



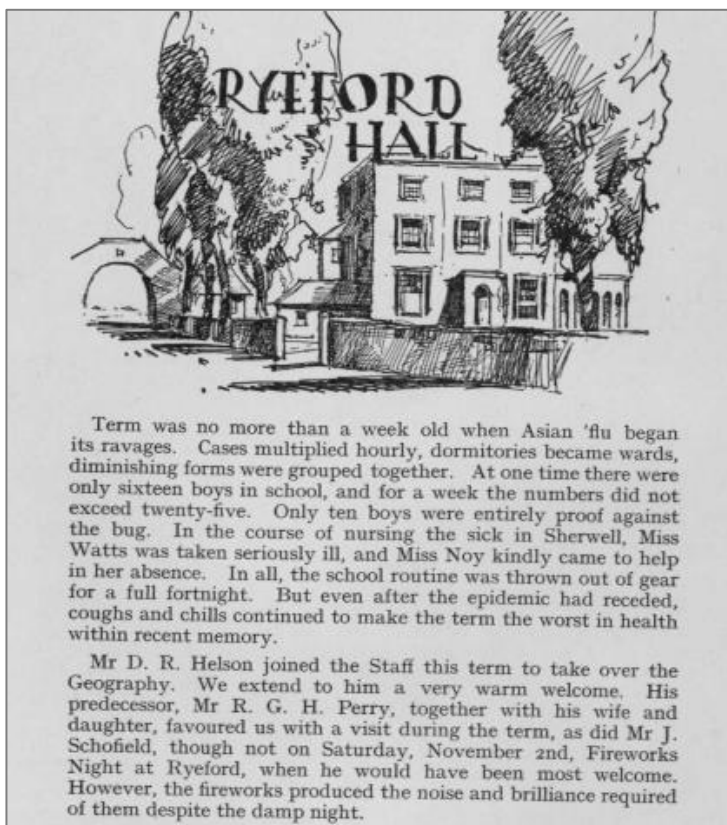
Reg Helson at Wycliffe College



David Reginald 'Reg' Helson **Staff Member 1957-1996 & Hon. OW**

Reg retired from Wycliffe in 1996, after an amazing thirty-nine years on the staff of the Junior School.

This booklet contains extracts from the Wycliffe College Archive that mention Reg.



Wycliffe Star No. 210 (Term 1, 1957-58)

Scouting

Mr Wright and Max Clark—who was recently invested, with Peter Jupp, as a Rover Scout—have given a report of the Senior Scouts and Mr Smith of the Boy Scouts. There is no doubt that in each section “good scouting has been done by all” during the Autumn Term.

We were glad to welcome Mr Frank Smith as our new Scoutmaster. He is full of enthusiasm and drive and has already had his effect on the Boy Scouts. He will bring new ideas into the Troop. We were glad still to have Mr Sylvester as A.S.M.

The Troop at Ryeford has gone on well under Mr Squire and Mr Helson and the Cubs, under the indefatigable Miss Wright, still flourish. We were glad to have the help of Miss Catherine Wyshall who, we hope, will soon be appointed A.C.M. She has shown great keenness and has done well in her trial period with some of the Senior Cubs.

Wycliffe Star No. 219 (Term 1, 1960-61)

The Sub-Aqua Club in Spain

Take eight divers, two tents, a primus, a quantity of compressed air in assorted cylinders and Demand Valves: weight this with a measure of lead and churn well in a Microbus for 2,000 miles or more: add a dash of Mediterranean sunshine, a Spanish diver, a bikini or two: add the mixture to large quantities of clean, warm water (75°F). The result tasted good and the recipe has been filed away for future reference.

Outstanding memories are of the amazing performance of our hired Microbus, the teeming ant population of our camp site, the Hollywood scenario of our host's villa, the cliff road from Tossa to San Feliu, “jive” on the sea-front, bigger and bigger bottles and charges, Paulin and his guitar and the quiet assurance and charm of Carol (our moniteur) whether diving or clearing traffic jams, the magnificent approach road to Paris from the South. Nor must we forget our good-natured non-diver, co-driver, Reg to some, Mr Helson to others.

Wycliffe Star No. 219 (Term 1, 1960-61)



Photos by C. Ellis, Esq.

