

THE QUORNIAN



1969

Vol. VII

No. 1

Magazine Committee

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THE QUORNIAN

The Magazine of the Rawlins School, Quorn

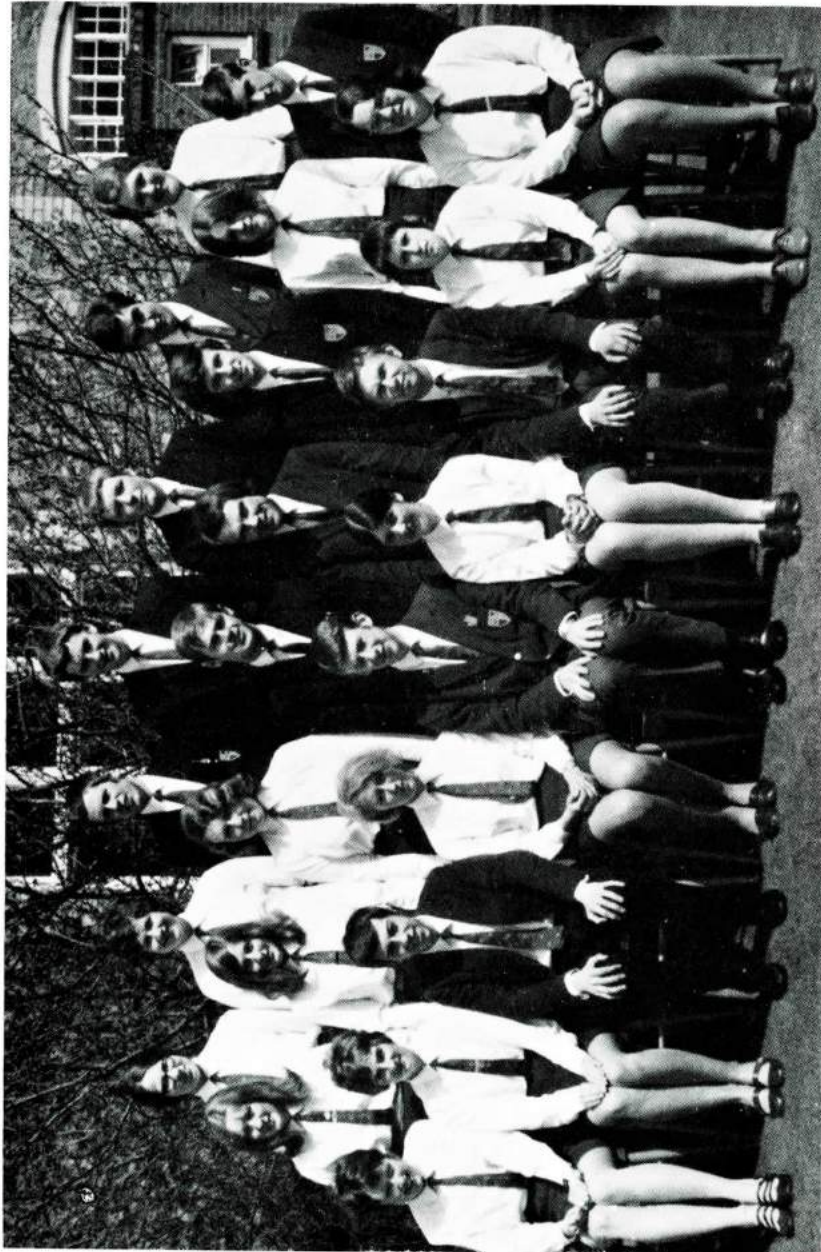
VOL. VII, No. 1

NOVEMBER, 1969

SCHOOL NOTES

The Governing Body has remained unchanged this year and we are pleased to welcome Mr. J. G. Gray as Clerk to the Governors following the retirement of Mr. Howe. There have, however, been a number of changes in the teaching staff, beginning with the appointment of Mr. Whittingham as head of the Chemistry Department of Loughborough College School at Christmas and his succession by Mr. Williamson. Then at the end of the summer term 1969 we lost five other people. Mr. Robinson, who did such excellent work in pioneering our Design Department, decided to return to the College of Art world and has moved to Brighton. He has been succeeded as Head of the Department by Mr. Crump, and Mr. Sheffield has been appointed to teach pottery and painting. Miss White, who had been with us for eight years, decided that the moment had come to move south, nearer to her father, and is now one of the History Staff of Bromley Girls' Grammar School; at the same time Miss Savage too decided to move, into Derbyshire near her parents. Thus we lost two very conscientious and thorough teachers whom we had come to rely on heavily for very sound examination results and who had served the general life of the School, Miss Savage as Librarian and Miss White as leader of our Community Service Group over a number of years. Miss Savage has been followed by Mrs. Peet as English Teacher and Librarian, with the interesting experience of teaching in a Cambridgeshire Village College behind her, and Miss White by Mr. Jones, who has a distinguished academic record from the University of Wales. The death of her father unfortunately led Miss Deebank, who had been second in the English Department since 1967, to return home to Scunthorpe, where she is now on the staff of the Sixth Form College. She has been succeeded by Mr. Topham, who has stayed on H.M.S. Conway and in a boys' boarding school abroad before coming to us. Mrs. Meredith decided to give up teaching at the end of the summer term, though happily she still retains her link with us by taking a German class in the Community College, and she has been replaced by Mrs. Hodgson, a very well qualified graduate of Manchester University.

Undoubtedly the biggest wrench of the year, however, was the retirement of Mrs. Diggle, who since 1949 has been in charge of Housecraft and in recent years Housemistress of Beaumanor. Nobody will envy Miss Leese whom I appointed from the Collegiate Girls' Grammar School, Leicester, the difficult task of succeeding



The Prefects 1968-69

Mrs. Diggle in Housecraft, especially with the problem of the closing of the Housecraft room this term for repairs and redecorating; but Miss Leese is coping cheerfully and her interest in sailing has also made her a valuable addition to our outdoor pursuits people.

It is difficult to speak adequately of the value of Mrs. Diggle's long service to the school. In reporting her resignation to the Governors I wrote as follows: "We are grateful for her energy and willingness to shoulder extra work, her determination to keep good standards of behaviour and discipline, her warm heart and generosity. Since 1967 Mrs. Diggle has been Housemistress of Beaumanor House which meets in the Sixth Form dining room, and it is characteristic of her that she has given her House a piano and a beautiful set of curtains which she has made for the dining room. She has left an indelible mark on the School and I am certain that for a generation, whenever old girls—and indeed old boys—meet and start talking of their school days, Mrs. Diggle's name will soon be on their lips. Equally certain it is that in the last twenty years innumerable young wives have gladdened the hearts of innumerable young husbands with Mrs. Diggle's recipes!" Mrs. Diggle's personal kindness to people ill, or in distress, was well known to the staff. I can think of girls whose whole future turned on her intervention or support.

Fortunate indeed is a school which has people of her calibre for so long, but though we were very sad at the thought of being without her, the end of the Christmas term was enlivened by many farewell parties. Mr. and Mrs. Diggle entertained the staff to a most generous party early in December; Beaumanor House gave Mr. and Mrs. Diggle a special luncheon, with the connivance of Mrs. George in the Sixth Form dining room; the staff took them out to supper, and the Old Girls had Mrs. Diggle as their special guest in January. Anecdotes—too numerous to mention—flowed with the hospitality, and it was very hard to realize that as a teacher, though certainly not as a friend, this was final.

M.E.S.

PREFECTS AND CAPTAINS, 1969-70

Head Boy: John North
Deputy: Stephen Pritchard

Head Girl: Mary Cockrell
Deputy: Jane Hunt

Prefects:

Elizabeth Ambler, Miriam Bennett, Susan Birch, Marion Brown, Pat Dwyer, Susan Felstead, Joy Hollins, Gillian Hopkin, Alison Jones, Christine Logan, Jean Perkins, Elizabeth Pitts, Marylyn Spurr, Elizabeth Thresh, Sarah Webster, Brenda West, Julia Woolley, D. Abbott, C. Aucott, A. Avery, P. Davies, G.

Dunn, P. Evans, C. Halliday, D. Hanson, N. Hudson, S. Law, M. Leech, C. North, D. Oates, M. Rae, D. Rouse, C. Stiles, G. Thompson.

Head of Sixth Form House: Mary Bunker.

House Captains:

Beaumanor: Leonie Walker, David Oates.
Bradgate: Jackie Webb/Carol Hill, Clive Halliday.
Garendon: Yvonne Frisby, Martin Rae.
Ulverscroft: Elizabeth Ambler, Stephen Palfrey.

Games Captains:

Rugby: David Abbott.
Football: Paul Stanley.
Hockey: Yvonne Frisby.
Netball: Pat Dwyer.

HOUSE NOTES

BEAUMANOR 1968-9

This year has not held much success for Beaumanor. In spite of the enthusiasm of the house officials, particularly Joan Ford, Alice Freshwater and Clive Walker, our overall position in the House Festival was fourth. This was mainly because of lack of practice rather than lack of imagination.

In the house matches the only major success was the table tennis challenge. On sports day there was a lack of support but many of those who took part gained first or second places in their events.

In the Autumn term the House Council was formed, to discuss the running of the house and to organise societies. It included representatives from all tutor groups and staff and its main achievements were the organisation of Mrs. Diggle's farewell dinner and the production of the house magazine.

M.B.

