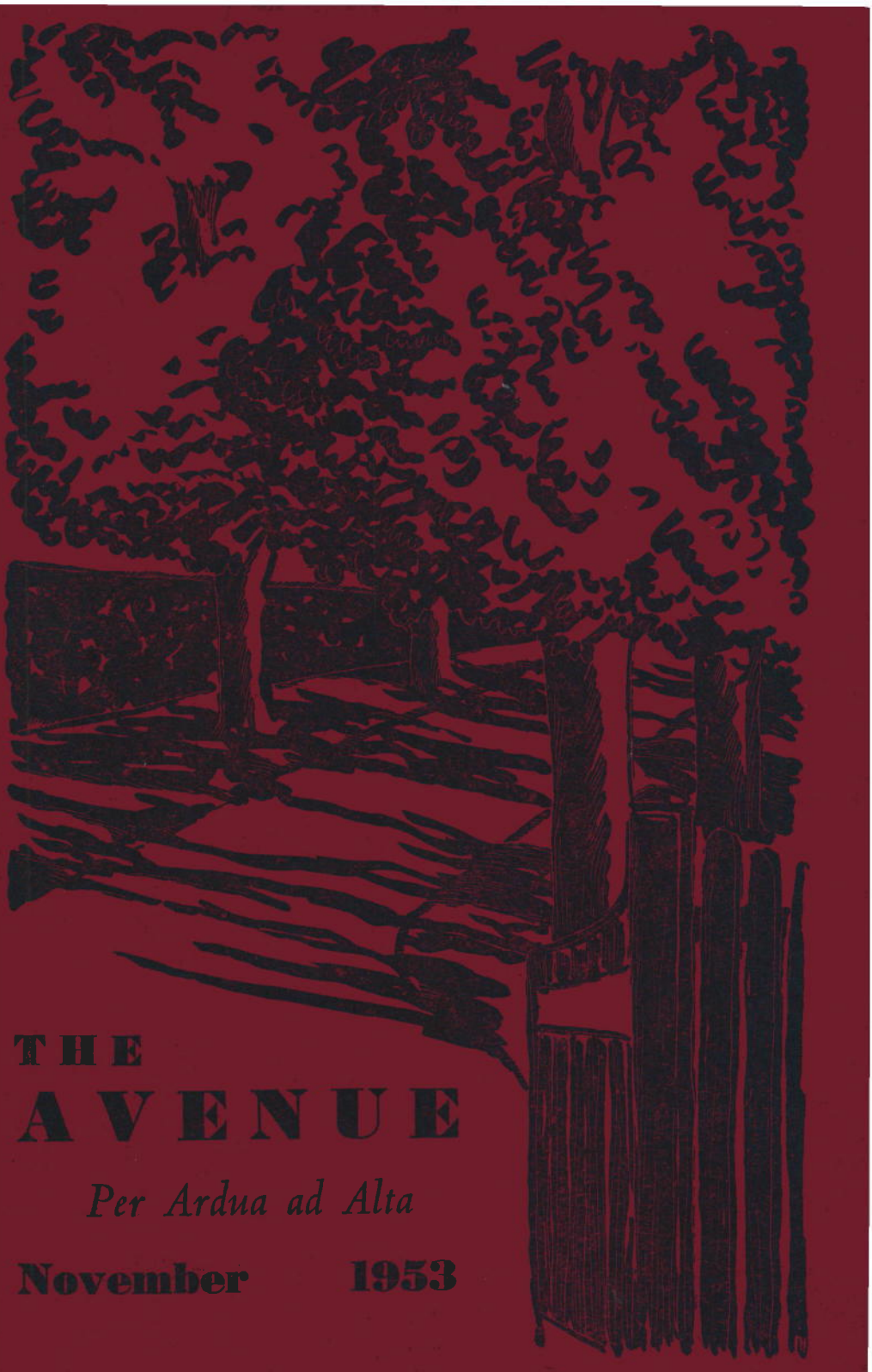


THE AVENUE

Per Ardua ad Alta

November 1953

THE AVENUE

The Magazine of the Friends' School, Saffron Walden

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EDITORIAL

THE unusual events which have recently excited school life are over. But even if the Anniversary and the Coronation are only memories, there is always a school play or an end of term concert to look forward to; we can also await the new grass courts or some new building, some new academic or athletic record.

The Avenue tries to keep abreast of these events, and also aims at making events in its own history. A casual reader who compares a war-time edition with a more recent one recognises, we sincerely hope, an improvement. Nevertheless, we are not complacent enough to suppose that we are near perfection, as the unforeseen absence of pictures or photographs in this issue shows. Although the responses to appeals for contributions have recently been encouraging, there is sometimes a shortage of verse, sometimes of original prose. Although we are pleased with our cover, we would change it again if a better design could be found.

Although the magazine survives gratefully on its subsidy, money is a constant problem in these days when many school magazines have been forced to cease publication for the lack of it. Even in a time of reasonable success, we re-echo the plea, heard and forgotten so often, that what the school gives us is what the school will get back.

INTER ALIA

EVERYTHING changes, and the school is no exception. The 'dernier cri' in liquid soap dispensers has now been installed in the boys' washroom, with a consequent economy in soap costs, once the novelty has worn off. Owing to the crowded nature of the girls' Sixth Form room, four of the senior girls are now occupying, in pairs, studies normally reserved for the staff. Outside, a new lawn tennis court has been laid on what used to be the girls' upper playground, next to the old lawn court. The paths round the hard courts are nearly finished. Rumour has it that the queer stakes that appeared at Committee time last term in the ground behind the Biology Laboratory marked the rough and possible outline of proposed new Science Laboratories. As yet, nothing is definite, but we hope that this very necessary development will take place soon.

We were sorry to say goodbye last term to Miss Hall, Miss Chedd, Miss Youngman and Sister Gallyon, and to Miss Hull who had been with us for seven years as Assistant Matron. We now welcome their successors: Mr. Evens (English), Miss Hughes (Art), Miss Innes (Girls' Physical Education), Miss Challis (Assistant Matron) and Sister May at the Sanatorium. We hope that they will all have a long and happy time at the school.

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Since our last edition, the following have obtained academic places: Diana Jones at St. Anne's College, Oxford; Olga Sheeran at the Royal Academy of Music; Robert Dutton at Manchester University (Dalton Hall). These, together with Christopher Noble at University College, London, and Tim Whitmore at St. John's College, Cambridge (announced last time), started at their various colleges this month, and we send our best wishes to them, and to all of last term's leavers.

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Among visitors whom we have been pleased to welcome since our last edition have been Jean Inebnit, Edith Fryer, Marjorie Sykes, John Hoyland and John Gordge, all of whom gave the address in Sunday evening meeting. Dr. Heinrich Otto, who has been a visitor here on a previous occasion, came again with a group of senior girls from his school in Kassel, Germany. They spent a happy day seeing the school, swimming in the bath and being generally entertained by the VI Form. Miss Ingrid Thorren, an Old Woodbrooker, from Sweden, was also here for a day during last term.

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After the Boys' Reading Club had read Alan Paton's famous novel "Cry, the Beloved Country" last spring, there was naturally a considerable demand in the school to see the filmed version when it arrived at the local cinema last term. Nearly the whole of the V and VI Forms (some 70 in all) went during the three days that it was shown. In connection with this, it is interesting to note that the old "Walden" cinema in the High Street, that burnt down three years ago, is being rebuilt. We are awaiting the day when there will be a choice of films in the town again.

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Luckily for us all, General Meeting turned out fine this year, which allowed the girls' dancing display (see the report elsewhere) to proceed unhindered on the front lawn, complete with gramophone and loudspeakers. Nearly all the girls took some part. Among the exhibitions, which were all very good, was an intriguing model of an "Apparatus for the retention of Political Prisoners" (do not drop, break or smash), constructed by Osborn and Robertson out of the little round wooden balls and metal bars used to

demonstrate molecules. We are grateful to everybody who took part and helped to make this such a successful General Meeting.

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As usual, there have been several outings made by school parties during the last term. Early in May, the VI Form History classes took a coach and their lunch and went off for a rainy day to see the Roman remains at Verulamium. Luckily, the museum was not crowded, and the assistant curator, Mr. Curnow, very kindly showed the group around. Expeditions were made to see the bathhouse mosaics, the walls and two cafés for tea. The group, which included the VI Special, was led by Miss Ellinor and Mr. Mummery. The Senior English Classes went to London shortly before the Coronation to see " The Taming of the Shrew " (Donald Wolfit season at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith). Chris Wood got lost in the Mall crowds while looking at the decorations, and was not found until some time later. Later in the term, a select party visited the British Museum Library, at the personal invitation of Angus Wilson, the deputy superintendent. Owing to a slight misunderstanding, Mr. Wilson got hold of the wrong school group in the lobby, but even this was sorted out, and the party spent a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

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The school has also been represented at other more important functions. At the end of the Spring Term three VI Form boys attended a three-day conference on Christian Pacifism and Conscientious Objection, held at Leighton Park School, Reading. The conference was arranged by the Friends' Peace Committee, and led by Eric Tucker of the F.P.C., the Reverend Lewis Maclachlan of the F.o.R., A. Joseph Brayshaw, and G. Colin Fawcett of Leighton Park, who was a very kind host. The last three gave the introductory talks on various aspects of the subject, and asked some searching questions. Discussion groups were then formed, and these discussed various controversial questions suggested by those present. After some decisions had or had not been arrived at, reports were read and commented on in the final session, and the feeling of the Conference was summed up by Lewis Maclachlan. In all, it was a very helpful experience for those to whom the problem of conscription and conscientious objection is a pressing one.

At Whitsun, a group of four boys and five girls attended Junior Yearly Meeting in London. A full report of this has already been given in Sunday evening meeting. They all came back none the worse for the heat wave, and considerably better for having been.

