

THE AVENUE

Per Ardua ad Alta

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THE AVENUE

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EDITORIAL

ON a hot Tuesday afternoon near the end of July, one could see the school at rest, lying beneath the trees of the Avenue, dotted around the field, drooping over light magazines in the quiet corners of classrooms; one could hear the mossy sound of a ball on the newly completed hard Tennis courts, and in the hazy distance the disturbing voice of an elderly lady asking the way to the woodwork exhibits. Walden was full of visitors who were enjoying the fruits of months of hard work and rehearsal on the part of the staff and scholars. They picked up the more interesting shreds of school history, they saw the achievements of all the school's departments, the exhibitions, the pageant, the School at work and play. Walden certainly put out its best in 1952, for every aspect of school life was represented in some small way.

In this special edition of the School magazine we have attempted to throw light on every detail in order to provide both a record for posterity and a reminder to all who were present of a great occasion. We hope that they will read it with a certain amount of pride.

INTER ALIA

DURING May two parties, one of boys and the other mixed, went to Fenner's ground, Cambridge, to watch cricket and athletics.

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This term saw two visits from the B.B.C. The first, a surprise visit during school breakfast, was to form part of a Quaker broadcast for use in America in connection with the Tercentenary celebrations. The second, also in connection with the anniversary, was used in the Quaker service on Sunday, 10th August.

The Old Scholars' Whitsun weekend contained all the usual activities as well as various additions because of the 250th Anniversary. Among these were Pete Peverett's Amphibious Veterans and a Victorian cricket match. Owing to rain the Edwardian tennis was cancelled.

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The school held its own private celebration on Friday, 11th July—a whole day's holiday. Staff valiantly organised treasure hunts, cricket, tennis and swimming. A bonfire which had been arranged was postponed until the end of term because of the rain. We also had an excellent tea.

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We should like to congratulate James Dutton on gaining a first leaving scholarship and a County Major award; Jean Strachan on gaining a second leaving scholarship and a County Major award; Christine Brown on gaining a second leaving scholarship and a place at the Royal Academy of Music; David Matthews on gaining a second leaving scholarship; Diana Jones on gaining a County Major award; and Manfred Ziegler on gaining a second leaving scholarship and a County Major award.

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We are very pleased to welcome three new members of staff: Miss Hall who takes Mr Small's place for English, Miss Noyce who teaches the 'cello and piano, and Miss Titleboam, who teaches in the lower part of the school.

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The weekend visitors whom we have heard during the last two terms have included Edgar Dunstan, Lucy Burtt, Geoffrey and Mary Nuttall, John Hoyland, and two African and two French teachers.

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Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Rogers on the birth of their daughter, Alexis, and to Mr and Mrs Wright on the birth of Allan.

"THE GATEWAY OF THE PAST"

JUST before I went to the Assembly Hall to see *The Gateway of the Past* John Wilson met me with serious eyes and a command from Mr Mummery that *The Avenue* was expecting from my pencil that string of comments called an "article" on the pageant. It is important to say that I had with me two boys, of 8 and 11 years, who were doomed to sit out, say two and a half hours, and overstay their usual bedtime. We were given seats of importance, dangerously near the floodlights, and we were warned, while the kettle drum was being tuned, not on any account to touch the floodlight near to us.

Then the daylight was turned off, the choir filed in, praising famous men in the music of Dr Rubbra, and we were launched on an evening of entire self-forgetfulness.

Were John and Jane acting their parts? Was all that talk written down for them? or didn't they *know* that their library lacked a fourth wall? Here was our first glimpse of the producers' really astonishing success, an accomplishment that never wavered through the whole play; not merely placing, lighting, grouping, costume were well thought out and realised, but the inflexions of voice, the inward realities of the persons, the detail and finish of the actors were really wonderfully attended to, and equally wonderfully memorised by the cast. If one of Drama's tasks is to seem to be real, to make the mind of an actor fit his character and costume, I have never seen it done better. A pity, perhaps, though trivial, that John Bellers' picture was so obviously a makeshift—my first sight of it told me it was a door, and what I must expect. So the appearance there of real John Bellers failed in its tiny surprise. The real picture was very good and his voice clear and his sentiments weighty.

Here I think it wise to warn my readers that this article may turn out to be a panegyric. If the producers are to get full marks, you ask, what about the others—the playwright, the chorus, the lighting engineers? Full marks, all of them. My two boys hardly flagged in their interest, nor ever once yawned at being deprived of their sleep, and I feel that this—miracle, was it?—was chiefly wrought by Reginald Reynolds; and I must spare at least a line or two to say so. How, given a lot of old minute books, copybooks, earnestness, and dusty but parochial history—how turn it into an enthralling drama, an inspiring drama; or how make of a thing of no high-lights and no "dramatic" possibilities a mind-fastening pageant? I don't know how it was done—except by hard work, and sincerity—but Reginald Reynolds did it. I don't complain when I point out that it lacked profundity, and moments of poetry (except, for me, Joseph Bridges' immediate curiosity about and instant affection for Scipio; and Mary Binks's conflict between loving sympathy and her duty to Duty). I don't complain, I say; for Dr Rubbra and the choir under Richard Sturge (and with José Pogson's voice) provided the poetry.

One small incident claims chief memorableness in my mind, and here the producers' great contribution should get full credit—this was the entry and the brief interview of the new arrivals, Joseph and Mary Bridges. I loved their costumes, their childish shyness, their stature, their reluctance; three or four minutes must have been all they had before us, but they were not the children they are in real school, they were two children *portrayed* by a well trained art, beautifully realised.

I suppose it was inevitable that towards the end, in the time of the present, we felt we were receiving prospectus propaganda rather more than was good for the play. The everydayishness of Jane and John during the first three-quarters of the play (with its contrasts with costume and character-acting) was always enjoyable, but the last scene overdid the everydayishness, the old Old Scholar, with his not so very startling memories, was a bit of a bore. Of course they *are* (don't let them hear this); and perhaps the exactness of the copy from real life was meant to be producer's realism. But, in Jane Austen's *Emma,* Miss Bates, the most colossal old bore, is, by just the right balance between humour and realism, entrancing as art. Old Scholar was not entrancing enough.

I think that William Townsend, that "ancient Friend" in inverted commas, intruded into the play in the same way. Was he farce or was he realism? He acted well, but he obviously *acted.* Now Richard and Sarah Hutton (especially Sarah) did not seem to do so. The Waiters did; Joseph Radley did not.

The evening ended with the four of us entering an "ancient Train" (in inverted commas) at that Gateway of the Past, Saffron Walden Station. It was a little diversion (like the Waiters in the pageant), and there chanced to be a sunset of deep beauty and grandeur, like the Motets that opened the two Parts. My mind, in spite of the incidents of travel, ran on about the evening repeatedly, with much thankfulness to the people who had contrived so much lively beauty for us to take delight in, and had set before us, to remind us, James Nayler's words when he was most inspired; and the Beatitudes.

FRANK KENDON

DOCTOR RUBBRA'S MUSIC

AMONG all the changes and developments recorded in *The Gateway of the Past,* one seems to have passed almost unnoticed. A distinguished living composer had been commissioned to write music for the school pageant. Thirty years ago—nay, twenty even—such a proceeding would have been unthinkable at Saffron Walden, or anywhere else.

It is now nearly three hundred years since Purcell wrote *Dido and Aeneas* for a ladies' seminary. Throughout the century which followed, composers of the highest rank and undisputed genius won their daily bread fulfilling commissions of one kind and another. It was expected that a festive occasion should be enlivened by the music of a contemporary. Those who lived at the time of Haydn and Mozart never played Purcell: they played Hadyn and Mozart. Even Bach was forgotten.

There followed the nineteenth century, age of the romantic composer and the publisher. Music was a holy of holies, locked within

the soul of genius. Genius himself lived in a garret or a castle, or some equally sensational place, and wrote music that astonished his contemporaries. He himself grew more and more megalomaniac and his publisher more and more rich. As for making himself understood or writing down to the common level of his contemporaries—that was quite out of the question. The musician laureate alone—known in this country as the Master of the King's Musick—wrote occasional pieces. These generally coincided with the marriage and coronations of sovereigns and pretty dull pieces they were.

But between the last two wars the shocking idea had become generally accepted that the composer was a socially responsible human being, capable of earning his living like anyone else, and having a job to do. Benjamin Britten set the post office to music, and Honiggen a railway engine. Operas were written about living people, and the kind of music that had been making old gentlemen write to *The Times*, almost without being noticed had become the accepted idiom of the day. All this happened outside while the Friends' School settled down at Saffron Walden. And now the wheel has come full circle—an honour to those responsible.

For one thing we can be grateful—that Rubbra approached his task with a more than laureate inspiration. This composer's skill in choral writing made him a happy choice. One was particularly impressed with his rhythmic treatment of words as for example in the Beatitudes sung behind the setting of James Nayler's *There is a spirit*. In performance this Motet was somewhat blurred by a disadvantageous placing of the soprano soloist, though this may have been occasioned by other technical considerations. One would also have welcomed a somewhat more liquid legato from the soprano line, so as to have contrasted more dramatically with the articulation of the choir.