BRADGATE

Bradgate's success this year is all due to the effort and co-operation of each individual to form a united house. Every activity was attacked with much zeal, which made us top or near top in the projects undertaken. The House Festival was the climax of Bradgate's superiority both in quality and quantity, this being the first time Bradgate had won the House Festival. Our progress on sports was also very satisfactory. The volunteer spirit for every sport activity was tremendous and I apologise to those people who were disappointed at not being chosen for the various events. In the athletics we were leading for a considerable time but were just pushed into third place. Bradgate's overall academic achievements were once again a great success. Anyway, thanks for a really enjoyable year.

M.J.S., L.W.

GARENDON

This year was, on the whole, quite promising for Garendon, especially in the sporting field. We managed to attain first place in the hockey, rounders, junior netball, football, cricket and badminton competition and came a close second in the tennis, rugby, table tennis, sports and the House festival.

We must congratulate all members who obtained favourable results in public examinations, and remind all members that success for the house lies not only on the sports field but in the classroom and, indeed, in all school activities.

All new members to the house are warmly welcomed and we hope that they will do their best to create even better records in both the sporting and academic fields, thus keeping up the high standards of Garendon.

Y.F.

ULVERSCROFT

This year provided Ulverscroft with several successes, but also several losses.

The first sporting event of the term was that of the inter-house cross country competition. Although we came third in the final, Stephen Palfrey and Martin Walton gained first and second places. In the Senior house netball we were successful in gaining first place and that of second in the Junior netball.

Unfortunately the football seemed to be doomed (we came fourth), but in the rugger, the boys of the house excelled themselves and came first. The house hockey competition took place in the Spring term and we gained second place, Garendon coming first. In badminton we came third, and fourth in the table tennis.

The house festival was the high-light of the year although we only gained third place. The notable entry was the modern dance. The theme, 'Chaos and Order' was portrayed by a clock-maker's shop. We came first for the sixth year running, and our thanks go to Julie Shoulder, Dave Abbot and Julia Dwyer for all their hard and patient work. The national dancing was an American square dance. It was very amusing as most of it went wrong, but enjoyable to watch. We came fourth in the attempt.

The results of the music came as a shock. We chose the theme of 'Wine, Women and Song' and managed to come second. Unfortunately, we came fourth in the drama with our performance of an extract from 'The Happiest Days of Your Life'.

On May 19th there was yet another trip to Nottingham Ice rink and all who went had a pleasant time.

The Summer term was successful on the athletics field. Led by Hazel Neville and Stephen Palfrey, the team gained first place on Sports Day. The tennis team met with the same success, coming

first in the inter-house competition. Rounders was less successful, where we came fourth. Cricket, too, was unsuccessful—we were beaten by Bradgate in the first round.

It is hoped this year that we will see more people, especially the fourth years, join in all house activities. The house captains extend a warm welcome to the newcomers to the house this year.

E.A.M. (House Sec.)

SPORTS NOTES

HOCKEY

Many matches were cancelled in the Autumn term, through adverse weather conditions. However, the 1st XI hockey reached the final of the county hockey tournament and were beaten 3-0 by Longslade. The team had previously managed to beat Longslade and we were the only team to do so in the Autumn term.

The Junior hockey team continued to improve, and in the county hockey tournament remained unbeaten.

In the Spring term both teams were quite successful. Maureen Perkins, Ann Mathieson and Yvonne Frisby all represented the County. On behalf of both hockey teams, I would like to thank all members of the P.E. staff for their help and coaching throughout the year.

	P	W	D	L
Junior Hockey	16	5	8	3
Senior Hockey	12	8	—	4

Full colours:- Maureen Perkins, Yvonne Frisby.

Half colours:- Hazel Neville, Elizabeth Ambler, Carol Hill, Marylyn Spurr, Rowena Scowen.

Y.F.

NETBALL

The past netball season was fairly disastrous compared with the previous one; the only good factor really to emerge was the promise and improvement shown by many of the junior players, especially Annette Burgess.

Last season's superiority was not continued, as both teams struggled against the introduction of new rules, but eventually both teams mastered them to end the season triumphantly.

Full colours were awarded at the end of the season to Pam Morgan and Pat Dwyer, and half colours to Christine Lawrie, all three deserving them for the effort with which they had played for the 1st team.

Earlier in the season three players were entered for the county Under-19 trials, Joy Hewitt and Jenny Brunt gaining regular places and Pam Morgan achieving a place in the team later; thus showing that our standard of netball is improving.

The improvement is due to the amount of hard work given by Mrs. Thurlby and Miss Heaps, and both teams would sincerely like to thank them.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
1st team	6	3	0	3	105	104
U15 team	8	3	1	4	75	92

J.B.

RUGBY 1968-69

— Or “Keep Right on to the End of the Road”

“No side!” rings out and yet another defeat is chalked up. Feeble murmurs of congratulations to the opposition filter through the misty quagmire and fifteen weary players troop back to well-earned showers and cups of tea (thanks to all maidservants involved in the production of such gourmet delights). “Thanks for comin’” remains an integral part of our vocab.

Mediocrity on the field, however, was offset by many successes in extra-curricular activities. The building of the bar in time for November the fifth proved to be the first of many social events all of which were resounding successes. Dinner-time dances continued to have universal appeal and the highlight of the social calendar came in March when a party of hand-picked students descended on “Twickers”, enabling the English side to win. Malc. Turner and Dave Abbott played for the county. The coming season promises under-15 dominance. Tom and Gerry, dances, dances, dances, Twickers and possibly even a win for the first team.

Latest achievement, 54-nil!

Finally, thanks to K.J.W. and D.L. for patience and support.

D.A.

SOCCER

The 1968/9 season was in some ways a disappointing one although the results do not tell the complete story.

After a very successful season in 1967/8 the under fifteen side found themselves thrust into the second division of the Leicestershire Senior Schools League, where they were physically less mature than most of their opponents. Our late entry into the league and bad weather in February meant that we were unplaced, but we were confident enough to enter both a first and second eleven in the league this season.

The team reached the semi-finals of the County Cup with an outstanding 5—1 win over Alderman Newtons and only narrowly failed to reach the final when they lost 2—3 to Ashby.

Full colours were awarded to captain Michael Sharp, Alan Morris, Paul Stanley and Barry Kenney.

Barry was a member of the County Youth XI.

The Under 15 XI played very few matches but a ‘B’ team held their own in the North Leicestershire League. They won 5; lost 5; and drew 2 games.

BADMINTON

Played	Won	Drew	Lost
9	0	0	9

We were faced last season with the task of building a competition side almost from scratch. Although all members of the team played well, the strength of the opposition proved too great for our inexperienced side. The table of results above may look disastrous, but the season taught us a lot in our approach to the game and our general play. Another pleasing aspect of last year’s play was the girls’ enthusiasm, three of the matches being mixed doubles. We look forward to more success this season with a more experienced team which has played together over a longer period.

Players last season were: - David Oates (capt.), Michael Brown, Tony Dixon, Barry Kenny, Paul Evans, Robert Gilliver, Robert Partridge, Graham Thompson, Peter Wardman, Richard Williams and Loyola Overlunde. On the girls’ side, players were: Elizabeth Ambler, Yvonne Frisby, Hazel Neville and Maureen Perkins.

D.O.

ROUNDERS

This year’s rounders schedule was sadly depleted because of the bad weather, only four matches being played throughout the season by both teams.

The first IX enjoyed more success than the Under-15, winning two of their four matches. The Under-15 rounders team only won one of their matches, that being against Longslade.

Despite the loss of games, the one factor that emerged was the vast improvement of many players, especially Penny Mann.

Overall, the fielding was much improved but because of the lack of practice, caused by the bad weather, the batting was not up to last year’s high standard.

Both teams would like to express their grateful thanks to Mrs. Thirlby for helping them throughout the season.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
1st IX	4	2	0	2	21½	18
U15 IX	4	1	0	3	5½	17

J.H.

TENNIS

This year's tennis was not as successful as we had hoped. The senior team won two and lost three of their five matches played while the juniors won three and lost two. It is to be hoped that next season the teams will be more successful. On behalf of the team I would like to thank both members of staff and pupils for their help throughout the season.

Y.F.

CRICKET

P	W	D	L
5	2	2	1

As a result of general apathy on the part of most of the school and county calls on Robert May, Graham Sykes and William Thorne, the school played only weekend teams from other schools. The so-called 1st XI consisted mainly of fourth years which augers well for next year.

CROSS-COUNTRY AND ATHLETICS

Cross-Country:

This was the first year that a school cross-country race was held on a house competition basis and the first year that a school team competed externally. In view of this, the success we achieved must be considered remarkable. Our intermediate team was placed first in the Leicestershire and Rutland A.A.A. championships. As a result of these successes three boys achieved county selection (one as a reserve) and in the National Event two of these—Anthony Redman and Martin Walton—both finished in the first half of the field.

Athletics:

School athletics throughout the year has been relatively successful. The house championship was won by Ulverscroft; then came Garendon, Bradgate and Beaumanor respectively. Representatives from the school competed in the area championships. As a result the under-seventeen girls were placed over-all first and the boys third. From this, forty-five people went on to compete in the county championships and we obtained three firsts, eight seconds, and three thirds.

Colours were awarded to Stephen Palfrey, Anthony Redman and Jillian Kay—all three represented the county in the All England Athletic Championships. On behalf of the school I would like to thank the P.E. Staff for their help throughout the year.

H.N.

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was held on February 26th this year. The prizes were presented by E. R. Chadwick, Esq., O.B.E., kindly deputising for the Director of Voluntary Service Overseas. The school listened with interest to an account of the varied work done by V.S.O., and Mr. Chadwick gave valuable information in his replies to the many questions asked.

