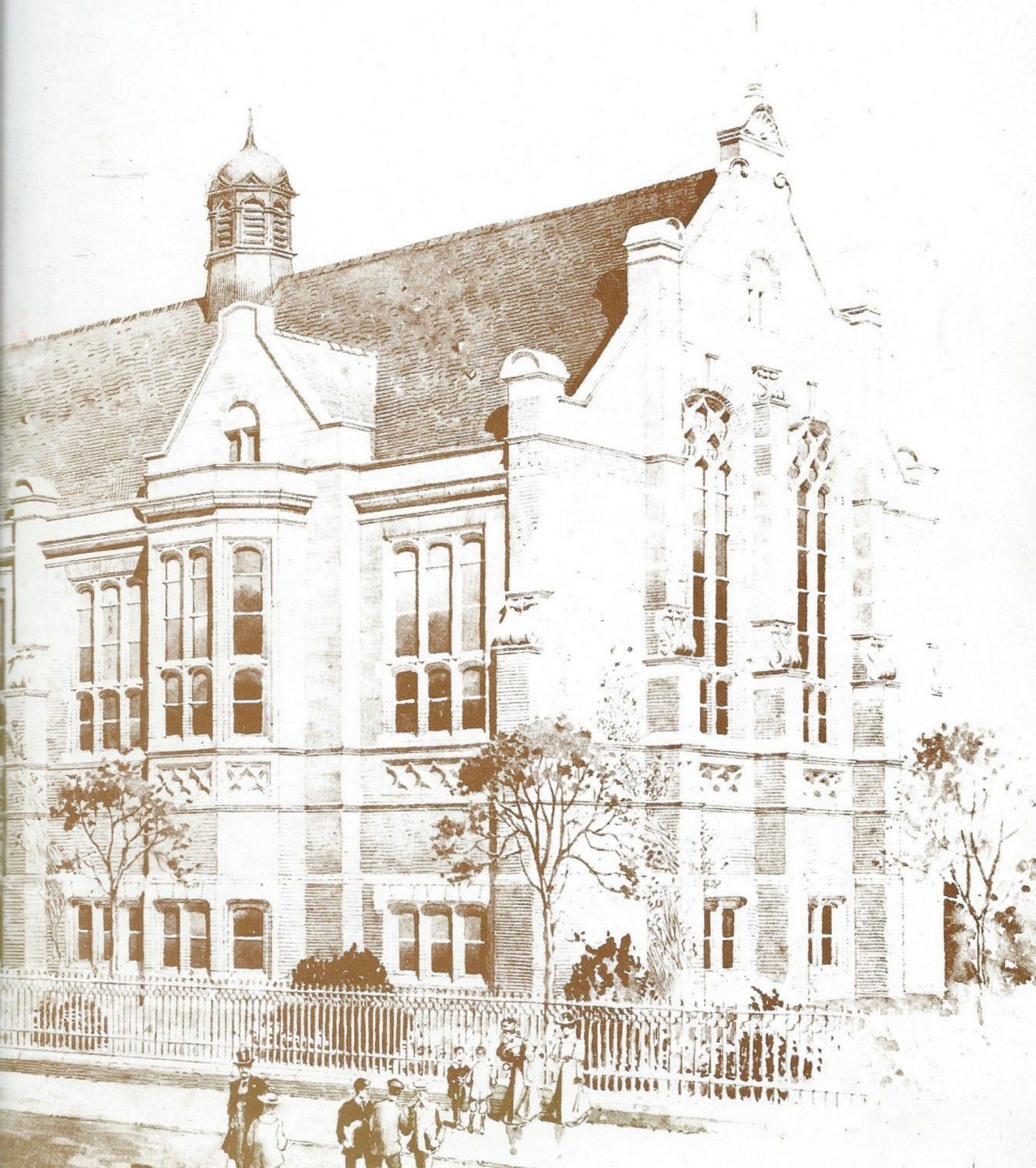


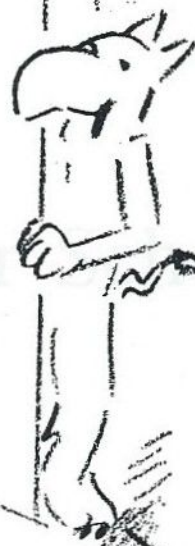
The Hulmeian 1986



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THE HULMEIAN

The Magazine of
William Hulme's Grammar School

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WILLIAM HULME'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Chairman: E. B. Jackson, F.C.A.

Vice-Chairman: C. H. Jones, F.I.B.

Governors Emeriti:

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

D. LI. Griffiths, M.B.E., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.

D. D. Boddington, B.Sc., A.R.I.C.S.

D. A. Boothman, F.C.A.

The Venerable R. B. Harris, M.A.

D. W. Homer

C. F. Jeanes, O.B.E.

J. D. Marsden

C. B. Muir

R. A. Rainford, O.B.E., M.A., LL.D., F.A.C.C.A.

Professor Sir Mark Richmond, B.A., Ph.D., Sc.D., F.R.C.Path., F.R.S.

Canon A. R. M. Seaman, M.A., H.Dip.Ed.

W. G. Thorpe, C.B.E., F.I.O.B.

Advisory Governor:

Air Chief-Marshal Sir Joseph Gilbert, K.C.B., C.B.E., B.A., R.A.F.

Clerk to Governors:

J. M. Shelmerdine

Librarian: F. N. Marsh, B.A. (Manchester)

Bursar: Commander G. Straw, F.A.A.I., M.B.I.M., R.N. (retd.)

Medical Officer: A. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B.

SCHOOL STAFF

(as at 1 September 1986)

Head Master: P. A. Filleul, M.A. (late Exhibitioner, Exeter College, Oxford)

Second Master: M. Loveland, B.Sc. (Liverpool) (*Mathematics*)

- S. A. Kirkham, B.Sc. (Manchester) (*Head of Science*)
 R. A. Haynes, M.A. (Downing College, Cambridge), M.I.Biol. (*Head of Biology*)
 D. F. Manning, B.A. (Open), M.A. (Scholar, Queen's College, Cambridge) (*Mathematics; Director of Studies*)
 W. Jackson, M.A. (Scholar, Pembroke College, Oxford) (*Head of Classics*)
 A. M. Blight, (Culham College) (*History; Master-in-charge of Religion*)
 H. W. Timm, B.A. (Manchester) (*Head of Modern Languages*)
 C. P. Langford, B.A. (Exhibitioner, Brasenose College, Oxford) (*French and German; Head of Junior School*)
 H. V. Grange, B.Sc. (Manchester) (*Physics*)
 R. L. Houghton, M.A. (Exhibitioner, Emmanuel College, Cambridge) (*English*)
 D. A. Bamforth, B.Mus. (Wales), F.T.C.L., A.R.C.M. (*Director of Music*)
 D. E. B. Golder, M.A. (Scholar, Pembroke College, Oxford), L.T.C.L. (*Head of English*)
 M. R. Booker, B.Sc. (Manchester), A.F.I.M.A. (*Head of Mathematics*)
 M. D. Wood, B.Sc. (Manchester) (*Mathematics*)
 P. J. Callaghan, M.A. (New College, Oxford) (*Head of History*)
 J. A. Clark, M.A., Ph.D. (Exhibitioner, Gonville and Caius College) (*Head of Chemistry*)
 G. N. Grant, Diploma Loughborough College (*Head of Design and Technology*)
 G. L. Bennett, B.A. (Manchester) (*Head of Art*)
 J. F. Chudleigh, (O.C., C.C.F.) (*Physical Education*)
 I. J. Shaw, B.A. (Sheffield) (*Head of Economics; Head of Sixth Form*)
 D. G. Barnes, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Manchester) (*Head of Physics*)
 D. M. Fisher, B.A. (Manchester) (*French*)
 R. S. Moore, B.Sc. (Manchester) (*Biology*)
 G. J. Turner, M.A. (Scholar, Christ's College, Cambridge) (*French and German*)
 M. I. Barker, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Dunelm.) (*Physics*)
 H. N. Beggs, M.A. (Wales) (*Head of Geography*)
 C. MacLachlan, M.A. (Glasgow), B.Litt. (Balliol College, Oxford) (*Classics*)
 A. M. Wilson, B.A. (Newcastle), Ph.D. (St. Andrews) (*Classics*)
 R. A. Ballantyne, M.A. (Aberdeen) (*History; Head of Careers*)
 G. B. Moss, Cert.Ed. (Madeley College) (*Physical Education*)
 C. H. Seddon, B.Ed. (Leeds) (*Head of Physical Education*)
 L. Sharp, B.Sc. (Manchester) (*Mathematics*)
 A. Simkin, M.A. (Scholar, Jesus College, Oxford) (*Chemistry*)
 Mrs. L. A. Ballantyne, B.A. (Manchester) (*French*)
 M. H. Gracey, M.A., M.Litt. (Exhibitioner, Brasenose College, Oxford) (*Classics*)
 P. M. Bull, B.A. (Manchester) (*French and Spanish*)
 A. Greenall, G.R.I.C., F.C.S. (Manchester Polytechnic) (*Chemistry*)
 J. G. Hofton, B.A. (Leeds) (*French*)
 J. H. Thomson, B.Sc. (Manchester) (*Physics*)
 C. J. Maudsley, B.Sc. (Manchester) (*Mathematics*)
 H. N. Veevers, B.Sc. (Liverpool) (*Geography*)
 R. M. Harrison, B.Sc. (Warwick) (*Mathematics*)
 M. P. Jones, B.A. (Lancaster) (*History and Politics*)
 R. E. Lytollis, B.Sc. (Loughborough) (*Physical Education and Geography*)
 R. M. Noel-Smith, M.A. (Scholar, St. Catherine's College, Oxford) (*English*)
 A. E. Watson, M.A. (Liverpool) (*English*)
 N. P. Dunn, B.Ed. (De La Salle College) (*Design and Technology*)
 Mrs. G. H. Hall, B.A. (Manchester), M.A. (Bristol) (Theology) (*English*)
 G. H. Jones, B.A. (Newcastle) (*Geography*)
 Mrs. I. B. Wright, Staatsexamen (Hamburg) (*German*)
 Mrs. M. Cruttenden, Liverpool College of Art (*Art*)
 Mrs. E. Wood, G.N.S.M., L.R.A.M. (*Music*)
 J. McIntyre, B.Sc. (Manchester) (*Chemistry*)
 Mrs. G. M. Brown, B.Sc. (London) (*Mathematics*)
 J. Keable, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Durham) (*Chemistry*)
 D. McNally, B.A. (Manchester) (*Economics*)

SCHOOL NOTES AND NEWS

Undoubtedly the most momentous news of the academic year 1985-6 was the Governors' announcement that the School is to admit girls into the Sixth Form from September 1987 and into the First Form from September 1988. The Governors expressed their belief that this move was in the School's best interests and would enable it to face the future with undiminished confidence. Our forthcoming Centenary celebrations will thus mark a double turning-point in the School's history.

This exciting development will, however, bring with it a sadder change. Our Head Master, while wholeheartedly endorsing the Governors' decision, felt that the transition to co-education should be overseen by a younger man than himself: accordingly he will retire at the end of the Centenary academic year. A full review here of all that he has done for us in the last twelve years would be premature, but our awareness of our debt to him will be in our minds throughout the coming months.

The sixth Head Master of William Hulme's Grammar School, who will take up his appointment from 1 September 1987, is Mr P. D. Briggs, M.A. (Cantab.), whose subject is English and who is at present Senior Housemaster at Bedford School. He and his family have visited us already and, we hope, had a foretaste of the warm welcome they will receive when they 'officially' arrive.

At the end of the Summer Term 1986 the following members of Staff left: Dr P. Dean to become Head of English at Portsmouth Grammar School, Mr S. C. Grigg to become Head of Design and Technology at Stonyhurst College, and Mr I. McDougall to become Head of Geography at Pocklington School. We extend to them our thanks for their services and our best wishes for the future.

One other departure, although not from the teaching staff, must be mentioned. Twenty-seven years ago, Mrs Hilda Clarke was employed by the C.C.F. on a part-time temporary basis as a secretary. At the end of the first half of the Summer Term 1986 this arrangement finally came to an end, when Mrs Clarke retired from the School Office, whither she had been transplanted following the decision that her gifts could no longer remain a classified military secret. During her time here Mrs Clarke has been far more than a mere secretary: she has been a nurse, an answering machine, a diplomat, a politician, an arbitrator, a computer, a filing system and a stationery store, among other things. Her quiet efficiency is the reverse of impersonal—it springs from modesty, unobtrusive friendliness, apparently inexhaustible patience, and a deep humanity which we shall all miss. The affection in which she is held showed itself in presentations made to her by all sections of the School. We thank her for her many contributions to our well-being and wish her the happiest of retirements.

In June 1986 Mr R. A. Ballantyne became Head of Careers in succession to Mr Manning, whose expertise and advice have been invaluable to boys for many years. In September 1986 we welcomed to the Staff Mrs G. H. Hall (English) from Clifton College, Mr N. P. Dunn (Design and Technology) from Audenshaw High School, and Mr G. Jones (Geography) from Poole Grammar School. Two new part-time members of Staff also arrived: Dr J. Keable (Chemistry) and Mr D. McNally (Economics). We welcome them all and hope they will enjoy their time with us.

Mr C. F. Jeanes, whose son was at the School from 1976 to 1981, became a Co-optative Governor for a period of five years. Mr J. M. Shelmerdine became clerk to the Governors following the death of Mr H. R. Mainprice. The Governors, indeed the whole School, were shocked to hear of the death of Dr W. H. Wolstenholme, formerly the School Medical Officer, of whom an obituary notice appears below. The new Medical Officer is Dr A. Wilson.

Several of our Governors received distinctions during the year. Sir Joseph Gilbert was appointed Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Central Europe, with the rank of Air Chief Marshall. Professor M. H. Richmond was awarded a knighthood, and Mr C. F. Jeanes an O.B.E., in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Mr D. A. Boothman was elected President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales. We offer our congratulations to them all.

It is with great regret that we record the death on 30 July of a distinguished Old Hulmeian, Professor Ralph Cocker, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., F.D.S.R.C.S., an influential figure in dentistry. We extend our sympathy to his widow, Margaret, and to his son and two daughters.

Further, it is our sad duty to record the deaths of two former members of staff: Mr William F. B. Fearon, who served from 1947-63, died on 15 July. And Dr Alexander Powrie, who was Head of Chemistry from 1959-78, died on 4 September. We extend our sympathy to their families.

The Founder's Day service was held in Manchester Cathedral on 25 February. The preacher was the Rev Dr K. Stephenson, Anglican Chaplain to Manchester University, and the anthem was Schubert's 'The Lord is my Shepherd'.

The Heads of School during the year were A. G. Cleary and N. P. Lord. J. E. D. Crews was Deputy Head of School. The Prefects were D. J. Arundel, G. P. Benson, A. H. M. Davenport, P. R. D. Gaskell, S. D. Kay, D. B. Lancaster, G. A. Lee, H. N. Lightfoot, M. P. Loenholdt, R. D. Markland, J. F. M. A. Olpinski, A. L. Pope, C. L. Porritt, K. G. Rushton, S. J. F. Schofield, F. Sheldon, S. Tucker, M. R. Turley and J. L. Weston.

We congratulate the following on their success in the Oxford Entrance Examinations (it will be remembered that no Open Awards are now available at this stage): J. E. D. Crews (Brasenose College: Chemistry), H. J. Minty (Queens College: Mathematics and Philosophy), N. Platt (University College: Engineering) and S. Tucker (New College: History).

Our fund-raising activities maintained the high standards set last year. The annual Charities Week in February raised £2,070.90 for the Coronary Artery Disease Research Association, the Junior School, as usual, contributing most of the money. This was the highest total raised for CORDA by any school in the British Isles. Form 5A also raised £302 for the World Wildlife Fund. £600 was raised for the Race Against Time, a sequel to Bob Geldof's Live Aid Appeal for relief in Ethiopia. The Parents showed that they are as resourceful as their sons when it comes to fund-raising: their Fete in July, held on a day of indifferent weather, nonetheless brought in £2,200 for a new minibus.

Last year we reported on the School's winning second place in a national video competition organised by the Focus Multi Broadcast Award Scheme. Our entry dealt with the training of police horses in Manchester. As a result the Manchester force has asked the same team to produce a full-length video about the training of police. Further success in the field of broadcasting was achieved by the O level Politics Sixth Form group, under the supervision of Mr M. P. Jones. They entered a competition to make a radio programme of local political interest, and won £50.

A new feature this year was a two-day Industrial Conference, held in March, organised for the Sixth Form by Mr I. J. Shaw. Representatives of many branches of industry and commerce visited the School to give talks and answer questions, and discussion groups were also active. The general verdict was that this was a most valuable link between the School and the wider community, and it is hoped that it will become an annual event.

In November D. J. Arundel (U6L), P. J. Cassidy (2C) and M. C. McNeany (4Y) entered the heats of the Franco-British Society Poetry Reading Competition; Arundel was put through to the Final where he acquitted himself very well against strong competition.

Mr R. M. Noel-Smith has become Editor of *The Hulmeian* in succession to Dr Dean, whom we thank for his fine service.

DR P. DEAN

When Dr Dean first came to William Hulme's Grammar School to join the English Department, his impact on both boys and colleagues was immediate. His sunny, lively temperament and quick intelligence not only survived his first encounter with Hulmeian boys, but at once enriched their experience in English lessons. Dr Dean is a scholar of some eminence, particularly in the field of Shakespearean and Elizabethan Literature, and it was natural that his high academic qualities should make his Sixth Form periods invaluable to his pupils; but to see him, for example, dealing with the progress, problems and concerns of a boy in the Junior School was to make one realise how dedicated he was to all of his pupils. He responded with real commitment to the boys he taught, and this commitment was demonstrated in many ways. He gave his time generously to many out-of-school activities: *The Hulmeian*, The Debating Society, The Choir, and above all, to School Drama, of which he was put in administrative charge. Several of his productions were really memorable, particularly 'Twelfth Night', for the care and thought which had gone into them, and for the obvious joy and absorption that the cast showed in working under his guidance. He will be genuinely missed in the English Department, as in the School generally. Colleagues, both departmental and in the Common Room have over several years enjoyed his quick, often devastating, repartee, his ability to enlighten a discussion with wit and elegance. He wore his learning lightly, gave us the benefit of his scholarship most generously, and was a good friend.

He has left us to become Head of English at Portsmouth Grammar School, where we are sure he will run a happy and efficient department. His promotion was well-deserved, but we are only too aware of our loss. We give him our best wishes for a successful career in the deep south.