The opening Motet *Let us now praise famous men* was accompanied by a solo drum—a very telling stroke. After a first hearing and without access to the score one particularly remembered the passage beginning: "And some there be which have no memorial" where the fanfares gave way to quiet elegant choral writing.

Of the last Motet *Except the Lord build the house* Rubbra builds—as his forbears in music Bach and Beethoven before him—on the fugue. This piece proved somewhat more difficult for the singers, and perhaps the composer might have helped his young interpreters by some sort of pedal anchorage. Nevertheless, its dramatic effect was fully realised by the choir, who together with Mr Richard Sturge, their conductor, rose to their responsibilities magnificently throughout the evening.

G. BARKER (Assistant Conductor
of the London Philharmonic Choir)

DAVID W. BOLAM. "UNBROKEN COMMUNITY": The Story of the Friends' School, Saffron Walden, 1702-1952
184 pages illus. (Friends' School, Saffron Walden, 1952)

THE author divides the history of the School into three parts, regarding the first 109 years as "an experiment in compassion." The School began as the only cutting that took root from Bellers' proposal in 1695 for a country-wide system of "colleges of industry" —philanthropy with dividends. After difficult days of financial stringency and the querulousness of the "ancient friends," the School received some substantial legacies which enabled it to give its scholars a better start in apprentice life. Learning, regarded by Bellers as a "varnish," became the acknowledged centre of the School curriculum after 1799, and by 1811 the School aimed to do for needy Friends in the South what Ackworth was doing in the North.

The Croydon period of the School's history (1825-79) was one of slow growth, but it shows in the appearance of School magazines the scholar coming more into the centre of the picture. The author admirably illustrates the passionate desire for self-improvement in this age of Samuel Smiles. The 1870's, which witnessed a great change in national education, were formative years in the life of the School: they saw the beginnings of external inspection and the move to Walden, which gave greater independence to the Master. The author then traces the coming of co-education, the beginning of co-operation with the Essex County Council, the growth of a Sixth Form, and the rapid increase of a day-scholar population, now numbering nearly one-third of the School.

The School's historian was fortunate in having a complete set of Committee Minute Books as sources for his story, but unfortunate in that minutes record decisions and not discussions. Large issues, like the decision to admit non-Friends (1873) or to start co-education (1910), take no more ink than a Minute on the supply of mop yarn. It is thus a great tribute to the skill of David Bolam that he has made these dry bones live in a narrative that is always entertaining, sometimes gripping, and throughout rich in living portraits.

The author appears happiest in dealing with the eighteenth century and least happy in dealing with the twentieth. Perhaps it is that the plethora of material makes the final chapters read more like a newspaper than a book. Here, too, the author's penchant for short sentences becomes oppressive. Finally, it is impossible not to regret that the author did not follow conventional (or at least consistent) practice about the writing in full of certain numerals.

These, however, are minor criticisms and we can say unhesitatingly that here is a book which every Old Scholar should not merely read but should possess.

C.A.M.

THE HARD COURTS

THREE hard tennis courts have been constructed on the ground between the Avenue and the field as a permanent memento of the 250th anniversary. The money was contributed by parents of scholars, Old Scholars, friends of the School, and by present scholars themselves who worked valiantly at the difficult task of raising money. The final total achieved by the School was £52 7s. 5½d. The individual form totals were as follows:

Form VI, £7 5s. 8d.; V, £10 18s. 3d.; IV a and b, £10 16s. 8d.; IIIa, £3 0s. 0d.; IIIb, £12 0s. 0d.; IIa, 5s. 0d.; IIb, £1 6s. 1½d.; Ia, £3 13s. 9d.; Ib, £3 2s. 0d.

Contributors were so generous that it has been possible to have one more court than was originally intended.

The courts were officially opened on Saturday, 20th July, with an exhibition of tennis following a speech by the Headmaster. The players in the mixed doubles were Edwin Small and Deborah Welsh v. Jean Bostock and Ivor Nicholl, and Edwin Small and G. Raynor v. Ivor Nicholl and H. Leitrey. in the men's doubles.

These courts are a very useful addition to the amenities of the school, making the number of tennis courts up to eight. It is to be hoped that the opportunity to practise throughout the winter will improve the standard of school tennis.

250th ANNIVERSARY CAKE

THE idea originated with Miss Goddard, Domestic Science mistress, but was put into practice by the Vth form Domestic Science class. The majority of the fruit was kindly given by friends and parents of girls throughout the School.

The mixture was baked in three rectangular shapes and then cut into the figures 2, 5 and 0. It was next covered with almond paste, flat iced and decorated with a design by Heather Wright and Ann Wickenden. This included over four hundred flowers made by the form.

We were very grateful to Christopher Wood for doing some excellent lettering in connection with the exhibition of the cake at Croydon House.

Finally, after the birthday celebrations, the cake was cut into three hundred and eighteen pieces, and distributed to everyone in the school.

Janet Smith, Jane Goodrich, Form V.

THE SCHOOL'S BIRTHDAY

THE Friends' School recently celebrated its 250th Birthday on Friday, 11th July, 1952. The School as a whole had a day's holiday.

In the morning games were held for the lower part of the school, while a cricket match was in progress: the champion house versus the rest. The Senior treasure hunt also took place. After that finished there was a bathe. Then after dinner, the first and second forms had to rest on the field with their rugs, while at 3 o'clock there was the Junior treasure hunt. At 6 o'clock we had a birthday tea, thanks to the kitchen, and after tea there was an entertainment —a conjuror, and I think that everyone enjoyed him very much. Last of all, to finish with, there should have been a bonfire and fireworks, but the rain cancelled that out. On the whole, however, the weather was fair, and the whole day was thoroughly enjoyable.

David Pennells, Form III

THE EXHIBITIONS

OVER a thousand visitors came to take part in the Birthday Celebrations. Some were parents or Old Scholars who knew the School well: others were seeing it for the first time. Some were Friends from abroad who had not previously seen an English school. How could we best help them to find out as much as possible during their short visit? When plans were being made in the early part of the year, the staff found that they had plenty of material and many interesting ideas. But how many rooms could be emptied of classes for nearly a week—when normally all rooms are required every day? Space had to be rationed. Exhibits had to be of unusual interest or merit to gain a place.

Miss Chedd and Mr Rogers arranged to share a room for Art and Woodwork. Miss Goddard gave up one of her teaching rooms for Cookery, Needlework and Crafts. Mr Thomas decided to show work in progress, so that lessons could continue.

The manuscripts selected for display in the Library were chosen to illustrate incidents and references in *The Gateway of the Past* and also to give some idea of the many original records used by Reginald Reynolds and David Bolam. Past and present were contrasted in Room X where the visitor could see how the school curriculum has widened, and how music and drama have become recognised as right and important; Old Scholars could find photographs of their contemporaries and parents could study the stages and details of a typical school career. A world map and a collection

of envelopes from abroad gaily and effectively illustrated some of the school's international contacts.

Our thanks go to all who made or lent articles for exhibition and to those who spent many hours in arranging them. We now want to collect photographs of the 1952 Celebrations to be placed in the archives cupboard for the interest and possibly the amusement of our successors in 2002.

J.E.

CO-EDUCATION

Some comments in 1910

"THE beginning of this term has been the most interesting of any for at least twenty years."

"Co-education, to a person, who has been used to being educated with persons of his own sect for four or five years, makes him at first a little shy. It is to this person bad enough to be taught with girls, and to have to answer in front of them, but when he is put straight off in between two of them, he thinks it is going a little too far."

"The masters are much nicer to the girls than they are to the boys, and do not ask them questions which they think they cannot answer."

"Co-education saves trouble for some teachers and 'tis quicker and takes up less room."

"Co-education teaches them manners, and also potleleness same as not to push, and the girls are not to get over the backs of the forms but to make the boys get out for them! I say (and a good many people say the same) that it is a very good idea to mex the girls and boys. They get on in class much better together. For it teaches them how to rule straight margins and no blots and no smudges."

IMPRESSIONS, 1952

WHEN contemplating a trip of a distance of over 3,000 miles to another country, one might expect a sudden change of surroundings even though the same language is spoken in both countries. It was therefore an extremely pleasant surprise when I arrived in England and joined the community of Friends' School on landing, to discover that the bond which Friends hold for each other individually can extend equally sincerely and powerfully to those who have lived and believed so many thousands of miles away.

It is this bond that makes it difficult to write of "impressions" of Friends' School, Saffron Walden, for "impressions" entail an objective point of view; an attitude which is very difficult to maintain in a community in which one feels so entirely "at home."

The comparisons which might be made between F.S.S.W. and Westtown Friends' School would and could only be superficial. Concerning most of the aspects of the schools there is only a difference in system, or in some cases, emphasis. Academically, the schools are very similar, with that part of education the central one. Music is emphasised more at F.S.S.W. and the study of one instrument is compulsory in the first form. This has been extremely successful in producing fine orchestras and excellent choirs, not to mention several budding musicians who might otherwise have remained unrecognised. Compared with F.S.S.W., Westtown develops more interest in sports, and where the first former (girls' side) is playing rounders and working for her athletic standard, the equivalent third class-man in Westtown is already playing a fair game of hockey, lacrosse and tennis, with a never-ending hope of making one of the Varsity teams and playing in our extensive interscholastic competitions. The interest in dramatics is equally keen in both schools and the annual Alumni Day Shakespeare play is a great event in a Westtownian's school life.

