

# **THE THORNBURIAN**

THE THORNBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
MAGAZINE

**JULY, 1951**

Editor:

P. M. HARVEY

No. 17

## SCHOOL OFFICERS, 1950-51

### *School Captains:*

Mary Clutterbuck (H) and M. D. Lewis (S).

### *School Vice-Captains:*

Joan Timbrell (C) and R. M. Teague (C).

### *School Prefects:*

Kathleen Withers (C)	R. Rosser (S)
Pauline Robson (S)	G. A. Dicker (H)
Patsy Harvey (S)	D. R. Cooper (S)
Mary Hulbert (H)	R. D. Biggin (H)
Pat Brown (C)	D. J. Malpass (C)
Frances Riddiford (S)	M. H. Dunn (C)
Ann Phillips (S)	J. S. Cantrill (S)
Barbara Hedges (C)	E. J. Locke (C)
Pat Arnold (H)	D. J. Hamilton (H)
Dorothy Rudledge (S)	D. G. Hawkins (H)
Mary Nicholls (C)	I. P. Blenkinsopp (C)
Maureen Weaver (H)	

### *House Captains:*

CLARE: Joan Timbrell and R. M. Teague.

STAFFORD: Patsy Harvey and M. D. Lewis.

HOWARD: Mary Clutterbuck and G. A. Dicker.

### *Games Captains:*

HOCKEY: Ann Phillips.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL: D. J. Hamilton.

RUGBY FOOTBALL: M. D. Lewis.

TENNIS: Joan Timbrell.

CRICKET: D. G. Hawkins.

### *Games Secretaries:*

Pat Timbrell, D. J. Malpass.

### *Magazine Editorial Staff:*

EDITOR: Patsy Harvey.

SUB-EDITORS: Mary Nicholls, D. R. Cooper.

SECRETARY: Wendy Mogg.

# THE THORNBURIAN

## EDITORIAL

Discord almost always originates from misunderstanding of the other's point of view, and this explanation is just as applicable to nations as to individuals, whose characteristics and environment usually differ less wide

ly. We can best increase the fellowship of nations by visiting other countries and living among their peoples for a time, and this is what many English, and particularly the younger generation, are now doing. Recently, thousands of young people have been able to travel in foreign countries, even if only by hitch-hiking, and difficulties of language and finance, which some years ago would have seemed insuperable, are being overcome.

Old Thornburians, too, have been availing themselves of opportunities of foreign travel, and besides the somewhat equivocal pleasure of being "posted" to distant parts of the world in the course of their National Service training, some have visited Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden and even Yugoslavia. Not only Old Thornburians have been able to travel; an interesting development this year has been the participation in the Bristol-Bordeaux Schools Exchange scheme, by which pupils will entertain the French children who were their hosts at Easter, in the last week of term and for part of the summer holidays. These most welcome guests should have arrived at the School by the time this issue of the magazine is in print. Our party included Juniors as well as members of the Middle and Senior School; some of us are beginning early to qualify as citizens of the world!

So Thornbury, too, is taking part in this world experiment whose result, we all hope, will be to achieve "peace in our time."

## MR. W. G. RABLEY

It is a sad thing to bid farewell to Mr. Rabley. Some of us remember him when his hair was red and his sportsmanship more vigorous. Certainly no red-head was ever blessed with a more even temper, and no all-round sportsman of his calibre was ever more patient with the eager but unhandy learner. Hundreds of pupils have gained skill and confidence from his understanding advice, as well on the playing field as in the wood-work department and the class-room. He has always had his own happy methods of obtaining results and of maintaining discipline, and not the least of these has been the example he has set by his own high personal standards of workmanship.

When Mr. Rabley married in 1919 he brought a new friend to the school in Mrs. Rabley, who has always taken the warmest interest in our doings, and whose kind hospitality so many of the staff have enjoyed. Both of them are well known in Thornbury for their public-spirited activities in local affairs, and we are proud of the esteem in which they are held throughout the neighbourhood.

As Senior Master, Mr. Rabley has accumulated an amazing number of responsibilities, small and great, and he discharges them all so faithfully and unobtrusively that perhaps not everyone realises, at first, how much he contributes to the well-being of the School. All sorts of carpentry are his special care. He understands also the locks, the clocks, the lighting and heating; he keeps a check on National Savings, on bicycles, and on seating accommodation, and yearly provides us with that ingenious and intricate daily itinerary known as the time-table. With it all, he rarely seems hurried or worried; he is never too busy to exchange a cheerful word or to be concerned with other problems besides his own.

It is no empty phrase to say that Mr. Rabley has devoted his life to the School. For forty years its members have been able to rely on his sound judgment and unfailing goodwill; perhaps our best expression of gratitude is a firm intention to imitate him, as far as we can, in the qualities which have won affection and respect from so many generations of pupils and staff. We offer to him, and to Mrs. Rabley, every good wish for a long and happy retirement.



MR. W. G. RABLEY

**MR. RABLEY — AN APPRECIATION**  
B.S.M.

I have known Bill Rabley for nearly thirty years, and I hope I may say we have been friends throughout that fairly long period. I shall always remember his many acts of kindness to me.

I feel that if you want to know what kind of person he is, you should watch his tennis. His game is not spectacular—though there are occasional flashes of splendour!—but it is solid and safe and achieves the desired result—usually a win! In the early twenties, when he was captain of the tennis club at Lower Marlwood, his tact, good humour, and common sense made of the rather heterogeneous lot of players a happy family, where jealousy never came to the surface: the stars were not temperamental and even the rabbits were content.

For twenty-five years we worked together without a cross word at that dangerous trade of giving children ideas, which is called teaching: the staff-room had no quarrels, the school atmosphere was serene, and I am quite certain that T.G.S. would have been a different place and far less the excellent institution it is hut for W.G.R.'s quiet, kindly, unobtrusive forty years there.

## GENERAL NOTES

This year fewer members of Staff are leaving us at the end of the Summer term, but we are still unfortunate enough to be parting with Miss Burcombe, the School's first full-time Physical Training Mistress, to whom we wish every happiness in her marriage to Mr. Eric Norris; Mrs. Hodge, whose Divinity lessons have been greatly appreciated, and who, with Mr. Hodge, produced this year's School play; Mr. Johnson, who has been recalled by the R.A.F. for eighteen months, and to whom we offer our somewhat belated congratulations on his wedding, last November, to Miss Jones; and finally, with great regret, we say '~au revoir' to Mr. Rabley. Knowing him as we do, we feel sure that it is only '~au revoir' and not good-bye, and we shall always be delighted to see him back in school.

At the beginning of the School Year we welcomed Miss Walker and Mr. Beynon to teach Mathematics, Mr. Copley for Music, Mr. Young for Physical Training. Mr. Gunn as English Master, Mr. Silverthorne, who luckily arrived in time to prevent the complete destruction of the chemistry laboratory, and Mr. Wright, who has been faced with the task of explaining to us why all roads should lead to Rome! As usual, several students from Bristol University have visited Thornbury in the course of their training.

The dancing classes for the seniors were held most successfully during the Autumn and Spring terms, and this year we have attempted Square Dancing as well as Ballroom Dancing. At the time of going to press, it is rumoured that there is a possibility of a Square Dance party for the seniors at the end of the term, though, so far, this is by no means a certainty. Our thanks are due to Miss Burcombe for teaching us so patiently and ably, and for training some of the girls in National Dancing as well as Gymnastics for the Speech Day display.

Parents' Evenings are now a regular feature of each term, and have provided welcome opportunities for parents to meet Staff. These evenings are -all the more valuable since the School is expanding so rapidly; and<without such friendly meetings we might become increasingly impersonal. Our growing numbers, and the permanent admission of three Second Forms annually, have increased the urgency of the need for more class-room and canteen space, especially as we have already had to requisition the Woodwork room. Fortunately, however, we have reason to hope that work on new buildings will begin soon, and meanwhile the canteen has been provided with a vegetable-storing shed, and various other kitchen equipment.

There have been several new developments in sporting activities, notably the fielding of Netball and Rounders teams for the girls (who have also made up a Cricket team), and the introduction of new events in the Athletic Sports.

There have also been changes near the Hard Tennis Courts. The courts were re-laid during the Christmas holidays, and the railings round the top have been painted. A more doubtful blessing has been the sudden appearance of "The Greenhouse," but perhaps it has helped to limit rash and forceful shots!

Inside the School, we are glad to have more pictures. Four of these, by Lamorna Birch. Paul Nash, Vermeer and R. Wintz. are our own; two of them were provided by the generosity of an anonymous donor; the others are on loan from a "picture library."

The School Flag, flown for the first time on Speech Day, was paid for from Form Funds. We also contributed towards the War Memorial in the quadrangle, and we thank Miss' Bruton for the trouble she has taken over the flowers there

Although it was not possible to give our usual Music Concert this year, a service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held at the end of the Christmas term. A most interesting innovation was the handbell-ringing by a team trained by Mr. Beynon. The School's interest in music seems to be growing; we now have a violin class, and the beginnings of an orchestra (for both of which we are indebted to the keenness and generosity of Mr. Gibbons), a Recorder Club, and three choirs, and there were more competitors than ever before in the House Music Competition.

The Whitsun Quiz, "How Good is your History?" is now in its second year, and promises to be a permanent institution. Questions ranged from the profound, "What is the origin of 'Fidei Defensor'?" to the frivolous, "Did Sir Walter Raleigh invent the bicycle?" Any lawful means could be employed to find out the answers. This year competition was again very keen, and not a few entrants came very near to giving the correct fifty answers. Prize-winners were:—First, Rosemary Green, IIIb; second, B. Lippiatt, IIb; Kathleen Stephens, IIa, and A. Stephens, IVb, tied for third place. The Historical Society has had fewer meetings this year, but cooperated with the Geographical and Domestic Science departments in a series of lectures about Wool. During the Christmas term Mr. Ahmed Buchari, from Bristol University, gave us a lecture on "The History of the Sudan," and later in the year, the Society held an exhibition of British and Foreign coins.

The Art Club now has a book-binding section which is really flourishing, and many books have been well bound in linen and leather. The library is also profiting by the acquisition of binding equipment, through which many books have taken on a new lease of life.

Other Societies have continued to thrive, although few meetings could be held in the Summer term, owing to the approaching external examinations. Especial mention must be made of the flourishing state of the Mathematical Society, which would have been viewed with horror a few years ago. The World Citizenship Society has had few outside speakers, and relied more on its own devices, but recently a talk was given by Mr. Redvers Lewis on "Raising our Standards of Living." The Geographical Society has also had some outside speakers, two of whom, from the Imperial Institute, talked about Ceylon and Malaya. In many forms a French Society meeting has been devoted to lectures about their trip by those members of the School who visited Bordeaux at Easter.

Last July Mr. Morse, until recently our History Master, published his interesting and informative "History of the School," which traces its development from its foundation in 1606 to its present flourishing state.