D. E. B. Golder

MR S. C. GRIGG

Steve Grigg joined the School's Design Department in September 1980 from Loughborough University. From the beginning he impressed all those with whom he came into contact by his unflagging enthusiasm, sense of fun and good humour. I make no apology therefore for mentioning certain events, as he immensely enjoys embarrassing others when he makes a speech and always appreciates it when the tables are turned on him.

His outstanding dedication as a First Year Form Master and a Rugby coach has ensured that all boys in his charge have been forcefully encouraged to give of their best, and his insistence on the highest standards of work and behaviour has gained the appreciation of parents and boys alike. On the many weekends he spent at Hardraw he could be relied upon to organise activities efficiently and make them enjoyable for Staff and boys with jokes and sing-songs, not to mention his now traditional Bonfire Night barbecues and 'exciting' minibus driving.

In the Design Department we will remember with gratitude his contribution in completing the transition from 'Craft' to Craft, Design and Technology. Every fresh proposal was greeted with enthusiasm and a willingness to try for the best possible results, a fact which his O and A level pupils much appreciated, judging by the number of presents of an alcoholic nature to be seen on his desk at the end of each year! He has proved to be an excellent teacher, even to the extent of discovering previously unidentified safety hazards in the workshops and injuring himself to prove the point!

Apart from his role as a teacher, his public relations work for his own School projects, his Department and the School generally has been outstanding. His fund-raising efforts recently realised £700 for the construction of a new hovercraft and some £5,000 for the Centenary Rugby Tour. Under his guidance, Form 1D consistently made a larger-than-average contribution to Charities Week. He has also revived the tradition, started by Mr Haynes, of School parties to Italy, a holiday which seems set to continue in the future. I cannot help observing that the motivation for these trips might owe something to the attractive female representatives of the Schools' Travel Company!

I am certain that the School has benefited considerably from Steve's personality and style of teaching. He moves on to head the Design Department at Stonyhurst College, Blackburn; however, we shall not lose him entirely just yet, as he will be accompanying the Centenary Rugby Tour to Canada. We wish him and Gillian well for the future and hope that his time in his new post will be as lively and enjoyable for him as he has made the last six years for us.

G. N. Grant

OBITUARY: DR WILLIAM HARTLEY WOLSTENHOLME

Dr W. H. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Q.M.S., T.D., died tragically in April only four months after retiring from the post of School Medical Officer which he had held since 1953. He graduated from the Manchester University Medical School in 1936 and, following a spell as house surgeon at Manchester Royal Infirmary, entered his father's practice in Urmston where he was to remain for the next forty years. Also like his father, he became a Colonel in the Territorial Army, and he was awarded the O.B.E. for services to the Royal Army Medical Corps, in which he rose to be Commanding Officer of the 8th Manchester General Hospital. He was Honorary Surgeon to Her Majesty the Queen from 1957 to 1965 when he retired from the T.A.

His appointment as our Medical Officer, made at the instigation of his predecessor, Colonel Sir William Coates, marked the beginning of a long and happy association in which he took great pride. His interest in the School extended far beyond his care for the physical health of its Staff and pupils (among whom were his three sons): his presence could always be counted upon at the School Play, Speech Day and other functions. He was, in his unostentatious way, a highly cultured man, whose loyalty and kindness will be long remembered. We send our deepest sympathy to his family.

OBITUARY: MR W. F. B. FEARON

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on 15 July, 1986, of Mr W. F. B. Fearon, in his 84th year. Mr Fearon was a member of staff from 1947 to 1963; he was a gifted mathematician who taught his subject at all levels from the pre-entry Lower I to Oxbridge Scholarship. His contributions to the life of the School were varied and whole-hearted—Careers Master, pianist in Assembly, House-games referee, official time-keeper on Sports Day. But one of his greatest achievements was the successful revival of the school swimming gala, held at Moss Side Baths with as many boys as possible competing in swimming and diving events in the very limited time for which the baths could be hired.

On their retirement in 1963, Mr and Mrs Fearon went to live in Llanfairfechan in N. Wales, where Mr Fearon continued to teach part-time at the well-known girls' school. They maintained their close links with William Hulme's, regularly making the journey to Manchester in the depths of winter for the School Play.

Mr Fearon was, in the very best sense of the word, a 'character', a man who inspired affection and respect from boys, colleagues and parents alike, as the guest speaker at this year's Prize Giving recalled. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs Fearon and to her sons, John and William, both of whom are Old Hulmeians.

OBITUARY: PROFESSOR RALPH COCKER

Influential figure in dentistry

Professor Ralph Cocker, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., F.D.S.R.C.S., who died on July 30, at the age of 78, was an influential figure in the world of postwar dentistry in this country.

As Sub-Dean of King's College Hospital Medical School and in his work on the Dental Education Advisory Council from 1947 to 1973, he played an important part in advising the government on the shape and scope of training for dentists after the inception of the National Health Service.

He was born in Manchester on April 8, 1908, and educated at William Hulme's Grammar School and Victoria University, Manchester, where he qualified LDS in 1930. After practising and teaching dentistry for a while, he returned to study medicine, qualifying in 1939.

During the Second World War, he was seconded to work in the industrial health service of Imperial Chemical Industries, where his aptitude for administration received free play. Afterwards he returned to lecture in periodontology at Manchester University and to be consultant dental surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

In 1947, he was appointed to the then King's College Hospital Medical School as sub-dean of the dental school and director of the dental department. He also became a member of the Dental Education Advisory Council, which he chaired in 1956-57.

The establishment of the National Health Service had led to an immense expansion in the demand for dentists, and it was Cocker's task to stress to the government, through much patient advocacy, the necessity for expanding the provision for dental training by establishing new dental schools. A firm believer in the NHS, he felt it was important to train dentists to think of careers within that service.

He also began to work on what became his greatest contribution to King's: a complete new dental hospital and school, which was opened in 1966.

Cocker had an impact on the affairs of the dental profession at many levels. He was a member of the General Dental Council and of the Board of the Dental Faculty of the Royal College of Surgeons, of which he was for a time Vice-Dean. He was also a member of the Standing Dental Advisory Committee and the Dental Manpower Committee of the Department of Health and Social Security. From 1968 to 1973 he was adviser in dental surgery to the DHSS.

At the academic level he was busy as an examiner not only in this country, but also overseas, and from 1970 to 1972 he was a temporary adviser to the World Health Organisation.

Cocker was a hard worker who dedicated much of his time to bringing sanity into the dental training programme. He might not seem a passionate advocate of a cause in front of a large audience, but in committee or in personal dealings his patience and persistence helped greatly to achieve the ends he had in view.

He had a surface reserve which was not easy to penetrate. This was due in part to innate modesty, but it concealed a kindly and sympathetic spirit. It was characteristic of him that while he was not at ease in large student gatherings he had endless sympathy for the problems of students as individuals.

He leaves a widow, Margaret, a son and two daughters.

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LEAVERS—1985/1986

(Up-to-date at the time of going to press)

- S. A. Barnes (ex-U6A1) to Xaverian 6th Form College
- R. B. Smith (ex-U6A1) to Newcastle University to read Economics
- J. H. Davies (ex-U6A2) to London University to read English/History
- A. D. Gearey (ex-U6A2) to York University to read English/History
- A. M. Hindley (ex-U6A2) to N. Staffordshire Polytechnic to read Business Studies
- H. J. Minty (ex-U6C) to Oxford (Queen's) to read Maths/Philosophy
- M. J. Taylor (ex-U6C) to Leeds University to read French
- J. D. Campbell (ex-U6L) to Durham University to read French/German
- A. H. Davenport (ex-U6L) to Hull University to read Law
- A. H. Prits (ex-U6L) to Leeds University to read French
- W. H. Choi (ex-U6M) to London University to read Medicine
- J. E. D. Crews (ex-U6M) to Oxford University to read Chemistry
- P. D. R. Gaskell (ex-U6M) to Salford University to read Mechanical Engineering
- R. V. Pandya (ex-U6M) to Manchester University to read Medicine
- N. Platt (ex-U6M) to Oxford University College to read Engineering
- P. M. Thompson (ex-U6M) to Durham University to read Physics

L. M. Isaacs (ex-U6S PCB) to Stand 6th Form College
 D. B. Lancaster (ex-U6S PCB) to Leicester University to read Chemistry (Biological)
 N. P. Lord (ex-U6S PCB) to Sheffield University to read Medicine
 I. M. Rogerson (ex-U6S PCB) to Liverpool University to read Medicine
 A. G. Cleary (ex-U6S MPC1) to Liverpool University to read Medicine
 C. A. L. Ishemo (ex-U6S MPC1) to Durham University to read Physics
 P. J. Langslow (ex-U6S MPC1) to Manchester University to read Electronics/Elec Engineering
 J. D. Wills (ex-U6S MPC1) to Swansea University to read Oceanography/Chemistry
 N. Cooke (ex-U6S MPC2) to Leeds University to read Mechanical Engineering
 M. P. Loenholdt (ex-U6S MPC2) to Sheffield Polytechnic to read Physics
 D. A. W. Rogerson (ex-U6S MPC2) to Lancaster University to read Computer Science/Operational Research
 S. J. F. Schofield (ex-U6S MPC2) to Sheffield University to read Mat Proc Eng
 J. M. Southern (ex-U6S MPC2) to Sheffield University to read Chemistry
 J. C. E. Wilkinson (ex-U6S MPC2) to Edinburgh University to read Engineering
 J. W. Blease (ex-U6S MPC3) to Bristol University to read Geography
 G. A. Lee (ex-U6S MPC3) to Salford University to read Mechanical Engineering
 M. L. H. Thomas (ex-U6S MPC3) to London University to read Mat. Sc./Engineering
 M. R. Turley (ex-U6 A2) to London University to read Russian/Soviet Studies
 A. G. Clegg, (ex-U6 A2) to Kent University to read Social and Economic History
 D. J. Arundel (ex-U6L) to Leicester University to read Law
 S. Espiga-Ventura (ex-U6L) to Xaverian 6th Form College.
 J. L. Weston (ex-U6M) to Birmingham University to read Mechanical Engineering
 W. S. Dixon (ex-U6S PCB) to Lanchester Polytechnic to read Building Science
 R. B. Goldwater (ex-U6S PCB) to Manchester Grammar School
 F. R. Khawar (ex-U6S PCB) to King's College, London to read Food Science and Management
 G. P. Benson (ex-U6S MPC1) to North Staffordshire Polytechnic to read Business/Finance
 J. Leung (ex-U6S MPC1) to Stockport College of Technology for 'A' levels
 M. K. Jackson (ex-U6S MPC2) for Naval Officer Cadetship
 K. G. Rushton (ex-U6S MPC3) to Newcastle University to read Geography

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was on 16 July 1986. The Chairman of Governors, Mr E. B. Jackson, took the chair, and the principal guest was Dr J. F. Grainger, O.H. (1947-1955).

The Head Master reported pass rates in the 1985 public examinations of 79% at 'A' level and 80.5% (of which 27% had been Grade A) at 'O' level. He gave his customary review of academic, sporting, cultural and social activities during the School year, and paid tribute to departing members of Staff, including Mrs Clarke, as well as to those who remained for their work in making the School much more than a nine-to-four concern.

Dr Grainger, having presented the prizes, delivered the following address, which we are very pleased and grateful to be able to print in full below.

Address by Dr J. F. Grainger on Speech Day 1986

Chairman of Governors, Distinguished Guests, Headmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Hulmeians . . .

The last time I performed on this stage before an audience as large and as varied as this, I was 14 . . . and dressed as a girl. Gilbert and Sullivan have a lot to answer for!

It is a great pleasure to be with you on this special occasion in your Academic Year. At about this time 38 years ago, I was participating in my first William Hulme's Prize-Giving Ceremony, or Speech Day as we called it and I should like to say what a memorable occasion it was. That's what I should *like* to say, but the truth is that I cannot remember anything about it all! So when you, Headmaster, very kindly invited me to be your Guest, I decided that I must try to give today's 12-year-olds something to remember in 2024. That's a tall order! So "listen very carefully, I shall say zis only wence". Of course I am not speaking only to the 12-year-olds and I shall have something serious to say to everyone before I finish but, in the manner of the late Gerard Hoffnung, I think the best way to make a serious message palatable and memorable is to try to relax you all first with some slightly less serious remarks.

I left School in 1955 and, bearing in mind that 31 years have passed since then, it occurred to me that under the 30-year rule I am now at liberty to divulge all the funny stories I could tell about those Masters who taught me and who are still on the staff! There are not many—but Mr Kirkham is probably quaking in his boots at this moment! However, my mischievous pleasure at this possibility quickly evaporated when I realised that, under the same 30-year rule, Mr Kirkham might hurry to some secret place where he keeps his records and 'reveal all' about me! So I decided that I'd better only tell stories

about those Masters who taught me but who are no longer here. Whatever you do though, don't let any of these stories come to the ears of the present teaching staff or the Governors, for I might get into trouble!

There were some fine characters around in those days. Mr Fearon, for example who, when furious at being interrupted by boys talking as he was going through something on the Blackboard, would exclaim: "Every time I open my mouth, some fool speaks! Now just watch the Board while I run through it".

Or there was Mr Adams who was the only man I've ever known who had independent front suspension on his false teeth. Whenever he opened his mouth wide to sing, the middle two teeth of his upper denture remained where they were, suspended in space in the centre of the circle formed by his open mouth—which then looked for all the world like the Greek letter O. Needless to say, we boys did everything in our power to induce him to do this!

Or there was Mr Thompson, who had a hearing aid . . . but it would be grossly irresponsible of me to reveal what fun we had with that: all quite disgraceful!

But reminiscence is an old man's pastime so let me move on quickly.

As you know, I am a Physicist, specialising in Astronomical Optics. It may come as a surprise to you to learn that Britain is an ideal place from which to practise Astronomy. The clarity of the sky . . . is so awful, that one just has to force oneself to go abroad to exotic places like Hawaii, the Canary Islands, the Dolomites and so forth. On my travels in this connection, I have had to do considerably better at languages than my Masters here would ever have believed possible. Whilst at School I was the sort of chap who 'misheard' what the Master asked him to translate—at least that was my excuse. You know the sort of thing: "Grainger, what is the meaning of 'la vie en rose'?"—to which I would in desperation reply: "Er . . . the pink aeroplane, Sir?". However, when one is working at a remote Observatory in a community that speaks no English, it is remarkable how the threat of starvation stimulates one into learning the language—fast! It is quite the most efficient language laboratory ever devised.

Of course the British have a reputation for being bad at languages. But fear not, the Americans are even worse than we are—at all languages, including English. One of the things that was hammered into our heads as new boys here was that: "the verb 'to be' cannot take an object". Do they still teach you that? Some of you are looking uncertain. The Americans definitely don't know it. Let me illustrate: I was having a meal with an English Colleague in Dallas Airport, Texas. There seemed to be an air of excitement and expectancy about the place and we wondered why. The Waitress approached and asked for our orders but upon hearing our voices she exclaimed: "That's a mighty strange accent, where y'all from?". When we told her we were from England, her face lit up and she said: "Say we got your Dook of Edinborrow passing through here today!"—which explained all the excitement. Then all the colour drained from her face and she said to me rather timidly: "Say, you're not him are yer?". This mistake was of course quite understandable . . . because, being an American, she did not realise that the object pronoun 'him' cannot be used with the verb 'to be'! What she should have said was: "Say, you're not *he* are yer?".

One of the problems I have on my travels, is explaining to foreigners the meaning of 'UMIST'. "University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology" is such a long name. Most people stop listening about half way through—except the Germans with whom one never even gets that far. Just say you are from UMIST to a German and he will collapse in paroxysms of uncontrollable laughter! . . . The rest of you can look it up when you get home!

Although I know that it really means 'Umpteen Mirrors In a Single Telescope', I've adopted the solution recommended by our Principal, Professor Hankins. I just say "UMIST?—Oh it's the Greek word for 'Excellence' ". And it's true you know. In the recent appraisal of the Research Excellence of British Universities carried out by the University Grants Committee, only Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College scored more highly than UMIST—and that's out of 50 Universities! So remember that—when you're filling in your UCCA forms. Apart from the three I've mentioned, you can't find a more prestigious Research Centre than UMIST anywhere in the Land.

And talking of UCCA and Universities brings me to more serious matters. Those of you who are veterans of Prize-Giving Ceremonies will know that Guest Speakers always talk about the importance of Education, and I make no apology for doing so again today, because Education is in grave danger and I want to appeal to you to help save it. Education is one of the most precious things we have. Whatever life may throw at you, you will be better able to cope if you have had a good Education—and this is as true for Nations as it is for individuals. This has been recognised throughout History. For example, Cicero said: "Whatever greater or better gift can we offer the Republic than to teach and instruct our Youth?". Or Diogenes: "The foundation of every State is the Education of its Youth". Or, to come nearer to our own times, Disraeli: "Upon the *Education* of the people of this Country, the *fate* of this Country depends".

Today, universal lip service is paid to Education by politicians of all parties. Yet, as Robert Louis Stevenson said: "Politics is perhaps the only Profession for which no preparation is thought necessary"

and judging by the way Politicians are so keen to meddle in matters about which they know nothing, one can only conclude that Stevenson was right. Education is one area in which they are all convinced that they are Experts and upon which they are determined to inflict their pet theories. For example, there is the pernicious doctrine of 'relevance' coupled with an insistence that everything be seen in financial terms. One is reminded of Oscar Wilde's definition of a Cynic as "a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing". The Politicians do not seem to be able to distinguish between Education on the one hand and Training on the other. Of course there is an element of Training in Education, but there is so much more to it than that. As B. F. Skinner said: "Education is what survives when what has been learnt has been forgotten". If today's criteria of 'relevance' and 'cost-effectiveness' had been applied to the Scholastic Scene at any point in History, all the work that subsequently led to great achievements in the Arts, Medicine, Science and Technology would have been assessed as not relevant to the needs of the day and therefore not cost-effective. Moreover, it is impossible at any moment in time to predict which lines of work will turn out to be the most important. In 1905, the University of Liverpool conducted such an exercise and picked what it saw as the three most promising growth-technologies for the 'new century'—our century. Do you know what they were? Railway Engineering, Dockyard Engineering and Municipal Electricity Distribution—and this just two years after man's first powered flight! One is reminded of the old lady who said: "If God had meant us to fly, He would never have given us the Railways".

Yet it is on the basis of these criteria of relevance and cost-effectiveness that our Educational System, at all levels, is being starved of funds and 're-structured' in accordance with the currently fashionable predictions of future needs.

