



**THE  
OLDBURIAN**

**OLDBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
MAGAZINE**

1961



CASTAWAY



R. Ashcroft, 5G.



# THE OLDBURIAN

OLDBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
MAGAZINE

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1961

Vol. V. No. 2.

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**SCHOOL STAFF**

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R. T. HANCOX, B.Sc.	
F. L. SUTTON, B.Mus.	
K. V. FARMER, L.R.A.M., A.B.S.M.	

**MAGAZINE COMMITTEE**

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*Art Editor*: MRS. H. E. SPRINGER.

*Assistant Editors*: JUDITH TRANTER, MARION JONES, VALERIE BATTEN,  
RICHARD TREVIS, DAVID OLDEN, MARJORIE WESTON.

Lack of space prevents our printing numerous contributions which are of a high standard. The following are the names of those whose work, although not appearing in the magazine, deserves commendation:

K. Grinnell 5M; Hilary Morral 4C; R. Hartill 4C; J. Mallard 1A; Pamela Moss 5M; J. Williams 5M; Margaret Poole 4C; Rona Spencer 5G; Joan Hadley 5M; Christine Chapman 1B; Jennifer Storey 2C; Freda Moore 2A; Barbara Evans 2A; Eunice Duxbury 2A.



### SCHOOL NOTES

IT is with profound regret that we record the death of Mrs. L. C. Quayle, who passed away on November 12th, 1961, after about eight years in retirement. The present School paid respect to her memory in a special Assembly as soon as the news had been received. A brief appreciation of her wonderful services to the School over a period of nearly forty years is included in the pages of this magazine, with references to her as an artist, a skilful teacher of Art, a kindly and sympathetic Senior Mistress and a most loyal, helpful and friendly colleague.

As one enters our school premises today, the first obvious sign of progress during this, our 57th year is the building extension. This new science block, consisting mainly of four modern laboratories, is a magnificent addition to our premises. The two laboratories for Chemistry and the two for Physics will not only provide us with more space, but will stimulate renewed interest in all our branches of Science, for the Department of Biology also will benefit by reason of increased accommodation made available in the main building. Further advantages will follow when rooms formerly used for Science have been reorganised for other purposes. Looking back over past years, there have been many great improvements and additions to our premises, following one another in a most impressive series. Present pupils would be astonished if they could see the original building as erected on this site in 1926, when the School was transferred from Oldbury to Langley. It is pleasing to know that progress continues and that plans for still further developments are in mind and should materialise, some very soon.

The comparative stability and completeness of our teaching staff are points to record with satisfaction. Only one change has taken place during the past year, Mrs. Hancox having come to teach Mathematics in place of Miss Cutler. We welcome Mrs. Hancox, once well-known to us as a successful pupil, Judith Green. Mathematics and Science are always closely related, but we now have in the School a very special tie between them, with Mrs. Hancox teaching Mathematics and Mr. Hancox, also an old scholar teaching Chemistry.

We greatly miss Mr. Laycock, who has left us for one year to take an appointment in a Californian School, while we have Miss N. Newton, from California, temporarily in his place, as an



exchange teacher. We extend to Miss Newton a hearty welcome. Our pupils are benefiting from her teaching, with a new outlook, and should also benefit when Mr. Laycock returns, enriched in knowledge and, dare we say, improved by American culture. We hope that Miss Newton's Californian school will also reap a similar double benefit. Such exchanges as this are of inestimable value.

We were all sorry that Mr. J. B. Richards was unable to attend his fortieth Speech Day as a member of our staff, as he was receiving medical treatment. It is good to know that he is now fit again, back with us after only a short period of absence, and looking forward to Speech Days beyond the fortieth.

Academic successes are reported later in these pages, as are also the many and various activities of the School, all keenly supported and well up to our usual high standard. The versatility of interests provides for full development of our pupils, not only academically, but in every way.

It is relevant to state that we live in a time rightly described as the most crucial in world history. There is a challenge facing us all. Mankind may be at the threshold of an era of untold progress, but, on the contrary, may be on the brink of unprecedented catastrophe. The future does not depend only on a few individuals in positions of power, but, in some measure, on us all, and particularly on the new generation going out from such schools as ours. To leavers we wish success — all have a part to play.

So our School goes on progressively, true to its motto, "Cresco." May it still continue to advance, and, quoting from our daily prayers at morning assembly, may it send out into the world "useful and Christian men and women." That is our aim.

C.C.H.



**MRS. L. G. QUAYLE****An Appreciation**

**M**R. L. G. QUAYLE was a member of the staff of Oldbury Grammar School for almost forty years before she retired just over eight years ago. As Miss Underwood, she was appointed Art Mistress in 1914, her marriage following three years later. Three headmasters had the good fortune to benefit by her services, for she started under the late Mr. G. H. Crisp, continued throughout the time of Mr. J. G. Howarth, while he last seventeen years of teaching were under the present headmaster. Throughout her long period in the School she rendered inestimable services in innumerable ways.

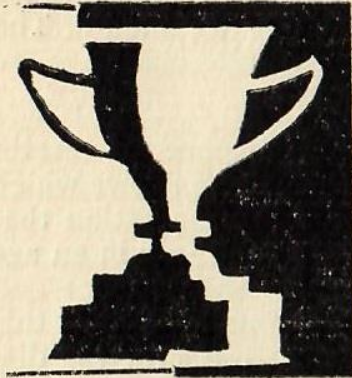
After her general education in the City and County Secondary School, Chester, Mrs. Quayle took a course of six years' duration in the Liverpool School of Art, so taking up her teaching appointment in our School with excellent specialist qualifications. She was an artist; the beauty of her own paintings will never be forgotten by those who have seen them. But, equally important, she found her true vocation in teaching her subject. To have taught nearly four thousand pupils is something of an achievement and it can be said that the great majority of those pupils really learnt to appreciate beauty of form and colour and developed considerable skill in their own individual achievements, under her capable tuition.

For sixteen years, at the end of her teaching career, Mrs. Quayle coupled responsibility for Art with the duties of Senior Mistress, carrying her double responsibilities with marked efficiency. She was deeply interested in all questions affecting the welfare of the girls of the School, whose general bearing, moral standard and conduct maintained a very high standard by reason of her kindly influence and helpful guidance. One of her last actions in the School was to present a number of rose trees to be planted on the girls' side of the premises, where they now make a beautiful display, reminding us of Mrs. Quayle's love for all that is pure and beautiful.

As a colleague, Mrs. Quayle was always held in high esteem, and no headmaster could hope for a more devoted, conscientious and hard-working member of his staff. The School owes an enormous debt to Mrs. Quayle for her life's work on behalf of its members. She will always be remembered with affection and thankfulness by all who knew her.

C.C.H.





**SPEECH DAY 1961**

Chairman:

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C.  
(Chairman of the Governors)

The School Song

Chairman's Remarks

Girl Captain's Report ... .. IRENE ABELL

Boy Captain's Report ... .. T. GETHINS

Pianoforte Solo: Waltz, Op. 70, No. 1. Chopin.

MARGARET JONES

Headmaster's Report

Speech and Presentation of Prizes by:

The Right Reverend R. G. Clitherow, M.A. (Cantab)

(Bishop of Stafford)

**The Bishop of Stafford's Speech**

The Bishop of Stafford opened his speech by thanking Dr. Howard for the invitation to present the prizes on speech day. He spoke of the enormous contribution made by all teachers to British Youth, referring especially to the efforts of our own staff and he went on to welcome Miss Newton to England and to the school.

The Bishop then developed his theme concerning the young people of to-day. He spoke of the tendency nowadays to condemn all young people as degraded. There was he said still 'hope' for the younger generation, for although the nation was concerned about the low moral standards of to-day not all of our generation was decadent. The decadence prevalent was due largely to the fact that we were growing up subject to influences which the older generations allowed and which led to an increasingly lower



standard of right and wrong. But this was no excuse, just because everyone else did wrong, it was no reason why we should. The world was rather presenting us with a worthwhile challenge, so that if we met it we could redeem the situation.

My Lord Bishop spoke next of the influence of certain books, newspapers, magazines, cinema and television shows which presented low standards of conduct without any suggestion that they were wrong. These were not the correct influences in an age where youth was continually being persuaded that science and industry held the key to the future of Britain. But how could this be he asked when the evil intent of man entered into the discoveries of science. Knowledge he pointed out was not enough in itself. Even to-day the challenge of the Bible could not be ignored — we had either to accept it as the truth, or not believe it. Added to the knowledge which we must possess there must also be love; he emphasised that love was synonymous with God.

The Bishop then asked what we understood by religion and begged us to realise that it was not simply 'morality'. Religion was living with God, as his son or daughter and submitting to him our lives and talents.

Thus he returned to the challenge facing our generation, which was to rise up in God's strength, and drive out the forces threatening to destroy the nation.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the Mayor, Councillor L. W. Carter, J.P. In replying, the Bishop again came back to the efforts of the staff and stated that as they were living at this time on a "mere pittance", he thought it quite in order to grant them an extra day's holiday — a proposal which was heartily approved by the rest of the school!

Brenda Walter, 6A.



**AWARDS 1961**

**Form Prizes for General Proficiency**

Form 1C	M. D. Davies Freda S. Moore	Form 3C	Celia N. Jones Hilary Morrall.
Form 1B	Eunice D. Duxbury Marilyn J. Shaw	Form 3B	K. R. Minchin J. M. Plant
Form 1A	Janet Hawley P. W. Taylor	Form 3A	Christine V. Richards Susan M. Baker
Form 2C	K. I. Massey Susan K. Hawkins	Form 4C	Penelope J. Daniels Susan M. Wise
Form 2B	Wendy E. R. Wood P. J. Jones	Form 4B	B. A. Roberts Pamela L. Moss
Form 2A	R. Acutt S. J. Gray	Form 4A	Gillian A. Blackham Joan H. Plimley

**General Certificates of Education at Ordinary Level**

Cooper, D. J.	Grainger, C. S.	Gray, R. A.
Gibbons, P. H.	Grigg, W.	Grosvenor, A.
Jordan, E.	Hall, W.	Isherwood, P. P.
Green, R. C.	Hayward, R. W.	Jackson, G.
Latham, D. A.	Healey, P.	Jefferson, G. J. G.
Limbrick, P.	Hipkiss, K. A.	Parkes, J. S.
McDougall, A.	Jukes, R. S.	Sadler, R. M.
Palfrey, J.	Morrey, M. G. H.	Webb, P. R.
Rogers, P.	Parker, I. J.	Wyton, B. D.
Russell, J. S.	Percival, R.	Bevington, Patricia J.
Skeldon, R. J.	Vincent, P. F.	Brown, Jennifer A.
Trevis, R.	Woolvin, M. F.	Goodwin, Patricia E.
Trueman, M.	Aldridge, Patricia M.	Grout, Maureen D.
Whitehouse, E. P.	Ayling, Cheryl E.	Groves, Susan
Basterfield, Betty A.	Bagley, Margaret R.	Haycock, Gillian M.
Batten, Valerie A.	Clay, Anne L.	Holling, Vivienne M.
Beardmore, Roberta D.	Detheridge, Janet F.	Smith, Angela C.
Bissell, Gloria D.	Ellson, F. Joyce	Smith, Gillian F.
Clarke, Margaret	Elsdon, Susan	Smith, Merriel A.
Gilbert, Valerie	Fletcher, Ann E. J.	Stevens, Margaret
Hadley, Sandra J.	Hawkins, Patricia M.	Sutton, Elizabeth R.
Hodgkiss, Sandra	Johnson, Ann P.	Thompson, Diane L.
Hollyhead, Margaret V.	Millard, A. Carole	Wall, Denyse A.
Hope, Joan	Parsons, Jean	Bywater, B.
Hunt, ean	Round, Margaret E.	Griffin, P. A.
Lowe, Sheena F.	Sabin, Sandra D.	Harvey, D.
Nash, Jane R.	Stevenson, Doreen	Olden, D. W.
Newman, Margaret L.	Walker, Beryl	Trickett, J. F.
Norris, Christine M.	Walton, Marylyn A.	Cooke, Alison R.
Oakes, Carol J.	White, Mary E.	Darlington, Rosemarie E.
Robathan, Janet B.	Bridgen, A. J.	Deakin, Joyce R.
Taylor, Stella	Currier, G. D.	Idoine, Janet
Weston, Marjorie A.	Downing, R.	Haines, Christine
Crane, J. M.	Flowerdew, L. B.	



### General Certificates of Education at Advanced Level

Bradford, I. T.	Palfrey, R.	Comley, Margaret E.
Daniels, T.	Pardoe, A. D. W.	Cooke, Sheila L.
Gosling, J. N.	Prestidge, M. J.	Cutter, Susan
Hollyhead, J.	Round, J. I.	Gould, Gillian M.
Hughes, T. B. J.	Stephens, D. R.	Hamblett, Mavis
Isherwood, D. P.	Stevens, R. A.	Haynes, Joan M.
Lester, R. D. N.	Turton, D.	Picken, Janet B.
Neagle, G. H.	Abell, Irene A.	Rogers, Nina E.
Page, K. C.	Bates, Susan J.	Shipstone, Jacqueline
		Turner, Jennifer M.

### Special Awards

O.S.A. Prize for Best Academic Achievement	... T. Daniels
Frank Dawes' Prize for Leadership ... ..	... A. D. W. Pardoe
Lydia Dawes' Prize for Leadership ... ..	... Nina E. Rogers
Best General Certificate of Education—Girls	... Marjorie A. Weston
Best General Certificate of Education—Boys	... R. Trevis
Pearson Memorial Prize for English ... ..	... J. N. Gosling

### University Scholarships and Awards

Worcester County	... ..	I. T. Bradford P. R. Cartland T. Daniels R. D. N. Lester G. H. Neale A. D. W. Pardoe M. J. Prestidge J. I. Round D. R. Stephens R. A. Stevens Sheila L. Cooke Gillian Haine Mavis Hamblett Janet B. Picken Jennifer M. Turner
City of Birmingham	... ..	D. Turton
County Borough of Smethwick	... ..	J. N. Gosling T. B. J. Hughes
County of Stafford	... ..	D. P. Isherwood
Oldbury Educational Trust	... ..	To be announced

### Prizes for the Best Use of Leisure

Prizes awarded by the late Mr. A. P. Hands ...	... T. Swallow M. Pegg
Prizes awarded by Mrs. C. T. Barlow ... ..	... Marion B. Jones Janet Randell
Prizes awarded by the late Mr. C. T. Barlow	... Margaret Rollason P. H. Currier
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**Awards for Games, Athletics, Swimming, etc.**

Girl Guides' Prize	...	...	...	...	...	Nina E. Rogers
Games Prizes	...	...	...	...	...	J. I. Round J. S. Russell Susan Cutter Nina E. Rogers
Boys' Athletic Champion, awarded Vernon Cup	...	...	...	...	...	J. S. Russell
Girls' Athletic Champion, awarded Albright Cup	...	...	...	...	...	Stella Taylor
Parents' Cricket Match	...	...	...	...	...	Drawn

**House Cups**

The Howarth Cup for Inter-School Games	...	...	...	...	...	Queen's House
The Jephcott Cup for Athletics	...	...	...	...	...	King's House
Swimming Cup	...	...	...	...	...	Trinity House
The Beard Cup for National Savings	...	...	...	...	...	Trinity House
The Davies Cup for Music	...	...	...	...	...	King's House
The Davies Cup for Junior and Middle School Studies	...	...	...	...	...	Trinity House
The Hadley Cup for Academic Achievement of Seniors	...	...	...	...	...	Trinity House

**Trophies won by the School**

Oldbury and Langed District Guide Swimming Shield.  
Oldbury and Langley Guide Athletic Shield.