UNDERWATER BALLET

1. R. George, F. Ballard, J. Gledhill, D. Paul off into the blue.
2. D. Paul, R. George, J. Hutchen pose for the camera.

Swimming

Captain—M. M. DIAS

House Representatives—School House: R. E. ALGER. Haywards-field: A. V. WHITE. Springfield: I. HORSLEY. Ward's: D. COX.

Two years ago we swam comfortably in warm waters, last year was cool and breezy and this year the pool temperatures only once rose above the 70°F. mark, and that for a brief period. This is discouraging to less able swimmers and is also reflected in the lower number of R.L.S.S. awards this year. The swimming team and the Sub-Aqua Section have trained unflinchingly, however, and more detailed reports of their doings are to be found below.

Our Junior School are now submitting candidates for the Elementary and Intermediate Certificate and for the Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society. This reduces the number of awards taken by members of the senior school and so lessens the chance of an award of one of the school shields presented by the Bristol Branch. The increase of incentive lower down the school is, however, a good thing and may in time increase our number of senior awards such as the Award of Merit and the Distinction Award. It is quite certain that the excellent record of the last few years in all branches of the Swimming Club is due in no small measure to the devotion and patience of the coaches in the lower schools. Mr C. Ellis and Mr D. R. Helson.

Wycliffe Star No. 221 (Term 3, 1960-61)

A HOLIDAY EXCURSION TO PEMBROKESHIRE

Towards the end of the Summer holidays Mr Chubb and Mr Helson took six boys from the Junior School to West Wales. Eight bodies, camping and cooking equipment, surf boards and endless food supplies were conveyed in the Boat Club bus with great ease and comfort.

continued

Our first destination was Merriion Court, near Castle Martin in Pembrokeshire, and our visit coincided with that of the German Panzer Troops to the Tank Range. The original intention was to tour West Wales, but the weather was so fine and the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Roberts at Merriion Court so kind, that we decided to fix a base camp there and make daily trips.

Many sun-drenched hours were spent on the beach at Broadhaven, where the surf-boards were put to great use and where some members of the party successfully undertook a long-distance swim out to some rocks. At other times visits were paid to Pembroke, Pembroke Docks, Angle Bay and Tenby. One evening was spent enjoying a conducted tour of Stackpole Court, the home of Earl Cawdor:—this was arranged through the housekeeper, who does not normally entertain visitors, and we were very grateful for this interesting opportunity.

During the time spent at Merriion Court many discussions with the Germans took place—greatly helped by the fact that they were able to speak good English. On our arrival at the camp the farmer was soon contacted by the police, who were anxious to know if we formed an advance party of the organizations who were opposed to the visit of the Germans!

Much interest was aroused by the Boat Club bus during the trip, and we encountered many people who had past links with Wycliffe—in fact we were once mistaken for the Rowing Eight itself!

We had to return to Stonehouse at the end of the first week in September, and we arrived back at Ryeford full of praise for the glorious county of Pembrokeshire, and with many happy memories of our brief stay there. Grateful thanks are due to our hosts for their many kindnesses, to the Boat Club, and to the sun for its many long appearances!

Wycliffe Star No. 222 (Term 1, 1961-62)



The Boat Club bus (1961)



Junior School Teaching Block (1960s)

The Science Society enjoyed its usual varied programme of Scientific films, learning how Heinz can their beans; how oil prospectors carry out their drill; the advantages of shaving with Gillette Blades (and was Mr Helson's face red!); and how the *Guardian* is published. Films were also borrowed from Unilever, the Dunlop Rubber Company, British Petroleum, and the British Transport Commission. Thoughts now turn towards next term when it is hoped to form a Camera Club, providing members with facilities for developing and printing.

Wycliffe Star No. 226 (Term 2, 1962-63)

Mind and body coalesced in the Cycling Proficiency Certificate, taken at Ryeford in July. Well over thirty boys have passed their test during the school year, and further courses and exams will be held in the Autumn, when Mr Helson plans to introduce the bicycle into the scheme of things!

