

THE
BARNSBURIAN



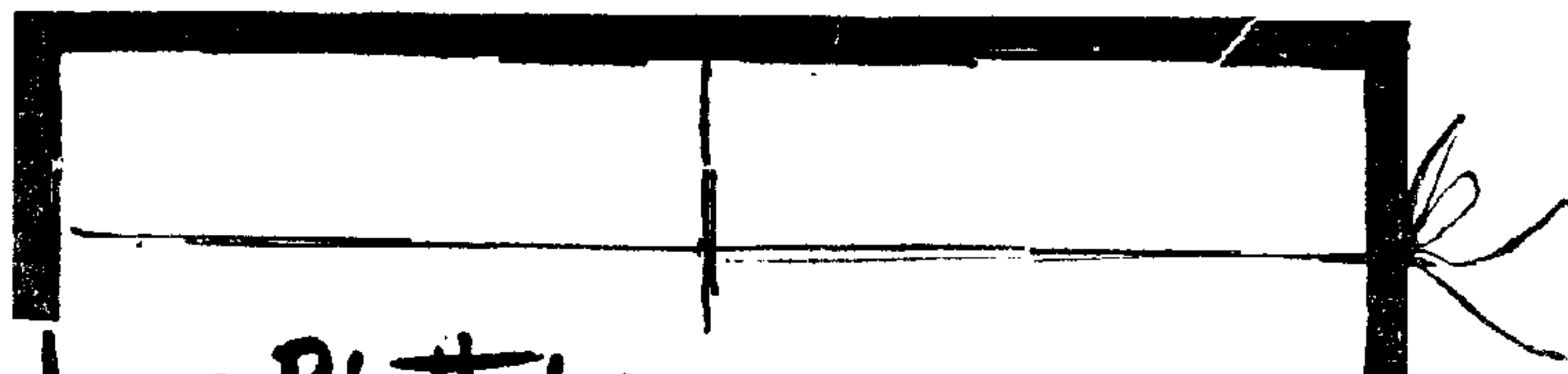
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Christmas 1964



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EDITORIAL : THE SYSTEM

At the age of eleven the best performers in an examination are segregated into a higher plane of education than their less able (or less fortunate) contemporaries. They are given (in general) smaller classes, higher social prestige, and more opportunities to further their education or to obtain interesting employment. The difficulty about discussing the merits and demerits of this system is the fact that those chosen for preferential treatment tend to support the grand old grammar school system of England, whereas those whose deficiencies at the age of eleven prevented them from sharing this advantage tend to be more iconoclastic. Therefore the editorial of a non-grammar school magazine will be as biased in one way as the protests of grammar school children in towns where such schools are threatened are biased in the opposite direction. However, the issue of separation in education is one which must be faced, in spite of accusations of prejudice.

The broad case for grammar schools and miscellaneous non-grammar schools, versus comprehensive schools, is that a selected elite of primary pupils should be more intensively educated than the rest in order that their abilities are developed to the full. The remaining plebeans' abilities, which mostly entail menial duties, not too taxing to their simple minds, are developed elsewhere. At the end of their school careers the groups go out into the world, one to lead society, the other to be led. Unfortunately, as in so many things, practical experience does not entirely support theory.

A glance at the lists of those who have obtained passes in the General Certificate of Education will show that the capabilities of many Barnsbury pupils were apparently underrated when they were eleven. This is hardly surprising. Eleven is a ridiculous age at which to determine a child's future. If the system worked those boys who obtained passes at advanced level this year would have been selected for the more intensive cultivation of grammar schools.

Surely there is a strong case for believing that instead of maximising the return on educational expenditure the present system in fact produces a great deal of waste by early discouragement of potentially powerful minds. Would it not be a better idea if those suitable, at any age, could flow into the higher academic streams, while those whose brilliance is only temporary could slip into a course more suited to them than an academic course with which they cannot keep pace?

The general adoption of a comprehensive system should not lead to the destruction of worthwhile educational establishments. These would form the advanced, academic heights of the new comprehensives. Their character could be maintained, and their educational value enhanced, by the assimilation of newly discovered talent as it emerged, and the opportunity to allow those whose ability had diminished to follow other courses.

The social value of this flexible, graduated, but essentially classless system cannot be estimated. Far from standardising its pupils, it would allow each individual to exploit his abilities as they developed.

J. C. Wilsher, VIth.

SCHOOL NOTES AND NEWS

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Mr. Fischeles at the beginning of the term. He was a popular member of the technical staff, and he will be sadly missed by his colleagues and by the boys. Our deepest sympathy is sent to Mrs. Fischeles, who, in memory of her husband, has presented the School with the Fischeles Memorial Prize for Technical Work.

Before the last issue of the magazine went to press, it was not possible to include the names of all the members of staff who left at the end of last term. The omissions were Mr. Gordon, who is now teaching in Upton House School; Mr. J. Campbell who is now at Pender Street School, and Mr. P. Searle.

This term we welcome to the School the following new members of staff: Mr. D. J. W. Chambers who will be teaching Art; Mr. P. Chowdhury, B.Sc., will be taking Technical subjects; Mr. G. M. Ellis will be teaching Music; Mr. J. F. Foley will be taking English and French; Mr. J. P. Stodhart will be teaching English; Mr. A. Singh will be taking Woodwork, and Mr. Williams will be teaching English.

One final note. It is surprising with all the speculation that was rife just prior to the General Election that the opinion polls failed to note the voting trends that were reflected in Barnsbury's own political election campaign. Further details of this highly significant marginal seat will be found later in the magazine.

THE ANNUAL PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY

The Annual Prizegiving Ceremony was held at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, October 23rd before a large audience of parents in the Islington Town Hall.

Mr. R. L. Cross, the Chairman of the School Governors, welcomed the parents to the meeting. There followed a couple of items from the School Band, conducted by P. Hayward.

Then the headmaster, Mr. T. J. H. Davies, gave his annual report. He first dealt with staffing changes, and referred to the death of Mr. Fischeles, to whom he paid tribute for the work he had done for the school. Mrs. Fischeles, in memory of her husband, had presented the Fischeles Memorial Prize for technical work. The headmaster mentioned too the death of the School Doctor, and tribute was paid to what he had done for the school.

In the first year 150 new pupils had been admitted. Also, a considerable number of overseas children had come to the school, having varying standards, many of whom presented linguistic difficulties. Mr. Davies stressed the growth of the sixth form. In 1959 it had consisted of 2 boys; in 1963, 36; and in 1964, 50. Upper fifth numbers too had increased; from 25 in 1963 to 32 in 1964. Last year there were 166 boys in the fifth year, and a growing percentage were staying on after 15. This year just over 60% of the intake were staying on, thus demonstrating the support of the parents.

The G.C.E. examination results had been moderate, except at advanced level, in which Marshallsay, Ashby and Tong did very well. At ordinary level one boy gained 7 passes at one sitting, 11 distinctions had been gained, and the school had obtained its first ordinary level pass in Latin. The London Secondary Schools Examination results had been good.

Next year would see the first stage in the extension of the length of compulsory school attendance. Now it was easier to plan a satisfactory fourth year course. In the courses of study although more boys were choosing the technical ones, all courses were well supported. Engineering was the most popular course. Much help in the choosing of suitable careers had been given to fourth and fifth year pupils by Mr. Widgery. In February the Parent-Teacher Association had held a careers convention.

The headmaster turned to sporting activities, of which there were very many and they were most flourishing. In addition, camping, youth hostelling, school journeys, geography field courses were on the programme.

Although no major sporting trophy had been won, the headmaster was very pleased to announce that the school band had been awarded a major trophy when it took part in the Romford Musical Festival for school brass bands.

Last November there had been for a week a full inspection of the school by a team of Her Majesty's Inspectors, headed by Mr. L. Clark. On the whole, the Inspectors expressed appreciation of the work being done, and were particularly impressed by the growth of the sixth form. It was right that the school should be made aware of the ideals set by the Inspectors, widening our horizons and raising our sights. A good deal of new equipment and library additions were due to the visit of the Inspectors.

Mr. Davies told how the school was trying to reach beyond its own boundaries. He gave an outline of the activities of the Parent-Teacher Association, and at one of them we had met Professor Dent. The annual Summer Fête had not been very well attended. The Old Boys Dinner, held at Beale's Restaurant in January, had been a very enjoyable occasion, and had been very well attended. It was hoped to hold another Dinner next February.