PRIZEWINNERS 1967-68

Charles Roberts Memorial Prize (for particularly distinguished academic work):

Richard Thompson (Advanced Level in General Studies, English, Geography and French; Distinction in Special Paper in English).

Prizes for the best results at Advanced Level:

Lynda Bunn, Susan Hancock, Kay Kirby, Kathleen Todd, Charlotte Waldron, Robert Fionda, Ian Needham, Alan Thompson, Richard Thompson, Paul Tomlinson.

Prizes for the best results at Ordinary Level:

Mary Bunker, Jane Hunt, Patricia Mee, Elizabeth Pitts, Susan Sanders, Marylyn Spurr, Brenda West, Julia Woolley, Clive Halliday, Christopher North, John North, Stephen Pritchard, David Webster.

Prizes for the best results at C.S.E.:

Lorraine Clarke, Susan Hudson, Anne Johnstone, Adrian Avery, Stephen Burnsnall.

FORM PRIZES for Second Year girls:

Form II: 1, Kate Harris; 2, Rosemary Enderby; 3, Susan Fielding.

Form IIA: 1, Pauline Rankin; 2, Jane Winstanley; 3, Jane Adcock.

SUBJECT PRIZES:

English: Susan Hancock, Richard Thompson, Elizabeth Pitts, Brenda West.

History: Kay Kirby, Elaine Lynch, Marylyn Spurr, Susan Birch.

Geography: Pauline Stukins, Angela Ardron, Jane Hill, Kate Harris.

Scripture: David Rouse.

Environmental Studies: Charman Verma, Richard Smith.

Languages: French — Alan Thompson, Paula Goddard.

French and German — Dorothy Bennett.

French and Spanish — Lynda Pollard, Elizabeth Willett.

French, Spanish and Latin — Sally Norton.

Latin and Spanish — Frances Pegg.

Mathematics: Stuart North, Judith Hill, Loyala Overlunde.

Mathematics and Physics: Robert Bennett, Charlotte Waldron.

Physics: John North, Dorothy Bennett, Denis Jevon.

Chemistry: Kathleen Todd, Susan Sanders, John North, Dorothy Bennett.

Biology: Susan Masters, Clive Halliday, Nigel Tomlinson, Mary Badley.

Technical Drawing: Norman Perkins, Christopher Stiles, David Oates.

Woodwork: Ian Reeve, Stephen Bursnall, Aidan Wright, Kelvin Littleworth.

Metalwork: John Parker, Adrian Avery, Carl Porter, Marilyn Mackin.

Housecraft: Susan Mitchell, Margaret Haynes, Susan Felstead, Anne Johnstone.

Needlecraft: Kathleen Werrett, Anne Friis, Lorraine Clarke, Jane Wallace.

Art: Lynda Bunn, Susan Pickaver, Lorraine Clarke, Ruth Martin.

Music: Alan Woodhouse, Karen Griffiths, Vida Schepens, Alan Kent.

Commerce: Gregory Dunn, Doreen Gillespie, Clive Winter, Ann Pollard.

General Studies: Kay Kirby, Richard Thompson.

Games and P.E.: Kathleen Lidierth, Alison Blackburn, Paul Tomlinson, Barry Kenney.

Reading Prize: Alan Woodhouse.

PRIZES FOR SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL AND TO SCHOOL HOUSES:

Chairman of Governors Prizes for Service to the School:

Charlotte Waldron, Paul Tomlinson.

House Prizes:

Beaumanor House: Stuart Goodall, Gillian Graves, Lynda Pollard, Joan Ford, Peter Draper, Patricia Mee.

Bradgate House: Lynda Webster, Elizabeth Willett, Sheila Humphrey, Stephen Pritchard, Elizabeth Crooks, Maureen Turton.

Garendon House: Melvyn Waumsley, Malcolm Turner, Kathleen Werrett, Elizabeth Thresh, Jean Perkins, James Trasler.

Ulverscroft House: Fay Richardson, Joy Hewitt, Susan Birch, Patricia Dwyer, Elizabeth Moreton, Shirley Grant.

Our thanks are due to the following who have contributed to the Prize Fund: Mrs. Charles Roberts; H. O. Pell, Esq.; Miss D. Bryan; V. Gamble, Esq.; The Mountsorrel Educational Trust.

Trophies:

Inter-House Shield — Ulverscroft.

Inter-House Hockey — Ulverscroft.

Inter-House Soccer — Garendon.

Inter-House Rugby — Beaumanor.

Inter-House Tennis — Bradgate.

Individual Tennis — Jennifer Lawson.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The geographical year at Rawlins began with a sixth form field course in the Lake District, in October. The study of this glaciated highland region included visits to the Buttermere Slate Company and the Workington Iron and Steel Company. Studies of Lakeland farms were carried out and various aspects of physical geography were also investigated. At Easter, a mixed sixth form group visited Dorset, and studied coastline features around Swanage and the area around Cheddar Gorge.

The Geographical Society itself underwent a revival last year. The society programme consisted of a mixture of films and talks, but as meetings were confined to dinner hours, the number of speakers was limited. Speakers included: Mary Cockrell, relating her stay in the United States; Mrs. Ginns, who spoke on problems in India; Mr. Freeman, who gave two talks on Norway and Iceland; the lower sixth, who gave an extremely interesting and lively talk on the Lake District; Miss Oughton, on Switzerland; Mr. Edwards on Singapore, and Mr. Meredith who spoke on Alpine geography.

The film programme was selected to provide a geographical backing to fourth and fifth year geography courses, and consisted of a mixture of physical and regional geography. The programme included films on Eskimos, the Kariba dam and the Rhône Valley. On the whole the society meetings were very well attended.

Two excursions were organised during the Autumn term. In October, a party visited the Commonwealth Institute in London, and in November, a very successful outing was organised to the Vauxhall works in Luton.

J.H.

S.C.M.

Like other societies we know that films are a great attraction, so we were not surprised to have capacity audiences for 'Signposts Aloft' and 'Red River of Life'. Topical subjects such as John Shearer talking about life as a professional footballer, a tape by Ricky Cruz, a former New York gang leader, and the Rev. Peter Hough, describing the enthusiasm and effort required to build a parish church, are well supported.

Bible studies and general discussions are less well attended, though there were lively exchanges in discussions on 'The Permissive Society' and 'The Second Coming'. We would welcome to such discussions more people with varying opinions. We arranged a couple of competition-quiz programmes for the fourth year and found C.C.I. absolutely packed.

Though comparing favourably with other societies, numbers attending S.C.M. do fluctuate. Interest and membership from all sections of the school are welcome.

B.C.

UP THE WALL!

At the end of the summer term a group of nine students, accompanied by Miss Chandler and Mr. Alderton, went on a Youth Hostelling trip to Hadrian's Wall. We stayed at a Hostel called 'Twice-Brewed'; this was 'on' the wall itself, so was very convenient, as the main purpose of our visit was to explore as much of the wall as possible.

We visited several forts and mile castles and walked along the wall itself. Several amusing things happened to us. There was the time when, led by the gallant Mr. Alderton, we forded a stream at a point where the Romans had forded it. It was quite a spectacle to see nine young ladies of Rawlins making their way precariously across the stream, while Mr. Alderton, camera poised, was standing waiting for someone to fall in. One day we were joined by a cat, whom we naturally nicknamed Hadrian. He was actually nothing short of a confidence-trickster. He looked so appealing and hungry that Miss Chandler fed him half of her packed lunch. He was extremely ungrateful, however, and walked away with a group of people going in the opposite direction.

After an energetic day's walking, Miss Chandler urged us one evening to join her in going to see yet another fort with a 'marvellous principia' and a Roman milestone *in situ*. After walking about two miles and getting our feet thoroughly wet, we found these two highly prized objects—right by a road we could have come down in the mini-bus. And we still had the two-mile walk back to the hostel!

D.P.

MUSIC NOTES

The beginning of the 1968 Autumn Term saw the recruiting of several boys to the brass section of the school Orchestra, and the high standard of the orchestra was proved once more, in the Leicester Music Festival, where they came first in their class. For the first time at this festival, we did not enter a junior choir, but the senior choir made a valiant attempt against several choirs twice their size, and gained second place in their class.

In October we reverted to the old custom of music being played before assembly. This duty is shared among several people, and is greatly appreciated in some quarters of the school.

St. Bartholomew's Junior School visited us in December, and lustily performed several carols and Christmas pieces for us. We too, had our part in Christmas activities in the school carol service, and a Christmas concert, with house participation.

On January 17th Rosemary Martin was accepted at Manchester College of Music, which means that we now have quite a 'club' at that college, consisting of Helen McCaig, Avril Schepens, Vida Schepens, and Karen Griffiths. Also, in January, a party was taken to see 'Let's Make an Opera' at the Phoenix theatre. It was enjoyed by all who went, and they said there was much audience participation.

The Community College arranged a concert on February 20th, in the school Hall. They had two guest artists, Jill Nott-Bower, mezzo-soprano, and Robert Spencer, lute. Their programme included Elizabethan lute songs, guitar solos, Spanish folk songs with guitar and a number of other folk songs. The school contributed to the concert in the form of a string Quartet, Madrigal Group, and 'The Worm Song', a highlight of Ulverscroft's music in the festival, performed by Kate Harris, Ruth Enderby and Rosalind Bates. The following day saw the annual school Speech Day at which the Senior Choir sang.

