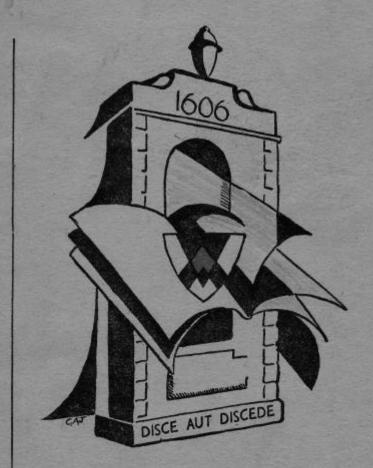
# THE THORNBURIAN



JULY, 1955

NEADS 38.

# THE THORNBURIAN

THORNBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL MAGAZINE

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JULY, 1955

Editor:

I. T. JACKSON

# SCHOOL OFFICERS, 1954-55

#### School Captains:

Wendy Slade (C) and I. T. Jackson (H)

# School I'ice-Captains:

Judith Robson (H) and C. H. Shearing (H)

#### School Prefects:

Josephine Hurcombe(H) L. J. Griffiths (H) Jean Baghurst (H) A. J. Pritchard (S) Monica Wyatt (C) C, T. Cooper (C) Sylvia Palmer (C) J R. Drewett (H) Pamela Peacock (S) G. Williams (H) Heather Hanks (H) D. C. Exell (H) J W. Narbett (H) Ninette Blaker (C) Jennifer Wooster (H) C. L. Davies (S)

Mary Sim (S)

Mary Wilson (C)
Anne Weekes (S)
Janet Northover (H)
Fay Dent (S)
Shirley Kingscott (H)
L. Watkins (S)
R. F. Jackson (C)
P. Williams (S)
J. P. Dickinson (S)
R. P. B, Browne (H)

#### House Captains:

HOWARD: Judith Robson and C. H. Shearing. STAFFORD: Pamela Peacock and A. J, Pritchard.

CLARE: Wendy Slade and C. T. Cooper.

#### Games Captains:

HOCKEY: Josephine Hurcombe.

NETBALL: Shirley Kingscott.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL: J. W. Narbett.

RUGBY FOOTBALL: L. J. Griffiths.

TENNIS: Helen Hardcastle. CRICKET: A. J. Pritchard. ATHLETICS: A. Slade.

SWIMMING: Sylvia Palmer and B. J. Rogers,

#### Games Secretaries:

Janet Northover and P. Williams.

#### Magazine Editorial Staff:

EDITOR: I. T. Jackson.
SUB-EDITOR: C. T. Cooper.

#### **EDITORIAL**

This year Speech Day coincided with a General Election, an election that signified the retirement of England's greatest living statesman—Sit Winston Churchill.

The fact that we were able to have our annual prizegiving on an election day is one indication, perhaps, that the British electorate, while remaining responsible, have attained a maturity of outlook, with some preference for reasoned choice over blind enthusiasm. One cause of this development is surely the increase in education and educational facilities —a development which has been largely led by the Grammar Schools, and which may well be threatened by recent attempts to discard them in favour of experiments alien to our traditions.

Sir Stanley Rous, the Secretary of the Football Association, who presented the prizes on Speech Day, showed us that education does not consist only in academic achievement, but equally in what we learn on the games field or the athletics track. He told how even in a raggamuffins' game in a London park the little cripple chosen as umpire confidently declared the big, noisy captain "out l,b.w.' '—and he went! This spirit of fair play, which may influence every activity for good, is one of our schools' most valuable contributions to the nation, and indeed to the world at large.

# OBITUARY MARGARET BARROWS

All of us were deeply shocked and grieved by the sudden death of Margaret Barrows following a riding accident on November 13th. Margaret had been in the school only a little over two years; she was an eager, active girl, of great athletic promise, and our sympathy goes out to her family in their affliction.

#### GENERAL NOTES

Mr. Rabley, a member of staff from 1911-1951, has been elected to the Board of Governors, and we offer him our sincere congratulations. At the end of this term we say goodbye and good fortune to Mlle. Laborde, our French assistante', and to four other members of staff:

Miss Riley and Miss Walding, who joined us last September, Miss E. Taylor, who came in 1953, and Miss Storey, who has been here for twenty-two years! She is taking a post in the High School for Girls, Falmouth, and our best wishes go with her in her new appointment. She will be greatly missed in the catering department, and we should like to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to her long service to our community. We should also like to congratulate Mr. Beynon and Miss

D. Rees, and Mr. Jenkins and Miss M. Taylor on their engagements.

This year the school is for the first time three-stream throughout, and new buildings have been provided to accommodate 'the increase in the number of pupils. The Grace Block was opened in September, and at the time of going to press the long-awaited kitchen-dining hall is almost completed, and the sound of the cement mixer has become familiar in the Orchard Spur site, where two more classrooms and a new boiler-house are under construction. The School Hall, scene of so many varied activities, has been enhanced by the purchase of new curtains, which were unfortunately delayed by the London dock strike, thus causing the postponement of the School play. Physical training facilities have been increased by the fixing of eight ropes in the Hall, which was carried out during the Easter holidays.

Theatre visits, though not so numerous this year, have been very enjoyable. A large party, drawn mainly from the Third Forms, went to see 'The Merchant of Venice', two parties from the Sixth Form saw The Winter's Tale" at the Theatre Royal, and as we go to press a trip is planned to Gloucester Cathedral for a special performance of "Murder in the Cathedral", by I. S. Eliot, in connection with the Cathedral Restoration Fund.

Groups of girls from the senior school have made several trips in connection with domestic studies. In September girls from the VIth and Upper Vth forms went to a talk and demonstration of Australian cooking entitled "Cooking Down Under" by Miss Nancy Jepp (sponsored by the S.W. Gas Board) at the Grand Hotel. In the autumn term also VIth form girls went to the Colston Hall for a demonstration by the world famous "Bon Viveur' couple, sponsored by the "Daily Telegraph"; they were supported by a panel of B.B.C. celebrities. In May, Mrs. Hutber took the "A "-level candidates to an exhibition of Contemporary Furniture and Art at Cheltenham.

Society Meetings on Friday afternoons have been more frequent this year, and, judging by 'the reports, of a high standard. Among outside speakers were Mr. F. N. S. Creek of the B.B.C., Assistant Director of Training to the Football Association, a well-known authority on many forms of sport, who gave the boys a talk on Association Football; Mr. Naiche Ras from Fiji, who spoke about his group of islands, and Mr.

#### S. D. Odliambo from Kenya, who gave an account of the racial problem in Africa.

During the Christmas holidays, several members of the VIth form attended the conference of the Council for Education in World Citizenship, held in London, and in the Spring four boys and two girls again visited France under the Bristol-Bordeaux Exchange Scheme.

Last July a group of sixth formers attended a World Citizenship Society Conference at Wells, where the subject for speeches and discussion was racial tension in Kenya and Uganda. Another group, at about the same time, went to the S.C.M. Conference, held at Bristol University. As we go to press, similar expeditions are planned for next week and the week after, to conferences on the subject of the United States Today and of Church Unity respectively.

Once again Mr. Stacey organised the annual Whitsun History Competition, open to the Middle and Lower School. The winners were:

first, R. Howell; second, equal, Diane Watkins and Mary Newman, all of VA. An Exhibition was staged in the History Room on Speech Day.

The annual Remembrance Service, held in the School Hall, was conducted by the Vicar of Thornbury, the Rev. H. G. Rawstorne, M.A. The Headmaster read the lesson and Mr. Cudmore read the roll of

honour of Old Thornburians. Mr. Jaques recited Laurence Binyon's lines beginning "They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old". The School Captain, School Vice-Captain, and the Chairman ~f the Old Thornburians' Society laid wreaths on the war memorials in the Hall and the quadrangle.

We were sorry to learn of Mr. Hill's illness, but he is now almost fully recovered. During his absence Dr. John Pridham, an Old Thornburian, has helped in the Chemistry department. He has been engaged in research at Bristol University for the past few years, and has just obtained his degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He has now gone to the University of Wisconsin to continue his studies.

Great interest was aroused last summer by the eclipse of the sun on June 30th. Many pieces of smoked glass were trained sun-wards between 12.15 and 2.45 p.m., and many were the speculations and arguments put forward as to the next occasion on which the sun would be obliterated from human vision for a brief space.

The Easter excursion, led by Mr. Cudmore and Miss Cook, returned to Westward Ho! this year for a nine-days' visit. A full report will be found elsewhere in the magazine. The annual visits to London, Croscombe and Stow-on-the-Wold also took place, a record number of over seventy going to London in October. Mr. Cudmore also took a party to Avonmouth Docks. A trip is planned to Norway in August – the most ambitious project undertaken so far. This will be a three-weeks' trip, led by Mr. Cudmore and Miss Walker. The party, consisting mainly of certificate and VIth form pupils, will go by sea from Newcastle-on-Tyne. Visits will be made to Bergen, Oslo, and Copenhagen. The party will stay at Youth Hostels.

