

# THE WIND OF CHANGE

## Pulling Together

As costs began rising throughout the late '60s and early '70s — and new teaching aids became available — fund-raising became an annual whole school enterprise led by the Parents' Association.

In the Autumn of 1966 the first school bazaar was held by the Parents' Association. £300 was raised and several articles were bought for the school, including a television set. In November 1967 another bazaar was held in the school and over £400 was raised. The following year saw the launch of the school Minibus Fund and to augment the fund which had a target of £500, the school offered to print letter-heads and business cards, at reasonable rates, for Old Scholars and friends of the school, on its own printing press under the supervision of Mr Keenan. In November another bazaar was held and by January 1969 the School was able to purchase its first minibus.

As a result of the 1971 Spring Fair organised by the Parents' Association, amplifying equipment was bought for the Hall.

Another bazaar was held in November '72 and at this one I've read that the queues to visit Santa Claus (Mr D. Cheshire) stretched to Greenford Broadway. This was followed later in the year by a great sponsored walk involving staff, parents and over two hundred pupils. This raised over £700 which together with the money from the sale of the old school minibus enabled a new P.S.V. minibus to be purchased. The walk was over an 11 mile course in the Denham-Harefield area and report has it that one member of staff ran the course.

The following Christmas the Parents Association and the School held one more bazaar before reorganisation.

## Expansion and Unrest

In 1969 there was a big increase in the numbers staying on in the Sixth Form (the School acquired three extra classrooms to cope with them) but that same year in December, saw the beginning of that unrest that was to plague the teaching profession throughout the '70s and '80s as, for the first time, the school was closed for two days by an N.U.T. strike. There were break-ins with the loss of some microscopes and musical instruments ('72-'73). In her farewell report to the Governors in 1973 Miss Smith blamed poorer examination results the previous summer on increasing truancy and absences something which virtually every secondary school was experiencing during this period.

In spite of this the School still had its high fliers. David Grubb (U6th) came 8th in the National Mathematical Olympiad, and went on to represent great Britain as one of a team of 8, competing against Hungary in Hungary in July 1970. He and Victor Coleman, both with 4 top grades in their A levels went on to King's College Cambridge. Four years earlier P West had been awarded an Open Exhibition in Mathematics for Downing College Cambridge and in 1973 Marion Grubb was awarded an Exhibition to Oxford University. Between about 15 and 20 pupils went on to Universities or other institutions of Higher Education each year.

This period saw some improvements and additions to the School. In 1966 the new school oil-fired heating plant

began to operate and the school was re-painted inside and out. In the Spring of 1971, a language laboratory was installed in the school. In the year 1972-73 another mobile classroom was allocated to the school, and a form room and the Prefects' room were converted into junior and sixth form art rooms.

In 1971 someone undertook a survey of parking needs at the School and we gain from it such vital information as that the 32-year-old-school, catering for Greenford, Southall, Northolt, Hanwell and Ealing, had 494 pupils with a staff of 35 teachers and 25 non-teaching staff. Only 18 staff used a car to school so all were able to comfortably park at the front of the school. The average service vehicles daily were 4. Only one pupil drove his own car to school but parked outside the school premises. For the Evening Classes there was adequate parking except for the chaos and complete bottlenecks which occurred during enrolment periods and the beginning of terms aggravated by the lack of parking signs!

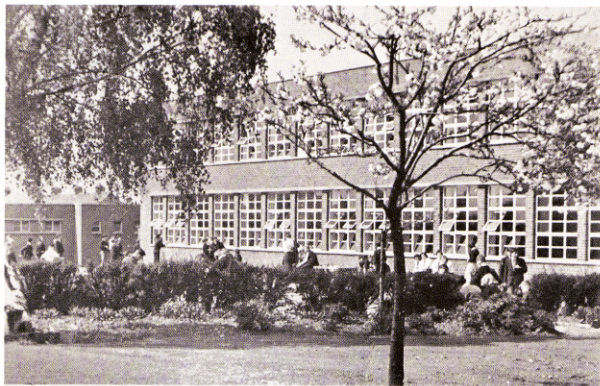
During the winter of 1971 the Old Scholars were concerned at the financial cuts which meant that 'the school's groundsman and assistant were transferred leaving the precious expanse of greensward in the hands of two one-day-a-week part timers. Despite rumours to the contrary O Level gardening will not be on the '71 syllabus.'