However, the basic influence of the Society of Friends reaches each and every student of both schools and they can leave F.S.S.W. and Westtown with the knowledge that they have obtained an invaluable education, for they will have a future founded upon a rock.

DEBORAH WELSH

CROYDON & SAFFRON WALDEN, 1869-87

THIS edition of *The Avenue* being one of celebrations and memories, the editorial board thought that it might be interesting to print some first-hand accounts of life during the last years at Croydon and the first at Saffron Walden. To this end, four Old Scholars, Edith Eagle, who was at Croydon from 1869-75, Constance Christy, at Croydon from 1873-77, and James and Jessie Watts (née Rawlings), who were both here during the first few years at Saffron Walden, were invited to write some of their impressions and memories for *The Avenue.* Below are printed extracts from their letters (for which we are very grateful), giving some kind of idea of the daily life of the School, about eighty years ago.

CROYDON

THE School was situated in Park Lane, Croydon, and the tall iron entrance gates looked very forbidding to newcomers who had to ring the bell and wait outside until an answer came from the House, on one side of which was the Boys' wing and on the other that of the Girls'.

Behind the house was a large lawn where the Brothers and Sisters used to meet once or twice a week to talk and walk round and round. The boys' and girls' playgrounds were on either side.

The schoolrooms were the full width of the building with tall fine windows at either end. The playroom was next to the schoolroom, two steps down. It had a springboard at one end and shelves all round to take our playboxes. There was little comfort anywhere.

The Domestic Training of the School was very good and well organised on a weekly rotation system. We rose at 6.30 a.m. and made our own beds.

Two senior and two junior girls were detailed for first week, sweeping and dusting the schoolrooms and lighting the fires.

On the second week the team did Dining Room duty, laying the tables and helping with the serving. At breakfast we had a large bowl of milk and a piece of bread—no sugar. The Linney (Superintendent) children had porridge and treacle. I do not remember about the dinner, but at tea we had a mug of milk and bread and butter. For supper there were chunks of bread for those who wanted them.

On the third week the team went up to the bedrooms and washroom. On the fourth week the two senior girls were trained in parlour maids' duties and waited at dinner on Mr and Mrs Linney and the masters and mistresses in the central house. It *was* an ordeal.

Mr and Mrs Linney occasionally invited a party of pupils to tea and I remember I was much hurt by being greeted by Mr Linney by the words "Ill weeds grow apace" at which Mrs Linney, who was very loveable, said "Do not mind what he said, my dear, he did not mean it."

We had no organised games in my time, except skipping with a long rope swung by two girls when five or six could skip together. Later Hockey was introduced for which we used thornwood sticks.

We wore bonnets with strings which were later changed for sailor hats. Our crocodile walks were generally to Crohamhurst, where we disbanded and if lucky found specimens of Pasque anemones.

On Sunday and Wednesday mornings we went to Meeting and in the evenings we had reading, when passages and verses learnt from the Bible during the week were recited aloud by some of the girls. I have a vague recollection of hearing "Pilgrim's Progress" read to us.

CONSTANCE CHRISTY

THE day began 6 a.m. in Summer, later in Winter. First thing was a rush to the "washroom" to get an early bowl (ten bowls for forty girls), strip to the waist and have a cold wash, teacher on duty to see it was right and truly done and teeth cleaned.

Scripture reading (individual) and lessons before breakfast 7.30; School 9—12.30 with a quarter of an hour recess at 11; Dinner 12.45; School 2—4.30; Tea 5.45; Bed at 8. Times between school and meals were our own for learning lessons or any occupation we had on hand.

Food was plain but plentiful. Playroom and playground were fairly well equipped with see-saws, jumping board, Russian slide and giant-stride. Running games, skipping, balls, etc.

Clothing had to be plain and according to lists sent to our parents who had to replace anything worn out during the half year.

Two afternoon walks, mostly to woods where we were allowed to separate and pick and gather flowers and mosses also blackberries in season, and we were called back by "coo-ee" when time was up.

On Sunday afternoon, the whole school gathered for Reading or an address by any visiting Friend. Parents could visit monthly on Saturday afternoons and take us out, and one day in the middle of the half-yearly term we could go home for the day if we were fetched or could join others going the same way.

The Shrubberies and Kitchen-gardens were places out-of-bounds to scholars except when ripe gooseberries were plentiful, when we were turned loose to pick and eat, five minutes for girls and three for boys.

EDITH EAGLE

SAFFRON WALDEN

MY first impressions of Saffron Walden were not at all favourable. I missed the old Georgian House at Croydon, with its comfortable rooms and lovely sunk lawn at the back, where the boys and girls, who were brother and sister could meet at their respective garden gates and walk round together. Saffron Walden when we were there in 1879 was very like Bleak House, cold and cheerless.

Stone passages, doors banging and I think a fire in winter in the 2nd classroom.

George Linney was "super" in those days and Arthur Williams the 1st class master, affectionately known as "Daddy." There were only 80 boys, I think, in the school and 60 girls.

I was in both football and cricket elevens and had many enjoyable outings to Newport Grammar School and Cambridge and later played against the Old Scholars. These outings were generally associated with good meals at "top table." On Committee days, I think, we had cake and coffee for supper as a special treat.

I remember in frosty weather going skating at Roos Farm and crossing ploughed fields to get there: sometimes the lower asphalt would be flooded too. The Avenue was nothing like it is today.

Do boys ever have beanfeasts in their bedrooms? We did in No. 1. I forget now what happened afterwards! Our food consisted largely of bread and milk. Sunday and Thursday butter, Monday dripping, Tuesday and Friday cheese, Saturday jam. When I say "bread," I mean chunks of bread.

JAMES WATTS

LIFE at F.S.S.W. was very austere at the time I entered, only four years after the removal from Croydon in the old established buildings where generations of Quaker children had been educated, my Parents included, to the spacious new building on the Hill above the town, where one felt every wind that blew. The rooms were airy with large windows, and the staircase and corridors of stone.

Although the school consisted of both boys and girls, they were kept strictly apart, the boys in one wing, the girls in the other with the central part of dining room and lecture hall between shut off by doors always kept closed.

Meals were partaken in the one dining room, boys one side and girls the other with a "Top Table" for Heads and teachers, with the ancient large-faced clock watching over all in the gallery at one end, and the shutter communicating with the kitchens.

The boys' playing-field lay on the far side of their playground, but was only used for matches and divided off by a fence. There was only one tennis court, on the girls' asphalt, another being added later beyond the girls' playground, on grass.

We rose at 6 a.m. in summer and 6.45 in winter, with fifteen minutes silent Bible reading before breakfast at 7.30 consisting of chunks of bread (no butter) and hot milk in basins, with porridge sufficient for about half the number so that we had to take it in turns alternate mornings. The Headmaster read a passage from the Bible at the end of breakfast. The time between that and 9 o'clock

school was spent in making our beds and cleaning our boots, with blacking mixed with water in a large bowl and no pads for polishing, only brushes, and a run-out or a walk on the lawn for brothers and sisters. There was a short recess mid-morning when we could take a small chunk of dry bread from a basket as we filed out. We had half-an-hour to ourselves between lessons and dinner and again between end of afternoon school and tea, and out-of-door games until 3 p.m. school. Most of the afternoons of the girls were devoted to needlework, either making or mending, and some of us became very efficient with our needle. One afternoon was occupied with drawing, a master coming from Cambridge to teach the 1st class.

Tea was not until 6 p.m. and consisted of chunks of bread with a patty-pan of either butter, jam, cheese, or dripping to each place according to the day of the week, and milk to drink. Big Committee Day was the only time we had coffee (and never tea) with a piece of cake.

In the evening we had an hour's "prep" followed by Bible Reading by the 1st class teacher, Miss Ann Groom Brown.

On Sundays we went to Meeting in the town both morning and evening, and after Morning Meeting the girls walked through Lord Braybrooke's Park on their way home. Sometimes the Friends with large gardens would invite us to walk round them. On Sunday afternoon after quiet reading and a walk round the playground, we all met in the lecture hall for a reading by the Headmaster and sang a few hymns.

The highest class in the school was the 1st, and the lowest the 5th which was a mixed class of boys and girls under a lady teacher Miss Lewis.

Apart from a hot bath once a week and for washing our hair, we always had to use cold water to wash in, and stripped to the waist just after jumping out of bed. Traversing stone corridors was the cause of many colds which were treated with a mug of hoarhound-tea each evening.

Although there was supposed to be no communication between boys and girls, notes used to get across and woe betide anyone who was caught.

The girls played football in winter and cricket in summer with an occasional game of tennis on the one and only tennis court on the asphalt.

At dinner we had meat and potatoes every day except Thursday when there was a thick soup, and an occasional second vegetable, followed by a substantial pudding; rice boiled in milk two days, plum pudding, jam and plain with syrup, and fruit pies on Saturday—much appreciated. The apples were cooked in their skins.