1954-5 has been a year of success for the school in both the academic and the sporting worlds. Three notable academic distinctions have been gained: of four geography scholarships awarded by Oxford University, L.J. Griffiths has gained one; C. H. Shearing has gained admission to St. John's College, Cambridge; and Monica Wyatt has been offered a place at Girton College, Cambridge. Several members of this year's VIth have been accepted by Universities and Training Colleges. Wendy Slade has gained a place at Whitelands Training College, London, Judith Robson at Southlands Training College, London, Josephine Hurcombe at St. Mary's Training College, Cheltenham, Pamela Peacock at Hereford, Heather Hanks at St. Loys, Exeter, and Fay Dent at Fish-ponds, Bristol. A. J. Pritchard has been accepted by London University, C. T. Cooper by Reading, I. T. Jackson by Birmingham, C. L. Davies and G. Williams by Manchester, D. G. Exell by Southampton, and L. G. Watkins by Sheffield. J. W. Narbett is going to Loughborough, and J. H. Drewett to

#### Annual Events

Borough Road Training College, London.

# **FOUNDERS' SERVICE 1954**

The annual Founders' Service was held in Thornbury Parish Church on Thursday, October 2 1st. The Chairman of the Governors, the Rev.

H. G. Rawstorne, MA., conducted the service, and the Headmaster read the Lesson. During the service the choir sang George Dyson's anthem, "Praise".

The address was given by the Rev. E. C. Davey of Redland. For a particularly vigorous and cheerful sermon the preacher chose as his text the words of St. Paul, "You are my fellow workers". He said the world today must not place "rights" before "duty"; and showed by an amusing story that tradition is not enough; it is valuable chiefly as a basis. We must not only glorify God's work, we must also help God in this work. By coming to church on Founders' Day we put education in its right place. It is a means to an end, not an end in itself. School life is a preparation for service in the world and teaches us to be willing to accept responsibility.

# THE CAROL SERVICE 1954

This year, to the general satisfaction, the Carol Service was held in Thornbury Parish Church on December 22nd. The day was a pleasant one; Old Thornburians and parents were invited, and waited outside the church to watch the pupils file in.

The service itself was peculiarly successful, embodying as it did the usual carols, "sweet singing in the choir", and readings which were exceptionally clear and impressive in the church interior. The Rev.

R. G. Rawstorne, M.A., the Vicar and Chairman of the Governors, opened with a short prayer and pronounced Benediction. Thus, if we lost a little of the common touch, which allowed us to sing untunefully "Good King Wenceslas" at the tops of our voices, still we gained a great deal from the new setting, from the presence of parents and visitors, and from the greater sense of occasion and ceremony which the church gave us.

# SPEECH DAY 1955

This year Speech Day was held on May 26th, but preoccupation with the fate of the various political parties had no ill effects on any of those present. Unfortunately, as in previous years, accommodation was very limited, and of the school, only the form captains, vice-captains and prizewinners of the Second and Third Forms were able to attend, together with most of the Seniors and some members of the Fourth and Fifth Forms, who sat in the quadrangle.

In his opening address, the Rev. H. G. Rawstorne, M.A., Chairman of the Governors, referred to the new buildings under construction, and in particular to the kitchen-dining hall, which had been awaited so long. He said 'that a debt of gratitude was owed to Miss Beake and her staff for the way they had carried on under such cramped conditions. He also mentioned the academic successes which had come to the school, and the credit which the Headmaster and Staff had gained from these successes. Mr. Rawstorne paid a tribute to the organisation of the excursions carried out by Mr. Cudmore, which were of great benefit to all who took part in them.

The headmaster, in his report ~f the year's work, made reference to the academic distinctions that had been won by three members of the Sixth Form in gaining places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. He mentioned the country's need of science teachers, and stated that only one in fifteen science students, in the last four years, intended to

become a teacher. Stressing the benefits of staying on for a Sixth Form education, the Headmaster said: "Today the Grammar Schools are in the midst of an unmistakable sellers' market for Sixth Formers

Employers recognise, moreover, that experience at the top of the school is in itself a good preparation for the post of responsibility".

Sir Stanley Rous, Secretary of the Football Association, who presented the prizes, proved to be a most entertaining speaker. He advocated a combination of sport and academic work in school life, but emphasised that study should not be over-ridden by sport. Sir Stanley said: -... a successful people in the next generation is going to be those who know. Knowledge is going to be all important. So games must not ... interfere with your work". He illustrated his talk with amusing anecdotes from his personal experience as a teacher. He said that when he was teaching on a particularly hot afternoon he noticed a boy looking half-asleep who, when asked if he was learning anything, replied, "No, Sir, but I was listening to you". Sir Stanley emphasised the importance of the English sense of "fair play"

The School Captain proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Stanley, who asked the Chairman of the Governors and the Headmaster for a day's holiday for the School.

After "The Queen", the assembly dispersed to have tea, and look round the school. The French, History and Geography Rooms, and the Biology laboratory were open to visitors and the Physics laboratory was an animated scene of aspiring (and perspiring) scientists straining their utmost to "harrow" the onlookers "with fear and wonder" by conducting weird experiments accompanied by unusual noises. Exhibitions of Art and Woodwork of a high standard were also much admired.

A large number watched the Physical Training displays on the field given by the Gymnastic Clubs. Though ominous clouds were piling up to the West, the proceedings were not marred by any sudden deluge; "the gentle rain from heaven" held off until the gymnasts had ended their displays, and the familiar sight of small boys struggling with large piles of chairs was to be seen on the lower half of the school field.

# THE SCHOOL PLAY

The writers of "Family Portrait" have been criticised for dwelling too much upon the earthly nature of our Lord to the exclusion of His Divinity. The latter, of course, could not be a fit subject for stage representation, but most of those who saw the play must surely have felt that the meaning of His life in this world came home to them at least a little more closely than it had done before.

This was owing very largely to the acting of Mary Sim, who played the part of the Mother of Jesus with a simplicity, understanding and reverence which gave conviction to the entire performance. The rest of the casting showed the penetration we have come to expect of Mr. Hodge, and it is difficult to select particular scenes and players among so many deserving mention. The frequent touches of humour, tender, or ironical, were not the least effective parts of the production, and the courtyard of the home in Nazareth, scene of so many natural joys and sorrows, will long remain a vivid memory.

#### THE JUNIOR FORM PLAYS

"Who is this and what is here?" Thus a casual visitor to Thornbury Grammar School might well have asked on the mornings of April 4th or 5th, as he walked along the lower corridors. Could these really be Thornbury boys, toffee-chewing, wrinkle-socked and inkstained? And that one, too, with shirt hanging out and hands in pockets, singing raucously as be passed a most unacademic ditty, something about "Ay faw leggid fer-end"-----?

Had our visitor followed, with increasing amazement, an outsize rabbit into one of the darkened form-roams, his questions would soon have been answered: this was the morning when the Junior Dramatic Societies were presenting their annual plays.

The outsize rabbit was a Third-Form girl acting in scenes from Kenneth Graham's "Toad of Toad Hall", produced by Miss E. Taylor: the disreputable-looking boys were Fourth-Formers taking the parts of four "outlaws" in a dramatization of Richmal Crompton's "William and the Tramp", produced by Miss Riley, and the raucous songster a member of the Fifth-Form cast of Thornton Wilder's "The Happy

Journey", produced by Miss Cook.

The three plays were well contrasted. The story of the erring Toad, whose well-meaning friends are "cruel only to be kind", suited a youthful and earnest cast. Thirty members of the Fourth Form threw Themselves, at times literally, into the William episode where, typically, the exuberance of the young invades, with resulting chaos, the world of the "grown-ups". After These noisier scenes the audience enjoyed a swift change of atmosphere in the Thornton Wilder play: here the simple plot—a family of four driving to visit a married daughter—is ~ means of illustrating the unifying and dominating strength of the mother's love and simple faith.

#### HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

This year we were fortunate to have Dr. Douglas Fox, Director of Music of Clifton College. as adjudicator. His previous visits several years ago were greatly enjoyed, and the day of the Final, April 6th, was anticipated with eagerness and apprehension.

The results of the Essay and Composition classes were announced at the start of the programme and gave Stafford 95 points, Clare 93, Howard 91. The competition resolved itself into a keen struggle between Howard and Clare, the former keeping a few points ahead all the time. Dr. Fox made some helpful remarks to the competitors, which were much appreciated. We should like to thank Dr. Fox for his able adjudication, and also Miss Rees, who spent so much time judging the preliminaries.

Howard House retained the Harwood Shield, the final position being: Howard 359 points, Clare 353k. Stafford 238.

#### SPORTS DAY 1954

A few years ago Stafford gained the Athletics Shield, but before and since then Howard have long been the undisputed possessors. Last year, however, Clare dramatically challenged Howard's supremacy.

It has become almost a convention to admire the fine weather and the number of broken records on Sports Day, and 1954 was no exception. The outstanding new records came from C. Tanner (H) in the 440 yards and H. Jackson (C) in throwing the javelin. Appropriately, the most exciting event was the mile at the end of the programme, which would have rejoiced the heart of Talbot Baines Reed. The points were so closely contested that victory, at this moment, would have caused Clare to share the Athletics Shield with Howard. After a slow start, Jackson of Clare took the lead and held this position until the last moment, when Exell of Howard challenged strongly and both runners hit the tape at the same instant, an endin.g rare over shorter distances, but almost unprecedented in the mile.

The Old Thornburians' Athletics Shield was presented to the Captains of Howard House by Brigadier M. A. James, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., an old 1914-1918 friend ~f the Headmaster, who also distributed the certificates. Howard House retained the shield, but the margin seems to imply that it is not to remain the monopoly of this House.

# Out-of-School Activities WESTWARD HO! 1955

(As seen by members of the 1st Year Sixth)

Because the party of thirty-two pupils and staff that went on this excursion was smaller than usual, the general atmosphere was more friendly even than I had expected it to be.

