

THE SCHOOL MATURES

In 1948 the first school journeys abroad took place. The Sixth Form visited France in the Easter holidays and a Fifth Form party went to France and Switzerland in the summer. Many school visits were now taking place, and at least one, the Sixth Form visit to Stratford, was to become an annual event.

In 1948 also there was a great 'Book Drive' for the Library: Mr J Compton, Education Officer for Ealing, while on a visit to the School discussed with Mr Woods, Librarian, the running of a drive for books for the school library (Books with good quality paper and binding were still scarce). The Art Room, under Mr Johnson's care, became exceedingly busy and posters were produced for Ealing Public Library and the school notice board. Mr James, Headmaster, gave the pupils a 'pep' talk. The local paper published a news item about the drive and gave it the necessary outside publicity. The combined effort, intra and extra mural, gave results that well repaid the endeavour of those concerned in the work and the school library shelves were fuller than they had been previously. Altogether 500 books were collected. The Old Scholars joined in and made further donations.

A big Arts and Crafts Exhibition was held in July 1948 under the inspiration and guidance of Mr Johnson. About 50 works of art were exhibited along with about 40 craft items. These latter included such items as lamps, cabinets, coffee tables, trays, boxes, chests and stools. Dresses, blouses, pinafores, and slips were displayed by the Needlework classes. A special corner of the room was devoted to an exhibition of books which were skilfully manufactured by the lower school who presented a large range of subjects many of which were colourfully illustrated. The exhibits were judged by Mr Bruce Roberts MSLA, who was a well known commercial artist and illustrator — all in what is now our Staff Room but was then the Art Room.

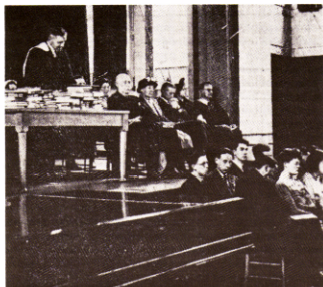
The School was steadily growing as there was a post-war building boom and in 1950 Ealing was running second in the country's non county boroughs with 2809 of which the Council had erected 1532 permanent and 645 temporary new houses and had rebuilt twelve war destroyed ones. Private builders' achievements were 154 new and 466 rebuilt houses. Much of Ealing's building was that of new council houses in Northolt.



The Art Exhibition, July 1948

Showing (centre) A general impression of the Art Room, and (left to right) closer views of the Paintings, Bookcraft, Woodwork and Needlecraft.

In 1949 and 1950, as the School became more settled, several events were initiated which were to continue as annual events at least for the rest of the life of the Grammar School: Services at Christmas, Easter and Whitsun; 'Year' parties at Christmas; and Speech Days.



Mr. James became headmaster shortly before the school's first speech day in 1947, when he succeeded Mr. J. Withington who was appointed to the Inspectorate. Mr. James is seen here reading from his annual report.

On Thursday, May 18th, the first Speech Day in the history of the School was held in the School Hall. Because of the size limitation of the Hall, only the 4th, 5th and 6th forms were able to attend, together with their parents.

The evening opened with a series of four madrigals by Gibbons, Morley and Farmer, sung by the Greenford Singers (a small select choir of senior members of the School and a number of Old Scholars which made their debut at the 1948 School Concert).

The Chairman, Councillor T.J. Brennan, gave the introduction to Speech Day. This was followed by the report on the School's progress during its ten years since its opening in 1939 and was delivered by the Headmaster, Mr James. Because this was the first Speech Day in the School's history, Mr James did not give a detailed account of the past year, but concentrated on giving in broad outline a general report since 1939.

The Presentation of Prizes was carried out by Mr H L O Fletcher CBE MA. He also distributed Higher and General School Certificates to those who had passed in 1949. Alderman Chilton gave an omnibus vote of thanks to the Speaker, the Chairman and the Chairman of the Middlesex Education Committee (Alderman Hoare). The vote of thanks was seconded by Alderman Mrs Taylor and all three replied.

A very delightful evening ended about 9:30 with the Greenford Singers singing 'My Bonny Lass She Smileth' (Morley) and 'Never Weather-beaten Sail' (Campion).

Wipe That Muck Off

School Dances were ever more frequently held as the 1950s unfolded: Audrey (Douglas) Barnes remembers the first School Dance the fourth year attended. No make-up was allowed and Audrey, naughtily, wore a lip-gloss. Miss Drayton, Senior Mistress, button-holed Audrey and Ann Dixon and accused them of wearing the forbidden lipstick.

Ann denied it; she had naturally reddish lips, but Audrey admitted breaking a school rule and was made to wipe the offending 'muck' off with a blob of cotton wool. Her School Report that year mentioned this rebellious and naughty act! How times have changed!

A Euro M P's Political Launch

I shall probably be given assistance towards immediate early retirement for relating this story but I can't resist. . . (Neither could the editor of *Prospect* who related it in detail — or could that be because he was one of the candidates who did not lose his deposit?)

Over the years the country's General Elections have inspired the School to hold mock elections but perhaps the most significant one for Greenford was the one held in 1950. . .

It was decided by the Staff that a school mock election should be held to excite political interest amongst the scholars. An Electoral Committee represented each party, and each chose a candidate who had to be supported by at least twelve people. No Communist candidate stood, and M. Elliott stated: 'I think the unwillingness of anyone to stand as a Communist candidate speaks for itself.'

Conservative Candidate was P. Goodhram.

Independent Socialist Candidate was M. Elliott.

Labour Candidate was K. J. Walker.

Liberal Candidate was G. Maguire.

Within a week of starting the campaign, posters, notices, pamphlets and books appeared all round the School. Each candidate had one meeting, and the attendances were good throughout the week.

The Labour Party Electoral Committee decided to run a card system whereby they could find the Party which had the majority in each form, thus giving them an approximate idea how they stood.

The two main party candidates held outdoor meetings on the same day. These outdoor meetings soon developed into one outdoor meeting. This gave good opportunity for all parties to distribute pamphlets.

On Wednesday, 22nd February, there was an all-party meeting in the Hall. About 250 people were present. Mr Rosen was in the chair and except for an initial cheer for each candidate, the meeting was quite orderly.

On February 23rd, the National Election Day, the polling station was opened at break, during the dinner break and after school until 4:30 p.m. The election officers, picked from the 4th forms did their job well, and the result was known inside a quarter of an hour after the close.

The Labour Party Electoral Committee made a copy of the Electoral Register of the School, appointed some tellers and half-dozen people to chase up those who had not voted. Nevertheless, the total poll was, perhaps, not very high, but congestion at the polling booth and other activities probably accounted for this, and it was not a full reflection of the keen interest taken by everyone in the election. At 4:45 p.m. precisely, the result became final and was as follows:-

Labour (K.J. Walker)	248
Conservative (P. Goodhram)	153
Liberal (G. Maguire)	40
Ind.Soc. (M. Elliott)	27
Cancelled Paper	1
Labour overall majority	28

(The Liberal and Independent Socialist candidates lost their deposits. But one is now Greenford High School's Chair of Governors — and Euro M P for West London!)

THE SCHOOL ACQUIRES ARMS

Permission

In 1950, a school badge was adopted. This took the form of the arms of the Shadwell family, who had been Lords of the Manor of Northolt from 1827-1927. Sir Lancelot Shadwell, the original owner was the Vice Chancellor of England, the last man to hold this office. The Shadwell family gave the school permission to use their coat of arms and motto 'Loyal Au Mort' — 'Loyal unto Death' (or, more literally, Loyal to the Dead Man).

In May 1950 Mr James received the following letter:

Thank you for your letter. I should be delighted for the school to adopt the Shadwell arms itself.

May I say that this permission is not entirely my own. The present head of the family is Captain Lancelot Shadwell, R N of HMS Howe, & when I wrote to acquaint him of what was on foot, he wrote back to say that he raised no objection. Neither does Mr Charles Shadwell (of BBC renown) who is also one of the Vice-Chancellor's descendants.