During the year there had been the great impact of the Newsom Report on average and less than average pupils. The school was

starting to follow so many of its recommendations as possible.

Mr. Davies mentioned one or two surprises that he had had during the year. One was the poor response of parents to the Parent-Teacher Association meetings. Although they showed much interest in their boys' careers, they did not fully support the hard work being done by the Parent-Teacher Association Committee.

The other surprise was that in spite of the L.C.C. being a most generous authority, the school was unable to obtain a kiln, so often work was left incomplete.

In conclusion, the headmaster thanked parents, and staff, of whom he paid a special tribute to Mr. Matthew's long service, Governors, the L.C.C., the School Secretary and his staff. Finally, he said how pleased he was to see some old boys playing in the band that evening.

Afterwards, Professor M. C. Dent, Assistant Dean of the University of London, presented the prizes and then addressed the school and parents. He praised the work being done by the school in a wide variety of spheres. This led Professor Dent to refer to the good work being done by various types of secondary schools throughout the country. These schools received far too little public recognition of the magnificent efforts that most of them were making.

In 5 years' time the school-leaving age would be 16, and many more pupils would be staying on at school. This was a splendid and necessary gesture in view of the very exciting and difficult half century that lay ahead. Professor Dent closed by stressing the importance of educating oneself to the limits of one's ability.

Mr. W. S. Matthew, the Senior Master, thanked Professor Dent for his speech and also thanked the L.C.C., Governors, and Inspectors for their efforts.

After presenting another musical item the school brass band concluded the evening's programme by playing the National Anthem.

THE SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM

This term has seen the start of something completely new to Barnsbury Tutorial Registration.

The Tutorial Master now assumes even greater importance in the school life of each boy in his group. The extra tutorial responsibility strengthens the house system generally and enables each tutorial master to have more opportunities to become acquainted with the hopes and problems of all boys in his group. His work in influencing each boy's behaviour, work and dress is also made simpler so improving the tone of the school.

A new School Council will be meeting this term. The representatives from the twenty four tutorial groups are as follows:

Court: K. Rowe, 5 Alpha 2; V. K. West, 5 Alpha T; D. Dracocardos, 5A1; P. Harris, 4 Alpha; J. Hallett, 5 Alpha (II); C. Weir, Lower Sixth.

Datson: D. Parkes, 5A2; C. Wong, 6(1); R. Proffit, 6(1); J. Payne, U/5th; R. Hill, 6(1); R. Gillon, 5A(2).

Gerred: M. Robins, 6(1); P. Waltham, 5A(2); S. Sessions, U/5th; J. Lee, U/5th; D. Saville, 5A(1); M. Walker, 5A(1).

Wardman: A. Lashbrook, U/5th; R. Palmer, 6(1); I. Stewart, U/5th; O. Bertolotti, 5A(2); D. Powell, 5A(2); E. Fraser, 5A(2).

BARNSBURY HOUSE SYSTEM

Senior Housemaster : Mr. J. Richards

COURT HOUSE (Upper School)

Housemaster: P. E. Chapman.

House tutors: H. Godsall, P. N. A. Hamlyn, A. Smith, F. E. Walton, J. Worrall.

Prefects: T. Anastasi, A. Georgiou, P. Haywood, T. Joseph, D. Mann (House Captain), P. Panayi.

I was very pleased to renew my acquaintance with so many Court House boys on my transfer from Eden Grove to Camden Road. This term, of course, has seen an important advance in the operation of the house system, in that tutorial groups have been meeting for registration as well as for their regular weekly gatherings. I hope that boys will continue to exchange friendship and ideas with those from different forms and different years, as indeed they are beginning to do.

At the time when I write, the sporting programme has not really started, but I am sure that all of you will continue to support the House in the future as you have in the past, in all branches of these activities.

Congratulations are due to those who have been elected prefects, and to nearly all of you for the way in which you dress. This is important, and we do expect you to be neatly dressed, in school uniform as far as possible, and our expectations are, in most cases, realised.

Finally, I would like to record my appreciation and thanks for all the help which the house tutors have given me, and especially to Mr. Hamlyn, who has given me so much assistance in the difficult re-orientation which has been necessary for me, in changing from one building to the other.

P.E.C.

COURT HOUSE (Lower School)

Housemaster: Mr. J. Mayer.

House Tutors: Mr. T. Harvey, Mr. J. Stoddart, Mr. A. Singh.
Prefects: M. Jones, P. Kirton, S. Lewis, P. Mendham, J. Pearmain.

A warm welcome is extended to all newcomers to the House this Autumn term. Together the House Staff, the prefects and the boys are co-operating to make this an interesting and successful term and we have high hopes indeed for the future. Eight boys have already taken part in the Basket Ball competition and earned a third place for the house. They are T. Marshall, T. Bill, A. Gough, P. Cameron, S. Wood, S. Davies, J. Morris and P. Hodges. It is pleasing to notice here and there that the prefects are also growing more responsible and are showing initiative.

J.M.



DATSON HOUSE (Upper School)

At the beginning of this school year Mr. Boothroyd was appointed to succeed Mr. Richards who had led the house for two and a half terms. I should like to thank him for inspiring Datson to their successes during last term.

Our House Captain for this year is R. Kirkwood and these boys have been chosen Prefects:—R. Kirkwood, D. Stinati, M. Hilne, G. Meliniotis, K. Gamwells and R. Hutchinson.

It is too early in the year to say how Datson will fare in the various sporting events. At the time of writing we are about to start the Basket-ball tournament for the 4th, 5th and 6th years playing together. We tutors feel sure that there is ample potential in our ranks but we would be very glad to see much more enthusiasm to join in on the part of the boys.

Our Chess club continues to meet and we have started a table-tennis group on Tuesday evenings. We should like to extend these activities to include badminton or volley-ball.

DATSON HOUSE (Lower School)

Housemaster: Mr. J. A. Briggs.

House Tutors: Mr. Chambers, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Hewitt,
Mr. Wells.

House Prefects: C. Colyer, E. Elrick, B. Gornell.

I should like to begin by wishing Mr. Campbell the best of success in his new school and thank him for the hard work he put in for Datson House. We also say goodbye to Mr. Gordon, but welcome Mr. Wells, Mr. Chambers and Mr. Ellis to Datson House and thank them for the work they have done in the House already.

May I also welcome the first year boys to Datson and wish them every success in their school life. Already they are showing tremendous House spirit as is shown at the meetings of the Datson social club where we play records, table tennis and wrestling.

Congratulations to the 2nd year basket ball team who played so well in the competition but were finally beaten into 2nd place by Blue House.

To our junior cross-country team who came 4th in the competition, we wish you better luck next time. Congratulations also go to Lucraft who won the free style event in the Islington Schools Gala and to Sanderson who won the junior diving competition.

My thanks to Mr. Hewitt for his help in running our House social club.

J.A.B.

GERRED HOUSE (Upper School)

Housemaster: Mr. E. Bayliss.

House Tutors: Mr. R. Copley, Mr. L. Martyn, Mr. G. Neath,
Mr. W. Partier, Mr. D. Cooper

Prefects: R. Mayer, R. Drew, R. Dowdall, I Smith, R. Chandler,
G. Pingram.

The existence of the Tutorial System, bringing house tutors and boys in a close relationship has had a marked and beneficial effect on Gerred House. The general attitude and standard of behaviour has been good during this term. Particular pleasing has been the improvement in the individual boys appearance. Dress and personal neatness are almost no longer matters for complaint in the houses.

E.J.B.

GERRED HOUSE (Lower School)

Housemaster: Mr. A. R. Wilkinson.

Tutors: Mr. P. Welch, Mr. R. Herbert, Mr. J. Foley.

Prefects: G. Snow, K. MacIntosh, I. Basri, P. Aldridge, P. Kouppi.

The staff changes in the lower school this year have meant an almost complete reshuffle in house organisation. Now that Mr. Welch spends most of his time at the upper school I have the honour of taking his place; and hope that I can steer the house through another year. The new system of tutorial meetings on Tuesday mornings and house assemblies on Thursdays gives us much more opportunity to meet our boys and to get to know them much better. It is to be hoped that this can be further extended so that we can see even more of the boys in our groups.

The house is working quite well together and although the second year basketball results were somewhat disappointing we have the consolation in knowing that our House Captain G. Snow has been picked for the final trial for the North London Basketball Team.

Our prefects are working very well and are helping the house tutors a great deal in these difficult times of large tutor groups.

A.R.W.

WARDMAN HOUSE (Upper School)

Housemaster: Mr. W. S. Matthews.