Whatever trip or day's excursion was planned, the party joined in as a whole and not in groups. Perhaps two underlying reasons for this were the very good weather, with no rain in eight days, and the fact that the hotel at which we stayed was extremely hospitable and welcoming.

The journey down was via Bridgwater, Minehead, Lynton and Bide-ford. For many of us it was the first time we had travelled through Lorna Doone country, seeing the rugged beauty of Exmoor and the Atlantic coast.

We went up and down many hills, including the famous Porlock Hill (1 in 4), the most impressive being the steep drop into Lynmouth with the sea on one side. Although it is now several years since the Lynmouth disaster, much evidence of it remained, including an hotel, half of which had been washed away, and many large boulders.

At the beginning of the holiday, taking advantage of what we thought would be a short spell of good weather, we visited some local places of interest. We went to Appledore, and saw the family-owned boat-building business, and the local lifeboat, and salmon fishing boats. We walked on Kipling Tor, which is named after the poet, and on some evenings after supper, Miss Cook would read us a few of Rudyard Kipling's poems, which gave us the feeling that we knew what had inspired some of his poetry.

We were impressed by the friendliness of the local people we met and spoke to during our stay, and especially by the rivalry which exists between the peoples of Bideford and Barnstaple. Each town is striving to go one better than the other, and arguments are always breaking out over such trivial things as the name of the bay into which the TawTorridge estuary empties its waters. To settle the problem the bay is now mapped as Bideford or Barnstaple Bay".

To give us some local colour, local people came and spoke to us, including Mr. Hookway and Mr. Sims of the Town and Country Plan. ning Department of Devon County Council. We had an evening of stimulating discussion with Mr. Lee, Editor of the Bideford Gazette, and Councillor Mrs. Cox of Bideford.

Speaking as a geographer, on the trip as a whole, I was struck by the way the geography of the classroom and textbook becomes a reality. For instance, there is the famous raised beach at Westward Ho, showing where there must have been a previous higher level of the sea, and at the other extreme a submerged forest, telling of a previous lower level. These things can be read in the textbooks, but when seen in real life they are more impressive and stick in the memory. The extensive sands, sand dunes, pebble ridge and salt marsh are all very memorable features of Westward Ho! and I am sure all those in the party who have not seen such places before will keep these in their memories for years. Also to be remembered are the majestic cliffs to be seen wherever we went along the coast from Westward Ho, evidence of the terrific cutting' power of the sea's breakers, particularly at Hartland and Baggy Point. For the scientist there is a great deal of interesting geological material. There are many different types of rock around Westward Ho, including many crystalline rocks, and there is also a chance to compare the sandstone rock of Exmoor with the granite of Dartmoor. For the historians, and for that matter all the party, there were many enjoyable visits paid to places of historical interest.

We attended the Manor Court and Manor Court Service at the Bideford Parish Church, an extremely lovely building with wonderful wood carvings around the walls. Buckfast Abbey is beautiful in a cold, austere way, the white walls, the golden altar and crown of light, and the intricate carvings all stand out in one's memory. So also does Crediton Parish Church, built in a very coarse red stone and once a cathedral, and finally Exeter Cathedral, with its beautifully situated organ and its ancient clock.

Other impressive buildings we visited included the well-kept Hart-land Lighthouse, the second most isolated house in England, Chudleigh Fort, a Cromwellian construction overlooking Bideford, and the Exeter Guildhall in which a replica of our school badge can be seen, it being the coat-of-arms of John Atwells, mayor of Exeter. The highlight of the tour from the historical point of view was the visit to Grimspound, a Celtic Settlement on Dartmoor, with a few of its huts, surrounded by a wall still in a remarkable state of preservation.

There are many beautiful places that we visited deeply imprinted in our minds, but Lydford Gorge heads the list for most of the patty. We walked up this narrow gorge which the tiny River Lyd has cut down by erosion through solid rock to a startling depth, and admired its steep banks clad with trees, which with rocks made a deep shade over the horrific Devil's Cauldron at the head of the Gorge. Again the walk

to Hartland Point is a memorable one; although not a great distance, it was up and down all the way, and the cliffs were so steep that we almost had to crawl up one of them.

On the last day we went by coach to Saunton, after stopping to see the Saxon Great Field at Braunton, which is still farmed on the strip system, and from here we had a similar though less strenuous walk to Croyde Bay and round Baggy Point; this gave a fine view of Woolacombe, which has not been spoiled by caravans as Westward Ho! has been.

The Westward Ho! trip was not all education and no play, far from it; we had some very enjoyable games of hockey and rounders down on the sands, as well as watching television and dancing at the hotel in the evenings. We had plenty of time to ourselves, and a most important point, the food was excellent!

I hope I have given a fair impression of Westward Ho!, of its benefits and advantages; but I must, before closing, mention the 'brain' responsible for this excursion, Mr. Cudmore. All the pupils fully appreciate the time he has spent in making the trip a success, and the "little bits" of advice given when needed. We thank him and the other members of staff for a trip which will always be remembered, and our feelings towards it may perhaps be well summed up in the words of Henry Vaughan's "Retreat":

Oh, how I long to travel back, And tread again that ancient track".

# CROSCOMBE, 1955

#### Anne Codling, Upper VA.

On Friday, May 13th, a party of fifty-three pupils from the certificate forms, and nine members of staff, led by Mr. Cudmore, left school to take part in the annual Mendip walk. Two coaches started from School at 5.15 p.m., picking up pupils en route, and after a journey through very pleasant scenery we arrived at Wells. Because of the rain, the usual walk from Wells to Croscombe over the fields had 'to be cancelled. The coaches took us right to the hostel, and we were shown to our rooms. After supper, some of the party went for a walk while some of the less fortunate stayed to wash up.

On Saturday morning we set off for a walk over the hills around Shepton Mallet. En route we visited the Croscombe Church with its fine Jacobean carvings. The frequent showers made the grass very wet and we were forced to walk on the road rather than cut across the fields, but the country views compensated for this.

About three o'clock in the afternoon we arrived in Wells that beautiful Cathedral City. The inverted arches beneath the cathedral tower, and the famous clock (which shows the phases of the moon as well as the date) impressed many of us. The Bishop's Palace, close to the Cathedral, is surrounded by a moat; we saw the bell by the bridge which is rung by the swans when they are hungry.

On Sunday morning the coaches arrived to take us to Glastonbury, and after a stiff climb up the Tor, we continued to the ruins of the Abbey. The enormous Abbot's kitchen was very impressive and well preserved, and many finds made during excavations are displayed inside.

We proceeded in the coaches to Wookey Hole Caves. The guide showed us round the three magnificent chambers, pointing out many interesting things, including the witch of Wookey. A beautiful grotto displayed various stalagmites and stalactites, where carefully placed lighting enhanced the lovely colours.

After a sandwich lunch we began the walk to Cheddar, across the Mendips and we were soon joined by the Headmaster. We passed Roundway, the gliding site of Bristol Gliding Club, and were lucky enough to see a glider take off. The view from the top of the hills out to the Channel was beautiful and we were able to look back on a most enjoyable walk when we reached the Gorge.

The walk through the Gorge proved a great climax to our weekend. The rocks towered above us, the sides of the Gorge being almost vertical in places and looking, some thought, a little unsafe. The coaches picked us up at the end of the Gorge and we left the Mendips for home.

#### STOW-ON-THE-WOLD 1955

Daphne Jefferies, VA.

A large party left Thornbury in two coaches at 5.0 p.m. on Friday, May 6th, for Stow-on-the-Wold. We went via the Birdlip edge of the Cotswolds and this was the worst part of the trip, as it rained all the way. We arrived at the hostel about 7.30 p.m., and as it cleared up after supper we went for a walk around Stow.

The next morning, which was warm and sunny, a small party with Miss Cook visited Stow's beautiful and historical church. After breakfast we left for Bourton-on-the-Water. During this walk we saw several examples of cottages of Cotswold stone. On arrival we went to the famous model village and later wandered around Bourton itself. It is a very pretty village, with the River Windrush running through the centre, well-cut lawns and graceful willows.

We left Bourton for Lower Slaughter. Nearly all Cotswold villages have a river, although in some places water is scarce. Here we saw a mill race and a water-wheel. After lunch we wandered on through Upper Slaughter and the Swells, back to Stow. On the way we saw two fine Manor Farms.

The next day the coach took us part of the way. We stopped to look at Naunton, a village in a valley which possesses a very old dove-cote. We left the coach again after another four miles, and walked to. Chedworth Roman Villa, where the Headmaster joined us. This walk was through some very beautiful country. Mr. Wright's Latin enthusiasts did not see quite what they expected (which shows that it is always best to look for oneself!) but we were impressed by the mosaic flooring and the excellent state of preservation of the bathhouse.

When we arrived back at Thornbury at 6.30 p.m. we were very tired, but had thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

#### **BRISTOL - BORDEAUX 1955**

The crossing was a bad one, and we can now use the phrase "malde-mer" with a sense that we have "learnt by doing". Arrived in Paris we enjoyed the usual round of famous sights, and later there was a coach trip from Bordeaux to the Pyrenees, where we were dazzled by what was for most of us the first sight of snow-capped mountain scenery. The faith-healing church at Lourdes and the famous old port of La Rochelle are other outstanding memories.

