

THE MEDINA

Vol. 6 No. 2

Spring, 1966

THE MEDINA
THE MAGAZINE OF
CARISBROOKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Vol. 6

Spring, 1966

No. 2

IN MEMORIAM

PETRINA JANET DAY,

27th FEBRUARY, 1966.

Our sincere sympathy went to her family and was shared by her many friends in the Sixth Form and elsewhere.

Editorial Staff

JEREMY COOPER, TIMOTHY DUMPER
MARTIN DONOUGHO, DAVID MACHELL
DAPHNE TAYLOR

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EDITORIAL

It is noticeable how harmless and trivial most of the editorials in the magazine are. Perhaps this editorial will not change that, but the Editors would like to criticise some of the blatant irrelevance and general scrappiness of the magazine as a whole.

The magazine is fragmentary largely because it tries to serve several purposes and fails in almost all. It falls between the four stools of its identity.

(1) It is the official organ of the School; it carries P.T.A. Notes, news of Old Students, and reports of such functions as Speech Day.

(2) It is a chronicle of School activities; clubs and societies insert their demurely dull accounts of achievements, or lack of them—nothing to arrest the eye.

(3) It publishes School contributions—essays, poems, and other odd articles representing the other side of School life (though the quantity and standard of the contributions sometimes causes the committee to wonder if there is another side).

(4) It has an Editorial (for what it is worth), and contains discussions, letters to the editor, and so on; this is to stimulate thought!

People call the magazine too formal, whereas, in fact, it has not got a recognisable form, or a role. They complain about the lay-out and the lack of colour; might we suggest that, if a new cover for the *Mutine* is to be found, it should be coloured a maddy brown.

SCHOOL NOTES

In a period happily almost free from Staff changes, we were very sorry to lose Mrs. Jackson's help in the Domestic Science department and hope she and her husband will be happy in their new home in the North of England. At such short notice we were fortunate in being able to replace her by an old friend, Mrs. Charlton.

At the last assembly of term the Head Girl presented Mr. Roberts with a gift from the School as a token of our good wishes on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Rosa Wheeler. We hope they will find much happiness in their new life.

After a visit to Russia Miss Gandy has taken up the teaching post that she was hoping for when she left us last summer. She is at Loreto Convent School, Calcutta, where she has already successfully introduced a speech contest like our own.

Congratulations must go to Paul Evolveigh on gaining a place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and to Brian Hamber on playing regularly for the Hampshire Schools XI.

Though the various ailments of last term brought a total of about 100 absentees for some time, we were fortunate in escaping the near epidemic conditions of some schools.

In this year's Tertiusson Verse Speaking Contest the School was well represented in the finals, though we gained only one success among the prize-winners, Jane Welburn being third in the senior section. First place in both sections went to Cowes Secondary School. The adjudicator, Mr. Robert Gittings, a well known writer and critic, was full of praise for the standard achieved and also for the choice of poems, Tertiusson's and others, made by the competitors.

Just as a year ago we welcomed visitors from the United States, on February 11th we had more visitors, this time from the Argentine, under the scheme known as the Experiment in International Living. Their stay on the island was arranged by Mr. Williams, father of Ian and Julia, and Leader of Cowes Youth Club.

On February 23rd a party of Fifth and Sixth Formers went to the University Theatre at Southampton to see a performance in French of de Musset's "On ne badine pas avec l'amour."

Members of the Upper School have had the opportunity recently of hearing talks by several distinguished speakers to whom we owe a great deal for their kindness in coming and the interest they aroused. On December 15th Mr. W. A. Cragg, Chief Experimental Engineer at Westlands (Saunders-Roe Division), gave a most lucid illustrated talk on the Hovercraft, following it by letting his audience, from several schools, see a small working model put through its paces on the nearest football pitch. On January 27th we welcomed Canon Dammers, who is the Canon Residentiary in charge of all education work at Coventry Cathedral. Later in the term the area secretary of the Royal Institute of Chemistry arranged the first of the Institute's lectures for schools to be given on the island, when Professor G. J. Hills, of Southampton University, spoke on the subject of "The Structure of Matter."

In a recent issue a correspondent bewailed the lack of School spirit. He may have felt justified in his lament, but he and others ought in fairness to notice (he may even have taken part in) the many ways in which members of the School have been willing to give time, effort, enthusiasm, and money to causes which benefit others or the School.

The last four months have provided several instances of this, of which any school could be proud. Before Christmas more than £120 was raised to help 16 deserving causes, Island, national, and international. Under Mr. Rice's supervision many Sixth Formers are making a great business success of the Tuck Shop. In the Art Department the skill of our printers has provided tickets and programmes for "Becket," "The Gondoliers," the Old Students' dinner menu cards, and cards for the Commonwealth Conference. Finally, the 1st XI and the 1st XV and their helpers arranged the wonderfully successful dance on March 11th; from its profits of nearly £30, those and other teams will gain sets of new shirts. Though we say it ourselves, a fine record!

EXAM. RESULTS

The following successes have been gained by pupils during the January G.C.E. examinations:—

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

A LEVEL RESULTS—

Vida Farrow—English literature*: French.
Geoffrey Hirst—Physics (Mathematics).
Avel Jones—(French). (German).

O LEVEL RESULTS—

Ann Backshall, Jennifer Baker, Felicity Bartlett, Margaret Campbell, Janet Capps, Penelope Channer, Jane Charleston, D. Charman, Ruth Collett, S. Cotton, Elizabeth Davey, A. Emmett, R. Fenton, Carole German, Marilyn Gerritt, E. Goldsbrough, Pamela Good, Mary Harrington, T. Hoare, P. Hurden, Sheila Jackson, Ann Kern, P. Kent, Gillian Langford, B. McFadyen, A. Meiklejohn, C. Moody, Joan Morrill, J. Newsham, Patricia Oakham, C. Parker, G. Peters, G. Pike, Anne Rendle, Rosemary Rooks, A. Self, N. Smith, Nona Smith, G. Sullivan, Sarah Thicker, B. Thistleton, V. Warder, Carol Wray.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

O LEVEL—

B. Bean, N. Bennett, Gwyneth Bolden, Penelope Charlton, J. Droper, Elaine Hinchcliffe, C. Hunter, A. McCallum, M. Terry, R. Trevett.

(Brackets indicate O Level Pass in A Level subject).

THE SIXTH FORM CONFERENCE

The first of this year's Sixth Form Conferences took place on Wednesday 2nd March in the School. It was organised by the Commonwealth Institute in London and was attended by Lower Sixth Formers from all over the Island.

The conference, entitled "Britain, the Commonwealth, and Europe," was introduced by Mrs. Joan Russell, the education officer for the Commonwealth Institute. This was followed by a well-balanced and politically unbiased talk from Mr. George Cunningham, the Commonwealth Officer at Labour Party headquarters. It was called "World Power or European State?" and in it Mr. Cunningham described Britain's place in the Commonwealth and discussed points for and against her entry into Europe. After a short coffee break a talk entitled "Need there be a choice?" was given by Dr. Derek Ingram, the deputy editor of the "Daily Mail." This was also well done and Dr. Ingram did very well to follow up on points already mentioned by Mr. Cunningham.

There then followed an hour of group discussion in which the whole topic was debated by groups of about 16 persons. Each group was asked to prepare one or two questions to put to the speakers and after the lunch interval an open forum was held for this purpose. The questions were answered very efficiently by both speakers and from their nature it was possible to see that a lot of lively discussion had gone into their formation.

On the whole the conference was very well organised and all its participants benefited greatly from it.

L. IVINA.

FARADAY LECTURE, 1966

This year the Faraday Lecture, entitled "Computers, Control and Automation," was given by Professor P. D. Hall. On Tuesday February 8th a party of Sixth Formers attended the lecture, which was given in Southampton Guildhall. Unfortunately, our party arrived half an hour late owing to the inefficiency of Red Funnel steamers!

Professor Hall outlined the progress of computers since the 1940s, when serious research was begun. He explained the methods of feeding in information, programming the computers, and processing the data produced by them. At present there is no satisfactory method for processing the data as soon as it is given, although great advances have been made in the time a computer requires to conduct an operation. A great handicap is the transposition of data into a form recognizable by the human brain.

He used a computer and various demonstration models as well as a film showing many types of old and modern computers, their construction, and their use in the control of industrial processes, the film being enlivened by a few light-hearted applications of computers.

E.A.T.

FOOTBALL REPORTS

1st ELEVEN

The six-a-side tournament held at Southampton Sports Centre proved to be the main event of this term. The weather was fine, which made a pleasant change from previous years, although the condition of the pitches still left much to be desired. In the preliminary round the "A" team beat Iichen Grammar "A" team convincingly by 14 points to one, Powell scoring two goals and Ridett one.

