



# THE HULMEIAN

**1979**

# The HULMEIAN

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# SCHOOL NOTES AND NEWS

Only two full-time members of staff left in 1979. Mr Crane, who joined us two years ago, leaves us to accompany his wife to South America, and Mr Knight goes into journalism. Mr Simpson and Mrs Percy have relinquished their part-time posts in the school.

We welcome the following new members of the teaching staff: Dr P. Dean (English), Mr M. H. Gracey (Classics), Miss L. Barratt (Modern Languages), Mrs E. Wood (Music), Mrs M. Cruttenden (Creative Arts), and Mr J. Martin (Physics).

We offer very sincere congratulations to Mr C. H. Jones, F.I.B., our Vice-Chairman of Governors, on receiving the Gold Keystone Award of the National Association of Boys' Clubs. The Award has been made to mark Mr Jones' fifty years voluntary service to the Association, both in Blackpool and, in particular, at the Hulme Lads' Club in Manchester, a Club with which the School had many connections over a long period.

Founder's Day, 1979 was held on 13th March when the school was addressed by The Reverend Canon Eric Saxon, Rector of St Ann's Church, Manchester.

The following Open Awards were won during the year: M. A. L. Bankes, Exhibition in History, Queens' College, Cambridge. J. I. Sherman, Exhibition in Classics, King's College, Cambridge. D. R. Tracey, Exhibition in Modern Languages, Emmanuel College, Cambridge. G. J. Davies, Scholarship in Classics, Pembroke College, Oxford. N. R. Pond, Scholarship in Classics, Wadham College, Oxford.

The Head of School 1979-80 is D. G. Richards, and the prefects are P. G. Turner, H. S. Davies, D. A. Campbell, S. R. Cooper, A. Dowdall, D. M. Goodman, J. R. Heaton, E. D. Hibbert, S. P. Holloway, P. G. M. Jessup, A. P. Laker, D. B. Lister, J. N. Millard, A. J. Padkin, C. S. Rogerson, R. Silver, R. M. Wadworth, D. B. Wright, D. J. S. Barnes, M. D. Greaves, P. J. Latham, and J. P. Marland.

## OBITUARY

**Mr F. J. Smith, M.B.E., T.D., M.A.**

The very sudden and unexpected death of Mr F. J. Smith on 17th February 1979 was a great shock to his colleagues and all members of the School as well as to his friends and acquaintances in both academic and golfing circles, where his quiet modesty, backed by a clear brain, strength of principle and undoubted ability made him highly respected and well-liked.

F. J. Smith had been educated at Leeds Grammar School where he had shown his academic ability at an early age, passing the Matriculation Examination (the equivalent today of at least five 'O' levels) at the age of 13 years 9 months. In due course he won a Scholarship at Queens College Cambridge where he proceeded to a degree in Classics in the First Class. Subsequently he became a Master at Framlingham College in Suffolk and in due course a House Master and Officer in the Officers Training Corps.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 he was mobilised with the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers and joined the Suffolk Regiment, and served throughout the war including the Middle East, North Africa and the Italian Campaigns. During the landings in Sicily he was seriously wounded and on his recovery was transferred to administrative duties with the Eighth Army during the harsh campaign up the Eastern Coast of Italy.

On demobilisation he took a temporary post at Berkhamsted School and then at King's School, Grantham. In 1946 he was offered the post of Senior Classics Master at William Hulme's Grammar School and from then until his death in 1979 devoted his academic and administrative ability, his time and his interest, to the School and the boys in it.

Of his scholastic success there is ample proof in the flourishing Classical Sixth and the continued success of the Department. He had over the years created and expanded the teaching of Classics at a time when in many schools the reverse was taking place and had established the tradi-



tion of a regular succession of Open Scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge — a tradition which is being worthily maintained by his successors. However, whilst ensuring the survival of Classics in the School in a mathematical age, he always took a broad view and showed interest in other subjects, encouraging boys to do that for which their ability and interest offered the best choice.

As the House Master of Fraser House for nearly 20 years he showed all the qualities for which a good Public School House Master has always been respected — namely a very real interest in the activities and development of all the boys in his care, combining firmness with understanding. He did not restrict his attention to the outstanding but encouraged each to the best of his ability. On every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon his tall figure could be seen on the School Field, however bad the weather, watching and encouraging the Fraser House teams, so that every boy in the House felt that his House Master knew him and responded the better for that knowledge.

With his previous military experience it was natural that he should take an interest in the C.C.F. of which he was an active Officer (and at one time C.O.), until he was 'retired' under the age limit in 1973, and even then continued to help with administrative work in the Corps Office and to attend camp and other activities. The Corps owes a tremendous amount to him for its success over the years and everybody was delighted when he was awarded the M.B.E. in the 1978 New Year Honours List.

In addition to his work at the School, F. J. Smith had a wide range of friends and interests outside. In the Classical Association at whose conferences he was a regular member he was well-liked and respected and indeed for many years served on the Committee of its Manchester Branch and was at one time its Chairman. His interest in golf led him to join Didsbury Golf Club, of which he was a regular and esteemed member for over 20 years. He was also a consistent supporter of the Old Humeians' Golf Competitions.

In 1973 he 'officially' retired but accepted the post of School Librarian, for which his wide cultural background and extensive reading in English and foreign writers, past and contemporary, made him an ideal choice. Nevertheless he continued to take some classes in his old department with a quiet self-effacing modesty. In short he never retired, and as a symbol of this continuity of service in the School his colleagues subscribed to the planting of a small copse of copper beach trees near the Dining Hall and a wooden bench as a memorial to his name.

#### **Lieutenant-Commander L. F. Potter, B.E.M., F.C.I.S., R.N. (Retired).**

At the end of August 1979, Commander Potter retired from the post of Bursar to the School, which office he had held with distinction since September 1963. He had already had a distinguished career in the Navy when he came to us to fill the vacancy caused by the sudden, tragic death in office of his predecessor, which meant that he had virtually to learn for himself all the details of the arrangements of the School's finances. These were complicated enough when he arrived; they rapidly became much more so with the expansion of the School and with the political troubles of the last sixteen years.

His business ability was apparent at once. From the start of his career he showed a skill in the performance of his duties that earned him the immediate respect and trust of the Governors. He seemed to have every figure at his finger-tips and to be prepared for every question. His budget predictions were almost uncannily accurate despite all the problems of severe and fluctuating inflation, and the clarity of his presentation of the annual budgets and accounts will long be remembered.

His period of office involved him in a large amount of additional work which he undertook with enthusiasm and with his usual remarkable accuracy. Quite early in his Bursarship he acted as Secretary and Treasurer of the Appeal that resulted in the building of the Sixth-Form Centre, but with the threat and ultimately the actuality of withdrawal of the Direct Grant his duties became increasingly heavy and complicated. As soon as the certainty of resumption of Independence became obvious, he was given the post of Secretary to the re-constituted Finance Sub-Committee of the School and, after the initial launching of the Appeal for Independence, he became Secretary



and Treasurer of that Appeal as well, with the additional tasks involved in administering the Governors' Fee Remission Scheme.

In addition to his highly efficient handling of the School's finances, he has acted throughout as a most careful custodian of the fabric of the buildings, and has on many occasions drawn attention to potential mechanical or structural failures at a time when they could be prevented or remedied with minimal disturbance and at minimal cost. He was very much involved in the establishment of not only the Sixth-Form Centre, but also the Swimming Pool, the reconstructed Language Laboratory, the Dining Hall extension, a new Biology Laboratory, the Electronics Laboratory, the Sports Hall and, most recently, the new Computer equipment. He presided over the modernisation and extension of the office facilities, and undertook countless other tasks of the greatest value to the School.

In 1973-74 his expertise and his standing in his profession were recognised by his appointment as Chairman of the Direct Grant Committee of the Public Schools' Bursars' Association.

The characteristics for which he will be best remembered include his unfailing cheerfulness, good humour and loyalty to the School in his demanding and by no means easy office. We bid farewell with sincere regret to an outstanding Bursar who takes with him the gratitude of the Governors and of the whole School. All of us wish him and Mrs Potter a long and happy retirement.

D. Ll. G.

**David Lloyd Griffiths, M.B.E., F.R.C.S.**

*Chairman of School Governors, 23rd January 1969 – 31st August, 1979.*

At the end of August there ends a span in the life of the School during which it has been guided with outstanding wisdom by its Chairman of Governors – Mr David Lloyd Griffiths.

He succeeded Canon Woolnough in January 1969. There have been major decisions taken during the ensuing 10 years, including the erection of the Sports Hall, the introduction of Computer Science teaching and, greatest of all, the decisions that the School should resume its Independent status and vary its relationship with the Hulme Trust.

The need to relinquish the Chairmanship, arrived at with some reluctance, had been caused by the increase in work load and responsibility which now devolves on Mr Griffiths as Director of a Medical Research project being conducted in six countries in the Far East, with still some three years to run and needing periodic visits.

We are more than pleased that 'D. Ll. G.' still feels able to continue as a Governor, even after 29 years, and we look forward to our having the benefit for some years to come of all his experience in conducting the School's affairs.

The Governors, to mark this period as Chairman, have presented a photographic portrait to the School to be hung in the Hall.

The Governors have nominated as Chairman another Old Hulmeian, Eric B. Jackson, F.C.A., presently Financial Director of the Renold Group of Companies.

C. H. J.

**Sir Robert Mark, G.B.E., Q.P.M.**

The publication of Sir Robert's autobiography *In the Office of Constable*, following closely on his retirement from the office of Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, provides an appropriate moment to put on record the quite remarkable list of Awards and Honours gained by this most distinguished Old Hulmeian.

Sir Robert has already presented the School with his framed Commission of Appointment as Metropolitan Police Commissioner, presented to him by Her Majesty the Queen. Sir Robert intends eventually also to leave the School his Silver Token (the badge of authority of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner), and also the document conferring upon him the Freedom of the City of



Westminster. The latter has only been conferred on five occasions in the past, and one of the other recipients was Sir Winston Churchill.

Sir Robert's list of Civil, Academic and Service Awards and Honours is as follows:

*Civil Awards*

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. Order of the Oaken Crown of Luxembourg. Class II.                           | 1972 |
| 2. Knight Bachelor   | 1973 |
| 3. Order of the Aztec Eagle. Class II.   | 1973 |
| 4. Commander, the National Order of Zaire                                      | 1973 |
| 5. Insignia of the Order of Dannebrog. Class II.                               | 1974 |
| 6. Order of the Rio Branco. Class II.  | 1976 |
| 7. Commandeur, L'Ordre Nationale du Mérite                                     | 1976 |
| 8. Knight Grand Cross of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire | 1977 |
| 9. Knight of the Venerable Order of St. John                                   | 1977 |

*Academic Awards*

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. Hon. LL.M. (Leicester)                    | 1967    |
| 2. Hon. D.Litt. (Loughborough)               | 1977    |
| 3. Hon. LL.D. (Manchester)                   | 1978    |
| 4. Hon. LL.D. (Liverpool)                    | 1978    |
| 5. (Ordinary) M.A. Oxon                      | 1970    |
| 6. Visiting Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford | 1970-78 |

*Service Medals*

- |  |
|--|
| 1. 1939-45 War Medal                                     |
| 2. France and Germany Star                               |
| 3. Defence Medal   |
| 4. Coronation Medal                                      |
| 5. Victory Medal   |
| 6. Police Long Service & Good Conduct Medal              |
| 7. Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (1965) |

## PRIZE GIVING

We met this year, undisturbed by the descent of Skylab, to welcome Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw, who distributed the prizes and addressed us, and to hear the Headmaster's report on the year.

Dame Kathleen, distinguished in the worlds of mathematics, politics, education, and the universities, needed no introduction.

The Headmaster reported pleasing results at 'A' and 'O' level: of 104 candidates at 'A' level, 60 passed in 3 subjects and 25 in 2; at 'O' level 99 boys out of 120 passed in 7 or more subjects, a further 10 passing in 6. The overall percentage pass was nearly 90, the best for eight years. Some 60 boys went on to degree courses.

A number of interesting developments in the School's facilities were noted by the Headmaster: the installation of a System 3000 Computer Processor, the construction of a second fire exit to the New Hall, and the re-equipment of the Norman Wood language laboratory.

The Headmaster expressed the School's regret at the death in the Lent term of Mr F. J. Smith (an obituary will be found above), bade farewell to the staff-leavers, and paid tribute to Lt.-Cdr Potter on his retirement, and to Mr D. Ll. Griffiths on his relinquishing the chairmanship of the Governors.