One of the party this year stayed at a farm some twenty miles from Bordeaux, another at a bank in a large village; both were impressed, as we all were, by the friendliness and goodwill of the people. We came to admire, also, the French addiction to cycling, which triumphs over old-fashioned heavy machines and side-roads that are mere sandy tracks, and we discovered that the accent of the "Midi" can be as puzzling to anyone accustomed to the "French Of Paris" as our own Gloucestershire burr is to the Londoner.

We are all looking forward to the return visit of our French friends and hope that their impression of England will be as happy as ours of their country.

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF C.E.W.C. December, 1954

R. Drewett VI.

Eight members of the Sixth Form attended the Annual Conference of the Council for Education in World Citizenship at the Central Hall, Westminster, from December 28th to 31st, 1954. The C.E.W.C. is an organisation of the United Nations Association; and this year for their Christmas Holiday Lectures and Discussions, the topic was "Latin America". The conference was attended by over 2,000 students from all over the British Isles.

The procedure for each of the four days was very similar. In the morning we listened to two lectures and after each one an opportunity was given to ask the speaker questions. In the afternoon the students 'divided up into discussion groups to discuss political, social, cultural and economic problems. There was, however, a change on Thursday, when we listened to the music and watched the traditional dances of the people of America. To conclude the conference on Friday afternoon a very distinguished panel, including two M.Ps., formed a Brains' Trust and placed their knowledge and experience at our disposal. During the week we had the privilege of listening to many learned speakers, including Professor Humphreys – Professor of Latin American History at London University; the Marquess of Reading, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; and Mr. J. A. Camacho,' Head of European Productions of the B.B.C. As a supplement to the lectures a film was shown every dinner hour called "World Without End", which is a production of U.N.O., showing the work it does for the world with specific examples in Siam and Mexico.

I am sure that all of us are grateful for the opportunity given us to attend these lectures, which gave us a valuable experience, broadened our limited knowledge of Latin America and made us realise the serious problems facing the country as a whole.

# VISIT TO BRISTOL AEROPLANE COMPANY R. J. Davies, Upper VA.

On the sunny afternoon of Monday, 27th of September, Mr. Hill took a party of twenty boys from the Certificate forms to the Bristol Aeroplane Company's works at Filton. Mr. Baillie and Mr. Leet conducted us around the Aircraft Division and explained the general principles of the machinery.

We began our tour by a visit to the machine shops and tool room, where we saw capstan and centre lathes, and milling machines in operation. From the semi-gloom of the machine shops we emerged into brilliant sunlight and walked down the roadway to the assembly shops. On our way there we passed the wing testing frame, which, 'however, was not working. In the assembly shops we saw various stages of the construction of Bristol Freighters and 171 and 173 four to six-seater helicopters. We also saw the fourteen-seater double-rotor helicopter and some of the early stages of the Britannias. We then made our way to the Brabazon hangar via the flight sheds, where we saw some completed four-seater helicopters and a Bristol Freighter. We were surprised 'to see no less than seven Britannias under construction in the Brabazon hangar. These great airliners were already in an advanced state of construction. Whilst there we climbed to a balcony, from where we could see the B.O.A.C. section of the hangar where a Stratocruiser was being overhauled.

We were entertained to an excellent tea, during which a general discussion took place, in which many questions were asked and answered. After tea the party broke up. We are all very grateful to the B.A.C. officials who made possible an extremely interesting tour, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

# **Original Contributions**

#### THINGS I LIKE

#### Marilyn Evans, II B.

What do I like? Now let me see,
Ice-cream and trifle, blancmange and jelly.
The neigh of a horse, the bark of a dog,
The scent in the fire of a burning log,
The scent of new bread come fresh from the oven,
The sun and warm breezes we get from the southern,
The purr of a cat when you stroke its warm coat
The delight of capsizing in an old wooden boat,
The good cream from Devon and strawberry ice;
The fish from the Severn and small squeaking mice,
Hot fish and chips, apples rosy and red,
Hot cocoa in sips, and a nice soft bed;
These things I like and many more.

If I told you them all I'd be here evermore.

#### THE FIRST VOYAGE

#### Penelope Haley, Form III Beta

Hiawatha cried in gladness, As his own canoe he floated. Oh! what joy to paddle slowly. On the lake so calm and tranquil." Either side he saw the forests. Larch and birch wood, cedars also. As he skimmed the quiet waters Numerous fishes swam unheeded All the joys of nature 'round him Made young Hiawatha grateful, Life he felt was just beginning, As he now could travel farther And explore those unknown regions In the first canoe he'd fashioned From the trees he now was passing During this his maiden voyage.

#### THE FRIEND

#### T. Freeman, IVA.

Ned Jones was a farm-hand at Winchat Farm, just outside the village of Winchat. Every morning at six o'clock he walked from his rented cottage in the village, through the Churchyard, across the village green and past the duckpond on his way to the farm. His first job on the farm was to round up and milk the Herefords, then drive the milk by tractor and cart to the main road, where it would be collected and taken to town. He then let the chickens out and collected eggs for breakfast. On leaving the eggs at the farmhouse he would collect the chicken food. At seven he went into breakfast.

His main daily jobs were mending gates and fences, clearing ditches, pruning hedges and making sure that no animal was ill or hurt. But on his trudge about the farm he was lonely; he hadn't a companion to give him courage or to give him company across the fields. His pipe was old, and he sometimes ran out of "baccy" or matches, or even left them at home. He wanted a friend whom he couldn't leave at home because he was too obvious. Then one morning as he was passing the duckpond, he saw Jack Barnes throw a young collie among the weeds in the middle.

Lassie, Jack Barnes' collie, had a litter of six, but he could only keep two of them. He sold three at the Saturday market, but this one was a nuisance. He was thin and spindly and very vicious. So he decided to tie a brick around his neck and throw him in the "Winchat Lake". On Monday morning he rose early, so that no one would be around when he threw the pup into the pond. But Ned was earlier that morning, and as Jack ran off he waded into the middle and rescued the pup.

Now when you ramble across the fields near Winchat you will see him with his friend, Jock, rounding up the cows, romping across the fields, or playing hide and seek in the hedgerows.

# THE PATH OF TIME Pauline Stitt, UV C.

With crooked stick and shuffling feet Old Time goes passing by. Please stay awhile, oh bide awhile The world as one will cry. But accompanied by a wistful smile And a gentle pitying tear, The mark is scratched upon his stick Of yet another year. They pluck and grasp his tattered cloak And beg him yet to stay, But he lines their pleading faces And he turns their fair locks grey, And with ne'er a single backward glance Continues on his way. There's not a haunting melody Or poet's noble rhyme. There's not an art or science That can halt the path of time.

#### KNOCK AT THE DOOR Valerie York, Commercial Form

Twilight had fallen, and the stars were shining in the pearly sky. The air was sultry and heavy with the scent of lilac; standing at the open window he could see over green fields and wooded slopes to the distant blue mountains. Between the hills beyond the village shimmered a curve of the winding river, silver in the evening light, as it flowed on its way to the sea. Yet for all the outward signs of tranquillity, the atmosphere was alive with unrest and tension, the birds had ceased their innocent, noisy chattering and the sudden silence seemed unfriendly and accusing!

He shifted to a more comfortable position, leaning on his elbow. What had he to fear? No one would ever know, how could they 'when he had been so clever and cunning? The police would never know it was he who had killed her—his crime had been perfect, down to the smallest detail. He smiled slightly, thinking over the series of events and congratulating himself on the way in which everything had gone according to plan. Comfortably aware of his safety, he began to whistle softly. He felt exhilarated, self-assured, on top of the world, not as murderers should feel, he idly surmised, terrified and cold with fear at the thought of detection—poor weak fools. Faintly in the distance a low ominous rumble heralded the coming storm; despite himself he felt an odd little shiver run up his spine suppose he had not been so clever after all suppose.

To still his fears, and rather ashamed of his weakness, he opened his cigarette case, selected one, and held it delicately between his long thin fingers as he searched for his lighter where was it? ... it was in neither of his pockets. Swallowing the rising panic, he slowly and methodically searched his pockets again ... where could it be? How he longed to feel its cold hardness. Dropping to his knees he frantically scanned the floor, then clumsily and awkwardly he plucked aside the papers on the table. A pulse throbbed in his temple, a cold terror

filled him – had he dropped it by the body? It had his name on it —oh God! what was that? Silence.

The knock came again, louder and more forceful. So they had come, the police, the blundering idiots of the law, yet his crime had been perfect, so cunningly planned, why had fate dealt him such a cruel blow – but there was still another way out, and he was going to take it. Let them knock, he was going to cheat the hangman.

Noiselessly and with great deliberation he crossed to the sideboard, took out a wine glass, and set it on the table. From a drawer he took a small packet; slitting it open, he shook its contents into the glass, his hand was trembling as he filled it and he spilt some on the polished surface. Watching its slight effervescence, he felt the blood running ice-cold through his veins; this was the end; yet he could still think rationally – he had beaten them; choking back his desire to giggle triumphantly he reached for the glass and raised it to his lips

Outside, Mrs. Groach, the innkeeper's wife, knocked again.

"The young gentleman don't appear to be in", remarked her companion. 'Best wait till later to give it to him".

"Seems as if I shall 'ave to", replied Mrs. Groach tartly; then her features softened. "Such a nice polite young gentleman 'ee is", she sighed, "'ee knows all 'is p's and q's to be sure!"

He don't appear to be the absent-minded type", said her friend. Fancy leaving his lighter on the shop counter now; my hubby found

it and I brought it over straightaway in case he missed it; pretty thing", she mused, "got his name on it: 'To John Windsor from Stella Malory'

-now I ...