Wycliffe Star No. 227 (Term 3, 1962-63)

Swimming was *à la mode* in the Puddle and the senior school Gulf. Mr Helson looked after life-savers, and after a number of volunteers who could be bribed to see a point to life had come forward, the following gained awards:—Bronze Medallion: P. Wilson, I. Harries, J. Webb, D. Fenn, T. Wilkin, R. Midwinter, E. Williams, R. Harrison. Intermediate Certificates: J. Skeeles, R. Lipsey, M. Rae, E. Lageson, D. Gwilliam, R. Phelps, M. Smith, K. Fowler, D. Green, S. Rumsey.

Wycliffe Star No. 227 (Term 3, 1962-63)

SCOUT CAMP

Camp was held at Charmouth, Dorset, and the twenty-two Scouts and four Scouters enjoyed six days of almost unbroken sunshine. The standard of camping was high and the local D.C. described the camp as outstanding in every way. This was particularly pleasing as a larger proportion than usual of the Scouts had not been to an annual camp before.

Although the heat did not encourage a strenuous programme, a variety of activities were enjoyed. Most popular were swimming and sunbathing and several trips were made down to the beach, where most people turned a bright pink. Mr Helson was kept busy each evening coating patients with a liberal layer of calamine lotion! However, Mr Hughes and Chris Martyn hiked five miles along the cliff path to Golden Cap and then climbed down the cliff face and returned to camp along the beach, but this feat of endurance in the heat of the afternoon was not to the taste of the others, who preferred cooler exercise or none at all.

An outing to Portland and Weymouth was enjoyed and after a bathe most of the campers spent their time at the Fair, trying the thrills of the Ghost Train and being terrified on the "Mouse."

Malcolm Cordwell-Smith organized a tenni-quoit tournament which was won by Robert Harris and an aerial runway was built under Mr Helson's direction. This provided entertainment during spare moments in camp, though these proved to be few since the cooking and washing up of meals seemed to take up more time than usual as there were thirteen to be fed in each patrol. Chris Martyn deserves high praise for the way in which he guided and urged on his patrol of youngsters, and James Valender did well in leading his more experienced patrol to win the inter-patrol competition.

Altogether this was a very happy and enjoyable camp with few grumbles and plenty of fun.

Wycliffe Star No. 230 (Term 3, 1963-64)

AUSTRIA—SUMMER, 1965

The Troop left Wycliffe after lunch on Tuesday, 20th July in the Boat Club 'bus bound for Mittersill, a small town midway between Innsbruck and Salzburg and just north of the main Alpine range. The party arrived at noon on Friday and met Dieter Spindler, whose parents Mr Wright had met when the Seniors visited Austria in 1960, and his friend Erich Robl.

The four patrols spent the first week hiking in the area north of Mittersill, while Mr Helson and Mr Waller were ready to receive telephone calls in case of emergency at midday and visited patrols in the evening if they were accessible. The country was ideal for Gold Award hiking and most of the Troop have completed hikes necessary for the Hiker and Senior Explorer Badges.

On Thursday a small party visited the hydro-electric station above Kaprun. By Thursday evening all the patrols were back in Mittersill in preparation for a trip up the Grossglockner, the highest peak in Austria, but the excursion was frustrated by rain.

The homeward journey was broken at Salzburg and Brussels and in spite of a wet and windy last night under canvas in Ostend the party returned in high spirits after a very successful camp.

Wycliffe Star No. 233 (Term 3, 1964-65)



Junior School swimming (1960s)

The Summer Camp was held at Oxwich Bay and we were provided with a wonderful site as well as some marvellous weather. Thirty-one boys attended and the mammoth task of being Quartermaster was very ably carried out by Mr Helson. During camp Mr Robertson came to stay and took several boys off on climbs in the area. We visited Rhossilli and were able to do some surf riding although the sea was too calm for most of the time. Several of us walked out to Worm's Head and a few came to the conclusion that it was much further than it looked from the shore.

Wycliffe Star No. 236 (Term 3, 1965-66)



Scout Camp inspection (1966)

Once again Messrs Kirby and Helson took a party of six day-boys to Dartmoor for four days. Base camp was on the banks of the East Dart some four miles from the nearest road involving some very tough carrying of supplies. Long hikes were taken daily with only sheep, ponies, birds and other wild life to accompany the party. Their only ailments were sore feet and blisters.

