

"RYA"

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MAGAZINE OF RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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"RYA"

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The Magazine of Rye Grammar School

New Series

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Peter Bryant

It is with deep sorrow that we record the death in an air accident at Malta of Peter Bryant of Icklesham. Peter was a navigator in the R.A.F. and had been selected for service in the Flight of the C. in C. Mediterranean—a great honour and a tribute to his skill and spirit. At school Peter was a very good mathematician and one of the best full backs ever to earn his colours. A happy personality, he served the school well as a prefect in his final year.

To his sorrowing parents in Icklesham and his sister in Rye we send our sincere sympathy.

OBITER DICTA

The weather has been amazingly mild throughout the Term and temperatures have often been more in keeping with the Spring rather than the Xmas Term. The final weeks of the Term failed to produce any frosty, cold weather whatsoever, so that end-of-Term Parties and Carol practices were carried on during sunny mild weather. Perhaps one happy result has been the small amount of absence through illness.

Although we thought that "saturation point" had been reached 2 years ago, the "powers that be" continue to send us still more pupils every year. Somehow or other they are absorbed into the buildings, and the overcrowding this Term did not seem to be much worse than it was a year ago. Nevertheless, such luxuries as a Prefects' Room, a VIth Form Private Study Room, adequate Staff Common Rooms seem to recede further and further into the realms of impossible things.

Speech Day in October was a momentous one this year. For one thing academic successes during last year had been outstandingly good, and made very good reading on the programme.

But we shall remember the occasion mainly because it was the final appearance on the platform of the Rev. Canon W. Hilton-Wright, M.A. as Chairman. He has been Chairman of the Governors of the School since 1944, and during these years he has given the School more time thought and care than one can convey in print. But those of us who knew him best are deeply grateful for all he did for us, and we wish him a long and happy retirement at Moulsworth in Berkshire.

Tree planting (reported more fully elsewhere) was an unusual activity this Term. The idea of planting trees at the West End of the School field to act in later years as a windbreak was a happy one. As such, it deserved a better fate than nature accorded it on the afternoon when the actual planting was done. The weather, which seems to reserve its worst for occasions such as this (and Speech Day!) saw

to it that the young trees would not pine away through lack of moisture, and the hardy souls who braved the rain to make the trek all the way to the field, may have taken comfort from this fact. The whole idea would have rejoiced the heart of John Evelyn, that great lover of trees, anyway. School batsmen of 1980 may be saved from the difficulties of encountering bowlers who can make the ball swing as much a 2 feet in a strong south-westerly, and goalkeepers, too, may not have to fear so much the long swirling drive that drops just under the bar at the last moment !

Just as we go to Press very welcome news has come from Oxford that M. Saville has been awarded an Open Scholarship in History at Brasenose, where he will follow D. Hodgson (and the Headmaster !), and that J. Mason has won admission to Merton College. An Oxford News Letter from another Old Scholar (Dudley Clayson) appears further on.

Quite a few people from the School were lucky enough on Dec. 19th to see "The Coming of Christ" in Wittersham Church. This Nativity Play, first produced in Canterbury Cathedral in 1930, was written by John Masefield, and the music by Holst. Actors as well known as Robert Speaight, Harcourt Williams and Laurence Irving were in the cast, and the whole production was a masterpiece which those present will not soon forget.

On the same day the sale in aid of John Beckingham was held in the Further Education Centre and produced over £200. Organised by the Rotarians, it was nobly assisted by the School as a whole, and especially by the School Scout Troop. In this issue of the Magazine there is an article written by John from hospital. Some of the money will be used to buy him a gramophone and language records to go with it. When you realise that he is learning to write by holding a pen in his teeth you will get some idea of the difficulties under which he labours.

The Art Society has been given a most useful opportunity to do some murals in Iden Church. Jane Tuely and J. Gage have already drawn in their compositions on the temporary beaver board in the North Chapel, and hope to complete them in colour next Term.

Nativity figures modelled in clay by Hilary Sheffield, Stanton, Terry and Rogers from L3, Kitchener, Cottingham and Townsend from M1, were used in the same Church at Christmas.

The Carol Service in the Parish Church attracted a large number of parents whom we hope to be able to seat in more advantageous positions for seeing next year. It was good to hear unaccompanied

singing in 4 parts, the VIth Form providing some tenors and basses to complete the alto and soprano parts. Thanks are due to Derek Monk for his assistance at the organ.

We are glad to hear that John Larkin, after several "false starts," has at length won his way into the R.A.F. to train as a Navigator. Derek Caister has not been so lucky yet, but we hope he will hear better news soon.

Near the end of Term our new School Secretary, Mrs. Larkin, had to go into hospital for an operation. We were very glad to see her pick up so rapidly after it that she was back home for Christmas. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her back in office before very long.

The laying of the teak floor in the Hall provided a centre of interest to many gazers through the Hall doors near the end of the Term. It seemed impossible that a single workman could cover all that floor alone until one saw the amazing dexterity with which he dipped each block into the pitch, then slid it alongside its neighbour on the floor. The finishing off round the edges was slower work, naturally, but in an amazingly short time the whole job was done, and none could have been more grateful to him than the organisers of the Upper School Parties.

We learn that the stage is to stay down and will not be erected until required for the School Play in March. May we hope that one day we will have a permanent stage in a Hall large enough to seat a good deal more than half the School

Four new members of Staff joined the expanding School in Sept. and we extend a warm welcome to them all. They all did very well to stand up so well not only to the normal rigours of a first Term at a new School, but to the final test of endurance which the Staff are called upon to perform at the end of Term House Parties ! Eating jelly and celery at high speed was only one of the many tortures inflicted !

Miss Ainsworth, B.A. Manchester is helping Miss Collins at Saltcote Place and is Form Mistress of L1.

Mrs. Home is doing yeoman service on the Domestic Science side, and Miss Hague has already made her presence felt to good effect on her own Form M1, and others.

Mr. S. Jones, B.A. (Bristol) is a welcome addition to the Men's Common Room, and especially to Mr. Allnutt whom he assists with Mathematics, besides taking charge of Junior Games.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

On October 5th we assembled once again in the Parish Church for our annual Service of Commemoration for the founders of the School—James Sanders and Thomas Peacocke.

The Service was conducted by our Chairman of Governors, the Rev. Canon W. Hilton-Wright, M.A., and the preacher was the Rev. Dr. A. R. Vidler who is a Canon of St. George's Chapel at Windsor.

He told the School something about the Knights of the Garter whose flag hangs in the Chapel, and drew interesting comparisons between the ancient Order of Chivalry and our School. It was an ancient order which incorporated some of the finest traditions of our race, and famous men like the Black Prince, Lord Montgomery, Lord Alexander of Tunis and Sir Winston Churchill have been proud to belong to it.

Edward III appointed young Knights of high quality to it to restore the level after the troubles of the reign of Edward II, and the idea behind the Order had always been quality rather than quantity. In this reign of the second Elizabeth we must remember that quality is vital to us as a nation.

Finally, it was a Christian Order, and its members were adjured to put on the whole armour of God, moral and spiritual as well as physical and mental.

