



THE HULMEIAN

1980

The HULMEIAN

The Magazine of William Hulme's Grammar School

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1980

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SCHOOL NOTES AND NEWS

In 1980 we said goodbye to five members of staff. Mr. W. L. Bonnick left us for a well-earned retirement. Mr. J. H. Furniss took up the post of Head of Science at Shrewsbury School, and Mr. P. J. Wilde left for the post of Second Deputy Head at Wood Green School, Witney. Mr. D. R. Clark went to Ernest Bailey Grammar School, Matlock, as Head of Modern Languages, and Dr. M. E. Peek took up the post of Head of Chemistry at Giggleswick School.

We welcome the following new members of the teaching staff: Mr. P. M. Bull (Modern Languages), Mr. A. Greenall (Chemistry), Mr. S. C. Grigg (Design and Technology), Mr. J. G. Hofton (Modern Languages), Mr. J. H. Thomson (Physics), Mr. P. J. Marsh (Physics, part-time), The Rev. S. M. Royle (Religious Education and Latin, part-time).

We offer congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ballantyne on their marriage, to Mr. and Mrs. Moore on the birth of their daughter, and to Mr. and Mrs. Shaw on the birth of their daughter.

Viewers of the Thames T.V. German Programmes "*Wie Sagt Man . . . ?*" transmitted throughout the country on the Schools network during the Autumn of 1980 will have recognised Mrs. Wright appearing under her German name of Irmgard Meyer in the role of Presenter and Language Adviser. The series will be repeated in the Summer Term.

The Founder's Day address was given by Canon A. R. M. Seaman, M.A., the Diocesan Director of Education.

Open Awards were won by M. S. Ardron (Exhibition in Engineering, Brasenose College, Oxford), M. P. Evans (Exhibition in Classics, Pembroke College, Oxford), R. J. Jones (Scholarship in Classics, Wadham College, Oxford), P. J. Latham (Exhibition in Engineering, Christ's College, Cambridge), H. Tyzack (Exhibition in Natural Science, Brasenose College, Oxford).

In the School year 1979-80 R. M. Wadsworth was appointed Head of School and D. A. Campbell Deputy-Head of School. J. M. Adams, G. W. Keating, I. M. Wood and K. D. Murray were appointed Prefects.

In September 1980 D. A. Campbell was appointed Head of School, and M. D. Greaves and G. W. Keating Deputy Heads of School.

The Prefects for 1980-81 are I. Ackerley, I. Alam, M. S. Ashfield, A. M. Bailey, A. T. Bowyer, D. R. Braddock, S. Brown, M. I. Emmott, D. M. Goodman, I. D. Helsby, J. N. Hemy, K. P. Holdridge, I. W. Keating, J. Q. Killip, G. P. McDonough, J. P. Morris, G. L. Robinson, N. D. Short, and A. J. Steeples.

WILLIAM HULME'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Over the past years much discussion and many meetings have taken place with the object of evolving a New Scheme for the Hulme Trust of which the School until now has been a subsidiary part.

In August 1979 the Charity Commissioners published the "New Scheme" which was sealed on 26th October last. This creates a new and separate charity with the title of "William Hulme's Grammar School Foundation" but the name of the School remains unchanged. Despite becoming a separate Foundation, the School will still be linked financially to the parent Trust - "The Hulme Trust Educational Foundation", and continue to derive funds under the terms of the original Trusts for the upkeep of the School properties.

The various properties comprising the School lands and buildings will now be administered and managed separately as part of the School Foundation.

The Governors appointed under the Scheme for the period 5th December 1979 to 19th September 1980 are:-

E. B. Jackson, F.C.A. Chairman. (O.H.)

C. H. Jones, F.I.B. Vice-Chairman. (O.H.)
 L. Bailey, M.A.
 C. S. Fink.
 D. Ll. Griffiths, M.B.E., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (O.H.)
 J. N. Hopwood. (O.H.)
 Sir George Kenyon, D.L., J.P., B.Sc., F.I.B.
 W. W. Land, B.Com. (O.H.)
 C. N. Midwood, M.A., J.P.
 C. B. Muir.
 R. A. Rainford, O.B.E., M.A., LL.D., F.A.C.C.A.
 Canon A. R. M. Seaman, M.A., H.Dip.E.
 J. M. Tod.
 Councillor A. Burns.
 Co. Councillor P. E. M. Cronan, F.S.C.A.
 Councillor D. W. Homer.
 Co. Councillor F. Smith.
 H. R. Mainprice, M.A. Clerk to the Governors. (O.H.)

 Colonel J. B. Coates, C.B.E., M.C., D.L. Governor Emeritus.

 The Ven. A. H. Ballard, M.A.
 Dr. D. W. Bowett, M.A., Q.C. (O.H.)
 W. G. Thorpe, C.B.E., F.I.O.B.

OBITUARY

Mr. D. M. Williams

Mr. D. M. Williams, "Billy" to his friends, died suddenly on July 6th, 1980, at the age of 80. He had been in poor health for many years but, until quite recently, he had not let that interfere unduly with his manifold interests and activities. Only a few days before his death he had attended a party given for Mr. Bonnick on the occasion of that gentleman's retirement, and he had clearly enjoyed himself.

He came to School direct from Oxford in September 1920, when he himself was little older than some of the senior sixth-formers. He stayed with us for the whole of his teaching career, forty-five years. From the start to the end of this unique career, he was a tower of strength to the School, devoting so much of his time and talents to it that he will long be remembered by hundreds of old boys who passed through his hands. He will be remembered even longer as a kind and faithful friend.

His days at the School started in a time of great difficulty. The First World War had only recently ended, and it had been impossible to recruit experienced teachers of military age during that war. The 1918 Education Act had led to a great increase in the number of boys in Grammar Schools, and this increase caught us with a staff largely composed of older men and of men unfit for service in the forces, before the experienced teachers who had survived the war had been released from service and before the Universities had had time to train the younger men. The Head Master who appointed him (he always referred to himself as "Parker Mason's last mistake") left at the end of Mr. Williams's first term but, under the inspiring leadership of Mr. Trevor Dennis, he was one of the small group of staff who were able to revitalise the School and to put into it a totally new spirit that permeated through to the youngest boy. This was done despite a desperate lack of accommodation and of facilities; teaching having to take place even in odd corners of the unfinished New Hall, in the Dining Hall, in the cellars, indeed, anywhere where thirty boys and a master could be put. Again, in the Second World War, when the School was shattered by the effects of evacuation and by other difficulties, he was one of the small group of stalwarts who saved it and kept things going. For the last ten years of his career, Mr. Williams was Second Master,

and Mr. Bird is one of the many who can testify to his loyalty and his unselfish devotion to every activity of the School.

He loved his work. He got on well with boys, especially with youngsters. One of his great contributions was his long period as form-master to what was then the Lower First, where he started the beginners on the way they had to go. He had a remarkable understanding of the problems of very junior boys, whose resolute defender he always was. His main subject was History, which he taught with enthusiasm. He was no crammer and he had no use for the dry bones that rattled all too often in some other history classes, but he showed us how yesterday had formed today and the present writer is one of many in whom he instilled an undying love of his subject. His enthusiasm for lacrosse and cricket, his regular participation in the Corps camps at Grange and, above all, his work with the School's music will long be remembered. A very good baritone himself, he set high standards for the orchestra and for School concerts. From 1924 he was responsible for many of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas that were so thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, particularly by the performers on stage and in the orchestra. Indeed, he shared to the full in all the activities of the School, the Staff, the Hulme Lads' Club (running the annual collection for this club for many years) and of the Old Hulmeians' Association, of which he was President in 1966-7, a member of the general committee and an Honorary Life Member.

We will remember him mainly, however, as a friend, loyal in good times and bad, a man of great integrity, a lover of people, and always ready with help when and where it was needed. He enriched the lives of everyone who had the privilege of his friendship.

In everything he did, Billy had the solid support of his wife, the sister of an Old Hulmeian, and of his family, to all of whom we offer our most sincere sympathy in a loss which we all share.

D.L.I.G.

Martin Clifford Blanks

As a result of multiple injuries received in a road accident on Princess Parkway on 21st January, M. C. Blanks, who was in his sixth year at School, died in Manchester Royal Infirmary. A popular and able boy of deep religious faith, his untimely and tragic death was a bitter blow to all of us.

RETIREMENT

Mr. W. L. Bonnick

At the end of the Midsummer Term, Mr. Bonnick retired after thirty-four years at the School. Few masters can have made such a valuable and varied contribution to the life of William Hulme's as he has done; from the time of his appointment to the staff by Mr. Dennis at the beginning of 1946, his energies and enthusiasms have been directed whole-heartedly towards serving the School, in which there can be few areas that have been uninfluenced by his personality or by his example.

As a member of the Modern Languages Department he taught French and Spanish with a vigour and liveliness that could often be heard reverberating through the Old Hall and even disturbed the meditative calm of the Masters' Common Room. As a House Master of Dalton House for six years from 1952-58 he introduced new standards of pastoral care, based on daily contact with his boys and on a close and friendly liaison with his House Prefects who responded whole-heartedly to their House Master's infectious enthusiasm.

For many years Mr. Bonnick was in charge of the School stage and of the Stage Staff; under his guidance this became an elite body of boys with a distinctive pride in their special skills as stage managers, electricians, sound effects men or even "sweeper-uppers". His own interests lay partly in stage lighting (at a time when the equipment was comparatively primitive and notoriously temperamental), but mainly in the production of sound effects, usually on the principle of "the bigger the better". In the days of the Tuesday afternoon form plays he showed himself to be a



Mr. W. L. Bonnick ·

skilful and inventive producer, involving the whole form in a lively and often spectacular production.

In 1958, Mr. Bird invited Mr. Bonnick to relinquish Dalton House to become the first Head of Junior School, made up of the first and second forms. Mr. Bonnick accepted the invitation with some misgivings and considerable regret at leaving his beloved Dalton – and for the next twenty-two years every boy who entered the School as a first former passed through his hands. The key to Mr. Bonnick's success in the creation and development of the Junior School has been his genuine concern for the well being of the individual boy. In this he has been assisted by a succession of form masters, often young men at the beginning of their teaching careers, who have been inspired (and occasionally infuriated!) by Mr. Bonnick's eye for detail and his insistence on the importance of maintaining the highest standards in all areas. For although the boy's effort at work and his conduct were the starting points of Mr. Bonnick's concern, it widened to include every aspect of the boy's development. The "social" side of the Junior School included the dining hall, the games field, the Junior School Library, the state of the Junior School lockers, the annual Junior School Camp and the wide range of out-of-school activities that Mr. Bonnick encouraged and supported. The introduction of Junior School Leaders to assist in the smooth running of these activities was simply an extension of those principles of involvement and delegated responsibility that he had used so effectively in Dalton and on the Stage Staff. From the very beginning, parents realised that they could trust Mr. Bonnick's judgement and rely on his whole-hearted support when problems arose; the extent of their gratitude was clearly demonstrated at the Parents' Association's official farewell in his honour.

