

CARRY ON REGARDLESS

Tongue Twisters and Crumb Trays

Mr F Sheldrake BSc started as Assistant Master for Physics on 25 April 1944, the beginning of 29 years' service at the school. He was Senior Master when he retired in the summer of 1973.

A Mrs M Tisdall took up duties at the school on the 23rd September 1943 to teach Spoken English for 2 days a week but by the following May had to give up because of ill-health. The Head had difficulties in replacing her but eventually he did find a replacement because Ann (Dixon) and Derek Dawes and Audrey (Douglas) Barnes (all of whom started at the school in 1946) remember: the weekly 'Speech training' lesson from Mrs Letessier, a vast-bosomed lady with beads, and glasses on a chain. She taught us, 'James, James, Morrison, Morrison', etc. and 'The Leith Police dismisseth us', but regretfully, she picked on those with speech defects, made them stand up and repeat tongue twisters. We spoke reasonable BBC English so were in.

Mr C W Sutcliffe was appointed as from the 17th January 1944, in a temporary capacity, to take Handicraft, which finally gave some boys a chance to do Woodwork after a long gap. A short time later the Head was putting his case before the Governors: Mr Sutcliffe, my temporary Handicraft Master, is being paid at the minimum rate of £204 per annum plus 52 war bonus. Mr Sutcliffe is 38 years old and has had experience in engineering and in carrying on an art and craft business of his own. I would recommend that his time spent in industry and in business should be counted as equivalent to teaching service for salary purposes up to the maximum of 5 years, or in so far as he can supply documentary evidence of his experience. I would also recommend that any variations in Mr Sutcliffe's salary payments should date from the commencement of his duties.

Ann Dawes writes: Woodwork with Mr Sutcliffe: Those hopeless at it, i.e. Derek and others who couldn't tell a hammer from a chisel, were sent to sweep out the store-room and in fact, never actually made anything. Ann's brother Richard was lucky enough to finish a beautiful crumb tray in 2G (this will be on display at the school!) Mr Dixon later did Evening Classes at the school with Charlie and found him a delight and very keen to help. He (S.G.D.) was an excellent woodworker, incidentally. Several ladies were doing woodwork with him and achieved excellent results, mainly lamp bases and bookends. (From the Department's Sales Record for the '50s and '60s some pupils were very talented and produced the goods under Mr Sutcliffe's tutelage!)

Owing to the increase in the number of pupils in the school it became necessary to have help in the laboratories: the first lab assistant was Robert A Stevenson who was only 14 years old. He was paid a wage of 15/- per week plus 5/- war bonus. He was in the job from December 1941 to August 15 1942.

Bombed Out or Called Up

Changes in non-teaching staff were as frequent (if not more so) as those with the teaching staff. Many of the school cleaners were affected by bomb damage to their homes and were sometimes forced therefore to move out of the area. Many were at the school for very short periods and then had to be replaced. A lot of the time which they should have been spending cleaning the school had to be

spent cleaning out the shelters after the public had used them.

The Head often referred to the burden of work for the Caretaker in his reports - typically: the caretaker has much increased labour in moving coke (what you burn not drink) from the play ground to the boiler hold. Unfortunately the school's original Caretaker, Mr Dossett was called up to the Forces in July of 1942. He was replaced for three weeks by someone who found he was not strong enough to do the work and was replaced by Mr G T Templeman in August at a wage of £3.10.0. plus 14/- per week war bonus. Assistant caretakers came and went with alarming frequency (at a wage of £2.3.6. plus 14/- per week war bonus). Even as late as May of 1944 one was called up for military service and had to be replaced.

Dinners Under Duress

The situation with those who produced and served the school dinners was even worse, with at least five changes of staff in a term common. As the Head put it, 'We are having considerable difficulties in catering.' The work was difficult not least because the hot dinners sometimes had to be carried to the shelters. Numbers were fluctuating but with a definite tendency to rise. As already mentioned, in the summer of 1941 they had refugees to feed; later they had the pupils of the junior school as well as the increasing numbers of the school's own pupils to feed - all on scarce resources.

The Cook received wages at the County's salary rate of 47/6 a week plus 4/10 bonus. As from November 1941 the school came under the county dinner scheme which meant that dinners were supplied at 2/6 for 5 dinners or 8d for a single dinner.

The School continued to cultivate roughly one acre of ground on the school field and produced vegetables that were used for school dinners in the autumn and well into the spring term each year of the war. Both boys and girls gave freely of their spare time, both in the term time and during the holidays, to work as labour squads.

Equipment Plan Cancelled

In June 1941 the Head announced to the governors further problems: The County Authority has now cancelled the five year plan and Greenford is having a Books, Stationery and Apparatus allowance on the usual per capita basis. The School should be able to manage for the next twelve months, but difficulties may arise in the following year owing to the necessity that we are under of buying more new text books than an established school would require.

ATC, Pygmalion and CEWC

Greenford County School became the headquarters of 'Flight' C of the Ealing Squadron of the Air Training Corps under Captain Ford.

By Christmas of 1943 the Drama Society was underway and gave two performances of Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, the profits from which amounted to £59.10.0 which was put towards the nucleus of the school Dramatic Fund.

Twenty-four members of the school and three members of the Staff attended a conference for four days of the Easter holiday, 1943, which was organised by the Association for Education in Citizenship. The experience was very instructive, and, as a result, one of our boys was asked to broadcast in a transatlantic discussion with American boys and girls. Six more attended another such Conference the following Christmas.

Sharing the Burden. . .

Besides the voluntary work the pupils put into the school garden even in the holiday periods they did a remarkable amount of charitable work. For example, in December 1940, a quantity of clothing was collected and distributed for Greenford people in need via the local clergy. (With the loss of homes and their belongings in the bombing raids many people were destitute.) In the following March a further quantity of clothing was collected at Greenford. Some of this was being used for a very few really necessitous cases that they had in Torquay, and the remainder was turned over for the general use of Ealing evacuees.

In addition to the amount raised for War Weapons Week, the School Savings Group raised £130.10.0 as a special effort in September of '41. In June 1943, the school collected the sum of £1512 during Weeks for Victory Week and two pupils won prizes in the model and toy making competitions. In May 1944, the pupils collected the amount of £876 during 'Salute the Soldiers' Week'.

Because adults were otherwise employed on enterprises to do with the war or civil defence, there was a shortage of labour for the annual Christmas rush at the Post Office. Like children elsewhere, Greenford pupils did their bit. For Christmas 1942 40 Greenford County pupils gave help with the post and the following year about 60 were involved.

The school established a Charities Collection towards which fund pupils and staff subscribed 1d a week. Organisations such as the Red Cross, Ealing Hospital, the War Victims' Relief Fund, the Air Raid Distress Fund, and the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association benefited each term from donations of amounts ranging between £12 and £26 depending on the number of pupils in the school that term. In addition extra amounts were occasionally raised: A party of carol singers raised £5 for the Red Cross Fund — this was earmarked for the children of Greece. An amount of £4.12.4d was collected for the Red Cross when two French plays were presented by the first forms to the School at the end of one term, and this sum was earmarked for French children.

Adopt a Minesweeper

In March 1942 the school adopted a minesweeper *HMS Eastcotes*. The sum of £20 was immediately collected by pupils and staff to buy materials for making articles of clothing for the members of the crew. By the end of that school year the School collected a large number of books and periodicals, a gramophone and records, and other items for the adopted Minesweeper. More money was collected and a large number of people were at work making sea-boot stockings and special gloves for the crew.

Lieutenant Waller, second in command of the *HMS Eastcotes* visited the school and inspired members of the school to even greater efforts collecting books and money and making items to send the crew so that by Christmas of '42 large quantities of knitted comforts, books, sweets, cigarettes, etc. collected by the children made up 71 parcels which were sent to the crew. Members of the crew began corresponding with members of the School. Lieutenant Waller made another visit the following year and spoke to the whole School thus inspiring the pupils to continue to aid the members of the crew in the same way until the war was over.

Pupils Picked a Peck - or Two - of Fruit!

In July 1942 the Head reported: We are to run a Harvest Camp for fruit picking at Tardebigge, near Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, from the 11th July until the 8th August. About 80 boys and girls will be going to the camp. There will be a considerable change of personnel after the first fortnight, and the number of pupils at the camp at one time will average about 50. The average number of Staff will be 5.

And in the Autumn he gave his report on how it went: The Camp was very successful both from the work and the financial point of view, and we have been asked to go again to the same farm next year for a longer period. The main work consisted of soft fruit picking, and 14 tons of fruit, mainly raspberries and blackcurrants, were harvested.

Again the following summer (1943): We hope to run a Harvest Camp for six weeks for fruit picking in Worcestershire. Sixteen members of the Staff and about 130 children will take part in the camp for varying periods over six weeks. This time over 11,000 lbs. of blackcurrants and raspberries and 70 tons of pears were picked.

In 1944 another very successful Harvest Camp was held at Tardebigge involving 91 pupils, 2 ex-pupils, and 14 members of staff over varying periods up to 4 weeks who picked a total of 39,074 lbs. of soft fruit.