After reviewing the varied activities of the School year, sporting, theatrical, and musical the Headmaster expressed the School's gratitude for the donation of a new school minibus by the Parents' Association.



Finally the Headmaster thanked the teaching, clerical, and domestic staff for their efforts which enable us to move forward into Independence with improved facilities, a full intake of boys, and good educational results behind us.

Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw spoke of our need 'to count our blessings' amidst the prevailing political and economic gloom: our traditions of tolerance, our climate, the possession of North Sea oil and the bargaining power it gives us, and nearer home, the existence of schools like ours which are free of the problems besetting State schools consequent upon the declining birthrate.

### PRIZE LIST, 1979

*First Forms:* English—K. K. Herbert; French—T. Stone; Latin—K. K. Herbert; History—J. R. G. McManus; Geography—S. Richards; Mathematics—R. J. Arnfield; Chemistry—A. J. Cox; Biology—D. K. Shah; Music—B. J. B. Wetters; Craft—R. J. Arnfield; Religious Education—T. North; The William Taylor Memorial Prize—R. J. Arnfield.

*Second Forms:* English—M. L. Artley; French—R. A. Ogden; Latin—R. A. Ogden; History—P. J. Goodier; Geography—R. Hussain; Mathematics—M. L. Artley; Physics—P. J. Goodier; Biology—M. A. Roland; Music—N. E. Hussey; Art—M. J. E. Leyland; Religious Education—J. R. Brad-dock and N. E. Hussey.

*Third Forms:* English—R. J. Pietrucha; French—M. J. Taylor; German—J. M. D. Sealy; Latin—M. J. Taylor; Greek—A. Zaidi; History—J. R. Tate; Geography—J. M. Wimbourne; Mathematics—M. J. Taylor; Physics—R. W. Barber; Chemistry—C. B. Smith; Biology—C. B. Smith; Music—N. P. Grant; Art—J. Royle; Craft—J. W. R. Hammond.

*Fourth Forms:* English—P. F. Donald; French—M. Crowther; German—M. Crowther; Spanish—F. N. Hussain; Latin—M. Crowther; Greek—J. R. Kay; History—R. M. Phillips; Geography—F. N. Hussain; Mathematics—M. J. Elston; Physics—F. N. Hussain; Chemistry—A. N. Simpson; Music—R. E. Humphreys; Art—A. Jones; Craft—W. A. Sandy.

*Fifth Forms:* Parents' English Prize—S. J. McNicholls; Caiger French Prize—S. J. McNicholls; German—K. R. Paterson; Spanish—A. J. Moffat; Latin—J. E. Marland; Greek—R. J. Wakefield; History—R. Breckwoldt; Hewlett Geography Prize—A. J. Moffat; Mathematics—D. G. Wood; Physics—S. P. Robinson; Chemistry—J. Q. Killip; Music—D. M. Spence; Art—P. H. Newton; Craft—P. E. Knowles.

*Lower Sixth Forms:* English—C. D. Bradbury; French—I. M. Smith; German—R. P. Flamank; Latin—I. M. Smith; Greek—J. R. Heaton; Ancient History—M. E. Prideaux; History—P. G. Hall; Geography—D. A. Bishop; Mathematics—R. J. Artley and N. A. Hepworth; Further Mathematics—T. A. M. Maula; Physics—M. A. Jones and T. A. M. Maula; Chemistry—M. A. Jones; Biology—J. M. Adams; Human Biology—A. P. Leech; Music—R. C. Brindley; Craft—P. Harding.

*Middle Sixth Forms:* Forrest English Prize—P. G. Turner; Hawley French Prize—H. S. Davies; German—A. D. Carroll; Latin—R. Jones; Greek—J. P. Marland; Ancient History—S. J. Malcolm; History—S. J. Keeling; Geography—S. J. Keeling and P. W. Loftus; Mathematics—P. J. Latham; Further Mathematics—M. S. Ardron; Physics—H. Tyzack; Chemistry—J. G. Evans; Biology—D. Watmough.

*Upper Sixth Forms:* Knoop English Prize—R. A. Porter; Vlies Modern Languages Prize—D. R. Tracey; Dorrington Classics Prizes—G. J. Davies, N. R. Pond and J. I. Sherman; Dehn History Prize—D. M. Heaton; Allman Further Mathematics Prize—N. J. Roberts; Palmer Chemistry Prize—A. K. Bose; Old Hulmeians' Biology Prize—A. H. P. Morton-Smith.

*Special Prizes:* D. Ll. Griffiths Prize for Medical Subjects—N. W. Hewitt; Aspinall Religious Know-



ledge Prize—R. J. Artley; Original Verse Prize—P. Hall; Powell Scripture Reading Prize—M. J. Sandy; Anderson English Essay Prize—R. J. Artley; Music Prize—H. S. Roffey; Watkins Prize—N. W. Hewitt; Graham Johnson Memorial Prize—D. B. Lister; Eric Barnes Memorial Trophy—H. S. Davies; J. A. Barber Prize—D. G. Richards; J. A. Barber Prize (Proxime Accessit)—M. J. Sandy; Caswell Scholarship—F. L. Chaudhri; C. H. Jones Prize—B. J. Kumeta; Halpin History Essay Prize—P. G. Hall; Yates Prize—M. A. L. Bankes; James Gozzard Prize for Craft—S. M. Bradshaw; Junior Classics Prize—R. Hussain.

## LEAVERS, 1979

It would be appreciated if leavers would inform the School of their post-Sixth Form careers.

### U6A

- I. R. Fishwick, Durham University, English Literature.
- J. B. Friedler, London School of Economics, International History.
- D. M. Heaton, Corpus Christi, Cambridge, History.
- R. A. Porter, Durham University, English Literature.

### M6A-1

- A. R. Baines, Trustee Savings Bank, Bank Clerk.
- M. A. L. Bankes, Queens' College, Cambridge, Law.
- S. Combs, Leeds Polytechnic, Town Planning (Degree).
- J. J. Davies, National Westminster Bank.
- S. J. Keeling, Edinburgh University, Geography.
- D. C. Loynes, Stockport College of Education, 'A' Levels.
- P. A. Rainford, Durham University.
- G. R. Smallwood, Trustee Savings Bank.

### M6A-2

- D. Baines, Barclays Bank Ltd, Bank Clerk.
- J. Gould, C.W.S. Bank.
- S. Mann, Greater Manchester Police.
- D. M. Platts, National Westminster Bank.

### U6C

- D. A. Campbell, Bristol University, Law
- G. J. Davies, Pembroke College, Oxford, Classics.
- N. R. Pond, Wadham College, Oxford, Jurisprudence.
- J. I. Sherman, King's College, Cambridge, Classics & Law.

### M6C

- S. J. Malcolm, Sheffield University, Law & Business Studies.

### U6L

- J. I. Rees, Grey College, Durham, Modern Languages.
- D. R. Tracey, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Modern Languages.

### M6L

- J. H. Allen, Portsmouth Polytechnic, French & English.
- N. Andrews, York University, Mathematics & Accountancy.
- M. S. Arron, Sheffield University, French.
- P. A. Barron, Leeds Polytechnic, Business Studies & French.
- M. F. Packman, University 1980.
- G. A. Rogers, Leeds University, Law.
- P. A. Tittle, Birmingham University, German.



## U6M

N. J. Roberts, Durham University, Mathematics.

## M6M

J. Holden, Kingston-upon-Thames Polytechnic, Aeronautical Engineering (Degree)

K. J. Wadsworth (1980) Birmingham University, Engineering.

## U6S (MPC)

R. K. Cox, Cardiff University, Mechanical Engineering.

M. A. Hallworth, Leicester University, Chemistry/Geo-Chemistry.

## M6S (MPC) – 1

A. M. Allen, UMIST, Civil Engineering.

A. H. Arnall, Leeds University, Civil Engineering.

M. Bamber, Hartford College of Education, 'A' Levels.

J. M. Boyle, Electrical Engineering (Degree)

D. M. Bradshaw, Derby Polytechnic, Mechanical Engineering (Degree)

S. Chantler, Sussex University, Engineering/Mathematics.

J. Graham Evans, Manchester Polytechnic.

D. N. Fox, Sheffield University, Applied Maths & Computing.

J. Odum, Birmingham University, Medicine.

M. J. Sandy, Stockport College of Further Education, 'A' Levels.

J. H. Shaw, Wimpey Construction Ltd, Jn. Quantity Surveyor.

M. Sutcliffe, Leeds University, Chemical Engineering.

M. C. Weston, National Supply Co., Trainee Company Accountant.

C. Wilkins, Hull University, Geology.

## M6S (MPC) – 2

I. K. Corlett, Newcastle University, Agriculture.

G. B. Critten, National Westminster Bank.

R. C. Dodds, Manchester University, Civil Engineering.

A. J. Hankey, Manchester University, Physics.

D. G. Heath, Salford Electrical Instruments, Computing Systems Operator.

N. C. Herbert, South Trafford College of Further Education, 'A' Levels.

J. Horwich, North Trafford College of Further Education, 'A' Levels.

R. I. J. MacDermott, Leeds University, Medicine.

G. H. Mills, Sheffield University, Medicine.

H. S. Roffey, Imperial College, London, Mechanical Engineering.

A. J. C. Sidebotham, King's College Hospital, London, Dentistry.

A. P. Southam, Birmingham University, B. Com. (Accounting).

## U6S (PCB)

A. K. Bose, Leicester University, Dentistry.

D. A. Hanley, Liverpool University, Biology.

N. W. Hewitt, UMIST, Chemistry.

A. H. P. D. Morton-Smith, Manchester University, Dentistry.

## M6S (PCB)

A. S. Dyson, Stockport College of Technology, 'A' Levels.

B. J. Kumeta, Manchester Polytechnic, Accountancy.

J. W. Reed, Leeds University, Biochemistry.



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## C.C.F. NOTES

The highlight of the past year must surely have been our trip to Cavalaire on the southern coast of France. It was a sixteen day camping holiday with snorkeling in the Mediterranean daily. Needless to say everyone returned with a very good suntan. We made up a party of thirty: twenty-eight boys and two staff. As this holiday was not classed as an adventure training trip, we were not required to have the ratio of five to one usually imposed for safety reasons.

Being such a large party of boys, we were received with mixed feelings. When the camp staff realised, however, how useful we were with the odd chore required around the site, they were very soon pleased that we were available. The boys mixed freely with people of other nationalities and made numerous friends. I am sure that the holiday was so successful that some boys might even consider taking their parents to Cavalaire next year. It is well worth a visit.

The sad note of the year has been the death of Captain F. J. Smith, M.B.E., T.D., M.A. His sudden death came as a great shock to all of us. Captain Smith had been associated with the C.C.F. for longer than any other Officer on record, and he will be sadly missed by us all.

### *Training and Annual Inspection*

Easter Training was once again in the Yorkshire dales and under the command of Captain Clarke, who will add a paragraph with reference to that training.

Annual Camp was again in the Isle of Man at Jurby. The weather this year was not so kind to us as it has been in the past. However, it was never bad enough to hinder our training programme. Fifty seven cadets went to camp and, as always, the training made available to us by the regular Army was first class. All the cadets who attended camp benefited enormously from the experience and our recruit platoon got away to a flying start.

In conclusion, as we are about to go to press, we must congratulate Captain Peat on his being presented with the C.C.F. Medal for long service with the Contingent.

J. F. C.

### *Easter Camp*

Once again Hardraw provided a sound base for the Corps' Easter Arduous Training Camp. Though the group of sixteen was made up of cadets of widely varying practical mountain experience, the fine weather permitted an exacting training programme common to all.

Stimulated by the running of the training as an inter-section competition the cadets worked sensibly and diligently without exception. They were extremely conscientious in their route planning and it was particularly pleasing to see cadets self-critically analyse their performances at debrief, maturely acknowledging their occasional oversights and misjudgments. All cadets assumed the rôle of leader at some stage and no one marred his reputation. In this respect it was particularly encouraging to observe the emergence of sound leadership qualities in the Junior N.C.O.'s, notably Nolan, Holdridge, Burden and Bowers.

By the end of the camp the standard of mapwork was high, the cadets' judgment of mountain conditions sharpened and everyone was fitter for the experience. Officers and cadets alike can look back on this camp as a successful, enjoyable experience.

