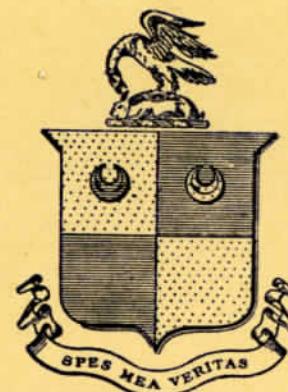


THE QUORNIAN



JULY - 1954
Vol. V No. 6

THE QUORNIAN

The Magazine of the Rawlins Grammar School, Quorn

Vol. V. No. 6.

JULY, 1954.

Magazine Committee:

VALERIE HARDY, Editor

JULIE BARNARD

ROSEMARY WEBB

SANDRA MAGEE

MAUREEN MALONEY

MARION KIBBLE

MISS W. BROWN



At the beginning of the summer term one always looks forward with pleasure to the sun-bathing each dinner-time will afford, to the lessons conducted by indulgent mistresses in the shade of the prefab, the favoured pupils having one eye on the lesson and one on some nearby ant or other biological specimen. Games lessons are awaited with longing, the dreamer imagining the comfortable game of rounders or tennis that will compensate for the chattering teeth and shivering limbs of the previous term's hockey.

It is strange how the mind can be twisted to shape these identical hallucinations year after year, for of all the terms the third is the one most generously packed with both educational and social activities. 1954 above all seems to have left us little leisure, for at the time of going to print each member of the school is torn between the desire to pass in the end-of-term examinations and the wish to produce some embroidered garment or chocolate cake worthy of a price ticket at our Garden Fete, to be held on July 17th.

Yet another valiant band remains after school twice weekly to practice for a gym display, their bones after the second week beginning to creak almost as much as the reluctant apparatus their tired arms must drag out each time. The dinner-times to be spent lazing in the sun are instead given to toiling on a rounders pitch in a house match or shouting lustily for the favoured team; which of these occupations is the more exhausting will never be settled.

In the midst of this fevered preparation it falls to us to produce our magazine. Once again we are forced to conclude that the lack of entries (only a super-abundance is recognised by us as enough) is not owing to the absence of creative talent but to the fact that the minds of the members of this school are filled with more immediately necessary dates and formulae, cake recipes and sewing patterns. Nevertheless, we hope that our magazine will not fail to add to the enjoyment of its readers and to the prestige of its contributors.

SCHOOL NOTES

Following the retirement of Canon Hargreaves last July, the Rev. G. P. Drift, C.B.E., the new Vicar of Woodhouse Eaves, has become a Foundation Governor of the School. At Easter, the Rev. W. E. Pilling, Vicar of Quorn for thirteen years, accepted the living of Market Bosworth, and thus we have lost his services as Foundation Governor and also those of Mrs. Pilling. We wish to express our most sincere thanks to them for their service to the School and for their great help and support during its transitional period and to send them our good wishes. We feel sure they will retain an interest in us and hope to see them often as guests. Sir Robert Martin has also intimated that pressure of work has made him feel that he must resign. One regrets but acknowledges this necessity, with a feeling of gratitude that so wise a man as he continues to guide educational policy in the wider field of Leicestershire.

New members of Staff during the year have been Miss Broster and Miss Coveney in September and Miss Parkinson in November when Miss Jones left to be married. We saw Miss Jones go with much genuine regret but have been glad to have her back to visit us during the year. Miss Coveney is leaving to be married this summer and Miss Parkinson, now Mrs. Jones, having married at Easter, leaves also. During the short space they have been here, they have done most successful work and we hope they will be very happy. Miss Graham and Miss Mayhew are leaving to take up other posts, Miss Graham at the Girls' High School, Barnsley, Yorkshire, and Miss Mayhew at the High School, Grays, Essex. Both are moving nearer their homes and we wish them a happy and successful future. New members of Staff will be Miss Gibson for Gymnastics, Miss Powell for Art, Miss Hall for Scripture, and Miss Matthews for French and German.

We congratulate Rosemary Kelham on being awarded a County Bursary as a result of her General Certificate results at Advanced Level last year. She is taking it up at Leicester College of Speech Therapy.

The following present and past pupils are to be congratulated on gaining admission to colleges, a matter not always easy nowadays: for 1954, Mary Lawrence (Bedford College of Physical Education), Beverley Henson (Leicester City Domestic Science College), Mollie Bray and Jill Padmore (Nelson Hall Training College, Stafford), Gillian Smith (Gold-

smiths Training College, London). Josephine Cook has also been accepted by Nottingham University to read for a degree in Horticulture, for 1955.

We congratulate Brenda Broome of the Birstall Company on being made a Queen's Guide, the first in this division of the County.

In the annual Leicester and County Chess Tournament, Elaine Wardle won her section, the first girl, we believe, to do this.

Margaret Bentley has had a picture accepted by the Selection Committee of the *Sunday Pictorial* Exhibition of Children's Art. Three hundred only were chosen out of 40,000 entries from all over the country, and we are proud that Margaret has won this honour. The exhibition will be in London at the Royal Institute Galleries, 195 Piccadilly, W.1., from September 3rd to 29th, and in Coventry in February. It should be of great interest to all young artists and to their parents.

During the year the senior pupils have been privileged to have lectures from members of the staff of Leicester University College, Mrs. Matthews on "Animal Communities on the Sea Shore", Mr. Hookham on "Have we a system of government?", Mr. Haywood on "The Law of Universal Cussedness", and Mr. Rasmussen on "French Surnames".

The purchase of a cine-projector has been made possible through a gift of money from the Old Quornians.

A party of 31 girls escorted by Miss Graham and Miss Broster spent a week in Paris at Easter. We have cause to be grateful to Miss Graham for stimulating an interest in holidays in France and for developing the smooth working of them during her years on the staff of the school.

Three sixth form girls spent a week at Easter at the Field Study course in Geography at Haverfordwest. A party from the fifth form spent a day in London visiting art galleries with Mrs. Jones. The whole school saw the Everest film in Loughborough, and a party saw "Julius Caesar".

We have had a visit from the County Operatic Society which gave a lively evening performance of "The Gondoliers".

The Carol Service was very well supported by parents and friends, as was a Concert given by the private pupils of Mr. Brydson during the spring.

Our annual contribution of twenty pounds to support our little boy, Alan Caterall, in the care of The Children's Union, was raised last year

by separate form efforts and our Head Girl had the honour of presenting the school's purse to Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret, in London in November. As the Magazine is being prepared we are working for a Sale of Work and Garden Fete by which we hope to raise this year's quota.

