 14 October 1953 19 days after arrival. We won 18-14 (WCM1/1/3) Jeff Barker scoring twice and Greg Dillon converting. The latter was a really stylish wing forward. We played 8 games that term winning 5 and losing 2. Of the 18 tries scored Jeff scored 3 plus a drop goal and Tony Iveson 4. The drills were beginning to work well and the side gelling together, no more so than in the forwards where, as pack leader, Dave Massey was, as reported by Bull, "Vociferous but always there himself."

Rugby continued in this vein throughout the first two years and in the second year the 1st XV were unbeaten. Pre match procedures in Bull's study with the entire XV also had its "drills". First Bull inspected our boots for protruding nails - I recall Rob Matthews, terrified of losing his place, on one occasion bulled the toe caps of his rugby boots to a high sheen so as to escape any comment from the great man - **true it was for all you doubters!** Rob penned the contribution to the Magazine shown below.



Bull then went through a complete injury plan for every position so that if anyone left the field we all knew exactly our new positions. Crucial of course for the half backs and the front row. He then went carefully through just a few simple tactics, all based upon the drills. We were thoroughly prepared for every game.

On one occasion he took us to see the All Blacks v East Midlands where the Haka was much enjoyed. After the game we went into Birmingham and were allowed out on the town for a couple of hours. Before we left the coach Bull looked at us over his specs saying "be back by 9.30 - if you want me then I will be in the Black Bull over there" - meaning "I know you are all off to a pub but don't come in that one!" Another example of Bull's understanding of boys. On the way back to Welbeck a rugby sing song took place. I remember a superb rendition of "The Tattooed lady of Lancashire (or Rawtenstall?). The vocalist of the time (no names for fear of libel) now tells me it is a figment of my imagination and he emphatically denies any knowledge of a tattooed lady from Lancashire, although admitting a slight acquaintance with a Barmaid from Sale. In all my years of playing I never heard it again - but I do recall the odd snatch - "And on her navel, her navel...." and "round the corner, round the corner ...". Mostly unprintable.

Peter Broadbent in The Magazine referred to above pointed out " It is possible to coach and drill a good pack. You depend on individual skill and experience outside the scrum and this takes longer to develop. Norman York said to me "We shall be difficult to beat but I don't know where the points are coming from"" . In the event of the 33 tries scored by the unbeaten side 14 were scored by the forwards (including 5 well rehearsed push over tries) and 19 by the backs. Peter remarked on the first match he saw against Worksop College, who had an All American winger in their team who could apparently throw the ball the length of the pitch! "Tony Iveson was on the wing marking a huge American, an exchange student. Tony tackled him out of the game."



The second seasons report in WCM 1/1/4 included: " several were fine forward tries - notably by Williamson and Massey against Mount St Mary's and by Dennis against the RAF College Cranwell". (See left: from the front: Ron Taylor, Arthur Soar, Nig Allan, Mark Smith, Yours truly, Sam Roberts, Dave Massey and Sam Wharton). Me - a hero!!! As I recall , it was a wet afternoon and I was late joining a loose scrum not far from the Cranwell line. As I ran to join the scrummage,

the ball sped out like a piece of soap, straight into my midriff and, hanging on for dear life, I continued on about 15 yards to score what turned out to be the winning try. DAR congratulated me after the game as did a number of the other Masters. Bull however came up to me and, as always, looked at me over his specs and in his famous slow drawl said, "That was a good try Dennis, but why weren't you in the pack?" Jeff Barker comments as follows:

"For me the only place where initiative consciously seemed to show itself was on the ruggar field and it was through that I thrived. For me, captain of the first team and an unbeaten second season was Welbeck; the only black spot is the thought, which lives on, that we would have won the one drawn game in that second season had I not elected to take the penalty right in front of the posts – the resulting easy drop kick missed; I know Terry Neyland was better placed to kick it. Lessons learned

and, sadly, not forgotten. "Tony Iveson says: "We all have lots of personal memories and I remember Garth yelling out "Well played Iveson" when we were playing Worksop College at Worksop. They had a rather large American exchange student playing in their team in the centre, and I think he rather expected to run through us, and I had tackled him head on and knocked him off his feet. Those were the days. Some other memories are of "Bull" carrying out the inspection of studs of our rugby boots on the night prior to a match, and who was to play where, if anyone was injured."

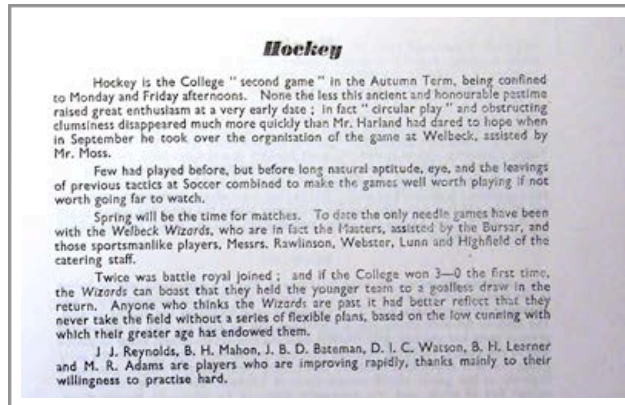
Derek Baughan, who did not make the team, reports an incident between Bull and Bryndley Griffiths :- "Bryn was a good rugby player, and very different on the field from his usual mild and cheerful self. In physics, Norman would often ask him a question to do with the lesson, and sometimes, he would get it wrong. I remember one occasion when Bryn got a question wrong, Norman's face darkened and he said " Griffiths you are never on the ball!! " - but then he seemed to reflect, his face changed to a friendly and avuncular smile, and he said " except on the rugby field ". Bryn was embarrassed but quietly pleased . As you know, Norman placed much store in rugby skill, and appointed his prefects from the first fifteen." (As I mention that was one of Bull's regrets).

The unbeaten team of 1955 is shown below.



Hockey.

The first magazine of January 1954 put Hockey as second game in the Autumn term. The extract below reports accurately the introduction of the game to many boys who had never played before, but more than that, describes the heroics of the 'Welbeck Wizards' who continued in combat with the boys for many a year. Godfrey Harland ran Hockey ably assisted by Leicester Moss.



“First season not a success!” is the headline of the article in the May 1954 Magazine The arctic weather didn’t help. Barry Learner as captain, with his vice Dave Watson, never lost heart and were conscientiously efficient”. Notable was a match with the Welbeck Wizards when thanks to Messrs Moss and Highfield they won 2-1. Harland won the first House Match 5-4.



The “Arctic Weather” being enjoyed by L to R: Nick Thompson, Snowman, David Davies, Colin Gardner, Curly Reynolds, Chris Wade, Mick Clifford and Greg Dillon.



From the ILN report (Annex C on the DVD). Recognise anyone?