D. R. C.

## MUSIC NOTES

The Session 1978-79 proved to be a busy one for the Music Department. At the start a Parents' Evening was held on 2 October. This attracted 98 parents of boys who are having instrumental lessons in School. The part-time teaching staff were present to answer questions and Messrs Forsyth



Bros. Ltd. displayed instruments and music appropriate for the occasion. This innovation will be repeated every other year.

The October Concert took place in the Upper Hall on the 20th. This first Concert of the season has now become an ideal setting for solo items; though on this occasion the Band, the Choir, the Recorder Band and the String Orchestra gave performances. The String Orchestra opened with a performance of the Overture in C by Telemann. Rather more difficult than it sounds, this piece has six movements. After a shaky start the players grew in confidence and the later movements were well played. To end the first half the Choir sang the Magnificat by Pergolesi. Soloists were A. M. Pollard, E. C. Whipp, K. L. Price and D. M. Heaton, with Mr Bamforth at the piano and Mr Golder conducting. The Recorder Band opened the second half with two popular pieces with piano accompaniment: *Tango* by Brian Bonsor and *Shepherds' Hey* by Percy Granger. To end the Concert the Band, under its conductor Mr Golder, played the Overture *La Finta Giardiniera* by Mozart and the Czech Polka of Strauss.

Seven soloists and a pair of duetists made up the rest of the programme. R. P. Botkai played the third movement of the C major Sonata of Purcell for trumpet and piano; J. R. Heaton and J. E. Marland played a suite for two 'cellos by Rameau; P. S. Atkins played the first movement of the G major Sonata Op. 14 No. 2 of Beethoven on the piano, and P. D. Furniss was accompanied by P. S. Atkins in three pieces: the Second Movement of the Clarinet Concerto of Mozart, a Minuet by Schubert and *Una Paloma Blanca* by Bowens—a piece which was very popular with the large audience. In the second half four major composers were represented. The Humoresque of Dvorak was played with style by A. A. Pollard, violin; R. E. Humphreys gave a good account of the first movement of the E flat Sonata K 282 by Mozart; a Gavotte in D major for unaccompanied violin was bravely played by H. N. George and the Sonata in C major for 'cello and continuo by Handel was given a virtuoso performance by J. P. Kettlewell.

The Choir were very much in evidence at Christmas time. The Carol Recital at St Ann's Church, Manchester took place at lunch time on Tuesday December 5th. As usual the Church was very full for this event. The Choir acquitted themselves well and there was some particularly good singing from the small group. Following this the Carol Service for parents and friends took place in School on the evening of December 18th. The Service took the form of Nine Lessons and Carols.

March 6th was the date of the main School Concert which took place in the New Hall. On this occasion the audience was disappointing in numbers but those who did turn out were treated to some very good music. Three pieces from the Band opened proceedings: King Cotton March by Sousa, the Minuet from the 'Fireworks Music' of Handel and the popular Liberty Bell March, also by Sousa. Mr Golder conducted. Two solos by A. A. Pollard, violin, with Mr Callaghan at the piano followed by J. Whittle played two short pieces for piano, *La Charolois* by Couperin and *Pony Ride* by Anthony Hedges. Not for a very long time has there been an oboe solo in a School Concert. On this occasion S. Rarity played the Concerto in C Minor by Marcello with Mr Bamforth at the piano.

The Recorder Band played next, again with piano. An arrangement of the *Pavane pour une infante defunte* by Ravel came first then two Bonsor pieces, the Second Beguine and his latest composition, *Simple Samba*. To end the first half the Choir sang Two Hungarian Folk Songs by Seiber (*Apple, Apple* and *The Handsome Butcher*) and *Old Mother Hubbard* by Hutchinson. Mr Golder conducted and Mr Bamforth played the piano.

To open the second half of the Concert Mr Bamforth conducted the re-formed School Orchestra in three pieces. Three Dances by Byrd came first. These were arranged by Maxwell Davies for School Orchestra and the ensemble showed that it was capable of coming to grips with this sort of music. Then followed a Suite by Purcell for strings only and the final item was the Processional March by Woodhouse.

The solo items in this half began with Preamble and Waltz for solo clarinet by Jacobs and the fourth movement of the Hindemith Clarinet Sonata played most capably by P. Furniss. Mr Golder played the piano in the Hindemith. P. Atkins played the first movement of another Beethoven piano sonata, this time Op. 31, No. 2, and a new event rounded off this section: R. Brindley and



R. Munro played the Introduction and Trumpet Tune for two trumpets and organ by Stanley. Mr Callaghan played the organ.

The Band rounded off the whole Concert with two crowd-pulling pieces, the Eton Boating Song arranged by Karl Kaps and 'Land of Hope and Glory' by Elgar. Again, Mr Golder conducted.

At Founder's Day, on March 13th, the Choir sang the Anthem 'Thou Lord, of Glory and Honour Art Worthy' by Haydn.

Throughout the Session some 97 boys had lessons on various instruments in School. Forty-one of these were entered in the Grade examination of the Associated Board and all were successful. The number of boys learning instruments and taking these grade examinations increases year by year. The work being done throws great credit on the teachers who visit the School to give lessons.

The House Music Competition was moved from the Summer Term into the Lent Term. The adjudicators this year were Mr Bamforth and Mr Golder, Fraser winning.

At the end of the Summer Term the School was sad to lose the services of Mrs I. Percy who had taught music on a part time basis for four years with much success. We wish her success in the future and thank her for the work she has done. In September her place will be taken by Mrs E. Woods whom we look forward to having in the department.

D. A. B.

## THE PHYSICISTS

### The School Play

This year's School Play was *The Physicists* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt. Those people who have read or seen other works by this dramatist will know that the central theme, recurrent in all his plays, is that of the man of vision who sees the 'truth' to which most of us are blind. In *The Physicists*, the visionary is also a physicist and a genius, and thus the play explores the moral and social responsibilities of creative scientists in today's world. As the action of the play unfolds we are led to its unequivocal message, voiced by the protagonist, that 'today it's the duty of genius to remain unrecognised.'

Mr C. P. Langford was the producer of this appropriately German play, which was written in 1962 and first translated in 1964. His choice of play would have appealed to many people as something different, modern and previously unknown (except to regular visitors to Manchester's Library Theatre where the play was performed in 1976). *The Physicists* was, at the same time, a choice which presented many difficulties for a school cast. The play is didactic and, in my opinion, a simplification of complex issues. The subtleties of the text are difficult to convey in a stage performance. More importantly, the appeal of *The Physicists* is intellectual rather than emotional; the ideas rapidly take over from the action as the focus of attention. For young actors, this play was certainly not an easy task, and it is a tremendous tribute to the twenty boys who took part, that they were not daunted by the demands made.

The fact that most of the audience were unfamiliar with *The Physicists* made the opening sequence rather problematic. Unless one knew that the abuse of scientific discovery for the purpose of warfare was a crucial idea, the impact, of the recorded radio broadcast and the spectacular lighting effects before the play began, was mostly confined to bewilderment.

The potential of the idea might have been better realised had the sequence followed and not preceded D. M. Platts' introduction. His delivery improved with each performance; on the first night his pacing across the stage was distracting and his style of speech over-rhetorical, but the experienced Platts did not make these mistakes twice. The tableau of actors throughout this introduction was most effective and well staged. All credit to D. A. Howarth who took the unspectacular and ultimate non-speaking part of the corpse.

J. P. Morris, W. J. H. Murray, M. J. Scoltock, and I. M. Jackson all had functional parts, which



were nevertheless important in the vital opening scene. Each looked his part and performed efficiently and enthusiastically. They had the difficult task of acting whilst another character apparently demanded the audience's complete attention. In both scenes where they appeared they never noticeably relaxed their efforts.

When casting the play, the producer must have delighted in assigning to N. A. Jackson and A. Dowdall, the parts of male attendants, alias heavy-weight boxing champions. Their physical appearance was striking and they certainly made the most of their first entrance on stage. The fact that they had little to say did not prevent their giving memorable performances. They made the rôles appear natural; their feeling for the part even running, in the case of Jackson, to smashing crockery. M. J. Sandy, who took over the part of chief attendant at short notice, gave an impeccable performance—one would have liked to see more of him.

The heavy brigade trio was balanced by a further, perfectly cast trio of minor parts, namely J. Hogg, M. J. Taylor, and J. B. Roche, in the rôles of Möbius's sons. Their facial expressions and gestures combined to give a clear impression of rigidly disciplined German youths, with just a hint of repressed feeling from Jorg-Lukas, the youngest. These third formers certainly made the most of their brief appearance and showed their potential for future productions.

G. S. Williams made a successful debut on the school stage in the difficult rôle of Frau Möbius. The costuming here was perfect and certainly helped to transform Williams into a homely, motherly housewife, whose conventional utterances ran perfectly true to type. Frau Lina was perfectly complemented by R. J. Wakefield who brought a degree of softly spoken dignity to his rôle as the pious, zealous missionary. He brought a delicate balance of caricature and seriousness to the part.

J. E. Hytner gave a first rate and creditably convincing performance as the starched martinet, Sister Marta Boll. I. R. Cumming played Nurse Monika, in love with Möbius. There is no need to mention the immense difficulty of casting such a part in a boys' school. Cumming deserves special congratulation, as he acted with intensity and conviction, making the audience feel the approaching horror of the suicidal self-sacrifice. The part was sensitively acted and well received.

The biggest of the female parts was, unfortunately, the least well realised. The complex character of Fräulein Doktor von Zahnd perhaps demanded too much of R. Taylor who undertook the part. The actor playing this rôle must appear slightly unhinged up to the final mad scene in Act II, without, however, letting the audience suspect the truth; secondly, Fräulein Doktor must appear to be suitably middle-aged and crabbed. Taylor's performance, although the lines were all delivered on cue, lacked definition in both these respects. The element of pathos so essential to understanding the subtly characterised role was never really brought out. This was, however, a part which would have taxed the skills of any professional actor.

T. A. M. Maula, in the part of Inspector Voss, gave a creditable performance. He delivered many of his lines with panache and his gestures were always precise and appropriate. The only weakness was that the contrast between his harassed, confused air in Act I and his resigned, blasé attitude in Act II, needed great emphasis.

The three Physicists of the title all demanded great skill on the part of the actors. The aging 'Einstein' was superbly acted by J. P. Marland. His speeches, whether 'mad', or shrewdly sane, were tellingly delivered with perfect timing, voice control and clear enunciation. 'Newton' is a less mature, more superficial, but, at the same time, wittier character, as G. L. Lowe realised well. He relished the humour in his rôle, and 'acted up' his assumed madness in Act I, then achieved just the right effect of bathos in the dinner scene of Act II.

The part of Möbius was the highlight of the play and was acted with immense conviction and sensitivity by C. S. Rogerson. He portrayed with sustained excellence the whole spectrum of emotions demanded by the part—morbid introspection, sudden anger, tenderness, hard-hearted matter-of-factness, casual relaxation, bland humour and intense but controlled grief. This must have been one of the finest individual performances seen on the School stage.

*The Physicists* depends a great deal for its success on backstage work. The set was impressive



both in construction and decoration. The lighting effects made excellent use of the School's new equipment which was impeccably handled. Good use was made of props and sound effects and all the stage staff and technicians involved deserve congratulation.

In conclusion, *The Physicists* was an ambitious school play requiring almost professional standards of production and acting, and yet, despite the difficulties, it provided some mature and successful performances and entertained capacity audiences on all three nights.

M. G.

## CARROTS

One could be forgiven for thinking that anyone wanting to produce a full-length musical in a boys' school must be either an incurable optimist or else largely unaware of the problems such a large-scale enterprise involves. Having for some years played organ solos in School Assembly known as 'accompanying a hymn', I knew only too well the difficulties which Miss Green would encounter when she announced that she intended to produce *Carrots*, a musical based on the life of Doctor Barnardo. When she further informed me that the boys taking part would have to perform dance routines, I could sense that the whole enterprise was doomed to failure from the start.

It soon became apparent that my fears were groundless. A casual stroll past the New Hall most lunchtimes during the Lent Term led to extraordinary discoveries. The stage was full of boys, most of them from the Junior School; they were going through their dance routines with rigid concentration and attention to detail; and, most surprisingly, they were singing, loudly, and with obvious enjoyment.

*Carrots*, then, proved an enormous success, playing to full houses on two nights in February. Miss Green had made an interesting decision in entrusting the part of Barnardo to Mr Turner. He deliberately played down his part in favour of the real stars of the evening, T. J. Corbett as Carrots, and the motley gang of roof-top urchins led by J. R. Roche as Nobby. These orphans dominated the show—literally—from a raised set created by Mr Grant and Mr Bennett.