PREFECTS AND CAPTAINS

Head Girl: Mary Lawrence.

Deputy Head Girl: Julie Barnard.

Prefects: C. Ward, G. Smith, J. Timson, H. Middleton, E. Johnson, J. Kenneally, J. Padmore, B. Broome, V. Hardy, M. Brooks, J. Cook, E. Wardle, P. Weller, B. Godfrey.

House Captains: Beaumanor, P. Weller; Bradgate, G. Smith; Garendon, M. Lawrence; Ulverscroft, E. Johnson.

Games Captains: Netball, B. Barnard; Hockey, J. Mebberson; Athletics, J. Mebberson; Tennis, N. Smith; Swimming, G. Geary; Games Secretary, B. Broome.

HOUSE NOTES

BEAUMANOR

As House Captain, I congratulate the House on winning the new trophy in the Inter-House Festival by such a wide margin, and thank the Juniors especially for gaining so many "Highly Commended's." A little more enthusiasm from the middle section of the school would be welcome. It was particularly noticeable that the quality of written entries was of a much higher standard this year and they were more numerous. I hope this will be maintained.

Although we came fourth on Sports Day, one of our members, Brenda Barnard, tied with a member of Ulverscroft as Senior Victrix Ludorum.

The Inter-House games played during the year have shown better results up to the time of writing, and I wish success to the Rounders and Tennis teams as these games have still to be played.

As my final comment I would like to thank all the House officials and captains for their support throughout the past year, and they deserve any success they have.

P.W.

BRADGATE

The year 1953-54 has been for Bradgate a very successful one. We came second in the Festival with 248 points. The entries on the day were of a high standard, but we still hope for more written entries next year. In the Senior House Hockey matches we gained second place, the juniors coming third.

We were fortunate in retaining the Sports Cup for the third successive year after a hard struggle against Garendon, who finished only five points behind us. Joyce Smith won the Junior Victrix Ludorum for us, and Jean Cummings took the Middle School Cup.

We have more swimmers than usual in the house this year and hope therefore that our house will prove more successful in this field of sport than we have done previously. With these favourable results we hope to be well in the running for the House Shield.

G.W.S.

GARENDON

After being established for two years the house is now up to strength and is gradually settling down to form a team. However, despite frenzied efforts by the house officials to organize rehearsals for the items which were to take place on the Festival day, Garendon was placed fourth.

We were more successful in the field of sport, obtaining, only after a gruelling battle, second place, Bradgate winning by the narrow margin of five points. The senior hockey XI won their tournament but the juniors had to be satisfied with fourth place. I hope they will take courage from the seniors and improve their play next year. As the results of the swimming sports, rounders, tennis and netball matches are not yet known, I wish success to everyone taking part.

As a final comment may I thank all the seniors who have given so much of their time to help the house and wish luck to my successor.

M.L.

ULVERSCROFT

The year 1953-54 has been, for Ulverscroft, a rather disappointing year. We only achieved third place in the Festival, although we made a final bid for second place in the closing stages, but were beaten by Bradgate by the small margin of five points. The most disappointing factor was the lack of written entries, when the standard on the actual Festival day was as high as, if not higher than, that of the other houses. We would like to thank the Junior and Senior sections of the House for their willing co-operation, but we hope that the Middle School will show more enthusiasm next year, especially as some of them will then be fifth formers.

Unfortunately, we have only a few athletes amongst our members, but these entered willingly and many successfully, with the result that we gained third place in the School Sports. We should like to say how much we appreciate those people who, with the knowledge that they had little chance of gaining a place in their events, nevertheless entered in a genuinely "sporting spirit".

At the time of going to print, the results of the swimming gala are naturally unknown, but we are hoping for success as we have some very able swimmers in the house.

E.J.

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was held on November 19th, when the principal guest and speaker was the Director of Education for Leicestershire, Mr. S. C. Mason, M.A.

Presenting her annual report, the Headmistress commented especially on the pleasing increase in number of the sixth form, which had been so long hoped for. There had been more successes in persuading people to stay on for the sixth form than in dissuading others from leaving before the G.C.E. examination, but it was hoped

that our good results in that examination, together with the wealth of interesting careers open to those who have taken it, would come to weigh more and more with both girls and parents. Miss Sawdon went on to speak of a tendency which had recently begun to show itself among the girls of 15 and 16—to seek part-time work on Saturdays. While granting that there might be a difficult problem in some few cases of family hardship, she could not but think it a very foolish practice in general. There was a twofold danger, to character and to physical health and energy. When a grammar school girl found herself among people whose conversation was of their boy friends, their cinema visits, their dances, their clothes, it was not surprising if she grew restless and lowered her ambitions, perhaps also her standards, until a quick escape from school seemed to her a most desirable objective. Instances could be quoted when not merely a school career and examination results had suffered but a whole personality had changed for the worse as a result of regular Saturday work. Moreover, young people, not yet possessing the resistance and stamina of grown men and women, needed the week-end's relaxation, and needed the open air, after a full week's work at school. It would be strange if, after gaining the ideal of a five-day week for men and women, we allowed a boy or girl to work six.

Miss Sawdon reported a year of good success in games and athletics, with ability and enthusiasm spread widely throughout the school. School societies continued to flourish and grow in numbers.

After presenting the prizes, the Director delivered his address to the girls and their parents, remarking on the happy advance that had been made since he had last spoken from that platform to explain and justify the change to a girls' grammar school. He spoke very warmly of Miss Sawdon's work at Quorn, adding that, through her membership of the Education Committee, her beneficent influence stretched beyond the bounds of Rawlins Grammar School.

Mr. Mason said that, speaking for himself as a parent, he would do his best to see that his children had as long as possible to prepare themselves before plunging into the giddy whirl of modern life and thought; he would try to give them as much time as possible "to orientate themselves to this kaleidoscopic scene, time to listen to the still small voice—to acquire a touch of serenity, to catch the light of inward joy".

The part of his speech addressed to the girls was an exciting experience in the use of words. Those who had read "The Wind in the Willows" were rewarded by his reference to "that sensitive and charming fellow Mole", whose delight in throwing down the whitewashing brush and coming out of the ground to revel with the rising sap was something that could be shared by everyone, when senses were sharpened and imaginations awakened.

"The gadgets," said Mr. Mason, "the ready-made pleasures of our modern age tend to distract, even to numb and deaden real concentration of the mind, and to blunt perception. To live in a house where the wireless dins all day, as a background noise to which no heed is paid, is to dull your sense of hearing. Do you, I wonder, feel lonely if

there is not a noise going on to which you are not really listening? The mighty Wurlitzer rises mysteriously out of the pit during those few minutes in the cinema when the lights go on, and shows off all its tricks. But you're not seriously expected to listen to it. Instead you watch it changing its colour, at one moment opal, then sea green, then suddenly all hues of bilious yellow, to be superseded by angry red. The sequences monotonously react, and you don't really listen, and you don't really watch." But a grammar school education offered endless opportunities of developing that heightened awareness and quickened perception which contribute so much to the happy life.