Fencing

Curiously this was the 3rd sport to be reported in the first magazine when instruction began on 16 November 1953 coached, by Captain Walker from Northern Command, with instruction for one hour every Monday in The Great Hall when over 60% of the College made "a keen start". The picture below is from from Derek Baughan's archive. His caption: *"Fencing display - I believe - the first speech day. I have first scored a hit on Max Bygraves - he won! and I was very upset that I hit him once with the sabre point"*



L to R: Barry Learner, Col Black (In't sunk garden with the sabre)

Table Tennis

Even curiouser that this was the fourth sport reported. Captioned as "one of the main amusements in the little spare time we have"; 27 boys joined a ladder with Benny Goodman, Bren Kavanagh and Rob Mathews the top players.

Cross Country

This was the next sport, recorded in the Magazine (May 1954). The first match 20 March, Bas Mahon the Captain, against the infantry Boy's Battalion Tuxford over a 3 1/2 mile "White Gates" course. Bas won as did the College by 61 points to 81.

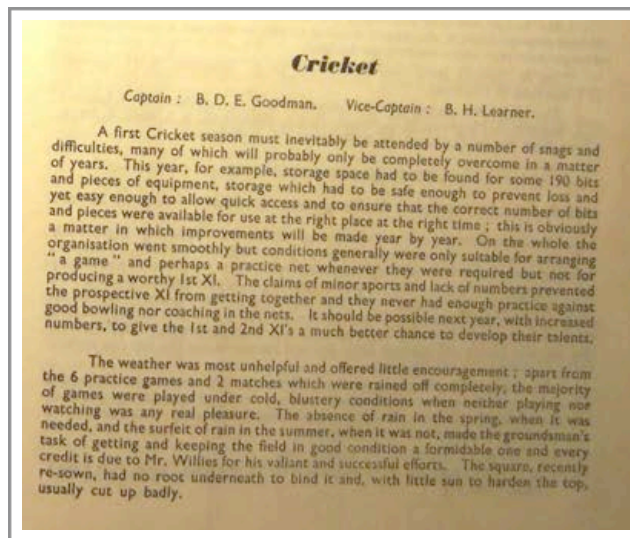
The College Run

The first House Competition took place on 27 March 1954 for the Inter House Cup and an Individual winners cup (presented by DAR). Seventy boys ran, 35 from each House. I remember some talk beforehand amongst the top York house runners Bas Mahon, Chris Wade and Sam Wharton (2 Entry) but was too worried to listen. In the event the three of them linked arms together coming in first equal. The ploy was for each to get 1 point thus scoring 3 for York as opposed to the 6 for a 1-2-3. Vivian Davey, the scorer, did his nut! He was very cross and maintained the point allocation despite the first equal status. (As a matter of interest the Brownlee Triathlon brothers, in the run up to the London 2012 Olympics, also said they would come in first equals in the running section and were told if they did they would be disqualified!). York were the declared winners at 32 with Harland 39. The individual cup was not presented!

The third Magazine (September 1954) reported a number of sports.

Cricket

The first season was beleaguered with a number of difficulties described in the first part of the Magazine below:



None the less the first two entries provided the usual spirit to make up 1st and 2nd XI's. Of the six 1st XI games the College won two, drew two (one against the Staff!) and lost two. The 2nd XI lost their only game. The House match was a clear win for Harland; York scored 73 whilst Harland beat them by ten wickets with 75 for no wicket. Benny Goodman was Captain and Barry Learner his vice.

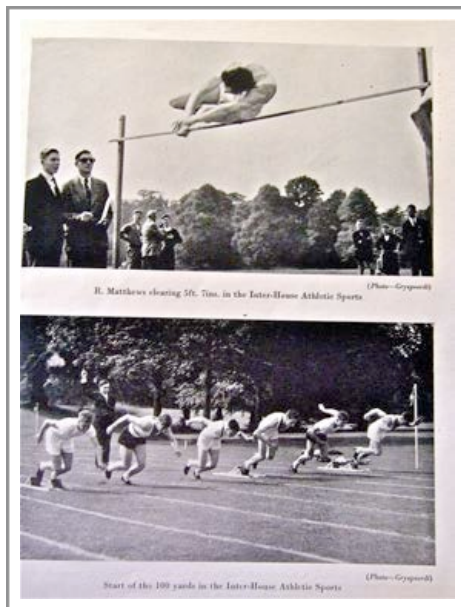


The History of the Cricket square at Welbeck, along with some anecdotes by The Duke of Portland concerning Don Bradman at Welbeck are chronicled in section 15. These pictures show Benny Goodman being held aloft after a match supported by Sam Roberts, the magnificent pavilion (as it is in 2012) and, net practice.



Athletics.

“Would the five minute mile be accomplished” was the headline in the first magazine report. In the College this was far more important than the exploits of Roger Bannister et al. The first mile on the College sports field was won in 5 min 18 secs by Bas Mahon whilst a fortnight later the goal was achieved at 4 mins 57 secs again by Bas Mahon. The report went on to say that very few boys had any idea of their potential but there was plenty of ability and enthusiasm. Rob Matthews was the outstanding performer scoring more points than any other boy in the House competition although he had never picked up a javelin, discus or shot until he arrived at Webeck. Harland won the House match achieving more points (standards and finals together) than York and Bas Mahon won the “Victor Ludorum” beating Tony Iveson by one point. The pictures below are more evocative than more words. Peter Broadbent was the Master in charge and the Coach.

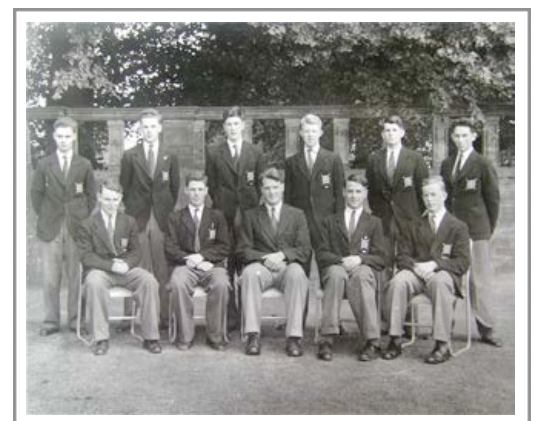


“Style” from Rob Matthews in the high jump and Tony Iveson the starter on the right in the 100 yards. On the right Tony Iveson with the cup when York extracted revenge in 1957.