Prospect No 2 states: Those who attended the Tardebigge Harvest Camps of 1942 and 1943 will remember Miss Stonebridge's indefatigable energies, and how she and Mr Marshall, by a mixture of 'inspiration' and hard work, turned a scheme burdened at first with considerable financial anxiety into an assured success and one thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In 1947 *Prospect*, the School Magazine, published a letter (dated 11.7.47) the Old Scholars Association had received from F Scott-Warren, Vicar at Tardebigge, which gives some idea of the welcome impact the members of Greenford County School had on this farming community during the war, and the post-war effects of labour shortages:

We shall miss you very badly. I understand that our friends from Swindon will be here, probably this coming week-end. They will be camping at Dust House, for this is the only building left to T and M Dixon (the farm owners). Stoney Lane Farm was sold and Horn's Hall, but I gather that Dixons will be giving up most of their soft fruit and concentrating on pears. Nearly all their fields now have the latter fruit. I shall never forget the happy association with Greenford - it was after your first visit to Tardebigge that I wrote to the Rector of Greenford to say what charming guests you had been.

Please give my affectionate greetings to all old friends. I am afraid that we have been only ships that pass in the night, but the passing has left very pleasant memories - to myself, at any rate.

The Spring 1950 edition of *Prospect* carried the announcement that the Rev. F Scott-Warren had died: The cheery welcome which the Vicar always extended to us as harvest campers was one of the things we looked forward to when returning in successive years, for he made us feel he was genuinely glad we had come again. We were grateful for his very practical hospitality at the Vicarage and many of us enjoyed joining, at his invitation, in the services of the village church on the hill.

GREENFORD BECOMES TWO SCHOOLS

Away From Home

With the German attacks on London embracing Greenford it was essential to evacuate as many as possible from the area, especially the children. On 22nd October 1940 Greenford was included in the evacuation area. On 22nd October a party of 165 children of whom 135 were in attendance at Secondary Schools, left for Torquay where they were received with kindness. That day was remembered later in the 1st edition of *Prospect* (Easter 1947):-

There was the morning of the evacuation, when we listened to our last instructions from the Headmaster as he stood on the platform, complete with overcoat, rucksack and umbrella. Then we drove off in buses, watching the school tower vanish into the fog.

They little knew what was awaiting them when they arrived in Torquay that evening (*Prospect* No 2 in a tribute to Miss Stonebridge):

Human versatility can seldom have been more severely put to the test than during the evacuation of half one's own school with half another school into an already crowded 'reception' school two hundred miles away, especially when it is discovered on the night of arrival that billets have been prepared for infants under five. The memory of that first dismal evening at Torquay will not easily be forgotten by any of that forlorn little company from Greenford who, hungry, tired and cold waited patiently in the dark until slowly, in ones and twos, formalities completed, they were claimed by 'billetors': a few by that time weeping from sheer exhaustion.

Difficulties and heavy responsibilities for the leaders continued: billeting misfits; a multitude of minor mishaps and a few more serious accidents; an epidemic or two; and not least the strain of teaching — and learning — for weeks on end without books of any kind. Yet in the midst of it all the staff found time to organise a social life which made all the difference to many a homesick evacuee and which gave pleasure to all. As Warden of the club house and not infrequently, during the periodic visits of the Headmaster to the Home Portion of the School, in full charge, Miss Stonebridge was a leading spirit in everything — competent, sympathetic, imperturbable.

Almost exactly half the school evacuated to Torquay, and the rest remained in Greenford. This necessitated splitting the staff and was another obstacle to the development of a sense of community as a school. Shortly after the first contingent were settled, the numbers evacuated rose to 145 plus 36 brothers and sisters attending other schools. The evacuated portion of the school was housed in the Audley Park Senior Boys School (and later in West Hill School) in Torquay, Devon and received all possible help from Mr F W Blank the Head Master of that school. A full curriculum except for boys' handicraft was followed that first term.

Billets

Being late comers to the reception areas they were not able to have much choice in the matter of billets, but the large majority of them were satisfactory. However, by December the Head was reporting: Changes have been necessary in a number of billets for various reasons. A minority of billets have proved unsatisfactory, but in hardly any cases have difficulties arisen from lack of kindness on the part of the billetors. New billets are very difficult to find, and each change that takes place involves a good deal of work on the part of the Staff. The general

tendency is in the direction of improvement of billets. On the whole, both billetors and parents are co-operating loyally and making sacrifices to make the best of evacuation.

Alan Rogers (pupil, 1940-1947) writes:

I passed the so-called 'scholarship' in 1940 and was allocated a place in Ealing County School. This was because, as Mr Withrington subsequently told my mother, he thought that I would be better off standing on my own two feet as my brother Jim had become one of Mr Withrington's first batch of students.

But evacuation in the autumn of 1940 allowed me to accompany the school to Torquay and achieve entry to Greenford.

My first experience of Greenford County was a little traumatic. We found ourselves in a school in Barton, which is in the Northern part of Torquay late one afternoon and soon to be hawked around the local housing estate while those in charge desperately tried to get us housed. I remember the oft repeated refusal: they did not want two boys! We found ourselves back at the school: it was night and we both had a good cry. Before the night was out, however, we had been taken in by Miss Ethel Dicks who put us into the box-room of her house where we learnt to share a single bed sleeping top-to-tail. This we did for some ten months during which time we were determined to appear as miserable as possible to our suffering parents.

At the end of the ten months, and largely because Jim seemed to be suffering from malnutrition, our Dad decreed that we should be sent home. For this crime we were suspended from school and we enjoyed a period of six weeks free from school attendance. One day we were walking up Oldfield Lane with our mother and Mr Withrington came up on his bicycle, a solid roadster painted dark green. We found ourselves back at school during the next few days.

Looking back on that period of adventure there are two positive things to say about it. Firstly we learned to fend for ourselves despite our young years: this was possibly a factor which led us to enjoy several years active Youth Hostelling on our bicycles all over the UK between the ages of 13 and 18. Of course this was before the present sex crazed society when all children are at risk from predators.

Another aspect of evacuation was that the school took over a large old house which was called the Club House. Here we enjoyed real fellowship: homework facilities, music-making and supper with mugs of cocoa.

Health

Mention of malnutrition is significant. The staff were constantly concerned for the health of the children but after a few months in Torquay the Head felt that, 'taken over the whole party, there is little doubt that the health of the children has definitely improved. Torquay has a good medical service for its normal requirements, but we have judged it wise to arrange for attention to be given to a large number of simple cases by holding a regular clinic, run by members of the Staff, on School days, at weekends, and during the holidays. At least two-thirds of the pupils are now being immunised against Diphtheria. A good deal of work is necessary in connection with the general health of the children. Miss Stonebridge and Miss

Hornabrook have given their time unstintingly to this work.'

By March 1941, Mr Withrington was still trying to arrange for school dinners for those in Torquay: 'There have been difficulties in the way of getting School dinner facilities for the evacuation party. I am pursuing the matter with the Heads of the local schools, the Director of Education, and His Majesty's Inspectors for the district.

Hillside: The Social Hub of Torquay

That Club House appreciated by Alan and Jim Rogers was considered essential by the authorities. As Mr Withrington put it: 'We have been encouraged to run a Club House and we are in process of obtaining premises and the necessary equipment. Funds are supplied through the Ministry of Health, as a club-house is one of the amenities which help to relieve the billeting problem and to make evacuation a success.

A few months later: The Club House (Hillside) is being regularly used by both Schools, and has been well worth the additional work involved — but he wanted the Governors to sanction expenditure from the Games Account up to a maximum of £10 for recreational facilities that might be required in Torquay.



Hillside

The Trickle Home

The 'both' schools, by the way, were Greenford and Drayton Manor with whom Greenford was evacuated. Pupils and staff from both schools formed a single school in Torquay usually referred to as the Middlesex County School or Green Manor School.

As the bombing raids in Greenford began to ease off the 'trickle' back to Greenford began, necessitating rearrangements of organisation both at Torquay and with the home portion. In December 1941 the Head was concerned that a number of pupils were known to be returning from the evacuable area at Christmas time in spite of all efforts to persuade parents not to take this step. The Head reported to the Governors:

The joint staff at Torquay has worked hard and loyally to keep children in the reception area. I would like to pay a tribute to their spirit of co-operation, and their cheerfulness and integrity in working at something which is continually falling to pieces under them. I am quite sure no one could have done more.

No Cookery or Handicraft

By March of 1941 both at Torquay and Greenford there were some gaps in the full Secondary School curriculum. 'At Torquay no Handicraft is available for the boys, and

they are now doing Gardening when the girls do Needlework. Facilities for Cookery for girls at Torquay are not available, but some of the older girls are getting practice at Cookery by doing cooking for the canteen at the Club House, under the supervision of the Domestic Science Mistress.' (No worries over gender stereotyping, Food Technology, Design and Technology or Textiles at that time!)