Lest anyone think I am making a Party-Political point, let me give you a second example of political meddling in Education: the doctrine of Egalitarianism. Under this doctrine, only one sort of Education is permissible. Others are derided as 'elitist' and conferring privilege. The Education *you* are receiving here would not be permitted by the Egalitarians, because it selects its pupils on the grounds of ability and—ostensibly—because it is not available to those who cannot afford it. What hypocrisy! There is no reason why it should not be available to all with the necessary ability. It certainly used to be. The Politicians who level this latter charge are the very ones who rendered it not available to all, by removing the Direct Grant. But behind this seductive doctrine of Egalitarianism is something much more sinister, for a State that permits only one kind of Education is already dangerously far down the road to indoctrination and totalitarianism.

Make no mistake, Education is a political issue whether we like it or not and the alarming thing is, that under the guise of 'reform', it is under attack in one way or another by both Left and Right of the Political Spectrum.

Yet there is hope. And that hope lies with you, the young people of this Country, and in Education itself. For as Lord Brougham said 150 years ago: "Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave". Education does not produce uniformity. The views that *you* sincerely hold will not always be accepted by others and you in turn will challenge their views. But this diversity and debate—although infuriating to you at times—are the Hallmarks of a healthy society. Retain your respect for the other person's point of view—he is not a fool just because he does not agree with you. Have the courage of your convictions, but be prepared to admit that you are wrong when this is demonstrable. It is this recognition that no-one has a monopoly of wisdom, that makes it vital to preserve freedom of choice in Education and throughout our Society.

H. G. Wells said: "Human History becomes more and more a race between Education and Catastrophe" and this was never more true than today. We must have a well-educated population to act as a watch-dog to avoid catastrophic mis-applications of Science and Technology. We must have a well-educated population to earn our living as a Nation in the High Tech. world of the 21st century. We must have a well-educated population to cope humanely with the tremendous social problems which this High Technology inevitably creates. But above all, we must have a well-educated population to remain free. So make the most of the fine educational opportunity you have here at William Hulme's. To Hell with 'relevance'! Develop your potential to the full wherever your talents lie—Art, History, Music, Languages, Mathematics, Science—all are equally important in the total richness of our culture. Develop your character and your humanity and when you leave here—Yes! there is life after School!—use your Education, your analytical and critical faculties to challenge, to probe and to question. Play your part constructively in Society and remember "This above all, to thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man".

Dr Grainger's remarks were welcomed by the Chairman as particularly timely and far-sighted, after which proceedings closed.

PRIZE LIST 1986

Special Prizes

Anderson English Essay Prize: A. G. Clegg
 Aspinall Religious Knowledge Prize: N. Sathi
 J. A. Barber Prize: A. G. Cleary
 Eric Barnes Memorial Trophy: G. P. Benson
 Caswell Prize: I. Standring
 Geoffrey Cocker Memorial Prize: A. J. Jackson
 Computing Prizes: D. R. H. Buxton and J. P. Lucas (Junior), A. J. Tidman (Sixth Form)
 James Gozzard Prize for Craft: N. Platt and E. J. L. Houghton
 James Gozzard Prize for Photography: W. H. Choi
 D. Ll. Griffiths Prize for Medical Subjects: N. P. Lord
 Halpin History Essay Prize: P. A. Oxley
 J. N. Hopwood Reading Prizes: P. A. Tweed (Junior) and J. W. Babicki (Senior)
 Graham Johnson Memorial Prize: H. J. Minty
 C. H. Jones Prize: M. P. Loenholdt
 Junior Classics Prize: D. Bradley
 Library Award: A. H. Davenport
 Colin Midwood Prize: W. S. Dixon
 Original Verse Prizes: A. K. Zaidi (Sixth Form) and R. J. B. Naylor (Middle & Junior)
 Powell Scripture Reading Prize: D. B. Lancaster
 F. J. Smith Memorial Travel Scholarship: H. J. Minty
 Watkins Prize: N. P. Lord
 Woollam Scholarship: N. Platt
 Yates Prize: A. D. Gearey

Upper Sixth

Art Prize: D. K. Hopwood
 Allman Further Mathematics Prize: H. J. Minty
 Ancient History Prize: A. D. Gearey
 Dehn History Prize: S. Tucker
 Design Prize: G. A. Lee
 Dorrington Prize for Greek: H. J. Minty
 Dorrington Prize for Latin: A. H. Davenport
 Economics Prize: I. K. Lomas
 Hewlett Geography Prize: R. B. Smith
 Human Biology Prize: R. V. Pandya
 Knoop English Prize: A. K. Zaidi
 Lymer Mathematics Prize: N. Platt
 O.H.A. Biology Prize: N. P. Lord
 Palmer Chemistry Prize: D. I. Ward
 Palmer Physics Prize: N. Platt
 Spanish Prize: S. Espiga-Ventura
 Vlies French Prize: A. H. Davenport
 Vlies German Prize: J. D. Campbell

Lower Sixth

Ancient History Prize: P. J. Howarth
 S. K. Appleton Biology Prize: S. R. Platt
 Art Prize: N. E. J. Thompson
 Chemistry Prize: S. Rizvi
 Design Prize: S. J. Beggs
 Economics Prize: P. R. J. McManus
 Engineering Drawing Prize: D. C. Burke
 Forrest English Prize: E. R. M. Mc. Taylor
 Further Mathematics Prize: R. J. Kelsall
 Geography Prize: D. Gagan
 German Prize: S. K. Bray
 Hawley French Prize: S. K. Bray and R. J. Walsh
 History Prize: T. R. Edge and A. Y. Hessayon
 Human Biology Prize: D. A. S. Shaw
 Mathematics Prize: A. Cohen
 Music Prize: D. K. W. Hinnells
 Physics Prize: S. J. Beggs
 Spanish Prize: M. S. Donnelly

Fifth Forms

Art: A. J. Booth
 Biology: N. deB. Baynes
 Caiger French: M. Lovell
 Chemistry: M. Lovell
 Design: P. K. Heathcote
 German: J. Whittaker
 Greek: M. K. Raynor
 Hewlett Geography: R. M. Leather
 History: J. P. Trigg
 Latin: A. G. Hann
 Mathematics: D. R. H. Buxton
 Physics: N. deB. Baynes
 Spanish: N. I. M. Eccles and S. Pilling

Fourth Forms

Art: A. M. W. Glasstone
 Biology: D. J. Burke
 Chemistry: R. J. Ketteridge
 Design: M. R. Tallis
 English: R. J. Ketteridge
 French: M. C. McNeany
 Geography: R. L. Baker and A. J. Percy
 German: R. J. Ketteridge
 Greek: B. J. Bennett
 History: R. K. Ketteridge
 Latin: B. J. Bennett
 Mathematics: R. J. Ketteridge
 Music: R. D. Howarth
 Physics: M. C. McNeany
 Spanish: A. J. Hall

Third Forms

Art: S. R. Minty
Biology: A. J. Edwards
Chemistry: J. Griffiths
Design: C. S. Blairs
English: C. H. R. Houghton
French: I. N. Drayton
Geography: A. Yadav
German: B. G. Lee and A. Yadav
Greek: D. M. Berman
History: T. K. Jones
Latin: I. N. Drayton
Mathematics: D. I. C. Capon
Music: M. Brandreth
Physics: L. J. Keith
Spanish: Y. Jethani

First Forms

Biology: S. D. Ogier
Chemistry: M. R. Clark
Craft: M. D. Barnes
English: M. R. Clark
French: M. R. Clark
Geography: R. D. Gee
History: M. R. Clark
Latin: M. R. Clark
Mathematics: M. R. Clark
Music: M. R. Clark
Religious Education: M. R. Clark
William Taylor Memorial Prize: A. J. Scott-Gall and M. P. Wilson

Second Forms

Art: T. M. Lawson
Biology: R. J. V. Avery
English: R. J. V. Avery
French: R. J. V. Avery and O. S. Islam
Geography: R. J. V. Avery
History: R. J. V. Avery
Latin: O. F. Islam
Mathematics: O. F. Islam
Music: O. F. Islam
Physics: R. J. V. Avery
Religious Education: R. J. V. Avery

BURSAR'S CORNER

It was, I believe, Harold Wilson when Prime Minister who said 'a week in politics is a very long time'. Though perhaps apt in the political context in which it was uttered, the same certainly cannot be applied to a Bursar's lot, where even a whole year is indeed a very short time; short in which to fulfil the number of the demands being made, quite rightly, on the ever-slender resources of both manpower and finance. So, like most other things in this commercial and materialistic world, it all comes down to identifying a system of priorities, though regrettably the smaller and less important matters tend inevitably to get pushed to the bottom of the pile.

The 'priorities' facing the Bursar and the Maintenance staff over the last year have been almost totally concerned with seeing through the final phases of the Centenary Appeal building projects. By the time this article appears in print, work on the enhanced facilities in the Science Block (give or take the odd door catch) will have long since been completed. The new Sixth Form Common Room, so well constructed by the builders, despite having to do battle with the elements between January and May, came in two months ahead of schedule and slightly under contract price, and is now fitted out and in use.

The new Donner Library has finally been re-located on the First Floor of the Sixth Form Centre, to produce a light, spacious and eventually well-equipped Library with adjacent Study Rooms and Book Shop. Even the most ardent critics of the concept will agree, I'm sure, that the new Library has a lot of potential.

The main staircase in the Old School, for long a rather dingy and depressing sight, has also undergone a face-lift from top to bottom by the addition of several coats of paint, a sizeable task involving the extensive use of scaffolding. Lighting on this staircase is also to be improved.

To the long-awaited delight, I'm sure, of the Mathematicians, the last Appeal project involving the construction of two Maths classrooms within the shell of the old Donner Library in the Science Block, is about to commence, and will hopefully be completed during the current Term, thus easing some of the classroom shortage problem.

Running parallel to the work on these projects, completion has also been achieved on several tasks which remained outstanding. The Geographers now have a work room and store at the top of the Sixth Form Centre, and the Music Department can boast a rather splendid new toilet facility in the same area. A last minute requirement for a Geography classroom resulted in a new Audio-Visual room to

seat 32 pupils having to be constructed from scratch, using approximately half of the old Junior School Library.

The Maintenance team, which contrary to popular belief only actually numbers five persons, now turn their talents to providing the long-planned requirements of changing rooms, showers and toilets necessary to cope with the advent of co-education next year. Hopefully, the small back-log of other outstanding work can also be tackled, and the customers kept happy as a result.

In all the hustle and bustle of completing work on the Centenary Appeal necessary to present a bright and glossy image for the ceremonial opening on 19 September 1986, it would be too easy to forget the other members of the support team. Quietly in the background, but making an absolutely vital contribution to the well-being of us all, is that dedicated band of cleaning ladies, who make their way here in all weathers, and sometimes in the darkness of early morning, so as to be on task by seven o'clock—long before some have even risen from their beds I fancy.

Mr Corfield and his recently enlarged band of Porters also play an invaluable role, especially in those areas where cleanliness and security of the real estate are concerned. The unsung heroes of the 'green sward', the Grounds staff, can be justly proud of the results of their labours. Their record of keeping our grounds 'fit for play' in the face of almost impossible meteorological odds must be second to none.

Mr Gregson and his irrepressible team of helpers, have continued to attend to our inner needs and fed us well. They have risen to the challenge of providing food for sports teams, in ever increasing numbers, and have excelled themselves on the special occasions. Last, but by no means least of course, and right at the core of the administrative effort, are the ladies who work in the School and Bursar's offices. By virtue of their commitment and professionalism, we are all indeed well-served.

I cannot close this article without a word of appreciation for the previous Bursar. Ian Stranack and I had been acquainted, briefly, during our time serving in the same Branch of the Royal Navy, and with that knowledge in mind, I was left in absolutely no doubt as to the smooth-running and efficient organisation I would find on taking over as Bursar here. I am grateful to him for a legacy which has helped enormously during my first year at William Hulme's, as indeed I am for all the help and friendliness shown to both my wife and myself since our arrival here.

G. Straw (Bursar)

SUMMER SCHOOL OF SPORT

There has been little enough publicity for this enterprising feature of the School's activities so the successful conclusion of the "Tenth Annual Summer School of Sport" would seem a suitable time to remedy the omission.

In 1977 when the move to Independence was much in evidence we were concerned that the use of the School grounds and facilities should be seen to be utilised during part of the summer vacation.

To Mr Peat, then in charge of P.E. in the School, fell the task of planning, launching and directing this new challenge. Two consecutive weeks at the end of July were chosen, 10 sports were selected and a number of schools both north and south of Manchester were notified. A squad of instructors all well qualified in the activity for which they took responsibility were gathered together. The applicants both boys and girls started as young as 7 years old with the upper age about 14 years.

Over the years the popularity has increased until now the courses are fully booked well in advance and the last course catered for over 500 boys and girls in each week.

Mr Seddon has for the past two years taken over the organisation and directing of the Summer School which now embraces 21 activities including as well as the various sports introductory computing, pottery and Ladies keep-fit.

The last Friday in each course sees the Parents being given a display by the Gymnastic and Play Group candidates held in the Sports Hall followed by the assembled "School" in front of the Pavilion where the successful candidates in each sport are presented with their medals.

It is quite an occasion.

C. H. Jones

THE DONNER LIBRARY

On account of the generous gift of £2,300 by the Parents Association it has been possible to enlarge and modernise both the non-fiction and fiction sections of the Library. In the new location it will be possible to house the books satisfactorily and to cope with the increasing demands made on the Library. We are very grateful to all those who have contributed to the Library with the gift of books, magazines

and donations. The Prefect Librarian, Alan Davenport, received the Library Award at Speech Day for his cheerful services and we wish him well at Hull where he is to read Law. His place has been taken by two School Librarians, Keith Durrans and Duncan Shaw. Next term the Library will be housed in the former sixth form centre and will consist of a Main Lending library, a Silent Study Room and a Reference Room. At last, the School will have a Library worthy of the name.

F. N. Marsh

JUNIOR SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Junior School Library was revived by Mr Turner towards the end of the Midsummer Term. Mr Langford kindly gave his former office as the new home for the Library, and also played a major role in helping to move and sort out all the books and shelves. We have greatly increased our stock, thanks largely to a very generous donation of £250 from the Parents' Association. Since we opened, over two hundred withdrawals have been made in just four lunchtimes, and we hope and expect that the Library will be just as successful next academic year.

M. Z. Ahmad (2D)

I should like to thank the Junior School Librarians for their splendid hard work. The three 'founder' Librarians, M. Z. Ahmad, R. J. V. Avery and G. E. M. Fisher, gave up many hours of their half-term holiday to make the place ship-shape, and their two more recent colleagues, J. D. Lee and A. W. Liston, have also worked very hard since then.

G. J. Turner



(Photo: Mr J. H. Thomson)

Sportsman's Dinner—22 May 1986. Five minutes before the guests are due to arrive the 'team' find time for a quick pose!

Left to right: Mr C. H. Seddon, Mr R. E. Lytollis, A. J. Jackson, T. R. Edge, A. M. Dickin, M. Lovell, A. J. Tidman, M. J. Braddock, R. D. Swain, J. J. Garlick, J. Charlesworth, J. R. T. Dobkin, Baynes N. deB, O. S. Bawany, I. S. McCartney, R. W. Bailey, A. W. Kloss, P. A. Bahfir, G. J. O'Driscoll, D. M. J. Timm, S. J. Beggs, D. P. Sproson, C. W. Timm, Mr G. B. Moss, Mr S. C. Grigg.

CENTENARY RUGBY TOUR—CANADA 1987

SPORTSMAN'S DINNER—Thursday 22 May 1986

This year saw the launch of a number of fund-raising events in order to send a W.H.G.S. 1st XV rugby squad to represent the School on a major tour of Canada during the Easter vacation of 1987.

One of the most successful of these events was the Sportsman's Dinner which was held in the New Hall on the evening of the 22 May.

We were extremely lucky to have been able to obtain the services of two internationally famous

sportsmen to entertain us in Bill Beaumont (ex-Fylde R.U.F.C., England and British Lions) and Emlyn Hughes (ex-Liverpool and England). Their after-dinner speeches were first class and we are very grateful to them both.

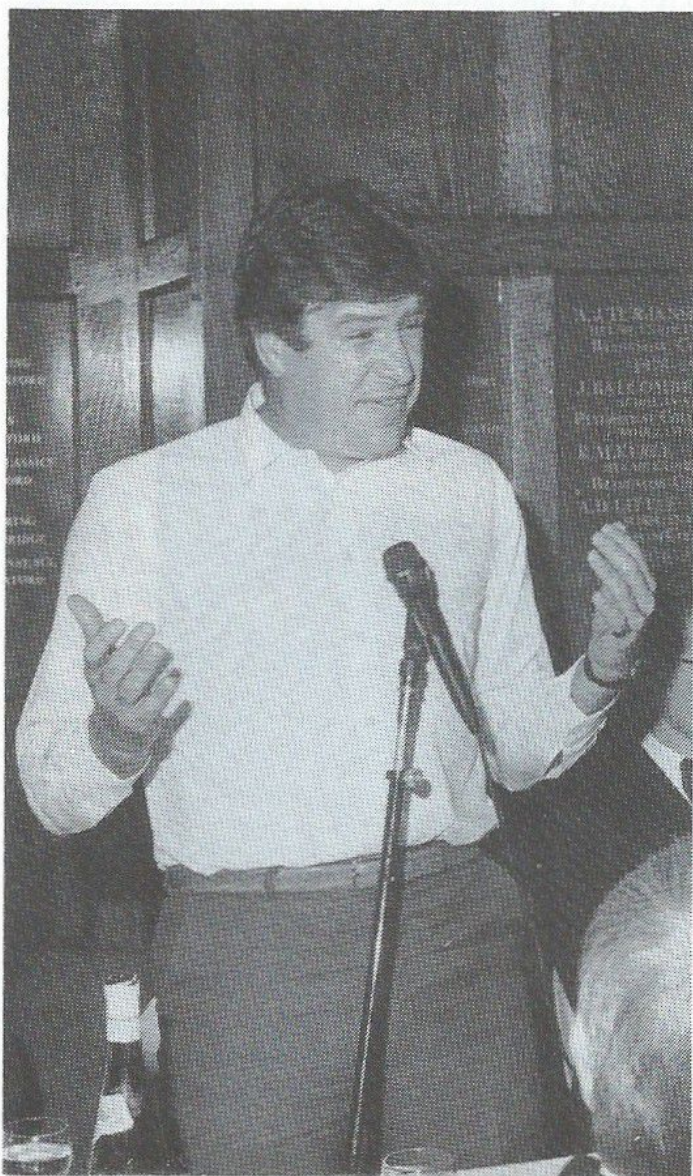
Financially, the evening was a resounding success, taking just under £8,000 and making a clear profit of £4,750 to go towards the tour. We are indebted to all the sponsors for their generous support and also the guests on the evening who were so forthcoming in the raffle and at the bar!