In the following round, however, the "A" team were narrowly, and somewhat undeservedly, beaten five points to four by Salesian "B" team. Powell also scored in this game. Our "B" team put up a fine fight against St. Mary's "A" team in the first round, but were eventually beaten 15 points to nine despite gallant goalkeeping by John "The Cat" Newsnam. Wray and Sullivan both scored in this game. Once again it was shown that a successful team must be extremely fit to progress in this competition. Future teams would also be well advised to practise the techniques of six-a-side football well before the date of the actual competition. Nevertheless, the day was very enjoyable and well worth while.

The remainder of our fixture list contained only two games, both against Sandown Grammar. For these games the team reverted to a near-orthodox style and this was a success. The away game provided a 2-2 draw, Cotton scoring both goals, and but for defensive mistakes the result would have deservedly favoured us. The return was played in atrocious conditions on the notorious Carisbrooke Grammar playing field, and ably refereed by Mr. Hallett, making a welcome return to football refereeing after some years. The team adapted themselves very well to the conditions and, with the forward line functioning better than any other time this season, we won 3-0. This was the most decisive victory gained over Sandown Grammar for many years, and provided a fitting end to the season.

Goal scorers: Powell 5, Cotton 4, Ridett 3, Harden 2, Sullivan 2, Butler 2, Wray 1.

Team members: Butler, Greenwood, Baldwin, Charman, Emmitt, Tarry (M.), Wray, Newsnam, Ridett, Cotton, Harden, Sullivan, Powell, Hunter, Tarry (R.), Sibbick.

UNDER 16 ELEVEN

After a poor start to the season, owing to injuries rather than apathy, the team has improved since Christmas and has not lost a game. We have won, as a result of our improved form, the Bagwell Trophy for Under 16 XI Island school teams.

Results (Since Christmas):—

	Forme	Result
Friendly v. Fairway	Home Won	3-1

Bagwell Trophy—

	Forme	Result
1st Round v. Priory	Home Won	3-2
Semi-final v. West Wight	Away Won	5-2
Final v. Sandown	Newport Won	9-2

Scorers: Powell 9, Sibbick 3, Pearson 2, Pitman 2, Doherty 2.

Team from: Sibbick, Powell, Tarry, Hayward, Elson, Pearson, Wicooth, Pitman, Trowbridge, Clifton, Doherty, Lovelace.

Stratton (Captain)

INTERMEDIATE COLTS

This team has had a varied season, but started off very well by beating Cowes, the Cup and League holder, by 3-1. The Colts have the ability to win both of these trophies, but will not do so unless they learn to play as a team and not as individuals as they have done in the last two matches.

Results:—

v. Priory	Home 2-4, Away 1-6.
v. Ryde County	Home 2-4, Away 5-2.
v. Bishop Lovett	Home 3-2, Away 1-2.
v. Cowes	Home 3-1, Away 1-1.
v. West Wight (1st round Cup)	Won 4-2.
v. Sandown (Semi-final)	Lost 4-2.
v. St. John's (friendly)	Away, won 5-2.

The team has been chosen from Richards, Jones Hartnell, Power, Dennis, Butt, Chick, Woods, Lock, Spencer, Larby, Scott, McFadyen, Parry, Hacker.

JUNIOR COLTS

This year, in the Cup, we beat Ryde County 6-2 and Sandown 2-1 to reach the final. This was played at Westwood Park on April 4th, in which we drew with Cowes 1-1 after extra time, with Warder scoring for Carisbrooke in the first half.

In the League we have completed all of our fixtures and drawn on points with Cowes. This replay was played on Easter Saturday at 11 a.m. and resulted in a 1-1 draw.

G. WARDER AND S. JOLLIFFE

CROSS COUNTRY

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1st Years	1	McGregor (F)	2nd Years	1	Warder (M)
	2	Pagnam (W)		2	Adams (F)
	3	Langley (O)		3	Munt (O)
	4	Buckler (W)		4	Jones (O)
	5	Wavell (O)		5	Bloomfield (O)

3rd Years 1 Woodmore (W)
2 McFadyen (O)
3 Scott (O)
4 Farrington (W)
5 Tibury (W)

5th Years 1 Tarry (F)
2 Cannell (F)
3 Powell (F)
4 Sibbick (F)
5 Taylor (O)

4th Years 1 Ball (M)
2 Wade (M)
3 Jones (O)
4 Baker (W)
5 Mair (F)

6th Years 1 Ridett (M)
2 Hindley (O)
3 Tarry (F)
4 Haznam (O)
5 McFadyen (O)

HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY, 1966

	F.		M.		G.		W.		Total Runners
	Position	Points	Position	Points	Position	Points	Position	Points	
1st Yrs.	1 & 3	20	4	10	2	20	1	25	35
2nd Yrs.	2	17½	2	22½	1	25	4	10	39
3rd Yrs.	4	10	3	15	2 & 3	25	3	22	43
4th Yrs.	3	15	1	25	4	10	2 & 3	25	33
5th Yrs.	1 & 3	20	4	10	2	20	2	15	43
6th Yrs.	2	20	3	15	1 & 3	30	4	10	33
		112½		97½		130		110	

RESULT 1st—Osborne
2nd—Farrington
3rd—Wolverton
4th—Mortinstone

NETBALL REPORT

Mainly owing to the bad weather little netball has been played this term. The senior "A" and "B" teams have had only one match each—against Sandown. Although the Junior teams have not had much success, they should not be discouraged. The Intermediate "A" team must be congratulated on winning the league and doing so well in the Island Tournament. On behalf of all the teams, I would like to thank Mrs. Mallin for her keen interest and support of our matches.

Next term netball colours will be awarded to the following:—

FULL COLOURS: Avril Jones, Ann Chiverton.

HALF COLOURS: Carol German, Lesley Ross.

JUNIOR COLOURS: Sandra Burnett, Jill Farley, Diana Jackson, Sandra Wallace, Ann Winsor, Jane Chivers, Sheila Chetwood, Margaret Clifton, Jill Sheppard.

BASKETBALL REPORT

Owing to a key player being absent from three matches the team did not meet with the success it deserved. This is shown by the fact that the only match in which we were at full strength ended in the most resounding victory of the season against Saro Sports "A," who have a strong side, by a score of 74-64, in which M. Tarry scored 26 points and S. Cotton scored 20 points. By its sporting behaviour in victory and defeat the players have ably upheld the good name of the School.

The team has practised with enthusiasm under the guiding hand of Mr. Noyes, whose words of encouragement inspired the team to greater efforts. We would like to thank him for his continued and untiring interest.

Team: A. Ridett, M. McCallum, S. Cotton; M. Tarry, V. Warden.
Substitutes: P. Harden, M. Nolan, R. Brooks.

RESULTS:—

v. Saro Sports "A"	Won	74.64
v. Priory	Lost	34.42
v. Priory	Won	42.35
v. Sandown	Lost	28.34

S. COTTON,
A. RIDETT

1st XV RUGBY REPORT

On the whole this season has seen a better standard of Rugby in the 1st XV, but nevertheless only five matches have been won. This lack of victories is due mainly to the consistent inability to penetrate the opposition's defences when given a good chance. The only way to overcome this is for the players to take an interest in all Rugby, and to learn about the arts and skills of the game by watching, rather than just playing, every Saturday for the 1st XV.

This term saw only one match before half-term (due to the state of the pitches). This was against Highbury Technical College in atrocious conditions, but the School forwards seemed to thrive in the mud and won the game for us by a try and two penalty goals to nil. The second half of the term brought six games, the most memorable of these being against the Hurricanes "A." Although the final score doesn't suggest it, this game should have been won—a few poor tackles and the inability to score, when we had a good chance, were our faults.

It has been pleasing to see members of the Lower School take an interest in Rugby this season, with Andrew Gibbs (4th year) playing regularly in the first team and Edward Wilson (third year) playing occasionally.

The team was very proud, when in our last game all 15 players were wearing School Rugby shirts. This must surely be a record for the C.G.R.F.C.!

THIS TERM'S RESULTS:—

Opponents	Venue	Pts. For	Pts. Against
Highbury Technical College	Home	9	0
Highbury Technical College	Away	0	11
Harricans' "A"	Away	8	23
Bonbridge	Away	3	8
Bridgwater (Gosport)	Away	0	11
Privy Boys'	Home	6	3

Try Scores: Jape 7, Steens 5, Bean 2, Cooper 2, Bell, Green, Warden, Peters, Arkless 1 each.

BOYS' HOCKEY

Out of a total of 13 matches arranged, eight were cancelled because of bad weather, four were lost, and one was won. We seem to play much better in the second half than in the first, when confidence has been gained.

If the boys' hockey could be set up as an official School activity, being started at the latest in the Fifth Form, we would stand a better chance of winning.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Mullins, Mr. Rawlins, Mr. Wingham, and Mr. Davies for help and advice, and the girls who put up with our dangerous play at the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday practices.

P. Ross.

HOCKEY REPORT

Owing to a long spell of bad weather earlier in the term many matches had to be cancelled, and as a result the only matches played by our 1st XI outside School were those provided by the Hampshire Schools' Hockey Tournament, in which two teams were entered. After a week of intensive circuit training, carried out reluctantly by most, the 1st XI did well to draw three of its four matches.