We have within the School also some budding authors, and in many junior forms a 'Form Magazine' has been introduced with great success.

The School now possesses a complete set of Visual Aids to learning, and many lessons are enlivened by film-strips or slides, and the end-of-term Film Shows have become almost an institution.

To the great delight of the girls, this year has seen the re-introduction of the rule concerning School caps, and this has greatly improved the boys' general appearance.

The Prefects' and Upper Fifth Forms' Christmas parties took place as usual this year, and were highly successful. House tea-parties have been a welcome innovation, and they have helped members of the various Houses to know each other better, and so to develop the team spirit of each House. Besides doing this, these teas have provided great enjoyment, and brought to light talents which would otherwise have passed unnoticed, for one House entertained its members with an "orchestra," one with a series of short sketches, and one with an extraordinary Physical Training Display and a blood-curdling melodrama!

House Prayers, also, are now being held once a month, and this meeting together for a purpose so different from the majority of the School's general activities is proving extremely worth-while, for with our increasing numbers the House-system must play a greater part in maintaining and improving our present standards.

At the end of this term Joan Timbrell is leaving us for Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Other leavers have been provisionally accepted for Bristol University, but their places there depend on the still unknown results of the recent General Certificate of Education examinations. However, several Sixth Form girls are going to Training Colleges in September. Mary Clutterbuck, the School Captain, is going to Homerton College, Cambridge; Ann Phillips and Dorothy Rudledge to St. Mary's, Cheltenham; Frances Riddiford to Eastbourne; and Eveline Robinson has been accepted at Fish-ponds Training College. Both Kathleen Haskins and Kathleen Withers have already left us for Civil Service posts; Kathleen Haskins has volunteered for work abroad.

In conclusion, the Editor would like to thank all those who have contributed to this issue of the Magazine, and all those who have worked so hard at copying, arranging and reading the rough proofs, especially Miss Cook, Mr. Wright and Mr. Gunn.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Williams, who has helped so much with editing previous issues of "The Thornburian," and who kindly consented to judge this year's Magazine Competition.

## ANNUAL EVENTS

**FOUNDERS' SERVICE.**—The Founders' Day Service was held on Thursday, October 19th, at Thornbury Parish Church. It was well attended by both parents and Old Thornburians. The Vicar, the Rev. R. G. Rawstone, conducted the service and the lesson was read by the Headmaster. As in the previous two years, the organ was played by Dr. D.

G. A. Fox, director of music at Clifton College; and the School Choir sang the anthem, "I vow to thee, my Country." by Gustav Holst.

The Rev. Peter Brook preached the Sermon, choosing for his text two passages, one from Ecclesiasticus, and the other from St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. He said that we had assembled to honour the memory not only of our founders, but also of those who had carried on the good work.

Mr. Brook stressed the importance of the individual, saying that it is he who makes the community. Finally, he turned to the religious aspect of School life, and said that if our work and ambition are to be successful, it is essential that we believe in, and are guided by, the power of God. "We have," he said, "started on the right road. Let us not turn back, but live with the right ideals and the highest standards."

### HOUSE READING COMPETITION.

Mr. Ian Michael, of the Institute of Education, Bristol, kindly came to judge the House Reading Competition, which took place during the last week of the Summer Term.

He gave the competitors some very helpful advice about their expression in reading, and emphasised the fact that the readers must aim at understanding completely the feeling of the passage.

Clare House won the competition.

**HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION.**—This year the number of entries for the House Music Competition showed a marked increase, and many hours were spent eliminating some of the less inspiring, but nevertheless valiant efforts which were presented from all parts of the School. Having

overcome this difficulty, we were all very disappointed to learn that Dr. D.

G. A. Fox, who had kindly consented to adjudicate, would be unable to come. However, we were fortunate enough to secure the good advice and sound judgments of Mr. Kenneth Mobbs, lecturer in music at the University of Bristol, who came to our assistance at very short notice, and even awarded several of the competitors the magnificent total of ten out of ten marks for their performances.

A humorous element was introduced in the senior boys' duets, and although there was only one entry for this class, we hope that it will become a regular feature in our programme. For the first time in many years the competition did not exceed the limit of time imposed upon it by the arrival of the School 'buses at a quarter to four.

Clare House retained the Music Shield, though by a very narrow margin.

Owing to the changes in the music staff and the advanced date of the external examinations, and consequently of the school play, a music concert was not included in our yearly programme, although we hope that this omission is only temporary.

THE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE—The Service was held on November 10th in the School Hall. It was especially notable because the new memorial in the quadrangle was unveiled, and dedicated to the memory of those Old Thornburians who fell in the Second World War of 1939-45.

The Service was simple and impressive. The Headmaster read the lesson from "Revelations," and then accompanied Mrs. Gain, whose son was killed in 1941, to unveil the memorial. The Rev. R. G. Rawstorne, Vicar of Thornbury, dedicated it with the words, "We dedicate this memorial to the glory of God, in memory of those who have made the supreme sacrifice, especially the Old Boys of this School."

The names of fallen Old Thornburians were read by Mr. Rabley, and wreaths were laid on the new and old memorials by the School Captain. N. D. Lewis, and Vice-Captain. R. M. league; also by Mr. F. Styles, Chairman of the Old Thornburians' Society. The Last Post was sounded after the observance of the two minutes' silence. The words, "They shall not grow old" were spoken by Mr. Rabley, and the response was made by the School. After the sounding of Réveill  and the singing of a hymn, the Service ended with prayers and the National Anthem.

SPEECH DAY.—Owing to the unusually large attendance of parents and Old Thornburians at Speech Day this year, there was unfortunately no room for the Second and Third Forms, and the Fourth Forms were seated in the quadrangle. For the first time tea was served in two shifts, but inspection of excellent Art and Photographic exhibitions and of "Subject-rooms" fully occupied those who had to wait. The new School flag was flown for the first time.

At the beginning of the afternoon a bouquet was presented to Lady Bevan, who later assisted her husband by presenting the prizes. In a short address, the Chairman of the Governors, the Rev. R. G. Rawstorne, emphasised the importance of parents' interest in the activities of a School, and referred with regret to Mr. Rabley's departure after forty years of service, saying that he had always looked upon him as a "peace-maker." He also welcomed Captain Bennett, who had been unable to attend the last two Speech Days, and introduced Rear-Admiral Sir Richard and Lady Bevan.

The Headmaster, in his report, referred to our recent excellent examination results, and also to the importance of out-of-school activities and home life. He declared that a child must attempt all subjects with equal effort. He too referred to Mr. Rabley's invaluable services to the School,

and welcomed the speaker and his wife, saying that Sir Richard's work as County Commissioner for Scouts was already well-known in the district.

Lady Bevan then presented the prizes, after which Sir Richard spoke to the School. In a sincere and witty address, he said that his ideal recipe for success contained equal portions of Character, Intellectual Achievement and Good Health, together with a Sense of Humour, Charm and Good Luck, the whole being covered by a belief in God and the Christian Faith. The School Captain proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Richard and Lady Bevan.

After tea, Physical Training and Dancing displays were given on the field.

**THE SCHOOL PLAY.**—This years the School tradition of presenting three playlets was abandoned, and one play, James Bridie's "Jonah and the Whale," was produced. This unification of the programme has been highly popular. Mr. and Mrs. Hodge were joint producers, and they had a large, lively and most enthusiastic cast. An outstanding performance was given by Malpass, as Jonah, who sustained a long and difficult part with remarkable confidence and versatility. Other players of particular promise were Wendy Slade, Cooper, Lewis and Locke. At very short notice Mrs. Hodge played most successfully in the part of Shiphra, which was to have been taken by Patsy Harvey, who fell a victim to influenza.

Mr. Jaques painted some convincingly Eastern sets, and everyone connected with the production deserves the warmest congratulations.

## OUT-OF-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Theatre visits have played a prominent part in this year's out of school activities, which have been more numerous than ever.

The party who went to London saw the opera "La Bohème" at the Sadlers Wells Theatre, and a production of "His Excellency" at the Prince's Theatre.

Miss Cook has taken parties, to two productions of Shaw's "St. Joan," one by the Cathedral School at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, and the other by the Bristol Old Vic Company at The Theatre Royal. Miss Cook also organised a visit to the Old Vic's production of "The School for Scandal," and several members of the Dramatic Society visited the Old Vic Theatre School under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Hodge, who also took a party of FourthFormers to Bath to see a production of "The Rivals." Mrs. Hodge has also been taking parties of senior girls to theological lectures held in Bristol schools on Saturday afternoons.

Mr. Wright took a group of classical enthusiasts to see a performance of "Antigone" by Bristol University students.

Mr. Copley has organised three trips to hear a piano recital by Moiseiwitsch, a concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and a programme by the Bristol University Choral Society.

Mr. Carpenter took the whole of the Upper School to see the film "Victoria the Great" at the local cinema, and this Visit was most enjoyable and well worth while.

Visits to the England v. Wales Hockey International, and to the England v. Welsh Universities Rugby match were organised by Miss Burcombe and Mr. Young, and we hope that the parties learnt something from the standard of the games which they saw.

Miss Storey took a party of girls to inspect a modern laundry at Clifton.

Mr. Cudmore has been particularly active in organising trips, many of which are annual events. Among these are the Youth Hostelling trips to

Batheaston and the Mendips, which were again very successful; the trip to see the Severn Bore; and the visits to the Three Counties' Show at Gloucester, which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who went. There were factory visits to the Imperial Tobacco Company's factory at Bedminster, and Lister's engineering works at Dursley. Another visit to the Severn Wild Fowl Trust headquarters at Slimbridge was also arranged.

A visit to the Folk Museum at Blaise Castle at Henbury, and the inspection of a B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser at Filton were new ventures which proved extremely interesting.

Mr. Cudmore is even now planning visits to the Festival of Britain Exhibition in London and a tour of the Cotswolds by coach, visiting an ancient burial ground at Uley, some typical Cotswold villages, the Roman villa at Chedworth, and the Cotswold Exhibition at Cirencester.

In arranging many of these trips, Mr. Cudmore was ably assisted by Miss Rees, and we are very grateful to them and all those members of staff who devote so much of their time to the successful organisation of such excursions.

### **THE OXFORD VISIT, 1950**

The School made its first visit to the City of Oxford at the end of June last year. The party set out early in the morning, and arrived at Cirencester at about 11 a.m. Leaving the two coaches, one explored one of the main streets of this town, and on re-assembling, two parties were formed, one of which was to visit a Witney blanket factory, and the other the Morris Motor Works at Cowley.