We shall miss that unmistakable figure cycling through the School gate each morning; we shall certainly miss that unmistakable voice, encouraging, exhorting and (occasionally) criticising the efforts of Under-12 and Under-13 teams – at one of our rival schools where he was a regular visitor he was simply known as "Bonnick the Voice"; we shall miss him as a friend and colleague who gave generously of his time and of his experience to those who sought his help and advice; we shall miss him as a school master whose first concern was for the boys under his care.

We wish him every happiness in his retirement; we are delighted that he is continuing to live so close to the school and look forward to seeing him whenever the delights of his horticultural and cruciverbal pursuits begin to pall.

Mr. J. H. Furniss

With the appointment of Mr. Furniss as Head of Science at Shrewsbury School, we lose a member of staff who has given most distinguished service to the School for eighteen years. His contribution to the teaching of Physics has been outstanding, not only in terms of University awards and G.C.E. results, but also in the development of equipment and facilities at all levels throughout the School. His personal enthusiasm for his subject, coupled with the clarity of his exposition and his patient unravelling of his pupils' difficulties, has influenced boys from the Junior School upwards, and encouraged them to explore far beyond the narrow limits of an examination syllabus. The introduction of the Electronics Lab., the success of the School's exhibits at Science Exhibitions held at Salford and Aston Universities, and above all, the development of the School's closed-circuit television system were all the direct result of Mr. Furniss's enthusiasm and drive.

But his influence has been felt far beyond the walls of lecture rooms and labs. For many years he has been in charge of the lighting on the school stage and has supervised the remarkable improvements that have taken place in its equipment in recent years. He has trained successive teams of electricians who have followed the traditions set by Mr. Bonnick when the equipment was far more primitive. For a time he assisted in the organisation of school cross-country and officiated at a number of meetings, especially at Lyme Park. He has taken many parties to Hardraw, where one of his "specialities" was the Three Peaks Walk. A regular member of staff

cricket teams, his batting combined stolid caution with occasional flashes of uncharacteristic violence — his “six” through the pavilion window was undoubtedly the smash hit of the 1980 season!

Members of his family have contributed significantly to the musical and athletic life of the School, while Mrs. Furniss has assisted “behind the scenes” at plays and other functions, and acted as the unofficial “matron” at Camp.

In thanking Mr. Furniss for his many contributions to the life of the School, we wish him and his family every success and happiness at Shrewsbury and hope to see them back at W.H.G.S. on many occasions in the future.

Mr. P. J. Wilde

Mr. Wilde leaves to take up the post of Second Deputy Head at Wood Green School, Witney, after ten years as a member of the Classics Department and, more recently, Head of Religious Education. His contributions to the life of the School have covered a very wide area, but perhaps he will be remembered most of all for his influence on school cricket at all levels. During his time as master-in-charge he has insisted on maintaining the very highest standards of turn-out and conduct both on and off the field, the facilities have been improved, the fixture list has been strengthened and enlarged, especially at the Junior end, while the pavilion has been converted into a pleasant and even colourful area for players and spectators alike. Undoubtedly his greatest achievement was the conception, organisation, and triumphantly successful accomplishment of the Caribbean Tour in 1978 when, with the assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Shaw and the whole-hearted co-operation of an army of boys, parents, colleagues and other friends of the School, over £5,000 was raised.

For a number of years Mr. Wilde was in charge of the Under 13 Lacrosse team, when his own inexperience as a player was more than outweighed by his enthusiasm as a coach.

For the past two years Mr. Wilde has been House Master of Whitworth, a role in which once again his flair and energy have been demonstrated in the organisation of House meetings addressed by locally and nationally known figures, in his use of House Rooms for displays and exhibitions, and in the development of a very strong corporate sense among the boys in the House. In his earlier days at the School he had founded the Community Action group which brought boys into closer contact with the realities of life outside the closed world of the School.

Other ventures which brought great pleasure to large and enthusiastic audiences were his organisation of a series of evening concerts with performances given by The King's Singers, the Manchester Camerata, and bands and folk singers of national repute, while his colleagues would be the first to acknowledge him as the driving force behind the very successful Staff Revues.

All these activities, which are only the highlights of his career at William Hulme's, are a fitting testimony to Mr. Wilde's energy, enthusiasm and organisational skill. In thanking him for all that he has done, we wish him every success in his future career.

Dr. M. E. Peek

Dr. Peek left us at the end of the Midsummer Term to become the Head of Chemistry at Giggleswick School, Yorkshire. In the five years he was with us he made an invaluable contribution to the teaching of his subject at all levels. He very quickly involved himself fully in the life of the School; he served as an officer in the C.C.F., he assisted Mr. Manning in the Careers Department, and he took a very active part in school games with responsibility for squash, cricket and lacrosse teams. If further proof of his versatility were needed, his own “spot” in the Staff Revues or in folk concerts or in the even more informal concerts at Hardraw was always an enjoyable part of the evening's entertainment. We wish him and his family every happiness, and hope that this latest extension of the “Yorkshire connection” will be maintained.

Mr. D. R. Clark

At the beginning of the Midsummer Term 1980 Mr. Clark left to become Head of Modern Languages at the Ernest Bailey Grammar School, Matlock. During his five years at the School, Mr. Clark contributed whole-heartedly to a wide range of activities. A very successful Junior School form master, he taught at all levels with a cheerful enthusiasm; he was in charge of the Language Laboratory and also assisted in the Careers Department. Out of school, he was an officer in the C.C.F. and was in charge of the Under-14 Rugger team. Apart from his attendance at C.C.F. camps, Mr. Clark accompanied trips abroad and to Hardraw. We wish him every success in his future career.

PRIZE GIVING

We met on the 9th July under the Chairmanship of Mr. E. B. Jackson to hear the Headmaster's Report on the year and to welcome Professor Nicholas, Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, and Professor of Comparative Law, who as our chief guest distributed the prizes and addressed the School.

The Headmaster recalled our close connection with Brasenose College which has its origin in the will of our Founder, which in 1691 stipulated that certain fields and meadows be kept in Trust to maintain "four of the poorest sort of Bachelors of Art taking such degrees at Brasenose College in the University of Oxford".

The Headmaster announced the decision of the Governing Body to apply for inclusion in the Assisted Places Scheme set up under the 1980 Education Act which will come into operation in September 1981. The Headmaster assured us that the School's independence would not be compromised nor the interests of present or prospective parents in any way jeopardized.

Turning to academic achievements the Headmaster reported a customary level of success at Oxford and Cambridge in the obtaining of five awards and two places. The overall pass rate at 'A' Level was 76%, and at 'O' Level 86%. Of the 116 candidates at 'O' Level, 96 passed in seven or more subjects. Fifty boys went on from our Middle Sixth to degree courses at Universities and Polytechnics.

After paying farewell tributes to Masters retiring and leaving, the Headmaster turned to the School's dramatic and musical activities, noting an increasing level of involvement and support. The highlight of the year was *1066*, a home grown production with words by Miss Green and music by Mr. Bamforth, to be followed next year by an adaptation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl.

The Headmaster reviewed the varied non-academic activities pursued during the year, mentioning visits to Brittany, Paris, the Rhineland, Belgium, 449 boy visits altogether. Rugby, Lacrosse, Cricket, Swimming, Water-polo, all were mentioned as achieving various distinctions and successes. The Summer School of Sport enjoyed a successful year and is to be extended to a two weeks' course next year. The range of equipment available for physical training has been extended to include a conditioning machine, cycle ergometers, and rowing machines.

The Headmaster concluded by paying tribute to the School Staff, academic, secretarial, domestic and maintenance, upon whom the School depends in facing the future with confidence and hope.

Professor Nicholas expressed his pleasure in being at the School to mark the new period in the School's relations with Brasenose College and went on to reflect upon Manchester and what it represents in the Nation's life: industrial inventiveness and political originality. As regards inventiveness the country is still in the first rank and this is related to the quality of our universities. The universities rely upon the schools. With the educational system at large, Professor Nicholas expressed his unease, but with our School he was entirely happy.

PRIZE LISTS – 1980

First Forms: English – D. I. Ward; French – A. H. Prits; Latin – M. P. J. Hancock; History – J. D. Campbell; Geography – D. I. Ward; Mathematics – J. D. Campbell; Chemistry – J. E. D. Crews & D. I. Ward; Biology – J. E. D. Crews; Music – D. I. Ward; Craft – N. J. Midgley; Religious Education – A. D. Gearey; The William Taylor Memorial Prize – M. P. J. Hancock.

Second Forms: English – A. M. North; French – J. S. Bouchier; Latin – K. K. Herbert; History – J. R. G. McManus; Geography – S. Richards; Mathematics – K. M. McDonnell; Physics – I. Standing; Biology – A. M. North; Music – A. P. Hall; Art – D. R. Watters; Religious Education – P. S. Lisberg.

Third Forms: English – M. L. Artley; French – R. A. Ogden; German – R. J. Ellis & R. A. Ogden; Latin – R. A. Shotton; Greek – J. C. W. Palmer; History – S. Dhul; Geography – P. J. Goodier; Mathematics – R. Hussain; Physics – P. J. Goodier & R. Hussain; Chemistry – M. L. Artley; Music – P. D. Furniss; Art – M. J. E. Leyland; Craft – P. I. Price; Biology – R. Hussain.

Fourth Forms: English – J. Hogg; French – M. J. Taylor; German – R. D. Hardern; Latin – M. J. Taylor; Greek – A. M. Zaidi; History – A. S. Mohammed; Geography – A. M. Buckley; Mathematics – C. B. Smith; Physics – P. D. Glickman; Chemistry – C. B. Smith; Biology – R. W. Barber & R. D. Hardern; Music – A. M. Buckley; Art – S. Sarangi; Craft – D. Waldon.

Fifth Forms: Caiger French Prize – M. Crowther; German – M. Crowther; Spanish – F. N. Hussain; Latin – M. Crowther; Greek – J. R. Kay; History – I. G. MacMillan; Hewlett Geography Prize – D. A. Thorpe; Mathematics – A. D. Tatham; Physics – A. D. Tatham; Chemistry – A. N. Simpson; Music – K. L. Price; Art – A. Jones; Craft – J. I. Whitfield.

Lower Sixth: English – S. S. Bentley; French – S. J. McNicholls; German – D. G. Wood; Latin – H. T. Revill; Greek – R. J. Wakefield; Ancient History – R. H. Breckwoldt; History – J. N. Hemy; Geography – C. P. Robinson; Mathematics – A. Reece; Further Mathematics – M. H. Earl; Physics – S. P. Robinson; Chemistry – S. P. Robinson; The Appleton Biology Prize – M. A. Hull; Human Biology – I. Ackerley; Art – S. M. Bradshaw; Design – D. A. Eachus.