JESSIE WATTS

"THE AVENUE," 1910-1952

MUCH as the Editors of *The Avenue* would have liked to celebrate this year with their magazine, they thought that forty-two years was, maybe, too odd an anniversary to make much of. But the often forgotten fact remains, that *The Avenue* was first published in 1910, and is thus by far the most long-lived of the magazines that this school has seen.

1910 . . . The year that co-education was introduced; a year momentous in the history of the School. Perhaps *The Avenue* was introduced partly as a link between the two sides of the School. One wonders how the boys and girls on the Editorial Board got on together. Perhaps they had their differences, as their successors of today sometimes have; it might be that the shock (see elsewhere) of working together for the first time encouraged co-operation. And since those comparatively peaceful days of 1910, when John Edward Walker, who gave his blessing to the venture, was Headmaster, through the troubled days that have followed, this mirror of the life of the School has continued to appear two or three times a year to its 118th edition.

The Avenue has changed a lot in forty-two years. For one thing, the editors of those days seem to have had unlimited resources, both of money and of contributions (though in 1935 there was a complaint only too frequently repeated since, that contributions would have to be more forthcoming in future). Until the war, *The Avenue* regularly had two or three full-page photographs, which today are an occasional luxury. And how different were the contents! There were eight solid pages of natural history and archeological reports, and three on the "Senior Lit." of those days. And the standards were—I hesitate to write it—a little higher than those of today.

But in some ways the standards cannot really be said to have deteriorated. *The Avenue* of the period up to 1920 was much more devoted to a serious and critical account of the literary and scientific aspects of school life than is its modern counterpart. It had not so many original contributions and topical articles, and especially not from the junior forms, as it has now and, we hope, will continue to have. This may be a reflection of the whole trend of school life and thought in the intervening years.

The Avenue has seen three different cover designs. The first one, the memory of which is recorded on the bound volumes of *The Avenue* in the Library, was designed by one of the members of staff, and continued to be used until about 1940, when it was superseded by a much simpler design. After the war, however, the Editorial Board felt that a change of design might be desirable and a competition was announced. This bore fruit three years later, in the

form of the present design, by Susan Whiteman, an Old Scholar, and it has now been used for three editions.

The Avenue is by no means the first magazine that has graced this School's two hundred and fifty years. True, the first one on record was the *Monthly Packet* of 1830, but since then, the School at Croydon and Saffron Walden has seen such written and printed leaflets as the *Schoolboys' Magazine*, the *Monthly Gleaner*, the *Echo* and many, many others; some single manuscript copies, in single editions; some regularly published for two or three years; some official and some unofficial. But there has been an almost unbroken line of magazines, or some other sort of literary outlet, in this School for over 120 years, and there seems no reason why there should not continue to be one.

John H. Wilson, Form VI

THE PREFECT

(With apologies to Ralph Hodgson)

SEE the oldest prefect dull,
Sick in soul and body both,
Slouching in the undergrowth
Of the school field beautiful.
Banished from the herd he's led,
Boys and girls, three hundred head.

Youngsters gay and carefree go
Up and down the corridor.
Younger boys roll on the floor
Of the playground just below.
And troops of females, flirting, some,
All disputing, go and come.

And girls abominable sit,
Guzzling sweets and Tizer fine.
On the mess and over it,
Burnished flies and beetles shine.
And workmen, rolling hardcourts, fry
Under netting, eight feet high.

Pity him, this fallen chief,
All his splendour, every fan
Gone to grace another man.
Dwindled down, with shame and grief
Half the boy he was before,
Skin and bones, and nothing more.

Dreaming over, once again
How he wandered with a throng
Of boys and girls three hundred strong.
Bravely by his fall he came,
Beaten by a boy of blood,
Newly come to prefecthood.

How he lagged behind the herd,
Lagged and tottered, weak of limb,
On the pig drives, long to him.
Running at the shouted word
Up the hill and down the dale
Always at the long line's tail.

And his little frame grew stout,
And his little legs grew strong,
And the way was not so long;
And his little teeth came out,
And he played at climbing trees,
And roller large, without much ease.

And in all that great big school
Not a boy that barred his way,
Not a girl that turned away.
Nobody that broke a rule
In the furnace of his look
Dared a second, worse rebuke.

And the dreamer turns away
From his visionary school
And his splendid yesterday.
Turns to meet the world so cruel,
Mocking as he tries to cleave
Waiting for the boy to leave.

A LETTER TO POSTERITY

Dear Friend,

Writing to you across the years at the time of our 250th Anniversary, I find it difficult to explain how the School is different from any other.

"But," you will say, "every school has its Prefects, its Houses, its library, dinning hall, bedrooms and classrooms. How is it different?"

I know that you will have seen plans and photographs of the school. You will have looked up the Minutes, rulings and resolutions

of the Committee. You will know the date when Co-education was introduced, when Day-Scholars first came, when our first State Scholarship was won. You may even know the names of a few outstanding scholars.

But what you may not know of, is the intangible Spirit of the School; not so much the Spirit of Youth, but the feeling of being a Community, of belonging. This feeling always prevails. One feels it most when walking up the leafy Avenue, kicking the gate surreptitiously, or when seeing the "Couples" walking round the field in recess. It prevails again at "Silence" before meals, after which one passes the "Chaff" and "Tack" and "Slosh," the latter covering anything from jam to stew. It prevails in the warm gusto of laughter at End of Term Concerts, and even in "Punny," where the little boy, kept in from football, kicks the desk while copying from *One Thousand Everyday Words*.

You will not find this in Committee records, but it is what makes this Quaker School unique, and one so proud of belonging to it.

I hope sincerely that this great spirit goes forward even to your day, to the 300th and 500th Anniversaries.

Isobel Jones, Form IV

A LETTER FROM POSTERITY

Dear Sir,

As this is a time for general looking back on the past, I shall send you an unofficial report of the excavations we are carrying on at the Saffron Walden site. We are working on a hill overlooking the town, and were for a long time rather puzzled by the remains we found there. We know so very little about the civilization we are engaged in digging up.

It seems to have been a long building, facing roughly North and South, and the foundations show that the eastern end had an extended wing. At this end we excavated one building with a large oblong pit in the centre, lined with the remains of white tiles. It was thought at first to be a burial pit, but there was no sign of bones to prove this theory. Instead, we unearthed a complicated system of pipes which made us realise that the pit was once filled with water, making a kind of pond, or maybe a bath, enclosed in a house. It seems the inhabitants had clean habits. About twenty yards South from the wing there seems to have been a small separate building consisting of two main rooms. No-one has been able to understand what it was used for. The Professor thinks it was a temple, but he is very religious. We found some fossilised bones



(Block by courtesy, Saffron Walden Weekly News)

William Townsend (Donald Atkinson), Richard Hutton (Richard Wright) and Sarah Hutton (Agnes Horlick) in the Clerkenwell scene.

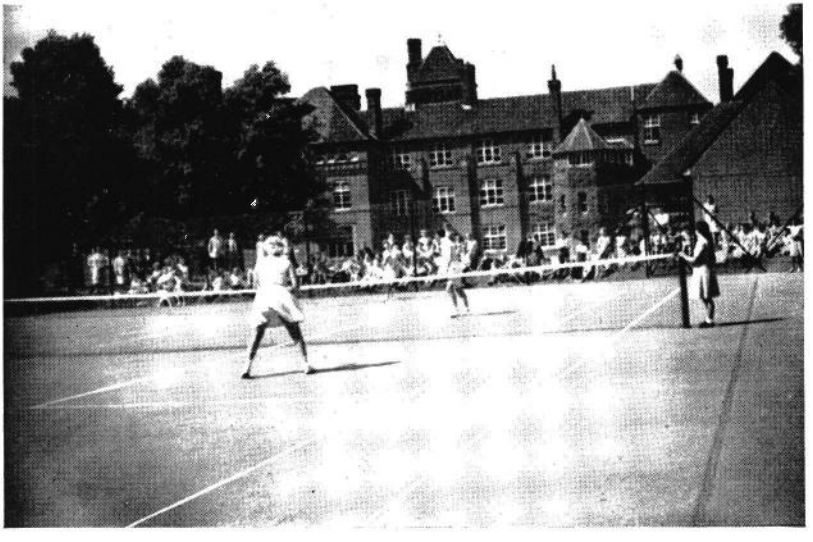


Part of the exhibition of School Life, in Room X





The "Friends' School, Croydon" play cricket, Whitsun, 1952



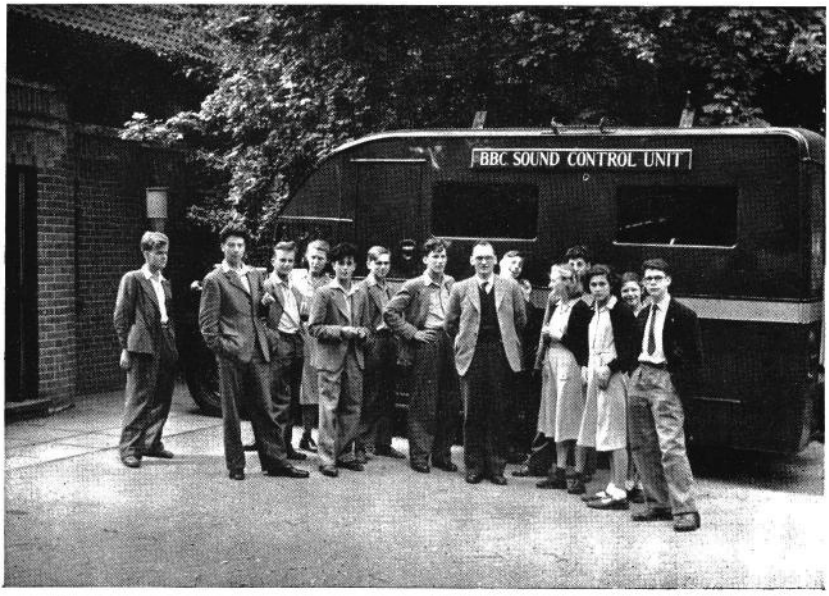
The exhibition tennis match that opened the new Hard Courts, 19th July



Reginald Reynolds
the author of the Play



Dr Edmund Rubbra
the composer of the special music



The van in which the B.B.C. arrived to record the music, together with some of the Choir which sang it

here, but there is no evidence of an altar, or that the animals were sacrificed.