The November '73 Old Scholars Association News Letter carried an article about problems with the huts:

Those Old Scholars who, at some point in their academic careers, were assigned to the Music Room and Room 19 Form Rooms will no doubt nostalgically recall long, cold winters when frozen hands, feet, bottoms and brains (usually in that order) were thawed out in front of the large coke-burning stoves which had pride of place in the corner of each room. Such was the intense, friendly warmth that this process didn't normally take long, though some brains proved remarkably heat resistant.

Alas such time honoured practices would now appear to be in jeopardy as the walls of the beloved huts have been rent asunder by one inch cracks appearing. The more romantic and cynical amongst us blame the gods who are showing displeasure at the approach of the school's death as a grammar school. The more practical blame sinking foundations. Whatever the reason these thirty-year-old buildings have been evacuated whilst the Council ponder over their fate and their inhabitants have dubbed themselves refugees and moved into mobile classrooms. It is reported some of the refugees are a little unhappy at such an enforced move so maybe the old boilers are still delighting Greenford's present generations in their own inimitable way.

By August 1974 the Old Scholars reported: a Sixth Form Centre has been built on the lawn adjoining the condemned 'huts' (formerly the music room and Room 19). One comment on this addition to the school scenery from an anonymous source — 'unfortunately the building has engulfed the little lawn and garden that was one of the pleasantest parts of the school and a favourite of the late Mr James'. The price of progress maybe but it is interesting to note how little the school has altered since it was first built.



"South Playground"

(Kindly lent by Mr. Sparrow)

## Departures

At Easter 1963 Miss Drayton, the Senior Mistress, retired. Miss Drayton was the last of Mr James' original colleagues at the school. She retired to Bournemouth. Mrs Pritchard was appointed in her place but she resigned in the summer of 1966 to be replaced by Miss Murielle Smith.

At the end of the Autumn Term 1966, Mr James, the Headmaster, fell ill. Unhappily his illness proved to be fatal and on January 24 1967, he died peacefully in Hillingdon Hospital. A memorial service attended by a large number of pupils, old scholars, present and former staff and friends was held in the Methodist Church, Haven Green, Ealing on the 30th January. He had been the School's first Science teacher and had served as the School's Head for almost 20 years.

The Old Scholars' Association commissioned Mr Bill Smith, a local artist of Oldfield Lane, to paint a portrait of Mr James as a memorial, feeling that whatever happened to Greenford Grammar School it would provide a link with the old school. The Association had at first wanted Mr Johnson, the School's former Art teacher who had painted Mr Withrington's portrait, to paint it but unfortunately he died the previous year. The portrait was presented to the School on July 5th 1968.

In the Autumn of 1967 the school suffered another loss in that Mr Todd who had been Head caretaker for a number of years died suddenly and was missed not only by the school but also by the Old Scholars with whose functions he was a great help.

Tragically the school lost one of its 6th Form when on Sunday, 27th January 1974 Melanie Greaves was knocked down by a car in Lady Margaret Road and died of her injuries in Hammersmith Hospital on 5th February after doctors had fought for nine days to save her life.

A number of staff left during this period but we can only mention a few: Mr J. Grieve for many years Head of Modern Languages and author of a number of books on German retired at Christmas 1969. The Old Scholars Association News Letter announced another departure:

that stalwart of the woodwork room Charlie Sutcliffe retired in 1970 having served 25 years at the lathe — it's 'one rule missing' no longer. In the summer of 1973, Mr Frank Sheldrake, the Deputy Headteacher, retired after twenty-nine years service to the school. Mr Fuller, Head of the Geography Department, was appointed as Deputy Head of the grammar school, to continue in September 1974 as Deputy Head of Greenford High School.

The Old Scholars recorded the departure of yet another notable member of staff: Room 7 just won't seem the same any more as Mr Lockhart its inhabitant for many years left the school at the end of the summer term. He didn't want to go but his anti-Comprehensive views being what they are felt it the only honourable course of action to take. Many years ago he was quoted as saying 'If this school goes comprehensive I'll join London Transport.' Doubtless with their staff situation being what it is he would be welcome, but we all hope he soon finds another post as an English Master.

Amongst the others who left or retired in August 1974 claiming they were not leaving the school but the school was leaving them was Mr H. T. R. G. Gardiner Head of Biology Department, Zoology and Field Studies who had been at the school, except for a short period, since 1958.

