

GRANT'S  
*and the Old Grantite Club*

*Floreat*

*A History*



**GRANT'S**  
*and the Old Grantite Club*  
*A History*

**NASCITUR EXIGUUS, VIRES  
ACQUIRIT EUNDO**

2 Little Deans Yard, Westminster  
London SW1

1st edition 1959 - 2nd edition 1986

Published by Barrington Publications © - Printed in England by Dryden's Printers Ltd.





*Mother Grant III, the wife of Richard Grant, who presided as Housemaster in succession to his father and grandfather from 1813-1837.*

## Preface 1986

The original edition of this History appeared in 1959, edited by Lawrence Tanner who, as the son of the Housemaster of Grant's, knew more about the House, the School and its precincts than almost anyone else. He was a remarkable historian from an early age. As I found when researching in the archives, he began his detective work on life in Dean's Yard in general and Grant's in particular in the first decade of this century. There are letters from him to various Old Westminsters dating from as early as 1907. For this reason and because I certainly could not have improved on it, I have left his story of Grant's largely intact. However, his account of the house in the nineteenth century was brief and at this distance it seemed right to augment his history with two first-hand portraits that exist in the School archives. These give a remarkable insight into the daily routine almost a century and a half ago. Sir Adrian Boulton CH, contributed the first Foreword and that has been included here as well. For the story of the last thirty or so years I have adopted a rather more personal style than Lawrence Tanner's; less formal but, I feel, more in keeping with the attitudes and expectations of those in the house during that time who now constitute the majority of Old Grantites. In keeping with that aim I thought it right to include the views of Joan Fenton who, as Matron during most of that period, had a slightly different story to tell than the masters and pupils. For any inaccuracies, omissions or contentious opinions I accept full responsibility.

In any such venture as this there are numerous people whose contribution is enormous. Foster Cunliffe, first as President then as Chairman of the organising committee has been invaluable, both for keeping the project on track and for his knowledge and research into much of the more obscure detail. Sir William van Straubenzee, Tim Jeal, Christopher Martin and David Brown, together with past Housemasters John Wilson, David Hepburne-Scott and John Baxter have all answered innumerable requests for information with patience and understanding. Special thanks are due to John Field for his help in uncovering the riches of the archives, Tim Woods for keeping the editor calm and the committee functioning, and Paul Hooper whose publishing skills have enabled the History to appear in the first place.

Dedications are usually inappropriate to Club volumes. However it seems right that this booklet should be dedicated to the first Mother Grant, whose foresight, good management and service in the middle of the eighteenth century established a House which has provided a temporary home for so many hundreds of children for two hundred and fifty years.

*Simon Mundy  
Autumn, 1986*





Ralph Tanner leaving Dean's Yard taken c.1904 by Adrian Boulton. The view shows Broad Sanctuary before the building of Central Hall.

#### FOREWORD TO THE FIRST EDITION, 1959

By Sir Adrian Boulton C.H., D.Mus., LL.D.

It falls to me as President of the Old Grantite Club to commend this History of Grant's and of the Old Grantite Club to all who read it. It is, of course, primarily designed for, and of interest to, those who were fortunate enough to pass their years at Westminster up Grant's. But it will also be of interest to a wider Westminster public and is part of the distinctive contribution of the Old Grantite Club to Westminster's Quatercentenary Year.

For the history of the House we have been able to call upon the unrivalled authority of Mr L.E. Tanner who was, I think, the very first boy who spoke to me and was kind to me when I entered the House in 1901. His account of the fortunes of the House with the longest unbroken pedigree of any Public School makes fascinating reading, set in the background of the adventurous years in which Grant's has formed part of the School. The history of the Club has been assembled by our Honorary Secretary, Mr W. R. van Straubenzee, relying partially on the old minute books of the Club and partially upon the personal recollections of some of those who helped to found it. As with any work written in recent years the late Dr. G.R.Y. Radcliffe gave invaluable and detailed help.

The house is old, the Club comparatively new. Yet the House is new, as its modern buildings show, while the Club is old when compared to any other House at Westminster. The first plays a vital part in moulding the lives of those who spend five years within it, and the second allows them to keep in touch with the friends they then made and with others older and younger who share the same tradition. But Grant's is not exclusive, and never forgets that she is part of a far greater whole. It is as a tribute to the four hundred years of the School's life that this modest contribution is made, for it seems right that these matters should be recorded as we start our fifth hundred years of life.



A print after Francis Hayman's portrait of the Grant family, painted between 1737 and John Grant's death ten years later. The founder of the House stands to the left of his wife Margaret (Mother Grant I). At her feet are her two sons. Richard, the elder, became Housemaster on his mother's death in 1787. The portrait itself has appeared for sale on a number of occasions this century but has always been beyond the means of the School to acquire.

#### FOREWORD TO THE SECOND EDITION 1986

By F.D. Hornsby

It is over twenty five years since the original edition of this History of Grant's and the Old Grantite Club was first printed, and there has for some time been a need for a new edition, to bring the story up to date.

The task of editing this new edition, and of chronicling the events of recent years, has been entrusted to Simon Mundy (GG 1968-1972), to whom we are indebted for an illuminating account which will, I feel sure, be read with great interest by all who are associated with the House.

The Club is most grateful to those Old Grantites who responded generously to an appeal for funds to meet the printing costs. This has allowed the Club to distribute copies to all Old Grantites whose addresses are known, and also to provide a sufficient stock of copies for present and future Grantites.

Since 1959 many and far reaching changes have taken place within the House, as Simon Mundy makes clear. But to outward appearances, Grant's remains unchanged, as familiar today as it has been to past Grantites over the generations. Unchanged also are the close links which exist between the House and the Old Grantite Club. Long may this continue.



## GRANT'S

It is a remarkable fact, and so far as is known unparalleled at any other Public School, that a school boarding house should have borne the same name and have been situated in almost the same place for over two hundred years. Yet such is the case with Grant's.

It was in 1749 that Mrs Margaret Grant (Mother Grant 1) became the tenant of a house in Little Dean's Yard which stood on the site of the old Bursary. The house had previously been known as 'Ludford's', and the poet Cowper had either just left or was still a senior boy in the House when Mrs Grant became its 'Dame'. She was the widow of a Mr John Grant who had died in Great Smith Street in 1747 where, according to the *General Advertiser* he "had kept a boarding school (but probably a boarding house is meant) for many years". Who the Grants were or where they came from is unknown. The name suggests Scotland, and that they were of a good family may be deduced from the fact that their descendants possessed a large 'conversation' picture painted by Highmore about 1730-40 showing the whole family suitably posed in a landscape setting.

In 1765 Mrs Grant moved across Yard to the large house which stood on the site of the present Grant's. Meanwhile the eldest son, Richard, had grown up. From Westminster (which he entered at the tender age of six and left as Captain of the School) he had been elected to Christ Church, and in 1764, as the Rev. Richard Grant, he returned to Westminster to become an Usher at the School. On his mother's death in 1787 he and his wife (Mother Grant 11) took over Grant's. They lived up Grant's until 1813, and their reign saw the pulling down of the old house and the building of the present Grant's in 1789 or thereabouts. Among their boarders were a future Prime Minister (Lord John Russell), a future Archbishop of Canterbury (Charles Longley), and the 6th Earl of Albemarle who gives, in his *Fifty Years of my Life*, a vivid account of the House in his time, and lived to be the last officer survivor of the Battle of Waterloo.

In 1813 the Rev. Richard Grant retired to the country vicarage of Stansted Mountfichet in Essex, where he is buried and where there is a tablet in the Church setting out his many virtues. On his retirement he handed Grant's over to his son, Richard Grant, and his young bride (Mother Grant 111). One would like to know more about this Mother Grant. In 1950 the writer of these notes was able to trace a very charming pastel portrait of her as a young and beautiful woman. This portrait, together with some miniatures of the Grants, were purchased from the owner by the Old Grantite Club. They were handed over to the Master of Grant's at the Jubilee Dinner of the Club in 1951 and the portrait now once again, after a hundred years or so, hangs up Grant's. Richard Grant died in 1837 and shortly afterwards his widow left the House and was succeeded by Mother Jones.

The House ceased to be a Dame's house in 1847 when the Rev. James Marshall became the first Housemaster. About the same time the Rev. Stephen Rigaud became the Master of the adjoining House. But while Rigaud's adopted the name of its new Master, Grant's continued to be



Grant's, flanked by the Under-master's house on the left and Rigaud's on the right, 1986

known both then and for the future by its historic name and thus has preserved the memory of the three Mother Grants who were its Dames for almost a hundred years.