The big building itself has a corridor running along its whole length, with rooms on either side. It must have been rather dark, but as the remains of the walk are only three feet high all over the building, we cannot find out how it was lighted. The two ends of the building seem to have been rather similar. At any rate, there are the remains of a large, concrete-floored room at each end. On one of these floors, we discovered that someone had scratched the words: "250th Birthday," and this seems to have been done a very long time before the place fell to ruin, for the letters are very difficult to read.

At the westerly end of the building there are the remains of more separate buildings, and we keep finding traces of even more. One seems to have been an almost square tower, raised on a mound, judging by the amount of bricks we found. The Professor likes to think it was to do with worship in High Places, but the rest of us are wondering if it was to store water.

This western end is the more interesting. A northward extension contains formations which we take to be very primitive means of cooking food. The large room next to these kitchens must have been a primitive dining-room. Here we found Exhibit A, a brass, half-spherical object which seems to be an archaic bell. There is also a fairly large detached building at this end of our remains: a hall, perhaps, whose ceiling has long since fallen in. There are at one end the remains of a sort of stage or platform. The Professor calls this building "the Big Temple," but I prefer to think of it as a meeting-hall. Perhaps there was some kind of pageantry enacted on the stage.

The southern front of the building is laid out in various levels of courts covered with asphalt and joined to each other by steps. We none of us know what these are for. At present, we are digging up the remains of a path or avenue leading straight to the South from a very broken flight of steps. The Professor is delighted and assures us that it has religious significance. Processions would walk along it to the end, where they would carry out some ritual. This seems very likely.

We were very puzzled by a sign we found painted on many of the outside walls: three straight upright lines, with another line across their tops. The Professor is sure it is some religious symbol. One of our party remembered, however, that there is a traditional game known as "cricket" still played by the natives around the ruins of the city of London. In it, they use sticks set up in just this pattern. It must then have been a common amusement, though the Professor still disagrees.

People living at that time were unwise enough to write on paper, which has all rotted away, and we have no way of telling what they wrote or why the place was built. But we have found remains of wooden desks with initials carved on their lids; we have found a great deal of chalk-dust and many other things that point to the education of children: children would have swum in the bath and played cricket; they may even have walked on the Avenue, so I have a good idea that this place may have been a school.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Jones, Form VI

THE AVENUE

UNDER the spreading Avenue trees,
When the wind whistles softly and light is the breeze,
When the birds are singing, and the skies are blue,
That's when the Avenue's nice for a view.

The wind whistles coldly and down the snow falls.
The sky is grey and there's ice on the walls.
When the trees are bare, and no birds in the air,
Oh, so quiet, the Avenue.

P. Reader, Form I

A DAY AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

IT was in the Christmas Holidays that my Father and I went to the House of Commons. The date to be exact was the 29th April. We were coming back to Coventry in a coach and found we had nearly half the day to spare. So, about three days before leaving we wrote to Miss Elaine Burton, M.P. (Labour) Coventry South, asking for tickets. Our hopes were rather shattered as next day it was announced that the Monday would be given over to a Debate on Fairs. But we were lucky and got two tickets with a very polite letter, explaining that Miss Burton could not be there as she was due at Coventry.

We arrived at London before lunch, but the problem was we had two cases and our tickets strictly said "No books, cases, opera glasses, etc., allowed in the Chamber." We tried an Underground Station with no success, and so resolved to leave them at the House. We arrived at about one o'clock and were sent away for three-quarters of an hour. We did learn, though, later that we could leave our cases in a cloakroom there.

So we waited outside with a long line of people who hoped to get in with no tickets. Just before two o'clock we went in, and waited for the Speaker's Procession to go by.

They have a system there whereby if you want to meet your local M.P. you sign a green card and it is taken to him or her. Then if your member wants to see you, he or she comes through and speaks to one of the two policemen (House of Commons Branch). They in turn call the M.P.'s name, in a loud, deep voice. On that the person concerned steps forward and meets his M.P.

At two o'clock sharp all along the main lobby you hear being called "Hats off, Strangers" and everybody (except the women) including the police take off their hats, as Mr Speaker (W. S. Morrison) and his Mace Bearer and mace, and Train Bearer slowly file by. After that there was rather a rush to get up the thickly carpeted stairway to the Strangers Gallery. We had to wait a few minutes till Prayers were over, then we heard "Prayers are over! Speaker in the Chair!" After that we gave up our tickets (no souvenirs) and our cases to enter the Gallery. We were given an Order Paper of the day, by one of the numerous "good conduct" N.C.O.s. The Order Paper shows all the questions in Question Hour, and the main speakers.

The Speaker puts the question, the member who asked it shows he is there, then the Minister concerned answers it and a few supplementary questions are put and answered. After Questions the Debate begins.

On our day Sir David Maxwell Fyfe was the Spokesman for the Conservative Party. His speech lasted for well over an hour and a half with the opportunity for a few questions which he said he would be glad to hear.

I should mention that all through the Debate there is a continual stream of M.P.s going in and out. Both Mr Churchill and Mr Attlee went out several times. Mr Herbert Morrison came in with an armful of books which he referred to during his speech. He spoke on behalf of the Labour Party and of course criticised the Government right and left.

Sad to say we had to leave half way through Mr Morrison's speech. Outside we obtained tickets for the Commons' Café. After walking through what seemed endless corridors we came to the Café. There we had quite an enjoyable tea. Outside we could see the famed Terrace—but no strawberry teas!

After that we went and so ended a very happy day. You get a ticket and see if you enjoy it!

Nigel Weaver, Form III

SPRING

SPRING is the time of lambs so gay,
Jumping, frisking, all the day.
The birds sing in the apple tree,
And build their nests, as we can see.
Down by the river's noisy brink
The kingfisher comes to have a drink.
The slender snowdrop, white and green,
In woods and gardens can be seen.
The hazel catkins on the trees,
Dance and frolic in the breeze.

Michael Stacey, Form I

THEN AND NOW

PEDLARS, with their trays of coloured ribbons and toys, walk slowly up the cobbled street. A carriage rumbles to a stop on the rough road. There is the swish of a long skirt, the clink of a coin on the tray, and with a smile the man turns and walks away. The church clock strikes. The man hurries to an inn across the road.

Sleek, spiv-like men in trilbies and loud ties, slink cautiously up the wet shiny road; they carry small thin brown cases. A car slides to a stop at the kerb; a woman in thick tweeds steps out. The man slinks up to her, "Nylons, lady? Nylons? Come on now, all the way from America." There is a pause—the rustle of two pound notes, then, "Come on now, you've give me the wrong change."

In the distance a wireless begins, "This is the B.B.C. . . ." The man slinks across the road into a café. The juke-box begins to play.

Ursula Jones, Form II

SUMMER

THE hedgerows are a-blooming,
With flowers sweet and gay.
All the bees are humming,
Throughout the day.

Tadpoles are a-taddling,
All day long.
Cuckoos fill the air
With their cheerful song.

Baby birds in their nests,
Mouths open wide,
Waiting for their Mum to come,
And pop the worms inside.

Ann Gilpin, Form I

THE LIGHTS WENT OUT

HIGH upon a hill, a mile away from Thaxted, stands a gaunt and hideous building. Within these walls has dwelt a tiny locomotive for nearly forty years. For it was not until 1913 that the railway shattered the old world atmosphere of the countryside. So the last stretch of railway track to be laid in rural Essex is one of the first to close. The little two-coach "flyer" has wound its way between the corn-covered slopes every day (except Sunday, of course) since its opening, and early in September it did it for the last time.

Elsenham station was wild with excitement: the platform was thick with local people who had come to see the end "just for the fun of it," railway enthusiasts from distant cities with notebooks in their hands and cameras slung over their shoulders, and press reporters interviewing the ancient guard who had outlived his job. The engine was dressed up for the occasion with a huge wreath hanging at the front of the boiler, another lower down encircling a fire bucket and a large Union Jack waving merrily beside the funnel. A coffin, draped in black, carried by four Thaxtedians dressed in Edwardian costume and bearing the inscription, "Died Waiting, R.I.P." was marched in state to the guard's van.