He reminded us that our Grammar School, though not so old as the Order of the Knights of the Garter, was nevertheless an old foundation dating from 1636. We too must live up to the traditions of our past and help to keep alive in the World today the ideas of chivalry, high quality, and Christian Service.

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was a momentous one this year in several ways. Firstly it was, alas, the last appearance upon the platform as Chairman of the Rev. Canon W. Hilton-Wright, M.A., the Chairman of the Governors since 1944.

"Sunt lachrymae verum," he began his speech, and translated the Latin very happily, "There are tears at the heart of things." It was indeed a very wet day, he added, and if one thought of rain as Heaven's tears, then he too was in sympathy, for he felt very real sorrow at having to sever his connection with the School with which he had been closely associated for so many years.

Reports on behalf of the Scouts, Guides and Boarding House were read by John Hackman, Bridget Wing and Ruth Carey.

Then the Headmaster gave us his report on the school and all its activities during the past year. He referred to the regret we all felt at the Chairman's retirement, and thanked him for all the work he had done on behalf of the School. He went on to mention the academic successes of the year, and then spoke of the crowded condition of the

school originally built to hold less than 200, and now taking just on 400. We could only hope that new buildings would be available as soon as possible.

The prizes were then presented by Mrs. Wethey, J.P. Capt. E. H. Wethey, C.B.E., R.N., The High Sheriff of Sussex followed his wife by giving the address we had all been waiting for. He told his audience something of his official work as High Sheriff and of such old customs as the Sheriff having to ride out to the edge of his County to give escort to Her Majesty's Justice when he comes to visit Lewes to hold the Assizes there—a custom no longer so necessary as it was in olden and less law-abiding days. He was glad to see on the platform near him the Rev. Oscar E. Brooks, Vicar of Rye, who attends the Assizes at Lewes as the Sheriff's Chaplain. He wanted to see all young people make 1953 a brave year in honour of the gracious and fine-spirited woman we were lucky to have as our second Queen Elizabeth.

After the ceremony was over many of those on the Platform and many parents came back to the School where an excellent tea had been set out for them in the Dining Hall by Mrs. Hatter and her Staff.

A Concert consisting of some of the winning items of the Speech and Music Competitions was then given in the Hall. It was well received by the audience of parents, the only criticism being that it was too short, an error which we can easily rectify next year.

School Officers 1952-53

Captains—Sheila Saunders, N. D. Monk

Prefects—Joy Baker, Marguerite Baker, Ann Bunkin, Christine Carter, Pat Crouch, Pat Greenhalgh, Elisabeth Jempson, Valerie Jupp, Anne Lloyd, Marjorie Wise, D. Batehup, B. Bellhouse, D. Caister, K. Cornwall, R. Curtis, P. Doust, N. Hickman, D. Hodgson, D. Jackson, H. Jempson, J. Larkin, P. Wareham, J. Wood.

House Competitions 1952-53

Peacocke—Christine Carter, D. Caister

Sanders—Pat Crouch, B. Bellhouse

Meryon—Anne Lloyd, J. Larkin

Football—Dunlop Shield	...	...	...	...	Peacocke
Hockey—Old Scholars' Shield	...	...	...	...	Meryon
Netball—Hepworth Shield	...	...	...	...	Peacocke
Swimming—Gasson Shield	...	...	...	...	Meryon
Athletics—Bishop Shield	...	...	...	...	Peacocke
Cricket—Heron-Wilson Shield	...	...	...	...	Meryon
Tennis—Lady Maud Warrender Shield	...	...	...	...	Peacocke
Physical Training (Boys)—Schofield Shield	...	...	...	...	Meryon
Physical Training (Girls)—Howlett Cup	...	...	...	...	Sanders
House Championship (Games)—Shield	...	...	...	...	Peacock-Meryon

Speech and Music—Gwynne Shield	...	...	Sanders
House Championship (Work and Merit)			
Hanby-White Shield	...	...	Sanders
Cross-Country Running	...	...	Meryon

National Badges (for representing Sussex in National Athletics Championships)—Judith Bateman, Eva Elliott, Diana Higginson, Anne Lloyd, Marjorie Wise.

County Badges for Athletics—Judith Bateman, Elizabeth Cooper, Eva Elliott, Anne Lloyd, I. Stapley.

School Colours for

Hockey—Judith Bateman, Jane Clarke

Athletics—Judith Bateman, Eva Elliott, Pat Greenhalgh, Gillian Hewitt-Taylor, Diana Higginson, Cathrine Layzell, Anne Lloyd, Marjorie Wise.

Football—D. Batehup, B. Bellhouse, D. Caister, K. Cornwall, N. Hickman, J. Larkin, B. Morris, M. Tubbs, G. Weeks.

Cricket—D. Batehup, B. Bellhouse, D. Caister, N. Hickman, J. Larkin, B. Morris, I. Stapley, G. Sutton, J. Tidy, M. Tubbs, G. Weeks.

Scouts and Guides

2nd Rye G.S. Guides. Winning Patrol, Scarlet Pimpernel
P.L.—G. Hewitt-Taylor

2nd Rye G.S. Scouts. Winning Patrol, Hawk (Apps Cup)
P.L.—J. Hackman

SCHOOL SUCCESSES

E. E. Pye—Leeds University, County Scholarship

A. Smith—Southampton University, County Scholarship

J. D. Wood—New College, Oxford University, Open History Exhibition

R. Curtis—King's College, London University, County Scholarship

D. Hodgson—Brasenose College, Oxford University, County Scholarship

D. Jackson—Southampton University, County Scholarship

N. D. Monk—Reading University, County Scholarship

K. Cornwall—Brighton School of Art, County Scholarship

M. Saville—State Scholarship

Valerie Jupp—State Scholarship

Joy Baker—Bristol University Entrance

Sheila Saunders—Domestic Science College Entrance

Ann Bunkin, Christine Carter—Training College Entrance

A.T.C. REPORT FOR 1953

The year started very well with the official opening of the new Squadron H.Q. by Air Chief Marshal Sir Guy Garrod. He made an inspection of the Guard of Honour and the Squadron, and then, after his address, he took the March Past.

In February, Corporal Laurance returned from India after a very enjoyable, but crowded, four-week visit. He and two other cadets were chosen from the whole of the A.T.C. to be the representatives of this organisation in Great Britain.

The Field Day was spent at R.A.F. West Malling, with Tiger Moth flying the highlight.

During April, eleven cadets attended a week's camp at R.A.F. Halton, taking courses in Navigation and Airmanship, and ten passed the final examination. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Hawes were both commissioned as Pilot Officers in the R.A.F.V.R., Mr. Hawes also being made Squadron Adjutant.

The A.D.C. inspection took place at the Wing Athletics, where 2274 Sqdn. won the Junior and Aggregate Trophies and 18 medals. Cadets Tubbs, Axten and Barnes were later chosen to represent Sussex in the Group Sports at Uxbridge.

Field Day was taken up with Exercise 'Attack' in the Udimore district and was enjoyed by all. On July 17th the Squadron Committee was to have met the members of the A.T.C., but owing to varied reasons only two appeared, namely Mr. Stone and the Headmaster.

For the Annual Summer Camp 3 officers and 23 Cadets journeyed to R.A.F. Thorney Island for a very enjoyable and constructive week. Ft./Lt. Mitchell stayed on after we left as he had been appointed Physical Fitness Officer for the next three weeks.