Having examined the many intricacies of blanket manufacture, this party made its way by coach to the riverside, and here enjoyed a sandwich lunch in brilliant sunshine. We were then conducted around some of the most famous of the colleges, where we were delighted with the well-kept grounds, and the smooth expanses of green lawn; an especial attraction were the deer in the park at Magdalen College. We visited the Cathedral at Christchurch, and many other smaller, yet none the less dignified chapels. We found the Martyrs' Memorial very interesting; it marks the place where the famous Bishops Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley were burnt, but it had unfortunately been damaged recently by the students. Having completed our tour, we made our way to a Civic Restaurant, where we enjoyed a very satisfying tea.

The second party, who had left us at Witney, had viewed the colleges during the morning. After lunch they went by coach to the Morris Motor Works, and gazed in envy at the shining new cars, which neither they nor their parents could hope to possess. However, they were each rewarded by the gift of an illustrated book, together with several pamphlets.

On our return journey we stopped for a short time at Bibury, a delightful Cotswold village famed for its Arlington Row, a picturesque group of gabled cottages.

Our visit to Oxford was an experience whose memory will remain with us for a very long time, and we are more than grateful to Mr. Cudmore for making it possible.

### **“OUTWARD BOUND” MOUNTAIN SCHOOL**

C. L. M. Summers, Commercial Form

It would be the ambition of any adventure-loving boy to take a course at the “Outward Bound” Mountain School in Cumberland, and I was most fortunate to be one of the lucky two chosen by the Gloucestershire County Education Authorities to attend the school's fifth course. I applied in May,

and was selected for a month's free instruction in mountaineering, mountain rescue work, map-reading, athletics and strenuous mountain expeditions. We also studied canoeing, forestry, and gardening. The course was tough going at times, but always most enjoyable.

The School's headquarters is a large house in the Lake, District, and is surrounded by typically rugged country. It is linked with the Sea School at Aberdovey, and was opened in March, 1950. The object of both schools is to give boys an opportunity to develop confidence and leadership, and to promote physical fitness to a high degree.

All preparations for the journey were made by the Education Authorities, and on admission to the School each of the eighty-eight boys' taking the course was medically examined, weighed and measured. Some boys lived in the "House," but the majority slept in comfortable two-tier bunks in an adjoining building. We were divided into eight patrols of eleven. Each patrol had a leader and a deputy leader, and each was under the supervision of an instructor.

The day began at 6.30 am, with skipping, a half-mile run around the lawn, and then a cold shower. At 8.0 a.m. we had breakfast—and here let me say that the food throughout the course was splendid both in quality and quantity. When on endurance expeditions we each had, besides our iron rations, a packet of dates, and I was surprised to find how satisfying and sustaining these can be.

The rescue work was thrilling, entailing considerable risk, and taught us what to do in emergencies. I shall always remember the time when a party of five of us misread a compass bearing, climbed down the wrong gully on Wastwater Scree, and got into difficulties. I managed to retrace my steps a thousand feet to the head of the gully, and ran three miles for help. However, when the school rescue party arrived we found that my friends had escaped safely. We later learned that the only other people who had climbed down the gully were Commandos with ropes, and even then there had been some loss of life.

The weather was generally rather wet, and even worse than is usual in the Lake District. The visibility was often down to fifty yards, and climbers had to refer constantly to the compass to keep on their course. We experienced the worst weather I have ever encountered on the day we came over Skyhead Pass—one of the wettest places in Great Britain, with an average rainfall of a hundred and fifty inches a year. We had spent the previous night in some old slate-quarries near Buttermere, and on returning to Eskdale we were soaked to the skin, although not one of us was any the worse afterwards, probably because, when we finally reached the school, we had the usual hot showers and a drying-room for our clothes.

At the end of the course each boy was given a "Silver," "Standard" or "Membership" award, according to his individual achievement during the course. The highest award is a "Final Silver," for which a "Silver" grade in each subject is required. Last year Hucker won a "Final Silver" at the Sea School, so I was particularly glad to show that Thornbury could do it a second time. Mine was only the third such award given by the School, through which well over two hundred boys have passed since its opening.

The instructors at Eskdale were most competent, patient and kind, and I am sure that the School instilled into us all a sense of good comradeship, and that we returned home with minds and bodies refreshed by a truer feeling of team-spirit and a determination to carry out our work more thoroughly in future.

### **THE LONDON EXCURSION, 1950**

On Saturday morning, October 28th, two coaches set out from Thornbury with a party from the Upper Fifth and Sixth Forms, together with several members of the staff, who had arranged to spend their half-term holiday in London. After an interesting five-hour coach ride, we arrived at Kew and then walked to the Botanical Gardens where we were met by Sheila Nelmes (a former pupil of this School) and her father. After a sandwich lunch, Mr. Young and a few Rugby enthusiasts left the rest of the party and went to see the match being played between Cambridge and Richmond; the others toured the gardens. At five o'clock, however, the whole party arrived at Highgate Hostel to deposit their luggage, have tea, and make their beds. In the evening we set off once more for the Prince's Theatre, where we thoroughly enjoyed a performance of "His Excellency," in which Eric Portman and Sebastian Shaw played the chief roles.

On Sunday morning we left the hostel quite early and walked through the shopping centre for the benefit of the ladies of the party; then we made our way towards Mine. Tussaud's waxworks. In the afternoon we visited the Transcription Studios, by kind arrangement of Mr. "Sandy" Harding, an old boy (1928-39). We were greatly intrigued by the whole system, particularly the recording equipment, but, needless to say, were not at all impressed by the recordings of our own vocal efforts! Leaving the studios reluctantly, we had tea in one of the many Lyons restaurants, and early in the evening set off for St. Paul's Cathedral, where we attended Evensong. Before returning to the hostel, we took a walk to see the lights of the city.

On Monday morning we visited the Tower, where we were disappointed to learn that the Crown Jewels had been removed for cleaning, ready for the State Opening of Parliament. Later in the morning we returned to St. Paul's to see it by daylight. After dinner we spent a pleasant afternoon in the South Kensington Museums, although this time was too short to appreciate them fully. However, we had a whole evening's entertainment before us, namely, "La Bohème" at Sadler's Wells. This was very impressive; so impressive, in fact, that we all returned to the hostel intoning more or less tunelessly, "Your tiny hand is frozen."

We rose early on Tuesday morning and set about the various chores briskly. When these had been completed, we left the hostel for the last time and deposited our baggage at Victoria Station. After seeing the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, we walked via the Mall to Whitehall, and were fortunate enough to obtain a good view of the royal procession at the State Opening of Parliament.

We caught a glimpse of the site for the Festival of Britain, and were then picked up once more by the coaches. We stopped for an hour or so on our homeward journey, to see Windsor Castle and St. George's Chapel, and then resumed our seats for the last time.

All pupils concerned were very grateful to Mr. Cudmore for the excellent programme he had arranged, and to Miss Rees, Miss Taylor, and Mr. Young, who were also kind enough to forego their holiday in order to assist Mr. Cudmore in looking after our high-spirited party.

### **BRISTOL - BORDEAUX SCHOOLS EXCHANGE**

**Muriel James, Upper Va**

On the 8th of March a party of Bristol school children, including nine pupils from Thornbury, left Temple Meads at four a.m. en route for Bordeaux. Despite our excitement we soon fell asleep, and were not completely awake until we arrived at Newhaven. The crossing to Dieppe was fairly calm, and only three members of the party suffered from seasickness.

When we arrived at Dieppe we were both excited and slightly apprehensive as to what France and her people would be like, and Dieppe did little to cheer us, for it has a very grimy harbour. Our train ran along the road, and there was no platform to separate it from the thoroughfare.

At Paris the girls stayed at the Lycée Montaigne, a boarding school, and the boys in an hotel. The following day the party toured Paris, "seeing the sights," among them the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and all the other famous Paris buildings. Paris itself is very clean, and so is the Seine, which adds greatly to the beauty of the city.

A day later we were on our way to Bordeaux, and on Saturday, March 10th, we arrived at the Game St. Jean. We were immediately introduced to our hosts, and all separated for our various destinations. As the following day was Sunday we all attended Mass for the first time, and were particularly struck by seeing the whole town flocking to the Church.

For the first week of our visit we all went to French schools with our hosts. Three of the Thornbury girls attended the College de Blaye. Blaye is a small, jewel-like fishing port on the (Gironde, noted for its seventeenth century citadel, its river, and its wines. The people at Blaye were very considerate, and on hearing of our eightpenny meat ration they resolved to give us as much meat as possible—which they certainly did. The French food was delicious, and we had an abundance of meat, eggs, butter, mouth-watering pastries and wine, so on our return to England we were all a good deal heavier than before our visit! Breakfast consisted of croissants and butter; at mid-day we had a three-course meal and wine to drink, and at tea-time I was luckier than the other Thornburians, for I could have a cup of good old English tea! At seven o'clock in the evening we had another three-course meal which consisted mostly of meat, and wine once again.

After a fortnight's holiday with my French family, in which time I toured the Gironde and went up to the Atlantic coast, where there are still German fortifications, I returned to school for another week. My French was by this time almost fluent, and I was asked to take a class for an English lesson, which was something of an ordeal! This last week passed very quickly, and seemed the best week of all, as by then we were able to express ourselves in French.

When, on Sunday, April 8th, the Bristol party left Bordeaux for Paris, we carried with us the kind wishes of our hosts, and many happy memories which will never fade. Wherever we went we were met with kindness and understanding, and we sincerely hope that when our French friends visit us in July they will be met with equal kindness.

### **WESTWARD HO! 1951**

This year's ten-day excursion to Westward Ho in North Devon differed from that of past years in that the twenty-eight pupils who took part included members of the upper and lower fifth forms as well as first year sixth. None of the party had ever been on this trip before.

Leaving Thornbury on Thursday, 29th March, the main party went by coach via the coast route, the scenery of the Mendip, Quantock and "Lorna Doone" country being made all the more beautiful by a sparse covering of snow. The ascent of Porlock Hill caused some anxiety, which was temporarily relieved by amusement at the sight of a "thirty mile limit" notice, indicating that our toiling vehicle could exceed this speed for the rest of the bill if the driver so wished.

On the evening of our arrival we were given an interesting talk by Mr. 1. Sims, Divisional Planning Officer for N. Devon. on the historical background of the home of the "barbarian" North Devonian.

On Friday an old friend of the School, the Rev. H. C. A. S. Muller, M.A., R.N. (Rtd.), conducted us around the many interesting sights of the old fishing village of Appledore. After this, we walked to Bideford along the river bank; one member of the party became sufficiently attached to the mud and water of our route to carry a sample with him for the rest of the day!

We looked forward to the ceremony of the Manor Court at Bideford on Saturday morning, for on the evening before we had heard an interesting talk on its history and traditions by Mr. C. I. Smith, the foreman of the Court Jury, and, incidentally, one of Mr. Cudmore's old schoolmasters.

Mr. Smith kindly offered prizes for the best essays on our impressions of the Court, and these were later won by Ann Phillips, Dorothy Rudledge and Blenkinsopp. The mediaeval ceremony certainly came up to our expectations; its most amusing few minutes were when Mr. Mclaggart Short (the popular guest of the ceremony) in an excellent and witty address, mistook us for "school children and future burghers and burgesses of Bideford!"