**Some Old Scholars at Universities and Colleges, 1961****Cambridge University**

*St. Catherine's College*  
S. R. Haine

Passed Maths. Tripos Part I.

**Birmingham University***Faculty of Medicine*

D. C. Pearson,  
M.B., Ch.B.

Awarded Primary Fellowship in Faculty of Anaesthetics  
of Royal College of Surgeons (Eng.).

D. M. Chaplin

Passed Final M.B., Ch.B. Awarded L.R.C.P.

D. C. Owen

Passed 2nd M.B. Part II.

*School of Dentistry*

W. J. M. Barrie

Completed fourth year of course for B.D.S.

*Faculty of Science*

D. F. J. Dagley

B.Sc. Pure Science.

F. Darby

B.Sc. Hons. Class II (ii), Geology.

J. F. Richards

B.Sc. Hons. Class II (ii), Civil Engineering.

J. S. Smith

B.Sc. Hons. Class I, Chemical Engineering.

J. A. Russell

Completed first year of course in Hons. School of  
Chemistry.

D. Bailey

Completed first year of course in Mechanical Engineering.

R. M. Daley

Completed first year of course in Civil Engineering.

R. G. McDonald-  
Gibson

Completed first year of course in Medical Biochemistry.

Chloe Daniels

Completed first year of course in Physics.

G. H. Eaton, B.Sc.

Completed one year of post-graduate research work in  
Physics.

T. W. Eaton, B.Sc.

Completed one year of post-graduate research work in  
Physics.

H. S. Ward, B.Sc.

Completed third year of research for Ph.D.

M. P. Osborne, B.Sc.

Awarded degree of Ph.D. for research work in Zoology.

L. M. Coulthard,

Completed one year of research in Mechanical Engineering  
with G.E.C. Scholarship.

B.Sc.(Eng.),

A.M.I.M.E.

*Faculty of Social Science*

Margaret Taylor

Completed second year of course for B.Soc.Sc.

*Faculty of Arts*

Jean McLelland

B.A. Class II (ii), French.

K. W. Field

B.A. Class II (ii), History and Physical Education.

**Bristol University**

I. P. Smith, B.Sc.

Completed one year of post-graduate research in Building  
and Engineering.

Luned M. Morris

Completed Part II, Stage I of B.Sc. (Domestic Science).

**Leeds University**

Carole Watton

Completed second year of course in Accountancy.

**Liverpool University**

Sylvia Fletcher

B. A. Hons. History.

Joan Maneylaws

B.A. Hons. General Studies.

A. J. Newey

Completed second year of course in Hons. School of  
Mathematics.

Rosalind Beard

Completed second year of course for B.Soc.Sc.

M. F. Moore

Completed first year of course in Chemistry.



**London University***Bedford College for Women*

Angela M. Downs Completed first year of course in Hons. School of Mathematics.

*Queen Mary College*

M. Biddlestone Completed first year of course in Hons. School of Chemistry.

*Westfield College*

Nora C. Reynolds Completed first year of course in Hons. School of English.

**Nottingham University**

Ann Murray

O. Tudor

Pauline Marlow

Completed second year of course in Social Science.

Completed second year of course in Hons. School of Zoology.

Completed first year of course in Hons. School of English.

**Reading University**

Veronica Kingsnorth

Completed first year of course in Hons. School of History.

**Sheffield University**

M. J. Wharton

D. J. Corbett

*School of Dentistry*

F. Matthews

D. Matthews

B.Sc. Hons. Class (ii), Physics.

B.Sc. Hons. Class I, Mechanical Engineering.

Completed fourth year of course for L.D.S.

Completed third year of course for L.D.S.

**University of North Wales—Bangor**

Elaine Jones

Completed second year of course in Biochemistry.

**St. David's College, Lampeter**

M. D. Jukes

Completed first year of course for B.A., General Studies.

**Edinburgh University**

J. S. Jennings, B.Sc.

Awarded Ph.D. degree for research in Geology. Elected Fellow of Geological Society of London.

**Training Colleges***City of Birmingham*

Olive Dain

(née Harper)

Completed course for Teacher's Certificate.

*Crewe*

Barbara Martin

Completed first year of course.

*Dudley*

J. Spittle

Judith Bagley

Completed course for Teacher's Certificate.

Completed first year of course.

*Loughborough*

A. T. Harrold

Completed third year of course in Physical Education.

*Shenstone*

Rosemary Kenwick

Completed first year of course.

*Stafford*

Sylvia Street

Christine Lewis

Completed course for Teacher's Certificate.

Completed first year of course.

*Worcester*

Linda Charles

Completed first year of course.

*Dartford Physical Training College*

Pamela Rowe

Christine Gregory

Completed third year of course.

Completed second year of course.



**Birmingham College of Advanced Technology**

- F. K. Sandell      Completed third year of course for Dip.Tech. (Mathematics).
- T. E. Porritt      B.Sc. Hons. Class II. Physics (London).
- J. B. Paice        Dip.Tech. Class II, Physics.
- D. T. Cook        Dip.Tech. Class II, Mechanical Engineering.
- G. T. Brown        Completed second year of course in Optics.

**Lancaster College of Technology, Coventry**

- L. D. Stevens      Endorsements to Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.

**Foley College, Stourbridge**

- C. H. Glover        Completed first year of course for N.D.D.

**Birmingham College of Art and Crafts**

- Jacqueline Dawes   Completed first year of course for N.D.D.

**Nursing***Birmingham United Hospitals*

- Janet Sheldon      Member of Chartered Society of Physiotherapists. Winner of Sylvester Prize as best student, 1958-60. Appointed as Junior Lecturer at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

SCARECROW



Joan Hadley, 5M.



**JOINT SOCIETIES**  
**SESSION 1960-61**

- September 22nd**—Dr. Howard, President of the Society, welcomed new members and installed G. H. Neale as Chairman, A. D. W. Pardoe as Vice-Chairman, and Jennifer Turner as Secretary. The meeting took the form of an inter-house quiz, which resulted in victory for Trinity House, with School second, King's third and Queen's last. A vote of thanks was proposed by R. Palfrey and seconded by Margaret Comley.
- September 29th**—An account of the boys' summer holiday in Dinard, Brittany, was given by members of the Society. Delightful colour slides of the places visited were shown by T. B. J. Hughes, and were described by R. White, D. Harvey and A. England. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sheila Cooke and seconded by J. Hollyhead.
- October 6th**—The Society had the privilege of a visit from Mr. A. L. Kelly, F.R.Met-Soc., of the Edgbaston Observatory, who gave an illustrated talk on the subject of weather-forecasting. Mr. Kelley also answered several questions put to him by members of the Society. A vote of thanks was proposed by A. Pardoe and seconded by Nina Rogers.
- October 13th**—A group of senior girls gave an account of their Easter holiday in Weggis, on the shores of Lake Lucerne. Stella Taylor described the outward and return journeys, and various excursions which took place were described by Sheila Cooke, Linda Turner, Angela Grant, Jennet Beach and Brenda Walter. The programme was illustrated throughout by many colour-slides. A vote of thanks was proposed by Jacqueline Shipstone and seconded by R. Stevens.
- November 3rd**—The meeting took the form of a debate, the motion being that "This house considers that unilateral disarmament is undesirable." J. Hollyhead proposed the motion, which was seconded by P. Isherwood, while the principal speakers for the opposition were M. Prestidge and R. Lester. After many interesting comments from members of the house, the motion was put to the vote, and carried by a large majority. A vote of thanks was proposed by T. Daniels and seconded by Mavis Hamblett.
- November 10th**—Members of the Gramophone Society presented a programme in which they traced the history of sound-recording from its humble beginning, less than a hundred years ago, to the near-perfect reproduction of sound which is possible today. J. Round proposed the vote of thanks, which was seconded by Irene Abell.

**November 17th**—Members of the Sixth Form French Group presented a novel and most enjoyable programme for the evening's entertainment, which took the form of a cabaret at an imaginary Parisian café. A vote of thanks was proposed by Joan Haynes, and seconded by K. C. M. Page.

**November 24th**—Physics Night took the form of an illustrated account of the history of the atomic theory, given by R. Lester, M. Prestidge, T. Daniels and J. Hollyhead. A vote of thanks was proposed by C. Parkes and seconded by Susan Cutter.

**December 1st**—Members of 6A History Group gave talks on the lives of four well-known personalities who have done much to benefit mankind. D. Stephens introduced the programme. Irene Abell spoke on Elizabeth Fry, Gillian Gould on Louis Pasteur, Nina Rogers on Albert Schweitzer, and Mavis Hamblett on Dr. Barnado. A vote of thanks was proposed by Susan Hawley and seconded by R. Childe.

**January 19th**—The 6th Form Art Group gave a talk on Modern Art, describing the work of Picasso, Braque, Spencer and Rouault, amongst others. The speakers were D. Stephens, J. Oakes, Barbara Harris and D. Olden. A vote of thanks was proposed by A. England and seconded by Gillian Gould.

**January 26th**—Members of 6A Biology group gave talks on three selected topics. The speakers were introduced by Joan Haynes. J. Hughes described some experiments in genetics which had been carried out at school. R. Stevens spoke on the subject of typhus fever, and G. Neale on X-rays. A vote of thanks was proposed by Barbara Harris and seconded by I. Flavell.

**February 16th**—Joint Societies had the privilege of a visit from Mr. B. N. Brooke, Consultant Surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, who spoke to us on the subject of blood transfusion. Mr. Brooke also answered questions put to him by members of the Society. A vote of thanks was proposed by A. Pardoe and seconded by Janet Picken.

**February 23rd**—Members of the Senior School entertained the Society with a musical evening. Those taking part were A. Pardoe, J. Gosling, the Girls' Choir, accompanied by Margaret Jones, Vivienne Holling, Pegg, Margaret Comley, Trevis, Diane Thomson, Gillian Blackham and Jones. The programme illustrated popular music through the ages. A vote of thanks was proposed by Marion Jones and seconded by R. Walker.

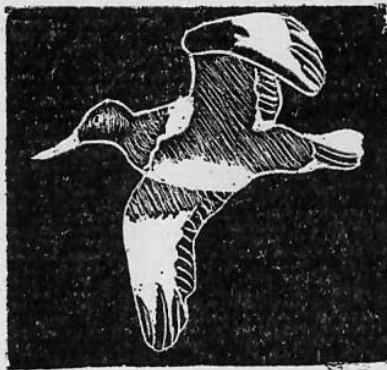


**March 16th**—The meeting took the form of a General Knowledge quiz, the girls of 6A challenging the boys of 6A. Many questions were asked, and a few were answered! The contest ended in a win for the boys. A vote of thanks was proposed by A. Yates and seconded by Jennet Beach.

As in customary, the session terminated with a very enjoyable dance, held at school on March 23rd.

Jennifer Turner.

### JOINT SOCIETIES, OUTING



**A**LTHOUGH Tuesday, July 11th dawned wet and dismal, fortunately, the spirits of the pupils going on the outing were not dampened.

The first stop on our journey to Slimbridge, the wild fowl trust and Berkeley Castle was at Tewkesbury. Our stay there was short and we soon hurried on to arrive at Slimbridge in brilliant sunshine.

Here we were divided into two groups and given a conducted tour around the bird reserve. This collection now consists of more than a thousand birds of about a hundred and forty different kinds, some with clipped wings and others free. It is the most comprehensive collection of a single group of living animals in the world. From towers situated in the reserve, visitors can view the whole wild fowl trust and the river Severn estuary. After the tour we were allowed to wander around Slimbridge and also to have our picnic lunch there.

After leaving Slimbridge, we continued our journey to Berkeley Castle, which is reputed to be the most historic castle in England. Many famous people are associated with the castle, such as Elizabeth I and Dr. Edward Jenner. This visit proved most interesting, particularly as the building is so well preserved and contains many valuable collections of rare paintings, tapestries, furniture and porcelain.

After Berkeley Castle we went to Painswick to see the famous yew trees in the Churchyard there. Cheltenham was our destination for tea, and before tea we explored the town.

All too soon however, we were on our homeward journey. After a short break at Evesham we travelled the last lap to School, singing the usual rousing songs.

We must therefore accord our warmest thanks to Mr. Hetherington for organising such an enjoyable outing.

Susan Hawley, 6A.

### SIESTA

**S**OMEONE plucks desultorily at a guitar. The wavering notes are liquid in the stagnant air. With a hollow wooden clatter they cease. He hears the pervading stillness humming with oppressive heat. So hot! A sketch-leaf by the blistered doors moves minutely. He starts but it is no draught of wind —merely the paper recoiling for protection from the glare. A draught, of wine! But the last sip has evaporated. His eye wanders to the burning blue sky through a chink in the warped, black shutters. It is not difficult to envisage the narrow street blindingly brilliant with relentless, overhead rays: the useless Spanish balconies cringing into the high walls; forgotten washing dried stiff; shuttered windows up and down; the café's bleaked sun-blind; scorched moss in every cranny. The cobbles of the gutter sing while baking into dust. Even the shade here indoors he sees is steeped with intense gold light. It is too hot to paint.

Marion B. Jones, 6A.



### MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

**M**MUSIC has once more played a great part in school life during this year and has made a valuable contribution both to the education and enjoyment of pupils.

The orchestra and choirs practised regularly, and through their interest and hard work made the annual concert, which is always noted for its high standard, a great success. The Brahms' Hungarian Dances Nos. 5 and 6 which the orchestra played were received with enthusiasm by the audience; the girls' choir sang, with beauty and feeling, an extremely difficult Christmas cantata entitled 'A Saviour born,' and the Junior Choir, newly-formed by Miss Freeman, deserves special mention for its polished rendering of three French songs. The carols, which are ever popular, again gave the audience an opportunity of participating actively.

The Gramophone Society has met frequently during the school year. With the aid of Mr. Richards and Mr. Laycock programmes of music have been presented which have helped to increase the knowledge and pleasure of all who have attended.

Mr. Eacott's dance orchestra has continued to provide music for several end of term dances and other social activities; these occasions are eagerly anticipated and we all appreciate the enjoyment which this dance band gives us.

The school offers pupils opportunities for learning violin, viola and 'cello and has excellent teachers in Mr. Farmer, Mr. Sutton and Mrs. Burrowes. The orchestra is thus able to replace members who leave school by other promising players, the bass section is very proud this year to have one double bass and seven regular 'cellists.