When the school has really got its new badge in good going order, I wonder if I might come over one day, on a purely informal & quite unobtrusive visit, just to see it in its new role.

I enclose a cutting from 'The Times' of 1850 which may be of some interest.

There are also one or two other items which might prove of interest.

The Vice-Chancellor belonged to a society which advocated the daily dip. So he, & his sons, used to bathe daily in the Thames, at Barn Elms, all the year round. In a copy of Punch of the year 1840 is a delightful cartoon of the Vice-Chancellor, in the river, & someone swimming out to him, with a suit.

One of his fellow judges in the High Court wrote of him as 'A man of whom it could be said, "He poured cold water on nobody but himself." This commentary on him, in the judge's handwriting, & signed by him, is still preserved, & hangs framed, in the house of the Vice-Chancellor's still one surviving grand-daughter-in-law at Richmond, where I have often seen it.

Also he three times refused a peerage, & when I once, as a small child, asked my father why, the reply was, "He wouldn't have anything to do with any nonsense of that sort.", indicating, I suppose, that he would accept no form of bribery, direct, or indirect. Also, probably, he never wished to be made Lord Chancellor, & so long as he remained only a knight he could not be promoted.

I hope you will forgive these details. But the school might be interested in some of them. Children usually like details about people which show that they actually once lived.

So far as I know, the Vice-Chancellor was the last member of the family to apply for permission to the College of Heralds to bear the arms of his ancestor, Thomas Shadwell of Lyndown, Staffs, who first received the grant in 1537. There appears to be a strong family tradition that the motto comes down from the Crusades. It does not appear in the original grant of the College of Heralds.

The letter was written by Evelyn M Shadwell, the consequence of which was that the Shadwell coat of arms became Greenford County Grammar School's badge. She did get her wish to visit the School when she attended the School's second Speech Day held exactly a year later.

Glorious Past Shapes Glorious Future

On Speech Day in May 1951, Mr James said the previous year had been one of continuous hard work, resulting in 59 boys and girls gaining general school certificates, 20 of them with exemption from matriculation, and 17 higher school certificates. To deal with 24 pupils admitted at the age of 13 in 1946 from surrounding secondary modern schools, a special four-year course was devised. For various reasons, some within their parents' control, nine of the 24 left before completing the course. Fourteen of the remainder were successful, seven of them gaining exemption from matriculation.

'Results such as these reflect the highest credit on all concerned', Mr James went on. 'But don't let your sons and daughters persuade you to let them leave before finishing the full course. The benefits of a grammar school education are immeasurable. What could be done here cannot be made up afterwards. Contrary to the opinion of some people, a place left vacant at such a late stage cannot be filled.'

'Nowadays there are many distractions to sustained hard work. I am disturbed by statements that the capacity for getting down to it is not as good as it was. I should not be disturbed if these statements didn't come from people closely concerned with schools and employment — people who are in a position to argue effectively. I hope for the schools of this country that these statements are not true.'

School societies, Mr James said, continued to meet, giving their members opportunities for activities and discussions of all sorts of topics. The football and cricket teams had had reasonably successful seasons. During the summer a great deal of time was spent in athletics training, culminating in the school taking part in the White City Grammar Schools' Meeting.

In a tribute to the school staff Mr James said he thought it significant that members who left did so to take up posts of greater importance.

Prizes were presented by Mr J F Wolfenden, Vice Chancellor of Reading University. In an address, he said that grammar schools over the years had covered themselves in glory. They had worked out for themselves a way of living and a reputation that was the envy of a great many countries of the world. At present they were going through difficult times which were in fact, a challenge. If pupils made a contribution not only to the school, but to the welfare of society after they left he had no doubt that this glorious past would shape a glorious future.

Why the Shadwell Crest?

On view for the first time to parents and pupils who filled the school hall were two new athletic shields made by members of the staff the previous term. Each bore the crest with its colours of blue and gold and the motto of 'Loyal au mort'. Above the crest was a scallop, the traditional symbol of a pilgrim. (Quite a coincidence, considering The Pilgrim Song was chosen years before as the school song!)

Announcing the adoption of the crest in his report, the Headmaster, Mr James, said he had been troubled by the lack of a suitable badge since the school became more conscious of its growing importance. The fact that Borough and County arms were already widely used made him regard old-established local families as a fruitful line of research. With the help of the Rector of Northolt, Miss

Shadwell was traced. The school would do well to remember that the crest was first granted to her family in 1537. He congratulated those concerned with the making of the shields on a fine piece of craftsmanship.

The local newspaper carried a note about the adoption of the arms by the School:

That was a nice gesture of Miss Shadwell's — made known at Greenford Grammar School speech day — to allow her 400-year-old family crest to be used as the school's badge. Miss Shadwell's family used to include the lords of the manor of Northolt on the edge of which the school stands and from where it draws many of its pupils. As the Headmaster pointed out, Borough and County crests are already used by schools, and the adoption of a family crest of local antiquity is a pleasantly varied innovation.

This is another graceful recognition of the fact that public bodies are taking over functions formerly discharged by leading families, and that they ought to take over ornamental as well as utilitarian responsibilities. Moreover, children growing up in newly urbanised districts are liable to be indifferent to local history and it is an important part of education to emphasise that history begins at home.

The Badge of Pilgrims

Prospect No 7 Autumn 1950 (the first to have the school badge on the cover) contains more information about the badge itself:

The land on which the School is built was once part of the estate of the Lord of the Manor of Northolt. . . (the earlier history of which is too long and complicated a story to relate here — we'll leave it to the History classes to unravel in their Local History investigations.)

In 1827 the manor and its lands were sold by lot. The manor was bought by Sir Lancelot Shadwell, the Vice-Chancellor of England and the last man to hold this office, and his family continued to hold the manor until 1927. . .

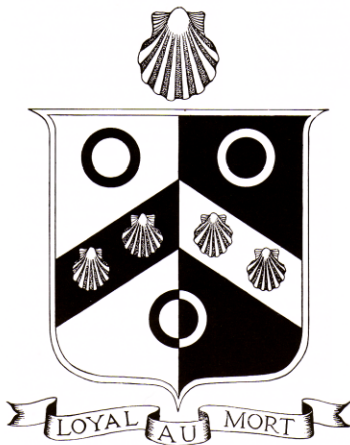
The shield which appears in the badge bears the arms 'granted by Christopher Barker, Garter (King of Arms), to Thomas Shadwell of Lynedowne, Co. Stafford, 2 June, 1537: Per pale or and azure, on a chevron between three annulets, four escallops, all counterchanged.' The quotation is from a herald's register or 'visitation' of arms in England and Wales. There is no mention of either a crest (above the shield itself) or of a motto (below it). 'Lynedowne', now called Lyndon, is a seat just north of West Bromwich in South Staffordshire.

At the beginning of the 19th century, branches of the family are found in several southern counties; Sir Lancelot Shadwell was living at Barn Elms in Surrey and later bought and moved to the manor of Northolt. At this time we see that a motto has appeared. The motto, 'Loyal au Mort', must mean 'Loyal to the Dead (Man)' and suggests either some specific member of the family or of the Court to whom the family wished to stress its allegiance, or else an idea of continuous descent, each son being loyal to his father's memory (similar to 'Le Roi est mort; vive le Roi'). Today it is commonly accepted to mean Loyal unto Death.)

In the School Badge, above the shield, is placed an escallop (a scallop shell) as a crest. Although no crest was mentioned in the original grant of arms, at one stage the arms are recorded with a crest of a 'demi-griffin, proper' — that is, the upper half of one of the heraldic beasts in its 'natural colours'. The crest is a personal emblem, not necessarily handed down from father to son as is the rest of the coat of arms, so there is no reason to believe that this demi-griffin was any more than a personal badge of

one member of the family. The escallop is thus a family badge decorating the shield, but not a crest in the true heraldic sense.