During the Autumn Term, the Squadron has attended the Battle of Britain and Remembrance Day Parades, and on both occasions looked very smart, probably due to the introduction of a mid-week drill period. Field Day was at R.A.F. West Malling where everybody flew in an Oxford.

We again are all very thankful to the civilian instructors, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Elliott, for all the good work they have done in instructing us on Navigation, Meteorology and Theory of Flight. The Officers Ft./Lt. Mitchell, P./O. Hawes and P./O. Thompson must all be thanked for the ceaseless and untiring work they have put in for the Squadron and we only hope that they have seen due reward for it.

G. R. Weeks

SALTCOTE PLACE

At the beginning of Term we welcomed Miss Ainsworth and seven new girls—and Bracken, Mrs. Matthew's poodle.

Most girls went to Playden W.I. Concert in November, and several visits have been made to the cinema. Concerts have again been organised on Saturday evenings, and several good short plays have been produced.

The new play-room has been used for table-tennis, and a Tournament is in progress. Owing to the pressure of school parties the Finals may have to be played next Term.

We are keeping up our tradition of singing a Carol at the end of term Carol Service, and our five bell ringers will constitute half the band which will ring for that service.

We are pleased that the newest recruits to the House have taken such good positions in their forms. This augurs well for the future success of the House on the academic side.

Ruth Carey is now head of the House, and the other six prefects are—Anthea Doust, Pat Forster, Margaret Twidale, Christine Vollans, Andrée White and Glenwyn White. They are luckier than the School Prefects in having a room of their own.

THE TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY

It was decided that the most advantageous memorial of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II would be a number of trees, planted round the large games-field, to provide shelter for future generations of House partisans who should wish to brave wind and weather to lend support to their teams. On the afternoon of Wednesday, November 25th, about a hundred members of the school made their way through drizzle and mud to the Big Field, to take part in, or watch, the tree-planting ceremony.

The first tree (one of four surrounding the pavilion) was planted by the Headmaster, the second by Mrs. Jacobs, who was accompanied by Coster, and the third and fourth by Miss Cashmore and Mr. Bagley for the Staff. D. Morris then led those present in three hearty cheers for Her Majesty. Those who had purchased the remaining trees then dispersed to the four corners of the field and waited for their turns with the spades, which were brought round in due course on the trailer.

THE SIXTH FORM DAY CONFERENCE

"Is Christianity relevant in the modern world?" was the subject for discussion at the Conference which was organised by the Student Christian Movement.

Two aspects of the problem were considered. The first "What do Christians believe?" was the subject of a talk by the Rev. R. C. O. Goodchild. Mr. Goodchild was introduced by The Rev. C. G. Earwaker, the Rector of Bexhill, who said that Mr. Goodchild is Vicar of Horsham. He was formerly General Secretary of the S.C.M. in Schools and has been a School Chaplain. During the war he was a Chaplain in the R.A.F.

Mr. Goodchild spoke of the importance of having a faith of some sort. He went on to discuss the struggle between Christianity and Materialism and the part Science played therein.

At the end of Mr. Goodchild's talk the Conference split into groups to discuss any points that arose and to formulate any questions that they wished the speaker to consider at the end of the day.

After lunch the other aspect of the problem was the subject of a

talk by The Rev. E. D. C. Stanford—"Is Christianity a Practical Faith today?"

Introducing Mr. Stanford, Mr. R. G. Ruffhead, the Head of the Modern Languages department at Bexhill Grammar School, said that it was appropriate that the Free Churches should be represented at the Conference. Mr. Stanford is the Secretary of the Education Dept. of the British Council of Churches. He is a Congregational Minister and was formerly General Secretary of the Christian Auxiliary Movement.

Mr. Stanford talked of the importance of holding all creation in reverence. He discussed the implications of such phrases as "mopping up operations" in warfare and the "wiping out" of gangs. He spoke of the relationship between Man and God, and stressed the fact that it was a two-way relationship.

Mr. Stanford's talk was followed by further discussion in the Groups and after tea the questions which had arisen during the day were put to the two speakers. They tackled a great variety of problems ranging from questions on Christianity and Pacifism to one which questions the necessity for belief in the Old Testament.

The Conference closed with short prayers said by Mr. Goodchild.

We would like to thank all those who made the Conference possible and especially the Headmaster of Bexhill School, Mr. Brown for the hospitality he extended to all the Schools involved.

David Morris

THE SPEECH COMPETITION

As was the case last year, the large numbers in the school necessitated the division of the Speech Competition into three parts, the Lower, Middle and Upper School. A very high standard was reached throughout, but the promise shown by the Lower and Middle Schools augurs well for the future. The high marks awarded by our extremely competent and instructive adjudicator, Miss Beeforth, Headmistress of Hollington School, Hastings, show the exceptional level reached. Twenty competitors attained marks of eighty or over and four more were placed in the nineties.

In the Lower School the outstanding performances were by Norma Carr and Rita Gasson for poetry, Hance and Rogers for the prose.

The competitors in the Middle School revealed a wide range of intelligent interpretation. But the climax in this section was a remarkable rendering of Tennyson's 'Ring out, wild bells,' by Cecilie Morris. Other fine performances of the same poem were given by Jacqueline Cole and Mayhew. Relf's reading of 'Cricket at Canterbury' by Neville Cardus was the outstanding prose item.

The Upper School adequately completed the competition with the efficiency we have grown to expect from them. The reading of the Nativity story and the Collect for Christmas Day by Hole was notable for his clearness of diction and general competence. Maureen Bear

and Janice Owen gave outstanding performances in the poetry with C. Day Lewis's 'The Christmas Tree' and 'The Enchantress' by A. E. Housman.

But the best item of the whole competition was Saville's speech, surely one of the most accomplished ever given at Rye Grammar School. His original material, and pleasing platform manner earned him the very fine mark of 95.

Many thanks are due to Miss Beeforth for her judging and to Miss Turner and Mr. Darby for their choice of extracts and general organization. The competition was introduced by Sutton and although he was rarely called upon for assistance, D. Morris inspired confidence as prompter.

Meryon recorded their second victory in succession by a more substantial margin than last year, with Sanders second and Peacocke a close third.