The County School of Music celebrated its 21st birthday in April, and several festivities took place to mark the occasion. The Annual Festival Concert took place the same month, and it was very well attended.

On May 7th a party went to see the film 'Music' at the Cameo, Leicester.

St. Bartholomew's junior school and the County Symphony Orchestra gave a concert in the School Hall on the 26th of May, a few members of the school acting as usherettes for the occasion. Brian Pepper, a fifth-form musician, had one of his compositions performed in assembly, the following day. This was very well received and brought the term to a pleasant close.

The arrival of the new school year saw the departure of several valuable string players from the Orchestra, leaving a meagre force of four violins. At the beginning of term the Senior Orchestra visited Berlin, and apparently had a super time. Although the Orchestra was sadly depleted, they excelled themselves again at the Leicester Festival and came first in their class, for the sixth year running. It must be noted that our force of twenty-five was competing against larger orchestras, one of them sixty-five strong. A week later the Senior Choir entered the festival and came second.

On the whole the year proved to be quite successful and it is hoped the carol service and concert will reach the normal high standard.

H.v.K. II.

THE STAMP SOCIETY

The society has been holding monthly meetings under the supervision of Mr. Litchfield. The meetings are mostly in the form of auctions in which stamps are sold to the highest bidder. In this way the profits collected have been sufficient to enable more stamps to be purchased from a dealer at very reasonable prices, for further auctions.

Although the main sale has been in British postage stamps, interesting envelopes, first day covers, stamp albums and other such material have been put up for sale.

The meetings will be continued next year and it is hoped that any pupils interested will feel free to attend.

C.H.

AFTER THE EXAMS

In the weeks between the end of C.S.E. examinations and the end of term, some most useful jobs were done for the school by groups of boys whose hard work drew admiring attention from the rest of us as we pursued our regular timetable. Robert Gilliver, Carl Porter and Malcolm Porter were dismantling the Wolseley. Peter Lovett, Robert MacAllister, Stuart Marston and Robert Spence built a new cycle shed in the Old Vicarage grounds and, under the constant observation of passers-by, Ian Cryer, Stuart Gallagher, Stephen Hunt, Kenneth McMillan, Richard Munton, Keith Oglanby and Stephen Walker worked, to Mr. Meredith's directions, to construct a school pond. Their efforts are commemorated in the following verses.

THE PRIDE OF RAWLINS

The earth is smooth, the workmen ready,
Start the digging! Steady—steady—
Shovels shove and spades remove.
All our strength we now shall prove.
Earth goes flying, this way, that.
Careful of the wandering cat!
Hole gets bigger hour by hour
Till we're running out of power.

Passing pupils stop to stare.
Lend a hand, then. Not here—there!
Plastic lining's laid in place,
This to form a sturdy base.
Hoses next come into action.
Workers now have satisfaction.
A certain someone must begin,
Takes his socks off, plunges in,
Paddles slowly, getting bold,
Hopes that bottom layer will hold.

Water rises to its height.
Turn off. Good! It's watertight.
Hedgehog finds it's not for him—
Had an inadvertent swim.
To stock the pond is now our quest—
Lilies, duckweed, all the best,
Plants we never knew before
We can study at our door,
While goldfish, carp, a frog or two
Survey the likes of me and you.

E.C.

THE CANAL TRIP, 1969

On September 27th, 1969, Mr. Alderton and his happy band of adventurers set off to discover the delights and discomforts of canal life. The weather, when we left the civilisation of Rugby Wharf, was glorious and remained so for the following week.

Our mooring-place for the first night was Hillmorton, close to a railway and a main road. By the end of the week most of us had become inured to sleeping to the accompaniment of express trains and the hum of traffic. The next morning, having had a huge breakfast, three of us were left to find milk in Braunston. After some peculiar map-reading on the part of the geographers, we found the barge and its occupants frantically scribbling notes on Toll Houses and drawing lots of pretty sketches. We then had the horrible experience of going through Braunston Tunnel. Several of the party professed to know that the tunnel was about two hundred yards long. In fact, this long, drippy tunnel was 2,049 yards in length!

After narrowly missing a two-berth cruiser, in an attempt to turn round, we moored the night at Gayton. No accidents had yet befallen us, and we had not yet had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Alderton fall in.

Monday proved to be the best day of the whole trip. The whole group trundled off to Blisworth to buy more supplies, then a few of us, namely Mr. Alderton, Julia, Brenda and myself, continued on to Stoke Bruerne, with the purpose of inspecting the British Waterways Museum there. It proved to be most enlightening. Not only did we see the famous Measham Ware used by all barges, but also weed-cutting scythes, painted nosetins for the horses, goffering irons, lace, and many documents relating to the past days of the canal era. Connected to the museum was a dry lock, in which was slung a barge, in a weighing device. This was used in the past to estimate tolls chargeable on goods carried on the canals. A few hundred yards from the museum was to be found Blisworth Tunnel, 3,075 yards long. This tunnel is the longest in commercial use today, and has no towpath, but a rather wild path is still visible where the horses used to go over the tunnel. 'Legging' had to take place to enable a barge to go through the tunnel. A plank was placed across the roof of the barge and two men, lying at opposite ends of it, walked their legs on the tunnel wall. A fully loaded barge would take 24 hours to be 'legged' through Blisworth Tunnel.

On returning to the barge, we immediately set off for Buckby locks again, where we moored for the night. Unfortunately, we discovered that the battery had gone flat, so we were unable to have showers and the evening was spent sitting in torch light. The following morning the 'man' from the hire firm came to start the boat for us. We then chugged to the top of the Buckby Flight, where the battery was replaced.

We continued up the Leicester Arm of the Grand Union Canal. This was a decidedly weedy section of canal and we managed to go aground! The famous Watford staircase of locks was next reached.

We went through successfully, the only mishap being the temporary loss of the mop, which Sue nobly rescued! We then turned round and went all the way back to Buckby where we made sketches and measurements of a swing bridge. We had to face Braunston Tunnel again, but it was not as alarming as the previous time. We spent the night at the bottom lock, Braunston.

On Wednesday we left the Grand Union Canal for the Oxford. Part of the morning was spent looking at the deserted village of Wolfhamcote. The church was still standing, but the rest of the village proved to be a series of lumps, which to historians would be most interesting! The church did intrigue us. We spent much of the time reading the old tombstones, and admiring some wood-carving on the pews. We then continued down the Oxford canal to Napton, where we moored.

On Thursday we turned round, and returned through Braunston, to Hillmorton, where we moored temporarily. In the afternoon Mr. Alderton took us round Hillmorton Boat Repair Yard. We saw several boats being overhauled, and we tried to identify several of the old buildings there, without much success.

N.B. No-one had yet fallen in, unless one counts the occasion when Graham donned his trunks in an attempt to retrieve the water cap that he cleverly dropped in, and when Mr. Alderton put his foot in (it)!

After visiting the boat-yard we continued past Rugby Wharf to Newbold, where we moored for the night. On Friday morning we walked in to Newbold and inspected an old tunnel. We then carried on to the Brinklow Arches, where we attempted to turn. This met with little success and I managed to put my foot in the cut in an attempt to jump on to the bank. We were forced to continue up to Stretton, where, after going through a lock with a six-inch drop, we turned, and doubled back to the end of the Newbold Tunnel, where we moored.

Saturday morning was spent in cleaning the boat out and doing several necessary jobs. At 9.30 a.m. we returned to Rugby Wharf, after a most enjoyable trip.

E.A.M.

Thunderstorm

The celestial tumbrils roll across their domain,
Driving the fleet white nymphs before them.
Nature's children crouch in awe
As the Olympian fury is unleashed.
Forest giants bow beneath the onslaught
Whilst the night is rent by a searing tongue of fire
And rivulets meander through tangled roots
Seeking refuge in the hollows of the earth.
Then the storm departs, to ravage other pastures.
Furtive eyes peer out from earthly lairs:
The air is still.
The earth has paid its homage to the skies.

C.N.

OXFAM GROUP

In the two years since we became an Upper School we have collected a total of £178 5s. for Oxfam, of which £61 was raised by carol-singing and the rest by monthly donations. Last year the number of donors was disappointingly low, but as a result of active campaigning by this year's House representatives, the number of contributors has doubled. Our thanks to these for their support and a special thank-you to those people who have been regular contributors and collectors for several years.

M.J.

Postscript

The present charities committee has organised the sale of Oxfam Christmas cards and gifts and £9 7s. 11d. has already been raised in this way.

Several pupils entered for the Christmas "Make a Gift" competition organised by the Leicester Oxfam group and Mary Cockrell worked with a group of younger children so successfully that they won second prize in their group—with their entry of a pair of rag dolls.

OLD TIMES

My great-great-grandfather was a farmer. He lived in Syston well over a hundred years ago. My father often talks of him at home.

He had the reputation of being the biggest drinker in the village. Once he was observed to drink twenty pints in a night and he still had a clear head the next day. He had two favourite animals on his farm. One of them was a fat pony which he called "the young 'un." The pony usually lived in the orchard. This is why he was fat, because he ate all the fallen apples. The only time he was used was at the wake, or fair as it is now called, when he gave small children rides for a penny a go.

His other favourite animal was an old sow, and until his dying day he refused to have her slaughtered. She also lived in the orchard and was also very fat. My father can remember when he was a small boy, he and his brother and sister rode on a similar pig, all three at once. They used to ride the pig up the High Street on Sunday mornings, when they delivered the eggs.