House Tutors: Mr. R. Leece, Mr. F. Puddefoot, Mr. R. Shattock.

Prefects: B. W. Masters (School Captain), P. G. Berry, C. Bunting, M. Chrisostomou, N. Lala, R. Ruthen.

Since the last edition of the magazine Wardman House has come under the leadership of a new Housemaster, Mr. W. S. Matthews.

There has not been a great deal of inter-house competition since the summer but there was, however, the cricket.

In the first round of the competition we defeated Gerred by a margin of approximately thirty runs, and in the final we defeated Datson by an equally convincing margin of four wickets.

We are at present looking forward to the basketball competition which will be held in the immediate future; a championship which we have held for the last two years.

P. Berry and B. Masters, Upper Sixth.

WARDMAN HOUSE (Lower School)

Housemaster: Mr. F. Hill.

Tutorial Masters: Mr. Billingsley, Mr. Clayton, Mr. Vickers.

Prefects: A. Brown (Capt.), Y. Shah, L. Toywell, J. Pritchard, R. Hobbs.

We had a very successful year last year in sport. We won the House Swimming Championship in a very exciting gala. In the Second Year we won both Football and Cricket Competition

Awards. We had one of the best Basketball teams. Many of our boys played for the School at Basketball, whilst the Fifth Year Team and the Third Year Team won their House Competitions. Sports Day proved that our House had some of the best athletes in the School, certainly we had the best triers. So it all added up to a very successful year as far as sport was concerned. Academically we took our fair share of prizes and certificates and I am satisfied that most members of the House worked to their full capacity.

Well that was last year; and now we face a new school year. First we have to welcome the newcomers to the House. We hope that they will support the House in all its activities and that in no way will they let us down. We have made a very good start. The only year which has completed a competition is the second year. Our second year Basketball team fought splendidly and came out winners of this competition. The team was ably supported by non-playing members of the house whose enthusiastic cheering kept the team on its toes.

We are very concerned with the behaviour and appearance of the members of Wardman House. In the past a very high standard has been set and we hope that this will continue and that the tradition will be carried on by our new members. It is important to remember that the Tutorial Masters are there to help you, and and if there is any problem which worries you we hope that you will never hesitate to take it to your Tutorial Master.

F.M.

CAREERS AND THE CAREERS MASTER

“No school can afford to be without a careers adviser, and I would go as far as to say the future of a boy may well be prejudiced without one.” This quote from “The Times” came to mind when I prepared an article for the school magazine and this being the first of, I hope, a series on careers my first endeavour will be to put you in the picture.

In Barnsbury at the end of the third year the headmaster, deputy headmaster and careers master interview all boys of that year. From these interviews, often with parents present, we obtain three groups of boys. There is the first group who know where their future lies, the second who are not so sure, and the third, the minority, who are ‘don’t knows’. These groups are expected but it is the answers from these interviews that help us when the interviews are repeated at the end of the Fourth Year. By this time the boys are more sure of their aspirations and we are able to give them a course best suited to their future needs.

Here I would like to digress a little and ask “How can you help yourselves?” More and more careers literature is being made available in the Library. Please read it. In the near future it is hoped to have a stand—now being made in the workshop—to

display all books and pamphlets on careers. It is intended that all material concerning the sixth form will be displayed in the sixth form room only. If you don't see what you want in the library, visit the office and let the headmaster or myself know. To those who have found what they want but still have some questions unanswered call on the headmaster or myself. We are most anxious to help you. If we are not available leave a note with the Secretary and you will be called when it is convenient.

Finally, to end part 1 of the series, I should like to say this of the careers master. He does not know all the answers, but he knows the experts who do. He is only one of a team in the school. In this team the careers master could well be called the 'Sieve'. It is he who, from the cwts. of information sent to the school is able to refine the essential. Your teachers, tutorial masters and house masters all help to fit you for a career where you, it is sincerely hoped, will be happy for the rest of your life—a long, long time.

C.M.

THE PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

President: The Headmaster

Chairman: Mr. J. Rowe

Secretary: Mr. F. H. Puddefoot

Treasurer: Mr. H. Avery

Committee: Mr. D. Bloom, Mr. and Mrs. R. Erwood, Mr. H. Godsall, Mrs. Kemble, Mrs. Masters, Mrs. Olive, Mr. and Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. E. J. Wiggins and Mr. P. Chapman.

At 8 p.m. on Thursday, 3rd November the Annual General Meeting was held in the main hall of the Camden Road building.

After the opening remarks by Mr. W. H. F. Nicholls, the chairman, the secretary gave his annual report, in which he stated that support had been disappointing for the Association's activities.

Then Mr. Nicholls went through the treasurer's report, prepared by Mrs. Masters, and pointed out that last October the Association had begun with a balance of £69 13s. 11d. and now had in hand £58 2s. 1d. It had not been possible to build up a balance, as meetings had been sparsely attended.

Afterwards, election of the new Committee took place. Mr. Watson and Mr. Nicholls were nominated as Auditors.

Discussion then took place with regard to future programmes or activities, and many interesting suggestions were made. This was followed by a speech from the headmaster. Mr. Davies thought that the main problem of the Association was one of communication. The main aim of the Parent-Teacher Association was not to make money but to have its members meet one another. Therefore, lists of dates and events should be sent from the school as frequently as money would allow.

Then Mr. Davies called on Mr. Godsall to give details of a proposal to link together the Summer Fête and Exhibition of Work Scheme. The open Day would be a social occasion, with all the staff being present.

This and other points raised by the headmaster were discussed. The meeting then closed at 9.15 p.m.

THE "CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP" OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL

Every Monday from 4.15 p.m.—4.45 p.m. boys interested in the teachings of Christ have joined together to form a "Christian Fellowship". The meeting is 'not' an additional Religious Knowledge lesson, its function is quite different. By means of films, tape-recordings, discussions etc., it is hoped that members will be challenged to think seriously about God's place in the world today.

The fellowship welcomes any boys or masters who feel they would benefit through attending 'one' or all of the proposed meetings. Would all those who are interested please contact Mr. Neath for further information.

R. Kirkwood, Upper 6th.

HISTORY CLUB

President: Mr. Bloom.

Secretary: R. Hill.

The club has gained a number of new members this term, mainly from the third and fourth years. Model making is still very popular, and plans are being made for a model of either trench warfare of the 1914-18 war, or a D-Day landing in the second World War.

The senior members have been engaged in the framing of a questionnaire which we hope to use in the lower school.

A visit is also planned later this term to the Canonbury Tower and other visits are being contemplated.

R. Hill, Lower 6th.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

President: Mr. D. Bloom.

Secretary: J. Cattini.

Treasurer: W. Deakin.

We are happy to report that the school now has a photography club. Although the club has only just been formed, regular printing and developing sessions are already being held. We now offer a cheap and efficient processing service to the boys.

At the moment, the club is solely supported by fourth year boys, who are most ably assisted by Mr. Bloom. The club's plans for the future include a number of talks from Mr. F. Smith and the building of an enlarger.

We would like to thank all boys who have given us their support by submitting films for development, and hope that the club continues to be successful in performing a service to its members and to the school.

John Cattini, Club Secretary, 4A.

BRASS BAND

The band at the half term.

Leader: T. Mottram	Trombones: 1st J. Lee
Solo Trumpets: M. Janice	2nd C. Craig
I. Smith	Second Trumpets: P. Dovey
Flugel Horn: H. Caylor	B. Kemble
Solo Horn: A. Georgiou	Third Trumpets: R. Smith
1st Horn: J. Pearman	P. Hayward
2nd Horn: J. Goldsmith	1st Baritone: C. Bunting
Euphoniums: S. Saunders	2nd Baritone C. Smith
C. Theobald	P. Calhru
S. Mottram	Basses: B. Masters
	M. Sorrel

Following our concert success last year at the Romford Music Festival where we attained 2nd prize in the Junior Band Section, the band has been largely inactive. Due to G.C.E. examinations and holidays, we did not play at the School Fête last year, the first time in the history of the band and we sincerely hope the last time.

This term, however, sees us overworked. The band very ably conducted by Peter Haywood of the 6th form performed a few selected items at the School Prize Giving, including the first movement of a suite by Peter which was given its first performance at this event. There has been a great deal of controversy over this work, among staff, and boys, but all will agree, I think, that it was a fine effort worthy of praise.