Results

Lower School

- L1. Spring : "First Spring Morning"—Robert Bridges
Webb (P) 70
"The Revelation"—Tolstoy
Veronica Crossley (P) 78
L2. Summer: "Beans in Blossom"—John Clare
Rita Gasson (M) 80
"A 'Now' descriptive of a hot day"—Leigh Hunt
Marlene Hotchkiss (P) 72
L3. Autumn: "Moonlit Apples"—John Drinkwater
Judy Dengate (M) 78
"Autumn Scene"—E. Goudge
Rogers (M) 88
L4. Winter: "Skating"—William Wordsworth
Norma Carr (S) 85
"A 'Now' descriptive of a cold day"—Leigh Hunt
Hance (M) 82

Middle School

- M1. January: "The Eve of St. Agnes"—John Keats
Laurette Cleland (P) 74
February: "St. Valentine's Day"—Charles Lamb
Bescoby (S) 72
M2. March: "March"—A. E. Housman
Baker (M) 73
April: "The Gospel for Easter Day"—The Authorized Version
Diana Dolan (M) 76
M3. May: "Cricket at Canterbury"—Neville Cardus
Relf (S) 85
June: "Sonnet Eighteen"—William Shakespeare
Faith Wigzell (M) and Linda Tubbs (S) 75

- M4. July: "An English Summer from Berlin"—Rupert Brooke
Sylvia Button (S) and Janet Upston (P) 75
August: "Between Seasons"—Victoria Sackville West
Sylvia Swan (S) 82
M5. September: "September 2nd, 1666"—Samuel Pepys
Yvonne Hamilton (M) 85
October: "On Wenlock Edge"—A. E. Housman
Jacqueline Carter (M) 78
November: "Snow in Childhood"—Frank Kendon
Madeleine Roberts (M) 82
December: "New Year's Eve"—Alfred Lord Tennyson
Cecilie Morris (M) 90

Upper School

- Remove. "Christmas—St. Luke, ch. 2 vv. 8—14 and the Collect for Christmas Day"
Hole (S) 90
"The Christmas Tree"—C. Day Lewis
Maureen Bear (M) 88
Lower Sixth: "Before the Seasons"—Jacquetta Hawkes
Bridget Wing (S) 82
"Spring Songs 1590 & 1930"—Marlowe & C. Day Lewis
Madge Wood (P) 75
Upper Sixth—"The Enchantress"—A. E. Housman
Janice Owen (P) 78
Speech: "The Four Seasons at R.G.S."
M. Saville (P) 95

THE MUSIC COMPETITION

Soon after the School reassembled for the second half of the Term the labours, trials and tears of the many competitors were put to the test. Now at long last came that awful moment when they must play in public that hard run in E minor which even in the free and easy atmosphere of the practice room they only played correctly once in three times! What were the chances of it being the third time when the judge was listening? Now at last the singers were sitting with mouths gone suddenly and disconcertingly dry, and were expected at any moment to be called up to the platform to perform.

At such moments one realises that the upward path of the concert artist is not an easy one, but remember, too, that they suffered in the same way at their school concerts, and that even now when they stride on to the platform looking so wonderfully assured of themselves, they may be shaking at the knees just like you!

Mr. Peter Temple is at his best on these occasions. He knows very well the sufferings of the competitors, and manages to put them at their ease, so far as is humanly possible. At the same time he never neglects his duty as critic and judge. Music comes first, and if you

misinterpret your piece you are told all about it. Mistakes of notes are not so terrible as you imagined. We are all human and make them. But to sing words and give them no meaning and to play notes on the piano without meaning, these are musical crimes and do not escape punishment! He was full of good advice and constructive criticism. The notes of a song are like beads threaded on a string, he said, and you must make the audience feel the existence of the string. Isolated notes don't make sense, they must run along with a rhythm, and the singer must never check or impede the flow of the song. Neither must the pianist lose the flow of his notes. When music ceases to flow, it is dead. So a faulty, halting or variable rhythm will kill a piece of music.

He seemed pleased with the singing of the House Choirs and the Part Songs, and amidst loud cheers assembled the three House Choirs into one body in order to take them through "The Shepherd Boy" at what a sailor would call "a spanking pace."

Bellhouse thanked him with some well-chosen words, and reminded us that an organist at the Abbey has no easy task in that his choir is invisible to him from his place at the screen.

A particularly pleasing thing this year was the initiative shown in the Part Songs. Sanders House won with a very good rendering of Pearsall's eight-part setting of "In Dulci Jubilo" in which the wealth of their musical talent was clearly seen, and heard. Meryon with "Silent Night" and Peacocke with "I sing of a maiden" showed admirable taste in choice of song, and very good part singing, too.

The competition was a keen one, the final marks being: Sanders 113, Peacocke 106, Meryon 104. Thanks are due to Elizabeth Dobbie, Ann Pares and Bellhouse and all their loyal helpers for all the hard work they put in to make the Competition a success.

Results

1. Vocal Solo 11—13. "The Sweet Nightingale"
M. Kielman N. Carr R. Gasson
2. Solo 13—14. "Ye banks and braes"
L. Cleland M. Reed H. Davies
3. Solo 14—15. "Folk Song" Brahms
S. Swan M. Stoodley A. Wood
4. Solo 15—16. "My love's an arbutus"
S. Button M. Bear J. Upston
5. Solo over 16. "Had I but love" Purcell
M. Baker V. Jupp A. Pares
6. Treble Solo. Boys. "There is not in the wide world"
Kitchener Cottingham Bryant
7. Part Song.
Sanders Meryon Peacocke
8. House Choirs. "Brother James's Air" "The Shepherd Boy"
Sanders and Meryon Peacocke

9. Piano Solo. Under 13
R. Gasson P. Gear E. Clarke
10. Piano 13—15
S. Swan S. Lauder C. Filgate
11. Piano 15—16
J. Smith Monk M. Saunders and G. Bellhouse
12. Piano over 16
V. Jupp Saville M. Wood
13. Piano Duets
M. Wood and M. Saunders V. Jupp and E. Dobbie
S. Swan and Gould

Two points in conclusion: The standard of piano playing was generally and an improvement upon last year's. The duets too were of good standard and their popularity as great as ever. Next year we must include a Junior Class for Duets.

We were very pleased to have Mr. Foster with us during the Competition. He took a keen interest in the events, and was good enough to finish off by adjudicating two items left over until after lunch.

MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT

This was given in the School Hall on Monday, November 30th. It was given none too soon because the new wood blocks for the floor arrived during the afternoon, and work on the floor began next morning!

Olga Clark visited us from the Guildhall School of Music where she is studying as a solo singer, and showed that she has already made a lot of development since she left just over a year ago. Her quality is as good as ever, while her power and range have increased considerably. Her singing was altogether convincing, technically sure and most promising.

Sylvia Swan, still at the School, also gave a most enjoyable performance. She has a most pleasant "platform manner" and holds her audience well and naturally.

Margaret Hutchings, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., and J. F. Burke are old friends who have appeared several times at these Concerts, and we can do no better than thank them most sincerely once again for their loyal support, and their usual good playing.

Programme

1. Piano Duet Margaret Hutchings and W. E. May
"Entry of the Queen of Sheba" Handel
2. Soprano Solo Olga Clark
"Softly Sighing" from "Der Freischutz" Weber
3. Piano Solo W. E. May
Sonata in E. Opus 14 Beethoven
4. Clarinet and Piano J. F. Burke
Sonata in F Minor Brahms

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 5. Contralto Solos | Sylvia Swan |
| "The House in the Willows" Brahms | |
| "Sunday" Brahms | |
| 6. Soprano Solos | Olga Clark |
| "The Nut Tree" Schuman | |
| "One Fine Day" Puccini | |
| 7. Piano Duets | |
| Two Spanish Dances Moscowzski | |
| Last Movement of "Italian Symphony" Mendelssohn | |

PEACOCKE HOUSE PARTY

This was held on Wednesday, 16th December, from 5.30 to 9 p.m. An enormous tea was laid in the Dining Hall and eaten by candle-light. A Christmas cake made by J. Owen and iced (most professionally) by M. Jempson and C. Layzell, was cut by Miss Diaper and Mr. Bagley. With B. Morris as M.C. the fun and games continued throughout the evening. The majority of the Staff were present, and surprised everyone by winning the second, third and fourth prizes in the raffle, the first being won by P. Small. Our thanks are due to all who helped, especially D. Mayhew and J. Owen, all those who brought food, and lastly all those who came and helped to make the party so successful.