On Sunday we attended Matins at Appledore Church, where we were welcomed by Mr. Muller, who invited some of us to take active parts in the bell-ringing and singing.

We all enjoyed the visit to Saunton, and the walk along the cliff around Saunton Headland and Baggy Point. The sun was really hot, and persuaded some of the more enterprising of our party to paddle in the foam of the North Atlantic for a time. One onlooker was heard to remark, "Great feat!" or was it "feet"?

The talks of Mr. Vernon Boyle on "Sailing Days on the Torridge," and by Miss Sheila Hutchinson on "The Torridge from Source to Mouth," were made even more interesting by their own illustrations, and gave a helpful background to the history and geography of the river.

The coach tour around Dartmoor made Wednesday the most interesting day of all for most of us. At first we thought that the meteorological department had failed us, for the weather was anything but promising. By the time we reached Lydford, however, the skies cleared, and for the rest of the day we enjoyed brilliant sunshine, which allowed the keen photographers to take shots of the magnificent gorge. (One of us who applied the adjective 'gorgeous' to our walk, was lucky to return to the coach in a dry condition!) We went on to visit the prehistoric Clapper-bridge at Dartmeet, the famous Abbey at Buckfast, which has been completely restored since 1882, and last, the fascinating Bronze Age Settlement at Grins-pound. At this last stop, almost in the centre of the sparsely inhabited granite moorland, we were surprised and delighted to meet the Bishop of Gloucester coming away from the pound.

The talks by the Rev. and Mrs. Muller on their experiences in Denmark were thoroughly enjoyable, and left us with the hope of visiting that country one day.

Our only disappointment was that the rain on Friday spoilt our chances of ranking amongst those of our doughty predecessors who have completed the celebrated walk from Clovelly back to Westward Ho! We were saved only by the weather from the gloating of the two unfortunate victims of German measles, who were "confined to barracks" for the last two days, and who had been prepared to compensate themselves for their misfortune by exulting over our weary condition.

On our last night we spent a most enjoyable social evening, when the heads of the music and games departments came into their own. Incidentally, it was interesting to note how the former relished helping with the gentle art of washing-up; perhaps the occasional harmony of breaking crockery was the attraction!

We are very grateful to Mr. Cudmore and Miss Rees for the organization of a holiday which has given us so much valuable experience, knowledge, and pleasure; for the excellent food tribute must be paid to Mrs. Cudmore, Mrs. Rouch and Mrs. Johnson, who succeeded in doing the almost impossible by satisfying the considerably magnified appetites of a family of forty. We all have many happy memories of the ten days of the trip, and many of us look forward to going again next year.

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

*President:* J. P. Blenkinsopp.

*Secretary:* J. S. Cults.

*Treasurer:* Barbara M. Hedges.

During the past year the Society has made considerable progress, despite the loss of several valuable members. We have carried out very successful experiments in developing, printing, enlarging and toning, and our most recent activity, the School Portrait Service, seems to promise considerable profits. We would particularly like to thank Mrs. Cutts for the use of her basement, which has proved to be an excellent dark-room, and Mr. Rabley, whose kind loan of an enlarger has also considerably improved our facilities for practical work.

The weather has been favourable during the recent Summer Term, and several outings were arranged which proved both profitable and enjoyable. These excursions included a cycle ride to the Cotswolds, where we visited Nibley, Wotton-under-Edge, and Hawkesbury, and one via the Wye Valley, with stops at Chepstow, Tintern, St. Briavel's and Lydney.

There was, on Speech Day, a Photographic Exhibition, when members' equipment and prints were shown and a competition was held, won by: (1) Cutts, (2) Pick, (3) Forster.

Our thanks are particularly due to our Secretary, J. S. Cults, whose work has contributed so much towards the Society's success; to Barbara M. Hedges, who has undertaken the arduous and thankless task of collecting members' subscriptions; to J. P. Blenkinsopp, who has proved a very efficient chairman; and to Mr. Carpenter, without whose support and cooperation the running of the Society would be practically impossible.

### **THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

*President:* D. I. Malpass.

*Secretary:* Catherine Skinner.

*Treasurer:* E. J. Locke.

Thanks to the interest of Mr. and Mrs. Hodge, the Dramatic Society was founded during the Spring Term of this year. Membership is open to the Seniors from the Fifth Forms upwards, and meetings are held every fortnight. The Society's activities have included readings of Priestley's comedy, "The Roundabout," Wilde's "The Importance of being Earnest," and an uproariously popular and amusing rendering of the Victorian melodrama, "Maria Marten, or Murder in the Red Barn," complete with sound effects! On June 6th some of our members visited the Theatre Royal to see the annual school show presented by the Old Vie Company Drama School. The three productions were excellent, especially the scenes from "Hamlet," and the show was most entertaining.

The Society has now been affiliated to the Drama League—a step which should widen our scope of activities considerably. As well as actual

play-reading and acting, the Society intends to cater for those who are interested in the technical side of the theatre, and such matters as stage-management, lighting, and make-up; and we hope, in the near future, to hear outside lecturers speak on these aspects of the theatrical world.

## MAGAZINE COMPETITION, 1951

### A LAMENT FOR A PET MOUSE

Janet Northover, IIIa

The only pet I ever had is dead;  
—A tiny mouse much smaller than my fist— No longer from my pocket peeps its head,  
Since that cruel cat, with claws that never missed,  
Did pounce; the long white whiskers twitch no more;  
My only pet is dead there on the floor.

## SATURDAYS

H. Thomas, U.Vb.

The real holiday on Saturday does not start for me until half-past one; then I go in a friend's car for an afternoon's shooting and ferreting. We go to a large farm on the way to Oldbury, and as we turn the corner at the top of the farm, the farmer who owns it is always there waiting. The ferrets, in a bag, bundle about like frolicking puppies; the two spaniels are all aquiver from nose to tail in anticipation of a day's sport.

Casual greetings are exchanged and off we go into the fields or wood. Sometimes we just shoot and do not use the ferrets. The party spreads out into a line, and while the dogs run hither and thither, we clamber on in a relentless march. The wood has been cut down for timber, and the undergrowth is dense; where trees have fallen, the creepers have covered them, and they now look like the fingers of an old hag, killed by the autumn frost.

Some people say that to shoot animals is cruel; maybe it is, but the primeval instinct to kill is aroused in anyone, when taking part in the chase.

The peculiar thing is that, if a bird flutters, or I unwittingly move a branch, and cause a rustle, my whole frame is alert; my heart thumps and my mouth is dry, yet when it comes to the point, I am as cool as ice, although my nerves are keyed up; and if I bag something extraordinary, like a partridge, a snipe, or a woodcock, nothing can compare with my proud sense of achievement, except, perhaps, when I shot my first rabbit.

But for all this excitement, ferreting is the best; after the nets are down and the ferret is in, everyone is on the alert; the dogs are very still— only their eyes showing their intense excitement. I glance through the leafless branches, bejewelled with frost, and see the steel blue glint of a gun; I hear the click of its hammers as they are flicked back in anticipation of the dash for freedom. Then—"What's that?" A movement, surely; but where? My eyes and ears are straining, but it is only a robin seeing whom he has for company. I can hear the pitter-patter of his tiny feet on the frost-hardened ground, and a feeling of relief sweeps over me. In the distance I can hear the soft toot-toot of boats on the Severn; my mind is wandering; then, Whomp!! out comes a rabbit—he's away! But the guns go up with a "Crump! Crump! and over he rolls in the snow. The excitement is over, but the robin is still chattering at us for disturbing his repose.

When I arrive home, I wash, and as the warm water sends tingles through my frost-numbered fingers, I hear the cheerful clatter of plates, and I am ready for a cooked tea.

And as I settle down after tea into my favourite chair, with a good book and a warm pair of slippers, a feeling of contentment creeps over me, and the fire sends flickering fingers of light and shade chasing one another across the carpet.

### AUTUMN

Barbara Hollier, III b

Softly, softly, leaves are falling,  
Falling, falling, on the ground.  
Brown and yellow, brown and yellow.  
Tumbling, tumbling, all around.

Chasing, chasing one another,  
Whirling, whirling as they go,  
Brown and yellow, brown and yellow.  
Lightly, softly, off they go.

### ORPHEUS — A Word Picture

Patsy Harvey, VI

The mists are all about him, and the smoke.  
And acrid smell of soul-consuming death  
Billowing upwards, passing with a sigh,  
And moans of spirits floating endlessly  
In a dim twilight, dim and dank and gray. The mists roll by him fraught with the souls of men,  
And he sits waiting, waiting for her soul  
Whose memory has guided him thus far.  
“Euridice!”—her name, his pilot-star.  
—But in this shadow-land of death and dark  
Stars have no power, and tears he shed for her  
Are mingled with the dankness of the place  
Upon his cheeks. His lute with broken strings  
Is near him, yet he sits but half aware  
Of that which, in the sable halls of Dis  
Had won from that dread king that soul again.  
Which, through his burning eagerness, he lost  
While hardly won; returned once more, he sits.  
His restless hand plucking the single string  
Which, in the madness of his grief, he spared.  
The weeping note pierces the cowl of night,  
But nought replies. Forever he sits there.  
The swirling vapours compass him about,  
And Death, unwitting of his presence there,  
Roams all the upper earth in quest of him.  
The sad immortal lingers; his lament,  
Mystic, melodious, mourning monotonous,  
Blends with the shades; and still the souls of men  
Flee past him, moaning down to the great deep.

## SUMMER RAIN

B. Rogers, IIb.

How lovely is the rain:  
After the dust and heat  
It washes the window pane  
And cleans the dusty street.

Tiny barges sail along  
Of wood and straw and paper;  
The water sings a gurgling song  
As they pirouette and caper.

The countryside on every hand,  
The parched grass and the thirsty grain,  
The dusty trees, the arid land  
Cry "Welcome!" to the rain.

## THE REALIST

Monica Wyatt, IVa

Down in the forest sat the wife of a caveman, plaiting rushes in the entrance of her cave, and keeping a watchful eye on her children playing near the river, Only last week the eldest, who should have known better, had slipped in and had been devoured by the Crocodile of the River.

She wondered, as she twisted the reeds, where her husband was. He had left three days ago to lay some traps for raw meat, and was not yet returned, She was hungry, for berries are not very sustaining food.

Presently dusk fell; she herded the children before her into the cave, like an old sow driving a litter of piglets. As she did this. sounds came through the forest: shrieks and screams of pure terror, a snarl, a heavy pad-pad of paws, and right into the clearing fled a desperate man, a sabre-toothed tiger at his heels. In the security of the cave, she watched the tiger's muscles freeze for a spring, saw his tawny body fly effortlessly through the air, seven pointed spears quivering in his hide, and saw him land with an easy bound on the bare brown back before him. His unsheathed claws curved through the flesh like butter, he tapped him softly. like a playful cat, just to make sure he was dead, and turned to stalk majestically back to the green jungle. Alas! the poison on the seven spears had done its work: the creature sank in its tracks, and with feline dignity to the last, he died.