A report will be found elsewhere of the Summer School held here during the holidays, as will also one of the Youth Hostels Association work camp held in Germany, when seven out of the ten British members came from this school.

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Among the recent Leisure Time awards was one for *The Avenue* Editorial Board. We should like to thank all those contributors who have helped to make it possible for us so to improve the magazine, and particularly Miss Hall, who has now left us, for all the valuable help she gave in the collection of contributions and the production of the 250th Anniversary and March, 1953 editions of *The Avenue*.

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Our season of lecturers ended last spring with the visit of Carl Dolmetsch and Joseph Saxby. They gave us a wonderful evening of music of all ages, interspersed with comments on the different instruments on which they played.

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The End-of-Term entertainment last July was well up to the usual good standards. The orchestra opened with some light Gilbert and Sullivan Opera music, and Malcolm Harvey and Olga Sheeran played solos on the violin and piano. Dramatics followed, with a mixed cast in " The Merchant of Venison," the connecting link between Shakespeare and the meat ration. Raymond Poole, Pat Chuter and Janet Holmes presented Saki's sketch "The Baker's Dozen," concerned with the problem of superfluous children when old boy meets girl. Some IV Form girls then revealed what really happens when they go to bed, and Mr. Littleboy gave out the customary end-of-term notices in the interval. After the interval John Wilson gave a recitation plentifully interrupted by two Old (?) Scholars. Robert Dunstan and Marnie Temple then provided suspense and action in their " Three Minute Thriller," while John Robertson rhythmically banged the drum.

The highlight of the evening was the VI Form musical play " Here Again " a raving interlude written and produced by Nigel Watt in consultation with Brian Abbs, with Olga Sheeran as Hyacinth, the new girl from St. Trinians. The hit songs were "Here Again," "Co-education," "Three Naughty Second Formers," " At Much-Muddle-in-Room-Five," " We get our grub from the Kitchen Garden," and " Wonderful, wonderful Saffron Walden." As usual, the Sixth Formers made fools of themselves and the rest of the school. The cast included nearly the whole form, with Brian Abbs as the young lover, Hilary Jackson as the Society Dame, Michael Frizzell as her henpecked husband, Judy Foster as

the bouncing gym mistress, Royston Baker as the stern schoolmaster, and a full chorus of Sixth Special Lovelies. In all, the entertainment made a splendid ending to a full term.

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We should like to congratulate:

Nigel Watt, Tim Whitmore and Judith Foster on winning State Scholarships. This is the first time that this school has had three State Scholarships in one year.

Robert Dutton, Jennifer Edwards and Una Millett on winning county major awards. Further awards may be forthcoming during this year.

Those who were awarded Leaving Scholarships: Robert Dutton and Tim Whitmore (1st's.), Michael Frizzell and Diana Jones (2nd's.), Olga Sheeran and Jennifer Edwards (3rd's.).

Olga Sheeran on passing the first part (practical) of her Royal Life Saving Society Diploma examination.

Miss Ellinor on her new car.

THE CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

IT would have taken much more than the steadily increasing drizzle to have deterred our high spirits on the morning of June 2nd, and we all looked forward eagerly to the grand Coronation programme that had been arranged by a special committee of staff and seniors.

While the first three forms worked off a little surplus excitement in an early morning mixed bathe, the seniors snuggled down for a much blessed allowance of extra time in bed. After breakfast we scattered to group rooms, common rooms and classrooms where wireless loudspeakers had been especially installed for the occasion. By this time the drizzle had changed into a steady downpour and it was obvious that several outdoor arrangements would have to be cancelled.

On this occasion, as on many others, the Old Scholars' Association had been very kind to us and had made a generous donation to be spent on Coronation celebrations, and Ernest Watson, an Old Scholar, made it possible for a 16 inch screen television to be installed in the Assembly Hall for the day. For viewing we were divided into three groups: one group to see the procession to the Abbey and the fly-past in the evening, one group to see the actual ceremony, and the others to see the procession back to the palace. However, more people were able to view at one time than had been anticipated and consequently many of us saw two parts. Those of us who were unable to watch heard the ceremony on the wireless. A picnic lunch on the school field had been planned for the interval but as it was still raining the picnic

packets and drinks were distributed at the dining room door and we returned to the wirelesses to munch.

Coronation day afternoon passed quickly with B.B.C. commentaries, television, bathes and rain. However, those who were beginning to lose heart were cheered by an excellent Coronation tea. After tea an impromptu swimming and diving display was given by the Swimming Club with the result that penguins were seen around the school for several days afterwards. By this time the rain had stopped and we were able to go down to the town common to share with the town a bonfire and fireworks display, both being very successful despite the previous rain.

On the following morning the positions were reversed and the senior forms had a mixed bathe while the juniors recovered in bed from their late night. For once the weather forecast was right and the rain continued spasmodically all day. Consequently tramps and cycling trips that had been arranged for the morning were out of the question as also were the novelty cricket and tennis matches. Although the treasure hunts had to be indoors they were a great success. In the evening forms one to three saw " Passport to Pimlico" while forms four to six had a dance.

Although these events ended our official celebrations we still had the pleasure to come of the town procession on the following Saturday afternoon, which held up a cricket match, and the torchlight procession in the evening. On the following Friday we attended, at the local cinema, a special matinee for the school of, "A Queen is Crowned." Naturally we were envious of the few of us who were fortunate enough to have seats on the Coronation route, but I doubt if we shall forget our celebrations in a hurry. The gift of a history book entitled " Royalty in Essex " from the Essex County Council, and the Coronation tumblers that the Saffron Walden Borough Council presented to the younger members of the school, will always serve to remind us of this memorable occasion.

Joyce Coffin, Form VI

A TRIP ON A BARGE

LAST summer holidays we went on a walking tour in Germany, with six other people. The day I remember best was one when we did not walk at all. One evening we were in Miltenburg, a lovely old town on the Neckar. In a café we met a barge owner who was going down to Wertheim the next morning. We wanted to go there, so the barge owner said he would take us. He made apologies that it was very uncomfortable with no seats, and, as he said, "Where do you go if it rains?" We said we didn't mind, so he told us to be down by the river at five o'clock next morning. At four the next morning the prospect did not seem so pleasant, but we got up, waking all the girls in our room at the hostel ! At

the barge the man put out a very rickety plank for us to walk over, and we arrived on the barge. It was a Dutch barge bringing coal down from Holland. Most of it was for storing the coal, but it had a little kitchen cabin, and three small bedrooms. The barge owner had brought his family on the barge for a summer holiday. He chatted to us for a while as the boat moved off, and then went below to have his breakfast. We rather envied him, as being on a barge at five o'clock in the morning can be cold. Soon after some of the boys came up to talk to us, and we tried to converse with them in our bad German. They had a dog called Peter with them. When the barge came to a lock he would get very excited because he could have a run on the edge. Once he jumped too soon and they had to haul him out quickly as the barge was drawing into the bank. The hills were steep on each bank of the river, with vines growing all the way up. The side of the hill had been built up like steps so it was easier to pick the grapes. For our breakfast we had only stale bread and jam, and later on one of the girls on the barge brought us some coffee. It was very welcome, and, I think, the best coffee we had on the whole holiday. At about nine o'clock the sun became quite hot and the rest of the family came above to talk to us. After a while we began to sing English and German songs. They joined in with us and we had a very enjoyable time. We reached Wertheim all too soon. But it was a beautiful place, with its castle standing high above the town. We said goodbye to the kind Dutch family and watched the barge disappear down the river.

Elizabeth Weaver, Form IV

EARNING ONE'S LIVING THE HARD WAY

AFTER all the hard work I had done in the Summer Term of 1953 I could not bear the thought of a lazy summer holiday with nothing to do. This position resulted in an advertisement appearing in " Svenska Dagbladet," a Swedish daily newspaper, publishing the fact that I was an " educated " English girl, wanting a position in a Swedish family which would pay for my keep and give me pocket money. Only a few days later I received eighteen answers ranging from offers for a washer-up and floor-scrubber, to the one I finally selected. This one merely involved speaking English with a girl and boy of my own age.

As there was no room on any of the ships on the Scandinavian route, I had to go by the " Nord Express " from Ostend to Copenhagen, which costs the same third class as first class by ship. It is more interesting though to travel through Belgium, Germany and Denmark with Danes, Swedes, Germans and Belgians, all in the same hard compartments, than to look at the North Sea for 36 hours. No country seemed to care much about passports and customs, except Germany, who sent sinister-looking officials, clad

in high leather boots and heavily armed, to inspect our passports and luggage repeatedly throughout the night. The train was crowded and the corridor was crammed with drunken Swedes whose leader, a Communist, did not see why we should have seats while he and his comrades had to stand. He actually tried to pull us out of the compartment. In spite of that crazy night we reached Copenhagen where I caught a ferry to Sweden. After visiting some of my relations I arrived at the summer residence of my employer. It was typical of a Swedish country house, painted red with white windows. The roof is made of bark which soon rots and is covered with weeds. Most Swedes have one of these houses in the forest near a lake and then live in flats in towns for the rest of the year.

My employer was a Director of Forestry, so living with them in the forest I learnt the names of all kinds of trees and mushrooms in Swedish, most of which I have forgotten. We were in such an isolated position that I met no one but the family during the three weeks I was there, and life consisted of sunbathing, swimming, and, of course, speaking English. I had a very interesting experience as we left this house in the forest. It is a Swedish custom, in the middle of August, to have crayfish parties. These are held in the basement or Christmas room. The room is decorated with greenery and peculiar paper lanterns, and one just sees who can eat the most crayfish, helped down by many different kinds of bread and drinks. All the men sing solos and the rest join in the choruses. I went to three of these, but the best was in the house of another Director of Forestry in a small town about three hours away from our house in the forest. Everyone at this party was a forester and it went on far into the next morning.