Now of course the band is busy fitting second year boys into its ranks and preparing for the school carol concert, visits to other schools in the area and probably most important of all a concert in Islington Town Hall with the newly formed Old Boys Band. So for the rest of the term, the 'Hallelujah Chorus' and 'Mary's Boy Child' are the order of the day with a complete change of programme next year in preparing for concerts and contest once more.

W.J.R.

FOURTH YEAR SPECIAL STUDIES

The recent 'Newsom Report' recommended taking pupils beyond the limit of the school boundary. Following this recommendation, the school has provided 'outward' looking courses for forms 4(1), 4(2), 4(3), and 4(4). With Mr. Bayliss in charge, a special syllabus has been provided covering 8 periods a week. The syllabus can be divided into three main categories:—

- (1) Life and Living.
- (2) Study Topics
- (3) Work and Service to the Community.

The aim of these group studies known as 'Humanities', is to enlarge the pupil's understanding of the world in which he lives, so that he can find a more satisfying part in it.

During the 1st term 'A' group paid 6 visits to the Geoffrey Museum for a course on "the development of the English House and its furniture and fittings." Further visits were paid to the:

- (1) Telephone Exchange.
- (2) Large Dairy Depot and Plant.
- (3) North Thames Gas Board Training School.
- (4) Bible House.
- (5) Railway and General Transport Museum.

During this same term 'B' group paid 6 visits to large building sites in various stages of completion. Other visits included trips to the:

- (1) Islington Council Offices.
- (2) Smithfield Market.
- (3) L.E.B. Training School.
- (4) Evening Standard Press.
- (5) A recently modernised house.

A more varied course was followed by 'C' group who paid visits to the:

- (1) British Museum.
- (2) Covent Garden Market.
- (3) Northern District Post Office.
- (4) Inspection of foundations being laid for a tall building.
- (5) Islington Cleansing Depot.
- (6) M.W.B. Pumping Station.
- (7) Engineering Works.

A similar course was followed by 'D' group who visited the:

- (1) British Museum.
- (2) Covent Garden.
- (3) Islington Council Offices.
- (4) Islington Cleansing Offices.
- (5) Northern District Post Office.
- (6) Training School of the N.T.G.B.
- (7) G. Hopkins Engineers.

The various courses open to the boys have been so arranged, that during the remainder of the year the boys will all cover the same sets of visits.

The wide range of educational activities provided by the visits to places of interest is further extended by the provision of many other interesting activities. A detailed study of the plans for the proposed lorry route and the impending one-way traffic system for the area, have proved a very interesting and useful study for the

boys. Traffic counts carried out at the main traffic junctions of the borough and the study of plans and models of large areas of the borough where re-development is planned in the near future, have been other activities that boys have shown interest in. Further activities have included detailed studies of types of commercial users in neighbouring shopping areas, and the showing of films on health topics and the use of leisure time.

THE SCHOOL GENERAL ELECTION

A few weeks before the Parliamentary General Election, it was decided that the school would hold an election itself.

Mr. Bayliss, who organised the election, came and asked for candidates. Three candidates were chosen from the sixth form, to represent the three major political parties. They were: Christopher Bunting, Liberal; Robin Palmer, Labour; and myself, Conservative.

The point of the election was to show the pupils how the electoral system worked, which as explained by Mr. Bayliss beforehand. Each boy was issued with an election number and an address.

The whole school went to the polls, using polling booths set up in the gym, the day before the General Election. Almost all the school voted, but with the aid of counters the result was announced to the school a short time after polling. The results were as follows:— Bunting 79 votes, Palmer 211 votes, Pingram 130 votes. R. Palmer then gave a short speech of thanks to the school.

G. Pingram, VIth.

MY AUNT LIL

As I was walking home one day,
 To my home not far away,
 I spied a cottage on the hill,
 I know who lives there, it's my Auntie Lil.
 She had lived there for many years,
 But today her face was full of tears.
 When I asked "Why so sad?"
 She replied "I've lost poor old Dad".
 And when I expressed my deepest sorrow,
 She said "Here today and gone tomorrow."

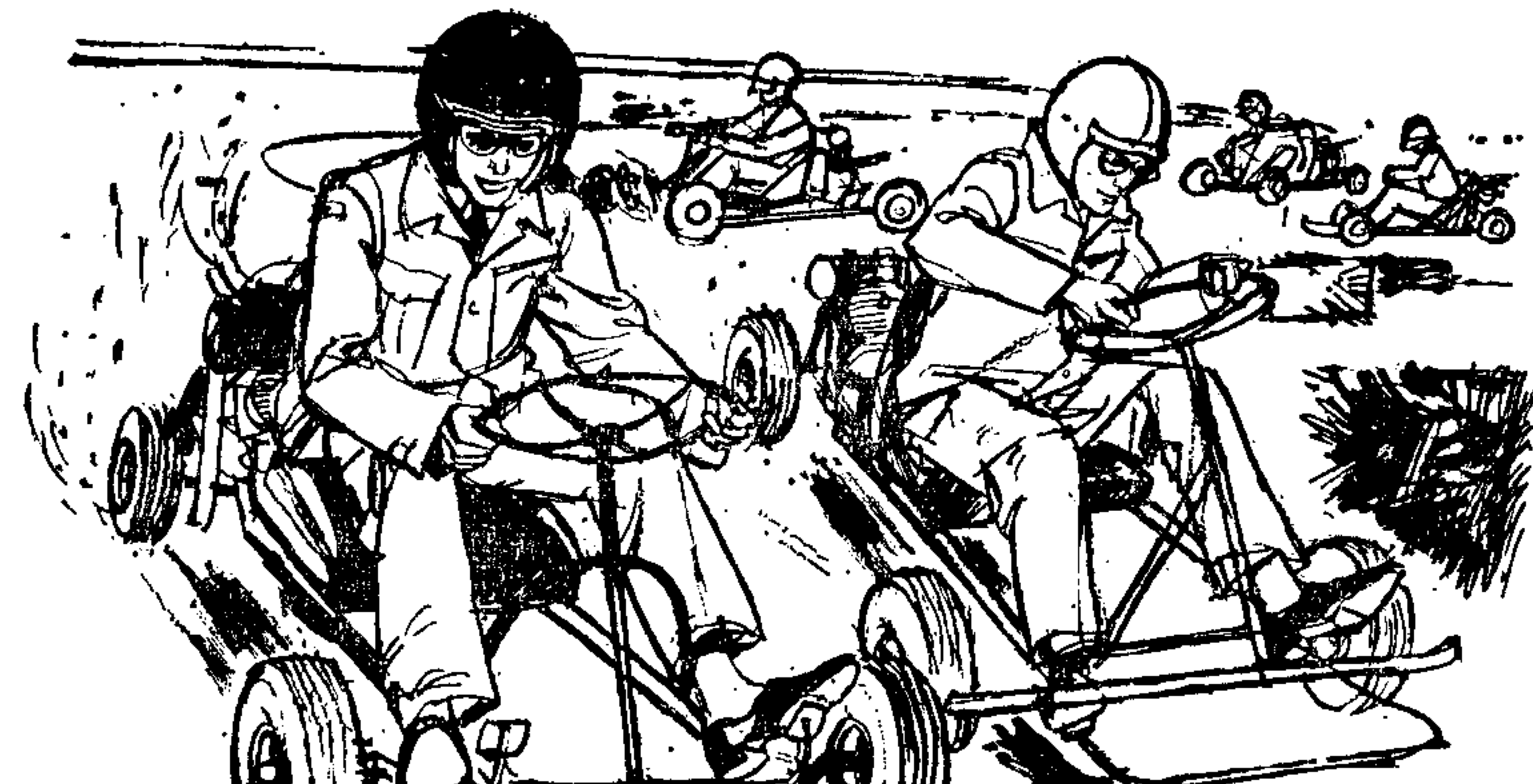
C. Jackson, 1 Alpha.