In the Autumn Term our school was fortunate enough to be visited by the City of Birmingham Sympony Orchestra. Mr. Harold Gray conducted and the orchestra was led by Mr. Meyer Stolow. The enthusiastic applause revealed how greatly music is appreciated in our school. The only regret was that the concert did not last longer, but the Orchestra visits many other schools and we are grateful that we had the good fortune to hear such superb orchestral playing.

The musical activities have owed their success to hard work, interest and co-operation between Dr. Howard, members of staff and pupils. It is hoped that music will always retain its importance in our school.

Judith Tranter, 6A.

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**VISITS TO THE THEATRE, 1961.**

ON Wednesday, 15th February a party of Sixth formers visited the Birmingham Repertory Theatre to see Bernard Hepton's production of "Antony and Cleopatra."

Although in the past the theatre has been highly praised for its Shakespearian productions we all felt that this particular presentation did not reach the usual standard.

Tony Steedman and Elizabeth Spriggs in the rôles of Antony and Cleopatra were disappointing. The relationship between the Roman and Egypt's queen was not emphasized, and failed to convince. Dramatic or tragic heights were never reached; indeed occasionally the gravity and significance of a whole scene were lost, either by the unintentional humorous rendering of a serious speech or by some unforeseen misfortune. Although the set admirably conveyed the sultry atmosphere of Egypt, continual revolving of the stage was distracting.

"Antony and Cleopatra", with its changes from Rome to Egypt, large number of dramatic personæ and lengthy action, presents difficulties to the producer, and Bernard Hepton had obviously not overcome these difficulties.

However an inferior production is valuable since it offers the student a chance of both destructive and constructive criticism, and we were all glad of the opportunity to see this play.

Sixth-formers also visited the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford on April 27th to see "Much Ado About Nothing." Geraldine McEwan as Beatrice and Christopher Plummer as Benedick gave good, though not outstanding performances. Jill Dixon also deserves praise for her interpretation of Hero; the attempt to add vitality and interest to this rather lifeless character was successful and pleasing. The comedy scenes in which Dogberry plays a prominent part were not as humorous as we expected. Dogberry's misuse of words which is a great source of comedy was not stressed but indeed often quickly passed over. The set was neither too simple nor over-elaborate but provided a suitable background while retaining useful qualities. The costumes, which were those of the Regency period added to our enjoyment of this play.

We all wish to thank those members of staff who have made these theatre visits both possible and enjoyable.

Judith Tranter, 6A.



### THE SIXTH FORM VISIT TO "PYGMALION."

ON June 14th, 1961, half of the Senior English group were to be seen waiting outside the Alexandra Theatre prior to seeing Shaw's "Pygmalion." The play had been read and the people present knew that the evening would be full of amusement.

Once inside, the curtain having risen, the audience were drawn into life as it was about half a century ago. They saw Shaw's Eliza, excellently portrayed by Heather Canning, change from a common flowergirl into a duchess. Miss Canning's wardrobe was also excellent, particularly her dress for the ball which was of white satin.

Brian Kent as Professor Higgins did not quite come up to the standard expected and perhaps did not play this character as fully as possible. Frank Woodfield provided a reasonable portrayal of the milder, and politer, Colonel Pickering, while Eileen Draycott, playing the rôle of housekeeper, a not unusual part for her, gave her lines an authority and resonance for which she has become renowned to the Alexandra Theatre-goers.

The settings were realistic in both the exterior scene, outside the Covent Garden Opera House, and the interior scenes in Higgins' study and Mrs. Higgins' parlour.

An attempt by the producer to provide a realistic crowd scene at the opening of the play was somewhat marred by the fact that the chatter of the bystanders made it impossible to hear all the words of the main characters.

However the play was immensely enjoyed and on behalf of those who went I would like to tender our thanks towards the members of the staff concerned in arranging the outing.

Yvette Smith, 6A.

### SNOW

THE frost is hard and winds are cold;  
 The sun is hid behind a cloud,  
 Sheep are driven to the fold,  
 Horses' hoofs ring clear and loud.  
 Now comes the snow in small white rifts,  
 First just a sprinkle here and there;  
 Then faster, swifter still it drifts,  
 Swirling, twirling in the air.  
 When icicles begin to drip  
 The people say that it will thaw  
 The snow from roofs begins to slip,  
 And all the earth is bare once more.

Jane E. Nicholls, 2B.

SNOW

WHITE. White. White.  
All was white.  
In the stillness of the night  
Peace and silence; no sound.  
Unmarring silent snow  
Resting, lay upon the ground.  
Waiting?  
Reflected bright was the pale light of the visaged moon,  
Distant, smiling friendly down,  
Beauty pure to-night,  
Tomorrow gone.  
Now pale and crisp,  
Tomorrow missed  
By everyone.

David W. Olden, 6A.

“HOBSON’S CHOICE.”

THIS year, the School staged Harold Bridghouse’s famous comedy “Hobson’s Choice”, and judging by audience reaction seems to have been the most popular production since the rebirth of School Dramatics in 1958.

The scene is set in Salford, Lancashire, in 1880, and the story tells of the struggle of a Victorian father to triumph over his rebellious daughters, at a time when Father was usually the undisputed head of the family and his word was law.

At 7.30 p.m. on February 7th., the lights of the auditorium were dimmed for the first time, the barrel-organ started to play its tune, and we were taken as if by magic back to the days of Victorian England. Except for one or two minor lapses, the cast managed the difficult Lancashire dialect remarkably well, and particular credit should go to the three main characters — Mr. Henry Horatio Hobson, the patriarch of the family, played most convincingly by Alan Pardoe, Irene Abell as his rebellious eldest daughter Maggie, and her husband and one-time workman of Mr. Hobson, William Mossop, played by Paul Isherwood. Full use was made of the new stage, and the scenery left little to be desired. This year, the lighting was particularly effective, especially at the end of Act. 3.

The producer Mr. Laycock, the stage manager Mr. Lawton, and all others concerned deserve most sincere congratulations for such an excellent production, photographs of which appear elsewhere in the magazine.

J. N. Gosling.



**THE ROBBERY**

**T**HE great detective Herlock Shomes spoke to his Assistant, Doctor Watsit. "We must track down Buglar Bill and capture him, Watsit," he said, reaching for his much-loved violin and beginning to play. Suddenly a brick crashed through the window.

"I knew the neighbours wouldn't like your playing," said Watsit.

"Wait, there is a piece of paper wrapped round it. It is a note!" cried Shomes. "Buglar Bill will burgle a house in this road tonight," read Shomes. "Come on, Whatsit, it is getting dark, we had better warn everybody before it is too late."

So the pair went up and down the road, knocking at everybody's door and warning them of the danger they were in. When they arrived at the end of the road, Shomes said to his Assistant, "You go on home while I do this last house," so off went Watsit.

When Shomes arrived back home Watsit was waiting for him on the doorstep. "Well, we have done our duty, Watsit," said Shomes, "I wonder which house Burglar Bill will try to burgle tonight?"

"You stupid!" said Watsit, "When we came out you forgot to lock the door, so that Burglar Bill just walked in. He burgled our house while we were out, and he's pinched your violin!"

L. C. Dittrich, 1A.

**A DESERTED AERODROME.**

**A** GENTLE breeze blows;  
A lark sings alone to the world beneath.  
Butterfly and bee  
Peacefully mingle with poppy and scabius.  
Umbels of tansy,  
Reaching up between cracks in the paving,  
Bend to the breeze.

The time is ended  
When the runways were active.  
Men and machines  
Passed over land now deserted,  
Barren, unused.  
When wheels rumbled ceaselessly,  
Man calling man for the country's sake.  
For some their last knowledge of earth  
Was here.  
Bravely they left it.  
Their ghosts returning;  
Haunting the peace,

Marjorie Weston, 6B.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

414, Mesa Lila Road,  
Glendale, 8,  
California,  
U.S.A.

September, 1961.

Dear Dr. Howard,

This is the only satisfactory way, I believe, of writing a long letter to friends in England describing my journey from that fair land to these sunny shores of California. So I hope you will forgive me for this rather impersonal way of writing to you.

A rather grey day in Southampton. A very large, and rather old, but much respected liner. A great many excited, and sometimes tearful people; many to say "goodbye", many to sail away from friendly shores for the first time, many to return home; and for a few, perhaps, just another voyage across the Atlantic. Whatever the circumstances, those great blasts on the ship's sirens and that first edging away from the quayside, are unforgettable moments. However the lump soon clears from the throat, as, on this occasion, did the clouds from the sky. R.M.S. "Queen Mary" began another voyage from Southampton to New York: a calm sea, or perhaps only a low swell making the journey for all happy and without incident. The ship left port at 1202 B.S.T. on Thursday, August 10th., 1961 and arrived at 0515 B.S.T. in New York, precisely 4 days, 14 hours and 21 minutes, travelling at an average speed of 27.98 knots and covering 3088 nautical miles. And there all precise details cease, as I have copied them from the ship's log!

A voyage such as this, is, of course, a holiday, in itself. The majority of the 100 British teachers aboard were travelling 'tourist' class and were berthed in small cabins aft on 'D' Deck. These cabins were hardly luxurious, but quite adequate. There were four of us in ours, and provided that we did not all decide to jump out of bed at the same moment, or more than two try to dress at the same time we managed quite well. Otherwise accommodation was excellent. Most of my time was spent up on the Sports Deck, either sunning myself in a 'shared' deck chair or playing deck tennis and shuffleboard. Meals were wonderful, and the only difficulty about them was in trying to decide what to eat and where to stop, I never did try having steaks for breakfast or fresh Oxford brawn with radishes, but the choice was tempting, especially when there was no bill presented at the end of the meal!



Americans are very weight conscious and I am sure many of them suffered very conflicting physical and mental tortures where meals were concerned. Evening dances and party games were, however, organised to try to stimulate much needed exercise.

The Hudson River at 6 a.m. is a thrilling sight. The morning was misty and the Statue of Liberty was only a dim shape off our port bow. Liberty herself loomed up surrounded by a pinky glow in the swirling vapours, but cameras clicked hopefully. Manhattan and its skyline are world famous. Someone said that much talked of sights are more often than not disappointing. Under these circumstances of early morning, the contours of these steel and concrete towers hazy, and touched with the glow of dawn, were indeed beautiful. Once among them, however, these become monstrous buildings, dwarfing the New Yorker as he scurries through the tunnels of streets.

British efficiency is often open to question, but I heard much praise of British Railways and British Customs and Excise as we waited for action on the quay. Eventually we left the docks — just five hours after berthing,, and were taken by bus to the Hotel New Yorker, the city's largest hotel at the junction of 8th Avenue and 37th Street. Once again we shared rooms, but space was no longer a problem. Each room had its shower and bath, and marvellously comfortable beds. Television sets and radios were installed with a huge choice of channels and stations. Here was the first introduction to the power of commercial life in America. It is impossible to listen to the new without being told that it is by courtesy of some vastly superior brand of margarine or cigarette. There is a build up to some important item — but, first, 'listen to this message by . . .'

New York was hot and very humid. Most New Yorkers hurry to their destinations at lightning speed, very rarely on foot, but on four wheels — sometimes only using two of them on corners. They hurry to air conditioned offices and stores, and there they stay until it is time to hurry home to the more gracious vistas of Long Island or up State. Then, I believe, they do relax. Smiles in the city are not common, although most people were very helpful if we were in difficulty. Few hotels provide food and all meals are bought separately 'out'. The cheapest method is to visit the 'Automats.' Take a tray, have ready a handful of nickels, dimes and quarters and choose for yourself something to eat from a vast selection of food, all prettily displayed behind little glass doors released by the appropriate coin.

A programme was arranged for us in the city, and under the climatic circumstances it was rather strenuous. Although we tried to stay as British as we could and walk to our various meet-

ings, in the end the taxi claimed us and we found, by bundling five into a cab, that it wasn't really expensive. Anyway to ride in a Yellow Cab is one of the things to do in New York.

I think, perhaps, that the highlight of the stay in New York was a visit we all paid to the United Nations Building. Most people will have seen photographs of the tall glass and concrete structure, overlooking East River, which houses the clerical staff of the U.N. It is, however the other, lower, building which contains the assembly chambers, and which is so very beautiful. Everything is ultra modern and in the best of taste. The materials are so excellent; fabrics, furnishings, lighting, and the lovely stone which has been used for the floors and walls. Some of the murals are a little startling, but not out of keeping with the building generally. There is a team of accomplished guides, many of whom speak several languages. Their commentaries are learnt by heart, it seems, and it is possible to fault them if you can edge in a response to their conclusive 'Any Questions?' at the end of each delivery.

We were entertained to tea, yes, **tea**, by the American League of University Women. Their organisation is exactly as it seems to be in the title. We were very amused at their headquarters by the little garden where punch was drunk. Here, beneath the gloom of New York City, flowers grew in profusion, and such adaptable little flowers too; in and out of season blooms together. They were all made of plastic and just stuck into the hard and blackened soil.

During my stay in the city, I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Nancy Newton, my exchange. With her, and also enroute for England were her cousin, Mrs. Klock and their niece Rosalie, together with a Californian teaching friend, Bob Roberts. We spent a very enjoyable evening together, when I was treated to a show at Radio City Music Hall in the Rockefeller Centre. Radio City is another of the 'musts' in New York, and is certainly worth a visit. We saw the film 'Fanny', which was rather nostalgic for me, because I so enjoyed the original French version years ago. Then, accompanied by a full sized 'Symphony' orchestra and a mammoth Wurlitzer organ, there is the stage show, the highlight of which is a team of about 50 dancers, dancing with such precision and timing that it is quite marvellous.

The following day I was invited by Miss Newton's parents to dinner at their lovely home on Long Island. New York seems far away from this very gracious area, and yet it is only half an hour's journey by train. Great Neck is a residential district on a small peninsula. The area is beautifully wooded and dotted with



beautiful homes. I was very impressed. Here I had my first really American meal, and perhaps put my foot in it for the first time by enquiring the name of the iced drink we had set before us at the dinner table. It was a pale brown in colour, and tasted like nothing I had ever drunk before. It was ICED TEA! Also at this meal, as with most dinners over here, salad was served with the main dish. Salads are rather startling, and contain mixtures which are very strange to English palates. Pieces of pineapple and cucumber embedded in sweet lime jelly were served as part of the salad. It is an acquired taste and I am becoming accustomed to it gradually.

There are a great many other things I could say about New York, but I will have to leave them until I see you. At the end of our stay we were loaded on to buses, supposedly air conditioned, and journeyed southwards to Washington. The first part of the trip was rather miserable. Northern New Jersey is not pretty, at least not the part that we witnessed. Here we saw for the first time the very common sight of discarded motor cars heaped up in mountainous dumps and looking very ugly. From a distance, anyway, most of the cars in these heaps would have been proud possessions of many Englishmen.