A 1st XI match v. the boys' hockey team was arranged at very short notice following a cancellation by Southampton University, and resulted in a 1-0 win for our boys.

Two teams, the U.16 XI and the U.15 XI, took part in the Island Schools' Hockey Tournament at Fairway, and the latter played very well to reach the semi-final, in which they were beaten very narrowly by Sandown Grammar "A" team.

Other matches played this term included the two 2nd year teams and a 1st year team, all against Ryde. Although all three teams suffered heavy defeats, we hope that they will not be too discouraged by the results, for the matches provided them with valuable practice.

Perhaps the most enjoyable, and certainly the best supported, match of the term was that between the Staff and the School. Apart from a few cuts and bruises, no serious injuries were sustained and the

match ended in a 2-0 win for the Staff. However, we feel sure that the secret of their success lies with the umpire, who insists on using strange new rules.

Nona Smith

Congratulations to the following girls who have been awarded hockey colours this season:—

FULL COLOURS: Nona Smith, Pauline Jackson, Janet Yates, Elizabeth Rose.

HALF COLOURS: Avril Jones.

JUNIOR COLOURS: Sandra Bennett, Jill Farley, Diana Jackson, Mary Scott, Ann Winsor.

RESULTS:—

1st VI	v. Boys' Hockey Team	Lost	1-0
	v. Staff	Lost	2-0

HAMPSHIRE TOURNAMENT

v. Portsmouth Northern	Draw	0-0
v. Andover	Lost	1-0
v. Eggesford	Draw	0-0
v. Itchen	Draw	1-1

2nd XI	v. Cowes	Lost	1-1
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U.16 XI	v. Ryde Convent	Won	4-0
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ISLAND HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

v. Bishop Lovell	Draw	0-0
v. Cowes	Draw	0-0
v. Sandown Grammar	Lost	2-0

U.15 XI

ISLAND HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

v. Ryde Convent	Won	4-0
v. Fairway	Won	1-0
v. Sandown B	Won	1-0
v. Sandown A (Semi-final)	Lost	1-0

2nd Year A	v. Ryde	Lost	7-0
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2nd Year B	v. Ryde	Lost	6-0
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1st Year Team	v. Ryde	Lost	13-0
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HOUSE RESULTS, MARCH, 1966

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Hockey	M.	F.	W.	O.
Netball	O.	F.	M.	W.
Soccer	F.	M.	W.	O.
Cross Country	O.	F.	W.	M.
Rugby	O.	M.	W.	F.

GAMES COLOURS

HOCKEY

Full: Nona Smith, Pauline Jackson, Janet Yates, Elizabeth Rose.

Half: Avril Jones.

JUNIOR: Sandra Bennett, Jill Farley, Diana Jackson, Mary Scott, Anne Winsor.

NETBALL

Full: Ann Chiverson, Avril Jones.

Half: Cassie German, Lesley Rossi.

JUNIOR: Sandra Bennett, Jill Farley, Diana Jackson, Sandra Wallace, Anne Winsor, Jane Chivers, Sheila Chetwood, Margaret Clifton, Jill Shepperd.

CROSS COUNTRY

Full: A. Ridett, C. Hindley.

Half: M. Tarry, W. Hannam, B. McFadyen, R. Tarry, P. Cannell, M. Powell.

JUNIOR: M. Ball, J. Wade, A. Jones, R. Woodmore, I. McFadyen, K. Scott, M. Winder, A. Adams, S. Mann.

SOCCER

Full: D. Charnan, A. Ridett, P. Harden, A. Emmett.

Half: D. Baldwin, M. Tarry, J. Newnham, I. Sibbick, M. Powell, R. Tarry.

JUNIOR: B. Humber, M. Ball, D. Jones, P. Mabey, S. Jolliffe, W. Dudge.

RUGBY

Full: A. Juge, A. Horsburgh, D. Simms, G. Peters.

Half: P. Harrigan, J. Arkless, P. Curry.

JUNIOR: A. Gibbs.

"THE GONDOLIERS"

The last week in March saw the production of the fourth work in the series of School operas: this being Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers." As in the previous cases, the production brought immense pleasure to all those who took part, and especially to members of the School choir.

As usual, a lot of work went into preparing the production and in this respect the efforts of Mr. Matthews and Mr. Price, the co-producers, were highly praiseworthy, in that they managed to inspire that drive which leads itself to really polished performances. Indeed, Mr. Matthews's effort at the first dress rehearsal was bracing (as can be seen in all the photographs—middle foreground).

The second dress rehearsal was attended by a patient audience from Whitcroft Hospital and was, in effect, a first performance. This resulted in the first real performance going extremely well, although the water on stage was only imitation. Thursday's performance seemed to be dogged by mishap right from the start. The wire controlling the main curtain snapped (someone was heard to be singing "wire we waiting" and the opening curtain was hastily pulled open the remaining distance by hand. Then part-way through the first act there was a total black-out—still, the show did go on, if only for a few seconds. Fortunately, power was soon restored. The permanent "sunset" sky was also not intended; that was due to failure of a particular set of lights. Then, to cap it all, the curtain wire broke again during the final curtain, and the cast had to leave the stage with the curtains only half closed. All this, however, was more than adequately compensated by Friday's performance, which was thoroughly enjoyable and entirely justified the months of practice.

Our thanks go to the splendid orchestra, which, although it consisted of people mainly outside the School, did not fail to enter into the spirit of the production.

A deep sense of achievement was felt by all and it was pleasing to see that the team spirit, which such performances so often induce, was clearly apparent. To all those who took part and in any way helped to make the production a success, we hope that the satisfaction gained from its performance was ample reward for all their splendid efforts.

RICHARD IVENS, L.6

Cast (Principals)

Duke of Plaza-Toro, Jeremy Cooper; Luis (his attendant), Kenneth Fraser; Don Alhambra Bolero, Timothy Dumper; Marco Palmieri, Mr. P. Price; Giuseppe Palmieri, Richard Ivens; Antonio, Mr. J. Desham; Francesco, Anthony Green; Giorgio, Albert Loon; Annibale, Martin Donougho; Duchess of Plaza-Toro, Jennifer Woodford; Casilda (her daughter), Gillian Langford; Giuseppa, Brenda Luckey; Tessa, Irene Betshers; Flaminia, Nola Gentle; Vittoria, Mary Dudgeon; Giulia, Catherine Cawte; Inez (the King's Foster Mother), Margaret Hadfield; Page, Richard Buckler.

POETRY AND DRAMA SOCIETY

This term the Society presented, as "an experiment in theatre," excerpts from Jean Anouilh's plays "Antigone," "Time Remembered," and "Becket." Both performances were well received by small but enthusiastic audiences. Much of the success of the production was due to the efforts of Miss Perkins, whose work ranged from translating "Becket" to making costumes.

A poetry-reading session was arranged later in the term, but, unfortunately, it had to be cancelled. We hope to start meetings again soon.

P. EVILLIOTT, Secretary.

AN EVENING OF ANOUILH

Earlier this term the Poetry and Drama Society presented on two evenings excerpts from Jean Anouilh's plays "Antigone," "Time Remembered," and "Becket." Both performances were successful, even though the audiences were small, especially on the first night. Miss Perkins, the producer, also translated "Becket," helped with make-up, costumes, painting scenery, and performed many other tasks. All this was done while suffering from a sprained ankle, the result of a musical interlude in a Saturday morning rehearsal! Everyone concerned had a great time, both during the performances and at the party afterwards.

CAST

"ANTIGONE"—Antigone, Ann Rendie; Nurse, Jean Healey; Ismene, Jane Charleston; Haemon, Geoffrey Peters.

"TIME REMEMBERED"—Amada, Jess Way; The Duchess of Du Pout-au-Bronn, Nola Gentle; Lord Hocher, Jeremy Cooper; Butler, Richard Ivens; Waiters, Martin Donougho, Paul Evilligh, William McComb, Hugo Haig-Thomas.

"BECKET"—Messenger, Jeremy Boyland; King Henry II, David Machell; Thomas Becket, Jeremy Cooper; Page to Henry, Charles Cawley; Young Queen, Mary Dodgson; Queen Mother, Catherine Cowie; The Princes, Simon Ivens, Timothy Jupp; Secretary to the Archbishop, Martin Donougho; Gilbert Folkes, Bishop of London, Paul Evilligh; Monks, Richard Feston, William McComb; Little Monk, Alec Adams; Bishop of Oxford, John Ridge; Bishop of York, Kenneth Fraser; Louis, King of the French, Geoffrey Hurst; Barons, Geoffrey Peters, Hugo Haig-Thomas; Page to Louis, Joe Pagnam; Count of Arundel, Graham Weller; The Pope, Philip Row; Cardinal Zambelli, Martin Davis.

