

HILLSIDE SCHOOL

Hillside Avenue, Borehamwood, WD6 1HN

1939-2014

APPENDIX J – An illustrated Miscellany

(linked to Chapter 23 of Keith Newson's memoirs,
"Searching Back"), reproduced for the
Elstree & Borehamwood Museum Exhibition,
to mark the 75th anniversary of the
opening of the School in September, 1939.



p.5 from *GENERATION*, the school magazine, Spring 1971.

A copy of this and other Exhibition documents can be found on-line, at:
www.robertnewson.co.uk/hillside

Welcome back to Hillside School!



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from material presented, given or lent to him
by ex-colleagues and former pupils,
for the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the School
(in September, 1939).*

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Searching Back” - SECTION XIII - APPENDIX J**APPENDIX J: HILLSIDE & other Borehamwood SCHOOLS****A personal account of Dennis Gernat, and Boreham Wood Schools, onwards from the 1930s, by JANET CLARK, former Head of Champions School:
'Dennis Gernat, Hillside & Boreham Wood'**

The first time I visited Hillside, the girls in the visiting netball team I was supervising were under strict orders to make no sound as we walked from the main entrance along the corridor past Mr Gernat's room. His reputation throughout the area was of a martinet. Only years later when I was Head of Champions did he and I compare our early impressions: he had been given to understand that I was a battleaxe! In East Barnet we thought of Boreham Wood as a rough place and Hillside as a rough school. A local councillor had applied for a place for her daughter at our girls' school, as she had no wish for her to attend Hillside, a co-educational school. The opportunity for her to apply for a place in a single sex school meant that that request would be granted – but what a long daily journey for her child!

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Boreham Wood was a village, a small rural community. Early filmmakers were attracted by the clean air and the supposedly good water supply. The first film featured cottages in Shenley. Access was good by way of the main line from Euston to St Albans.

As a result of 1929-31 depression, and the decline of the coal industry in South Wales and in Durham, the Government introduced schemes of re-settling families from the depressed areas in places where they could find work and housing. Welsh families moved to Boreham Wood – one of the best known men was Johnny Farr, brother of, Tommy Farr the boxer. The Barnet by-pass was built in about 1935, to relieve towns such as Barnet of the ever-increasing traffic. Light industry was developed close to the by-pass. There were houses and work, but what about the children?

Boreham Wood had one all-age school at Furzehill. There were similar schools at Elstree, Shenley, and, I believe, at Medburn on the A5 halfway between Elstree and Radlett. The Haddow Report of 1933 recommended a change: junior school would be for pupils of 5 to 11; at eleven, pupils would move to senior elementary schools. Hertfordshire was then a smallish mainly rural authority, but the building of new schools was started, only to be halted with the outbreak of war in 1939. Hillside was completed, as were the two in East Barnet, one for girls, one for boys.

Dennis Gernat may have been a pupil at a local school. I understood that he started his career as a pupil teacher at Medburn. I think he retired in 1961, which suggests he was born at the beginning of the 20th century. That also suggests that he was too young to be called up in 1914-18. From Medburn, I understood he went to Furzehill, at first as an assistant and later as Headmaster. At some stage he studied for a degree, possibly at Birkbeck. When the headship of Hillside was advertised in 1939, he applied and was appointed.

Within a short time of the opening, Mr Gernat was having to rely on a staff made up mainly of women. There were, I believe, two men apart from Mr Gernat; was Miss Blythe the original Deputy Head? Mr Gernat once described her as “my senior mistress”. Mr Gernat had the advantage of knowing and being known by the local families. But children from the Welsh families still needed time and discipline to enable them to settle. It was not surprising that it took time and strong leadership to establish Hillside.

Very soon after the end of the war, the London County Council obtained compulsory purchasing powers to acquire enough land surrounding the existing village (of about 4,000) to build houses for some 28,000 people that they planned to move out of London. The houses were built but the LCC had no responsibility: no involvement with employment for the adults nor with education for the children. Local factories and small businesses were already staffed by people from the area. There seemed to be quite a high proportion of men employed on London transport, on buses and the underground. They continued to travel back to London to work, spending long hours away from home. Women for the most part were at home, missing the social life they were accustomed to in the communities they had left, and missing their extended families. They were vulnerable, prey to hire purchase salesmen, someone to talk to, the lure of longed-for additions to the family home – and so to the disastrous consequences of debt and re-possession.

Pre-war, Hertfordshire had been a small and mainly rural, authority; but by the luckiest of chances three

imaginative and responsible men were in charge of the three key departments: Finance, Architecture, and ducation. They worked in harmony to organise the building of schools to meet the needs of the new towns, Hemel Hempstead and Stevenage, and of the new housing Estates, South Oxhey and Boreham Wood. In the ten years to 1955, a hundred schools had been built. Needless to say, pupils arrived in the area before the schools were built. Hertfordshire were advised to provide for one primary school pupil per house; in the event there were one-and-a-half, or 50% more pupils. To gain a place on a housing ladder, families had more children. Those with only boys or only girls were at a disadvantage; siblings of the same sex could share bedrooms, and if need be share beds; boys and girls were not allowed to share once one of them reached the age of eleven.

Hillside had been built for 250 pupils. The 11 to 14 year olds had transferred from Furzehill, previously an all-age school, in September 1939. From about 1947 onwards new children began to arrive, often on a daily basis, and from every part of London. In 1948 the school leaving age was raised to 15, adding yet more pressure on staffing and accommodation; Hillside, as the only secondary school, had to cope with ever increasing numbers, and I believe there were, at its peak, 750 pupils on roll. Extra classrooms were provided in 'Horsa huts', but specialist rooms would still have been limited to those in the original school building.

The first of the new secondary schools, Lyndhurst, was opened in 1954; Champions began in 1955, the Grammar School in 1956 and Holmshill in 1958. Until 1954, Hillside had taken in all but a small percentage of secondary school pupils living in Borehamwood & Elstree. I had the impression at the time that Hillside, like other secondary modern schools, offered pupils who stayed on beyond the school leaving age the experience of studying for external examinations, such as the College of Preceptors or the R.S.A. Were their commercial courses introduced when the leaving age was raised in 1948? Hertfordshire, and certainly Borehamwood, had to provide first for the majority in the secondary modern schools. In Borehamwood, by 1958, the typical numbers in a year-group were distributed thus:

Hillside – four forms of entry, i.e.	120 pupils.
Holmshill – four forms of entry, i.e.	120 pupils,
Lyndhurst – three forms of entry, i.e.	90 pupils
Champions – three forms of entry, i.e.	90 pupils
Grammar School – three forms of entry,	<u>90</u> pupils
<u>Total</u> in age-group:	<u>510</u> pupils

Of course, the age groups did vary in size from year to year. In 1957, Champions admitted 200 eleven-year-olds, of whom 50 were the first pupils destined for Holmshill (and we at Champions were allowed just 1 teacher for that – no comment!). By contrast, in about 1964 Champions admitted only 54; once parents had a house, they often felt further children were unnecessary!

By the end of the 1950s there were 1,000 11-year-olds transferring to the secondary schools. The Grammar School intake remained fixed at 100. But in the mid-1960s the age cohort was down to 500+. These Boreham Wood figures mirrored national statistics: the bulge age-groups of 1947-48-49 had reached secondary schools in 1958-59-60. In addition, staffing was particularly difficult over the bulge period, because the birth-rate in the mid-1930s had been low, which resulted in a small age-group from which to recruit new teachers.

The raising of the school leaving age from 15 to 16, which took effect from 1972, came at a time when all the Boreham Wood secondary schools had a full age-range – and when most of them were entering pupils for O.Level, and some for A.Levels. Had those pupils remained in London, many more of them would have been in grammar schools; London was losing teenage pupils and had a surplus of grammar school places. Although secondary modern schools were originally intended to be free of public examinations like School Certificate and Higher Certificate, staff, parents and pupils all thought differently. GCE O Level was introduced in 1948 and was intended to be an interim or temporary examination for 16-year-olds staying on at school. It was envisaged that a growing number would choose to remain at school until 18, and that the end of the 6th form course would be the time for a public examination. At that time, schools were deemed quite capable of setting their own examinations and assessing their pupils' progress.

In the early 1960s the nationwide discussion about new styles of examining or assessing pupils led the teachers in Boreham Wood to set up a pilot scheme, in anticipation of the introduction of Certificates of

Secondary Education – CSEs - in 1965. All four secondary modern schools participated, and subject panels drew up their own curricula, and agreed systems of assessment, in four sections: course work, practical or oral work, personal assignment, and written examination papers. A great deal of staff work and time went into preparing the pilot scheme, and local teachers were well ready for the national scheme when it was introduced in 1965.

By this time, Dennis Gernat was about to retire from his headship of Hillside School, and he commanded considerable respect for his achievements in establishing the first local Secondary Modern school – indeed one of the earliest in Hertfordshire. It was a privilege to get to know him. After retiring from the headship of Hillside, he decided that he would enjoy working again, teaching in the classroom, and he was offered a part-time (3 days) post teaching maths at the Grammar School. Initially the 4 modern schools had had one joint governing body, but in 1961 it was decided that every school should have its own board of governors. Dennis applied and was accepted as a Champions Governor. At the inaugural meeting, to his dismay, he was elected as Chairman. He had looked forward to being free to express his own ideas and opinions, but as chairman this would be less possible.

Some time later I received a letter from the Divisional Education Officer, asking me to give the enclosed letter to Dennis. County had decided that a serving teacher could not be a school governor! How many years later was it when every school had one of its own teachers as a governor? At that time I was at a loss, being expected to do the County's dirty work. Why did I lack the wits to send it back and tell the County to carry their own responsibilities? I suppose that is a story of four previous years of struggle. Eventually, after several weeks, I gave the letter to Dennis. He experienced considerable distress at the treatment, and at the way it was meted out.

Dennis had worked for Hertfordshire for the whole of his career. Near the end of his final term as a head, the County Education Officer visited him. He brought a gift – a copy of Beach-Thomas's book on Hertfordshire – for someone who had spent his whole life in the County! When my turn came to retire, I remembered Dennis's reaction. I took some pleasure in, most courteously, thanking the CEO but rejecting his wish to visit me.

Over many years I was curious as to how and why interviewing panels for senior posts seemed to choose a successor in direct contrast to the person leaving. Hillside's second Head was so different from the first. Dennis was a private person: firm, strict, hardworking, much respected. His successor was a showman, seeking publicity, and apparently wanting to make his mark by changing much that Dennis had established. He was also quick to interpret as a personal attack other schools' publicity ventures. The then Head of Holmshill, a blunt Yorkshire man, was a showman of a different sort. His school was going to be the best; and he started with many advantages. The school was designed to become a County College, once the bulge age-group had passed through the system. That's another, different, interesting story about Boreham Wood.....

Being feminine, and the Head of a smaller school, I presented no threat to either of those two big men. The one on the north side would gain some publicity in the local press. The one on the south side would be on the phone to me to air his grievance; later the one on the north side would want to share with me a phone call he had taken....and so on. The one on the other side did enjoy stirring things.... And in time both were replaced, and again by men so different from them in personality. I used to wonder how Hillside's number 3 (Keith Newson) would have enjoyed following directly after Hillside number 1!

Hillside's head number 2 moved from Borehamwood, in 1969, to the comprehensive school in Potters Bar. There again, the contrast: he was following a tough martinet. The school, then in Middlesex, had been built to cater for pupils moved out to a new housing estate in Potters Bar, and its first Head had had an experience something like Dennis Gernat's, establishing a new school with pupils strange to the area and each other, and with all the social and economic problems of their time. We in Boreham Wood were given to understand that Hillside's no.2 did in Potter's Bar what he had done in Boreham Wood: changed and changed, and then departed for pastures new – this time in Portsmouth!

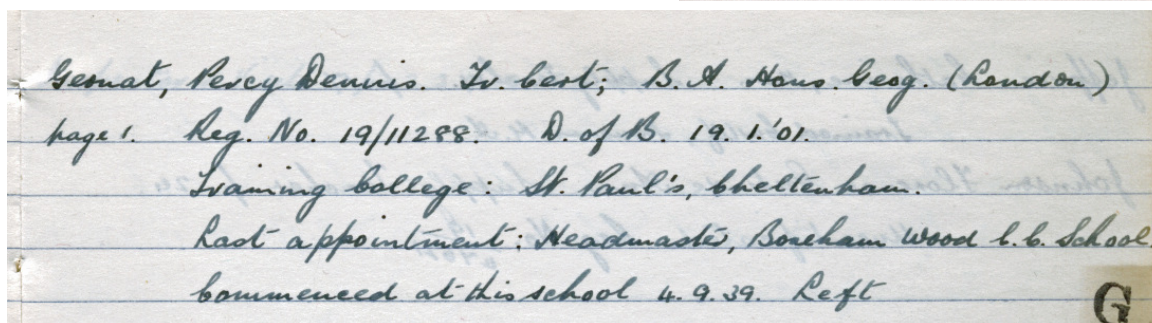
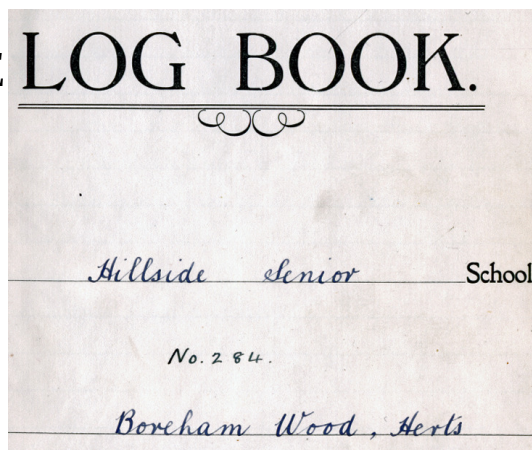
To begin at the beginning, with.... THE

LOG BOOK.

Extracts selected & edited from the Hillside School Log Book - from the wartime years, 1939 to 1945

Starting with the part of the title page (which the first headmaster had to fill in), pages 1 to 175 of this Log Book were all hand-written, on an almost daily basis in term-time, by the first headmaster, Mr P D Gernat.

In a separate Index at the front of the Log Book, under G, he described himself thus:



On the first numbered page (1) Mr Gernat lists all the teachers who were transferring from the Boreham Wood C.C. School (also referred to as 'Furzehill J. M. I.' – the junior Mixed & Infants School), to the newly built 'Hillside Senior School'. Until 1939 Furzehill was the only County school in what was then the village, Boreham Wood (then spelt as 2 words), for boys and girls up to the age of 14.

The intention had been to transfer these teachers and the 11-plus pupils to a purpose-built secondary school building on Hillside Avenue (and to install a new head at Furzehill School), on Monday, 4th September. In the event Mr Gernat does not write about the new buildings and everyone's aims for this new kind of school and its senior pupils. War had just been declared (on the 3rd) and the head and staff were living from day to day. At this time, Boreham Wood was in Hertfordshire, and those who passed the 11+ examination and won scholarships went to grammar schools in Barnet. The directives he received about air-raid warnings, shelters, warnings, respirator drill etc, came from H.C.C., Her Majesty's Inspectors, and the Board of Education.

1.