It was in Marshall's time that the senior boys began to use the rooms known as 'Chiswicks' as studies. These rooms which adjoined the old Dining Hall in the Yard at the back of Grant's had been originally used as sick rooms, and in their name preserved the only memory of a time when the whole School used to adjourn to the old College House at Chiswick in times of plague and during the summer months. It was, and is, a word peculiar to Grant's, just as the custom of making new boarders 'walk the mantelpiece' in Hall is a distinctive Grantite custom. Life up Grant's under Mr Marshall has been vividly sketched by the late Captain Francis Markham in his *Recollections of a Town Boy at Westminster*.

In 1868 Marshall was succeeded by the Rev. Charles Alfred Jones. It was during his time in 1878 that House colours were adopted in the School and the familiar chocolate and blue became the colours of Grant's. In 1884 appeared the first number of the *Grantite Review* which may claim, therefore, to be the oldest House magazine in the School or perhaps in any Public School. When Jones retired in 1885 he was succeeded by the Rev. William Heard, and shortly afterwards an alteration took place in the exterior appearance of the House. Up to 1885 all the houses in Little Dean's Yard had had the old up-and-down steps to the front doors. This was the main entrance to Grant's and Rigaud's, both for the Housemasters and for the boys.





*The large dormitory on the second floor of Grant's looking South, c.1920.*



*A composite contemporary photograph of the same room (above), now refurbished as the Housemaster's kitchen. The building of a partition wall across this room makes it impossible to attain the same photographic perspective as the earlier picture.*

In 1885 a new entrance was made through the basement of Grant's for the boys and the front door steps assumed their present appearance. Mr Heard was appointed Head Master of Fettes in 1890 and Mr Ralph Tanner was appointed Housemaster in his place. At that time Grant's still retained much of its primitive simplicity. There were no bathrooms – senior Old Grantites will remember the little tin hip-baths, which were placed by each bed in the Dormitories – and there was no electric light. The passages, Chiswicks and Hall were lit by gas, but the boarders went to bed by such light as could be induced to shine from the little half-hour candles – 'tollies' – in their round brass candlesticks which had been used by generations of former Grantites. Other arrangements were equally primitive, but gradually some improvements were made and the more obvious defects removed.

The 1914 War took a grievous toll of Old Grantites, but one Old Grantite, Colonel W. Martin-Leake, gained an almost unique distinction by being awarded a clasp to the Victoria Cross which he had already won in the South African War. He was the third Old Grantite to win a Victoria Cross; the others being Cornet W.G.H. Bankes who was awarded a posthumous VC for gallantry at Lucknow in 1858, and Captain (later Major-General Sir) Nevill Smyth for gallantry at Omdurman in 1898.

In 1919 Mr Tanner retired. A much loved Housemaster, Old Westminsters and Grantites subscribed for his portrait to be painted by Mr Briton Riviere and a replica of the portrait now hangs in the Hall of Grant's. Under his successor, Major Donald Shaw DSO, the old Hall was pulled down in 1921 and a new Hall made out of the old Chiswicks. At the same time a new building was erected at the end of the Yard with new Chiswicks, changing rooms, etc. Major Shaw died in 1925 and was succeeded by Mr A.T. Willett (OW) in whose time much was done to improve the amenities of Grant's. In 1935 he was succeeded by Mr T.M. Murray-Rust.

In 1939, War saw Grant's evacuated to Lancing where they were at Lancing College Farm. The fall of France necessitated a second evacuation, this time to Exeter where the House took up residence in Mardon Hall. In the autumn of that year the School moved to the borders of Herefordshire and Worcestershire and the House took up residence at Fernie Bank, a house near Whitbourne, where a number of the boys were billeted out in surrounding farms and houses. Fortunately, Grant's itself escaped damage from bombing, and for a time in the later years of the War it housed the new Under School under the Head Mastership of Mr Willett. When in Play Term 1945 Grant's returned to Westminster there was no boy then in the House who had been up Grant's before the War. But the traditions of the House had held fast in exile and it was with undiminished prestige and vigour that the House returned to new life and interests. When the House was fully re-established in its ancient home, Mr Murray-Rust retired and was succeeded by Mr J.M. Wilson, under whose leadership the Hall and the adjoining buildings at the back of Grant's were rebuilt. These new and greatly improved buildings were completed in 1955 and with them a new chapter in the long history of the House was opened.

*Lawrence Tanner*



## GRANT'S 1959–86



The new block, housing Hall and two floors of cubicle studies, built in 1955.

The House in 1959 was on the verge of change and, perhaps for the first time in nearly a century, the changes were more associated with shifts in social attitudes than with any desire on the part of the School and Housemasters. Visibly the main alterations had been completed with the building of the new Hall and two floors of studies, named Fernie and Buckenhill, to replace the old Hall, Chiswicks and Yard. Thirty years later the addition seems cold and rather tatty – a perfect example of utilitarian 1950s architecture in its most unimaginative phase – but at the time it was the pride of the School. It was one of the attractions presented to the Queen and Prince Philip when they visited the School in 1960 and the Duke of Edinburgh's reference to the studies' inhabitants as 'troglodytes' was apt for life in the narrow corridors that pass for rooms. Tim Jeal, Editor of the *Grantite Review* in the early 1960s, was one of the boys who met the Duke during the visit, though the meeting was unplanned. "The Duke was meant to visit the lower floor of studies rather than the upper, but, evidently irked by the restraining presence of his deferential guides, he ignored the intended route and bounded on ahead, upstairs. So all the reliable, carefully vetted boys below waited in vain while we, the unchosen, were granted an unexpected audience. The lower floor of studies had been beautified and painted for the visit while ours had been neglected. I mentioned this episode in an editorial verse written for the *Grantite Review* the following term but it was rejected by the Housemaster who, with superb disdain for normal practice, substituted a gloriously irrelevant piece about zoos."

For the Housemaster, John Wilson, however, the new building represented a great improvement in the facilities. "There was some pining for the disappearance of certain treasured features, such as the old stone tubs in the changing room and the temperamental stove in Hall. There was now no boiler to stoke or control, and comfort and amenities were greatly enhanced. The fear that studies would lead to a loss of community atmosphere was not substantiated and I think it is true to say that the academic advancement was considerable during the years 1953–63".

The athletic nature of the House was verified by Tim Jeal, for whom it "harboured many sportsmen and few intellectuals". Nevertheless the Literary Society met regularly, although not to discuss literature. Instead we read plays. It was just post-Angry Young Men, and roughly mid-Kitchen Sink era. Osborne and Wesker were very popular, their plays being open, direct and subversive. I am sure John Wilson found many of these plays tiresome and offensive but he read whatever part he was given without complaint".

Grant's, though, did achieve one major literary coup when Tim Jeal and Patrick Semple persuaded T.S. Eliot to be interviewed for *The Review*; the first time Eliot had allowed himself to be questioned for the press in several years. The result, which appeared in the Election Term issue of 1962, was notable for a printer's slip linking a question about Prufrock to a poem called *The Washstand*. "To save the entire printing," Jeal has written, "I volunteered to throw myself on Mr Eliot's mercy . . . Wiping away tears of amusement he advised me to keep as many copies as I decently could, since the whole edition would be avidly sought by collectors. He personally wanted twenty."

The emergence of the modern Grant's can be dated, according to John Wilson, from about 1960. "There was a change in atmosphere as authority was more openly questioned and senior boys were more reluctant to take office and exercise control over their juniors, but it was not until the late '60s that this became a definable feature. The wearing of 'shag' was allowed, hair grew longer, and although drugs had not yet come in, smoking and drinking were more frequent offences. Beating had, in practice, disappeared – certainly of boys by boys – though I continued to beat boys occasionally right up to the end of my tenure (as certain 'victims' often remind me, though with no apparent malice). I think Denny Brock occasionally used it: at least he inherited my modest stock of canes."

The period of rebellion was a difficult one for both staff and boys. In the outside world the student agitations had greater causes and aims. In the microcosm of boarding-house life, rebellion was more a matter of rejecting rules and regulations, the only justification for which seemed to be the protection of the establishment in its control of the pettier aspects of school life. Dress and hairstyle were seen by the boys as a matter of individual taste, by the masters as an indication of self-discipline and respectability. The more important it became to restore uniformity of appearance to the authorities, the more outlandish became the resistance. It fell to D.S. Brock, who took 'Jumbo' Wilson's place in 1963, to cope with the disaffection,



something he found difficult to do. A single man, with a naval background, Denny Brock was quiet, genial but punctilious and a model of unassuming self-control and was regarded by many in the school as one of the finest teachers of his generation. For him moderation and contemplation were two guiding qualities; neither obviously present in late '60s adolescents.

Christopher Martin (OW), was House Tutor from 1964-1969 (when he was married from the House!). He was "alongside Denny when the European and American student revolt blew up; when 'Les Évènements' of 1968 rocked academe, with pupils at their most belligerent and resentful, in almost open hostility to all that Denny stood for. House Prayers were discontinued – a big blow for us all and the end of the best House moments we had. Denny felt he had lost his touch with boys. It was not he, of course, but teachers generally, almost universally. His own high ethical standards refused to allow him to see this, though. He sensed personal inadequacy and eventually withdrew from Grant's for that reason."