To the shriek of the whistle, the loud explosions of the detonators and the cheers of the crowd, the little engine pulled its heaviest train away up the steep gradient. For once it felt inspired to break the twenty-five miles an hour speed restriction, but before it was running at full speed, a "halt" came in sight: Mill Road, Henham, Sibleys . . . At each stop the guard climbed up the battered lamp posts to turn the oil lamps off for the last time. Passengers came and went. In fact, had there been so many passengers every day, the line might well have been electrified! Around the last tortuous bend into Thaxted, the engine uttered its last shriek; the passengers went and the lights went out. Soon, only the hideous engine shed will remain as a memorial to the age of steam.

Nigel Watt and Brian Abbs, Form VI

FLOWER STORY (A FRAGMENT)

THE lily, leaping motionless in a soundless paean of joy,
Culminating in an unheard white trumpet-shout,
Thrusting stamens from a dark-gold dusted passage:
A sacred flower-symbol for funerals, chastity, joy—
But there are red stripes on the long, stiff petals curling out,
And the long buds, a flowering, contradicting message,
An expanding aspect of the story.
Planted soft in its stiff bush is the rose-bud's angular whorl,
While the blowsy overblown sheds itself away behind.
The moss-rose is palely clustered on Victorian chamber-ware,
And, swimming pink in thorny fountains, dog-roses clutch the hair,
And twine into the story.
Lavender, still, violet flames, springing from dim green smoke;
Sweet-Williams, plates of petals, mottled raging red;
Pansies, retiringly protruding silly kitten-faces;
Hollyhocks, tiers exceeding tiers of themselves like a preposterous
hope;
Cornflowers, stark-blue, ragged; orchids, splayed from stems,
over-bred,
Yielding scent of instincts deformed by adoption of strange vices . . .
They are all flowers in the stillness waiting for evening . . .

Diana Jones, Form VI

"NATCH OUTING"

THE Natural History Society excursion took place on the 12th July. We set out, as usual, about the time of recess, or just after, en route for Epping Forest—complete with all the necessary equipment for our proposed work, except for a consignment which although promised for the time did not arrive.

We were going to make a survey of a pond in Epping Forest. This pond shows the encroachment of the land on the water by means of the vegetation, and is one of the most perfect and interesting examples of its kind.

Once we arrived at our destination, after several brief exploratory trips around the pond, the most important thing was, naturally enough, the consuming of our lunch before settling down to work. The pond was measured by passing strings across it in each direction and enclosing it in a square of the same. These strings were knotted at two feet intervals, and had rags tied in at ten feet intervals, to enable us to note the distances with ease. The shape was then plotted on to graph paper.

When this general measurement had been taken, one person was put in charge of each quarter of the pond to supervise further subdivision and the plotting of the general plants from water weeds

to young trees. We worked in twos, drawing the areas of the different vegetation on to graph paper.

Since the pond was of a particularly smelly nature when disturbed, and since the mud was very black and oozy, it was inevitable that most people should come into contact with both. The bathe when we returned home in the evening was very welcome.

There was, during this plotting, some uncertainty as to what could be called land and what water. It was generally decided in the end, however, that where a person of medium weight could stand for ten seconds without getting their feet wet should be called land.

It was found that the vegetation of the pond varied from lemma, actually in deep water, through reed mace, sometimes wrongly called the bulrush, to juncus, the willow trees, brambles, hawthorn, birch, and finally oak. Of the less noticeable vegetation there was a similar change from moss to grass. There was also a large amount of buckbean found around the pond; a plant which is very uncommon in this part of the country.

Several insects of the biting variety played havoc with many members during the day, but apart from these minor incidents (which no doubt seem much more important to the unfortunate victims) the day was most successful, and when we returned to the coach at 7.15 p.m. we were in high spirits and very pleased with our day's work.

E. A. Paul, Form VI

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING, 1952

AS many of you know, Junior Yearly Meeting was held in the Mount school at York this year. It was in session for a week, from the 17th to 24th of April. This is not quite the usual practice, for only once before has Junior Yearly Meeting been away from London, and for more than a long weekend. That was in 1948, at Broomlee, Edinburgh. Also, this year was the first time that Junior Yearly Meeting has been held at a different time from the main Yearly Meeting.

Our theme was "The Faith and Service of Friends Today." This was divided into three separate parts: The Meaning of Membership, Peace and Internationalism, and Christianity and the Modern World. On each subject we had an address, and these were given by Myrtle Radley, Reginald Reynolds and Lucy Burtt respectively. We then divided into small groups to discuss the subject. There were two hundred young Friends at York, representing the various Friends' schools and Quarterly Meetings. These were in two age groups, the 14—16's and the 16—18's. Each of these age groups was divided into six discussion groups of about sixteen representatives. Among these sixteen was a group leader (a sort of chairman), and a deputy group leader. Also, one adult per group

sat in during these discussions, to help the group leader out of difficulties if necessary

Our discussions varied a great deal, and in some cases agreement was hardly ever reached. The findings of each of the nine discussions (three in each section) were handed to the clerks—Naomi Sargent of Golders Green with Gillian Hopkins of Reading as assistant clerk. Both are old scholars of this School. The clerks then formed a minute for each of the sections.

The general feeling of the gathering can, I think, be summed up as follows: "There is a lack of a sense of personal responsibility today arising from the greater freedom of modern times. We have not yet reached perfection but must constantly strive to achieve it. The Kingdom of God does exist potentially in that which is good in every individual." (Minute 3).

We had a rather interesting talk by Lucy Burtt on "Christianity in the Modern World." She spoke about her experiences in China with the Japanese and the Communists. She attempted, fairly successfully, to persuade us that the Communists are not as bad as they seem—they have, in fact, rescued China from the Nationalist corruption.

Apart from these discussions and lectures, we had a talk on the "World Society of Friends." This was given by three different speakers: Lucy Burtt who has been in China for the last twenty-one years; Daphne Hines, a New Zealand young Friend who came up to York for four days; Myrtle Radley who was in Norway during the war. Myrtle Radley also told us a little about the Oxford World Conference of Friends, which took place this summer. Another visitor to York was Marjorie C. Fox, Assistant Yearly Meeting Clerk, and a member of the Friends' Education Council Children's Committee.

Contrary to what you may be thinking after all this, there was a social side to Junior Yearly Meeting as well. We had every afternoon free for games or sight-seeing, as we liked. Each evening there was an entertainment of some sort, serious or otherwise. On the Thursday evening there was an opening social to mix people up. On Friday we had a lecture on York, given by John Burtt, one of the staff. After this we listened to the Radio Programme "The Man in the Leather Breeches," a play about George Fox. On Saturday afternoon, York Friends offered to take those who wished to go on conducted tours of the city. A large party was allowed to visit the Retreat, a rather unusual privilege. This was followed by a dance in the evening. On Sunday morning we all went to the various York meetings. In the evening, a meeting similar to the one here at Walden was held. The address was by Philip Radley. This was followed by a recital of music. On Monday we were entertained by a programme of music and readings. Reginald Reynolds and two

other staff wrote a very amusing musical play for Tuesday evening, based on the story of Red Riding Hood. This contained all the topical jokes, and displays of Scottish country dancing, ballet dancing, and conjuring. It went down very well. On Wednesday evening we had our final session, followed by a sing-song.

I have not said much about the adults who helped during the week at York. Those deserving special note were Philip and Myrtle Radley, the adult leaders, and Mary Perkins, who organised and arranged everything. We are also grateful to those other adults who helped: Reginald Reynolds, John Burtt, Victor Mendham, Alec North, John Brigham, Lucy Burtt, Winifred White, Muriel Poulter, Margaret Gibbins and Dorothy Lyle.

All, I think, thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and we were sorry to have to go home, and leave our newly-made friends. Even the weather behaved itself—it only rained once.

It is a peculiar experience, to go to another boarding school and make new friends, and hear new opinions. You have, then, a means of comparison, and you are able to realize that this school is perhaps better than it may seem.

Geoffrey W. Pilliner, Form V

MUSIC

THE principal concert of the Easter term took place at Parents' Week-end. Three movements of Haydn's *Surprise Symphony* and the first movement of a Mozart *Violin Concerto* comprised the orchestral items, while the choir sang Stanford's *Heraclitus* and three movements from Vaughan Williams' *In Windsor Forest*. Of this last, the male-voice *Drinking Song* proved especially popular and was repeated at Whitsuntide. Outstanding solo items were given by Jean Strachan (clarinet) and Jean Macdonald (piano). Christine Brown, the soloist in the concerto, has now left to go to the Royal Academy of Music and this seems an appropriate place to record her services to the orchestra and to wish her every success in the musical profession.

The concert over, work began in earnest on the Rubbra motets, and the music for Friends House. A painful but necessary decision to reduce the size of the Choir was loyally accepted, and I here record my gratitude to those who accepted their disappointment with such good grace. One of the Rubbra motets and others by Tallis and Arcadelt were sung at the service of special music on the last Sunday.