1939.	
14 th Sept.	This school was due to open today, but remained closed in accordance with instructions received following the Declaration of War on 3 rd September.
Staff	The following Staff has been appointed:- Mr. P.D. Gernat, B.A., Tr. Cert. Headmaster. Mr. J.J. O'Keefe, Tr. Cert. Assistant. Mr. A.R. Mills do. Mr. G.J. Brew do. Mrs. D.G. Taylor do. Miss J.M. Dunbar do. Miss J. Wright do. Miss E.P. Loveley do. Mr. G.J. Macklin, Handicraft Instr. (3½ days p. wk) Miss M. Woodroffe, Domestic Subjects Instructors.
caretaker	The caretaker, Mr. E. Withers, commenced duty on the 21 st July 1939.
cleaner	Miss D. Withers commenced duty today as temporary full time cleaner.

From 4th September, 1939, there was a head teacher, nine assistant teachers, and one (temporary) cleaner (probably the caretaker's daughter). The new building had had a caretaker since July 24th, 1939.

On the following pages Mr Gernat briefly recorded what they had to do to prepare for the arrival of the pupils.

But, with a war on, there was a lot to be organised before any teaching could take place; and decisions were being taken elsewhere, by the Home Office and the War Office, as well as by officers and surveyors and architects from the County, and by HMIs from the Board of Education, by the School Managers (who would now be called Governors), and finally by the Head and teachers at the School.

On p.2 there was a gap between the entries for the 26th September and this next entry for 9th October.

There should be blackout blinds on the windows. sandbags in some corridors, the caretaker's room in the basement is to become a shelter - and nobody has yet arrived to dig any 'trench shelters' outside!

6th Sept. Education Office notified that all members of Staff were available for duty.

11th Sept. As this school is situated in an area designated as "neutral" for Air Raid Precautions purposes, and as no measures for protection during air raids have as yet been carried out, instructions regarding opening must be awaited. In the meantime the Staff will be in attendance each day, carrying out preparations in readiness for opening, and making and fixing curtains in certain rooms for "black-out" purposes.

14th Sept. Visit by E. E. Jeffries, Esq., N.M.S. re opening of school.

17th Sept. Copy of circular letter regarding "Schooling in an Emergency; Neutral Areas", received from Education Office.

20th Sept. At an Emergency Meeting of the Managers it was decided that the school should not be opened until adequate measures of protection for the children during air raids had been provided.

26th Sept. Copy of letter from the County Council received stating that it is anticipated that it will not be long before work on trench shelters is commenced.

9th Oct. At an Emergency Meeting of the Managers it was decided that as work on trench shelters has not yet been commenced, the County Council should be asked to carry out measures to make the caretaker's room into a Refuge Room as a temporary measure, in order that air raid protection for half the estimated number of children who will attend this school should be available. Children could then attend on alternate days until such time as protection for all had been provided.

It was also decided that teachers should take turns temporarily in assisting at Shenley School in giving instruction to the Shenley senior children who will attend this school when it is opened.

At this point on page 3, and again on p.4, the headmaster writes 'Sept' when he means October!

When pupils are not attending regular classes, the log book entries are not made daily.

10th Sept. *Staff* Two teachers commenced duty at Shenley School this morning. An offer to send a teacher to Ebtice School to assist temporarily with the Ebtice senior children who will be attending this school when it is opened has not been accepted.

11th Oct. *Inspector's Visit* Visit by Miss Hall, N.M.S., re question of a teacher assisting temporarily at Ebtice School.

13th Oct. Visit by representative from County Survey

4

or's office re adaptation of caretaker's room for air raid protection.

19th Oct. *Air Raid Precautions* I have learned by telephone from the Education office that it will be necessary for the County Council to obtain the approval of the Home Office before the above protective measures can be carried out. The Chairman of the Managers has, therefore, agreed that the Boreham Wood Senior children should attend school on a voluntary basis in relay groups of not more than 50 at a time, to receive instruction and homework.

22nd Sept. *Opening* ^{Oct.} Children attended in three groups as follows:

Year of Birth	Time
1925 or 1926	9.45 - 10.30 a.m.
do 1927	10.30 - 11.15 a.m.
do 1928	11.15 - 12.0 a.m.

The total attendance was 88.

24th Oct. *Opening* Hours of attendance extended to allow each group as above to attend for three quarters of an hour in the afternoon between 1.30 and 3.45 pm. as well as in the morning.

25th Oct. Hours of attendance extended to allow each group to attend for one hour each morning between 9 and 12 o'clock.

At last, late in October, some pupils on some days can be taught in their new school building.

5

1939.

27th Oct. *Gardening Attendance* Visit by Mr. J. Secker, County Rural Education Organiser, re planning of gardens, equipment, etc. The percentage of Boreham Wood children who have attended school during the week has been 58.4.

LOG BOOK

5, continued

31st Oct. <i>Domestic Subjects</i>	Visit by Miss M. J. Barnes, County Organiser for Domestic Subjects re equipment.
1st Nov. <i>Staff</i>	Miss B. M. Hawkins, Monitor in Training commenced duty today.
3rd Nov. <i>Attendance</i>	The percentage of Beaucham Wood children who have attended school during the week has been 62.8.
5th Nov. <i>Staff</i>	Mrs. Taylor absent suffering from a severe cold.
8th Nov.	Mrs. Taylor returned to duty.
9th Nov.	Mrs. Taylor returned to duty.
10th .. <i>Physical Training Attendance</i>	Visit by Mr. A. Richardson, County Organiser for Physical Training re equipment. Percentage attendance for week 55.2.
15th .. <i>Physical Training</i>	Mr. A. Richardson visited and discussed with Miss Wright & Mr. O'Keefe the question of gymnastic work and organised games.
16th .. <i>Air raid Precautions</i>	Visit by Mr. S. W. Duce, Vice-chairman of Managers re air raid protective measures, which are now almost completed.
17th ..	Instructions regarding air raid drill, etc. have today been issued to all members of the staff in readi-

Finally, on 20th November, 1939, (another month later) the new school is fully open (although daily transport of pupils from Shenley and Elstree has still to be properly sorted out).

It is possible that this incident of ceiling plaster falling from the roof of the Hall is just the result of bad workmanship when the school was being built; but there was an access ladder into the roof space, which was accessible to fire-watchers during the war, and sandbags were found there (& finally removed) as late as the 1970s!

6	ness for full opening of school. (A copy of these instructions will be found inside front cover of this book.)
20th Nov. <i>Opening</i>	School open for full time instruction today. 54 Shenley children were conveyed by coach as previously arranged, but although coach made the journey to Elstree, no children have come from this village.
<i>Building</i>	A large piece of plaster has fallen from ceiling in the Assembly Hall during the week-end. The caretaker has been instructed to keep all doors leading into the Hall locked, and I have informed the architect by telephone of what has happened.
<i>Air raid Precautions</i>	Air raid drill has been carried out twice today, and will be continued to be taken twice daily until efficiency has been attained.
22nd Nov.	19 Elstree children admitted today.
21st Nov. <i>Dinner club to Dinner club</i>	Mrs. G. Francis commenced duty as book-keeper.
23rd .. <i>Transport</i>	Visit by Mr. A. Richardson re transport of Elstree and Shenley children. Miss Hawkins absent.

These Log Book entries for the last 3 weeks of the autumn term are more frequent and routine. There are no air raid warnings; the school nurse makes an inspection of all the children; and the head has meetings about transport, school meals, and new equipment. There are attendance figures of 80% and nearly 90% of pupils on roll, between 24th Nov and 20th December, although on the 7th the school did close early because of thick fog. Later, people called this period, up to the retreat to Dunkirk, the "phoney war".

The log book for 1940 at first settles down to recording routine matters: staff absences, and resignations and new appointments, pupils' examination results, occasional accidents and injuries serious enough to need medical attention – usually then from the nurse at the nearest A.R.P. first aid post. Nurses also regularly make medical inspections of all children present.

We take the story up again in March, 1940.

Hillside was built for non-grammar school pupils, from 11 to 14, and in March 1940 the Log Book records some of their final exam results, securing them further education places (some free, some fee-paying). Very occasionally a pupil is recorded as transferring to a grammar school in Barnet, at the age of 14.

11
1940.

9th March (Sat). A concert in aid of school funds was given by children in assembly hall this afternoon.

19th March. Notice received of result of Entrance Examination to Watford Technical & Art Institute:-

Junior Art Department. Fee Paying Place.	John Rowatt.
Junior Technical School do	Patricia Sewell
in Commerce do.	Edith Woolley.
Junior Technical School Special Place	Ray Gold
in Engineering do.	John Harrison
do Fee Paying Place	Dennis Haggas
do do.	Ernest Coomber.

Also John Jones reached the required standard for entrance in the Junior Technical School in Engineering and Grace Mitchell in the Junior Technical School in Commerce & may be offered Fee Paying place later if vacancies occur.

20th March. School closes for Easter Holidays at end of afternoon session.

2nd April. School re-opened. Miss Hawkins absent, suffering from German Measles.

3rd Nurse's Visit. School nurse inspected all children present.

8th Miss Hawkins returned to duty.

9th Open Day. An "Open Day for Parents" was well attended this afternoon. An exhibition of Day and Evening school work was also open for inspection. The exhibition will be open each evening this week.

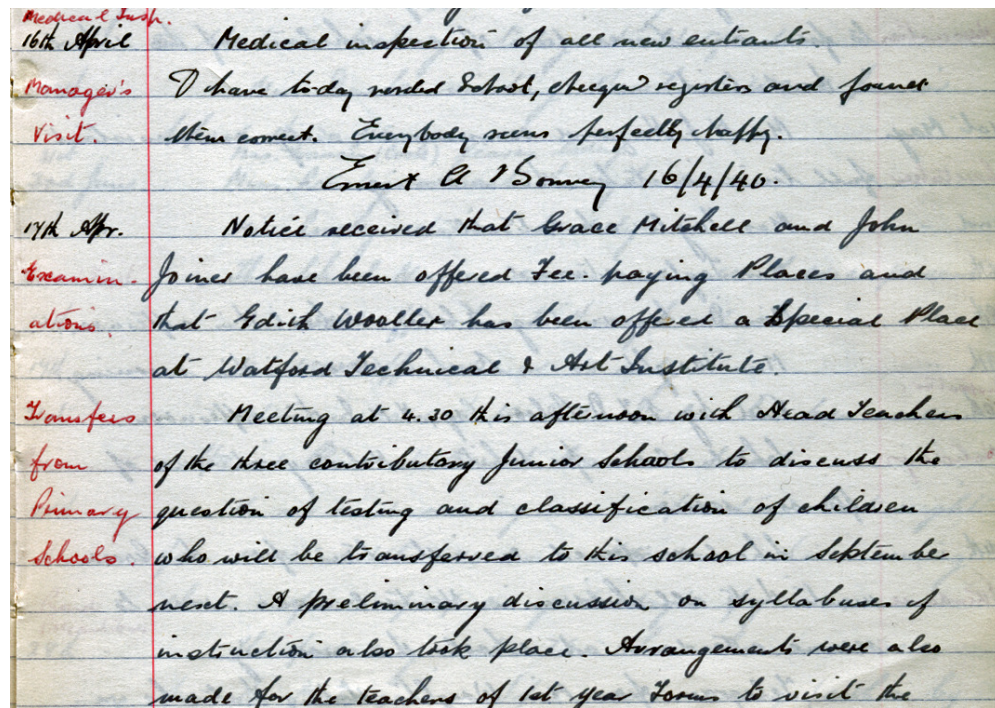
10th April Miss Woodroffe absent suffering from influenza. 12 girls from Aldenham School will be attending this school for instruction in Domestic Subjects each Wednesday during this term. They are under the charge of Miss P. E. M. Riner.

12

LOG
BOOK

12. continued

The School Log Book at the beginning of the summer term 1940, shows little sign of fear of impending invasion or devastating bombing by the Germans.



Junior Schools during the next three weeks.

National celebrations like “Empire Day” were occasions to raise money and raise morale for the “war effort”, including the Red Cross, and children were encouraged to save their pocket money by buying National Savings stamps, but the Head is determined to encourage pupils to stay on at school or go into further education; and he had noted on 30 January 1940 that “three boys and one girl who are exempt by age from further attendance at school are attending voluntarily during this term. Every effort is being made to relate their school work to practical everyday life and visits to factories etc. will be arranged at frequent intervals. Today they will visit the Keystone Knitting Mills with me.”

It does seem significant, particularly in war-time, that (on 30th April) Mr Gernat wrote in the Log Book: “At a meeting of ex-scholars of Boreham Wood, Elstree and Shenley Schools this evening it was resolved to form an Association of ex-scholars of the schools in the District.”

No doubt Hillside, as the only secondary school in Boreham Wood & Elstree, was taking the lead here.

According to the Log Book, the Government gave instructions that “all children in ‘Neutral areas’ were to resume attendance at schools this morning.” i.e. on 14th May, 1940, after the Whitsun Holiday break. Withdrawal of British forces from Dunkirk and the surrender of France took place in June, but Borehamwood was still considered relatively safe from attack from the air. School closed for an afternoon on 24th May after a “performance of items in the Hall”. On 21st June, “Arthur Devlin has been awarded a Special Place at Barnet Grammar School.” Then, on 25th June, under the heading “**Air Raid Precautions**”, the Log Book records: “An air raid warning was in operation last night from 12.50 to 3.50 a.m. Attendance this morning shows a fall of 27 on yesterday’s figures”. After this, which may well have been a ‘trial run’, the School Managers issue this instruction, on 28th June: “If a raid warning (either by siren or church bells) is sounded during the night, and if the ‘All clear’ signal is given after 12.30 a.m., school will not assemble until the following afternoon.”

Summer Term, 1940, apparently ended without any night air raid warnings ‘for real’, with an entry on 26th July, headed “**National Savings**”, “In recognition of the fact that over £100 has been collected by the School National Savings Association, since its inception in December 1939, the Managers have granted a half-day’s holiday this afternoon.” The following Log Book entry was: “Midsummer Holiday 29th July to 9th August inclusive.”

The School re-opened on 12th August, and closed on the 23rd for the “second part of Midsummer Holidays.” The previous night there was some sort of air raid, because the sirens sounded at 3.30 a.m., with the ‘All Clear’ at 4.00 a.m. and so the school did not open until that afternoon - and then closed again for the holiday. This holiday pattern probably had little to do with the war. Boreham Wood was a country village

still, and in rural areas like Hertfordshire children were often needed on the farms to help with the harvest. When the School re-opened for the Autumn Term on 2nd Sept. 1940, the *air raids began* in earnest.

Between 3rd September and 21st October, 1940 the Headmaster wrote "Air Raid Alert" or "Air Raid Warning", or simply "Air Raid" on 10 school days (or nights); he also recorded 3 day-time "Alerts". There

was no record of any bomb damage to the school premises, but a lot about disruption to the school timetable and pupils' school work and activities. Page 19 of the Log, for Oct. 21 to Nov. 25, 1940, gives some idea of this, and the measures taken to safeguard the children, whether on their journeys to and from school, or whilst they were on the premises. While it is true that it was mainly central London and strategic areas like the docks, the aerodromes and munitions factories and railways, etc, that were targeted in the Blitz, Gernat's Logbook records gunfire over Borehamwood & Shenley, out in the countryside.