A. Pares

A GUIDE SERVICE IN CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

On Saturday, October 10th, 1953, a service to commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was held in Chichester Cathedral for the Girl Guides of Sussex. Each Company was invited to send two Guides and a Guider. Two Guides were chosen to go from 2nd Rye (R.G.S.) Company, with Miss Cashmore and two Sea Rangers. Several Guides from other local Companies who went were pupils of R.G.S. as well.

We set out from Rye at 9 a.m. on a cold grey October morning, to Hastings, where we were picked up on a special bus which had been hired by Mrs. Watts of Beckley to take the girls from Rye and Battle Divisions to Chichester. Our way lay through Battle, Boreham Street, Herstmonceux, Laughton and Ringmer to Lewes, thence to Brighton and Hove, passing through Falmer. We continued through Old Shoreham and crossed the river Arun by the Old Toll Bridge. We saw on our right the imposing chapel of Lancing College and on our left Shoreham Airport. We went behind Worthing and Goring up to Arundel. By this time the sun was shining and as we approached the town we saw it gloriously surmounted by the castle and the Roman Catholic Cathedral. We stopped here and ate our lunch on the banks of the Arun, after which we wandered around. From here it was only a short ride to Chichester, passing through Tangmere Aerodrome on the way, and we arrived at about 2 p.m.

In the Cathedral cloisters were congregated Guides from the whole of Sussex. At 2.30 we formed a procession, led by Hastings and Rye Divisions which moved off at 2.45 round the cloisters and through the West Door to our seats. The service started at 3 p.m. and was of short duration. It was conducted by the Dean of Chichester and the Address was given by the Bishop of Lewes. A Sea Ranger read the Lesson. After the Address 'bricks' representing each Division's donation to the Chichester Diocesan Fund, were laid upon the Altar.

We had to leave Chichester at 4.30 in order to be in Hastings at 8.30 to catch connections. We returned by the same route, making a short stop at Lewes for refreshments. Thus we returned home, tired but happy, richer in experience, glad that we had been chosen to represent our Companies to commemorate before God the Coronation, and to give thanks for the Girl Guide movement.

Jennifer Southerden

CAROL SERVICE, 1953

As usual on the last day of Term a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held in Rye Parish Church. The Service opened with a hymn, "While Shepherds Watched," the first two verses being solos by Kitchener and Cottingham. The lessons were read by Miss Warren, for the Governors; D. G. Southerden, Esq., for the Parents; D. Clayson, for the Old Scholars; G. Weekes, A.T.C.; Susan Sweetman, Red Cross; Kimpton, Scouts; Cecily Morris, Guides; Valerie Jupp, Prefects; and Miss Turner. The Senior Choir sang "Watt's Cradle Song," and "Here is the little Door," and a section of the choir sang "Lullaby my Liking," "The Infant King" and "In Dulcie Jubilo." Saltcote Place gave a fine rendering of "A little Child there is born," and M1 and 2 sang two carols, "Jesus, Jesus rest your head" and "The Sussex Carol." The service ended with the hymn, "O come all ye faithful," during which a collection was taken, to be divided between Dr. Barnado's Home and the Church of England Children's Society. The service was conducted by the Rural Dean, Canon Wilson.

Our thanks are due to the Rev. O. E. Brooks for allowing us to use the Church; to Mr. May who coached the Choirs, and to D. Monk who returned from University in time to play the organ for us.

V. Jupp

MY DOG

My dog went walking
 When a road-hog
 Came honking.
 My dog jumped on to a log,
 That log went rolling,
 My dog fell into a bog.
 Oh! blow to that honking
 Road-hog that killed my little dog
 Anon.

My Visit to Albert Schweitzer's House

During my holidays when I was in Alsace, my host who was the nephew of Albert Schweitzer, took me to visit Albert Schweitzer's house, which was in a little village near the town of 'Munster.' The house was situated at the foot of a mountain, and built in old Alsatian style. When we arrived, we were greeted by his secretary at the door and shown into the hall. As my host had been there many times before, naturally we were not shown around, but having heard what a truly great and self-sacrificing man Albert Schweitzer is, I tried to take in everything I saw. We were shown from the hall straight up the stairs to his study. Up the stairs hung many pictures of his visits to various countries, also heads of wild animals. As we entered his study I noticed two desks, one which was his was piled high with letters from all over the world. Over the door there was a model of the ship on which he travels up the African rivers. On one side of the room there was a miniature organ, for Albert Schweitzer is a wonderful musician.

There were many souvenirs of his journeys in Africa. In one corner stood a stuffed baby elephant, while in another were some lovely ivory tusks which, his secretary told me, were worth hundreds of pounds. He also has a wonderful library of books in all languages. His drawing room was furnished with beautiful old French furniture. I spoke to his brother and asked him, "How often does Albert Schweitzer come home?" He told me that he came about once every two years to see his wife, who is too ill to travel with him. I could feel the presence of a great man and will always remember my visit to that little village in Alsace.

Marianne Surén

BOXING DAY HUNT

Boxing Day Hunt is here again,
The air is cold and sharp.
The horses and their riders throng
All ready for the lark.

The air is clear, the frost is cold,
The green grass hardly shows.
The throng of horses, riders, hounds,
They meet amid the snows.

The huntsmen dressed in scarlet coat
Blows upon his horn,
The crowd of people on foot depart
And the hunt moves off in the morn.

Along the winding country lanes,
Over the snow-clad mound,
The hounds excited yap and yap,
At last the fox is found.

The horses at a gallop now
Face the hedges bravely,
The hounds and huntsman at the head
Lead the field in safely.

Now back again through winding lanes,
Home to the warm fireside,
In the paling twilight, when the moon appears,
We think of Reynard, whose strength we tired.

Hilary Sheffield. L3

Queen Mary's Hospital School Music Festival

On a cold Wednesday afternoon in October, I was pulled on my bed to the School Hall. This building is situated a little way apart from the Wards, and by the side of a roadway known as "D Street," so named because all the Wards on that Street are numbered after the letter "D." The School Hall is a large building and can hold about two hundred people.

My reason for going was to hear the eighth Annual Music Festival. Children suffering from many types of disease had gathered there with members of the teaching and nursing staff, to perform before a distinguished invited audience.

At half past two the programme commenced. First the massed choir sang "England, My England." Following this was a selection of National Airs which were performed by children playing on bamboo pipes. Two songs were sung by a young soloist from my Ward, who was lying on a "tip-up carriage."

After various other items, including recorders and cello, there came a Percussion (or Concussion, as it is sometimes called) Band, which gave a stirring performance. There followed after this more singing by the choir, first the girl patients and then the massed choir again. The girls' choir sang folk songs from different nations. "The Dashing White Sergeant," was a massed choir item which was well sung and much appreciated by the audience.