In October 1972, Miss Thelma Dawson, School Secretary for twenty years resigned to become Administrative Assistant in the Education Office, and was replaced by Mrs Dorothy Ewins our present Secretary.

Following Mr James' death in January 1967 Miss Murielle Smith BA was appointed as Acting Headmistress, Mr Sheldrake was appointed Acting Deputy Headmaster and Miss Strickley, Acting Senior Mistress. It was not until the end of the spring term the following year that the appointments were made permanent. Miss Smith's task was to be a difficult one as she was to manage the Grammar School through the traumas of the six years before its reorganisation while seeing to it that the education and activities of the pupils were unimpaired.

# TOWARDS REORGANISATION

## The Governors

In January 1959 Ealing's Secondary Schools were formed into groups for each of which a governing body was set up. Greenford County Grammar School came under the Governing Body of Greenford Secondary Schools with Coston and Perivale Secondary Girls' Schools, and Horsenden, Selborne and Stanhope Boys' Schools. This arrangement was to continue until 1974 when Greenford High School acquired its own Governing Body. One Governor served on the Governing Body for the whole period and even on the post-1974 one for a while. That was Mrs G. A. Duponchel. Mr J. Murray served as the first Chair of Governors. Mr Michael Elliott joined it about four or five years after its formation and for most of the years since has served not only as a governor but as Chair of the Governing Body.

While the governors gave an increasing amount of attention to special provision for children with linguistic or behavioural problems, by far the largest part of their work was connected with the various proposals for the reorganisation of Education in the Borough that were put forward in the period from the early 1960s to 1974.

## Co-Education Under Threat

Suddenly in 1963 the whole nature of the School came under threat. A local paper reported that the Ealing Education Committee decided to ask Middlesex County Council to amend its revised Development Plan for primary and secondary education so that Greenford Grammar School would cater for girls only and Walpole Grammar School for boys only. At that time both schools were mixed.

Cllr H. E. Gilmour commented: 'There is one very powerful argument in favour of this recommendation, that there are not enough single-sex schools in Ealing to meet parents' wishes at present. I have much sympathy with that and it may well be that in the end it is thought that this argument ought to be decisive. But there are two reasons why I am not happy about this. One is that Walpole and Greenford are now well established as successful mixed grammar schools. *I always feel that a proposed improvement ought to be a very great improvement indeed if it is worth all the turmoil, confusion and disorganization of changing over.*' Secondly, he did not like the idea of the committee having to make up its mind so long in advance about precisely what the new organisation was going to be.

Strong protest against the suggestion that Greenford Grammar School be abolished as a co-educational establishment and be retained as a grammar school for girls only came very quickly from the Old Scholars' Association which told the Chairman of Ealing Education Committee, Ald. Mrs E. M. Stephens: 'In our opinion, co-education is more than ever desirable at the present time. When men and women work alongside each other, it is advantageous that they should receive their education alongside each other in what is, after all, a natural environment.'

'If, as we are led to believe, there is a demand for single-sex schools, this should have been foreseen. Provision had better have been made when the new grammar schools were built, rather than destroy now the thriving community which staff and pupils have worked for, and achieved, in the past 24 years.'

Mr James wrote to the Old Scholars:

It has come to my attention that many Old Scholars are extremely shocked and disturbed by the report in the Middlesex County Times of 5th April of a meeting of the Ealing Education Committee which seems to indicate that this school may become a girls' grammar school.

You will appreciate that the scheme under discussion is hemmed around with many queries. I feel sure that you will understand that such a scheme could not come to fruition for some years even if approved. Further, we do not know, and cannot know, what the views of the new authority to come into existence in 1965 will do about education in the new borough.

This puts a very great responsibility on all Old Scholars. The responsibility is to see that a community which has been steadily built up over 25 years, in which we all believe and which is now having an impact on the locality, is not destroyed. We may best, as I see it, play our part by being aware of moves taking place which may affect the school. We must be prepared, each one of us, to act in whatever responsible way is most open to us to persuade and show those in authority the absurdity and backwardness of such a step.

My own feeling is that this action may well never be put into effect, but we have to be extremely vigilant at all times to avoid being taken unawares. (Whatever else may have happened to the school since, it is still a community of boys and girls!)