19
1940

Oct. 21. Air Raid "Alert" at 10.50 a.m. Local gun fire & the proximity of enemy planes prevented the dismissal of children until "All clear" was given at 1.15 p.m. A second "Alert" sounded at 1.45 pm & "All clear" at 3.45 pm. Afternoon session cancelled and Shenley & Glouce children dismissed.

.. 22. At a Meeting of the Managers held on the 19th October, it was decided that, as from today, the following times of opening & closing school should be operative during the winter months: Morning session 9-12, afternoon 1-3.

" 31. School closes at end of afternoon session for Mid-term Holiday.

Nov. 5. School re-opened.

.. 18. Additional Air Raid Shelter in Braugh Hall, Grand Floor has now been completed.

.. 25. At a Meeting of the Managers held on 23rd Nov. it was decided that the afternoon session should close at 3.30 instead of 3.0 pm., subject to alteration at the discretion of the Headmaster, should exceptional circumstances warrant this. To avoid travel in the dark, Shenley children to leave at same time as previously in the afternoon & arrive 30 minutes later in the morning.

It is difficult to identify exactly which bit of the school was then the "crush hall" (mentioned on Nov.18) which was turned into an indoor shelter. However, we do have another description of what the 'air raid precautions' were like in the school, from a first-hand witness, the Deputy Headmistress.

Miss Blythe, who joined the Hillside School staff in September, 1941, was transferred from Furzehill School, and must have known Hillside already. She was soon promoted to the post of Deputy Headmistress, and did not retire from that post until 1971. That Spring she wrote her "MEMORIES" for the School Magazine, which was called "Generation". **These two paragraphs** were recalling her memories of the school during the World War Two, some 30 years previously.

Everyone - teachers and children, - was delighted with this new school, called Hillside, which seemed so modern and spacious compared with the old building of Furzehill School which, until this time, had been the only school for all Boreham Wood children from the age of four to fourteen years old, and now would be for primary children only.

Those early years at Hillside were very happy times in spite of the war. Various parts of the school had to be made into air-raid shelters; the corridors were heavily sandbagged; the windows were draped with black-out curtains; and the playing field was ploughed up to grow potatoes and help the food situation. Many hours were spent sitting in the shelter during lessons when the air-raids were on and often it was not worth while going back to the classroom at the 'all clear' signal, for another warning usually followed. However, it was still a time of fun and activity. School dances and concerts were held, in which everyone joined, for many of these functions were held to raise money for the Red Cross Organisation.

Miss Blythe and Mr O'Keefe are not mentioned as formally holding senior positions under Mr Gernat, until January **1959**, when they were Deputy Head and Second Master respectively. Gernat took responsibility for the school and its Log Book throughout the war; but in May-June 1958 he was in hospital, and the routine staff absences seem to be in Miss Blythe's handwriting for about a month. The Log does not give any clear idea about the administration and running of the school, although it does record some selected pupils' academic, technical or other skills and achievements, as they leave school.

In response to an appeal for photos, concert programmes, magazines, etc we received this email from Keith Kiff, now retired in Ottawa, Canada:

"I left Hillside in December 1944 but unfortunately this is my only record of that time: as you can imagine wartime restrictions on film meant that photos at that time were few, but I do remember Mr O'Keefe taking some.

I was 14 at my leaving (school leaving age) and after many jobs plus time in the RAF I was able to progress to eventually becoming a Designer in the Computer Industry starting with Elliot Brothers in 1951. In 1963 I emigrated to Ottawa Canada and have been retired since 1992. I have attached my leaving certificate signed by the first headmaster at Hillside Mr Gernat."

In the Log Book, Mr Gernat was more concerned with recording names of pupils who left to go on to further education colleges in Watford: and later with encouraging pupils to stay on at school to do RSA examinations, etc. But it seems that every pupil leaving as soon as they were "exempt from further attendance", at 14, did have a personal Leaver's Certificate - in Keith Kiff's case an excellent one! Perhaps National Service in the RAF also helped him, and when demobbed in 1949 or 1950 he would have been qualified to train as an electronics engineer with the local firm, Elliott Brothers.

Extracts edited from Hillside School LOG-BOOK - from the years 1949 to 1969:

After the War the Log Book is recording more about staff - not just their absences, but also the (more frequent) arrivals and departures, and their responsibilities and status. There are fewer references to structural changes, or additions, to the school buildings, but (on 14th April, **1949**) the entry, "New kitchen and dining hall came into use today" may well refer to the 'temporary' HoRSA hut that was the only facility for cooked school meals on the premises until the 1970s, when it became possible to adapt the original gymnasium and changing rooms to create a new kitchen and dining hall area. A number of staff who would still be teaching into the 1970s were appointed in this post-war period: Mr Harpham in Sept **1951**, Mr Doug Harwood in **1953**, Don Angood arrived in April 1953; and the fact that it was Miss Blythe and Mr O'Keefe who took "33 scholars to view the Procession on the Embankment" at Queen Elizabeth II's coronation suggests that they were by then established as Deputy Headmistress and Senior Master. Then "Mr F.G.Nash commenced duty as Head Caretaker" on 19th Dec, 1953; so there must by then have been more than one caretaker, and a group of cleaners, for Fred Nash to supervise.

By **1955** results from the G.C.E.O.Level - and a new, mysterious 'UEI secondary school certificate' - are being recorded, alongside R.S.A. qualifications in subjects like typing and shorthand. At the same time, there is a growing number of pupils who are transferring to grammar schools outside Boreham Wood. School journeys, often abroad, take the place of visits to Herts School campsite at Cuffley. In the Easter holiday, **1956**, "a party of 31 children under the leadership of Mr Don Angood visited northern

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Headmaster:
P. D. GERNAT, B.A. HILLSIDE SENIOR SCHOOL,
BOREHAM WOOD.

Tel. : Elstree 1822.

Leaver's Certificate.

Name (in full) Keith Lionel Kiff.

Date entered 9.9.41. Date left 21.12.44.

Reason for leaving Exempt from further attendance.

*General Classification for scholastic ability First. Grade.

*Attainment within the above grade Excellent.

Best subjects Arithmetic, Geography.

*Regularity in Attendance Good.

*Punctuality Excellent.

*Conduct Excellent.

*Reliability Excellent.

*Speech Good.

*Appearance and Cleanliness Excellent.

Remarks A trustworthy willing boy of good record
at school for work and character.

P. D. Gernat
Headmaster.

*Grades:—First, Second, Third.
*Scale of assessments:—Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor.

Italy, with excursions to Switzerland, for 10 days; and a party of 29 children under the leadership of Mr and Mrs Marshall visited Belgium". Mr W.Kuzian first appears as a "supernumary (Maths)" teacher in 1957; Freda Pellowe is first mentioned (as a part-time supply teacher) in Jan 1959.

Pages 148-9 of the Log Book, for Jan 1959, below, mention 8 key members of staff who would still be teaching at Hillside after Bert Smith took over from Dennis Gernat (28 months later, April, 1961). More such key members, Joan Ramsden (Art & Light Crafts, Scale I) and Diane Manser & Beryl Radbourne (Domestic Sc.) were appointed in Summer, 1960. They, and 7 (ticked) of the 8, were still in post when I took over the school in January, 1970. These were colleagues who steered what was by then a Secondary

Modern School School towards its new role as an all-ability 11-18 school, whilst maintaining its neighbourhood school status, as a community with its own standards and traditions, such as fund-raising for Save the Children at an annual 'Harvest Sale', including supporting the education of seven individual children in Africa. Bert Smith, in his section of the Log Book (now more informal, and very reflective) wrote, in July 1959:

"When I became Head here [in 1959] the school was in the middle of a very difficult patch. The very large age-groups born after the war were at their peak, the school was very overcrowded and the behaviour of many of the pupils left much to be desired. The academic record of the school was good, but its standing locally was poor because of the behaviour of a minority (as always!). In addition, it is the only 'old-fashioned' building in Borehamwood - all the other schools have been built since 1953....."

It is against this background that Mr Smith wrote, in November, 1966, about the unexpected news that a "RoSLA Unit" was going to be built on the front lawn of the school: "Although nothing has been said officially, this is a tremendous feather in our cap - to have been selected out of all the Herts schools. Someone has recognized us at last - and about time too."

The RoSLA 'Unit', designed by the Dept. of Education as a prototype for a building to serve students of 15-plus when the leaving age was to be raised in the 1970s, was what first persuaded me to apply for this part-

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1959.
16 Jan. School re-opened.
The following teachers commenced duty:-
Mr. D. R. R. C. Carter (Permanent Staff, Senior English) vice Mr. Mackay
Mrs. M. Riley (Supply) vice Mr. Sage.
Miss D. V. Belas (Supply) vice Mrs. Boswell.
✓ Part-time supply teachers:- Mrs. F. Pellowe and Mrs. Sheppard.
Mr. D. Taylor absent - ill.
The above resignations have necessitated considerable re-adjustment of Posts of Special Responsibility. The complete list of teachers now holding such posts is as follows:-
✓ Miss J. V. Blythe Deputy Head.
✓ Mr. J. J. O'Keefe Second Master.
✓ Mr. D. H. S. Angood. Departmental Head, Grade B. (Examinations)

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✓ Miss J. M. Durbes. Departmental Head, Grade B. (Junior Department)
Mrs. D. S. Taylor Graded Post, Scale III (Organisation, South Extension)
✓ Mr. D. George Departmental Head, Grade A (Mathematics)
Mrs. J. Brown Departmental Head, Grade A (Needlework)
✓ Mr. D. Hatwood Graded Post, Scale I (Stationery & Supplies)
✓ Mr. D. Harpham Graded Post, Scale I (Risk distribution)
Mr. N. P. Tyler Graded Post, Scale I (Careers Master)
Mr. G. Marshall Graded Post, Scale I (Librarian)
✓ Mr. J. Mumford Graded Post, Scale I (Advanced work)
Mr. D. R. Carter Graded Post, Scale I (Advanced work)
New extension block consisting of 3 classrooms and girls' toilets on north-east of main building in operation as from today.

icular vacancy left by Bert Smith's resignation in 1969, and so it is featured in the first photo of the school in Chapter 23. The Log Book for **1966-7-8** was full of the rivalry between Hillside and the nearest and newest of the Borehamwood Secondary Modern schools, Holmshill (and between their respective Heads!), at a time when such schools were trying to persuade more pupils to stay on voluntarily for a 5th year to take public examinations, and in Bert Smith's case to persuade those who reached CSE grade 1 (equivalent of GCE O level) in several subjects, to stay on and attempt GCE A Levels, in a small sixth form. In February 1968 he recorded with satisfaction the formal opening of the new Unit by Sir Patrick Gordon-Walker, the Education Secretary, and the numerous visitors that wanted to see it, and what good publicity it was for the school. In September that year Bert Smith wrote: "*This is the first time I have mentioned the 6th Form, and I can link it with the plans for secondary reorganisation, because I have every hope now that, whatever happens, we shall remain a 'senior' school serving pupils up to 18. The exact pattern is not clear, but my money is on a middle school scheme in which all the primary schools will be involved in a drastic reorganisation into first schools from 5-9, middle schools from 9-13 and upper schools from 13-18.....We shall almost certainly be an Upper School – the one mainly serving the south side of the town, with a reorganised Borehamwood Grammar School serving the north. I am sure that the success of the RSLA Unit, the proof that we can take pupils direct from CSE to 'A' Level G.C.E and the general social standing of the school in the district are all factors influencing the Local and County working parties discussing the plans.*"

Although Bert Smith was willing to 'put money on it', he does not sound convinced that the middle school system would be easy to establish in Borehamwood. Next year, in April **1969**, he was writing in the Log Book that he had '*no particular reason*' for leaving his post, but had decided to apply for (and had obtained) a more lucrative post as Head of Mount Grace School, an 11-18 comprehensive school in Potters Bar. He also complained that no-one ever asked to see the log book, and that he was "*not a diary keeper by nature*", and so instead he confides in the log book his feeling that he has done a good job, in particular with the Maths and Science departments, and in persuading the cleverest of the '11-plus failures' to stay on and start working for university entrance qualifications - and that he has no qualms about handing over to me the job of improving the teaching of English and the poor exam results in that department. So he accepted his new post from September, and seemed quite happy to leave Miss Blythe to run Hillside, as Acting Headmistress for a term, until I was free to succeed him from January, **1970**.

K.N.'s earliest 'Reports to Governors':

From the outset I could see the importance of both the new 'Unit' and also a nucleus of established staff who were already loyal to the school, and still young enough to look ahead to promotion in the new Upper School. In addition to some already mentioned, in the Log Book extracts, there were others, like Fred Brotherhood, Kate Irving, Daphne Simmons, who would serve the school well until their retirement, and colleagues like Barry Smallwood (Music) and Frances Meston (History) who would make their mark in the new Upper School, before moving on. I was fortunate, also, that there was already a flourishing Parents Association, who had not only already raised funds towards getting the latest model of 'language laboratory' for the French Dept, but had started running regular evening school dances for the older pupils. The School Managers whose comments appeared in the Log Book previously, had also just been replaced by a 'Governing Body' (responsible for one school, and not several) under the strong Chairmanship of Mrs Frances Murray, JP. I knew that I had a first duty of care to the pupils, and was as accountable to their parents, who had chosen Hillside, and to the Governors, as I was to the County (the L.E.A.) and their Auditors. We held a formal Governors' Meeting once a term, and my report and record was typed for them: I started at once sticking copies into the Log Book. Here are the first 9 items I wrote:

Headmaster's Report to the Meeting of the Governors
on Tuesday, 3rd February, 1970.

1. Number on roll: 528
2. Staff
There were no resignations last term, and no new appointments other than that of Mr. Newson.
3. Examinations
The results of the mid-winter Cambridge G.C.E. O.Level examinations (in English and Additional Mathematics) are appended. These results are satisfactory, bearing in mind that this examination took place very soon after the candidates had completed their C.S.E. courses, and that some of them had not achieved Grade 1 in their C.S.E. English.

4. to 9. overleaf, on p.14.....

4. Occasional Day's Holiday
It has now been agreed that Tuesday, 17th February should be added to the Half Term weekend this term.
5. Premises
 - (a) New machinery for the metalwork shop (room 27) has now arrived, and we expect work on the necessary rewiring of that workshop to commence shortly. This will eventually lead to the conversion of that shop from a dual-purpose wood/metalwork room to a more advanced metalwork/engineering workshop.
 - (b) The school-keeper reports that the boiler pressure check recommended by the Governors in October, 1969, has still not taken place.
6. School Journeys
In addition to the journey to Riggerberg from 22nd to 31st May, to be organised by Mr. Angood, Mr. Hilton is proposing to take a small party of rock-climbers to the Lake District over the Half Term weekend (13th-17th February).
7. School General Allowance
Following the Governors recommendation at their last meeting, it has been found possible for a supplementary allowance for 6th form work to be made to the school's General Fund for the 1969-70 year.
8. School and Parents' Association Activities
 - (a) A Carol Service was held at All Saints Church on the evening of Monday, 15th December. The School Wind Band, of about sixty players conducted by Mr. Smallwood, accompanied the carols. This function was the first of its kind, and was very successful and well supported by parents. A collection for the work of "Shelter" was taken after the service.
 - (b) The school has arranged for parents to have the opportunity to meet the staff teaching their children at Parents' Evenings on Tuesday and Wednesday, 24th and 25th February, following the half-yearly reports. Mr. Smallwood also hopes to arrange a Musical Concert for parents during the last week or ten days of this term.
 - (c) The Headmaster will meet the officers and committee of the Parents' Association shortly to discuss their future programme. A Children's Dance has already been arranged for Saturday, 21st February.
9. Survey of Reading Ability of current First Year Pupils
The Headmaster hopes to be able to present a verbal report on the results and implications of a survey he is at present conducting, in which he will hear each first year child read on the Holborn Standard Reading Scale.