Finally the hymn "The Lord's My Shepherd" was sung to the tune "Crimond." Then speeches were made by the Head Mistress, Mrs. Coventry; the retiring Medical Superintendent, Doctor Agassiz and a representative from the Surrey Education Committee.

The distinguished visitors then departed to tea, and the children back to their Wards where tea was waiting for them also.

John Beckingham

CHRISTMAS

When Jesus was born on the first Christmas morn,
The shepherds kept sheep on the hillside so steep.
The angel then came, his wings all aflame
To worship the Messiah, o'er whom there's none higher.

The shepherds there went, their knees they bent,
And worshipped their Lord, with all one accord,
When Jesus was born on the first Christmas morn,
Asleep in the inn, with ox and his kin.

And from the feast, there came from the East
Who followed the star, to the lowly manger,
Three Wise Men old, in the Bible we're told,
Brought him frankincense, myrrh and some gold.

Victoria Pares L3

MR. PYM'S NEW MOTOR CAR

When the first motor car (then known as the horseless carriage) came into being, everybody who heard about it was dubious of its qualities, and the people of Greendale were no exception.

The citizens of this quiet borough were shocked and amazed when they heard of this fearful contraption, which threw out clouds of black evil smelling smoke from its rear. Many of them believed that the devil himself had arrived to reek havoc and destruction amongst the people of Britain. They were even more shocked when that pompous personage, the Mayor, who was then a certain Mr. Pym, announced with great dignity that he himself was negotiating with a certain man for the purchase of one of these monstrosities. In fact, the worthy townsfolk started conversing among themselves about the foolishness of their Mayor.

This Mr. Pym was a short, stout man, whose face always carried a jovial expression. He invariably rebelled against other people's ideas and would always go out of his way to be different from everyone else.

When at last the day dawned for the motor car to be fetched from London, Mr. Pym, dressed in his "very best" and carrying a small portmanteau, embarked upon an early morning train.

Settling himself down in the corner of a carriage, he waved to his dearly beloved wife as the train departed. Soon he was lulled to sleep by the monotonous clicking of the wheels and thus he stayed until he was awakened at journey's end by a porter shouting in his ear, and telling him that "the train didn't go any bloomin' furver."

Hurrying out of the station, he made his way through the crowded streets to his destination, knocking loudly on the door to announce his

arrival. The door opened and he was ushered inside by a tall weedy-looking individual, wearing large horn-rimmed glasses. Coming straight to the point this man spoke to Mr. Pym, telling him of the wonderful feat of engineering that had made the car. "It's the fastest thing since the steam engine," he exclaimed. "It can go twenty miles an hour, and only uses fifteen gallons of petrol to every fifty miles."

"I know, I know," shouted Mr. Pym, "you told me all that in your letter. Can't I see the car now, for I must be on my way?"

"Right, Sir," said the man, and leading Mr. Pym into a yard he showed him the car, painted all red, with a high windscreen, and a large steering wheel, behind which Mr. Pym could hardly squeeze.

After thanking the man for all he had done, Mr. Pym climbed aboard. The man then started the car, and with a terrific bang and clouds of smoke, the car roared into life. Waving his hand, Mr. Pym released the hand brake, and the car shot forward on to the main highway, and made an erratic course out of sight.

Soon Mr. Pym was travelling along the road leading to Greendale. As he approached the main street, the people ran from their cottages to see what it was that was making so much noise. As the car came on, chicken ran squawking across the road and into hedgerows, dogs started barking and howling and sheep and cattle ran for their lives.

At last he arrived in the main street which was known as the "High Street," and driving slowly up to his house he finally came to a standstill. As the car stopped, it emitted a terrific cloud of black smoke and there followed a noise like an atomic explosion. The milkman's horse which was standing nearby, bolted down the road, leaving behind it a trail of broken milk bottles. Mr. Pym was amazed.

Inside the general store a man with a scarf covering the lower half of his face, stood before the shopkeeper. The man was brandishing a revolver, and as the car backfired, the robber spun round, and was put off his guard for a moment. The shopkeeper, seizing his chance, picked up a long piece of metal and brought it down upon the robber's head.

In the street a crowd had gathered round the car, and was surveying it with great wonder. As they stood there, the shopkeeper ran out to them and told them how a mysterious explosion had saved him from being robbed, and perhaps from violent death. Mr. Pym was then even more amazed.

John Beckingham

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

When Jesus was born
On Christmas morn
Many a year ago,
The cocks did crow
And the cattle did low
On that first great Christmas morning

Three wise men came
From the East again
To greet the young king.
The shepherds did sing
As their gifts they did bring,
On that first great Christmas morning.

When Herod the King
Saw the gifts they did bring
To the child who was born in a manger,
He sent out decrees
To kill all the young he's
So his life should be in no danger.

Then an angel came
To Joseph again
To warn him of the danger.
So they took the young King
And to Egypt did bring
Him away from His straw-lined manger.

So there they did stay
Till the news came one day
That Herod was dead and was buried.
Joseph took the young child
And His mother so mild,
To Nazareth town where they tarried.

Virginia Pares

HOLIDAYS

The children down upon the beach
Playing on the sands,
Then coming up to eat their lunch
With wet and muddy hands.

Pop and Granny doing well
On gaily coloured chairs,
Granny knitting yellow socks
For her son to wear.

Grandpop, having paper large
To place about his head,
Goes off in a lovely snooze,
As though this were his bed.

Horses up and down the plains
Snorting as they go,
Riders with red coat and whip
Crying "Tally-ho."

The dogs, their baying sounding
Across the empty moors,
The gallop of the horses' hooves
Mingling with dogs' paws.

All this helps for holidays
In Autumn, Summer, Spring,
Till all at last is passed away
In Christmas' final fling.

Brenda Attwood

Oxford Letter

Ryas and Old Blues Club

Michaelmas—1953

In his inaugural address, the President remarked that it was a very long time since he had presided at so distinguished a table of Ryas and Old Blues. From the course of an incredibly long speech, one fact emerged with power and deep conviction: the Club was a living thing. This statement was received with ill-concealed enthusiasm by the fiendishly select company, which had previously dined off an Egyptian dish of ginger and boiled chicken. The Treasurer replied at the last with The Toast, in the Club's oldest alto-douro; and shrieks of "The Old School!" and "Vivat!" were bandied noisily around the President's Louis XV dining room, most conspicuously by those guests who had no idea of the school to which reference was being made. Among these latter were a respectable sprinkling of the younger Scottish peerage, and the exotic Miss Theo Goldrei, who was invited to read aloud the President's favourite stil nuovo lyric—

"Il susurpo fantastico della tua voce . . ." —a task which she accomplished most prettily. The Treasurer was clearly heard to say that he, too, had always enjoyed Petrarca.

Mr. Claude Turville-Petre told a number of astringent stories about his stay in Sofia during the Long Vacation, and these were capped only by the President, who once again had recourse to his vivid stock of Near Eastern narrative. This sparkling evening drew to its close with

Miss Xanthe Lethcourte singing an unknown aria of Metastasio. The MacWattie of MacWattie accompanied her on his lute. Her father is in sugar. The President, who is ever *à la page*, identified the piece immediately. The Treasurer announced that Mr. Evelyn Waugh had accepted an invitation to be present at the Hilary Term Dinner, and would speak on the criminal inadequacy of University monetary awards. The President was cheered as he left the room, wearing a purple smoking-jacket.