The escallop is the pilgrim's badge, and its presence in the arms suggests that the family had connexions with either a pilgrimage or a crusade during its early history. Neither the chevron nor the annulets (rings) have any significance that can be easily recognised.



Sir Lancelot Shadwell

The cutting from *The Times* of August 12 1850 contained the obituary notice of Sir Lancelot Shadwell:

Death of the Vice-Chancellor of England. — The Right Hon. Sir Lancelot Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor of England, expired yesterday morning at his residence, the Barn Elms, Putney. The event was hourly expected from Friday afternoon, when the symptoms of the paralytic attack, under which he laboured for the last month, became painfully alarming. The death of so good and so able a man will be greatly lamented. He presided over a branch of the Court of Chancery since the year 1827, and secured the entire respect of the profession by the general soundness and invariable impartiality of his judgement, by the regularity of his attendance in his court, and his untiring assiduity in the disposal of his business. Sir Lancelot Shadwell was the son of a barrister well known in his day in the courts of law. He was born in the year 1779, and was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, at which University he took a humble degree as seventh wrangler and junior medallist. He subsequently obtained a fellowship, and in 1803 was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn. In 1821 he was appointed a King's counsel, and in 1826 he obtained a seat in Parliament for the borough of Ripon. As already stated, Sir Lancelot was made Vice-Chancellor in 1827. In 1835 he became one of the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal, and he again held that

office in the present year. he died in the 71st year of his age, leaving several children. (He had 6 sons by his first wife, after her death married again and had another 6 sons and 5 daughters)

The DNB says of him that he was a learned and able judge, with a handsome presence and courteous manners.



Portrait of Sir Lancelot Shadwell whose arms are the School's badge — painted in 1842 by Thomas Phillips R A

Old School Tie

The Old Scholars' Association were not to be outdone by the School and so in the same year the official Old School tie of the Greenford County Grammar School Old Scholars' Association appeared. 'The design is based on the escutcheon of the Shadwell family which the Association is thinking of adopting, in a modified form, as its own arms. The tie is as sober as an old school tie should be, consisting of stripes of gold and silver on a dark blue background.'

An Old Abbot Lends His Name

Prospice published an explanation by John Jardine of the origins of the Vitalis Society, a Sixth Form debating and philosophical society formed in 1952, a year in which one of the pupils obtained an Open Scholarship to Newham College, Cambridge. 17 pupils entered universities and another represented Britain in an athletics contest in Italy:

Most Grammar schools have a sixth form society whose members meet together from time to time to read and discuss papers on a variety of topics. It was felt that if such a society were to be founded at Greenford it would meet a

real need among senior members of the school. Accordingly a meeting of interested sixth formers was held at the end of school one afternoon, and those present decided to proceed with the formation of the society.

After an evening spent discussing a constitution and form of organisation, the society began its career. The Headmaster kindly agreed to accept office as President, while Miss Strickley and Mr Gosden were willing to serve as Vice-Presidents. The Society elected Mr Penn as Chairman, Miss Robson as Secretary, and Mr Dawes as Treasurer. It decided that it would normally limit its membership to 12 and that any person wishing to become a member could only do so by being elected by the existing members.

Naturally the question arose, 'What is the society to be called?' It came to light that at one time the ground on which the school now stands was owned by Westminster Abbey. Therefore it was decided to name the society after one of the more moral abbots. An abbot named Vitalis was chosen — hence The Vitalis Society.



About two days before a meeting of the Society is due to take place, the Secretary places a slip of paper in the member's desk informing him or her of the meeting place, the time of the meeting and the topic on which one member is to speak.

On the evening of the meeting, the Secretary reads the minutes, and then a member gives a paper on his chosen topic. The general discussion following this is usually a lively affair. Some of the topics on which papers have been given are The Problem of Political Obligation, the Position of Germany in the European Defence Community, English Customs, Atomic Energy and Humour. After refreshments the meeting ends and members leave, having spent a very enjoyable evening.

SCM

In the same academic year a branch of the Student Christian Movement was formed in the School. At the first general meeting a committee was elected to form a policy for the school. In November a speaker from S C M headquarters outlined the purpose of the Movement. Three study groups were formed and functioned once a fortnight. Mr Gosden led 'The Church and the Churches' to study how the various sects arose and their different beliefs. Mr Crewe led 'Prayer', a devotional study group, and Mr Norsworthy led 'The Purpose of Life'. In March, the group heard Father Philips, the Rector of Northolt, address an open meeting on the subject of Lent. Numbers reached about 30 that first year.

Stone From The Tower

1953, Coronation Year, found two members of staff and the thirty-eight form captains allocated places to view the procession from the Victoria Embankment. Ann Dawes was in her last year at the School and writes:

The Upper 6th in 1953, while up on the roof of the Tower, nearly injured Mr James, the Headmaster, when one of their number 'inadvertently' tossed a stone over the edge. It nearly penetrated the glass roof of the vestibule under which Mr James was walking. After that, 6U were banned from taking the time-honoured climb up the Tower on the last day of term. What a shame; it was quite an honour.

All past pupils agree GGS was a wonderful place and the number of Old Scholars who married fellow Greenfordians, surely bears witness to the 'friendliness' (for want of a better word) of the place. The teachers all seemed so interested and they fired so much enthusiasm in the pupils, that certainly most of the 1953 leavers went on to University and College — Derek Dawes going to Oxford and Robert Horsley and D G Noel to Cambridge, quite a good record!

Oddly enough we, the 1946 intake, were the first to do O Levels and the Dawes twins, Alyson and Susannah, aged 18, were the last! They also attended a similar school and they have made what we think may be lasting friendships, as we did.

How to Start a Philatelic Society. . . ?

By 1954 (a year in which John Game and Terence Maddern represented Middlesex in the All-England Athletics Meet in July), G Dunkin 'had been thinking about the idea of a society for stamp-collectors for some time and had succeeded in interesting several people I knew, mainly in my own form. At first, we started a campaign by chalking 'Watch out for the P.S.' on most of the blackboards. Having done this, we were a trifle at a loss to know what to do next. We did eventually, however, get two members of staff interested in the idea and we were advised to see Mr James and get his approval. We therefore did this, and a few days later it was announced from the platform at Assembly that there would be a meeting of all people interested in forming a Philatelic Society. At that meeting 72 people were present and were told by Mr Owens of the basic ideas of the Society. That is, to give all the stamp-collectors of the school a chance to get together with philatelists other than those in their own forms; to have meetings and discussions on various items; and to have a subscription to pay for equipment that would be too dear for any one person to buy. A committee of four was elected.

A meeting was held as soon as possible in the new term at which about 30 people were present. Mr Owens gave a talk on *Thematic Collecting*, illustrated by stamps kindly lent to us. Two more people were elected to the committee but one has since left us and a replacement will have to be found. After the meeting, most of the members spent some time selling, buying or exchanging stamps.

A short gathering was held at dinnertime a week or two later at which all members were asked to vote on whether or not they would be willing to pay a subscription of 3d per term. This was agreed almost unanimously. We decided however that the first 3d should cover the Easter and Summer terms as few meetings had been held so far that term. We also decided that anyone not having paid their first subscription by the end of the summer term should be considered as not a member of the Society.

Our second open meeting was rather a disappointment. Only 15 members were present, because at least 12 members were in detention and there was a house basketball match the same evening. At the meeting however, Groom gave a talk and an exhibition on the commemorative stamps of the Commonwealth, followed by a short talk about the New Zealand Centennial set of 1940 given by Dunkin.

At this meeting it was also announced that a short quiz on the stamps of the Commonwealth had been written out, and would be available soon to anyone who wanted one. As only 15 people heard this announcement and as there was a delay in printing copies, not everyone who wished was able to have a copy.

Alas, I can find no further reference to this Society! In the help of Miss Whalen (Mrs Rees) and Mrs Morris with the help of Michael Grubb ran a Stamp Club for a year or two — but not nearly so well organised as the above!