The tour party worked very hard as waiters and were excellent ambassadors for the School. All the guests were most impressed with their services and polite manners and the many letters I have since received made particular reference to this point.

I would especially like to thank Mr Seddon who worked closely with me and Mr M. Birnie for his help and guidance during the months prior to the Dinner. The boys in particular, were most appreciative of the efforts of Mr Andy Grigg who worked so hard in preparing them for a long and exhausting night keeping many a wine and beer glass full.

All in all the 1986 Sportsman's Dinner was a night to remember and by far surpassed my expectations.

S. C. Grigg



(Photo: Mr J. H. Thomson)

Emlyn Hughes (ex-Liverpool and England) and Bill Beaumont (ex-Fylde R.U.F.C., England and British Lions) entertaining 250 guests after a first class five-course meal at the Sportsman's Dinner last May.



(Photo: Mr J. H. Thomson)

Sportsman's Dinner—22 May 1986. The V.I.P.'s ready to enter the arena.

Left to right: The Head Master P. A. Filleul, Mr S. C. Grigg, Mr Emllyn Hughes, Mr Bill Beaumont, Mr C. H. Seddon and Mr C. Muir.

The Staff and boys going on tour are most grateful to the following for their generous support in sponsoring the Sportsman's Dinner.

Boddington's Breweries PLC
West Lancashire Heating Company
Focus TV & Video Centres
Fred Done Ltd., Turf Accountant
Razor's Edge, Manchester
National and Provincial Building Society
Seton Products—Prosport
H. Mason & Son Textiles Ltd.
Bowden Chemicals Ltd.

Fircroft Engineering Services Ltd.
Quicks For Ford
King Fisher Fabrics Ltd.
Mercury Airfreight International Ltd.
Bridgewater Paper Sales Ltd.
T. Ligget & Sons Ltd., Printers
John Wallwork Ltd.
The Hira Company Ltd.

CURRENT AFFAIRS LECTURES 1985/86

Michaelmas Term

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 16 September | 'Sixth Form at W.H.G.S.'. Mr I. J. Shaw, Sixth Form Tutor. |
| 24 September | 'Parasites in Britain'. Dr R. Owen, Lecturer in Parasitology, Liverpool University. |
| 1 October | 'Armageddon Revisited'. B.B.C. Q.E.D. Documentary. 'Britain's Nuclear Defence', Ministry of Defence Film. |
| 8 October | 'The Story of Life'. Mrs M. Johnson, Education Officer, LIFE (Save the Unborn Child) Group. |
| 15 October | 'Nutrition and The British Diet'. Mr C. Davies, Manchester Health Education Officer. |
| 22 October | Half Term. |
| 29 October | 'Living Without Looking'. Mrs Raynor. |
| 5 November | 'The Strangeways Hotel'. Snr. Officer Ratcliffe, H.M. Prison Service. |

12 November	'Consumers' Rights'. Mr I. J. Shaw, Sixth Form Tutor, W.H.G.S.
19 November	'Alcoholism'. Mrs G. Elal-Lawrence, Snr. Clinical Psychologist, Liverpool University.
26 November	'Starting a Business', 'Self-Starters' B.B.C. Videos.
3 December	'Zambezi Expedition'. Mr I. McDougall, Geography Master, W.H.G.S.
10 December	'Doctor in Nepal'. Dr Halpin, Old Hulmeian, formerly with Save the Children.
17 December	'Marketing Mix'. Mr D. Moss, Admissions Tutor, Business Studies Dept., Manchester Polytechnic.

Lent Term

7 January	'Undergraduate Life at University'. J. Bouchier, R. Stead, M. Clarke, recent Old Hulmeians.
14 January	'Home Office Pathology'. Mr W. Lawler, M.D., M.R.C.Path., Senr. Lecturer in Pathology, Manchester University, and Home Office Pathologist.
21 January	'100 Years of W.H.G.S.'. Dr P. Dean, English Dept., W.H.G.S.
28 January	'The Young Driver, The Law and The Road'. Sgt. Povey, G.M.P.
4 February	'Have You Stopped Beating Your Wife?'. Mr G. P. Scanlan, LL.B., Snr. Lecturer in Law, Liverpool University.
11 February	Half Term.
18 February	'Blood on Their Hands'. R.S.P.C.A. Film.
25 February	Founder's Day.
4 March	Industrial Conference run by The Industrial Society.
11 March	Industrial Conference de-briefing.
18 March	'Making Love'. Sex Education Film produced by the Marriage Guidance Council.
25 March	House Music and Drama.

Summer Term

15 April	'Trades Unions and Society'. Mr J. Mowatt, Regional Organiser, T.G.W.U.
22 April	'Mind Madness'. B.B.C. 'Horizon' Documentary.
29 April	'Study Skills'. Mr I. J. Shaw, Sixth Form Tutor.
6 May	Sports Heats.
13 May	'Human Rights in Korea'. Mr I. Hamilton, Old Hulmeian, Missionary Church of Christ.
20 May	'Amnesty International'. Mr R. Tones, Manchester Branch, A.I.
27 May	Half Term.
3 June	'Nuclear Energy'. Mr D. Green, U.K. Atomic Energy Authority.
10 June	'Current Affairs 1986' a questionnaire survey, Mr I. J. Shaw.
17 June	Internal Exams.
24 June	'Polytechnic Central Admissions Scheme'. P.C.A.S. Video.
1 July	'University Application'. Mr G. Turnbull, Admissions Tutor, Dept. of Economics, Leeds University.
8 July	'You and The School, an informal discussion of rules and reasons, policy and pupils'. Mr M. Loveland, Second Master.

CHRIS BONINGTON LECTURE

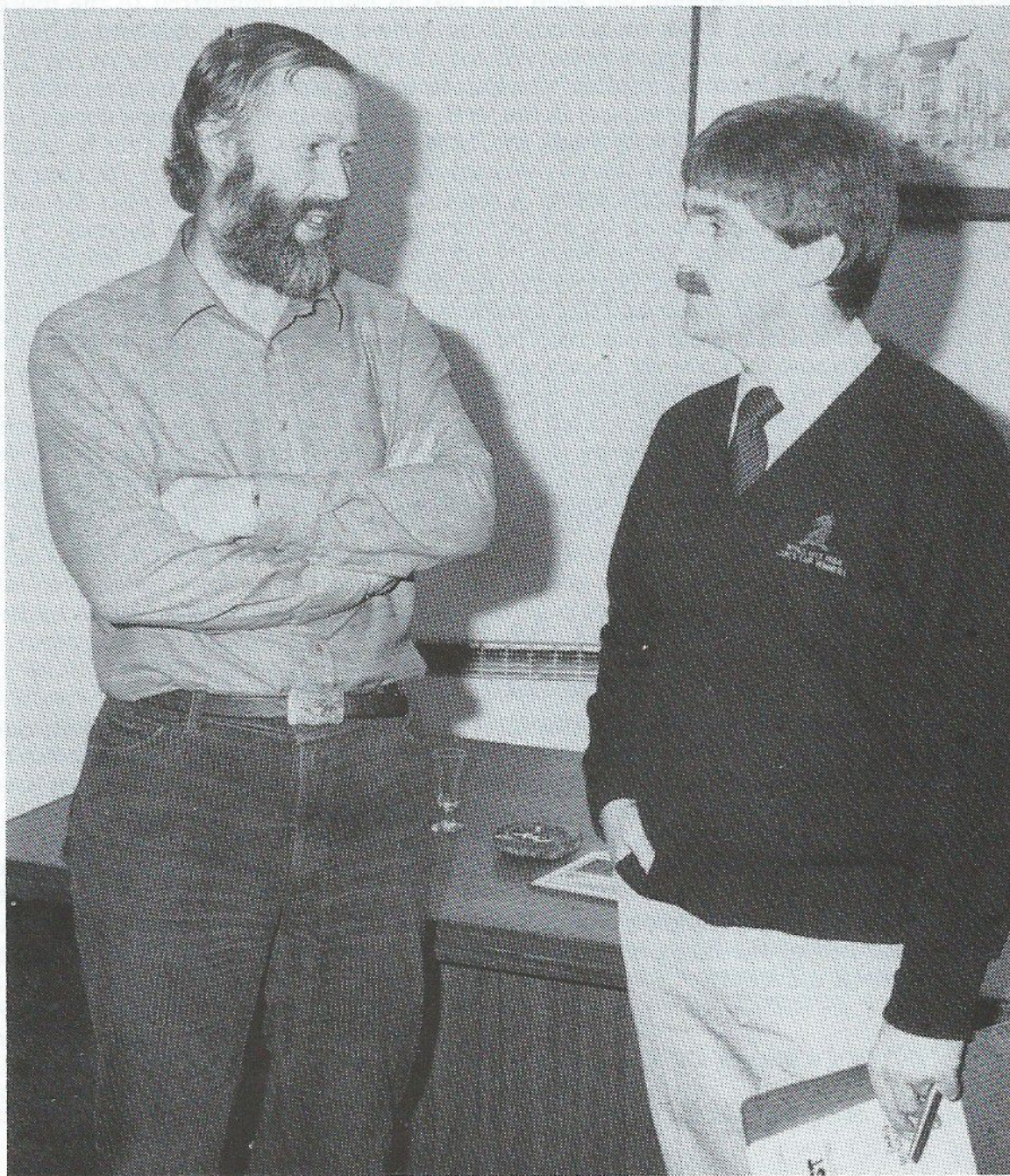
In 1913 J. W. Muller wrote that 'Geology consists of stones and dirt. The large stones are known as mountains. Mountains are of little value, being exceedingly primitive and rudely built. Their chief use is for climbing. The only practical use from climbing a mountain is to climb down again. People who climb mountains are known as mountaineers. Those who descend are known as survivors.'

Chris Bonington is a professional survivor. More impressively, he is a professional Himalayan survivor of many years' standing, and the breed is very rare indeed. The chances of permanent residence in the Himalayan chain are in the region of one in six per tour, so it is a tribute both to his mountaineering competence and the grace of God that he has been spared to recount his ascent, at the age of fifty, of the highest mountain on earth.

He had, as team leader, been on Everest several times before, but the attendant responsibilities had debarred him from an attempt on the actual summit. On the present occasion he had been liberated from the logistics and could function as pure climber in a Norwegian party funded and led by a millionaire enthusiast. Vast quantities of ready money must have made a pleasant change from the usual state of expedition finances. Gone is the need for the ritual round with the begging bowl in order to raise funds and sponsorship. Gone also is the necessity of filming oneself drinking Bovril and eating Mars Bars

at 27,000 feet, for example. One simply books a flight to Nepal in order to catch the helicopter to base camp. No more slogging through the foothills for weeks on end living on fly-blown chapatis and athletic chicken.

Traditionalists will no doubt shudder at the impact of technology on the style of the expedition, and no doubt they will also be appalled at the way times are changing in this previously inaccessible region. The influx of Western tourists and trekkers is robbing the area of its mystery, and civilisation is introducing its own pollution. Coca-Cola signs outside Buddhist temples are an indication of the way things are going. The Everest base camp area is now a popular tourist spot, and what pioneer climbers and explorers saw as a remote wilderness is now a destination for the sightseer. The route attempted



Chris Bonington with Mr I J Shaw.

(Photo: Mr J H Thomson)

by the Norwegian party was the original way ascended by Lord Hunt's expedition in 1953. Considerable numbers of people have now followed this route to the summit, and an intrepid Japanese has skied down one section equipped with a parachute brake. However, it is still a great challenge to any true mountaineer, and a trip through the Khumbu icefall will always be an exciting experience, fraught as it is with objective danger. Before setting off into the frozen nastiness, a ritual service was attended in the hope of mitigating the horrors. As the bemused climbers squatted cross-legged in the temple, deafening 'music' was offered up to placate whatever lives in the ice-fall and so ensure that no-one fell off a ladder or down any deep holes. On this occasion the prayers were effective and the icefall safely negotiated.

The performance of the sherpas on the mountain was very impressive. It was heartening to see that they are now more affluent and far better organised and equipped. Expeditions are a real money spinner and they have taken advantage of their indispensability to charge realistic fees and so equip themselves with duvet clothing, high mountain boots and all the modern climber's paraphernalia. As was often the case they still seem far fitter than the people they serve. Now they are better mountaineers than most as well. The day cannot be far off when they have their own guides' association as in the Alps and elsewhere. They may even start climbing for fun instead of money, although one suspects they are far too sensible for that.

A depressing feature revealed by the slides at Camp One and beyond was the amount of junk and garbage scattered all over the mountain but even this was as nothing compared to the more serious and invisible pollution. Drinking water must come from melted snow but a nice cup of tea becomes a cocktail of réchauffé bacteria, unhappily preserved for all time in the refrigerator of the South Col. One man's random defecation becomes another's serious tummy upset followed by even more alarming toilet work. Regular lowering of one's trousers in the teeth of a Himalayan gale must detract somewhat from the pleasures of the ascent and it is a tribute to Chris Bonington's fortitude that he regarded this as a nuisance rather than a disaster. The sherpas seemed immune to the purgatory, or simply ignored it, and carried on regardless with great efficiency. A reprimand to the Europeans over the radio to the effect that the expedition was supposed to be led by Norwegians spurred on the laggards to catch the sherpas before they disappeared into the heavens. No doubt the expedition leader feared a repeat of 'The Ascent of Rum-Doodle' where the porters carried the Sahibs to the summit on wicker baskets.

The weather seemed remarkably fair and this considerable bonus helped towards a successful summit bid and the fulfilment of a lifelong ambition for Chris Bonington at an age when most climbers have hung up their boots. Elation was, however, tempered with sadness at the memory of his many climbing friends who had died on previous Himalayan expeditions, several on Everest itself.

On this occasion a safe return was celebrated by all in an extensive Chang-drinking session (Chang is the local highly potent brew) in the nearby pub. The sound recording of this particular evening's celebrations was fascinating! We are all grateful to Mr Bonington for giving us such an entertaining account, and many thanks must go to Mr Shaw for arranging the lecture for our benefit.

M. I. Barker

HISTORY ACTIVITIES I

SIXTH FORM LECTURES 1985-86

Following the success of our last round of lectures (1984-85), the History Department once again took sixth-form sets to various lectures around the country. These included:

The Italian Unification—London. The Origins of the First World War—Manchester.

Stalin 1928-41—Manchester. The Spanish Civil War—Manchester.

France 1870-1914—Manchester. Germany 1890-1914—Manchester.

The Origins of the First World War—The Imperial War Museum. Nazi Germany—Manchester.

All of these lectures were of considerable value and an essential complement to classroom discussion. The groups were informed of the latest research and ideas on the above topics, and gave the boys a useful insight into life at university.

M. P. Jones

HISTORY ACTIVITIES II

THIRD YEAR HISTORY

TRIP TO THE MUSEUMS AT STYAL AND CASTLEFIELD

On Friday 21 March 1986, the History Department organised a trip for all their third year history sets, to the museums at Styal and Castlefield.

The group of 100 boys and 6 staff arrived at the cotton mill in Styal. This is a fully operational, nineteenth century cotton mill and was proclaimed museum of the year in 1984. As part of their course, the boys had been looking into the social and economic development of Modern Britain and the mill gave an excellent insight into the working conditions of the 1780's.

The party was divided up into four groups and they started off at different parts of the museum. The boys were particularly interested in the life of an apprentice at the mill and were amazed how long someone their own age would have had to work for a few pence.

After a dinner/picnic in the Cheshire countryside, the coaches took us back into Manchester to the museum in Castlefield. The Science and Industry Museum gave the boys interesting information on the construction of the first commercial railway from Manchester to Liverpool built by George Stephenson in 1829. Later the party went into the Air and Space Museum which gave an excellent outline of the development of the aircraft from the Wright brothers to Star Wars. As an extra bonus, we saw Granada's outdoor broadcast unit at work on the set of 'Sherlock Holmes' and of course on the set of 'Coronation Street', itself an insight into modern social history!

The trips to the museums were very enjoyable and all the staff were especially pleased with the compliments from the museum staff, on the behaviour of the boys.

M. P. Jones

HISTORY ACTIVITIES III

SECOND YEAR VISIT TO YORK

On Tuesday 11 February 1986, the History Department took all the second year on an educational visit to York. The trip was designed to help us on our course on Viking Britain.

Two coaches took two forms in each. 2A and 2B went to the Jorvik Viking Centre in the morning and then York Minster in the afternoon, whilst 2C and 2D visited the Railway Museum before the Viking Centre.

We departed from school early in the morning and eventually arrived in York, having passed through the winter scenes of the Yorkshire countryside. Once at our destination, our coach dropped us off outside the castle walls and after a short walk we arrived at Coppergate (or street of Coopers).

As we walked through the doors of the Viking Centre no-one knew what to expect. Everyone thought that it was going to be the normal boring museum but this was not to be the case! Inside we were led down some stairs and then along a passage with pictures and text about the old Viking City Jorvik lining the walls. Finally we came to the time-cars which seated four people.

The car moved backwards through Time, taking us through the twentieth century, Victorian, Elizabethan and Mediaeval eras, whilst Magnus Magnusson told us over the speakers that "today's junk is tomorrow's archaeology".

As we neared the Viking reconstruction, the time car turned round, as if Time had stopped. We moved slowly forward into a Viking village, hearing the shouts of the Norsemen! We saw the timber frames of houses, with their thatched roofs touching the ground. There was a craftsman selling his jewellery and a bone carver was hard at work shaping combs and pins out of animal bones. The time-car passed through a Viking house—just one room with a glowing hearth for eating, sleeping and playing games. Everything was just as it had been thousands of years ago and there were even the foul smells of the animals and a Viking toilet! The filthy and unhealthy yard led us down to the international part of Jorvik on the rivers Foss and Ouse. Here we could see boats being loaded, unloaded and repaired. The fish were also gutted on the river side and sold to the people of the village.

Time moved on and we saw how archaeologists had dug up these relics from the past, to help us understand more about Viking life. We then climbed out of our car and walked through another reconstruction which showed how the scientists and historians were analysing the finds. A display room showed the evidence. There were tools, clothes, jewellery, dice and games. A hologram revealed the famous Coppergate helmet.