The day was hot and it was hazy with heat, but we did catch a glimpse of Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, as well as a distant view of Baltimore. Also, the American highways, monotonously straight and wide, and avoiding built-up areas, both impressed us and deadened our interest in sight seeing. So we slept most of the way to the Nation's Capital. The bus driver awakened us, however, on approaching Washington, switched on his loud speaker set-up and proceeded to give us a tourists' guide to the city as we approached its centre. He was most accomplished, and, having a slight southern drawl, wooed us with words, so much that I wished I had had a tape recorder.

In hot and steamy Washington, D.C. we took up residence for a time at the 'Hotel Raleigh' where we were greeted by a great banner worded "WELCOME VISITING TEACHERS."

Washington is a very beautiful city, perhaps even too beautiful. It has of course been designed and built as a capital. No expense has been spared in the erection of the many 'stately' buildings which line its streets and avenues. Most of them are of white marble which, in this non industrial city stays white, and I had the feeling that there was rather too much of it. A little more colour variation in the building stone, would, I feel have given a richer tone to the city generally. The layout of the streets and the numerous green parks and lovely trees give to the city spacious and restful character, completely contrasting with New York.

The climate of Washington leaves much to be desired, particularly in August. Walking about the streets is rather like walking through an off power Turkish Bath. Temperatures were in the 90's and the humidity reached the same figure. So, as in New York, the people seek the refuge of air conditioned interiors. We spent a great deal of time in the Education building where it was cool and pleasant, but once outside, the transition from cool temperate to torrid was over poweringly apparent.

A programme of lectures and visits was arranged for us during our six days' sojourn in Washington. The lectures were rather dull — lots of people talked for lots of time about very little. The idea was to introduce 150 foreign exchange teachers to the American Education System. I think, perhaps, the main impression gained was one of bewilderment. Surely, we thought, things cannot be as stereotyped and efficient as all that. By now, most of us have probably found out that they are not. American Education, is, however, a subject on its own, and I cannot dwell more upon it at present.

The visits were extremely enjoyable, and the highlight for everyone was the visit to the White House, early one morning while the President was still at breakfast. We began the usual visitors' tour of the house, but before it had really got under way, a message was received from the President himself inviting us all to the rose garden where he would like to meet us. So we assembled on the lawn before a little terrace of the house, and within a few minutes Mr. Kennedy and a few of his 'followers' came out on to the terrace, walked down a few steps and proceeded to address us, welcoming us to the United States. Afterwards he shook hands with about a dozen of our number, and then turned to the house again, presumably to finish his breakfast. Some of the ladies in the party, those who had received the Presidential handshake, hugged their hands in high delight, vowing never to wash them again!

In Washington we visited the State Capitol, in which, for a few minutes we visited a Senate meeting in session. It was not particularly a momentous occasion as the Senators assembled were simply replying to roll call, and absenteeism, at the time, was rife! We also visited the Lincoln and Washington memorials, and individually many of the other important buildings of the city. On the Thursday morning the whole party was taken out to Mount Vernon, George Washington's well preserved old home overlooking the Potomac River. It was the hottest and muggiest morning of the week and we spent a perspiring couple of hours in the presence of America's most stately of stately homes.



Socially, life in Washington was one of evening pursuits. We attended dinner at Georgetown University, a Catholic foundation, where we were addressed by two imposing United States Senators, and ate regally of delicious American chicken. The British Embassy also invited us for cocktails in their brand new headquarters. There we had the pleasure of meeting the British Ambassador and of hearing speeches made in the English 'accent.' In lighter vein, a small group of us dined on the 'Starlight Roof' of one of Washington's Hotels and danced beneath the 'patines of bright gold' in very romantic mood. Later that evening, or more strictly, early the following morning, a benign American, resident in the hotel, insisted that we all returned to his room to accept his hospitality in a particular Scottish fashion. It was an illuminating experience!

Then come our goodbyes. From Washington each made his separate way to his teaching destination. This parting of the ways was a sad moment as the two and a half weeks had cemented many a friendship. Many of the young ladies, in particular, were more than a little apprehensive of the days to come. Many were going thousands of miles across the Continent, alone, and in a new and strange country. American friendliness is, however, universal and loneliness and homesickness would be only brief pangs in the following days.

I travelled, with several others westward bound as far as Chicago. We travelled overnight on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, sleeping quite well in the reclining chairs which are a feature of all American trains. More goodbyes at Grand Central Station, Chicago. Then Noel Livesey, also bound for Pasadena, Marjorie Pryke, bound for Seattle (or nearby) and I stayed together for a day and a night in busy, dirty, full of character Chicago. Not one gangster did we see, and we spent most of the day down by Lake Michigan which is to all effects like an inland sea. It was still hot, but much less humid, although there was a considerable amount of heat haze. I liked Chicago.

On the following day, Sunday, 28th August, Marjorie departed by the Union Pacific Railroad for Seattle, and Noel took the Santa Fe Railroad to Los Angeles, stopping off one day to see Grand Canyon, and I went on the Rock Island Railway (all the way) to Omaha in Nebraska. I left Chicago, now alone for the first time, at 2.0 p.m. and arrived in Omaha at 10.30 p.m. the same day. It was a pleasant, and uneventful journey, enlivened by a dinner of Rocky Mountain trout. At Rock Island we crossed the Mississippi where even so far upstream it is a mighty river and arriving at Omaha we reached the Missouri.

My Canadian friends were awaiting me at the 'depot' in Omaha. After arranging for my trunk to be shipped to Glendale, we made our way to a Motel where, after a very welcome cup of tea we retired for some of the night! At 4 a.m. the following morning we arose and, after a snack, started on the first leg of the long journey by car across half the continent. Eileen's car is a Morris Oxford, and over here looks amazingly small in comparison with all the American cars. However it made the journey splendidly, and finally arrived in Pasadena, none the worse except for a layer of desert dust. Early morning starts were essential as the temperature soared to great heights during the day, and we were endeavouring to cover 3 to 400 miles each day, and more if we could.

I cannot attempt to describe the journey in detail, only to pick out some highlights. It was a thrilling experience. Roads are excellent, but very monotonous, relieved only by advertisements which in many cases are very amusing, and not often as ugly as I had imagined. We stayed each night in motels which can be first class. They all provide bathing or showering facilities which are very welcome at the end of a hard day on the road. They are clean and pleasantly furnished, but do not provide meals. Mrs. Richardson had brought an electric kettle and a teapot, so we drank more tea, I think, than cross-American travellers have ever done before. I think the Tealeaf Trail ought to be added to the list of famous pioneering trails across the great Southwest!

The first days were spent crossing the mighty corn belt. We eventually got used to the all pervading smell of drying alfalfa. This is one of the main cattle foods in the Midwest, necessary because of the long, cold winters during which thousands of cattle have to be fed indoors. Townships are very far apart and nearly all look alike. The people, however, are very friendly — much more so than the average city people of the East.

Gradually the land rises and the corn thins out. The High Plains are more interesting scenically, although the land is very dry and the population much thinner as a result. These are the great cattle lands, where there are immense ranches. But not a cowboy did we see. In fact the only real one I have seen was in Union Station, Washington, where he was happily displaying his tanned cheeks, his ten gallon hat and his bow legs to the passing travellers. Wyoming is very dry and dusty, at least in the south where we were. The most memorable experience, perhaps of the whole trip, was a storm which we witnessed in the State. Despite the dryness, more rain has been experienced in this part of America this year than for a long long time. A lad at a filling station (about 16 years old) said he had never seen so much rain



in his life before. Each day ended with a thunderstorm. Mornings were beautiful, but as the day wore on immense cumulus clouds would build up and eventually a black and threatening sky would cover us. Then the storm. On this one occasion it was preceded by a swirling dust storm completely blinding a car driver. We had eventually to pull in, and fortunately too, at a small motel and café in the middle of nowhere called the "Red Desert Motel." It had started to rain by then and although we were only a couple of feet or so from the motel office door, we were imprisoned in the car as the rain lashed down and the wind blew. We did eventually escape and got ourselves fed and accommodated, but it was still raining when we retired and the temperature had dropped tremendously. The following morning it was clear and sunny again, but there were pools of water on the surface of the Red Desert.

Then in the heart of this wilderness is the Great Salt Lake Basin. What a contrast this to the dry mountains which surround it! It is green and pleasant, and dotted with many prosperous farms which specialise in market garden produce, particularly fruit. In the heart of it is Salt Lake City, a very beautiful city indeed, some of it sprawling up the lower slopes of the Wasatch Mountains. It is dominated by the great Mormon temple and tabernacle which are surrounded by a lovely, almost English garden, full of flowers, and also containing the famous statue to the seagull. The Lake is some distance from the city, and we endeavoured to see it on our evening there, but arrived at dusk and saw very little. For a hundred miles or so the green basin continues and then, almost suddenly it ends and the brown mountains are present again.

The sound of place names like Cheyenne and Laramie conjures up, to British television audiences, at any rate, a very romantic picture of the Wild West, but the visitor sees them as modern chequer board cities, not in the least romantic. We didn't even stop. In southern Utah the desert really begins. It is fascinating and even frightening. The early pioneers who crossed this land in covered wagons were certainly tough. It is almost an ordeal by car. The rock formations are wonderful — brilliant red rocks, carved into fantastic shapes by wind and water erosion, stand out against a blue, blue sky. There is little vegetation except cactus and sage bush. The wind blows the tumble weed across the roads and it bounces about in a grotesque fashion like armies of drunken hedgehogs.

Then, in the heart of the desert, in Nevada, is a famous or, perhaps, infamous little city called Las Vegas. The sun beats down mercilessly on the hard baked land around it. A little to the south

in the mountains the River Colorado has been dammed by the impressive Boulder Dam and a large man-made lake, Lake Mead, has been formed which supplies water to Vegas and to many parts of Nevada and California, as well as hydro-electric power. We did spend a few hours up at the dam on a day when temperatures were nearing 100. There was just time for a dip in Lake Mead at one of the beaches — the water was really warm, and how very soothing it was to our heat enveloped bodies!

But Las Vegas! If you can imagine Blackpool, Monte Carlo, London's Soho and Piccadilly Circus all combined in a Hollywood picture with a very decided American accent — it might be the beginning of an impression of what Las Vegas really is. The main street — Fremont is lined not only with shops, expensive and otherwise, but has in one or two blocks, several enormous gambling houses which are **always** open and thronged with people jingling silver dollars by the million. It would take a book to describe these places — the adjective used for Vegas is 'fabulous', It is. At night the lights are as dazzling as sunlight. There must be millions of light bulbs to the square inch! On 'The Strip', west from town, there are great hotels, the theatres and nightclubs in which all the famous American variety stars at sometime will appear.

The final day of the long trek was from Las Vegas to Pasadena. The desert continues almost all the way, and even here on the west side of the San Bernadino Mountains all is brown and dry except where there are trees or green lawns and parks kept fresh by almost daily watering. If the Colorado River should one day decide to join the Mississippi, the people of the Los Angeles conurbation will be in trouble. As it is it continues to flow westwards, and the populace of Pasadena remain eternally grateful to it, even if they shudder frequently at the enormity of their water bills.

It was a wonderful trip, an unforgettable experience, and on my return, when there will be a little more time, I hope, to see a great deal more of this lend of plenty — plenty of everything, except, perhaps water in the desert.

I hope I have not bored you, but I thought you would be interested in my journey. I shall have more to say about California and Californian Education later during my stay.

Yours,

Harry Laycock.



## TO PHYSICS

OH, mystic, magical, mechanical myriad  
 Of terms incomprehensible, formulae indecipherable,  
 Exerting magnetic influence  
 On the unsuspecting mind,  
 Drawn in fervent fascination  
 To this sempiternal, symbolised world.  
 Forces irresistible, compelling  
 Immovable objects to move,  
 To change their momentum  
 By means of energy,  
 In foot-poundals, ergs or joules.  
 Light-reflected, refracted, deviated  
 Providing no illumination  
 Save solitary, penetrating, searching beams  
 Of incidence.  
 Heat-specific, latent,  
 Changing shape and size, contracting, expanding  
 Harmless substances,  
 That alpha; beta; gamma  
 Coefficients may be applied  
 And calculated.  
 Mathematical, demanding  
 Precision in every step, up or down,  
 Transforming every statement  
 Into formulae.  
 Oh, fantastic fallacy, feigning facility  
 Of principle.  
 Then imperatively inducing  
 The comprehending mind  
 Into technical terminology and  
 Mechanical, mathematical calculations  
 Beyond its feeble faculty.  
 Yet leading its curiosity  
 Onwards.  
 Gaining insight, but never true understanding  
 Of this eternal evolution.  
 Oh, mind that can comprehend  
 All this realm of tangled mystery  
 To whom it presents no difficulty.  
 How fortunate art thou,  
 And if, receiving information,  
 Can'st impart it  
 To the simple mind  
 Art then true genius.

Gillian Blackham, Farm 5G.

"They to Canterbury wend,  
The holy blessèd martyr for to seek"  
Canterbury Tales. Chaucer.



Ann Draper, 5G.



## THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

*Chairman:* A. D. W. Pardoe.

*Vice-Chairman:* Nina E. Rogers.

*Secretary:* J. Trickett.

FROM time to time, over the past year, notices have appeared on the board by room 8, advertising such subjects as "Modern China," "Science and Religion," "The Doctrine of the Trinity" and "The Mission to lepers in Angola," to take only a few. Speakers at these meetings have included, among others, a lecturer in Modern China at Birmingham University, The Bishop of Birmingham's chaplain to coloured people, a local Vicar who graduated in zoology before being ordained, and a Baptist missionary in Angola.

These people came to speak to the twenty or so senior pupils who attended the weekly meetings of the School branch of the Student Christian Movement. As can be gauged from the above titles, the range of our discussions was very wide, and through the high standard of the speakers, each of whom was expert on his subject, and the lively discussions they sparked off, the meetings were of real benefit.

This benefit was twofold. Firstly, our knowledge was increased, and secondly, what we heard, in many cases whetted our curiosity to know and understand more.

Having briefly summarised the work and value of the S.C.M. in the past year, let me now demolish a few fairly widespread misconceptions about it. Chief of these is the idea that if one comes to S.C.M., one inevitably acquires an air of false piety and of sanctimonious puritanism. This is not true — we are not a society for mutual admiration. We do not sit down and think and say how good we all are. On the contrary, our arguments and debates soon dispose of any such pretensions.

Secondly, we welcome people of all shades of religious and moral opinion. We have included in our number, over the past two years, several agnostics and even outright atheists, and it is true to say that both they and the S.C.M. have benefited from the association.

To sum up, if you hold any moral or religious opinions, and are prepared to argue and discuss them, then you will find the S.C.M. meetings of absorbing interest and entertainment. Members of forms 4, 5 and 6 are invited to the Senior S.C.M. about which this report has been concerned and forms 1, 2 and 3 to the Junior Section which occupies a no less valuable and influential place in the School.