Of course a man like this would have to die in a spectacular way. It was a Saturday morning when my great-great-grandfather, who was ninety-seven years old, was building a new shed for the young 'un, who by now was twenty-three. He had to fetch the bricks from the local builders yard which was at the other end of the High Street, but instead of making several journeys, he only made one. He was wheeling a ton of bricks down the middle of the High Street when he dropped dead.

It was very strange but a few days later the young 'un died, and a few weeks later the pig died also.

R.P.

MAGAZINES OF THE SCHOOL

We have read with interest our rivals

Rawlins
Beaumag
Old John
Garendon Gazette
The Red Lion

We persuaded the editors of the last-named to write us a few lines about their experiences in compiling what they call *Ulverscroft's Answer to the "News of the World"*.

The first problem confronting the amateur editor is what material will be suitable for the school as a whole. For instance, jokes that arouse riotous laughter in certain sections of the school may be greeted by others with heavy silence. Generally the editor's own sense of humour dictates in the end. On the more intellectual side, the degree of difficulty of cross-word and other puzzles must be decided on—for a baffling puzzle makes the élite feel slightly superior and depresses the rest, whereas an easy puzzle arouses little interest as it presents no "challenge" to the reader.

Printing presents the biggest difficulty in the production of a house magazine. Ink blots may obscure vital phrases and often certain words appear so dark and bold that they unintentionally dominate their fellows. On the other hand, the print may turn out so thin and ghostly that the article appears to have been written by an antiquated wraith. Printing machines are notoriously temperamental and will often lull one's suspicions by functioning perfectly for a few minutes and then giving way to a fit of obstinacy and resentment against the operator.

However, persistence usually prevails and the assortment of unrelated articles is eventually transformed into a readable publication. The joy of seeing one's own efforts succeed is worth every minute of the work involved.

C.J.N., P.B.D.

MOTHER AND THE MOPED

My brother had just bought an ancient moped and my mother expressed a desire to ride it. It was rather an unfriendly-looking machine—silver-grey with the skull and crossbones painted on the rear mudguard. My brother wheeled it to the door, and Mother, dressed in boots, jeans, anorak and gloves, prepared to mount.

Both my brother and I held the moped, while Mother mounted and clutched the handlebars. We chattered gaily, trying to cover any doubts we felt.

"Right," said my brother, "Just sit tight and pedal like mad and we'll push. Oh, don't forget to give her a bit of throttle."

"Okay", said Mother, and smiled bravely.

"Now, sure you'll be all right?"

"Yes," she replied.

Brother and I stationed ourselves at the rear of the machine and pushed for all we were worth. Nothing happened.

"Mum", said Brother slowly, "you're gripping the brakes as well as the handle."

"Oh, sorry," she said, and blushed.

"And I should take your feet off the ground as well, Mum", I suggested, as tactfully as possible.

"Oh, of course! How silly of me!"

We pushed again. The machine leapt forward, uttering spluttering noises.

"Throttle, Mother!" yelled Brother.

"Where's that?" she demanded.

"On the handle!"

Suddenly the moped came to a halt. Mother fell off and we fell on top of her and the machine.

"That was the brake, Mum", explained Brother, as if talking to a particularly slow child.

Five minutes later we were pushing again.

"Right! Give her full revs!" ordered my brother.

The moped raced forward and then slowly gasped to a standstill.

"Wonder what's wrong", Brother murmured. "Try again".

It was after the fourth attempt that Brother discovered Mother had been turning the handle the wrong way.

"Women!" he complained bitterly.

I could see that Mother was very distressed, and I silently sympathised with her. It had been the same when I had blown the fuse of the Hoover.

"Now, Mum, try again", said Brother, not unkindly. "You know where the throttle is and what it does, don't you?"

"Yes, dear", said Mother, apologetically.

We pushed and got it going. Mum raced off down the road with her head well down, like Mike Hailwood. "It's lovely!" she screamed.

Now our road is a dead end, and Mother was not showing any signs of slowing down.

"Brakes, Mum, quick!" shrieked Brother.

"Oh, where are they?" she wailed.

She completely destroyed number 13's front gate and, by the way, the ancient moped. Its skull grinned eerily.

"Wasn't it lucky I landed in the hedge?" she remarked brightly as we pelted up.

J.B.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Officials: Julia Dwyer, chairman; Stephen Manning, vice-chairman; Virginia Thompson, secretary; Susan Watkin, treasurer.

Inter-House Debates were held during the Autumn term, members of the Sixth Form forming the teams. The meetings were well attended and gave rise to lively discussion. The Ulverscroft speakers, Julia and Pat Dwyer, were the most highly commended by the judges.

A team from Loughborough College School Debating Society came to discuss, in light-hearted rather than scientific vein, whether or not we should believe in flying saucers.

Robert Bennett and Stephen Manning undertook to compete for Rawlins in the Inter-Schools Debating Competition organised annually by the 'Leicester Mercury' and acquitted themselves particularly well. Thanks to Robert's reasoned eloquence, seconded by Stephen's impassioned pleading, they defeated Ashby Girls' School in the first round, Gateway Boys' in the second and Wyggeston Boys in the Semi-Final before yielding to Collegiate Girls' School in the Final. Fellow-members of the Society who gave them good support gained considerable enjoyment as well as contributing to their success.

F.A.M.

Opinions

Do you see that hill, so far away?
Which hill?
The one swathed in mist and drenched with rain.
I see no rain.
The trees are weeping for lack of sun.
My skin pricks with the brilliance of his splendour.

Do you see that eagle, rising high,
Lifted by warm, spiralling thermals?
I see no eagle, only a dove, purring in the warmth
Of the burning sun.

Do you see that figure, grey and dim, following you
from a distance, gradually getting closer?
I see only a sun-made shadow faint and friendly.
The shadowy form is on me now, clutching, biting,
Drawing the blood and choking me.
I feel only the warmth of the sun, making me
close my eyes.

R.K.

CHURCH LANGTON CAMP SCHOOL

"Church Langton? Where is that?"

Like you, members of last year's fifth form asked that question when the idea of a "School Leavers' Course" was put to them last Spring.

To quote from the school prospectus this residential centre "is situated in a most attractive part of the county on a hill overlooking the Welland Valley about four miles from Market Harborough."

"One important function of the Centre is to provide an opportunity for young people to develop their sense of community responsibility by living together and sharing a whole range of experiences."

I think we can claim to have fulfilled that function. The experiences ranged from sleeping in camp beds "made for dwarfs" (to quote Paul Toon, height 6 feet 6 inches?) to watching a certain member of staff fall out of a canoe into Foxton Locks.

Equally engraved on the memory is the sight of Stuart Gallagher cooking cheese on toast at midnight, David Simmonds "in control" of a horse at Langton Stables and Sarah Pollard and Rowena Scowen looking with utter disbelief at a compass while orienteering.

Visits to the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Corby New Town and Radio Leicester added variety to a week which culminated in a "Rave Up" on the last evening.

A provisional booking has been made for the first week in June, 1970. By then you may be suffering from "Post — C.S.E. Blues." I prescribe a dose of Church Langton.

SAILING CLUB

The Sailing Club has had a most rewarding season, and its ever-increasing numbers are a good omen for next year.

We have now started using the base at Barrow as a useful training ground for beginners. It has the advantages of being nearer school, and in a little more sheltered water. Many people have worked hard throughout the season to improve the site and we hope to do more to it during the winter and even increase the fleet of 3 Herons and 1 Torch we have had this year.

Trent Lock has given many people much wider experience in Enterprises and a Lark as well as in club racing.

We entered 1 crew for the 3 Counties Schools Regatta in May, with mixed success. However, 5½ crews were entered in the October Schools Regatta held at Wanlip and these results were far more

encouraging. Jane Halford and Linda Griffiths were third in the Intermediate class. Peter Ross and Lionel Bailey were seventh in the Beginners class and M. Beinhagen and R. Hill achieved their target of last but one—after one month's sailing!

Susan Masters and Miss Leese spent an enjoyable week at the National Sailing Centre at Cowes during the summer. P. O'Neil and M. Mackin entered the 3 Counties Open Lark meeting. We have enjoyed seeing "Quest for Gold," the 1969 Olympic film shown at school by the Leicestershire Schools Sailing Association and look forward to another film evening at the end of November. Some keen cold-weather sailors hope to survive the Frost-Bite season of races at Trent Lock in the school Lark!

Our thanks to the staff and parents for use of their cars for transporting crews and dinghies.

M.M.

NATIONAL SAVINGS GROUP

After a lapse of two years the National Savings Group was started on February 7th of this year. About 40 girls joined the group; unfortunately we were unable to persuade any boys to join. We collected an average of £8 to £10 per week and by the end of term the total collection figure was £168.

This term the membership unfortunately has dropped to 28 despite the fact that all new members of the school were circularised, but we have managed to recruit three boys! We hope for an increased membership for this simple and straightforward means of saving, whether you are interested in saving for a long term future, or only for a few months in order to have a 'nest egg' for Christmas presents, holidays etc.

Savings, large or small, in units of 2/-, can be bought every Tuesday morning break in Room 1 (the Careers Room); so please, if you are not saving by any other means, think seriously about joining.

B. Woods,
Hon. Secretary.

PUBLISH OR PERISH

To anyone intent upon a career in journalism the advice must be to start at the bottom. These days, one hears so much about the fascinating bustle and glamour of the world of the press that most people associate it with bizarre happenings, and trench-coated figures, with notebooks in hand and story instinct at the ready, flashing past on the screen. However, it is very different when you enter the newspaper world as general runabout, as I did, in the *Loughborough Echo* Editorial Office, at the age of 15.