The day proved most enjoyable and useful (even though we missed a half day's holiday). Special thanks to Mr M. P. Jones for organising the trip.

R. Avery, R. Buckley, A. Reid (2A)

RADIO MANCHESTER VISIT

Three sixth formers accepted an invitation from Old Hulmeian Roger Finnigan to visit the B.B.C. studios on Oxford Road and to see how he prepared and edited an edition of Radio 4's 'File on Four' on which he was working.

P. J. Rogal (L6S) and W. Choi (U6M) can be seen being "interviewed" by Roger and P. J. Rogal has the technicalities explained to him by the production assistant. D. A. S. Shaw took the photographs.

Roger Finnigan is now a producer on the Yorkshire TV programme 'First Tuesday'.

I. J. Shaw



Radio Manchester visit.



POLITICAL ACTIVITIES I

POLITICS CONFERENCE

On 10 January 1986, the Politics Minority Studies groups (17 stalwarts and Mr Jones) arrived at the Roscoe Building of Manchester University. As they assembled in the foyer at 9.30 a.m., they became acutely aware that they were the only groups wearing a uniform! This provoked some embarrassment and that horrible goldfish feeling, as everyone else looked at you as if you were in a glass bowl. Still, many ingenious ways of losing one's uniform were found out—ties suddenly disappeared down jumpers, coats were kept on blazers and some garments were folded into bags!

The group sat close together—as if for moral support—and spent a lot of time watching where all the girls from the sixth-form colleges were sitting. This created some merriment and elbow-nudging, the significance of which seemed to be lost on T. Edge! The first lecturer arrived late, but the extra time was spent in watching more girls and longing for co-education. Mr Jones, in the meantime, fumed to and fro looking for C. P. Williams and making such remarks as 'He'd be late for his own funeral' and 'He's not getting a refund if he doesn't turn up' etc. . .

The Chairman's introductory comments were well-received; well he at least made a noise at the front of the hall and focussed the group's attention!

The first lecture was delivered by Dr Dennis Kavanagh on 'The Nature of British Politics'. The group were familiar with his work with Bill Jones and their book 'British Politics Today' and other numerous publications. The lecture was very good as it gave the historic, economic and social setting for the present political system. After a coffee break, we returned to the theatre for the second lecture by Michael Moran on 'British Political History since 1945'. This proved an invaluable lecture, as it put the present political scene in its historical perspective.

Following dinner, the last lecture by Sheila McKechnie was on the subject of 'The Politics of Pressure'. She had a ghastly laugh, which still haunts me, but she took a rather negative approach, attacking every institute for not doing enough for the under-privileged. Unfortunately for her, our witty and quick-thinking Master easily caught her out on the use of violence by Pressure Groups to achieve their objectives.

Overall we had an excellent day and thanks to Mr M. P. Jones for organising the trip.

J. Whittaker (L6A)

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES II

VISIT TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

On Thursday 13 February 1986, 6 students studying 'O' level Politics and Mr M. P. Jones were escorted round the Palace of Westminster by the Honourable David Sumberg M.P. for Bury South (Conservative).

This was an excellent visit, as the group were able to question Mr Sumberg about the role of a back-bench M.P., the work of the Select Committees and the current controversy surrounding the Westland Affair. We were very fortunate as Mr Sumberg had just been appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sir Patrick Mayhew the Solicitor-General whose letter which had been deliberately leaked to discredit Michael Heseltine.

We found the Palace of Westminster very seductive and stimulating. In particular it was a very invigorating experience to talk to an M.P. about things we had read so much about in our textbook. We enjoyed the day and would like to thank Mr M. P. Jones for arranging the trip.

S. J. Young (L6A)

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES III

VISIT TO THE G.M.C.

On Monday 17 February 1986, 17 students studying 'O' level Politics and Mr. M. P. Jones arrived at County Hall, Piccadilly, Manchester. As part of their course, the group wanted to see how a local council worked and in particular a council which had been the subject of so much controversy. We were all interested to know what the effects of abolishing the Greater Manchester Council would be on our great city.

The group were escorted to room 327, where they were introduced to Councillor Stan Simmons (a member of the powerful G.M.C. Finance Committee) and shown the G.M.C.'s promotional video. Councillor Simmons was closely questioned by the group, as was a member of the G.M.C.'s promotional

(propaganda?) unit. The group wanted to know the reasons behind the Council's recent decision to remove the concessionary bus fare for over 16's who attended private schools!

We were then treated to a 'slap-up' meal in the Members Dining Room. No expense was spared, as the Council had plenty of rate payers' money to spend before it was abolished on 31 March 1986.

Following dinner, we were then escorted to Committee Room where we sat in on a meeting of the G.M.C. Finance Committee. This proved to be a fascinating insight into how the rates were allocated and a large number of us were amazed at how much money went through 'on-the-nod'—thanks to the inbuilt Labour majority.

The group thoroughly enjoyed their visit and would like to thank Mr Jones for organising the trip.

S. J. Young (L6A)

FIFTH FORM GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On Wednesday 16 October three vans set off from the 'quad' full of intrepid fifth formers, their destination North Wales and three days of fairly intensive field work.

First stop en route was Llangollen to do an urban survey and to have lunch. This was then followed by a brisk assault of a limestone escarpment and then the last leg of the journey to the Y.H.A. Hostel at Bryn Gwynant (Grid Reference 641513 on O.S. Map 115!). This was to be our base for the three days, a well equipped hostel with dorms, a classroom and more importantly a pool table!

On Thursday morning we went on a trip round Dinorwig Power Station, a huge H.E.P. station in the heart of a mountain with six 300MW generators and associated equipment. It takes only 11 seconds for the station to go from zero to full output which can be sustained for up to five hours. In the afternoon we walked up to Cwm Idwal and round Devil's kitchen to study a glaciated landscape.

On the Friday morning we did a river study by a small stream near Llyn Ogwen and measured various things like flow and depth. We had the afternoon off working and all went for a trip on the Ffestiniog Railway. We just travelled on the top half of the line from Blaenau Ffestiniog to Tan-Y-Bwlch, which goes through some of the most spectacular scenery on Welsh Narrow Gauge lines. Although not everybody's cup of tea, it was enjoyed by most people, I am sure.

We arrived back in school on Saturday 18 at around 12 o'clock after a tiring but hopefully useful and enjoyable three days.

The Ffestiniog Railway was originally opened in April 1836 and was built to carry slate from the mining town of Blaenau Ffestiniog to the port of Porthmadog and then shipped over the world. At first they used horses to pull the trains up the line and gravity to run the trains down but steam engines were brought into traffic in October 1863 and passenger trains were introduced in January 1865. In August 1946 the railway was completely closed because of the War and a lack of money to maintain existing rolling stock, and the railway was left to rot and decay. In 1954 the railway was officially taken over by a group of enthusiasts and by 1955 the line was just re-opened across the Cob. By 1968 the line was re-opened to Ddaullt, ten miles up the line. Then came the biggest obstacle to the railway, the C.E.G.B. Ffestiniog H.E.P. Station, similar to Dinorwig but much smaller. After many legal battles and against great odds the line reached Tanygrisiau in February 1978 having come round the famous Ddaullt spiral and behind the power station along a new route and on 25 May 1982 the railway was once again completed back to Blaenau Ffestiniog, 14 miles from Porthmadog, for the first time in 36 years. 1986 is the railway's 150th anniversary and there has been much celebration but the railway would not be where it is today if it were not for the many enthusiasts and volunteers who give up spare time to help in the running of the railway and without which the railway would not exist.

Many thanks and credit must be given to Mr Veevers and his colleagues Mr Lytollis and Mr McDougall who organised and ran the trip and put up with us for three days.

D. R. H. Buxton (5Y)

THE SCHOOL PLAY 1985:

'LARK RISE'

Dr Dean's production of Keith Dewhurst's musical adaptation of Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford* adopted from the outset the laudable and agreeable aim of entertaining the audience—an aim amply realised, to judge from the unusually large attendances on all three nights, and the warmth of the response. Even so, *Lark Rise* possesses a deceptively folksy simplicity, concealing threads of seriousness, poignancy and pleasing sentimentality, so it is a credit to Dr Dean and all involved in the

production that the balancing and interweaving of the many strands and moods of the play was achieved neatly and perceptively.

On a black December night in Manchester, the audience is transported to the wheatfields of Oxfordshire in the 1880s and the impoverished yet resilient hamlet of Lark Rise. The varied life of the place is presented through an array of characters immersed in the rituals of a community dependent on nature and as yet untroubled by the advent of machinery or the invasion of the modern world. Yet the romantic tint of a sentimental longing for a country childhood in a long-gone rural England is judiciously checked by a note of respectful seriousness, reminding us of the grinding poverty and painfully restricted horizons of the people. However, reassurance is provided by a vibrant sense of shared experience and the recurring cycle of the seasons, charted through the events of the village year. This play is about the riches as well as the rigours of the life of the poor.

The overall effect of the play is to create a mosaic of life in Lark Rise—rituals, traditions, village 'characters' with their idiosyncracies—animated through speech, song and dance. Continuity is provided by the tying of the action to the passage of a single day in the harvest season. Nevertheless, there remains the difficulty of plausibly presenting village life in its diversity while keeping hold of the central themes. This was achieved despite the further constraint of producing what is really a piece of theatre-in-the-round within the limits of proscenium staging. Those responsible for lighting, scenery and props deserve credit here.

A further source of unity in the play is provided by the Timms family, whose daughter Laura acts as a narrator and whose fortunes we follow throughout. N. J. Vowles as Laura, and D. P. Stogsdill as her brother Edmund, performed with personality and energy in roles requiring sensitivity and the ability to convey naïveté without becoming winsome. The other child role, Martha, was taken by A. Goodwin with equal panache. R. A. Jones and M. Mankelow, respectively Emma and Albert Timms, also helped to hold the play together.

However, in a play reliant on a number of cameo roles for its effects, many other actors made notable contributions and displayed impressive range. M. I. Aldridge and A. St J. Dawes as the two village elders were splendid studies of aged ribaldry, and Aldridge, in another role as Laura's grandfather, showed that he could command pathos as well as humour. The cattish village women embodied in P. I. Aldridge and M. S. Donnelly were equally convincing, played with a lively appreciation of caricature occasionally sliding into Pythonesque parody, while in J. W. Babicki's Old Sally we had a captivating portrait of a more sympathetic elderly feminine type.

Perhaps the most entertaining scene in the production was that which closed the first half, involving the mowers in their convivial gathering during a rest from the harvest. Here ale, clay pipe and country mirth abetted earthy rustic banter and a spontaneous hilarity as the script was left somewhat behind. Aldridge and Dawes were leading spirits here, as were G. J. O'Driscoll and L. G. Psaila, refugees from 'The Archers' both, whilst J. R. C. King, appropriately cast as Boamer 'the King of the Mowers', entered into his part with infectious zest. The hilarity of this, and of the comparable scene in the tavern in Act 2, which included a rousing morris dance by J. R. Haynes in full regalia, were keenly appreciated by the audience.

Life in Lark Rise is as much evoked and celebrated through folksong and music as through dialogue. Song acts as an oblique choric comment in many scenes, and so the choir of sixteen juniors, and the twelve-strong orchestra, led by P. Sharman, under the direction of D. K. W. Hinnells, are to be complimented on an accomplished performance alert to the nuances of atmosphere, mood and tone of the lyrics. The singing was of a quality rarely heard in the New Hall—especially during Assembly—and many members of the cast discovered hidden vocal resources in themselves, including M. A. Fossey as the Cheapjack, A. Pilling as Jerry Parish, and J. P. Wilson as the Squire, while M. Brandreth used his known ability to good effect. It should be added that Hinnells had orchestrated all the music himself, so that he was, as Dr Dean remarked in his speech on the last night, effectively a co-producer.

Lark Rise succeeded in entertaining the audience with bawdy humour, lively dialogue and rousing music, as well as in moving them with a well-judged final evocation of the decimated village after the Great War, when cenotaph replaced maypole as it did in so many corners of England. All concerned deserve praise for a very intelligent production.

P. G. Winn

(Note: Mr Winn, a postgraduate in the Education Department of Manchester University, was on teaching practice in the English Department during the Michaelmas Term).

HOUSE PLAY COMPETITION

(March 1986)

Final positions:

1. Gaskell
2. Byrom
3. Heywood
4. Dalton
5. Fraser
6. Whitworth

Individual Trophy Winner: M. Silgram (Byrom)

Gaskell House offered the audience a highly entertaining thirty minutes with their production of *Arthur*. The set was completely bare for most of the time, the attention therefore being concentrated on the antics of this very large cast. The play got off to a rather slow start, as the opening scene between Arthur (J. King) and his Aunt Alice (D. Woodroffe) failed to establish the rapport with the audience so necessary to the success of this play. It is always a difficult task to be the first performers of the night, and King was rather pedestrian in the delivery of his lines, especially when addressing the audience directly, his speeches being totally devoid of emotion. He was much more comfortable when his character changed from being an ineffectual wimp to the rebellious, much feared yet much admired hero-figure. Woodroffe spoke with great clarity in the high-pitched voice of a crazed, fanatical old lady. His part would have been more effective, we felt, had he presented us with more visual clues to his self-induced 'revolutionary making': his costume was confused to say the least. The stage moved from monologue to dialogue to group scenes, the latter especially providing much of the comic element and affording the performance great pace and variety. E. Meyrick had an amusing cameo role as Denise, the fickle breaker of hearts who was in turn rejected at the end of the play. Although his interpretation had a rather 'campish' feel to it, he did resist the temptation boys often have to exaggerate gesture when playing a female role. C. Greaves was a somewhat understated Fire Captain who really came alive when bringing the news that the town was burning down. E. S. Mehlman showed that he has a very keen sense of timing in his role as the police inspector, but was however a little inaudible and had a rather disturbing tendency to play to the audience, breaking the unity with the other actors on stage. Had we not been told that the police were in fact police *women*, we would never have guessed. It may be pleasing to C. L. Ward, J. Wills (who also had an excellent role as a boy-scout), A. Cohen and D. Sharp to know that there is absolutely nothing feminine about them, but in the interests of dramatic realism they could have worn a skirt and a wig! M. McNeany, P. Dean and S. Schofield are to be commended on their clear, confident delivery, H. J. Clare gave an admirable performance as the Scout Commissioner and A. D. Gearey gave a most convincing picture of frustration in high places as the Mayor. This was a very careful production with some imaginative direction. There were weak spots, such as the costumes, the sound effects, which sometimes drowned the actors' voices, and the set changes which were far too slow. These criticisms aside, the adjudicators felt that this was a most commendable effort, giving the opportunity to a large number of Gaskell boys to take part in one way or another, making this a truly 'House' play.

After their success in 1985, we were not surprised to learn that Byrom were to perform part of *The Marriage of Figaro*. However, they steered clear from the musical version and gave us the second act of Beaumarchais' play, translated by John Wells. This was an adventurous choice of play: it must be many years since a House entry was from an eighteenth century French classic; but in fact Campbell's production worked extremely well indeed. The set did look like the Countess Almaviva's luxurious bedroom, and good use was made of the stage area (except upstage). The cast of six all performed well, though they were let down by the odd choices of costume: the Cherub looked too military, the Countess and Suzannah too Edwardian, Figaro too modern. But everything came together to give us a most enjoyable half-hour.

M. Rosenthal tried very hard indeed as the Countess Almaviva, and to good effect, though there was some hesitancy in places, and he should have tried to project his voice all the time. He related very well to the Count (J. D. Campbell), though there was too much unnecessary movement in the scene where the Count is determined to batter down the door to the closet: at the same time, he should have made more use of the stage in the dialogues with Suzannah. M. Silgram played the latter, and turned in the finest performance of the competition. His gestures were natural and well-timed, his movements graceful, and there was much variety in his voice; but above all his eye movements and facial expressions showed that he was involved in what was going on all the time. A very memorable performance. J. Weston had some difficulty in coming to terms with the role of Figaro, the Count's

manservant (his twentieth-century costume did not help here). He came across quite clearly, though he had a maddening tendency both to rush his lines and to speak them with his head turned away from the audience: his nervousness was evident by his stilted movements and by the way he threw away many important lines. J. Campbell turned in a commendable performance as the Count Almaviva, partly because his costume was fully credible (the cravat was a nice touch). His aristocratic accent was sustained throughout, but there were insufficient nuances of expression here, which meant that some of his asides simply did not work, and it was not made clear that he was confronted by a major dilemma throughout the play. We enjoyed D. Stogsdill's performance as the Cherub, all the more commendable coming from a newcomer to House plays: he threw himself out of the window onto the melons with some gusto! But it was a pity that he rarely turned to face the audience: his performance was largely carried out in profile. Finally, we made special mention of A. Crowther's Antonio: a small part, but splendidly done, right down to his permanently bandy legs.

Heywood chose an absurd comedy, *The Devil in Summer*, in which two sophisticated businessmen tempt a farmer and his wife living in 'splendid isolation' to purchase a personal atomic bomb. The production maintained a fine pace throughout; there was a certain style and panache about it that put to flight any momentary reservations over minor details. Technically G. J. White (Chuto) was pleasingly very workmanlike in the delivery of his lines and in his use of gesture and bodily attitude. The comic tension of the play was sustained in his interaction with the other characters, and he had a good sense of timing. He also captured the gradual evolution which takes place in the gruff, bull-headed farmer as he is in turn, first tempted, then finally persuaded by the two salesmen that he can become omnipotent by accepting their bargain offer. Unfortunately, the Laborde brothers (R. D. Nieri and J. W. Babicki) did not have sufficient presence to match the resonant tones of White's larger than life Chuto and it was a pity that there was not a greater contrast drawn between the hardy rustics and the urbane businessmen. Nieri obviously enjoyed himself as the smooth-talking sales rep. and it was pleasing to see him learning to move and gesture naturally to capture the shrewd nature of the character he portrayed; however, he should have exaggerated his movements more. Babicki (John Laborde) was slightly more wooden than his partner, although he did project his voice well. Both, however, had a disturbing tendency to gabble their lines whenever a more emotive tone was called for and both at different times masked the other characters on the stage. A. J. Wray (Marie, Chuto's wife) seemed somewhat dominated by his costume: he did not quite seem to know how he ought to sit, nor did he realise that it is perfectly possible for a female character to walk about without hitching up her skirt with one hand. Nevertheless, there was a hint of a Les Dawson female impersonation about his hand gestures which more than compensated for this. S. Dean (Grandma) could have made more of his part and must learn to project his voice more.