In a letter Denny Brock wrote to Christopher Martin in 1979 he set down his views on being a teacher and wrote of "the closeness to and confidence in boys that a Housemaster finds or needs to seek . . . Oddly enough, I believe predictability to be almost the most important aspect of a schoolmaster, by which I mean that a boy knows that he will or won't get hurt when he deals with Mr X. He knows where he is over issues of behaviour, and right and wrong." David Brown, the other House Tutor from 1966-1969, regarded Denny Brock as having "more integrity, more altruism, more thoughtfulness than anyone I've ever known."

The battles and sense of revolt did at least add some spice to the routine of House living, though it is evident that for those concerned the issues were more deep-rooted than would have been the case for minor lapses of discipline. For Denny Brock, and to an extent for his successor in 1969, D.M.C. Hepburne-Scott, it was the lack of acceptance of the rightness of rules and regulations, together with the somewhat haphazard way in which they were imposed or relaxed from above, which caused the problems. During the last twenty years the independence of the Houses has gradually been eroded as the Headmaster (Dr. John Rae for half that period) has imposed more of his own authority on their running. As a result, since the early 1970s, the individual character of the boarding Houses has been dissipated.

Grant's remained fundamentally a boarding House until nearly the end of David Hepburne-Scott's tenure in 1979. By the early part of the 1980s however, the position was altering, with about a third of the inmates only attached during the day. In September 1985, at the start of John Baxter's last year as Housemaster, boarders were in a minority for the first time in the House's history, with forty-four day pupils and only forty boarders. John Baxter attributes this to the "sharp decline in demand for boarding education experienced throughout the country", but it was also a matter of School policy. Mr Hepburne-Scott resisted the trend for several years and, while he was prepared at an early date to accept girls into Grant's, he initially set the precondition that they too be boarders. This was rejected,



*The House Photograph summer 1986. At the centre is the Housemaster, Christopher Clarke.*

however, by the Headmaster, with the result that Grant's took in its first female members considerably later than many of the other Houses – when John Baxter took over the post.

For David Hepburne-Scott the life of a Housemaster was "very hard work and very day-to-day", characterised mainly by lack of sleep, since the first session in his study started at eight o'clock each morning and he rarely found himself able to begin tackling his correspondence until after midnight. Over the ten years he was in the post he felt his own relationship with the House change, becoming more sympathetic to the boys. "There was always far more pressure from the boys than from the Headmaster," he says, "but, strangely, the closer I came to the parents in age, the more I saw things from the boys' point of view".

In many ways David Hepburne-Scott can be regarded as the last traditional Housemaster of Grant's – or perhaps it is fair to say that he was the last Housemaster to preside over the traditional Grant's. With the increase in day-pupils, the influx of girls and the new interaction between Houses (some of the facilities are now shared with a new House – Dryden's), much of Grantite individuality has given way to general Westminster character. Under John Baxter, who did much to improve House Music and Drama and the present Housemaster, Christopher Clarke (the first to have an Old Westminster wife), Grant's has become less of an institution with definite traditions and loyalties and more a modern unit of a successful London school. In the last hundred years it has grown from a place for fifteen boys to live in to one to which nearly ninety pupils belong: less of a house, more of a club. The building has changed little in thirty years, though its use, and the function of its various rooms, has altered with the demands. Between 1899, when Lawrence Tanner entered the House, and 1959, when the first edition of this History was compiled, the changes were subtle. Since then much that he would have recognised as being the heart of Grant's has disappeared and with it the last vestiges of the school system that gave Grant's its name and original purpose in the eighteenth century.

*Simon Mundy*



## Grant's in the Nineteenth Century

The following two accounts, preserved in the School Archives, give a fascinating picture of life in a boarding House in the middle years of the last century.

The first, by the Rev H.D. Nicholson, was delivered as a speech to a gathering at the Café Royal on March 20th, 1912 and was reprinted as a pamphlet, part of which is reproduced here. The Rev Nicholson was up Grant's from 1842-45.



Kitchen life up Grant's in the middle of the 19th century, taken from an illustration in Captain Frank Markham's 'Recollections of a Town Boy at Westminster'.

There was then no resident master at Grant's; but the Rev Hugh Hodgson had a little room on the right of the door for a study. Here he had Prayers every night. The house was under the charge of a Lady Matron – Mother Jones . . . She was very kind but kept firm discipline, in which she was well supported by the older boys. She had rooms on the left of the front door, and another at the foot of the stairs where she sat in state every Saturday morning to pay us all our weekly allowances.

The rest of the staff consisted of a housekeeper – Old Mother Kelly – a man-of-all-work, and two maids. Mother Kelly was the fattest woman I think I ever saw, though old Mother Shotten, who kept the tuck shop, was not far behind . . . Her great function was to watch the Friday night washing of all boys under a certain age, previous to their Saturday outing. We were stripped to the waist, stood in a pail of hot water, and well scrubbed by the two maids. Another part of the maids' work was to go out in the evening, after lockers, to fetch beer from a public house which, strange to say, was allowed . . . The feeding up Grant's was very good:

Breakfast: New bread and butter, ad lib. In winter we could make toast, three rounds of bread at the same time, on a long toasting fork reaching over a huge fire. Of course, we were at liberty to add the contents of 'hampers' from home . . . There were no meals in College Hall, except dinner, until Liddell's time.

Dinner: The best joints and vegetables; whether there was ever pudding I do not remember.

Supper: The cold joints from dinner. The Sixth Form boys never joined this meal, but had tea and tuck in their bedrooms.

The second, fuller, description was written by Arthur Southey and dated 'Teignmouth, 18th March 1911'. It has remained in manuscript and has not been published before.

It was in the summer of 1847 that I made my first acquaintance of Grant's Boarding House at Westminster. I was only a half-boarder at first, till the end of the summer term. There was a Mrs Jones who ran the house but she was never seen, except at dinner time at 2 o'clock when she always appeared in black satin. The chief occurrence in the term was the Eton and Westminster Boat Race. This caused a good deal of excitement as we had beaten Eton the year before; however Eton returned the compliment this year and beat us handsomely. I went to the race and went after to a supper up Grant's which Mr Marshall, who had taken the house off Mother Jones's hands, gave us. Marshall was very kind and wanted to put me up, that I might not have to walk the two miles home through the streets at night, but I told him I would rather go home as I was afraid my people would be uneasy about me.

After the summer holidays were over, I went back up Grant's as a full boarder. I arrived late in the afternoon but there were no signs of any boys about the place. I finally made my way to the hall about 8 o'clock, where there was tea laid out for twelve boys, superintended by a stout matron whose name I cannot recall. I asked her where the other boys were and she said they won't turn up till the last moment at 10 o'clock. She then went into business with me, undertaking to get me a cup and saucer and plate, and a brown pitcher and white basin for my bedroom (for a consideration – for we had to buy all these necessary articles in those days).

I found myself located with four other boys in a good size room. Furniture: five beds, each with a bureau by its side. These beds turned up when not in use, which was a convenience and gave more room but decidedly inconvenient, as I subsequently discovered, when a too playful companion would suddenly turn it up, thereby disturbing the inmate's repose. The result of this manoeuvre was to send the sleeper's feet right over his head. Just as he thought his back would be broken he generally managed to slither out on to the floor. Yes, I certainly found my new friends were occasionally rather too playful. As I was the newest comer, and the smallest, I had to undertake the office of fag to the room. The duties were not onerous, being chiefly to keep all the pitchers supplied with water.

There was a new matron in charge of the house who succeeded Mrs Jones – Mrs Crowther was her name, generally called Mother Crowther. She was very kind to us and well liked by the boys. Including some new boys, there were only fifteen of us in the house, as there were no sixth form boys just then. We had our own way and did pretty much what we liked. Most of us lived in the dining hall, which opened on the back yard, and another party of us lived in a room at the top of the house looking out on the yard. In order that we might have quicker communication with our friends aloft, some bright individual arranged to fasten a stout cord to the window above and the hall door below. Another cord, with a good size ring on it, slid up and down with anything that wanted being sent below. This



machinery answered very well and was a source of great amusement to us for some days. At last, when an extra heavy load was coming down (it included, amongst other things, a heavy lexicon and a candlestick with the candle lighted), the string broke and the whole cargo came down just in front of the window where the Master of the House was sitting in his study. He naturally objected to the chance of his window being broken and put a stop to the proceedings for ever.