It was long before the spectator could persuade herself to go out, but she was hungry, and could only die once. She lit, with infinite trouble, a blazing fire, and roasted above it the remains of her unfortunate husband (for it was he) and the tiger. She and her children feasted and danced in the weird flickering firelight till dawn, for it was not often they had tiger-flesh. Then as dawn broke, the widow left the children asleep in heaps around the fire, and set Out for the next village to procure herself a new husband, for she was pretty, in a prehistoric way, and there were many marriageable young warriors there,

## “I’LL SING YOU A SONG”

Wendy Mogg, VI

“I’ll sing you a song of the spring, perhaps?  
Of the shooting green, and the slanting sun,  
Of the peeping flowers and the stream that laps  
Where the mud is soft, and the cattle run;  
Of the tang in the air, and the pearly rain  
That hangs in a mist, or a daisy chain.

Or I’ll sing you ~ song of a rising sea,  
Of the crashing spray, and the wave’s proud crest,  
Of the sweeping tide, and the gulls that flee  
And are swept and caught at the wind’s behest.  
Of the dark low clouds, that are flying fast,  
Then a watery sun, and a storm that is past.”

### PROLOGUE TO THE THORNEBURYE WAILES

D. R. Cooper, VI

(With apologies to Geoffrey Chaucer)

Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote  
The droghte of Marche hath perced to the route,  
And May and June han folwed on behynde:  
Than gan the sons and dogthren of mankynde  
For hir examinaciouns to swotte  
Why! alle techren callen “Clumsy Clotte!”  
They wol bin in hir “Higher” verray lowe,  
When that hir Chaucer they nat parfit knowe.  
And so they werken al til twelve o’clock,  
And some until the crowinge of the cok.  
Than loken alle tired and somdri whyt  
By-cause that they werken at the night:  
And whan they sholde han a gode rest  
Ther comes the day whan they moot stand the teste.  
Than sitten they within a colde halle,  
And empty been the braynes of ech and alle.  
For longen houres sitten they in payne  
It grete wonder is they al bin sane,  
Than comes a tyme of fere and anxiousnesse;  
They dreden everichon the worste, I gesse.  
    But whether they wol highe bin or lowe,  
    I can nat seyn, for that I do not knowe.

### EXAMINATION RESULTS

We congratulate the following on their examination successes:—

Sybil M. Craik-Smith: BA., Wales.

H. Anita Dicker: B.Sc., 2nd Class Hons, (div. I), Bristol.

Eileen Goodfield: B.Sc., Bristol.

H. Gould: BA. (Comm.), Bristol.

G. W. Heath: B.Sc. (Agric.), Dunelm.

J. J. Panes: B.Sc. 2nd class Hoot. (div. I), Bristol,  
R. H. Smith: LL.B. 2nd class Hoot. (div. I), Nottingham.  
H. S. Tymms: B.A. Th., Bristol.

County Major Scholarships: Joan E. Timbrell, E. B. Selwood.  
Bristol City Senior Scholarship: M. D. Lewis.

University of Bristol Higher School Certificate, 1950: Brenda B. Bradford, English, Geography (G), Art; Mary F. Clutterbuck, English, History, Geography (G); G. A. Dicker, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry (G); J. A. Hannaford, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics. Chemistry (G); E. P. Hardman, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics (completing examination); M. D. Lewis, English, History, Geography (V.G.); Anne M. Pritchard, English, French (G), History; R. Roster, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry (C); S. K. Rugman, English, French, Geography (G); E. B. Selwood, Chemistry (G), Biology (G), Geography (V.G.); Joan E. Timbrell, Pure and Applied Mathematics (G); Physics, Chemistry (V.G.); Kathleen . O. L. Withers, French, History, Latin (subsid.), German (subsid.).  
(V.G.)—Very Good; (G)—Good.

University. of Bristol School Certificate, 1950: C. M. Adams, Wendy A. Artus, Margaret J. Bayliss (in), J. P. Blenkinsopp (in), E. J. E. Bullen, J. S. Cantrill (in). Rosemary J. Davis, M. I-I. Dunn, D. N. Eliot (in), Elizabeth Z. Fennell. Margaret B. Fennell, D. J. Hand, Kathleen M. Haskins (in), Barbara M. Hedges (in), B. H. Jennett, C. L. Jones, E. I. Locke (in), D. J. Malpass (in). R. A. Messenger, Wendy J. Mogg (in), Rosemary E. Newman. J. E. Perry (in). Ann M. Phillips, C. R. Redden, Eveline M. Robinson, Dorothy Rudledge, Catherine M. Skinner, Anne E. Spencer, Elizabeth Starr, June M. Tucker, Angela I. Vizard, D. i. Webb, J. E. White, D. A. Williams (in), Jean M. Williams (in), Sheena I. A. Willis. C. D. Woodward (in). M. D. Worth. Rosemary M. Wyman.  
(m)—matriculation,

Commercial Certificates, 1950: Type-writing-----Stage I : Janet C. Ball, Pamela N. Betty (credit), D. J. Biddle (credit), Sylvia M. Gopsill (credit), Beryl E. Palmer. Muriel Payne (credit). Doreen E. K. Poole, Jean D. Thompson (credit), Maureen L. Weaver.

Book-keeping—Stage I: Janet C. Ball, Pamela. N. Betty (credit), D. J. Biddle. Muriel Payne (credit).

Pitman's Shorthand Speed Examinations: Janet C. Ball, Mavis F. Gill. Beryl F. Palmer (80 w.p.m.). Muriel Payne (70 w.p.m.).

## SPORTS

### SWIMMING, 1950

The Swimming Sports took place this year at the Blue Lagoon, Severn Beach, as the Thornbury Baths were unfortunately still out of action, Nevertheless, a large number of spectators made their way to Severn Beach by car, 'bus, or the humble bicycle.

A new system of awarding points for distance swimming was introduced, and the first, second and third houses received ten, five, and no points respectively. The position before the beginning of the Sports themselves was that Stafford had seventeen and a half points, Clare twelve and a half points, and Howard none. After a most exciting struggle. Stafford retained its points lead, and consequently the Swimming Shield. The final results were:—Stafford, seventy-five and a half points; Clare. sixty-eight and a half points, and Howard, twenty-four points.

The Harwood Cup awarded for the boy scoring the highest individual number of points was won by A. Fowell of Howard House with eleven points, and the Thurston Cup for girls by Mary Dibble of Clare, with fourteen points.

#### Athletics, 1950-51

Last year the Annual Athletic Sports were held on Monday, July 24th, and Mr. Williams managed to arrange his last meeting at Thornbury to coincide with one of the year's fine days. Previous bad weather had, however, seriously interfered with training, and only one record was broken. when A. Fowell lowered the time for the boys' hundred yards (under 14) to twelve seconds.

Stafford succeeded in breaking Howard's long run of successes by carrying off the Athletics Shield, which had remained over the same House notice board for the previous eleven years, and Clare won the Molton Challenge Cup for Junior Athletics for the first time since its presentation in 1946. The individual trophies were won by Patsy Harvey of Stafford, who gained the Stephens Challenge Cup. and by D. Hamilton of Howard. who retained the Wilmot Challenge Cup.

In this year's Athletics Meeting, there are to be several changes, including abolishing individual trophies, introducing new classes, restricting the number of these for which any one pupil may enter, and discouraging certain somewhat unorthodox athletic styles. it is hoped that by introducing these changes and devoting still more time to training, with the expert coaching of Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Young. the general improvement of the School's Athletics, which was particularly noticeable in the 1949 sports, will be maintained.

The Second Form boys deserve special mention for the fatigue work they have put in on the new jumping pits.

#### CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING. 1951

For the first time the Annual Cross Country Championship was run in three groups, according to age, and a massed start was introduced for all three races. The new scheme was completely successful, and Stafford made good use of it to win all three races by good team running, and thus took the Cross Country Shield from Howard.

Individual placings (first ten in each race) were as follows:—

<i>Seniors (over 15):</i>	<i>Intermediate (under 15):</i>	<i>Juniors (under 13):</i>
M. Worth (5)	J. Howell (H)	R. Jackson (C)
G. Hillman (5)	D. Excell (H)	I. Smith (H)
C. Woodward (5)	A. Pritchard (5)	D. Foster (C)
W. Rudledge (H)	A. Fowell (H)	P. Whittinghain (5)
N. Adams (5)	I. Ranford (5)	P. Williams (S)
D. Cooper (5)	T. Everhard (5)	B. Moorcroft (5)
C. Hawkings (5)	A. Roster (5)	D. Ewins (5)
M. Dunn (C)	C. Browning (5)	B. Cooke (S)
G. Dicker (H)	R. Howell (H)	P. Wilson (H)
D. Hawkins (H)	B. Riddiford (H)	R. Cornelius (H)
D. Hamilton (H) i		

#### GYMNASTICS CLUB, 1950-51

*Boys:*

It was with great regret that the Gymnastics Club said good-bye to Mr. Williams at the end of last year. His loss was a bitter blow, as he had been the club's mainstay for many years. However, under the expert

guidance of Mr. Young, the club has continued to flourish and has been considerably extended, Second Form members have been admitted for the first time, and they have made good progress, some of them showing exceptional promise.

The Autumn Term was devoted mainly to the senior class, and several new vaults were successfully mastered. During the Spring Term, the junior members received more attention, while the seniors concentrated on practising the new vaults they had learnt and improving the others.

The usual display was given at Christmas in which a senior team only took part. At Speech Day, however, the juniors joined in, and there was an additional clowning act by Cooper, Locke and Smart.

The main feature of the club this year has been the general improvement in the agility work, and also in the style of the vaulting.

The membership of the club in order of seniority, is as follows:—

<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Juniors</i>
M. Teague	A. Roster
D. Cooper	J. Narbett
W. Rudledge	R. Jackson
D. Hawkins	P. Wilson
C. Woodward	R. Smart
D. Hamilton	D. Prentice
A. Fowell	P. Williams
P. Fowell	B. Cooke
A. Pritchard	P. Hawkins
C. Hawkings	A. Iles
P. Whittingham	P. Slade
T. Everhard	

*Girls:*

This year the girls also have had a great deal of training and practice in gymnastics usually on Monday evenings after school. The theme of their displays both at Easter and on Speech Day was that of movements leading up to various vaults, and a feature of the vaulting itself was neat footwork, supple movement, and good finish. An increasing number of junior girls seem to spend a large part of their leisure in an inverted position, and to walk with equal ease upon either pair of extremities! Miss Burcombe has certainly aroused considerable enthusiasm for these activities.