With Miss Blythe at my side, I was busy trying to get to know - and to assess - the staff, the pupils, the on-going school events, and the buildings: in short, the strengths, weaknesses, and deficiencies of the school as Bert Smith had left it. Even after he abandoned Mr Gernat's custom of recording every staff absence, his Log was still not much help! My Reports to Governors were my record (pasted into the weighty Log Book), but they were always an agenda for action, and an appeal for the support of the Governors and the LEA, to find the resources and funding to make the school community as successful as it could be. By *May 1970*, I already had things to report, and there were plans for the immediate future:

9. Parents' Association

The Committee of the Association have arranged a full programme of Children's Dances, Jumble Sales, a Christmas Bazaar and social activities for the whole year, and a working party of parents meets regularly each week at the school.

In memory of Mr. Don Street, a prominent and enthusiastic worker among the parents who was Chairman of the Association when he died suddenly in January this year, the Association have presented a fine set of "Time Life" reference books to the School Library. The Association has also paid for the purchase of new climbing ropes for the school's rockclimbing activities.

5 May 1970 Report to Governors, *continued*:

10. Spring Term Activities

Parents of children in the final year of their primary schools were invited to see the school on 5th February. About 70 attended and expressed great interest.

Open Evenings for parents of Hillside pupils were held on 24th and 25th February, following half-yearly reports, and were very well attended.

The school's second Music Festival took place on 19th March. This inter-house competition produced music-making of a generally high standard, and is a tribute to the work of Mr. Smallwood.

11. Summer Term Activities

The following are planned, and School Governors would be most welcome on these occasions:

- Evening meeting for Parents of 3rd Year Pupils - 30th April.
- Art Exhibition (C.S.E. work from the four local secondary schools) - 11th to 15th May.
- Musical Concert - evening of 21st May (postponed from last term)
- Evening meeting for all parents, about changes planned for next year, etc., - 10th June.
- Open evening (with exhibitions of work) for all parents, on 16th July (following half-yearly reports).
- Sports Day(s) - still to be fixed.

We shall also hold a meeting this term for parents of those children coming into our first year in September, 1970.

Whilst I was sizing up the members of staff who were in post in January, 1970, they were of course examining their personal prospects of promotion, and how long it would be before the Upper School was up and running, with more pupils on roll, and a more balanced intake that might create a strong sixth form. Many were looking round for new posts with more immediate prospects of an increase in salary. The school was unlikely to be raised to a 'Group X' status, in anticipation of reorganisation and growth in numbers, for at least another year. This situation is reflected in Section 2 of my next Report:

Headmaster's Report to the Meeting of the
School Governors on Tuesday, 6th October, 1970

1. Number on roll: 532

2. Staff:

The following members of staff resigned their posts this summer:

- Mr. B. Hunter, Head of Science, Grade B
- Mr. A. Pettit, Head of Mathematics, Grade B
- Mr. K. Dawson, Head of English, Grade B
- Mrs. M. Fry, Domestic Science, Grade A
- Mr. P. Morter, Mathematics, Scale II
- Mr. A. Lambert, Mathematics.
- Miss C. Vassall, History and English.
- Mr. J. Reed, part-time science.

In addition, Mrs. K. Griffiths (English, R.E.) Mrs. M. Howard (Shorthand and typing) and Miss C. Stamford (Dance) reduced the number of half-days they teach at Hillside, while Mrs. A. Jenkins (Art) increased the number of days she teaches with us.

We welcome the following new members of staff this term:

- Col. R.D. Wheal, Head of Science, Grade D
- Mr. A. Mitchell, Head of Mathematics, Grade D
- Mr. H. Thomas, Head of English, Grade C
- Miss L. Boston, Mathematics
- Mr. L. Levie, Mathematics.
- Mr. V. Conquest, English and History.
- Mr. D. Mitchell, Science.
- Mrs. A. McGirr, part-time domestic science.
- Mrs. J. Leslie, part-time French and History.
- Mrs. J. Emmerton, part-time remedial English.

Mrs. S. Woodford has been appointed to a Scale II post with responsibility for organising domestic science.

There were four more promotions to "Scale Posts" within departments:

Mr. I. Wilson, Dep. House Tutor & Woodwork	...	...	Scale II
Mrs. B. Radbourne (rel. Education)	...	...	" I
Mr. D. Mitchell (Sc. and Audio Visual Aids)	...	...	" I
Miss J. Kelly (Geography)	...	...	" I

The fact that so many of the full-time staff on this 'roll-call' (here, or on the two previous pages) remained loyal to the new Upper School for so long, until their retirement, or went on to deserved promotion to senior posts elsewhere, is remarkable. The school years 1972-3-4, when two year-groups at one time transferred from the other 3 secondary modern schools in the town (and were the first to be required to stay at school until 16), were challenging, and by no means all of the new buildings were equipped and in use by then. But there is just one more Report to the Governors, which I pasted a copy of into the formal Log Book (in February, 1972). The last 130 pages of the Log Book, begun in September 1939, are all still blank!

The Rest of the 'Reports to Governors' – and other anecdotes:

I kept file copies of my later Reports to Governors (2 or 3 a year from **1972 to 1987**) in a ring folder. I now assume that, when the Upper School was finally closed down in a further re-organisation of the Borehamwood schools in 2000, all those records were thrown away. I now wish I had kept another file of copies of my own! However, edited extracts (covering the period 1970 to 1987) were selected and copied or paraphrased, to form the last 8 pages of the "This Is Your Hillside Life" volume that was presented to me by my colleagues at the Farewell occasion for my Retirement, in July, 1987. These selected extracts have been copied into this Appendix J, on pages **25 to 34**, below.

It is, however, the achievements of the pupils, the changes of the built environment, and the work of the teachers that make up the real story of any school. In the case of Hillside there is all too little left now, apart from personal memories, which conveys the spirit of the school - or makes nostalgic or amusing reading. Arbitrary items like photographs and concert and play programmes and school magazines do of course bring back memories and prompt anecdotes. But is still possible to put together at least one particular "Curious story", from the Log Book (and from those remaining Reports to Governors):

"The Curious story of the Sandbags in the Roof-space"

Above the school stage, and behind and to one side of the proscenium arch, there is a set of ladder rungs fixed to the wall in such a way that it cannot easily be reached from the floor of the stage. This leads to a small door giving access to the roof-space, under the eaves. Most of the floor, above the ceiling of the Hall, is not boarded over. In 1970, I assumed that it was not part of my responsibility, as Head, to check the state of the roof, or what was kept in the roof-space. Then, one day in 1978, it was reported to me that a war-time sandbag had fallen through a hole in the ceiling on to the floor of the Assembly Hall. I reported this extraordinary accident in my next Report to the Governors, assuring them that the remaining bags had been removed, and the ceiling had been repaired.

The rest of this long story has only emerged now, in 2014: 75 years since the beginning of WW2. In 1978 I assumed sandbags were put up there as part of the air-raid precautions; but when I *now* look again, closely, at the school Log Book, handwritten by Mr Gernat from the 4th Sept, 1939, I realise that 1978 was not the first, but the third time that a hole in the Hall (or stage) ceiling had been recorded.

The first of those 3 entries was from November, 1939 (on p.6 of the Log Book):

<p><i>Building</i> (20 Nov. 1939)</p>	<p>A large piece of plaster has fallen from ceiling in the Assembly Hall during the week-end. The caretaker has been instructed to keep all doors leading into the Hall locked, and I have informed the architect by telephone of what has happened.</p>
<p><i>Air Raid Precautions</i></p>	<p>Air raid drill has been carried out twice today, and will be continued to be taken twice daily until efficiency has been attained.</p>

Mr Withers was appointed school caretaker some 6 weeks before the building was ready. In Sept. & Oct. 1939, he and the teaching staff had been building "shelters" with sandbags, and putting up blackout curtains as a precaution against air raids. But as the area was still quiet, the children were back at school in November, learning what to do if and when the sirens sounded. 18 months later, after the worst of the 'Blitzkrieg', Withers suddenly got the sack: "owing to unsatisfactory work"!

29th Mar.	Mr. Withers, caretaker, ceases work here today, having been given notice to leave by the Managers owing to unsatisfactory work. Miss Withers has also handed in her notice to date as from today.
1941	Mr. Hazard, assistant caretaker, has been appointed caretaker.
31st Mar.	Mrs. E. M. Pales commenced duty in place of Miss Withers as kitchen help and part time cleaner.

On page 33 of the Log Book, for the next year, there is this entry, dated 16th June, 1942:

16th June 1942	During a tour of inspection of area above first floor, while on Fire-Watch duty this evening, Mrs. E. M. Pales missed her footing and fell through ceiling to floor of stage, sustaining serious injuries. After receiving preliminary treatment by party from the First Aid Post, she was taken by ambulance to Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet.
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whether she was a teacher who had volunteered to do "Fire Watch duty", one has to go back nine months, to the entry for 31.03.1941. She was then appointed in place of Miss Withers, as "kitchen help and part-time cleaner" (and we must assume Miss Withers was the daughter of the then dismissed caretaker).

We do know from these early pages of the Log, that the staff (teachers, caretaker and cleaners) were involved in the preparations for air raids, and some were on a rota of "firewatchers" looking out for bombs, and especially 'firebombs'. The June 1942 log-book entry also suggests that some of the "firewatchers" were able to access *all* the roof-spaces, including those above the classrooms as well as roof-spaces above the hall and stage. The log book records frequent air-raid alerts in the night (and a few during the day) in the autumn of 1940 and in early 1941.

But, back in November 1939, Mr Gernat did not record any repair, when a section of plaster just fell down (although the Hall was clearly in use again soon after this incident).

Nearly three years later, on 16 June 1942, Mr Gernat was reporting in the Log Book that Mrs Pales (who seems to have been the sole war casualty on the school premises during WW2) was quite seriously hurt, when carrying out her routine inspection duty above the Hall (or on the stage). She was surely not tackling an unexploded bomb, or putting out a fire from an incendiary device; Mr Gernat would have recorded that! He makes no mention of a warning of an air raid on 16th June: this was just a "tour of inspection area above first floor while on fire watch duty this evening." However

she did not simply put her *foot* through the ceiling, “*she fell through the ceiling to the floor of the stage, sustaining serious injuries*”. One supposes that, in war-time, no-one was going to be prosecuted for negligence, and Mrs Pales would not have claimed compensation!

What we do know, and can confirm from one of *my* Reports to the Governors in 1978, is that there were *still* war-time sandbags left in the roof-space over the Hall, some 36 years later. I might therefore have believed that it was one of those that fell down through yet another hole in the ceiling! So I reported this to the 1978 Governors as an extraordinary accident, and added that I had ordered the Caretaker to remove any remaining sandbags at once. I assume I also made arrangements for an immediate repair to the ceiling. This is how the accident has been recorded, from 1978 up to now. But I have sometimes wondered just what it was that caused that sandbag to fall: did it just slip down, or was it pushed? However, *now*, in May 2014, thanks to the following Facebook dialogue with Lesley De Meza (who was teaching English at Hillside in the 1970s), we are at last getting a little nearer the truth! Here is a transcript of the on-line discussion between Lesley and our former pupils, or students:

Joe Rumsey: Lesley, I hope Keith is well, I did like him. The only time I was in his office was to beg, and we did beg to play the gig we had been rehearsing for in the school hall when Paul Taylor put his foot through the ceiling. I had no idea he was in the loft when suddenly dust was falling from the ceiling as his foot came through. Sorry, I'm laughing to myself as I'm writing. I knew this wouldn't go down well. We had to make up some plausible explanation as to why there was a hole in the ceiling. We came up with the idea that the sand bags in the loft, left over from the war, were vibrated by the loud noise from the amps and one of them displaced itself and fell through the ceiling. Ridiculous I know, but it was the best we could come up with. The following day the gig was cancelled because of the hole in the ceiling. We really wanted to play the gig so I tried to convince Keith that it was a freak accident. I'm sure he saw right through me but also saw what it meant to me to do the show. He let us play. For that I will be always grateful

Phil Pearce: I too was there on that fateful day, I remember going on the offensive with Keith, saying how could he leave sandbags in the ceiling since the war? He was not amused and was saying he wasn't born yesterday. Happy days!

This Facebook dialogue had begun with an announcement by Lesley De Meza of the death of Jane Mancus, Deputy Headmistress at that time. Mark Poole was not involved in this gig at the time (in 1978), but joined in the discussion as follows (coming rather generously to my defence):

Mark Poole: I might be wrong and forgive me if I am....Mr Newson was of a new and more liberal kind of headmaster, similar to Mr Willis at Holmshill.....and had a dislike of the cane and suchJulian Marcus and Jane Mancus were on hand to deliver the relevant levels of corporal punishment deemed necessary in that day and age. If I remember rightly the offence had to be extremely serious to warrant a caning: as far as I'm aware the cane was only used once in my 5 years at Hillside.

What I do remember in Mr. Newson was a headmaster passionate about English literature. He only taught Eng Lit to A level students in a teaching role but those lessons gave us an insight into the richness of the English language. Mr Newson coached us on DH Lawrence's "The Rainbow" which was part of our A level syllabus; in a subtle way he expressed the need to embrace the metaphysical aspects of the prose, and feel the emotion behind the words; his key words at the time were 'empathy' and 'pathos'.

Lesley de Meza: He was and is an English scholar. He wrote "The Art of English," which I certainly used as a classroom text book.....And you're absolutely right about the cane, he loathed it.

Mark Poole: His passion for the English language shone through; you could hear a pin drop during one of Mr. Newson's tutorials.

Perhaps the Head should have the last word on this story? I am grateful, and touched, by these and many other messages I have recently received from former pupils. I can only dimly remember interviewing the man who rehearsed for that gig, and it is only now, in 2014, that I learn exactly whose foot came through the ceiling that day! And perhaps I was only ‘born yesterday’? History is made up of unreliable memories, biased records, and half-truths. But I do believe I wanted to give those 5th and 6th formers the chance to perfect their skills and use their talents in a variety of ways (as well as in their English exams). Was that really so “new” and “liberal” at that time, in 1978?

Some other Evidence from the Internet, etc.