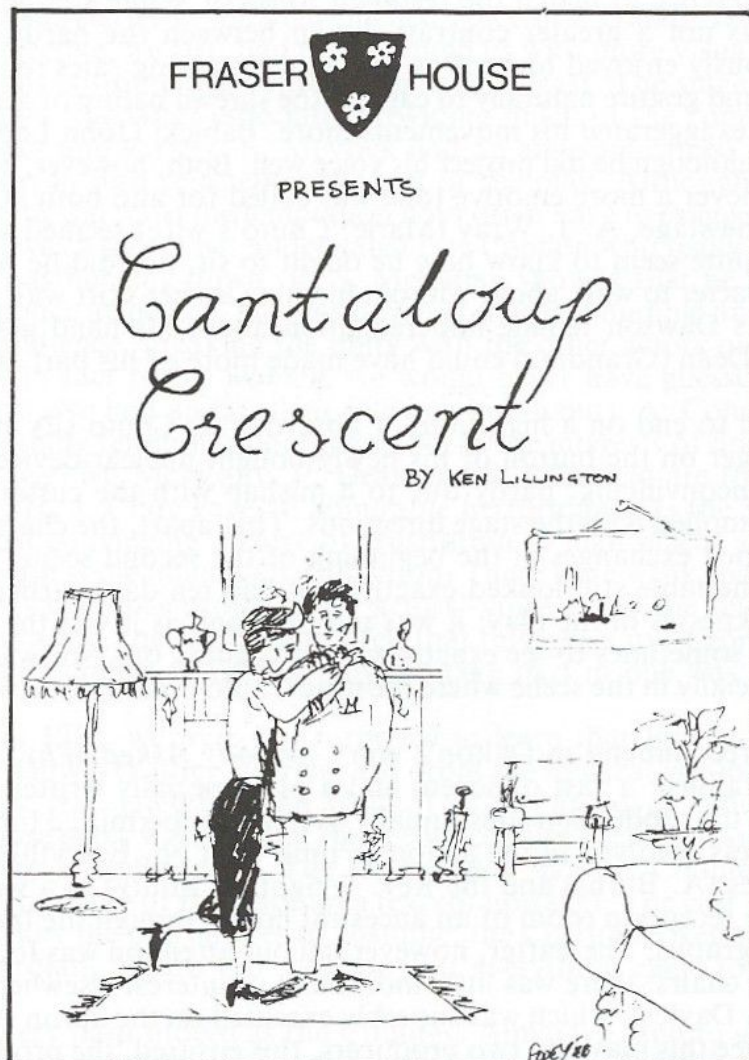
The play is supposed to end on a high note of absurdity as Chuto sits impassively, a paper bag over his head and his finger on the button of his newly-bought nuclear device, but the ending in this production was totally unconvincing, partly due to a mishap with the curtain, but also because the producer had not fully complied with the stage directions. That apart, the characters did evoke a mood of absurdity in their clipped exchanges at the beginning of the second scene. But after the black-out at the end of scene one the table still looked exactly as it had ten days earlier. Indeed the use of the table was one of the weaknesses in the play; it was too high and as it was the focal point of much of the action it was difficult sometimes to see exactly what was going on. Nor was there sufficient frenzy imparted to the play, especially in the scene where the irate Chuto eventually drives the Laborde brothers out of his farmhouse.

There was much to recommend in Dalton's entry *Nobody Asked Why*: good advance publicity and an imaginative programme: a cast of seven; and a play specially written for the competition by two of the cast. However, the production substantially overran the permitted time limit of thirty minutes and we found ourselves less involved in the action as time went on. Everything started well: we were introduced to Major Bates (A. Burns) and the Rev. Wright (J. Minty) in a well-considered set which looked something like the reception room of an ancestral home, though the travel poster and cigarette advertisement were incongruous. Thereafter, however, all our attention was focused onto the reception desk and the surrounding chairs: there was little movement or interest elsewhere, apart from the death of Buddy Weinberger (M. Davies), which was superbly executed on the apron stage. We were promised in the programme that since this play had two producers, this ensured 'the production of a more varied performance than would normally be possible'. We regret that this did not prove to be the case. It was entirely creditable to attempt a home-produced farce, but farces only work if they are sustained throughout on a high level of manic insanity by most of the cast, and if they eschew such dreadfully contrived exchanges as "Collect your baggage from upstairs"—"How dare you speak about my wife like that when she's not here to defend herself".

A. Burns gave quite an enjoyable portrayal of Major Bates; well-controlled, with good timing and an impressive range of gestures, though his accent was too obviously artificial. As one of the producers he should have realised that constant jumping up and down behind the reception desk would not work:

slipping away behind the curtains might have been better. J. Minty was very convincing as Rev. Wright: he had read himself into the part and resisted the temptation of going over the top which so often afflicts boys who take on clerical roles: one suspected at times that he was on personal terms with a real vicar who had problems with his church roof fund! The two Gumbys (a surname, gentle reader, not a term of abuse) were very well portrayed by P. Aldridge and P. Sheriff. Aldridge sustained his version of a Yorkshire accent throughout the play, and maintained his characterisation of the irascible and intermittently deaf Obadiah to the end: he outacted very other member of the cast. Sheriff was a very fine foil to Aldridge, especially convincing in the 'Hovis' scene, though he should have pulled his cap further back: it is always vital for an audience to see a player's eyes. M. Davies did well as the loud-mouthed American visitor: he timed to perfection the scene where, helped on by the Vicar, he fell on the knife and killed himself.

We expected a lot from the central character in this play, M. Aldridge as Monsieur LePoint, but were ultimately disappointed. He made a good entrance with his manservant Grovel (M. Hargreaves), and worked hard thereafter with his movements, gestures and facial expressions; and his description of the waxworks' murders case was superb. But he took on an accent which, unlike his younger brother, he did not sustain: and he tried to send up both Basil Fawty and Inspector Clouseau at the same time; mixing both together did not work. M. Hargreaves gave an altogether more satisfying performance: fully involved in the production throughout, he came into his own towards the end as he proved beyond doubt his master's involvement in Weinberger's death (though we wish, as no doubt his parents did, that he had been a little more careful with the talcum powder used to dust the knife for fingerprints: dry-cleaning suits is an expensive business).



Fraser's production of *Cantaloup Crescent* opened to reveal a very attractive, full set, with the intriguing sight of Angela Splitpin (H. Wilcox) standing with his back to the audience. The promise of a slick, sophisticated performance was, however, not fulfilled as prompts were needed on more than one occasion, resulting in the overall impression that this was rather under-rehearsed. B. W. N. Light was magnificent in his portrayal of Hubert Splitpin, the manic Sloane Ranger figure. He maintained his upper-class accent throughout, and his gestures and facial expressions were very natural, even down

to the glint in his eye—one could almost believe he really was quite mad! His exit via the fireplace was extremely well done, taking the audience completely by surprise. H. Wilcox was somewhat less convincing in his female role. There cannot be many women who carry a handbag around with them in their own home, neither do they swing an outstretched arm as they walk! Although he bore little resemblance to any woman we have seen, details such as the way he played with his manicured nails when action was focussed elsewhere added a rather nice touch. S. Tucker delivered his lines quite well, but unfortunately he spent most of the time with his head down so that we could neither hear as well as we might, nor could we see his face. Only when he rushed to attack Hubert did he appear to relish his role. Both he and F. Khawar had difficulty in sustaining their Cockney accents; indeed there was little difference between this and their upper-class accent. Much of the interest of this play lies in the dialogue itself, with its discussions about the fundamental meaning of words when taken out of their context. It was unfortunate that the actors did not take advantage of this, and the impact of many lines was lost owing to the mechanical fashion in which the actors spoke.

With so few actors on stage, and in so short a play, the difficulties of production were reduced, which is one reason why the play compared favourably with the other plays. The timing was good, the costumes realistic, the pace was reasonably fast-moving, but we felt that they had not quite captured the absurdly farcical mood of the play as well as they might have.

Whitworth's entry was *The Laboratory*, by D. Campton, a farce set in Renaissance Italy. M.

Whitworth House Play 1986..

The Laboratory



by David Campton

Donnelly played Gabriotto, an ageing apothecary, plagued, whilst working at his retorts, by his servant Emilia (D. K. W. Hinnells), Alberto Brescia (M. Mankelow) and the latter's wife Gianetta (J. C. Cottrell) and mistress, Violante (N. Vowles).

At the opening of the play the lighting was used to great effect to insinuate us into the required setting, and there we were in the apothecary's dank, smoke-grimed cellar. However, the set remained in virtual darkness throughout the rest of the play and it became hard work to observe the action. And yet there are various sources of light mentioned in the stage directions: where, for example, was the circle of light mentioned by Violante in the scene where she seduced Gabriotto? Furthermore the fireplace which was used to represent an alchemist's furnace looked incongruous, nor did it throw out enough light. The play was a bad choice for a house production, because it depends too much on strong, individual characterisation; in it each member relates only to Gabriotto, thus making for little dramatic interest. For this play to work the marked contrast between the various characters has to be brought out, and this the producer, Donnelly, failed to do. Indeed, the cast suffered from serious misdirection: there

was too little attempt to bring the characters out and to involve them. Very little thought had gone into each actor's gestures.

Donnelly strove to portray the emaciated apothecary but there was too much shuffling of feet and he spent far too long looking at the boards, particularly when half-resisting Violante's advances. There was very little attempt to capture the shift in mood from servile wretch to frantic buffoon in this character. Mankelow is supposed to be a middle-aged, cruel, mephistophelean character. He somehow seemed reluctant to take on such a role, although he could have played it very well with much better direction. He looked totally absurd, for instance, crouched behind the apothecary's desk, holding his head in his hands. His costume was also out of place; he looked more like a waiter in some downtown trattoria than a Renaissance dignitary. Hinnells brought some life to a badly flagging play in his burlesque seduction of Gabriotto in the closing sequence. Cottrell did have a certain presence, and managed to capture Giannetta's domineering quality; but would a sixteenth-century Italian noblewoman really have worn a djebala? Brightly coloured as it was, it was not convincing as a dress. Vowles' Violante may well have been young, pretty and alluring, but how was the audience to know since her face was completely wreathed in a headscarf? Altogether, the actors lacked presence on stage and, with the sole exception of Cottrell, failed to project their voices. There were too many hiatuses and quite often they lacked timing. There was very little interaction between them; indeed, at times they gave the impression of jaded old stagers going through the motions at some matinée.

P. J. Callaghan
L. A. Ballantyne
J. G. Hofton

STAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Stage Staff 1985-6

J. M. Langley (Stage Manager)
A. J. Roberts (Lighting Engineer)
J. C. Cottrell (Sound Engineer)
S. W. Dutton (Assistant Lighting Engineer)

Senior Stage Staff

R. Angel
P. J. Rogal
I. G. Wakefield

Menials

J. R. Haynes
P. G. Hope
G. C. Leigh
E. S. Mehlman

Yet another year has gone and the Stage Staff dealt with all demands with their usual efficiency and humour, thus maintaining their status of unsung heroes who quietly keep the School running smoothly. This regular work includes erecting and dismantling the apron stage several times a year and providing sound and lights for events like Speech Day, the Chris Bonington lecture, the Barn Dance, the House Plays and the fund-raising concert during Charities Week.

The highlight of the year, of course, was the School Play. This year's production, *Lark Rise*, refreshed the parts previous productions couldn't reach—an audience! Yes, this year people filled the Hall on most nights, a sight rarely seen in recent years. Most credit for this must go to Dr Dean and the cast, although rumour has it that the reason for the large attendance was the dancing doors, a piece of scenery representing a row of houses which could be seen ascending to the heavens by jerks (four of us) only to reappear several scenes later. Minor parts of the cast of scenery included a very acrobatic tree and a grate which an actor religiously polished every night whilst miraculously avoiding third degree burns from the imaginary fire within! The play required great dedication from all members of the Stage Staff: on the second night one of our number bravely held up the grate whilst squatting in the Lotus position

during a whole scene, so the prize for being caught onstage goes to I. G. Wakefield. The play was successful despite the disturbing omen which occurred during the Sunday dress rehearsal; when a bar was being raised, a bolster chisel, which had been left in the rafters when the bar system was installed five years ago, decided to try the ancient art of defying gravity. Having failed dismally, and having nothing better to do with its time, the chisel decided that it couldn't hang around any longer and entered stage left, narrowly missing an actor before burying itself in the stage. Despite this warning from the gods, we soldiered on.

The biggest task for us was the door flats mentioned earlier. They weighed enough to require four of us for hauling them up and down, a remarkable feat of co-ordination and rope-work masterfully done by Mr Grant, R. Angel, R. D. Markland and myself. We only had one slight accident on the first night when the ropes slipped off the cleat and sent us sprawling in a heap on the floor.

To end on a sad note, we have to record that the Stage Staff room, home and friend for the last ten years, is to become a girls' changing-room. Oh that we could remain! However, we will continue to operate from the new Sixth Form Centre.

J. M. Langley (L6S MPC3), S.M.

NOTE: It ought not to go unrecorded that Mr Grant has decided, after sixteen years, to relinquish his connection with the stage. Many boys who have been on and behind the stage, as well as many play producers, have had cause to be thankful for his patience, technical skill and ingenuity. No problem has been too trivial or too daunting for him and thousands of spectators have, albeit unwittingly, had their evening's entertainment enriched by his work. We thank him most sincerely.

MUSIC

The Music Department had its usual busy year. Concerts were given on 16 December and 18 March, the former being as usual the better-attended. The orchestra, band and choir, as well as soloists, performed at each concert and among the pieces heard were the first movement of Mr Bamforth's 'School Suite' which he is composing for the Centenary, and a 'Bond Suite' for brass group arranged by D. K. W. Hinnells. The Choir sang as usual in St Ann's Church in December (as well as at a local old people's home, a visit which was particularly well received) and in the Cathedral on Founder's Day. A number of the Band, conducted by Hinnells, and a choir of junior boys, appeared in the School Play. Forty boys received weekly instrumental tuition, and seventeen were entered for the Association Board examinations. Outside School, a number of boys entered the Heaton Mersey Music Festival, where they gained invaluable experience in performing and benefiting from the advice of the adjudicators.

School Colours for Music were awarded to J. C. Cottrell, T. R. Edge, D. K. W. Hinnells, R. W. McHale, R. E. Moore, P. Sharman, C. W. Timm and C. P. Williams.

THE JUNIOR MUSIC FESTIVAL

The inter-form Junior Music Festival was held in the New Hall on 8 July. The usual air of expectancy greeted the three adjudicators, Mr G. Grant, Mr M. Booker and Mr T. Greenall. Their task was not one to be envied. Each form had been asked to prepare a twenty-minute programme of music and some forms had been working for weeks perfecting their items.

There were some notable solos especially from V. A. Cooke (1D) (trombone), N. B. Bhattacharjee (2D) (flute) and M. R. Clarke (1B) (organ and piano) and some very worthy efforts. We are always delighted to see groups of instrumentalists, as it takes initiative to organise such a group. Form songs could be, and should be, most enjoyable. Some are, but others lack a little planning.

At the end of a very enjoyable morning 1B were pronounced winners of the trophy. Their very slick programme was well organised, varied and polished.

Many thanks to all who took part in a most interesting festival.

MANCHESTER/WERL EXCHANGE 1985/6

1. THE GERMAN GROUP IN ENGLAND

When I came to England for the first time, I was very surprised about all the differences which I recognised in the daily life compared with in Germany. What I found very strange was the English family-life because the German School ends at lunch-time. Here the family meets for the first time at tea-time.

The most important fact is that people don't seem to watch television as much in Germany as they do in England. I was very surprised when I saw that it is quite usual to watch TV for nearly a whole evening.

Furthermore I found the school life very unusual because we don't have such strict rules in school life like here in England. We also don't have school prefects who can put you in detention. So I think that the German school isn't as strictly directed as the English one. In Germany the relationship between teachers and pupils is more like a friendship. That sounds quite nice, maybe, but it is very often the reason for much trouble, because the pupils sometimes don't recognise the teacher's authority.

Another strange point is the English landscape including the houses. In Germany we have a lot more forests and we don't have such a flat landscape. The houses in Germany are more advanced than in England, and the building techniques are more advanced than in England.

I think that will be enough for the general part.

When I make out an overall assessment after having visited Manchester for the past three years, I can say: "England is great and it's well worth a visit!!!" I enjoyed each stay in England, and the fun has increased each time. The host families have been marvellous and they tried to arrange as much as was possible. During all visits to England I haven't found one reason to criticise anything. The programme, which always has been imaginatively created by the English teachers, was this year the best one to date. There were lots of very interesting visits like to the police horse stables or to the Royal Exchange which everyone enjoyed. Another event was our trip to York which made a good impression on us. The great finish was our trip to Alton Towers on the last day which brought us so much fun, although some of us felt sick afterwards.

However, I think it was a fitting end to our exchange that everyone will keep in his mind for a very long time. This was also the first exchange in which it was possible for girls to visit England too. This was really the only problem with the previous exchanges. The Mariengymnasium in Werl has only a few girls and they have wanted to join in with this exchange for a long time. It was made possible this year because some girls from Loreto College were also interested in the exchange. This year the girls filled a gap which should have been filled earlier; the whole exchange has received a new outlook and a better atmosphere between the participants could be recognised.

Concluding this report I want to say thanks in the name of all the German students to those people who were able to arrange these beneficial exchanges. Especially thanks to Mrs Wright, Mr Turner, Miss Cockroft, Mr Falke and Mr Köhl, who arranged this year's exchange as professionally as those before. It was always a pleasure to travel with them because they didn't mind going to a lot of trouble to care for us, and to make it as enjoyable as possible. Thanks again, and I hope you will all be able to organise such marvellous exchanges in the future. Also many thanks to our host-families over the years. We think: 'You were all really great!' and we hope it will be so in the future.

Auf Wiedersehen!

Sven Steinkamp (Klasse 12, Mariengymnasium, Werl)

2. THE ENGLISH GROUP IN GERMANY

On a cold Saturday afternoon last February, thirty-three potentially practising linguists met at Victoria Railway Station. Because of the discontinuation of the Folkestone-Ostend route, which we had used previously, we were forced to alter our route by going via the Hook of Holland. (When we saw the ship, we welcomed this change!) Our party consisted of twenty-six Hulmeians and eight girls from Loreto Sixth Form College, Chichester Road, who were joining the exchange with the Mariengymnasium for the first time. Unfortunately A. M. Woodhouse missed the train, through no-one's fault, but after a bit of skilful negotiating by Mrs Wright with the British Rail staff, he caught a later train to London and then a subsequent one from London to Harwich, thus arriving at the port twenty minutes before we did!