## Proposals and Counter-Proposals

The authorities were determined on reorganising the Borough's schools and a couple of years later another proposal was made which again upset the Old Scholars who read in their June 1966 Newsletter:

We feel that the time has come for Old Scholars to know that the outline of the scheme for reorganisation of Secondary Education in Ealing, envisages a run-down of Greenford Grammar as a grammar school in 1967, and a build up of a four-form entry comprehensive School from 11-16 years. Pupils wishing to take 6th form courses would have to transfer to 6th Form Colleges.

Of all the plans considered, this is the one which is the least sound, and the one which will destroy the whole school as we know it because it means the disappearance of the 6th form by 1968, and the extinction of the school by 1970. (The item went on to recommend that Old Scholars should register their objections to the plan by letters to the press and Chief Education Officer.)

Exactly a year later the Old Scholars Association Newsletter Editor was upset about yet another plan:

Old Scholars will be interested to know that yet another Comprehensive Scheme is under consideration which, if implemented will mean the end of grammar schools. The ultimate aim is for Greenford Grammar to become a large Comprehensive School, but the initial stage is for two local Secondary Modern Schools to link up with Greenford in one unit from September 1968. Borough elections are due in May and the local Conservatives have produced another plan if they win.

By the Autumn *Prospect* made the announcement:

The school year began on September 5th 1967 when the usual intake of new pupils was welcomed into the school first forms. In the same month yet another plan for the reorganisation of secondary schooling in the Borough was

announced. It was to involve the virtual 'instant' transformation of this grammar school into a comprehensive upper school.

On the 5th of October the Governors met at the Town Hall to discuss the new plan for Comprehensive Education in Ealing schools and ten days later the School Governors met the Ealing Schools Group of Head Teachers to discuss the difficulties arising from the new Comprehensive plan. During that month, for the Old Scholars, Miss Smith outlined the proposed short and long term schemes for Greenford Grammar if they were accepted, which at the time was thought would result in a Comprehensive School of 1,650-1,700 pupils eventually.

By the following Spring (1968) came the news that the plans for the reorganisation of secondary schooling in Ealing had not been approved by the Minister which meant that for the present the school would go on being a grammar school.

By November of 1969 the Governors were once again holding a meeting at the Town Hall to discuss yet more proposals for reorganisation. By January (1970) the Old Scholars' Association sent detailed comments on Ealing's document Reorganisation of Education into First Schools, Middle Schools and High Schools in which the secretary stressed: 'It is imperative that change be a very slow, evolutionary process to avoid alienating staff and causing massive staff evacuation, adding to an already disruptive upheaval. One needs only to refer to the 1967 public examination results, which were very disappointing due to staff changes and shortages caused by the drastic nature of the previous comprehensive education proposals for Ealing. Such difficulties must be avoided at all costs as the only losers are the pupils themselves. (How different the first years of the comprehensive would have been if this advice had been heeded! — and we are still involved in rapid change!)

From the summer of 1971 through the spring of 1972 The Borough was moving ahead with its plans, with the Chief Education Officer meeting with the Heads of the Secondary Schools together and individually about the reorganisation.

## Plan Accepted

In August 1972 the School heard that the Minister had passed the plan to make Greenford into an unselective High School of 1,200 pupils. As the school year began, the Ealing Heads were told the reorganisation plans were for September 1974.

The announcement caused consternation throughout the Borough with Heads and staff not only concerned about the fate of their own schools and the pupils but also with their own positions in the reorganisation. So many individuals sought interviews with the Chief Education Officer that in December of '72 he sent a letter to all staff in secondary schools asking them to write to him in confidence stating what preferences they had in the changes and assuring them of salary protection. All posts in the reorganised schools were to be advertised internally initially.

## The Two-Headed School

The Spring of '73 saw more discussions between the Secondary Heads and the Chief Education Officer until in April it was announced that the school was to have another Headmistress, Miss C. J. A. Ilott, at the time Head of Grange Secondary Modern School for Girls. The Deputy Head was to be the school's Head of Geography

Mr Brian Fuller. Once the announcement was made Miss Smith invited the Head-Designate to meet the staff at Greenford. Throughout June Miss Ilott was in many meetings about the staffing and building plans including those for a new 'Arts Barn' for the reorganised school. By July Miss Ilott was ready to visit Greenford, Costons, Selborne and Stanhope Schools to give the staff in those schools information about the staffing needs of the comprehensive.