All the World's a Stage

The late 'Forties and 'Fifties saw numerous dramatic and musical productions. Even the Old Scholars Association formed the Prospect Players which became renowned for its productions. Only a few of each can be mentioned here:

The Rivals by R.B. Sheridan was performed in November 1948 produced by Miss J Harland, settings, etc. Mr M Johnson, Wardrobe Miss E G M Walker, Stage Manager Miss M Strickley, lighting Mr F Sheldrake and music Mr A L Smith.



The Would-Be Gentleman, an adaptation by F Anstey of Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme by Molière was the play for December 1950, produced by Mrs R B McEntee and Miss M Strickley; set design by Mr M Johnson; stage manager Mr H Rosen; Lighting Mr F Sheldrake, Music by Mr A L Smith with Monsieur Jourdain played by Peter Goodhrum.

1952 saw the production of J B Priestley's *The Linden Tree* with John Jardine as the professor earning the praise of the first formers who felt, however, that the ending was too abrupt.

By March 1954 the school stage had a new grey curtain and backcloth for Mr Norsworthy's production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* which was thought at first to have been a rather unusual and unconventional one for the school to perform but it had an enthusiastic reception which made it a resounding success so much so that it was praised in *The Times Educational Supplement*.

THE WOULD-BE GENTLEMAN



By M. de Molière

ADAPTED BY F. ANSTEY

Programme . . . Sixpence

I Have Five Daughters, an adaptation by Margaret MacNamara of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, was the choice for March 1956, production by Mrs M A Beatty, daughters played by Heather Till, Dilys Halden, Ann Newall, Jacqueline Wright and Lesley Kent, Mr and Mrs Bennett by Madeleine Cole and H Baddeley, Bingley by B Rockell and D'Arcy by G Dunkin.

Early in the school year 1959-1960 *An Entertainment* was presented by the Lower Forms of the School and met with great success as, later on, did the School Play, *Arms and the Man*, and the performance of *Messiah*, presented by the Choral Society.

The Prospect Players

The Old Scholars' Prospect Players gave their first public performance at an Old Scholars' Social Evening on the 24th April 1948: Ken Fitt introduced and ably compered an amusing and witty sketch entitled *In Town Tonight*, in which Sylvia Thom appeared as Marie Antoinette, D S Webb as Big Chief Pow-Wow, and S Shindler as Julius Caesar. Then Gerry Eades (otherwise known as Hoagy Carjerry) delighted the company with two piano solos, which were enthusiastically received. The boys then worked off their surplus enthusiasm, and awakened old memories by singing *Waltzing Mathilda*, *Gaudeamus Igitur* and the *Orderly Song* — always a

favourite at the School fruit-farming camps. By this time the stage had been set for an extremely funny and well-executed sketch by Betty Barfield and Jack Mitchell. We then heard some really delightful singing by Elizabeth Robinson, followed by enthusiastic 'efforts' from the French and German Choir.

By December 1948 the Prospect Players were ready with their first full production for which they chose Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man* directed by Miss Harland and seems by all accounts to have been a resounding success with Betty Barfield and Geoffrey Springett playing Louka and Bluntschli; Peter Boyntan, Sergius; Sylvia Thom, Raina; and Donald Manning, Petkoff, while Roy Knight stage managed, Mr Sheldrake, Jim Williams and M Deavin lighted, Geoff and Rae Elsworth with Mr Johnson designed sets and Mills and Junkin built them. Music and sound effects were provided by Gerry Eades.

In the following years they went on to produce Christopher Fry's *A Phoenix Too Frequent* with which they gained first place in A Drama competition at the Ealing Festival in 1949; *Saint Simeon Stylites*; Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth* to celebrate the School's 10th Anniversary; the medieval French farce, *The Farce of the Worthy Master Pierre Patelin*; Sheridan's *The Critic*, *Who is Sylvia* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, to mention but a few.



Given in the SCHOOL HALL at 7 p.m.

on DECEMBER 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th

1949

A Look into the Future. . . in 1957

At the November 1957 Speech Day the pupils were given a look into the future and asked to reflect on some aspects which we could well consider today:

'What sort of world will you live in? — We are nearing the day of the 4-day week', said Mr J Compton, former Ealing Education officer, who presented prizes and

certificates at Greenford County Grammar School Speech Day ceremony. . . We were rapidly moving into a world where scientific advance would be so rapid as to be unrecognisable. Regarding automation and the satellites, did they carry hope or a threat? . . .

What use are you making of your leisure time? What you do between 15 and 18 will largely determine what you will do in later life. Pleasure in the arts — books, music, painting, architecture — you will have much from the arts with you whatever you do later. The books you read now will be of an importance which no books you afterwards read will be to you. Music you hear now will last throughout the rest of your life.

Sport and Societies Flourish

Mr L. James followed with his report: A full programme of inter-school and inter-house games has been carried out during the year. Our footballers met all their opponents on reasonably equal terms — our hockey players had a very good season — one of their best and one with which they can be well pleased. Our basketball senior team played with an excellent spirit, defeating many adult teams who have been playing the game for a number of years. The tennis team had a very successful season but cricket was not quite so good (No comment!). A Badminton Club has been formed among senior members of the school who have played enthusiastically and enjoyed all their games.

The playing and learning to play musical instruments is increasing and classes for violin and cello are dealing with increasing numbers. I hope the day is not distant when we shall again have a body of experienced and competent pupils working together as an orchestra. Societies continue to flourish and among these must be mentioned the Literary and Debating Society and the S C M Group. Parties have visited theatres, concerts and exhibitions and a most successful visit was arranged to Austria for 3rd and

4th years following on the success of last year's visit to Germany. In view of the criticism of behaviour of pupils on continental visits — something scathing which, I am sure, many of you will have seen in the press — it has been a welcome relief to hear the pleasant things said about our parties.

During the year our pupils have contributed to those in dire need on a generous scale — £209 10s to the National Spastics Society, £50 to the Hungarian Relief Fund, in addition to other sums collected on Poppy Day and on Alexandra Rose Day. An appeal from Ealing Round Table was met by as many toys and books as the Table could collect and distribute in view of restrictions on the use of petrol.

Work Not Much Liked By A Few

I have left the subject of work until last — it is one, I fear, not much liked by a few of our number but one which is tremendously important. I am glad to record the award of a State Scholarship making a continuous series of one or more awards per year since 1951. Our Advanced and Ordinary results, as we expected, were not as good as last year. Last year at Advanced Level, for instance, there was scarcely a subject failure, yet while results were not bad, they did not measure up to that standard. Similarly, Ordinary Level results were disappointing, although I am pleased to indicate a considerable improvement in performance in the really basic subject English. Of our three 5th forms, one's attitude to work was excellent — there was a job to be done and those boys and girls went to it whatever their academic ability — one form with some ability could easily be distracted from the main job in hand — the third in the main had its mind fixed on every conceivable activity but the main one in hand in spite of everything said and done by staff and I know parents as well.

To me it seems of tremendous importance that boys and girls must recognise as they grow up that there are certain



School Choral Society

times when certain opportunities are presented to them. Failure to take the opportunity means loss for ever in the great majority of cases. It seems to be that in this life one of the things we have to learn to do is to make decisions for ourselves — in 4th and 5th year we decide to work hard or go under. I do not accept the plea that Ordinary Level is a difficult examination to pass in 5 subjects — it is not. No boy or girl who really works and has his or her mind on the job should fail — I have a high regard for their ability if they will only use it.

The facing of facts is something which I believe we as a nation are not doing at the moment. Let those who are at school learn that schooldays are a preparation for life afterwards: let them learn to face situations in school with courage and to make decisions which for the time may bring discomfort in one form or another.

A Day in the Life of... Greenford High School (previously, Greenford County Grammar)

The former Stella Davies, pupil at the school 1953-1960, on July 24th 1989 wrote a few thoughts:-

The year is 1959.

The month is August — another long, hot summer — rather like now; but perhaps not quite so stifling.