They did full justice to Peter Cantwell's music, although this was trite and derivative at times. 'Nobody seems to Care' was memorable, as was 'Rooftop Blues', largely thanks to a splendid clarinet solo by P. D. Furniss. Moreover, the orphans executed the dance routines devised for them by Mrs Roche by putting a brave face on things and summoning up as much skill as they were able to muster.

The rest of the cast gave good support to those playing the lead parts, and special mention should be made of J. Hogg as P.C. Harbottle and M. G. Jordan as Rosie, the flower-seller. These two delighted the audience towards the end of the show with their rendition of 'Something Special 'Cos You're Cockney'.

Making for the smooth running of the production was the skilful accompaniment provided by R. E. Humphreys (piano), P. D. Furniss (clarinet) and S. J. Redford (percussion). Mrs Chudleigh, Mrs Daber, Mrs Hempstock, Mrs Jordan and Mrs Roche all gave invaluable assistance backstage with make-up and costumes. Miss Green must have been delighted with the high standard of performance on both nights—which, incidentally, raised around £125 for Doctor Barnardo's Homes. Not content with this success, Miss Green has now joined forces with Mr Bamforth, and they are now working on their own musical scheduled for production in February 1980.

P. J. C.

*Cast:* Dr Barnardo, Mr Turner; Lord Shaftesbury, M. J. Taylor; Rebecca Gibbs, T. J. Miller; Mother, P. J. Blight; Benjamin, R. D. Hunt; P.C. Harbottle, J. Hogg; Rose, M. G. Jordan; Paper Boy, N. G. Roland; Bread Boy, R. A. Ogden; Sergeant, A. L. Pritchard; Charlie, N. L. Jackson; Policeman, J. R. W. Foreman; Carrots, T. J. Corbett. Orphans: J. R. Roche, J. R. Lewis, A. B. N. May, H. J. Pimlott, S. G. Miller, R. J. Ellis, D. R. Watters, D. J. Andrews, C. Aroskin, A. S. Olive, M. P. Kelly, P. D. Furniss, A. P. Fox, N. Pritchard, M. J. Hinnells, P. S. Atkins, M. J. Lloyd.



## HOUSE PLAY COMPETITION

Adjudicators: Messrs P. J. Callaghan, M. I. Barker, A. C. Crane.

Let it be said at the outset that the adjudicators for this year's competition had every sympathy with the obvious difficulties experienced by the producers. With *Carrots* and the Staff Revue monopolising stage time for most of the Lent Term, it was both surprising and encouraging to see that the high standard of recent years was easily maintained. Equally, however, it must be disappointing for the casts themselves to rehearse so hard, only to play to such meagre audiences, especially after the great success of the musical and the revue. Some of the blame for this rests with the Houses themselves; only Byrom, Dalton and Gaskell made serious efforts to advertise their plays (A. Bailey's posters for Gaskell were simple and effective) and Heywood could not even manage a programme.

The adjudicators found their task remarkably straightforward, and by the end of the second evening of plays had little difficulty in drawing up the final positions.

Dalton was placed sixth. Their choice of play, *The Bespoke Overcoat*, was a very ambitious one; neither the producer nor the cast came close enough to realising the author's serious intentions. If they had understood the play fully they would not have introduced discordant elements (using a School cap instead of a skull cap, and dressing Wright in a Piccadilly Radio T-shirt).

A. Zaidi was miscast as Fender; he tried his best in a very demanding rôle, but never managed to capture the essential pathos of Fender's character. D. Menashé was more effective, portraying Morry the tailor with some skill (though he was a little too willing to play to the gallery at times). A. Tullock and P. Wright were stilted and unsure of themselves: the dog upstaged Tullock completely in the park scene.

There were some good points to this production. The stage was well-used (the warehouse was especially well-considered), but there were too many unnecessary interruptions to the flow of the play. The acting areas could have been more effectively defined by intelligent use of lighting rather than by so much scene-shifting.

Whitworth House was placed fifth. We found some difficulty in judging their entry, *Left Hand Margin*. The opening and closing sketches, written by D. M. Platts and P. G. Turner, were an unsuccessful attempt to impose a spurious unity on a series of disconnected episodes. There were some very good moments, notably D. A. Campbell as the drunken Scotsman and G. W. Keating in the 'Guinness' sketch, but the bulk of the material was mediocre. Only a few middle School boys were involved in a predominantly Sixth Form affair.

*Left Hand Margin* could not be considered in the same way as the other five entries. Firstly, it was clearly not a play, nor did it set out to be one. Secondly, it depended almost exclusively on verbal humour. It was thus almost impossible to assess acting ability, use of the stage, props—in short, everything which was considered in the placing of the other five plays. This House could have been a more serious contender if the producers had chosen a play more in keeping with the traditions of the competition.

Heywood House was placed fourth. Their production of *The Dear Departed* suffered from the absence of a printed programme, which made things confusing at first for both the audience and the adjudicators. They were also obviously under-rehearsed; there were more prompts for this play than for the other five entries put together. But this production had much to commend it.

R. Taylor and R. J. Wakefield both began well, though they seemed to lose their way somewhat as the play progressed, and were completely thrown when they lost their lines. M. Aroskin, I. Cumming and G. Williams all acquitted themselves well as the female members of the family; the obvious conflict between Cumming and Williams was well sustained, with good timing in places. J. Marland gave a very polished performance as the grandfather, and held the play together towards the end.

We found it impossible to separate the entries from Byrom and Gaskell, who were thus placed equal second.



Bryom's choice, *The Man in the Bowler Hat*, was a little unfortunate, simply because it runs for barely fifteen minutes; thirty minutes is a better time to aim for. C. S. Rogerson (John) and D. A. Hulmes (Mary) both gave very creditable performances, but they did tend to rush along at the beginning with consequent loss of audibility. J. Morris played the Hero with great confidence and skill, and J. E. Hytner's timing in the ticket scene was impeccable.

Intelligent use was made of the stage, but a weak point was the positioning of H. A. Shawdon as the man in the bowler hat. After he had taken his seat on the apron stage we tended to forget about him, whereas a few movements or slightly better lighting would have maintained our interest. Properties were well considered, apart from the obvious use of a school desk as the dining table. A carpet would have given a more homely atmosphere.

*Blackout* was written by members of Gaskell House. There are obvious difficulties in performing a 'home-made' play, but the Gaskell cast showed remarkable courage and enterprise. D. Hartshorne gave a very intelligent and aware portrayal of Simon, the young student suddenly struck with blindness. J. Q. Killip as Mike was an excellent foil to Hartshorne, playing his part with quiet assurance. The other students (H. Parker, M. Binns, B. Rosenberg and M. Crowther) supported these two well, but did not manage to create a fully relaxed atmosphere.

The play was well staged, but lacked pace; as in Dalton's play, more skilful use of acting areas was necessary. If anything, there were too many props (was it really necessary to use a large bench to signify the doctor's waiting-room when the edge of the stage would have served just as well?) It was noisy backstage, and there were some unfortunate shadows on the back curtains at the end of the play. Nonetheless, this was a very fine attempt to deal with a sensitive subject; Gaskell are to be congratulated, not only on the overall standard of their production, but also on involving so many boys in it.

We were unanimous in awarding first place to Fraser House for their production of *Come What May* by Kenneth Lillington. This proved to be a fortunate choice; Lillington is a skilful author, and this was a straightforward comedy, played strictly for laughs. In less experienced hands it could have degenerated into farce, but this was well produced by B. J. Kumeta and, like all of Fraser's activities, a well-disciplined team effort. There were no weak links in the cast, with J. Hogg, A. Pritchard and M. Kennedy all holding their own with the more experienced M. J. Sandy and I. Helsby. Helsby was remarkable; his mannerisms were well chosen, and his timing and delivery were perfect.

There were few productions faults. The stage was filled with props, and the whole acting area was well used. It was a mistake to make Hogg wear sunglasses throughout the play, and there were some long pauses while the drinks were poured and the poison obtained from the bookcase. These faults did not detract from the overall success of the play, which was a delightful romp from beginning to end.

We would like to thank all those who worked so hard, under rather adverse conditions, to entertain us on both evenings. Despite the many criticisms in this report, all those involved in the making of the plays—casts, producers and stage staff, are to be warmly congratulated on their efforts.

P. J. C.

## BRITTANY 1979

This year the Modern Languages trip again took boys from the Junior School to Dinan in Brittany during the Summer Holidays. The party consisted of forty-three boys accompanied, as they were last year, by Messrs Clark, Fisher, Timm and Turner.

We left School in our brand-new coach at two o'clock on the morning of 24th July. After an uneventful journey we were able to stop for breakfast at a motorway service station. The place seemed deserted, and the choice of food, as expected, left much to be desired. It was generally felt that last year's party had not missed much when they were unable to stop for breakfast.



Our coach boarded the *Viking Venturer* in Southampton Docks at a quarter past ten and the Channel crossing was beautifully calm. After becoming accustomed to the boat many boys went to watch the film *Death on the Nile* which was showing at the mini-cinema on board. We finally arrived at Cherbourg at a quarter past five, local time, and the coach drove into the car park of the Lycée La Fontaine des Eaux at half past eight after a journey of more than two hundred kilometres from the port to Dinan. The kitchen staff had kindly stayed on to provide us with a very good evening meal.

After a welcome night's rest everybody trooped down to the dining hall for a continental breakfast. Then, after being divided into four groups, we set off on foot to look around Dinan, taking in the picturesque Jardin Anglais, and climbing the ancient Tour de l'Horloge, from which we were treated to an impressive bird's-eye view of the old town. Later that afternoon we visited Fort La Latte, a small thirteenth century coastal fortress, and then we concluded our first day in France with cricket and football on the beach.

The following morning we went to explore Dinan's vast open-air market and to stock up on extra supplies for the next few days. During the afternoon we drove to the old city of St Malo where we walked round the walls and swam and played on one of the many sandy beaches. As we were returning to the coach through the streets of St Malo we were lucky enough to come across some street entertainers, one of whom was a fire-eater whose fascinating act we all watched and photographed for some time.

After dinner that evening Mr Clark and Mr Timm talked to us about the Allied Invasion of Europe and the Bayeux Tapestry respectively, as we were to travel to Normandy the following day. Consequently we were all aboard the coach by half-past eight next morning, in preparation for the long journey ahead.

En route for Arromanches we ate a picnic lunch at the Pointe du Hoc where we explored the craters and gun emplacements, and looked at the plaque and monument commemorating the bravery of the American troops who took this heavily fortified position under Col. James E. Rudder. On then to Arromanches, and there we visited the permanent exhibition of the D-Day Landings and saw a contemporary film of how the Mulberry Harbour was built and employed in the Invasion. Having examined the assorted artillery preserved around the town, and having done our best to exhaust the supply of pop in the shops, we moved on to Bayeux to see the celebrated Tapestry. We were disappointed to discover that Bayeux's fine cathedral was still closed for repair work, just as it had been during the previous year's trip.

Before visiting the tidal hydro-electric power station across the River Rance on Saturday afternoon we were given a detailed account of the history and theory of tidal power, and of the Rance Usine Marémotrice itself, by Mr Fisher. The entire project was amazing and this proved a most interesting visit. The party pressed on into the elegant resort of Dinard where half our number went to the Olympic swimming pool while the rest hired pédalos on the beach and spent a very enjoyable half hour paddling in the calm, clear bay.

Sunday morning was spent in Dinan, boys either going to Mass in the Basilique St Sauveur with Mr Turner, or simply doing last-minute souvenir hunting. Our destination after lunch was the nearby Château de Combourg, once the home of the writer Châteaubriand. This is a small chateau with a rather forbidding, windowless façade; the guided tour we were provided with was extraordinary. It consisted of a young Frenchwoman who preceeded us from room to room with a small cassette recorder from which issued a most lugubrious and indistinct commentary whose tone was quite in keeping with the atmosphere of the place. Indeed it was while we were visiting the château that we felt the first drops of rain of the trip.

The Mont-St-Michel was to be the last major excursion of the week, and we were fortunate that the weather was a good deal better than last year, allowing us to enjoy a marvellous views to the full. Below the Abbey were dozens of gift-shops, all apparently selling identical goods. We broke our return journey at Cancale in order to view the oyster-beds there, but the tide was in and there was not a great deal to see.