School children have three months for their summer holiday, June, July and August, so we went back to Stockholm at the end of August. It is a very small city compared with London and was celebrating its 700th birthday when I was there. The palace, town hall and other similar places and the only railway station comprise the centre, and round this are the flats. The family I was with were most insulted when I laughed at the attempt at an underground system which at present has one short line. It is not at all necessary, the only suburb being on an island with a kilometer of water in between it and the mainland. This island was where I lived and was so wild that I met both a hare and a pheasant outside the front gate. The country outside Stockholm is very beautiful, islands covered with pine forest and joined by bridges. I stayed with my aunt on an island which she had all to herself. It was situated in the middle of a sort of fjord and was an obstacle in a sailing regatta which took place when I was on it. After a holiday of seven weeks, I came back to England by ship, with a new coat, bought from the results of my hard labour.

Vendela Revans, Form VI

WHITSUN, 1953

BESIDE this lane of sticky mud,
Churned up by horses' hooves,
Stand erect pink campion flowers,
Between the track and clustered trees.
In this green chapel of the wood,
Our God is magnified ;
In this calm beauty is His peace,
These oak trees show His strength.
Two thousand years ago, men saw
The Spirit sent as tongues of fire.
This Whitsuntide, as gentler sign,
The world is bathed in golden light.

M. Cox, Form VI

IMPRESSIONS OF BERLIN

THE first thing that strikes one about Berlin is the comparative emptiness and quiet, but I speak as one used to noise and traffic, living in London. Everywhere there is reconstruction taking place ; new houses, flats and shops rising out of the ruins and rubble of war damage. But one is not to be disillusioned by the apparent newness of it all : everywhere one passes ugly skeletons and heaps of broken bricks of what used to be fashionable houses and stores. At night they appear ghostly with their gaunt, grey pitted walls, standing out conspicuously in the night sky. But Berlin has its centre of attractions: in the west the Kurfürstendamm, in the east Stalinallee, the war memorial, the museums, and the state university. The Kurfürstendamm, the pride of the West Berliners, the theme of so many songs, the subject of lovers' dreams, has at last regained the splendour of its pre-war days. From the upper storey of some delightful restaurant, it is now possible to observe the welter of traffic along this famous road. Day and night an unending stream of traffic flows between the Gedächtniskirche and the Halensee up and down the Kurfürstendamm ; past elegant shops with the most enticing of windows, past the beer gardens, the fashionable restaurants and tete-a-tete cafes with their wonderful front gardens, past the travel bureaux, the ever-popular sausage stalls, and the bookshops which all have the same international character as the crowd of passers-by : Kurfürstendamm is alive with that special zest common to all large cities, which impresses everyone—from which no one can keep aloof. The Berliners whole-heartedly enjoy the variety Kurfürstendamm has to offer, and are proud to make it the centre of attractions in West Berlin. Berlin is famous for its hotels which do indeed deserve a preferential position in the overall picture of the city. Everywhere can be seen notices : " on parle francais,"

" si parla italiano," " English spoken." But these grand hotels, unlike those of the East sector can only be frequented by the rich.

I quickly got the impression that Berliners are fond of sport. The Olympia Stadium is still one of the largest sports arenas in the world. But the enthusiasm Berliners feel for sport is even too large for this arena. Whenever an international football or athletics match is held the stadium can hardly hold the eager crowds. I was lucky enough to obtain a ticket to an England-Deutschland athletics match. The Germans won after one of the most sporting of matches. Of course I cheered our Gordon Pirie and before long the German crowd were doing likewise. There is no kind of sport that Berlin does not dispose of in an ideal arena, and all sportsmen feel encouraged and inspired by the large crowd of enthusiastic followers in Berlin.

For holiday-makers the Berlin lakes are extremely popular. These lakes are like limpid jewels in a necklace surrounding it. I only know the Tegelersee, but there are other more popular ones such as Heiligensee and Wannsee. Secluded bays where reeds and rushes rustle, and fir trees sway in the breeze attract holiday-makers in canoes and yachts, who pitch their tents and moor their boats and enjoy the peace. The landscape under the Berlin sky is neither romantic nor rugged but its charm and placid beauty offer an irresistible appeal to those who care to explore it.

There are three chief means of travel in Berlin: tram, bus, or underground. The easiest way to get into the east sector is to go by underground. You can tell when the train arrives in an East Berlin station by merely observing the advertisements : if there are no "Coca-Cola" or "Vivil" posters you can take it for granted that you are in the east sector ! Contrary to the ideas of some imaginative minds there are no fierce-looking frontier guards that board trains and ask for a special pass at gun point. A typical frontier between east and west consists of two huts, and between the huts will be a rough part of the road where it has been dug up. This ensures that vehicles travelling in either direction will be obliged to drive slowly. On one side there are blue policemen and on the other side khaki : the khaki uniform are East German and the blue uniforms West German. Alighting from a train at Friedrichstrasse station one is immediately met with a colourful array of flags and slogans. These are the typical signs of the east sector. There are fewer posters and fewer advertisements, otherwise the stations of the east and west are identical, although there are some very newly decorated stations in the east.

Stalinallee, the pride of the East Berliners, and their centre of attractions, has been entirely newly constructed since the war. Production is still progressing at a tremendous rate, and it is said that the finished job will be some six miles long. The road itself is designed after the style of the English duel carriageway with a

neat grass strip running down the middle. On each side of the road there are wide white pavements, and the buildings themselves are magnificent. Obviously they have been built by top-line architects. Tremendous blocks of flats tower upwards to an almost skyscraper height, modern stores and shops fill the ground floors and every precaution is taken towards cleanliness—all perishable goods under cover and windows stacked mainly with tinned and bottled food. Many of these shops come under the state-owned grocery HO ; there are many of these in East Berlin ; even HO sausage stalls which park themselves outside the factories and offices and receive many customers at " knock-off " hours. As one walks on down Stalinallee one passes more and more flats of different shapes and size designed by different architects, and built by the workers for the workers. At night Stalinallee is illuminated by fifteen-foot arc lamps, and the shop windows are ablaze with light. On one side of the road is the sports hall where various kinds of indoor sport is played : basket ball, volley ball, gymnastics and various others. This place is also known as the distributing centre for the famous " food parcels." It was here that some of the food parcels sent from the West Germans to the " allegedly starving " East Germans were collected and sent back to the West Berlin unemployed.

Walking on down Stalinallee I suddenly came upon the memorial to Stalin : a little gap between two terrific blocks of flats, and there, set in a simple well-tended little flower garden stood a small statue of Stalin, no name, no inscription—just this small life-like statue. Behind there was a step and the ground paved ; on the step was one small brown wooden seat. On and on I walked down Stalinallee looking to right and left, completely enthralled !

One of the most remarkable memorials in the whole of Berlin is the Russian war memorial, bearing the names of those who fell in honour during the fall of Berlin. The remarkable thing is that it is situated in the west sector guarded by two members of the East German People's Police. It is very impressive, guarded also as it were by two big tanks, each mounted on a large granite block.

It is every boys' ambition in East Berlin to graduate in the famous University. It has been rebuilt and repaired since the war, and has now regained its pre-war grandeur, with wide marble staircases and a glistening front hall—in fact it is an ideal bait to make scholars work, as the state scholarship attends to all fees, books and lodgings.

Having seen a lot of Germany during my five week holiday I have come to hold a very great respect for the country, and from my observations I can only feel really happy to see the all-out reconstruction that is taking place in east and west, even where the destruction has been worst, and the project seems hopeless. It

makes one feel just how futile war is and now with the present situation, our fight should be for everlasting peace among all nations against the horrors of another war.

Robert Dunstan, Form V

DUNGENESS

IN winter the sea boils round Hythe and Sandgate, smashing its fury against the concrete and brick fortifications that man has made to protect his captured land. Slowly the sea is sucking away the pebbles and undermining the wall till it collapses, and another Sandgate disaster is recorded.

Further down the coast a great promontory is being formed by the sea, an arid waste of shingle—the loot of the Sandgate disasters. This headland is growing at the rate of twenty feet a year, slowly expanding south-eastwards towards the French coast. Here is a struggle for existence. Man has built houses on the stones and brought out tons of earth to make meagre gardens. Roads have been made, but most are poor and some are rough and crumbling under the stresses caused by poor foundations. The rain washes the precious earth unmercifully into the shingle. The houses are mostly abandoned during the winter, when the cold winds of the season rush unchecked over the wild expanse, bringing biting cold to any inhabitant who dares to venture outside. Only the plants survive—those hardy species that cling to the bare stones and somehow find sustenance, who die to supply nourishment for the next seed that alights. Their growth is hampered by man who tramples on them in order to obtain a firmer footing.

Yet human life has not completely gone for out there in that desolate place winks an eye, a steady pulse that gives heart to the fishermen at night and in the daytime can be seen as a huge pillar, rising to over a hundred feet, a structure that has somehow found a footing in this perilous wilderness, earning its living by sending out warning to the men that go to sea in ships.

John W. Robertson, Form VI

BRAZIL NUTS

LET me say at once that I am very fond of the Brazil nut. It gives me considerable pleasure to gaze aesthetically at it and appreciate its unusual virtues. It is only when one attacks the nut with the intention of consuming it that the fun really begins and difficulties are encountered.

The Brazil nut is essentially a test of character—a test of endurance, of ingenuity and most of all, a test of verbal restraint. The object is curiously shaped. It is the proud possessor of three sides, three corners and no ends at all. This might easily deter the connoisseur but the amateur tackles it with zest and a pair of

nutcrackers. First of all it just refuses to be cracked. That is a simple difficulty and easily borne. Then it compromises and makes off at speed in a lateral direction, leaving your fingers to be mutilated in the nutcrackers. When equanimity has been restored and the nut regained from its 'loci extremis' you try a different method. Stamping on the nut seems a fit retribution and only when you have jumped heartily upon it do you realise that you are only wearing your carpet slippers. This expedient is painful and takes some time to recover from; meanwhile the nut reposes mockingly upon the floor, a blatant challenge to all the works of man. By now you are really mad, and the revengful spirit decides without further hesitation that the flat iron is the only instrument fit to expurgate this moral reversal.

