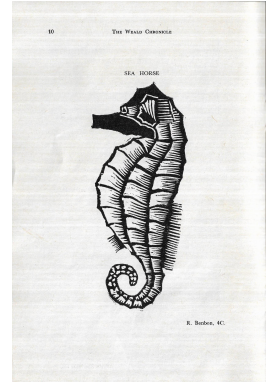


# News and Views Extra

September 2021



We need to talk about.....

.....our truly amazing archive. We have an outstanding collection of photographs, records, reports, publications, award cups, all sorts of real world, actual, touchable memories. You will have some idea of the scale of this if you have been to any annual April reunions in the last many years, as there is always a selection enticingly displayed there to browse and exclaim over. It is different every time, with no problem over not having enough to show – it's the opposite indeed.

The issue of what should happen to this wealth of primary source historical evidence, of a particular time in the development of education, of national and world history, and of the day to day realities of life for individuals over that time, is inevitably becoming one we need to address. Our Chair **Chris Overson 1957** had been exploring the possibilities of it being housed at Harrow Museum, but the questions of our own access to it, for display at reunions, reference, etc, and of its digitisation, were issues. All this was put on hold while everything locked down, but on September 12th Chris went along to an Open Day, and met with the archivist.

[Here is Chris' report.](#)



Old Wealdens who attend the annual reunion (or what was until recently the annual reunion until you know what) will be familiar with the school archives. It is only possible to show a small part of the archives but what we do select for display always seem to attract great interest. At present the archives are stored (mainly in a number of large cardboard boxes) in the loft of an Old Wealden who lives close to the site of the school. This is very convenient, but at some time we will of course need to find a long-term home for the archives so that they will be available as a permanent resource for future historians. More of that later.

What is in the archives? The following provides an overview, but is far from comprehensive. For a start, lots of photographs: some formal, some informal. Most of us will of course remember the photographs of the whole school taken every three years displayed in the front corridor, but there are also some photographs of particular year groups eg the prefects, a particular fifth form etc. There are quite a few pictures of sporting events and sports teams, particularly football teams. The name of the team is usually given eg Under 15s 1956/57, but not always the names of the players, although efforts have been made since in some cases to add them. Ron Lacey had left school before I had arrived. He went on to find considerable fame both on TV and in film, but he was also fairly sporty at school and can be spotted standing proudly in one of the team photos. Other sporting themes include cricket and sports days.

Moving on to more cultural activities, I used to sing in the choir at my primary school, but I never

made the exalted level of singing in the choir at Harrow Weald. However, there are many who did and there are a number of photos in the archives. You will see elsewhere in News and Views that our editor is trying to enlist the help of the 1957 to 1960 intake in particular to complete the identification of those photographed in choirs in which they performed. I don't think any of us need any help in identifying Miss Pyke sitting proudly in the middle of her choirs!

Frustratingly, it is not only formal photographs of sports teams that provide little information about the subjects. There are many informal pictures of school activities, mainly from the 1930s to 1950s: pupils in classrooms, senior pupils in the quad, school trips, social activities etc. Many have limited or no detail on them. News and Views No 44 (February 2021) included a marvellous photograph of Ron Young's physics class. Thanks to the efforts of Gordon Taylor and Len Whitford (1949) all the boys, and both girls, in it have been identified. There are many other photographs in the archive that could do with similar treatment.

I remember there used to be a scout hut when I was at Harrow Weald, but I can't remember whether there was a scout group then. However, there are a number of pictures of their trips and activities in the archives, taken some years before I was at the school and presumably involving a thriving school scout group. Going even further back, a small exercise book contains photos of a school camp trip in 1937 and 1938 (as I write this I don't have access to the archive and so I can't check where the camp was. Somewhere south west perhaps).