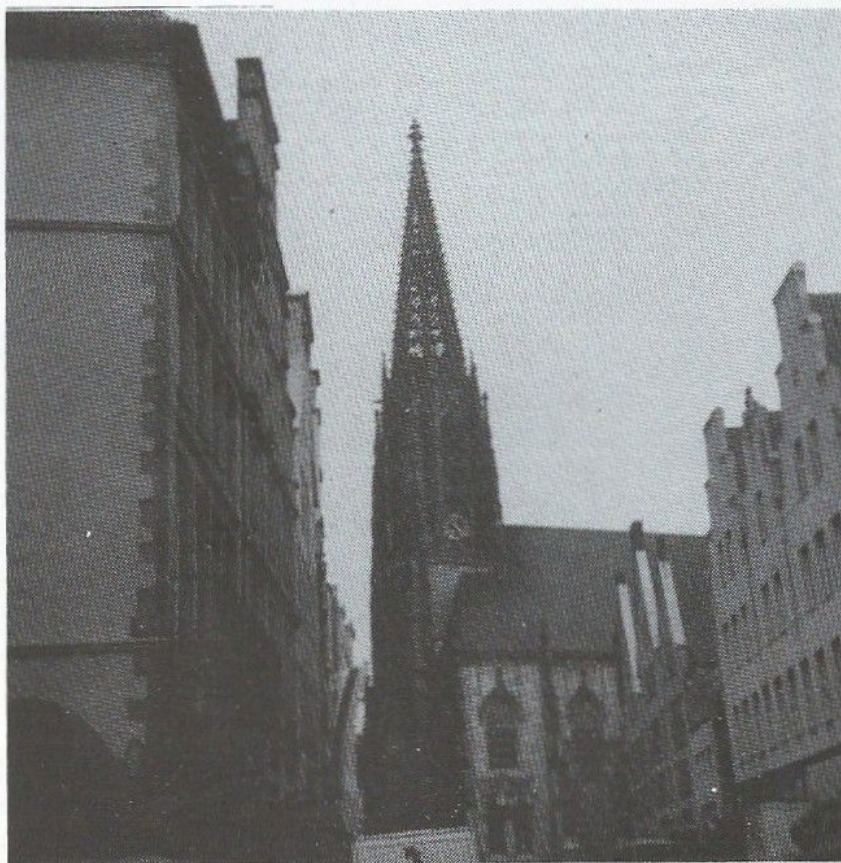
The crossing itself was probably the best of all the exchanges so far. This was due both the calm sea and also to the ship, which was equipped with a cinema. A young man, not of our group, hanging over the side of the boat, caused many anxious moments for those around him, but he was finally coaxed back on board by several members of our group. The train journey from Hook of Holland to Werl was quite remarkable, but we saw some stations with names of famous football teams (Mönchengladbach and of course Köln). After two more changes we arrived at Werl after a journey of twenty-five hours.

The following day was *Rosenmontag*, officially the final day of 'Karneval', so there was no school. On the Tuesday, however, the newcomers to the exchange were in for a rude shock. For most it meant a call to rise at any time between six and seven o'clock, because the German school day begins at 7.50 a.m., finishing at 1.05. Today however was not a school day but a trip to see the *Karnevalsumzug* (carnival procession) in the neighbouring town of Körbecke. Therefore, having been welcomed by the Headmaster, Dr Bierbaum, we boarded our double decker bus for the school outing. On the way, we stopped briefly to take a walk across the Möhnesee, which was blown up in World War II by the Dam Busters. What ensued was not a leisurely walk but a full-blown snowball fight. At Körbecke itself the freezing temperatures forced many villagers into the local *Kneipen* to join in the indoor festivities. Mr Turner was unfortunately unable to come with us on this day because of an accident with a burst water main and a flight of stairs at Herr Falke's house in Soest. Indeed, he still did not feel up to the strenuous goings-on at the *Karnevalsfeier* (party) at school that evening. For this we were joined by the French students from Le Mans, who also run an exchange with MG. One high-spot of the evening was provided by a bottle which, having been accidentally knocked out of Kloss's hand, reached an enormous height, sprayed everyone with drink, and finally landed on the floor.

The next day was *Aschermittwoch* (Ash Wednesday), and from school we went to the Rathaus to hear the Bürgermeister talk to us about local *Schützenfeste*, shooting festivals held in various outlying villages during the summer. Mr Turner provided a running translation for those who needed it. Having been told about the town's commitment to youth (at least a quarter of the town's population is under fifteen), we were given a free bottle of Coke and a Werl keyring.

Thursday began with two German lessons; during the second of these Herr Köhl gave us a lecture on the German constitution. Later in the morning, several of us took the opportunity of free entrance to the local swimming pool for what we thought was to be a leisurely swim—but no! We had plunged (if you'll pardon the pun) into the middle of a swimming lesson which required us to swim innumerable lengths of the pool, much to our dismay! During the afternoon, it was time for the twice annual England v. West Germany football match. The England leg having been drawn 5:5, the event had been built up since our arrival, and national pride was at stake! This, plus our humiliating defeat the previous year, spurred "the lads" on to a victory, whereby, although the two "A" teams drew 1:1, the Germans widely accepted, if not openly, that we had won.

The following day, Friday, brought our second excursion, this time to Münster. We were given a guided tour, actually a 'church-crawl', much to the complaints of several. However, in the afternoon we were free to explore the town centre and the variety of shops which a large city provides.



(Photo: J. H. Carroll)

Münster—the Chester of Germany.

On our return from Münster began the part of the exchange which brings about the most trepidation from first-time exchangers: the weekend. This is the time when German life exposes itself to the full with family trips and visits to relatives, frequently for Sunday lunch. Many of us met up in the Bierdorf, a new disco in Werl, on the Saturday night—we all enjoyed ourselves and new friends were made, including several American soldiers stationed in Werl who apparently 'hate the army'!

On Monday, the main excursion of the exchange visit was to take place. For the first time a visit had been planned to Friedland (the refugee village) and the border between East and West Germany. After a three-hour journey we arrived at the border along which we walked in sub-zero temperatures. It was quite a moving experience actually to be 'at the iron curtain'. When we rejoined our coach, the diesel had frozen and we had a long wait before our return.

Once at Friedland, we were shown round the camp where people from behind the Iron Curtain come on arrival in the West. It is not easy to come from the East to the West, a fact which could explain the seeming desertedness of the camp. In theory one can come to the West if one has relatives over here. But it is up to the government to decide whether or not to grant the request. A lady from the Red Cross, which caters for children between the ages of three and sixteen, explained how she looks after them. They are clothed at Friedland, and the small children are given a toy which is seen as something very important as each child has something to treasure after his/her traumatic experience in crossing the border. This visit was informative and interesting, though we believe most people felt the six-hour round trip a *bit* too long.



(Photo: J. H. Carroll)

The Möneseesee, scene of the Dam Busters Raid, now, mercifully, restored.

Thursday was the day when we had the chance to see what German school life is actually like, for we had to follow our partners' lessons. The benefit derived from this was variable—one can get a good deal out of an English lesson, but a Physics or Chemistry lesson in German can be a little daunting. Then, during the afternoon, our final trip was organised, this time to Soest. This is Werl's neighbouring town, and we were given a guided tour of the famous buildings (more churches!). However, we did have a bit of free time, even though it was only short.

Wednesday was unfortunately our last full day, and after the first four pre-arranged lessons, we had a chance to go into town for a spot of present-buying. More emotional farewells took place as we met at the train station shortly after 2 p.m. on Thursday. At 2.32, with tears forming in the corners of our eyes and the feeling inside of leaving many new friends, we boarded the train home. Although we had two hours in Cologne on the way back, something was missing and celebrations were far from abundant.

Thanks must go as usual to Mrs Wright and Mr Turner, whose organisation was *herrlich*, to Herr Köhl and Herr Falke, and also to Miss Cockroft and her party of eight girls from Loreto, who added something which had previously been missing. Mr Turner summed it up by saying that it made things more 'natural'. However, final thanks ought to go to our respective German partners and their families, and to the people of Werl themselves, without whose patience and understanding the exchange would not have been held so enjoyable. We are now looking forward to next year, and should like to leave the final sentence to a passage from an information brochure about Werl: "One likes to come, one does not like to leave, one would prefer to stay and live here."

R. Addy (L6L)

J. H. Carroll (L6L)

3. THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT THE GERMANY EXCHANGE

Comments from 4Y

When you first arrive in Germany and shake the hands of your host family, you begin to realise what you have let yourself in for. In the first few hours after arriving, you learn more German and more about German culture than you could in any lesson.

M. C. McNeany

The most important thing is to be able to speak and understand the language as well as possible. Warm clothes are also essential, as it gets very cold, sometimes up to -16°C .

R. W. Slown

The first few days you say 'Ja' to everything without having the faintest idea what they've said. After a while, though, you usually start to get the hang of speaking and hearing German and it becomes difficult to think in English.

M. R. Tallis

Werl is quite a small town, about the equivalent of Wilmslow. It has one main shopping street, with a Woolworth's and two churches.

R. J. Ketteridge

You must make sure you tell the parents of your partner to speak slowly.

N. S. Herbert

Manners are essential if the family is going to treat you as an adult, mature person willing to learn German rather than a little kid acting as a tourist.

M. D. Langslow

The most important thing was, essentially, the language. After a while this became quite easy to use. The second most important thing is the country itself; really, it doesn't differ all that much from England . . . The school day was really enjoyable, especially as it ended at 1 p.m.—a vast improvement!

R. J. Ketteridge

We had several parties, including one organised at the school, which was excellent.

S. K. White

Another important aspect is not to be nervous about meeting and staying with your partner but to enjoy yourself all the time.

A. S. Postill

The Germans make nice chocolate, and *Sauerkraut* is very tasty although not many of my friends agree with me.

R. J. Neal

When you first arrive it is important not to get nervous. Keep calm! What the family says is simple if you keep your wits.

A. Rash

ITALY

This summer's trip, from 17-27 July, proved to be as successful and enjoyable as the previous trip two years ago.

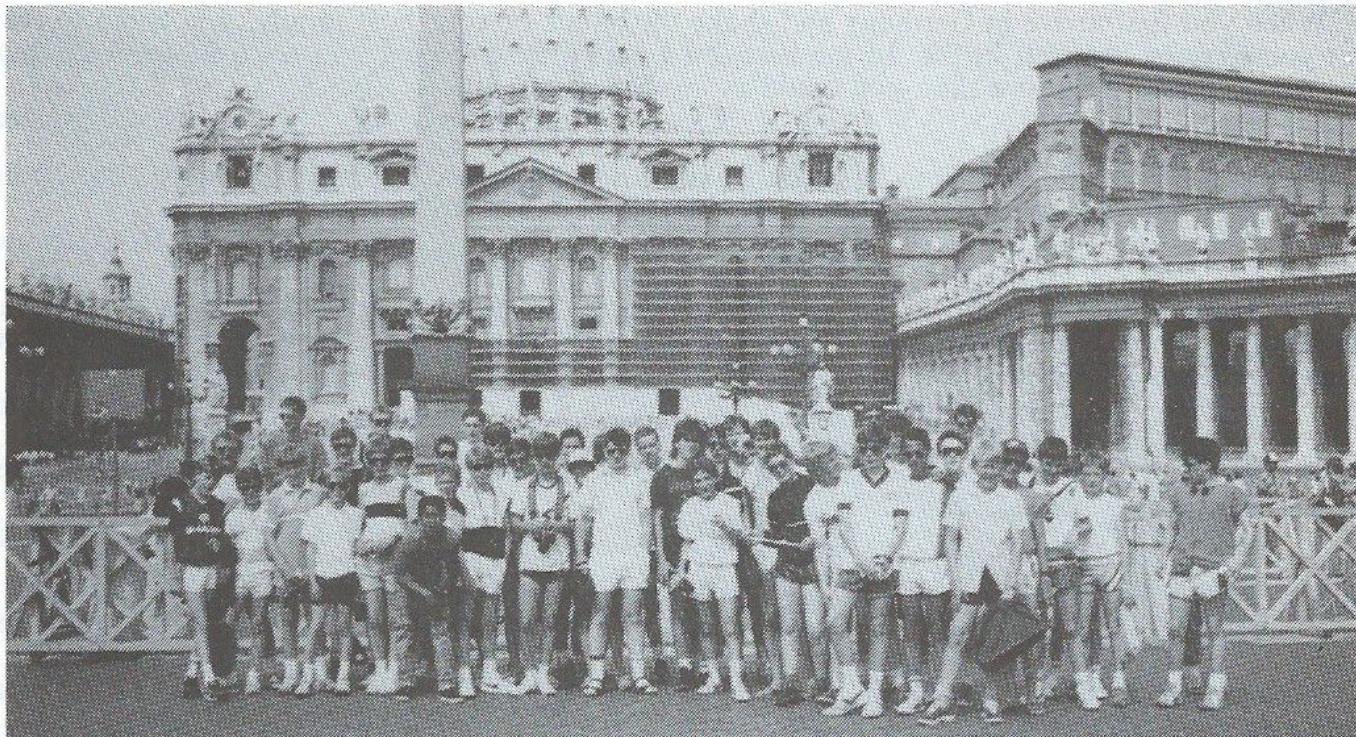
The very full eleven day programme began with a 4 a.m. departure which, although a little unsociable for parents depositing their sons at School, ensued a journey unimpeded by heavy traffic.

On the smooth ferry crossing from Dover to Zeebrugge many of us were most impressed with the ship's radar system after discovering Mr Thomson's attempt to captain the vessel.

We spent the whole of the second day in Austria enjoying the hot sun and the facilities of Worgl's sports complex. The first night in Austria was spent at the Gasthaus Kammerhof in Angath, a delightful building which celebrated its fourth centenary in 1982.

After breakfast, the following day we began our journey to Rome. The drive over the magnificent Europa Bridge through the Brenner Pass to Italy was indeed breath-taking. Our stay in Rome was slightly marred by one or two rain showers but this didn't deter us in any way from using the hotel pool. A midnight swim followed by a singing session, accompanied on the guitar by Mr Harrison, turned out to be a most eventful evening.

The weather was changeable whilst in Rome but it did stay fine for our sightseeing trips to St. Peter's, the Vatican, the Coliseum and all the other main attractions of such a splendid historic city.



In St. Peter's Square.

The coach journey was extremely comfortable with the only hiccup being the video that refused to function after we had left Rome for Sorrento. Despite Mr Thomson's tenacious efforts to repair what became known as 'the blessed machine' and an almost complete re-wiring of the coach, we found ourselves having to manage without it for the rest of the holiday.

Sorrento proved to be a well earned rest following the rigours of sightseeing and travelling. The climb to the top of Mount Vesuvius, owing to the chair-lift's breaking down, was well worth it with the reward at the summit of such a terrific sight across the Bay of Naples. Unfortunately, while we were at the top being shown around by 'Chief', the heavens again opened and many of us ended up swimming back to the coach. The drive to the top car park of Vesuvius was a real test for both drivers, Bryn and Walley, but they coped admirably. The remainder of our stay in Sorrento was spent basking in the sun—a leisure period that was only interrupted by a trip to Pompeii and a day out to Capri by boat.

We made excellent time from Sorrento to Austria on the homeward journey—so much so that we were able on the last night of the trip to have a substantial party. Enjoying the Austrian hospitality, again in the Gasthaus Kammerhof, we were taught how to sing in a traditional Austrian style (with actions as well as words) and indeed, how to toast the host country.

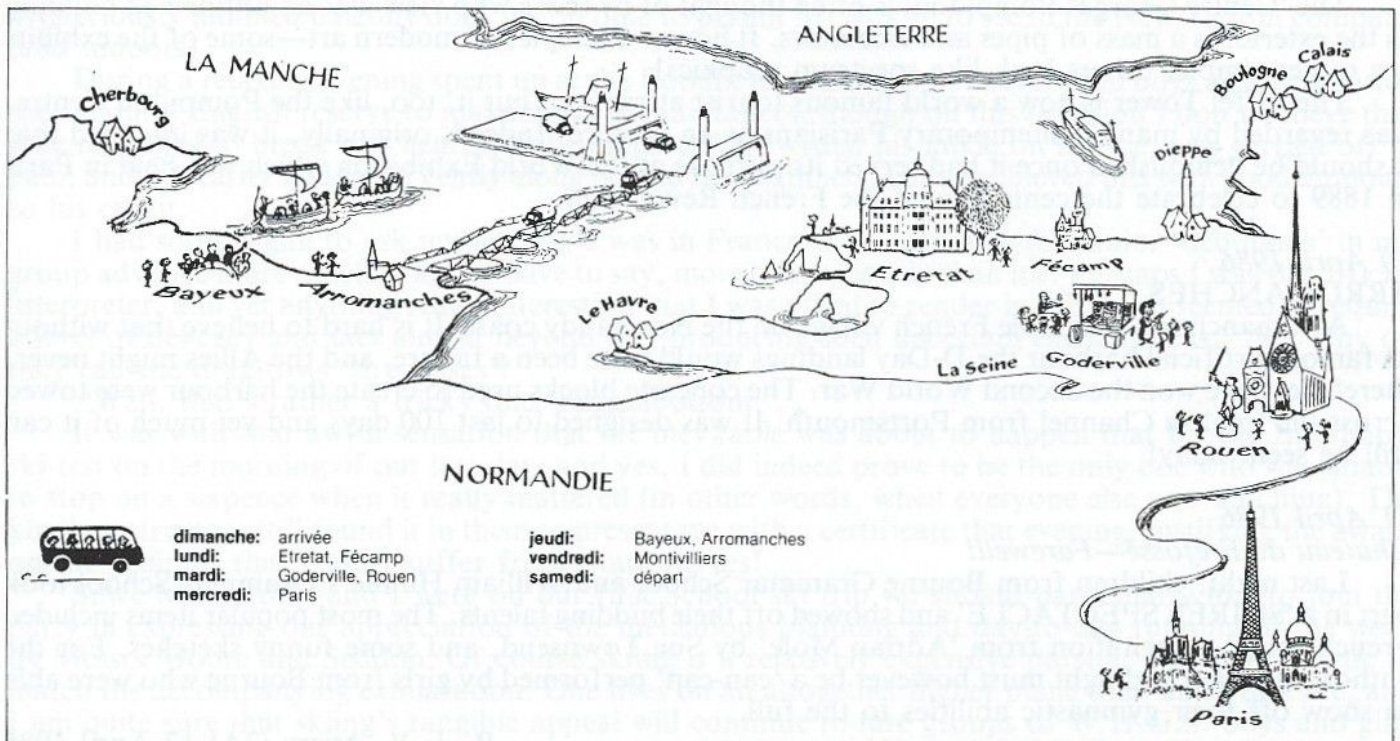
I would like to thank all the boys who were on the trip for making it as enjoyable for the staff as they did for their own friends. And I am most grateful to Mr Maudsley, Mr Thomson, Mr Lytollis and Mr Harrison for their help and support.