Prompters, Margaret Haytan, Julia Scott; costumes, Miss Perkins, Maureen Mackintosh, Julia Scott and Friends; make-up, Miss Perkins, Miss Preece, Jennifer Lee, Maureen Mackintosh, Eleanor Williams and cast; set, Art and Woodwork Departments; lighting, Mr. Denham, G. Williams; stage manager, J. Holman; stage crew, J. Darling, E. Goldsborough, C. Moody.

Incidental music composed by D. Machell and performed by J. Cooper, M. Donougho, T. Duxper, R. Feston, K. Fraser, A. Green, R. Ivens, A. Lonn, J. Smart, R. Spencer.

The music was recorded by R. Ivens at St. Mary's Church, Carbrook.

DEBATING SOCIETY REPORT

This term has been dominated by the School Mock Election, run by the Debating Society. Three weeks of strenuous campaigning and speeches to packed houses resulted in A. Meiklejohn, Con., being elected with 288 votes and M. Davis, Lab., 250 votes, and G. Peters, Lib., 144 votes.

The debates of the term have been few, but well attended and very interesting. A pupil from Kerry was defeated in his support for Rhodesia's Mr. Smith, and two School Radicals gained little support for their plans for Communism.

We hope to emulate this very successful term next year, though, unfortunately, we shall no longer have the keen support of Mr. Roberts.

A.J.M.

THE MOCK ELECTION, 1966

On Thursday 31st of March the School voted in the Mock Election; this was the culmination of a month of electioneering in the School as well as in the country as a whole.

The election date was announced on the last day of February and almost immediately five possible candidates were suggested. At first there were Conservative, Liberal, Meritocratic, Communist, and independent Socialist candidates but, ironically, nobody at that time was willing to champion the cause of the ruling Government. When the Nomination Day, March 11th, came the more radical factions had dropped out, leaving only one representative from each of the three major parties. One meeting was held to decide such matters as nomination fees, election expenses, types of literature, and the timetable for the future meetings.

To try to keep some similarity between this and a normal election every pupil was given a vote and invited to attend election meetings to listen to the speakers and also to question them on any points. Three meetings were arranged; in each one candidate acted as chairman whilst the others outlined policy and answered questions.

Each meeting was lively, to say the least, and there were many sensible questions. It was noted that attendances increased progressively at each meeting and the quality of the heckling deteriorated.

One meeting was held on the day before polling day, but, unfortunately, the questions were not as good, nor the atmosphere as electric, probably because everything of importance had been dealt with and the time and place of the meeting was not ideal.

Most of those who attended the pre-election meetings were from the Fifth and Sixth Forms, and it was felt that some form of meeting attended by the whole School would have been useful.

Polling was by secret ballot at registration on polling day and the result was declared at 11.15 a.m. by the Returning Officer (Pauline Jackson).

A. MIDDLETON (Conservative)	288—42.3%
M. DAVIS (Labour)	249—36.6%
G. PETERS (Liberal)	144—21.2%

Conservative majority 39.

The Conservative candidate won in the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Forms. The Labour candidate won in the 3rd Form and the Liberal in the Upper Sixth Form.

No one person deserves more praise than another for the smooth running of this campaign and election, and it goes without saying that everybody connected with it has enjoyed every minute. It has provided an admirable excuse for some fine speech making and given much experience of electioneering to many people, and this is of even greater importance than the result itself.

PHILIP F. ROW, U.Via

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Last term the Society was able to arrange three meetings. The first one took the form of a talk by Mr. Rawlins on mountain vegetation. The talk was mainly concerned with the different zones of vegetation types found in mountainous areas, and was well illustrated by slides taken on previous School field trips. Mr. Planadin, with the aid of large-scale maps and aerial photographs, gave us a detailed account of the Fraser Valley and the City of Vancouver. The final meeting of the term heard an illustrated talk from Mr. Way on his visit to Egypt. Next term the committee hope to organise a one-day Field Trip to study the South Dorset coast. The committee would like to thank Mr. Davies and the other geography teachers for their support and interest in the Society.

A. HENNING

HISTORY SOCIETY

In a very busy term the History Society had only one meeting, which was held jointly with the Geographical Society. Mr. Way gave a most interesting talk on Egypt and illustrated it with slides.

We hope that the Society will continue this term under the guidance of Mr. Roberts.

PAULINE JACKSON (Secretary)

THE MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The proposed extensions to lay-out are now well in hand, with a view to completion in time for the School Fete. Much of the work is in the hands of the junior members, and will become increasingly so during the summer term. The membership of the Club has increased and there can be no fears for its continuity in forthcoming years. Once again our thanks are due to Mr. Ship for his encouragement.

S. R. LAW, U.6b (President)

PRINTERS' UNION REPORT

Although this has been a short term, it has been particularly eventful. We have seen many innovations, the chief of which has been the introduction of girls into the Union.

During the annual clearing up and reorganisation of the printing room a screen printing outfit was discovered. This increases the range of our work, enabling large posters and illustrations to be made in quantity.

This term saw our biggest project, the printing of 1850 tickets for "The Gondoliers." We also produced some menus for the Old Students' Dinner. We were pleased at the improvement in the quality of the menus, after last year's poor effort.

We now feel that our potential is limited by the range and poor quality of the type.

We would like, once more, to thank Mr. Box, to whom we are greatly indebted for his aid and useful criticism. Our gratitude is also due to Mr. Pavey for his help in maintaining the press in a usable condition.

P. ROW,
M. HUSA

RADIO AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENT EXCHANGE

Under the supervision of Mr. Deaham a Radio and Electronic Components Exchange has been started, where members of the School can display lots of components and equipment which they wish to buy, sell, or borrow. Items for sale should be priced, and all lists submitted to Mr. Deaham or Tennant (L.6c), when they will be displayed on a special notice board in the Physics Prep. Room, Room 28.

Anyone who possesses data on current values, transistors, or equipment which he would be prepared to loan out for short periods is also invited to contact Tennant to arrange a technical "library."

If successful, and if given sufficient support, this scheme could be the basis of a School Radio Society, with our own amateur transmitting station.

ISLE OF WIGHT JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

During the past 18 months my fellow committee members (Jeremy Cooper for the first 12 months and subsequently Nicholas Smith) and myself have attended several meetings of the committee. The main result of these meetings has been the organisation of the 1965 and 1966 Island Schools' Road Safety Quizzes. We all feel that it is a pity that this School does not provide a senior team to offer some competition to Sandown Grammar School. Although the committee has achieved little more that is visibly evident than the printing of the new road safety signs on the back of School exercise books, we all feel that we have gained a deeper understanding of the problems as well as the importance of teaching road safety.

P. Ross.

SIXTH FORM OPINION POLL

For some reason opinion polls have never before been published in our School magazine, though the idea is not new. If more are conducted in the future School opinion over the years can be compared. Many of the questions below have been "borrowed" from other magazines, and they cover a wide range of subjects. Forty per cent. of all Sixth Formers took part.

(1)—WHAT IS WRONG WITH SCHOOL LIFE AND WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

Many groins and grouses were in evidence. Often the petty irritations were criticised, while the problem was answered generally and articulately by only a few.

The obvious general comment was the lack of School and House spirit. Many specific failures were blamed on this fault; it was felt that the School had not enough "go," nor did it provide an adequate environment for all that we (or some of us) would wish to do. The scanty and half-heartedness of activities, from the games field to clubs and societies, was criticised. The School is isolated from society when it should be its focus. The American system is an example of a more integrated school, and, furthermore, School games are played with vigour.

"More individuality" was another cry. The Sixth Form is too uniform, without being united. One person felt that there was not enough Sixth Form social life.

Another sore point is the teacher-pupil relationship; people thought it too formal for the Sixth Form, with insufficient co-operation and mutual respect.

The most popular grouse was about Sixth Form privileges. Freedom from petty rules and restrictions was called for, such as complete freedom in the dinner hour. Some wanted a Sixth Form common room,

and some a smoking room. School uniform was unpopular among the girls, and they suggested various degrees of reform.

Many in the Lower Sixth said that general studies are a waste of time. This is sad, especially since they are presumably designed to broaden the mind. Private study is continued in farcical conditions; everybody knows this, but conditions get worse if anything. Many resented compulsory PE. They were not unchallenged, however, for some hardy people felt that games options are too soft and undignified.

Many other views were expressed. There is a lack of discipline; the School is too regimented. We should start School earlier, say at 8 a.m.; we should start later, especially on Monday mornings. The prefect system is unfair to all. The tuck shop should be abolished (from a prefect). Classes are too large. The School funds are used badly.

Some points come up several times, but no special importance can be given them here; each view is placed as far as possible in the context of other views.

2—(a) ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS OR COMPREHENSIVES?

Some people said that they favoured both systems (which explains the total of 106%), and some qualified this by saying that comprehensives were more desirable in urban areas.

Grammar	Comprehensive
61%	45%

(b) WOULD YOU RATHER BE IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL?

Yes	No
14%	83%

(c) ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF MIXED SCHOOLS?

Yes	No
100%	0%

No comment!