We left France after our full and immensely varied visit on Tuesday, 31st July, returning to School late that night. The trip finished as we drew up with a rousing three cheers for the Masters who had planned and organised Brittany 1979 and had made it such a fruitful and enjoyable holiday.

N. R. F.

### CHARITIES FORTNIGHT

This year it was decided that more money would be raised if the School had a specific target to aim for. So with this in mind and 1979 being the International Year of the Child, we decided the money should go to the Elizabeth Fitzroy Homes for the Mentally Handicapped. They are building a home in Timperley, Cheshire, and we decided to furnish one double room and a wheel chair room at a cost of £700.

The Appeals Director, Mr Gordon-Nixon, came to school in early March and told the School a little more about the Charity. By the time the Fortnight began on 12th March we felt confident that our target would be reached.

It is impossible to mention all those who deserve recognition and I apologise to anyone whose contribution is omitted. However, the memories of the Fortnight are numerous and varied. Posters and sponsor forms were produced and quickly, too quickly, dispatched. Sponsored events were organised all through the School and the Prefects' room, somewhat unusually, became a hive of activity.

The Prefects' tuck shop opened amid the usual chaos and was out of stock in a ridiculously short space of time. (It was re-stocked four times and earned us a phenomenal amount of money.) Cox re-opened his hot-dog stall with his usual high standards of hygiene: Several Prefects were nearly lost through his cooking, that disgusting brown gravy, and the very, very hot mustard.

The School organised various sponsored events: badminton, table-tennis, volleyball, and five-a-side football. Wadsworth organised a very successful run-walk and then there was the Sixth Forms' bar-football. Their enthusiasm, if unexpected, was an example to all and they contributed greatly to our final total.

The Junior School, perhaps, even excelled their high standard. Three Junior boys walked in from Lymn to raise £60 and others, if not mentioned, worked just as hard.

Sidebotham walked home, seemingly night after night, with a bag full of money and the Fortnight came to a conclusion with a deserved 3-2 victory by the Prefects over the Staff (despite the efforts of the Deputy Head Boy to concede more goals than even Paddy Roche!)

Finally, Bobby Charlton came to accept our donation on behalf of the Elizabeth Fitzroy Homes and, amongst his insinuations that he had no Cup Final tickets to spare, he thanked the School for all their efforts.

The total—£1,100—is, perhaps, a record and will help to provide a home for sixteen mentally handicapped children. We succeeded in furnishing a double bedroom, a 'wheel chair' room and two single bedrooms. Not quite as good as 'Blue Peter', perhaps, but it was much more fun.

D. G. R.

### COMPUTER UNIT

In 1974 the School purchased a single computer terminal, a TEXAS 733, and established the G.P.O. dial-up link to Salford University. This project, initially between School and the University, made available on-line computer time to us and later to other educational establishments. It proved to be a most useful and successful facility and reports have been given in this magazine of some of the work undertaken in the five years in which the link was used. The School had between ten and fifteen hours of on-line time each week, mainly during lunch hours and after school. Some time was available during teaching time and a large number of boys had experience of using the



BASIC language to a large remote processor.

Computing was mainly organised for small groups or for individual users, although a certain amount of class teaching was undertaken. The limitations of a single terminal caused delays and frustration. Boys were forced to wait to use the system and it was found to be extremely difficult to teach a class of thirty boys where the visual display was a single sheet of typed material. Salford University extended the computer facility to several other schools resulting in a considerable reduction in the on-line time available to us.

Early in 1978 it was decided to investigate the possibility of installing a complete on-site computer system at School. The searches took nearly a year and in that time a system which would satisfy the requirements of the School was determined. The financial aspects were agreed in November 1978 and the system was delivered in January 1979.

The computer which has been installed is a SYSTIME 3000 comprising a PDP11/34 processor with 196Kb of working memory, two 4.8Mb disc drives for data storage, three visual display terminals (one of which is used for system control), a Superterm paper printer and the necessary hardware to include the original Texas terminal into the system. Thus four terminals instead of one are available for use with no restriction on the time when a boy may use the computer.

The language used is BASIC PLUS which is a variant of the BASIC language used during the past five years. Very few problems have been experienced with this minor change of language and it is a most suitable language for teaching purposes. BASIC PLUS is interactive, that is, one which enables a two way 'conversation' between user and machine. If an error is made by the user, either in typing or in the logic of what is communicated to the machine, he is informed of that error immediately and can make the required corrections.

The processor and system control is housed in the careers room and is linked by cables running across the quadrangle and over the roof of the Science block to room 34. This room has been redesigned and redecorated to be a terminal room, housing at present the four computer terminals.

The system is a fairly standard computer package apart from one important modification. The signal from one visual display unit is taken and fed to a television monitor. Normally a single terminal is used by an individual or at most by a small group working on a particular project. The intention of having the signal from one terminal displayed on a large television monitor was to enable full classes of thirty boys to see a particular piece of computing. However one monitor proved insufficient and by including a signal converter and amplifier the signal from one terminal can now be displayed on three domestic television sets. When a full class is taken into the terminal room teaching can be given to all by linking all four terminals together and displaying the data on them and on the three television sets. As far as is known this particular part of the system is an innovation as regards the teaching of computing in schools, particularly as part of the electronics required to convert the signals to be compatible with domestic television sets was designed and built in School.

The system is thus being used in two different ways: for individual and small group activity or with the system linked together for class teaching. So far no examination teaching has been undertaken and at present none is envisaged. The intention is to use the computer in the classroom as a tool to teach a computer language, which will enable boys to undertake projects on their own, and as an aid to enrich and extend the normal teaching of Mathematics. Boys will find that they are taken to the terminal room perhaps for a complete period or for only ten minutes of a Mathematics period during which some particular part of the subject matter being developed will be illustrated using the computer.

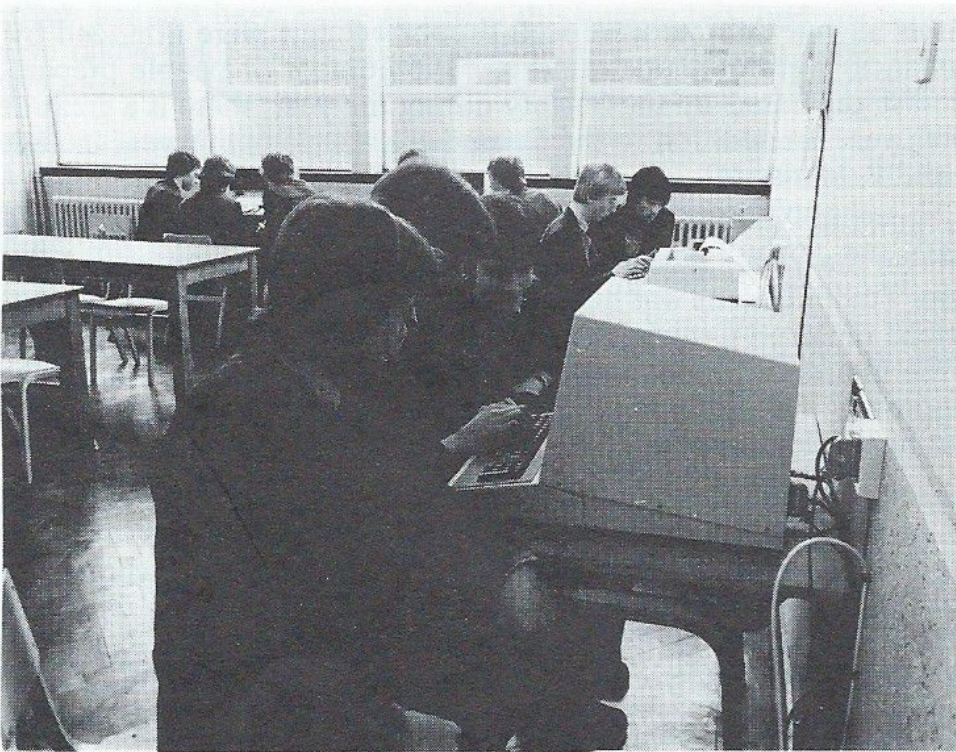
The system has been planned with future expansion in mind. When the wiring was installed two extra cables were taken into room 34; and therefore two more terminals can be added to the system fairly easily as and when they are required. Further expansion is possible; up to twenty-four terminals can be serviced by the processor! To achieve this additional memory will have to be added to the processor.

Following the delivery of the system in January 1979 and after all testing had been carried





The completely re-equipped Norman Wood Language Laboratory



Boys using Computer System in Terminal Room.



out by the suppliers the computer was in limited use in early March. Since then the number of users has increased considerably. The computer is available for general use from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm and is heavily used by boys from the first to the sixth form before morning school, during the lunch hour and after school. Considerable use has been made during teaching time for class sessions, and sixth formers are able to use the computer in their private study time. During the final three weeks of the summer term about nine hundred log-ins were recorded! As this period included the preparation for the Open Days when the system was out of general use, there appears to be a growing enthusiasm for the facility the computer now provides.

During the summer term three after-school courses were provided to teach the BASIC language, two for juniors new to the system and one for those with considerable experience in computing. It is hoped that more of these courses will be provided for boys at all levels in the School in the coming years.

Looking back over the period of the installation of the computer and the enthusiasm it has generated with boys of all ages, I anticipate a growing demand for computer time and an enhancement of the teaching of Mathematics in the School.

M. L.

### THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The Committee elected in September under the presidency of Mr Turner was:

Secretary: R. Silver.

Debate Chairman: D. B. Lister.

Publicity Officers: R. J. Furniss, N. T. Hutchinson.

Committee: J. I. Sherman (U and M6), D. M. Goodman (L6), A. Prestwich and I. M. Whittell (Middle School).

On the departure of J. I. Sherman in November, G. L. Lowe and M. J. P. Jeffries took his place on the Committee.

This year almost all our debates were well supported; few were attended by less than forty, and the best attendances were over one hundred. The number of people prepared to speak bears witness to the interest generated by the Society during the year; there is a great deal of promise in the third and fourth year. In addition to the Committee, speakers this year included J. Hogg, E. C. Whipp, S. D. Mee and P. Marland.

Many of our motions have been controversial because of events current at the time. For instance, the debate on the motor industry coincided with the Ford Strike, and the one on Government control of the Trades Unions was held at a time of widespread industrial action in the public sector. Other motions included Censorship, and the question of Rudolf Hess, but the most unconventional was on the merits or otherwise of living in the age of the cave man. D. B. Lister and D. M. Goodman, proposing the motion, made their points in very unusual ways, resulting in an amusing debate but horrifying the opposition in the shape of R. Silver and N. T. Hutchinson.

Both the Michaelmas and Lent Terms began with 'Any Questions?', giving people a chance to speak outside the confines of a debate and to learn from the panellists. Speakers from the staff included Miss Green and Messrs Bamforth, Callaghan and Turner, all of whom rose to the occasion with characteristic wit and humour. The Terms were rounded off with two light-hearted balloon debates which included Mr Blight as Wesley, Mr Turner as Christopher Robin and G. L. Lowe as St Edmund the Martyr. Messrs Hallworth and Knight also took part in the second balloon debate in a fine double-act as the Blue Peter team, which impressed everyone. The Society is very grateful to all the masters who spoke in debates.

D. B. Lister took part in the Public Speaking Competition organised by the Manchester Junior Chamber of Commerce, and only just failed to win in the face of the very stiff competition. He was also a semi-finalist in the competition organised by the Didsbury Rotary Club.



Perhaps the climax of the year was the hugely successful Mock Election, held one day before the General Election in May. One hundred and nineteen votes were cast, and the resounding win of A. Prestwich of 4L against strong Sixth Form opposition was announced with appropriate dignity by Mr Lowe, who kindly agreed to act as Returning Officer in Assembly the following morning.

The year ended pleasantly when we accepted an invitation by the Girls' High School to oppose them in a Joint Debate there.

On a personal note, I should like to thank Mrs L. Lister who presented us with a gavel, all members of the committee, especially the long-suffering publicity officers R. J. Furniss and N. T. Hutchinson, whose work was to be seen about the school every fortnight, and all those who spoke in debates. Finally, on behalf of the committee, I should like to thank Mr Turner for his assistance throughout the year and for his firm guidance and support when we needed it.

R. S.

### THE DONNER LIBRARY

For the last seven years the Library has been under the devoted care of the late Mr F. J. Smith and consequently the taking over of the Library by a stranger to the School has been less formidable than it otherwise might have been.

Two first impressions stand out. The general behaviour and demeanour of the boys in the Library is excellent: the use made of the 6,000+ books could be greater. It is hoped that the first will continue and the second increase.