Girls taking part in the Speech Day display were:—

Molly Willis	Sylvia Palmer
Rhona Ewins	Pat Morley
Josephine Jones	Sally Adams
Joyce Bull	Maureen Watts
Josephine Hurcombe	Mary McIntyre
Sheila Iles	Jennifer Bidwell
Anita Poole	Joan Clutterbuck
Pat Willis	Deanna Skinner
Marion Ashcroft	Carole Davis
Kathleen Reeves	Valerie Beames
Ninette Blaker	

These girls were reserves on Speech Day, but were included in a display at the end of last

Summer Term:—

Ann Phillips	Jean Fox
Jean Robinson	Joan Stock
Sylvia Smith	Jennifer' Wooster
Elsie Rice	Ann Williams
Carla Darby	

## HOCKEY, 1950-51

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI

Results have proved that the side has maintained a fairly high standard of play this season, though it may not have reached that set by last season's team. Out of the fifteen matches only five have been lost, and the newcomers to the team have shown considerable promise.

The chief weakness, and one which prevailed throughout the season.

Was that the forwards were too slow, especially in the circle, and lacked the ability to follow up their shots. There have been times, however,

when they showed good team-work, thus outwitting the opposing defences with considerable success.

The half-backs have played consistently throughout the term, showing skill, both in attacking and in defensive movements. The hacks were subject to frequent re-arrangement owing to illness, and therefore did not have time to settle down, Nevertheless, they gave capable support to the forward and half-back lines, and on many occasions they successfully blocked the strong attacks of opposing forwards,

We were fortunate in having only a few of our matches scratched, though disappointed in hearing that the Gloucestershire Schools Tournament was cancelled owing to rain; in previous years the School has done extremely well in this event.

### Junior XI

Unfortunately, the Junior XI has not had a full schedule of matches this season, Although individuals showed promise, they failed to combine as a team.

Colours: Re-awarded for the first time to Ann Phillips. Awarded for the first time to Betty Starr.

Half-Colours: Awarded for the first time to Rhona Ewins and Josephine Jones.

### 1st XI RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Sept. 30	Fairfield Grammar School	H	Cancelled	
Oct. 7	Red Maids School	A	Lost	4—2
	14—Redland High School	H	Won	4—1
	21—Stroud High School	A	Won	3—0
	28—Trials,			
Nov. 4	Colston Girls' School	A	Won	5—0
	15—University 2nd XI	H	Lost	4—1
	18—Old Thornburians	H	Won	4—2
Dec. 2	Redland Ladies H.C	H	Won	2—1
	9—Kingswood Grammar School	A	Won	4—3
Jan. 13	Kingswood Grammar School	H	Lost	2—1
	20—Old Thornburians	A	Won	8—0
	27—Redland High School	H	Lost	3—1
Feb. 3	Redland Ladies H.C	A	Lost	4—1
	10—Chipping Sodbury Grammar School	A	Cancelled	
	14—University 2nd XI	H	Won	8—1
	17—Fairfield Grammar School	A	Cancelled	
	24—Red Maids School	H	Won	4—2
Mar. 3	Dursley Grammar School	H	Won	3—0
	10—Tournament		Cancelled	

## JUNIOR XI RESULTS

Oct. 7—Red Maids School	A	Lost	5—3
14—Redland High School	H	Won	6—1
Dec. 9—Kingswood Grammar School	A	Drew	1 - 1
Jan. 13—Kingswood Grammar School	H	Won	3—1
27—Redland High School	H	Won	5—1
Man 3—Dursley Grammar School	H	Lost	1 - 0

Unfortunately it was not thought possible to field a permanent 2nd XI, owing to the numbers of players in the Junior XI, but in the few matches it played, a scratch 2nd XI was fairly successful.

## NETBALL, 1950-51

Largely owing to the efforts and encouragement of Mrs. Hodge and Miss Burcombe, Netball has been introduced into the School, and at the end of the Spring Term two apprehensive teams set off for the tournaments held at Dursley. There the seniors played Stroud, Denmark Road, Dursley and Tewkesbsiry Schools, but lost all their matches, as did our other team which played in the junior tournament. However, it was generally agreed that the experience of watching really good Netball was worth while, and as neither of our teams had any previous experience of matches, the players did quite well.

The innovation of senior and junior House matches at Netball proved that the game can be most exciting, and the standard of play had greatly improved by this time. Care House won the senior match, and Howard the junior match. Next year we hope to have stronger teams and play more matches.

## RUGBY, 1950

### 1st XV

The season opened with many team-building problems. A nucleus of the previous year's team still left most of the key positions to be filled. The main weakness lay in the half and three-quarter back divisions, and with one or two exceptions remained there throughout the season.

Hawkins at stand-off half did not come up to expectations, but at times used his kicking ability to advantage in defence. In attack he was too often slow off the mark, in many cases owing to an inadequate service from the base of the scrum. Both Rudledge and Beard were played at scrum-half, but neither showed the essential speed and accuracy required in this most important of positions. On occasions Rudledge produced a fine burst of speed, and showed himself to be an elusive runner, but he must learn to master the art of a quick and accurate pass to his outsides.

Hamilton, at centre three-quarter, got through a tremendous amount of work both in attack and defence, most of his scoring chances coming from interceptions and defensive errors rather than from orthodox handling movements. He also showed ability as a place kicker. The wing three-quarters, Riddle and Walters, improved during the season, but rarely received good scoring opportunities from their centres. Their main weakness was in defence, and the need for considerable practice in the giving and receiving of passes was obvious. Locke, at full-back, although lacking qualities needed in this difficult position, played with considerable keenness and pluck.

On the whole, the pack did well throughout the season, Under the sensible and enthusiastic leadership of M. D. Lewis they always played hard, if not always with finesse. Woodward proved to be a capable hooker and

served the side well. Too often the fault with the forwards lay in their inability to heel the ball quickly and cleanly, one of the most important factors of the game. Summers was often prominent in the line-out and in the loose, as was Lewis, A. Fowell deserves mention for his tireless work in the loose, and admirable backing-up.

Many lessons are to be learnt from this season; notably, tackling is still too high, heeling too slow, and the wings see too little of the ball.

Summers is to be congratulated on representing Bristol Public and Grammar Schools 1st XI. Lewis and Hamilton were both selected for trials. Lewis carried out his duties of captaincy exceptionally well, and Malpass was a most able secretary,

During the term, the Senior School enjoyed, and undoubtedly benefited. from, a talk and coaching session from the Rev, Peter Brook of Clifton College, to whom we extend our hearty thanks.

Finally, although the 1st XV results have been, perhaps, a little flattering, for the margins by which they won were nearly always small, we can look back on the past season as one with a good record, and as one in which the team gained valuable and much-needed match experience.

The Junior XV played five matches, of which three were won and one lost, They have a tot to learn in all departments of the game, but several team members showed considerable promise for the future.

In the seven-a-side competitions the School witnessed some keenly-contested games, with Howard superior in the senior group, and Stafford in the junior..

#### 1st XV RESULTS, 1950

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
Sept. 23—	Kingswood Grammar School 1st XV	A	Drew 8—8
	30—Kingswood Grammar School 1st XV	H	Won 14—5
Oct. 7—	Chipping Sodbury Grammar School 1st XV	A	Won 6—3
	14—Fairfield Grammar School 1st XV	H	Won 17—3
	21—Cathedral School 1st XV	H	Won 25—3
Nov. 4—	Marling School "A" XV	H	Won 8—6
	11—Chipping Sodbury Grammar School 1st XV ...	H	Won 11 - 10
	18—Marling School 2nd XV	A	Lost 3—6
	25—Q.E.H. 2nd XV	H	Lost 6-11
Dec. 2—	Fairfield Grammar School 1st XV		Cancelled

Points for 98. Points Against 55.

#### JUNIOR XV RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
Sept. 23—	Kingswood Grammar School Junior XV	A	Won 18—3
	30—Kingswood Grammar School Junior XV	H	Drew 3—3
Oct. 7—	Chipping Sodbury Grammar Sch. Jun. XV	A	Won 3—0
Nov. 4—	Marling School Junior XV	H	Lost 6—9
	11—Chipping Sodbury Grammar Sch, Jun. XV ..	H	Won 6—0

Points for 36. Points against 15.

Colours: Re-awarded for the first time—M, D. Lewis, D. Hamilton. Awarded—C, L. M. Summers, D. Hawkins, C. Woodward.

#### ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL, 1951

The Association Football side managed to maintain their unbeaten home record for the third successive season. While other schools' fields suffered from the season's heavy rain, we were more fortunate, for the pitch on "Blake's" was in excellent condition until almost the last match of the season, when an Old Boys' XI transformed it into a morass whilst holding the School to a 2—2 draw.

The first match gave no indication that the season was going to be so successful, In the first half of the match at Dursley we were almost overwhelmed, and only the magnificent goalkeeping of Jones saved the day for the School. In the second half, however, Hamilton reorganised the side, and we just managed to win by two goals to one, Fortunately from that time the side settled down to some good football, with Hamilton as centre-half, occasionally changing position with Hawkins. Although we lost away to Cotham 3—0, it was an excellent game, and the whole team played well against a much larger and stronger side.

Hamilton captained the side splendidly throughout the season, His defensive play was of the highest standard, and he excelled in distributing the ball, in making openings, and in head-work generally, and the rest of the team rallied round him capably. We had expected that Hawkins, who had been improving steadily at the end of the previous season, would be the solution to last year's centre-forward problem, but he proved himself to be such a glutton for work that he was rarely to be seen at the spearhead of the attack, but directed and prompted it from the rear. A substitute had to be found, and experiments were made with Rudledge, and later Woodward. Both were willing players, but lacked the required "drive" and force. Rudledge, however, proved an excellent wing forward when on the move, and played very well when he was not holding up the game by intricate, but somewhat purposeless, footwork.

The defence did very well. Towards the end of the term Lewis lost his partner, Summers, but Phillips filled his place very ably. Cash and Baker, the wing-halves, differed widely in their play; Baker made up for lack of craft by dour tackling and sticking to his man, while Cash looked more of a footballer, but played less like one on occasions. Hawkings, the only Junior in the side, acquitted himself well against some very heavy opposition, and we are looking forward to some good play from him next year.

The highlights of the season were the goalkeeping of Jones at Dursley, the team's display against Cotham at Cotham, and Hawkins's first goal against Cotham at home, when he blocked a full-blooded clearance so whole-heartedly that it rebounded like a rocket into the net.

However, our prospects for next season are not particularly cheering. Hamilton is leaving after four seasons in the side, together with Lewis and several others. We wish them all good luck and good football in the coming years, and hope that their successors to the team will be equally worthy.