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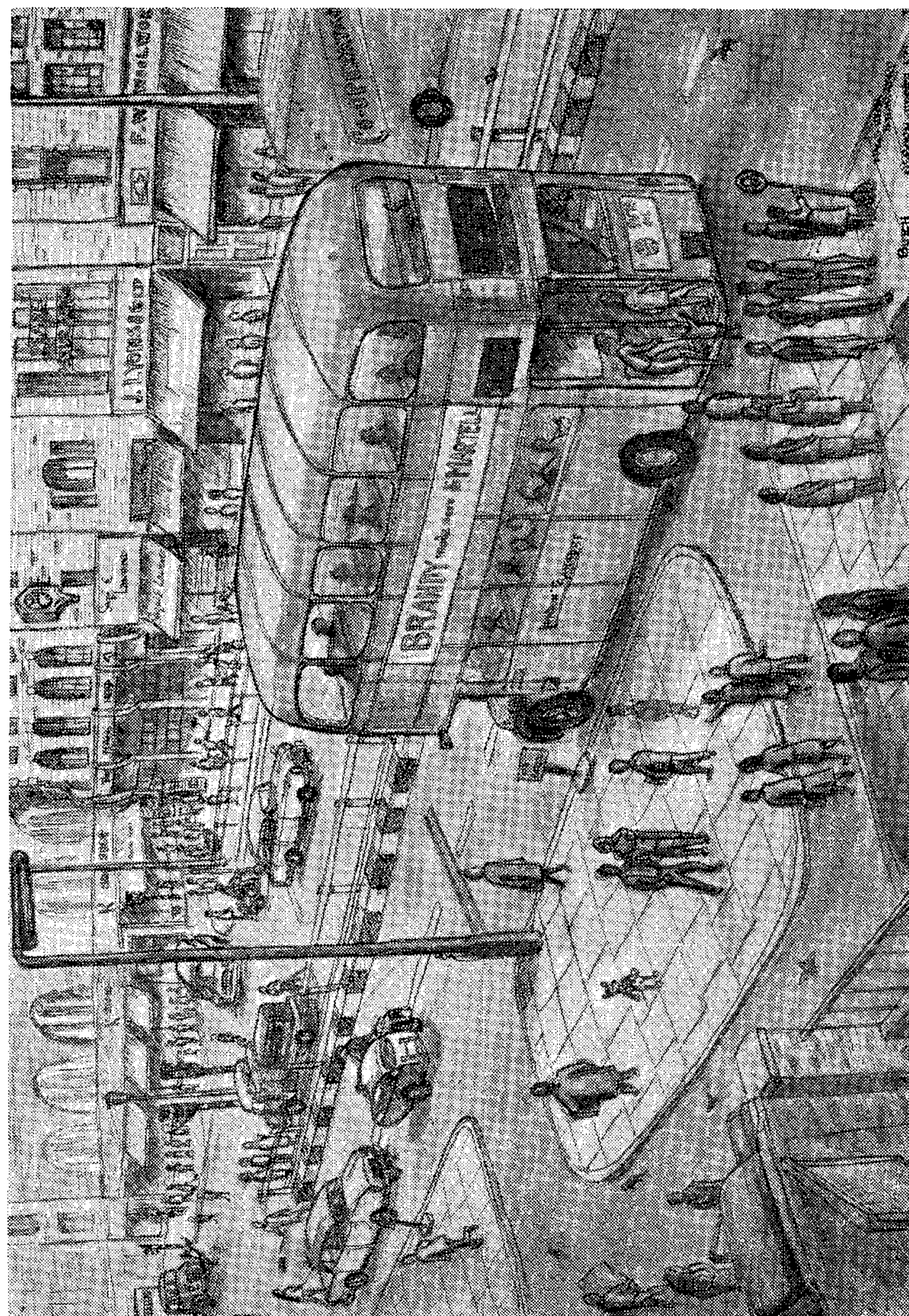
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THE LION

There was a great roar, and the lion came straight at the lone boy. It seemed as if the boy had taken his last breath, but no! instead of running the boy just stood there, and the lion ran right up to him. It started licking the boy's face, and purrr-ing like a kitten. It was Golden Boy, Johnny's pet lion. Johnny had had the lion ever since it was two days old, and could not see. Johnny had brought it up, and fed it on milk until it was three weeks old. Then he started feeding it on meat. Johnny lived in Africa, and had been born there. His father had died when he was five, and his mother died as well a year after. Johnny's only friend was Golden Boy. When he found Golden Boy he was only five years old, and now he is twelve, and Golden Boy is seven, and a fully grown lion. Johnny named the lion Golden Boy, because his fur is a sort of golden colour.

Golden Boy's coat was spotted when he was found by Johnny, and it remained spotted until he was two years old. His mane began to grow during his third year, but it did not attain its full growth until his sixth year. Lions have been known to live over twenty years in captivity, and Johnny hoped Golden Boy would live that long. At the end of his days, when the lion has become a poor creature with worn teeth, and failing strength, his usual fate is to be torn to pieces by hyenas, and jackals, but Johnny hoped to bury Golden Boy when he died.

Johnny did not see the shadowy form that was moving stealthily through the bushes. It was a spotted leopard, fierce, and treacherous, who killed just for the sake of killing. The leopard who was only half the size of a full-grown lion, probably would not attack Golden Boy, but how could Johnny defend himself against this killer, without a weapon? The leopard crouched low to spring. The cat's treacherous, lithe body shot through the air with lightning speed, but he missed the mark, because Johnny side-stepped just in time. Spitting, and hissing, the leopard turned for another attack. In that instant Golden Boy was upon him. Snarling, and coughing, the two big cats raked each other with their claws. The leopard is a wily fighter, and was much quicker than Golden Boy. He twisted, and turned, and tried to sink his teeth in Golden Boy's throat or into the back of his neck. Over and over they went, a snarling mass of fur and fury, but at last Golden Boy's greater strength and weight forced the leopard on his back. Golden Boy found the leopard's throat, and his fangs sank deep. The unlucky leopard would never attack anybody again. Golden Boy had been a true, and loyal friend.

E. Mustafa, 3 Alpha.

A GOALKEEPER'S VIEW

Their forwards are coming, I shake like a leaf,
A half-back has cleared it; that's a relief.
Look out, look out, they're coming again,
Their centre forward can run like a train,
Our full back can't catch him, he is certain to score,
And if he does they're bound to score more.
He shoots—I dive, and make a great save,
But if I had missed it things would have been grave,
I kick the ball out, it's gone down the field,
Their full-backs have stopped it, they act as a shield.
Their winger has got it, he comes at a speed,
His team mates are moaning because of his greed,
He slips on some mud and falls on his face,
He's gone all red in shame and disgrace.
Ah, there goes the whistle, at last, we've won,
Not by a large margin, just two goals to one.

T. Stephens, 2A.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD COURSE—PENZANCE

On Wednesday, 14th October a group of boys with Messrs. Martyn and Boothroyd went to Penzance, Cornwall. We left at 8 a.m. in a luxury coach and followed the A.30. We passed through Stonehenge around which the countryside is very beautiful. Our first stop was Hartley Wintley and our second, for lunch, at Honiton. In the afternoon we stopped at Bodmin and our journey finished at the Kenegie Hotel and country club at about 7 p.m. Our evening entertainments here were good as the food and accommodation.

After a good night's sleep and breakfast we were taken by the coach to Mousehole where we spent a full day in the field. We walked across the countryside to a farm, where we were met by the farmer who kindly answered our questions.

Later we met the coach which took us to Lands End where we had lunch. In the afternoon we visited a tin-mine which the boys found very interesting. Then we returned to the hotel and had dinner. In the evening we wrote up our reports for the day, as we did every day.

The next day we visited a China Clay pit near Bugle. A man from the works showed us round ; and this too was very interesting. From here we went to Par harbour where we saw the clay being loaded on to the ships. The coach took us back to the hotel and on the way we stopped at Truro and had some free time.

On Saturday we spent a full day in Falmouth and looking about the beaches. A teacher who lives there showed us about which made the visit far more interesting.

After breakfast, on Sunday, we carried out a survey of Penzance. Each boy was in a group who had their own section of the town to do; our results were put into our folders. We went back to the hotel for lunch, and in the afternoon we went out to see how the farming land around Gulval was used.

The next day we went to Primrose Dairy and were shown round by a few of the men who worked there. Afterwards we went to see a stretch of sand dunes six miles long when the tide is out. This was near St. Ives where we had lunch, and later went along the North coast to Portreath and then home via Canborne.

On our penultimate day in Penzance we studied the village of Newlyn. Before breakfast we went down to the hotel for breakfast and then visited a Pilchard canning factory. As it was the wrong season we were unable to see the fish being packed; but we did see the men preparing their nets. After lunch we went back to Newlyn and made a tour of a local quarry.

Wednesday brought to an end a very interesting visit to Penzance. We left the hotel at 8.30 a.m. and arrived outside the school at 7.00 p.m.

We had an excellent driver and this plus the preparations of the teachers made it an enjoyable and interesting visit—an unforgettable experience.