The only way to learn, so they say, is by making mistakes—and I made plenty. After putting postage franks on the local letters, which were delivered by hand, I was surprised to be asked to

refrain from using the machine again until I was used to it, for I had not yet learnt the all-important fact: there is only time, in a newspaper week, to do everything once, and no allowance is made for mistakes. I also remember cutting off the director, when conversing over the telephone with a business associate, by casually touching a button on the switchboard.

After I had established my position by doing all the boring and unpleasant jobs, things began to get more interesting. I was taught how to proof-read. This involves two people working as a team, one of whom follows the original copy of some item while the other reads aloud the same matter set into type and printed on a long strip of paper, called a galley-slip. The proof-readers have to check every column in the newspaper, so they develop a method of very fast reading, whilst watching carefully for mistakes of punctuation, grammar, phraseology or spelling. They use special signs to indicate and correct mistakes, and I had to learn these. To begin with, many of my indications were quite unintelligible to the setters in the works, used to the quick flick of a pen by experienced markers.

During my first term of work at the *Echo* my main tasks were proof-reading, manning the switchboard and doing odd typing jobs, such as the writing up of weddings. However, when I returned the following year, I was set to work in the *Echo* shop, in the department where advertisements are received. This involved taking, and correcting advertisements from the customers and charging them up. Here the main thing which struck me was the number of people hardly able to read and write. Some could not write their names and addresses on the back of their advertisements. Others liked to reckon up the price themselves beforehand, often making a mistake but still being prepared to argue with the experienced person who spent all day and every day determining the cost of adverts at threepence a word.

I am wondering now what my next assignment will be.

R.K.

Life

Life is a day,
Born at sunrise, dying at night.
Life is a flower,
Blossoming in summer, withering without light.
Life is a bird
Descending to earth from some great height,
Life is a sea
Unfathomably deep, beyond our sight.
But what is Life?
It cannot be smelt as a flower;
It cannot be seen as a bird;
It cannot be touched as a sea;
But it can be lived.

M.S.

DISRUPTION

It was once a quiet girls' grammar school in the heart of a quaint English village. The girls were happy and contented, and determined to stay that way. Even the arrival of the opposite sex did not change them too much.

The pupils rush to their lessons, laughing, chattering and shivering; kicking the Autumn leaves high into the air, watching them float softly to the ground. The boys and girls disappear into the nearby building. All is calm. The wind rushes through the trees, snatching away the leaves, tossing them in all directions. The hens run aimlessly about, without a care in the world. Lining up outside the window, they watch the French lesson with interest. Peace remains.

Cock-a-doodle-doooo! Uproar! Girls laugh raucously. Boys curse. Mon Dieu! The French mistress is convinced they have come to haunt her. (She confides that her hatred arose whilst being "reared" on a poultry farm!).

A loud scream! A girl runs desperately to the nearest hiding-place, followed closely by a determined cockerel, intent on satisfying his hunger.

Our patience is gradually wearing thin. Our peaceful life has been wildly disrupted. Hens and cocks, beware! The UVI are determined to have a worthwhile Christmas dinner this year!

P.J.D.

DEFIANCE

"Cock-a-doodle-doo-o-o-o-o!"

I've got plenty to crow about. Not a feather out of place and such a fine family to look after. Ah, there they go by! — I'll give them a call. That's Big Bertha running this way. She's No. 1 in the peck-order* and always gets first food. I usually get a morsel at the same time but Matilda (No. 2) and Samantha (No. 3) have to wait their turn. Poor little Samantha, she really is henpecked these days and her little Bertie, hatched in the Spring, doesn't really know where he stands at the moment".

"Such bliss! A large estate, good canteen scraps and the occasional 'doodle-doo' to keep them in line. What more could an avian fellow want? And yet I'm getting worried. Those long-legged Bluecoat fowl from the large henhouse on the lawn just will not respond. I try, I really do, but no amount of pecking or flapping gets them into line behind Samantha.

Cock-a-doodle-doo-o-o-o-o!"

I really must keep an eye on Young Bertie—perhaps that's where he goes during lunchtimes."

CHANTICLEER

* See Scientific American No. 471: *The Social Order of Chickens*, in the Library.

THE BIOLOGY SOCIETY 1968-69

President: Chris. Styles, Secretary: Jacqueline Quirk.

This was a year of progress for the Society with a variety of activities in its programme as shown below.

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| September | 23 | Film on Galapagos Islands. |
| October | 9 | Illustrated talk "The Human at Work" by Dr. Hamley of the Ergonomics Department Loughborough University. |
| | 24 | Film on The Balance and Conservation in Nature. |
| December | 12 | Visit to Ergonomics Department Loughborough University, by 20 pupils. |
| January | 20 | "Animal, Vegetable or Mineral?" quiz. Joint meeting with Geography Society. |
| | 27 | Film: "Nature's Half-acre". |
| February | 1 | Visit to London Zoo by 52 members. Pupils interested in keeping fish were taken behind the scenes in the Aquarium House. Six members of the Humphrey Perkins High School joined us on this visit. |
| | 24 | Illustrated talk on "British Carnivores" by Chris. North of the Lower 6th. |
| March | 24 | Film: "Nature's Strangest Creatures." |
| June | 19 | Visit to the Natural History Museum, London, by 52 people. |

At various times in the year films on drugs and their dangers were shown to the school as part of the lunchtime activities. The school has gained much from the efforts of a few 5th year pupils who built a large and attractive pond during the final weeks of the Summer Term. This, together with the now completed animal house and greenhouse should provide ample scope for investigation by members of the Society and anyone else interested in living things. Already, about 12 pupils have formed an Aquarist group within the Society and are acquiring a sound knowledge of cold-water and tropical fish. Nigel Tomlinson and Charman Verma of the 5th Form have begun investigations into pollution.

My hope for the coming year is that this trend will continue and that the pupil committee will take over the running of the Society in an increasing way.

R. Meredith.

SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

Unfortunately the society's activities were not as vast as was desired, but a large number of the Sixth Form enjoyed visits to the theatre to see "Close the Coalhouse Door", "The School for Scandal" and "Under Milk Wood". We hired the film "The Executioner", and this was shown one night after school in the lecture theatre.

Many of the 6th Form felt that we ought to provide them with more forms of entertainment, and this year we are endeavouring to please a larger number of people. Already the LVI have displayed their talent by closely beating the UVI in a very enjoyable quiz. We have also had a talk on the pharmaceutical side of drugs from Dr. Westwood of Leicester Polytechnic. The few people who attended this talk thoroughly enjoyed it, and it is hoped that attendance will be greater at future meetings. Our thanks to Mr. Alderton, the backbone of the society, who we feel is not always fully appreciated for all he does.

P.J.D., G.H.

RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

Last summer, when examinations in the Hall brought an end to normal assemblies, the Sixth Form met separately in the Lecture Theatre and Miss Sawdon took the opportunity to arrange discussions on the very interesting and controversial topic of religion in schools. She first gave a brief history of religious education in schools—how and why it developed and what is the present situation. She then summed up the arguments for and against making religious education compulsory in schools.

With that she threw the discussion open to Sixth Form and staff, but first Joy Hollins and Mary Cockrell spoke on their reasons for wanting to continue some form of religious education, and Graham Thompson and David Hanson gave reasons for wanting to eliminate it from the school curriculum.

The main point that came out of the discussions was that on the whole, people regarded R.I. and assemblies as distinct aspects. While many people would like to abolish R.I. as a school subject, except for 'O' and 'A' Level study, they would accept a religious assembly provided that attendance was completely voluntary. It was argued that parental control in this matter would be out of place, as by the age of 14 or 15, the person concerned should know his own mind and be able to decide for himself. The point was raised that people might be put off attending for fear of others' scorn, but the general feeling was that there would be little, if any, of this.

There was a large section of people who felt that religious education was a job for the churches and for parents, though the point was made that this would not apply if parents neither attended church nor told their children anything about religion and its implications.

It was clear that discussion would not resolve the differences of opinion, as there were strong feelings on both sides of the question.

In the final assembly a questionnaire was put to the members of the Sixth Form. The questions were:

- (1) The present Act states: "The school day shall begin with a corporate act of worship," with the liberty for parents to ask for their children to be withdrawn, on religious or non-believing grounds.
 - (a) Would you like this clause retained?
 - (b) Would you like attendance at such an act to be optional?
 - (c) Would you like this act to be at the Head's discretion—i.e. in some schools but not in others?
 - (d) Would you like this clause to be dropped altogether?
- (2) The present Act contains a clause which states that there shall be a weekly period of religious teaching for all pupils, again with liberty for parents to ask for their children to be withdrawn. In the state schools, this teaching shall be optional.
 - (a) Would you retain this clause?
 - (b) Would you, in schools where there are options among subjects, discontinue R.I. for everyone on a non-examination basis, but continue it as an optional examination subject?
 - (c) Would you make education entirely secular?

The voting was: (1) (a) 21; (b) 55; (c) 2; (d) 5. (2) (a) 38; (b) 38; (c) 6.

M.C.

A DWELLING PLACE

Flexibility was one of the community's most striking qualities, this being an attribute which had been acquired of necessity in a history of constant change. Throughout the many generations the changes had been plentiful, and when the latest of these had descended upon the inhabitants they had adapted their way of life yet again to comply with the demands made of them, so that, within two years, The Plan was just another part of everyday life. Within the community itself nobody noticed its existence any longer but everybody knew that it was the cause of great interest which had been focussed on the community from Above.