Eureka! At last you are successful and joy rises in the breast of the victor. The devices of mankind have overcome the resistance of nature. When you have scraped the nut off the step and sorted out the dirt from it, realisation dawns upon you, however, that you have been wasting your time. The wretched thing tastes identical to its much more easily accessible companion — the walnut.

Alan Sillitoe, Form VI

A WALKING TOUR

AS an introduction to Youth Hostelling Peter Nash and I decided to go on a walking tour for a fortnight during the summer holidays. A French boy, Jean-Pierre Belle with whom Nigger was having an exchange visit, also came with us. We set ourselves 175 miles to walk using 12 hostels, staying two nights at two of them, for obviously a day's rest would be welcome.

We started from London by coach to Oxford and arrived there soon after 2 p.m. It rained most of the afternoon but by 6 p.m. it had stopped, and after a few miles walk we found the hostel which was a large one with table tennis and a piano (Jean-Pierre could play "blues" but he did not try until we got to a smaller hostel) and although it seemed rather strange as our very first hostel we enjoyed our evening there. Next morning we set off in boiling sunshine for Charlbury. We felt rather slow when a group of cyclists from the Oxford hostel passed us, but it was our turn to laugh when we passed them again half-an-hour later, for one bike had a puncture. In the afternoon we needed frequent rests because of the heat but we were in lovely wooded hilly country and we reached the hostel by early afternoon. This was, I think, the nicest hostel we went to and the warden (Miss Youngman's brother) was very friendly. In the evening we walked around the quaint old village of Charlbury. The next hostel was not far from Banbury, and with village church bells ringing all around us that Sunday morning we seemed as far away from London and civilisa-

tion as we could be. At Hanwell the dormitory and washhouse were a barn, for the whole hostel was a farm. In the evening they arranged some dancing for a short while.

Next day came our longest walk of 19 miles to Stratford-on-Avon, involving a walk down the well-known Edge Hill, which gave us a wonderful view of the country that we were walking into. Again the sun was terribly hot and we arrived at Stratford rather exhausted. Next morning we tried to book seats at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre for "Antony and Cleopatra," but just failed. In the afternoon we went on the river, first in a punt and then in canoes, and later watched a display of Morris and square dancing. In the evening we went to a puppet show. The following day we had a short walk to Broom only ten miles or so from Stratford and in the afternoon we sat for nearly two hours beside the Avon at Bidford and watched half-a-dozen fishermen catch one fish between them and then that was thrown back! That day was the only one of the fortnight that it rained and then only slightly. On our way to Malvern the next day we got our first lift because it was too far away to walk and we did about 30 miles first on a lorry in Worcester (where we got lost for a while) and then nearly as far as Malvern on a strange conveyance which was taking a hydraulic switch to Malvern Link, at the speed of a slow steam roller, but we finally got there. In the evening Nigger and I climbed to the top of the highest of the Malverns from which we could see four Welsh and ten English counties.

At the next hostel, whose name I had better not mention, we discovered innumerable remains of prehistoric Youth Hostelling. For example there was only one light (an oil lamp) in the place and that was down stairs; there was one wash basin between 26 people which leaked straight through to the floor below, and there was no common room. But as you can imagine we had a good laugh about it. The remainder of the tour went along the Wye Valley and then across the Severn. At Welsh Bicknor Rectory we bathed in the river and the Warden ferried us across in a punt the next morning, by pulling on a rope. From there we went on to St. Briavels Castle, the most interesting building we stayed in and where we met two boys from Braintree Grammar School who knew of Saffron Walden. The next day, nearing the end of our trip, just before we reached the mill at North Nibley, we came across a remarkable coincidence, for we saw a signpost bearing distances and direction to Cambridge, Newport and the Claypits, while we had just crossed the Severn by a single-track train. The next hostel, Ashton Keynes, was Nigger and Jean-Pierre's last. We stayed two nights and had several swims in a nearby gravel pit. On the second morning there the other two left for London by train and I went on, through Swindon to the last hostel where

the Warden was a Quaker. Next day, after walking 13 miles along a main road vainly thumbing everything that came past, I took a train to London.

Bryan M. Pickard, Form VI

PASSING

THE Craftsman ; the outcast ;
Ignored and disappointed,
He reposes and draws
Upon his sustenance of memories.
He has felt the lash of progress,
The cutting scourge of modern ways.
He thinks of swarming men
And humming machines that usurp him,
That demand the sacrifice of craft.
For craft is gone,
And when he himself has gone,
The soul of craft will be gone too.
He gazes at the tools of his trade,
Each, once a living thing, but now
Strangled, starved
By the press of headless living.
The craftsman knows
His art, once cherished,
Will no longer be handed down,
But will die;
One more unheeded death
In the welter of humanity.

Alan Sillitoe, Form VI

A HOLIDAY ON MAFIA ISLAND

IN the summer holidays I went to join my parents on Mafia Island which is just off Dar es Salaam on the east coast of Africa, for my father is the manager of the geophysical department of the D'Arcy Exploration Co. Ltd., and nowadays various firms make it possible to send children out to their parents on special aircraft, and to see quite a bit of the world at the same time.

Mafia is twenty-seven miles long and ten miles wide and there are only about half-a-dozen white familes on the island, so one really feels that he or she is being received into a community of natives, the majority of whom are Mohammedans, the rest being Christians. We were received very well by native children at the airport and given a very friendly welcome by our four houseboys, two of whom are Christians. Joseph the personal boy, Charlie the cook, Sullaman the washing-up boy and Nyasile the laundry boy, are all very good workers. The natives are a very dark brown in

colour, with black fuzzy hair, and the Indians have long, sleek, black hair, never fair as in England. The natives are very friendly indeed and will do any errand for a white person without expecting payment; for instance, one day my mother and I were coming home from the native village of Kilandoni carrying small bunches of bananas, when we met several natives who asked if they could carry our bananas, because they think it dreadful for a white woman to carry anything. The natives live in huts made from dried palm leaves that are interwoven and they just have old boxes to sit on, and if they want any more furniture they have to make it themselves. They have hurricane lamps for light. The women wear congas, cloths which are wrapped round their bodies, the young girls wearing brilliantly coloured ones and the married ones black.

The wealthier natives love to try and dress up in European clothes and are very proud when they do so. The natives have a great fear of evil spirits which may do them harm, and as a result they do not have windows in their huts, and the doors are kept tightly closed at night to keep the spirits out! One day my brother came home from harpoon fishing with two huge lobsters with long outspread feelers, so naturally Daddy told the boys to boil them, but they would not touch them because they thought they were wicked spirits, and would not have anything to do with them. So in the end Daddy had to do them himself while the boys went on shouting "Byah, Byah," which means "Bad."

I thought the natives would treat snakes and wild dogs just as we treat cats, but I found out that I was far from being right, and it takes a very bold native to kill an interfering snake, and when Daddy tries to shoot wild dogs they get wildly excited even though they do not like guns very much. But the thing they think is " real white magic " is a camera; they love having their photos taken. The Indians, too, are generous for, the first time my brother and I went into a store, they gave me a necklace, brooch and earrings, and they gave Michael a watch. But they can be very deceiving too, because when they presented Daddy with a watch, it was on the bill at the end of the month!

Every day is the same on Mafia, because there is no English Church for white inhabitants, and as the natives know nothing of churches Sunday is the same as any weekday. I will end up by saying that the native people are very homely and the difference in colour between them and us makes no difference whatsover in their attitude towards white people.

Jennifer Dollin, Form III

"BLANKET BASHING"

IT all started on the night of the Friends' Service Council Garden Party, when we were reading some pamphlets on the subject, after lights, and Pam suggested that we read one about destitute Germans needing clothing and rugs. Forthwith Sue, Beth, Pam and myself decided to have a race, knitting one patchwork blanket each! We soon, however, gave up that idea in favour of one between us. By the next evening more and more people had become interested, until all the girl boarders in the Form were knitting. It was then that Hosking became interested, and his enthusiasm spread to Clarke. This led to an amusing incident: the first day on which Clarke joined in, he was knitting in bed. Just as the light went out, the master on duty heard a plaintive 'Sir, sir, I've dropped a stitch!' Consequently, the light went on again until the fatal stitch was recovered! Two days later the girls were commissioned to teach the boys to knit, so armed with needles borrowed from members of the staff and wool kindly donated, we embarked on what seemed a somewhat impossible task! Nevertheless, in twenty-four hours the majority of the Form were quite skilled in the art. Once we were all 'cast-on' and knitting, we held 'knitting parties' on the field in our free time, when boys and girls alike wandered round with balls of wool and needles, feverishly knitting to finish squares.

Towards the end of term a certain large Hillcroft bedroom held a 'midnight repast,' and we all took our knitting over to bed, to keep ourselves awake, for by then we had learnt to knit equally well in the light or dark! Eight people contributed to the black ribbing which is going to fit round the edge of the blanket, as well as knitting their own squares, while the rest of us knitted squares of all colours and patterns and of all shapes and sizes, though the stated measurement was forty stitches by four and three quarter inches! We now have two hundred and ten finished squares, which are being crocheted with navy-blue wool by about half-a-dozen girls into a blanket, which one day we hope will reach someone who needs it.

Margaret Webb, Form V

AN UNUSUAL MUSEUM

DURING the summer holidays I was fortunate enough to be able to visit the Railway Museum at York. There are two parts to this Museum; one, the smaller exhibits section, is kept in a part of old York station, and the other, the larger exhibits section, is housed in what was formerly a locomotive fitting shop.

I visited the smaller exhibits first, and here I found models, prints and photographs of railways, tickets, early timetables, posters and many other small articles of interest. Some of the things which

interested me most were a working model of the " Rocket," a model made completely of wood of an Irish engine, and prints of old York Station.