R. Atkinson, 4A.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?

We often hear about ghosts, and we even read about ghosts, but is there such a thing as a ghost? Many people do not believe in ghosts, and say that it is imagination, but is it? I have heard and read many stories about ghosts, and one story I would like to mention was told to me by my grandfather.

It was during World War II, when my grandfather was on fire duty, at an ice-cream factory. He had gone down into the factory, after a cold spell of duty on the roof, to get some hot tea, for himself, and his friend, who was still keeping watch on the roof.

When he got back on the roof with the tea, he found his friend in a state of fear. His face was white and he was trembling all over his body. When my grandfather managed to calm him down, he was able to tell of what had happened.

He had seen a figure moving on the roof, and though it was not quite daylight, and he was not able to see clearly, he went closer to the figure, which he thought was my grandfather returning with the tea. As he got closer, intending to ask for a light for his cigarette, he noticed that the figure was not my grandfather, but what seemed to be a monk. It was when he asked for the light that the monk vanished.

This story sounds true because other people have claimed to have seen it before, but had not mentioned it because people might have said that their stories were absurd. Also another point that makes this story seem true is the fact that this factory stands on the site of an old monastery.

The factory is the Walls ice-cream factory, and the address is "The Friary", Acton, and even today, people who work there still claim to have seen "The Friary Ghost", as it is called, at various times.

Well . . . do you believe in ghosts?

R. Brancher, 2A.

SMUGGLER'S FATE

The long black hull of the schooner lay motionless on the calm moonlit waters of the bay. No lights were to be seen shining from her sleek sides, and the air of mystery grew, with the swift silent approach of three longboats pulling shorewards. They were loaded with contraband, brandy, and bales of silk lay piled high in each of them. The boats scraped gently on the sandy beach, and their crews dragged the boats up above the high-water mark.

The crew of the schooner were French smugglers, now awaiting the arrival of their English counterparts, while around them the beach was piled high with barrels and crates. They were impatient; their captain, a swarthy faced individual, scowled and scuffed the sand with his foot. He trusted nobody and as he waited he wondered as to the reliability of the men he was going to meet.

Some time later the smugglers were able to pick out a line of black figures leading pack-mules outlined against the white cliffs, moving down a path in the cliff face. The Englishman approached slowly, swathed in heavy capes, and the French Captain stepped forward and held out his hand for the money which had been agreed upon on a previous occasion.

The tallest of the Englishmen walked up to him, and brought his hand from under the cape. It held not money, but a pistol. He dropped his cape, and his identity as a Revenue officer became all too soon evident. His companions were also now pointing pistols at the smugglers. Two of the Frenchmen wheeled around and dashed for the water. One was shot as he turned, but the other reached the water and then fell face-down, and did not rise. All hope of escape for the smugglers was lost when a group of soldiers rode from concealment. They tied their prisoner's hands to the saddle pommels and forced the smugglers to run alongside the horses.

Meanwhile, as the Revenue men loaded the line of pack-mules with the contraband, a pitched battle was raging just off the coast; between two Revenue cutters and the schooner. Despite the fact that one cutter was badly damaged and was forced to limp,

blazing, shorewards, the battle continued heavily against the schooner and its crew.

A few hours later as the sun began to ascend into the heavens, the waterlogged schooner keeled over and sank. Most of her crew were captured, but a few went down with their vessel.

Victims of treachery, the thirty smugglers were sent for trial and two weeks later, their execution was carried out. The gentle breeze swayed the limp forms dangling from the gibbets high above the place where they had been captured. Now with their bones picked clean, they were a reminder to other smugglers of the risks of their profession for which these men had suffered.

G. Dennis, 4A.



MINE LIFE IN THE 1830's

My name is James Snook, my age is ten years old. From the age of eight I have been working down the mine. I go down the main shaft at three o'clock in the morning, and come up at six in the evening. I am what is known as a "hurrier", that is, I pull huge baskets of coal, which are strapped to my waist, and often work in a tunnel three quarters of a yard high. When winter comes I do not see daylight for months on end, and when summer comes I am nearly blinded by the overwhelming light, which I am exposed to when I appear at the pit-head. I started this life as a "trapper", that is, I opened and shut trap-doors all day long. At one time I nearly suffocated, when I fell asleep, but luckily, or unluckily, I awoke just in time.

Half way through the day we stop working, for a few precious moments, and eat our midday meal, which is often meat pie of some sort—in the fruit season we have fruit pie.

I have not always worked down a mine. At the age of six I was put into a cotton mill, but one day, joining a piece of yarn I caught my hand in the machinery, and lost two of the fingers of my right hand. By a miracle I was saved, but I was left with a stammer and a constant twitch of my right eye.

If I do live to be a man I shall see that my children do not go through life down the mine.

B. Parish, 4A.

THE MYSTERIOUS GARDEN

It was such a lovely Sunday morning that all the family went for a car ride. We passed big buildings as we went through London and finally came to the country. It was very quiet and as we were riding along I spotted a gloomy looking house. I said to my father "Let's go and have a look at that house over there." We all got out of the car and went over to the house. It was quite empty. While my mother and father were looking around the house my sister and I went to explore the creepy looking garden at the back. It was overgrown with weeds knee high. We went through a hole in the hedge, and came to a place which seemed to be alive with strange people. We heard noises which frightened us so that we could not move from the spot where we were standing.

Finally we came to our senses and thought we were imagining it all. We walked around and we saw statues. Suddenly they seemed to come to life and tried to reach out for us, and the tree branches came down and brushed cobwebs over our faces. We started to run for the hole in the wall, but we could not find it. We ran around and around terrified as the statues laughed out loud at us in high-pitched screams, and someone kept saying, "You can't get out, you will be turned into stone like us." We started to shout and scream for our parents, and we finally saw the opening in the garden wall. We ran for it but as we got nearer we saw that a big spider's web was blocking the way. As we stood rooted to the spot a big spider came and rushed to the middle of the web. Its huge body was black with what looked like hundreds of thick hairy legs. It started to swing the web towards us. It got nearer and nearer, pulling out some of its legs to touch us. We gave a terrible scream, and everything went black.

I heard a faint voice say my name. I opened my eyes, terrified of what I might see, but it was my mother calling me, to see if I wanted to go with them to see an empty cottage. I said, "No thank you," as I might have come across the mysterious garden I had dreamt about.

J. Saunders, I.M.



SPORTS SECTION

ATHLETICS

The inter House Athletic meeting was held in excellent weather at Finsbury Park last July. There was keen competition throughout and it was not until the final events had been run, that the eventual winning house could be declared. House Results.

1st DATSON 190 pts. 3rd COURT 161 pts.
2nd WARDMAN 175 pts. 4th GERRED 132 pts.

High Jump

1st year: Gallagher (Datson) 3' 8"
2nd year: Calkin (Datson) 4' 2"
3rd year: Georgiakis (Datson) 4' 4"
4th year: Taylor (Wardman) 4' 6"
5th year: Courtney (Datson) 4' 6"

5th year: Inzani (Wardman) 34' 10"

100 yards

1st year: Westbury (Wardman)
2nd year: Shaw (Datson)
3rd year: Norman (Court)
4th year: England (Wardman)
5th year: Woodward (Court)

Long Jump

1st year: Westbury (Wardman) 14' ½"
2nd year: Simpson (Datson) 15' 10"
3rd year: Ralph (Datson) 15' 7"
4th year: Walker (Datson) 15' 9"
5th year: Johns (Datson) 15' 10½"

220 yards

1st year: Osman (Gerred)
2nd year: Shaw (Datson)
3rd year: Titus (Court)
4th year: England (Wardman)
5th year: Marlow (Datson)

Triple Jump

1st year: Potter (Gerred) 28' 9½"
2nd year: Simpson (Datson) 32' 6"
3rd year: Ransley (Wardman) 33' 6"
4th year: Thompson (Wardman) 33' 9"
5th year: Johns (Datson) 31' 11"

440 yards

2nd year: Foley (Wardman)
3rd year: Atkinson (Wardman)
4th year: Hill (Wardman)
5th year: Mayer (Gerred)

Javelin

2nd year: Smith, P. (Gerred) 92' 9"
3rd year: Cooper (Gerred) 104' 7½"
4th year: Reading (Court) 120' 3"
5th year: Akers (Datson) 109' 8"

880 yards

3rd year: Atkinson (Wardman)
4th year: Hill (Wardman)
5th year: Castle (Datson)

Throwing the Cricket Ball

1st year: Claxton (Gerred) 181' 0"

80 yards hurdles

1st year: Cameron (Court)
2nd year: Brown (Wardman)
3rd year: Stroud (Court)
4th year: Taylor (Wardman)
5th year: Kirkwood (Datson)

Discus

2nd year: Snow (Gerred) 80' 8½"
3rd year: Bramwells (Wardman) 88' 2½"
4th year: Montagu (Court) 76' 5½"
5th year: Inzani (Wardman) 75' 11"

4 x 110 yards relay

1st year: Gerred 61.8 secs.
2nd year: Datson 56.4 secs.
3rd year: Court 56.2 secs.
4th year: Wardman 53.1 secs.
5th year: Datson 51.7 secs.