PRIZEWINNERS

Open Exhibition in English to the University of Durham and Supplemental State Scholarship (presented by the Chairman of Governors):
Betty Norton.

General Certificate of Education in three subjects at Advanced Level and County Bursary: Rosemary Kelham.

Two subjects at Advanced Level: Mollie Bray.

General Certificate of Education at Ordinary Level:
Upper V : Rosemary Archer.

Fifth Forms (presented by Mr. Charles Roberts): Maureen Brooks, Brenda Broome, Josephine Cook, Valerie Hardy, Jean Timson.

Form Prizes:

IV	IV A	III
1 Jean Ann Taylor	1 Nancy Smith	1 Janice Hill
2 Ann Sutton	2 Jane Williams	2 Sheila Broome
3 Jillian Richardson	3 Sandra Magee	3 Judith Meadows

Special prize: Margaret Forsyth

III A	II	II A
1 Shelagh Noble	1 Maureen Barnes	1 Gweneth Herbert
2 Lynne Wignall	2 Janet Richards	2 Janet Mawby
3 Eileen Bursnell	3 Jean Burke	3 Rona Souter

IA	IA
1 Janet Haw	1 Ann Warren
2 Irene Dakin	2 Penelope Towle
3 Barbara Willmore	3 Madeline Wain

Special Prize: Barbara Haldane

Special Prizes:

Progress Prizes: Norma Baker, Shirley Tillson.

Willingness to help (presented by the Vice-Chairman of Governors):
Mary Lawrence, Julie Barnard, Jennifer Wardle.

Mountsorrel Education Fund Prizes:

Schoolwork: Margaret Blower, Margaret Burton, Ann Steele

Initiative: Janice Adderson

Reading Prizes: Senior, Christine Ward; Junior, Bettyne White.

Outstanding work for the Inter-house Festival: Betty Norton.

Best contribution to the School Magazine: Carol Starkey.

Best kept set of exercise books: Middle school, Gillian Geary; Junior, Lynda Spence.

Special contribution to Games and Athletics: Judith Mebberson.

Department Prize (presented by Dr. Hilda Wallace): Rosemary Webb.

Most promising beginning in the First Year: Form I, Barbara Palfreyman; Form IA, Janet Geary.

Subject Prizes:

English (presented by the Rev. and Mrs. Pilling): Betty Norton, Christine Moseley.

History: Barbara Nadin, Esme Johnson.

Geography: Patricia Weller, Josephine Cook.

French: Rosemary Kelham, Margaret Blower.

Latin: Lilian Ingram, Margaret Forsyth, Jean Ann Taylor.

Mathematics: Glenise Smith.

Biology: Brenda Broome, Josephine Cook, Jane Williams.

Chemistry: Maureen Brooks, Nancy Smith.

Domestic Science (presented by Mrs. Sawdon): Shirley Noble.

Art: Brenda Barnard, Elaine Wardle, Jennifer Edgar.

Music (presented by Mr. and Mrs. Dimmock): Gillian Smith.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

ADVANCED LEVEL, 1953

Mollie Bray, Rosemary Kelham, Betty Norton, Pamela Richards.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

ORDINARY LEVEL, January and June, 1953.

Lower VI: Julie Barnard, Norma Crockett, Lilian Ingram, Gillian Smith, Glenise Smith, Christine Ward.

Upper V: Rosemary Archer, Leila Baylis, Ruth Berry, Janette Coltman, Beverley Henson, Mary Lawrence, Elaine Smith, Gwen Spence.

Fifth Form:

Pauline Arland

Jennifer Barnard

Elizabeth Bentley

Maureen Brooks

Brenda Broome

Josephine Cook

Sylvia Dawes

June Ford

Betty Godfrey

Christine Goodwin

Valerie Hardy

Pauline Hudson

Sheila Hutchins

Avril Ingram

Shirley Jarman

Esme Johnson

Diana Jones

Josephine Kenneally

Frances Kimpton

Barbara Lees

Gwyneth Leeson

Judith Mebberson

Margaret Middleton

Edith Mitchell

Christine Moseley

Barbara Nadin

Pauline Newton

Shirley Noble

Jill Padmore

Jennifer Peet

Doreen Roadley

Ann Roberts

Dorothy Spence

Jacqueline Sweet

Joyce Tanner

Dorothy Taylor

Patricia Thorne

Jean Timson

Elaine Wardle

Patricia Weller

Barbara Williams

Inter-house Shield: Bradgate.

Inter-house Swimming Cup: Ulverscroft.

Individual Swimming Cup: Gillian Geary.

Individual Tennis Cup: Nancy Smith.

Girl Guide Cup for best Guide of the year: Jennifer Edgar.

INTER-HOUSE FESTIVAL NOTES

Garendon House has now become established after commencing rather shakily. The resulting four-cornered battle has made the competition between the houses much keener.

This year the events, apart from the choirs and the dancing, were not confined to one day as was the previous custom, but the extra half-day which was allowed made it possible to give more time to each item; thus enabling the School to appreciate the talent of the more outstanding performances.

More people entered for the written entries and a great many points were awarded on the highly commended basis. It was disappointing to note, however, that the Science section was still the most poorly supported.

Despite the fact that the Festival day immediately preceded the end of term examinations, the standard of the "group events", which fell last year, was greatly improved.

Unfortunately, the marks gained on the day were not as close as is desirable, the final results being known before the end of the day. Beaumanor were placed first with 339 points, Bradgate second with 248 points, Ulverscroft third with 243 points and Garendon were fourth with 227 points.

M.L.

ORCHESTRA NOTES

This year, for the first time, the school entered an orchestra group and string quartet in the Loughborough Festival. Although they were not placed, the orchestral group received a Certificate of Merit showing that their playing was of a high standard. The string quartet also received a good adjudication and we felt that the experience gained this year will help both groups in future years. We would like to thank Mr. Bass for his encouragement throughout rehearsals and at the actual performance.

The orchestra was also represented at the Carol Service and we hope to play at the end of term concert, too.

Next year, Mr. Bass will probably divide the violinists into two groups, the beginners and the more senior players. One group will meet from 12 to 12.30 p.m. and the other group will practise from 12.30 to 1.20 p.m. We hope then that the more advanced group will not be held back for the sake of the beginners.