'As from next September,' states the Old Scholars Newsletter in the summer of 1973, 'the School is to have two heads. Miss Smith is to retire in July 1974, and will be assisted from next September by the Head Designate of the New Comprehensive Senior High School. This person will be at the School all next year in a non-administrative capacity formulating plans and policy for the new regime which takes over in September 1974. The School is scheduled to accommodate 1200 pupils, so obviously much building will be needed. The vacant land behind the Hare and Hounds is earmarked for this. It is to be hoped the builders are quicker than the education authorities when Greenford finally goes Comprehensive after approximately 10 years of plan and counter plan . . .'

They were also worried by the exodus of a large number of staff in the summer of 1973: it is hoped that with the reported teacher shortage in the London area the posts will be filled by experienced staff in order that the education of the present pupils will not suffer more than necessary during the change-over to the Comprehensive system.

That summer a two-storey ROSLA unit was being built in part of the girls' playground. It contained two Science labs and an open-plan Home Economics area.

## Timetabling

April, May and June were crammed with interviews and meetings. More appointments were made including Mr D. Morris as Head of Business Studies and Mr Dingle as Head of Music. A meeting was held for the parents of the 3rd years who were to start at Greenford in September.

By April plans were drawn up for 95 pupils in three forms in the 2nd year (the last grammar school intake) who would have English for 5 periods, French for 6, History and Geography 3 each, Maths 6, Science 5, Music 2, R.K. 1, Art 1, P.E. 2, and games for 2 periods. To allow one form to do 4 classes of German a period was taken from each of French, History, Geography, and Maths.

They were expecting 248 3rd Years who were to be organised in 8 Forms, taught in mixed ability groups for Music 1, P.E. 2, Art 2, Craft 4, and R.E. 1 period and banded for the other subjects. In order to give 4 periods for German the three forms in Band 1 were given 4 periods of English and 4 for French, 5 for Maths, 2 each for History and Geography, 6 for Science; without German the 2nd band gained a period each for English, History, Geography and French. The 3rd band of 2 forms were to have 2 periods of Extra English or Maths taken from their time in French.

At this stage options still had to be sorted for the 240+ 4th years, but for the 75 Grammar School pupils in the three forms of the 5th year they were to have 4 periods for each subject except English, Maths, French and German which would have 5 each, R.K. 1, P.E. 2 and Games 1; some had 5 periods of Woodwork or 5 of Needlework and some had 4 periods of Latin. Other subjects included Music, Chemistry, Biology (No Physics), Home Economics, Art, History and Geography.

## Head of Year — What's That?

Miss Illott held the first Heads of Year meeting early in April. At Greenford Heads of Year were a new concept peculiar to the comprehensive system. Their task was to look after the pastoral concerns of the pupils and to see that all was done to carry out one of the declared objectives of the school 'to create a caring society in which each individual may flourish and realise her/his potential.' Each Head of Year was to be responsible for a team of Form Tutors, for Year Assemblies, communication with parents and staff, record keeping and the discipline and welfare of her/his year group.

This first meeting dealt with matters relating to their accommodation, the communication system, assemblies, health and welfare, records and discipline. 'It is expected that all Heads of Year will have their own offices, equipped with desk, filing cabinet etc., and linked to a communication system which will connect them with each other, with the senior staff, and with an outside line.' It was to be some time before such facilities would be made available as the Heads of Year who shared cramped offices without telephones will testify! (Heads of Years 2 and 3 shared an office created out of the front lobby area which was also the Evening Institute Office; Heads of Years 4 and 5 shared the small Office in what is now the Learning Support Department — the bigger room was to be a staff workstation.)

In this first meeting and the following one they used the Grammar School system of rules, code of conduct, rewards and sanctions as a basis for drawing up a similar system for the High School. As far as the policy on discipline was concerned there was an emphasis on taking each case on its merits, being supportive of the staff, and being fair to the pupils. The key to the whole system working was seen as how well the Form Tutors fulfilled their duties in looking after the welfare of the members of their form.