(d) ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF SIXTH FORM COLLEGES?

Perhaps this is a less well-known subject, but it seems that a majority would be in favour of a more independent Sixth Form.

Yes	No
64%	32%

3—DID YOU COME FROM A SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL?

Yes	No
21%	79%

The next batch of political questions was asked before the election. Though fever will have died down by the time the magazine is published, perhaps the results are still of interest.

4—WHICH PARTY WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal
U.6 Boys	21%	26%	53%
U.6 Girls	37.5%	37.5%	25%
Total	26%	30%	44%
L.6 Boys	18%	65%	6%
L.6 Girls	61%	18%	23%
Total	43%	35%	13%
Overall Total	35%	33%	26%

Compare this with the actual percentages of our School Election (Sixth Form):—

Tory	38%	Labour	38%	Liberal	24%
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Liberals are strong in the Upper Sixth Boys, Labour among the Lower Sixth Boys, and the Girls are (naturally?) Conservative. Perhaps groups assume a particular political allegiance because they are groups.

5—WHICH PARTY WILL WIN?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal
	14%	86%	0%

6—(a) WHAT AGE SHOULD PEOPLE GET THE VOTE?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
18	21%	57%	65%	42%
21	75%	43%	35%	53%

(b) WOULD YOU VOTE IF YOU COULD?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	79%	81%	100%	82%
No	21%	14%	0%	13%

Liberals are not apathetic anyway.

(c) SHOULD EVERYONE'S VOTE BE OF VALUE?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	87%	81%	94%	85%
No	13%	14%	6%	11%

7—DO YOU SUPPORT:—

(a) NATIONALISATION OF STEEL?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	8%	81%	6%	30%
No	92%	19%	94%	67%

(b) IMMIGRATION CONTROL?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	100%	86%	88%	89%
No	0%	14%	12%	8%

(c) LEGISLATION ON THE TRADE UNIONS?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	83%	67%	77%	73%
No	0%	33%	18%	15%

Many had little idea of what to do, but felt it should be done. Suggested measures ranged from reducing their power and increasing Government control, stopping wild-cat strikes, bringing management and union closer (how?), reducing their number, anything proposed by Mr. Heath, to the eloquent "Abolish them!"

(d) DISARMAMENT?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	33%	62%	53%	47%
No	63%	38%	41%	45%

(e) ADMISSION OF CHINA TO U.N.?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	67%	81%	71%	68%
No	33%	19%	18%	24%

(f) BRITISH DISASSOCIATION FROM OR DENUNCIATION OF AMERICAN POLICY IN VIETNAM?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	42%	63%	39%	52%
No	58%	33%	35%	41%

The "doves" outnumber the "hawks."

(g) COMMITMENT EAST OF SUEZ?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	50%	33%	35%	40%
No	21%	67%	59%	45%

(h) ABOLITION OF MONARCHY?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	4%	38%	29%	21%
No	96%	37%	71%	74%

Agreed bows from Tories, and from the others, too.

(i) USE OF FORCE IN RHODESIA?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	29%	57%	24%	35%
No	71%	43%	71%	61%

(j) RETURN OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS?

	Tory	Labour	Liberal	Total
Yes	54%	67%	82%	65%
No	42%	33%	12%	29%

8—(a) DO YOU WATCH PARTY POLITICAL BROADCASTS?

	Yes	No
Boys	86%	14%
Girls	77%	23%

(b) DO YOU ENJOY THEM?

	Yes	No	Comments
Boys	67%	33%	plus comments!
Girls	50%	47%	

9—(a) DO YOU KNOW HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKS?

Perhaps an unfair question because it asks for a judgment to be made on whether one's knowledge is enough.

Yes	No
45%	55%

(b) DO YOU CARE?

Yes	No
41%	57%

An inference can be drawn: provincialism is a dirty word to-day, and perhaps this result is an indication of indifference to something which concerns us.

10—(a) HOW MUCH POCKET MONEY PER WEEK DO YOU GET?

U.6	10/-
L.6	15/-

This is an odd result: obviously children are getting more and more spoilt! Amounts received varied from 5/- to 45/-.

(b) IS THIS ADEQUATE?

Yes	No
60%	33%

(c) HOW IS IT SPENT?

A few resented interference with their personal affairs, but those who answered cited "entertainments," books, petrol, clothes, cosmetics, girls, bus fares, cigarettes, and drink in that order of importance.

11—ARE YOU SUBJECT TO TOO MUCH PARENTAL CONTROL?

	Yes	No
U.6	8%	35%
L.6	20%	80%

It seems we become more docile with age, or else the parents of the Lower Sixth really are tyrannical.

12—HOW MANY EVENINGS OUT DO YOU HAVE PER WEEK?

	0-2	3-4	5-7
U.6	56%	24%	0%
L.6	63%	15%	8%

We are a conscientious lot. On balance it seems the boys go out more often than the girls.

13—(a) HAVE MORALS DECLINED IN THIS COUNTRY?

	Yes	No
U.6 Girls	25%	72%
U.6 Boys	42%	47%
L.6 Girls	39%	39%
L.6 Boys	41%	41%

(b) HOW AND WHY?

Many people pointed out that the decline is exaggerated by the publicity given to it, the new sensationalism in newspapers, magazines, and television. This is true, but is surely not the whole story. Publicity is given to certain aspects of our lives only; while, in fact, much of morality is difficult to analyse, let alone publicise.

A few pointed out that morals have changed, but not necessarily declined. A good argument can be made that the morals of sex have indeed done just the opposite with the discarding of moral prudery and hypocrisy, and the adoption of a "healthy" honesty. However, this moral honesty, desirable in theory, may be accompanied in practice by a lack of responsibility.

Forgetting arguments about the breadth of the word "moral," most accepted that a decline has taken place. Various views on how and why were given. We have more time and more money nowadays, which has led to a middle-class complacency, a material satiation. There is less parental control. There has been a decline in respect for authority, and for the individual (which is surely one of the best definitions of "moral"). What we are seeing is the breakdown of a hypocritical society. The decline is a result of selfish British isolation; a lack of patriotism.

One view was that a flexible society accepts more. Another said the decline was due to the growth of a left intelligentsia. Although the tone of the last remark was contemptuous, it may be fairly true. It could be said that the liberalisation of our society and the introduction of flexibility and tolerance may not be wholly desirable in that it carries the seeds of society's own destruction. There is plenty of room for discussion here, but such things are rarely debated in the School magazine.

14—ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH SOCIETY?

	Yes	No
U.6	30%	70%
L.6	28%	58%

In each case girls are more easily satisfied than boys.

15—DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD OR A SUPREME ENTITY?

	Yes	No
U.6 Boys	37%	47%
U.6 Girls	50%	13%
L.6 Boys	41%	47%
L.6 Girls	87%	13%

It is hard to escape the conclusion that disillusionment increases as we grow older. Many "Don't Knows" in this uncomfortable subject excepting the Lower Sixth girls.

16—ARE YOU A PROTESTANT, ROMAN CATHOLIC, OR WHAT?

	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Atheist, Agnostic, etc.
U.6	46%	8%	43%
L.6	70%	5%	25%

17—DO YOU GO TO CHURCH (a) ONCE A WEEK, (b) ONCE A MONTH, (c) OR LESS REGULARLY?

	(a)	(b)	(c)
U.6	35%	8%	57%
L.6	23%	20%	57%

18—WHAT DO YOU THINK OF COMPULSORY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND WORSHIP IN SCHOOLS?

Almost all said that R.E. should be optional in the Sixth Form. For some reason, many who expressed a wish for optional R.E. had no objections to compulsory worship and said so.

Other opinions were that R.E. was too narrow; learning about Old Testament squabbles helps no one. The Jewish tradition has nothing in common with ours to-day, and little with our religious predicament. A few pointed out that Christianity provides a basis and a background for thought, against which you can rebel if you wish; any system which teaches ethics is better than none.

Nevertheless, many considered R.E. pure indoctrination and resented it as such. Some resented most the "corruption" of young, innocent minds; others described the subject itself as a bore or meaningless.

19—HAVE YOU ANY STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT RELIGION?

This question was badly phrased; but all took it to mean organised religion, which was what was intended.

Feelings against were strong. Hypocrisy in the Church was criticised. Churchgoing because of social habit or for "acceptability" was resented. Many vehement objectors called the Church corrupt being the "epitome of the masses"; it steals their money.

Others criticised the Church for its old-fashioned and narrow ideas, for its inability to change to meet new situations (and the Church no longer makes these new situations), and generally for its religious expression. Religion in our terms is merely an excuse for staid thought.

It seems to me unfair that these things can be criticised without an answer; perhaps this can be remedied in a later issue of the magazine.

20—(a) WHICH DAILY NEWSPAPERS DO YOU READ?

	U.6	L.6	Total % readership
Telegraph	27%	43%	36%
Mail	20%	25%	23%
Express	16%	25%	21%
Mirror	20%	13%	15%
Times	12%	8%	10%
Guardian	12%	8%	10%
Sketch	8%	8%	8%
Sun	0%	5%	3%

(b) WHICH SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS?