Last year five members of the school orchestra went to Germany with the County Orchestra. We hope the proposed visit to Holland in September will prove as successful as our first venture abroad.

C.W.

CHESS CLUB

Our infant Chess Club has continued to thrive this year. Though few of last year's members have remained with us, we have enrolled new members from the third and fourth forms and most of these are very anxious to improve their play. At the beginning of the season we formed a team of six players and we have played two matches with Loughborough Grammar School and Loughborough College School. Unfortunately we lost all four matches, but we blame this on our lack of experience and we hope to prove a stronger team next year.

Two of our members attended the Junior Chess Congress at Leicester again, and Elaine Wardle won the prize in her section.

We also started a junior Chess Club at the beginning of the year and it has proved very popular with the second forms. This early enthusiasm should provide us with a larger and more advanced Senior Chess Club next year.

G.W.S.

SPORTS DAY, 1954

Despite the cold rainy weather, a large number of parents and friends attended our annual Sports Day.

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Dimmock, the wife of one of the school governors.

The winning house was Bradgate, for the third year in succession, with Garendon House a close runner-up. Two seniors tied for the *Victrix Ludorum*—B. Barnard and G. Geary. Middle school champion was J. Cummings and the junior champion J. Smith.

Although the rain continued throughout the afternoon, many new records were made, and Sports Day was, once more, enjoyed by everyone.

J.M.

GAMES REPORT

Last season's hockey was the most successful season in recent years, as the 1st XI were undefeated and the 2nd XI lost only one match. Two members of the 1st XI, Esmé Johnson and Judith Mebberson, were chosen to play for the County Junior 1st XI. We hope this good standard of hockey will be maintained.

We had rather a poor start to the netball season owing to many changes in the team, but as the season progressed the results improved. Many matches were cancelled towards the end of the Spring term.

We have had much success in rounders and are undefeated so far this season. The junior team reached the final in the Rounders Tournament, but were beaten by 3½ to 2 rounders. Owing to bad weather the Senior Tournament was cancelled, but we feel sure our team would have done well.

Although tennis results were rather disappointing, the standard of play has improved. We are sending two couples to the County Schools Tournament on July 10th, and wish them success.

The high standard of the School's athletics has once again been maintained. Many records have been broken in School and outside

events. We gained five places in the County Sports, and Sheila Broome and Janice Winterton have both been selected to represent Leicestershire in the Inter-County Sports in Northumberland. We wish them both success and hope that the number of our representatives will be added to next year.

B.B., M.L., J.M., N.S.

PREFECTS' OUTING

The frivolous choice of the prefects this year was for the second day of the Test Match at Trent Bridge. The afternoon's play proved very enjoyable and even though Compton's record innings meant that we did not see the variety of players we had hoped, we were very happy to have seen one of the most interesting day's cricket of the Pakistan team's tour. The only words of regret came from one member who, having waited expectantly all day for her hero Evans, saw him bowled out in only five minutes.

2nd QUORN GUIDE COMPANY

The number of Guides has increased steadily throughout the year. There are now about twenty-five in the Company. Miss Pochin came to enrol three of the Company's recruits and since then four others have gained their second class badge, these people being Joan Cooke, Angela Kirk, Angela Midgley, Julie Turner.

Recently several tracking expeditions have been held and we hope to hold more in the future.

The company entered in the Banner Competition of the Loughborough Division and was placed third. We are very pleased with this achievement. Several enjoyable camp-fires have been held and the meals cooked there were eatable (strangely enough).

We are very sorry that Miss Mayhew is to leave us and we hope for another successful year with our new Captain.

J.T.

MY LOVES

Most of all I love
A fire's friendly glow,
The smell of a leather glove,
The shine on virgin snow.
The companionship of a book,
The juice of a mellow pear,
The solitude of a shady nook,
And the taste of all good fare;
An attic full of fairy dust,
And apple blossom too,
The feel of metal gone to rust,
The smell of cooking stew;
The satisfaction of work well done,
A Bible ages old,
The rich warmth of the summer sun,
Silk with the sheen of gold.
I feel that fate has then been kind
With such good things to keep in mind.

ANGELA ATKINSON, Form I.

THE MAN-HOLE

Early one morning during the Christmas holidays I awoke to the sound of thumps and clangs. On looking out of the window I saw the road was completely blocked by notices saying ROAD UP, ROAD CLOSED, TRAFFIC DIVERSION, DANGER—MEN AT WORK, and behind this barricade two ancient workmen sat, one smoking his pipe and scratching his head. His cap was tilted over his eyes, and a look of utter bliss was spread over his rosy, plump face; indeed his face was not his only plump part. The other was a gnarled, wizened old man, who was drinking tea. It was a truly comical spectacle.

By midday a cavernous hole, surrounded by a wall of clay, was firmly established in the road, containing the two workmen. On enquiry, I was informed that a new man-hole was being put in. Conversation was rather restricted, as the man on the surface seemed stone deaf. I was told that the work would be slow, as the ground was frozen hard. They both seemed prepared to be there till February.

A week later the work was no more advanced as a heavy fall of snow had delayed them. However, after the thaw set in work was resumed. This time, only the plump workman came, and he informed me that his workmate was out of action with frostbite.

A month later, it happened. I had been to the village, and on returning I found, much to my amazement, the hole loosely filled in and no workman. On closer inspection I saw the tips of the fingers of a glove protruding from the clay. Even as I watched they moved. Filled with horror, I began to dig with feverish haste, and sure enough, I unearthed the workman. After much hard pulling, I got him out.

The next day a gang of men from the Ministry of Works came and filled in the hole and cleared away the equipment. One man explained that as it had been a man-hole in such a literal sense of the word, the work was to be stopped. I was not sorry: the hole had never been a great convenience.

BEULAH WRIGHT, Form III A

THE HISTORY OF LOST PROPERTY 1953-54

In September two prefects hesitatingly took over Lost Property, determined, however, to run it efficiently and to make money. Hours and prices were fixed and the contents of the wooden boxes in Room X examined—depression set in. We found gym bags, aprons, berets, shorts, blouses, gloves, plimsolls odd and paired, rulers, pencils, a mackintosh, and even a bicycle lamp. By November the boxes were bulging and we were forced to have a sale, and the princely sum of 15/- was handed to Miss Mounteney. But soon the piles mounted again and only the locks on the boxes prevented their contents from overflowing into Room X itself. At one time we had 30 rulers (of various kinds), 54 pencils (assorted), 19 fountain pens, and all the hats from the Senior Christmas party which somehow no-one claimed. By the end of July we hope to have judiciously disposed of most of our abandoned property and in September our remaining member vows that someone else will have to answer queries for rulers, pencils, shoes, rubbers or aprons, which, despite the assortment offered for selection, never seem to be there.