I am wheeling my bike, rather laboriously, through one of the zig-zag, red brick structures that form dual side-entrances to the school premises. (These have not changed at all, by the way, during the years that have since intervened.)

I take the left-hand side, Girls' way in, that leads straight up into the girls' playground. The sexes were, perhaps, more strictly segregated, in those days, than they are now; though Greenford was even then a mixed school of long standing; and had, in addition, a reputation for being more 'liberated', in that respect, than most.

On the left side of the girls' playground, and forming part of the eastern boundary to the school as it was then, are a set of lean-to, corrugated iron roofed cycle sheds.

A wire fence ran behind these, from a point further up, down to the main road; railing off some waste ground, as I remember it, that ran right down to the 'Hare and Hounds' premises, further down the road.

I am not even sure, at this distance of time, whether the short row of houses that now occupies the space between the school and that pub, which had such a dissipated, out-of-bounds aura about it then — (and it was, really, out of bounds, as was the faintly sleazy café across the road, name long-forgotten, every trace of whose identity is now long erased, where daring pupils used to gather, in those far off days, when the ballad era was just faintly beginning, to pass into Rock 'n Roll — and it was infinitely exciting to play the juke box, drink rather lukewarm, Espresso coffee — flavoured by illegality — and pretend to be American, as almost all our teen-'idols' were then. . .)

As I say, I do not remember whether that row of houses was even there at that time. There were too many other, exciting things to take notice of. . .

But Rosedene Avenue certainly was opposite. A boy in my year who was frighteningly good at Maths — while I was a total dunderhead — lived there. Funny how that kind of thing sticks in one's mind, after all these years!

I put my bike rather hurriedly into the cycle-sheds: behind which, a narrow path curves up, beside a now non-existent, large, oval flowerbed, carefully tended by the school gardener, and leads along a rather picturesquely shady tall hedge that, along with the inevitably accom-

panying wire fence faces the two huts that then served as the only two outlying classrooms; and continues that upward boundary, leading to the playing field.

None of the present additional blocks were there then; neither were the attractive garden areas and walkways to the east that now extend, in a most pleasant way, the area of the school. . .

It is now just gone a quarter to nine.

In previous years, I would have been in a tearing hurry, as the official time for entering the school premises was twenty to nine; and vigilant prefects stood at both east and west entrances to intercept latecomers, and hand out the inevitable detentions: red for really bad, i.e. premeditated and rebellious 'crimes'; blue for just plain, ordinary haphazard sinners like myself.

But both involved staying after school, which I didn't like: not writing out interminable pages from old, boring text-books, anyway. . . (I wonder if the same system still prevails?) . . .

But now I had no need to hurry.

For one thing, exams, mock A Levels then, for me, were over; inducing a more leisurely climate in the school.

For another, just six months ago, I had been made a prefect myself. This, plus just being in the Lower Sixth Form, exempted me from some of the more tiresome, at least, school rules — strict time-keeping among them.

Accordingly, I sauntered through the swing-doors, hailing friends on duty as I passed, and down the beeswaxed corridor, dark after the outdoor brightness — with the lackadaisical air of one of the privileged: one of the new school elite. . . (In those far off grammar school days, every member of this school was, in fact, encouraged to consider him or herself as part of some vague, unspecified, shadowy elite. . .)

This was after urgent sorting of textbooks, some desultory chatting, and perhaps a snatched cup of tea or coffee in the prefects' Room, which contained a gas-ring. (The Prefects' Room, in those days, was that designated by the present B12 on the current school plan, which I think is now used as the Maths workstation/store.)

It was — and, I presume, still is — large enough to accommodate a long, wooden table running down the centre of the room; some rows of shelves, for our books and other possessions — and about a dozen armchairs, plus one sofa.

These formed the stage for many lively debates — and sometimes, even some scuffles. . .

But of that too, more later — if there is time. . .

Assemblies at that time were always headed — I suppose, appropriately, by the Headmaster — then Mr James. I do not suppose it will hurt, after all this lapse of time, to pass on a rumour at that time current about this probably very worthy individual. Because he so seldom appeared out of his study — apart from official functions, like these assemblies, and the then, annual, School Dance, plays and concerts etc.; the unkind tale had it that he was secretly senile; and that the school was in reality run by his very efficient, even commanding, then Senior master (today, we would call him Deputy Head, I suppose?) - Mr Sheldrake.

Mr James was, in fact, a retiring personality; but one comment he made about me, personally, when I was entering the Vith form, convinced me of his inner perspicacity, for evermore. (It would not be appropriate, or relevant, to pass that on here. . . apart from the fact of its being fairly uncomplimentary to me!)

Miss Drayton — then Senior Mistress (feminine Deputy Head and representative of the Girls' side of the school) was another school character. She could look a bit grim (often, she had to!); but was in reality very good and kind. She always led the singing of the hymns in the then compulsory, daily School Assembly, in a stern, uncon-

promising voice; while glaring sideways at any unfortunate prefect standing next to her who she did not feel was contributing to the proceedings in the proper, earnest manner. Worship was always Christian in those days, of course.

Another teacher called Mr Lockhart, an Irishman, was another character. (Looking back on it, almost all our teachers fitted that description, in one way or another, in those days. . . Is it the same now, I wonder? I suppose so, human nature being one factor that has not changed since then.)

I have a persistent memory of Mr Lockhart, who taught English, mostly, then, in Room 7 (A28 on the modern plan, just around the corner from the hall); and who normally spent a great deal of his time denouncing his classes — quite rightly, for the most part — as 'wasters!': standing up on the school platform — still quite unchanged from those days — to read out, for the benefit of the school, his favourite passage from the Bible, which he did on numerous occasions, so much so that the words are now fairly branded into my mind — thank God, I now say.

For the passage he invariably chose was from the Book of Proverbs, (Chapter 16, verse 16):

How much better than gold it is to gain wisdom;

And to gain discernment is better than pure silver.

The Book of Job, chapter 28, verse 18: '*Wisdom's price is far above rubies*' was also among this master's pet passages, which always, as you will notice, revolved around the same theme.

After Assembly, it was time for the first lesson; sauntering casually (as we prefects at least did, though the other pupils marched strictly in line, usually marshalled by

us!) — past the old Chemistry lab on the 1st Floor (now B18) where Miss Bunting, at that time the distinctly elderly Head of Science Department, who had once, very memorably, blown herself, and a few other pupils in the front row of the benches — up! As you will be relieved to know, the injuries received were not serious. Far worse a hazard, as I have often heard mentioned, were the liberal amounts of saliva with which she used to besprinkle those devotees of hers who were unfortunate enough to have to sit within close range.

Suffice it to say that French at that time was taught by two Scotsmen, Mr John Grieve and Mr Stephenson in rooms corresponding to that marked B08 and A21 and A22; and A27 the latter being designated, at that time, the 'Music Room'. It ran in tiers of seats, like an university lecture-hall, on a minor scale (pun, unintentional) and great was my fascination, at the age of 11, as I remember, on being introduced to the charms of the French language at that time, with 'r's' even more ferociously pronounced than is customary anywhere lower down than 'Bonnie Prince Charlie's' terrain, I am sure.

Other memories flood back: ghostly smells, as of bad eggs, coming from the next-door 'Stinks Room' — otherwise known as 'Advanced Chemistry' laboratory (now A26); long lazy afternoons, sitting with so-pleasant Mrs Beattie, in the sunny quadrangles, or school garden, reading Chaucer (one of my most cherished memories: where else but in England could you do that?); school plays and concerts and our heady V1th Form discussion group, the Vitalis Society (Does it still meet?).