Express	26%	53%	42%
Times	38%	38%	38%
Observer	26%	13%	18%
People	12%	15%	14%
Mirror	12%	15%	14%
Telegraph	12%	15%	14%
News of the World	4%	3%	3%

(c) WHICH MAGAZINES?

The most popular was "Woman," with 21% of all Sixth Formers; then "New Statesman" (20%), "Honey" (17%), "Spectator" and "Economist" (12%), and "New Scientist" (7%).

21—WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMMES?

First was "The Man from Uncle" (41%); second was "Top of the Pops" (29%); third, equal, were "24 Hours" and "The Magic Roundabout" (18%); fifth was "Programs" (9%); sixth, equal, were "B.B.C.-3," and "Not Only . . . But Also" (8%).

22—HOW MUCH TV DO YOU WATCH PER WEEK?

	1-2	2-4	4-8	8-12	12+
U.6	4%	12%	30%	12%	19%
L.6	3%	8%	28%	33%	19%

23—DO YOU READ WEEKLY—If So, Whom?

	Yes	No
U.6	28%	65%
L.6	55%	38%
Girls	57%	33%
Boys	33%	67%

The Lower Sixth seems to have more interests, or else more time. Very often the excuse "No time" was raised. Girls were much superior to boys in this question.

Many, many authors were mentioned, among them Shelley, Fielding, Dickens, Shakespeare, Marlowe, Gide, Anouilh, Camus, Sartre, Greene, Amis, Paul Gallico, Orwell, Iris Murdoch, Mary McCarthy, Lawrence Durrell, Kafka, Dostoevsky, T. S. Eliot, P. G. Wodehouse, A. J. P. Taylor, D. H. Lawrence, Dylan Thomas, Steinbeck, Hemingway, and Pasternak. Since the choice of author presumably depends on more than a passing acquaintance, this speaks well for our specialist Sixth Form; but perhaps not well enough, considering some of the figures.

24—(a) DO YOU PREFER "SERIOUS" MUSIC TO "POP"?

Disregarding objections to the use of those two words, everyone knows what they mean.

	"Serious"	"Pop"
U. 6 Girls	13%	75%
U. 6 Boys	23%	21%
L. 6 Girls	13%	70%
L. 6 Boys	24%	76%

Upper Sixth Boys are a remarkably cultured lot!

(b) DO YOU FEEL THAT EITHER IS BEING PUSHED ON YOU?

	Yes	No	
U. 6 Girls	43%	57%	Mostly "Pop"
U. 6 Boys	29%	47%	
L. 6 Girls	0%	100%	
L. 6 Boys	18%	82%	

25—DO YOU ADMIT TO HAVING A SLIGHT PREJUDICE AGAINST COLOURED PEOPLE?

Yes	No
32%	44%

Not really surprising considering country-wide polls. Very few had a strong prejudice. Most said that their prejudice extended to being self-conscious if a coloured person was present and being uncomfortable; they blamed this on the publicity given to the problem and the fact we meet so few coloured people. One or two said that they would not go out with one, or get married to one. Consciousness of a coloured person as coloured can become condescension.

26—(a) DO YOU ENJOY THE SCHOOL MAGAZINE?

Yes	No
44%	52%

(b) IN WHAT WAYS COULD IT BE IMPROVED?

Almost everyone said illustrations of all kinds should be included to make the visual effect less dull. A new cover and format should be found.

The next most popular suggestion was to make it less formal. In its present form it is a bore, too uniform, and has no adventurousism. It should be made much more controversial, with more contributions from all the School (not just Lower Form "distributors"), from teachers, and from outside. Teachers especially should not be afraid to associate themselves with the magazine.

House reports are too long, as is the sports section, and reports on Speech Day and the Athletic Sports. It should come out twice a year. Advertisements should be included, as in other school magazines; we should look at these magazines for new ideas. There should be more news of people and their activities in and out of School. New teachers should be welcomed with their pictures and information on interests.

Several objected to paying 1/6 per term on "such rubbish" and wished the magazine to be liquidated.

MARTIN DONOHUE,
DAVID MACHILL

SUNK WITHOUT TRACE

The dunes rolled on, pillow, infinite; featureless, fearful, wind-rippled half-moon. A white orb beat down in translucent searing white beams, carving its daily course out of an eternal iridescent channel; white-blue, glaring, painful. A majestic unweildy willow schooled the empty wastes—wastes undisturbed, save for pitiful, sparse clumps of wood. The air, heat-wippled, wavered in suspended motion. A God-forsaken badland of scenic majesty, grandiose yet awful, nature nonexistent.

"Rolling and rolling there, where God seems not to care."

Over there a green paradise. Where? where? No, a heat mirage, a mirage. A feverish hope of a thirst-crazed, tortured mind. Upside-down, now there, now not. O God, where are You? Where is Thy beauty in all this?

But what was that? A positive movement in this unreal world? Yes, a dune moved. Moved?—yes, moved. A circular orifice yawned out of the sand. It was 100 yards in diameter and stood out starkly against its yellow background. Ants scurried out. Ants? Men!

They wore white dungarees and moved with a purposeful step, sweeping away sand and ferrying equipment outside. They were followed by earnest-looking gentlemen draped in white coats, all wearing glasses, gathering in groups, engaged in deep conversation.

Two hundred yards away several black squares appeared. Gargies arose in a silent glide above them. They were dark blue and glistened dully in the fierce light. Then, with a menacing smoothness, long, sleek, polished aluminium woodies slid up through them, finally to become stationary with their points pricking the sky 30ft. above the gentry tops.

The ants in dungarees clustered over them, tightening the gantry joints, checking the vertical stature. They removed nose cones and adjusted with delicate movements a glassy maze of intricate dials, valves, and diodes.

A group below removed the slender fins and clambered purposefully around powerful cylinders and jets. Large bowmen roared up a ramp from the great hole and screamed over to the missiles. Long, pliable, chromium-plated pipelines were removed. One end was attached to the bowmen's curved spines, one end to a nipple on the missiles' jets. With a purr thousands of gallons of pressurised liquid hydrogen poured into the rockets' tanks.

Ten minutes later a screaming klaxon resounded through the air, reverberating against the wavering stillness. The men looked round, perplexed. "Quick, finish it off, Bert."

Suddenly it was over. The soundless scurry continued for over a minute. The fins were replaced, the nose cones were put back, and a deadly device in their mammas was adjusted.

The bowmen were disconnected and the pipelines stowed away. Then off they scroached back to the gaping hole. The workmen followed, and, finally, the scientists, long white coats sand-spotted, completed the flustering entourage.

A hundred feet down lay a great oblong room, with doors leading off. Alongside one side was a streamlined, elongated panel of dials, switches, buttons, chronometers, and screens.

A red light flashed—"They're all in," someone shouted.

"About time, too," came the last reply.

A button was pressed and, with a pneumatic glide, the gaping hole closed. Another button—look at the screen. A great flurry of sand as giant fans covered up the tell-tale marks.

Everyone became still, hunching together in nervous, chattering groups. Cigarettes drooped out of twitching lips, and thin streams of expired smoke dribbled upwards in long, lary, blue spirals.

The great red hand of the central timepiece moved so slowly, so relentlessly towards a black zero. Nervous glances were thrown at the clock faces at their own watches.

"Four minutes to go," someone said to no-one in particular.

A door in the far wall opened and five men, one carrying a bowler and a tightly rolled umbrella, entered with quick steps. They went over to the centre of the console.

"How's it going, Johnson?"

"All systems functioning normally, Sir. Contact is zero minus two minutes twenty seconds from . . . now."

Over 30 yards up the four pinnacles projected above their gantries, pricking the air in slender stationary points.

"Thirty seconds."

Flocks of light glistered in starred shapes on their gleaming hulls. Quietness prevailed around.

"There, two, one . . . contact made!"

Four spirals fled upwards. Fiery masses scorched downwards in propelling fury. Clouded sand washed out and up in swirling, hopeless pursuit, finally to settle in browned, forlorn rest.

The whistling needles thrust their passage through the candle-hue of the channel, dwindling, dwindling, diminishing. So small, now points of blacker light, now gone. Where are they? What is their mission? Who knows, why care?

The gantries slid down, noiseless. Four square holes closed, almost imperceptibly. A giant fan-funnelled blast of air swirled the sand around. All signs of the holes disappeared.

Still the dunes marched on their rippling way to the moving horizon. Still the orb beat down. Still the sky held its burning wheel in motionless motion. But gradually the light dimmed. Slowly at first, but leaping forwards as dusk progressed. Within half an hour black prevailed and the air was crisply chilly, frosting the still-warm sand. Fireflies pricked a velvet mat, glowing in the teeth under a peevy moon.