J.R.B.

THE GIRL WHO GREW BIGGER AND BIGGER

It all began in the laboratory. Our form were doing an experiment to prove that certain substances could be made larger by mixing certain chemicals.

My partner, Jane, set up the apparatus, whilst I fetched the required materials. We began the experiment by mixing some Peroxide of Ptelantsantine and some Salananatanic Acid.

"Oh, I have forgotten to bring some potassium permanganate!" I exclaimed, "I'll just fetch some."

On reaching the cupboard I opened the door and—what a calamity! A jar of some liquid fell and crashed on my feet, nearly the whole contents of that container finding its way into my plimsolls!

"Oh dear!" cried the Physics mistress agitatedly, "Quick! take off those plimsolls and those socks at once, before the liquid burns you!"

With great alacrity I whipped off my plimsolls and socks, and wiped away all traces of that awful liquid, whilst my partner fetched my shoes.

Then I was escorted to the sickroom by a much harassed Physics mistress and a worried Jane. However, I was soon out, as I felt all right and I did not want to miss the next two lessons, which were English and French.

During English, though, I thought that the desk was rather smaller than usual, but I put it down to imagination. But, later, when the teacher called me to the blackboard, I knew that there was something definitely unusual, because I banged my head on the electric globe! The teacher regarded me with acute amazement.

"You're—you're a gigantic size!" she stammered. "What, in the name of all that is wonderful, has happened to you?"

Before I could reply, I was accompanied to the sick room for the second time in an hour. Strange to say, I felt just the same as usual though about twice my usual size. The Physics mistress was thus summoned and I told them all about the experiment.

"Ah! so it was that liquid that fell on your feet which made you grow so much! I thought so when I was told about it. But there's no need to worry. It will wear off and you'll be back to normal in about half an hour's time."

Sure enough, I was as right as rain and as fit as a fiddle by the predicted time, although I did not notice myself shrinking, so it must have been happening gradually. However, after that escapade I was very, very careful in the laboratory.

N.B. The experiment mentioned was made up, and therefore does not apply to anything.

KATHERINE RICHLING, Form II A

SEASONS

When Summer days are long and hot,
And children play on golden sands,
When little Susie leaves her cot,
And water splashes in your hands,
The farmer searches the sky in vain,
And grumbles and growls, "The crops want rain".
When Winter days are cold and damp,
And children romp about in snow,
When brightly shines the tall street lamp,
And the frozen stream doth cease to flow,
The farmer thinks this is no fun,
And grumbles and growls, "The crops want sun".
When Spring is here the cuckoo comes,
And sings its song in glorious May,
When little children do their sums,
For now it is no holiday,
Then little boys look terribly glum,
If rain comes down and spoils their fun.
When Autumn days are at their best,
And fluttering leaves float on the lake,
When gales and storms come from the west,
And boughs and tree tops shiver and shake,
Then mothers cook their weekly fry,
And moan and say, "The clothes won't dry".

CHRISTINE WILDE, Form I

In dark and echoing caverns green
Lurk things no-one has ever seen.
On the ocean's shell-strewn bed
Anemones are for ever fed.
Where coral spikes grope for the light,
Shoals of shimmering fishes bright
Through the waters grey and blue
Flash brilliant stripes of various hue.
Where phosphorescent angels dance,
Gliding from the swordtail's lance,
In and out of the fronds of fern
You will see them twist and turn,
Waving their fins like gauzy wings.
This and many other things
In the aquarium you will see
If you're a dreaming child like me.

BEULAH WRIGHT, Form III A

SOLILOQUY OF CHARLES I ON THE DEATH OF BUCKINGHAM

O Buckingham, my dearest, dearest friend,
Thy death so grieves me, that my heart is torn
In twain. And yet outside, those folks, my subjects,
Cheer, dance and sing with joy, so heartlessly.
They are gladdened by the tidings of thy death.
Oh, thy foul murderers! They must suffer for—

(Page! Close down the windows, or have those crowds removed. I
can endure them no longer).

Ah, blessed silence—But the memory lingers.
Buckingham, will the ache ne'er cease to exist?
I vow to use my greatest, strongest power,
And have revenge on England's cruel nation.
But no! T'would not be right, nor kingly i' faith.
That would my councillors say. My councillors—
They rather should be called my enemies.
They oppose my every word, my every action.
Enough of this! Come Page! I will retire—
To see, perhaps, in the darkness of my chamber,
Buckingham's spirit, come to bid me farewell.

JANET RICHARDS, Form III.

How I love it by the sea-side,
A-sitting in the sand,
I love to pick up tiny shells
That sparkle in my hand,
Oh, such pretty, delicate things,
Marked all over with tiny rings!

Now as I sit by the window
Upon a starry night,
I love to watch the tiny stars
That shine with silvery light;
They cheer the traveller on his way
And guide him till the break of day.

And when I work at lessons
Upon a sunny day,
I love it when it's half-past ten
So I can go to play;
I love to run out to the field,
To see what pleasures it will yield.

How I love the Autumn time,
When leaves blow all around,
For the wind blows through the treetops,
Making a rustling sound,
And clouds that stream across the sky
Tell everyone that winter's nigh.

GILLIAN TANNER, Form I.

A RIDDLE

Take the tail of any tiger,
And the middle of a snake,
Take the head of any camel
And the tail of any drake.
Now find a cat's beginning
And the head of any mouse,
The middle of a rhino
And the tail of every mouse.
Now sort them in their order,
And something you will meet
That's cold and quite delicious,
And very good to eat.

Answer:

ICE CREAM
The order of the letters is RECREAM, which when rearranged makes
CHRISTINE ROBINSON, Form II.

THE AQUARIUM

It stood upon the table, in a room against the door,
The goldfish swimming peacefully, when this is what they saw.
It walked into the room, its tail up in the air,
It jumped on to the best chair, it did not seem to care.
Said one goldfish to the other, "I wonder what it is!"
I've never seen an animal which had a tail like this."
Said the other goldfish wisely, "I think it is a dog."
"How foolishly you talk, my friend, perhaps it is a frog."
"We have no tails, you stupid thing" the frogs cried all together.
"We thought it was a bird, but it has not a single feather."
Just then the curious animal jumped right on to the table,
The goldfish swimming round and round, as fast as they were able;
But when this fearsome creature put her paw into the water,
The lucky fish were saved in time by their mistress's youngest
daughter.

MARILYN WALLIN, Form III A.