The archives include a set of Weald Chronicles. These obviously provide an excellent record of the development of the school and its pupils over the years. There is also much information of an administrative nature, all probably fairly mundane at the time but fascinating to look back at now. There are the firewatchers' records (a number of exercise books). During the Second World War there was apparently a rota of staff and senior pupils who patrolled the school out of hours, presumably to report whether bombs or incendiary devices fell on the school or surrounding areas. The books provide a log of the nightly patrols. As the school survived, fortunately there was nothing too dramatic to report. However, the log does include a complaint that some of the senior boys had not always left the kitchen facilities as they had found them! And there is the set of headmaster's record books, where copies were kept (usually glued in) of all the many instructions to staff, or simply observations about certain issues of school life, emanating from Barlow Butlin and David Crowle Ellis between 1933 and 1958. This included for example instructions about the administration of exams and arrangements for the pupils when they couldn't go outside during dinner hours/breaks because of bad weather, reports about particular instances of bad behaviour, and Mr Crowle Ellis's concern that boys shouldn't play football for local clubs at the weekend because it would affect their performance for the school. Also in the archives are the prospectus for the school when it opened in 1933, reports of school inspections carried out in 1938 and 1956 (the inspector seemed quite impressed) and lists of staff.

Sports' Days, school concerts, school plays. Did you take part in any of these? The archive includes a considerable collection of the very professional looking programmes produced for these events and you may find your name recorded here for posterity.

The archive also includes a very long run of pupils' reports. For obvious reasons of privacy (and because it might embarrass me) these have not been brought along to reunions. I think these are all copies rather than originals. I can't remember, but does this mean that there was

an original report, which we eventually kept, and a second one which we had to copy out for the school records? (Ed. Good grief, Chris, I think you're right! Had an instant memory of it – anyone else?) Looking at the reports, it is interesting to note that there was a time when pupils' heights and weights were regularly recorded. I don't recall this still happening when I was at Harrow Weald. There is also a register of pupil admissions, running from the early days of the school to the late 1950s giving name, age, date of entry and address.

So, what of the future? Well, none of us is getting any younger and the archives will eventually need permanent storage. The Harrow Local History Collection Archive is housed at Headstone Manor Park in North Harrow. The archive has recently reopened after being closed for reorganisation to make it more accessible to the public. I have had a brief chat with the archivist. We haven't yet gone into much detail, but she seemed very keen about accepting our archives for their collection. She did not seem too concerned when I described the scope of our collection, but their Collection does have space constraints at present and it may be that we will have to be selective when we decide (eventually) what to deposit. Having deposited items it would still be possible to take them out on loan when they are required. The Collection also has plans to digitise the items that they receive. There are cost and logistical constraints in doing this to be overcome, but we certainly have many documents that would lend themselves to being stored in this way. This is fairly early days for us and nothing has yet been decided. The Committee will be discussing this. We will keep you informed, and of course your ideas and comments too will be most welcome.

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## Linocuts - and some very heavy books

One bit of archive, in the Weald Chronicles, were those iconic linocuts. We probably took them for granted at the time, part of the scenery, but they were little works of art. You'll have noticed the seahorse at the top of the first page, from the 1964 Chronicle, the work of **Robin Benton 1960** (who did notice his name was incorrect, back then, but said it seemed churlish to point it out). And the very heavy books?



A few years ago, Chris Overson was trying to find good homes for the 24 volumes of the 1948 Encyclopaedia Britannica, Harrow Weald Memorial Library 1939-1945. A few people had taken singles, and the remaining 19 came home with the Editor, who loves them. (In fact if you do have one of the five 'missing' volumes, and they are genuinely now surplus to requirements, they'd be welcome to join the others - there's room.) There's a beauty to keeping a set like this together, and they're brilliant. You go to find out about 'x' - and lo and behold, 'x' hasn't yet happened, and so you have a picture of the world as it was 'before x', and it's fun, and you feel you're actually back there. Just one thing - never try to store them on a shallow shelf. There comes a

tipping point - around 15 volumes it turns out - and it hurts when they rain on you. But the top shelf is fine, and there's a step stool to make sure they get used. The grandchildren use the 1950s Newnes Pictorial Knowledge set, one looking in Book 10 to find which of the others have stuff about spiders, and the other going to fetch them one by one. They do of course also speak to the television to tell it what they want to watch. Best of both worlds.