Other recent email correspondents have also dubbed me (and the kind of education they received) as “liberal”. Carol Timson wrote this in an email in 2012: *“I have very happy memories of my time at Hillside School under your stewardship. I believe that your desire to provide a decent, liberal education in an area where the population has often been ‘written off’ permeated the ethos of the school and provided a ladder to much richer, fuller life. As the last year of the ‘11-plus’ failures (in 1970) I do believe I was given a second chance and will always be grateful to you and the school.”* Carol is now a Senior Lecturer in Education – Music, at the University of Hertfordshire. In 1972 Carol was one of the 11 ‘2nd clarinet players’ (with a total of 40 other pupils, all listed here) when they made their first recording - of these 8 titles, including Barry’s own piece, *“Spanish Holiday”*, dedicated to Miss Blythe, and played for her at a Farewell Concert for her retirement in July that year.

Musical Director
Mr. Barry W. Smallwood

SIDE ONE	
1. FANFARE	B. W. SMALLWOOD
2. MARCH—ON THE BALL	E. SEIBERT
3. MOONLIGHT SERENADE	G. MILLER arr. B. W. Smallwood
4. SPANISH HOLIDAY	B. W. SMALLWOOD
5. FOLK SONG BLUES	J. KINYON
6. HYMN TUNE—CRIMOND	J. S. IRVINE
7. HYMN TUNE—PENLAN	D. JENKINS
8. JOE 90 THEME	B. GRAY
SIDE TWO	
1. MARCH—BELPHEGOR	E. BREPSANT
2. HELLO DOLLY	J. HERMAN
3. PAINT YOUR WAGON (Selection)	F. LOEWE
4. THREE SEA SHANTIES	arr. S. JOHNSON
5. HYMN TUNE—GERONTIUS	J. B. DYKES
6. THE BEST OF THE SEEKERS	T. SPRINGFIELD

HILLSIDE
Brass & Reed
Band

1st Clarinets Paula Baxter Cheryl Batchelor Linda Hayward Jane Stokes Mr. J. Stone	Solo Horn Graham Cane	E flat Bass Philip Owen
2nd Clarinets Julie Brown Gwen Stewart Carol Timson Joanna Hill Elizabeth Pike Jillian Laing Valerie Chaney Kathryn Chesterman Julia Ridgman Joanna Sullivan Denise Van Poeyer	1st Horn Steven Greening	B flat Bass David Smith Mr. A. Smith
3rd Clarinets Patricia Durrant Teresa Hayward Diane Grant Esther Cornelius Erica Guest Hazel Hayward Gillian Bathmaker Anita Morton	2nd Horn Paul Wintle	Percussion Glyn Matthews
	1st Baritone Stephen Hubbard	Solo Trumpets Tony Jarvis Daniel King Robin Stokes David Wrigglesworth
	2nd Baritone Lynnette Reeves	Repiano Andrew Judge
	Trombones John O’Gorman Mr. Ian Wilson	2nd Trumpet David Ross Kevin Allen
	Euphonium Rochester Johnson	3rd Trumpet Robert Dale Stephen Jones

Kathryn Chesterman (also listed here as a 2nd clarinettist; now known as Kay), hearing on Facebook that I was looking for memorabilia, emailed me to say she had kept her copy of the disc and its sleeve, and this included a photo of the Band, performing at Christmas, 1971, with the brass band on the school stage; Kay was 5th from the right in the front row in this photograph that was on the back of the cover.



For this recording, Barry did strengthen the band with a few adult players, one of whom was John Stone who was then teaching English, and also co-directing the school plays.

When I arrived in January, 1970, music, art, crafts like pottery, and dance, drama, athletics, soccer, school journeys, fund-raising for Save the Children, as well as the school dances organised by the Parents Association (as another fund-raiser, for the musical instruments and the state-of-the art language laboratory, etc) were all well-established - in a school community that was integrated with the community on the estates around it. I understood the importance of these ‘social’ activities – mattering just much as results in public examinations - in a ‘liberal’ education for all. I was certainly pleased to find this 40-piece school band, with an already fine reputation locally.

Back – 4th row, l. to r:

Philip Owen; Col Bob Wheal; Rochester Johnson; Stephen Hubbard; Robert Dale; David Smith; Steven Ratcliffe; and ...
David Ross; Lynette Reeves; Paul Wintle; Mr Ian Wilson; John O'Gorman

Back – 3rd row – l. to r:

Kevin Allen; Simon Burnett; Leon Young; Steven Jones; Andrew Judge; Daniel King; Tony Jarvis; Graham Cane; and ...
Steven Greening



Mr Barry Smallwood surrounded by the **Brass & Wind Band**, at the back of the School Hall, 1972-73

Front – 2nd row – l. to r: Julia Ridgeman; Linda Hayward; Paula Baxter; Tina Burslem; Mr.B.S.; Joanna Sullivan; and...
Julie Brown; Margaret Johnson; Jane Stokes; Denise Van Poyer

Front – 1st row – l. to r: Carol Timson; Katherine Chesterman; Valerie Chaney; Cheryl Batchelor; and...
Esther Cornelius; Elizabeth Pike; Joanna Hill; Gillian Laing; Diane Grant

Barry Smallwood was appointed in 1966 straight from his B.Ed & Cert.Ed courses as the School's first music specialist. But he was also trained in PE/Games, and not only coached school soccer teams, but also (with Harry Hilton, teacher of French) took the School's young rock climbers on school trips

to scale the mountains. This *Borehamwood Post* caption mentions a Campions School teacher, John Lear, and two of his Campions pupils (Ronald & Derek), and Dave Wrigglesworth and Graham Down from Hillside (leaving someone else unidentified).



Harry Hilton

Mr Pete Brown, and Mr Barry Smallwood, are with the young referees below.



The District Post, Thursday, November 14, 1968
□ The climbers outside the youth hostel at Etherwater, Langdale. They are (left to right): John Lear, David Wrigglesworth, Mr. Harry Hilton, Graham Down, Mr. Barry Smallwood, Edward Webb, Leon Young, Ronald Fletcher and Derek Jennings.



School for referees

TWENTY boys from Hillside Secondary School, Boreham Wood, have been approached by the Boreham Wood Minors League to referee under-13 matches next season. The boys, all under 16 years old, received application forms from the league last week following their recent qualification as soccer referees.

The successful boys are: Gregory Parratt, Alex Byars, Derek Church, Cliff Newman, Derek Lavers, Dave Bentley, Glyn Edwards, Tony Hillen, Alan Gaskell, Dave Lilly, Terry Clarke, Steve Ball, Richard Cullum, Stephen Tan, Dave Buck, Martin Fales, Paul Graham-Howard,

**1971-72 Soccer
Season**

STAFF v SCHOOL SOCCER School Team

**Back Row: D. Tall, C. Martin, S. Bentley,
D. Cannon, A. Gutteridge, C. Shanahan
Front Row: D. Marlborough, J. Lewis,
M. Hall, K. Hollowell, D. Ridge, P. Dawson**

*(It seems the staff team
were not in the picture
that year!)*



A number of large aerial photographs of Boreham Wood were taken in the early 1960s. This one (*below*) has the School as its centre, and it shows how close some of the houses on the LCC estate, and the school campus, were to the film studios, one of which is prominent in this picture. Later, Elstree Studios, where BBC TV shows like *Dr Who* were filmed, were also developed - on the far side of Shenley Road.

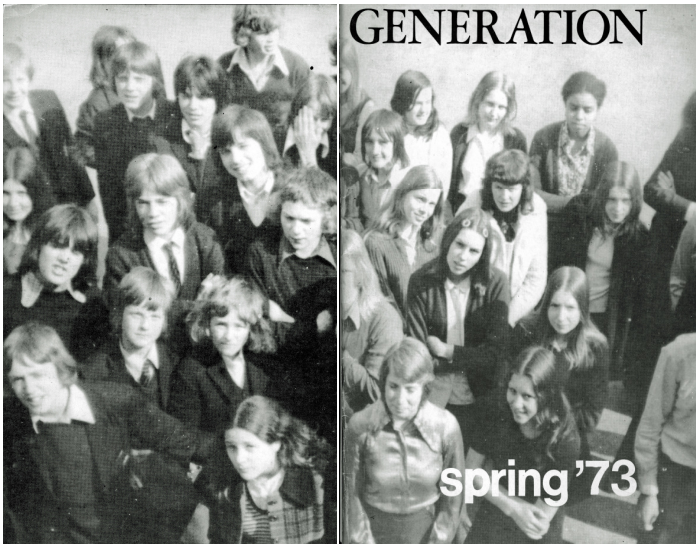
Monksmead School, seen here to the right of Hillside, was (later) a First School. Their 8- or 9-year-old children would come over to Hillside at Christmas to sing Carols to their older brothers and sisters. The 1950s buildings on at least two other school campuses are in the photo.

At this time, Hillside has only two new blocks; and all three of the HoRSA huts that were erected shortly after the war, in Mr Gernat's time, are still in place – and in use.



Some parents of pupils in local schools will have found skilled employment at these studios: building sets, and as electricians, etc.; and we did occasionally take classes down on 'educational' visits, to see film-set replicas of, for example, Shakespeare's "Globe", or various sets built for period costume dramas – not to mention the Darleks.

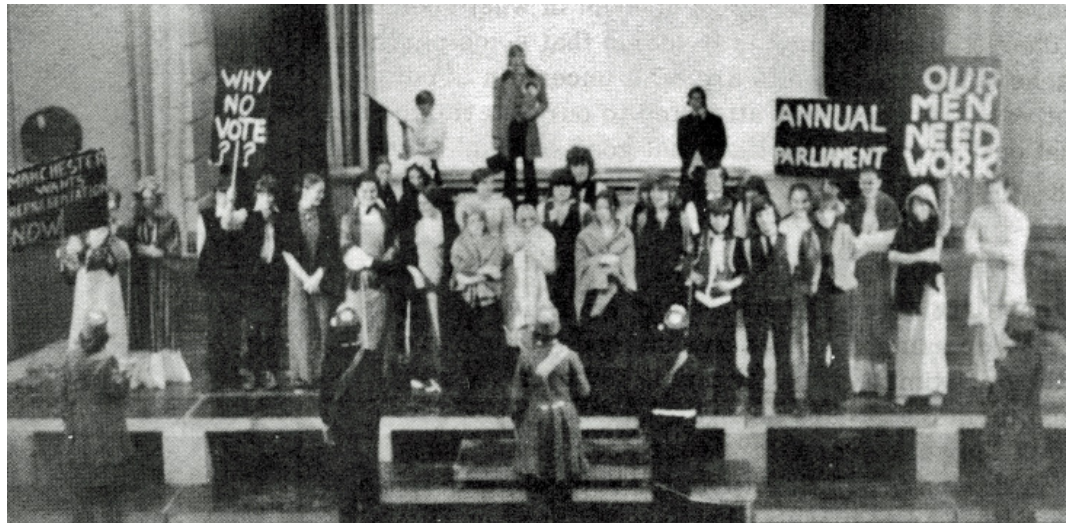
But drama at Hillside owed little to the proximity of those film and television studios, and both the plays produced by John Stone (and Daphne Vane), and all of Allan Stronach's productions (whether for the School, the Youth Theatre, or the Elstree Players) took place on the school stage, which from 1985, became the Hillside Community Theatre. Perhaps the invitation from the BBC, for the cast of Allan's "Sgt Pepper" to perform on 'Blue Peter' (in 1976) did have something to do with the school's proximity to the Studios.



A new generation of school magazines celebrated the changeover, in 1972-3, to a 13+ upper school, and this issue (under these covers, *left*) included this review of “*The Massacre of Waterloo*”, with its cast of 50:

“*In the great last scene, depicting the tragic events of 16th August, 1819, producers Mr John Stone and Mrs Daphne Vane surround the audience with action on every side. From above, in the balcony, the magistrate read the Riot Act, while the yeomanry and Cavalry march relentlessly through the body of the hall to perform their bloody work on the defenceless crowd as they listen to Henry Hunt, the radical leader, played in a strong and forthright manner by David Tall.*”

When John Stone found promotion elsewhere, Allan Stronach joined the Hillside staff, to teach English and Drama. His first production was his own stage adaptation of the novel “*A Kestrel for a Knave*”. His later plays (until 1988) are listed on *p.24*, below.



HILLSIDE PRODUCTIONS

Since 1975, productions staged by Hillside School, have been seen by more than nine thousand people in various venues and by millions more during three television appearances.

At the School

- KES (Adapted from the novel)
- A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM
- THE LONDON BLITZ SHOW
- TALES (Adapted from 'The Canterbury Tales')
- Sgt. PEPPER (Original musical based on songs of the Beatles)
- EGO (Original musical based on songs of Elton John)
- BUGSY MALONE (Adapted from the film)

Television Appearances

- 'Sgt. PEPPER' on Blue Peter 1976
- 'EGO' on Nationwide 1978
- 'BUGSY MALONE' on Thames News 1980

Hillside Productions on Tour

In the Summers of 1979 and 1980, two condensed versions of 'Sgt. PEPPER', and 'THE LONDON BLITZ SHOW', using present and ex-pupils, toured the local area visiting 8 homes and hostels of various types on each occasion. Each tour was sponsored by CIVIC WEEK and HERTFORDSHIRE EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

At the Civic Hall

A special matinee performance of TALES, in front of 700 Hertfordshire pupils and students, was given as part of CIVIC WEEK 1977.

Elstree Youth Theatre

STREET WISE



Above left is a page from the “*GODSPELL*” programme (Hillside Productions, 1981); & (right) the cover for Allan’s EYT Production of “*STREETWISE*” (1984). On *p.24* there is a list of all the productions we know about, on the Hillside stage, between 1970 & 1988 (the titles of Allan’s are in *ITALICS*).

A (provisional & incomplete) list of PRODUCTIONS on the Hillside School stage, 1970-1988:

- 1970, December: NOAH (*scenes from Andre Obey's play, directed by Daphne Vane (part of an evening of Dance & Drama, the dance directed by Cheridah Stamford). (Reviewed in 'Generation, Spring '71')*)
- 1971 ?
- 1972 ?
- 1973 MASSACRE OF PETERLOO, produced by John Stone (*Reviewed in Spring '73 'Generation'*)
- 1974 THE GOLDEN FLEECE and (Nov.) GEORGE & THE MECHANICAL DRAGON, by John Stone
- 1975, April: KES * (*Allan Stronach's first production at Hillside; a 'double bill' with "SEASONS", a dance/drama programme, produced by Linda Holmes & Lesley de Meza). (See 1975 Sch. Magazine)*)
- 1975, December: *The London BLITZ Show* *
- 1976, April: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM *
- 1976, December: *Sgt PEPPER* (*whole company appeared on 'Blue Peter', BBC TV*)
- 1977, Summer: *Sgt PEPPER* and *BLITZ* both revived to 'tour' locally.
- 1977, June: TALES (*Material selected from Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. Also revised for an audience of 700 Herts pupils & students*)
- 1978: EGO * (*Based on Elton John's songs and featured on BBC TV's "Nationwide"*)
- 1979: ?
- 1980, April: 40 YEARS ON (*a 40th anniversary presentation, by Allan Stronach, allied to school's music, art and dance festival*)
- 1980, December: BUGSY MALONE *
- 1981: GODSPELL *
- 1982: ?
- 1983: ? MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* (*'In the round'?*)
- 1984, March: GREGORY'S GIRL* (*A Hillside School Production*)
- 1984, November: STREETWISE * (*An Elstree Youth Theatre Production*). *The Programme for "Streetwise" announced the provisional programme for the new Hillside Community Theatre, due to open in 1985, including EYT's 'fun musical':....*
- 1985, April: DRACULA SPECTACULA *
- 1986, March: THE MYSTERIES * *was a 'Hillside Community Theatre' production by AS*
- 1987: ?
- 1988: TALES

Some of the gaps with queries may be at times when decoration, fitting new lights, or the structural alterations to convert the Hall into the Community Theatre, made rehearsals and productions difficult.