Nothing could be seen save shadows, ghostly, intangible. Of the recent activity not a sign remained, not a single, Olympian relic. An acid odour provided a lone, nasal testimony to the knives' flight. All had sunk. All was calm and serene. The sandy troughs and peaks were still masters in their own right.

C.I.P.S.

PORTSMOUTH 1, GRIMSBY 3

On 26th January George, Potts, and Fred made a misguided excursion to Portsmouth in order to view certain people attempting to place a ball into a net which was being determinedly and unsuccessfully guarded by certain striped fishermen. The evening was going well until a Mr. Green intervened. Tony's head was evident later and the final whistle brought only muted comments.

At a suggestion from Potts, who has since vehemently denied it—blaming George, who blames Fred, who blames Potts . . . we turned left outside the ground and walked at a somewhat leisurely pace towards the nearest chip shop. At this stage we had one and a half hours to catch the last boat. Having waited 10 minutes before the assistant could tear herself away from the party political broadcast on television, we purchased some chips. Proceeding in our original direction, we happened upon another chip shop, where we duly wasted another 10 minutes.

Resuming our journey at a slightly increased pace, we suddenly reached the sea. Turning right before the tide came in we set off towards the nearest sign of civilisation. At 10 o'clock, 40 minutes before the boat was due to leave, we saw an illuminated map which enlightened

us on our position, at the roadside. The "You Are Here" arrow pointed to the bottom left-hand corner of the map and we could just see the pier in the top right-hand corner. Mathematical calculation showed that the pier was 35 thumb-lengths from where we were. By further calculation we discovered our average speed would need to be one thumb-length per minute.

Our hearts sank. Luckily, it was low tide and so we easily rescued them. Although in the peak of fitness (having "served" the annual cross-country run that afternoon) we were fagged out after a few minutes' hard running. Stopping to buy some more cigarettes, we were told where to go. Ignoring this advice, we continued at a steady crawl. On seeing the boat we sprinted madly and stopped to let Potts catch up. We embarked, in a bad way, one minute before the boat was due to leave; 20 minutes later the boat left. To our disgust, the bars were closed; George, however, was carrying his hacksaw and we soon got out. Attempts by the British Rail staff to secure the boat to Ryde pier were met with joyful hilarity and ribald comments from the passengers. The language heard when the rope fell short for the fifth time was the highlight of the evening.

Eager-greedy Potts, who shall go nameless, raced down Ryde pier and beat the tram for a bet. On the way to Wootton a strange noise was heard coming from Potts' side of the car. Wrestling with the wheel, Fred missed an overtaking pedestrian by a car's whister. The front seaside tyre appeared to be deflated. Fred deflated in sympathy. We changed the wheel at Potts' house. The car nearly slid down the hill while the jack was holding it up; Potts' brother Jack is a very strong person.

After partaking of some excellent coffee Fred and George made their journey home safely and arrived in one piece, stuck together.

Why are we going against next Wednesday?

FRED,
GEORGE,
POTTS

"PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY"

"Floorcakes or lentil soup for breakfast, Mam?" I asked as I laid aside the sack-cloth.

"Oufaw didn't call yesterday," she replied, as usual.

I picked the begging-bowl out of the dirt and went outside.

M. MUCKLE.

ORPHEUS IN THE DUNDERWORLD

"This is the B.B.C. Music Programme." I rose in silent respect. The last chords of Rachmaninov's 9th prelude had just floated across the glade. I remember that moment very well, for it was 72 Haydn

Symphonies since the last St. Matthew Passion, and there were only 25 Mozart Quartets to Christmas. The hollow voice continued: "We are now broadcasting a recording taken at the Bath Festival of 1927; it is a recital of completely unknown Chamber Music by the contemporary Sikh composer Ranjit Pheriat-Janspoon. But first here is Antony Skipkins to talk about to-night's performance of the Beethoven (hushed pause of reverence) Waldstein Sonata Antony Skipkins. I screwed my features in unworldly delight—my favourite sonata. I remembered with a single down my spine the first time I had heard it; it was two years ago to the very Bach Cantata. I had been sent into raptures by the delightful way some of the four movements was in any particular order; and those middle 24 bars of transition from the first (or was it second) to the third (or was it the fourth) movement were quite unlike any Corelli Concerto Grosso I had ever heard.

Skipkins's voice cut my dilation short.

"Well, concert-pickers, to-night we've got a real rare show for you; old Lad Beethoven with his latest gear made on the Craxton and Torrey label—Yes! You've guessed it, the fab. 'Waldstein.' But will he stick to the old Neapolitan Sixths or will he try those superionic chromatic elevenths, or even those hippy-hippy passing six-fours? Well, concert-pickers, you'll have to wait till to-night's gripping thrill-packed moments with old Rach Schwartz on the black-and-whites."

"Thank you, Antony Skipkins."

"Soeright."

"And now, just before the Bach Chamber Orchestra, we would like to apologise for missing out the first fortissimo drum-roll at the beginning of the Haydn Drum-roll Symphony, especially as this is the only reason it is called the Drum-roll Symphony. It was due to a fool in the recording department not waking up in time. We do apologise. And now . . ."

Time slipped by. It was time for the next Haydn Symphony, Bread-and-Butter work, thought I. First Subj., Second subj. in dominant, codetta, development, recapitulation first subj., second subj., coda . . . could've written it myself, thought I. Then suddenly there was a blinding flash and the sound of gushing water . . . at last, thought I, the record player's blown up; had to come, suppose; all those symphonies and explosive piano concertos. But no! Apparently it was one of Haydn's ways of drawing attention to the poor lighting and lousy plumbing at Esterhaz. Might have known it.

"And now the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra in conjunction with the Philharmonia Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, the Hamburg State Radio Orchestra, and the French Radio and TV, Orchestra and Chorus with the B.B.C. Chorus, the Royal Choral Society, and the Covent Garden Chorus with Kathleen Ferrier, Joan Sutherland, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Derek Hammond Stroud, and John Shirley Quirk, in Mahler's 11th Symphony of two thousand . . ."

All on a gramophone record. Amazing.

D.M.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD

OBJECT:

To conduct an experiment.

METHOD:

We took observations.

OBSERVATIONS:

The expected results were seen to occur.

CONCLUSION:

The experiment was conducted satisfactorily and the law was proved.

"Eoo."

THE ASTRONAUT

You little man
Up there in your tin can,
How does it feel to orbit the earth?
On the edge of infinity
And yet so far from it.
How does it feel to walk in space?
Starving millions take second place
While you don't know and may not know
What is going on below
And you won't even listen.
How does it feel stuck up there
With only a limited supply of air?
How long to live? perhaps a year
And you can't ever come back here
But still you're nearer heaven
In an eternal hell of radiation,
How many millions died to-day
Who had not had enough to eat?
You eat, drink, and carry out tests
And say that it will help progress.
But I don't call that progress. Do You?

FRED AND GEORGE, U.S.A.

THE MONK'S CRIME

Once a child with much ambition
Thought he would like to be a man,
And went to buy a gun.
Along the way he met a monk,
And told him of his intention.
But the monk said,
"You can't have a gun; only men have guns."
And took the child's money away.

"He won't let me have a gun,
I want a gun,"
The boy cried to his mother.
Father was told, he wanting no trouble
Informed the high authority.

The monk was found, dragged into town
Accused of suppressing intellectual growth.
He pleaded in vain,
The boy cried again "I want a gun."
And the verdict came back "Guilty."

Scorned by men, hated by children,
The monk to death was condemned.
He never admitted
The sin he'd committed,
But he died a hero among men.

The boy was a hero,
The monk forgotten,
As they handed him a gun.
The child thanked them politely,
Innocently smiled,
And pulled the trigger.

"He wasn't to know," they all agreed,
As a man lay dying among them.
"After all, he's only a child."

REVENGE

Two bright eyes alone and unafraid,
Peering through the gathering gloom
Of falling night.
Two jewels, watching, waiting silently,
With eyes transfixed upon their prey,
Prepared to fight.

The creature shoots along the lane,
A scream is heard; it kills the prey
But doesn't feast.
The prey died breathless after endless running.
Back and forth across the lane
It ran in terror.

The creature had succeeded in its work
And went back to the busy road
With headlights dipped.

G. L., U.S.

MY IDEA

To catch a man was my idea
When I set out one day.
It didn't matter who he was
Or what he had to say.
He had to be a handsome man
—The only rule I stated.
With neither beard nor moustache, too,
Which made things complicated.
With older men there was a cast
Of mental interference,
But younger men so looked like girls
I couldn't tell the difference!
I travelled over land and sea,
My name by now had spread,
So many men did pine for me,
It all went to my head.
Once back at home, I put on airs,
And men did slave for me.
"Do this, or that," I said, they did
For their hearts belonged to me.
One day a young man paid a call,
His looks were not unique,
He had a squint and drooping jaw,
And almost no physique.
He took me in his stinky arms
"I'm boss," he said to me,
"I now possess your hardened heart
And you're no longer free."
I smiled at him, I'd met my match,
And I was glad 'twas he,
I need a firm, but living hand
To keep a check on me.
The moral of this story is
You've never far to roam,
The man you'll get more off than not
Is somewhere near your home.
Don't take this tale as gospel,
Don't take this tale as true,
I only sat and wrote it
When I had nothing else to do!