Choir returned early for the Summer Term, and a day and a half of intensive rehearsal preceded the beginning of term. One of the Rubbra motets, with Mrs Brown as the soloist, was sung at the

Saffron Walden Music Club's concert on 3rd May, at which Jean Macdonald also played. A little later in the term four members of the School took part in the Chelmsford Music Festival, where they spent a profitable and interesting day.

On 18th May the annual recital took place in the Parish Church, and once again we express our gratitude for this opportunity of performing sacred music in so splendid a setting. A week later the Choir travelled to London to sing at the Sunday evening session of Yearly Meeting. The choral music on both occasions consisted of Tallis' *O Nata Lux*, Arcadelt's *O hear my prayer*, Byrd's *Ave Verum* and the Rubbra motets, with an old scholar, José Stubbings, as the soloist. At the Church, Kelvin Osborn and the Orchestra played Bach's *Suite in B Minor* for flute and strings between the two choral groups.

The Music of *The Gateway of the Past* is discussed on another page. To give the first performances of a new work by an important composer is a rare privilege, and the composer's presence on 22nd July put the Choir on its mettle. Dr Rubbra spoke appreciatively of the performance, and his friendly charm will be remembered by all who met him.

A notable year's music concluded on 10th August, when three motets previously recorded by the B.B.C. were broadcast on the Home Service as part of a Sunday Evening Service conducted by the Society of Friends.

R.L.S.

LIBRARY REPORT

IN *Unbroken Community* David Bolam has drawn our attention to a certain Barton Dell who, in November, 1819, withdrew from the Junior Literary Society on the ground that "the books of the library are incapable of affording him further instruction." It is a far cry to the year 1951-2 when 1,477 books were borrowed from the Library and about 3,000 remained unborrowed but "capable of affording further instruction"! There is no report of book losses in the Society but we would like to put it on record that the degenerate youth of today lost only one book of the 1,477 borrowed *on an open-access basis.*

Since the last issue of *The Avenue* sixty-three books have been added to the Library. Several of these have been presented and for these our thanks are due to Adam Kendon, Una Millett, Charles Reed, Alexander Robinson, Michael Tebbitt, Deborah K. Welsh and Margaret G. Yapp.

The Library committee for this academic year is:—Jennifer Edwards, Timothy Whitmore, Una Millett, Nigel Watt, Ingrid Davies and John W. Robertson. They have begun their term of office with commendable but unostentatious efficiency.

C.A.M.

GAMES

FOOTBALL (1951-1952)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.
1st XI	18	5	2	11	42	47
Junior XI's	26	11	2	13	69	77

No new colours were awarded. J. Dutton, R. Fieldgate, R. Dutton and M. Ziegler are old colours.

At times the 1st XI played intelligent and constructive football, which proved adequate to beat Harlow (8—0 and 4—0) and Bury St. Edmunds (2—0 and 7—1). Team work also availed against fairly strong scratch XI.s on more than one occasion, but the larger schools, with older boys and wider choice, proved too strong for us. We lost to Soham (1—3 and 1—4), Newport (1—6 and 3—4), Earls Colne (2—5 and 0—3) and Braintree (2—4 and 0—3). Yet these results by no means disgraced our boys. The 4—1 defeat at Soham was probably our XI's finest effort; even so, it was not good enough, and experience, pace and thrust told in the end.

Of the various junior sides we have had this past season, the Under 14.s were probably the best, particularly in the Easter Term when they were unbeaten and included in their record a 4—1 win over Newport's Under 14 which really brought out something of the courage and tenacity required in school matches.

During 1952—53 we hope to concentrate mainly on 1st XI and Under 14 fixtures. We also hope that games in other age groups will serve to provide us with good 1st XI and Under 14.s in years to come.

CRICKET

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st XI	13	5	3	5
Under 14.s	12	11	1	0

Old Colours: J. Dutton Colours awarded: M. Frizzell

In the 1st XI special comment must be made on J. Dutton, who carried the virtues of captaincy into his batting by setting an example of aggressive cricket in its true and proper sense. Straight of bat in defence, but quick to see the loose ball and severe in its treatment, he embodied the right approach to school cricket, and was also the best of our bowlers.

Chief support in batting came from M. Frizzell, A. Chalk and R. Dutton. Frizzell has a fluency of stroke and mastery of technique which augurs well for the future and Dutton, R., proved his worth as opening partner to his brother with several courageous defensive innings. Chalk frequently made runs just when they were wanted and also bowled very well at times. His has been a most valuable contribution. In the field, the boys mentioned above together with

A. Newton have been our chief assets.

Our Under 14.s have been the best team of that age that we have had for a considerable time. Unlike the 1st XI, they have been richly blessed by having no "tail" and their record is a very creditable one. Every boy in the team has played his part well and all share in the success gained. Weaver, G., Dunstan, E., Pike and Edwards did exceptionally well, and Main proved himself an excellent wicket keeper.

Summary of Matches

1st XI 85 (Chalk 28, Frizzell 19); Soham 59 (Dutton, J., 7 for 23).
Harlow 67 (Dutton, J., 8 for 43); 1st XI 37.
Mr Whitlow's XI 121 (Dutton, J., 6 for 49); 1st XI 96 (Chalk 32 not out, Poole 22).
1st XI 40; King's, Ely 192 for 7 (Higgs 4 for 26).
Mr Mummery's XI 140 (Mr Whitlow 37); 1st XI 118 for 5 (Frizzell 30, Dutton, J., 23).
Staff XI 136 (Mr Whitlow 26, Chalk 21); Rain stopped play (Old Scholars 31 for 1).
1st XI 18; Newport 104 for 6 (Dutton, J., 5 for 50).
Braintree 73 (Dutton, J., 6 for 28); 1st XI 126 for 3 (Frizzell 53 not out, Dutton, J., 43).
Parent-Teachers' XI 69 (Dutton, J., 6 for 20); 1st XI 158 for 4 (Frizzell 62 not out, Dutton, J., 58).
St. Christopner 105 for 3 dec.; 1st XI 68 for 5 (Dutton, J., 36).
1st XI 103 for 8 dec. (Chalk 35, Poole 22); K.E.S. Bury 119 for 6.
1st XI 112 (Dutton, J., 24, Chalk 20); Newport 121 for 5.
Cam. C.H.S. 2nd XI (Higgs 5 for 24); 1st XI 103 (Dutton, J., 65 not out).
Harlow 77 (Higgs 5 for 29); 1st XI 105 (Dutton, R., 34, Higgs 24, Chalk 21).
Under 14.s 84 for 6 dec. (Bell 34, Pike 24); Harlow Under 14.s 48 (Pike 4 for 10).
Under 14.s 88 (Weaver 28 not out); Langham Oaks 26 (Atkinson 6 for 14).
Under 14.s 81 (Pike 23); King's College Choir School 30 (Dunstan, 7 for 11).
Braintree 81 for 8 dec. (Collett 4 for 22); Under 14.s 85 for 5 (Dunstan 38, Weaver 22).
Under 14.s 80 (Cornell 19); St. Faith's 35.
Newport Under 14.s 104 for 7 dec. (Bell 4 for 27); Under 14.s 65 for 6 (Dunstan 35).
Under 14.s 99 for 3 dec. (Weaver 38 not out, Cornell 24); St. Christopher 53 (Dunstan 6 for 11).
Newport Under 14.s 36 (Dunstan 5 for 17); Under 14.s 54 for 5 (Weaver 22 not out).

Under 14.s 100 (Dunstan 48): Cam. C.H.S. Under 14.s 29 (Dunstan 7 for 17).
Harlow Under 14.s 29 (Dunstan 7 for 6); Under 14.s 79 for 5 (Weaver 23).

Two other games with a weakened Under 14 were also won.

Averages (Includes House Matches)

Batting—1st XI

	Innings	Not Out	Highest Score	Runs	Average
Dutton J.	15	2	71*	410	31.5
Frizzell	16	3	62*	287	22.1
Higgs	10	2	68*	138	17.3
Chalk	15	2	35	200	15.5
Dutton, R.	16	1	52*	202	13.5
Newton	13	3	35	90	9.0

* Not out.

Batting—Under 14.s

Weaver	19	5	51	262	18.7
Dunstan, E.	18	0	54	324	18.0
Pike	21	6	36	217	14.5
Edwards	15	5	31	117	11.7
Gatward	10	4	22	50	9.7
Cornell	18	4	24	131	9.4
Main	18	4	30	115	8.3
Bell	15	1	34	112	8.0

Bowling—1st XI

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Average
Higgs	102.1	19	273	32	8.5
Dutton, J.	195.5	41	603	66	9.1
Chalk	127.4	29	394	28	14.1

Bowling—Under 14.s

Dunstan, E.	148.3	49	254	69	3.7
Atkinson	120	33	281	40	7.0
Collett	104.3	32	244	34	7.2
Weaver	119	37	270	34	7.9

Catches

1st XI: Newton 8 Under 14: Edwards 16.