"Never mind that", interrupted Mrs. Groach, "come down to the kitchen, I want to show you my new recipes". Chattering the two women walked away

From the gathering clouds, rain began to fall, lightning split the heavens, and thunder roared: the storm had begun.

# A SUMMER MORNING P. J. Flovd, VI.

The dawn: see how the sun doth sear across the sky, Making the gloomy darkness fall and fly; Putting the moon to shame
That she did ever start her silver reign.
See how the lone pine stands
Sentinel against departing night,
A sole black finger pointing to the sun,
Proclaiming, "Come, see the dawning light,
A new, fresh day has just begun".

With majesty the sun doth sear across the heavenly dome,
Banishing shadows from their inky home;
But yet the coverlet of phantoms softly sleeps. across the fields,
Until the sun awakes with dazzling clarion call and yields
To our wondering gaze, the velvet grass and myriad water drops.
That bejewel all the tufted grasses broomy tops,
And then at last the countryside awakes
And cock-crow from some nearer farmyard breaks
To start again anew, until once more bright day is through.

#### YE SUBB-EDITOURE'S TAYLE

(With apologies to Chaucer and the Clerke of Oxen ford)

C. T. Cooper, VI.

Ther is at the west syde of Engelond, Doun at The foote of ye Cotteswoldes bleke, A lusty playne, with verray fertile lond Where bizaar longage somme peple speke In many touns that bin both strong and weke. Many a throope ther be and many a sighte, And Gloustersheer this noble contree highte.

A certain toun there bin in this regioun,
Whose name y-written is in Domesday Booke;
And from the distrik round corn to this toun
Many an one, nat just to take a booke,
But that echoon his lerning may nat brooke.
Thus to increase ther lerning and not worrie
Corn alle to the toun of Thorneburye.

Ther bin a scooie ther, as alle knowe, Where muchel lerning is the techers goole, So Povres enfants smalle heedes moot stowe Else moot they were the pointed cap of bole, And stay beyond the doore or on a stoole. Ther is a maister ther, high over alle, But *I* nat knowe how children do him calle.

# **EXAMINATION RESULTS**

We congratulate the following on their academic successes:

# Honours (Old Thornburians)

D. R. Cooper, B.A., 2nd Class Hons., Bristol. Mary M. Hulbert, B.Sc., 2nd Class Hons., Bristol.

M. D. Lewis, B.A., 2nd Class Hons., 1st div., Bristol.

#### **Open Scholarship**

L. J. Griffiths, Geography, Jesus College, Oxford.

#### **University of Bristol**

General Certificate of Education, Advanced Level, 1954: C. T.

Cooper, English Literature, French, Latin, German "0" level. Joy G. Cox, English Literature, French, Latin, German "0" level. Marion

Davies, Geography, Biology. A. J. Powell, Mathematics, Physics, Chem.

istry (County Major Scholarship). P. A. Powell, Mathematics, Physics,

Chemistry (D) (State Scholarship). L. J. Griffiths, Geography (D),

Mathematics, Chemistry (State Scholarship). J. A. Harbinson, History, Geography. I. T. Jackson, English Literature, History, Geography.

Muriel W. James, English Literature, French, Geography, Jeanette M.

Loveridge, Geography, Biology, Doreen It, Mills, English Literature.

German "0" level. Elizabeth C. Nash, Biology, Domestic Subjects.

A. J. Pritchard, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry (County Major Scholarship). J. E. Riddle, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry (County Major

Scholarship). K. G. Rowley, English Literature, Geography. C. H.

Shearing, Geography, Chemistry, Biology (D) (State Scholarship). Heather J. Thomas, English Literature, French, German "0" level. T. M. Walters, Geography, Biology. D. D. Watts, Geography, Biology.

#### General Certificate of Education, Ordinary Level 1954

(Candidates with four or more passes)

Sally M. Adams, Hilary A. Ball, W. Brannaghan, R. P. B. Browne, J. P. Dickinson, B. S. Dunham, P. J. Floyd, Angela Fudge, Elizabeth A. Grant, Helen D. Hardcastle, Jessica E. Hewlett, E. M. Hope, Patricia Hopkins, Cynthia E. J. Howes, It. F. Jackson, Beryl P. Jefferies, Norma B. Jefleries, Shirley A. Kingscott, P. C. R. Mills, B. L. E. Moorcroft, Patricia A. Morley, Janet Northover, A. J. Organ, Joyce V. Phillips, G. Q. Pingstone, Elaine S. Pullin, Kathleen M. Reeves, Mary Sim, It. A. Smart, H. C. Smith, Sylvia J. Smith, J. J. Sparrow, Joan E. Stock, K. W. Thomas, Diane F. Watts, Pamela A. Watts, Anne Weekes, B. Whitehead, P. M. Whittingham, P. B. J. Williams, Mary Wilson, Valerie B. York.

#### **VALETE 1954-55**

Betty MacDonald **School Captains** A Lindow Wendy Slade M. Pritchard Marlene Vizard I. T. Jackson Maureen Watts J. Sparrow Prefects K. Thomas T Brown Jean Baghurst Upper VA. D. Cox Ninette Blaker Carole Davies A. Ties Fav Dent Upper VB. N. Jenner Heather Hanks Penelope Beach G. Mathews Josephine Hurcombe Dorothea Coles B. Phillips Sylvia Palmer Mary Fisher J. Saunders Pamela Peacock Eileen Jarrett. P. Wilson Jennifer Wooster Jill Jordan VR. Monica Wvatt Pat Knight M. Collins C. T. Cooper Pamela Nichols J. Laughton C. L. Davies Geraldine Paull V Beta J. R. Drewett Jacqueline Purnell Heather Ball E. Adams Judith Balsdon D. C. Exell C. Bain L. J. Griffiths Anne Parcel J. W. Narbett B. Cooke T. Ellis A. J. Pritchard It. G. Cornelius J. Ford C. H. Shearing D. Freeman T. Hayes L. J. Watkins B. Lippiatt IVA. G. Williams V. Rae P. Reveler B. Rogers VI. IVB. P. Rogers Hilary Ball Mary Hatton D. Wallington Commercial J. Baber Upper VC. Jean Fox IIIB. Cynthia Howes Valerie Beames D. Henderson Bervl Jefferies Mary Collins A. Tudor Anne Gillatt Norma Jefleries HR Iris Offiler Anne Kinkhead R. Ward Valerie York Janet Mansfield

# HOUSE REPORTS

#### **Howard House**

# Captains: Judith Robson and C. H. Shearing

Through the past year Howard House has been even more successful than during the previous one, having taken the Academic Shield, which has eluded our grasp for so long. We have retained the Football, Rugby and Music Shields, also the Maritime Gun, and have very good prospects of winning the Tennis Shield, which we lost to Clare last year. The House Party was, as usual, a great success, particularly the fancy dresses which were the cause of great amusement throughout the evening. We hope the House will continue to work as well in the future as it has done in the past, and that all effort will be greatly rewarded.

#### Stafford House

#### Captains: Pamela Peacock and A. J. Pritchard

This year, although we lost the Academic Shield to Howard and were once mare left far behind in the Music Competition, Stafford still retains the Cross-Country Shield, the Physical Training Shield, and the Cricket Bat, and has now gained the netball shield. The rounders' sides have brought credit to the House. We hope to retain the swimming trophy and have good prospects for the Athletics' Shield.

The House Party took the form of a 'Wild West" gathering, and, despite a few savage Indian attacks, was enjoyed by all; we should like to thank all members who have contributed in any way to House activities this year.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed Miss Walding to the House and we are sorry that she should be leaving us so soon.

# **Clare House**

Captains: Wendy Slack, C. T. Cooper

This year, for the first time in many, Clare has been well "in the picture", although we have few shields to show for it. We have the Tennis, Hockey and Junior Cross Country Shields, but Clare was a very close second in the Netball and Music Competitions, and this report would not be complete without mention of the exciting finish in the Athletic Sports of 1954. With everyone doing his or her best, this improvement can be maintained, especially as the Junior House shows such promise. Their enthusiasm was apparent at the Junior House Party, which took the form of a workhouse reunion, at which prizes were awarded to the most disreputable people present! We look forward to the results of the summer games competitions.

Now, at the end of this successful year, we have to say "Goodbye" to Miss Storey, who has been House Mistress for so long. Clare will certainly never be the same without her, especially at the House Parties, when her catering has always been acclaimed by everyone.

Miss Riley, who joined us last September, is also leaving, and will be missed. The best wishes of the House go with them both.

# Sports RUGBY, 1954

Captain: L. J. Griffiths

It has been a successful season for the first XV., for of 8 matches played, 6 were won, 1 drawn and only 1 lost, and that to an unbeaten XV. The victory against Marling 1st's was our first ever, and the heavy defeat sustained at St. Brendan's was largely the fault of bad tactics following an injury to one of the school's centres in the first half.

The forwards have proved to be eager and unselfish, and their fitness often turned the game in our favour. The line-out play was, disappointing, for frequent knocking back, even in our own "25" has allowed the opposition to break through.

The threes have been given an ample supply of the ball—they have in fact scored all the points—and but for an early lack of cohesion would have scored more. The short diagonal kicks ahead of the centres and the determined tackling of the halves and forwards alike, are two very pleasing features of what has been, in the Headmaster's words, "a surprisingly good season

Colours have been re-awarded to Shearing, Griffiths, Narbett and Pritchard, and awarded to P. Williams and I. Jackson: and half-colours to Slade. Iles. R. Jackson. Exell and Tanner.