Throughout the year gifts of books and periodicals have kindly been made by Mr Smith, the brother of 'F. J.', Mr R. A. Haynes, Mr J. D. Evans, Mr J. Gallagher, Mrs F. Barlow, Dr R. Cummings and Mr W. Land.

F. N. M.

### DRAMA CLUB

The Drama Club has not been quite as active this year as last, perhaps because so many other stage activities have taken place. Membership remains fairly constant, with around thirty Juniors working with Miss Green and Mr Turner, and twenty senior boys with Mr Callaghan.

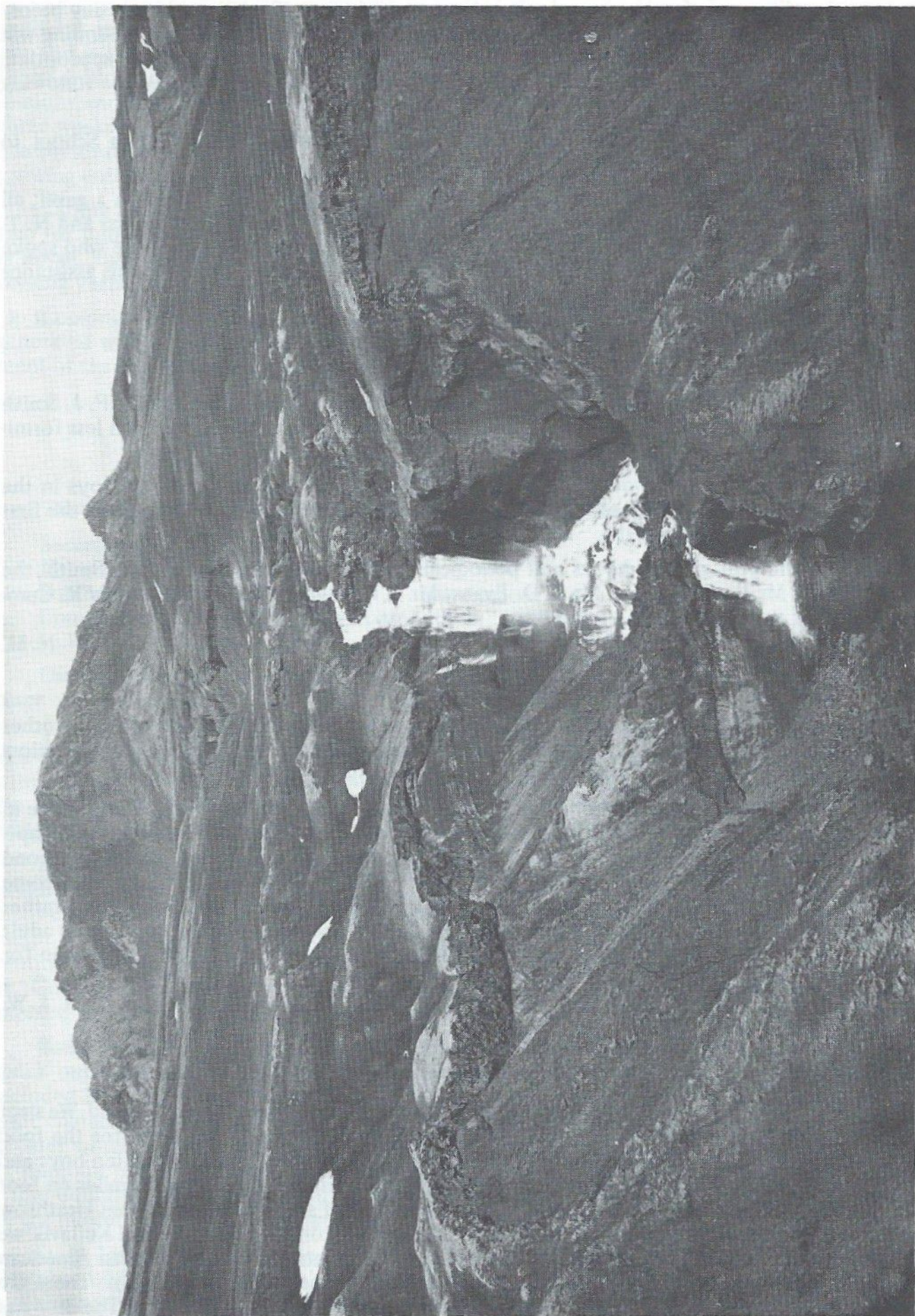
The only fixed feature of the Drama Club calendar is the Summer Plays, which take place in the Upper Hall at the beginning of July. Mr Turner produced *The Withered Arm*, his own adaptation from Thomas Hardy, for which he was able to involve a large number of boys. The second half of the evening was devoted to Giles Cooper's *Unman, Wittering and Zigo*. Two welcome developments were made for this production: it was performed in the round, which was a rather daunting experience for some boys; and eight members of staff were persuaded to take the adult parts of the play. This was a very successful departure, and we hope for another production for boys and staff next year.

J. P. M. & R. J. W.

### ICELAND EXPEDITION

The purpose of our expedition was to explore the central southern section of Iceland. We slept in farmers' huts and huts built for walkers, and carried all our equipment except for the food which had previously been 'depoted' for us by Land Rover. The party, consisting of ten boys and two members of staff, Mr Booker and Mr Symonds, covered a distance of about 220 miles on foot in the three weeks from July 10th to August 1st. After a flight of about two hours from Heathrow we landed at Keflavik, an American Air Force base thirty miles from Reykjavik. From Keflavik we took a bus to a youth hostel in the capital. The city bears much more resemblance to an American city than to an English one, having wide roads and modern houses of peculiar design. There are many open spaces in Reykjavik and there is a large lake in the middle of the city. The city has





THE WATERFALL: ÖFAERUFOSS.



only one factory, an aluminium smelting plant; its main industry is fishing. The standard of living is one of the highest in Europe, even with inflation at 45 per cent.

The day after our arrival a chartered bus took us to another youth hostel about a hundred miles from Reykjavik—the starting point of our walk. The bus made a detour to see various sights in the region such as the geysirs and an impressive waterfall called Gullfoss. Icelandic scenery is very spectacular—ice capped mountains and glaciers are almost always in sight, and in places there were hot pools or volcanic vents or fumaroles. The ground was either covered in moss or stones, or made up of plains of volcanic ash or pumice. Every so often we would turn a corner, or reach the top of a hill, and be met by some breathtaking scenery. It was moments like these which made Iceland so interesting to walk in. The country is completely unspoiled; even such tourist attractions as Ofærufoss, a waterfall spanned by a natural lava bridge, was free of fences and warning notices.

The landscape is very much influenced by volcanic activity: we bathed in hot springs, walked through solidified lava flows and walked down a small valley piled high with volcanic bombs.

We met very few people in the three weeks we were walking and most of these were Icelanders from Reykjavik whose hobby was to drive powerful cars into the country and try and pioneer new roads. The few farmers we met were very friendly and had a sense of independence and character.

Possibly the most unpleasant parts of the journey were the river crossings. The rivers ran straight off the glaciers and were fast, cold, silty and deep. Crossing was difficult because of the current and because the rocky bottom was obscured by the silt in the water. Because of this we crossing in groups, linking arms. As it was necessary to keep our boots on, our feet usually remained wet for the rest of the day.

Not all our days were spent walking from one hut to another. In some places we stayed for two or three days—particularly at sites of special interest, such as natural hot baths.

While Iceland is full of natural interest for the geographer, it is rather disappointing for the botanist, having only 440 species of vascular plants and, except in Reykjavik, we saw no trees. Mr Booker identified butterwort, bladder campion, starry saxifrage, snow gentian and forget-me-nots. Also there were various trefoils, orchids and catchflies. Bird life is interesting, but again there are very few species (about 750 breeding). I noted a great northern diver, red necked phalaropes, Barrow's goldeneye, harlequin ducks, arctic skuas, arctic terns, eider duck, whimbrel, golden plover, and ptarmigan. The most common birds were wheatears and golden plover. Passerines are represented by only seven breeding species; most of Iceland's birdlife is coastlife.

The expedition was not without its mishaps: due to the owners arriving at the hut we were sleeping in one night, we had to walk through the night to our next hut about twelve miles away. We arrived there at 4.30 a.m. The walk was not as bad as might be thought since it never got dark. The weather really made the expedition worthwhile; it rained only one full day and two half days. The previous school Icelandic expedition, about ten years ago, had rain almost every day. There were many days of extreme heat and the rarefied atmosphere made it difficult to avoid sunburn.

Altogether this was a most enjoyable holiday made possible only by the hard work of Mr Symonds and Mr Booker. The difficulties of arranging an expedition like this are obviously great and the members of the expedition would like to thank both members of staff for their troubles.

P. D.

### MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

There has been continuing enthusiastic support for the activities of the Club, although these were somewhat restricted by transport difficulties during the summer term.

Rock climbing trips were run to Twistleton Scar (Hardraw), Dovestones (Chew Valley) and Anglezark. A winter climbing weekend on the Dales was well supported and blessed with exceptionally cold weather which almost prevented the return of the party to school. A part of four boys, N. Smith, S. Keeling, D. Southern and C. Wilkins, are spending a week at the start of the summer holiday climbing in Wales with Dr J. A. Clark and Dr M. I. Barker.

D. G. B.



## ROCK CLIMBING IN SNOWDONIA

At the beginning of the summer vacation, S. J. Keeling, C. Wilkins, D. H. A. Southern and N. A. Smith, all members of the William Hulme's Mountaineering Club, together with Dr Barker and Dr Clark, went on a rock-climbing expedition to Snowdonia. Camp was established near Llanberis, a convenient centre for the major rock-climbing areas. The aim of the expedition was to allow the boys involved to apply the rock-climbing skill acquired on short routes on local outcrops to the longer and more serious climbs in the Welsh mountains.

During eight days of variable weather, upwards of forty classic routes were climbed, the average standard being at the very severe (V.S.) grade. This was a fine achievement since the boys did virtually all the leading themselves and raised their individual standards by at least a grade during the course of the week. The old men were considerably impressed by the courage and determination of the younger generation!

The week started fairly sedately on the slabs of Cwm Idwal with rapid ascents of Ordinary Route (D.), Tennis Shoe (S.), Lazarus (S.) and Grey Slab (H.S.)

Inspired by the sunshine on the following day, the team visited Dinas Cromlech in the Llanberis Pass and ascended, amongst others, the somewhat fiercer routes of Sabre Cut (V.S.), Noah's Warning (V.S.) and Pharaoh's Passage (V.S.).

Low cloud blotted out the higher crags for several days so three visits were made to Tremadoc rocks, a fine-weather haven to the south of the Snowdon massif. Notable leads were made by C. Wilkins of Poor Man's Peuterey (H.S.), Scratch (V.S.), Clapton's Crack (V.S.) and Kestrel Cracks (V.S.). S. J. Keeling excelled himself by leading Stromboli (H.V.S.) and Helsinki Wall (H.V.S.) on the same day in superb style.

D. H. A. Southern gained confidence throughout the week and finally led his first very severe, The Cracks (V.S.) on Dinas Mott in the Llanberis Pass. C. Wilkins and S. J. Keeling, climbing as a rope of two, polished off The Direct Route (V.S.) and Western Slabs (V.S.).

The youngest member of the party, N. A. Smith, improved tremendously, seconding several very severe climbs and leading several pitches on the easier routes. On the last day the rain eventually arrived, but two good routes were snatched in Cwm Idwal before the downpour, and a suitably shattered party arrived back at Manchester in the evening. All the climbers involved agreed that the trip had been outstandingly successful, extremely good-humoured and thoroughly enjoyable.

M. I. B. & J. A. C.

## THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

This year has seen several advances. The Philatelic Library, started four years ago, has been largely extended and now provides a more comprehensive service to collectors. There has also been a series of Philatelic Auctions which have been most popular. It is hoped they will continue in the future.

As usual, our annual visit to The Post Office's parcel sorting office in Manchester took place early in the year. Towards the end of the year, preparations were made for our fourth annual exhibition held at the School Fete, which proved to be even more of a success than last year's, valuable experience having been gained from previous exhibitions.

Once again the Society has been under the guidance of its Chairman D. B. Lister, and has received the valuable encouragement of Mr C. P. Langford.

I would like to thank Messrs I. M. Silver, J. P. W. Hutchinson, R. G. Mee, A. L. Landes and M. S. Davies for their help and support throughout the year.