The changes came and went, as did the generations, but, through all this, one thing remained constant — the anachronistic edifice which towered over the community from its place of seclusion in the wilderness, remaining as the last vestige of the legendary past to carry on its eternal battle with change. This daunting monument to the past changed its appearance only with the seasons, being gaunt, bleak and positively chilling during the winter and mystifyingly disturbing during the summer. Throughout the year its peaks were enshrouded in voluminous clouds of white vapour which added to the general feeling of foreboding which anyone having the brash effrontery to allow his gaze to fall upon this hallowed place would inevitably experience.

Within the community over which this presence hung, there was little desire to establish contact with the inhabitants of this weird building and the legends telling of 'Their' ways certainly did nothing to encourage them. 'They' remained aloof, 'Their' ways were strange and 'Their' actions often inexplicable. It was said that the mysterious cloud hanging over the building was the heavy smoke of incense which 'They' burnt during ancient rites and often the strange, rhythmic beat of their unique, discordant music drifted with the wind over the neighbouring countryside. 'They' were said to be great thinkers—the elite of a long-established meritocracy—but no concrete evidence of this had ever been obtained.

One thing only was known to be true about 'Them'. Every year at a given time those of the community of the right age would be removed—some would later be returned, some rejected altogether, but many would be taken into 'Their' society. People who saw them again afterwards reported that they had become like 'Them' and were barely recognisable.

This state of affairs had existed for generations but with the introduction of The Plan the need for some kind of communication between the community and 'Them' became obvious to the elders of the community. The tremendous gains to be made from successful fraternisation with 'Them' made the elders arrange expeditions of their bravest and most intelligent members to venture forth into the unknown.

Each day now these ambassadors and interpreters can be seen approaching 'Their' dwelling-place with fear still carved into every line on their faces. They need have no fear, however, for they are never harmed and we always help them when we can.

R.E.B.

"THE KITCHEN"

On Friday, 31st October and Saturday, 1st November the Community College drama class put on a production of Arnold Wesker's "The Kitchen." This play has for its setting the kitchen of a small London restaurant, and it shows the actions and emotions, during a day, of the people who work there. The play begins with the various characters starting work, and proceeds through to the hectic lunch-hour, everything taking place under the watchful eye of Mr. Marango, the restaurant owner, whose main thoughts are of his restaurant and its efficiency.

A mixture of German, Irish, French and English kitchen-workers spend the afternoon, the quietest part of the day, telling one another their dreams. Endless evening meals are served, and eventually, the claustrophobic atmosphere becomes too much for one of the Germans, who, after much goading from his fellow-workers, goes berserk. Mr. Marango, annoyed that his restaurant's efficiency has momentarily ceased, enquires as to the cause of the disturbance. On being told the reason, he is completely puzzled.

He cannot imagine that people should need more than the food and the job which he provides for them. And on this ironical note the play ends.

"The Kitchen" is a comical yet often sad play which must be very difficult to perform as the scene never changes. However, the Community College played it very effectively by making dramatic use of the apron stage, with blackouts instead of curtains. Four huge black ovens dominated the scene, and their sound (recorded from the sixth-form dining room heaters) never ceased until the final dramatic moment.

Both performances were well attended and, as the applause at the end showed, were thoroughly enjoyed.

L.H.

We were very pleased to have the Community College drama group make such good use of our stage facilities. The good audiences thoroughly appreciated Peter MacDonell's imaginative production and the sensitive rapport which existed among the actors.

EXAMINATIONS

A recent prophecy by Mr. Short, the present Minister of Education, that the time would soon come when there would be no more examinations, no doubt gladdened the heart of many a reluctant student and anxious parent. It is, however, one of the Minister's remarks that I cannot help reading with some distrust.

The criticisms usually levelled against examinations are, I think, these: that they put too much emphasis on "mere" memory; that it is impossible to test two years' work in one of two papers of two or three hours; that those of nervous temperament are "unfairly" handicapped. After many years' experience of taking examinations, of teaching for examinations and of surveying examination results (probably a much longer and more varied experience than the Minister has had) I would venture to answer these criticisms.

Conceding immediately that memory plays a greater or lesser part in almost all examinations, why I wonder, is memory to be so despised—memory "the warder of the train," as Shakespeare puts it? A well-stored mind is surely of great advantage in life, and although there are some freak persons who can remember pages of stuff which they do not understand, with the majority of us memory and understanding go hand in hand. What one has thoroughly grasped one remembers the more easily; what one does not understand, or only imperfectly, is much more difficult to commit to memory, or to retain. I am quite sure that memory is a close cousin of intelligence and not merely a poor relation. Of course, there are different sorts of memory; one may have a good verbal memory, and be able to remember with ease passages of verse and prose, but an indifferent memory for facts; and there is that curious thing the "musical" memory, which fills with admiration those of us who lack it. I am quite sure that the absent-minded Professor of fact or fiction, who forgets his engagements or his hat,

is not at all absent-minded about the subject he professes. Recently I crossed words with a man who condemned English Literature examinations, which he considered depended on "mere regurgitation" (his words) of passages of verse. Apart from the fact that there is much more to literature examinations than quotations, is it not a good thing to have the memory stored with passages of great verse, or the nobler passages of the Bible, which can spring to mind in later life? I read once of men in a prisoner of war camp, bored and deprived of books, who blessed the fact that one of their number knew by heart a lot of poetry which he recited to them nightly.

Surely a good memory is a blessing; to train one's memory whilst one is young, for its peak is said to be about the age of seventeen or eighteen, is a sensible thing to do; and if examinations encourage this, they are not, for that reason, to be condemned.

Then there is the criticism that it is impossible to examine two years' work in a few hours. But this, I think, is equally invalid. To see quickly how to tackle a problem, to select the relevant material for a specific question from all that one may know, to express oneself with reasonable brevity—these are qualities of the mind valuable in all sorts of situations in life. I have little sympathy for the person who comes out of an examination, saying, "I didn't get the questions I wanted." This is usually the somewhat lazy person who has done a little work only in the final weeks and then blames the examiners for not having set the very topics he thought he had "spotted." On the other hand, the candidate who whilst not finding on the paper exactly what he had most hoped for, yet applies his mind successfully to what is there, is usually a very intelligent person.

Are examinations "unfair?" Is not the person of nervous temperament going to be handicapped in many aspects of life, not only in examinations, when he sets out to conquer his nerves? Is there not a real advantage in subjecting yourself to some objective test, and proving your worth? And why should the pleasure of achievement in a competitive way, known to the actor, the pianist, the games player, the athlete, be denied to the person of intelligence? We see regularly on television pictures of young footballers leaping about with triumph when they've scored a goal, or tennis players, after sometimes hours of concentration, jumping the net in glee when they've made the winning stroke. We accept the fact that few of us can know these physical triumphs, and so far as I know there is no move, on that account, to abolish competitive sport. Why should we deny to those whose abilities lie in mental fields the supreme pleasures of success, moments of joy, when the results come out, that they will remember all their lives?

I very much fear that the Minister's statement sprang from our present-day tendency to try to prove the manifestly false notion that "all men are equal," and to try to take away anything which proves that they are not; but were I in any way responsible for examinations I should like to do three things. I should like to strengthen

the hands of Heads of Schools in order to prevent pupils being entered for examinations which they have little hope of passing. Thus I prefer people to get good C.S.E. grades rather than failing all or most of their G.C.E. subjects; and I wish the weaker Sixth Formers could take an examination midway (in difficulty) between Ordinary and Advanced Level. Secondly I feel very sorry for the few Advanced Level people who fall ill at examination time, and if their careers turn on Advanced Level grades are held back a whole year. I wish the School's estimate could be accepted in these few genuine cases, and that they could be awarded whatever grade the school expected them to get.

And thirdly, I wish that all-important examinations need not be held in summer, so that we could enjoy our too rare fine weather, without being assailed by pangs of conscience whenever we felt tempted to play cricket or tennis, or merely fall asleep in the sun. Were I Minister for Education, I would turn the whole educational year round, so that examinations were in October and people went into the Sixth or on to College after Christmas. Then we could enjoy our summers, come back fit and well after a good holiday, do a few weeks' revision without our present fears of mumps and German measles, and take the examinations at our physical best. But I never will be Minister of Education; being merely a G.P. in the field of education whose few thoughts may start you thinking. For (who knows?) one of you may be Minister some day—if you submit yourself to the competitive test of a General Election, and can remember your speeches!

M.E.S.

SMOKING SURVEY

In December 1968, one of the V year groups was interested in the effects of smoking on the lungs. They then decided to carry out a survey in school to find the incidence of smokers in the different age groups. A questionnaire was devised and distributed via the tutor groups. There were the inevitable replies where the subject couldn't decide on its sex, or the number of cigarettes smoked was so incredibly high that it was a wonder the subject hadn't gone up in a cloud of smoke. Somehow, regardless of these, a graph was plotted showing the percentage of smokers in particular age groups. This was displayed to the school together with newspaper articles about smoking. The incidence of smokers was much greater among boys than among girls, and in both cases the incidence reached a peak (44 per cent in boys, 16 per cent in girls) among the 15½ year group. Could it be pressure of exams? (Never). Or could it be that a good many pupils in this group have part-time employment for extra cash? (More likely). On the other hand, there is a theory that the adolescent boy needs to have a more manly image and uses smoking as a means to achieve this; but recently a report has stated that smoking is a type of retreat which is necessary because of failures and that it does not represent toughness or maturity.