A FORTNIGHT IN DOMESTIC SERVICE

It was, one day, with great distress that we reviewed our financial position, and owing to the lightness of our purses, we decided to work during the Easter holiday. At this time of the year, Post Office work was out of the question, so we decided to advertise our services.

With complete abandon we entered our advertisement and the remainder of our combined money at the "Mercury" offices one Saturday morning.

As a result of this, an interview was decided upon and we set off to our unknown destination. Here it was arranged that we should do the household cooking! ? * for a fortnight during Easter.

Armed with Mrs. Diggle's cooking book and many useful hints we established ourselves in the house of one of the titled families of Leicestershire.

After having been used to gas and electric cookers we found the Aga which they possessed rather an unknown quantity. One plate was always too hot, the other, too cold, so that meals were either ready hours too soon or one mad scramble—after such occasions we used to sink into the nearest chair in a state of utter exhaustion. Having recovered, we were faced with mountains of washing-up which one day for interest, we counted. There were 58 pieces of crockery, 47 pieces of cutlery and 13 saucers.

We inevitably tipped the macaroni into the sink whilst endeavouring to strain it, and we were often seen rushing round the kitchen, flapping tea towels and the like in a vain attempt to remove the smoke which issued forth from burning fat, toast and milk. Indeed the whole community was quite aware that the normal cook was not in residence.

In spite of this we managed to produce many successful meals, though occasionally things went completely astray. One day, a marmalade pudding, after having been cooked for several hours, was still in the same condition as when it was in the mixing bowl. Fortunately, however, these errors of judgment were always received with understanding.

Both of us thoroughly enjoyed this interesting and amusing fortnight and we came at least to realise the necessity of an egg-whisk and strainer in a cook's life.

M.L. and C.W.

BELLRINGING

Everyone has at some time or other heard the church bells, but not everybody has seen the bells actually being rung. The bell, when in position for ringing, is upside down and rests against a piece of wood called a "stay". When the rope is pulled the bell swings round to rest on the other side of the 'stay'.

There are many bellringers' guilds all over the country. In Leicestershire there are the Ladies' Guild of Church Bellringers and the Leicester Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers.

Who would think that policemen spent their spare time ringing bells? They do, though. Many Leicester and county policemen help to form the Police Guild of Church Bellringers. Some schools have a band of ringers. Humphrey Perkins Grammar School has, for instance, a band of ringers who, led by one of the staff, ring one night a week at a nearby tower. Students from Loughborough College help local bands of ringers by visiting the towers on practice nights.

One meets many friendly people at ringers' meetings and socials and often ten or more ringers will join forces and have a cycling holiday. A year or two ago a party of Leicestershire ringers went on a cycling holiday and rang at many new towers. They simply wrote in advance and obtained the vicar's permission to ring at the different towers.

Methods can be rung on 5, 6, 8, 10 or 12 bells. The most common number of bells is 6 or 8. In Leicester there are two heavy rings of 12, at the Cathedral and St. Margaret's. The only ring of 10 in Leicester is at St. John's. The eight bell towers are St. Saviour's, St. Mary's,

All Saints and St. Peter's, Belgrave. One of the lightest rings of bells in Leicestershire is at Loughborough Bell Foundry, while a fairly heavy ring is at the Parish Church, Loughborough.

Bellringing can be quite a dangerous hobby. Careless ringers are liable to find their rope catching round someone's neck. People have been known to catch their arms in the rope and then let go of the rope altogether. The rope then flies round the belfry hitting everything and everybody in its way.

MARGARET DISNEY, Form IV A

DEATH

The moon looked down
On the lonely town
And saw the churchyard grey;
On this frosty night
She gleamed with fright
Then slowly moved away.
What has made the moon move her face
Behind that cloud which looks like lace?
A witch with eyes of red?
Or perhaps a lady in silken gown
Hurrying on her way to town,
Although she's long been dead?
No! Near the tower with its mournful bell,
By the grave that nearest lies to the fell,
Is a terrifying Man, with fire-like breath!
His face is hidden,
And if he was bidden
To tell his name, he'd answer—"Death!"

BARBARA WILLMORE, Form II.

PICTURES IN THE FIRE

The winter afternoon was drawing to a close, and as I gazed dreamily into the bright log fire, my thoughts took shape in the flames, and I seemed to see a long road leading to a castle which stood on a hill. Down below there was a babbling stream flowing over the stones and pebbles.

A gentle shifting of the coal shattered this dream, and in its place I saw a cave. Inside a thousand jewels glowed and glittered, so that my eyes were dazzled.

Another movement—and I was seeing a ship in distress with waves dashing against her side. The sparks spattered up into the chimney seemed to me to be signals of distress. A little way off from my fancied ship, I saw the life-boat, going out to the rescue, and I let my mind pay tribute to the many real rescues made by our gallant lifeboat men.

So I dreamed on, sometimes picking out the form of a dog or the firm profile of an Indian brave. Sometimes an old woman in a flowing cloak and carrying a basket, would move and fade, and then a man would climb a mountain, and stars would reach down.

Oh, there is no end to the wonderful pictures that form and fade, and keep me company in the fire.

ANGELA FAIRHOLM, Form II.

A VISIT TO GERMANY

It was with much excitement and a little confusion that the County Orchestra plus violins, 'cellos, tubas and innumerable cases piled aboard two buses one warm afternoon last July. These buses were to take us on the first stage of our journey to Essen and already many of us were taking out boxes of tablets.

On arriving in London, after having eaten a hearty supper at an exclusive Golf Club, we boarded the boat train to Dover. Once again we dosed ourselves with anti-seasickness tablets before going aboard the *Prince Baudouin*. Unfortunately these had little effect and we were all extremely glad when we set foot on dry land again. We then took another train and arrived in Essen after travelling for twenty-four hours. Here unfortunately we found that one of our party was missing—he was found still sleeping peacefully one station further on.

Once established in our respective homes we soon accustomed ourselves to our new surroundings and reconciled ourselves to the strange food.

Our tour included a trip down the Rhine to Duisberg and a day spent in Cologne and Düsseldorf; we visited the very modern Broadcasting House in Cologne and also the famous Cathedral there. We then went on to Düsseldorf where we had our tea in the Mayor's parlour.

We frequently lost ourselves in Essen and took wrong buses to unknown destinations where the people spoke no English but gesticulated violently when confronted with our feeble German.

We visited the Villa Hugel which was the home of the Krupp family but which is now a museum containing many art treasures as well as the Krupp family portraits and other well-known paintings. We also spent a day at the Baldeneysee which was a lake in the middle of Essen. Here there was a water carnival and regatta, and some of us canoed and swam here later during the fortnight.