## The First of the New Team

In September 1973 Miss Illott took office as the Head Designate while still carrying on as Head of Grange School. Staffing the Comprehensive was her immediate concern that September and in three days of intensive interviewing from the 12th to the 14th had seen Mrs Watts (Head of Modern Languages), Mr Moss and Mr Gosling (Mathematics) of Greenford, Miss Whalen (later Mrs Rees) (Head of Year), Mr Ward (Head of English) and Mrs Noblett (Science) at Costons; Mr Carpenter (Head of Special Studies Unit) and Mr Petty (Head of 6th Form) at Selborne; Mr Shaw (Head of Science) and Mr Williams (Head of History) of Greenford. Later in the month Mr H. Gardner of Eliot's Green (Head of Creative and Visual Arts) and Mr Gibney of Greenford (Head of Year) were interviewed and Miss J. Wilkinson of Twyford (later Mrs Stevens) became a Deputy Head completing the Senior Management Team (Miss Strickley was Senior Mistress). *(The titles in brackets are the posts these staff held from the first year of the Comprehensive.)*

September drew to a close with more meetings about staffing and about the Business Studies Department. Meetings started up again in November including one with the School's Parents' Association. Curriculum matters were the main topics of most of these meetings. On 22nd November 1973 the first staff meeting of Greenford High School took place followed in December by a Heads of Department Meeting. There were even discussions over the community use of Greenford High School.

In January Mr Fuller and Miss Illott were trying to get something done about the need for considerable extra classroom accommodation and alterations to the existing building to provide rooms for senior members of staff. Arrangements also had to be made for the transfer of pupils.

## A Tribute to Greenford Grammar

The final Grammar School Speech Day was held on the 8th of March 1974. It was an informal one with refreshments. Miss Smith outlined the school's academic and sporting achievements over the past year, and gave details of staff changes, outings and activities. A tribute was paid to all the school had achieved as Greenford County Grammar School and wishes were expressed that similar achievements would be recorded by the 'new' Greenford High School.

## Over-Subscribed and Many of the Staff Elsewhere!

On April 2nd 1974 an informal meeting of the proposed Governing Body of Greenford High School was held at Greenford Grammar School with Councillor Michael Elliott in the Chair. The concerns of the meeting were staffing, shortage of accommodation, and the difficulties of timetabling aggravated by the fact that the school would be over-subscribed by 78 pupils while a number of staff were committed to spending some part of the week in the closing Secondary Schools to teach the 2nd and 5th Years who were still in them.

At this meeting the vital extra accommodation needed for September 1974 was seen to be 3 classroom units, a room for Business Studies, and offices for the Heads of Year and for Miss Wilkinson. Some pupils were to be bussed to Selborne and Stanhope Schools for specialist craft subjects. The Kitchen was obviously inadequate for the increased numbers and there was a need for new equipment. There was a question of telephone lines — a need for another outside line and for adequate internal lines.

On the same evening the Greenford Grouped Governing Body of Secondary Schools met later to consider the needs expressed and to advise the new Governing Body for the High School. An announcement that did not augur well for the future was made that the proposed redecorations at Greenford promised for the summer of 1974 were deferred until '75/'76 as cuts in the revenue had to be made — reorganisation was proving very expensive!

## Miss Smith Bows Out

Miss M. Smith gave her last Report to the Governors as Head of Greenford Grammar School in which she expressed disappointment at some examination results for '72/'73 believing them to be a result of truancy and absence which was also noted elsewhere in the Borough. She then listed the School's achievements in sporting activities. Miss Smith was thanked for her valuable services.

In July the Old Scholars attended a Dinner organised by Mr D. Cheshire to mark the end of Greenford as a Grammar School while expressing the determination that the Association should continue to keep past pupils and staff in touch with each other and with the School.

On July 26th 1974 Miss Smith retired as Headmistress and Greenford County Grammar School ceased to exist.

# EXPANDING COMPREHENSIVE

## Amalgamation

September 10, 1974 was the first day of Greenford High School formed by the amalgamation of pupils from seven closing Secondary Schools and Greenford Grammar. The Head reported a short time later that there were 713 pupils, 3 forms each of 2nd and 5th years; 8 forms of 3rd and 4th years. There were 62 in the 6th Form.

I should point out here that the Borough, since the normal 1st years were now in the Middle Schools, chose to number the years in the High Schools 1 to 4, with the Lower and Upper 6th numbered 5th and 6th years. As this provided a great deal of confusion in the minds of many the system was eventually abandoned but not until 1977/78 when Ealing fell in with the numbering used in the rest of the country. For the sake of clarity I have numbered the years as 2nd to 5th regardless of what they were called — pupils start at the School in the 2nd Year. Clear?