Applications for membership of the Club, from gentlemen who are soon to come up, should be accompanied by the names of four referees, all of whom must be known to the Committee and Officers.

The Queen's Brasenose

DIGGING UP THE PAST

On Wednesday and Thursday the 22nd and 23rd of April, wonderful sunny days, the Headmaster gave us permission to be absent from school to assist Capt Vidler with some excavation work on a site near the Monastery. The party consisted of Capt. Vidler, Major Luxmoore, Mr. Birstow, of the Sussex Archaeological Society, Mr. Salzman, on the Council of the Society, Mr. G. S. Bagley and Mr. G. M. Hodgson. The younger generation were represented by John Wood, myself and my brother. We met at 9.30 and got down to work at once, for the preliminary survey had been done on the previous day by Capt. Vidler and Major Luxmoore. There were two sites, A and B; A was 10 feet East-West, and 2 feet North-South and B was 10 feet East-West and 5 feet North-South, and 13 feet due North of A. During the war a trench had been dug between A and B, which led to the discovery of the graves of three monks, one of which had been buried in a kneeling position, a very rare occurrence. The bones of these were then re-buried in the churchyard, and no records were made. In view of this Capt. Vidler hoped to find at least one more kneeling skeleton on this site.

I started off with Major Luxmoore on A, using a pick in best navvy fashion, but was soon reprimanded, and told to go slow, "scratching" being more the order of the day. On A the topsoil was pebbly, then a layer of turf soil followed in which I found Victorian pottery; after that, a thin layer of gravel, and beneath that there was clay. The clay yielded most of the treasures, and I found such things as oyster shells (by the dozen), clay pipes, and a good deal of charcoal,

and pottery of all ages. A remarkable find was a mediaeval tile about four inches thick, with a green glaze on one side. When we had reached a depth of about two feet, we stopped on the advice of Mr. Birstow, who thought it unlikely that we would find anything else of interest. We then joined those who were working on B, who were having difficulty in removing the gravel since it was about six inches thick on this site. We worked in two shifts of four, and Mr. Salzman examined what was brought up. Nothing much was found worth keeping, when we knocked off for dinner at one o'clock. Arriving back at school, we pleaded (successfully) with Mrs. James to give us some dinner. Having enlightened several members of the Upper school as to what we were doing, we went back to the Monastery.

We re-commenced digging on B, while Mr. Salzman and a newcomer, Mr. Baines, the curator of Hastings Museum, concentrated on A, along with Mr. Bagley. They, when they had dug down another six inches or so, came across a femur, and by the end of the afternoon they had discovered an almost complete skeleton, which, although it had not been buried kneeling, was in an odd position. The right arm was lying by his side, hand in lap, but the left was doubled up, and the left hand by his chin; the leg bones were in normal position except for the femur first found, which was the wrong way round. how it got like that no one will ever know.

In spite of this find we continued to dig and soon unearthed a femur, which unfortunately I broke. Mr. Birstow took over, and soon had exposed two legs, bits of ribs, and several other bones. The upper part of the torso and skull were apparently under the Western side of the trench so two feet extra were removed, only to find that where the skull should have been there was an old drain, and that obviously when the drain had been put in, the skull had been taken out. At this juncture, Mr. Birstow had both the skeletons photographed, lest during the opening up of the drain we should disturb the remains. When the photographer had finished I prised the top brick off and my brother put his hand in and pulled out a spoon, then a hook-shaped article, and finally a ring. Of course all the bricks were then taken off, but no further finds resulted; the drain was left for the morning, and Mr. Gower, the Borough Surveyor. Excavation was then abandoned for the day, we split up, and went home. During the day there were some visitors, including Father Richards and Mr. White.

On the Thursday our party was sadly depleted, being only Capt. Vidler, Mr. Birstow, Mr. Hodgson, John Wood and myself. Wood and myself started digging C, which adjoined B at the N.E. corner, was five feet North and two feet West. We found very little of interest,

except an assortment of bones, although we dug all day. Capt. Vidler in B dug down in order to find virgin soil, but at a depth of a foot still found mixed earth. Dr. Mannington arrived, and examined the remains in B, and told us that they were of a lad in his teens. In A, however, the skeleton was of a man of about forty, average build, with a perfect set of teeth, every single one complete. As Capt. Vidler had not found the bottom yet, in B, Mr. Birstow removed the remains of the lad, and dug underneath it, finding pieces of pottery by which he hoped to date the grave.

After dinner, the exponent of brighter clothes for men described his exploits to sundry personae, and went back to the digging. Almost immediately Mr. Birstow found a humerus in B at a depth of 3-ft. 10-ins., and for the rest of the afternoon cleared the soil from it, achieving impressive results. A conference was held and it was decided to call it a day, since Mr. Birstow had to get back to Brighton that night, Wood was 'hors de combat,' and I had to do some school work.

The excavations were continued on Saturday afternoon and the following Saturdays since no more time off school could be allowed. The height of the man in B was estimated to be 5-ft. 2-ins. and that he was middle-aged. On digging 2 feet away from where his head should have been, underneath the drain, yet another skeleton was found, depth about four feet, a man who must have been extremely tall, judging from the size of his legs. We were very pleased because we had excavated him ourselves without any help, but unfortunately his torso and skull (?) extended underground to the West of B, and to reach them we would have had to lengthen the trench another 3½ ft. So he was left, and the other man was taken up in order to reach the bottom. Onwards and downwards we went, first through a layer of clay, then mixed soil with the inevitable oyster shells and pottery, then a layer of brick rubble, which can be crumbled between the fingers easily, but leaves brick-red marks.

This was more than usually interesting, since water was running through it, though from where is yet another riddle. Another unsolved enigma was an article that can only be described as a rhinoceros horn that was found in this rubble. Beneath this, mixed soil again, and then clay, white clay, virgin soil. We had reached the bottom. Depth, all but 6 feet. This depth was unusual, since during the laying of a gas-pipe up Hilder's Cliff, the same white clay had been found at 18-ins. from the surface.

Meanwhile in C a floor of stones, bricks and tiles had been unearthed at a depth of 3-ft. 6-ins. What this was for, is one more

conundrum to be added to the already long list. And the results of the digging, what are they? It has definitely been established that there are several burials there, perhaps even a charnel-house. The legend of the Kneeling Monks has, however, some truth in it, for in Clark's "History of Rye," it is recounted that several skeletons were found interred in an upright position and were re-buried near the Monastery. Although the primary object of the digging had not been achieved, a great deal of information had been collated, which is the main idea of archaeology.

D. Hodgson

OLD SCHOLARS

Ernest Fuller writes from Easton, Pa. on the occasion of his Golden Wedding and asks are there any other old boys who can equal or beat his record? He married a girl from the Shetland Islands and says his three boys who all hold highly responsible posts take after her. In a recent 'census of education' he was put down as a college graduate because, thanks to Rye Grammar School, he knew so much about Caesar's first landing in Britain.

Ernest Hunnisett (1885) has recently written. Very nearly 80 he lives in Brighton and travels daily to Haywards Heath where he works in a solicitor's office. His father was station master in the hey-day of the railways and his sister lives in Ferry Road. An older old scholar than the previous Ernest!