Note: *In the above list, productions that we believe that Allan Stronach produced and directed are in italic CAPITALS. Productions by others are not italicised. Allan taught at Hillside from 1974 to 2000, but I have not attempted to list all of his productions (for the school, the Youth Theatre or the Elstree Players) that took place after my retirement in 1987. However, I think I was aware that he was reviving his "TALES" for the Community Theatre in 1988. (An asterisk * means that I have a programme* or handbill.)*

This piece in the School magazine '**Generation**', Spring '73, was entitled '**FORWARD – A FOREWORD**'. It was my "vision for Hillside" – as I refer to it, on **p.9**, in **Chapter 23**.

What can the grub know of the chrysalis? Can the chrysalis comprehend the butterfly? Sometimes I wonder if any of us, past or present Hillside, understands what is happening to our school, or where we shall be going in the next few years. But we do need vision. We need to believe in the school that might be. We need to strive for the kind of community that it ought to be, and can be.

In the last year our physical environment has drastically altered. There is scarcely a wall that has not changed its colour. We sit on new chairs at new desks. We tread softly the carpeted floor of the new library, we unravel science's mysteries in spacious new laboratories, mould plastic, drill steel and turn wood in clean new workshops, watch endless new tapes of visual education on the videotape screen. Around us is growing a world of new gardens, there are seats in the sheltered courtyard, exotic blooms in the new greenhouse. Hillside grows and puts forth new branches.

But we still need the vision. What kind of a school do you want to emerge from the cocoon? I think there is much in this edition of the magazine to point the way: a generation of new approaches, new ideas, new ideals. A school where every single pupil can find an outlet for his or her own enthusiasm, interests, talents. A world of opportunities, activities, challenges. A school that sets its standards high – nothing short of the best in every field. A place to be proud of, care about, look after and cherish.

In my vision, everyone here cares about Hillside as a community, and the community tries to care about everyone here. If you need help, help is at hand. If you make something, do something, win something worthwhile, we'll all applaud; the school is proud of all your achievements. What is asked of you is your wholehearted commitment and enthusiasm. Join in, take part, work hard, play hard, respect other people. You have only to read the reports here on school sporting and social and cultural activities to see that this is the key to enjoyment and fulfilment.

Extracts edited from KN's REPORTS to GOVERNORS for years 1969-70 to 1986-87

Copies of my first 9, full, typed reports (covering 3 school years), were pasted into the school Log Book. Extracts from those have been copied into this Appendix (on pp.13-17). The remainder were kept in a ring-file, which was apparently lost in the year 2000. But some quotations from (or paraphrases of) the full Reports, were selected and then added to an illustrated album marking my retirement, as part of a "THIS IS YOUR HILLSIDE LIFE" presentation, in July 1987, and these are all copied below (pp.25-34).

HILLSIDE 1970 - 1987

- 1969 School Diary - "After a series of interviews today, Mr. K. Newson, M.A., at present Head of English at Wandsworth Boys Comprehensive School was appointed Headmaster".
- 1970 Keith Newson takes over in January 1970. There are 528 pupils on roll, aged from 11 - 18. One of his first steps is to survey the reading ability of all first year pupils.
- During the Summer Term the Head of Maths, Head of English, and Head of Science all resigned!!! Mr. H. Thomas appointed Head of English.
- Keith Newson changes the school pastoral system from year to vertical system.
- 1971 Summer - retirement of Mr. O'Keefe and Miss Blythe. Appointment of John Earnshaw and Jane Mancus.
- December - Work begins on a new Craft Workshop and extension to Science Laboratories, the Library and Lecture Theatre. Phase 1 of a major rebuilding programme.
- 1972 In September Hillside receives its first full 3rd and 4th year intake from feeder schools to make Hillside an eight form entry school with 240 pupils in each year. 560 pupils on roll. Comments soon start about poor attitude, truancy and the "backwardness" of the new pupils!
- The school year begins with a new uniform.
- Revolutionary step is made: the buying of a video recording machine, reel to reel - to keep up with modern trends!
- The Craft Block comes in to use, but is still not fully completed.
- Saturday soccer fixtures are started.
- 1973 The Science Extension is opened on 5th January, but there are teething problems, e.g., gas taps fitted to water mains!
- P.T.A. presents the Sullivan Trophy for Academic Achievement.
- Lecture Theatre and Library Block opens at the end of the Spring Term.
- Vandalism is a continuing problem: on 22nd August, 1973 57 windows are broken. During the Summer a further 35 windows are broken in six separate incidents.
- In September large increase in Roll. 645 pupils.
- Hillside gains its second video recorder!
- James Walsh becomes the first Hillsider to gain a 1st Class Honours degree, a B.Sc., in combined studies at Leicester University.

- 1973 The use of the names Intermediates, Lower 5th and Upper 5th for year groups is introduced.
- The Intermediates are to be taught in mixed ability groups, and prepared for mainly C.S.E. exams.
- 1974 Plans are approved for Phase 2 of the building programme: Sports Hall and Music Suite; adaptation of school gym to make a dining area.
- 29th March, 1974 - Hillside purchases its first minibus for the price of £ 1,545.
- The Under-16 Soccer XI become Hertfordshire Soccer Champions.
- In September there are 628 pupils on roll.
- First Computer Studies links are established with the College.
- A Mock Election is held on 8th October, 1974, a sweeping victory for Labour.
- Report Books are introduced.
- P.T.A. generously purchases a small electronic calculator for the use of office staff and teachers!
- The report to the governors contains the first of many complaints about cuts in County Allowances.
- 1975 The Assembly time is changed from 9 a.m. to 11.35 a.m.
- Work begins on the foundation of the Sports Hall.
- An Adolescent Unit is set up for pupils in the town - 3 or 4 Hillsideers are recommended!
- 18th February, 1975 - a protest by 38 pupils to Borehamwood Post to complain about rules on carrying coats!
- Following severe problems re. drainage of the school field, re-draining is to be carried out as soon as possible! (i.e., Spring 1976).
- Hillside gets a black and white video camera with a zoom lens!
- E.E.C. referendum was held in the 6th Form Unit on 5th June, 1975.
- Our local m.p. Cecil Parkinson presents the prizes at Prize Day. He says that "he is very impressed with the school".
- Roll September, 1975 - 593.
- Staffroom gets its own telephone - the school telephone bill rockets up!
- Year ends with a "riotously funny" staff pantomime.

- 1976 John Earnshaw appointed Headmaster of Bushey Mead School.
Julian Marcus appointed to replace John Earnshaw from 26.4.76.
- Sports Hall is finally completed in June. It is officially opened on 15th July, 1976 with an Open Evening of Gymnastic Displays and Music. Unfortunately, cracks in the roof are already apparent - the beginning of a long saga!
- 8th July, County Education Officer, Mr. Fisher, presents Prizes.
- Decision is taken to band pupils X and Y, to enable high fliers to prosper, and to give better assistance to less able pupils. Top pupils are to study a second language.
- New canteen officially opens on 29th November, 1976.
- 9th December, 1976. Hillsiders appear on B.B.C. T.V.'s Blue Peter!, following success of musical Sgt. Pepper.
- 1977 Hillside buys its first photocopier! March, 1977.
- New P.T.A. is formed.
- School Council is formed.
- G.C.E. 0-level passes exceed the number of Grade 1 C.S.E.'s for first time. Large expansion of Lower Fifth pupils taking '0' level English Language:- Excellent results - 18/20 pass! An Intermediate Peter Martin gained a Grade A.
- Hillside buys its first colour T.V.
- 1978 11th January - Staff give up a day of their holiday for a staff conference. Guest speaker is Michael Marland. The topics for the conference are "Language Across the Curriculum" and "Balance and Coverage in the 13+ Curriculum".
- 18th/19th January break-in leads to the theft of £ 630 worth of Audio Visual equipment. The video recorder is later recovered from the home of a local man - he is helping police with their enquiries.
- In an extra-ordinary accident a wartime sandbag falls through the ceiling of the Hall!
- As a result of the fuel shortages being suffered nationally the school is without fuel (oil) from 9th - 28th February. Each day two thirds of the school have to be sent home.
- In September the school roll is 665 pupils, but because of the falling numbers of children in Borehamwood now being encountered in the First and Middle schools, this may be the end of our greatest expansion.
- The "outstanding success" of this term is "Ego", written by three members of staff which appears on B.B.C. T.V.'s "Nationwide".

1979 The "Save the Children Fund" passes £ 500 for the first time!

Following efforts to economise on fuel, County orders that the heating must be reduced to an absolute minimum during the winter vacation. This proves to be a false economy as there are 12 major bursts causing considerable damage.

"I am extremely pleased to report Hillside School's first success in obtaining an Oxbridge place. Alison Baker has been offered a place to read Natural Sciences at Clare College, Cambridge".

Keith Newson expresses worries that the County allowance is falling behind inflation - a reflection of the national problem of high inflation - 10% cut in money!

For the first time the Sponsored Walk is held in the afternoon, following a much shortened route. The aim is to involve many more pupils and raise more money with less effort.

A Mock Election is held to coincide with the General Election. David Allen, Labour, wins with a large majority.

During the Summer term Hillsiders and ex-Hillsiders take a production of Sgt. Pepper into the Community, visiting Old Peoples Homes, and Homes for the Mentally Handicapped.

In September Hillside School celebrates its 40th Anniversary. It opened on 4th September, 1939. The high point of the celebrations is the Prizegiving at which the guest of honour is the Rev. Robert Runcie, Archbishop-elect of Canterbury. He praises Hillside in his speech.

During the Autumn Term Keith Newson takes a term's secondment after 9½ years as head, and 23 years in teaching. During his absence Julian Marcus takes over as acting Headmaster.

1980 Continuing complaints about the poor heating during the Winter become the annual headache for Keith Newson.

Hillside buys its first Colour video recorder.

Curriculum developments mean that a select group of 25 pupils will be prepared, to take 7-9 'O'-levels. Care is also being taken to ensure a better balance of subjects in terms of Science, Languages and the Humanity subjects.

A decision is made to revise the school day. A shorter lunch hour is adopted, and school is to end at 3.30 p.m.

There is a serious problem of unemployment in Borehamwood. 90 school leavers in Borehamwood are currently seeking employment, and there are only 13 vacancies. Meetings are held to discuss the problem: Clergy, schools and Industry meet to discuss possible solutions. 1 in 5 of the year group are unable to find work.

September School Roll is 624, first sign of the expected drop in numbers.

In October our new minibus arrives.

Alison Baker is awarded a scholarship at Clare College, Cambridge following her successful first year.

Hillside's Production of "Bugsy Malone" plays to packed audiences in December. On 5th December a film crew from Thames T.V. visits Hillside to film the production.

1981 First mentions are made of Hillside buying its own computer. Later in the year the school purchases its first computer, a 380z for £ 1,500.

Julian Marcus resigns following his appointment as Head of Kelsy Park School, Bromley. Tim Westrip is appointed.

September Roll 623 pupils. The numbers are remaining steady because of a growth in our Sixth Form. There is a possible link with continued problems of high unemployment among school leavers in the town.

The English Department reports very good results following the Summer examinations. 39% of Upper Fifth formers gained an 'O' level or C.S.E. 1 in English Language.

14th October, 1981. Hillside stages the British Amateur Premiere of "Godspell" - "Alan Stronach's highest achievement - so far"

Prizegiving - the guest of honour is Mike Brace, a memorable visit in the "Year of the Disabled".

Neil Decker from the U.S.A. is on exchange with David Wilson. Memorable performance as "Tarzan" to Jane Mancus's "Jane"! Hillside parades its own Morris Men.

In view of the problems of cuts in allowance a great effort is made to raise money for the school books at the P.T.A. Christmas Fayre. £ 1,300 is raised! School is now dependent on funds raised.

An increasing source of revenue is money from T.V. crews who use the school for filming.

1982 P.T.A. is reformed to become the H.S.A.

County requests a review of Curriculum Policies.

Further cuts mean that we can no longer have a language assistant. This leads to protests.

The future of the Teachers Centre is in doubt following Terry Joyes' move to Gade Valley, Hemel Hempstead.

Hillside says Goodbye to two of its most senior and long-serving staff: Fred Brotherhood and Freda Pellowe.

For much of the Summer the school is without a caretaker. During the interim, on 17th May, 1982, there is a fire in the Old Canteen which destroys the building. The remains have to be demolished but the insurance will pay for two minibus garages, a dustbin base, and a brick wall to protect the rural studies area!

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14th October, 1981. Hillside stages the British Amateur Premiere of "Godspell" - "Alan Stronach's highest achievement - so far"

Prizegiving - the guest of honour is Mike Brace, a memorable visit in the "Year of the Disabled".

Neil Decker from the U.S.A. is on exchange with David Wilson. Memorable performance as "Tarzan" to Jane Mancus's "Jane"! Hillside parades its own Morris Men.

In view of the problems of cuts in allowance a great effort is made to raise money for the school books at the P.T.A. Christmas Fayre. £ 1,300 is raised! School is now dependent on funds raised.

An increasing source of revenue is money from T.V. crews who use the school for filming.

1982 P.T.A. is reformed to become the H.S.A.

County requests a review of Curriculum Policies.

Further cuts mean that we can no longer have a language assistant. This leads to protests.

The future of the Teachers Centre is in doubt following Terry Joyes' move to Gade Valley, Hemel Hempstead.

Hillside says Goodbye to two of its most senior and long-serving staff: Fred Brotherhood and Freda Pellowe.

For much of the Summer the school is without a caretaker. During the interim, on 17th May, 1982, there is a fire in the Old Canteen which destroys the building. The remains have to be demolished but the insurance will pay for two minibus garages, a dustbin base, and a brick wall to protect the rural studies area!

The results of the 'O' level examinations are excellent.

19th October, Ken Martindale takes over as caretaker and immediately begins to improve the fabric of the school.

Following a fire which destroys their school some Summerswood pupils are offered temporary accommodation in the Sixth Form Block.

A review of the Hillside Curriculum is presented to the Governors in November before being submitted to the C.E.O.

A new style of Open Evening is adopted for the Middle School parents evening - to sell Hillside.

1983 Representatives of staff travel to County Hall to lobby and protest about education cuts.

Chris Baker becomes the second Hillsider to win a place at Cambridge University.

Elstree Youth Theatre (Allan Stronach) and Elstree Youth Orchestra (Chris Weaver) are initiated by Hillside members of staff.

The idea of a Community Theatre is first raised.

Almost all Upper Fifth Formers take part in a week's work experience in February.

A county working paper suggests the abandonment of the Three Tier System. This leads to much debate.

County Review of 16-19 raises the possibility of Consortium at Sixth Form level with the college and Nicholas Hawksmoor. The first attempts fail.