Middle Sixth: Forrest English Prize – P. G. Hall; Hawley French Prize – I. M. Smith; German – R. P. Flamank; Latin – I. M. Smith; Greek – M. E. Prideaux; Ancient History – J. R. Heaton; History – C. D. Bradbury; Geography – W. S. Whipp; Mathematics – R. J. Artley; Further Mathematics – T. A. M. Maula; Physics – R. Zemurs; Chemistry – A. P. Leech; Biology – M. Harris; Music – J. N. Millard; Art – M. Elliott; Design – S. J. Logan.

Upper Sixth: Vlies Modern Languages Prize – P. Cotterill; Dorrington Prize for Latin – A. B. T. Morton-Smith; Dorrington Prize for Greek – R. Jones; Dehn History Prize – B. R. Mellor; Hewlett Geography Prize – P. W. Loftus; Lymer Mathematics Prize – P. J. Latham; Allman Further Mathematics Prize – M. S. Ardron; Palmer Physics Prize – H. Tyzack; Old Hulmeians' Biology Prize – D. Watmough.

Special Prizes: D. Ll. Griffiths Prize for Medical Subjects – J. M. Adams; C. H. Jones Prize – D. B. Lister; Watkins Prize – R. M. Wadsworth; Graham Johnson Memorial Prize – R. C. Brindley & C. S. Rogerson; F. J. Smith Classical Travel Scholarships – M. P. Evans & J. P. Marland; Woollam Scholarship – P. J. Latham; Caswell Prize – S. D. Carter; Eric Barnes Memorial Trophy – R. M. Wadsworth; Aspinall Religious Knowledge Prize – R. J. Artley; Powell Scripture Reading Prize – J. R. Heaton; Original Verse Prizes: Sixth Form – J. C. Bonser; Middle & Junior School – N. P. Grant; Anderson English Essay Prize – P. G. Hall; Music Prize – J. R. Heaton; J. A. Barber Prize – R. M. Wadsworth; J. A. Barber Prize (Proxime Accessit) – D. A. Campbell; Halpin History Essay Prize – K. P. Holdridge; Yates Prize – B. R. Mellor; Junior Classics Prize – I. A. K. Watt; James Gozzard Prizes: for Craft – M. R. Cobb & D. Waldon; for Photography – P. E. Knowles.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

C.C.F. CAMP – PENHALE, CORNWALL

Our advance party left in the early hours of Tuesday 8th July bound for Cornwall, taking all our stores and baggage in two Landrovers and trailers kindly lent to us by Major A. Leech O.C. 33 R. Signals Sqn. T.A. at Norman Road, Manchester. They were to set up camp for the main party of fifty cadets arriving the following day, and this they did admirably.

Training started at 0830 hrs, 10th July, the programme having been prepared by a Cadet Training Team from S.W. District. This proved to be of excellent value to all who took part. The military training consisted of an introduction to modern weapons, fieldcraft lessons, and then the practical, culminating in a twenty four hour exercise. It was most enjoyable: there were plenty of bangs, parachute flares, trip flares, Very lights, thunder flashes etc., to make the exercise realistic. I expect it scared half the lads to death. Maybe the Major General would not have been very amused by the tactical expertise that went into the exercise, but I found it very amusing, and at that stage of their training a cold was the only thing they were liable to catch, because it was a terrible night. However, as the camp progressed, so did our cadets: at least, they realise how different the terrain looks after last light.

On the Monday we had what might be classed as our rest day. We all went to Penzance to do our shopping in the morning and then on to Lands End Airfield for lunch where Westward Airways were our hosts for the afternoon. We toured the hangars, where the centrepiece was a flying replica of a Sopwith Biplane nearing completion. This caused a great deal of interest; a pity that we were not able to see it fly.

Forty of our party had decided that they would like to fly, so we were split into groups of eight and took off in an Islander light aircraft flying around Lands End, out to the Longships Lighthouse, back to Sennen Cove and then back to the airfield. A most enjoyable flight, and a worthwhile experience for most.

Now back to training. Upon our arrival we were told that the canoeing was in a reservoir about thirty miles away. Seeing we can do that type of canoeing in the School pool, we opted for the abseiling off the cliffs, and a thoroughly good day was had by all. It was frightening for the first time, but the second time was great fun.

Wednesday was our expedition day when we had a trek over Bodmin Moor. Luckily, the weather was on our side and it was a beautiful day that made for easy map reading. Full marks here to Cadet Dorman who was not expected to complete the course. He did complete it, and said he thoroughly enjoyed it.

Thursday was our Sports day: Soccer, assault course competition, trampoline, volleyball and orienteering. This was a very full and tiring day that everyone enjoyed.

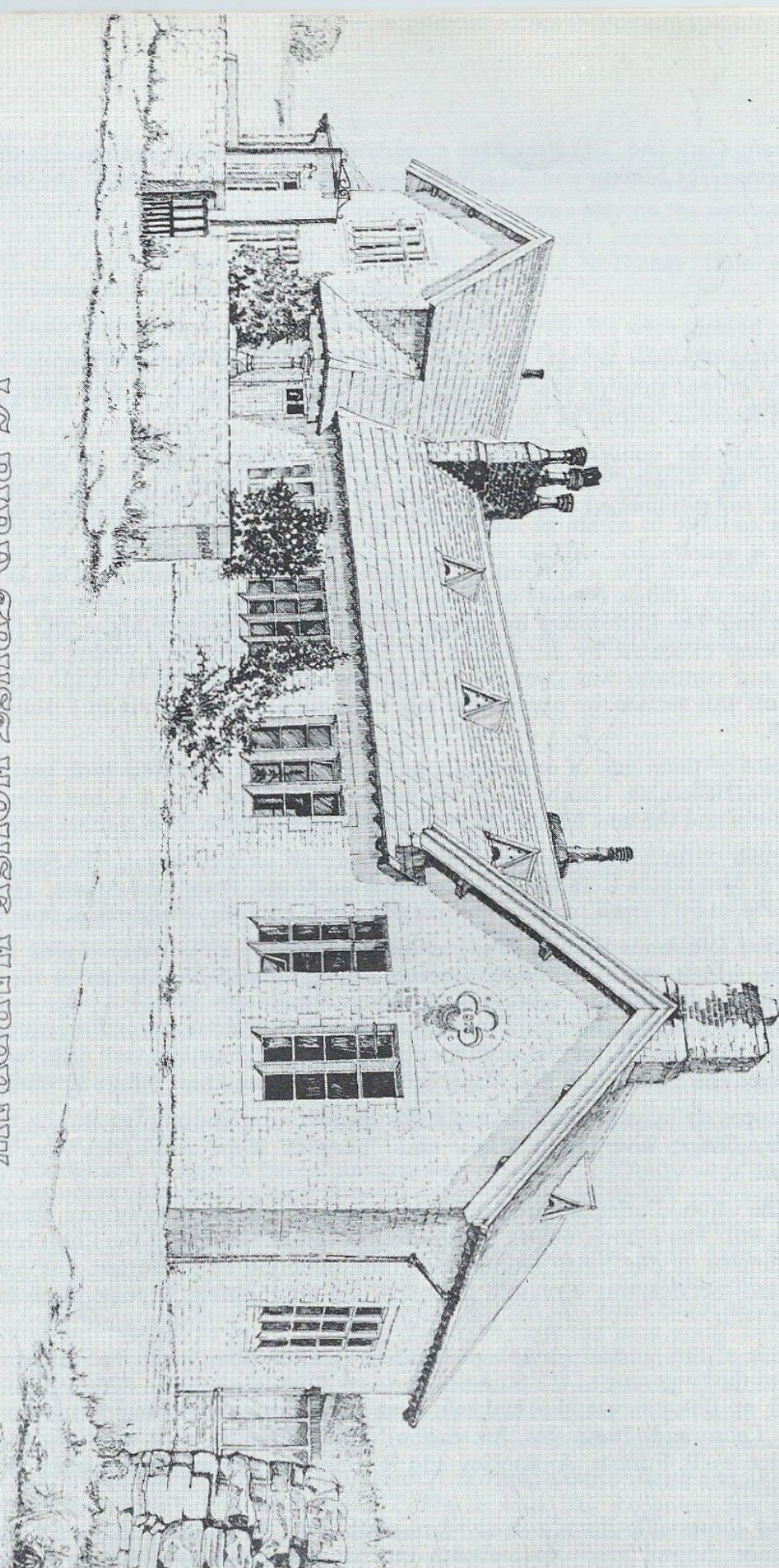
Friday was our day of departure, which meant an early reveille at 0600 hrs. Usually this is a very difficult time at camp, and things tend to go wrong. Not so this time. Everyone pulled his weight and we got away right on time to catch our train at 10.31 a.m. with a reserved carriage to take us direct to Manchester, arriving at 1830 hrs.

It was pleasing to see how well the recruits settled into the army way of life, and how much they enjoyed it. The winners of the Best Recruit over the camp period was shared by Recruit Chartres and Milton. The best rifle shot was Recruit Artley, obviously following in his father's footsteps.

In conclusion, this has been another very good year for the C.C.F.: good camps, good training, and very good assistance from outside when required.

J. C. BIRD TRUST HOUSE-HARBORAW.

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Captain Clark and 2/Lt Peek have moved on to other schools and we wish them good fortune. We welcome 2/Lt Simkin and 2/Lt Moss, and hope that their stay with the contingent will be a long one.

J.F.C.

MUSIC NOTES

The first Concert of the year took place in the New Hall on October 24th, 1979. As is customary at this time of year the programme consisted mainly of solo items though the Band, Choir and Recorder Group all performed.

To open the concert the Band played the *Overture Militaire* by Skornicka under their conductor Mr. Golder, and showed what an improvement there has been in recent years. Rehearsals for this concert are limited and it is to the credit of the members that the Band could play at all.

There followed five solo items. R. Humphreys played the Fughetta Op. 37 No. 6 by Merkel on the organ; P. Iredale (violin) with Miss Sanderson accompanying played two solos: *Kolomeika* by Hajdu and *The Entertainer* by Joplin; the Mozart Rondo in F Major and Diversion No. 1 by Bennett were executed by R. Bayliss on the piano; Telemann's Sonata in F Major for treble recorder and continuo was given by I. Ackerley with Mr. Bamforth at the piano, and P. Atkins rounded off this section by playing the last movement of the Sonata in F Major K332 for piano by Mozart.

In spite of their lack of experience the new trebles in the Choir took part in a performance of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from 'Messiah'. Preparation for this had been going on in the previous term and the new boys found themselves with a lot to do in a short time.