D. B. L.



## THE ON-GOING COMEDY SITUATION

### The Staff Revue

At the beginning of March 1978, three performances of the second Staff Revue were held at School. Again, as in the first such venture, capacity audiences for three nights were treated to a mixture of amateurish but enthusiastic song and dance, and sketches, both borrowed and original. As might be expected some of the humour was more readily appreciated by boys in the audience, but the mass appeal of take-offs of 'Nationwide' and 'Blue Peter' meant they were among the most popular items. Other high spots were Mr Fisher's sermon, 'Esau was an hairy man' and Mr Peek's musical spot. Here he was faced by an audience seemingly stricken by paralysis of the tongue when it came to joining in with a chorus. Mr Shaw in his rôle as an Old Trafford football supporter seemed not to be acting at all, a perfect example of type-casting, while Messrs Knight and Crane seemed equally at home as co-presenters of 'Blue Peter'.

The enthusiasm of the staff was a major factor in the show's success and it spread to the audience who saved their greatest applause for the entrance of Mr Peek in the guise of the Head of the Junior School complete with bicycle and gauntlets. All too often the finale of a show is disappointing, but here was the exception. Incidentally, nearly £430 was raised towards the cost of the new minibuses, but such an excuse is hardly needed.

### STAGE STAFF

This year was the busiest ever for the Stage Staff. The first task was to prepare what was a fairly simple set for the school play, *The Physicists*. However, three identical door flats had to be constructed. To do this we tried our new concept of using sheets of thick cardboard reinforced with wooden struts. This involved much painstaking work including one last minute session which lasted late into the evening.

Two months later in February, Miss Green staged the School's first musical for many years — *Carrots*. The Stage Staff set about the mammoth task of heaving all the available platforms onto the stage to simulate different rooftop levels. The apron stage was erected in front of the main stage for the numerous other scenes. We were required to perform complicated scene changes quickly and in pitch darkness so as not to spoil the flow of the play. (This was especially difficult because every time I turned round some member of the junior school had run off with the cue sheet!)

A week later the stage was 'out of bounds' for us during the Staff Review. Needless to say the Staff were in our opinion unable to cope with the complexities of stagework!

Because of the busy programme the House Play competition was postponed a fortnight. Thankfully the sets required were not ambitious but the flats needed considerable redecoration. Many lessons were missed and much paint was spilt on the floor!

Next came the unenviable task of clearing out the storeroom for props, scenery and furniture (and the general dumping ground for broken chairs etc.) which is called 'the tunnel'. Everywhere was covered in a thick layer of dust, making breathing unpleasant. Dust mask were provided however, and the Stage Staff 'boldly went where no man had gone before'. They trudged back and forth with unbelievable quantities of aged rubbish which was placed in huge waste-disposal containers and then retired to rest in heaps beside the drink machines.

It was noticeable how the membership fluctuated during the year. Two weeks before a performance, when most of the work needed doing people found other commitments, such as lacrosse practices. Certain members found it vital to tidy the Curtain Stores on days when heavy platforms needed lifting. Not surprisingly, when helpers were needed during normal lesson time, there were always plenty of willing volunteers.

Our thanks go to Messrs Grant, Furniss and Bennett for their help and advice. Mention must also be made of the invaluable contributions made by W. Nolan (Sound Effects), S. T. G. Smith and D. Barnes (Lighting) during this busy year.

G. P. G.



# ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## Fireworks

The bright glowing clusters explode  
into bloom, leaving many shrivelled  
petals.

Whoosh, crackle, bang, the paper  
seed germinates, grasping for the  
stars, then its dull light thrusts  
out seeds that sink into jet black  
soil.

The rocket bides its time, waiting  
for its moment of glory when it will  
show its dormant colours with relish.  
Kitch, kitch goes the banger jumping  
erratically; whoosh, fizzle, bang,  
whizzz goes a leaping torso of a  
rocket.

Fuuuuuush goes a Catherine wheel,  
blazing its big blue blush of  
colour.

A weary whistler wails its weeping  
lament for it cannot reach the  
eternal Roman Candles in the sky.

The ground is washed waterfalls,  
wept tears of gold; these go dull  
and lose their precious colour.

Whizz zzz zzz zzz go the Helicopters  
patrolling the sky with keen eager  
eyes, as if they were vultures  
sucking the bright burning blood  
from burnt bodies.

A. Harris, 2A

## Late Home

As I hurry home I know that I'm late,  
'Back by six-thirty!' but now it is eight.  
As the sun sinks down slowly it gives a faint glow.  
Oh where did the time go, yes where did it go?  
Far in the distance a clock chimes the hour.  
While the fast-fading sun sinks lower and lower.  
It seems that I left home only minutes ago.  
Playing and laughing with friends down the road.  
It seemed that we played for minutes not hours,  
Down by the brook near banks of May flowers.  
It wasn't so long when we played near the mill;  
It seemed only minutes when we climbed the hill.  
It's not very far now, oh what will they do?  
Will they chastise me or perhaps worry too?  
I enter my garden and close the small gate.  
Oh what will they do as I'm nearly two hours late?

M. Artley, 2A



## A Country Lane

Signs of summer showing  
As spring starts its yearly sojourn.  
A farm truck full of fine fresh milk in metal milk churns  
Rattles raucously down a rural lane.

From the hawthorn hedges lining the lane  
Comes the sound of a solitary songthrush  
Singing its song of sorrow:  
'Sherp Shwerp', 'Shwarp Sharp'.

The lane winds its way around the countryside,  
Unaware, perhaps, of the wonder of wildlife surrounding it.

'Awk! Awk! Arrk! Arrk! Awk! Arrk!'  
A raven calls out of the dense dark woodland by the lane:  
Who knows which creatures live  
In that green blanket of trees by the lane?

From the distant fields beyond the wood  
You can hear a tractor purring contentedly  
Around a furrowed field,  
Sowing seeds of barley, wheat or rye.

The rural sky becomes red-orange  
As the sun sets on the horizon:  
In the distant fields the tractor continues to purr,  
As it continues its task.

'Awk! Awk! Arrk! Arrk! Awk! Arrk!'  
A raven relishes the beautiful sight of sunset:  
A fine finale to a fine day.

S. D. Shnyder, 2A

## Canoeing at Night

As I slithered into the canoe,  
The water was as silent as the sky.  
I paddled softly into the mild currents,  
So as to gather speed more easily.  
I accelerated through the water,  
With a speed that made my hair blow back,  
Until the currents drove me towards the bank.  
There the river moved more slowly and I relaxed  
To admire the peaceful sparkles in the sky,  
Which the ripples of the waters reflected back.  
The peaceful waters made me feel lonely,  
And I stared for some time to look at the full moon.  
I paddled, just skimming the surface,  
With easy strokes which hardly moved the reflections.  
I paddled on,  
In silence,  
In peacefulness.

D. M. Jones, 4L



## Bonfire Night

Zoom! Rockets soar upwards then crump and cascade,  
Coloured lights tumble downwards like stars disarrayed,  
Catherine wheels spin crazily, showering sparks with high  
pitched whee,  
Roman-candles sizzle, mingling with children's glee.

Phut! Phut! go the others throwing out balls of light,  
Before exploding with a bang in the night.  
Some spin crazily, screaming and wailing,  
Others just stand there, their colours constantly changing.

Guy Fawkes grumbles as his supports begin to creak,  
Charred and blackened by the snap snap of flames.  
Scorched and dismembered he crashes right down;  
Soon, only ashes remain.

People's faces that once were aglow,  
Now appear normal again:  
With tired children they begin to depart,  
While others rekindle Guy Fawkes' remains.

D. A. Thorley, 2A

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# HOUSE LETTERS

## BYROM HOUSE

### *Michaelmas Term*

The following appointments were made at the beginning of term:

Head of House: A. J. C. Sidebotham.

Deputy Head of House: D. G. Richards.

Captain of House Rugby: D. G. Richards.

Captain of House League Rugby: P. J. Needs.

With so many players in the senior squad, the House team was not thought to be strong. Several players tried hard but results overall were disappointing.

It was in the Knock-outs, however, that we really excelled. The Seniors beat Whitworth convincingly and then faced a strong Fraser side in the final. Thanks to superb performances from S. Brown, P. Keddie and notably, D. Watmough, we won 20-14.

The Juniors were just as strong and, under the vigorous and demanding captaincy of P. R. Hunt, won their way through to the final. However, we did not play as well as we could and, disappointingly, failed to capture our second trophy of the term.

The following members of the House played for School teams:

Senior Squad—D. G. Richards, D. Watmough, A. J. C. Sidebotham, P. Keddie, S. Brown, A. W. Smith, M. R. Hawkins, C. S. Rogerson, A. Johnson, S. R. Cooper and A. W. Dowdall.

U.15 XV—P. R. Hunt, C. P. Robinson, J. P. P. Hill, A. P. Booth, I. M. Powell, T. Smith.

U.14 XV—P. S. Emmott, N. R. Hatton, M. W. Harrison, L. White.

### *Lent Term*

At the beginning of term, D. G. Richards was appointed Deputy Head of School.

Captain of House Lacrosse: D. G. Richards.

Captain of Cross Country: S. R. Cooper.

Captain of Swimming: S. R. Cooper.

Producer of House Play: C. S. Rogerson.

Our congratulations go to P. Keddie who was selected for Lancashire U.16's against Yorkshire U.16's.

We were unlucky in that House Lacrosse in 1979 was virtually non-existent. At league level, we were strong and in the two matches the Seniors played they showed enough promise to indicate that we could have possibly won the competition.

In the Knock-outs the Seniors were unlucky in drawing a phenomenally strong Fraser side and we duly lost. The Juniors were thought to have a good side, but too many mistakes in defence meant that Dalton went through to the next round.

It was the swimming competition and the replays where we found real success. Led by S. R. Cooper, we captured both these trophies.

*The Man in the Bowler Hat* was our entry for the House Play competition. The audience and, perhaps more importantly, all those who took part seemed to enjoy the play and credit must go to C. S. Rogerson for both his performance and production.

We performed well, yet again, in the House Music competition and were unlucky to come second.



### *Mid summer Term*

S. R. Cooper, C. S. Rogerson and A. W. Dowdall were appointed School Prefects.

In the Senior Knock-outs, we were somewhat short of cricketers and lost to Fraser.

In the Juniors, however, we reached the final. We beat Dalton on the way to the final, with notable performances from the captain, I. M. Powell, S. J. Barratt, and the enthusiastic Hytner. But the Whitworth bowling proved too good for us and we succumbed rather weakly in the end. On Sports Day, we came second, again, to Fraser and were left ruefully to ponder the fact that had we gained as many standard points, we would have won another trophy. Notable performances came from C. S. Rogerson, and D. Watmough and A. W. Smith, who both won their respective individual trophies.

Finally, we wish success to all those members of the House who are leaving and welcome all those who are joining us. The House has enough talent to do well in future years and there are enough enthusiastic members to ensure that the full potential is realised.

D. G. R.

My thanks go to A. J. C. Sidebotham, who has been a good Head of House and also to his deputy, D. G. Richards. They have not always had the support they deserved at Senior level and this year a great deal has depended on their competence. They have carried that responsibility well.

A. M. B.

### DALTON HOUSE

Head of House: D. A. Hanley, D. C. Loynes.

School Prefects: S. Chantler, J. W. Reed.

House Prefects: D. J. Barnes, D. N. Fox, J. Gould, A. Keddy, P. J. Latham, G. L. Lowe, A. H. P. Morton-Smith, H. S. Roffey, D. R. Tracey.

### *Michaelmas Term*

The Michaelmas Term had as its main success the winning of the Junior Rugby Knockout. Though only the captain, M. L. Wilson, and D. M. Bretnall were members of the School Under-15 team, they were very well supported by others in the fourth year, notably N. A. Hoskinson and A. P. Denham in the forwards and S. J. Smith and D. I. Howarth in the backs. In addition the School Under-14 team players, R. D. Hardern, S. P. Rutter and, particularly, P. A. Knight all took major responsible parts in a way which did great credit to 3rd year members, and the victory in the final against Byrom, unexpected by many people, was one of the House's great successes of recent years. The Senior Knockout team was less successful; only D. C. Loynes (School 1st XV Captain), A. Keddy and M. Etchells represented the School senior teams, and the House league side provided the bulk of a side which, though holding the very strong Fraser team for a long time, eventually gave way under pressure in the second half. Against league opposition, however, the side was very strong and was well supported by the House second XV and the 3rd and 4th year sides in a determined challenge for the league championship, but the necessity of playing on one day with a depleted side against the strongest opposition robbed us of a second successive victory in this competition.