#### 1st XI RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
Jan. 20—	Dursley Grammar School 1st XI	A	Won 2—1
27—	Cotham Grammar School 1st XI	A	Lost 0—3
Feb. 10—	Wotton Grammar School 1st XI	A	Drew 2—2
24—	Dursley Grammar School 1st XI	H	Won 3—0
Mar. 3—	Cotham Grammar School 1st XI	H	Won 5—1
14—	Old Thornburians XI	H	Drew 2—2
17—	Wotton Grammar School 1st XI	H	Won 4—0

#### JUNIOR XI RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
Jan. 20—	Dursley Grammar School Junior XI	A	Won 3—U
27—	Cotham Grammar School Junior XI	A	Lost 0—4
Feb. 3—	Chipping Sodbury Grammar Sch. Junior XI	A	Won 3—U
24—	Dursley Grammar School Junior XI	H	Drew 4—4
Mar. 3—	Cotham Grammar School Junior XI	H	Lost 1—5

## TENNIS, 1951

So far the season has been highly successful, as the team has become more experienced. There have been no changes in the side since last season, and this has been a great advantage. All members of the team have played with great determination, and have lost only one match. The second couple are to be especially commended on their consistent play, and the style of all has greatly improved.

The season's first fixture was against Dursley, and the team, although a little apprehensive at first, soon settled down to enjoy and win the match by seventy-one games to forty-six. We suffered our first defeat at the hands of Bristol University 2nd VI, who were, however, a decidedly older and more experienced side; but our morale was restored by a decisive victory over Kingswood when we won every set.

The team would like to thank those who have given up their Saturday afternoons to act as umpires, ball-boys, or to prepare tea, and Miss Burcombe, who has coached us patiently all the term, and to whom we extend our best wishes on her forthcoming marriage.

### RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
Apil. 21	Dursley Grammar School	H	Won 71—46
May 5	Colston Girls' School	A	Won 56—43
	26—Redland High School	A	Won 46—41
June 2	Bristol University 2nd VI	A	Lost 39—42
	9—Stroud High School	H	Won 50—31
	16—Kingswood Grammar School	H	Won 64—35
	23—Chipping Sodbury Grammar School	A	Won 68—31
	30—Fairfield Grammar School	H	Won 71—28
July 7	Parents VI	H	Won 66—33
	14—Old Thornburians' VI	H	Won 58—41

### ROUNDERS, 1951

The rounders team is an innovation in the School, and has played only two matches this season. Although these have both been lost, the team's play was consistent. The obvious fault lay in the batting, and members of the team must learn to hit beyond the out-field; fortunately the high standard of the fielding compensated for this.

As the two teams against whom we played were more experienced than we were, a win for the School could hardly be expected. The narrow margins of our opponents' victories, especially in the Stroud match, encourage us to hope for better things next year, when our team will have increased its match experience.

## RESULTS

<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
Apl. 21—Dursley Grammar School	H	Lost 8—5
June 9—Stroud Grammar School	H	Lost 5—4 1/2

### CRICKET, 1951

Until the time of going to press, the 1st Cricket XI have had one of their most successful seasons on record, They began in splendid fashion, beating Dursley by a hundred runs; Hamilton scored 112, and Lewis took seven wickets for 28. So far, they have succeeded in winning or drawing all matches.

Under the captaincy of Hawkins, the side have shown themselves to be a strong batting combination, Hawkins and I-Hamilton have been the batting mainstays. Hawkins has an attractive style, and really hits the ball very hard when he is going for runs. His 96 against Q.E.H. "A" XI was an example of how he can set about the bowling when he has decided that the side needs runs. Both Hawkins and Hamilton made centuries in one match, that against the Bible Churchmen's College. Hamilton uses his feet intelligently up and down the wicket, but will never achieve the polish he ought to have until he starts to move his feet across more and try hard to play a straight bat. Although the tail has only had to wag once, wag it did when Pontin and Dyas made the winning runs against St. Brendan's, Riddle has the unenviable distinction of never having batted, with only four more matches to play, although he has had his pads on once.

The fielding has been much below the standard of the batting. One or two members of the side have shown poor form, and the use of boots is not expected from members of the 1st XI. Happily the fielding in the later matches improved.

Each bowler has had his moment in the limelight, The main brunt of the attack has been on the pace bowlers, Lewis, Davis and Riddle, but Hawkins's off-spinners have proved effective on several occasions and on the showing of the last match we should have some useful slow spinners next year.

The Junior XI are enjoying more success than last year. The team record is interesting if not brilliant\_ and it is good to be able to report some progress, The batting has definitely improved, and it is encouraging to see young players scoring off the front foot.

The bowling has been weak, with tendencies to bowl short of a length and wide of the leg stump, both major faults which should never arise. The Junior team must learn to follow up their batting advantage by showing more aggressiveness and keenness in the field—a lesson which we certainly learned from St. Brendan's College team.

May we, once again, record on these pages the grateful appreciation of both teams for the way in which Miss Storey and other members of staff, assisted by their teams of girls, look after us all at the tea interval, We appear to be the envy of every visiting side for our teas. Thank you all very much indeed.

### 1st XI RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
Api. 21—	Dursley Grammar School	H	Won (186—2 dec.—86)
28—	Wotton Grammar School	A	Won (114—2 —113—7 dec.)
May 5—	Cotham Grammar School	H	Drew (81—2 —142—7 dec.)
19—	Kingswood Grammar School	A	Drew (81—6 — 95)
26—	Queen Elizabeth's Hospital "A" XI	A	Won (166—5 dec. — 56)
June 2—	St. Brendan's College	A	Won (67—8 — 63)
9—	Bible Churchmen's College	H	Won (240—2 dec. — 114)
23—	Chipping Sodbury Grammar School	A	Drew (142—4 dec. 128—3)
30—	Wycliffe College 2nd XI	H	Lost (44—68 for 8 wks.)
July 7—	Parents' XI	H	Won (by 8 wks.)
14—	Old Thornburians' XI	H	Won (126—124)

### JUNIOR XI RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
May 19—	Kingswood Grammar School	A	Lost — (4 1—65)
June 2—	St. Brendan's College	H	Drew (91—5 —125—9 dec.)
21—	Wotton Grammar School Colts	H	Drew (136—5 dec. — 100—5)
23—	Chipping Sodbury Grammar School	H	Won (151—2 dec. — 101)

A Middle School XI played one match against Redland Hill House on June 27th, and won on the fourth ball of the last over. The scores were:

Thornbury 139 for 6 declared, and Redland Hill House 75.

## HOUSE NOTES

### CLARE

*Captains:* Joan Timbrell and R. M. Teague.

The House has continued to make progress this year, especially on the sports field. We were a close second to Stafford in the Athletics Sports at the end of the summer term, and the juniors are to be congratulated on winning the Molton Challenge Cup. We have high hopes of winning the Athletics Shield this year. The House also has some very promising juniors in other branches of sport. One of the junior girls has won the Thurston Swimming Cup, and we also hold the Junior Hockey Cup.

Our greatest loss this year has been that of the Academic Shield to Stafford, but we share the Tennis Shield with them, and have retained the Music Shield.

Clare congratulates Joan Timbrell, the House Captain, on being awarded a place at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

It is with considerable regret that we say good-bye to Mrs. Hodge, whose tireless work on behalf of the House has been very much appreciated. We extend a very warm welcome to all our new members of staff, Mr. Gunn, Mr. Silverthorn, and Mr. Copley, and especially to our new House-master, Mr. Carpenter, who has been most helpful and enthusiastic, and has given us so much encouragement.

### STAFFORD

*Captain.s:* Patsy Harvey and M. D. Lewis.

Stafford completed a most successful School year by winning the Athletics Shield at the end of last Summer Term—an achievement of which we are particularly proud as this shield has not been in our possession since 1938. Patsy Harvey, our House Captain, also won the Stephens Cup for Athletics. This year, however, has been one of mixed fortunes for the House.

We were again unsuccessful in our attempt to win the Rugby Shield, and lost both the Hockey and Football Shields to Howard. The losses of the Spring Term were, however, balanced to a certain extent by our winning the Cross Country Shield from Howard.. This was a fine victory, gained by the excellent “packing” of our Cross Country teams. We have also gained the Academic Shield from Clare, so that at the time of writing the year’s gains have equalled our losses.

While expressing our best wishes to Mr. Rabley on his retirement, we would also congratulate Mr. Cudmore, our Housemaster, on succeeding to the position of Senior Master, and although Mr. Carpenter had to be transferred to Clare, the same system brought us an enthusiastic new Housemistress in Miss Rees. The House also welcomes Mr. Wright and Mr. Young, and wishes Miss Burcombe every happiness in her forthcoming marriage.

### HOWARD

*Captains:* Mary Clutterbuck and C. A. Dicker.

This year Howard has not been quite as successful as previously. However, although we have lost the Athletics Shield, after holding it for eleven consecutive years, and failed, by a very narrow margin, to win the Music Shield, we have retained the Rugby Shield and gained those for Football and Hockey. Hamilton was re-awarded the Wilmot Challenge Cup in the Athletic Sports, and A. Fowell won the Harwood Swimming Cup.

We welcome Miss Walker and Mr. Beynon to the House, and extend our very best wishes to Mr. Rabley, who has been our Housemaster for so many years. We thank him most warmly for his constant help and encouragement in spurring us on to our achievements during the past. We are also sorry to lose Mr. Johnson for eighteen months.

## VALETE, 1950-51

<i>School Captains:</i> Mary Clutterbuck M. D. Lewis	<i>Commercial cont.</i>	<i>Upper Vb cont.</i> Betty Fennell J. Mills D. M. Pingstone T. P. Reaney H. Thomas Maureen Weaver Vb
<i>Prefects:</i> Pat Brown	Peggy Fennell Betty Starr June Tucker	
Mary Hulbert Ann Phillips	<i>Upper Va</i> Ann Gregory	Rosemary Allchurch Brenda Fussell Pamela Painter
Frances Riddiford Dorothy Rudledge Joan Timbrell Kathleen Withers J. S Cantrill D. R. Cooper G. A. Dicker R. Rosser C. L. M. Summers R. M. league	Beryl Pitt P. Baker E.J. Cooper A. B. C. Davis T. R. Eldridge M. C. Spratt	C. K. Purnell Vc Barbara Williams Christine Wilcox
<i>Sixth Form</i>	<i>Upper Vb</i>	<i>4a</i> Nesta Evans Anne Foyster R. Court R. D. Bridges
Kathleen Haskins Eveline Robinson Jean Williams	Irene Hopkins Thelma Lear Barbara Pullin Marion Rogers Sally Reed N. H. Adams D. J. Hamilton D. C. Hawkins D. Humphreys A. Jones	<i>3a</i> D. Hamer <i>3.,</i> D. Button  G. James <i>2a</i> Valerie Niblett

### THE SCHOOL AND MR. BROWNING

#### *Homework?*

How well I know what I mean to do  
When the long dark Autumn evenings come,

#### *External Examinations—the Day Before*

Thus, I had so long suffered in this quest.  
Heard~ failure prophesied so oft, .  
That just to fail as others seemed the best,  
And all the doubt was now—should I be fit?