A similar pattern was followed in the second half of the concert. The Recorder Group began with two 6 part pieces from the King James Wind Music, Pavan and Alman. These were followed by Three Pieces by Purcell for recorder trio and piano with Mr. Bamforth at the piano.

The five solo items were as varied as in the first half: R. Brindley played the last movement of Hummel's little known F Major trumpet concerto with Mr. Golder at the piano; R. Botkai played the last movement of Beethoven's piano Sonata Op 49 No. 1; the Fiocco 'Allegro' for violin and piano was given by T. Corbett with Mr. Golder; R. Humphreys played the Schubert Impromptu in A Flat Major Op. 142 for piano, and finally A. Buckley, cello, with Mr. Bamforth, piano, played the Sonata in B Flat Major by Arne and Three Short Pieces by Bartok.

Three pieces by the Band brought the concert to a rousing conclusion. The pieces were: *Beguine* by Osser; *Bavarda* by Starke and "Land of Hope and Glory" by Elgar. Mr. Golder conducted.

For the Choir, Christmas produces a lot of work. The St. Ann's Carol Recital took place on December 4th. The church was as full as ever for this annual event; the Choir rose to the occasion and the singing of the Small Group under the direction of J. Heaton was commendable. The School Carol Service was very well attended and appreciated. It took place in the evening on December 18th.

Because of the musical (reviewed elsewhere), in the Lent Term the main concert of the year was held at the beginning of the Summer Term on April 23rd, 1980. Although the Band and Choir performed at this concert the highlight was a complete performance of the Trio Op 11 for Clarinet, Cello and Piano by Beethoven. This difficult work was given an accomplished performance by P. Furniss, A. Backley and R. Humphreys respectively, and it ended the first half of the concert.

Among the smaller items a newly formed Barber's Shop group sang two sets of three songs. The audience showed much appreciation for this and it is hoped that the group will keep going

in the future. The soloists included M. Etchells, (piano) playing *Moment Musical* in C Major Op 94; J. Millard, playing the first movement of the Mozart Bassoon Concerto K 191; R. Brindley playing the last movement of Haydn's trumpet concerto; P. Furniss playing the first performance of 7 Dialogues and Finale Op 24 by Bamforth; A. Pollard, violin, playing two pieces – the *Sicilienne* Op 78 of Faure and *Tarentella Napolitaine* by Sica; and N. Hussey, flute, playing the Serenade in C by Haydn and *Greek Pastoral* by Arthur Veel.

The House Music Competition took place on March 24th, 1980. We were pleased to welcome Miss Rosemary Childs and Mr. Paul Alfieri as adjudicators for the day. The general standard of performance improves year by year. The organisation among Houses is also very much better. The Competition was won by Gaskell with a total of 92 points. There will be several changes in the event next year, the major one being the abolition of entry points.

Our link with the University Music Department at Salford was further strengthened during the academic year. At the University's Concert on December 5th, A. Pollard, R. Ellis and A. Meadowcroft sang the boy solo parts in *St. Nicolas* by Britten. In March of 1980 six senior boys were invited to sing in the University Choir concert. This was excellent experience as one of the works sung was an 'O' level set work.

Through the year 118 boys were having lessons on various instruments in School. Many are now making good progress. Thirty-three boys passed examinations in instrumental playing of the Associated Board at various grades up to VI.

D.A.B.

HOSTILE WITNESS

The School Play, 1979

Mr. P. J. Callaghan's choice of *Hostile Witness* by Jack Roffey provided a marked contrast to the play of the previous year. This is essentially a traditional 'who-done-it?' with the drama constructed around court and chamber rooms as the eminent Simon Crawford, Q.C., is accused of and tried for murder. The plot is straightforward, being liberally sprinkled with suspects, motives, clues, false alibis and, naturally, the final dramatic twist as the real murderer is exposed. The play itself lacks the sustained tension of a classic thriller, and, with no sub-plot to speak of, it must be performed with pace and polish if it is to entertain and hold an audience. Mr. Callaghan had clearly set out with this aim and throughout most of the performance the cast disappointed neither him nor the audience.

The lead role of Simon Crawford, Q.C. the distinguished legal genius who has been framed for the murder of Mr Justice Gregory, was taken by C. S. Rogerson, the most experienced member of this relatively young cast. Rogerson has in previous years proved his affinity with the stage but, despite a highly competent performance here in terms of confidence, audibility and stage presence, he was not entirely convincing as a 'man of late middle age, with a brisk hard manner.' He looked, moved and spoke more in the manner of an eager young barrister than of an experienced legal campaigner, deeply worried by his present situation and still recovering from deep depression following a family tragedy. It was, however, Rogerson who held the court room scenes together whilst those around him seemed to be floundering. Rogerson kept the pace going well and drew every ounce of drama out of each scene. Most of the scenes in this play are difficult for young actors as, inevitably, much of the action is static. Happily for the success of this production Rogerson avoided stereotyped gestures and movements and appeared much at home in the court room atmosphere. He is to be congratulated on another major contribution to School drama.

The equally important role of Sir Peter Crossman, Crawford's close friend and adviser whom he asks to defend him in court, was taken by J. P. Morris who, like Rogerson, has much stage awareness, always seems in command of the situation and is always ready to rescue a scene from uncertainty. Morris was utterly convincing as the successful barrister and, as the author demands, was 'austere and precise' whether acting as friend or defence counsel to Crawford.

Perhaps the best individual performance in this production came from D. A. Campbell who in his first stage appearance took the part of the unconventional Hamish Gillespie — 'happy and untidy and Scottish: facts which tend to obscure his cleverness as a lawyer for those who don't know him'. Campbell is a natural actor who developed a most impressive soft Scottish accent and who brought dry humour, warmth and realism to otherwise mechanical scenes outside the court room. Gillespie's rôle from a dramatic point of view is to introduce some natural emotion into a very stereotyped emotionless legal environment, and Campbell's easy-going nature was ideally suited to such a rôle. I much regret that his involvement with School drama was left so late.

The 'shining talent' of Stuart Larkin, Crawford's young protégé was played by J. E. Hytner, another of the accomplished actors the School has lost this year. He adopted the air of an ambitious and confident young man, but at the same time displayed all the frustration and disillusionment which came from working for Crawford: 'Have you any idea what it means always to be told things; to have facts and figures — and orders, just stuffed into you all the time like a computer?' One of the best moments in the play is when Crawford finally confides in young Larkin: 'I understand your resentment, and the fault was mine. But you see, young counsel with natural ability are few and far between and if you're lucky enough to come across one, you handle him like blown glass.' Hytner's emotional reaction to this and other crucial situations during the play was excellent. He too has a 'shining talent' and I hope he maintains his interest in drama.

Much of the drama of the court room is dependent on the confident skill and ruthlessness of Treasury Counsel, David Naylor, played by R. J. Wakefield. The play demands that Naylor's examinations be brisk and incisive — he should at all times have the upper hand over Sir Peter and Crawford. Wakefield tried hard to portray the hardened lawyer, but for much of the time seemed uncertain so his timing was poor. Consequently the defence seemed more competent than the prosecution and some of the tension and drama was lost. Naylor's crucial cross-examination of Major Maitland, played by W. J. H. Murray, during which Crawford's alibi is invalidated, lacked conviction because neither of the young actors really fitted the parts. Murray's was a particularly difficult task: to portray a military figure in his late fifties, Crawford's main alibi, of whom Sir Peter says: '... you wouldn't trust that man as a potential key witness any further than you could kick him.' Murray's make-up was unconvincing, and in attempting to sound much older he slurred his lines. He is a competent stage performer but this rôle called for someone with rather more versatility.

J. Hogg, who played Superintendent Eley, may well have been better suited to the Maitland rôle, for he is a good character actor and as the Superintendent he seemed frustrated at the rigidity of the part. His portrayal of the matter-of-fact policeman giving evidence in court was commendable. T. A. M. Maula as Mr. Justice Osborne delighted the audience with his dry humour and his skilful interpretation of the script. He gave of his very best to bring life and stature to this small but vital rôle.

As the plot unfolds Charles Milburn, Crawford's senior clerk, is exposed as the real murderer who has been posing under a false identity in Crawford's chambers. Here too though was the problem of a young actor attempting to play the part of a man near retirement. N. J. Firth seemed out of his depth in this part and failed to portray adequately the character of this deceitful man. He tried hard in a difficult part but could not match Rogerson's ability to bring out all the drama in the final examination which provides the climax of the play as Milburn turns hostile witness.

Of the minor roles M. W. Kennedy, as Percy the office boy, and A. L. N. Pritchard as Dr. Wimborne were the most impressive. Both have learned from the experience and will undoubtedly build on this as they take on more demanding parts in the future. Other players in minor roles, particularly those involved as 'extras' in the court room, did all that was required of them in terms of a disciplined and attentive presence.

The back-stage side of the production was operated with quiet efficiency, and particular credit should be given to the designer and builders of the colourfully impressive court room set.

Hostile Witness certainly succeeded in entertaining audiences on all three nights and the whole

production team should be congratulated. Plays such as this are not ideally suited to a young and inexperienced cast, but I feel they applied themselves very creditably to their task. The play itself has inherent weaknesses and so, inevitably, did this production. However, the criticisms are, I hope, constructive and are made in the overall context that there was much to praise in individual and collective performances and much encouragement for the future of drama at the School.

P.C.H.

1066

On four successive nights at the beginning of March the School experienced the rare privilege of staging a world premiere. The familiar and splendid story of the three Kings who ruled England in 1066 was recreated yet again, this time musically, by a large and enthusiastic cast performing the newly composed words of Miss M. Green and music of Mr. D. A. Bamforth. The packed houses on all four nights immediately warmed to and applauded a most splendidly successful venture, which appealed to us all not merely because it used a large cast and gave them the scope to express their enthusiasm with colour and excitement, but also because the story's treatment, both scenically and musically, was really original and striking.

From the moment when the cast assaulted us stereophonically with the opening chorus from the two side aisles of the New Hall, we were made aware of the vigour and attack which we could expect from the chorus scenes and of the tuneful swing of the easily accessible music, splendidly performed at two pianos by R. E. Humphreys and Mr. D. E. B. Golder. Indeed, the chorus soon made the evening their own, favoured as they were by the general slant of the story, for though we met kings and queens, bishops and archbishops, counts and chieftains, we were left in no doubt that the real heroes, the people most affected by the whole amazing train of events, were the soldiers and the peasants.

Not that every moment was the riotous surge of joy which characterised the show, however: there were moments of extreme poignancy, such as when the lovely lament for the dying Edward, sensitively sung by H. J. Pimlott, was interrupted by the cadaverous Artley's deeply felt announcement, "Madam, the King is dead": moments of delightful ingenuity, for example when news of the vacated English throne arrived simultaneously in Normandy and Norway: a moment of wistful musing, as Harold and his queen, K. L. Price and A. M. Pollard, contemplated their possible future in their "Long Tailed Star" duet. All of these elements helped to balance the essentially choral nature of the main, more plebeian protagonists.