"A FEMALE ADVENTURE."

EXPERIENCE

Garlic-sifted, evil glade,
Where soft ferns lie crippled and encroaching,
And grass slavers savagely
—It is much cruder here—
Floating on soggy black earth
Which breaks like black bread,
Lying amid the dappled dampness
With a sun of enchantment playing my skin
Coolly, I can feel the insouciant gnat.

It is not so much a terror, not really,
More a witch's spell,
Some pact between the Devil and me.

NOW

To-day was floating in serenity and laughter
And then choking, floundering, fearing death
To end up drenched, cold, and shaken
Upon the new friendless shore that once sang
In the day sun.

To-day was anticipation and joyful remembrance
Of fingertips touching and evoking humanity
Under the smoky clouds swirling thick
And furring concentration in a dark velvet haze
Of crystal tears.

To-day was the smack and sting of realization
Face to face with hostile opposition stooping
To barb enclosing forces and breathing in
Gleaned information, setting it to probing curiosity
In hungry repulsion.

To-day was just another day, one of many
Each like the last with another friend lost
A new one loved and a hidden hazard exposed
In the never-ending spiral of life and death
Falling into oblivion.

To-day was me and everyone else
United in an amorphous we constructing and devastating
In dim angry futility too ignorant to accept
The realization that all is nothing
And nothing is.

J.S.B.

MARITIME DIVISION

Across the Stygian water's stagnant flow
Doth Charon's ferry wend obscurely to and fro
In the rooky black, worping on that boundless shore
Wander souls that long have died; no more
They wax and wane, but expiate their sins with tears
Continual, condemned to an endless death for endless years.
Wherefore, you justify ask, shed they tears so many
And profuse?—for lack of Charon's due, one ha'-penny.
Here stay the souls of colour, race, and creed
Diverse; here, hearts for past misfortunes bleed.

But peace! 'Tis all a figment of my (Dantean) imagination,
E'en a ha'-penny's nothing with Labour's increasing inflation.
Hades is *bliss* indeed; no colour-bar, only perpetual immigration.
Perhaps Communism, too—for here Homer and Marx share the same
responsibility
Of nothing. No colour-bar?—that's true enough; for with no light
of day,
What matters skin that's thick or thin, or blue, or brown, or grey,
Hence no Big Brother, no U.D.I., no tyrannical oppressors, malignant
In their foal belief that ends justify the means, no cruel sway
Of violent dictators. But *adieu*, ye day-dreams; *adieu*, ye imagi-
nation's figment.

M. MICKLE.

SEA SICKNESS

I must go down to the sea again, to the crowded sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a pleasure boat, and radar to steer her by;
And a coach trip to a beauty spot, and a transistor singing;
And a deck chair on a swarming beach, and the sunbather stinging.

I must go down to the sea again, for the call of the Bullin tribe
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied.
And all I ask is a sunny day, with no clouds flying,
And a beach tray, and the thrown waste, and the children's crying.

I must go down to the sea again, to the stagnant hotel life,
To the pleasure pier, and the fruit machines, away from all trouble and
strife!
And all I ask is a smutty joke from a grinning fellow rover,
And a long wait in a traffic jam before the long trip's over.

P.M.E. (with apologies to J.M.).

HYMN OF REALITY

Before the hills I stood
And watched the sun set on a purple mountain.
The green sword gold-red,
Tinged with a fading pink.
The deepening green of the small forest,
Slowly becoming a uniform black,
But the orange rays still painting the topmost leaves.
I heard a twilight owl hoat
A premature soliloquy
The nocturnal rustles in the grass.
A whispering melody,
And in the darkness of my mind,
I heard the thunder of a distant warning.
I heard the screams of a falling death.
I heard the voice of the poet raised in protest,
As it died before the piercing hate-words of depraved minds.
I heard the "glory" of a soldier as it melted into fluid words,
Curseing the politician's tongue,
But which fell on to dry, dusty soil.
I saw the sky on fire with hatred,
A terrible, anonymous hatred.
I saw the chessboard burning, the last move made.
I saw the cross I bore explode with reality
And blind the idealists.
I saw the earth open up and swallow a million—
A million innocent.
And the seas came streaming,
Forming a river,
Forming a sea and covering the world,
And lapping at the dais on which I sat myself.
I felt the hate, the fear, the grief, and the sorrow,
As they built four walls around me
And tortured my mind,
Dragging me into darkness,
The darkness of reality.

B. JACOB, Va.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—I have been a member of the School for five terms, and I feel it high time that something was said about an appalling degree of belittlement that falls on the head of every male member addressed by his surname. From a general custom of opinion throughout the School it was found boys are made to feel instinctively inferior to the girls, who have the privilege of being called by their Christian names by members of the Staff. What is even more damaging to the status of us dejected males is that many girls continue to refer to us by our surnames even at social occasions, simply because they do not know what our first names are.

Furthermore, I feel that by establishing both sexes on equal planes it will undoubtedly create a better atmosphere for work and leisure. It may seem trivial, I know, but every time I am addressed by my surname I automatically feel conscious of a somewhat authoritative barrier of unfriendliness. All this and many other anomalies that arise could so easily be overcome by such a minor reform in one of the few outstanding antiquated customs of the School. May I take this opportunity of thanking our Canadian cousin's ability to bring equality to both sexes. Sir, your friendship grows.

I might add that my criticism is based on the opinions of every person I have discussed the subject with as well as my own contention. Levelled against the good feeling that will be enhanced by my proposed change there are no practical or traditional claims for this intolerable practice being retained.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM GODFREY H—

OLD STUDENTS' NEWS

We offer our good wishes to these Old Students on their marriage:

December 11th, 1965.

Norman Barker to Kay Mallard, at Sunbury-on-Thames.

January 8th.

Martin Davies to Ann Anderson, at Crawley, Middlesex.

January 29th.

Raymond Augustus to Susan Green, at Chisle.

January 29th.

Richard Powell to Elizabeth Blackmore, at Camberley.

February 14th.

Peter Hudson to Patricia Mabey, at Totland.

February 14th.

Michael Brett to Susan Oakham, at Totland.

March 5th.

Philip White to Pamela Dobbs, at Chesterfield.

March 12th.

Raymond Asplen to Susan Savage, at Totland.

March 19th.

Brian Patey to Ann Hunter, at Winchester.

March 26th.

John Barker to Sadie White, at East Cotes.

March 26th.

Lawrence Batten to Alberta Simpson, at Manchester.

March 26th.

Trevor Dominey to Pamela Verity, at Cotes.

April 2nd.

David Brett to Joan Lawrence, at Groby, Leicester.

April 2nd.

Terry Millmore to Valerie Moses, at Yemmer.

April 2nd.

Michael Whitehead to Patry Fry, at Kyle.

April 9th.

Roger Cooper to Margaret Musell, at Cotes.

April 9th.

John Craig to Margaret Dudley, at Guildford.

April 9th.

Richard Flower to Jennifer Merrill, at Binstead.

April 9th.

David Smith to Elizabeth Twyman, at Northwood.

April 9th.

Anthony Wesson to Carol Fayers, at Newport.

And our congratulations to the following on their successes—

Michael Griffin, College Diploma in Electrical Engineering, Rugby College of Technology (and A.E.I.).

Peter Mahey, Film Editor in B.B.C. television at Cardiff; at 23 he is one of the youngest to be appointed full editor.

Beryl Fyfield, Hockey Colours at Worcester College of Education.

After last summer's spate of news there is little to mention of the movements of Old Students, but a few names have come to the Editors' notice—

Ray Hall is with the firm of J. and E. Hall, Ltd., manufacturers of refrigerating plant, lifts, and escalators, at Dartford. In his two-year graduate course he is taking administration and design.

Marilyn Sloper is enjoying a year's teaching in Ipswich before going to St. Oystin's College of Education at Clacton.

Hugh Wadsworth comes back to the Island at intervals. He is studying for a degree in law at Nottingham College of Technology, where he often sees—

Richard Biffeld, who has left his position with the Lincolnshire Planning Department to follow a full-time four-year course in Town Planning at the same college.

Mark Groundsell has moved from New York to Toronto to work for a firm of engineering consultants.

Carlene Buckingham is thoroughly enjoying herself in a secretarial post with a telephone manufacturing company in California, U.S.A.

Andrew Hutchinson has been accepted for Voluntary Service Overseas on completion of his training at Westminster College of Education, Oxford.

Francis Hutchinson has returned to the Island with his wife and family to live at Brighton, having joined a firm of Island accountants.

Gerald Wills, too, has come back, to practise as a veterinary surgeon.

Stewart Marsh, back from South Africa, has joined the Imperial Smelting Company at Avonmouth, Bristol.

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