The Juniors have had a disappointing season, often lacking the essential skills, and their only victory was against St. Brendan's under 151 team.

#### THORNBURIAN SEVEN

Results							
Opponents					Ven	ue	
	Result						
Kingswood Grammar School					Η	Won	8—3
Cathedral School					Α	Won	9—8
Q.E.H. "A" XV					Η	Won	14—6
Fairfield Grammar School					Η	Won	13—0
Chipping Sodbury Grammar	School				A	Won	28—5
St. Brendan's College					Α	Lost	31—3
Marling Grammar school	***				Н	Won	3—0
Clifton College Third XV.	***				Н	Drew	0-0

#### J.R. writes....

The Rugby side really did well! The forwards, without being quite sound, worked to the best of their ability and covered up elementary mistakes by resolution. The halves were good and the threequarters were really worth watching in attack. J. W. Narbett and R. F. Jackson reached a good standard of play and could do well in the handling code when they leave school. Intelligent practice—and fitness—is the key to success in all games.

# **ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL, 1955**

Captain: J W. Narbett

The School 1st XI. has this year enjoyed one of its most successful seasons. The majority of the team claimed previous experience, and this showed itself in the opening match against Cotham Grammar School, which was won by 5—0. This year two new fixtures were arranged against the Bristol Schools St. George's Grammar School and Merry-wood Grammar School, both of which gave the School tough if not very classical games. The School reached great form against Bristol University Second XI., playing on a snow-covered pitch, and the score of 9—0 was our biggest victory for a long time. Even greater scores were recorded later in the season, and thirteen goals were scored on the famous Wotton slope.

This season there has been a better understanding amongst the players and success has not depended on any individual "stars". The defence, although a little panicky at times, has distributed the ball well and many of the goals scored were results of 'moves started near our own goal-line. The forwards responded well to the "feeding" of the half-back line, and shooting at times has been of a high standard. In the twelve matches played, 62 goals were scored by the team and 17 conceded.

The School suffered narrow defeats by Cotham Grammar School and the Old Thornburians. After an early setback in the match against the "Old Boys" the School settled down and were unlucky not to score on several occasions. The finishing of the School team was, however, very poor, and although they had as much of the play as the opposition, the game ended with the score 2—1 in favour of the Old Thornburians.

Of the twelve matches played this year, nine have been won, one drawn and two lost.

	Res	ults		
Date Opponents				Venue Result
Jan. 22—CothamGrammar School	***		 Η	Won 5-0
29—St. George's Grammar School			 Η	Won 4—1
Feb.5—Merrywood Grammar School			 Η	Won 3-2
12—BristolUniversity II.	***		 Η	Won 9—0
16—K.L.B.Grammar School	***		 Η	Won 10-2
26—St. George's Grammar School			 Α	Drew 1—1
Mar. 5—ChippingSodbury Grammar	School		 Α	Won 3—0
9—BristolUniversity III.	***		 Η	Won 6—1
12—K.L.B.Grammar School	***		 Α	Won 13—2
16—OldThornburians	***		 II	Lost 2—1
19—CothamGrammar School	***		 Α	Lost 3—2
April 2—Chipping Sodbury Grammar		Sch:ol	 Η	Won 5—3

#### Colours

Re-awarded for the second time to J. W. Narbett, A. J. Pritchard and C. H. Shearing. Re-awarded to L. J. Griffiths.

Awarded to G. Williams, H. Jackson and P. Wilson.

Half-colours have been awarded to I. T. Jackson.

#### J.R. writes

There were too many weaknesses for the Eleven 'to rank with the best we have had, despite the many goals scored in some matches. The strength of the side lay in the half-back line, which was a good one, especially in defence, where they covered up a hard-working but unskilful pair of backs and a youthful goalkeeper.

The forwards were a mixed line—no outside left was discovered. The inside forwards played hard, but against strong defences lacked the ability to get the attack through, partly owing to a slowness off the mark. The centre-forward and outside-right showed promise and did cleverly on occasion.

Against Bristol University on a snow-covered pitch, the whole XI. played very well indeed, the combination being excellent.

The Captain, J. W. Narbett, went on the F.A. course for Public and Grammar School boys, held at Trinity College in the Easter vacation. He would have "made" the third side but for an injury and very quickly appreciated the high standard of play of some of the boys there. Against Sandhurst he did well. Incidentally the Schools XI., made up of the best players, actually drew with the famous Pegasus side, former Amateur Cup winners, and went on to defeat the Scottish Schools XI.

We have much to learn here. The grammar of soccer, correct kicking, ball control, and heading must be learnt by those players who wish to play the game properly. Too many boys are satisfied with a poor standard of achievement. They must realise that extra practice, on their own initiative, is absolutely essential to reach the necessary standard for intelligent participation in the game—and the real pleasure of playing games can only be experienced by those who have mastered the basic training—whether it be in soccer or golf!

#### CRICKET 1955

Captain: A. J. Pritchard

Owing to the loss of last season's two fast bowlers hopes of an equally good attack this summer were rather doubtful. However, owing to the excellent bowling of Shearing and R. Jackson, the team has managed to win all but one of its matches to date. The quality of the bowlers can be shown by the low scores of K.L.B.G.S. and Kingswood Grammar School, both of whom were beaten by ten wickets, a feat hitherto unachieved by the School.

The first match against Dursley Grammar School was lost owing to the failure of the batsmen, but in the following match against Q.E.H. the batting prowess was demonstrated by the side's getting 144 runs in under 100 minutes, the last 70 runs of which came in thirty minutes. The next match against Cotham Grammar School also showed a superiority in our batting, when owing to a fine unbeaten half-century by Narbett, the School won easily by six wickets. In the next three matches credit must go to the bowlers, who left the batsmen easy tasks.

The batting in the Clifton match was excellent. The game should have been won but for a dropped catch behind the wicket and the failure to change the opening bowlers, who bowled throughout the Clifton innings, which lasted for two hours. The good bowling has been backed up by some good fielding and by some intelligent running between the

wickets, though one or two of the less experienced batsmen are still too slow off the mark.

Results							
Date Oppo	nents			Venue	Result		
May 7—Dursley Grammar Sch	ool			H Lost	68— 55		
14—Queen Elizabeth's	Hospital			A Won	141—144-3		
21—Cotham Grammar School				H Won	78— 79-4		
June 11—K.L.B.G.S				A Won	29—30-0		
18—Kingswood Grammar	School			A Won	18—19-0		
25—St. Brendan's College				A Won	58— <i>59-6</i>		
July 2—Clifton College 3rd XI				H Draw			
					186-1—183-9		

# **CROSS COUNTRY 1955**

A dry but cloudy day greeted the runners in the annual crosscountry championships this year. Good conditions prevailing underfoot contributed greatly to the breaking of two records in the Senior and Junior races.

For the fifth year in succession Stafford won the Williams Cross-country Shield. The Peter Nott Junior Cross-country Shield, however, was won by Clare House.

Results (1st ten in each race) were as follows:

Seniors,	Intermediate	Junior
H. Jackson (C)	L. Harris (5)	P. Pewsey (5)
(22 mins. 32 se	cs.) (20 mins. 22 sees.)	(16 mins. 16.5 sees.)
A. Pritchard (S)	K. Moloney (5)	H. Roberts (H)
D. Exell (H)	D. Cole (C)	A. Parfitt (S)
L. Griffiths (H)	B. Purnell (H)	D. Fox (C)
B. Batt (C)	S. Grant (H)	R. Barlow (C)
P. Williams (S)	M. Hart (S)	M. Grant (C)
J. Dickinson(S)	S. Henderson(C)	H. Millhouse (S)
B. Cooke(S)	D. Carter (S)	C. Millett (H)
J. Narbett (H)	A. Lloyd (C)	R. Reeves (C)
C. Tanner (H)	R. Godfrey (C)	B. Barton (H)

# **BOYS' GYMNASTICS CLUB, 1954-55**

This year the club made good use of the new equipment, especially the spring-board, which has enabled the members to progress into new fields with more spectacular vaulting. The seniors have concentrated on vaults over two boxes with the aid of the spring-board. The form of the Speech Day display was different this year. Figure running was introduced and although not an immediate success, it might well be so with continual practice. The seniors proceeded to work on the beams while the juniors made use of the spring-board to perform some agilities. The seniors completed the display with double box work.

#### Members

- D. Carter (S), J. W. Narbett (H), A. J. Pritchard (S), P. Wilson
- (H), A. Slade (C), P. Williams (S), R. F. Jackson (C), P. Hawkins
- (C), J. Phillips (C), B. Cooke (S), D. Wallington (S), A. Bartrum
- (H), M. Dent (S), G. Curley (5), P. Nellthorpe (H), A. Reed (H),
- D. Reardon (H), S. Grant (H), B. Palmer (C), J. Freeman (S), R. Freeman (S), M. Rowe (H), V. Kempton (H), P. Entwistle (H), *L*. Heal (C).

# **HOCKEY 1954-55**

#### Captain: Josephine Hurcombe

The School 1st XI. had a most successful season, and last year's high standard of play was maintained. Of the fourteen matches played, ten were won, three drawn and one lost, the latter being the match against St. Cross Ladies' Hockey Club, who proved to be an older and more experienced team. The most successful combination was achieved at the beginning of the Spring Term after several positional changes had made earlier in the season.