I cannot end this report without paying tribute to Miss Walton's work for the Seniors and Mr. Barbour's for the Junior S.C.M. Their unfailing courtesy and patience has been a major ingredient in the success of the Student Christian Movement in Oldbury Grammar School over the past year. We give them our most humble and hearty thanks.

A. D. W. Pardoe.

### THE BUSY RAILWAY STATION

**D**ASHING people, dashing people,  
All along the track.

In and out of carriage doors,  
Here, there and back.

Knocking over, knocking over,  
Magazines and rack.

Carrying cases, bags and parcels,  
Here, there and back.

Never stopping, never stopping,  
Never looking back.

Hitting people with their luggage,  
Here, there and back.

Busy porters, busy porters  
Shouting, "Mind this sack!"

Pushing people everywhere,  
Here, there and back.

Trains-a-coming, trains-a-coming,  
Chugging up the track.

Bringing swarms of busy people,  
Here, there and back.

Annette Hall, 2C.

### SEA HARVEST

**T**HE 'Girl Jean' slipped quietly into the harbour, nosed her way to the quayside and was briskly tied up. At once the deck-hands opened the hatches and began to unload boxes containing the silvery, slippery, gleaming, ice-packed harvest. From the mate, grizzled and worn, veteran of many voyages, to the cabin-boy back from his first trip, self-conscious in his bright, new, yellow oil-skins, everyone bent his back and worked with ice-cold fingers. On the quay, fish buyers investigated the catch and calculated prices. Children gaily gathered round to see the harvest as it was ready to be auctioned. Sea-gulls screeched overhead awaiting a stray fish. Then as the last box was unloaded, arose from the galley, the smell of a well earned, hearty supper of — fried fish!

Janice Allbrooke, 3A.



**LAKESIDE**

**T**HE road sweeps down from those mountains high,  
To the valley, deep and green,  
Where, hidden by a willow ring,  
A silent lake is seen.  
It stirs not, save to lap the shore,  
With soft and rhythmic pound.  
I know no other earthly place  
Where solitude is found.  
Thus, happy the man, whose life is spent  
By those cool blue waters' side,  
Who cares not for the whims of men  
Lost in the human tide.

Stuart Harris, 5M.

**VISIT TO LONDON**

**O**N Saturday, March 18th, 1961, four members of the Sixth Form Art Group accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Springer paid a visit to two of London's Art Galleries, the Wallace Collection and the National Gallery.

To make sure of having sufficient time in London we caught an early train from Birmingham and arrived at Paddington shortly before lunch time. When asked whether we would prefer to have lunch first or see the National Gallery, art appreciation took second place and we ate our sandwiches in Trafalgar Square, almost completely surrounded by pigeons.

The National Gallery was of particular interest to us, as it contains paintings by such artists as Raphael, Crivelli Mantegna, Reynolds and Gainsborough, who belong to the schools of art we had been studying. The National Gallery is a large building and we were not helped by the fact that the guide-book so thoughtfully provided by one member of the party was written in French, for tourists. Near the steps of the National Gallery we noticed a pavement artist, and could not help contrasting his simple chalk drawings with the highly finished masterpieces we had just seen.

The Wallace Collection houses some fine examples of French Painting, and since the French School was part of the Art Syllabus for 1961, we took the opportunity of seeing them. The

Wallace Collection also contains 'The Laughing Cavalier' by Frans Hals, which is perhaps one of the most famous pictures ever painted, and 'The Origin of the Milky Way' by Tintoretto.

Before leaving London we made a tour of some of London's landmarks, including Tower Bridge, and also the West End shopping centre.

We would like to thank Mrs. Springer for making our visit possible even though it meant the loss of her own free time.

Judith Rollason, 6A.  
Barbara Harris, 6A.

### DESTINATION

**T**HE desolate moorland, the muddy cart track, surely this was not the place to which he had come home. He could remember the plain but homely house in London where he had lived as a child. They had told him they had moved — but not to this!

It was a fine evening; the air was clear after the afternoon's storm. All around the vast expanse of the moors and above, the sky was glowing with the reds, yellows and blues of the sunset. The fiery sphere of the sun was leaving the sky it had known for the day and was finding a new domain. He was doing the same.

The horse stumbled. The path was evidently little used, but a heavy wagon had passed recently and it had made deep tracks, now filled with muddy rain water. He pulled at the reins lest the horse stumble again and he should fall. He could not arrive home covered with mud.

He was drawing nearer to the cottage, his destination. Why it had not collapsed under the moorland winds he could not tell. It stood unprotected and alone; a firm rock in the middle of a relentless ocean of rolling moors. A candle flickered in a window, drawing him to the cottage inviting him to enter and be protected by its roof; to settle his horse in the stolid building.

Perhaps he could come to terms with these desolate wastes and they could live in harmony. He would be able to ride and ride and revel in the open country with only his horse for a companion. It would be a welcome change after these months at sea.

The horse's hooves clattered on the paving of the yard. He was home.

Marjorie Weston, 6B.



### THE MOORS

THE wind, whimpering like a peevish child rose in shrill gasps until it filled the moors, higher and higher it bullied and the air was alive with a hundred screeching witches, savagely biting the bare soil as they swooped mercilessly. Their fingers swept through the horse's mane, now pulling, now tangling, they sank their shafts into his flesh and laughed at his frenzy.

But they could only taunt the man who was lying on the ground; 'though they stung his twisted arm he remained motionless. Soon the living pulse would beat no more in that limb, leaving it to crumble to ashes, to be ground into the common soil. The hand too no more would feel the bridle strained beneath its grip, but would return to its primitive form.

These limbs, this very flesh must decay; the flesh was cumbersome once earthly; it could not survive out of its natural environments; purification would be futile, baseness would always prevail.

Even now the mortal was becoming unnecessary. The witches bared their teeth, their grasping claws held on, but soon they slipped and fell outside the barrier of unconsciousness. The frail shackles snapped. An empty shell was all that remained on the marsh.

The witches had screamed the discords to a close, the last notes transcended to eternal harmony.

Judith Tranter, 6A.

### WRITERS' CIRCLE

THE inception of the Writers' Circle almost eighteen months ago revived a new interest in literary criticism. Enthusiastic members discovered excellent opportunities for developing their powers of judgement and by discussing one another's written work have been able to produce individual contributions of greater merit both in their originality and technical skill.

The School Magazine has profited by the keenness and activity of members, three of whom aided Mr. Hetherington in editing the 1960 Oldburian.

John Gosling acted as secretary during the 1960-61 school year; this responsibility has now been taken over by Judith Tranter.

Meetings have been discontinued this Autumn Term whilst work on the magazine has been in progress, but present members hope that valuable results will be achieved in the new year, when other pupils who have a genuine interest in literary work will be gladly welcomed.

Judith Tranter, 6A.

**AN ASSOCIATION OF IDEAS**

**D**ESOLATION!

A white glow on black turf.  
A silver worm midst grey boulders.

Black bog.

Death!

Movement!

Brown birds on purple heather.

White bubbles from red fish.

Green pods.

Life!

Space!

Wild winds in empty air.

Unknown creation.

Immensity.

Puny men!

War!

Black smoke on falling rubble.

Harsh sounds on twanging eardrums.

Futile hatred.

Puny men!

Desolation!

Life!

Unknown Creation!

Futile hatred!

Puny men!

Margaret Jones, 6A.

**CASTLE WALLS**

**T**OWERING above you, grand and aloof,  
Supporting the tower, supporting the roof;  
Infinite thickness, no man can sever,  
Weathered and moss-grown, enduring for ever.  
At night the walls seem so sombre and dark,  
With everything quiet and still now. But hark!  
The owl going hunting flies over the walls,  
The stillness is shattered as softly he calls.  
Night. When all's sleeping and still, I know,  
They start to remember the time long ago,  
When knights in armour with dashing white steeds  
Travelled the country-side doing good deeds,  
Feasting and jousting and rich riotings,  
And splendour and royalty, Barons and Kings.  
Many's the story that will not be told —  
And what of the future? — its secret they hold.

Susan Day, 3A.



**MORTEHOE**

**C**HILDREN laughed,  
Joyfully,  
Youngsters screamed,  
Happily  
Adults played,  
Childishly.  
Rollers crashed,  
Ceaselessly.  
    The blue Atlantic,  
    Such a playground,  
    Is ruthless,  
    As ruthless as Death.  
Watch those rollers,  
Ruthless rollers.  
Cruel Atlantic,  
You hypocrite!  
So harmless you seem  
    See those innocents,  
    From children to old men,  
    Unsuspecting,  
    Unwary,  
    Unknowing.  
    You take them indiscriminately,  
    Indiscriminately as Death.  
Why do they point,  
Point and laugh at Mercy?  
Mercy, the helicopter,  
Coming to search,  
But this time  
Not to save.  
You have claimed them.  
You have taken young and old.  
You gave them no choice —  
One wall of blue,  
And white, and green —  
It took them  
Unthinking,  
Unquestioning,  
Inexorable.

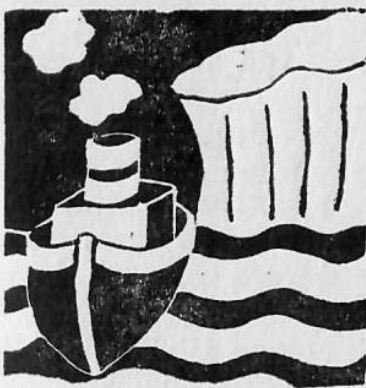
Judith Cutler, 5G.

### DEATH !

TO see creeping age steal over a man is more than some may bear. To see his limbs shrink and shrivel into wrinkled vestiges of virility; to see voracious death eagerly claim her young, to fear with voluptuous satisfaction, startles some to disgust or sickness. Disease spreads like gorging locusts ravenously speeding over a paddy field. It eats and mangles a man leaving him empty with pain and suffering. In these moment a peaceable, loving God seems far away, distant, lost. Pain supercedes all. The gnowing pain of death; pain is the present. The promise of peace in the future is lost. 'After death comes life.' 'There is life after death'. 'There is a Resurrection.' Once comforting phrases become meaningless and forgotten. Only the slimy lava of death sliding over and destroying the man survives. He feels torn apart; a vacuum whose life has been sucked out by an unknown vampire. But, when the one-sided struggle is nearly over, before the onset of insensibility, strangely, a deep peace hovers over, and enters him. Pain is gone. He sleeps.

Joan Allen, 6A.

### THE GIRLS' HOLIDAY IN NORWAY.



ON Friday, July 28th this year an excited party of Oldbury Grammar School Girls set off by coach to Manchester, en route for Ulvik, at the head of the Hardanger Fjord, in Norway. For several years he girls had asked Miss Firth to take them to Norway, and this year hed been successful. Excitement grew as we neared Manchester, for we were flying to Bergen, and it was the first time the majority of girls had been in the air. Our aircraft was a Royal Viking of the Queen's Flight, and was specially chartered. We had an extremely comfortable journey to Bergen, and from there went by coach along the fjord road to Ulvik, stopping at Norheimsund on the way.



Ulvik is a very pretty village at the head of the Hardanger Fjord. The scenery of the area is typical of Norway, which has been recently glaciated. The fjord is a deep trough, 2,600 feet deep at its deepest, with the mountains dropping sheer into the water on either side, except for a flat area of land at its head. It is here that Ulvik is situated. It was severely shelled by the Germans during the war, and there are many new buildings. The occupations of the village are like those of the rest of the fjord-region — fruit growing (there are many orchards) the rearing of a nimble fjord variety of dairy cattle, and fishing — the bristling fleet was in the harbour during part of our visit. The farms are usually small, and remain in the family. Fodder crops and hay are important, and we became accustomed to seeing the hay dried on the hesjes. The settlements are arranged in terraces up the mountain slopes.

On Saturday, after we had become acquainted with both the village and the friendly people of Ulvik, our guide took us for a walk to Solsaevaten, a lake high in the mountains. The walk was memorable both for the beautiful scenery which we saw and for its arduous climbing. We were extremely tired, but happy, at the end of our first day.

Several trips had been planned for us, and our first was a short trip to the village of Utne. We made the journey there by milk-boat, and at Utne were delighted with the exhibits in the Folk Museum, and especially with the Hardanger Bridal Costume.

We also went to Fossli. This is a small resort high in the mountains at the site of a gigantic waterfall called Voringfoss. It is reached by a winding road up the steep-sided Mabodal. The spray and noise of the waterfall can be seen and heard for miles away.

A highlight of our visit was a day trip called "Norway in a Nutshell." This included a journey on the fjord steamer, a ride up the Flam railway, the most difficult ascent in Norway, and also some time spent in the coach. We saw some really spectacular scenery and although we were all very tired when we reached our hotel, we agreed that we had had a wonderful day.

Other days were spent in walking around Ulvik itself. A memorable walk was that to Osa in the pouring rain. We also visited Voss, with its twelfth century church, and Eidfjord with its thirteenth century church. Another afternoon was spent at our guide's farm, where his mother showed us some beautiful National costumes and the more adventurous among us went up to the saeter.

Naturally after such an exciting holiday, we were reluctant to come home, but decided to visit Ulvik again another year.

We all realise the hard work entailed in arranging such a holiday and would like to express our thanks to Miss Firth, and other members of staff concerned, Miss Woodburn, Miss Sirmon, and Miss Sendell, for making this such an enjoyable holiday for all concerned.

Margaret Jones, 6A.

### THE STORM

THE eagle  
Sits on the storm-swept rock  
Alone.  
The sea bird  
Cowers beside the cliff  
Afraid.  
The waves  
Lash up and down the coast  
Searching  
For prey  
To fill their gaping maw  
With death.  
A boat  
Tossed by the restless ocean  
Appears.  
The crew  
Write on their faces the mark  
Of death.  
The waters  
Give a deafening roar.  
The boat,  
Their victims  
Will be seen no more  
In life.  
The eagle  
Sits on his storm-swept rock.  
The sea bird  
Cowers beside the cliff.  
The men  
Now passed from mortal sight.  
The waves appeased grow still.

Christine Norris, 6B.



## BOYS' EXCURSION TO SWITZERLAND 1961



AT mid-day on Wednesday, August 9th, a luxury coach carrying a party of thirty-five boys of this school, with three masters, left Birmingham for Dover, travelling along the M.1. then via London and Canterbury.

At mid-night our ferry bound for Ostend steamed out of Dover harbour and at 4.45 a.m. having encountered no difficulties with

the Belgian Customs we were on our way along the 'Route Rapide' to Brussels, where we had our first continental breakfast of rolls and coffee. Leaving Brussels we travelled through undulating country, then gradually we climbed the wooded slopes of the Ardennes. Soon we passed through Visé, a small country town, situated on the River Meuse and only a few kilometres from the West German frontier so that within the hour we were speeding along the Cologne autobahn towards Bonn, the West German capital, where we caught our first glimpse of the Rhine and were impressed by its width. South of Bonn we entered the Rhine Gorge, the land rose so steeply away from the river that in places there was only room for the road and railway, beside the river, now dotted with barges carrying wood, oil, coal and steel. Our first overnight stay was at Koblenz, situated at the confluence of the Moselle and Rhine.