Discussion is taking place on whether or not to integrate the Sciences in a 16+ examination.

There is to be a cut of two staff in the Summer. No one has to be redeployed, but for the first time there are no new members of staff.

A break-in to the drama room and the theft of the video recorder and camera. Good comes from the break-in, because the black and white camera is replaced by a much better colour camera.

To coincide with the General Election a Mock Election is held. Labour, David Brown, win easily again! The election is filmed by French T.V., Antenne Deux, and broadcast all over France.

Roll September 1983 - 538 - continuing fall.

Skeleton is stolen from Science Block on 23/24th December.

The County Council attempted to abolish School Meals altogether. A Countywide protest forces them to abandon their scheme.

Save the Children Fund passes the £ 1,000 mark for the first time.

Work begins on an Active Tutorial Programme for pupils.

Links are established with the Middle Schools whereby our Craft Teachers are shared with them - this gives a boost to Upper/Middle School relations.

Alison Theobald becomes the third Hillsider to gain a place at Cambridge University.

The 'O' and 'A' level results are very good.

Staffing cuts continue. We are forced to lose a further three staff. This is achieved without re-deployment.

Roll September, 1984 - 481 pupils.

Curriculum initiatives are being discussed, namely H.A.P., Profiling, G.C.S.E. and C.P.V.E.,

1985

School is affected by teachers industrial action re pay dispute.

Pupil strike. 43 pupils absent themselves to protest over Y.T.S. and payment of unemployment benefit to school leavers this is treated as truancy.

Hillside officially announces the abolition of corporal punishment, though in practice this has not been used since 1981.

Work is completed on the Community Theatre Project during the Summer.

In September the school roll is 461.

Integrated Science courses begin for all pupils.

C.P.V.E. course begins for Lower Sixth Formers.

There is closer consortium with Nicholas Hawksmoor especially in Modern Languages.

1986

Fewer problems over heating, but plans go ahead to convert school heating from oil to gas. Completed November 1986.

G.C.S.E. training is affected by continuing industrial action.

Tragic sudden death of Fifth Former, Richard Parnell, in March affects the whole school. Memorial service is held at school on 25th March.

The school becomes involved in T.V.E.I. related Inset (TRIST), aimed at improving our teaching skills.

A decision is made, in view of falling numbers, to convert the pastoral organisation from a vertical to a horizontal year system in September, 1986.

Preparations for G.C.S.E. continue, but syllabuses are late, and both funding and training are inadequate.

Roll September, 1986 - 427 pupils.

Save the Children Fund raises a new record £ 1,300.

Open Evening - 10th November proves to be a great success. For the first time more pupils choose Hillside as their first choice than Nicholas Hawksmoor.

Pensioners take lunches in School Canteen and Hillside welcomes 100 pensioners for a special Christmas Celebration on 17th December.

1987

At long last a fence is built at the far end of the school field, to keep out trespassers.

T.V.E.I. - Hillside application to join the T.V.E.I. extension is successful.

Keith Newson announces his intention to take early retirement, so that he can take on a new challenge..... Tim Westrip is appointed Acting Head.

"As I look back, the changes at Hillside since 1970 seem dramatic, and I am proud to have been the Head during the radical re-organisation and expansion from a mixed 11+ Secondary Modern to a popular and well-resourced 13-18 plus Upper School".

A Glossary of some of those Initials:

- C.P.V.E. - Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education.
- C.S.E. - Certificate of Secondary Education
- F.E. - Further Education (i.e. in non-university colleges, for 16+ students)
- G.C.E. - General Certificate of Education (i.e. OL - Ordinary Level; & AL - Advanced Level)
- G.C.S.E. - General Certificate of Secondary Education (i.e. amalgamating CES & GCE O.L.)
- H.E. - Higher Education (at Universities and Polytechnics)
- T.V.E.I. - Technical & Vocational Education Initiative.
- Y.T.S. - Youth Training Scheme

At least two sets of initials cannot now be explained by 'googling', i.e.:

B.E.C. and H.A.P. - was this second one something peculiar to 'H.', for Hertfordshire?

MORE HILLSIDE PHOTOS, STAFF LISTS, etc.

In K.N.'s 'commemorative Album (1987)', the caption is: Another Winning Team. The staff triumph once again in 1985 - but, sadly this was the last appearance for Geoff Banks, Mo Zaman, Alex Welsh and Alec Mitchell.

3rd from right in front row here was Dave Wilson, then Head of P.E.

This photo also shows the new Library & Lecture Room block; also the new Sports Hall (with its 'climbing wall') - this building had later to be demolished and replaced!



Everyone in the 1985 (or was it 1984?) staff cricket team photo on p.34, *except* Dave Wilson (and possibly the man next to Alec Mitchell), appears in this 1985 Staff Photo (*below*). By summer 1985, Dave was on his way back from a year's exchange teaching with the American PE teacher, Neil Dekker (No.12, in Front Row,). Alex Welch had been Acting Head of PE for 1984-85; and Neil would soon be married to Dave's sister-in-law, and before the next staff photo was taken in 1986-87 (*below*), Neil with his new wife and Dave had left Hillside to start running a pub in Yorkshire. Later, Dave taught in a private school.

HILLSIDE SCHOOL staff photo, Summer, 1985

- 3rd = back row** (*left to right*): 1.Howard Moxon (Eng) 2.Geoff Banks (Phy) 3.Mike Newman (Art) 4.John Negus (Geo)
5.Mo Zaman(??) 6.Brian Cluett(EnvSt) 7. Allan Stronach(E/Dr) 8.Graham Yates(DTn) 9.Alex Welch(HdPE)
2nd row: *l. to r.* 1.Alec Mitchell*(HdMa) 2.Maureen Hayes (Fr) 3.Angela Reid (Eng) 4.?Unknown 5.Fiona Jotham(HdMLng)
6. Sue Frost & 7. Mary Hurlstone(BusSt) 8.Mrs Jefferies(Off) 9.Ms Bondy(*Pottery*) 10.Barbara Jarrett(LabT)
11.Irene Roff*(SchSec) 12.Margaret Coolen(Mus) 13.Denise Ford(HoEc) 14.Geoff Farmer(HdEng)
15. Elam Singam(Ma) 16.Terry Darby (HdDTn)



- 1st (= front) row** (*seated*): 1.Daphne Simmons 2.Kate Irving (HdSc) 3.? _____ 4.Annette Comerford (GirlsPE)
5.Tim Westrip) & 6. Jane Mancus (DepHds) 7. Fred Brotherhood* & 8. Freda Pellowe* (SnrTchrs) 9. K.N.
10.Morwen Milson (Sc) 11.SueBedford(PE,Ma) 12. Neil Dekker (PE) 13..Beryl Radbourne (Txtls) 14.Rob Wilton (DTn)

HILLSIDE SCHOOL staff photo, ? Summer, 1987

- 4th=backrow** (*l.tor.*): 1.Phil Gleadell(HdPE) 2.?Paul Langley(Phy) 3.Sue Gregory(Accts) 4.AdelheidSmith(Ger) 5.JaneInglis(Lib)
3rd row: 1.Rosette Snellgrove(HdML) 2.Graham Yates(DTc) 3.Mike Newman(Art) 4.Terry Darby(HdDTc) 5.Hilary Walsh (Hd Ma), & 3rd contd: 6. ? _____ (Eng) 7.Kim Moon(PE) 8.Mauren Hayes(Fr) 9.Elam Singam(Ma) 10. _____ (?) &
11. Martin Sireling(Ma)



- 2nd row** (*l.to r, stndng*): 1.Moira Coupe(?Pottery) 2.Maureen Herlock(Off) 3.DeniseFord(HoEc) 4.Margaret Coolen(Mus) 5.JoanElmer(SchSec) 6. Lydia Safir(Eng) 7.Angela Reid(Eng) 8.Sue Frost(BusSt) 9.? _____ (LabT) 10.Mary Hurlstone(BusSt/Careers) 11.StanGrejcar (LabT)
1st=front row (*l.to r, seated*): 1.Geoff Farmer(HdEng) 2.Allan Stronach (E&Drama) 3.Daphne Simmons (SpecNeeds) 4. Beryl Radbourne(Txtls) 5., 6., & 7. (*centre*) K.N. with J.M. & T.W. (his Deputies) 8.Rob Wilton(DTn) 9. Tim van Kroonenburg (HdHist,Etc) and 10. JohnNegus(HdGeog)

Some Long-serving Hillside Staff (in KN's time)

These alphabetical lists are based on some surviving staff address lists (Sept 1978 to 1999), including both teaching and non-teaching staff, & also some colleagues appointed before 1969 (and a few after 1987). Dates of appointment and leaving (in *italics*), subjects taught & some responsibilities, are given (where known!).

Teaching Staff,
1960s-2000 (surnames A-P)

Don Angood 1953-1971 (Geog, key senior teacher)
 Geoff Banks 197?-1985 (Physics)
 Sue (?= S A) Bedford 1986?-?? (GirlsPE)
 Dr M Bennett 1978-1980 (Mod.Lang/French)
 Pete Berry 19??-1980 (Crft/Des/Tech)
 ?Maureen Blythe (> Sullivan) 1974-80-198? (Engl)
 Thora Blythe 1941-1971 (Deputy Headmistress)
 Ian Breeze 19??-1978 (PE/Engl)
 Fred Brotherhood 1961?-85 (TDr/Careers, senior teacher)
 Edith Chalkley 197?-80? (Hd HomeEcon)
 Brian Cluett 196?-85 (EnvSt/Sc)
 Jim Connibeer 197?-7? (??) (Ma)
 Lyle Conquest 1971-74 (Engl ?)
 Margaret Coolen 1986-9? (Hd Mus)
 ?Maureen Coupe 1986?-8? Pottery
 Julie Crane (nee Hens) 197?-80? (Hist)
 Annette Comerford 197?-85 (Hd.GirlsPE)
 Terry Darby 1972-94 (Hd Des/Tech)
 Lesley De Meza 1973-79 (Engl)
 Jim Dunne 1982-84? (Hist)
 John Earnshaw 1971-76 (Deputy Head)
 Mrs ? Elf 1964-
 Brigitte Everrett 1986-89 Bio
 Geoff Farmer 1971-95 (Hd Engl)
 Irene Forster, nee Bonheim ?1985-??
 Sue Frost 1981-9? (BusSt)
 Kathy Goad 1974-77? (Music)
 Ms Juliet Gorman 1978-79 (Pottery)
 Mary Groom (nee Hobbs) 1979-88? (Sc).
 Doug Harwood 196?-72 (CrftDes)
 Margaret Hawksworth 197?-80 (Ma, then Engl)
 Maureen Hayes 19??- 8? (Fr).
 Harry Hilton 196?-79? (Fr)
 Linda Holmes 19??-75? (Hist & PE, & Dance)
 Ms G Howell (> Mrs G Evans?) 1979-81 (?PE/Ma)
 Mary Hurlstone 1978-94 (BusSt/Careers)
 Kate Irving 1962-86 (Bio & Hd Sc,78-86).
 John Isaacs 1977-86? (Music)
 Fiona Jotham (>v.Kroonenburg) 1979-85? (Hd Fr)
 Helen Khan 1978-80? (?Ma?)
 Tim van Kroonenburg 1974-90? (HdHist, etc)
 Lladys Kuzian 1957-1980 (Ma)
 Paul Langley 1982-2000 (Ma)
 Jane Mancus 1971-94? Dep.Headmistress (Geo)
 Judie Mansell 1982-84? (?Geo)
 Diane Manser 1960-80? (Needlewk)
 Julian Marcus 1976-80 (Deputy Head)
 Brian Mee 1986-88 (Ch. & Hd Sc)
 Frances Meeston 1971?-75? (Hd Hist)
 Morwen Millson 1971-81? (Bio)
 Alec Mitchell 197?-86? (Hd.Ma)
 David Mitchell 197?-?? (Sc?)
 Kim Moon 1985-88 (>Mrs Coupar, & returns:1994-98?)
 (PE, & later Rem Engl&Ma)
 Howard Moxon 197?-83 (Engl)
 John Negus BEd 1972-2000? (Hd Geo)
 Mike Newman (>Lamy-Newman) 1979-2000 (HdArt)
 John O'Keefe 1939-1971 (PE/Sc, Senior Master)
 Freda Pellowe 1962-85 (Hd BusStud, Hse, etc)

Teaching Staff (surnames contd., R-Z)

Beryl Radbourne 1960-95 (NeedlWk & DomSc)
 Joan Ramsden 1960-79 (Hd Art, & 6thF)
 Angela Reid 1982-89? (Engl)
 Paul Selby 1985-89? (Sc?)
 (N) Elam Singam 197?-9? (Ma, Time-table)
 Daphne Simmons 1964-96? (PE, & Rem.Engl & Ma)
 Martin Sireling 1981-2000 (Ma, then Hd Ma)
 Barry Smallwood 1966-74 (Hd Mus; Brass Band)
 Adelheid Smith 1980-98? (German)
 Rosette Snellgrove 1986-2000 (Fr & HdMod.Lang?)
 John Stone 1970?-74 (Drama/Engl)
 Allan Stronach 1974-2000 (Engl/Drama/CommTh)
 Glenn Swanborough 1973-75 Engl
 Howard Thomas 1970-75? (Hd Engl)
 Daphne Vane 196?-74? (Pt-time Drama/Engl)
 P Lew Walker 1972-75? (Hd PE/Games)
 Hilary Walsh 1985-92 (Hd Maths)
 Mrs Lilian Waugh 19??-7? (BusStuds)
 Chris Weaver 1979-83 (Hd Music)
 Alex Welch 19 - (Hd PE/Games)
 Tim Westrip 1980-2000 (Dep Hd then Headmaster)
 LtCol Bob Wheal 197?-1978 Chem & Hd.Sc
 Steve Willcock 197?-80 (Art)
 Dave Wilson 1975-86 (Hd PE/Games)
 Rob Wilton 196?-98? (DesTech)
 Shirley Woodford 196?-7? (Hd HoEcon)
 Graham Yates 198?-91? (DesTech)
 Mo Zaman 197?-85 (Art)

(Some other, later) Teaching Staff,
1987-2000 (surnames A-S)

Rosemary Dix ?1992-?? (Art/Pottery)

Some Non-teaching Staff (surnames A-Z)

Eddie Dunn – Asst. Caretaker, 196?-86?
 Joan Elmer – School Secretary, 1986-2000
 Isobel Evans – Librarian, 1973-79
 Susan Gregory - Accnts Sec. 1985?-
 Stan Grejcar – Lab Asstnt., 1978-9?
 Maureen Herlock – Asstnt Sec, 1986-2000
 Jane Inglis – Librarian, 1980-9?
 Barbara Jarrett – Lab.Asstnt, 1971-87?
 May Livingstone – School Secretary, 196?-76
 Ken Martindale – School Caretaker, 1982-2000
 Fred Nash - School Caretaker, 1954-1982
 Iris Regan – Sch Office, 1980-8?
 Bessie Richards – Office & Medical, 196?-82
 Irene Roff – School Secretary, 1976-86
 Angela Samways – Librarian (pt-time with Jane I.)
 John Timson – Groundsman/Gardener, 196?-89?
 Mrs Yardley – I/c school meals, 196?-84?