One day there was a window pane broken in our room, with a large round hole in it. As there was a high wind blowing this made the room very draughty. To obviate this inconvenience we made a raid on all the dirty linen in the room and stuffed up the hole. The result was that by the morning the clothes had all blown away into the next garden, with a fine row of trees belonging to the 2nd Master, Mr Weare. There was a fine show of shirts, etc., hanging on the trees. I think they were all restored at last, but it must have taken both trouble and time to get them down from the tops of the trees, where they were certainly not ornamental.

In the yard, next to the hall, there were three small rooms which were called Inner Chiswick, Middle Chiswick and Outer Chiswick. The name came from a house belonging to the school at Chiswick where boys that were ill used formerly to be sent for a change of air. On half school days we were always locked up in the boarding houses for two hours in the afternoon. We were supposed to do some work but we generally got into mischief. One afternoon we made a dummy man, filling a suit of clothes with dirty linen etc., and fitted up the life-size figure with a mask and a hat. When it was finished it was hung up by an old rope outside the window. I went into the yard and was looking at it when the rope broke and the dummy, throwing out its arms in the most natural and pathetic manner, fell into the area, after pausing for a few seconds on the top of the Master's study window. The servants rushed into the area but were afraid to touch it, saying "he's broken his leg" which was curled up under him in a rather curious fashion. The horrified master of the house rushed out, saying "who threw him out, who threw him out?" The horror was soon over, for the boys who had made the dummy soon hauled up the remains from the midst of the servants and had, I suppose, to do a pretty stiff imposition for their work.

At this time I lived with five other boys in Middle Chiswick. Three other boys occupied Inner Chiswick and Outer Chiswick was still unfurnished. The Chiswicks were always at war with the Hallites and a perpetual good-humoured sort of fight, chiefly wrestling, went on most evenings. I hardly ever went to bed without my shirt being nearly torn off my back. We had tea at 8 o'clock, Prayers at 9 and were all in bed by 10.30.

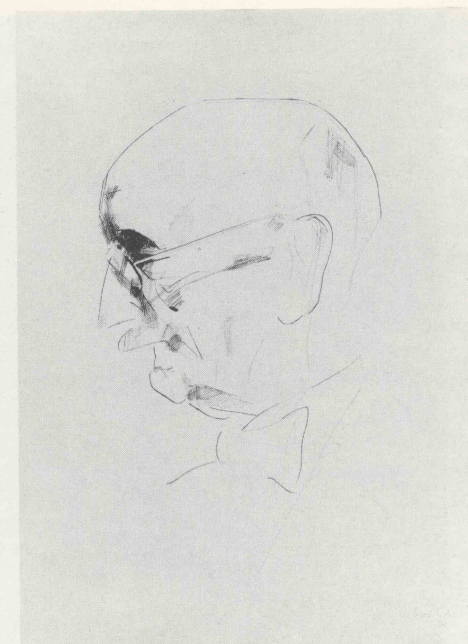
About this time there was a rage for miniature theatres with paste-board figures in front, while the proprietor read out the play behind. A new boy was persuaded to give a performance during lockers one afternoon. It was to be a grand affair and Mother Crowther was formally invited. In order to mollify the audience the advocates of the performance distributed oranges among us. This did not, however, serve to keep the peace, but rather the reverse. For, finding the play dull, we began to pitch bits

of orange peel over the curtain, on to the performers behind it. They very soon sent them back to us. Mother Crowther, on the first unmistakable signs of a riot, disappeared very quickly. Presently one of the audience sent a whole orange with an accurate aim, which speedily cleared away the whole miniature apparatus. The theatre people savagely tore down the curtain and charged us and the usual free fight followed.

The same confiding proprietor was afterwards persuaded to start another play, called *Robert the Devil*, and they even made him buy a good sized box of fireworks for it. This took place in the evening in Middle Chiswick. It didn't take long for our audience, who had had enough of it, to bring it to a rapid conclusion by setting light to the combustibles in the box. The fireworks behaved splendidly but we didn't see it much; the room only being about twelve feet by six we were obliged to throw ourselves face downwards on the floor while the sparks, Catherine wheels etc., flew over us. It was an exciting play but soon over.

As there was always war between the Chiswicks and the Hallites (and they were much more numerous than we were – some of them much bigger than any of us) we found it necessary to fortify our room in case there was a sudden raid. As there was no lock to the door this was the way we did it. We managed to capture the Hall poker – an enormous one with a large knob at the end. The poker we made red hot and with it bored a hole through the floor just inside the door and dropped the poker down it. The big knob prevented the door from being opened from the outside. It was very effective, but I doubt if the Fire Insurance Co. would have approved of this risky mode of fortification.

One morning after breakfast I wandered casually up School. There was a large and very heavy old oak chest, which was called the Loss Box, into which any stray books found lying about used to be put. That morning several of the Queen's Scholars' 3rd Election had pulled this box into the middle of School and proceeded to amuse themselves by packing it full of small boys. One boy was already in when I arrived and another boy, Twiss, was invited to go in too. He shrank back from it. There was no escape and so I stepped forward. I saw there was a hole in one side of the chest. I went in and coiled myself over the first boy, with my mouth close to the hole, and



*Lawrence Tanner by Gideon Todes.*





*Inner Chiswick at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries.*



*The Old Swan, Battersea, from a drawing by Arthur Severn. A Thameside pub much favoured by Grantites in the 19th century.*

the third boy, Twiss, was very unceremoniously bundled on top of me. The lid was then shut down and the QSS kept turning it over till they got it to the end of the School. They soon tired of this amusement. The oak chest was very heavy and not the less so for being crammed full of live boys. We were let out then. I had plenty of air except when that side of the box happened to be on the floor. We all jumped out as soon as possible and skeddaddled down School with considerable alacrity. Twiss went into College afterwards and it shows what a rough time the junior QSS had of it in those days that when I met him many years after and reminded him of our wooden journey he had totally forgotten all about it.

We used to do a good deal of cooking in Chiswicks in those days, having coffee, etc. One enterprising cook one evening tried his hand at about 2lbs of beefsteak. The meat made such a noise frizzling that we all were quite alarmed at being discovered, what with the smell and the noise. The cooks found the steak was more than a match for them and they hastily took it off the fire. It was quite uneatable. One half was quite raw and the rest burnt to a cinder. It was taken into the yard and thrown over the wall into Great College Street, where probably some lucky dog disposed of it.

Some of us used to slip down to Hungerford Market and indulge in a preliminary breakfast of oysters, which did not in the least interfere with our appetites for the regular nine o'clock breakfast afterwards.

On occasions when there was an early Play and no morning school we used to make up a scratch four from the house and go on the water before breakfast. On a fine morning this was very delightful. The river, which is now a desert, was full of sailing barges coming down from the upper Thames with cargoes of fruit, etc. After some time, during which I used to row in the second eight occasionally, when wanted as an extra oar, I became stroke of the Boat. She was a heavy cumbrous boat and so I managed to find two more oars and for the rest of the rowing season we rowed in the third eight (this was the only time we had three eights going). I was out of school for two or three days and another boy, called Lipscomb, took my oar. When I appeared again one evening he was delighted, as he found the work rather hard, so he took the rudder and steered us. When we got to Pimlico he took us too near the shore and, citizen Thames making a great swell just then, we were filled with water and fairly swamped, the whole crew sitting up to their waists in the water. We had to haul the boat ashore and turn the water out of it and then we all adjourned to a nearby public house (I think it was called the William IV) and fortified ourselves with brandy and water to avoid taking cold. As we were too wet to go on we turned and rowed back to Westminster.

In the year 1852, at the time of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, I made up a scratch four of my own friends to go and see it. This I was not able to do. Some of the senior Queen's Scholars had made up an eight with some Old Westminsters to see it too. As they were short of one oar they came and asked me to take it. I protested but it was of no use, for they knew I had two junior QSS in my boat, so they frankly said "if you will not come with us, we shall not allow the two juniors to row your boat". There was no way out of



it as the power of the senior over the junior QSS was very great. I found a boy named Banks, who was afterwards – poor fellow – killed in the Mutiny in India, to take my place and I rowed in the eight with the Seniors and the Old Westminsterers. It was rather a rough cold day. Our boat shipped a good deal of water and we had, at one time, to go ashore and bale out. While this operation was going on I had the mortification to see my own pet four rowing along in splendid style to Kew. After the race was over we rowed to the Old Swan at Battersea, where the OWW in the crew gave us such a splendid lunch that we didn't want much supper.

At the time of the Westminster Play most of us were there. Those of us who were not had a free and easy time of it, all the masters, of course, being at the play. A Sixth Form Town Boy would sometimes give a tea to his favourites. Some of us would take advantage of the time and skip up town and go half price to the old Adelphi, taking care to be back in the boarding houses before the Westminster Play was over.