Very early the following morning we continued our journey along the Gorge making for Freiburg which we reached at 7 p.m. On the way we visited the ancient University City of Heidleberg.

The third day is memorable, for much to our disappointment the nearer we came to the Swiss frontier the more torrential the rain became. The Bernese Oberland to which we all looked forward was obscured by dense mist. We arrived at Spiez, our destination in time for lunch.

Spiez is a small but very picturesque town along the steep slopes that lead down to Lake Thun. Every window offered views of the snow capped peaks of the Bernese Oberland; and on one evening we saw the famous 'pink sunset' when everything is tinted coral pink and gold by the setting sun. Until mid-day on Sunday we explored the immediate vicinity of Spiez, and then started our excursions.

Immediately behind our hotel was the conical mountain, the Niesen, rising to a height of 7,666 feet. Up its very precipitous slopes has been constructed a funicular, in places alarmingly steep, for the gradient is 1 in  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . With some relief we arrived at the summit and witnessed the whole range, Wetterhorn, Eiger, Munch and Jungfrau, separated from the valleys by a dense bank of grey cloud.

The next morning we set out for Lauterbrunnen but made a detour to Grindewald, where we had a perfect view of the north face of the Eiger which was climbed during the winter of this year. Then retracing our steps we came to the Trummelbach Falls. The valleys have been excavated by glaciers, remnants of which still cap the highest peaks. Thaw water from the glaciers percolates into caverns and emerges as roaring torrents at Trummelbach, spouting horizontally from the mountain side with a thunderous roar. An unforgettable sight!

The fourth day at Spiez provided us with the highlight of the holiday; the excursion to the 'Three Passes,' Susten Furka and Grimsel. We were blessed with brilliant sunshine so that we were able to appreciate the magnificent views: snow capped peaks glimmering in the sun, alpine lakes, glaciers and the over-deepened U-shaped valleys. Although down in the valleys it had been hot and sunny, at the passes it was very cold and we were very pleased to don thick woolly sweaters to prevent our shivering in the dense, rolling banks of cloud.

One morning we spent in Berne, walking around the arcaded streets in search of souvenirs and presents to take home; loitering at the hour to see the "magic of its ancient clock"; and throwing buns to the bears, the emblem of this city and the canton.

Lake Thun is separated from its twin Lake Brienz by a delta on which has been built the well-known town of Interlaken. We visited Brienz which has its own school of wood carving where students serve an apprenticeship of four year. There are several shops devoted entirely to these hand-carvings, and in some cases in the back-ground the skilled craftsmen give demonstrations of their art. The carvings are diverse in type and size but all are very expensive. They range from miniatures to superb carvings of stags and St. Bernard dogs three feet tall, musical chalets, fruit bowls and wall plaques.

The next day will be remembered for its "long walk". It was our intention to make the ascent of the Neiderhorn by chair-lift which promises the best view of the Bernese Oberland. Unfortunately we decided to save francs and take our own coach around the lake and not the more expensive cross-lake steamer.



Meeting a "Diversion" sign on the newly constructed road we took the old route, which we soon realised was not designed to take an English forty-one seater coach with wide wheel gauge. The hair-pin bends and steep gradients proved too much for us; a Swiss guide warned us that to continue was perilous, so debussing we started on foot while the driver and two of the party backed the coach down the hillside. After three hours' walking along mountain tracks, the party arrived at the chair lift, but was too late to ascend.

The week at Spiez passed all too quickly. We made the return journey through the Jura Mountains, then skirting the Massif Central we arrived at Reims where we made an overnight stay. The final leg of our continental journey was through the "Black Country" of France, where monotonously straight roads, fortunately deserted, brought us to Boulogne with time to spare. So ended another memorable holiday abroad.

I am sure all the members of this party will join me in expressing a very sincere thank-you to Mr. Swain and Mr. Hudson, and to our excellent driver for organising and conducting such an enjoyable holiday. We all express the hope that these continental holidays will continue!

R. T. White, 6A.

### DELIRIUM

**I**T is hot with a clammy heat. The bed-clothes rub my creeping flesh and I push them off. The darkness hides from my feverish eyes the hideous sight of a skin, bubbling with fermenting, green irritations.

The familiar, and somewhat grotesque, happens again. My languishing arm grows large as I gaze upon it and now recedes in a silly, pale blurr. The white orb of my unused lamp likewise enlarges, recedes, swells, passes small once more. How like the moon it gleams! Quite unconsciously I have stood shakily balancing on the bed to caress the moon. My head clumsily thumps against the moon which becomes a ball of wool — a ball of green knitting wool tying me, binding my limbs, stifling me. I scramble off the bed in haste.

I blunder to the wall — the window. A curtain, satin-cool and cooling blue, I soothe across my head and reveal the outside night. Silver and mist-hung it meditates. With a rush of yearning I struggle with the catch, fling wide the window and lean far out.

I see the grass. I feel the grass. I am the grass. The lawn draws near in invitation, lush and cool in the magic mist and so near, I can distinguish the silent blades, sleeping silverly.

An involuntary, pyjama'd leg is flung across the sill. Two weary, weak and clutching arms pull a body from a room upstairs.

Click! Dark terror! The kitchen light is switched off, its lake of light no longer spilling across the lawn. It jerks me to my senses. catapult from the window-ledge and run safe and shrieking for my mother's arms.

Marion B. Jones, 6A.

### THOUGHTS ON LEAVING PRISON

**T**REMBLING, shaking, unfettered in a new world,  
The steady tramp of steel-nailed boots fades.

Alone! Alive!

The scraping of metal against metal is lost.

Free!

The monotony of the past is gone.

Wake, eat, work, eat, sleep, wake . . .

Liberty!

The black iron gate, like a guillotine, has fallen.

How strange!

Not from light into darkness.

Out of darkness into light.

Out of sickness into health.

Out of death into life!

Life!

A strange, unknown word to me, who have so often thought on  
Death.

The hopeful city is spread before me,

A draught board, waiting for me to move.

To life, to that goal on the other side where I shall be crowned.

Crowned!

Crowned with the ultimate triumph!

Joan M. Allen, 6A.



RAT, MOLE AND TOAD



Barbara Harris, 6A.

**EDGMOND HALL JULY 1961.**

THE summer visit to Edgmond Hall was in some respects different from previous Biology Group visits; the party was composed of pupils of the Second Form, much younger than recent groups, together with a small group of bird watchers, and senior pupils. In the past most of the time had been spent locally, but for this occasion a number of coach excursions had been arranged.

The first coach excursion was arranged to Shrewsbury, with a short stop on route to see the excavations at Uriconium. The party was taken by coach around the narrow winding streets of this ancient town with its steep hills and bridges, its old town walls, the remains of its castle. Some excellent examples of half timbered houses were also seen. After a picnic lunch by the riverside, the party split up into small groups to explore the town.

On Saturday the group attended Newport Show, which is typical of the annual show to be found in most country towns. There was a gymkhana, dog show, rodeo, and numerous side shows, 'bingo' giving a touch of modernity to this old occasion.

On Sunday morning the whole party attended Church, and afterwards prepared for the parents' visit during the afternoon. Fortunately the weather was good, and visitors were able to view the well kept grounds of the Hall and to enjoy the excellent scenery. Immediately the parents had departed the party took a long walk to Lilleshall Hill, where, after a sharp climb to the monument we were rewarded by a magnificent sunset which completed a very fine day.

On Monday an excursion was arranged to the hill, Brown Clee, which affords excellent views of the Shropshire Plain. On the outward journey a flat tyre compelled the party to debus, and to make the long descent from Coalbrookdale to Ironbridge on foot. The time taken to make the coach roadworthy again was ample for us to get a close view of the first iron bridge to be built in this country.

From Ironbridge we continued to make a short stop at Buildwas, whose ruined Abbey is an excellent example of Norman Architecture, then on to the Brown Clee via the ancient town of Much Wenlock. The views of Shropshire from the bleak summit of this peak are ample reward for the effort of scrambling up its steep sides.



Tuesday's excursion was to Caernarvon. This necessitated an early start, and not a promising one, as heavy mist shrouded the low lying countryside around Newport at the time of our setting out. Soon we were by-passing Oswestry, and here the mists lifted, and for the rest of that day we enjoyed warm sunshine. After a short stop in the town of Llangollen, now famous for its Annual International Festival, we made the steep ascent to the Horseshoe Pass for a stop to view some magnificent scenery. From this point onwards the scene was bleak, but having nonetheless a certain grandeur. We stopped for lunch by the causeway, now under construction, for the new Trewern Dam, which on completion will supply the City of Liverpool with water. From Trewern we approached Caernarvon through Barmouth and Harlech, but on the homeward journey we passed to the north of Snowdonia to Bettws-y-Coed and the Swallow Falls.

After so much coaching and scrambling the party was now ready to spend a day locally, and we were exceptionally fortunate in having a conducted tour of Harper Adams Agricultural College by the Vice-Principal, Dr. G. Temperton, D.Sc., who gave an informal but stimulating account of the genetics of species of duck, geese and game fowl kept at the Research Institute. Then followed a systematic tour from the egg laying batteries, to the incubators, the method of sexing the recently hatched chicks, through the stages of growth, until finally we were shown the cellophane wrapped oven-ready product. To complete the tour we were shown the variety of housing, deep litter, battery, cafeteria battery, and insulated houses, where the various types of flooring are still in the research stage.

The final coach excursion on Thursday was to Market Drayton. During the morning and early afternoon we watched the assembly of stock at the open market, and later the auctions.

We offer our sincere thanks to Mr. E. G. Swain who organised this visit to Edgmond Hall and to Mr. and Mrs. Sorrill for their hospitality, and for their very personal interest in each member of the party.

T.B.J. Hughes.

**GENTLE CAESAR**

**C**AESAR was a Roman, hated for his might,  
Hard, cruel, callous, caring for nought but power.  
Yet this was not god, but man who once had gentle been,  
Who loved a burdened people,  
And longed to show them beauty, peace,  
To lead an empire 'till it was loved and worshipped.  
Yet, in his effort he forgot his first intent.  
O, gentle Caesar, where art thou?  
Art thou fled to the soft, purple shadows of thy land?  
From Britain's cold, dark crags, so like the outward man,  
Who became a hard dictator using all his cruel strength,  
Breaking backs of burdened people,  
To conquer all for conquering's sake.  
O, Caesar, where is the noble truth for which you fought?  
Here in an alien land? Hated and battleworn,  
Dost thou think of sparkling fountains and bird's sweet song?  
Thoughts so sweet could move a man to tears.  
Was it so with Caesar?  
Or was he as the Romans thought?  
A hollow shell whose lust for power had swallowed former gentleness.  
O, Caesar, thou once freed a people from oppression  
Yet thou art now their oppressor. They rise against thee  
And thou fallest, a dictator, beneath a dictator's statue.  
Even as thou murdered, art thou murdered  
By the people the gentle Caesar loved.

Ann Draper, 5G.

**COMPLIANCE**

**S**MALL pool, in gleaming rocks and white, receive  
The wind in humbleness. Dull miniature,  
Resign thy self to spill at ev'ry gust  
Unsullenly! thy dappled face enmeshed  
With dragging roughness from an off-shore breeze.  
Thy own calm mood resentful is of force,  
Compulsion and careering haste. But then,  
The grey and heavy seas lethargic sweep  
The shore, obedient to the wind's behest  
Forbearing now, in coastal confines shut;  
Tomorrow chopped and split in tempest dread.  
For water's will is weak. Small pool, take heed,  
Thy mind is not thine own, complying learn  
What strength thou hast when flowing with the sea.

Marion B. Jones, 6A.



**SEMAINE CULTURELLE, PARIS, 1961.**

**D**URING the Easter holidays, a large party of sixth-formers, among them several from Oldbury, visited the Lycée Lakanal at Sceaux, a suburb of Paris, to take part in a 'Semaine Culturelle' under the auspices of the Anglo-French Society of Birmingham. The purpose of the visit was to enable us to obtain a deeper insight into French language and literature, and at the same time, to provide a most enjoyable and instructive holiday.

Early one cold Monday in March, a large company of excited seniors from several grammar schools in the Birmingham area boarded the London-bound train at Snow Hill station, and after changing trains in London, soon arrived in Folkestone. For many of us, this was our first visit abroad, and we began mentally polishing up our French grammar as we watched the English coast recede into the distance. Night was falling as we reached the French coast, and we travelled through the night by train to Paris, catching our first glimpses of the city, with the jet-black waters of the Seine, and the tall dark tracery of the Eiffel Tower as we rode through on our way to the Lycée, which we reached at about midnight.

The next morning, classes began, these occupied the whole of the mornings, from 8.45, until 12.30. We started each day with fifteen minutes of phonetics and pronunciation, on such sentences as: "Le train de treize heures trente entre en Gare de Troyes avec quatre minutes de retard," and similar tongue-twisting trifles. These were followed by lectures in French by the staff of the Lycée on our examination set books, together with conversation and competitions for essay writing and translation.

After lunch each day, excursions were arranged from the Lycée, and on our first afternoon a coach tour of the city was arranged, and we visited the tomb of Napoleon in the Hotel Des Invalides, and the beautiful white church of the Sacré Coeur on the hill of Montmartre. On the following afternoon, we ascended the Eiffel Tower, and it was with some slight feeling of anxiety that we viewed the earth beneath us dropping away at an alarming rate. Leaning over the safety-rail at the top, we saw the whole of Paris beneath us, with the Champs Elysées, the Arc de Triomphe, and the other "sights" clearly visible, the Seine winding between them like a silver thread. After taking many photographs, we decided to dispense with the lift, and we walked down the iron spiral stairway in a futile endeavour to count the steps, a traditional if somewhat exhausting pastime.

The next afternoon was rather a contrast, since we embarked on a most interesting river trip along the Seine "under the bridges of Paris", with a running commentary included, which

enabled us to recognise many of the famous buildings of the city from a different angle. The next day we visited the Louvre, with its innumerable paintings and sculptures, including the famous "Venus de Milo", and Leonardo da Vinci's immortal "Mona Liza". We followed this by visiting the Impressionist gallery, and seeing the works of Van Gogh, Gauguin, Monet, and many others. It was a great thrill to closely examine the canvases and to see the original brush-strokes in relief, exactly as they were painted by the artist. This was especially so with the self-portraits by Van Gogh.

The most imposing building we visited was undoubtedly the palace of Versailles, the monument to Louis XIV, "le roi soleil." We visited the Hall of Mirrors, and also Marie Antoinette's "English Garden", and managed to walk around a large part of the grounds. The size of the palace is quite breathtaking, and yet over all there is a forlorn and dejected air, as if the palace is still mourning its creator. Quite different is the palace of Fontainebleau, where we spent a whole day. It is set deep in the heart of the forest, and is the traditional home of the French kings, with its magnificent tapestries and veneered floors and ceilings, quite unlike anything found in England. For me, the most interesting exhibit was "Le chapeau de Napoléon" — his famous tricorne hat, with the thumb marks still visible on the brim.