Shooting

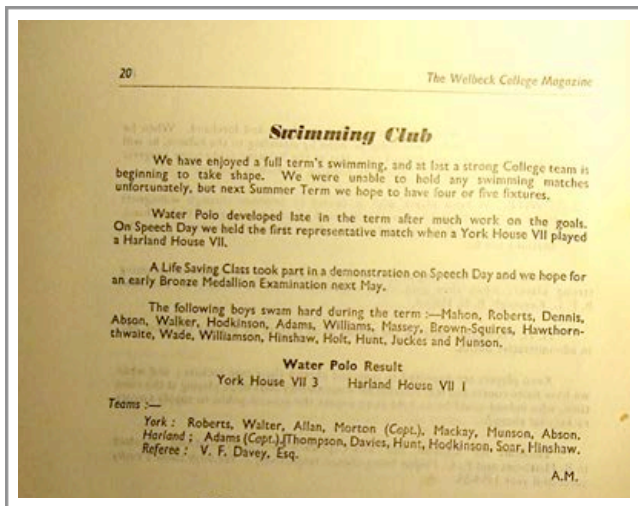


“A small group of stalwarts armed to the teeth with rifles and ammunition” was the magazine headline and I suppose that was what the public would expect of Welbeck! Until they also spied umbrellas



and packets of sandwiches as the “Shooters” set off for the ranges at Ttotley or Bolham. With a total of some 30-40 boys the aim was practice and then “Bisley” next year. The main event was the House competition with Harland the winners in both the open and miniature ranges. John Thomson ran the sport. The pictures show The Open Range and the first shooting Team at Welbeck.

Swimming



Andy Morton was the real power in setting up swimming in all its aspects (he went on to achieve International Status managing the Great Britain Water Polo team in the Moscow Olympics). His first report from the magazine is on the left. He doesn't mention the pool "I'nt Sunk Garden" - almost derelict when we came but refurbished sufficiently for use but unheated! Didn't stop a heated House match though! As with everything at the College we all threw ourselves into all the sports. Some nostalgic snaps below. Life saving lessons were started. In September 1955 when 44

boys took the RLI Exams and all passed at Bronze(35), and Intermediate(9).



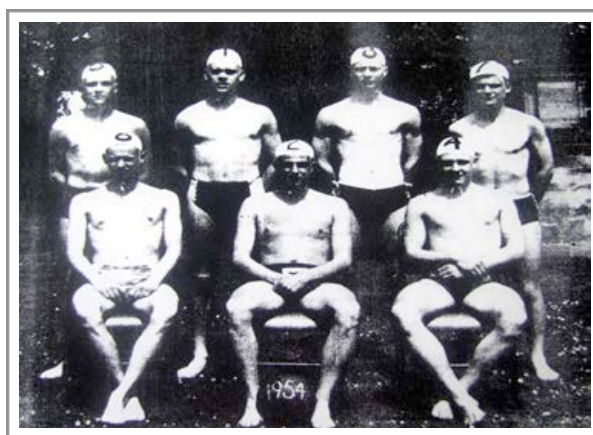
Our splendid pool left.



Swimming team: Back Row: Ray Letin, Sam Roberts, Neil Walters, Nig Allan, Bill Penny Front Row: Self, Andy Bill Kennedy



The Goals



Water Polo Team: Rear: Bill Abson, Sam Roberts, Nig Allan, Colin Gardner Front: Self Andy, Neil Walters

Lawn Tennis

Leicester Moss was the Master in charge. He tells in the magazine of the courts which, although in such a beautiful surroundings in the sunken garden, were a forlorn sight until En Tout Cas, with the help of the boys, quickly made them playable after killing the weeds and applying top dressing. He had much praise for Ken Phipps as a really keen Honorary Secretary, who through his enthusiasm ensured that the College would have every chance of building a team to take on other schools. The Magazine gave a pen picture of the main players of the time, here is a bullet point precis:

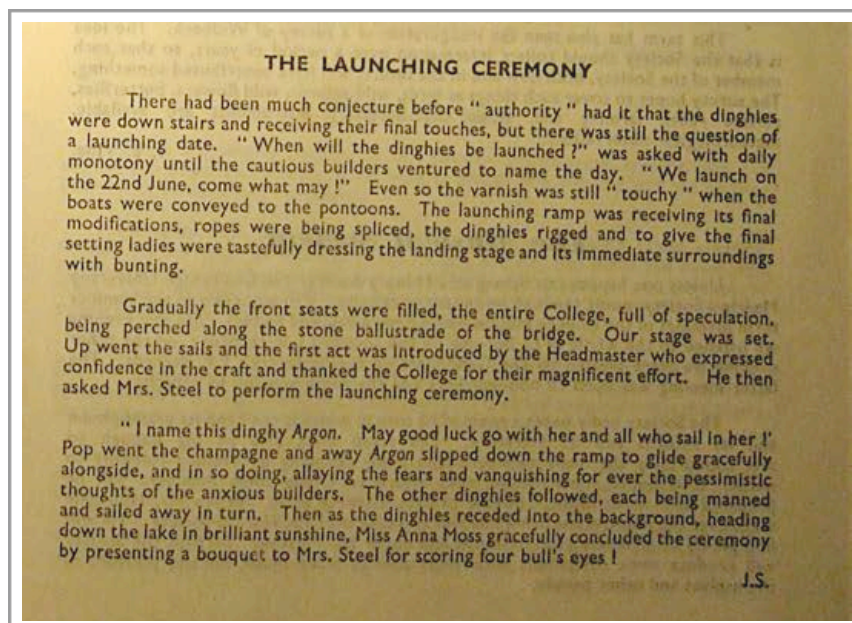
| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Ken Phipps - | Elegant stroke player, sound tactician, weakish service |
| Jeff Barker - | Much athletic ability |
| Benny Goodman - | Well equipped at all points |
| Rob Matthews - | Supple tall gifted player |
| Colin Gardner - | Strong player |
| Barry Learner - | Thoughtful player useful sense of touch |
| Terry Sweeney - | Useful player with a good eye and forehand |
| Jeremy Towler - | A keen player bound to improve |

Nick Thompson was thanked for helping Ken with admin duties and Rob Matthews was elected Captain. In the House Match Harland beat York and Leicester's comment was "Hard fought but as lawn tennis best forgotten!"

The Magazine, in May 1955, told of the construction of two new grass courts "To do this in the snow being a real act of faith".

The Welbeck Sailing Club

Sailing really deserves a section all of its own. The Workshop section has already told of the building of the dinghies under the supervision of Jim Steel. Well they did get them down the stairs alright so as to be at the Launching Ceremony described below.



The news paper report also describes the Launching Ceremony and the pictures taken at the time shows Jessie Steel gracefully doing the honours.

ARMY SCHOOLBOYS, AHoy !

DINGHIES SOMETIMES TAKE COMMAND

ONE OF THE MANY ATTRACTIONS of Welbeck College, the Army "Public School" for the North of England and the Midlands, is the Great Lake, splendidly sited in the magnificent grounds of the Duke of Portland's estate.

It was inevitable that, during the first year of its existence, the school would produce a sailing club, especially as the headmaster, Yorkshire - born Mr David Rickards, is an experienced ocean-racer.

In the Welbeck College magazine reference is made to the building of the dinghies—Argon, Radiance, Barium and Helium—and to their launching.

POP WENT CHAMPAGNE

"Said Mrs Steel, wife of one of the masters, 'I name this dinghy Argon. May good luck go with her and all who sail in her!' Pop went the champagne and away Argon slipped down the ramp to glide gracefully alongside."