Green Manor

In May of 1941 the two heads of Drayton Manor and Greenford County Schools, or Green Manor as the pupils preferred to call it, issued a joint report which gives us some information as to how the school in Torquay was organised:-

The numbers of pupils now at Torquay are:-

	Drayton Manor	Greenford	Totals
1st year	28	52	80
2nd year	22	48	70
3rd year	43	27	70
4th year	26	—	26
	119	127	246

Next term these 80 1st year pupils will be 2nd year and so on. This new 2nd year group could be divided into 2 forms as also could the new 3rd year and 4th year groups. There will be in addition a Form 5 and a Form 6 made up entirely of Drayton Manor pupils. The composition of next year's 1st year group is as yet indefinite, but judging by present tendencies there will be a total of about 30 pupils who may ask to go to Torquay from the Greenford and Drayton Manor entrants. The suggestions submitted are based on the assumption that neither the L.C.C., nor the Devon C.C. will ask us to receive any of their 1st year entrants. There will then be a total of 8 Forms which will be divided for certain subjects. It is assumed that the numbers in the party will be about 220. There is a possibility that a further 30 or 40 pupils will join the Torquay party from another Middlesex evacuated school.

Staffing: The two Headmasters agree that if one is to be given charge of this combination it must be Mr Withrington, with Miss Redman (of Drayton Manor) as senior assistant and second in command. The choice of the staff remaining in Torquay would naturally lie mainly in Mr Withrington's hands, but it is suggested that the following would provide a sound basis for a final selection. It is most desirable that an agreed solution should be found to what is bound to be a matter of anxiety to all concerned.

Required to stay in Torquay:

English	Miss M Redman,
	Miss M L Vale
French	Miss L M Stonebridge,
	Mr L R Glead
German	Mr M L Houston*
Latin	Mrs E E Houston
Mathematics	Mr H G Hobdell
Science	Mr S F Marshall
Art	Mr J C Pollard
Geography	Mr W T Tolley
History	Miss R M Dutton
Physical Training	Miss M Hornabrook
Needlework	Miss E Walker
Music and	Mr L Potts
General Subjects	

*Mr Houston is very likely to be called up. In that case special local arrangements will have to be made.

Several acute problems will arise from merging the two schools, the solutions of which cannot at present be foreseen. Among these problems are:-

- 1 The provision of text books preceded by a decision as to which texts of which school are to be adopted generally.
- 2 The allocation of the cost of these between the two schools.
- 3 The allocation of games expenses and petty cash.
- 4 The decision as to subjects to be prepared for the General School Examination, having in mind the return of all pupils to their own school after the war.

Conclusion: These suggestions are submitted in the hope that they will meet the desires of the Governors. In particular we wish to assure the Governors of our hearty co-operation in bringing about the utmost economy in staffing. The situation with which we are confronted is subject to unforeseen changes and should there be further opportunities for reduction of staff, we shall take the fullest advantage of them, keeping in mind the purpose of supplying the educational needs of our pupils and watching over their general welfare.

Emotional Strain

The Rogers boys were not the only children unhappy in Torquay as the Head reported:-

A girl refused to obey my instructions as to the manner of her return to Greenford from Torquay. She also did her best to disaffect other girls and was a leader in planning their return to Greenford unknown to me. As her general attitude was one of defiance of explicit instructions, she was suspended from 31st October. She was re-admitted on 5th December on condition that she would in future submit to school discipline.

Staff not only had to try to make life tolerable for pupils separated from their families and, like the above, very unhappy, but the Head felt he had to re-assure the parents back in Greenford, as he reported to the Governors: I am proposing to see all the parents of evacuated pupils who care to attend a meeting at Greenford on the 28th March (1941). A meeting held prior to evacuation considerably increased confidence, and I am hoping to maintain confidence by seeing parents both collectively and individually whenever I can.



Buckfast Woods

The Green Manor News-Sheet

We have seen the Torquay school described from the point of view of the Heads and staff but how the pupils viewed it is vividly disclosed by them in a copy of the 3rd edition of *The Green Manor News-Sheet* Produced by the Evacuated Sections of Drayton Manor and Greenford County Schools at Torquay in March 1942:-

As we go to press we are nearly at the end of one of the happiest terms we have had at Torquay. Since the Pantomime we have all worked very hard and the Examinations have shown what we really can do. The

Staff seem satisfied with the results, so we can't have done too badly. If there is little about work in these Sheets it is because Classes are proceeding normally and we are leaving our reports to speak for themselves.

Rambles and Club evenings are being arranged for the Holidays - may all those of us who deserve a short rest, enjoy it thoroughly.



At Berry Pomeroy Castle

Deek's Diary

December 31st: A visit to Exeter which was really well attended, and in spite of thick fog we saw most of the sights of the city. The Mayor greeted us at the Guildhall, and had arranged for a display of the Civic Plate.

January 12th: A Grand Christmas Party. Mc Cullock giving a talk on fairies and M Phypers on minding the baby were the highlights.

January 20th — 23rd: The School Pantomime was produced during this time, and was a huge success, enjoyed by everyone.

January 22nd: Those who were not taking part in the Pantomime enjoyed a visit to the Torquay Museum. By kindness of the Curator special exhibits were put on view for us.

January 29th: The term's first meeting of the Brains Trust. There was a very amusing talk on freckles, about which subject very little was known.

February 3rd: There was a 'Crazy Whist Drive' to-night at the Club, which we all enjoyed.

February 9th: Another meeting of the Brains Trust. The main subject discussed was sex appeal. Nobody seemed to know what it was.

February 18th: A sing-song at the Club to-night, in which Mr Tolley made everyone laugh with his comic songs.

February 23rd: Half-term holiday, with a very exciting Military Whist Drive in the evening. McCulloch and Co. won.

February 24th and 25th: A programme of interesting films presented by Fry's Chocolate people was shown to us.

February 26th: Mrs Peyser gave a very interesting talk on Education under Hitler and afterwards answered innumerable questions.

March 3rd: A mixed games tournament at the Club, with a variety of Games.

March 4th: A Table Tennis Match against the 1120 Squadron of the A T C which resulted in a draw.

March 10th: A reading by the staff and some of the pupils, of the Comedy Thriller *The Busman's Honeymoon* was given at the Club. It was an excellent evening's entertainment.

March 11th: There was a Sing-Song and Dance at the Club, and Shackleford again won the Junior Table Tennis Tournament.

March 9th-14th: The School Warships Week raised 5d short of £250, which was very satisfactory. Thanks are due to Mr Hobbell for the hard work he has put in to raise this excellent sum. Hamlyn won a certificate in a Competition organised by Williams and Deeks.

March 14th: Thanks are also due to Mr Tolley for helping to organise the football match that the Torquay boys played against the Exeter boys. Hamlyn and Ball distinguished themselves in the match, and the school is very proud that they played.



Dittisham Ferry

March 16th: Exams started for all but the Fifth Form who were only just recovering from theirs.

March 18th: There was a Competition Evening at the Club. Mr Hobbell must have turned conjuror to produce all the prizes he did.

March 24th: We were invited to a performance of *Hiawatha* by Audley Park School and were much impressed by the beautiful production. We were glad to be able to contribute a little towards the Torquay Hospital Fund. In the evening a mixed doubles Table Tennis Tournament was held at the Club in aid of the Red Cross.

March 25th: Debate on American and British Films at the Club, in which Homelands Central School were our opponents. Under the competent and genial chairmanship of Mr Pollard, we had a very jolly evening and discussed many things — not always relevant. Refreshments were free.

March 26th: A Military Whist Drive was held, again for the Red Cross. There was a large attendance.

March 26th and 31st: A.T.C. proficiency examinations.

March 31st: A Community Sing-Song, which was very enjoyable.

April 1st: During the day there was the National Savings Competition, which did not turn out to be an April Fool's Joke. It was very amusing.



The prefects

War Savings

Mainly owing to the fertile brain and persistent energy of Mr Hobbell, we are entitled to feel pleased with our efforts this term, and can point with pride to our total of £307.17s.0d. This is £2.17s.10d. per head which is most creditable in these days when pocket money is not easily come by. In Warships Week we invested £249.19s.7d, nearly doubling our objective of £150. The Form Competition was continued and Form VI finished first, but Form IV contributed the highest total. Every week we have had an estimate competition in which those buying a 6d. stamp were entitled to one estimate of the stamps sold during the week.

At the end of term we had a 'man-hunt', open to 'war-savers'. A card with the words 'John Bull' and another with 'Britannia' were circulating in the School, and the winner had to get both of them by challenging. The prize was one third of the stamps in his book.

Once more we must thank the indefatigable Form Agents for gathering our pence regularly and keeping us up to scratch.

The Pantomime

For long weeks, the question, with the pantomime, was, to be or not to be; for we suffered to an unusual degree the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. Indeed we reached the point of wondering whether or no we should take a bare bodkin and end our ridiculous troubles. This actor or that actress would silently steal away. . . and someone else would step into the breach.

We had a troop of fairies who by some mysterious alchemy exercised by Miss Hornabrook became a handful of the sweetest little rosebuds you ever saw. . . Mr Potts sharked up a list of lawless resolute in the guise of the most dissipated crowd of red-nosed coppers ever seen on this or any other stage, and over against them he ranged twenty love-sick maidens fair — and the two posers sang to each other and against each other in the most fetching manner.