Wycliffe Star No. 237 (Term 1, 1966-67)



Campers on Dartmoor (1966)

SATURDAY EVENINGS

There were four film features this term, the first two together "The Bay of St Michel" and "Home of your Own," the second of which was more popular. A great favourite of course was Norman Wisdom "Up in the World" and at the end of term we had "Annie Get Your Gun."

The First Form Rooms were transformed into a Bingo Hall for a brief spell one Saturday evening. The deathly hush was only broken by calls of "House" and "Bingo," and by the voice of the caller. One felt that powers of concentration were being fully taxed, and that similar efforts of pelmanism might well be advantageous in the examination room! Several prizes were won—these took the form of sweet vouchers payable in a well-known local confectioners. Gwilliam and Roscoe tied for first place.

The Headmaster, Mr Helson and Mr Witts performed charades to a most attentive audience who begged for more!

Wycliffe Star No. 238 (Term 2, 1966-67)

THE CAIRNGORMS

Eleven members of the Troop, the S.S.L. and Mr Helson (Q.M.), undertook a weeks' arduous training in the mountains of the Cairngorm range under the direction of Sergeant "Rockie" Rochester, R.M.R., based on the Norwegian Huts at Glencoe.

On successive days the boys were pitched against the rigours of high winds and snow, ice slopes, heavy loads and route cards and the conventions of military training.

The journey to and from the area was something of an endurance test in itself. The Troop left Wycliffe on the evening of Friday, 14th April, and travelled tightly packed in a Dormobile and Mr Helson's car. We camped just off the M.6 at midnight and left the next morning at 6.30 arriving in Glenmore at six in the evening—503 miles.

Wycliffe Star No. 239 (Term 3, 1966-67)

DAYBOY EASTER CAMP

The Senior School fire-engine, the Ford T.C., Messrs. Kirby and Helson and some twenty-four dayboys disappeared over the horizon in the direction of Lyndhurst in the New Forest one bright Spring morn.

They camped on the banks of the cold Highland Water, washed and swam in the river (sometimes unintentionally), built two log bridges and two commando bridges, played wide games (both day and night), went on hikes and were generally tough. They cooked their own meals in the open and consumed huge quantities of wholesome camp-type food.

The fine weather held until the last day and a thoroughly wonderful time was had by all.

Wycliffe Star No. 239 (Term 3, 1966-67)



Roger Kirby and Reg, The New Forest (1967)

Mr. Helson's Geographical Society has, as always, entertained and instructed many on Friday evenings.

Wycliffe Star No. 241 (Term 2, 1967-68)

VENTURE SCOUTS: Norway, Easter, 1968

Expeditions to Norway at Easter seem to have become so much a part of the Scout programme that it is increasingly difficult to say anything new. Of course it must be remembered that it is only the Scout Leader who returns repeatedly, the parties are different, but always so enthusiastic that one is encouraged to go again. Indeed this party would be pleased to, too.

The party of sixteen left Wycliffe on the last day of term and motored to Newcastle, spending one night in York. We were indebted to Mr. Reg Helson, who drove most of the way, although he was not coming skiing. The voyage and train journey to Mjolfjell passed without event and skiing started the day after we arrived on 31st March.

Wycliffe Star No. 242 (Term 3, 1967-68)



The Junior School Footbridge (1960s)

DAY BOYS IN SNOWDONIA

(APRIL 1968)

Mr. Kirby, Mr. Helson and six day boys motored to a barn at Capel Curig where the farmer promptly ran his lorry into Mr. Kirby's immaculate and stationary Ford. Nothing daunted the party revelled in many feet of snow and perfect sunshine, marred only by the snowstorm. The mountain walks were superb and the venture proved most invigorating.

Wycliffe Star No. 242 (Term 3, 1967-68)

Mr. Helson's Geographical Society has had its usual feast of Educational Films enjoyed by very large audiences.

Wycliffe Star No. 246 (Term 1, 1969-70)

Wycliffe College Scout Group

The first term of the new school year finds the scout group settling down to its new organisation and active as ever. Reference has been made to the 'new' appointments from time to time. It may now be helpful to publish a summary of the present set-up.