## Now for some of that 'naming' that Chris was after.....

.....because, apart from the need to do sensible things to future proof the archive, there's also the fun of delving into it. So, after the informal exuberance of the 'jazz band' on the field, from April's e-News, here are a few of the more formal photos, set in iconic Harrow Weald style, in the quad, and yes, Chris, always with Miss Pyke smiling from the centre. These again come courtesy of **Tony Radford 1957**, plus one that came in response to the 'names?' request sent to his year group, from **Peter Summers 1958**, at the piano in the concert picture. His contribution is the Senior Choir, Summer 1965; and sending this in turn out to the 1958, '59 and '60 members brought a further great response, which is ongoing.

The photos are presented in order of clarity, so that as you work through them, and with the benefit of the naming already done for us, those names may start to jump out more readily. Here we go.....

And yes, apologies, the first one refused to stand up straight, but at least it's big! You may be able to manoeuvre it round, but for now, it was this way or never.....

### Senior Choir May 1965

#### Back row, from left to right

Colin Bright, John Carr, Robin Benton, Steve Curry, James Wharton, Nick Bate, Andrew Cunningham, Peter Summers, Tony Wharton, Robert Galliers, David Price, David Carter, \_\_\_\_\_, Dick Morgan, Derek Baker

#### Second row from back

Jean Wilson, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Heather (Bennett?), Susan Wharton, Susan Ettershank, Janet Laskey, Janet Parsons, Pamela Wiltshear, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Middle row

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Susan Walker, Shirley Foley, \_\_\_\_\_, Linda Jane, Margaret Beeks, Carol Green, Rosemary James, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