ATHLETICS

The major event of our Athletic Season was our match against West Suffolk County Grammar School on 17th May at Saffron Walden. The results were as follows:—

100 yards Boys under 13: Fisher—Edwards—W.S. 13 1/5 secs.
100 yards Boys under 15: Sillitoe—Harvey—W.S. 11 2/5 secs.

100 yards Boys senior: Fieldgate—W.S.—W.S. 10 3/5 secs.
100 yards Girls under 13: J. Evans—M. Paul—W.S. 12 4/5 secs.
100 yards Girls under 15: M. Wyatt—W.S.—W.S. 13 1/5 secs.
100 yards Girls Senior: W.S.—M. Pilgrim—W.S. 12 secs.
Long Jump Boys under 13: Edwards—Jacobs—W.S. 12′ 10″
Long Jump Boys under 15: W.S. and Dunstan, E.—Sillitoe 15′ 11½″
Long Jump Boys Senior: W.S.—W.S.—Fieldgate 18′ 1″
High Jump Girls under 13: W.S.—P. Gosling—S. Dutton 4′ 3″
High Jump Girls under 15: J. Hunn—W.S.—J. Morris 4′ 4″
High Jump Girls Senior: W.S.—P. Chuter—D. Clayton 4′ 2″
Long Jump Girls under 13: W.S.—K. Shackford and P. Gosling 12′ 0″
Long Jump Girls under 15: M. Wyatt—W.S.—W.S. and P. Cadman 14′ 2″
Hurdles Boys under 13: Edwards—Jacobs—W.S. 13 1/5 secs.
Hurdles Boys under 15: Saul—W.S.— — 12 secs.
Hurdles Girls Senior: M. Pilgrim—W.S.—J. Mabbott 11 2/5 secs.
Hurdles Boys Senior: Watson—Dutton, R.—W.S. 11 3/5 secs.
440 yards Boys Senior: W.S.—Fieldgate—W.S. 61 secs.
880 yards Boys Senior: Baker, R.—W.S.—Dutton, J. 2 min. 17 secs.
Mile Boys Senior: W.S.—W.S.—Watt *4 mins. 57 secs.
*This time is a ground record.

In the Relay (4 x 110 yards) events we needed one victory out of six to make sure of winning the Competition. Each school won three relays, so the final points were 85-64 in our favour. We have thus once again kept our unbeaten record in athletics matches and look forward to our two away fixtures next year.

In the inter-house competitions one record was equalled and two new ones set up. J. Evans equalled the Girls Under 14 100 yards previous best with 12 4/5 secs., whilst M. Pilgrim set a new time in the Senior Girls Hurdles (11 2/5 secs) and E. Dunstan in the Under 14 Boys Hurdles (12 secs.).

Athletics colours were awarded to R. Baker for his fine efforts in the half-mile.

J.E.F.

GIRLS' GAMES AND SWIMMING

This year, the 1st and 2nd tennis teams have been chosen from:—

J. Strachan, P. Chuter, J. Rice, J. Morris, D. Clayton, E. Rice, J. Edwards, H. Wright, M. Pilgrim, J. Smith, A. Dawe, R. Hatch, M. Cox, L. Herbert, S. Newman, J. Holmes, and J. Hunn.

The 1st VI have played 6 matches, losing 5 and winning 1. The 2nd VI have played 4 matches, losing all of them. We have had a completely new team this year representing the school, and consequently this has been an experimental team as far as match exper-

ience is concerned. We have been most fortunate in having Deborah Welsh with us, who, with her own wide experience of match play, has given our Teams invaluable help. By next season our three wonderful, hard courts will be available, and with continuous winter coaching, our new teams will undoubtedly reap the benefit of her coaching. As a result of the house tennis matches, Tuke was placed 1st with 90 points, Lister 2nd with 89 points and Mennell 3rd, with 64 points.

Our rounders teams have played 8 matches, winning 5 and losing 3. The Senior house rounders match was won by Tuke, and the junior by Lister. In the combined totals, however, Lister was 1st leading from Mennell by 12 points.

The standard of girls' swimming has remained high this term. There were 66 successful entrants for the examinations of the Royal Life-Saving Society, including 6 Awards of Merit. In the mixed match against Granta Club, Cambridge, the girls lost to Granta by a very close margin—35 to 33 points. They reversed this 2 points defeat in a very enjoyable match against an Old Scholar's team, by winning 19-17. Tuke won the house swimming match with 28 points —Lister was second with 25½ points and Mennell third with 18½ points.

House athletic standards gave Tuke 83 points, Mennell 72 points and Lister 71 points. A good performance was put up by the school team in the athletics match against West Suffolk County Grammar School when, for this type of event, we maintained our unbeaten record. Margaret Pilgrim clipped off 1/5 sec. from her own 75 yards hurdle record, by completing the distance in 11 2/5 secs. Jane Evans equalled the record for the 100 yards junior event in 12 4/5 secs.

In the annual staff v. school rounders match the school team won "hands down."

Jeanetta Mabbott, Alison Dawe and Pat Cadman successfully passed the examination for the "C" umpiring certificate of the A.E.W.H.A. and have now received their whistle cords in county colours.

Swimming colours were awarded to Janet Hunn this term. The outstanding performers showing all-round ability this year have been: Senior—Margaret Pilgrim; Junior—Jane Evans.

V.Y.

BOYS' SWIMMING REPORT, 1952

After taking all the adverse factors into account the 1952 swimming season must be considered a successful one.

Because of the need for rehearsals connected with the School's 250th birthday celebrations the time at our disposal for matches, life saving examinations and other swimming activities had to be

severely telescoped and curtailed. We were fortunate in that few of last year's team had left so that there was a good body of capable swimmers to start the season with. The Bath was ready for use from the first day of term and training began straight away.

The first match was held in the 3rd week of term against the Youth Club and resulted in a comfortable win for the school. It proved a useful try-out for the contest against the Old Scholars on Whit Saturday morning. This we also won quite comfortably but we learned the danger of counting our chickens before they were hatched, for several of the best swimmers were unable to compete because of ear trouble, and this was a disadvantage we had to contend with for the rest of the term, and which seriously impaired the efficiency of our Senior team, more especially in the match against the Granta, where the result would have been much more favourable if we had been able to use all our possible personnel. Although the final score gave a win for the Granta of 79 points to our 53 points an analysis of the results proved very interesting. The Granta obtained this comfortable win mainly as a result of their superiority in the Relay races, where, being a much bigger club, they have a much larger field of choice. They won seven out of eight of these (it was a mixed match) but even so the times set up by our Senior and Junior medley relay teams broke the previous school record. When the results of the individual races were examined it was seen that our Junior boys gained equal points with the Granta and, in winning both the 50 yards and 100 yards free style races, they set up records which will stand for some time. It was in the Senior events that the handicap of injury was most felt, for four of our most promising swimmers were unable to compete. Had they been able to do so, the final result would have been much more even.

The final match of the season was against the King's School, Ely, and again resulted in a comfortable win. It was the first time we had swum against this School.

The Swimming Club, too, is in a flourishing condition. Half-a-dozen new members have gained admission, bringing the total up to 14,—about the maximum number for comfort and efficiency. During the term seven new school records have been established—a healthy sign.

The House Competitions, owing to pressure of time, had to be curtailed, and were won by Mennell, with Tuke second. In the Life Saving Examinations there were rather fewer entries than usual—a reflection on the crowded nature of the term and the pressure on time.

Colours were retained by Bennett, Matthews, and Skelton. New Colours were awarded to E. Dunstan, Holmes and Clymo; Junior Colours to McKean.

B.B.J.

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY EXAMINATIONS, 1952

Boys' Results

Nine boys passed the Intermediate examination.
Bronze Medallion: Michael Gibbons; Ian McKean; Alan Milne; Geoffrey Weaver, Benjamin Bell.
Scholar Instructor: C. D. Eames.
Instructor: A. Clymo.
Bronze Cross: Christopher Eames; Brian Hosking.
Award of Merit: Andrew Clymo.

Girls' Results

Elementary: 20.
Intermediate: 21.
Bronze Medallion: J. Baker; D. Hollingberry; E. Edmunds; A. Wickenden; V. Jack; J. Godfrey; S. Wilkinson; D. Bailey, F. Bradbury; J. Holmes; B. Skelton; R. Hatch; N. Bradbury; P. Cadman; G. Lampard.
Scholar Instructor: J. Coffin; J. Morris.
Bronze Cross: J. Hunn; J. Morris.
Award of Merit: E. Paul; C. Brown; V. Jack; M. Pilgrim; E. Rice; J. Foster.

EDITORIAL BOARD

IT is with regret that we say farewell to Edwin Small, and we welcome in his place Margaret Hall. Other members: Kenneth L. Whitlow, Margaret G. Yapp, Hilary J. Jackson, Una Millett, Nigel J. Watt, and John H. Wilson.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Archway, The Beckside, The Cambridgeshire High School for Girls, The Georgian, The Island, The Leightonian, Sherrardswood Chronicle, St. Christopher Magazine, The Cupola, and *By Kent and Skerne.*

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The Editorial Board wishes to acknowledge certain correspondence, which, however, it feels unable to print owing to the absence of name or address thereon.



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