The number of boys at that time was very low; not much more than a hundred. The QSS took advantage of this and oppressed us Town Boys a good deal. At one play night there had been a good deal of ill feeling between the Scholars and the Town Boys. But there were a good many Sixth Town boys and Upper Shell boys, of which I was one. The theatre was built in the dormitory in College. The tiers of seats came nearly to the ceiling. At the back of all was a wooden partition which reached to within two feet of the ceiling. This had a three inch board running along it and on this board a row of small boys were always posted standing. Two QSS with canes sat within reach of the 'gods', as they were called, to keep them in order and make them applaud at the proper times. This particular night we Town Boys heard that the 'gods', when they went into the dormitory, were to be flogged up between two rows of QSS armed with canes. The senior Town Boys determined to escort them through and so we all charged through the bar at the foot of the stairs. The QS in charge of the bar, after vainly trying to keep us back, called to the policeman on duty to help him. The policeman, however, was so puzzled at the civil war suddenly breaking out that he didn't attempt to interfere and we escorted the 'gods' safely to their places. The senior Town Boys then returned pretty furious and decided they would not allow any 'gods' to go up at all next night. This would have left an ugly gap where they were used to stand. I was even requested to go up and try to get the 'gods' down there and then. I went in, accordingly, but by that time the theatre was cram full and I saw at once it would be impossible to get them down without making a great disturbance in a public place, so I gave it up. The 'gods' themselves probably preferred, now they had firmly settled in their uncomfortable quarters, to stop and see the show and, as it was a tearing wet night, I thought I had better do the same. The Town Boys, being very savage, wanted to fight the QSS but that was impossible at the time of the play. The next day a compromise was arranged, the QSS promising that the gods should not be molested on their way up if they were allowed to come.

The above are rough notes jotted down from memory.

## Memories of Grant's

*Joan Fenton, Matron 1958-1980*

When I first came to Grant's in January 1958 I think the new studies had been built about four years. I distinctly remember feeling absolutely lost for a few days as I never knew which floor I was on and which end of the building was which. Although there are quite a few photographs of Grant's as it was, I found it rather difficult to imagine how it all looked and longed for someone to make a model showing the old stone baths, etc.



*H.M. Queen Elizabeth II leaving Grant's with John Carleton, the Headmaster, after her visit in 1960.*

Grant's single studies were still the envy of other Westminsterers, but when the Queen and Prince Philip visited the House in the 1960s, the latter referred to the 'studyites' as troglodytes, as he thought them rather dark. Several days before the Royal visit, a great flurry of cleaning took place. The large bathroom was rapidly re-decorated in case H.R.H. should want to see the 'japs,' etc. Mrs Wilson with the help of Major French, who was then House Tutor, supervised the polishing of Hall floor with a huge industrial polisher. Wilby (Clerk of Works) stamped in and out giving 'advice and encouragement'. Even in those days security on Royal visits was strict. When the Royal party crossed from Grant's to the Science Block, Great College Street was swarming with plain clothes policemen. In those days Grantites could use the door from Grant's yard which gave access to Great College Street, but after a few strange visitors found they could come in and pick up this and that, it was kept locked and unfortunate Grantites had to go right round by Dean's Yard. I never had the luck to apprehend one of those light-fingered visitors, but if they were challenged they usually said they were looking for the Deanery and got away. When the German girls, who used to clean and help with meals, were still in residence, two men must have followed them home one night and got into the House. I found them



comfortably installed in the sick room beds. The Housemaster came and immediately evicted them. We were very amused to get a telephone call from Colonel Carruthers (the Bursar) to say that two men had been seen leaving the back door and had stolen a bottle of milk on the way out.

In John Carleton's day Abbey was still compulsory on Sunday mornings. The procession of Housemasters and their families leading the boys back through the cloisters was met by the Headmaster in Little Dean's Yard. Parents and staff chatted for a while before repairing to their various Houses for coffee or sherry before lunch. Sunday lunch had to be collected from College Hall.

In 1958/59 Asian 'flu' was rampaging through the country. Westminster did not escape and the Sanatorium in College had to be opened and staffed. This was no easy job. A cook had to be engaged. One such person made delicious cakes and meringues but the boys would not eat them. She had been seen licking her fingers during cooking. These 'flu' epidemics were rather overwhelming. Several boys became very ill and had to be whisked over to the 'San'. We had two Red Cross Sisters to help with the nursing in the House and we had to mark the doors of studies, containing invalids, with a chalk cross so they could keep track of the inmates. Remarks were then made about the Plague and jokes about "bring out your dead" abounded. Both Mrs Wilson and I succumbed to the 'bug', but somehow things went on. The boys were most helpful in those days. A couple of them would materialise to help with meals and run messages. A general awareness of the problems of nursing so many boys was fostered by the Housemaster, which was a very great help. Rather sadly, I think this sense of awareness on the part of the boys gradually disappeared over the years and the Matron sometimes felt rather cut off from the affairs of the House. Since annual 'flu' inoculations were instigated I don't think epidemics have been such an arduous business.

Rules were strict when I first arrived. A way of escaping this rather rigorous existence was to have a couple of days rest in the sick-room. It was hard to winkle boys out when they had obviously recovered. As time went on and rules were relaxed fewer boys wanted to 'opt out'. With increased freedom life became more exciting and most boys disliked missing what was going on. Towards the end of my stay it was difficult to get boys into the sickrooms and justify one's existence. No sooner were they in than they wanted to be out! To be fair, I think the general health of the boys has much improved. In 1958 boys who came in at 13 had been born just after the war. I have often wondered if this had anything to do with the fact that they were more often ill. Smog may have had something to do with it. Towards the end of my stay up Grant's there were very few cases of serious illness.

Over the years with the advent of new Housemasters so many things were changed. Some changes were for the better. In the 1950s boys were not allowed up into the dormitories during the day. 'Shag' consisted of a blazer and grey flannels. Electrical gadgets were unheard of. Later these increased so much that one could hardly move around without getting entangled with wires. Many more boys stayed in at weekends. Saturday night up Grant's (SNUG) was revived, which proved to be fun for a while. When Denny

Brock became Housemaster in the early 1960s he opened the roof garden. This was a mixed blessing, as boys being boys, there was an awful lot of noise directly over my flat. One end of term boys took their mattresses out and slept on the roof. Looking back, there wasn't much sleep but a lot of giggling and to-ing and fro-ing. Matron was not amused.

There used to be an Annexe to Grant's and Rigaud's in No. 2 Barton Street under the excellent care of Mr and Mrs Craven. When Martin Rogers became Housemaster of Rigaud's, he wanted the whole of No. 2 for Rigaudites. So part of the old 'San' in College was converted to dormitories for Grantites under the supervision of a Monitor. This area proved to be no man's land and was a thorn in the side of the Housemaster. Quite a few complaints came from the inhabitants of Great College Street about the noise. Happily for all concerned, all Grantites are now under the one roof.

After John Wilson retired from Grant's we gradually phased out the German girls. After they had gone, their accommodation was taken over for a time by House Tutors who lived in and were fed by the Housemaster's housekeeper. This plan worked rather well as the tutors took on more responsibility and understood the working of the House generally.

In the early days Hall was still run by Hall Monitors. They kept some sort of order besides being in charge of the dormitories. In this way one could spot future House Monitors.

I well remember an occasion soon after Denny Brock came when he decided that the dinner plates were horribly chipped and needed replacing. In the basement there was an area, open to the sky, that housed the dustbins and was known as the 'banana pit'. The Housemaster decided that the Monitors could get rid of some of their energy by smashing the old chipped plates against the walls of the pit. A wonderful time ensued.

The Billiard table was originally placed in Hall. Grantites may remember a beautiful clock which stood on a bracket near it. An unfortunate boy (not a Grantite) knocked it down with his cue. It was smashed to pieces. The other day I was asked by the School Librarian what had become of it. I think it went into the dustbin.

The boys up Grant's were always playing practical jokes and one day two of them dressed up in brown overalls and went in and out of various classrooms during school supposedly testing the radiators. Apparently they weren't recognised.

Similarly I never discovered who it was who flew a pair of pyjama trousers marked J. Wilson from the top of the Abbey flagpole, but it created a lot of excitement at the time.

In the old days each boarding House was very much a citadel. Other masters had to get permission to enter from the Housemaster. Now all that has gone, boys and masters come and go as they please. Dryden's shares Grant's Hall for lunch, and for a while Hall was taken over for breakfast and supper as well, when College Hall roof was being renovated. I suppose the old has to make way for the new, but part of the former charm of the House being a world of its own has gone too.



## THE OLD GRANTITE CLUB

Opinions vary as to the origins of the Old Grantite Club. There are those who say that it started with the Moth Club, which was a Club founded at a meeting of four Old Grantites in October 1921, when it was decided to form a Society open to anyone and for the object of pronouncing the word 'moth' as 'both', i.e. with the vowel elongated. The four Old Grantites were Messrs Peter Bevan, James Rea, Stanley Jacomb-Hood and Arthur Garrard who elected themselves President, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. As the minutes of the first Meeting put it, "the matter was then left".