The day after this, a visit was made to the Conciergerie in which are many interesting if rather gruesome relics of the French Revolution. It was here that the prisoners were kept, prior to being taken in the tumbrils over the Pont Neuf to the guillotine. We were shown the cell which was occupied by Marie Antoinette, and also her memorial and the warrant for her execution.

The highlight of our stay was a visit to a performance of Racine's "Britannicus" by the Comédie Française at the Palais Royal. We were enthralled by the acting and dialogues, which were excellent, and also by the very tense atmosphere among the audience, as befitted a tragedy.

On the last day came the "Distribution des Prix", and it was found that two of the Oldbury pupils had won prizes. Afterwards, as is the custom, each prize-winner was allowed to celebrate his or her success in champagne. (If done at Oldbury, this might well achieve startling results among the more lethargic pupils!)

Like most good things, our visit ended all too quickly, and we returned to England with its left-handed traffic, and curious currency system. Thanks to the devoted work of the organisers both in Birmingham and in France, we left the Lycée Lakanal feeling much more at ease over our French Grammar than before, and with many happy memories of a most enjoyable holiday.

J.N.Gosling.



## GUIDE COMPANY ACTIVITIES 1960-61

*Captain:* MISS F. D. TWEEDIE.

*Lieutenants:* MISS B. PINE AND MISS M. COXIL.

*Cadets:* NINA ROGERS, JANET SOMERS, SYLVIA BROWN, JENNET BEACH, NORA REYNOLDS, CHRISTINE GREGORY, ANGELA DOWNS, DIANA HOLTOM and CHLOE DANIELS.

*Patrol Leaders:* *Daffodil:* JANET RANDELL; *Clover:* JOAN PLIMLEY; *Bullfinch:* SANDRA HADLEY; *Chaffinch:* PAMELA DOWNING; *Kingfisher:* YVETTE SMITH; *Hawthorn:* BARBARA CHILD; *Orchid:* LYNNETTE DANIELS.

ONCE again the school guide and cadet companies met regularly. As usual we began the year with a bumper number of new recruits, who were enrolled in November. The first event of the year was the Birmingham County senior branch swimming gala, in which we were placed second, half of a point behind the winners. In October nineteen guides and five cadets attended the Silver Jubilee of Oldbury Borough parade, and the cadets and four guides attended the senior branch parade in Birmingham. In November we were well represented at the armistice parade.

On the first Friday in December, we held our sale, for which every guide had been preparing for many weeks. The sale was a great success, proceeds from it being used mainly for camp. This year we purchased four new bell tents, and hired a marque, which together cost almost £100. This year we are holding our sale on December 1st, and we hope all will come and help us to rebuild our depleted company funds.

The cadets attended the District Christmas carol service, and also spent two nights carol singing in aid of their favourite charity, the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, for which they raised ten guineas. During the year the cadets had three reunions with ex-cadets one in the form of a week at Castleton Youth Hostel, and two visits to the repertory theatre, to see 'Rashomon' and 'The Love of Four Colonels'.

During the summer term, the District Swimming and Athletics shields were returned, competed for, and yet again retained. We were well represented at both the Mayor's Sunday, and Edgbaston Division parades. Eagerly anticipated as usual was our annual camp at Beer, South Devon. Although the wet and windy weather provided us with several exciting if precarious situations, the camp was enjoyed by all who attended.

Thus ended another year of varied and enjoyable guide activities, for which once again I am sure that all the guides and my fellow cadets will join in thanking Miss Tweedie and our other guiders.

Janet M. Somers, 6A.





**TENNIS**

**T**HE tennis team had a very successful season. Of the seven matches, five were won, one was drawn and one was lost. Members of the team were: Christine Haines (Captain), Susan Cutter, Irene Abell, Josephine Layton, Margaret Comely, Janet Picken and Susan Bates, the last three being awarded tennis colours. Judith Rollason also played.

In the Senior House Matches Queens took first place, winning all three of their matches and in the Junior House Matches Kings was first. A Tennis Tournament was held: Susan Cutter became this year's Singles' Champion, and Susan Cutter and Judith Rollason were the Doubles' Champions.

Irene Abell, 6A.

**GIRLS' ATHLETIC SPORTS 1961****HIGH JUMP**

- 11 & 12 yrs. 1, J. Wiseman (Q) (4'5"); 2, D. Rasmussen (K);  
3, M. Heath (K) and J. Nicholls (S).
- 13 & 14 yrs. 1, P. Wilkins (K) (4'4"); 2, D. Birch (S); 3, J.  
Hughes (S).
- 15 yrs. 1, S. Hadley (T) (4'4"); 2, G. Smith (S); 3, L.  
Ranford (S).

**LONG JUMP**

- 11 & 12 yrs. 1, J. Wiseman (Q); 2, J. Knapton (T); 3, B. Higgins  
(Q).
- 13 & 14 yrs. 1, G. Read (Q); 2, E. Wall (K); 3, J. Skitt (S).
- 15 yrs. 1, S. Taylor (K); 2, M. White (Q); 3, J. Beach (T).

**ROUNDERS BALL**

- 11 & 12 yrs. 1, J. Lucas (T); 2, L. Cole (T); 3, J. Hawley (K).
- 13 & 14 yrs. 1, J. Skitt (S); 2, S. Akers (K); 3, C. Wolwyn (Q).
- 15 yrs. 1, S. Taylor (K); 2, S. Wise (K); 3, J. Shipstone (T).

100 YARDS

- 11 yrs. 1, J. Knapton (T); 2, W. Willetts (K); 3, J. Aston (S).
- 12 yrs. 1, J. Wiseman (Q); 2, M. Franks (T); 3, B Armstrong (Q).
- 13 yrs. 1, S. Jones (K); 2, E. Wall (K); 3, J. Skitt (S).
- 14 yrs. 1, G. Read (Q); 2, S. Baker (T); 3, C. Jones (T).
- 15 yrs. 1, S. Taylor (K); 2, L. Ranford (S); 3, M. Smith (T).

220 YARDS

- 11 yrs. 1, J. Knapton (T); 2, W. Willetts (K); 3, J. Aston (S).
- 12 yrs. 1, M. Franks (T); 2, B. Armstrong (Q); 3, J. Wiseman (Q).
- 13 yrs. 1, S. Jones (K); 2, J. Skitt (S); 3, D. Wiggins (S).
- 14 yrs. 1, G. Read (Q); 2, S. Baker (T); 3, N. Smith (Q).
- 15 yrs. 1, S. Taylor (K); 2, L. Ranford (S); J. Beach (T).

100 YARDS SKIPPING

- 11 yrs. 1, J. Knapton (T); 2, W. Willetts (K); 3, J. Aston (S).
- 12 yrs. 1, M. Franks (T); 2, J. Daniels (T) 3, J. Wiseman (Q).
- 13 yrs. 1, J. Hughes (S); 2, E. Wall (K); 3, D. Wiggins (S).
- 14 yrs. 1, G. Read (Q) 2, H. Hopkins (K); 3, C. Jones (T).
- 15 yrs. 1, S. Taylor (K); 2, M. Smith (T); 3, J. Beach (T).

JUNIOR RELAY

1, Trinity; 2, Queens; 3, Kings.

INTERMEDIATE RELAY

1, Queens; 2, Trinity; 3, School.

SENIOR RELAY

1, Trinity; 2, Kings; 3, School.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Junior:** Joan Wiseman (Q) 22 points.  
Joan Knapton (T) 22 points.
- Intermediate:** Gillian Read (Q) 24 points.  
Janet Skitt (S) 14 points.
- Senior:** Stella Taylor (K) 30 points.  
Lindy Ranford (S) 10 points.

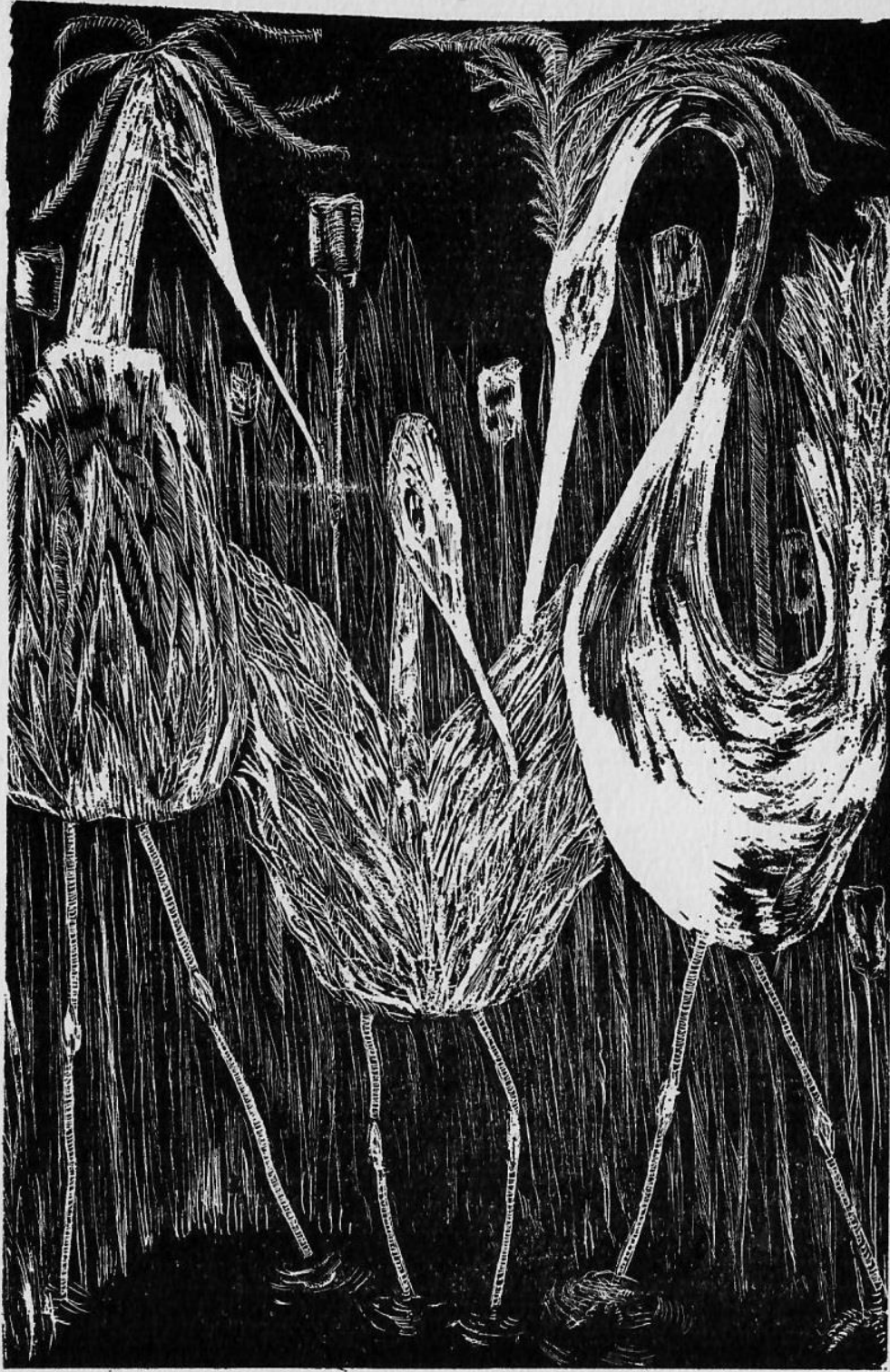
This year, for the first time in many, sports day dawned fine and warm, which probably accounts for the fact that competition was keener than ever. We must congratulate in particular, Joan Wiseman of Queen's house, who, at the age of 12, created a record with her magnificent jump of 4 feet 5 inches.

Sports day ended as usual, with the relays, which are always the highlight of the day, Trinity house winning both Junior and Senior, and Kings house the intermediate.

Janet M. Somers, 6A.



'EVOLUTION'



Roslyn Deakin, 5M.

**GIRLS' SWIMMING GALA 1961**

**ONE LENGTH — BREAST STROKE**

- 11 yrs. 1, Susan Cartledge (K); 2, Janet Aston (S); 3, Joan Knapton (T).
- 12 yrs. 1, Dianne Rasmussen (K); 2, Jane Nicholls (S); 3rd, Jennifer Norris (T).
- 13 yrs. 1, Janet Skitt (S); 2, Jacqueline Fox (Q); 3, Frances Smith (Q).
- 14 yrs. 1, Joan Willetts (K); 2, Ann Homer (S); 3, Lynette Postins (T).
- 15+ yrs. 1, Stella Taylor (K); 2, Janet Somers (T); 3, Sandra Hadley (T).

**ONE LENGTH — BACKSTROKE**

- 11 yrs. 1, Susan Cartledge (K); 2, Joan Knapton (T); 3, Wendy Willetts (K).
- 12 yrs. 1, Jane Nicholls (S); 2, Margaret Rollason (T); 3, Barbara Higgins (Q).
- 13 yrs. 1, Jacqueline Fox (Q); 2, Joyce Downing (T).
- 14 yrs. 1, Gillian Read (Q); 2, Lynette Postins (T); 3rd Delia Warwick (Q).
- 15+ yrs. 1, Maureen Grout (T); 2, Margaret Chalk (Q); 3, Janet Somers (T) and Stella Taylor (K).

**ONE LENGTH — FREESTYLE**

- 11 yrs. 1, Janet Aston (S); 2, Susan Cartledge (K); 3, Joan Knapton (T).
- 12 yrs. 1, Jane Nicholls (S); 2, Margaret Rollason (T); 3, Diane Rasmussen (K).
- 13 yrs. 1, Janet Skitt (S); 2, Joyce Downing (T); 3, Ann Mortimer (K).
- 14 yrs. 1, Delia Warrick (Q); 2, Gillian Read (Q); 3, June Huckfield (Q).
- 15+ yrs. 1, Janet Somers (T); 2, Margaret Chalk (Q); 3, Sandra Hadley (T).

**ONE WIDTH — SCULLING — INTERMEDIATE**

- 1, Lynette Postins (T); 2, Celia Jones (T); 3, Joyce Downing (T).



## SENIOR

1, Stella Taylor; 2, Janet Somers; 3, Judith Rollason.

## DIVING — JUNIOR

1, Janet Spittle (S); 2, Susan Cartledge; 3, Jane Nicholls (S).

## INTERMEDIATE

1, Lynette Postins (T); 2, Delia Warwick (S); 3, Ann Mortimer (K).

## SENIOR

1, Jennet Beach (T); 2, Janet Somers (T); 3, Alwynne Dickens (K).

## JUNIOR RELAY

1, Kings; 2, Queens; 3, School.

## INTERMEDIATE RELAY

1, Trinity; 2, Queens; 3, School.

## SENIOR RELAY

1, Trinity; 2, Kings; 3, Queens.

## HOUSEBOAT RACE

1, Trinity; 2, Kings; 3, Queens.