The oldest surviving 'staff address list', 1978-79, has 49 teachers, and several were not full-time. In 1985-6 the total (full- & part-time) was down to 42. In the staff 1985 photo (p.35, above) there were 38 teaching or ancillary staff present, and only 36 present in the 1987 photo. It is true that, due to falling rolls and cuts by County, our staff allocation was shrinking; but it is also true that some colleagues on the occasion of either photo must have been away (sick or on courses, etc, or because they were part-time: and at least one might have taken the photo!). Staff retired (as both Fred and Freda did in 1985, & Irene Roff did in 1986) and new staff arrived (by 1987), whilst others had left (e.g. the 4 men mentioned in the caption to the staff cricket team photo, on p.32). It is also true that recording the subjects each colleague was teaching tells only a part of the truth about the responsibilities he or she had - pastoral, sporting, for school journeys, fund-raising, examinations, careers, timetabling, and organising all kinds of extra-curricular activities with and for the students, including of course drama, music, and coaching the numerous sports teams.

There were other colleagues, ex-colleagues and their relatives who appear in the photos taken at the last staff party in our garden at 10 Old Park Ridings, in May, 1987. Fiona Jotham (Head of Modern Languages) and Tim van Kroonenburg (Head of History) first met, in the staff room at Hillside, and then married, and by 1987 Fiona had ceased teaching, and she and Tim brought their daughter to our party. In this photo (right), Fiona was with Jane Inglis, who was then one of two (part-time) "time-sharing" Librarians at Hillside. Tim was by then a key, senior member of the Hillside staff, and he was beginning to apply for promotion elsewhere. He went on later to be Head of a school near Torquay. Sadly, whilst Tim VK was a Head, and before their two children left home, Fiona died of an embolism. Tim himself became seriously ill, and had to retire from that headship.

We have fewer photographs of former pupils, from their school-days, and those we do have seldom help us identify individual 'Old Hillside's'. We do have copies of the school magazines ("Generation", "Generation Apart", & "Thingamagigs"),



between 1971 and 1977; but these tend to cover the activities and output of the 'creative writers' rather than what students were doing in the fields of sport, music, science, art, craft and leisure. This 1971 photo-page is an interesting companion to Dave Wilson's reply to the cry, "it's boring", from the cohort of 1975's teenagers. The earlier (1971) magazine reflected the influence of French teacher Harry Hilton on a group of 5th & 6th form rock-climbers, and of the dynamic part-time dance teacher Cheridah Stamford on the adolescent girls. Dave Wilson (in 1975, under the title 'A Few Thoughts') lists an even wider range of active opportunities for many more students in the expanding Upper School:

..... Sailing week - ice-skating trips - Christmas parties - Christmas Dinners - Christmas disco's - field trips to farms - to ancient buildings - monuments - places of interest - opportunities for outward bound courses (often heavily subsidised by the school) - a mini-bus - fun events - Miss Hillside competition - Harvest Sale - Ski-ing trips to Austria and Bulgaria - France for the day - Isle of Wight - Hastings - Southend - Brighton - Cambridge - Weekend with Army Youth Corps - camping - canoeing - climbing. Sports opportunities for the many pupils interested in sport - football matches - rugby - hockey - netball - cricket - athletics - tennis - rounders - volleyball - swimming - Swimming gala - House matches - Judo - fencing - recreational activities - table tennis - badminton - billiards and snooker. Go-karting - "Golden Fleece", "George and the Mechanical Dragon" "Kes" and "Seasons" - Ideal Home Exhibition - Work experience for 5th formers - films in lessons - "Romeo & Juliet" "Far from the Madding Crowd" "Taste of Honey" "Kes". Art galleries - visits to "Jesus Christ Superstar" - "Grease" - "Billy". Sports Centre at Bushy - wide and varied options programmes to suit individual interests - sponsored walk and sponsored swim - sports day. Chess club - fencing weekend and week-long courses - school band - lessons for musical instruments ...

Above: Page 5 of "Generation, Spring '71".

Right: PE teacher Dave Wilson's "Few thoughts"

The photos on the next page are an arbitrary selection to explain who was there and what was going on. Unfortunately there is no surviving network of former pupils and staff - no formal "Old Hillside's Association" - and only incomplete records of teachers and other staff, let alone an index of past students, or any contact addresses. I have been able to 'google' very little: apart from a very few students' names that I don't recognize on just one commercial website.

MORE PHOTOS of colleagues and students (in addition to the ‘portraits’ at the end of Ch.23)

17.



18.



19.



20.



21.



22.



L. to r.: 17. Hilary Walsh was Head of Maths after Alec Mitchell; 18. Kim Moon popular girls PE teacher; 19. Alex Welch Hd of PE after Dave Wilson; 20. I appointed Martin Sireling who became Head of Maths after I retired; 21. Rob Wilton in the Des.Tech.dept.; he, Beryl Radbourne, and Daphne Simmons had all taught under my predecessor. 22. Ken Martindale was School Caretaker (& Chaired the PTA) from 1982 (to the closure of Hillside).

23.



24.



23. (above) John Negus (Geog) and 24. Daphne Simmons (originally PE) were invaluable teachers and tutors, who related to pupils in school and in many extra-curricular activities.



Allan Stronach's Elstree Youth Theatre and Community Theatre productions brought together pupils, ex-pupils of both Upper Schools, with many, other local adults and teachers. The above photo of those involved in "The Mysteries" includes Geoff & June Farmer, Kim Moon, Mary Hurlstone, Mike Newman (farthest right) - & 23 others not identified.



We still have some photos of staff with pupils (usually 5th or 6th formers). **Above left:** Angela Reid with her 1986 A L English Group. **Above right:** Bridgette Everett with her U6 A L Biology group. **Below left:** Jim Dunne with a 1984 6th History group (David Brown, David Norton, Paul Simmonds, Veronica Laurie, Allan Porter). **Below right:** Julie Hoare, Julie Packer & Michael King, with Kate Irving (left), when Shaftesbury House won the Public Speaking Cup.



Surviving photos of the inter-house Public Speaking competitors outnumber the pictures of sports teams (at House or School levels), or of the swimming galas, or of the performers in, or winners of, any of the other inter-house competitions, for drama, music, etc.



1985, Penny Proctor, Jason Bright & Michelle Conway.



Fiona Howson, John Barcock, & Jonesta Forgham



Robert Stilwell, Karina Samuels & Chris Baker



Stewart Rosenthal, Sue Wise, Jon Bryan, Rob Phillips, and (crouching down) Mark Jackson

These are mere snapshots of moments in distinguished school careers (two of the 4 House teams are proudly holding the Public Speaking Cup, donated by Cecil Parkinson when he was still the local M.P.). The sporting 6th formers have draped themselves over the School Minibus, but there is no clue as to where they were going, or why. But Robert Stilwell was a star on the school stage, Chris Baker won a place at Cambridge, and Jon Bryan was soon going off to his interview at another Oxbridge college.

There were quite a number of photos (of colleagues) taken in the Theatre, at my Farewell Party on 18 July, 1987. I have chosen one (*on the left, below*) as a mark of my debt to and respect for my Office colleagues (*l. to r.*) Maureen Herlock, Sue Gregory, and Joan Elmer. The other photo is of three people at the “top table”: my wife Gill, & John Earnshaw (the first of the 3 deputies I appointed), by then an established Hertfordshire Head, and (sitting *between them*) Frances Murray, still on the School’s Governing Body, but by then no longer Chairman. Without Frances’s wise advice and solid support, my time at Hillside School could not have been so happy, and the transformation of the school would not have been so successful. Sadly, she is no longer with us, but she was still in fine form at the end of my 17½ years.



A MISCELLANY OF ACTIVITY: Who was doing what? Where? and When?



Top left: Sports Hall

Top right: Greenhouse (*Brian Cluett's Env.Sc.Lab*)

Middle left: Library

Middle right: Field Athletics

Bottom right: Miss Hurlstone's Typing Room

Bottom left: Which Inter-House Competition?

A few last words on English education in Keith's time.

As I experienced it as a teacher in and around London, the 30 years from 1957 to 1987 marked a glorious revolution in education - a time of expansion and consolidation, when state schools struck gold in terms of new buildings, facilities and equipment. For the vast majority of school-age pupils, the range of opportunity and stimulus and support for young people had never before been so good. It has since proved a losing battle to try to maintain the high standards set by those early comprehensive schools.

Before the war, and the 1944 Butler Education Act, education had been selective and divisive: who was chosen to benefit from attending the best schools was based on wealth, class and/or selection by merit. This last was tested by 'scholarship exams' at 11, which I remember from my own childhood, and then by the '11-plus': and the result was segregation. 'Secondary modern' schools tried to cope with educating those left behind, but only up to any 'leaving age' (then rising from 14 to 15). I did teaching practice in 1956, in one such school. The 1945 Labour Government had carried the 1944 Act into practice, giving free education to pupils of 18+ in grammar or direct grant schools; but for some three-quarters of the school population free education still ended at 15 - or at 16 in the more enterprising secondary modern schools, those where sufficient numbers of (usually middle class) families demanded that their children should have a chance to try to 'matriculate', and then transfer to a school with a 6th form, or a further education college, and so try to catch up.

From 1957 the new comprehensive schools, certainly those in London, led the way in challenging the traditional grammar schools' curriculum, in a widening range of subject areas. They took the lead in creating new methods of assessment and examination, particularly at the age of 16+. That 16+ 'leaving age' was in the event delayed by 8 years (from 1964 to '72), to give schools, LEAs and examination boards more time to adapt and fully prepare for the change. But leading schools like Wandsworth where I began my teaching career, were already staffed and planned on the assumption that the majority of pupils would choose to stay on to gain some worth-while qualifications, and not leave school until 16, 17 or 18+.

I have recently contacted many of my ex-pupils, and they all remind me of years spent encouraging them to aim high. One (already briefly quoted on p.20, above) wrote: "*I have very happy memories of my time at Hillside School..... I believe that your desire to provide a decent, liberal education in an area where the population has often been 'written off' permeated the ethos of the school and provided a ladder to a much richer, fuller life. As the last year of the '11-plus' failures (in 1970) I do believe I was given a second chance and will always be grateful to you and the school.*" She is now a professional university lecturer; there were many others like her.

A 'liberal education' was indeed the objective at both Wandsworth and Hillside, an aim for all school departments and all the students. It meant rethinking the school curriculum for the second half of the 20th century, and this spilled over to national and local examination boards. In the English Department at Wandsworth, which soon became also an English Teachers' Centre for about a fifth of the Inner London Education Authority secondary schools, we were deeply involved in changing the teaching of English Language (previously based on grammar, spelling and punctuation, parts of speech, précis and formal essays), into a lively and creative process, involving the exploration of poetry, novels and drama, and the study and communication of ideas and information in a wide range of contemporary media. We saw English as the most important core subject in the secondary school curriculum, because it was training pupils to think, to empathise, to analyse information critically, and to express themselves clearly, orally and in writing, and in debate and drama and film-making. English both feeds into and thrives upon all the other studies and activities that go on in any school community. Children learn best by doing, not by rote.

Wandsworth and Hillside built up that sense of community, in which both staff and students, and indeed parents and governors, had a stake. Schools serve their pupils best when the head and the staff together generate a common purpose and pride in achievement amongst their students. What happens in a school's art and music rooms, or in workshops, laboratories, on playing fields, in gymnasiums or on the stage in the school hall, on school journeys and outside visits and on work experience, is crucial. All this activity promotes an adolescent's self-confidence and respect for others. But this kind of school community can only work when teachers are treated as respected professionals.

I retired in 1987, but I know well how things in our schools have since changed - for the worse. We constantly reminded ourselves that testing is not teaching, we knew that conventional exam results would tell us little about children's imagination, creativity or ability to think for themselves, and tell us nothing about a student's real understanding. The national curriculum is a lowest common denominator, and too many young people now have to look outside their schools to find stimulation and encouragement. Many schools today do not, or cannot, promote a sense of community and command the loyalty of staff and pupils. Cutting off LEA support for schools and forcing head teachers to give up their leadership role to become mere 'business managers', has already been a disaster for many of our schools; a return to payment of teachers by "results" will be a death-blow, which no number of OFSTED inspections will remedy

So it becomes impossible to recruit and promote enough teachers with a sense of vocation, let alone to hold on to them. It will soon be too late to return our secondary schools to the ethos and high standards of the 1960s and 70s.

Of course the reorganisation of the three-tier pattern of schools in Borehamwood did not happen for another 14 years after my retirement, although I was then already wondering about the impact of the changing demographics and a steadily declining school-age population. In Chapter 23, especially in the second half, I listed many new challenges and concerns that were affecting education at all levels, nationally, in many Local Education Authorities, and in our part of Hertfordshire. The threats of reorganisation, and the fact that parents and LEAs and new Ministers of Education would be demanding more of the schools than they had the resources to provide, were becoming real, by the mid 1980s.

What I most regret about the County's decision to close Hillside School, in 1999-2000, despite its fine reputation as a successful school community, was the loss of the school's well-established links with the town, particularly through the Hillside Community Theatre, and through schemes like Work Experience and to co-ordinate courses with the local College of Further Education. In an 'Open Letter' to the members of the Herts Education Committee, in December 1988, I did of course recognize that there were practical reasons for re-thinking the three-tier pattern of the Borehamwood schools, in the light of demographic changes and falling school rolls; however, I urged ...*"all concerned to take more time to consult, time to plan, time to resource the changes wisely and well."* I continued: *"Above all, reorganization has to build upon the best that is already there, and to safeguard the children that are now in the schools, whose educational chances will not come again."* In my concluding paragraph I complained particularly about the lack of consultation with *"The heads and staff of the town's state schools and college [who] have in the past co-operated closely for the benefit of the whole school population; they deserve to be involved in the forefront of discussions, and the Committee should have confidence in them."*

But in 1999 it was already a decade since I had retired, and the Herts Education Committee took no notice of me, and (more seriously) ignored the many other objections and pleas for more time; and so Hillside School's pupils (but not the Hillside Head and staff) were transferred to the new 'Hertswood' 11-18 school, from September 2000 (on the sites of other schools, on the other side of Shenley Road).

Hillside's 1939 purpose-built Secondary (and later 'Modern') school building, with its Upper School additions, and facilities, is now (since 2006) Yavneh College, and substantially extended and altered. The School site and its oldest buildings are now 75 years old, and Yavneh College are celebrating that anniversary in summer 2014. From the current description on that new School's website (quoted below), the College could hardly appear more different, in purpose and ethos, from the 'liberal' all-ability upper school that was peremptorily closed 6 years before the College opened. Hillside Upper School had had its own 28 years of success and development, which is now, still, being celebrated by many former pupils and staff. But in 2000 that history counted for nothing!

This photo is how we remember Hillside.....

This describes how it is now (in 2014)....



"Yavneh College is a modern-Orthodox Jewish voluntary-aided secondary school located in Borehamwood. It opened in 2006. Most, but not all, students join the school from Jewish primary schools. Very few students do not have English as their first language. The majority come from homes where there is a good tradition of education with parents from professional or business backgrounds."