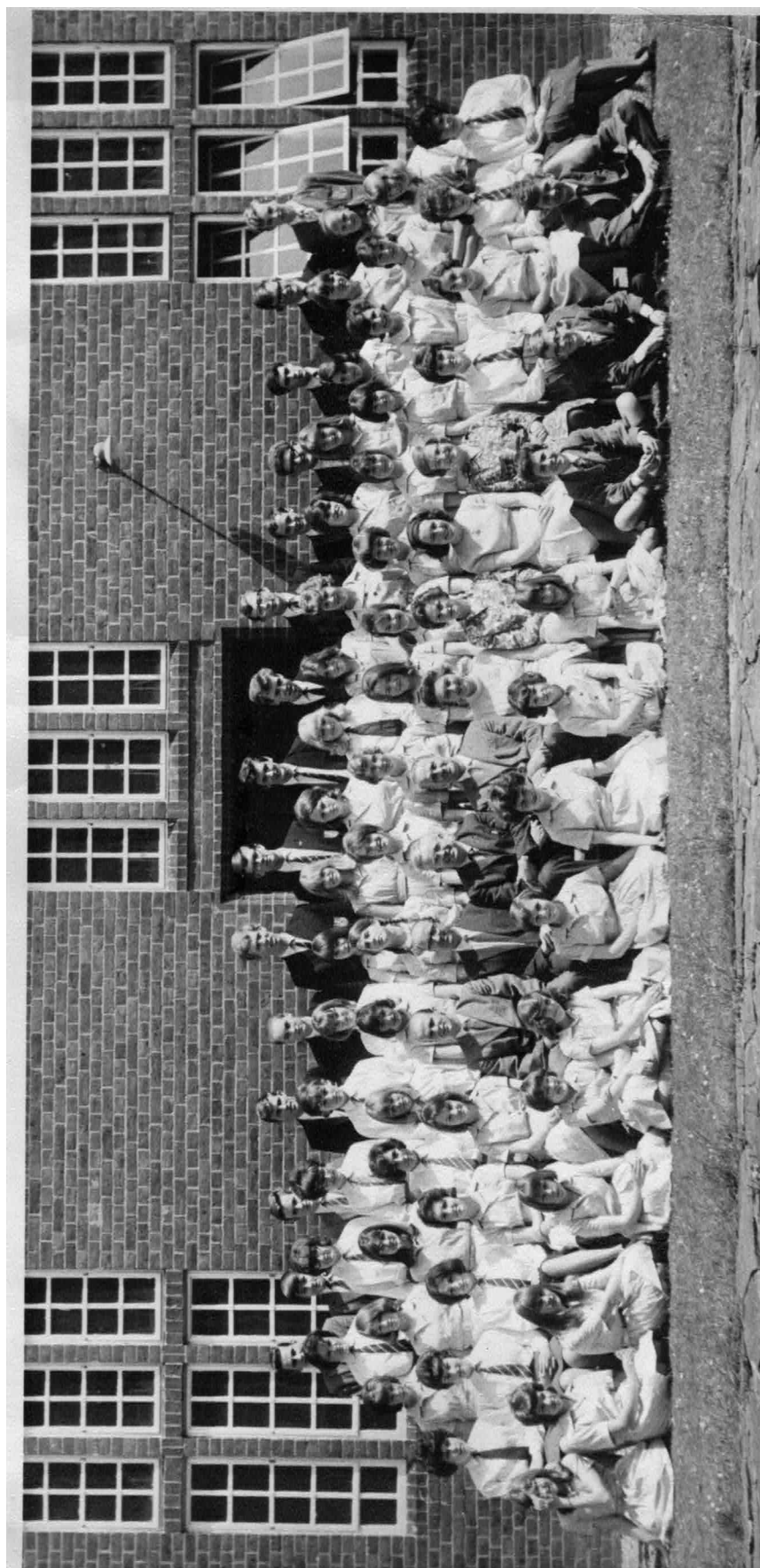
#### Second row from the front

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Pauline Stoddart, Ann Salmon, Maggy Price, Mr Rooksby, Mr Jones, Mr Ponsford, Mr Lowry, Miss Pyke, \_\_\_\_\_, Miss Green, Miss Sullivan, Rosalind Martyr, Margaret Fotheringham, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Front Row

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Hilary Morgan, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Keith Whitby, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Senior Choir May 1965





**June 3rd 1964**

**Sixth Form Madrigal Group**

aka Sixth Form Form Choral Group

**Sixth Form Madrigal Group June 3rd 1964**

**Back row, from left to right:**

Ken Ward, Lindsay Robertshaw, Roger Begley, Peter Summers, Tony Radford, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Middle row**

Rilla Lawrance, Maggy Price, Gillian Hadley, Elisabeth Carter, Diana Bragg, Faith Conway, Barbara Williams? Miriam Beeks, Pamela Hogg?

**Front row**

Jean Rosamond, Ann Salmon, Pauline Stoddart, Linda Phillips, Miss Pyke, Margaret Fotheringham, Julie Pickard

**June 3rd 1964**

**Senior Choir**



## Senior Choir June 3rd 1964

### Back row, from left to right

Ken Ward, Richard Wood, Andrew Cunningham, Antony Thornley, David Carter, Lindsay Robertshaw, Roger Begley, Peter Summers, \_\_\_\_\_, Alistair McGechie, David Ross, Tony Radford, Brian Irving

### Second row from back

Rilla Lawrance, Maggy Price, Barbara Williams? Miss Reynolds? Elisabeth Carter, Diana Bragg, Faith Conway, Miriam Beeks, Julie Pickford