Shot

2nd year: Ellaway (Court) 34' 9"
3rd year: Long (Gerred) 31' 11½"
4th year: Fox (Datson) 37' 5½"

Lower School Sports Results

ATHLETICS — SUMMER, 1964

Apart from the Inter-House Sports Day the School held a junior athletics 5-event match against Tollington Park which we won by 81 pts to 73 pts.

1st Year :

100 yards: 1st Osman, (B); 2nd T.P.; 3rd Ballard, (B); 4th T.P.;
Time 13.2 secs.

High Jump: 1st T.P.; 2nd T.P.; 3rd Westbury, (B); 4th Gallagher,
(B); Height 4 ft. 1 in.

Long Jump: 1st Westbury, (B); 2nd T.P.; 3rd T.P.; 4th Walker,
(B); Length 14 ft. 7 ins.

Triple Jump: 1st T.P.; 2nd T.P.; 3rd Osman, (B); 4th Salmon, (B);
Length 30 ft. 0½ ins.

2nd Year :

100 yards: 1st Shaw, (B); 2nd T.P.; 3rd Clarke, (B); 4th T.P.; Time
12.3 secs.

High Jump: 1st T.P.; 2nd T.P.; 3rd Calhin, (B); 4th Long, (B);
Height 4 ft. 8 ins.

Long Jump: 1st Simpson, (B); 2nd Brown, (B); 3rd T.P.; 4th T.P.;
Length 16 ft. 9 ins.

Shot: 1st Basri, (B); 2nd T.P.; 3rd McKay, (B); 4th T.P.; Length
28 ft. 7 ins.

3rd Year :

100 yards: 1st Norman, (B); 2nd T.P.; 3rd T.P.; 4th Breen, (B);
Time 12.0 secs.

High Jump: 1st Georgarkis, (B); 2nd T.P.; 3rd T.P.; 4th Slack, (B);
Height 4 ft. 5 ins.

Long Jump: 1st Rolph, (B); 2nd T.P.; 3rd Rawley, (B); 4th T.P.;
Length 16 ft. 8½ ins.

Triple Jump: 1st Rolph, (B); 2nd T.P.; 3rd Martin, (B); 4th T.P.;
Length 30 ft. 9½ ins.

Shot: 1st T.P.; 2nd T.P.; 3rd Breen, (B); 4th Drett, (B); Length
42 ft. 7 ins.

Result: Tollington Park 73 pts.
Barnsbury 81 pts.

BASKETBALL

Basketball fixtures were held throughout the summer term to enable us to get more practice and we had splendid wins with all teams.

3rd year results

5th June v. Holloway. Won 62-42.

12th June v. St. George (Kilburn). Won 40-20.

17th June v. St. George (Kilburn). Won 40-16.

27th June v. St. Paul's. Won 26-22.

The following boys represented the 3rd year team:—

Coleman, Frost, Bezani, Burnett, Rowley, Raynham,
Campagna.

2nd year results

11th May v. Holloway. Won 48-15.

6th June v. Holloway. Won 35-13.

17th June v. St. George. Won 72-10.

The following boys represented the 2nd year team:—

Simpson, Mallekides (Capt.), Snow, McKay, Marshall, Lewis,
Smith.

1st year house basketball competition results

GERRED 12 v. COURT 8.

WARDMAN 6 v. DATSON 8.

COURT 16 v. WARDMAN 20.

DATSON 18 v. GERRED 8.

DATSON 18 v. COURT 5.

WARDMAN 22 v. GERRED 6.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Against	Pts.
Datson	3	3	0	0	58	19	6
Wardman	3	2	1	0	48	30	4
Gerred	3	1	2	0	23	48	2
Court	3	0	3	0	32	64	0

At the start of the 1964-65 season the School has entered 3 teams in the London Schools Basketball League, and Knock-out Competition, with a 2nd year team to enter after Christmas.

CROSS COUNTRY

The junior cross country competition was a combined effort from the distance runners in the 1st and 2nd year. It is of note that of the 9 boys to finish, 6 were from the 1st year. The teams consisted of 12 runners each; 6 first year boys and 6 second year boys. Alger of the first year ran a fine race to finish first, well clear of the rest of the field.

Team results

1st GERRED 268 pts.

2nd WARDMAN 295 pts.

3rd COURT 320 pts.

4th DATSON 329 pts.

CRICKET

Upper School

The School had two cricket teams in The Islington League this year an under 12 XI and an under 15 XI. The senior XI failed to complete the full fixture list but gave a good account of themselves in the matches played. Of the 6 games played 4 were won and two lost. Two members of the team, Fraser of the 4th year and Bartlett of the 3rd year, represented London in their respective years, Fraser as wicket keeper, Bartlett giving his best performances with the ball. Both boys have been invited by the London Assoc. to attend the M.C.C. Cricket School at Finchley each Friday evening during the winter.

Lower School Cricket

The Juniors cricket XI played three matches, winning against Archway and Sir Philip Magnus and losing to Woodberry Down.

House Cricket

The Senior House Cricket trophy was won this year by Wardman House who defeated Datson House in the final. Ray Taylor scored an undefeated 40 for Datson but failed to get anyone to stay with him and Datson batting first were 69 all out, Inzani of Wardman taking 4 wickets, Rawley 3. Wardman house 70 for 6 wickets won by 4 wickets, Johns of Datson 2-17, Taylor 3-25 being Datson's most successful bowlers. Wardman's batting was not inspiring against a hostile attack and Masters 15 n.o. was the highest scorer—it was the total of 20 byes that won Wardman the trophy.

Results Semi-Finals

Wardman beat Gerrard

Datson beat Court

Final: Wardman beat Datson by 4 wickets.

DATSON 69 for 10 wickets. (Taylor, R. 40 n.o.)

WARDMAN 70 for 6 wickets (Masters 15 n.o.)

Staff Match

The School team soundly thrashed the staff for the second year in succession. The defeat is too painful to dwell upon. The Staff bowling was unmercifully thrashed by Johns 77, Kokkinos 32, and Riley 19 n.o. The School declared at 151 for 5. By comparison the Staff batting failed. Mr. Briggs 26, Mr. Chamberlain 18 and Mr. Rigby 12 were the only ones to put up any show whatsoever. The Staff innings closed miserably at 78 leaving the School winners by 73 runs. A most handsome and well deserved victory.

LETTER FROM PASTOR J. H. HEWITT

of Providence Baptist Chapel

10th Nov. 1964

Dear Editors,

I would congratulate you upon the current issue of the *Barnsburian*.

However one thing I do want to draw special attention to in the stimulating editorial entitled "The Advantages" is the apparent ease with which the Church and therefore her message is dismissed in the words:— "*Perhaps this is what the Churches mean when they criticise society for its materialism—but for many reasons society in general, today, finds the pronouncements of the Church unacceptable. Our deficiency must therefore be filled by something untinged by modern society's distrust of religion.*" I would like these "reasons" to be stated and examined in order that we might know why they are "unacceptable"—this might lead to an honest confession of fact about man and society in general, as well as perhaps be a criticism of the Church. Also this would show whether society in general really knows what the Churches say (there is an appalling ignorance of the Bible today) and is not just biased and show whether it is not a case of the Doctor's orders (in this case God's) being rejected by the patient (society) as supposedly knowing better!

In a general way it would be true to ask whether the message of the Church—the good news of a Saviour for sinners, the power and desire to live a new life and the pointing the way to life that is purposeful, real and satisfying—has ever been acceptable or popular. The message is too real to hard fact to be pleasing, it humbles too much to be welcomed by proud individuals. Who would deny that the chief characteristic of this modern "scientific" age is its pride and exaltation of man? The Creator is denied or relegated to the edge of things and man is glorified. Nevertheless the Church is still to speak whether men listen or not, because she—with the Bible as her authority—is the ambassador of God.