In November of that year the suggestion was made that the Society should be turned into a Reunion Club exclusively for Old Grantites, and this being agreed, various Old Grantites were invited to join. A list of Officers and Rules was printed, which provided that there should be at least one Dinner per annum and that at this Dinner a vote of censure should be passed on the Head Master. The first Annual Dinner was held on January 7th 1922 at the Florence Restaurant in Rupert Street, and was attended by ten Members. The minute book records that the whole evening was most informal and was a great success. At the Committee Meeting in March of that year, further Members were elected, including Mr G.P. Stevens, who was elected purely on account of his having once climbed on to the roof of a train during a field-day. With that fleeting life, the records of the Moth Club come to an end, which is perhaps not inappropriate for a Club of its name.

The Club as we know it today started in 1926 when some Old Grantites, including Mr Peter Bevan, Mr Arthur Garrard and Mr W.N. McBride met together and decided to form an Old Grantite Club, with the objects of "maintaining, promoting and strengthening the comradeship of Old Grantites by means of re-unions of Old Grantites and otherwise and of advancing the prosperity and interest of Grant's".

The first meeting of the Club was held on Shrove Tuesday, February 1926, but unfortunately the first minute book is missing and for the early days of the Club we have to rely on the recollections of some of those who were then members. Mr W.N. McBride was appointed Honorary Treasurer and Secretary, and the first President was Sir F. Villiers Forster, Bart., who was selected as being about the oldest living Grantite at the time, having entered the House before 1860. The first Dinner was held in the autumn of 1926 at the Florence Restaurant, Rupert Street, when about thirty or forty members attended. After dinner the Club entertained itself on the lines of Play Supper, the stars being Mr Jevan Brandon Thomas (Head of House in 1916/17, son of the author of *Charley's Aunt*) who gave true-to-life caricatures of many of the masters of the School at that time, and Mr Norman Andrews (Head of House in 1917/18) who gave a first class baritone rendering of *Shipmates o' Mine*. The President, who was Master of the South Staffordshire Fox Hounds, is recorded as having come to at least one of the earliest Dinners straight from the hunting field although at the time he was over eighty.

The present series of minute books start in September 1930. They begin on a promising note, however, in that in view of the ever-increasing funds



One of the new studies built in the 1950s, as adorned 1986.

of the Club the Secretary was at that Meeting empowered to hire an entertainer (not exceeding £20) for the forthcoming Annual Dinner. In March 1931 it is recorded that the Honorary Treasurer "made a half-hearted statement of account but hoped for the best, and his optimism was accepted". There were also rumours that Mr Willett required £50 to convert Grant's into a Turkish Bath, and it was decided that the Secretary should "sleuth for the truth". At the same time, the Club made its first gift, being the sum of £25 to Elson on his retirement from Westminster. The Annual Dinner of 1930 was held at the Waldorf Hotel and it is recorded that the Club was very ably entertained by Mr Billy Bennett.

1931 again saw the Club at the Waldorf Hotel for the Annual Dinner with about 45 members present, and an interesting light on the fall in the value of the pound is shed by a minute of March 1932, which directed the Secretary and Treasurer to find a suitable restaurant for the forthcoming Annual Dinner where the price should not exceed 6s 6d. The Dinner in question took place at the Criterion Restaurant with about 40 members present, and it is recorded that for the first time for several years there was no business to be transacted after the Dinner, and the Club was entertained by Mr Mozart. The form of the entertainment is not revealed but it sounds eminently respectable.

In 1932 Mr Arthur Garrard became Secretary in place of the Hon Findlay Rea and in the same year, after considering three possible designs, a Club tie was finally chosen. The same year Mr V.F. Ealand resigned as Honorary Treasurer and Mr Peter Bevan was elected in his place. A fixture





*A study, probably Middle Chiswick, photographed c.1920.*

which became an annual event for a time was then started by a letter from Mr J. Spedan Lewis asking if the Club would care to arrange a cricket match against his village of Leckford. This was warmly agreed and all the necessary arrangements made.

At the Annual General Meeting in October 1932 the Reverend Frederic Willett (1852/7) who was then aged 94 but who lived to be 100, was elected an Honorary Member of the Club and in 1933 he was followed by Colonel Sir Courtenay Bouchier Vyvyan, Bart. (1870/76).

The minutes of a Committee Meeting in January 1934 show that it was suggested that the production of a female contortionist to entertain the Club after the forthcoming Annual Dinner could not but bring great credit on the Committee. It was decided reluctantly, however, to engage a male magician, and it seems that the ultimate choice was left in the capable hands of Mr F.N. Hornsby. In 1935 Mr A.T. Willett retired from the House and the Club presented him with a pair of silver coasters suitably inscribed and bearing his crest. In the same year the Club presented to the House as complete a set as possible of the Grantite Review bound in suitable volumes.

The Annual General Meeting of 1935 seems to be the first which was held up Grant's. The following year the Club gave a grant of £20 to the widow of Sgt. Bowler, the former School Sergeant, and the Committee was empowered to make a further grant if necessary. In this year also the present

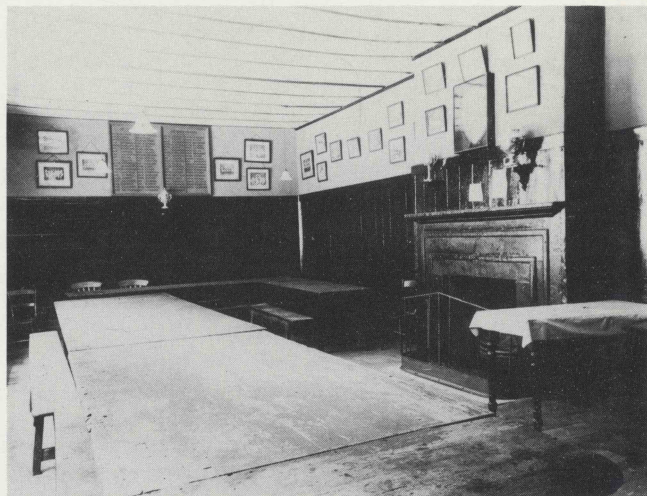
system whereby boys in the House can pay termly subscriptions to the Club and so become Members on leaving was first introduced as the result of the work of a small sub-Committee appointed specially for the purpose. In 1937 the Club made a grant of £50 to the School Appeal Fund and asked that the money should be earmarked for the Grant's Rebuilding Fund. The last Annual General Meeting prior to the outbreak of the Second World War was held up Grant's on October 31st 1938, and although the Committee met again in 1940 it was faced with difficulties such as the absence of the Honorary Treasurer in the R.N.V.R., the evacuation of the House and the impossibility of organising reunion dinners. The first series of minute books therefore comes to a close in 1940.

The revival of the Club after the Second World War started with a Meeting early in 1947 called together at the suggestion of the Housemaster, Mr T.M. Murray-Rust, and consisting of Mr J. Heard, Mr P.J.S. Bevan, Mr F.N. Hornsby and Mr D.F. Cunliffe. Arising out of this Meeting a special General Meeting was held on the 8th May 1947 with Mr J. Heard in the Chair, and arrangements were made for a proper Annual General Meeting later in the same year. During that summer, three wireless sets were presented to the House for Inner, Chiswicks and Hall at a total cost of £50 7s.2d. and the revival of the Club was celebrated at a cocktail party in Ashburnham Library which was attended by 48 Members, and at which the Head Master was the guest of the Club. At the Annual General Meeting in October 1947 Mr L.E. Tanner was elected President, Mr F.N. Hornsby as Honorary Treasurer and Mr D.F. Cunliffe as Honorary Secretary. A sidelight on national conditions at the time is thrown by a minute that the Chairman had been consulted whether the Dinner should be held in November despite the 'crisis', a reference to the fuel crisis of that winter. Fortunately for the Club he decided to proceed notwithstanding. In 1948 came the retirement of Mr T.M. Murray-Rust as Housemaster, and this was marked by the presentation to him on July 21st in Ashburnham Library of an etching by Mr Hanslip Fletcher drawn from the six-bedder and showing Yard and the School buildings with the Abbey behind.

The Annual Dinner of that year was held in College Hall. The Old Grantite tie also became available again and the triumphant announcement was made that no coupons were required. The financial conditions prevailing necessitated revisions to the Rules and these were passed during the year to modify the free benefits to which Members were previously entitled.