M.D.

THE BALLAD OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

'Twas in the year o' sixty-three,
To the library did I rove,
But on every book that I saw there
Was the name o' my ain true love.

I saw his face, a wondrous face,
I heard his footsteps, too,
And I saw the name, the wondrous name
O' my dearest love sae true.

There was a picture on the wa',
"The Piper" 'twas ca'd by name,
But all I saw in that great picture
Was his face, that to me came.

A voice cam o'er the speaker,
"Miss Falkner" they wanted to see,
Yet her name was like my true love's ain
A-calling unto me.

I took my book up to the desk
And opened it again,
She took my book, before my e'en,
And she's stamped it wi' his name.

And yet, alas, I have to tell,
My lover does not care,
He's left me for another one
And he'll no' come back nae mair.

C. W.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

Once a year Candy, the cat, gives a demonstration lesson? (in chewing).

The sea-anemones in the Biology Lab. have already produced numerous offspring?

Linda Griffiths became the first girl to get through 'O' Level Woodwork and Martin Tailby the first boy to gain the equivalent in Homecraft?

Rooms 2 and 3 were originally the school assembly hall?

The parents of a present pupil once lived in the Old Vicarage?

The garden round the dining-room was planted to celebrate the Queen's coronation?

The upstairs staffroom was once a dormitory?

NEWS OF THE RAWLINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Older old girls (or boys) of Rawlins might be surprised if they were to visit the school on any weekly evening, perhaps surmising, from the throng of parked cars, a long succession of parent evenings. Those now attending have presumably become used to the new association of School and Community College, and the use of many facilities each evening by an ever-increasing volume of adults. I hope old scholars will see this development as a logical use of expensive buildings, and as an interesting and exciting experiment in closing the gap between school and the community it serves.

The College is now in only its second winter session, but this year we were able to arrange a programme of 53 classes covering a great variety of skills and subjects, and of these, at the time of writing, 48 are flourishing, and over 600 people have paid their membership fees. Putting this another way, almost as many adult students come into the place each week as do pupils!

It should be emphasised, too, that much responsibility for the policies of the College rests in the hands of ordinary members. Although ultimately answerable to the College Board of Governors, week to week matters and programme planning are dealt with by a Committee of Management and by its parent College Council. Social activities like theatre visits or dances are entirely in the hands of the Social Committee. In addition a number of local groups have affiliated to the College, using its facilities but at the same time taking an active part in its general development. These groups are as diverse as the Quorn Townswomen's Guild and the Quorn Football Club, the Parish Church of St. Bartholomew and the Loughborough Toastmasters, the Quorn British Legion, Woodhouse Eaves Women's Institute and the Quorn branch of the Loyal Blooming Rose Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows. In these ways, as well as through the medium of normal class groups, the College acts as a great mixer of people, and herein lies one of its greatest virtues.

Finally, I would mention the pleasure which has resulted from the number of school pupils who have participated in College activities. Quite a large number have become members of classes, some have joined the drama group's first production, others 'dropped in' to take on a visiting chess expert, and a College-School

table tennis club is developing. More significant, perhaps, than these, we already have a nucleus of young people who left school last year and who are maintaining their links with the College by joining class groups—in woodwork, metalwork, pottery, painting, badminton and judo, to mention only some of them—and this, after all, is what the basic concept of a Community College is all about, emphasising as it does that education, in its fullest sense, does not stop at 16 or 18 with C.S.E. or 'O' or 'A' levels, but is a lifelong process of enrichment.

M.J.W.

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

JANET ARCHER, this year obtained her Membership of the Royal College of Physicians and is now Registrar at the Derby Children's Hospital.

MARY EVANS, who took a first class Honours Degree in Botany at St. Andrew's University in 1966 was awarded the degree of Ph.D. of Nottingham University for research work in mycology.

MARY BREAM obtained the degree of B.Sc. with Upper Second Class Honours in Biochemistry of Birmingham University and has taken up a research post with a Loughborough firm.

NUALA DOHERTY graduated at the University of Leicester with a 2nd Class Honours degree in Modern Languages and is now teaching at the Gateway School.

ELIZABETH FRIIS obtained a Third Class Honours degree in Combined Studies at Leicester University and is now studying for a Diploma in Education at Goldsmith's College.

MARY CASSIDY obtained an Upper Second Class Honours degree in Law of London University, King's College.

ROSALIND HIGGS obtained a Second Class Honours Degree in Chemistry of York University and is now taking a Diploma in Education.

SUSAN HUDSON obtained a First Class Honours Degree in Pharmacy of Aston University and is now with a research firm.

PATRICIA MACKEY obtained a Second Class Honours Degree in Social Science of London University and is now training at the Middlesex Hospital as a Medicine Social Worker.

HELEN MCCAIG successfully graduated from the Manchester Royal School of Music, with Grade A.

JUDITH PITTS qualified for the Diploma of the Institutional Management Association and is now working as Assistant School Meals Adviser at Reigate, Surrey.

SALLY WARD obtained a Second Class Honours Degree in Psychology of Birmingham University.

MARY WILLETT became, so far as we know, the first student of Rawlins to be successful in the new B.Ed. degree from Chester College of Education.

WENDY WOOD-ANTILL obtained a Second Class Honours Degree in Computer Science from Wolverhampton College of Technology.

We have had interesting letters this term from two Old Girls who, in their different ways, have shown great persistence and enterprise since they left school. **Maureen Hardy** has been appearing in print and lecturing in various parts of the country on her practical work and research in primary school teaching methods, and has organised a series of talks and discussions for teachers entitled "Communication 1969." **Caroline Humby's** latest venture is to form a film company! Look out for Abydos Films Ltd. Through one of her partners, who is involved in the film now being made on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, she has been drawn into the Gandhi Centenary events—on one occasion as a reader, together with Dame Sybil Thorndike, Richard Attenborough and Susannah York. At present she is working on a subject from Indian history, a project which has the support of the Indian Government. Caroline writes of the great need for film scripts of high quality, such as those of Robert Bolt whose work for the Gandhi film she is able to study. With all this, she assures us, she has not abandoned her interest in an acting career.

DEATHS OF OLD GIRLS

In September, 1968, Vivienne Raynor, of Mountsorrel (Rawlins 1959-66) was killed in a road accident together with her mother as Vivienne was on her way back to College in York.

In April, 1969, Ann Scott, of Thurmaston (Rawlins 1961-1968) died after a long illness in Leicester Royal Infirmary.

In August, 1969, Susan Whadcock, of Birstall (Rawlins 1958-1963) died after a long illness.

A tribute to Vivienne Raynor has been sent us by her school friend, Helen McCaig.

The sudden death of Vivienne Raynor and her mother on September 16, 1968, brought with it an untold loss to their family and to their many friends. Those of us who spent our schooldays with Vivienne will not forget her, as she was an integral part of our communal life. She played an active part in school life and in work for her Church at Mountsorrel. Yet we remember her chiefly

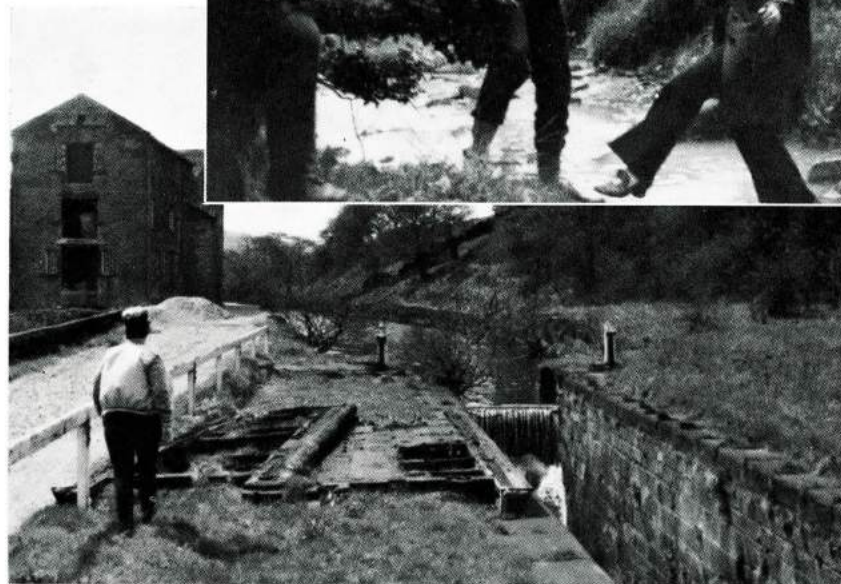
for her happy personality, her kindness and her great sense of humour; characteristics which all of us came across and which rendered her the popularity which she enjoyed. It is the characteristics such as these which keep her memory ever alive, and, more than this, which live on after her in those of us who have known her well. This is her greatest memorial, and our sadness at our loss is tempered by our immeasurable gain through having known her.

H.C.M.

Speaking at a Memorial Service to Ann Scott held at Thurmaston, the Headmistress ended with the following lines by the poet Ben Jonson which we print in the hope that the thought may bring some comfort to the friends and relatives of those three.

It is not growing like a tree,
In bulk, doth make man better be,
Nor standing long, an oak three hundred year,
To fall a log at last, dry, bald and sere:
A lily of a day
Is fairer far, in May,
Although it fall and die that night;
It was the plant and flower of light.
In small proportions we just beauties see;
And in small measures life may perfect be.

*"The age of
chivalry
is not dead"*



"Guess who?"



*"All our
own work"*