The team fielded a strong forward line, and despite the fact that some good midfield play was occasionally spoilt by slowness in the circle, we finished the season with 63 goals in our favour and 24 against. The forwards did on several occasions, however, make the mistake of relying on close short passes when it would have been more profitable to open up the game.

There was an outstanding improvement in defence, particularly in the half-back line. The centre-half proved to be a tireless player, and she was ably backed up by the wing-halves, both in attack and defence. The backs established a reliable understanding; the left back is a neat player and although her partner was not so quick, she tackled well and proved a valuable member of the team.

The goalkeeper played consistently throughout the season in her new position.

The outstanding matches of the season were against Dursley Grammar School, both fixtures ending in a draw, Colston's Girls School and the Staff.

Josephine Hurcombe and Mary McIntyre were chosen for the Junior County team and played in four matches, including the game against the Hanover Juniors from Germany.

Date Opponents	_		Venue	Result
Sept. 25—St. Cross Ladies H.C		 	Н	Lost 2—8
Oct. 2—Redland High School			Н	Won 6—2
9—Red Maids School			Н	Won 7—1
16—Dursley Grammar School		A		Drew 3—3.
30—Stroud High School		A		Won 7—0
Nov. 7—Kingswood Grammar School	l	A		Cancelled
13—Badminton School		 . <b>A</b>		Won 7—3
20-Chipping Sodbury Grammar	School	 A		Won 2—1
27—Colston's Girls School		 A		Cancelled
Jan. 15-Chipping Sodbury Grammar	School	 Н		Cancelled
22—Redland Ladies H.C		 Н		Cancelled
29—Redland High School		 Н		Won 6—2
Feb. 5—Dursley Grammar School		Н		Drew 22
12—Bristol University 2nd XI.		 Н		Cancelled
26—Redland Ladies H.C.		A		Cancelled
Mar. 5—Red Maids School		Α		Cancelled
12—Colston's Girls School		 Н		Won 6—0
19—Kingswood Grammar School		 Н		Won 4—0
April 2—Stroud High School		 Н		Won 6—0
4—Old Thornburians		 Н		Won 3—0
5—Staff <b>XI.</b>		 Н		Drew 2—2

#### Colours:

Re-awarded for the third time to Josephine Hurcombe (H).

Re-awarded for the first time to Sylvia Palmer (C).

Awarded to Mary McIntyre (C), Betty Knapp (H), Pat Morley (C), Catherine Thompson (C), Ann Codling (H), Ann Williams (5), Wendy Slade (C) and Judith Robson (H).

#### Half-colours

Awarded to Penelope McMillan (H).

#### NETBALL 1955

**Captain: Shirley Kingscott** 

The general standard improved considerably during the year and this was particularly noticeable in the House matches. The teams were evenly matched, Stafford winning the new shield with Clare three points below. All the matches, both Senior and Junior, 1st and 2nd VII's, scored points towards the one shield.

Each girl has had one regular instruction period, and there are some very promising players in the Junior forms. A good group of young spectators cheered on the efforts of the Under 15 VII. at the County Tournament at Dursley in March. They did well against more experienced teams, and so much was learnt that we hope to make this an annual occasion.

The captain of the Under 15 VII., Diana Watkins, is to be commended on the excellent spirit of her team. If the improvement of this season continues at the same rate next year, we shall be able to face our fixtures with confidence.

#### **TENNIS 1955**

Captain: Helen Hardcastle

The team has been very fortunate in retaining five of last season's Tennis VI. They started the season well by beating Stroud by seven sets to two.

Although the team lost to the University, they gained valuable experience from older and more forceful players. The team's main weakness lies in their lack of initiative to follow up a good drive and slowness off the mark.

Of the seven matches played, four have been won and three lost.

#### Results

Date Opponents			Venue	Result	
May 14—Red Maids' School		 	Α	Cancel	led
2 l—Stroud High School			Н	Won	7—2
June 1—Bristol University 2nd VI.			Н	Lost	3—6
4—Redland High School			A	Lost	2—7
8—Kingswood Grammar School			Н	Won	3-0
11—Colston's Girls School			A	Won	8—1
18—Dursley Grammar School			H	Lost 1-	8
25-Chipping Sodbury Grammar Schoo	1		H	Won 9	0—0

#### 2nd VI

Of the four matches played, the 2nd VI. have won two and lost two. All members of the team showed a sound knowledge of the basic strokes, and with practice should become reliable 1st VI. players.

# GIRLS' GYMNASTIC CLUB 1955

The girls' gymnastic club has held regular meetings every Monday evening throughout the year, when various vaults and agilities have been practised. The new springboard added excitement to the well-known vaults, and recently the ropes have given much enjoyment and varied our activities.

The displays at the end of the Easter term and on Speech Day included varieties of supported thief vaults over obstacles, free standing rhythmical work and agilities in circular formation, and various exten-.:sion vaults.

This year Mary McIntyre and Hilary Clark have been the hand-walking experts, with Penelope McMillan a close third.

The following girls were chosen to perform on Speech Day: Helen Hardcastle (C), Margaret Booth (5), Pat Morley (C), Mary Burke (C), Sylvia Palmer (C), Gillian Arberry (C), Jennifer Bidwell (5), Jennifer Brown (C), Sheila Fairman (C), Valerie Buck (C), Mary IMcIntyre (C), Valerie Collier (5), Maureen Watts (5), Angela Oliver (5), Penelope McMillan (H), Patricia Trigger (H), Judith Sandifer (H), Hilary Clark (H), Reserve, Celia March (H).

# **ATHLETICS 1954-55**

The School has been represented at various athletic meetings this year, and has maintained the high standard set up in former years. On the whole the girls have been more successful than the boys at these meetings.

The first meeting was the Bristol Schools' Sports held at St. George's Grammar School's playing fields, the successful competitors going on to the Gloucestershire Schools' Sports, where the School gained four first places, three second places and one third place.

Maureen Watts, Mary McIntyre, H. Jackson, C. Tanner and D. Carter were chosen to represent Gloucestershire in the South-Western Counties Championship held at Cheltenham. Maureen Watts g a i n e d second place in the Intermediate Hurdles. Mary McIntyre was third in the Intermediate long jump and D. Carter and C. Tanner were members of the Junior and Intermediate relays, the former team gaining first place and the latter second

#### SWIMMING 1954

Captains: Sylvia Palmer, B. J. Rogers

Owing to inadequate facilities, swimming still remains the Cinderella of our sports. This year the Swimming Sports were held again at the Blue Lagoon, Severn Beach, and will continue to be so until Thorn-bury Baths are rebuilt. However, Mr. Pedlar made an attempt to overcome the problem by taking a class of the younger boys into Bristol on Saturday mornings to give them some swimming tuition.

Despite the cold weather, a good crowd of spectators turned out to cheer on their respective Houses, amongst them the Chairman of the Governors, the Rev. R. G. Rawstorne, whom we are always glad to see at such functions as this. Cold weather had previously been experienced during the distances, and preliminaries for plunge and dive, causing several people to retire before the completion of the morning's programme.

The result was a well-deserved win fox Stafford (99k points), with Howard a long way behind second (39k points) and Clare third, only half a point behind Howard.

#### OLD THORNBURIANS' SOCIETY

President: The, Headmaster.

(Vice-Presidents: Miss A. Dicker, Mr. S. H. Gayner, Mrs. Lanham,

Mr. B. S. Morse, Mr. W. G. Rabley, Mr. C. H. Ross, Rev. R. G. Rawstorne.

Chairman: Mr. G. Harding. (Vice-Chairman: Mr. G. Excell. Secretary: Miss D. Hooper. Assistant Secretary: Miss F. Fenton.

Committee: Messrs. D. Trayhurn, J. Keitch, K. Jenkins, J. Rugg, T. Wright, L. Hawkins, D,

Pearce, A. Knapp, K. Spratt, Mesdames M. Taylor, F. Fenton, H. Shepherd, J. Jones, A.

Vizard.

Treasurer: Mr. J, Cullimore. Auditor: Mr. E. Timbrell.

Staff Representati.ve: Mr. B. H. Cudmore.

# NEWS OF OLD THORNBURIANS

Mr. Leslie Hawkins (Chairman of the Society for the last three years) has been elected Chairman of Thornbury Parish Council.

P. J. Winstone was ordained in Winchester Cathedral on Trinity Sunday. He had the honour of reading the Gospel at the Ordination Service, at which Miss Cook and Mr. Cudmore represented the School.

Recent University degree results include: J. B. Pridham, Ph.D.

(Biology, Chemistry), Bristol; E. B. Selwood, B.Sc. Geology (1st Class

Honours) Bristol; D. J. Malpass, B.Sc. Degree 2b Geography (2nd Class

Honours div. 1) Birmingham; Mary Nicholls, B.A. English (2nd Class

Honours), Bristol; Joan Timbrell, B.A. Chemistry (2nd Class Honours, div. 1), Oxon.

Mr. Gerald Fudge, who left the School in 1911, has just returned to Thornbury after forty-one years in North America. He came to the School and gave an interesting talk to the Second Forms on the Eskimos of Alaska.

Mr. Derrick Hawkins is working as a surveyor in Kitimat, Canada.

Pat Timbrell played hockey for the English Universities, and is to captain Bristol University next season. Anne Phillips has played hockey for Devon, Marion Davies for Westmorland, and Jennifer Rouch for Sussex.

Miriam Thomas is teaching at Charborough Road School. Hugh Thomas is commissioned and at present serving in Hong Kong.