1951 marked the 25th anniversary of the Club and on this occasion the Head Master gave permission for the Dinner to be held in College Hall, while the Dean of Westminster allowed the Reception to be in the Jerusalem Chamber. It was fortunate that Mr L.E. Tanner was in the Chair at this dinner in his capacity as President, because he used the occasion to make a presentation to the House of a portrait of 'Mother Grant' which he had pursued over a great many years. He brought as his guest to the Dinner Sir Henry Hake (OW), Director of the National Portrait Gallery, who had restored the portrait on the President's behalf. 'Mother Grant' was received with great enthusiasm by all those present and was accepted by the Housemaster in a felicitous speech. In that year Mr L.E. Tanner handed the Presidency over to





*Hall c.1912. On the right is the mantelpiece, walked on and leapt from by generations of New Boys. The tradition still continues, though a different shelf is used in the rebuilt Hall.*

Dr G.R.Y. Radcliffe, while Dr D.I. Gregg became Honorary Secretary in place of Mr D.F. Cunliffe, to whom the Club owes a particular debt of gratitude for his work in reviving the Club after the War. The previous year Mr R. Plummer succeeded Mr F.N. Hornsby as Honorary Treasurer. The 1952 Annual Dinner took place for the first time in the King Charles Suite at Whitehall Court.

This proved so successful that in 1953 it was repeated with Mr Lushington, Housemaster of Wren's, as a guest. The year also saw the commencement of the demolition of large parts of the House prior to its rebuilding and, thanks to the intervention of Dr Radcliffe, photographs were taken of the Dining Hall before the demolition so that there might be some record passed to successive generations. These photographs were presented by the Club to the House.

In April the Annual Dinner was held in the rebuilt Hall immediately before the beginning of Election Term, and indeed the Club had the satisfaction of being the first persons to use the new Hall. Seventy-seven Members attended the Dinner, the catering for which was carried out by College Hall. In 1956 the Club returned to Whitehall Court for the Annual Dinner and in that year, though not for the first time in its history, the House had to deal with the problem of Grantites moving to a new House, in this case Liddell's, where they were to help form the nucleus of a new House. In 1957 there was an innovation in that the Club dined in the House of Lords. The year ended on a sad note when shortly after presiding over the Annual Dinner, Mr W. Cleveland-Stevens died at the age of 75. One of his last actions, however was to approach Sir Adrian Boulton to persuade him to accept the Presidency.

*L.E. Tanner and Sir William R. van Straubenzee*

## THE OLD GRANTITE CLUB 1959–1986

Sir Adrian Boulton remained as President for three years and then joined the roll of Vice-Presidents, which included, among others, Lord Adrian – who had been one of his closest friends and contemporaries up Grant's in the early years of the century – and Lord Rea. Lord Adrian, Chancellor of Cambridge University from 1968–1975, himself took over the Presidency in 1962.

One thread running through the Club activities throughout the 1960s and 1970s was the effort to acquire the various extant portraits of the Grant family for the House. Lawrence Tanner had begun his researches into their whereabouts as early as 1909, when he was Head of House. In 1964 he had presented a pastel portrait of the younger Mother Grant to the House, but the Club was unable to raise the necessary £6,500 when the most important portrait of the family, by Francis Hayman (1708–76, one of the founding Members of the Royal Academy), was sold at Sotheby's in 1963. Thanks to some diligent work by Sir William van Straubenzee, however, contact was made with the new owner and, on her death in 1977, a further attempt to regain the picture was invited under the terms of her will. By then, though, the price had risen to over £15,000 (from 49 guineas, for which it had been sold at Christie's in 1896) and once again it slipped through the Club's hands.

The General Election of 1970 had two effects on the Club; the Annual Dinner (with which it would have co-incided) was cancelled, and the Secretary, Sir William van Straubenzee, resigned the following year because of his duties as Under Secretary of State for Education. However, he returned to the Club as President in 1976.

Gifts to the house have continued throughout the last thirty years. Among them a film of Grant's during the evacuation of 1941 was renovated in 1961, a set of crockery was given to Chiswicks in 1972, and new curtains for Hall marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Club in 1976. To celebrate the Jubilee, a dinner was held in College Hall attended by over 100 Old Grantites, as well as the Headmaster, the Dean and three former Housemasters.

The death of Lawrence Tanner in 1979, at the age of eighty-nine, not only removed from the Club the only person to have been elected President twice, it also meant the loss of Grant's' most diligent historian. He had begun work compiling the list of Heads of House in 1907, corresponding with Captain Frank Markham, who had entered the House in 1849.

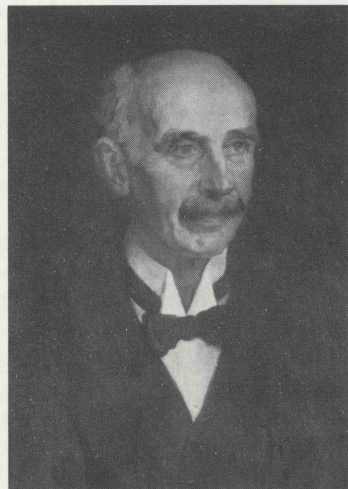
Within two years, in 1981, the character of the Club over which he had presided changed irrevocably with the election of the first ladies as rightful Members. Their arrival, the centenary of the Grantite Review in 1984 which was celebrated up Grant's at a Dinner attended by 85 Old Grantites, with the Dean, Headmaster, the Housemaster and his wife and three former Housemasters as guests and also the publication of the second edition of this History. These all point to the continued health and vigour of the Old Grantite Club sixty years after its foundation.

*Simon Mundy*



### *Housemasters of Grant's*

Mrs Mary Grant, Dame c1746-1787  
 The Rev Richard Grant (OW) and his wife ('Mother' Grant II) 1787-1813  
 Richard Grant (OW) and his wife ('Mother' Grant III) 1813-1837  
 Mrs Jones, Dame 1837-1847  
 The Rev James Marshall 1847-1868  
 The Rev Charles Alfred Jones 1868-1885  
 The Rev William Augustus Heard 1885-1889



Ralph Tanner  
1890-1919



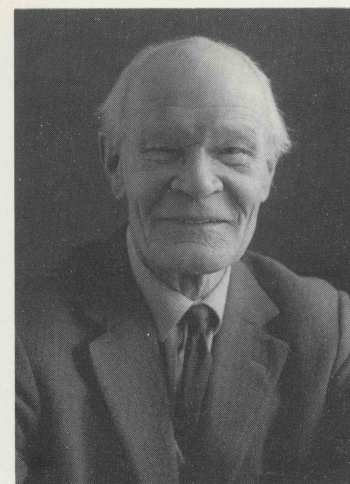
Major Donald Patrick Shaw DSO  
1919-1924



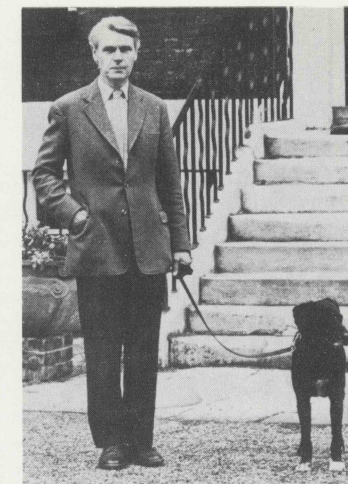
Arnold Theodore Willett (OW)  
1924-1935



Thomas Moray Murray-Rust  
1935-1948



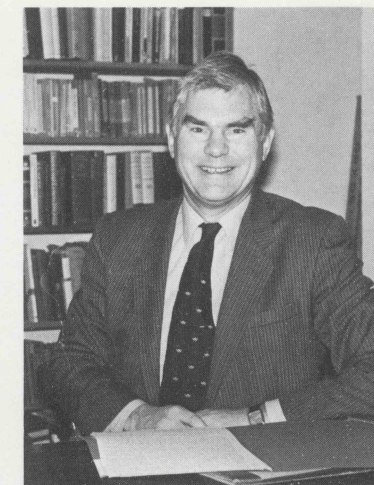
John Morton Wilson  
1948-1963



Denison Saumarez Brock (OW)  
1963-69



David Michael Cospatrick Hepburne-Scott  
1969-1979



John Stephen Baxter  
1979-1986

Christopher Clarke took over as Housemaster in Election 1986

### *Presidents of the Old Grantite Club*

1926 Sir F. Villiers Forster, Bart.  
 1930 Mr R.T. Squire  
 1947 Mr L.E. Tanner, CVO, FSA  
 1950 Dr G.R.Y. Radcliffe, DCL, FSA  
 1954 Mr W. Cleveland-Stevens, CMG, QC  
 1957 Sir Adrian Boulton, CH DMus, LLD  
 1960 Mr E.C. Cleveland-Stevens DSc  
 1962 Lord Adrian OM, FRS, FRCP  
 1965 Dr L.E. Tanner CVO, DLitt, FSA, FRHistS

1966 Mr P.J.S. Bevan  
 1968 Mr N.P. Andrews  
 1972 Lord Rea PC, OBE, DL, JP  
 1975 Mr F.N. Hornsby  
 1976 Sir William Van Straubenzee MBE, MP  
 1979 His Honour Judge Michael Argyle MC, QC  
 1983 Mr D.F. Cunliffe MC, TD  
 1986 Mr F.D. Hornsby