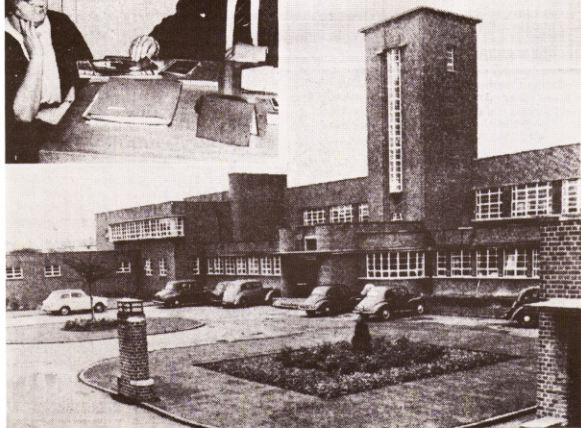
But time. . . if not space, has run out now. . .

COUNTY TIMES AND GAZETTE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1960



"Left: 'Do you remember . . . ?' "Times-Gazette" photographs taken at the school 20 years ago revive war-time memories for the present headmaster, Mr. Leslie James, and senior mistress, Miss M. H. Drayton, the only two original members of staff still teaching there.

Below: The school that survived the bombs. Opened 21 years ago this month, the building survived one of the worst local raids of the war less than 12 months later, when at least 200 people in the area were killed.



CRUMPETS, TEA AND SLEEP

Too Much Tea

We've read above of the 'faintly sleazy cafe' across the street from the school where the pupils liked to gather to play the juke box. Such habits caught the attention of Mr James, the Head, who in 1956 wrote to the parents to express his concern:

In common with other members of staff here, I have been worried recently by parents' statements of the late times at which many pupils arrive home after afternoon school. Afternoon school finishes at 3:40 and pupils in the main should be clear of the premises at 3:55: from time to time a pupil may be detained to report work poorly done: detentions given for bad behaviour are served on Wednesday or Friday afternoon. In general a pupil may be clear of the premises by 5 o'clock if detained. School activities of one sort or another also take place after afternoon school.

I feel very strongly that the great majority of boys and girls should come straight home after leaving the premises: money, in most cases parents' money, is being wasted in cafes not only in cups of tea but in various machines: behaviour and company are not all that could be wished for at such times and this again is a matter of great concern to the staff, lowering as it does the prestige of this school in the eyes of the general public.

I am, in view of this, asking parents to be good enough to help the school by seeing that, as far as possible, their son and daughter come straight home from school: if special circumstances are such that it is necessary for your child regularly to obtain refreshment on the way home, it would be helpful if you would let me know.

Prefects

Those of you who are in the School now may perhaps have only a vague idea of what was meant by a prefect. There were about 20 prefects including a Head Boy and a Head Girl who were selected each year from the 6th Form. They had a room for their sole use — what is now the Mathematics Work Room opposite the Staff Room — and certain privileges in exchange for performing some duties around the school. (They lost this room in '72/'73 because of the pressure for another Art Room.) Occasionally they were criticised for abusing some of their privileges — like playing the wireless, playing table tennis or toasting crumpets during lesson time — not even prefects were perfect! Normally, however, they spent a lot of their spare time helping to run the school and various clubs or societies.

Has Homework interfered with your sleep lately?

Message sent to Greenford parents Present 4th and 5th Years Take Note!

COUNTY COUNCIL OF MIDDLESEX BOROUGH OF EALING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SLEEP

Boys and Girls between 14 and 16 years of age

Many parents recognise that young children need plenty of sleep: a child of 5—7 needs at least 12 hours in bed, a child of 8—11 needs at least 11 hours and a child of 12—14 needs at least 10 hours. But it is not generally realised that boys and girls over 14 suffer seriously adverse effects if they do not get enough sleep.

Boys and girls between 14 and 16 years of age need at least 9½—10 hours in bed. Otherwise they become tired and irritable, lose their appetite and are unable to work hard or enjoy their leisure.

Homework in the schools is planned so that it should never encroach upon bedtime but the approach of an examination sometimes induces anxiety in parents and pupils who may cut down the time for sleep in order to have extra time for preparation. This is unwise as the resultant strain and fatigue will be a handicap to good work and may have lasting consequences.

W. G. BOOTH,

Area Medical Officer.

Each day two (a boy and a girl) would be on what was known as full duty. They had to be in the school by 8:30 to ensure that the chairs were set out in the hall for Assembly and to see that no one but the 5th Years were in the School. The boy had to write up the day's menu (a cooked dinner then — not the cafeteria meals we have now). They had to take the names of anyone who was late. The boy on duty had to blow a whistle for Assembly (no pips!) and stand outside the hall with those who were late, keeping them quiet during the Assembly. The girl on duty also had to lock the cloakroom.

At dinner time, both prefects had to patrol the dinner queue inside until 1 p.m. After school, they checked and cleared the school by 3:45. The girl had to unlock the cloakroom at 3:30. (The girls' cloakroom is now our Resources Room and the boys used what is now a storeroom. The pupils wore their blazers in school and kept their outside coats or jackets in the cloakroom.)

Some prefects were on playground duty and had to patrol the school and playground at break and dinner time keeping the pupils outside the building (unless the weather was bad). They also patrolled the dinner queue which stretched outside the building.

The girl on dinner duty was in charge of unlocking and locking the cloakroom at the beginning and end of the dinner break (from 12:30-1:45) though it was kept locked between 1:15 and 1:40. The boy on dinner duty locked the classrooms except 5th Year form rooms. South corridor entrances were locked and the building was cleared about 1:00. If the prefects were late unlocking the cloakrooms or classrooms this caused a bit of a commotion with both pupils and teachers standing around waiting for them.

Two prefects were responsible for running a tuck shop and were excused from all other duties. They had to arrange for it to be set up in the entrance hall just before break and were responsible for clearing up afterwards.

There was also a prefect on Library duty everyday from 1:00 onwards to ensure that there was absolute silence in the library.

There was at least one and sometimes two prefects attached to each of the lower forms. They took registration and helped the Form Teacher before Assembly and after dinner. They were to attend to their forms at all times unless they were not needed by the member of staff. The form prefects were also responsible for their forms in assembly and were to keep them quiet.

Prefects were to regard themselves as on duty at all times and were to take appropriate action when a school rule was broken. One job they were expected to do at all times was to keep an eye out for litter louts — perhaps we need a few prefects around just to do that job now?.

A Head Boy's View of the School at 20

It was the custom for the Head Boy or Girl to give a report on the school to the Old Scholars' Association annually. Geoffrey Evans was Head Boy in 1959 and has retained his report and has entrusted it to me — he assures me he typed it himself (with corrections in his own fair hand). After the conventional expressions of thanks he went on to give his view of the school at the time:

No doubt many of you old scholars, if not all, are inclined to think that 'the old grey mare isn't what she used to be'. I refer of course to the school. Well, as yet, the old grey mare is far from dead, as those, if there are any present, who played in the School v Old Scholars cricket match will probably remember. Perhaps we had better not mention the footballers who for some reason, I hope it was not their senility, were unable to perform last season.



NOTHING WITH INTEREST THE ADOPTION
OF GOLD BRAID BY THE PREFECTS,
WE VENTURE TO WONDER
WHAT THE PREFECTS WILL
ULTIMATELY LOOK LIKE

Last year was a particularly successful one as regards sport. In fact it would not be exaggerating to say the most successful ever. The school has never lacked enthusiasm for its sports teams. We were able to send three people to the All England Schools Athletics Championships with success. The school was also well represented in the Middlesex Schools Championships, while in the Grammar Schools Championships held at Chiswick we gained the highest number of placings out of all the grammar schools in this area.

I am pleased to tell you that nearly all of the school are wearing complete school uniform. This year all the prefects are setting the fashion with their exceptionally smart appearance. As the school approaches its coming of age, tradition too is being formed, as can be seen from the fact that the school is more willing to wear school uniform and, more particularly, the request of the sixth form boys for a new style of cap, which they would be proud to wear. This request has been answered with a new cap for sixth form boys only.

Those amongst us who have had the honour of presiding in the inner sanctum of the prefects' room will be interested to know that during the Easter holidays, last year's ambitious prefects obtained permission and the materials to paint our room in contemporary style. The school's interior is in the process of being painted and now it looks as if our hard labour was in vain, because the other day the foreman came up to me and told me that we

had done the job quite well for amateurs but he and his men would decorate our room with the professional touch. (Do things ever change? Refer to the 6th formers of two or three years ago!)