Of these the Norsemen made the most of their single opportunity to sing in the fine sea shanty which opened Act II and which got off to a flying start each night with the audience's acclaim of the simply excellent set provided by Messrs. Grant and Bennett. A convincingly blond crew rowed their way across the North Sea in very fair time, little discouraged by a few stray whiplashes from Bonser, and they sang their hearts out as they did so. One of the key contrasts, beautifully brought out in the casting, was that between the blue and blond Norwegians and the red and black Normans. These also sang with gusto, bringing down the first Act curtain with a fine French fighting song and reinforcing their victory claims further in Act II, when they were most nobly led by a brave and challenging William (J. E. Marland), whose privileged rôle allowed him to sing with the chorus and thus give anyone unaware of the story a clue as to the ultimate personal victor, the man mixing with the masses.

These soldiers led the whole cast in the most memorably engineered mayhem imaginable on the School stage; one battle scene might have been sufficient in many productions, but we were treated to two, alike in their brilliantly organised confusion and sheer deafening din. Whether or not real blood flowed is uncertain, but there were certainly minor injuries! Harold's final staggering collapse clutching eye and arrow was a splendid piece of melodrama, utterly in keeping with the moment.

But back to the heroes, not this time the professionals, but the ones who had to give up their ploughs and sickles and go and mess about "Fighting for England". The small chorus of peasants was given each alternate scene in the play, and what a success they made of it, corny country accents and all. Their four leaders, A. B. N. May, J. E. D. Crews, R. A. Ogden and A. S. Olive, made a terrific impression from the start and led some spirited and really amusing singing: the music here, particularly when supported by the agile clarinet of P. D. Furniss, was at its most cheerful and appealing, and the whole manner of the peasants, their attack and their easy audibility endeared them to the audience from their first scene to their last.

One could continue to enumerate happy moments; there springs to mind, for instance, the moving instant transition from Edward's funeral to Harold's coronation, and also the almost audible smile that spread through the audience as William finally mounted the stage as King of England to the strains of a quotation from one of our greatest British martial songs. The show's warm reception on every night was well deserved: a triumph of colour, contrast and sheer organisation — the cast, mostly very young, numbered over seventy. Is it too much to hope for a revival in the near future, possibly with the addition of some more solo, duet or even trio numbers? It would certainly be eagerly awaited by many. I can remember personal reactions of extreme enjoyment at two recent School musical occasions: Chris Barber's Jazz Band producing with its first notes a smile which lasted the concert through, and the King's Singers making me leave the hall singing. 1066 combined the two effects.

C.P.L.

HOUSE PLAY COMPETITION, 1980

Doctor Johnson's well-known comment on women's preaching comes strongly to mind when one considers the conditions and the speed with which House Plays are put together and performed — the wonder is not how well they are done, but that they are done at all. The prospect for any House Play producer must be daunting indeed — to flatter, cajole and browbeat members of his House into participation, to counter the complacent aggressiveness of those who assume they can act when they can't, to find the time for more and more pressing extra rehearsals, as well as the task of choosing a play in the first place — all these complicated difficulties, and many others, must make a producer's life like that of Brutus in his agony:

*I have not slept.
Between the acting of a dreadful thing
And the first motion, all the interim is
Like a phantasma or a hideous dream.*

The thing, of course, is to hope that the audience will be unaware of all this turmoil and tension when the play is performed. One of the marks of the best House Plays this year was indeed that the inevitable difficulties of production did not unduly intrude on the performance, so that in these plays the audience was treated to convincing theatre. Those plays which did not score so highly in the adjudicators' opinion, nonetheless all had something of value. For instance, Dalton's entry, *Tie Up The Ballcock*, though perhaps not a very wise choice, for the playwright's intentions seemed unduly ambiguous and obscure, nevertheless provided one of the most imaginative sets seen in this competition for many a year. Zaidi and Latham were notably good in this cast, but unfortunately there was such discontinuity between the different groups of characters, and there were such problems with lighting and audibility, that it was virtually impossible for the audience to make much sense of the play.

Gaskell's choice, *Resurrection*, again made it difficult for the available cast. The play seemed very static — a sequence of interviews — and this threw a great responsibility on the actors, for a play with plenty of action or with a splendid text can get by, even if the acting is weak, but *Resurrection* did not have these qualities, and so the onus placed on the cast was too much for them. Killip had one or two good moments, but he fell into the trap (as did most of the others)

of speaking too quickly. In fact the climax of the play was largely lost because it was inaudible. Problems with sound effects were unfortunate, and although the cast had undoubtedly put in a lot of work, they were unable to overcome their difficulties.

Byrom produced *The Monkey's Paw* — a good old war-horse but nonetheless a sensible choice for that. One play gives an excellent opportunity for building up tension. Sadly, various mishaps with lights, and the omission of some crucial parts of the play prevented the desired crescendo of excitement, and obscured the point of the three wishes. However, audibility was generally good, as were movement and positioning. There were one or two weaknesses in the interpretation of the text, but May and Rogerson were both excellent in their different rôles. Since the play depends on atmosphere and a spine-chilling acceleration of pace, neither of which was really achieved, the production could not be placed higher, despite some fine individual performances.

The Crimson Cocoa-nut (sic) was Heywood's choice. The main trouble was that the light frothy comedy requires considerable sophistication in the techniques of timing, speed on cue and positioning, some of which were forthcoming, but seldom all of them together. Movement and positioning were well-organised for the most part, but the device whereby Aroskin had to keep shouting off-stage was a bit disconcerting. Crucial actors were sometimes masked, and there was gabbling at some moments, but on the whole the cast was equal to the play, and Aroskin's performance demands special mention, for he acted thoroughly all the time, and was the key figure in holding together this markedly episodic play. The fragmentary quality of the play made the production tend to stagger between episodes, but each episode was fluently done while it was under way. A very worthy performance, then, but with some sluggishness which marred it.

Whitworth entertained us with *False Pretences*. This was in general a first-class production, much better than we had any right to expect from a House Play. A farce can fall flat on its face in an amateur production, and it is a tribute to all concerned with Whitworth's performance that the play was most effectively done. Small parts and the more sustained rôles were convincingly acted, and the main praise must go to Short and Murray. Both actors in their very different tasks were very good indeed. Their confidence and expertise must have strengthened the cast as a whole. The playwright's intentions were well-judged and effectively carried out. It was very difficult to judge between Whitworth and Fraser; it was a pity that such a good production did not win in 1980, when it might well have done so in another year.

The double bill of *Blue Murder* and *I'll Ring For More Toast* gave an opportunity to see Fraser's company in some varied rôles. Throughout both plays, the general level of acting in all its aspects was good, right down the cast-list. *Blue Murder* was performed with panache, and the humour was well realised. Hogg was unsure of his lines at times, but he covered well — an amusing mini-Cleese performance. Helsby showed real talent which enhanced this basically simple play. *I'll Ring For More Toast* was also performed very well. The audibility was first-class, and the humour was again well brought-out. Some lines were lost, because the actors failed to realise that they must wait for the audience's laughter to die down; only Helsby waited — again a symptom of his innate theatrical sense. In general Fraser gave a well-sustained effort, with an excellent set, smooth lighting changes, and a very strong cast. For the first time in the House Play Competition there was a prize for the best individual performance, and it went to Helsby — a tribute to his assured, polished comic acting.

To end with a general comment on the House Play Competition — I think that the series of plays, though some had weaknesses, as described above, showed that there is a considerable depth of acting talent in the School. Producers might well give particular attention in future to audibility, and to detailed rehearsal of sound and lighting effects. The large audiences on each night of the Competition were obviously very appreciative of the efforts put in by all concerned — as were the adjudicators.

The results were:

1st:	Fraser
2nd:	Whitworth

3rd: Heywood
 4th: Byrom
 5th: Gaskell
 6th: Dalton

Prize for the best individual performance awarded to:

Helsby (F).

Proxime Accesserunt: Aroskin (H); May (B); Olive (F); Hogg (F); Pritchard (F); Murray (W); Short (W).

Special mention for very good brief or cameo parts:

Rogerson (B); Zaidi (D).

D.E.B.G.

BOLLIGREW

For most of the Summer Term the word was on everybody's lips: "Who is it? What is it? Can you see it? Can you eat it perhaps?" *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew* had become reduced, reasonably enough, to three voluptuous syllables, which seemed, however, to take on some further sinister mystical significance when uttered, as frequently they were, by Dr. Dean, producer of this intriguing piece.

A large cast was assembled; staging, lighting, sound and special effects, all of particular importance in this production, were experimented with; and the forbidding task of manufacturing magpie suits and dragons' tails was embarked on. Chiefly as a result of Dr. Dean's uncanny skill at man-management, everything was ready in time for the two performances in the New Hall on the 2nd and 3rd of July.

The play, written by Robert Bolt, is the kind that stretches one's imagination to its limits, and the producer played on this in many of the effects we witnessed. The basic sets were extremely simple, but were brought to life by such amusing touches as the poster indicating "Sea" lest one was in any doubt, the obvious yet masterly rebuilding of the ruined church in miniature, and of course the astonishing special effects. This was surely the first time that the New Hall had experienced pyrotechnics, or at least remote-controlled ones; the audience was enthralled by this and by the splendid dragon, whose voice (Mr. P. J. Callaghan's, rendered suitably artful and ingratiating) was occasionally made indistinct by the otherwise effective oscillator.

Some of the essential props and effects gave problems, notably the wooden swords, old and implacable enemies of realism on the amateur dramatic stage. They tend to look wrong, they certainly sound wrong, and they break! Yet how can a producer direct a sword-fight which is to have any semblance of reality if the weapons being used are potentially lethal? Another jarring element was the mobile bunting during the scene of the Duke's arrival on the island. It was most distracting, seemed to go on forever, and for me at least, it marred several minutes of the performance. This was especially a pity since the frenzy attending the Duke's imminent landing was well developed.

How is it possible that W.H.G.S. boys are so gifted at representing on stage the poor and the needy? Whatever the explanation, the acting of the peasants here confirmed this ability, and P. D. Furniss in particular, with his rolling rural accent and musical tones, well portrayed the harmless old Obidiah. Indeed much of the acting was of a commendably good standard. N. D. Pritchard as Sir Dibgy Vayne-Trumpington was self-assured and coped well with the static opening scene, in spite of a tendency to mouth conscientiously the other actors' lines; R. A. Ogden's slightly fey manner worked well on occasions; and G. C. Pryor's Magpie spoke with evident relish as he enumerated his heinous attributes. R. J. Wakefield's experience on the stage helped him no doubt with his excellent timing as Squire Blackheart. He was never afraid of the long pause, and used his eyes to great effect when taking the audience into his confidence.