## Heads of Grant's

|           |                              |           |                                      |           |                         |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1817-18   | Sir John Jervis              | 1896-97   | W. Lonsdale                          | 1950      | H. Ward                 |
| 1819-21   | J. Jekyll                    | 1897-99   | J. Heard                             | 1950-51   | R.P. Harben             |
| 1821-23   | W.T. Wyld                    | 1899-1900 | H.S. Bompas                          | 1951      | S.G. Croft              |
| 1824      | Sir M. White-Ridley, Bart    | 1900      | D.H. Whitmore                        | 1952      | C.J.H. Davies           |
| 1824-25   | W.R. Fremantle               | 1901-02   | W.T.S. Sonnenschein<br>(Stallybrass) | 1952      | T.H. Stewart            |
| 1825      | W.O.S. Trelawney             |           |                                      | 1953      | The Hon M.W.M. Davidson |
| 1826      | J. Mitchell                  | 1902-03   | L.A. Woodbridge                      | 1953-54   | J.H.M. Anderson         |
| 1827      | Sir G. Chetwynd, Bart.       | 1903-04   | D.S. Robertson                       | 1954      | C.J. Croft              |
| 1827      | W.P. Lamb                    | 1904-05   | R.W. Reed                            | 1955      | C.H. Prince             |
| 1828      | G.B. Maule                   | 1905-06   | G.R. Fraser                          | 1955      | R.T.J.A. Clark          |
| 1828-29   | Sir Edward H. Greathed       | 1906-08   | C.G. Reed                            | 1955-56   | D.B. Wilkins            |
| 1829      | Sir J.H. Preston, Bart.      | 1908-09   | L.E. Tanner                          | 1956      | D. Dewar                |
| 1829-31   | The Hon W.N. Ridley Colborne | 1909-10   | F.G. Hobson                          | 1957      | R.D. Creed              |
| 1831      | A. Borradaile                | 1910-11   | A.H. Gilmour                         | 1958      | G.B. Patterson          |
| 1832      | T.F. Stooks                  | 1911-12   | J.C. Hobson                          | 1958      | M.D. Fairbairn          |
| 1832-33   | G.W. Brett                   | 1912-13   | A.C.V. Miles                         | 1958      | R.J. Abbott             |
| 1833-34   | Sir John B. Maule            | 1913-14   | N.M.J. Kohnstamm                     | 1959      | N.D.K. Evans            |
| 1834      | R.H. Hurst                   | 1914      | H.B. Thacker                         | 1959      | J.D. Noakes             |
| 1835      | C.D. Osborn                  | 1915      | W. Hepburn                           | 1960      | N.M.W. Anderson         |
| 1836      | Sir C.J. Wingfield           | 1915-16   | M.G. Hewins                          |           | P.C.S. Medawar          |
| 1837      | The Earl of Normanton        | 1916-17   | J.R. Brandon-Thomas                  | 1960-1961 | M.B. McC. Brown         |
| 1837-38   | H. Maule                     | 1917      | N.P. Andrews                         | 1961      | J.H.G. Langley          |
| 1839-40   | H.M. Curteis                 | 1918      | H.D. Salwey                          | 1961-1962 | R.D.E. Spry             |
| 1841-42   | M.F.F. Osborn                | 1918-19   | C.M. Cahn                            | 1962      | A.J. Stranger-Jones     |
| 1843-44   | G. Gillett                   | 1919-20   | P.J.S. Bevan                         | 1963      | F. Strickland-Constable |
| 1844-45   | J. Preston                   | 1920-21   | S.F.P. Jacomb-Hood                   |           | R.C. Beard              |
| 1845-47   | C.F.L. West                  | 1921      | J.R. Peacock                         |           | R.T.E. Davies           |
| 1847-50   | W.C. Macready                | 1921-22   | W.L. Hartley                         | 1964      | C.W.M. Garnett          |
| 1850-51   | J.M. Murray                  | 1922-23   | D.E. Lashmore                        | 1965      | C.N. Foster             |
| 1852      | J.A. Whitaker                | 1923-24   | W.N. McBride                         |           | P.K.H. Maguire          |
| 1852      | R.B. Berens                  | 1924-25   | A.W.D. Leishman                      | 1966      | I.K. Patterson          |
| 1852-55   | J. Gray                      | 1925-26   | A.M. Shepley-Smith                   |           | W.E.K. Macfarlane       |
| 1855-58   | A.F. Pope                    | 1926-27   | J.A. Cook                            |           | J.M.K. Lamb             |
| 1858-59   | W.E. Dowdeswell              | 1927-28   | W.P. Mallinson                       | 1967      | R.G.H. Kemp             |
| 1859-60   | J.C. Hawkshaw                | 1928-29   | H.A. Burt                            |           | R.J. Haslam             |
| 1860-61   | P. Southby                   | 1929-30   | W.H.D. Wakely                        |           | R.L. Paniguan           |
| 1861      | J. Swale                     | 1930-31   | E.H.G. Lonsdale                      | 1968      | M.J. Abrahams           |
| 1862      | W. Winter                    | 1931-32   | J.R. Moon                            | 1969      | J.H.D. Carey            |
| 1862-3    | E.R. Dowdeswell              | 1932      | I.K. Munro                           |           | A.G. Walker             |
| 1863      | F.J.J. Bandinell             | 1933      | J. Harrop                            | 1970      | G.H.M. Niven            |
| 1863-66   | S.F. Lucas                   | 1933      | E.A. Bompas                          | 1971      | R.P.L. Wormald          |
| 1866      | E. Oliver                    | 1934      | J.F. Turner                          |           | M.A.T. Deighton         |
| 1866-1867 | R.W.E. Eastwick              | 1934      | G.D. Everington                      | 1972      | M.J.G. Robbins          |
| 1867-70   | O.S. Macleay                 | 1934      | R.D.H. Preston                       | 1973      | L.A. Wilson             |
| 1870-73   | A.P. Hill                    | 1935      | J.B. Bury                            | 1974      | A.A. Orgill             |
| 1873      | H.J. Roberts                 | 1935-36   | J. Sutton                            |           | T.B.C.H. Woods          |
| 1873-74   | E.G.B. Phillimore            | 1936-37   | G.L.Y. Radcliffe                     | 1975      | M.R. Parnwell           |
| 1874-76   | A.L. Whitlock                | 1937-38   | M.L. Patterson                       |           | A. Le Harivel           |
| 1876      | G.A. Hicks                   | 1938      | The Hon. F.E. Noel-Baker             | 1976      | S.G. Tenison            |
| 1876-77   | G.S. Maxwell                 | 1939      | B.V.I. Greenish                      |           | D.A.B. Tanner           |
| 1877-79   | W.G. Bell                    | 1939-40   | I.J. Abrahams                        | 1977      | W.D. Upton              |
| 1879-82   | W.L. Benbow                  | 1940      | R.O.I. Borradaile                    | 1978      | J.C. Hamilton           |
| 1882      | J.B. Hodge                   | 1941      | L.A. Wilson                          |           | V.W. Lavenstein         |
| 1882-83   | G.E.M. Eden                  | 1941-42   | F.G. Overbury                        | 1979      | J.C. Urquhart           |
| 1883-84   | A.M.T. Jackson               | 1942      | J.R. Russ                            | 1980      | N.A. McF.D. Service     |
| 1884-85   | A.J. Pryce                   | 1942-43   | J.R.B. Hodges                        | 1981      | A.T. King               |
| 1885      | J. Salwey                    | 1943      | D.I. Gregg                           |           | J.M.H. Love             |
| 1886-87   | C. Erskine                   | 1943-44   | S.P.L. Kennedy                       | 1982      | P.V. Paglierani         |
| 1887-88   | C. Powell                    | 1944      | B.G. Almond                          |           | P.E. Jepson             |
| 1888-89   | H.C. Barnes                  | 1944-45   | J.O. Eichholtz (Eccles)              | 1983      | D.C. Gane               |
| 1889-90   | F.J. Maclean                 | 1945      | The Hon R. Bruce                     |           | D. Ganendra             |
| 1890-91   | R.A. Yeld                    | 1945-46   | G.J.H. Williams                      | 1984      | J.G. Kunzler            |
| 1891-92   | H.D. Everington              | 1946-47   | The Hon J.A. Davidson                |           | J.P.H. Harrison         |
| 1892-93   | H.S. Ladell                  | 1947-48   | D.L. Almond                          | 1985-1986 | A.C.J. Wertheim         |
| 1893-94   | A. Severn                    | 1948-49   | R.E. Nagle                           | 1986-1987 | J.R.G. Griffiths        |
| 1894-96   | W.F. Fox                     | 1949-50   | D.N. Croft                           |           |                         |