Good luck was, apparently, needed! An entry in the sailing club log reads:—

17.10hrs: Argon overturned.
17.15hrs: Argon on even keel—baling.
17.30hrs: Argon drifting—baling.
17.45hrs: Argon under way—still baling.

As the magazine states, "The inexperienced hand soon learns that the 'ladies' must be handled firmly. Generally speaking, the dinghies are obedient but occasionally they take command, cast dignity to the winds and consign their crews to the lake!"

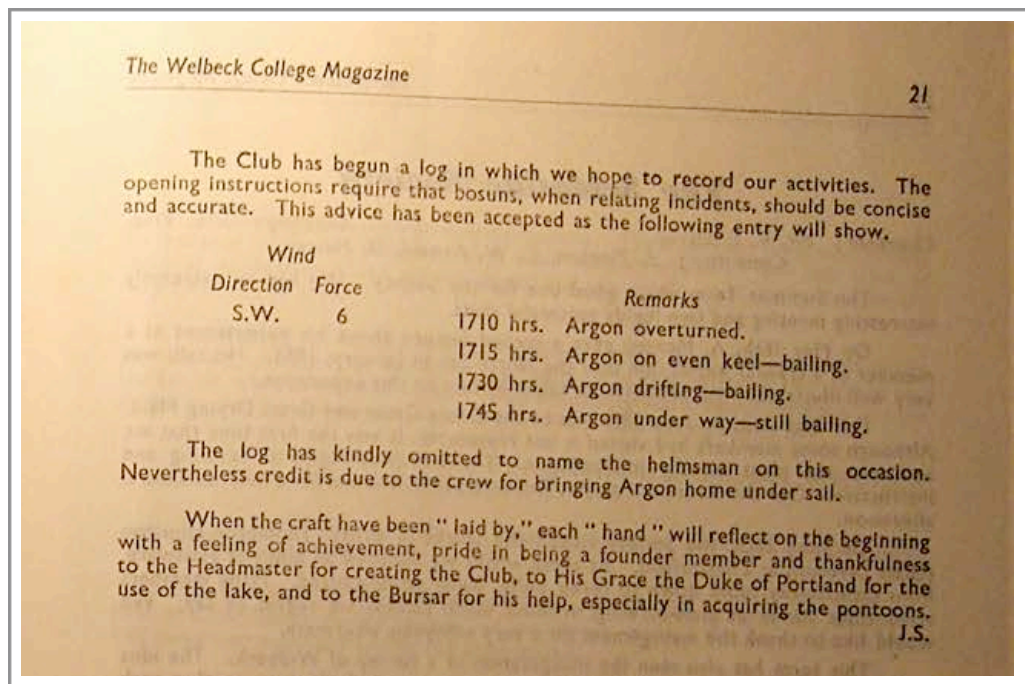
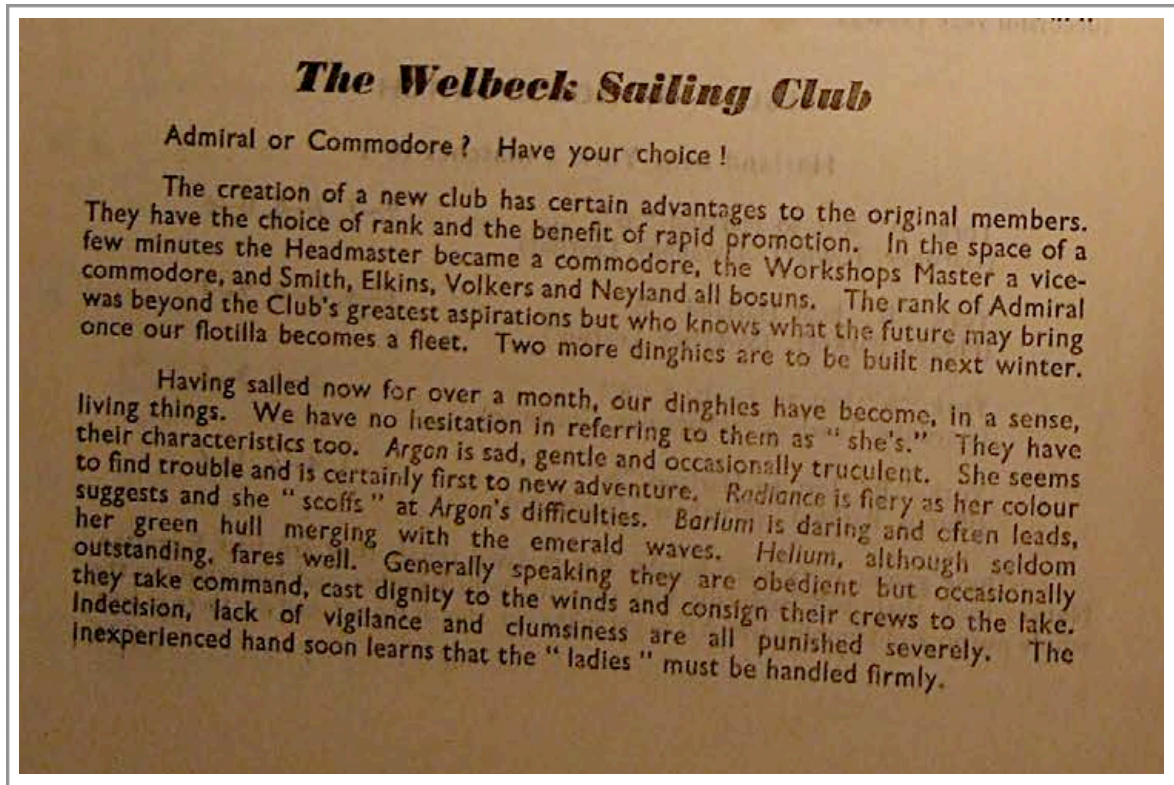



There she blows



All ready

As for the first years sailing activity, The Vice Commodore reports below:



In the Jan 55 magazine Trevor Elkins reports that "On Speech Day the sailing club showed how "at home" it was on the water, keeping the boats in a restricted area for the benefit of the spectators". He went on to say that the dinghies were stored in the Rose Corridor and in the Michaelmous term maintenance jobs got underway. Many volunteers worked on this and on taking the pontoons out of the water whilst the new Entry got on with "the production of four more dinghies".

Boxing

First mentioned in the January 1955 edition which described the start in the Great Hall under the eagle eyes of Mr Lord and RSM Cross. But this was practice and we had to wait for the erection on of a ring! This happened in February 1955 when the first House Match took place.



*York pugilists: Rear: Dennis, Allan Clifford, Taylor, Williams
Middle: Iveson, Kavanagh, Smith
Bottom: Lilburn, Wade, Russell*

York were the victors six bouts to five; after 11 bouts it was said that at this competition "Many were surprised that they were short of breath and anxious for the bell to sound at the end of each round" Too right!