The obvious danger of imposing a narrator upon a stage play is that he may interfere with the action and the actors, thus dispelling the necessary cohesion of the play. In *Bolligrew* this was not the case. A. P. Fox as the omniscient Storyteller proved to have a key linking rôle which he carried off well. He had plenty of self-confidence, a prerequisite of such a part, spoke clearly and in a markedly Biblical tone, exuded a pleasant air of superiority over the events which he was relating, and always succeeded in getting himself on stage just at the appropriate moment, whether to run errands for the protagonists, to bring up the moon, or merely to narrate!

Although J. Hogg's modified Cockney accent as the Baron himself did not ring entirely true, one soon got used to it. The deerstalker hat, hacking jacket and jodhpurs were much less incongruous, however, and his sustained aggressive and over-bearing manner were just right. Here again experience was to count for much, and Hogg created a strong and compelling presence, carrying all before him as he strutted about the stage.

The extraordinary character of Dr. Beelzebub Moloch was played by D. Scheinmann, who settled well into the part after an over-elaborate beginning. He made little effort to adopt the guise of an old gentleman, perhaps wisely, but uttered his difficult lines with verve and assurance. His sharp worldliness was very nicely suggested by the velvet bow-tie.

As so often is the case with full-length amateur productions the middle section of this play proved unwieldy and was sometimes rather less than gripping. Young boys in any case tend to lack both the vocal and the visual authority of older men, and one sensed at times that the actors were finding the play long and gruelling, and their roles difficult to sustain. With the approach of the final scenes, however, they once again began to take a firmer grasp of the action instead of being led reluctantly along by their lines, and the climax was tense and chilling.

So despite the many difficulties confronting the Drama Club when attempting to stage productions at the end of the Summer Term this one proved a considerable success, emphasising strongly the need to exploit in this way the wide ranging talents of the "average" Hulmeian: all credit then to Dr. Dean for a humorous, skilful and ambitious production, to the actors for doing at least as well as expected, and to the army of people backstage who contributed so much.

D.M.F.

THE COMPUTER UNIT

The school computer system has made considerable advances this year. The standard of programming has increased at all levels and the considerable number of juniors willing to wait behind after school is a measure of its popularity.

Sixth-formers tend to produce mathematical and physical simulations while games are produced by Lower School boys. The output of programs has a remarkably wide range; notable examples are System Editor (R. Latham), 'Breakout' (A. Reece), 'Space Invaders' (R. Munro) and Music Composition (J. Marland).

A group of Sixth Form Mathematics students advise and help the younger boys, and also keeps order in the Terminal Room. Breaks and lunch-hours are allocated to different age groups. This arrangement has worked well throughout the year.

The elements of programming are taught in Mathematics lessons, the three television monitors allowing a class of 30 to see a program. Mr. M. Wood holds a course after school for first formers who want to learn the principles of computing. However, boys are encouraged to learn by watching more experienced users and by examining their programs.

One of the successes of the system has been the use of the powerful storage facilities by other departments. Not only have several biological and physical simulations been written, but also Dr. Clark has set chemistry 'O'-Level multiple choice questions for use on the system, the boys testing themselves during their free time. Recently P. D. Glickman and Mr. P. Callaghan have stored and analysed an 1851 census of Manchester.

With any large five-terminal system faults can be expected, but although we have been let down by mechanical failure in a particularly troublesome terminal, the software has provided near-perfect service for 18 months.

When the system was installed in early 1979, many were sceptical, but the popularity shown, particularly by younger boys, should quell any claims that the unit was a poor investment. About one quarter of the School have some programming experience and many Sixth Formers are applying for Computer Science courses at University, where their practical programming will prove invaluable.

J.E.M.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

Mr. Turner continued as President in 1980 and the Committee, elected before Christmas, was as follows:

Secretary: S. D. Mee.

Chairmen: D. B. Lister. R. Silver.

Publicity Officers: N. T. Hutchinson, A. Pritchard.

Representatives: 6th Form: M. J. Brocklebank, 5th Form: R. J. Furniss, 4th Form: M. Taylor, 3rd Form: A. Harris.

This year's debates have once again been well attended, with members of the Middle School pleasingly taking a more prominent role than previously. Debates have included not only such topical issues as British attendance at the Moscow Olympics, but also more general themes such as the evils of alcohol, as well as the timeless "This House believes that the Earth is flat". There have of course been "Any Questions?" sessions, and Balloon Debates brought such diverse personalities as Shakespeare, Pol Pot and Jo Gormley before discriminating audiences.

Following the success of last year's Mock Election, a Mock United Nations Session took place on the theme of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. Despite opposition from Russia, Great Britain and Paraguay, the debate resulted in a win for S.P. Holloway, the Honduras representative.

This year saw the first inter-school debate for some years with Withington High School, when we discussed Mrs. Mary Whitehouse. In February R. Silver delivered a stirring speech in the Didsbury Rotary Club's Public Speaking Competition, and A. Pritchard gave a witty address in the Junior Section.

I should like to thank Mr. R. G. Mee for help with publicity, and former secretary R. Silver both for organising our trip to the House of Commons and for his hard work and devotion to the Society throughout the year. Thanks also to Mr. Turner and Dr. Dean who have given guidance and shown enthusiasm whenever needed. Dr. Dean is succeeding Mr. Turner as our President in September 1980.

S.D.M.

In December the Debating Society went to the House of Commons, accompanied by Mr. Turner and Dr. Dean. We were privileged to be shown around the Palace of Westminster by Mr. George Morton, M.P. for Moss Side, who gave us a very clear view of Westminster and its work. In addition, some members of our group met their own M.P.s during the course of the day. Above all, we had the rare opportunity of seeing the House in session from the Public Gallery.

On behalf of the Society, I should like to express sincere thanks to Mr. Morton for taking time to show us round, for explaining some of the Parliamentary procedures to us, and for making the day so informative and enjoyable.

R.S.

THE DONNER LIBRARY

During the year 144 volumes have been added to the stock. Many of these 'new' books came from the Geography department for use by 'A' level students.

Photocopying facilities have kindly been provided by the Bursar and much use is made of this service.

The Headmaster appointed Richard Silver to be Prefect Librarian and he has set a high standard for those who follow after him. The following have kindly donated books and magazines: Mr. C. Seddon, Mr. I. Shaw, Mr. P. Callaghan, Dr. R. Cummings, Mr. C. Midwood, Mr. H. Massingham, R. Silver, P. Atkins.

F.N.M.

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB TRIP TO NORTH WALES

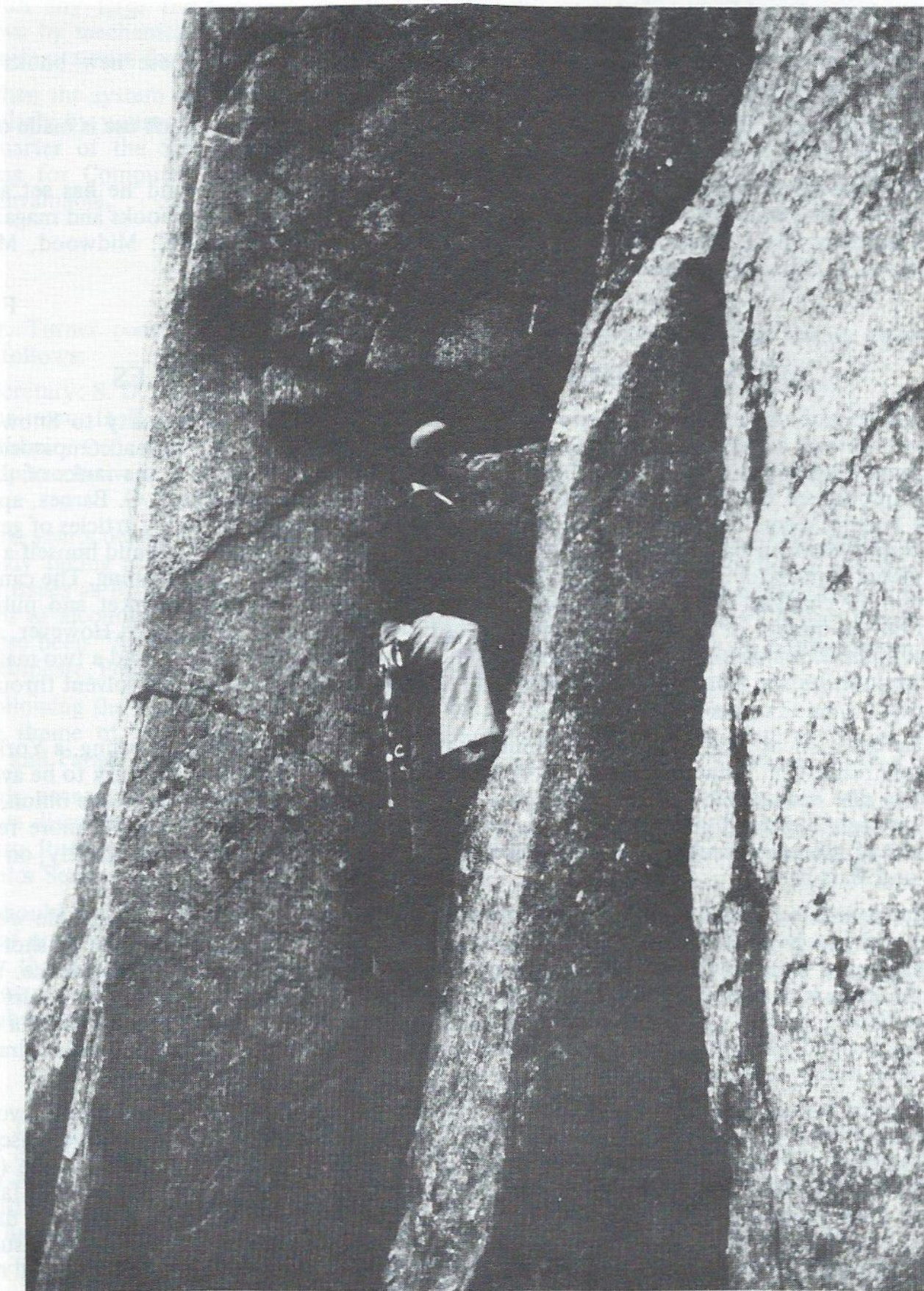
This summer seven boys and two staff comprised the rock climbing party to Snowdonia. The boys were all experienced crag rats and Dr. M. I. Barker and Dr. J. A. Clark accompanied them as general overseers and car drivers. Mr. S. J. Keeling, a recent addition to the ranks of the Old Hulmeians, joined the group as unpaid bergführer and dietician and Dr. D. G. Barnes, appalled by the bulging seams of Dr. Barker's mini, insisted on ferrying the more bulky articles of gear and D. M. Hainsworth to base camp at Brynrefail. He then hurriedly departed to build himself a house in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, his most unassailable excuse to date for not rock climbing. The camp site had recently changed hands and was newly equipped with its own supermarket and pub. This improved the quality of camp life substantially but elevated the cost of our stay. However, a great deal of complex bargaining with the management over what actually constituted a two-man tent, plus the contribution from a defective electronic calculator, kept us reasonably solvent throughout the week.