It was all done to humiliate Hitler. £20 was raised and handed to the Torquay Warships Week Fund.

Games

Miss Hornabrook reports:

The girls have played several matches this term. Unfortunately we have been beaten each time so far, but considering the short time we have learnt hockey, the team members have played well. We must also take into consideration the small numbers in our school compared with the numbers in the local schools.

Mr Tolley reports:

Again we have been fortunate in having plenty of matches and games with other schools. The results look bad with only one win and one draw in nine matches, but in several cases the odd goal or so decided an even match — although we lost.

The highlight of the season was the fact that in Warships Week two of our boys were chosen to play for Torquay Boys vs Exeter Boys. Both played well in the team which won. Competition for places was exceptionally keen, and we felt honoured that two of our boys should have been chosen.

We all thank Mr Arnold for his unfailing courtesy and help at Windmill Field. He has been our very good friend there, always helpful and understanding, and after the war we shall carry back with us to London many pleasant memories of his kindness, and I have never seen a sports field kept in better trim.

The Club

Every week there has been some interesting function and the Club has become such a home-from-home that we cannot imagine life without it. Entrance fee is 1d. Mrs Houston has won our everlasting thanks for her bargain price refreshments.

The Club will be open some evenings during the holidays for reading, games and other events.



Rose-Hip Gatherers

The Green Manor Allotment Society

Mrs Houston reports:

Half term marked the beginning of the active gardening season. Three Allotments are now under cultivation. Private plotholders number thirty-two, from the landed gentry of Form IV to the Nursery Gardeners of the First Form. The Barton Field is being tilled to the last inch by the small holders, while the veteran gardeners who live on the hill have repeatedly occupied new territory and now cultivate impressive areas. At dawn and dusk they may be seen thoughtfully pacing the acres and during the enforced inactivity of the less productive school hours we believe their thoughts dwell often on the rich promise of the soil.

No fine Monday or Friday has passed without ready volunteers doing yeoman service on the school plot, led generally by Rogers and the other experts. For regular work in their own time bonus shares are being awarded.

A show of produce will be held in the Summer Term; meanwhile Mr Houston has been interested to inspect the plots and has awarded Commendations in three Grades for Spring cultivation.

In the Sales Department, Brussels Sprouts remained productive and profitable far into the Spring, while Savoy and their miraculous properties are becoming better known to a wider public.



The Largest Vegetable Marrows

A copy of the News-sheet survived even though it ended with:

You may like to keep the pictures in this issue, but the other sheets, when finished with, should go for salvage.

Someone obviously ignored the instruction!

Photographs from The Green Manor News-Sheet — No. 3

Mr Marshall

The 21st edition of *Prospect*, the School Magazine, published in the Autumn of 1959 printed the following tribute to Mr S F Marshall, one of the teachers who was at Torquay who died suddenly in 1957:

To say that he was Physics Master at Greenford from 1940 to 1944 is to present a mere fraction of his contribution to the early years of the School. These were the years of the Second World War, of a new school divided by evacuation; and it is at Torquay, particularly at Hillside, the Club-House, or at harvest camps, fruit-picking at Tardebigge, or making music in the Choir and Orchestra, before the Staff included a music specialist, that most of us will remember him.

He is, not irreverently, a caricature in the memory: a burly figure on a bicycle of unique design, a 'cello balanced precariously across his back, a vasculum or camera bouncing at his side, a saddle-bag bulging with music wrapped around a bundle of tools, maps in one pocket, a cookery-book in another, a tent and billy-cans strapped to the carrier — just Mr Marshall going off for a week-end. One felt that only reluctantly had he left behind the piano on which he was no mean exponent.

It was not therefore surprising that such extensive interests in the widest aspects of education should lead him first into educational administration in Cumberland, a district offering unrivalled opportunities for walking and climbing which he loved; and then to Headships in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

This love of the open air, and an energetic devotion to its opportunities which he so successfully communicated to most of us at Torquay, found further expression when, after the War, he was able to take school parties abroad: it was while leading a Ramblers' Association tour in the Bernese Oberland that he died suddenly at Grindelwald Youth Hostel.

STOCK-TAKING

Continuity

Amongst the changes that were brought about by the Education Act of 1944 was that Greenford County was now Greenford County Grammar School. As the War ended and staffing was gradually stabilised over the following year by equalising numbers of men and women and making permanent appointments Mr Withrington produced a report designed to take stock amidst the changes and to set out the school's policies. He began with the comment: Perhaps our greatest difficulty has been the problem of continuity of policy which has faced us owing to the great number of staffing changes we have had.

I include much of this Report as it serves to sum up the accomplishments of the Head himself and shows what was achieved in spite of the conditions brought on by the war. It says a lot for the calibre of the staff and the pupils.

General School Procedure and Discipline

The Place of the Staff: The form is the unit for general school purposes and form teachers are expected to know their forms thoroughly and to be able to give advice on matters raised by the Headmaster or by parents.

Specialist teachers are expected to inform form teachers about progress and difficulties with any pupil, and it is the form teacher's duty to take an appropriate interest and, if necessary, to take action in the matter. There is an opportunity for interchange of information each day at morning break, when the staff meets as a whole — there are other opportunities as the staff meets without distinction of sex whenever possible (the term 'staff' includes Headmaster and Secretary).

The Staff: The staff as a whole is treated as the central organ of government of the school, and the general policy is to encourage the staff to feel that the state of the school at any time is a common responsibility of the whole of the staff. From time to time special matters are referred to small committees of the staff who report their recommendations to the staff as a whole for acceptance, rejection or amendment.

Encouragements and Punishments: General policy is directed towards establishing right personal relations between staff and pupils, and no rigid system of rewards and punishments is laid down. There are two main pieces of machinery which can be used for encouragement — the merit book in which individual pieces of especially good work are recorded, and the reading of lists of those awarded 'special credits' or 'merit mentions' at the end of the term. These lists are drawn up by the staff after discussion at a staff meeting, and are determined by the whole term and examination record of the pupil. We do not publish form orders although we keep a record of them.

The main pieces of machinery for dealing with defaulters are entry in the record book of bad work and conduct, and the placing of pupils on daily report. The first is used for isolated occasions, and the second is a power delegated to form teachers and is used only in cases where several teachers have difficulty with the same child — and where the form teacher judges that putting on daily report will do more good than harm. Placing on daily report involves an interview between Headmaster and parents.

Frequently in special cases, and more particularly after discussion at staff meetings, the Headmaster sees a parent or parents of a pupil and it is the practice to report back the substance of interviews with parents to the staff.

Prefects

There are 18 prefects who are on duty each day in pairs with members of the staff. The prefects hold prefects' meetings and make recommendations through the Headmaster to the staff on matters of discipline, on the appointment of new prefects and on the appointment of Head Boy and Head Girl. They also hold meetings at irregular intervals with the sixth form and with representatives from the upper forms at which matters of general school order and procedure are dealt with.

In the Dining Hall we have a system of Heads of Tables as responsible officers. The Heads of Tables are not prefects.

Houses

There are four Houses, each with boys' and girls' sections: St Andrew's, St David's, St George's and St Patrick's. The House system is used almost entirely for Games; but there is no ban on its use for other purposes. When opportunities occur for other inter-House activities they will be welcomed. Each member of the staff is attached to a House, and there are elected House Captains who conduct most of the business in connection with House Games.

Games Committee: All matters relating to Games and Athletics of both boys and girls are reported to and discussed at a general Games Committee which meets at least once a term and consists of members of the staff, House representatives, Games Captains, and form representatives.

The Library

A prefect is in charge. The rule of the Library is absolute silence. If this rule is broken, the prefect sends the offender to the member of staff in charge who gives appropriate punishment, which includes exclusion from the library for a period. The offender is always made to understand clearly the reason for the silence rule.

Pupils do make suggestions for books they would like to see in the Library and there was a Suggestions Book, but this has recently been withdrawn owing to the impossibility of buying most of the books suggested and to the necessity for building up the reference section. We have added little to our fiction section in recent years; the quality of the paper and the poor binding of books now make them too fragile for hard use and consequently too expensive for us. We rely very largely upon our original selection and upon the Middlesex County Library loan. Pupils frequently give books to the Library — not only when leaving. Sometimes, forms make gifts of books.

With the fines (of 1d a day) and with occasional contributions from the school, magazines and journals are bought for the Library. These are not as many as we could wish, owing to present restrictions.

When the Library was first opened, every borrower kept his book in a paper cover. Shortage of paper forced us to discontinue this practice.

Present approximate number of books — Non-fiction, 1100; Fiction, 500.

Visual Aids: Our only Visual Aid is a Leitz film-strip projector.

Music

The Choral Society, at full strength consists of about 150 members who meet for a weekly practice after school. Each form sends a representative to form a committee to manage routine affairs. It is well supported by members of the Staff, several of whom have excellent voices. In March 1945, a public performance was given of Coleridge-Taylor's *Hiawatha* — *The Wedding Feast*. This was accompanied by the School Orchestra. In December 1945 parts of the *Messiah* were performed at the end of term service. The Society is at present continuing to work at the *Messiah*, and it is hoped that a performance of parts of it may be given at a later date. The Sopranos and Altos lead the singing at Morning Assembly and also provide descants. It is hoped to form a smaller choir to sing in four parts. A smaller choir which sings French and German songs in those languages is trained and conducted by Mr H A Smith.