Derek Baughan remembers QMSI Shelton Somerset Light Infantry:

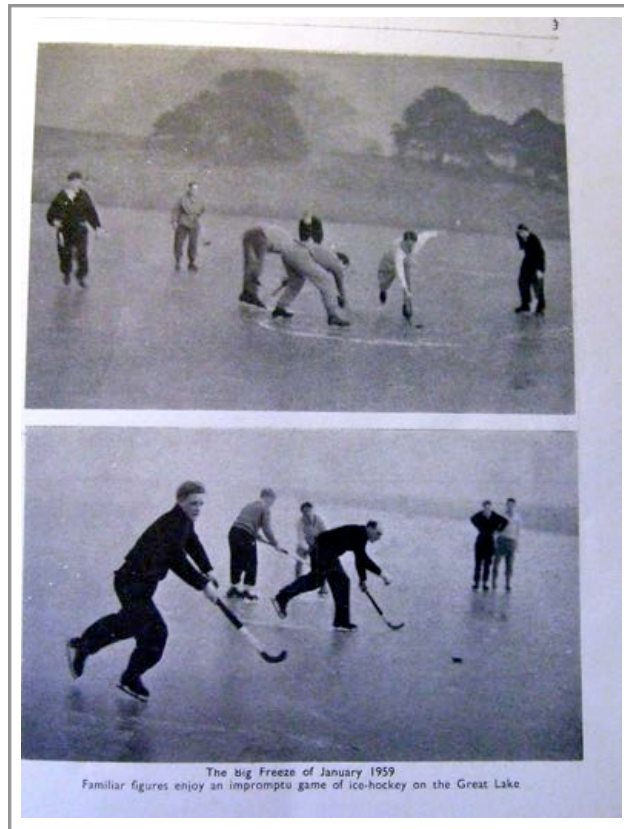
" He had a great sense of humour, and used to try and shock us at times. Once, when teaching boxing in preparation for the inter-house tournament, He said " if you get your opponent into a corner, throw discretion to the winds - s--t or bust - beat him about the head!!!" I believe at about the same time he told us " You young fellows don't you are born. By the time I was your age I was in the Merchant Navy, had been three times round the world, and revelled in the joys of fornication in every port from here to Valpariso "

Squash Racquets

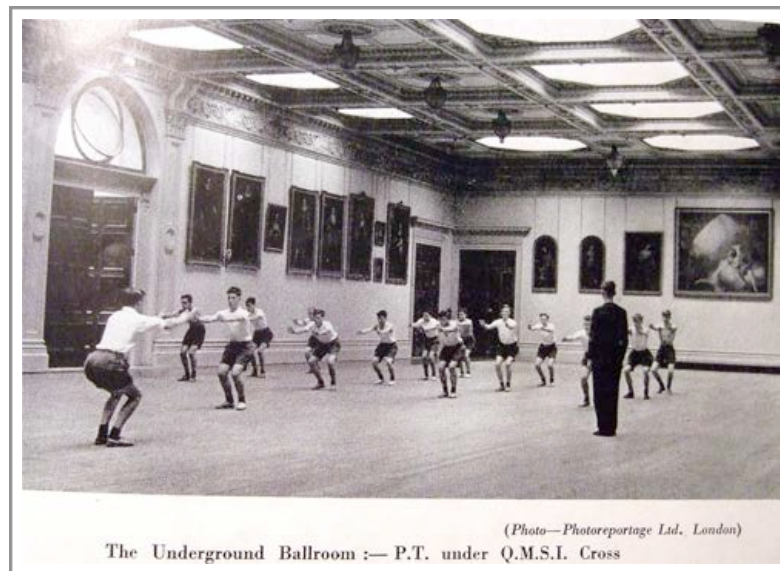
Reported in the May 1955 magazine Sam Roberts tells of "A host of eager new boys clamouring for positions on the Ladder. Two larger ladders were added containing forty rungs. The strain was soon felt by the six racquets in almost constant use and down to three!

Skating

As far as I recall there was some rudimentary skating but it was not until later years that DAR and his cohorts had a lot of fun as shown below.



Gymnastics



Although not a formal sport until later on, the magazine did have this picture of a Gym lesson under RSM Cross with Sam Roberts at the front. Sam arranged a display at the second Speech Day. Ray Peace, reporting in "After the Speeches", described the range of activities on display and said "For a complete change a Physical Training Display was put on, and despite the difficulty of slippery wet grass the programme was performed with polish and grace. The high quality of the work on the box and parallel bars showed the fitness and co-ordination of the participants led by S J Roberts."

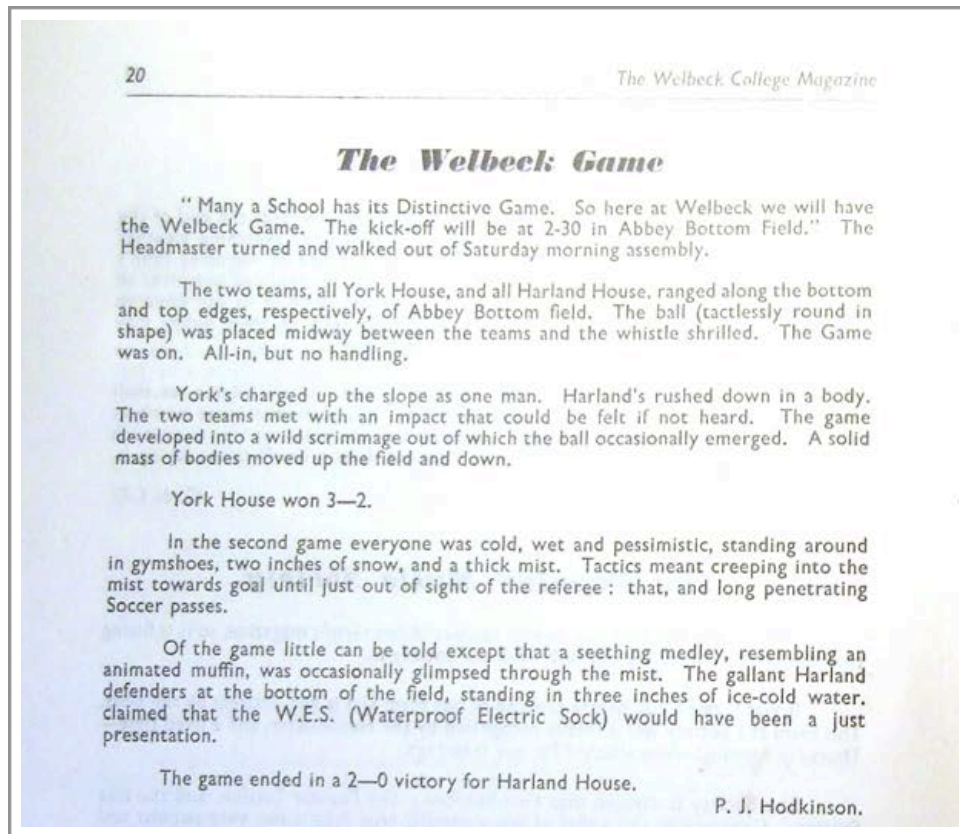
FINALLY "THE WELBECK GAME"

In his foreword to the second magazine the Headmaster heralded the introduction of the Welbeck Game "A sort of Eton Wall Game" preferably played in fog and snow (sic) saying that perhaps a future historian would know whether or not it would become traditional and perhaps some philanthropist might present a House Cup!