Derek Hawkins, now a corporal in the R.A.O.C., was selected to play for the Army against the Club Cricket Conference XI.

M. D. Lewis is commissioned in the Artillery.

M. Sprague is farm managing on the Earl of Ducie's Tortworth Estate.

John Harbinson, Keith Rowley and Douglas Watts are all in Germany with the Army.

Betty Starr has become the first woman ever to be awarded the M.C.C. 's cricket coaching certificate.

H. Smith has been called to the Bar. He attended Nottingham University.

We should like to offer our congratulations and best wishes for the happiness of the following:

Engagements: Tony May, Robin Bennett, Maureen Williams, Annette

Gazzard, Angela Vizard, Terry Reaney, Pamela Painter, Angela Green, Clive Hawkings and Shirley Waller, Josephine Bubb, Michael Lewis and Molly Willis.

Marriages. Keith Smythe to Marjory Beck, Michael Teague to Ula Reynolds, Lionel Hardwicke to Janet Cullimore, John King to Rosemary Davis, Norman Daley to Dorothy Rudledge, Don. Biddle to Ruth Case, Colin May, Dennis Spratt, Brenda Burgess, Doreen Poole, Rosemary Edwards, Delga Ginn, Patricia Barr, Diana Varney, Ron Vizard, Pamela Betty, Francis Draper.

**Births.** Sons have been born to: Hugh and Miriam Thomas (née Craik-Smith), Anita Miles (née Poole), Cynthia Dickson (née Reeves).

A daughter has been born to Bill and Betty Taylor.

# **UNIVERSITY LETFERS**

To the Editor .
Dear Sir.

'In view of the fact that the last two numbers of the "Thornburian" both contained excellent letters from students of this University, my scope is a little more limited than it might otherwise be. However, I hope that the ensuing lines will furnish some facts of interest to your readers, without going over too much ground that has already been covered.

The School of Oriental and African Studies (or SOAS, pronounced quite phonetically, "S-O-A-S") was, as its name indicates, founded to provide an institution for the study of the languages and cultures of Africa and the East in the University of London, and as such has acquired world-wide fame. It is one of the smaller colleges of the University (though not the smallest) and consequently receives no publicity in this country comparable to that bestowed on such august establishments as King's and L.S.E. However, a college it is, boasting a student Union and a reasonable range of non-academic activities. Situated in the shadow of Senate House, the nerve centre of the University, opposite the Union Assembly Hall, and a mere stone's throw from the almost completed new Union building, SOAS is far from being a backwater of inactivity.

The scope of the studies pursued there is much greater than its size might suggest. The student may follow courses in practically any Oriental or African language he cares to name, from Chinese and Arabic down to Yoruba and Hausa, which most laymen probably do not even know exist. Each language course is supplemented by an ample grounding in the history of the peoples concerned and the various aspects of their culture.

Well, having described SOAS in general, I shall now, at the risk of severe "editing", attempt to set forth a few facts about my own course of study in particular, thus, I hope, fulfilling your request, Sir, for "a letter describing the pleasures and troubles of learning Arabic at London University". Pleasures and troubles are certainly not evenly balanced in the study of Arabic, but the language is hardly as formidable as the laymen, appalled by the apparent complexities of the exotic script, is liable to imagine. In fact the script is perfectly simple and entirely phonetic, so that the pronunciation is not at all ambiguous, as ours can so often be. Its characteristics are that it runs from right to left and is completely consonantal, the vowels being simply signs written above or below the consonants as aids to Pronunciation—or more

frequently omitted altogether. The grammar is no more difficult than that of Latin, being in many respects easier. Thus the groundwork of Arabic study is most interesting and not at all 'tiresome to the person who is genuinely interested in it.

It is when the student starts to study Arabic literature that his tribulations begin. Anyone who has experienced the violent shock of transition from "Latin for Today" to "Caesar's Gallic War", Book V. will appreciate in part my feelings on being presented with a copy of Noldeke's "Delectus Carminum Arabiccrum" (selected Arabic poems) after a year's quiet browsing in "Thatcher's Arabic Grammar". It has been said that every Arabic word has at least four meanings; its root meaning, its opposite, some part of a camel, and something obscene. After two terms with Herr Professor Noldeke I came very near to believing it. You can imagine the student's annoyance on looking up a word in the dictionary and finding from ten to twenty possible meanings. Furthermore Arabic, and especially Arabic, poetry, is capable of great compression so that the reader's imagination is frequently taxed to the uttermost, in trying to understand some phrase, with the constant risk that he may try to read more into it than the writer intended. So much for a few, at least, of the facts relating to the study of Arabic. Judge for yourself whether it is worth-while.

Finally, I would tentatively suggest that anyone who feels drawn to the study of languages should seriously consider the possibilities of Oriental studies. The field is a vast one, and offers a variety of interesting work, besides which many subjects are still awaiting research. So, linguists, if you think French, German or Latin unexciting, I guarantee you would find an Oriental language, such as Arabic, fascinating, if at times a little frustrating.

My best wishes to the School.

#### J.P.B

School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

To the Editor .

Dear Sir,

Work is the dominating factor of one's life at University; everything should and does revolve around it. First impressions give one the idea that the degree is the be-all and end-all. Gradually you realize the truth and at the same time falsehood of this somewhat pedantic cliché. Life is wasted if 9ou do not work. It is also wasted if you do not play.

In the first week, confidence and reassurance are poured on you from all sides. Is this justified? "It is up to you", we are told and indeed everything is "up to you". The hitherto unimagined freedom is overpowering, and less innocuous than one might imagine. Apathy can take one all too quickly. One must be strong and let confidence take the place of diffidence and apprehension.

One gains that confidence more rapidly in a hall of residence. Living in a Hall makes all the difference between full University life and the extra-mural type of existence one must surely otherwise lead. All the available social facilities are within one's reach. Very soon one has made friends and settled down. One's initial diffidence has disappeared and one is ready to take up what should be the pursuance of all one's hopes and aims, free at last from the necessary subservience of scholastic life.

The student-tutor relationship which exists in Hall is amazingly friendly, and unfortunately somewhat of a contrast to the typical university lecture. Here the dissemination of knowledge is "glib" and "textbook like" at first frightening (but later valued) though this may be a feature more of the larger universities of the north.

Now, when the Universities are no longer the prerogative of the rich, there exists in them approaches to knowledge unrivalled by any secular opportunity.

P.A.F.

(University of Manchester.)

#### STOP PRESS

#### SCHOOL v. PARENTS' XI.

The School batted first and scored 107. The batting was indifferent although there was some brighter cricket in the middle of the innings by Williams and Exell. The Parents' innings was distinguished by a good partnership between Mr. Burden and Mr. Morris. Intelligent cap taincy and good bowling eventually dismissed the parents for 95.

SCHOOL		
J. W. Narbett, lbw, b Peck		17
A. J. Pritchard, c Rogers, b Knapp		24
P. Hawkins, lbw, b Knapp		3
H. F. Jackson, c Pearce, b Peck		1
P. Williams, b Peck		21
I. T. Jackson, lbw, b Peck		0
D. Exell, not out		26
C. H. Shearing, b Knapp		0
J. P. Dickinson, st Pearce, b Morris		2
D. Morris, c and b Morris		0
A. J. Phillips, b Morris		10
	Extras	3
		Total 107

Bowling: Mr. Peck 4-26, Mr. Knapp 3-56, Mr. Morris 3-10.

PARENTS	
Mr. Jackson, c Dickinson, b Shearing	3
Mr. Burden, lbw, b Jackson	20
Mr. Pearce, b Jackson	1
Mr. Wilson, c Hawkins, b Shearing	0
Mr. Mills, b Jackson	0
Mr. Morris, c and b Exell	27
Mr. Carey, c Shearing, b Exell	0
Mr. Rogers, b Pritchard	10
Mr. Vickery, b Jackson	10
Mr. Peck, lbw, b Shearing	9
Mr. Knapp, not out	2
Extras	13

Total 95

Bowling: H. Jackson 4-36, Shearing 3-17, Exell 2-17, Pritchard 1-7.

Result: School won by 12 runs.

#### SCHOOL V. OLD THORBURIANS

The Old Thornburians match provided the surprise of the season, since though on paper they had the strongest side for many years, they

found the bowling of Jackson and Shearing too good and were all out for 79 runs. Jackson's variation of pace and ability to turn from both off and on sides gave him the analysis of 5 for 39. The School had no difficulty in scoring the necessary runs for the loss of two wickets.

#### OLD THORNBURIANS

Dei	nnis Hawkins, lbw, b Jackson	0
J.	Lewis, b Shearing	0
J.	Lovell, b Shearing	21
D.	Hamilton, b Shearing	19
D.	J. Malpass, b Jackson	1
L.	J. Griffiths, c Hawkins, b Jackson	0
K.	Sheppard, b Jackson	13
I.	Keitch, b Jackson	0
A.	G. B. Davis, run out	18
A.	Rosser, lbw, b Hawkins	.5
J.	E: Riddle, not out	0
	Extras	2

Total 79

Bowling: H. F. Jackson 5-39, C. H. Shearing 3-38, P. Hawkins 1-0.

#### SCHOOL

J. W. Narbett, b Riddle		11
A. J. Pritchard, b Hosser		29
P. Hawkins, not out		30
H. F. Jackson, not out		6
Extras		6
	Total for 2 wickets	82

Bowling: J. E. Riddle 1-12, A. Rosser 1-11.

Result: School won by 8 wickets.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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v. moustain Pania Donielo. The Gusting Che