The Orchestra at present numbers about 15 instruments when at full strength. The present period of weakness is consequent upon a number of senior players having recently left the school. There is a promising number of young string players receiving tuition. It meets for weekly practice and it is well supported by members of the Staff, who play the following instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, Flute and Clarinet. Instrumentalists from among Old Scholars and friends of the School have given their help in the past at concerts.

Violin Classes are given by a visiting teacher. She is also coaching one boy on the Cello. The Junior Orchestra is trained by this teacher. Piano tuition is given by two visiting teachers on Saturday mornings.

Concerts: Apart from the Annual School Concert, occasional recitals are given by visiting artists. Occasional informal recitals are given by members of staff and pupils. Facilities are available in the Music Room and in the room known as the Cell for private or collective Music-making.

Greenford's Own Piano

The School finally acquired its own brand new piano which was a good excuse for a recital — by Margaret Woolf — the first to be given on the new piano followed closely by a second concert and a carol service — all in the autumn of 1946! By March the new music master, Mr A L Smith was directing the Choral and Orchestra Societies in their first post-war Concert.

Discussion Groups

The Literary Society is one of the oldest of the school societies. It meets fortnightly and is governed by a committee of Form representatives with a member of the Staff as chairman. The separate activities of the Society are organised by this committee with the aid of co-opted societies. The attendance varies between 30 and 100, but is generally nearer to the lower figure. The types of activity sponsored by the Literary Society include Talks and Discussions; Debates — full debates, inter-school debates; Spelling, General Knowledge and Literary Bees, and 'Brains Trusts'; Play Readings — by school or by Staff, or by both in conjunction; Mock Council Meetings; Mock Parliaments; 'Anthologies' e.g. on animals, humour, etc.

General Political Discussion Group: Smith (Form 5), Mayhook and Cleave (both 5G) started the Group in the form of a left-wing society. This was changed, however, into a political discussion society, which included all parties — Labour, Conservative, etc. Later it was decided to call it the General Political Discussion Group.

At the first meeting on the 27th November, 1945, Miss Harland was elected Chairman; Stall the Secretary; and Smith, Cleave (Socialists) Cave and H Beveridge (Conservatives) committee members. Early in the New Year (1946) S Meadows joined the committee, therefore making five members in all.

The work of the General Political Discussion Group is to discuss or debate politics of interest to all. Some examples of the subjects discussed at the meetings are: 'That private enterprise is beneficial for commerce'; 'That the result of the General Election was a catastrophe for the British Nation'; 'British and American Strikes'.

World Affairs Discussion Group: This discussion group arose out of the attendance of 5th and 6th formers at conferences in the holidays. It is a small voluntary group and it has during the past year been responsible for activities such as reports and discussions on the Council for Education in World Citizenship's Easter and Christmas conferences; Debates on the Treatment of Post-War Japan and Nationalization of Industry versus Private Enterprise; jointly with the Literary Society — Mock Council Meeting and a Mock Parliament; Inter-school lectures with 5 other Ealing Grammar Schools.

MUSICAL BARGAIN STORES

256b Kingshill Avenue, Hayes, UB4 8BZ
01-845 6582 (Daytime)
01-842 2616 (After Hours)

- Musical Instruments bought, sold and taken in part exchange
- Wednesdays closed all day
- Sundays open 12 noon–1 p.m.

DRAMA AND SPORT — 1946 VINTAGE

The School Play

One full-length play is produced every year — at Christmas. The first production was for two public performances. We have since increased this number and a dress-rehearsal.

So far, we have performed *Pygmalion*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Suggestions for the play to be chosen are usually mooted in the preceding Summer Term. The children begin to way-lay the producer with suggestions or questions about what we are thinking of doing. We sometimes choose plays for the Literary Society readings with the idea of trying their possibilities as a school-play.

The cast is chosen early in the Autumn Term. The producer (a member of staff) asks various pupils to try parts, asks for suggestions from the rest of the staff, particularly the English staff, and also tries anyone who asks to read a part. (Many pupils come at this early stage to offer help in other ways e.g. as stagehands or prompters). When making her final choice, the producer discusses the actors with the children who are present at the 'try-outs'. The producer has an assistant chosen from the pupils. He is present at every rehearsal and is responsible for keeping plans of the stage for the various scenes, for recording the positions of the actors, and for making notes of points to be dealt with in the actors' interpretation of their parts; he acts as general 'odd-job' man throughout the rehearsals and is invaluable as a link between actors and producer.

Rehearsals take place every night, and after half-term, on Saturday mornings. They are frequent, since we aim at as high a standard as possible and the shortness of time between the beginning of rehearsals and the actual performances makes intensive work very necessary. Rehearsals provide much amusement as well as hard work and are carried on in a spirit of friendly co-operation and discussion, e.g. we frequently stop to discuss the character being interpreted and particular interpretations, every member of the cast and onlookers making suggestions or demonstrating. Frequently, pupils not in the cast come in and, after listening, offer comments. So, too, do ex-students. One or two younger pupils, interested in producing in class, ask to come in to see a rehearsal.

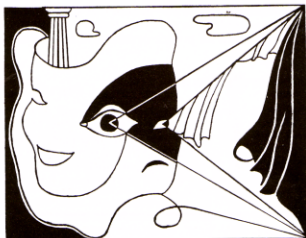
Scene and screen-shifting are done by a group of boys and girls under the supervision of a Master, who acts as stage-manager. The Physics Master is responsible for lighting and he trains a group of Sixth Form boys for this work. The little carpentry we can have at present is done by volunteers working under the supervision of the Woodwork Master. The Art Mistress is responsible for whatever scenery we need and can get. Posters are done by pupils in the school and by an ex-student now at an Art School. Some pupils volunteer as prompters and call-boys and others, working under the supervision of a Master and Mistress, are responsible for the wardrobe. A Master is responsible for the business and financial arrangements and organises the seating in the Hall with the help of 'squads' of middle-school children, and upper school pupils act as stewards. Make-up is done by the Art Mistress, assisted by other members of the Staff. During the actual performances, I think it is true to say that, apart from the making-up, and the immediate supervision of the moving of the heavy screens by the stage-manager, all the essential tasks are performed by the pupils, the Staff concerned being present in case there is an emergency; their work of training has been done beforehand.

In spite of having to improvise with many things and to borrow extensively, we try to make our performances something much more than improvisations and to reach a high standard. The children are conscious of this and are very self-critical at rehearsals. They gain, too, a spirit of co-operation and are really unselfish actors. Proof of their enjoyment, in spite of the hard work, is found in their desire to have some kind of re-union of all concerned in the production some time after the performance.

Proceeds are devoted to building up a fund to provide very necessary stage equipment when it becomes available and to finance future productions. As we do not possess even curtains, there is much to be done. Some of our money has already been spent on improving the lighting; we bought for the last production one spot-light and two 'floods', spending about £30 altogether.

We have some permanent records of the plays in a series of photographs taken mostly at dress-rehearsals by two members of the Staff. This year, a party from a neighbouring Secondary School watched the dress-rehearsal. Neighbouring Grammar Schools send parties to our performances, as we do to theirs.

(Drama productions were directed by Miss Vale, one of the original five members of staff who spent part of the war years in Torquay until she left in the summer of 1946 to go back to Devon to take up a Headship. Miss Hornabrook was to leave to join her in Plymouth the following Christmas.)



When they were not themselves performing, as in *Twelfth Night*, the pupils and staff finally had a chance to arrange theatre trips which were to be a regular feature of the School's life to the present day and they took advantage of it and were off to see Ralph Richardson as the housekeeper in Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist* at the New Theatre Old Vic Company, and as Bergerac in the Old Vic production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*; and Edith Evans as Cleopatra in *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Piccadilly Theatre. Even Mr Withrington accompanied them to *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* performed by the London School Players of London University.

When they were not on theatre trips Mr Johnson had them at exhibitions such as the Royal Institute of British Architects Exhibition of Swiss Architecture; the Art Exhibition at Burlington House; or the Exhibition about British design, *Britain Can Make It* at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Junior Plays

In the Spring Term of 1944, *Kings of Nomania*, a fantasy-morality, was produced as a Junior play. The cast was between twenty and thirty and was drawn from first and second forms.

The 'setting' was non-realistic, and two 'heralds' explained the primitive furniture which represented alternately a street, a palace, a prison, and so on — this, and some of the 'effects' was in the manner of such Chinese plays as *Lady Precious Stream*. The stage manager and his assistants were juniors, but the lighting, very simple, was arranged by the Physics master and carried out by the Science Sixth. The producer, a member of the Staff, has considerable help from other members of staff in costume 'adapting', make-up, and in training off-stage singers for the carols which added greatly to the effect.

The performance was characterised by naturalness and enjoyment of the actors rather than 'polish', and was rather under-rehearsed, but there were some surprisingly good performances, and the general theme came out fairly well.