Group Scout Leader	D. A. Y. Wright
Cub Scout Leader	J. D. Broughton
Assistant C.S.Ls	Mrs. S. Smith
Scout Leader, Ryeford	P. Cloke
Assistant S.L.s	D. R. Helson
	N. Hopkins
Scout Leader, Training Troop.....	B. E. Shakeshaft
Assistant S.L.	K. R. Hosking
Venture Scout Leader	J. W. Yarnley
Assistant V.S.Ls	C. Ellis
	S. T. Meyer
	F. M. L. Smith
	B. B. Sutton

Wycliffe Star No. 248 (Term 3, 1969-70)

The V.S.L. would like to express grateful thanks to Mr. Reg. Helson (Quartermaster) — whose long clear cries of 'fruit' or 'beans' gave a sense of urgency to many hungry mouths—and to Messrs. Charles Ellis, Stuart Meyer and Geoff Allen and all the group who corporately made a new V.S.L.'s first camp (despite a broken metatarsal!) an enjoyable and (we hope) worthwhile occasion.

Wycliffe Star No. 248 (Term 3, 1969-70)

SUMMER CAMPS

Many Junior School boys will be intensely grateful as, over the years, Mr. Helson and Mr. Kirby continue to give of their time and energy as the prime movers in such camps as are here reported.

The first Junior School Camp to be held at Merrion Court in Pembrokeshire coincided with the arrival of the German Panzers who did their Tank Training on the nearby RAC Tank Range. In 1970 it was the ten year anniversary of this event, and we were allowed to watch some night firing, as well as our customary visit during the hours of daylight. Another visit this year was to the Gulf Oil Refinery—the newest in Great Britain. We were given a film show, and this was followed up with a lightning tour of the Refinery. A launch was chartered to take us up and down the Haven—up as far as Lawrenny and then out to sea, with views of Industry and Countryside. During our spare moments we surfed, swam, and walked along the cliffs, feeling very much better for the holiday. Mr. and Mrs. J. Roberts have looked after us very well for the past ten trips, and we are very grateful to them.

Two parties of day boys went mountain camping in Snowdonia during the summer holidays. Tents were erected two thousand feet up near a small lake called Llyn Blochlwyd, just to the west of Tryfan. Carrying the kit up to this height proved to be more than a little tiring. The weather turned out to be rather unkind, the first group in particular being very unlucky as it rained solidly for over twenty-four hours. Both parties walked around the Snowdon Horseshoe and were lucky on these occasions as we enjoyed wonderful visibility, but the tops of most of the mountains were obscured by mist for most of the rest of the time. Cooking in the open usually seemed to be a wet and cold task, but the results of these labours were nearly always thankfully received, however, the curry did not seem quite so welcome.

Wycliffe Star No. 249 (Term 1, 1970-71)

In spite of a good deal of camera clicking during the term, there were but three boys who entered the annual competition at the end of term; so each gained a prize! A. Harrop-Griffiths's river scene was the winning shot, showing Mr. P. C. Goodden in a characteristic pose and Mr. D. R. Helson in an unusual one. The second prize went to C. Jones, and the third to Derrick.

Wycliffe Star No. 250 (Term 2, 1970-71)

THE SENIOR CONCERT

Despite many difficulties including influenza and spells of no electricity, the packed audiences at the Junior School Concerts on March 2nd and 4th were left in no doubt as to the amount

of hard work and enthusiasm which had gone into the production of what proved to be a most successful entertainment.

Malcolm Williamson's 'The Stone Wall' opened the proceedings. Deserting his native Devon and dressed in draughty kilt, Reg Helson led a fierce band of Scots against the English hordes led by smooth, debonair Peter Cloke. But none of them noticed until almost too late, that Viking Richard Barnes was stealthily creeping up with boiler-suited men singing their battle song. We all enjoyed the romp that followed, and were relieved when the fierce Vikings retreated into the distance.