When I arrived at the larger exhibits section the first things I saw were two queer locomotives with pistons and gears higher than the boiler, and the funnel of one, the " Agenoria " was higher than the door, which was high to admit other engines. Both of these engines were built before the " Rocket." Behind these was another room which contained more famous locomotives. Each had steps to the cab so that anybody could climb up and see the controls. Some of the engines that are there are the " Colombine," the first locomotive built at Crewe, and two engines Nos. 1275 and 910, the " Fletcher," which had taken part in the Centenary Procession between Stockton and Darlington in 1925. The record breaking " City of Truro," which travelled at 103 m.p.h. was also there.

There are not only engines in this museum but carriages and other big things. One of the carriages was a third class from the Stockton and Darlington Railway, which must have been most uncomfortable to travel in as it had no roof. The second and first class coach that is there however has a roof. In this Museum is the first iron railway bridge and examples of early rails. Two locomotives had been removed from the Museum for special uses ; one of them was to pull a train from Doncaster to London to mark the centenary of Doncaster works. There were also level crossing signals and types of early signals. Although I spent two days at the Museum I did not have time to examine closely all the exhibits, and it is a place I should like to visit again.

Harry Frost, Form II

GERMANY, 1953

A LITTLE town some twenty-five miles to the north of Aachen, in the Rhineland of Germany, was the scene of an International Youth Hostel's work camp this summer. The town was Wassenberg, and the camp, in the Youth Hostel there, was for the purpose of cleaning up the building prior to interior re-decoration. A party of boys went from this School, consisting of Robert Dutton, Michael Frizzell, John Skelton, Christopher Wood, Robert Dunstan, Christopher Eames and myself. The German party was slightly larger and came for the most part from neighbouring towns in the Rhineland. We also had a French boy and girl from Orleans.

After a protracted and tiring journey we arrived in Wassenberg at about 3.30 in the morning, had breakfast and went to bed until dinner time the next day, when we had time to view our surroundings. The Hostel was commodious and well run and we could use rooms in it without preventing the normal flow of hostellers. The town itself was of about 5,000 inhabitants and was

very pleasant indeed. That afternoon we had a civic reception in the Town Hall and we were welcomed on behalf of the Town Council, which had subsidised our camp. One of our English members (not from the School) spoke German fluently, and was able to act as interpreter for us.

We commenced work the next day, Monday, but as we only worked during the mornings, we had plenty of leisure time which we occupied by swimming in the local baths and sightseeing. We were conducted on tours of two factories ; one for the manufacture of Rayon and Perlon, and another for spinning natural and artifial silks, where we were given samples. During the evenings we went for walks, played games and saw films in the local Youth Club, danced, and tried to show the Germans that at least some Englishmen could sing. On Saturday we rose at a devastatingly early hour and spent the day sightseeing in Aachen. Aachen (or Aix-la-Chapelle) is the old German coronation city, and is rich in places of historical interest. We were privileged to be shown over the old palace, scene of the 1818 Conference, and the Cathedral built by Charlemagne. The city was badly damaged during the war, but is now, as is most of Germany, under considerable reconstruction. That weekend we spent in German homes, staying with the families of the other members of the party. This gave us a valuable insight into the normal life of the people and we were all treated with the utmost kindness, friendship and consideration. After the weekend we returned to the Hostel, and continued our work until the Wednesday, when we again got up early and all bundled into a motor coach which was to become our companion for the next two days. All that day we bumped and lurched southwards over the rough roads of the Eifel mountains, stopping at Blankenheim, the lovely village at the source of the river Ahr, and at two lakes, one where we had a trip on a boat, and another where we bathed. We spent that night in the Youth Hostel at Darscheid, and we were off again in the morning to continue our journey. Later in the morning we encountered the river Moselle, and followed it down towards its junction with the Rhine at Koblenz. We turned away from the river valley however, and went over the mountains to the Rhine itself, further south at St. Goar. Here the scenery was marvellous; the sky was a perfect blue and the vivid green of the vines on the hillsides made a lovely background for the old castles which top the knolls along the Rhine gorge. We took a pleasure steamer and travelled down the river to Koblenz, continually passing the laden barges and other river traffic which abound on this busy waterway. We disembarked at Koblenz, had lunch and went on in the coach to Bonn, where we saw the West German Bundeshaus, and Cologne, where we stopped to enter the Cathedral. We then returned to Wassenberg, where we arrived not a little tired, but also very happy. The following day was Friday

and we spent the day cleaning up the mess we had made in the Hostel. In the evening we had a farewell party with speeches, dancing and general merry making until quite a late hour.

On Saturday, after fond farewells and a late start, we left Aachen station—destined eventually for London— but we did not arrive at Victoria until just on midnight, which made returning home a little difficult. However, we all managed it and took back with us very happy memories of a wonderful fortnight's holiday.

Alan Sillitoe, Form VI

SUMMER SCHOOL

YOU may be wondering what a report of Saffron Walden Summer School is doing here, or for what reason anyone would want to come back here during the summer holidays.

Actually, I felt that it would be an interesting experience to come back here with unfamiliar people and make new friends (and meet old ones), and to have another opportunity for discussing my religious and spiritual ideas and beliefs. We met on the School premises for a week over the August Bank Holiday. Needless to say, there were many similarities to normal school routine, but apart from the eating and sleeping, and the regular discussion and worship groups, everything was different. We spent the afternoons and evenings with games, amusements and entertainments of a most enjoyable nature; for instance amongst the evening entertainments were music and drama, a visit from a Quaker conjurer, and dancing. Games of one sort or another, and a swimming gala, were arranged for our afternoon entertainment.

The School was divided into four groups for "special interests." Two of these were responsible for the music and drama already mentioned, and the other two were concerned with sketching, and "local history"—which included a visit to the Museum and to the Town Hall to see many interesting old local records.

The mornings were set aside for discussion groups, the theme being "Living to Good Purpose." For these the School was divided into three groups according to age, the age range for the School being 12 to 18. Although the subject did not seem to lend itself very well to discussion as such, the adult leaders made the discussion groups very interesting, and gave us plenty to think about.

I think I would be voicing the opinion of all the Walden people at Summer School, and everyone who attended, in saying that we had a thoroughly enjoyable time, and that we are grateful to everyone who helped to make it a worthwhile Summer School.

Geoffrey Pilliner, Form VI

BOYS' READING CLUB

SINCE the last report on the activities of the Club, there have been two meetings for the discussion of books read, and one play-reading.

The two new members, Mr. Beeson and Royston Baker, were welcomed at an enjoyable reading of J. B. Priestley's play " Bees on the Boat Deck." At the discussion introduced by Mrs. Whitlow it was decided that the play, though dated and devoid of any clear message, was good theatre. The first book, " Ten Years under the Earth " by Norbert Casteret, was introduced by Christopher Wood. The book was written by an authority on speleology, but the author is not a natural writer and although the book was interesting a man with greater literary sense could have made much more of Castaret's material. The next book was " Under the Greenwood Tree " by Thomas Hardy. Introducing the book, Bryan Pickard quoted the opinion that it is " the lightweight among Hardy's novels." This verdict was accepted almost unanimously, and many members complained that only the descriptions and the quality of the prose made it worth reading. The last book of the Spring Term Meeting was by far the best, and led to a correspondingly interesting discussion. " Cry, the Beloved Country " by Alan Paton is a very moving novel on the life of South African natives in Johannesburg. It was introduced by Edwin Austin, who commented upon the fact that because of the author's restraint and the simplicity of his language and thought, this book is a powerful denunciation of present day South African policy.

At the meeting for discussion of books read in the Summer Term, Royston Baker introduced " Round the Bend," one of Nevil Shute's best selling novels. The book was unusual in that it was built round a new aspect of theology. Some thought that it was out of place in a novel of this kind but it was pointed out that if theology intended for universal application were not written in the form of a novel, the number of people it would reach would be very small. " A Pattern of Islands," a book about the author's experiences in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands was introduced by Michael Frizzell. It was appreciated by everybody, and there was very little adverse criticism, either of Sir Arthur Grimble, the author, who kept himself modestly in the background, or of his literary style. The last book was Helen Waddell's " Peter Abelard." There was no formal introduction but Mrs. Littleboy read some selected passages from lay authorities on the medieval Church and on the hero of the book. The discussion, though short, revealed that the book was deeper than most members thought and many members appeared anxious to re-read it.

Members leaving the Club at the end of the term were Brian Abbs, Edwin Austin, Royston Baker, Robert Dutton, Michael Frizzell, Christopher Noble and Tim Whitmore. If the Club had a recommended Book of the Term, the honours would go to " Cry, the Beloved Country," and to " Peter Abelard."

Christopher Brown, Form VI

MUSIC, 1952—53

SENIOR ORCHESTRA enjoyed a particularly successful season. Two violinists of outstanding ability gave a lead to some of the best string playing that has been heard for a number of years. At the concert in March, the programme included works by Dittersdorf, Mozart, Avison and Foster, and Malcolm Harvey gave a fine performance of Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in G Minor. At this concert we were also glad to welcome a guest artist, Robert Rowell, who sang Vaughan Williams' Songs of Travel and a group of American and English Folk-songs.

After the exertions of the Anniversary Celebrations, the Choir has returned to normal routine. Music for Christmas and Passiontide was sung as usual on the final Sundays of the Christmas and Easter terms, and carols were sung in Newport and Abbey Lane Churches. In July the annual recital took place in Saffron Walden Parish Church. The programme included motets by Josquin des Pres, Lassus, Weelkes and Britten, the first chorus of Bach's St. Matthew Passion and Brahms' " How lovely is Thy dwelling place." The chorale in the St. Matthew Passion chorus was sung by members of Forms I, II and III, and the girls of Form III sang an aria from the same work. The good standard of previous years was well maintained.

At the Instrumental Concert in the Autumn Term, outstanding performances were given by Harvey and Olga Sheeran. These two, with a number of others, took part later on in the Chelmsford Music Festival.