In the Summer of 1945, Form 2G gave the Fairy and Bottom scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The producer chose this form, rather than casting from the whole junior school, because she was teaching them regularly and it made rehearsals much less difficult. They were reading the play in class at the time and that was a great advantage, both ways.

All the fairies were played by girls, including Oberon and Puck, and the workmen by boys. The form provided the stage manager and his assistants, and with branches of trees (willows chiefly) tied on to the backs of chairs, and a pile of boxes covered with green curtains, we made a bower for Titania.

The enthusiasm of the whole form (every one had something to do) was enormous, and the school seemed to enjoy the production. It suffered from lack of rehearsal in the actual costumes, and to an audience, especially in that the children tended to speak too quickly in their excitement. The 'play-scene' was really very good, as by then they had really begun to play to the audience.

The Sporting Spirit

The Literary Society was debating such topics as 'Co-education, as experienced at this school, is the ideal form of education,' and they felt that the Staff should have been pleased at the overwhelming support for the education system of the school; and 'The practice of paying to see games played by people paid to play them, is a deterrent to the traditional sporting spirit of England, and in every way to be deplored.' The motion suffered heavy defeat, despite the strong defence of Miss Harland and Roy Knight.

Association Football

The football in the school makes demands upon the energy and the potential organising ability of the boys themselves. From the election of officials by the school Sports Committee to the final playing of Practice, House and School matches, all activities are contributed to and organised by the boys under the supervision of a member of the Staff.

This involves the selection of practice and representative teams for the school and the refereeing of practice games; the organisation of all House football; the arrangement and confirmation of School matches; constant Field Work including the maintenance of the marking out of

two school pitches and the erection and removal of goal posts each season: this is a larger task than it appears to be; the care of equipment and preparation for its use in all school games — it is generally necessary to blow up twelve to fifteen footballs each week. With the present short supply and execrable quality of bladders and laces, this is a formidable task.

Four school teams play on Saturday mornings: 1st XI, 2nd XI, Under 14 XI, and Under 13 XI. Matches with schools of comparable age range includes regular home and away fixtures with Drayton Manor, Ealing, Southall, Acton, Wembley, Preston Manor, Kingsbury and Pinner Secondary Grammar Schools, Southall Technical College and Ealing Modern School. The results of these matches are recorded in an annual report to the Sports Committee.

(Mr Hayter, who helped so much in the organisation of the football was to leave in 1947 to become an HMI.)

School Athletics and Cross Country

During the past eighteen months very strong efforts have been made, under the adverse conditions resulting from War (such as tracks not being available, etc.) to build up a strong Athletic and Cross Country section.

(A short time later the Cross Country Team came 1st over 9 other schools in a race over 3 1/2 miles in Petersham, Surrey with Ellis coming 1st.)

Apart from school cross-country activities a local track has been planned and mapped and has been used for official inter-school challenges, as well as a number of unofficial competitions. The inter-school competition was over 7 miles — three schools competed and it resulted in a win for Greenford County School on points. A second competition took place at Pinner County School in which four schools competed. In this competition Greenford was third on points.

The school is affiliated to the Middlesex Secondary Grammar Schools Athletic Association and normally enters for all competitions arranged by this Association; but owing to the War only unofficial activities have taken place. Apart from School Athletics day, an inter-school triangular match took place last year between this school, Bishopshalt and Southall County at Bishopshalt. This year plans are afoot for an inter-school competition on a group basis with a finals meeting at the White City.

And Purely For Pleasure

Under the very able leadership of Mr James, and his successor, Mr Woods, the dance committee successfully organised several popular dances. Probably much of the success of the more recent dances has been due to the excellent performance of Kenny Raymond and his music, and the support of the M.C., S. Shindler.

The refreshments have been in the form of an American supper. At the last dance, by the way, there were a few ices, although, unfortunately, there were not enough to go round. (Such luxuries in these post-war rationed years would not have lasted long!)

Perhaps the dance which drew most people to the floor was the 'Hokey-Cokey', as this can be mastered by most people. The old-fashioned dances, too (particularly the polka) seemed to be popular with the majority. (So the Hokey-Cokey was modern then!)

'We held two dances in the Winter Term, at half-term and Christmas, and it was hoped that we should do the same in the Spring Term. To the great disappointment of the 4th, 5th and 6th Forms, it was impossible to hold a dance at mid-Term owing to the fuel shortage, but we appreciated and enjoyed the next dance at the end of term even more.'

RETURNING TO NORMALITY

Scientific Enquiry

The immediate post-war years saw an increase in extra-curricular activities. The first Field Study journey was undertaken to the Isle of Wight by the U6th Biologists and L6th Geographers and an account of it was given in the school magazine:

Until last Easter it had never been possible for the Scientists of the School to do field work outside the Home Counties, but at last the opportunity has been afforded them. Mr James, having made the preliminary arrangements, took a party of Upper Sixth Biologists and some Lower Sixth Geographers to Sandown, Isle of Wight.

We toured the island by coach and were shown the conventional sights and heard again the tales of King Charles and others. During a short search for fossils at Totthill Bay, we were nearly fossilised ourselves in the local alluvium. The day ended with a substantial tea at Blackgang Chine.

Although the next few days were very interesting to us as scientists, a description of them would be very like a catalogue of British marine flora and fauna. Our collections were made mainly at Bembridge, but we did a little field work at Shanklin. Over-powered by the fever of collection, we sometimes ventured (literally) out of our depth, while our gumboots filled with water. We noted with interest the presence of fossil piddocks and living specimens in the same rock. To us, they were so alike as to be indistinguishable, despite the aeons separating their lives.

The active, open-air life naturally made us hungry, and we supplemented our regular meals with buns and cakes, the like of which we had not seen since before the war. Our hotel meals were of good quality and were followed by coffee (Black or white?). If this seems commonplace, let us assure you that you err, for the selection of coffee was a mystic rite which we never quite fathomed.

Picture the scene in a typical room. In a single bed rests 'St-ww-l', feet protruding: in the double bed 'G-d-d-d' enjoys his (beauty) sleep while 'Sh-dl-r' plans his morning bloodletting. The wall, hand-basin and towels are spattered with gore; bedclothes are draped on the floor; muddy boots decorate the fireplace; and various oddments — walking-sticks, bottles, dissecting instruments adorn mantelpiece, dressing table and other convenient spots. But fear not! All is 'ship-shape' when Authority makes its tour of inspection.

... And so we say farewell to this wonderful island, this paradise set in an azure sea' (well, grey-green perhaps!) and back to the humdrum, grey world of London. The collections are deposited in the Lab. The journey's ended, but the memory lingers on!

Evolution of the Science Society

One of the pupils prepared a report: *The Natural History Society of Greenford County School: An Account of its Formation and Growth into the Science Society in October 1944-January 1946*

On the 23rd of October 1944 a small group of people with similar interests gathered together and called themselves the Natural History Society. Some were interested in keeping and observing livestock; others in microscopy; others in visits to museums and any places of interest to naturalists. It was agreed, to begin with, a member of the Society should deliver a lecture once a month. The first

lecture (24th November 1944) was given by John Anderson (then in form 5L). His subject was British Fish.

At a Business Meeting on November 27th 1944 there was formed a Microscopy Group which has since been functioning as a sub-section of the Society.

The second monthly lecture was given by Valentine Hammond (5L) who lectured on *Tropical Fish*. The January meeting (1945) was provided by Parr who lectured on *British Birds*. In February 1945, departing from our series of lectures, Mr James and Mr Sheldrake gave an exhibition of coloured lantern slides. This was a very popular meeting.

Another popular meeting was that held on March 26th, at which two teams of boys took part in a Bird-Song Bee. The members of the teams tried to recognise birds from records of their songs made by Ludwig Koch.

On Saturday, May 26th, Mr James led thirteen members on the first N.H.S. ramble, among the Chiltern hills in the Bleddow Ridge area. Anderson led the second ramble from Uxbridge to Fulmer and Stoke Poges, on June 16th 1945. The third ramble, conducted by Heath, took us from Gerrards Cross, through the Chalfonts to Seer Green.

On Polling Day for the General Election (July 5th 1945) and again later in the month, certain members of the Society went to a Wild Flowers in Bedfordshire Exhibition at Luton Museum and a ramble on the hills near Luton.

The first Annual General Meeting was held on 28th September 1945 at which the decision was made to be affiliated to the Amateur Entomologists' Society. A Zoology Group was formed.

Arising from Mr Sheldrake's suggestion, and the Natural History Society's motion for extension, there was held on December 7th, 1945, the Inaugural Meeting of a Science Society. There were to be two sections, the Natural History Section and the Physics Section with the possibility of more as demand for them arose.

For the Spring Term 1946 each section had its programme: the Natural History section would hold meetings on Bird-Song, Goldfish, and Fungi while the Physics Section would discuss an Historical Survey of Atomic Energy, Transmutation of Elements, and Television. Joint Meetings would consider Stamps and Natural History and hold a discussion in which 'an Arts person will express **her** ideas on Science, and a Science person will express **his** views on Arts'... with the help of the Literary Society.