This year we have four people completing a third year in the sixth form, studying at scholarship level. I think that gradually more and more grammar school pupils are realising the opportunity and benefit a sixth form course offers. We now have a large sixth form compared with previous years.

Cricket: A successful season without conceding a defeat. Football: Likewise a most successful season compared with past seasons. Hockey: The 1st XI played 15 games and lost only one. This was probably the most successful season ever.

For the first time for many years the staff turned out a football XI almost as strong as the school's first XI, which just goes to prove that 'there's life in the old chaps yet'.

COMING OF AGE

The School's 21st

By the School's 21st Birthday in 1960 the Head could report that since the end of the war 130 pupils had gone to universities, and 20 State Scholarships had been awarded. That year rugby was introduced into the school, the 1st XI hockey team gained second place in the Middlesex Senior Hockey Tournament, the Science Society was re-started and a Tuck Shop was established. The school library contained 6,000 volumes and to mark the birthday the Old Scholars presented a Bible bound in red to match the stage curtains. The Ministry of Education sent its Inspectors in to report on how the School was developing.

In the next year or two, a new society, the Forum, was founded to encourage the development of cultural and other interests including public speaking. The School first entered pupils for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme; the junior basketball team won the Middlesex Cup Competition and a girl won the Senior Girls' Long Jump Title at the All-England Schools' Championship.

The Prospect Players On Location

During the '60s the Old Scholars drama group, the Prospect Players, were not to be outdone by Ealing Studios, Pinewood, or Hollywood for that matter, and ambitiously started making films. For example, a 'western' was completed in November (1962), with 'commercials fitted in appropriate places' and given its premiere at an Old Scholars' Social in March. But the enterprises were not without their difficulties: 'We started work on a *Robin Hood* epic in the early summer, but were rained off after shooting only a quarter of the action' By the following May they were at it again with *The Vikings* but didn't quite finish then because 'the weather broke at an inopportune moment and bad light stopped play.' Such vagaries of the weather did not discourage the intrepid film crews who went on to complete these films and others including *At Your Leisure* in 1969.

Meanwhile, Back in the Studio

Concerts remained a major feature of school life and included performances of works like Handel's *Messiah* given by the School Choral Society with soloists and school orchestra, sometimes augmented by members of the Ealing Youth Orchestra.

In 1964 the school purchased a 2 manual Compton electric organ to mark the occasion of its 25th anniversary. (Unfortunately the organ was destroyed in 1974/75.)

Christmas, Easter and Whitsun services of appropriate hymns, readings and talks by special speakers continued annually.

And On Stage

The School continued producing plays regularly during the '60s, usually in December, plays such as *Pygmalion* in 1963, *Macbeth*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* in succeeding years. The cost of hiring lighting was increasing annually so the School made an appeal and by 1966 parents and staff had contributed enough to provide lighting equipment for the production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

A performance of *Androcles and the Lion* was given in 1967. Among those present was Mrs James. The Lion was played by John Vale; Androcles by Victor Coleman; Magara by Gill Richardson; Centurian, Malcolm James; Captain, Ian Hinde; Lentulus, Philip Mison; Metellus, Anthony Summers; Spintho, Michael Linane; and Ferrovius by our present Deputy Chair of Governors, Richard Bellairs (at other times, when he wasn't acting, he seems to have been contributing his talents to the strings section of the school orchestra or playing the guitar in Entertainments!).

The Autumn activities of the Art Society revolved around designing and making costumes for *Androcles and the Lion*. Judith Lester made a very realistic lion's head from old mops and papier maché. Others spent their time sewing tunics and making swords and helmets. It wasn't until the production was behind them that the Society was allowed to get on with their usual activities of visits to exhibitions and art galleries, and experimenting with various forms of art or craft.

1968 found many of the same members of the Dramatic Society involved in the production of Gogol's *The Government Inspector* which received high praise in the local paper. The reviewer commended the choice of play as a wise one because it is an amusing play which gives a fair number of pupils a chance to display their acting abilities. The audience found plenty to laugh at with extremely good performances from Malcolm Barry, as the Mayor, and John Vale as the mistaken inspector. Both had difficult and lengthy parts to sustain but neither needed prompting. John Vale received special credit because the sum total of his previous acting experience was as the Lion in *Androcles*!

Many of the other 25 members of the cast deserved a mention but the ones particularly liked by the reviewer were Ossip (Keith Harber) who played the clerk's servant, and Bobchinsky and Dobchinsky (Vic Coleman and Chris Humphrey). The scenery and costumes were considered excellent on the whole — the one criticism concerned the grubby shoes worn by the Mayor!

The following year Vic Coleman, Peter Wareham, Linda Wootley, Suzanne Rees, Gill Baker, Philip Mison, Alan Tozer, Neil Snowdon and Sharon Adlem played parts in Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*.

The Insect Play by The Brothers Capek followed in December 1970 with the Tramp played by Peter Wareham, Lepidopterist by Tim Lott, Clytie by Sharon Adlem, Otto by Alex Hidveghy, the Chrysalis by Gillian Hircock and the Chief Engineer by Neil Snowdon.

Mr Cheshire as Fagin, R. Postins as Oliver and M. Wilson as the Artful Dodger, R. Sansom as Bill Sykes and Moya McLoughlin as Nancy led the cast of *Oliver* in 1971.

What was to turn out to be the last full production of the Grammar School's Dramatic Society was one that had

been produced back in 1960 by Mr Ted Field and one the Prospect Players put on back in 1948: Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man* (1972), produced by Mr Truman and Miss Loosley with the main parts played by Phil Grace (the Head Boy that year), Andrew Glenister, Geoff O'Donoghue, Terry Cross, Tim Lott, Mary Woodhouse, Pat Bell and Moya McLoughlin.

In 1973 there was no school play but in December there was an *Entertainment* with musical and dramatic items.

From 1967 most of the plays were produced by Mr Truman. Miss Newton was responsible for set and costume designs for a number of years. Construction of sets were under the supervision of Mr Sutcliffe, Mr Holbrook or Mr Cheshire. Most of the lighting was delivered by Mr Thornton, David Grubb or Mr Gosling. Mr Goodhew seemed always involved looking after Properties or helping to produce; Mrs Trounce usually looked after the make-up or programmes and for the later plays Mr Fuller did the House Manager's job. Many other staff, too numerous to mention were involved in the productions while a great number of the pupils helped in countless ways. Several of the pupils also went on to join the Prospect Players. Programmes for the plays were printed in the School by The Pilgrim Press.



Earnest Discussion

The interests of the pupils ranged over many areas and continued to inspire many clubs and societies. While the Geographical Club were enjoying films and talks by their members on such places as Crete or Canada, the Vitalis Society was considering papers on such varied topics as Graffiti, Existentialism, Melodrama, Vietnam, Medicine, Plato's Republic and Censorship.

Miss Strickley and Mr Goodhew were highly involved with the Vitalis Society but that did not stop them from launching the Historical and Current Affairs Society in 1968 at the inaugural meeting of which two films on Rome and Roman Britain were discussed. Like the Vitalis Society they too were concerned about Vietnam and joined with the Debating Society to debate the motion: *That this House supports American policy in Vietnam* which was carried after much heated discussion.

The Student Christian Movement was not to be left out of the discussions but they were interested in topics on a spiritual plane: Church Unity, Courtship and Marriage, Hell, Spiritual Peace, Doctrines of the Gospel, Spiritualism and the difficult question, Why does God allow suffering?