Junior Concerts were held in the Autumn and Summer Terms. At the latter, the First Form Orchestra testified to the excellent work being done in the first year string and recorder classes. Some original piano duets by Henrietta Wellings and Jennifer Dollin were a delightful feature of the Autumn Concert.

Olga Sheeran, who obtained a County Major Scholarship in music, has gone to the Royal Academy of Music to study piano and singing. Our good wishes go with her, and with Mary Cliff, who is continuing her violin studies at the Guildhall School of Music.

R.L.S.

ACIS AND GALATEA

ONE of the criticisms most frequently voiced against the boarding school is its insularity. It is good, therefore, to be able to point out once more to the friendly relationship between School and Town which was evident in the recent production of " Acis and Galatea " by the town Musical Society. The School was represented in the chorus, orchestra and front of house staff ; its hall was available for rehearsal, and its rostra for the performance.

The performance itself was most interesting. Instead of the more usual concert version, the Musical Society, inspired by Mr. George Barker, held the story together in semi-dramatic fashion, with costume and stylised mime. Against the background of the Great Hall in Audley End House, which in itself created atmosphere, and to the accompaniment of a small orchestra of amateurs and professionals dressed in eighteenth century costume, the shepherds and shepherdesses lived their life of Arcadian dalliance in a carefree world where the violence of the monster Polypheme could be matched by the divine power of a sea nymph, and friends and foes could join together in a final dance.

It would need an experienced muscian to pass judgment on the music. For the rest of us, it was sufficient that we came away from Audley End with that feeling of deep emotional contentment which comes from a thoroughly satisfying experience.

EDWIN SMALL

THE CHELMSFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL

AT nine-thirty on May 16th, 1953, four of the Chelmsford Music Festival competitors left School in Miss Comber's car. The fifth competitor followed later in another car with the instruments. We arrived at the King Edward VI School soon after ten-thirty and without any trouble found the room reserved for us. We wandered round for a while and eventually discovered the Art room where a piano duet competition was being held.

As the hands crept round the clock we grew more and more nervous and it seemed no time before we had to go to the Hall to compete in the string quartet class. This involved Malcolm Harvey, Susan Haselgrove, Diana Weeden and Margaret Shepherd, who played 'Minuet and Trio' from Haydn's Emperor Quartet.

The other competitors had often taken part in previous festivals and, as the adjudicator pointed out, were very confident because of their experience. The long wait while Ruth Railton, the adjudicator, scribbled notes at a terrible pace was more nerve-racking than the actual performance. However, it was justified when she explained the difficulty of placing two almost equal

performances. At last, as she thought it unsatisfactory to have a tie for first place she gave us 82 per cent. and the winning quartet 83 per cent.

After a break for lunch the afternoon session began. The first class was the consort class held in the Hall in which Malcolm Harvey played a movement from a violin concerto by Vivaldi. He was accompanied by Diana Weeden. Susan Haselgrove, Malcolm Harvey and Margaret Shepherd played part of a trio sonata for recorder, violin and 'cello by Loeillet. Olga Sheeran accompanied at the piano. In this class Malcolm Harvey and Diana Weeden came second.

Immediately after this class we went back to the Art room for the sonata class which involved everyone from the Friends' School. Malcolm Harvey, accompanied by Olga Sheeran, played part of a sonata for violin and piano by Tartini. He came a close third with an excellent criticism which stated that he was a very talented violinist.

The other Friends' School competitors although unable to obtain certificates all had encouraging criticisms. They were: Diana Weeden accompanied by Olga Sheeran, Sonata da Camera for viola and piano by Corelli; Susan Haselgrove accompanied by Margaret Shepherd, Sonata in G Minor for violin and piano by Senallié; Margaret Shepherd accompanied by Olga Sheeran, Sonata in E Minor for 'cello and piano by Marcello.

We feel that festivals of this kind are extremely good and that all schools should be encouraged to enter in order to attain the highest possible standard so that competitors may contiue to give pleasure to the public as well as to themselves.

Margaret Shepherd and Diana Weeden, Form V

LIBRARY REPORT

IN the past academic year 2,083 books were borrowed from the Library, an increase of over 600 on the previous year. Such good care continues to be taken of library books by borrowers that only one book was lost during the year. In view of the greatly increased borrowing of books the School Committee made a special grant which has made it possible to have a considerable number of the more popular volumes strongly bound in buckram.

Since the last issue of *The Avenue* seventy-six books have been added to the Library. We are grateful for gifts of books from Lenon Beeson, Sallie Donaldson, Pauline Goddard, Maurice Haselgrove, Paul Honigmann, Peter Joselin, Godfrey Mace, Owen

Morice, G. Stanley Pumphrey, Alexander Robinson, John Shippey, W. A. Campbell Stewart, Pat Titleboam, Timothy Whitmore and John Wilson. The generosity and discrimination of donors make an invaluable contribution to the effectiveness and appeal of the Library.

The Library Committee for this year is : Una Millett, Nigel Watt, Ingrid Davies, John W. Robertson, Margaret Shepherd and Nigel Weaver with Rita Miles as co-opted member.

C.A.M.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SINCE the last issue of *The Avenue*, the Society has held three meetings.

On the tenth of March, Mrs. Mummery gave us a most interesting talk on fungi, bringing several specimens for us to see. The meeting on March 24th was devoted to a talk on the Saltee Islands and was given by Mr. Darlington, who is always welcomed by the Society. He told us about the different types of wild life to be found on the island, and also how the vegetation has undergone a change from ragwort to bracken during a period of thirteen years. Mr. Darlington illustrated his talk with diagrams, photographs and a short colour film which he had taken of the Island.

Only one meeting has been held so far this term, at which Mr. Thomas talked about locusts and showed us several specimens which, we understand, are going to be kept for further observation. At this meeting we elected a new secretary, Jill Baker, in place of Elizabeth Paul, who has retired after having held her position for three years. Jane Evans and John Edwards were elected as new members of the committee.

On July 4th we had our annual outing. This year we went to Whipsnade Zoo and spent a very worthwhile day there.

At General Meeting last term, several members had exhibits in the Biology Exhibition. Among the most interesting was a very good collection of wild flowers by Margaret Webb and Sylvia Deakin. All the weather records which were taken throughout the year were also on display. The bird ringing group have been hard at work during the nesting season and several new people have joined them this term.

Finally, applications for membership to the Society have once again been numerous, and we are sorry that so many people have been disappointed.

Jill Baker, Form V

IMPRESSIONS OF THE FRENCH STRIKES

JEAN-PIERRE BELLE and I intended to cross over to France early in August, but were held up in London for a week owing to the French strikes. After the situation had eased slightly, we crossed from Newhaven to Dieppe, where we were told that a train would leave at ten past four for Paris. Having finished with the Customs just after four o'clock, we looked for our train, and were shown the station a quarter of a mile away. Carrying our cases on our shoulders we staggered along the railway tracks connecting the quay with the station. We got into the train at eight minutes past four. At a quarer past five, the train ambled slowly out of the station, along lines rusty from lack of use, passing rows of motionless engines. We passed only one train on the way.

As Jean-Pierre's relations live in the suburbs of Paris, we made straight for the Metro on our arrival, but found that gates barred the entrance. While looking for a bus, we were told that the Metro and the few bus services in operation had closed at six o'clock (it was now half-past eight), and that the only method of travel was by army lorry or private truck. We were helped into an army lorry going in our direction, and rocketed halfway across Paris sitting in complete darkness next to a rather inebriated man. Eventually we arrived in the suburb of La Garenne, where Jean-Pierre's cousin lives.

The next morning we were informed that the bakers were on strike. Fortunately, Jean-Pierre's cousin was able to purchase a couple of loaves somewhere.

During the two days that we were in Paris, we managed to see most of the sights, although we were not able to go to Versailles, as there was no convenient transport.

Apart from army lorries, alternative transport was by thumbing a lift or travelling by private lorry running on the normal bus routes. On one occasion I bumped along a boulevard leading to the Arc de Triomphe, in a cattle truck with a load of men who leaned out and mooed at passersby. The Metro only functioned spasmodically, but there were certain times when we were able to travel free on it: sometimes there was nobody working at a station, which meant that we had no need of tickets.

After seeing all that we could in Paris, we caught a train for Chambéry, the capital of Savoie in the French Alps, where I spent the remaining three weeks of the holidays.

Peter Nash, Form VI

GAMES

FOOTBALL, 1952—53

OUR 1st XI's record for the season 1952-53 was : Played 12, won 9, lost 3. Goals for, 42; goals against, 19.

Three School XI games when Staff are included were also played and won. The 1st XI's extremely creditable record was due mainly to team work but special mention must be made of R. Dutton whose captaincy and performance at full back were both of consistent excellence. Nowhere did we meet a better full back during the season, and it was round him that a very strong defence was formed and a high standard both of covering and understanding was reached.

The season began with the Old Scholars' match which we lost 3-4. Three weeks later, on October 25th, a strong eleven, representative of Old Boys and Staff again defeated the 1st XI, this time 6-2. Valuable lessons were learned from these games, however, and no further match was lost until we visited Newport on February 25th to be defeated 5-0. In the intervening four months we recorded our first away win at Soham (3-2) and also defeated them at Walden (1-0). We beat Harlow (7-1) and (4-0) and followed this with perhaps the best display of the season, winning at Braintree (6-0). In this match the forwards played very well indeed and the defence was at its best, despite a bitterly cold inclement day. This match on November 22nd proved to be the last of the Autumn Term as snow and frost prevented any further fixtures being played. The next 1st XI match was played on February 4th when we beat Newport Grammar School 1st XI for the first time for many years (2-1). For the first half of this match against slope and a stiff breeze we were forced continually on the defensive, but our defence held out magnificently, and as so often happens to a side as much on top as Newport were at this stage, a loophole was left in their defence and Harvey raced through to give us an interval lead of 1-0. The second half was a tremendously hard fought battle, both sides scoring once. Our next match was at Bury St. Edmunds where we were rather lucky to score the only goal of rather a scrappy game against West Suffolk County Grammar School. This was followed by a (4-0) win against a weakish side raised for parent-teachers weekend and our last match, in the nature of an experiment was against Saffron Walden Secondary Modern School. Weight, age and experience were very much on our side and we won very easily indeed against a plucky little team (9-0).