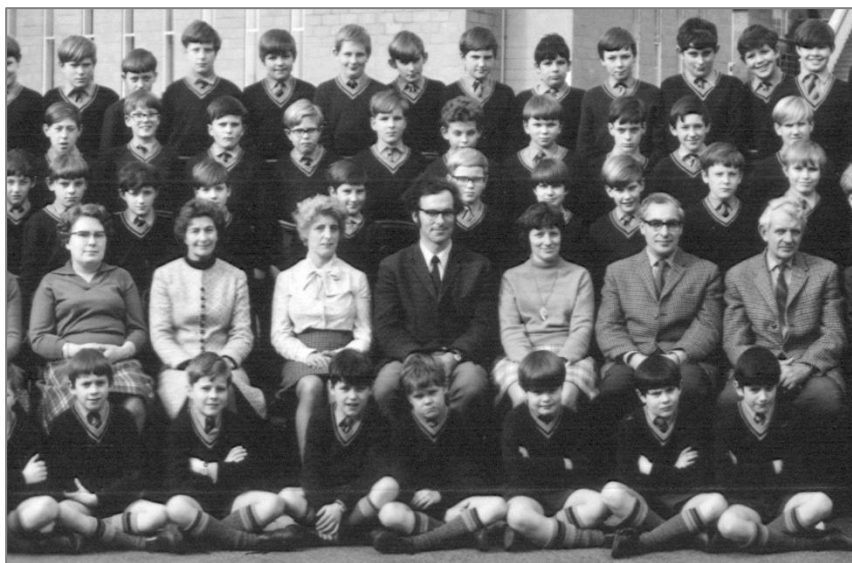
Wycliffe Star No. 252 (Term 2, 1971-72)



Junior School Hall (1970s)

When the Examinations were over, Mr. Helson had the opportunity to do some elementary geology with the Remove and Third Forms. Trips were made to Hock Cliff and Aust Cliff, and many fossils were collected.

Wycliffe Star No. 256 (Term 3, 1972-73)



Excerpt from Whole Junior School photo 1972 (Reg, at centre)

MARRIAGES

It is with much pleasure that we announce the marriages of two members of staff which took place in August 1973: Mr. D. R. Helson to Dr. E. Dunn of Chippenham and Mr. G. N. Barton to Miss J. Spencer of Cardiff. We wish them all every happiness in a long married life.

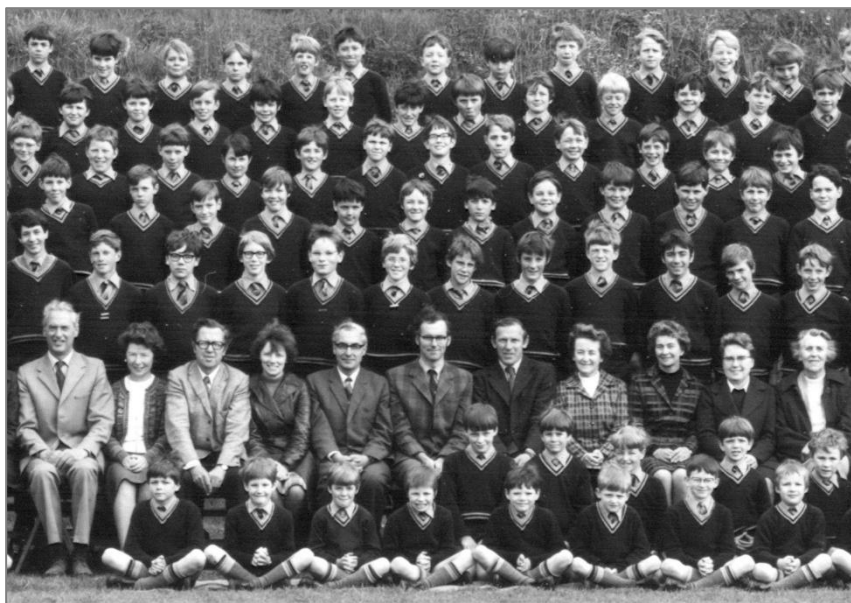
Wycliffe Star No. 256 (Term 3, 1972-73)

Four canoes were built by Simon Hawkins and Martin Dunn under the guidance of Mr. Helson and Mr. Foster during the Easter holiday and contributed much to the term's activities. On each overnight leave Mr. Foster has taken a small party of Scouts on a canoe camp and a lot of training has been achieved.

Wycliffe Star No. 256 (Term 3, 1972-73)

On Expedition Day Mr. Helson and Mr. Foster took a party of sixteen novices to Keynes Park lakes near Cirencester, where, by kind permission of Moreton Cullimore Ltd., a large private lake was explored (islands attacked) and useful experience was gained by all participants in a variety of single and double canoes.