September 4th, 1975 saw an expansion of the School by 300 pupils which included the first comprehensive intake from the Middle Schools and still more pupils from the closing Secondary Schools. The pupils coming from the Middle Schools were arranged in mixed ability form groups, which were also the teaching groups for at least half the week. Setting operated in French, Science, History and Geography. The 2nd Years were based in the new Arts Barn. The 3rd year consisted of approximately 115 pupils from closing Secondary Schools, plus the three forms of 'Grammar School' pupils arranged in seven forms. Pupils were integrated in these forms which again were the teaching unit for English, Craft, P.E. and Games, R.E. and Music. Setting occurred in Mathematics, Modern Languages, History, Geography and Science.

## Demand Exceeds Capacity

The school roll by September 1979 was 1044. The planned entry for September 1980 was 240 but at the Evening in November 1979 when the parents of prospective pupils came to view the school the hall was packed to capacity with over 450 many of whom were still touring the school after 10:00. There were more in 1980 with between 500 and 600. By September 1981 there were 1055 pupils with 103 in the 6th Form. During the year 1980/81 there had been six suspensions and 16 pupils spent part of the week at a Tutorial Centre where they were given extra help. There were 63 staff.

The number of pupils on roll by January 1982 was 1042 of whom 92 were in the 6th Form. There were still 240 in the 2nd Year, 240 in 3rd, 238 in the 4th, and 233 in the 5th Year.

## The Spectre of Closure

In September 1982 there were many problems in obtaining staff because the Borough had initiated a policy of restricting advertising for staff to fill the vacant posts. In the Borough as a whole the school population was beginning to decline. There was the prospect of having to redeploy staff already working for the Borough. In October in spite of the fact that the school was still oversubscribed, that more wanted to come to Greenford than we could take, staff began to fear that Greenford High School might be closed by the Authority. Ealing Education Committee had produced a document on 12-19

Education in the Borough. The Governors met in November to discuss the document in detail and concluded they were totally opposed to closing GHS since it had been a consistently over-subscribed school and still had an 8 form entry (i.e. 240).

At a Consultation Meeting in December the parents expressed their horror and indignation that GHS could even be considered for closure. They drew up a petition to be signed. They were against closure of any school and felt that the Authority should improve the pupil/teacher ratios instead. They were also concerned at the lack of consultation time.

The question of closure was bound to seem absurd and improbable in a school which by January 1983 had 1053 pupils with 105 in the 6th Form taught by 60 staff. The following November there were again about 500 Middle School parents having a look at the School so that the next year the roll went up to 1065 with 120 in the 6th Form.

## GOSA

At its November 1975 AGM the Old Scholars Association made an attempt to ensure its continued existence by changing its name from the Greenford Grammar Old Scholars Association to simply the Greenford Old Scholars Association so that it would be an organisation for both the Grammar School and the High School. It encouraged 6th formers to become members on their leaving the school.

## Charges Bring Protests

At the beginning of 1983 the Authority revised its lettings policy, restricting the number of times the school and the PTA could use the school premises in the evenings without paying for it. In protest the PTA suspended all planned functions. The Staff supported the PTA and refused to attend any functions after 6 including Parents' Evenings whether the fee was payable or not on that particular occasion. The lettings policy was amended in May.

## Links With GOSA Broken

Another group affected by the Authority's charging policy a few years earlier was the Greenford Old Scholars Association. As its Newsletter GOSA Drivel put it: 'These are changing times. Until recently, despite the great changes at Greenford School, it was possible to foresee our society continuing to function much as before maintaining the links to the building and to the institution it represents; towards which most of us owe a great debt and share a greater affection.'

'Unfortunately, this illusion has been finally shattered — our contacts with the school have been reducing and now even the regular committee meetings in the school library have had to be curtailed, for, the London Borough of Ealing, in all its wisdom, have decreed that we will be charged the full going rate for this "privilege". A protest was made but to no avail. The new venue for committee meetings was the Southall Cricket Club/Old Greenfordians, Durdans Park.'

Lossing the link with the School was a major reason why the Old Scholars Association gradually ceased to function round about 1977. The School lost a valuable asset.