### Third row from back

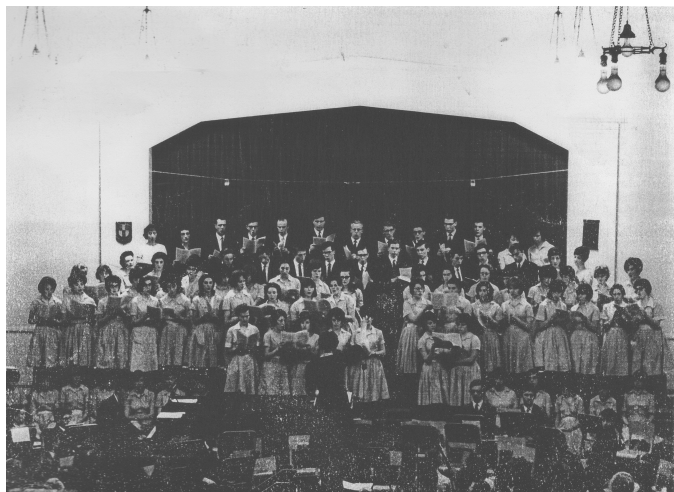
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Miss Franklyn, Miss Pope, Mr Becker, Mr Lowry, Miss Pyke, Mr Ponsford, Mr Jones, Mr Rooksby, Miss Green, Margaret Fotheringham, \_\_\_\_\_.

### Front row

Ann Salmon, Pauline Stoddart, \_\_\_\_\_, Jean Rosamond, \_\_\_\_\_, Christine Pearce, Hilary Pearce, Shirley Foley, Hilary Morgan, Carol Green, Rosemary James, Erica Sanderson, Margaret Beeks, \_\_\_\_\_, Su Lee, \_\_\_\_\_, Daphne Whitby, Pamela Hogg.

**This following and final photo is an absolute delight**, in its unusualness, being taken from the audience, in the middle of a concert, but is the least clear, and definitely best viewed after getting information from the earlier ones.

As you can see, women's names for all these photos are given as you would have known them back then, more or less, and hopefully spelled correctly - thanks to the Honours Boards photos we have, for some. Everything, though, is up for correction and/or debate.....



**March 1963  
Annual Concert**

## School Concert 1963

### Back row, from left to right

\_\_\_\_\_, Miss Franklin, Mr Becker, \_\_\_\_\_, Mr Rooksby, Mr Murray, Mr Ponsford, Stephen Ralls, \_\_\_\_\_, Robert Liebenthal, \_\_\_\_\_.

### Second row from back

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Ken Ward, Jim Stafford, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Tony Radford, Brian Irving, David Ross, David Hunt, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

### Third row from back

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Su Lee, Daphne Whitby, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

### Fourth row from back (front row standing on the stage)

Maggy Price, Linda Phillips, Rilla Lawrance, \_\_\_\_\_, Joyce Reeve, Margaret Williams, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Elisabeth Carter, Stephanie Gush, Miriam Beeks, Diana Bragg, Faith Conway, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Margaret Fotheringham, \_\_\_\_\_.

### Very front row

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Pat Rice, Julie Pickard

### Seated at piano

Peter Summers

### To the right of Miss Pyke, in the orchestra

Andrew Cunningham (flute), David Carter (clarinet)

**And there's a conundrum.....** given the people we can confidently identify in this concert photo, together with the programme notes for that night, **you may be puzzled about what we are clearly seeing being sung, what had just been performed, and what is about to be?** If you were there, or just fancy being Poirot for a bit, you may be able to untangle it for us.