It was reported in the same magazine that York had won the first Game 3-2 but lost the second 0-2 (lacking in spirit!). York House saw fit to institute a "War Dance" based on the All Blacks Haaka I don't recall this but what a cheek!

In the same issue was a report on the Welbeck Game, trailing: "*Many a school has its distinctive game. So here at Welbeck we will have the Welbeck Game. Kick off 2.30 pm in Abbey Bottom Field*". The Headmaster turned and departed from morning assembly!"

The full report is below.



Whilst not pretending to be the aforementioned future historian The Welbeck Game didn't survive for very long and no one presented a cup!

13 SOCIETIES

In DAR's first meeting with the masters on 1 September 1953 (Annex D) jobs were allocated as: CCF Mr Harland, Timetable Mr Davey, Outside Examinations Mr Ward, Rugger Mr York, Library (and entertainment) whilst DAR himself would have overall supervision of the grounds.

At the second meeting Masters were asked to consider what societies they wished to have suggestions being:

Science(M Davey), Literary (Mr Moss), Chess (Mr Ward), Art (The Bursar)
 Music (Mr Harland - The Bursar would try to get an "electric gramophone" (88 Entry eat your heart out!) and Photographic (Mr Steel).

Easy to say - but what a prodigious amount of work went on in the early days to set these up with the detailed involvement of the First Entry. The magazine of September 1955 gave the following list:

| SOCIETIES | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Scientific. | President : Mr. Davey. | Secretary : J. C. Milford. |
| Model Engineering. | President : Mr. Steel. | Secretary : R. G. Peace. |
| Musical | President : Mr. Holroyde | Secretary : E. C. Gardner |
| Chess Club | President : Mr. Ward | Secretary : B. Storr |
| Literary | President : Mr. Moss | Secretary : N. A. Vandyck |
| Photographic | President : Mr. Hindshaw | Secretary : T. E. M. Sweeney |
| Art | President : General Gausson | Secretary : D. Hinshaw |

This magazine listed the activities of the First Entry across the board including involvement in the societies (See Section 27 On To Sandhurst).

| CHOIR | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Chairmaster : Mr. Holroyde | Secretary : R. B. Bebbington | Captain : C. R. M. Fillingham |
| LIBRARY | | |
| Librarian : Mr. Moss | Assistants : Mr. J. L. Bygrave, R. J. Cane, S. B. Gilmore M. J. Adams | |
| MAGAZINE | | |
| Editor : Mr. Moss | Assistant Editor : R. G. Peace | |
| GAMES | | |
| Rugger | Master-in-Charge : Mr. York | Captain : J. L. Barker Vice-Captain : A. W. A. Iveson |
| Hockey | Master-in-Charge : Mr. Harland | Captain : B. H. Learner |
| Cricket | Master-in-Charge : Mr. Hawker | Captain : B. D. E. Goodman Vice-Captain : B. H. Learner |
| Cross Country | Master-in-Charge : Mr. Thompson | Captain : B. H. Mahon |
| Lawn Tennis | Master-in-Charge : Mr. Moss | Captain : R. Matthews Vice-Captain : K. C. Phipps |
| Athletics | Master-in-Charge : Mr. Broadbent | Captain : A. W. A. Iveson Secretary : C. W. Arnold |
| Shooting | Master-in-Charge : Mr. Thompson | Captain : B. F. C. Kavanagh |
| Boxing | Master-in-Charge : Mr. Lord | Secretary : M. C. Clifford |
| Fencing | Master-in-Charge : Col. Black | Secretary : M. J. L. Bygrave |
| Swimming | Master-in-Charge : Mr. Partington | Captain : A. Morton |

Each issue of the magazine tells how the societies were set up and progressed. The mind boggles at the number of “non school activities” in addition to sport with which boys could spend their one and a half hours free time per day - but fill that time they did.

The January Edition 1954.



Chess. Pages Mr Ward explores the attraction of the game - “A disciplined and vivid imagination the same qualities desired in a soldier and scientist. Will Welbeck ever bask in chess glory - Who can tell”. In the first two matches we beat our neighbours Worksop College 6-2 but were roundly beaten 7-1 by the Worksop Chess Club.” I reckon the latter result was because Nig Allan replaced me for the latter match! (See a Grand Day out on page iii). The picture shows Jim Vine and Bob Mansfield completely engrossed. In the January 1955 Magazine we see that “A very fine chess trophy representing a Bishop in silver has been presented anonymously by a Master, Barry Learner was the first winner, he was presented with the trophy at Saturday Assembly on October 2nd.

Scientific Society. Vivian Davey quickly got to grips with this activity with the ever industrious Jim Vine as the Secretary hauling in such illustrious brains as Andy Morton, Dave Massey and Chris Arnold to add tone. The first meeting discussed “The British Weather (of course - what else was there to talk about) and Andy Morton gave a talk on his experiences as a member of a Trawler Expedition in The North Sea (I well remember listening to him talk on the wireless just before joining Welbeck). A final comment was “As the College grows in numbers it is intended to widen the activities of the Society in various directions”.

The Musical Society. Run by Godfrey Harland with Bernie Cornish as the Secretary and four committee members: Terry Neyland, John Skinner, Ron Taylor and Dave Watson. In the very first term FIVE meetings were held all well attended. At the first one DAR loaned his “radio gram”. Each evening was run by a member who could play his own selection - within reason!

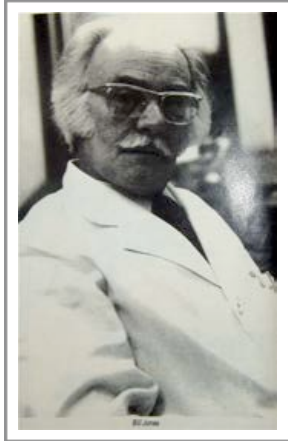
Model Engineering Society. Jim Steel Presiding, Bernie Cornish Secretary with Dave Massey as the Accountant! Every branch of model making would be catered for.

The Literary Society. The WARLORDS - Welbeck Abbey Reading Literary or Debating Society although members were content with the shorter title when documenting anything! Leicester Moss in charge Terry Neyland the Chairman, Chris Arnold Secretary and whippers in Martin Wilson Brown and Ray Peace. Bernie Cornish and Bryn Griffiths showed themselves able debaters in “ This House believes in poltergeists, knockings, mysterious ectoplasm and a dormitory ghost of surprising mobility and resource (I hope Hoddy wasn’t present at this debate!)