A number of age group XI's were tried during the course of the season and the Under 16's, including a number of 1st XI players, did well to win at Bury St. Edmunds against King Edward VI School (3-1). The return game was drawn (5-5). The Under 13's and the Under 14's proved to be rather weak, but Under 14½'s won both their games at home to Newport (1-0) and against Langham Oaks (6-2).

1st XI football colours were awarded to: R. Dutton, M. Frizzell, C. Wood P. Nash, J. Skelton, R. Bennett, R. Dunstan, M. Harvey, A. Newton. A. Pike and E. Dunstan both did well on the wings and we hope we shall be able to add them to the above list in the coming season.

ATHLETICS

As reported below in detail our athletics match against West Suffolk County Grammar School resulted in a win for us by 95 points to 49. This match is the climax of our athletic season and provides a test for running and jumping at three age levels for both boys and girls.

For three years now we have held and won an annual mixed athletics match, though this year was the first time we have had to travel. The problem it presents is to weld into one team the boys and girls of three age levels, and success can only be the reward of soundness in every department and willingness to co-operate to the full. Miss Youngman and I have worked with this aim in view and we congratulate this years' team on the success they achieved. In the coming year, the Athletic Club will continue to run during the winter evenings and those who are likely to be in the team next May should take every opportunity of attending.

A very full programme of boys events was completed during the year and space forbids mention of all but the very exceptional results. R. Bennett won the Throw, High Jump and Long Jump and was second in several events. He was awarded athletic colours for the Long Jump (19 feet) where he broke the School record that had stood since 1908. R. Baker holds colours for the Half Mile: this year his time was 2 mins. 18 secs. P. Nash won his Mile in 5 mins. 19.8 secs and he holds colours for this event. Two further new School records were set up during the year, R. Bennett throwing the cricket ball 97 yds. 1 ft. 5 ins. and J. Edwards throwing the discus in the under 14 event, 76 ft. 3 ins. The Dunstan brothers both threw the javelin well, particularly Dunstan, E., and it was encouraging to find Brown, C. and Sillitoe regaining some of their old form in the sprints where Harvey also did very well. On the whole it has been a most encouraging athletic year and the general standard in the School has risen considerably in the last year or two.

Details of the match against West Suffolk County Grammar School are given below :—

Event	1st, 2nd and 3rd	Time/Dist.
100 yards Boys under 13	Jacobs; Bradbury; W.S.	12.3 secs.
100 yards Boys under 15	Dunstan, E.; Byles; W.S.	11.4 secs.
100 yards Boys Senior	W.S.; Sillitoe; W.S.	11.0 secs.
100 yards Girls under 13	M. Paul; W.S.; J. Pennell.	13.2 secs.
100 yards Girls under 15	M. Wyatt; J. Evans; W.S.	12.4 secs.
100 yards Girls Senior	M. Pilgrim; J. Mabbott; W.S.	11.8 secs.
Long Jump Boys under 13	Jacobs; W.S.; Lampard.	14′ 3½″
Long Jump Boys under 15	Dunstan, E.; Atkinson; W.S.	15′ 5½″
Long Jump Boys Senior	Bennett; Brown; W.S.	18′ 11¼″
High Jump Girls under 13	P. Gosling; W.S.; J. Ellis.	3′ 10½″
High Jump Girls under 15	S. Dutton; W.S.; W.S.	3′ 11″
High Jump Girls Senior	W.S.; W.S.; J. Hunn	4′ 2″
Long Jump Girls under 13	W.S.; W.S.; J. Ellis.	14′ 0¼″
Long Jump Girls under 15	W.S.; M. Wyatt; W.S.	14′ 0¼″
220 yds. Boys under 15	Dunstan, E.; Byles; W.S.	27.6 secs.
Hurdles Girls Senior	M. Pilgrim; W.S.; J. Mabbott.	10.6 secs.
Hurdles Boys Senior	Saul; Dutton; W.S.	11.4 secs.
440 yds. Boys Senior	W.S.; Brown; W.S.	58 secs.
880 yards Boys Senior	W.S.; Baker; Risdon.	2 mins. 13.4 secs.
Mile Boys Senior	Nash; Watt; W.S.	5 mins. 18.4 secs.
Relay Girls under 13	F.S.	60.6 secs.
Relay Girls under 15	F.S.	58.8 secs.
Relay Boys under 13	F.S.	58.0 secs.
Relay Boys under 15	F.S.	52.2 secs.
Relay Girls Senior	F.S.	56.2 secs.
Relay Boys Senior	W.S.	50.2 secs.

Total points—F.S. 95; W.S. 49.

CRICKET

Team records	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
First XI	13	4	7	2
Under 14 XI ...	8	3	2	3

The Under 14's record fairly reflects the picture of an average school side of that age, but the record of the 1st XI is rather misleading as they have in fact proved themselves to be a side well above average and nearly all the drawn games have been in their favour. The 1st XI's fielding has been very good and some of the catching brilliant, and though we have lacked a good spin bowler, our fast medium attack has showed good consistency of length and ability to move the ball in the air, whilst Bell proved to be a useful change bowler as also did Frizzell and Dutton R. Indeed something pleasant (and also true !) can be said about everyone who has played in the XI, but special comment in regard to batting

must be made of Frizzell. An exceptionally good captain—and that alone must always be counted a most valuable contribution to any team—he was much the best of our batsmen, not merely by the cold authmetic of averages but also in stroke play, and above all in the blend of attack and defence. Poole, rather impetuous at times, and Skelton, inclined to be over cautious, have both developed splendidly, but they have not yet reached Frizzell's maturity, though they may well do so in another year or two. Skelton also proved himself to be a real wicket keeper, the best we have had for some time. For most of the others an innings has usually meant "Go in and hit hard whenever possible." This most of them have done quite well, notably Weaver, G., Dunstan, R., Newton, A., and Pike. Frizzell already held cricket colours: he is now joined in that award by Poole and Skelton.

Summary of Matches:

v. Mr. Whitlow's XI. Won by 7 wickets. Mr. Whitlow's XI 53 for 7 dec. (Frizzell 3 for 7). School 66 for 3 (Poole 23, Frizzell 37 not out).

v. Mr. Follett's XI. Drawn. School 67 for 7 (Frizzell 27). Mr. Follett's XI 50 for 5 (Bell 3 for 8).

v. Mr. Whitlow's XI. Won by 8 wickets. Mr. Whitlow's XI 43 (Dunstan, E. 6 for 11; Bell 3 for 9). School 60 for 2 (Skelton 23 not out).

v. Old Scholars. Drawn. School 85 for 7 dec. (Frizzell 52). Old Scolars 41 for 6 (Dunstan, E. 4 for 8).

v. Cambridge County High School 2nd XI. Drawn. Cambridge 100 (Dutton 5 for 23). School 63 for 1 (Frizzell 36 not out).

v. St. Christopher School. Drawn. School 124 (Poole 45 not out, Pike 22 not out). St. Christopher 44 for 8.

v. Newport Grammar School. Lost by 3 wickets. School 60. Newport 61 for 7 (Pike 4 for 14).

v. Soham Grammar School. Drawn. Soham 87 (Bell 4 for 20). School 34 for 6.

v. Harlow College. Won by 8 wickets. Harlow 40 (Dunstan, E. 4 for 15). School 111 for 4 (Frizzell 37, Poole 23 not out, Weaver 22).

v. Braintree County High School. Drawn. School 90 (Dunstan, R. 23 not out). Braintree 74 for 9 (Dunstan, E. 4 for 16).

v. Newport Grammar School. Lost by 3 wickets. School 73 (Frizzell 34 not out). Newport 77 for 7.

v. Harlow College. Won by 8 wickets. Harlow 54 (Bell 5 for 19, Pike 3 for 11). School 139 for 5 (Poole 20, Weaver 57 not out).

v. Parent-Teacher XI. Drawn. School 114 for 6 declared. (Skelton 21, Dunstan, R. 20 not out). Parent-Teacher XI 46 for 7 Dunstan, E. 3 for 10).

The following are the chief averages for the season, including House matches and also the Whit-Monday fixture against the Old Scholars, in which staff take part and which was won by the School by 34 runs.

Batting	Innings	Times not out	Highest innings	Runs	Average
Frizzell ...	16	4	52	357	29.75
Weaver ...	14	3	58*	210	19.09
Dunstan, R.	12	4	45	129	16.12
Pike ...	12	5	26	108	15.28
Poole ...	15	2	45*	197	15.15
Skelton ...	15	3	23*	128	10.66

* not out

Bowling	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.	Average
Frizzell ...	40	8	71	16	4.43
Dunstan, E.	163.2	54	276	44	6.27
Pike ...	133.2	41	203	31	6.54
Bell ...	89.5	21	205	29	7.07

Our Under 14's have proved themselves a side of average ability. Defeats at Cambridge and Letchworth and at home to Soham were balanced by wins over Harlow (twice) and Langham, though the chief event of the season lies perhaps in twice drawing with Newport Under 14's. They had rather the better of the first game and we had decided advantage in the second. Edwards was an intelligent captain and bowled very well, though his batting was rather disappointing. Newton also bowled very well and Hogg hit out bravely and effectively on several occasions. Several of the younger members of the team showed considerable promise. Catching was of a fairly high standard, but throwing and ground fielding was not all that it might have been. On the whole our Under 14's did quite well and next year they should have the nucleus of a useful side.

J.E.F.