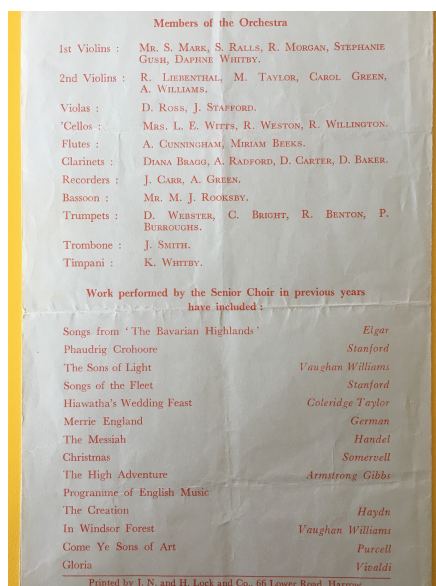
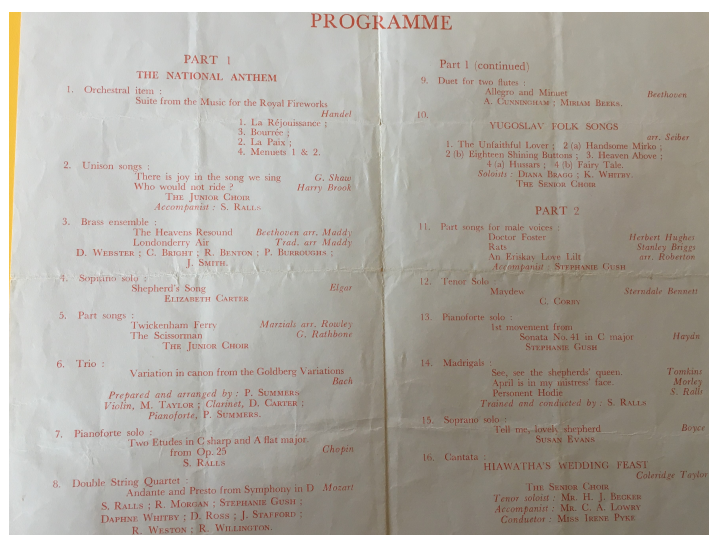
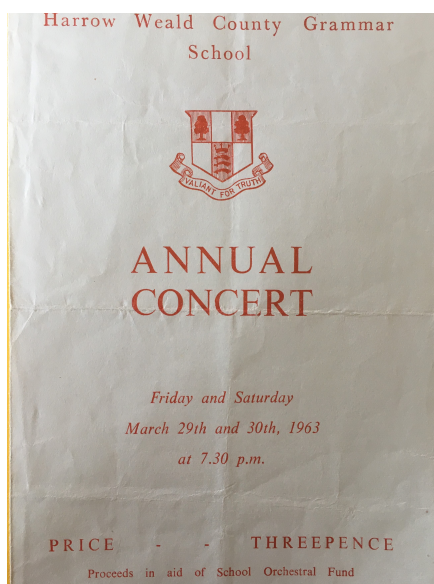
And, this is that night in March 1963 when John Becker sang

'Onaway! Awake, beloved! thou the wild-flower of the forest, thou the wild-bird of the prairie'

and brought the hairs up on the back of my (Ed's.) neck, listening down on those Junior Choir chairs. I only actually sang in it once, in a community choir in Folkestone, as a young mum - 'mummy's going to sing Hiawocka' - and that solo was taken by a local tradesman, beautifully - but never again the shivers I got on that first hearing.

Apologies that the Programme print is rather faint after all these years, but the beauty of these e-Newsletters is of course that we can magnify things - and if you do, you'll see it in all its original clarity.





**So, apart from a bit of fun detective work, can you put names to any more of those wonderful faces?**

So far, as well as **Tony Radford**, and **Peter Summers** in collaboration with **Richard Killer**, the leg work has been largely done by **Rosemary Dear née James 1960**, **Jenny Bentley née Wildhaber 1958**, working with **Joyce Pettit**, also 1958, **Richard Wood** and **Ian Bird**, both 1957, **Hilary (Dil) Morgan**, **John Carr** and **Robin Benton**, all 1960, **Christine Burch née Porter 1959**, and **Maggy Gardner née Price 1958**.

Many thanks to all of them. They did seem to enjoy it, too, fortunately!

**Apologies** that the e-News had to come in two parts this time - there's lots in the next bit too, so do read on!