To go to the other extreme—a most recent leaver, John Swan. He writes happily from the Marines, evidently enjoying and thriving on the hard life. He's soon learnt to write well about the serviceman's favourite topic—leave! Our University recent leavers have been more than usually faithful to the school. Monk wrote freely about that now dangerous topic—the University rag. A favourite joke at Reading is that R.G.S. Speech Day is held at the local cinema. Derek Jackson soon settled at Southampton, the only fly in the ointment being that Hitler made it impossible for him to pursue his favourite hobby of bellringing. Some of his lectures coincide with Tony Smith's. Tony also writes cheerfully, having evidently soon recaptured the habit of study. Very recently he visited school having been brought from Lewes by brother Geoffrey (Captain 1933-34) who is now a surveyor with East Sussex County Council.

All those at college wrote to school at Speech Day time: the great majority unfortunately could not be with us, but they were very soon with us at the end of term. David Hodgson stayed to lunch and tried

to shock the Headmaster about the doings of the present day members of Brasenose. If only he knew about the 'toughs' of the first world war! Curtis turned up at his House Party, promised to see the Headmaster later but came on the first day of term. Olga Clark came to sing at Mr. May's concert for John Beckingham while her fellow musician Baker writes from the Royal Signal Corps saying that he hopes to obtain a commission. No doubt he will finish up a bandmaster!

Ann Bunkin writes from St. Gabriel's where she has settled down to enjoy her new life. She tells of the visit of the Queen Mother to the College and of the splendid new buildings they have. Margaret Carter wrote from Eastbourne and also visited the school at half-term. Judith Bateman wrote to acknowledge her County Badge. She is working for a year on a farm preparatory to going to college: no doubt the farmer benefits from all the work Judith put in to get that badge. Monica Glass (Partleton) writes from Romford where she is teaching in a very modern Primary School. Too modern for her, and I am sure all Grammar School Heads will be grateful to her for instituting an hour's formal work for her form sitting at their desks. She tells us that Norman is still at Rushton instructing on Meteors and Vampires. They called at school when down for Gill Dunster's wedding.

There are evidently enough R.G.S. University students on vacation to run the Post Office at Christmas time without interfering with the end of term studies of the 6th. It was a great joy to us all that the Postmaster released Dudley Clayson from his duties to read the lesson for Old Scholars at the Carol Service.

Joy Traynor sent a postcard with a magnificent view from Villach, where she was spending a leave with her father. But no news of herself or Anne. Cyril Godden wrote from Hong Kong. He's had an interesting time cruising about in the Far East. He's hoping for a transfer to the Fleet Air Arm, anxious to emulate David Cooke. First night in Hong Kong who should he meet in the China Fleet Club but Michael Fielder of Iden.

Congratulations and every happiness to the following on their marriages:—Gillian Dunster and Daphne Gill (now Parks), Muriel Gill and Peter Gutsell; Audrey Chamberlain and Robin Dent.

Peter Swaine writes that he has passed his Army S.C. examination and so will go to the Staff College, Camberley next term. He attributes his success mainly to Mr. Broome wandering from geographical detail to Stonewall Jackson on hot summer afternoons! Philip Doust has been fortunate, in view of his intentions to go to medical school, to have been drafted to the Medical Department of the R.A.F. for his National Service. He is able to continue his studies at a nearby Technical College.

Stop Press on Ernest Fuller.

Another letter just in time for Christmas. He's taken Senator McCormick to task for his attack on General Monk and for his bad history and has appointed the Headmaster as Referee!! Perhaps I am a bit biased but I must award the fight to Fuller on a technical knock-out (I can't help wishing it were the other Senator!). Mr. Fuller was sure taught his history well at R.G.S. in the 80's—almost as well as today, judging by John Wood's and Mark Saville's Open Scholarships at Oxford!

Christmas Cards were received from Helen Gage (who also sent a full account of Christmas at a Children's Hospital), Miss Fairbanks, Cecilly Standen, M. I. David, R.A.F. Regt. Catterick; Patsy Payne, Tony Law, R.A.F. Binbrook; Valerie Symonds (Valerie is now in the Air Ministry); Gerald Burt now at Wesley House, Cambridge; Stella Killick, John Pulford, Joy and Michael Barclay, Mr. & Mrs. Belton, Sally and John; Peter Hanlon, Myron Hackman (R.A.F. Pembroke Dock); Pam Russell (née Whiting), Irene Elliott, Daphne Weeks, the Coopers (Ranipur Colliery, Dishergarh, P.O. West Bengal); June Fellows, Jean Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas D. Clayton (the famous tower in the 'High'); K. J. Standen (R.A.F. Winnipeg); Joyce Braley, K. Howlett, Christine Carter, D. Hodgson (the first Brasenose card received by the Headmaster), Doreen Robinson (née Standen), D. Jackson, Pauline Baker, Gillian Pratt, Olga Clarke, B. Baker (Royal Signals, Catterick), Mr. & Mrs. Broome, Rosalie Green, Jean Pope, Pearl Andrews (a beautifully self executed one), Peter Swaine, Pat Lewis (R.A.F. Odiham), Bill Goodwin, Terry Saunders (R.A.F. Malaya), Doris Smith, Ann Bunkin, M. Stunt, H. Fennell (Arborfield Army Apprentices School), Shirley Stevens, Ninian Barclay, Monica and Norman Glass, D. Monk, Brenda Burt (née Linnett), Dick & Win Shearcroft, Joy Traynor (Midlothian), Margaret Leeman, (née Rook), J. McKendry (R.N. Eng. College, Plymouth), Margaret Carter, D. Osborne, Helen Rook, Pat Green, L. Allen, R. Bourne (Met. Police), Brian Dawson, B. Thompson (R.A.F. Hospital), Pat Barfoot, Bernard and Irene (I don't believe we have congratulated these two) Apps, Rae and Judd Varley, Keith Thompson, Joy Baker, Elizabeth Jempson, Ray Frehner, Peter Wareham, Elaine Watts, Keith Cork (photograph "Across the Ditch").

A very pleasant letter from Elaine Frostick who is now teaching in the West Country. Her painting 'Glastonbury Fair' which was hung in the exhibition of Rye Artists last summer, was much admired by the Headmaster. Result, Elaine has presented it to the school and I am sure we are all most grateful to her. It has been given the place of honour in the Library.

SCHOOL FUND

Autumn Term, 1953

Amount subscribed by parents—£89-6-0

Main items of expenditure—

	£	s.	d.
Deficit from previous Term	1	7	10
Chairman's Testimonial	1	15	9
Scout H.Q. (help with electric installation)	7	10	0
Poppy Day Fund	2	2	6
Speech Day Teas	6	12	8
Games Teas	7	16	2
Printing (Programmes, Rules, etc.) ...	14	4	0
Games Equipment	6	19	6
Engraving Trophies	4	13	0
Coronation Trees (part cost of planting)...	15	0	0
Miscellaneous (various small items) ...	8	19	5
Materials (part recoverable)	9	15	5
Total	£86	16	3

N.B.—No charge for the School Magazine this term owing mainly to the annual income from advertisements being credited.