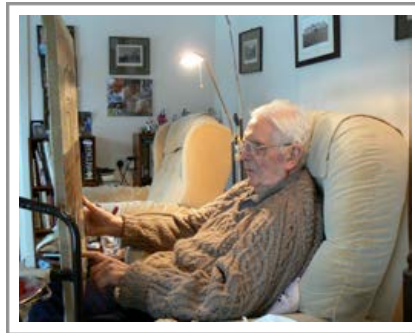
Films. Steve Gilmore reviews the first four films shown in the Common room.

The May 1954 Edition.

The Art Society. General Gaussen says that “ Members made a modest start before the good sketching weather of the summer term. We do not propose to be merely a sketching club but will discuss the history and appreciation of art”. The Society grew into a group of very skilled artists: Bill Jones whose pencilled sketches adorned the Welbexian for many years and old Jim Steel pictured at the time of writing (aged over 90) remembering an oil he painted of Godfrey Harland reading the lesson in Chapel.



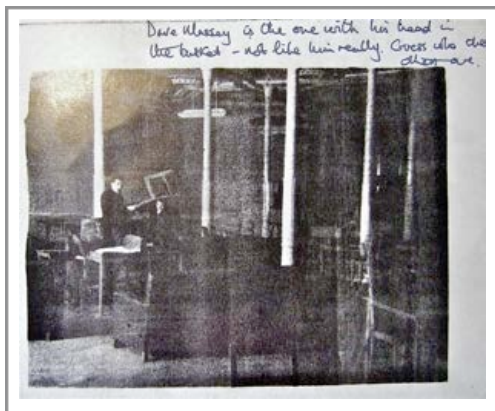
Earlier entries may not know that Bill is a self-taught artist of considerable ability in various media. His pen drawings of Welbeck scenes have frequently adorned the front cover of “The Welbexian”. In recent years Bill has generously given his time and talent to running the College art society.



The Popular Music Society Chris Arnold writes “ This society is run entirely by the boys and is officially recognized by the Headmaster. There are two sections dealing with Popular and Jazz. Records are chosen by vote funded by a small weekly subscription (tuppence?). The aim of the Society: To stimulate interest in Music in the modern idiom - with the motto of *tolerance*”. I well remember Sam Roberts in the embryonic period playing traditional jazz on a wind up gramophone in the locker room and Dave Massey “skat singing” to *Stan Kenton and the Peanut Vendor!*. A vivid recollection is of Leicester Moss giving a superb talk on Bix Beiderbeck along with his records (was there no limit to his talents?) at the end of the print corridor.



Some budding musicians cut their teeth at Welbeck and continued in the same way through Sandhurst and are seen below performing at The First (and only?) RMCS Regatta featuring Chris Wade on piano, Mal Parry Davies guitar, Bas Mahon saxophone and Sam Roberts on the tea chest! Mick Clifford, who became the Secretary, reported in 1955 that this society had the largest membership in the College and funds had allowed for the purchase of LPs instead of the old 78s!



The Photographic Society. Launched by Jim Steel, Steve Gilmore writes: As we had hoped, we have been able to develop and print at very modest prices with film at 6d a roll and a 3 by 4 print 3d. A competition "Best Views of the Abbey Building" was held and judged by DAR with Alan Knipe the winner. I don't think the one on the left, John Brown Squires experimenting in the Common Room, would win any prizes!

The January 1955 Edition.



The Strathspey and Reel Society. I don't know who instigated this Society but suspect that Gordon Partington (Instructor), Jock Williamson and Gavin McKay (Hon Sec and Hon Treasurer squeezing in between ruggers) were to blame. A first meeting was held in the underground Ballroom before a large audience of curious Sassenachs, after which they "flitted" to the library and a polished floor. Mrs R E Black was elected as the President

The September 1955 Edition.

The Jazz Appreciation Society. Not sure if this is a re-incarnation of the previous Pop Music Society which during the summer had been “dormant”. The Society decided to do away with pop music and deal only with modern and traditional jazz. The subscription was increased fivefold! from 6d to 2/6d. They say goodbye to the “modernists” of the First Entry and thank Mr Hindshaw and Gordon Partington for the use of the Print Corridor hoping they both will come long and listen to some good music!

The Mountaineering Club. Newly formed and active, membership high and all due to the founder Mr Hindshaw. The hope of going of to Switzerland was highlighted.

The January 1956 Edition.

The Gymnastics Club.

Hugh Sims Hilditch writes of fifty members joining and training to put on displays at Speech Days. Aiming at getting full marks for Welbexians in the Sandhurst Gym tests.

The reports of the first seven magazines now end but the emergence of further extra mural activities continued with the formation of the following;

Bell ringing - camponology

Field Society

Modern ballroom dancing

Bagpipe Society

Model Railway Society

Orchestral Society May 961

Printing Society

Ornithological Society

English Country Dance Society

Bridge Society

Radio Society

Play Reading Society



The whole set of Magazines no doubt announce other ventures particularly with the march of technology in the later years. The 1969 edition (see left) announces what probably was the most popular society of all!

Finally the summer edition in 1960 proclaims the formation of the “After Breakfast Shaving Club”. Shades of Patrick Hennesey’s recently published account of his experiences in Afghanistan: *“The Junior Officers’ Reading Club: Killing Time and Fighting Wars”*.

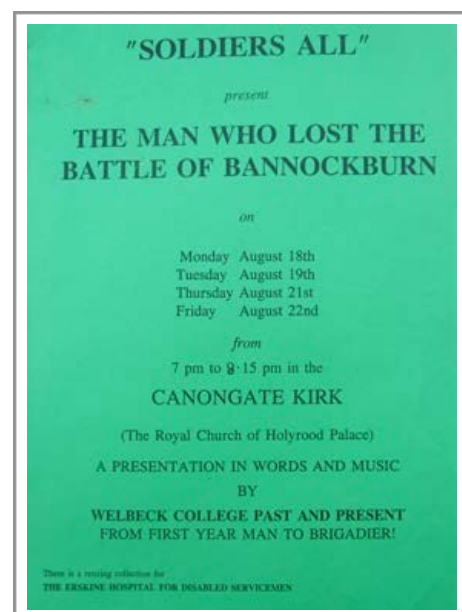
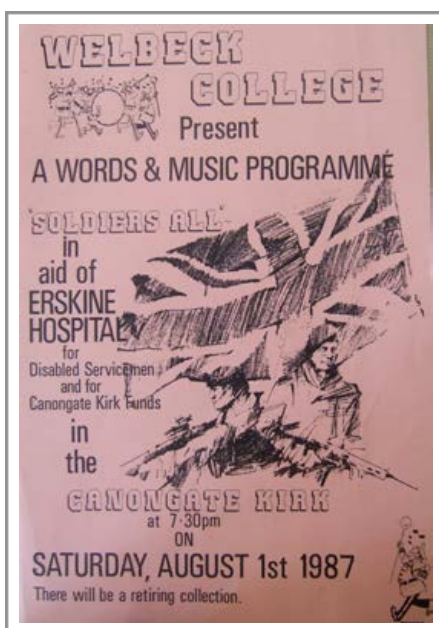
14. SOLDIERS ALL

Whilst not part of the formal academic curriculum, "Soldiers All" Welbeck College at The Edinburgh Festival, is an example of the tremendous contribution Gordon Partington made to Humanities, and in so doing, opened up a whole new world to many of the boys - and me - who took part in 1987.