The question of food became something of a talking point. Bergführer Keeling, a Yorkshireman now resident in Edinburgh, took the view that food was an unnecessary luxury to be avoided, except in dire emergency, and offered to share, at a price, his week's rations of one onion, half a green pepper, a bag of muesli and an unspeakable tub of peanut butter. The more realistic members of the party declined this dubious offer and dined regularly, if not exclusively, on baked beans and Mars bars.

The problem of what to wear on the hills became acute owing to very changeable weather, and several highly individual modes of dress emerged. The bergführer wore running shorts and singlet, normal clothing being spurned as another sign of bourgeois Sassenach decadence. With a splendid sense of tradition, E. Hibbert adopted full Welsh summer dress, namely hair shirt in the hunting Stuart, thick Lovatt tweed breeches, oiled wool socks, alpine boots and Annapurna duvet. Dr. Clark looked very fetching in a pair of cavalry twills, reduced to an exotic and rather draughty deep green lace by a liberal sprinkling of sulphuric acid.

The first venue, chosen for its multiplicity of easier routes, was the Idwal Slabs. Old favourites like Faith (V.D.), Hope (V.D.), Charity (V.D.), Lazarus (S) and Tennis Shoe (S) were ascended with alacrity, and harder problems eagerly sought. Original Route (V.S.), Piton Route (V.S.), Balcony Cracks (V.S.), Javelin Gully (H.S.) and Diagonal Route (V.S.) were the next to fall, the gradings giving an indication of the overall level of competence and drive. To crown the day Mr. Keeling made a very bold lead of Suicide Wall (X.S.) leaving Dr. Barker as an unhappy, insurance-conscious second to remove the single and inadequate running belay.

The second day saw North Wales at its worst with sheeting rain and minimal visibility, so a visit was paid to the Llanberis slate museum. By evening the clouds had cleared away and, at a time when all sensible climbers were safely tucked into the nearest hostelry, the fanatics retired to Clogwyn y Grochan. Despite Dr. Barker's Cassandra-like mutterings about disasters on wet rock, Brant (V.S.) and Nea (S) received mass ascents and the latter route received a rapid descent



D. M. Hainsworth on Lot's Groove (H.V.S.)

when R. J. Latham fell off the crux and severely dented his ego. R. C. Brindley and D. A. Parry seconded the still-wingeing Dr. Barker up Brant Direct (H.V.S.) with ease, making it apparent that they were quite capable of climbing this standard without a chaperon.

The low-lying Tremadoc rocks were next on the agenda owing to poor conditions in the mountains. M. A. Jones, D. M. Hainsworth, Hibbert, Brindley and Parry, all leading at the very severe grade, rattled off Poor Man's Peuterey (H.S.), Scratch (V.S.), Clapton's Crack (V.S.), One Step in the Clouds (V.S.) and Grim Wall (V.S.). Mr. Keeling and Hibbert managed to stray onto extreme rock owing to a route-finding error and were caught in the act of abseiling off into the brambles. The evening was enhanced by a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Booker.

The weather being kinder on the following day, we made the strenuous slog up to the main cliff of Glyder Fach. Brindley made a fine lead of Lot's Groove (H.V.S.), and Jones and Parry both led the tricky Lot's Wife (V.S.). Dr. Barker frightened himself and became extremely grubby on Edwards Flake Crack (H.V.S.). The same route gave Brindley a chance to practise his rope-climbing technique and Jones to show off as a trapeze artist. Hainsworth and Dr. Clark did the Direct Route (S), usually clean and enjoyable but now clothed in green slime and very treacherous. The hills were alive with the sound of cursing as a less than immaculate duo emerged from the final filthy chimney.

The party was now becoming supercharged. The famous test piece of Welsh climbing, a must for aspiring hard men, Cenotaph Corner (X.S.) was ascended next day by Mr. Keeling and Brindley, who then nonchalantly led through on its equally impressive neighbour Cemetery Gates (X.S.). Meanwhile Parry and Hainsworth, having finished Sabre Cut (V.S.), were dragging Dr. Barker up Ivy Sepulchre (H.V.S.). The rest of the party fought with the crowds on Flying Buttress (H.D.), definitely a route to be avoided on sunny weekends. To round off a superb day the Keeling-Barker rope ascended a Don Whillans' special. Grond (X.S.) is sixty feet of overhanging crack devoid of footholds and resting places. Readers of "The Lord of the Rings" will recognise the rather apt name, "Grond ground on"!

A visit to the most famous crag in Britain now became a must. Clogwyn Du'r Arddu, the Black Cliff, or simply "Cloggy" to its devotees, is situated on a spur of Snowdon and easily seen as one ascends the mountain by the tourist path or railway from Llanberis. The finest climb in Wales at its standard is undoubtedly the Great Slab — Bow Shaped Slab Combination (V.S.) taking an intricate but logical line for six hundred feet up the highest part of the Western Buttress. Mr. Keeling, Hainsworth and the old men did this, and some others did the equally famous Curving Crack (V.S.) and Chimney Route (V.S.).

The evening on "Cloggy" was well nigh perfect. The clouds had disappeared and the setting sun was warming the rock and casting the huge architecture of the Western Buttress into sharp relief. The trains and tourists had departed, the wind had dropped and the cwm was idyllically peaceful and quiet. High up on Bow a diminutive Hainsworth could be picked out leading the long run-out up the tremendous penultimate pitch towards the final overhang. In retrospect, this particular scene sums up all the excitement and enjoyment of a truly memorable week.

After six days of hard climbing the strain, both nervous and physical, was taking its toll. Some of the party departed with relief to Manchester with Dr. Clark, and Dr. Barnes arrived for the final two days. The remaining climbers now split into two parties. The traditionalists made for Tryfan with Dr. Barnes. The sharp end of the rope was proffered to N. A. Smith with various threatening gestures convincing him immediately of the joys of leading and an enjoyable ascent of Gashed Crag (V.D.) was made. The lunatic fringe hijacked the mini and insisted on Tremadoc again. As a final fling, and with commendable fortitude, Brindley and Jones did Olympic Slab (V.S.) and the even harder Helsinki Wall (H.V.S.). A blatant and grotesquely unethical rest was taken on a running belay by the severely gripped Doctor on Wasp (X.S.). The end was clearly at hand. The bergführer announced his inability to climb another foot owing to the onset of hunger pangs. This astonishing confession was greeted with ill-concealed glee by his followers, and the rest of the day was devoted to milkshakes and stone-skimming on the beach.

On the final morning we awoke, almost thankfully, to torrential and interminable rain. The monsoon had begun!

M.I.B. and J.A.C.

PARIS 1980

After an interval of five years the Paris trip was revived during the Easter holidays when Miss Barratt, as she then was, and Messrs. Clark, Langford and Timm accompanied forty-two boys from the First and Second Forms on an eight-day visit.

For the first time we travelled by coach and made use of it during our stay in Paris. This had many advantages, not the least of which was that we were able without inconvenience to stay a little way from the centre of the city in a pleasant district on the South-Western edge of Paris, right next to the Boulevard Périphérique which gave rapid and easy access to all parts of the city.

Accommodation was in the Lycée Michelet, whose original part was built by Mansart — the architect of Versailles — as a wedding gift for his daughter. The school is feeling its age, and indeed is about to be extensively restored, but it had a number of attractions for our party, including several acres of pleasant grounds, and we were cordially received by its domestic staff and by the officials of the Comité d'Accueil with whom we had organised the visit.

The programme of visits followed its familiar pattern though the Louvre Museum was missed when it failed to open owing to a twenty-four-hour strike. In addition to seeing the monuments of central Paris the party spent a morning in Versailles and, after a picnic lunch, visited Josephine's house at Malmaison. Time was found for a trip to the zoo at Vincennes and to the Bois de Boulogne for a boating session on the lake. A number of boys were taken to Easter Day Mass at the Church of Saint-Séverin, the former parish church of the Left Bank, which is seldom visited by tourists.

With generally fine weather and a busy programme the days passed swiftly and smoothly. Those in charge were impressed by the competence and obliging nature of the coach driver and by the level of interest shown by the party, most of whose members will have derived much benefit and a store of memories from their first visit to Paris.

H.W.T.

RHINELAND 1980

The occupants of Bad Salzbig must have been slightly perturbed at the sight of twenty-five boys from the Middle School and their three accompanying teachers, Mr. Turner, and Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, storming the Hotel Winzerhaus shortly after midnight on August 21st. Rarely has such a tired group of boys been seen.

No one, though, was suffering from anything a long sleep could not put right and at breakfast on Thursday morning there were far fewer bleary eyes. We enjoyed a relaxing steamer trip along the Rhine to Rüdesheim and back on the first day. Rüdesheim has two main points of interest, the first being the Niederwald Monument which, as it is perched on top of a hill and is quite a large structure, can be seen from a fair distance. This monument was built just as Germany was beginning to have real feelings of national identity, to commemorate the victory in the 1870-71 war with France. The second famous feature of Rüdesheim is a very narrow street called the Drosselgasse.

There was more travelling on Friday, though this time in a coach driven by a German who had aspirations to be a comic. We visited the Deutsches Eck which is situated in Koblenz at the confluence of the Rhine and Mosel rivers. Like the Niederwald Monument this structure was built to assert the superiority of the German people. Unlike nationalistic structures erected during

Hitler's rule, which have since been destroyed, the Niederwald Monument and the building at Deutsches Eck have been allowed to stand. We also went to Cochem where we took a chair-lift and went on a guided tour of the wine cellars. So stunned were we all, either by our first encounter with alcohol or by the manner of delivery of the information, that none of us except Mr. Turner were "having any questions". Never mind, we were all given two samples of the local Mosel wine afterwards.

On Saturday morning we went into nearby Boppard and went up the chair-lift. On reaching the summit we were assaulted by a large German woman for standing too close to the chairs of her large but deserted café. Maybe she never forgave Geoff Hurst. After lunching in the hotel we walked to the baths in Boppard. One feature of Germany, or at least of the part we saw, which many people noticed, was the cleanliness. The Germanic obsession with cleanliness extended to the swimming pool; in order to swim we all had to don nylon swimming caps which must have covered at least forty per cent of our hair.