S. C. Grigg

FRANCAIS SANS LARMES!

FRANCE—EASTER 1986

CHÂTEAU DE FRÉFOSSÉ



At Easter a party of some twenty-one boys and two members of Staff, Mr D. M. Fisher and Mr J. G. Hofton, took part in a 'Guardian Overseas Education' trip to France.

What follows is an extract from the illustrated journal of R. J. V. Avery, 2A, who was awarded a 'Certificat de Journaliste Élève' for his report on the various activities that the boys were engaged on during their stay at Étretat, Normandy.

6 April 1986

A party of 21 boys from William Hulme's Grammar School left Manchester at 5 a.m. today. En route we were joined by pupils from Bourne Grammar School, Lincolnshire. . .

At about 7 a.m. we arrived at Château Fréfosé, Étretat, where we were greeted by Sarah-Jane, the G.O.E. representative.

7 April 1986

"VISITEZ LA VILLE D'ÉTRETAT"

Many tourists visit the town because of the famous rock formations and cliffs which are to be found around its shores.

High above the town can be seen a monument to two French airmen who tried to cross the Atlantic in an aeroplane, but who were never seen again beyond this point. The most famous rock formation in Étretat is the 'Falaise d'Aval', known by the locals as the elephant's trunk, because of the white ridged rock which seems to be sucking in water from the sea.

During a guided tour of the town Sarah-Jane pointed out to us a thatched boat! Apparently during the rough winter weather sailors used to pull their boats up onto the shore and after fashioning a roof of thatch would use the vessel as a home.

8 April 1986

"MARCHEZ VITE AU MARCHÉ!"

We look at the market at Goderville.

Many farmers come in vans which have their sides lifted like a canopy. The range of goods is wide: shoes (which are cheap but not of very good quality), clothes, live game birds, fish and meat. There are sweet stalls, cheese stalls, greengrocers, fishmongers (selling freshly-caught fish) and delicatessens

(selling snails). We are at once surprised and horrified to discover the stalls belonging to the 'marchands de poussins', here different types of chicks and baby rabbits are on sale but not as pets! The unfortunate creatures are being taken home to be fattened up in time for the Christmas dinner!

9 April 1986

PARIS

'Le batiment inachevé?'

The 'Centre Georges Pompidou' is often thought of by those who view it as an unfinished building as the exterior is a mass of pipes and escalators. It houses examples of modern art—some of the exhibits are rather simple; others look like spectrum graphics!

The Eiffel Tower is now a world famous tourist attraction, but it, too, like the Pompidou Centre, was regarded by many contemporary Parisians as an eyesore! Indeed, originally, it was intended that it should be demolished once it had served its purpose at the World Exhibition which was held in Paris in 1889 to celebrate the centenary of the French Revolution.

10 April 1986

ARROMANCHES

Arromanches is a humble French village on the Normandy coast. It is hard to believe that without its famous artificial harbour the D-Day landings would have been a failure, and the Allies might never, therefore, have won the Second World War. The concrete blocks used to create the harbour were towed across the English Channel from Portsmouth. It was designed to last 100 days and yet much of it can still be seen today!

11 April 1986

Chateau de Fréfosse—Farewell!

Last night, children from Bourne Grammar School and William Hulme's Grammar School took part in a 'SOIRÉE SPECTACLE' and showed off their budding talents. The most popular items included French songs, a recitation from 'Adrian Mole' by Sue Townsend, and some funny sketches. For the author, the main highlight must however be a 'can-can' performed by girls from Bourne who were able to show off their gymnastic abilities to the full.

R. J. V. Avery (2A) 12 April 1986

LES TROIS VALLÉES

The prospect of leaving behind a rather dank post-Christmas Manchester to ski in the crisp, clear atmosphere of the French Alps was only slightly marred by the thought of seeing in the New Year at a disco in the company of forty W.H.G.S. boys!

Courchevel is one of the most chic and attractive ski resorts in Europe and provides a wide variety of excellent skiing facilities. Our hotel was situated down below the town at Brides-les-Bains, little over half an hour's coach trip away.

The outward coach journey was long but comfortable, punctuated by the frequent serving of hot drinks and by the showing of an imaginative range of videos, most of which ensured that the adults at least slept soundly.

Soon after arriving at the hotel and taking over our extremely good accommodation, we were served with a welcoming dinner and then fitted out with boots and skis in preparation for an early start the following day.

Having been split into the usual Advanced, Intermediate and Beginners' groups and allocated to an Instructor we reached Courchevel 1850, the highest of the village complexes, in time for a decent morning's skiing on the breathtaking wooded slopes above. The English instructors proved to have unlimited patience, and the slow initial progress of the beginners was accepted stoically. However it took scarcely more than two days for even the absolute novices to be able to ski competently, stop adequately, and most importantly, to enjoy every painful moment! It was astonishing to see the strides one makes in such a limited period, so that by the end of the week beginners like Bradley, Wright and Haynes had become remarkably confident and proficient.

In order to sample a little of the local life, and as it turned out, some of the local customs, it was decided that we should spend an evening at a little country restaurant high up in the valley where the décor, service and prices were modest but the food excellent. There the party was introduced to the 'raclette', consisting of a delicious cheese melted before one's eyes onto strips of Parma ham and served with small jacket potatoes. Towards the end of this 'experience' the masters were invited to try the

local spirit, which was to be drunk straight from a huge clear bottle, curled up in the bottom of which was a long-dead viper. (Mr Moore later identified it as a small python). Unfortunately it proved necessary for us to empty the liquid contents of the bottle to allow a closer look at its unlikely occupant.

New Year's Eve arrived, and the disco was regarded with interest—and some nostalgia—by the adults in the hotel, as close relationships were rapidly fused in spite of everyone's inability to hear what anyone else was saying! Late in the evening it was discovered that Mr Moore was taking an extended bout of cold night air on his balcony. How very fortunate that Mr Seddon managed to free the mysteriously jammed balcony door just in time to permit Mr Moore to see in the New Year in company (and indoors).

During a relaxing evening spent up at the floodlit ice-rink at Courchevel 1850 boys again cast aside their natural English reserve to make rapid acquaintances, though on this occasion I don't believe that Ince managed to break any hearts. Cohen regrettably twisted his ankle on the ice, was carried off in pain, and thereafter had to ski gently along behind the beginners, but he achieved this with good humour, to his credit.

I had soon begun to ask myself why I was in France at all, as I saw the junior 'débutants' in my group advance more quickly, and, I have to say, more courageously than me. Perhaps I was the official interpreter, and yet anything really interesting that I was asked to render into English seemed to require a level of delicacy and tact almost beyond me, producing such uncertain exchanges as, "Sir, why do they call the drag-tows 'tire-fesses'?"

"Well, that's rather a tricky one, Higginbottom. . ."

It was with that awful sensation that the inevitable was about to happen that I faced the simple ski-test on the morning of our last day: and yes, I did indeed prove to be the only one who was unable to stop on a sixpence when it really mattered (in other words, when everyone else was watching). The kindly instructors still found it in them to present me with a certificate that evening, justifying the award on the grounds that I must suffer from exam nerves!

Since Mr Lytollis and I were on our first School ski trip we should particularly like to join the party in expressing our appreciation of the meticulous planning and day-to-day running of the week by Messrs Moore and Seddon. Of course skiing is a relatively expensive pursuit, but there is little to match the accompanying exhilaration. One lives on an altogether higher plane than in normal life, and I am quite sure that skiing's tangible appeal will continue to lure groups of W.H.G.S. boys and girls onto the ski-slopes of Europe for many years to come.

D. M. Fisher

C.C.F. NOTES

The strength of the contingent remained the same for this past year, having 76 cadets. However, we were never in a position to have them all on parade together, because the timetable now encroaches onto C.C.F. time, and quite a few cadets are committed to academic subjects during this period.

With our problems, we were still able to have more than our usual number of camps throughout the year. Camping season starting at Easter, we, as always, sent a party to Capel Curig training camp for eight glorious days in Snowdonia, and a small group to Gibraltar where we were in a position to feel a little excitement (and anxiety?) because whilst we were there, the Libyan crisis broke out, and Gibraltar became a very important base. As we were walking up the Mediterranean steps and on toward the top of the rock, we could see the U.S.A. aircraft carrier in the distance, and quite a number of our own warships patrolling. Tension was in the air, and everyone felt that it was going to get worse or even explode into something very big.

Our summer camps were a great success. We sent one group of thirty cadets to Cultybraggan in Scotland and a group of twenty to Germany where they were hosted by the 9/12 Lancers. The highlight of this visit just had to be our border patrol in a Chinook helicopter. We must have patrolled about fifty miles of the border making two stops en route. Each time the border guards came to see what we were up to, and take photographs of us. Now of course all the W.H.G.S. C.C.F. cadets are on photographic record in the Kremlin. I am sure our cap badge baffled them, because they were looking very inquisitively at us through their binoculars and then referring to their note books. They ended up with very strange frowns upon their faces. When we took off however, the laugh of the morning was to see the border guards chasing their hats that had been blown off by the helicopter on take-off.

February 1987 we have the Lodge booked at Rothiemunchar in the Cairngorms. We will be taking twenty cadets on a ski course which will be another eight days training. This will take the place of our usual Snowdonia trip, but should make a pleasant change.

With the number of activities planned for the future, the C.C.F. is a worthwhile organisation to be involved in, and so we would like to see more boys taking advantage of all we have to offer. The ones that are members do benefit considerably.

J. F. Chudleigh

CHESS 1985/6

The chess teams have not covered themselves with glory this past year. The Senior team has not yet recovered from the loss last year of its top four boards; the survivors were loyally captained by H. J. Minty, ably assisted by B. J. Allen. With the most regular help from W. H. Choi, D. J. Matthews and newcomers J. D. Campbell and J. P. Lucas, the team fought hard but lost three and drew one of its matches in the Stockport League, ending in fifth place out of six teams.

The Junior team, ably led by A. J. Edwards and strengthened by new talent in the form of A. M. Salam and S. N. Hira, had slightly better success. It won one, drew another and lost three of its five matches. The regulars of the team were L. M. A. Leadbetter, A. J. Hill, A. Goodwin, P. J. Gallagher and M. Brandreth. The result of their efforts was fifth equal placing out of seven in the Stockport Junior League.

There is much enthusiasm for chess at the moment, particularly at the Junior level. This is largely thanks to the efforts of Mr Turner. I trust it will be possible to turn some of this enthusiasm into more victories next year.

A final thanks to Mr Gregson for his never-failing provision of teas for the teams.

M. H. Gracey

JUNIOR SCHOOL CHESS

Mr and Mrs Turabi, the parents of the late Saif Turabi, very generously donated two trophies this year in memory of their son. At their own request, these will not actually be called the 'Turabi Cups', but the First and Second Forms Chess Trophies; nonetheless, they bear Saif's name. They will be awarded annually to the First Form and to the Second Form whose members score the most points in our Junior School Chess Competition. This year the Second Form Trophy has been won by 2B, by a margin of fifteen points from their nearest rivals, 2A, and the First Form Trophy by 1A, by a margin of thirty games from their nearest rivals, 1C.

The individual Chess Shield was won by A. Goodwin of 2A, who won 25 games. This must have given him particular satisfaction, since he only lost the shield last year by the narrowest of margins when he was still in the First Form. Other creditable performances were from A. M. Salam (1A), with 21 points, M. A. A. Agha (2B) with 20 points, A. Redstone (2C) with 20 points, and S. N. Hira (1C) with 16 points.

The Competition has been very enjoyable for all concerned, and should certainly continue to flourish on Friday lunch-times in Room 4 in the new academic year.

G. J. Turner

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

On 5 February 1986 H. J. Minty and I. M. Rogerson represented the School in the North Regional Round of The *Observer* Mace Debating Competition, which took place at The Hulme Grammar School, Oldham. Our contestants had to propose the Motion 'that seven years of Mrs Thatcher is enough'—not a particularly popular point of view, one sensed, in the audience. They were opposed by Stockport Grammar School. The judges this year, Mr D. Lawton (Chairman), a Director of British Vita, Mr P. K. Boden, Head of the Education Department at the University of Keele, and Mrs R. Trippier, a Barrister, placed our debate second out of the three in order of merit, and chose as overall winners of the Round Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn.

On the same evening—the clash was a little unfortunate—the School took part in the School's Public Speaking Competition held by the Rotary Club of Didsbury and District at Barlow R.C. High School, where R. J. B. Naylor (4Y) spoke on 'The Necessities of Life' and O. O. Fajumi (3Y) on 'The Dangers of Television'. For those who may be unfamiliar with this Competition, it ought to be explained that each competitor is expected to prepare a speech on his or her chosen topic and is asked to speak for up to five minutes. It can be an instructive and entertaining exercise, and so I would like very much to encourage our pupils to participate in it in future.

During the course of the School year several interesting debates were held in School, including debates on motions as diverse as this House believes 'that smoking should be made illegal', 'that the rope should be brought back', and 'that this School should go co-educational'. Yes, the latter motion was passed!

Our thanks are due to I. M. Rogerson who helped in the organisation of this society.

R. M. Noel-Smith

HOVERCLUB

This year, the revitalised team took part in only one National Race Meeting, which was held at Mere Brow, Southport. We did not have much success in this, so we decided to wait until the B.P. Schools' Championship. The venue was Margam Park, Port Talbot, Wales, and in my opinion, was one of the best courses we have raced on.



(Photo courtesy of 'The Western Mail & Echo')

M. Rosenthal (second from front) waiting to go into the water test at Margam Park, Port Talbot.

In between these two competitions, our time was taken up with building a new, faster, more powerful craft and trying to finish it in time for the Schools' Competition. Everyone concerned worked very hard but, unfortunately, we did not succeed in having the new craft ready.

We did manage, however, a good performance using the old hovercraft with M. Rosenthal coming a creditable twelfth and D. Greenwood, in his first competition, 25th out of 40 competitors. This was despite having to leave School at 5 o'clock in the morning on 6 July to make sure we arrived in time!

Our publicity was kept alive by a report and photograph in the *Manchester Evening News* the night before the competition.

Prior to the summer break, a decision was made to do away with the old engine, because of lack of power, and to buy a new one. This means that we are once again looking for sponsors so that we can have both craft 'off the ground' by the start of the next hovercraft racing season.

M. I. Rosenthal (L6S)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Boys from the School have continued to visit Waverley Old People's Home each Tuesday lunch hour. This work was begun four years ago by senior boys. Many middle school boys ceased going as they found it depressing. Sadly many more patients come in who are 'non compos mentis' and there are comparatively few like Betsy and Edith who are able to converse. R. P. Kay (3A) and S. J. Edwards (3B) have continued to come regularly and groups of second formers have come along. Many residents are glad to see different faces and young people, but making conversation can be very difficult. I am hoping that sixth-formers can become involved again, relegating me again to the role of 'chauffeur' of the minibus.

A. M. Blight

SPONSORED WALK

A crowd of shivering boys gathered outside the school gates very early (for a frosty Sunday morning) kitted out in walking gear. Cars kept arriving and more boys, one or two with their parents, climbed out and joined us, until it seemed we might all be assembled. We got ready to move and stamp the cold out of our feet, for which there were to be eighteen miles of opportunity. During this distance the creditable sum of £1,060.11 was raised for CORDA, much of which came from the Junior School. First, Dr Barnes read out a roll-call. Who's that still in bed? Mr Fisher, of course! A few minutes later he arrived and we were able to set off.

With Mr Langford in gold position, giving us a tour of the magnificent sights of Chorlton, we struggled up bridges and fell down the other side. We reached Jackson's Boat Inn from which we proceeded to the Bridgewater Canal: our route for the rest of the sponsored walk. We skirted a frozen marsh by the bank of the Mersey, while others decided to take a short-cut. They soon changed their minds.

We walked below the canal and climbed up onto the towpath. At the Dane Road bridge we met Phil Iredale with the first of many 'Soup Stations'. Unfortunately, he arrived at the same time as us, so had not even unloaded his wares. By the time we were through Sale, some of the first years' short legs were already beginning to pack up and they lost their enthusiasm.

At Altrincham we saw another soup kitchen. But their soup still had a touch of frost-bite. I was sure that I would find some hot soup soon. It was not much further before my legs began to ache and I had difficulty keeping at the front. We soon heard a growing chant behind us which we could discern as a song from a fitness camp. The noise became louder until we saw a group of prefects running up to us—"Let them pass!" cried Mr Langford—and wondered when they would collapse, but on they went. The next soup kitchen was at Dunham. There was Dave Barber's car by the pub. But what about Dave himself?

Mr Langford dropped out at Little Bollington for a trip to the boozier. Two first years with me decided to have lunch, but I left them and walked on my own. Later I sat down for a sandwich but was moved on by an alsation barking loudly in a garden behind me. The two first years caught me up as I finished my second sandwich and we all three caught a fourth year up who had stopped running with his friend.

From here onwards we kept wishfully thinking that Grappenhall was just around the next bend. Each time we neared civilisation we hoped to see the bridge. Each time we were disappointed. We began to think we had got lost, with the evidence of there being no soup kitchens since Altrincham. But we plodded onwards hopefully.

At last! Eureka! I had found the bridge with the old church nearby. Inspired by this sight I ran the last few hundred metres, up the steps, over the bridge. And then to my horror Mr Grange was waiting for us! But there were consolations: I had finished the walk and helped the heart charity; I was near the front of the 'race'; and the minibus was waiting for us with much needed seats.

We stayed in Grappenhall for over half an hour, while those sixth formers with any money went to drown their sorrows and pains at the pub. We were then driven home and as we passed through Lymm we saw poor Mr Veevers having to push the lazy stragglers along at the back, with a portion of the walk still to do!

R. J. Avery (2A)

SCHOOL AID

After seeing the distressing pictures of the terrible conditions that the people of Ethiopia were suffering from, William Hulme's Grammar School decided to take part in a nationwide scheme called School Aid. This was an offshoot of Bob Geldof's very successful Band Aid.

School Aid was designed to get children from all over Britain to collect provisions (rather than money), so it could be sent straight to Ethiopia. These provisions were sugar, peas, lentils, dried milk and flour and were essential in the famine-stricken areas.