Famine Relief — On A Big Scale

The School continued its charitable endeavours and in 1946/47 were able to despatch parcels to the European Famine Relief Fund for France, Italy and Germany:

When first we discussed the possibility of sending food parcels to Germany we did not foresee that within six months we should have to commandeer the Lost Property storeroom to accommodate the generous contributions of the Greenford parents. Under the Save Europe Now scheme we applied for ten labels for seven pound food parcels, and with high hopes mingled with some misgivings, we launched an appeal to the school to bring rationed goods, particularly such as would keep for an indefinite period.

The response was overwhelming, for the school raided its parents' larders with zeal and determination, and barely a fortnight before Christmas, it brought us nearly

two-and-a-half hundredweight of assorted groceries. It seemed that chaos would reign for ever as our unpractised fingers spilt flour into the sugar, and our inexperienced eyes and noses strove to identify the contents of mysterious, unlabelled packages. Things began to sort themselves out as we set aside rations for the individual families, identified as yet only by a meaningless name and a rough description of their members. 'I've 2 children under 5 and an aged grandparent, so I want more evaporated milk, and you can KEEP the pilchards' would be the order from a helper, invisible behind a barrier of corned beef tins. By late evening we had made up parcels for 29 families. Each contained a pound each of flour and sugar, a quarter of lard or margarine, and of tea, a tin of dried milk and either corned beef or fish of some kind. The jam and sweets went to schoolboys and girls, while the under fives had the evaporated milk, extra sugar and flavoured semolina.

Finally these parcels were wrapped, tied and labelled and 2G boys loaded them on to a Scout trek-cart and pushed it stoutly into Greenford in the middle of a snow storm. The less said about the traffic jam in the Post Office that morning the better.

By January, the ordinary parcel post was open to Germany and Austria, so we were able to send directly to those countries as we had done previously to France and Italy. From what remained of the Christmas orgy we at once despatched a few trial parcels, containing mostly macaroni, beans and flour. We were delighted to find that these arrived in record time, but as the weeks wore on with no news of those sponsored by Save Europe Now we became apprehensive. Then suddenly the letters came with a rush. The parcels were arriving in good order, and we could go ahead with a clear conscience.

In February we launched a new appeal, this time for clothes and medical supplies as well as food. There was no great hurry, so the food parcels went off in pairs at leisure to be stamped by the Food Office. We sewed them into flour bags, and the clothes we sewed into a bundle wrapped in the largest garment available. We had a long list of new addresses, for friends and parents interested in the scheme came forward with many helpful suggestions. The older friends were not forgotten, especially the families where there were children, for various forms had adopted a child or a household and were holding a lively correspondence with them in German, and even in Latin.

In the Spring term 30 food parcels and 20 clothing ones were despatched to individual families. After the Lost Property Parade, we parcelled up the clothes and shoes not claimed or bought and sent them with the others to the Friends' Relief Service, and to four ministers in the British Zone responsible for clothing distribution in their areas. Of these only one is known to have got lost — after its owner had actually been summoned to the Customs House in Berlin to collect it!

The Summer Term gave an opportunity to carry the scheme even further. We have made new friends among the families who used to be only names on the food parcel list, and are helping to fit them out with clothes now we know just how big the children are, the clothing contributions were particularly generous this time, and we sent 6 large parcels to a Girls' Secondary School in Bremen. It contains many refugee children from the old German provinces of East Prussia and Silesia, who arrived penniless and with no belongings at all. We have begun to make contact with other schools. Another 6 parcels of assorted clothes are on the way to the minister of Lutter am Barenberge, a country parish in the British Zone which also is giving hospitality to hundreds of refugees of all ages.

The friends of the school who contributed food,

clothing and money, and the school's great efforts at collecting, parcelling, form-filling and posting not only ensured the success of the enterprise but made possible the beginning of promising friendships between the school in Greenford and many young people all over Europe — and this less than two years after the war!

The 1946 Intake Remembers

Ann (Dixon) and Derek Dawes and Audrey (Douglas) Barnes were all part of the 1946 intake and have sent a few impressions of those immediate post-war years — and the last year of Mr Withrington's Headship:-

Derek came directly from Leeds as Lyons Tea, where his father was employed, had evacuated itself firstly to Bristol from Greenford; then when Bristol was heavily bombed in the dock area, moved to Leeds. Derek had no school uniform at first and no P.E. kit. Arthur Howards (school outfitter in Greenford and Ealing) ran out of the dreaded green serge for blazers before he arrived. (I've already quoted what happened to those without kit!)

Ann remembers the vast hordes of new entrants assembled in the school hall on the first day. There were so many from Wood End Junior School, Northolt, where she went (with special permission from Harrow Council where she lived) that she felt she was with friends, whereas Derek knew no one, and no doubt had a thick Leeds accent having lived there for three or four years. (Ann doesn't remember taking the mickey.)

Audrey remembers the first School Assembly on the second morning. She was overwhelmed by the four-part harmony from the choir which seemed to fill the hall.

Ann and Sheila Dixon and Robert Stevenson (Sheila's husband) took Pottery Evening classes with Mr Marlow (who succeeded Maurice Johnson, the Art Master who painted Mr Withrington's portrait). They had great fun, although many ladies in the class took their work very seriously and competed relentlessly to try and outdo each other with their lamp-shade bottoms and jam dishes. Mr Marlow took it all in good part. Items may be on display from the Dixon-Stevenson collection. Ann had a lot of trouble keeping her pots on the wheel and many ended up splattered against the wall. Mr Marlow helped her make a delightful mini chamber-pot with exquisite gun-metal glaze. It resides in the garden in Rayner's Lane where the Dixons lived.

Contemporary Impressions

We also have some contemporary initial impressions of various aspects of the school in 1946 because they have been printed in the first edition of *Prospice*, the School Magazine. As *Prospice* put it:

Mr Spriggs had the unique honour of joining the school (Autumn 1946) completely equipped with a whole form. Some of 2X's impressions of their new school:-

The School Building:

'Never-ending corridors, innumerable classrooms, and a sea of green blazers.'

'How I would like to climb that tower!'

'When I lost my way (which was often), at least my nose told me where the Advanced Chemistry Lab was!'

School Dinners:

'And then, 'You may talk' and the tumult that followed, reminding me of 'Carry on, London'.

Work:

'Issued with eleven new exercise books, I soon knew they wanted work!'

The Playing Fields:

'I have found an old map of the district, and there are two springs at the top of the slope, and there used to be a lane across the field called 'Mud Lane'. That map explained a lot!'

Prefects:

'A resounding bellow, requesting me to walk on the right-hand side.'

The Staff:

'A gown torn in many places, and treasured as a battle-scarred warrior treasures his tattered uniform.'

The Head:

'He entered, and I took a liking to him (I did not know, then, that he was the Head).'

'A stern, terrible-looking man. I quaked at the knees.'

They Look Ahead

The Summer of 1947 saw the production of *Prospice No.1*. The Greenford Chronicle, the school magazine which introduced itself with an explanation of its format:

Shortage of paper supplies, which prevented publication during the war, still confines us to a small size and limits our number of pages. As further supplies are made available and costs of production fall, we hope that the size and scope of *Prospice* may be extended.

In the second edition 'in answer to many requests we should like to indicate the correct pronunciation of our title (which means Look Ahead). If you are a Latin scholar, you will know already that 'Pross-pick-ay' will be most acceptable to your Latin master, provided that in using it you prove that 'you know your Grammar'. To those trained in ecclesiastical Latin 'Prose-pee-chay' will suggest itself. And if you have been taught no Latin at all, you may be tempted to submit paeans rhyming the word in question with mice, dice, or (if you are a Browning fan) 'promise'.

The conclusion is that you can call it almost what you like; but we would advise those who even now are phonetically timid to try *The Greenford Chronicle* instead.

(That 2nd edition, by the way, carries an article on *Bacteria and Virus* written by our distinguished Chair of Governors, 4th former M. Elliott.)

The original Editorial Committee consisted of Roy Knight as Editor; Pamela Cobden, Ilse Stein, Enid Townsend, Sylvia Thom, Audrey Gill, W Lewis, J Ford, K Sandom, M Burke, Alan Rogers and J Townsley as Section Editors; Betty Barfield in charge of production; and Miss Strickley, Miss McGregor, and Mr Gilbey the staff members.



Old Scholars Association

The inaugural General Meeting of the Old Scholars' Association was held on the 20th October 1944. It was formed then because it was felt for the first time that there were enough Old Scholars to warrant their uniting as a body, to provide a means of contact with the school and with each other after leaving.

From the very beginning of the Association, their activities were hampered and curtailed by the early call-up of the male members. This meant that they were unable to retain the active help of many Old Scholars and that the running of the Association was restricted to a small number of people. Because of this, activities such as men's sports and dramatic presentations were curtailed. . . With the return of the men from the services, it was hoped that it would be possible to widen their scope . . . They secured a room at school for business purposes.