As I have said this is a stimulating and in part realistic article but the author seems to have at least two blind spots:—

1 He is examining a present-day situation with the conclusion (bias?) in his mind that the Christian religion with its distinctive message has nothing acceptable to say on the matter. Because its message is unpopular, it is discounted. He is examining the situation only in terms of what pleases and is acceptable to society at large, so that the conclusions reached will be acceptable also.

We have it seems reached the position then when we no longer have "open minds" on the subject. We approach the problem now with the kind of spectacles on that we like to wear. The fact that there is a pair of spectacles (the Word of God) that could tell us a great deal about our present problem and show us the remedy is ignored. We do not like wearing them! Other people no longer wear them! Can anything be more short-sighted or more doomed to failure? What the Bible says about the problems of today being linked with the over-all problem of man is ignored, we think it is a matter of the education of the mind. So that we spend another fifty years concentrating on the education of the mind in the hopes that we shall solve the problem and all the time a remedy to hand much simpler and cheaper is ignored and what is worse the problem just grows.

2 The reason for this view of things is because we have become materialists. We no longer believe in the supernatural. The author, along with those whom he represents, treats human beings as just body and mind. There is no soul in the Bible sense of that word—no deep-seated, complex personality called the ego that was made for God and can never be happy until it finds God. Just a body and a mind—nothing more. Man is not a wonderful creature made in the image of God, but gone wrong. He is just a wonderful, but highly intelligent animal without any soul. All he needs is that his body and mind be satisfied and then he will be alright. Is this really so, is there not something deeper to man which is only to be explained in terms of the Bible?

I am not sure if there isn't some contradiction in the author's mind. He speaks (rightly) against materialism in society and yet he approaches the problem from the angle of society itself, which is materialistic. He seems to be for and against materialism at one and the same time. He speaks out against the money grabbing rat-race but yet rejects the Churches pronouncements. He seems to be trying to avoid religion on the one hand and materialism on the other hand. In doing this he says the solution lies in the education of the mind and by his use of that word "mind" he is getting near to what religion teaches by the word soul. If he does not mean that at all, then he is coloured himself by the materialism which he criticises (he thus criticises himself) if he does mean that then he is coming round to what he is trying to avoid—religion.

To sum up: I commend the speaking aloud as it were, the cry of the heart and feel very sympathetic, but the rejection of the Church's message which alone can point to the true cause of our present ills, and the feeling of nausea as one looks at society today, can only lead to frustration, nihilism and cynicism, which is the very thing the author wants to avoid. It seems to me however to be inevitable if you throw religion away.

My firm belief (and it grows as the days go by) is that the Christian Religion needs to be re-considered humbly and prayerfully. While men ignore the Church and consider the Scriptures out-of-date and irrelevant for today then the problem can only get worse. The solution is not in men, it has to come from outside, from God. Until this is recognised and acted upon, then I see no immediate hope for you or for society.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Hewitt.
(Pastor J. H. Hewitt).

REPLY FROM EDITOR

Sir ,

Thank you for your correspondence, and for the interest you have shown in the magazine. I would like to try to answer some of the points you have raised in your letter—I must emphasise that my reply is from a personal point of view, and my opinions are not necessarily shared by the other editors.

You would appear to agree that the words of the Churches are not, at present, followed by society—you admit the validity of asking whether "the message of the Church . . . has ever been acceptable or popular". In the editorial which you have quoted I discussed a deficiency in our society which you seem to recognise; you allow that the article was "in part realistic". Our point of difference concerns the nature of the deficiency and the means whereby it may be made up.

Let us "declare our interest". I am an agnostic, you are a minister of a Christian Church. In stating our cases we may both have shown a bias in our respective directions. In my over-brief mention of the Churches, I employed a simple utilitarian test—I based my judgement on the question: has this worked in the past, does it work now, will it work in the future? By "work", I mean "have an appreciable effect on society." I am not discussing the truth or otherwise of the Churches' message. I am discussing the Church as a force for social good. My opinion is that the Church "worked" in this respect in the past, but that it does not do so to a great extent today, and that it shows no sign of doing so in the future.

It is for that reason that I looked elsewhere for a possible answer to society's problems. I cannot pretend to be convinced that the vague solution that I hinted at would be any kind of panacea. I merely hope that it is worth a try. You imply that my rejection of the Church indicates a hypocritical return to materialism. I would assert that trying to find a practical, new solution, rather than one which society, for good reasons or bad, has rejected, is being practical rather than materialistic. Our society may have destroyed itself while we wait for all men to become true Christians.

Yours sincerely,
J. C. Wilsher,
(Editor).



MY AFTERNOON WALK

As I was walking along the road,
I met an old woman, she looked like a toad.
She looked at me so weird and mean,
Her body was bony and unclean.
Her hands were all scaly,
Her fingers like long claws,
I expect she was a witch.
For on her shoulder were two Jackdaws,
Walking beside her was a black cat.
And in her tangled hair sat a huge bat,
I expect she was a witch.

P. Cody, 1 Alpha.

THE VIth FORM SOCIETY

My prophecy that the VIth form Society would be firmly established as a permanent institution seems to have materialised. It has been re-established this year, in an even more enthusiastic manner, than when it was first set up a year ago.

The most important change that has taken place in the Society, concerns administration. The Society is now run almost entirely by members of the VIth form, with members of staff only playing a minor rôle in the organisation. We believe this is a very progressive move, for it enables the VIth formers to use their initiative in organising and running the Society efficiently.

At the Society's first meeting, elections were held for a Chairman, a Secretary and three members to serve on a committee. J. Wilsher became Chairman, M. Chrisostomou received the position of Secretary and B. Masters, R. Hill and P. Hayward were elected to serve as a committee. During the next meeting, J. Wilsher proposed the motion that members of the Society should pay a weekly subscription. The motion was passed and M. Hilme filled the necessary position of Treasurer. The possession of money in the hands of the Society greatly widens the scope of activities that can be undertaken by the Society in its programme for future events. Hiring films, paying visits, outstanding films are among many activities that can now be considered in the Society's programme.

During the same meeting, it was decided to invite the Debating Society of Highbury Hill High School to join us in a discussion. Highbury Hill accepted the offer, suggesting at the same time, that the topic for discussion should be 'Law-Reform'. The meeting was held at Camden Road School on the 5th November at 4.15 p.m. A party of seventeen girls arrived at Camden Road and were greeted by members of the committee. After refreshments had been served, the discussion began, being very ably guided by Mr. Bloom, who had been invited by the Society to 'chair' the meeting. The topics discussed were capital punishment, abortion, mercy killing and censorship. All the topics discussed drew varied and often controversial comment from the persons present. The meeting was probably the most successful since the Society has been established.

To conclude it must be said that this Society has already succeeded in giving the members of the VIth form a greater sense of unity, and responsibility. It is hoped that the benefits we have already received will be readily appreciated and increased as the years roll on, and that the future VIth formers will maintain a Society that the School can be proud of.

M. Chrisostomou, Upper 6th.

PARODY

(with apologies to Thomas Love Peacock in his
"The Priest and the Mulberry Tree")

Did you hear of the Rocker who mounted his bike,
And happily "tonned it" along Devils Dyke?
A machine more powerful, none have I heard:
In the height of her speed, she would stop at a word;
But again with a move, when the Rocker saw Mods,
He opened the throttle and flattened the clods.
As near to the end of the dyke he rode,
While the chrome of his mudguards all brilliantly glowed,
The good chap discovered, with eyes of desire;
On boughs long and lofty in many a green shoot,
Hung, large, black, and glossy the beautiful suit.
I'll have that good suit, and as he got off,
A mod came along, 'He's a bit of a toff;
'I like your fine bike', he said in prose,
And whipped the machine from under his nose;
He remembered too late, with his skid-lid on head,
If you can't take your bike, take the key out instead.

R. Shore, Lower Sixth.

THE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

Members are meeting regularly every week. Monday evening is devoted entirely to Band practice, and Wednesday for other sporting activities. The Old Barnsburian Band is now twenty-strong and gaining popularity week by week. Concerts have been arranged, and Mr. Reece the Bandmaster would still welcome more members.

There will be a general meeting for all Old Barnsburians on the 2nd December, 1964, at the School, Camden Road, N.7. Another Dinner and Dance has been arranged for Saturday, February 6th, 1965. Application for tickets must be made immediately to avoid disappointment.

G.B.

The Editorial Staff wish
all their Readers a
Happy & Prosperous
New Year.

J. HIRONS

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