Gordon had telephoned to ask if Jean and I would go up to Edinburgh and "take over" a few Army quarters in Craigie Hall - his contacts had agreed that the quarters could be used but only if a serving officer "signed for them", for he had invited a girls choir to be part of the cast and a "chaperone" was essential!

He was constantly on the watch for talent for his annual Speech Day 'Words and Music' and in particular for his splendid Edinburgh Fringe productions of 'Soldiers All', fruit of collaboration between Gordon and Patrick Friend of Worksop College and Ranby School. Who but Gordon Partington would have had the nerve to ask first for St Giles Cathedral and then the Royal Church in the Cannongate as the venue for the show? Who else could have contacted GOC Scotland and laid on Army food, quarters, rehearsal facilities - even free tickets to the tattoo? Who else could have persuaded OW Brigadiers and Colonels to take part or Pam Cooke to provide those talented girls from her brilliant Cantamus Choir? He was even going to have God coming in by the East window of the Cathedral at one stage!

John Thomson, in his address at Gordon's Memorial Service in June 1996, drew attention to his particular talents shown in the extract on the left. John and Angie came along to help so he had first hand experience of what it entailed. (The full address can be seen in the Obits section 25 which shows very clearly what an enormous asset Gordon was to the College in every way). Gordon had help from other OW's in producing the publicity material shown below.



The production concerned the grisly death of Edward The Second, the first ever Prince of Wales. Period costumes were provided and rehearsals took place in the Garrison Gym. Everyone was drawn into the act and I found myself playing the part of the Duke of Lancaster. Gordon went through some of the intricacies of a period play warning that we should “ensure our wrist watches were not on display”! In addition, after some false starts, he told “Prompt” not to whisper the lines when someone faltered but to declaim them as though he were in the play, thus the audience would probably never know. This was a boon to me, for on the first night, standing in my robes at the altar of Canongate Kirk, I became completely absorbed in the story and missed my meagre four lines completely - all of which were delivered perfectly by Prompt!

Gordon wrote a piece for the 1987 Magazine parts of which are shown below along with a piece by the Scotsman Drama Critic. Miles Kingston’s paragraph was no doubt in his usual humorous style but no copy can be found.

‘Soldiers All’ in the Canongate Kirk, The Royal Church of Holyrood Palace

‘The Man Who Lost The Battle of Bannockburn’

This was the year when 1 Entry and 66 Entry were represented from first year man to full Colonel, and when Brigadier Tony Boyle of 9 Entry visited us and took part in two performances. It was also the year when there was more than usual uncertainty about the arrival of OWs. ‘No news is good news’ we hoped, but this was not so; Shrivenham exam results had seen to that. This was the year of ‘Waiting for Dunco’. We listened to our critics from last year and decided that the steady theme was to be the life of the hapless Edward II, the first ever Prince of Wales, the ‘proud Edward’ of ‘Scots we’ hae’. We relied upon Holinshed and the chronicler William Martin for the narrative and for the poetic drama upon Marlowe’s Edward II. We earned kind comment from the Scotsman drama critic and an entertaining paragraph in Miles Kingston’s page in *The Times*.

Earlier that day we had performed for the General Officer Commanding Scotland, Lieutenant-General Sir Norman Arthur. His quiet interest put us all at our ease and we are much indebted to him and to all his staff at Headquarters Scotland for once again looking after us so kindly.

In 1987 we are rehearsing in the week before the start of the official festival and the first night will be on the Saturday before the Sunday opening. We intend to follow this pattern in 1988. Amongst other things it will enable our performers to go to the festival events in the first week when everything is fresh.

THE MAN WHO LOST THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN
Soldier’s All, Welbeck College

THE impressive backdrop of the Canongate Kirk has been the Festival home for the last seven years to a young company composed of soldiers from the Army’s pre-Sandhurst college at Welbeck.

The “Man” of the title is, in fact, Edward II — one of the least interesting kings of England despite the unusual and singularly unpleasant manner of his death. The company grapple mostly with Marlowe’s account of his life and despite their efforts one wonders whether this is not a play that should be left to the scholars.

But the young cast show, occasionally, the ability to exploit an impressive venue. There are no tickets for this performance, a voluntary collection being taken for charity.

Ian Spring



During our stay we were invited to Wemyss Castle where we gave a performance to Lady Victoria Wemyss in her drawing room. After this we “took tea” and this wonderful Lady, then aged 97, took us on a personal tour of the Castle. During a conversation with her I told her that I had been born in Bolsover (the Portlands owned Bolsover Castle) not too far from Welbeck, and that I had a lovely print (left) showing Charles Cavendish, Marquis of Newcastle, schooling a horse in dressage in front of the Castle. He

was Master of the Queens Horse and had written the definitive book on horsemanship in 1659.

She took me by the hand and led the way into a somewhat dusty room. She pointed to a stack of very large books propped up against the wall and asked me to carry one of them into an ante room where I laid this huge leather bound First Edition of The Book on Horsemanship on a side table. Gordon writes about this in the magazine (below) along with a picture of an admiring group, listening to Lady Victoria explaining how her ancestors had all held the the position of Master of the Queen’s Horse.

Our visit to Wemyss Castle on our afternoon off was a great privilege. Lady Victoria, now 97, was boundless in her kindness and energy. She is the last person to remember and very clearly, her Godmother, Queen Victoria, and also the Oxford Wing fire of 1900 where she was almost trapped as a girl of ten. Her loyalty to Welbeck past and present is exemplary. We were made to feel really welcome. John and Angela Thomson had come up from Penrith to be with us and to join Jim and Jean Dennis in our ‘quarter’. Lady Victoria was particularly happy to show Colonel Jim Dennis of the first ever Entry at Welbeck the pictures of Bolsover Castle in her copy of the First Duke of Newcastle’s horsemanship book. Colonel Dennis was born and bred in Bolsover.



The Lady Victoria Wemyss with her Welbeck guests in the library of Wemyss Castle. They are inspecting the 1st Duke of Newcastle’s treatise on horsemanship.

Incidentally the play went well and we had houses (congregations?) nearing 10-20. If you think that poor, along with John and Angie we went to a midnight performance by a Welsh Opera College singing Kurt Weill’s “Mahagonny”. There was only one other person in the audience, an American so enthusiastic about the Fringe he had attended 46 performances since his arrival! The Welsh singers numbered around 25!

I have included this piece to pay homage to Gordon and to give some sort of feel of the ethos of the College at that time whilst indicating the close links of the College with the Portland Family (more detail in Welbeck Abbey Section 23).