## CHAMPIONS

Junior: Susan Cartledge (K) 20 pts.

Runner-up: Jane Nicholls (S) 18 pts.

Intermediate: Lynette Postins (T) 18 pts.

Runners-up: Janet Skitt (S) 12 pts., Delia Warwick (Q) 12 pts.

Senior: Janet Somers (T) 19 pts.

Runner-up: Stella Taylor (K) 13 pts.

## FINAL POSITIONS

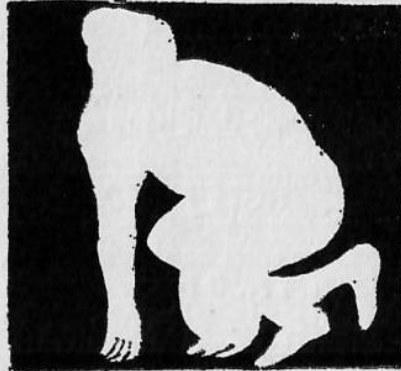
1, Trinity; 2, Queens; 3, Kings; 4, School.

Soon after the swimming gala, three of our girl champions, and two boy champions were chosen to swim for Oldbury, in the Worcestershire inter-towns swimming gala. They were:-

Delia Warwick, Lynette Postins, David Bell, Juniors.

Janet Somers, John Trickett, Seniors.

Janet M. Somers, 6A.



**BOYS' ATHLETIC SPORTS 1961**

Group A/B.—1, Fisher (S); 2, Harvey (Q); 3, Jones (S).  
Time: 12.8 secs.

Group C. — 1, Smyth (Q); 2, Gray (T); 3, Strode (T).  
Time: 12.3 secs.

Group D. — 1, Jarratt (S); 2, Clarke (Q); 3, Hingley (K).  
Time: 11.6 secs.

Group E. — 1, Harvey (S); 2, Barnsley (K); 3, Bywater (T).  
Time: 11.0 secs.

**220 YARDS**

Group A/B.—1, Jones (S); 2, Harvey (Q); 3, Johnson (Q).  
Time: 30.4 secs.

Group C. — 1, Letts (S); 2, Hutchings (Q); 3, Acutt (K).  
Time: 28.4 secs.

Group D. — 1, Withers (S); 2, Clarke (Q); 3, Jarratt (S).  
Time: 26.0 secs.

Group E. — 1, Harvey (S); 2, Harris (K); 3, Bywater (T).  
Time: 24.2 secs.

**440 YARDS**

Group C. — 1, Letts (S); 2, Frost (T); 3, Charlton (T).  
Time: 65.3 secs.

Group D. — 1, Bell (S); 2, Beighton (Q); 3, Hemming (Q).  
Time: 62.9 secs.

Group E. — 1, Russell (K); 2, Page (K); 3, Hall (T).  
Time: 56.7 secs.

**880 YARDS**

Group D. — 1, Bell (S); 2, Prideaux (S); 3, Bayliss (K).  
Time: 2 mins. 36.0 secs.

Group E. — 1, Russell (K); 2, Whitehouse (S); 3, Lewis (S).  
Time: 2 mins. 13.7 secs.

## 1 MILE

Individual — 1, Russell (K); 2, Barnsley (K); 3, Beard (Q).  
 Team — 1, Kings; 2, School; 3, Queens.

## HIGH JUMP

Group A/B — 1, Loveday (K); 2, Rock (S); 3, Jukes (K).  
 Height: 4 ft. 0 ins.  
 Group C. — 1, Frost (T); 2, Smyth (Q); 3, Lealand (K).  
 Height: 4 ft. 5 ins.  
 Group D. — 1, Bell (S); 2, Perry (S); 3, James (Q).  
 Height: 4 ft. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins.  
 Group E. — 1, Jones (T); 2, Billingham (S); 3, Robinson (S).  
 Height: 5 ft. 7 ins. New School Record.

## LONG JUMP

Group A/B.—1, Johnson (Q); 2, Peet (K); 3, Jukes (K).  
 Distance: 12 ft. 8 ins.  
 Group C. — 1, Letts (S); 2, Frost (T); 3, Baldwin (K).  
 Distance: 13 ft. 11 ins.  
 Group D. — 1, Stalker (Q); 2, Noble (T); 3, Bayliss (K).  
 Distance: 15 ft. 3 ins.  
 Group E. — 1, Downing (K); 2, Richards (Q); 3, Jones (T).  
 Distance: 17 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins.

## HOP, STEP AND JUMP

Group C. — 1, Smyth (Q); 2, Baldwin (K); 3, Jones (Q).  
 Distance: 30 ft. 2 ins.  
 Group D. — 1, Clarke (Q); 2, Jarratt (S); 3, Chambers (K).  
 Distance: 33 ft. 10 ins.  
 Group E. — 1, Jones (T); 2, Billingham (S); 3, Downing (K).  
 Distance: 36 ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins.

## JAVELIN

Group A/B.—1, Sidaway (K); 2, Howe (S); 3, Horton (Q).  
 Distance: 86 ft. 2 ins.  
 Group C. — 1, Acutt (K); 2, Hughes (S); 3, Strode (T).  
 Group D. — 1, Hicks (T); 2, Hadley (S); 3, Hemming (Q).  
 Distance: 99 ft. 0 ins.  
 Group E. — 1, Harvey (S); 2, Jackson (S); 3, Haughton (Q).  
 Distance: 131 ft. 1 in.



DISCUS

- Group C. — 1, Gray (T); 2, Howe (S); 3, Peet (K).  
Distance: 62 ft. 8 ins.  
Group D. — 1, Hemming (Q); 2, King (S); 3, Hadley (S).  
Distance: 73 ft. 0 ins.  
Group E. — 1, Page (K); 2, Trevis (S); 3, Trickett (T).  
Distance: 85 ft. 4 ins.

SHOT

- Group A/B.—1, Jones (S); 2, Howe (S); 3, Downes (Q).  
Distance: 24 ft. 8 ins.  
Group C. — 1, Lealand (K); 2, Hughes (S); 3, Gray (T).  
Distance: 30 ft. 1 in.  
Group D. — 1, Chambers (K); 2, Franks (K); 3, Stalker (Q).  
Distance: 33 ft. 10 ins.  
Group E. — 1, Page (K); 2, Chapman (Q); 3, Currier (S).  
Distance: 32 ft. 4 ins.

RELAYS

- Group A/B.—1, Kings; 2, Queens; 3, School.  
Group C. — 1, Kings; 2, School; 3, Trinity.  
Group D. — 1, School; 2, Queens; 3, Kings.  
Group E. — 1, Kings; 2, Trinity; 3, School.

Before Sports Day, a system of high and low standards enabled every boy to gain points for his House. Results in points from standards were as follows:

Kings 89; Queens 115; School 104; Trinity 95.

When the results of Sports Day itself were added, the final position in the Boys' Athletics were as follows:-

- 1st. School with 300 points.
- 2nd. Kings with 257 points.
- 3rd. Queens with 227 points.
- 4th. Trinity with 171 points.

- Junior Champion: Johnson (Q) with 29 points.  
Runner-up: Jones (S) with 25 points.  
Intermediate Champion: Bell (S) with 40 points.  
Senior Champion: Russell (K) with 35 points.  
Runner-up: Jones (T) and Harvey (S) with 33 points.

The School is delighted that Sports Day, 1961, was graced by weather, as excellent as the standard of athletic performance.

**Birmingham and District Grammar Schools Sports.**

The School was again represented this year. Standards and much useful experience were gained by our team.

A. D. W.Pardoe.

**BOYS' SWIMMING GALA**

Friday, July 18th., 1961.

**T**HIS year four records were broken and one time was equalled. This shows a high standard of swimming in the school. Next year most records will be affected because Langley Baths will then be  $33\frac{1}{3}$  yards long when work on extensions is completed.

**JUNIOR EVENTS**

- 1 length Free Style — 1, Jones (S); 2, Houghton (Q); 3, Powell (K).  
Time: 16.7 secs. (Record).
- 1 length Breast Stroke — 1, Gosling (K); 2, Smith (T); 3, Woodall (K). Time: 24.8 secs.
- 1 width Beginners — 1, Oakes (Q); 2, Hornsby (K); 3, Howe (S).  
Time: 9.4 secs (Equalled).
- 1 width Backstroke — 1, Houghton (Q); 2, Jones (S); 3, Cummins (T). Time: 9.6 secs.
- Dive — 1, Houghton (Q); 2, Wilkinson (S); 3, Meakin (K).
- Relay — 1, Kings; 2, Queens; 3, School. Time: 1.30 secs.

**INTERMEDIATE EVENTS**

- 2 lengths Free-Style — 1, Bell (S); 2, Hadley (S); 3, Handy (T).  
Time: 32.6 secs (Record).
- 2 lengths Breast Stroke — 1, Hatton (S); 2, Swallow (Q); 3, Stevenson (K). Time: 45.8 secs.
- 1 length Back Stroke — 1, Griffiths (K); 2, Hadley (S); 3, Stevenson (K). Time: 20.6 secs.
- 1 width Beginners — 1, Scott (K); 2, Tabbush (K); 3, Clarke (Q).  
Time: 9.6 secs. (Record).
- Dive — 1, Bell (S); 2, Stevenson (K); Swallow (Q).
- Relay — 1, School; 2, Kings; 3, Trinity. Time 1.10 secs (Record).

**SENIOR EVENTS**

- 2 lengths Free Style — 1, Trickett (T); 2, Page (K); 3, Smith (T).  
Time: 32.2 secs.
- 2 lengths Breast Stroke — 1, Trickett (T); 2, Walker (S); 3, Neale (S). Time: 43.9 secs.
- 2 lengths Back Stroke — 1, Smith (T); 2, Parker (Q); 3, Jordan (T).  
Time: 45.4 secs.
- Plunge — 1, Currier (S); 2, Stacey (Q); 3, Smith (T). Distance: 41 ft. 6 ins.
- Dive — 1, Trickett (T); 2, Smith (K); 3, Smith (T).
- Relay — 1, Trinity; 2, School; 3, Queens. Time: 1 min. 4.4 secs.

**CHAMPIONS**

- Junior: Houghton (Q) 16 points.  
Intermediate: Bell (S) 12 points.  
Senior: Trickett (T) 18 points.

BOYS' HOUSE RESULTS

- 1st. School 30%.  
2nd. Kings 26.89%.  
3rd. Trinity 23.49%.  
4th. Queens 19.32 %.

J. Trickett, 6A

COMPARISON

AS I sit at my desk in school  
Slaving at French and Maths.  
Learning in History of conflict and duel  
Of houses of stones and laths.  
I often think of lakes and flowers  
Of fields of hay and wheat,  
Of sun-lit days and refreshing showers  
Of rain so cool and sweet.  
Far different from the grime and dirt  
Of life in the city to-day.  
Of slag-heap, workshop, dust and mirk  
And the working of pits for the clay.

P. Gosling, 2B.

MORPHIA AND PLENANCE

RAIN, wind and snow were once again in league  
As if they had ne'er been parted  
By summer's celestial smile.  
Misty surged the air in gusts between two mounts,  
Morphia and Plenance.  
These two reared high their lofty heads  
Above a degenerate plain.  
On Morphia a glowering cormorant sat  
In craggy solace near the jagged crown  
Of his domain.  
On Plenance high, in purity, sat doves  
Dreaming in holy light; far down below  
Lush meadows gleamed.  
The cormorant tottered, wreathed in pallored death,  
To icy depths of sea,  
There to remain a frozen seal of sin,  
A due reward for terminating life,  
In peril or fear.  
Plenance, the river of life, around its base,  
Alone remained the spiral up to heaven,  
The throne of God.

Sandra Hadley, 6B.



## CRICKET 1961

*Captain:* T. B. J. HUGHES.

*Vice-Captain and Secretary:* J. I. ROUND.

### RESULTS:-

	P	W	L	D
Ist XI	9	2	2	5
2nd XI	4	2	2	0
Under 15 XI	2	0	1	1
Under 13½ XI	1	0	1	0

ALTHOUGH the results of the 1st XI matches do not depict a very successful season, the standard of play and sportsmanship deserves considerable praise. Hughes proved himself an outstanding captain and gave admirable leadership to all the young members of the team, who in turn, deserve congratulations for their hearty support throughout.

The 1st XI's batting in particular was of a very high standard. Page topped the averages, scoring 192 runs at an average of 32 runs per innings. Page also topped the bowling averages, taking 21 wickets at a cost of 10.6 runs per wicket. He was ably assisted by Bragg, Hayward and Hadley (G).

The Parents' Match this year ended in a draw. The Parents declared at 134 for 5 and in the eighty minutes remaining, the school just failed to reach this score, making 114 for 1 at the close of play. Again we extend our thanks to A. D. W. Pardoe for scoring throughout the season.

Colours were awarded to Page, Webb, Bragg, Round, and reawarded to Hughes.

The 2nd XI, captained by Hollyhead, also played some excellent matches. A notable performance was that of Jarratt who took 13 wickets for 47 runs.

Although the Under 15 XI and Under 13½ XI played only a few matches, several boys showed great promise for the future.

Intermediate representative honours were gained by Franks, Hadley (G), Hadley (J) and Jarratt who played for Oldbury, and Franks and Hadley (J) also played for the Worcestershire XI.

### HOUSE MATCH RESULTS

	P	W	L	D
Kings	3	2	1	0
Queens				
School	3	1	2	0
Trinity				

As the results show, there was keen competition between all four houses, and not until the end of the last match was the champion house decided.

Thanks must be accorded to Mr. James for his unfailing enthusiasm and guidance throughout the year and to Dr. Howard for the new extension to the cricket square which will prove a great asset for years to come.

J. I. Round, T. B. J. Hughes.

### FOOTBALL SEASON 1960-61

*Captain:* J. HALL.

*Vice-Captain:* P. DOWNING.

*Secretary:* B. BYWATER.

#### RESULTS

1st XI — Played 20; Won 8; Lost 7; Drew 5; Goals for 61; Goals against 56.

2nd XI — Played 7; Won 1; Lost 6; Drew 0; Goals for 12; Goals against 34.

U. 15 XI — Played 5; Won 1; Lost 3; Drew 1; Goals for 18; Goals against 30.

U. 13 XI — Played 5; Won 3; Lost 1; Drew 1; Goals for 21; Goals against 29.

Regular 1st XI players: Wyton, Bywater, Grigg, Hall (W), Whitehouse, Hall (J), Oakes, Downing, Harvey, Hipkins, Whitaker, Isherwood.

#### **Birmingham and District Grammar Schools' Cup.**

Round 1. Oldbury 2 West Bromich 1.

Round II. Handsworth 3 Oldbury 0.

Unfortunately only the 1st XI managed to fulfil most of their fixtures this season. Many games had to be cancelled owing to the bad weather and poor conditions.

The 1st XI were quite successful, playing well throughout the season, although they were defeated in the second round of the Birmingham and District Grammar Schools' Cup.