The next morning we caught a ferry across the Rhine and climbed the hill directly opposite our resort. At the summit were two castles, separated by a wall of dispute, called the "feindlichen Brüder" or hostile brothers. After a very early lunch we again boarded a coach (though this time, mercifully, the driver spoke no English) which took us to Ehrenbreitstein and Bad Ems. Ehrenbreitstein is a very large set of fortifications perched on a hill overlooking the Deutsches Eck. Like Bad Salzig, Bad Ems is a spa town and the water here was found to have a taste very similar to blood. We were unable to compare these waters with the ones at Bad Salzig, though, because the tap room was shut. After sampling the water we all hired boats and spent a wet and tiring half-hour obstructing shipping on the Lahn.

On our final day we visited an extinct volcano called the Maria Laach. The crater has flooded into a lake and several people again went for the nautical experience. The afternoon was spent shopping and looking round Koblenz (the next day the scene of Steve Ovett's world record run). The shop which gave the best value for money was a Woolworth's.

The party left Bad Salzig at seven o'clock the next morning after being woken at a diabolically early time, and reached the climes of Chorlton at two the following morning. Thanks are due, for driving the minibuses between Manchester and London on each leg of the journey, to Messrs. Beggs and Callaghan. I'm sure everyone who went on the trip found it very enjoyable and informative, and thanks are due to Mr. Turner and Mr. and Mrs. Fisher who worked hard, though with good humour, to make it so.

R.D.H.

SKIING IN BULGARIA 1979

Skiing in Bulgaria may not have the immediate romantic appeal of a holiday in the Swiss Alps, or indeed have the sophistication of the winter playground of the West, but it does have all the elements that make a holiday abroad memorable. Fulfilment, excitement, achievement and enjoyment found in the skiing, and the simple fascination of being in a foreign country, were all feelings that members of the party brought back with them, through a variety of experiences.

The trip began predictably with an exhausting coach journey, airport delays, and a bumpy flight. As we approached our destination the feelings of uncertainty as to what awaited us increased with the perfunctory announcement that we would not be landing at Plovdiv but at the distant Sofia. Panoramic views of the Alps, and the tour of the Danube Valley, could not dispel prospects of the five-hour coach journey which resulted from our diversion. However, despite our travel weariness, the journey through the night, interspersed with sodium-lit forms of dour apartments, spectacular posters and monumental hoardings extolling Socialist virtues retained an interest and prevented sleep.

By the time we arrived at the spartan-looking hotel we were too tired to notice the lack of snow, but after comfortable beds and clean sheets had ensured a good rest, we found that the

nursery slopes at the foot of the mountain could not be used. This meant that the upper nurseries at the top of Snozhenka (The Snow White Mountain) would be our training ground and we trudged off, towards the ski-lift, apprehensively.

After the initial worry of how on earth to get on the perpetually moving ski-lift had subsided and before the necessity of worrying how to get off had developed, we found ourselves suspended above unreally beautiful views surrounded by an overwhelming silence. It is hard to understand how we managed, in one week, to take for granted those first sights of towering crags, blindingly brilliant snow, and regiments of conifers of subtly changing greens.

Arrival at the peak was to be no anticlimax even after our journey up. It seemed that we must be on the roof of the world, looking down on the clouds and across the mountain peaks of Greece and Turkey. After that we were down to the more mundane matters of the holiday: first putting on our skis, then standing up, falling down, and standing up, again, and again, and again. We all went through the stage, at one time or another, of wondering whether we would ever be able to ski. Progress, surprisingly, was rapid and satisfying, and falling over quite good fun anyway. After two days on slightly steeper slopes, came the thrill of rapid unaided movement, accompanied by a deafening silence, and followed by getting up again, an art which was nearly perfected by this time. Progress continued, each day bringing discernible improvements in everyone.

In the meantime, there was the enjoyment of being abroad to savour. Despite the lack of any local village life in our purpose-built resort, the sense of being in a foreign country was all around. The food was different, but good, the instructors full of misquotations, and suggestions of easy money for "warm jeans" on the black market, and the hotel maids, thick-set and silent, almost living up to western caricatures of Eastern-bloc women. The effect of altitude became noticeable only when the strenuous exertions of snowball fighting proved too much for Mr. Seddon. However, our best insight into life in Bulgaria, undoubtedly came from the trip to the local market town, Smolyan, where the inhabitants viewed us, and more specifically, our clothes and shoes, with amazement and some suspicion. Our sorties into the shops, often identical inside, showed us how limited the choice and range of goods were, and how poor the people were.

Then, the week was over. The final day's skiing brought the chance to ski down the mountain, every one of us a downhill racer, skiing parallel, schuss position, at least down the easy bits! Ski certificates were presented, bags packed, and suddenly we were back in a flat and snowless England.

The success of the week came from the combination of the thrill of skiing, which like a drug will attract many boys back for another "fix", and the smooth and efficient organisation of Mr. Seddon and Mr. Moore, whose unselfish attitude towards the beginners in the group, especially on the free skiing time, ensured their progress.

I.J.S.

STAGE STAFF

The Stage Staff have performed magnificently this year under the capable leadership of J. M. Parry, receiving many accolades instead of the usual brickbats and displaying some unusual talents, including N. J. A. Van Falk's first aid on a member of the 1066 cast actually injured during the pretend fighting! Two members have even found the work sufficiently stimulating to apply successfully for places on courses in stage management during the Summer holidays — M. Collins with the Manchester Youth Theatre and I. R. Cumming at the National Youth Theatre in London. With the recent improvement in school stage facilities I hope they will not return too dissatisfied with the amateur scene.

G.N.G.

STAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Work began early for the Stage Staff this year with curtain stores being divided in two to make a stage-staff common room and a badly-needed costume store, at last bringing some semblance of order to a confusing and untidy system. The alteration took up quite some time and owing to various other factors we were late preparing for the school play *Hostile Witness*, the paint once again being wet when the curtain went up: a curtain powered, incidentally, by a newly-installed electric winch, operated remotely by the lighting staff perched in their new 'eyrie' above the organ, in the alcove at the side of the New Hall. The courtroom 'box' set with prop sets on the apron stage was relatively undemanding in construction and operation, which was just as well considering what was to follow later in the year!

During the Lent term the home-produced musical *1066* had a plain curtain set, the new pair of mid-stage curtains thankfully being delivered just in time. The simplicity of this was balanced by some large and complex props, the largest being a Viking Longship complete with twelve-foot oars. The performances went well for us apart from one minor mistake by an electrician who shall remain nameless. We barely had time to clear the stage before the House Plays were upon us, operating under new rules which, in fact, reverted to the old practice of providing only curtain sets. This is perhaps a fairer system than the 'first-who-comes-gets-the-best-set' one of recent years. The ever-versatile apron stage assumed yet another shape to accommodate two pianos for *1066*. This pushed the audience front row back even further and if this trend continues the cast may one day outnumber the audience (as, regrettably, it often does for the House Plays).

We expected a break during the Summer term but it was not to be. *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew* required a great many special effects, the best, undoubtedly, being the dragon. This play was the most enjoyable of the productions from our point of view, drawing on all our resources for the well-timed operation of the set which was particularly well-managed by the sound and lighting staff.

This has been the most interesting and enjoyable year yet for most of us and we would thank all those involved with the productions for their help and co-operation.

J.M.P.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Isolation

Under the dark furrowed sky,
In soft blue light,
Is focused an image of a man,
Clutching a bottle;
The bottle of good memories.
The white soft ball, high in the heavens,
Callously shows the man to all the world.
Though no-one could see your face,
You hide in a corner,
Drowning your sorrows,
Drowning yourself.
Hey, loner, once a lone proud wolf,
Can't handle life, hey?
Unless the bottle leads you.
Inside you there is someone living, but the bottle stops that.
That bottle has taken you to death and back,
Although you never moved.
Blasted by booby traps of the mind
You stumbled your way through life.
Ah, that word "life", what does it mean to you?
A warm feeling in your belly or a throbbing head.
Your life a yoyo existence from fantasy to reality.
But who cares?
You don't, so why should I, old man?
You've drunk too much
Now you'll rock and sway,
Like when you used to dance.
But when you fall back to reality
It will be twice as painful as before.
So what do you do?
That's it, take another swig.
Bye, old man, Outcast.
I'll come to your funeral,
Yes, just I.

A. Harris, 3Y

Lost Life

As the long fallen leaves lay decaying in the soil
And the odd starling whistled its solemn tune
A gusting wind blew open the shed door.
The feeling of deep melancholy hung about the air:
All was not well inside the door.
Blackbird glided in and perched on the lowest shelf.
There on the ground lay a body without soul.
The little creature was a Guinea Pig, Null and Void.
His eyes were open a little way
As if trying to regain the lost treasure.
The Blackbird sang his last lament.

A. S. Olive, 3B

HOUSE LETTERS

BYROM HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

The following appointments were made:

Head of House: A. Dowdall.

Deputy Head of House: C. S. Rogerson.

S. R. Cooper became a School Prefect.

House Prefects: A. Johnson, D. Watmough, H. A. Shawdon, A. C. Daber, M. N. Daviason, D. R. Ralston.

Captain of House League Rugby: H. A. Shawdon.

Captain of House Knock-out Rugby XV: A. Dowdall.

The following played for School teams at rugby:

1st XV: D. Watmough, A. Johnson, C. S. Rogerson, S. R. Cooper, A. Dowdall, S. Brown, A. W. Smith.

2nd XV: C. P. Robinson, P. R. Hunt, J. P. Hill, R. S. Munro.

U.15 XV: P. S. Emmott, E. C. Whipp, N. R. Hatton, S. J. Barratt, A. C. Harrison, M. W. Harrison, C. F. Marshall.

U.14 XV: A. P. Marsden, D. J. C. Ingram, L.-E. Pye.

Our senior league side, led with drive and energy by H. A. Shawdon, provided reasonable opposition and played with spirit in a year when Byrom had a record number of boys playing for School teams, which inevitably leaves a weak House League side.

The Senior Knock-out rugby team was composed almost completely of squad players and we were strong favourites. The pack was powerful and well led by the captain, A. Dowdall; whilst the backs had the incisive penetration and speed of D. Watmough. Only Whitworth offered any threat, but we won the final easily for the second successive year. The Junior Knock-out side was quite strong and was only just defeated in the final.

A.D.

Lent Term

The following appointments were made:

House Prefects: S. P. Dickinson, S. J. Jary.

Captain of House Lacrosse: S. R. Cooper.

Captain of House Knock-out XII: A. Johnson.

Captain of House Cross-country: S. R. Cooper.

Producer of House Play: J. E. Hytner.

The following played for School teams at Lacrosse:

Squad for 1st & 2nd X: A. Johnson, A. P. Booth, A. W. Smith, T. C. Smith.

Under 15: E. C. Whipp, N. R. Hatton, I. W. Pattinson.

Under 14: A. S. Campbell, A. P. Marsden, D. J. C. Ingram, N. E. Hussey, I. C. E. Roberts, L. -E. Pye.