Wycliffe Star No. 261 (Term 1, 1975-76)



Excerpt from Whole Junior School photo 1975 (Reg, at centre)

Within the school there is little in the way of change. Mr and Mrs J. Shirley are moving away to their own house after twelve years in school houses and are succeeded in Pennwood by Mr and Mrs D. R. Helson. Mr Helson was House Tutor for five years during the early days of Pennwood, while Mrs Helson is a local Medical Practitioner and the mother of two O.W's. We wish them every happiness in their new rôle.

Wycliffe Star No. 264 (Terms 2&3, 1976-77)



Ryeford Hall (1970s)



Penwood

Estate work

Three groups under the Headmaster (Ryeford), Mr. Kirby (Day boys) and Mr. Helson (Pennwood) did noble work on Tuesdays putting in some 200 man hours which added considerably to the school's resources. For example the Ryeford group rubbed down and primed the big Swimming pool doors; the Day boys kept improving the grounds at the Grove; Pennwood helped to keep the swimming pool facilities neat and tidy as well as to develop the area round their house. For five weeks Ryeford boys picked up thousands of apples for the Grove Farm (Mr. Peter Sturm O.W.) and were rewarded by £12 for the jam making fund as well as unlimited apples to eat on Tuesdays. Thank you all Tuesday's men!

Wycliffe Star No. 267 (Terms 1, 1978-79)

Mr. Helson and Mr. Newns organised Life Saving classes twice a week for the younger boys—and most were successful at the end of Term in their examinations. This should help to take some of the pressure off the Summer term, and give many boys much more confidence in the water.

Wycliffe Star No. 268 (Terms 2&3, 1978-79)

The prizes, shields and cups were presented by Mrs. John Shirley. This was followed by a courteous speech of thanks to her and good wishes for the future by Alasdair Davies the Captain of Swimming and winner of the Champion Swimmers Cup. Jeremy Thomas then presented Mrs. Shirley with a most beautiful bouquet of flowers, a fitting conclusion to a wonderful Swimming Sports afternoon which is always so superbly organised by Mr. D. R. Helson.

Wycliffe Star No. 272 (Terms 2&3, 1980-81)



Excerpt from Whole Junior School photo 1988 (Reg, at centre, with Edna, in blue)

Peter Spicer and **Reg. Helson**, respectively Venture Scout Leader in the Senior School and Assistant Scout Leader in the Junior School, have both been awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Services to the Scout Movement for their commitment over many years. These awards were presented by the County Commissioner in June 1987.

Wycliffe Star No. 283 (1987-88)

In the Junior School, **Reg. Helson** relinquishes the Housemastership of Pennwood after twelve years and will be succeeded in September by Bob Stevenson. We thank Reg. and Edna for their commitment to generations of Junior School boarders and give our best wishes to Bob and Carolyn for their new challenge.

Wycliffe Star No. 284 (1988-89)

At a barbecue just before the end of the Summer Term, the Scout Group said thank-you to Bob and the other Leaders at the Junior School who have served the Group for so long. Presentations were made to Bob and Messrs. **Reg. Helson**, **David Fysh** and **Anthony Howarth**. They have given a combined total of some 71 years service to Wycliffe Scouting. **Peter Spicer** has replaced **Anthony Howarth** as Group Scout Leader of the Wycliffe Group in order that the latter may devote more time to his duties as a Magistrate, Prison Visitor and Clerk to the Rodborough Parish Council.

Wycliffe Star No. 288 (1993)

Reg. Helson also effected a change of role at the Junior School in September. Having been Head of Geography and Master i/c Rugby since almost before living memory (although the Editor thinks it's about 35 years), he has taken early retirement and is now teaching part-time. This will allow him to continue to provide wisdom, experience and continuity in a rapidly changing staff room.

Wycliffe Star No. 289 (1994)

Reg. Helson will also be retiring at the end of the Summer Term after thirty-seven years on the staff of the Junior School. An appreciation that does full justice to his great service will have to await our next edition but OWs will recall his Geography teaching, his Rugby, his many school trips - particularly those to Pembrokeshire and Devon - his years as Housemaster of Pennwood and, more recently, his teaching of Mathematics. He will be much missed.

Wycliffe Star No. 291 (1996)



David Reginald 'Reg' Helson
1933-2026



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