There were many parties given by members of the Essen Orchestra. There were always most amusing and usually ended in the early hours of the morning.

However, life wasn't always recreation, for we spent much time rehearsing and giving concerts. They were greatly appreciated by the Germans, especially our farewell concert at the Saalbau, which is the Essen equivalent of the De Montfort Hall.

Although we all had a wonderful holiday and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, we were all utterly exhausted when the time came to leave and we spent our journey, this time not taking seasickness tablets, but just sleeping.

This exchange of orchestras brought us many new friends whom we hope to meet again this year on our way to Holland. We all thank Mr. Pinkett and the other members of staff for arranging this trip.

J.B. and C.W.

ROMAN BEDTIME STORY

Children! Children! How many times have I to tell you to be quiet? If you do not obey me this moment I shall tell your father. Yes! I thought that would quieten you. Oh! Why can't you become good, clever children as Anastasia did?

What! You've never heard of Anastasia? Do you mean to tell me that you go to the best school in Rome and are taught by the son of the tutor of the mighty Caesar himself and you don't know who Anastasia was? Then I must tell you. Now come and sit round me and—Julia, please do put the dog down. You know he isn't allowed inside, and—oh! Octavia! Please do straighten your tunic. It's above your knees on one side and it's trailing on the floor on the other. I don't care if you have been playing Spartans and Athenians. Come here! Don't fidget, and I'll begin.

Anastasia was the youngest daughter of the first Roman King. She was very vain and conceited at first, and not many people liked her, then, when she was eleven years of age, she suddenly became good, kind and gentle. Everyone wondered why, and the king ordered a slave to watch her and follow her wheresoever she did journey. The slave, however, did not report to the king that night, and he was found later many miles away, completely mad, blind, and with his tongue torn out. Across his brow were written the words "Do not meddle in the affairs of the gods."

So the King asked Anastasia herself and she, greatly fearing the wrath of her father, told him this.

"One day, as I was admiring myself in a mirror, I saw, reflected beside me in the mirror, a tall, strong young man, with golden curls adorning his stately brow. Then my reflection in the mirror seemed to blur, and when it cleared again I looked older, and so much wiser. Then, much frightened, I ran out of the room and into the royal forest. It seemed, however, that I was not to escape so easily, for as I ran swiftly through the forest I was stopped by the vision, who told me that he was the son of a god and that I had been chosen as his wife, but only if I mended my ways and became good, kind and gentle, a fitting wife for one such as he. He told me that if I did this he would come and claim me as his bride. So now," continued the princess, "I am endeavouring to change my ways."

Sure enough, when Anastasia was sixteen she was claimed for his bride by a godly-looking young man, and when her father died she and her husband reigned jointly over his dominions. However, all good things come to end, and Anastasia died amid much mourning at the age of fifty-two. Her husband immediately vanished, but one day returned, telling the people she had been made a goddess and was now living joyfully on Mount Olympus, where he must join her.

So, children, be good, kind and gentle like Anastasia, and who knows—a godly young man may claim you as his bride and make you immortal.

JEAN BURKE, Form III.

BIRSTALL PARISH CHURCH IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Birstall church has not a great deal of historical interest compared with many other village churches, as most of the older parts were destroyed when the church was restored in 1869. There are, however, full records of its development during the nineteenth century, an interesting period in which the population of Birstall was more than trebling itself.

The church at Birstall was until recent times no more than a chapelry of Belgrave. In Nichols' *History of Leicestershire* it is stated that in 1791 Birstall and Thurcaston chapels were served by two curates, under the Vicar of Belgrave, who received between them £22 per annum. Nichols also says that "the Chapel Wardens of Birstall and Thurcaston paid annually for each town to the Churchwardens of Belgrave one Groat under the name of Peter pence". The Sexton was paid 23s. per annum, "2s. 6d. for making a grave in the Church or Chancel and 1s. for ringing the bell for each person buried there; for ringing a bell and making a grave in the Church Yard for one buried in a coffin 16s., and without coffin 10d., and for attendance at a wedding 1s." In 1800 "Burstall" Chapel possessed two bells, a lofty spire, a nave and chancel, both slated; a deal gallery handsomely painted (at the west end of the church), some modern pews but some ruinous seats under the gallery. The pulpit was of oak painted white and curiously carved with archwork and vine branches.

In 1823 the church spire was struck by lightning and there has been no spire since. It was described in a July edition of the *Sunday Times* in 1823: "The neighbourhood of Leicester was visited with a short but severe thunderstorm on Tuesday. Between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening the electric fluid fell upon the tower of the Birstall Chapel, which brought down the weathercock, spindle and four or five yards of steeple, passing through the roof and doing considerable damage to the Chapel. The steeple was rent in various parts of it. Such is the dilapidated state of the spire that the whole must be taken down and rebuilt".

In 1833 a Communion cup and patten were bought by the Parish. They are of silver but are not now used as two people still living in the parish have given another set. From the records I found that it was the custom of the owner of the Tythe Farm to supply the wine for Communion on Easter Sunday, but in 1834 a Quaker was the owner of the farm and he refused to buy the wine, so from that year the custom was dropped. Now there is no farm called Tythe Farm in the village.

Also from the records I found a memorandum that in 1846 the Reverend Mr. Stephens came to Birstall to take a service and found in the chapel a corpse which had been in the river six weeks. He ordered it to be removed and then wrote to the Archdeacon, who agreed with the steps he had taken and said that the body ought not to have been taken into the chapel without his permission.

In 1851 the wrought iron gates which can be seen in old photographs of the Church were presented in memory of a Mr. Burgess, of Birstall Lane. Together with brick supporting pillars and a lamp they cost, it is recorded, £15 6s. 6d. The brass lectern was presented in 1862 as a thank-offering. The platform on which the Bible rests is wooden, and the lectern is not of the conventional eagle pattern.

In the eighth register there is an account of how the village celebrated the wedding of the Prince of Wales on March 10th, 1863. "The marriage of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra of Denmark was celebrated with much rejoicing, and the men, women and children were plentifully regaled. And an elm tree was planted in the presence of the Rev. G. Packer and a goodly company opposite the National School." The elm tree must have died for there is now a fairly old lime tree opposite what is now the Church Hall and on the same site as the elm.