'Amongst our members we have a number who achieved places at University and Teacher Training Colleges. In the Forces we have members serving in Ireland, Germany, Salonica, Palestine, India and Singapore. Two people serving in the navy who have claims to distinction, are Philip Simons, who was the first person to put Greenford County School on the map in the field of university scholarships and the first to be awarded a state scholarship. (1945 Higher Schools Group III, Distinction in Pure and Applied Mathematics & Scholarship Exhibition in Engineering at Queen's College, Cambridge) and Gerald Eades, who besides having a very interesting job arranging musical entertainment for sick sailors, broadcast recently in the Quiz of Merry-go-round, and won his pound, answering questions on music without any help from the audience'.

PROSPICE



THE GREENFORD CHRONICLE

THE END OF AN ERA

The School Loses its Head

The Headmaster who nursed the School through its infancy, Mr Withrington, left to join the ranks of His Majesty's Inspectors in April 1947. A tribute to his work is best given by his pupils. The 1947 edition of *Prospice* put it as follows:

...no comment can adequately record the School's debt to its first Headmaster. We feel that he will be remembered most by the influence he has had on the school. Despite difficulties of the war years, an evacuation which completely divided the school; the 'doodle-bug' campaign which kept the School almost continually in the air-raid shelters; and now, the re-organisation of the school system involving an ever-increasing number of official forms, the Head has managed to preserve in the School a certain character which will remain long after he has left. The School had to begin from scratch, but now, we feel that there is little to show that the School is new, apart from the freshness of the building itself. In a short while the Head has achieved a maturity for the School and a high reputation in many and varied fields of activities.

In a School with a history reaching back for two or three, or five or six, hundred years, a Headmaster who served for eight years might strengthen its traditions, modify them, or merely struggle ineffectually against them; but the character of the School would certainly outlive his period of 'brief authority'. We of Greenford County School are aware, at this moment especially, that we have been sharing in that rare experience of creating a character and shaping a tradition that we are glad and proud to recognise as a School. Although we are asking Mr Withrington to accept more tangible tokens of our respect and affection, we know that he will most value this recognition of his work, and our resolution to continue, as far as may be possible, to develop that character and to foster those traditions.

...An interview can be a thing of cold formality, of empty words. None of us, school, staff or parents, has ever gone to Mr Withrington with our personal problems or anxieties without receiving advice and help as full of practical value as of imaginative sympathy.

'Integer vitae', says Horace of his ideal Roman; and within the larger bounds of the Christian philosophy and way of life, we would say the same of Mr Withrington. Among the many lovely passages he has read to us at prayers, one seems peculiarly fitting to be recalled at this time: the Aristotelian doctrine of virtue of character — 'We acquire the virtues by first acting virtuously'.

Alan Rogers: 1940-1947 writes:-

The strength of Greenford County lay in its Headteacher, John Withrington, and his Staff. The school had a quiet atmosphere conducive to study and those who were prepared to take advantage of it were free to develop any potentiality.

John Withrington was a scholar and a liberal educationalist. When I was in the Sixth Form and called upon to take assemblies I was allowed to illustrate the idea that 'our lives pray more sincerely than our lips' from the pages of the Dean of Canterbury's much abused book *The Socialist Sixth of the World*. Mr Withrington did imply at the time, I remember, that he thought I was pushing my luck; but he did not place a ban on the reading.

Those who remember Mr Withrington's assemblies will have their memory buds stimulated by mention of the name of Thomas Traherne. One only had to hear the

opening words 'the reading this morning is from the writings of Thomas Traherne' to anticipate the reading which followed:

'Your enjoyment of the world is never right till every morning you awake in Heaven: see yourself in your Father's Palace; and look upon the skies, the earth, and the air as Celestial Joys. . .

You never enjoy the world aright, till the Sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars; and perceive yourself to be the sole heir of the whole world, and more than so, because men are in it who are every one sole heirs as well as you.

Till your spirit filleth the whole world, and the stars are your jewels; till you are as familiar with the ways of God in all ages as with your walk and table; till you are intimately acquainted with that story, nothing out of which the world was made; till you love men so as to desire their happiness with a thirst equal to the zeal of your own; till you delight in God for being good to all, you never enjoy the world.'

For those who were prepared to listen the foundation was being laid for a life of one's own in unity with the whole world and with all life on earth.

Ann and Derek Dawes write: Mr Withrington, the first Head, created a very big impression on the 1946 intake and although he left in 1947, had made a lasting mark on the school as he was a very charismatic figure, who, obviously, was genuinely interested in all his pupils.

It was truly the end of an era as, shortly after Mr Withrington's departure, the School had to say farewell to two other stalwarts of the School. *Prospice* again:

The Extraordinary Mr Smith

Mr H A Smith was known as a friend of the School before he became part of it, for his singing during Mr Marshall's Musical Evenings at Hillside (the Torquay club house) was admired by all who remember those days in 'foreign parts'.

Little did we think then that the master from the school with velvet-capped prefects and heaps of tradition would join our staff and help our community during its formative years.

Mr Smith was rapidly absorbed into the School because of his versatility: but particularly because one quality has been prominent in all his contributions to school life. A modest profession of his inability to do what is required of him has never modified his willingness to help and to add his energy to the job in hand. His supposed inexperience of dramatic work never caused a technical hitch in any play production he has stage-managed; his professed failure to understand charts and manipulate figures has never prevented him from keeping complete and reliable records and scores at all school sports functions; his avowed ignorance of any subject has never prevented him from making an invaluable contribution to any debate or discussion.

The French and German Choir, founded and directed by Mr Smith, has now become one of the greatest attractions at school concerts: the Choir entertain the audience by their singing, but Mr Smith himself fascinates the Choir tenfold by his individual and vivacious method of 'conducting'.

We have come to expect from him at Staff play-readings a performance worthy of, and sometimes superior to, the West End stage, and we regret that, unlike St Simeon, he is unable to remain with us 'for an immense period'. In Staff v School matches, even at games in which his lack of skill or ignorance of the rules was far-famed, Mr Smith has distinguished himself where the 'experts' have failed.

When another Mr Smith joined our ranks, and the distinguished initials, H. A., were allotted to 'old' Mr Smith, they rolled roughly off the tongue. One pupil solved the problem by asking at the Staff Room door for Mr 'Ordinary' Smith, but this convenient label never survived, for the very reason that it never harmonised with its wearer, whose energy and innumerable interests made him an 'extraordinary' Mr Smith.

If I might prophesy for a moment, Mr Smith will not be forgotten: he will become a legend (as his friend, Mr Marshall, has become); and these legendary figures are recalled not with awe, but with affection. I am sure Mr Smith will prefer to be remembered this way.

The Indefatigable Miss Stonebridge

The School has suffered severe losses during the present year through the resignation not only of our Headmaster, but also of several senior members of the staff. Now, so soon after having to say farewell to Mr Withrington at Easter, we must part with Miss Stonebridge, our first Senior Mistress, who has been a veritable tower of strength to the School since its opening in the war-clouded Autumn of 1939.

To all members of Greenford County School — younger as well as older — must be apparent the wide range of Miss Stonebridge's activities and the extent to which she shall be missed, not only in her own department, where the Religious Instruction (she was originally hired to teach French) of the School owes so much to her wide scholarship and sympathetic personality, but also in so many aspects of the general life of the School.

With her genius for organisation, Miss Stonebridge created and ran through the most difficult war years our dinner scheme which, in days when we were allowed some independence in administration, proved so successful as to be adopted as a model by other schools. Though we may have exercised our English privilege of grumbling now and again, when our favourite dish did not appear often enough for our liking, those of us well acquainted with its practical results very readily acknowledged our gratitude for the adequacy with which we were fed in spite of raids and rations.

Her work at Tardebigge and Torquay is mentioned elsewhere.

Prospect continues: But it is in the routine of daily life at Greenford that we shall miss Miss Stonebridge most keenly and probably only those closely associated with her there realise something of the personal cost of her devoted service to the School in toll of health and vitality. Often working under great difficulties, she has never spared herself, for with her it is axiomatic to put the interests of others before her own. Now she is ordered to rest for a time before taking up work in her home town of Bedford. Staff and pupils alike will sorely miss her guidance and friendly counsel which will long be remembered at Greenford. She was the third of the original five to leave.

Epitaph

James A Rogers BSc, ARCS, DIC, who is a Geophysicist, writes from Brazil (after 41 years involved in oil exploration in 15 different countries). He was one of the original intake and we will give him the last word on the Withrington era:

The School was blessed with marvellous teachers of vision and faith and there were the years of the war, of danger and death and sometimes not much hope.

Marvellous were the Morning Assemblies, the discussion periods, the debates, the School Choir (*Hiawatha*) and the Orchestra.

I have passed the School many times and decided not to risk breaking the memory of those days. Many times in danger overseas I have called upon the moral resources I gained at that School.

Mr James Takes the Reins

There was an inter regnum from April 1946 to November 1947 waiting for agreement on the appointment of a permanent Headmaster. Mr James, the Senior Master, and Biology Master since 1939, was finally appointed. Miss Drayton was appointed Senior Mistress to replace Miss Stonebridge. Mr Sheldrake became Senior Master.



Mr L. James