The other main contributions to School activities in the Lent Term were the selection of G. L. Lowe and A. M. Zaidi to take part in the School's first entry in Schools Challenge and the return of G. L. Lowe to a major rôle in the School Play, in which he gave a most entertaining portrayal of the calculating mad Sir Isaac Newton in *The Physicists*.

### *Lent Term*

The Junior Knockout team repeated their success in the Lent Term in an even more spectacular way. With only one School Under-15 X player in R. M. Phillips (who captained the House team) and only S. P. Rutter playing regularly for the Under-14 team, it needed an outstanding



team performance to gain successful results. J. A. Lord was very successful in attack, and R. D. Hardern, A. P. Denham and P. A. Knight formed a very vigorous and hard defence, but all the players played to the very best of their ability, particularly in the final against Fraser where the final score of 13-4 was far beyond the best anyone expected. The Senior team hoped for good results, with a fair nucleus of School team players (D. J. Barnes [1st X], M. A. Etchells, A. Keddy and P. J. Latham [2nd X]), but they could not match Whitworth on a day of driving rain and terrible conditions underfoot, and would certainly have found it difficult, as would any House team within living memory, to compete in realistic terms with the remarkable Fraser side. House lacrosse, as in the previous season, mostly fell victim to the winter weather.

This year's House play was *The Bespoke Overcoat* by Wolf Mankowitz in a production by D. B. Lister, which had much of interest, particularly the performances of D. S. Menashé as Morry and A. M. Zaidi as Fender. They were well supported by A. J. L. Tullock and P. Wright, and the presence on stage of Brandy the dog also raised the event from the normal course. Ultimately, however, the play proved rather too difficult for both players and audience and the judges did not look on it with much favour. A lot of work by a few people has certainly produced scanty rewards in this competition in recent years, but there can be no doubt that all the productions have had points of real merit; perhaps the actual formula which wins the competition may be found again soon. The House's entry in the House Music Competition was commended particularly for its trumpet and recorder playing and its use, for the first time, of a continuity, and the position of third was the best for some years.

### *Mid summer Term*

The success of the Summer Term in recent years has been the annual winning of the Senior Cricket Knockout, such a regular event that it has become almost a tradition! A strong Senior side including J. H. Allen, A. P. Laker, G. H. Morrison, J. L. Patton, G. L. Robinson and I. M. Wood of the School's 1st and 2nd XI squad, held high hopes of yet another success and these seemed well-founded when a total in excess of 180 was recorded in the first round; unfortunately for us, however, this was reached by Whitworth in what must be one of the highest-scoring knockout games ever played at the School. The Junior team was unable to repeat its success at Rugby and Lacrosse, and though D. M. Bretnall and S. P. Rutter bowled well, Byrom accumulated just too many runs for our rather meagre batting. In the Athletic Sports many more standards points were achieved than in previous years under the organisation of Mr H. M. Symonds, but only a few outstanding individual performances, notably by P. A. Knight in the Junior Sprints, gained points on Sports Day, and as in the House Road Relay, good efforts by Junior members were not well enough supported by their senior colleagues.

C. P. L.

## FRASER HOUSE

### *Michaelmas Term*

At the beginning of the School year the following appointments were made:

Head of House: M. Sandy.

School Prefects: R. Cox, H. S. Davies, J. M. Boyle, K. J. Wadsworth.

Captain of House Rugby: K. J. Wadsworth.

Captain of League Rugby: J. Odum.

Captain of Cross Country: R. M. Wadsworth.

Head of Drama: B. Kumeta.

Generally the House played as one would expect in the League, and perhaps our abundance of squad players reduced our overall performance, although the Under-14 XV had a good Term. The Senior Knockout team played extremely well, defeating both Dalton and Heywood before they were eventually defeated, in an exciting game, by very strong Byrom team. The Juniors fared less



well, losing to Dalton in the second round after showing much promise against Gaskell in the first round.

The Road Relay competition again showed Fraser's strength in sport. The winning team included R. M. Wadsworth, R. J. Furniss, A. J. Padkin and A. J. Steeples.

The following boys represented the House in School Teams:

1st XV—R. Cox, H. S. Davies, K. J. and R. M. Wadsworth.

2nd XV—A. J. Padkin, A. J. Steeples, M. Brown.

U-15 XV—R. P. Thornton, I. G. Macmillan, A. P. Tatham, P. O. Winterbottom.

U-14 XV—D. Hurst, J. Hogg.

At the end of Term the House was pleased to hear that D. M. Heaton had gained a place at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, to read law.

### *Lent Term*

Captain of House Lacrosse: H. S. Davies.

Captain of League Lacrosse: M. P. Evans.

Captain of Swimming: R. M. Wadsworth.

Head of House Music: S. Mee.

Appalling weather dominated this Term, preventing many League matches. Overall the House played well considering that there was little time to achieve our normal high standard. The Senior Knockout team showed their skills in both of their games, defeating Heywood in the second round and Whitworth in a thrilling final. The Juniors, lacking the strength of the Seniors, were defeated by a strong Dalton side.

During this Term the Swimming competition took place and the House gained a creditable second place, aided by the good organisation of R. M. Wadsworth.

The House Play this year was a comedy, *Come What May*, produced by B. Kumeta. As usual its huge success was a result of a tremendous amount of rehearsal time. It seems that with such young, competent actors as J. Hogg, A. N. Pritchard and A. Kennedy, aided by the old timers M. Sandy and I. Helsby, Fraser has an unbeatable team.

This year a well-practised House finished first in the House Music competition. S. Mee organised some excellent groups, among which was a barber-shop trio, whose members, J. Kettlewell, J. R. Heaton and K. Price, sang the best piece of music in the competition.

The following boys represented the House on School Teams:

1st X—M. Sandy, R. Cox, H. S. Davies, K. J. and R. M. Wadsworth.

2nd X—B. Kumeta, A. J. Padkin.

U.15 XII—R. P. Thornton, I. C. Macmillan, P. D. Winterbottom.

U.14 XII—D. Hurst.

### *Mid summer Term*

Captain of Knockout Cricket: H. S. Davies.

Captain of Athletics: R. M. Wadsworth.

Cricket rarely seems to suit the temperament of the House and this year was no exception. The Senior Knockout team defeated Byrom only to collapse against a good Gaskell team. Similarly the Juniors beat Gaskell but lost to Whitworth.

Athletics, on the other hand, is much more a Fraser sport and having amassed a large number of standards, owing in no small part to Mr Grange's enthusiasm and his dinner-time practices, we won easily on Sports Day.



At the end of Term, during 'A' Levels, R. M. Wadsworth, A. J. Padkin and J. R. Heaton were appointed temporary School Prefects.

The following boys represented the House on School Teams:

1st XI—J. M. Boyle, H. S. Davies, R. P. Thornton.

2nd XI—J. Odum.

U.15 XI—I. G. Macmillan.

The House learnt, with deep regret, of the death of Mr F. J. Smith, who from 1954 to 1972 was House Master of Fraser. I am sure that he will be remembered by the House in his rôle of the Father of the House, especially by the House games teams, which he regularly supported from the touch-line. His encouragement to the House will be sorely missed. The House feels that it was a great honour to have had such a man associated with it.

J. R. H.

## GASKELL HOUSE

### *Michaelmas Term*

The following appointments were made at the beginning of term:

Head of House: N. R. Pond.

Deputy Head of House: O. C. D. Cooper.

School Prefects: N. R. Pond, S. J. Keeling, O. C. D. Cooper.

House Prefects: S. J. Malcolm, S. D. Carter, R. C. Dodds, J. Horwich, J. H. Shaw, C. M. Thorpe, M. Bamber, S. Mann, M. S. Arron, D. B. Wright.

Captains of House Rugby Teams: 1st Team—S. J. Keeling; 2nd Team—N. A. Hepworth, 4th Year—N. Roberts; 3rd Year—I. C. Thompson.

Both the 1st and 2nd House Rugby Teams enjoyed one of their most successful seasons for many years. The 1st Team conceded only one defeat, whilst the 2nd Team remained undefeated throughout. The secret of success here can be attributed to the wonderful spirit within the teams rather than to the individual flair that we saw in some of the other house teams.

Gaskell 1st Team ended the term having scored 174 points with only 7 against—this, in spite of close competition from both Dalton and Whitworth. Thus Gaskell ended victorious and were duly presented with the House Rugby Trophy at the end of Term.

Gaskell were unable to repeat their League success in the Knock-out, when meeting the cream of Whitworth in the first round. It was a keenly contested game but Whitworth came out worthy winners, having the upper hand with superior backs.

The Junior side were beaten by a very strong Byrom side as was expected, but not without a good hard battle that was encouraged by their coach, D. B. Wright, who shouted himself hoarse on the touchlines.

Other activities begun this Term and continued throughout the year have been well supported by House members. Snorkel Diving, Canoeing and Shooting Clubs were formed and we hope to encourage more members in the coming year.

We were also fortunate enough to be able to use the ski slope and an instructor provided by Ellis Brigham. Hence a very enjoyable weekly course took place over a period of eight weeks and the participants gained an immense amount of experience from some very good instruction. A few bruises, maybe, but they were soon forgotten.

'Gaskell Gossip', the House News Sheet, came into being at the start of the year and we have now had four editions. It seems to be very popular with all House members. Now that R. Silver and A. J. Surkes have taken over the production of the paper we look forward to seeing their efforts published in the coming months. I am sure that they will make a very good job of it, especially if they are well supported with articles from within the House.



### *Lent Term*

Upon N. R. Pond's departure to University, S. J. Keeling took over as Head of House.

Captain of Lacrosse: O. C. D. Cooper.

Captains of House Teams: 1st Team—D. A. Bishop; 2nd Team—S. D. Carter; 4th Year—N. Roberts; 3rd Year—I. C. Thompson.

Owing to frightful weather our Lacrosse season was a washout, and the House League was a no contest. However, the few games that were played have given me an eager optimism for the future. I am sure that we will be a force to contend with.

Gaskell's contribution to the House Play Competition deserves a special mention this year. The House undertook the very difficult and challenging task of not only producing, but also writing their own play. Work began in October when an idea of D. Hartshorne's formed the basis of the play *Blackout*. The story was that of a blind student and the problems he faced. Needless to say this leading part was very demanding and Hartshorne's performance was really outstanding. *Blackout* involved a large cast for a House play, and J. Q. Killip, M. Crowther, C. J. Greaves, H. B. Parker, B. J. Rosenberg, N. D. Binns and H. N. George who took the individual parts, all acted well and helped make the play a success. N. D. Greaves and his assistant N. A. Hepworth deserve every congratulation for their production of this play which gained a well earned second place for Gaskell in the Competition. Many others helped with lighting, props and publicity, and they too contributed to what was a praiseworthy and satisfying event.

The Gaskell performance in the House Music Competition was rather disappointing and we achieved only fourth position. This was not for the lack of individual talent and over all effort, but possibly came about because of a disjointed programme. There were outstanding performances by some individuals, and with a little more thought this coming year we will rectify the problems of presentation and, we hope, emerge as worthy victors.

A mention at this point for the House Cross Country—Road Relay Competition which was won by Fraser, with Gaskell coming in a very close third. This was a good performance considering we were unfortunate in having two of our main runners absent owing to illness. A special mention, however, for C. J. Greaves and P. Cotterill who both turned in particularly good performances.

### *Mid summer Term*

Captain of Cricket: D. B. Wright.

I am sure that one of the most thrilling finals of the Cricket Knockout Competition was seen at School this year when Gaskell defeated Whitworth with the final ball of the match and with their last man in. To say that it was anyone's game is an understatement. Two House Masters on tenterhooks and a Second Master, I hope rooting for his old House, were the leaders of the supporting cast. This was a thrilling game, much enjoyed by all the spectators and, without a doubt, by all the participants. Once again—well done, Gaskell!

J. F. C.

## HEYWOOD HOUSE

### *Michaelmas Term*

At the beginning of the year the following appointments were made:

Head of House: G. H. Mills.

Deputy Head: P. A. Rainford.

School Prefects: P. A. Rainford, J. Holden, G. H. Mills.

House Prefects: M. J. P. Jeffries, M. A. L. Baines, A. R. Baines, J. P. Marland, P. A. Tittle, P. A. Barron.

Captain of House Rugby: G. H. Mills.