BOYS' SWIMMING

This has been a fairly successful swimming season. At the end of the first week of term we were privileged to have a demonstration in the School Baths of back crawl swimming given by Vivien Meyrick, a local schoolgirl who is competing this year in the National Championships. This was very much appreciated and gave us a very high standard to aim at.

A fortnight later we had the first mixed swimming match of the term against the Town Swimming Club and almost drew, which was a creditable achievement. Whitsuntide followed almost immediately, and in the match against the Old Scholars on the Saturday the School just won.

The distractions of Whit weekend and the Coronation holiday, with Exams coming very soon afterwards, reduced interest in swimming somewhat, and the Granta match was on us almost before we realised. This powerful club gave us a thorough trouncing, our main weakness being in the senior events. It was unfortunate that the match against King's School, Ely had to be cancelled as they had mumps.

Practices for the Life Saving Exams and the Display for General Meeting took up a great deal of time towards the end of term. The number of candidates for the Life Saving Exams was slightly less than usual, but all were successful.

In the House Competitions the results were rather closer than was at first anticipated, Mennell gaining 34 pts., Tuke 30 and Lister 17.

The Swimming Club has been very flourishing and its membership is full with several promising swimmers coming on.

Teddy Dunstan is to be congratulated on having established a new 50 yds. free-style record of 29 secs. for boys under 15, which beat the senior record, and also a new 100 yds. free-style record which was only 0.6 of a second off the senior record for the same distance. John Skelton has lowered the 100 yds. senior breast record to 82.4 sec., and the 50 yds. senior breast record to 37.2 secs.

B.B.J.

HOCKEY, 1952—53

This season we again played a 1st XI and an Under 15 hockey team, with encouraging results.

1st XI : H. Wright or J. Baker, goalkeeper ; O. Sheeran, right back ; R. Hatch, left back ; S. Donaldson, right half ; P. Cadman, centre half ; J. Foster, left half ; J. Mabbott, right wing; J. Goodrich, right inner ; M. Pilgrim, centre forward ; J. Rice, left inner ; R. Miles, left wing.

Under 15 XI : J. Eames, goalkeeper ; P. Davis, right back ; J. Burlingham, left back ; B. Mace, right half ; J. Evans, centre half ; M. Paul, left half ; M. Martin, right wing ; J. Whitlow, right inner ; K. Shackford, centre forward ; M. Wyatt, left inner ; S. Dutton, left wing.

Also played : A. Dawe, J. Scott, D. Richardson, J. Hunn, J. Dollin, D. Bailey, D. Gribble.

Autumn Term, 1952. This term the 1st XI played 6 matches, winning 4 and losing 2. They scored 35 goals and had 19 goals scored against them. Unfortunately poor weather conditions caused all but one of the Under 15 XI matches to be cancelled. This match the team won 14-0. No junior county tournament was held this year for the Under 15 yr. XI.

Jill Baker at Senior County Trials was chosen to represent

Cambridgeshire as goalkeeper of the 2nd XI.

The quality of stickwork improved considerably in the first half of the term, and the teams showed good, co-ordinated play. This was very noticeable in the fast-moving, evenly contested match against Girton College, resulting in a memorable win for the School team of four goals to three.

House matches were postponed until the Spring Term. There were eight successful entrants for the "C" Hockey Umpiring Certificate awarded by Cambridgeshire.

Hockey colours were awarded to J. Baker, J. Goodrich and R. Hatch for attaining a high standard of performance in the 1st XI.

Spring Term, 1953. This term the 1st XI played 10 matches, drawing 5, winning 3 and losing 2. They scored 18 goals and had 18 goals scored against them. They lost only one game in the junior county tournament, and came 3rd in their section. Fast-moving, accurate play enabled this team to draw with Herts and Essex High School at the beginning of the term.

The Under 15 XI played four matches, winning all four. They scored 14 goals and had only 3 goals scored against them. Their highlight of achievement came when they won their match against Herts and Essex High School.

In the Inter-house hockey matches, Lister won both its matches with a total of 8 goals, Mennell was 2nd with 6 goals, and Tuke 3rd with 3 goals. House netball matches were also held this term. Tuke won both its matches with a total of 32 goals, Mennell was 2nd with 21 goals, and Lister 3rd with 11 goals.

Reviewing the seasonal results of these two teams as from last September, the 2nd XI has won all its matches, whilst the 1st XI has lost to one other school only.

Hockey colours were awarded to S. Donaldson, J. Foster and J. Mabbott. Netball colours were awarded to J. Coffin.

ATHLETICS

Two new records were set up last Autumn. The senior Long Jump held by K. Moore, (1945) at 14 ft. 11½ ins. was broken by M. Pilgrim with a jump of 16 ft. 9 ins. The Under 14 record for the same event, held by J. Mabbott, (1950) at 14 ft. 9 ins. was broken by M. Wyatt at 15 ft. 2½ ins.

In our athletics match against West Suffolk County Grammar School, two girls' records were broken and one standing record equalled. M. Wyatt broke the 100 yd. record jointly held by J. Evans and J. Mabbott at 12.8 secs. by covering the distance in 12.4 secs. M. Pilgrim broke her own 75 yd. Hurdles record of 11.4 secs. with the very good time of 10.6 secs. She also equalled the 100 yd. record set up in 1933 at 11.8 secs. On the combined final total we won by the substantial margin of 95—49 points.

TENNIS

From an original fixture list of 10 tennis matches this term only 5 were played, four by the 1st VI and one by the 2nd VI. Bad weather and last minute Summer Term arrangements caused the others to be cancelled. We lost all 5 matches played, though in most cases the games were evenly contested. The team lacked the ability to discover and play upon their opponent's weaknesses. The 1st and 2nd tennis VI's were chosen from the following :— P. Chuter, A. Dawe, M. Pilgrim, J. Baker, J. Rice, R. Hatch, J. Edwards, J. Morris, P .Davis, J. Goodrich, P. Binks, R. Miles, S. Dutton, M. Cox, J. Smith, J. Hunn.

The Under 13 IX played only one rounders match this term, which they won. Both senior and junior house tennis matches were played, with 3 couples representing each house in each group. The senior house tennis was won by Mennell with 102 games ; Lister was 2nd with 82 games and Tuke 3rd with 59 games. The junior house tennis was won by Lister with 90 games. Tuke was 2nd with 77 games and Mennell a close 3rd with 76 games. In the house rounders matches Lister came 1st with 9 rounders, Mennell 2nd with $8\frac{1}{2}$ and Tuke 3rd with 4.

Tennis colours were awarded to Pat Chuter who captained the 1st VI this season.

GIRLS' SWIMMING

We have had three swimming matches this term. Our teams performed well against the Town Swimming Club, and lost by the small margin of $114\frac{1}{2}$ points to $104\frac{1}{2}$. Against the Old Scholars at Whitsuntide the girls' team won by 34—20 points. We lost by 123—73 points against Granta Swimming Club. The junior house swimming match was won by Lister with 16 points, Mennell was 2nd with 14 points and Tuke 3rd with 6 points. The senior house swimming match was also won by Lister with $14\frac{1}{2}$ points, Tuke was 2nd with $12\frac{1}{2}$ points and Mennell 3rd with 9 points.

Swimming colours were awarded to M. Pilgrim.

V.Y.

GENERAL MEETING DANCE DISPLAY

WE chose the theme "Come and Dance" for our General Meeting Dance Display. One hundred and twenty six girls representing Scotland, France, Italy, Austria and England between them showed steps and dances in traditional style. Barbara Comber, dressed in Norwegian costume, provided most of the dance music on her violin. Hilary Jackson was the speaker, and introduced each country with a short account of its music and costume. Finally, our thanks are due to Geoffrey Pilliner who "managed" the gramophone and amplification system most admirably.

V.Y.

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY AWARDS, 1953

BOYS

Award of Merit: C. D. Eames, B. Hosking.

Instructor: C. D. Eames.

Bronze Cross: B. Bell.

Bronze Medallion: D. Lindsey, B. Newton, A. Osborn, R. Parmenter.

Intermediate: M. Connolly, J. Hansen, R. Higgs, P. Jamieson, J. Munro, M. Pickard, P. Redington, O. Weaver.

GIRLS

Diploma: O. Sheeran (practical taken London 9th July, 1953).

Award of Merit: A. Dawe, R. Hatch, J. Morris, G. Lampard, J. Hunn, C. Vaughan.

Instructor: M. Pilgrim.

Bronze Cross: N. Bradbury, F. Fairs, F. Bradbury, C. Vaughan, J. Baker, D. Hollingbery, E. Edmunds, R. Hatch, S. Wilkinson, J. Godfrey, B. Skelton.

Bar to Bronze: D. Hollingbery, B. Skelton.

Bronze Medallion: M. Martin, M. Blyth, J. Fairs, J. Evans, C. Seager, B. Mace, M. Chatten, R. Brown, A. Spearpoint, J. Scott.

Intermediate: J. Whitlow, M. Doyle, M. Lukies, S. Elliot, A. Wilson, K. Shackford, J. Pennell, S. MacClymont, J. Green, M. Peacock, P. Gosling, N. Osborn, D. Foster, D. Gribble, H. Pullen, A. Maclay, B. Miles, J. Dollin, E. Wallis, J. Ashton.

Elementary: J. Frost, S. Crosbie, S. Jones, J. Ludgate, M. Busch, M. Shepherd, B. Stokes, D. Price, C. Chattenden, G. Clayden, P. Camburn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Beckside, The Georgian, The Leightonian, The Portico (Magazine of Brummana High School, Lebanon), St. Christopher Magazine, and 'By Kent and Skerne' (Polam Hall).

EDITORIAL BOARD

We were sorry to say goodbye to Margaret Hall, and welcome in her place Tim Evens. Other members are Margaret G. Yapp, Kenneth L. Whitlow, Hilary Jackson, Una Millett, Joyce Coffin, Nigel Watt, John Wilson and Alan Sillitoe.



HARTS
PRINTERS
SAFFRON
WALDEN