In 1866 a special Vestry meeting was called because the Chapel was in such a deplorable state of dilapidation, and a motion to dismantle the building and build a new chapel received strong support. Enquiries were to be made but apparently nothing came of them for in 1869 the chapel was restored and partially rebuilt. Sir G. Gilbert Scott, R.A., was in charge. The vestry and organ chamber were added on the north side of the chancel. A north aisle was added to the main body of the church, three arches with pillars dividing it off. These pillars are smooth and round of rather large diameter, and the arches are pointed. The pitch pine rafters were put in and the new roofs slated like the rest of the church. A new pulpit was given by John Mansfield, of Birstall House (the Hall). It was made of stone imported from Normandy. There is a panel on each face, one showing triple Easter lilies and the other passion flowers. A new entrance was made through the south wall at the back of the church, and the old doorway in the tower was replaced by a small window. Two single-light windows and one double-light were inserted in the north wall, and imitation Early English windows in the east and west walls of the new part. After the restoration there were "two hundred and fifty sittings, one hundred and fifty being free". This enlargement was necessary as the population had increased.

The two cracked bells, the oldest of which is dated 1625, were recast in 1882 and three new ones added to make a peal of five bells. At the dedication on October 12th of that year, the choir wore surplices for the first time. A new clock was added the following year, the cost of both bells and clock being £375, raised by public subscription. Church collections were first taken at Birstall at each service in 1886.

Until 1893 the wardens at Birstall were known as Chapel Wardens and the churchyard as the Chapel Yard. After that date all the records call them churchwardens and churchyard. It was not, however, until 1928 that Birstall became a separate parish with its own ecclesiastical boundaries, after a meeting of H.M. Privy Council. It had been until that time for over seven hundred years a Chapelry of Belgrave.

BRENDA BROOME, Form L.VI

PARIS HOLIDAY (EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES)

SATURDAY, APRIL 10th. Embarked from Newhaven on the S.S. *Worthing*. Calm but rather cold crossing, no-one sick. Arrived at Dieppe at 3.55 after putting our watches on one hour to correspond to the French time. At Dieppe the French porters came on board and we tried hard to understand what they were saying. French train to Paris decidedly less comfortable than an English train. The countryside did not look very wealthy—one-storey cottages rather in need of repair. Bunches of mistletoe growing on nearly all the trees. Special buses in Paris to take us to the Lycée in the Rue de la Pompe. Lycée Janson de Sailly extremely large, holding 4,500 boys. Our dormitory a long room with twenty beds on each side. Dinner rather strange but interesting. Retired to bed extremely weary.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11th. After breakfasting on rolls with butter and coffee in bowls, we assembled in the entrance hall to meet our guide for the week. Decided to walk to the Bois de Boulogne. The horse-chestnut blossom was on the trees, and Paris in Spring not in any way disappointing. Strolling Parisians stopped and looked at us in our English uniform. Strange to see such a pretty place as the Lac de Boulogne and the woods so near to Paris. In the afternoon we went by Metro to Montmartre and the famous church of Sacré Coeur. From the bottom of the many steps which lead up to it, it looked magnificent—rather like the story-book palaces of Indian kings. The atmosphere inside very impressive—the chanting of the monks such a contrast to the busy streets outside. When we came out a lady and her little daughter tried to sell us some palm branches (it was Palm Sunday) which were really pieces of ordinary privet. The road we returned by was lined with paintings and sketches. Did not leave without seeing the Moulin Rouge (exterior) which is in the same district.

MONDAY, APRIL 12th. Walked to the Eiffel Tower. We can see the beam from the light on top of the tower each night, when it shines into our dormitory. Went up in the lifts, and some of us mounted the stairs to the top unenclosed platform. Rather disappointed at not being able to feel the tower rock at the top. We had a wonderful view of the whole of Paris and could see how regularly it was arranged, like an enormous spider's web, the centre being the Arc de Triomphe with the boulevards encircling it and the avenues radiating from it. After lunch the guide took us to Notre Dame. Climbed the tower and saw the famous bell the hunchback rang. We visited the Conciergerie where Marie Antoinette was imprisoned. They showed us the door through which she entered to her servants—made to a special size so that she had to stoop down as a form of submission. In the court yard of Saint Chapelle we had our photographs taken with a French policeman.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13th. Made a tour of Paris in a bus. Stopped at Sacré Coeur again. It seemed irreverent to wander round a church gazing at the interior while a service was going on, but there were crowds of sight-seers doing this. Visited Les Invalides. Busts and

pictures of Napoleon I in all the shops near here. Saw the tomb of the great man himself. In the centre of the building, a circular balcony looks down into the tomb. All round the side of the tomb and facing the coffin are angels carved in stone. The coffin is of brass with a scroll at each end. The whole place was cold and eerie, full of tombs, and all was silent except for footsteps which echoed around. In the afternoon we went off to the Zoo. Remarkable place but everything seemed on a smaller scale than English zoos.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14th. Today we went to the Louvre. Lines and lines of beautiful pictures and rows on rows of sculptured busts and figures. Prominent among these was the Winged Victory—in a position where one could not fail to see it. The Venus de Milo, said to have been the first statue in which a sculptor conveyed the impression of movement. The Mona Lisa impressed us most of all. Many pictures had not such agreeable subjects—battle scenes incorporating blood and violence and filled with tiny details which would take hours to look at. In the afternoon to the Panthéon. After dinner to the theatre to see "Don Juan". The Palais de Chaillot, large but inclined to be stuffy, nevertheless a very grand theatre. Could not follow the story very well in the first half, but afterwards much clearer. Miss Graham explained the final joke. A servant was seen weeping over the dead body of Don Juan, from grief, we thought, but it seems he was crying for the loss of his wages. Didn't get to bed till Thursday morning—

12-15.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15th. Started out in coaches for Fontainebleau, where we spent the whole day. The palace is decorated very much like the rooms of Windsor Castle. We saw all the bedrooms where Popes, Princesses, Kings and Napoleon had slept. In the grounds a wishing-well, with English and American coins thrown in as well as francs. Had a picnic lunch in the Forest of Fontainebleau, which stretches for miles—told that the kings hunted there. On the return journey we passed through Barbizon and went into the small inn (now a museum) where artists used to paint pictures in payment to the landlady for their weekly rent. Stopped at an airport (Orly) near Paris to watch the planes from many countries arriving and departing. Here we had the only bit of bad weather of the holiday, when a heavy shower drove us back to our coach.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16th. Morning set apart entirely for shopping. Knowledge of French severely tested, as few of the assistants could speak English, though there were some interpreters. "Au Printemps" was the biggest shop we visited. Found our way about by a street map. Tried to get Metro tickets out of a weighing machine, but a gentleman put us right.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17th. Goodbye to all our friends at the Lycée. Three cheers for our guide. Sailed home in the *Lisieux*, and back in Leicester by 10-30 p.m.