#### *External Examinations—the Night Before*

Who knows but the, world may end to-night?

#### *A Sixth Form Scientist*

Back to his books then: deeper drooped his head:  
Calculus racked him.

#### *Front a Sixth Form “Arts” Student*

‘Tis well averred,  
A scientific faith’s absurd.

#### *Official Functions*

So free we seem, so fettered fast we are!

### *The Rugby Forward*

With neck out-thrust, you fancy how,  
Legs wide, arms locked behind,  
As if to balance the prone brow  
Oppressive with its mind.

### *The School Canteen?*

On earth the broken arcs, in heaven the perfect round.

## OLD THORNBURIANS

### UNIVERSITY LETTERS

In 1668 Pepys described Oxford as “a mighty fine place, well seated, and cheap entertainment,” and indeed this is true to-day, except that entertainment of almost any kind is how exceedingly expensive. However, such traditional customs as the May Morning Hymn, sung at six am, from the top of Magdalen lower, are free, and it is still possible to escape the drab monotony of a modern industrial city by a walk along the river bank, where we can’ imagine Robert Burton, a Christchurch don, that “fantastic old great man” of English letters before the time of Pepys, who ~‘going down to the Bridge-foot, and hearing the Barge-men scold and storm and swear at one another, would set his hands to his sides, and laugh most profusely.”

We at Oxford live in the midst of tradition. As English law depends on Precedent, so this University has grown and taken its life from Personality. Every college derives its individual character from its founders, and those who taught and studied there. My own college, for instance, can boast of many great men among its former members, ranging, in fairly recent times, from Dean loge to Gillie Potter. The more scholarly Balliol had as its Master in the nineteenth century the erudite Benjamin Jowitt, professor of Greek:— ‘First come I, my name is Jowitt.

There’s no knowledge but I know it.

I am the Master of the College, What I know not is not knowledge.”

Academic claims at Worcester are perhaps not quite so exhaustive. Nevertheless, our great privilege—as throughout the University—is to sit with our feet on the mantelpieces which have also been used in this manner by men whose names are known and respected throughout the world. We are here at the fountain-head of knowledge; our library contains a priceless collection of “first editions,” and our lake a remarkable diversity of ducks, and without either of these the College would not seem quite complete.

All good wishes to the School!

W.J.N., Worcester College, Oxford.

I have just completed my first year at Aberystwyth U.C.W. and it was with some misgiving that I set foot on Welsh soil for the first time, feeling that I might be regarded as “a foreigner.” I must, say, however, that, it has proved to be a very pleasant and profitable year, both from the academic and social points of view.

It has been quite a novelty to live in “digs” with five other men students; but despite the usual remarks made about landladies, mine has proved an exception to the general rule.

Aberystwyth College is unique in occupying a position on the sea-front, and is popularly known as the "College by the Sea." To myself, and to the majority of "freshers" it is certainly a new and pleasant experience to attend lectures and to work with the sea in sight.

Rugby is played, here in true Welsh style, and certainly takes precedence over all other winter games. The College has a most powerful XV, and I fear that an Englishman would have a very hard job to obtain and hold a place in it. Although Rowing is popular all the year round, I doubt whether the College crew will ever aspire to the fame of Oxford or Cambridge Universities in this field of sport.

University Societies are many and varied, and cater for English, Welsh and Overseas students. Singing is a feature of College life which must be unparalleled in England, and before practically every function, whether it is a debate or an examination, the strains of some Welsh hymn soon echo through the buildings.

Aberystwyth is the senior college in the University of Wales-, and its building has been described as an amazing structure, containing architecture of many periods.

The only disadvantage of attending Aberystwyth U.C.W. when one's home is in Gloucestershire is the difficulty of, travelling up and down, as the journey entails long waits on draughty railway stations, and culminates in a train which must be drawn by one of the slowest engines in Great Britain!

So far Thornbury has had few representatives at Aberystwyth, but I hope that there will be more in the future.

N.D., Aberystwyth,

University College of Wales.

At the time of writing your correspondent here is feeling very melancholy, for, she is still working hard for end of term examinations, while all her acquaintances have finished theirs and can laze comfortably. Unfortunately there is only too much scope for those who want to enjoy themselves. There are not only University and College functions, but the jollities arranged for the Festival year, which make living in London such a pleasure. Attending Bedford College has many advantages, for you are near enough to the main centres of activity, but can also enjoy a flourishing social life inside College, or retire into its fastnesses to pore undisturbed over books and papers.

But I am forgetting that it is not usual to mention work in connection with University life, and that I should give a resumé of "outside activities." Social life here is catered for by an astonishing number of dances, socials and teas, especially at the beginning of the session, and these are great lures to attract "freshers." There are, too, all kinds of societies, Dramatic, Literary, Religious and "Miscellaneous," besides many connected with various sports. Besides, there is always London, offering for entertainment plays, restaurants, exhibitions and shops; a box "where sweets conparted lie" offering a constant variety of pleasures.

It surprises me that more people from school do not come to London to join me—I hope that the attractive picture I have tried to paint of the life here may help to remedy this state of affairs. Most people at the University come from the North of England, but I think that an influx from the West Country would be most beneficial!

I send my best wishes to the School.

K.D.P., Bedford College, London.

This year at University has been a very pleasant one, "Prelims," or first public examinations are past, and "Final Schools" remain shrouded mysteries whose tortures are still far away.

University life can be enjoyed to the full in the second year; but the test that it sets is one's ability to strike the balance between work and outside interests, and achieve satisfaction in both. This is particularly difficult for the women members of the University, who are expected to work hard to justify their status. There is still a feeling here that women are out of place at Oxford, and at the sound of feminine voices in the "quads," male dons frown and deliver impromptu lectures on the bad influence of the weaker sex upon the University. Despite this view, women do take an active part in University life, and succeed in enjoying their student career to the full, although there are occasions such as the "Bump" suppers, "rags" or Union Debates When Oxford becomes a "Man's University" and the women join the ranks of mere spectators. Fortunately, most of us accept.

To me, the Trinity Term which has just ended is always the best of the Oxford year. While the Michaelmas term brings the excitement of a new year, new work and interests, and the Hilary term that of Torpids and "Cuppers," the Trinity Term brings subtler pleasures and greater thrills, such as the delights of punting up the Cherwell, and of tennis parties with picnic teas afterwards. The first of the term's events comes on May morning, and it is delightful to punt downstream early in the morning to hear the carol sung from Magdalen tower at 6 am. Afterwards we have breakfast on the river or go up the High to watch the Folk Dancing. The outstanding occasion is Eights Week, when the Isis swarms with crews and the banks with spectators. Then, dispelling the gloom of the June examinations, come the (dramatic productions in the "quads" of the various colleges. Lastly, we have Commemoration Week with its college Balls lasting until the early hours.

The three Thornburians at Oxford continue to enjoy their University careers and look forward to their third and last year here. P. I. Winstone at Jesus College takes an active part in the religious life of the University; W. J. Nicholls continues to row well for Worcester 2nd eight; and I play hockey and tennis for my college, Lady Margaret Hall, and have played for the University.

All three of us send our best wishes to the School, and look forward to welcoming Joan Timbrell to Lady Margaret Hall in October.

M.M.R., Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

## RECENT EVENTS

The Editor wishes to apologise for any omissions or incorrect news in the following notes, since, although every effort has been made to confirm them, the reports have been received from a wide variety of sources.

Audrey Bloomfield was recently chosen by the B.A.C. for a six weeks' tour of France, Switzerland and Germany.

Jennifer Rouch plays for Bristol University first teams for Hockey and Tennis. She has also had the honour of being included in the Southern Universities Hockey team.

We hear that Roger Weekes has left England for Australia, and that he has now gone on to New Zealand with the intention of settling there.

Allan Foster, another Old Thornburian, who left England for America in 1948, seems to be making good. He has gained a scholarship and a place in Yale University, and is now in his first year there.

Roy Barge, a keen Army Cadet in the Gloucestershire Regiment, won the bugling competition in the S.W. Cadet Force Band Contest this year.

Old Thornburians continue to do well in local Young Farmers' contests, and recently Keith Lyons won first prize in the Berkeley Hunt Young Farmers' Competition.

Bob Coole continues his journalistic activities. He is employed on the staff of the Bristol "Evening World" and is Assistant Editor of the Patch-way Church Magazine. In the former capacity he has pressed even the Headmaster into service as a Sports reporter! Besides this, he continues to take a keen interest in amateur dramatics, and wrote a Christmas pantomime, "The Crusoe Story," for the Venturers' Dramatic Society at Patchway.

**Engagements.**—We have news of the engagements of:—Bernice Harper, Mavis Heale, Tony Diment, John Lydford, Peter Whittock, Iris Tudor to Rex Cooper, Pat Frost to Allan Hucker, and Doreen Hathway to Sim Stutter.

**Marriages.**—We wish the following Old Thornburians every happiness in their marriages:—Sally Mills, Dorothy Neate, Josephine Paul, Marjorie Perry, Tommy Knapp, John Lewis, Michael Spreag, John Whittock, Joyce Cough to Terry Godwin, and Pamela Harper to Tony Pontin.

**Births.**—A daughter has been born to Doreen Bartlett (née Blanche), and a twin son and daughter to Eileen Bees (née Davies).

## OBITUARY

### PETER WEEKS

The long and painful illness of Peter Weeks cast a gloom over all who knew him, and those of us at the School felt his passing acutely. Peter was one of those boys who do their very best in every branch of school life. On the games field his play was marked by that courage and determination which he subsequently showed in the fatal illness, which, it is believed, resulted from a football injury. Joining the Royal Navy during the war, he served in the Far East, and on his return to England he went to St. Paul's College, Cheltenham, where he played in the Association Football eleven. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his parents in their bereavement.

## OFFICERS FOR 1951

*President:* The Headmaster.

*Vice-Presidents:* Capt. R. A. Bennett, Miss A. C. Dicker, Mr. S. C. Gayner. Mrs. C. Lanham, Mr. B. S. Morse, Mr. C. H. Ross, Mr. L. I. Thurston

*Chairman:* Mr. A. Hills, "Ridgeholme," Almondsbury.

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. L. Hawkins, St. Mary Street, Thornbury.

*Secretary:* Mr. R. S. Bennett, Gloucester Road, Thornbury.

*Treasurer:* Miss R. Shepherd, Severn View Road, Thornbury.

*Committee:* Mr. C. M. Adams, 1, Windermere Road, Patchway.

Mr I. A. Keitch, Gloucester Road, Patchway.

Miss P. Sainsbury, High Street, Thornbury.

Mr. D. Pearce, Lower Morton, Thornbury. *Staff Representative:* Mr. W. C. Rabley.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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