Z Club for Africa

Some simply wanted a demanding form of amusement with chess or Mah Jong as organised by Mr Keenan, but one club with an intriguing name formed about this time, the Z Club, under the tutelage of Miss Newton, was dedicated to doing good for others:

'We make scrap-books, picture books, we knit and sew and some of us are going to make calendars for 1969. Others are going to make picture books about the school. We are also knitting squares with oddments of wool which we sew together to make blankets and sewing material

together to make eiderdowns. Miss Newton sends everything we make to the Charles Johnson Hospital in Zululand. This hospital is run by her brother-in-law, Dr Barker who visited the school at the beginning of the summer term. The eiderdowns and blankets are put on the hospital beds and the picture books are given or read to the younger patients. We all enjoy making these things for these people in Africa.'

Besides the work of the Z Club other charitable work continued with members of the school supporting Task Force, organising collections for charity form by form, or collecting used stamps for the S.O.S. Society.

Weil am Rhein or St Mary's Bay?

Trips abroad were undertaken such as that of the 19 boys and girls who one year spent their Easter break in Weil am Rhein in Germany near where the borders of France, Germany and Switzerland meet in the middle of the Rhine; or that of the party of pupils at Easter 1972 who were the first from the school to go on an educational Mediterranean cruise; or the skiing party to Einsiedeln in Switzerland during the following Christmas holidays.

Summer terms usually drew to a close with day trips undertaken by groups of pupils. For instance one year a party of 1st formers visited the Science Museum, and some 2nd formers spent an enjoyable day at St Mary's Bay in Kent. The 4th formers went to Hatfield House for the day and the lower 6th visited Watney's Brewery. There were also visits to Wimbledon.

The Best Ever Season

The School continued to excel in their sports: The 1967-68 season 'has been the 1st XI Football Team's best ever in which they won all but 4 of their 27 inter-school matches and extended their unbeaten home record to over 2 years. The team's greatest achievement, however, was that they reached the final of the Middlesex Senior Schools' Cup in which they were narrowly beaten by Ambrose Fleming School despite the vocal support of over 300 Greenford supporters!' The Team: C. Bell, T. King, D. Nelson (captain), B. Steele, G. Hensman, R. Doyle, J. Vale, C. Pegram, J. Evans, D. Clemenson, R. Parry-Jones with occasional help from D. Hayward, S. Warron, and I. Caterer. R. Doyle played for the Middlesex County Youth Team and D. Nelson played for the Middlesex Senior schools.

The 2nd XI also had a successful season and managed to score well over 100 goals in 25 matches played, while the under 16's reached the semi-finals of the Middlesex Cup.

It should be noted here that many of the pupils after they left the school continued to play for the Old Greenfordians who had three teams playing League and Cup matches. There was so much competition for the school pitches at the weekends that the Old Greenfordians were forced to start using those at Spikes Bridge. The Old Greenfordians, by the way, are still going strong!

Basketball: The School's Senior Basketball Team have had their best ever season and have won all 18 inter-school matches, including the final of the Middlesex Senior Schools Basketball Cup. This final, played at Stanmore, saw Greenford beat Harrow Weald 38-32 in a very exciting game cheered on by 250 fervent supporters. Senior Team: D. Nelson capt, G. Hensman, R. Doyle, C. Bell, B. Steele, J. Vale, D. Hayward and D. Dennis. D. Nelson and G. Hensman played for Middlesex Senior Basketball team throughout the season.

The U15 Hockey Team did well the same season. They reached the final of the Middlesex County Tournament

but unfortunately were then defeated. Official team: Pamela Saville, Lynn Alexander capt, Hazel South, Lorraine Jackson, Linda Ingles, Linda Rickets, Marilyn Elster, Jennifer Holt, Sheila Johnson, Madeline Jones, and Stella Dixon.

In 1973 the Second XI Hockey Team won the Ealing Hockey League Trophy.

A Cross-Country Club was formed in 1966 and under the guidance of Mr Cassingham and Mr Hall a number started training. In a year the Club was ready to enter a team for the Ealing Championship and it won a trophy as it tied for first place with Cardinal Wiseman. The Club went on to produce a boy who became the First Year Ealing Schools Cross Country Champion and another was joint winner of the Senior Championship.

The summer of 1973 was a particularly successful one for athletics — the boys won the aggregate trophy in the Ealing Schools Athletics Championship and the girls, the Senior Girls' Trophy.

Competition was not confined to the sports fields but also included the very popular 'Top of the Form' Competitions with other grammar schools.

Northolt and the Horrors of Housework!

The 1967 edition of *Prospice* carried two articles by younger pupils in the school which seemed worth quoting. The first gives some insight into the life of pupils at home and will be particularly appreciated by those of us who are steeped in Equal Opportunities policies and Awareness of Gender Issues or by those who are used to modern kitchens and appliances. The other describes the rapid growth of Northolt at the time:

Second Year Gillian Sidebottom wasn't very happy with the lot of women:

The main horror of housework is that it never stays done. You have to do it over and over again. I have to clear the table and do the washing up every day. Why do women stay at home and do the housework? In Sweden boys do domestic science as well as girls, so they can cope when they leave school and live by themselves.

Another 'horror' in most houses is that equipment is badly designed with lots of corners and cracks and is therefore hard to clean and dust.

Very few houses are planned in one go, and then things are added which are not taken into account and this involves more cleaning. The spaces in between gas stoves, dryers, washing machines are dust traps; near the cooker you get grease as well.

Heavy vacuum cleaners are also a problem, especially when you are cleaning the stairs. The cable will not usually reach up the stairs very far, so you have to carry it.

There are some solutions to this problem i.e. throw-away crockery, robot cleaners or a maid (if you can afford one). When I get married my husband will stay at home and do the housework while I go to work!

But Third Year Sally Ingold was quite content living in Northolt:

Northolt is in the suburbs of London and is therefore a good place to live. The town and good shopping centres are easy to reach and the country is also very near. As you enter Northolt you will see an old thatched roof Pub and an old Church. This church is at least 800 years old. Queen Victoria planted the oak tree which stands in the foreground of the church. I was christened in this church which is called St Mary's.

When I first remember living there, there was an old racecourse where they used to race ponies, now it is a

large housing estate where all the roads are named after racecourses.

Today, Northolt is very much modernised with a new swimming pool and a new Youth Club which is still being built. There is also a station and a library.

The old village green still remains and there is a large clock tower on it. Opposite the green is a very large new Post Office and on the opposite side the old village shops still remain and are in daily use. At one end of the green where the old library was, which is now maisonettes, there is a small stream. It flows under the road and, when it reappears, it is running alongside the green in front of the church. This is a popular place for people to sit by the stream in the Summer evenings. There is also a very nice garden which is kept for elderly people to sit and rest.

Prospice: An Obituary

The March '73 Newsletter of the Old Scholars Association announced: It is with regret that we record the death of the school magazine *Prospice* which has gone the way of many magazines and newspapers under the onslaught of rising costs. Mr Lockhart is to be congratulated on keeping it alive for as long as he did. However, the editorial hive of room 7 has not entirely closed down, for last month the underground presses rolled and out came *News from Greenford* which, though not in the same class as *Prospice*, is designed to let Greenford know just what has been going on in Greenford.

News from Greenford carried its own obituary to *Prospice*:

Whatever happened to *Prospice* the school magazine? — Now it can be told!

Mounting costs were the real reason for the disappearance of *Prospice* the magazine you loved to display on your coffee tables! Not even covers designed by Jane Hord could save us! At a meeting attended by the Editor (J. H. K. Lockhart), the Business Manager (J. H. K. Lockhart), the Contributions Editor (J. H. K. Lockhart) and others, it was unanimously decided to wind up the magazine. A crisis of reorganisation followed: how many heads would roll? One faction led by the Sports Secretary (J. H. K. Lockhart) wanted to end it all. Another group, led by the School Societies Correspondent (J. H. K. Lockhart) wanted to keep the magazine going. Finally the office boy (J. H. K. Lockhart — always a bright lad!) came up with the idea of a news-sheet, highly coloured, of course. It was decided to avoid further friction that all jobs would be combined in one and that that office would be modestly assumed by — J. H. K. Lockhart.



Can you guess the date this photo was taken?