

THE THORNBURIAN

THE THORNBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MAGAZINE

JULY 1949

EDITORS

K. D. PULLIN

E. F. ADDIS

No. 15

School Officers 1948-49.

School Captains

Mary Rouch (Winter and Spring Terms),
Kathleen Pullin. (Summer Term) and L. G. Hummerstone.

School Vice-Captains

Kathleen Pullin, Jennifer Rouch and E. P. Hardman.

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Anne Pritchard	M. D. Lewis
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Gillian Thierry	M. W. Pierce
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STAFFORD: Mary Rouch, Enid Burgess and W. B. Davies.
HOWARD : Jennifer Rouch and L. C. Hummerstone.

Games Captains

Hockey : Jennifer Rouch.
Association Football : J. A. Hannaford.
Rugby: N. Daley.
Tennis: Mary Rouch and Jennifer Rouch.
Cricket : J. A. Hannaford.
Swimming Captain : Jennifer Rouch.

Games Secretaries

Mary Rouch, Miriam Craik-Smith and P. Nott

Magazine Editorial Staff:

Editors : Kathleen Pullin and E. F. Addis.
Sub-Editor: Enid Burgess.

Secretary : R. Rosser.

THE THORNBURIAN

Editorial.

It is interesting to recollect that less than three years ago, the then Editors of the Magazine were begging contributors to cut down their articles to the minimum and thus assist in the general economy drive. So strongly did they inculcate the need for brevity that this year we had a hard job to persuade our writers to give their creative genius full scope, though in the end we were obliged, after all, to suppress some contributions which were worthy of inclusion. We think that readers of this year's magazine will find all School activities well represented, and specially noteworthy are the accounts of expeditions and excursions, which extend the School's horizon far beyond Thorn-bury. Old Thornburians will find the days of their youth nostalgically recalled in an article by their secretary, and we have been able to deal with the annual events in a more detailed manner than has been possible before.

Our work as Editors of the magazine has been considerably lightened by the help of many kind friends on the Staff, to whom we extend our appreciative thanks.

In Memoriam.

Patricia (Paddy) Morrissey, at the Bristol Royal Infirmary on May 1st.

The School was deeply grieved by the death in hospital of Paddy Morrissey, after a sudden and painful illness which she endured with great fortitude.

She was a most pleasant member of the Sixth Form, with a vigorous and endearing personality : she had played for House and School teams in hockey and tennis and was a promising character actress, taking part in two School concerts with great success.

We all feel her loss very much and extend our deep sympathy to her parents in their bereavement.

General Notes.

We were sorry to lose Mrs. Timbrell and Mr. Brooke at the end of the Autumn Term and our best wishes go with them to their new posts.

We welcomed Mr. Loudon (English) at the beginning of the Autumn Term and also Mrs. Taylor, who came to teach German in the Advanced Course. Mr. Carpenter came as History Master in the Spring Term. In addition, our thanks go to Miss Brown, Miss Van den Broek and Mrs. Jory, for their help as student-teachers in the Autumn and Spring Terms.

The School offers its heartiest congratulations to Mr. Pennington on his marriage to Miss Madeleine Clack, and wishes them every happiness.

In the last week in January the first full inspection of the School since 1933 was held. The Report of His Majesty's Inspectors has not yet been received, but it is possible to say that we were thought to be a hard-working School, situated in attractive countryside, with very good playing fields, kept in excellent condition. In other words, we are fortunate to be in this School, and most of us, at least, are making the best of the opportunities provided. All of us know and appreciate the extra work done by the members of Staff in out-of-school activities and the Inspectors, also, noted with appreciation the amount of this extra interest.

The Prefects, who were interviewed by the Chief Inspector, made a very favourable impression, as we should expect them to. On their departure, the Inspectors were kind enough to say how much they had enjoyed their stay with us.

We are glad to be able to report the completion of the shower-baths for which we have been waiting so long. They were finished in time to be put to very good use by the School rugby and hockey players.

The small dining-room and the domestic science room have been redecorated, and some improvements and additions made to the fittings in both. It is hoped that we shall soon be able to carry out the projected scheme for a new canteen building.

The Fifth Forms again entertained the Staff and the Senior Prefects at their Christmas Party on December 17th, and the Prefects' Party, for the Staff, Commercial and Certificate Forms, was held three days after this : both were very enjoyable. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Rabley for lending us their radiogram again this year, and also to those members of the Staff and Upper School who brought gramophone records for dancing. Mrs. Taylor again very kindly came to give dancing lessons to the Seniors in preparation for these parties. We are grateful to Miss Storey and her helpers for the excellent tea and supper which they provided.

We should like to thank all the friends of the School who have presented trophies, shields and prizes during the year. The Clerk to the Governors, Mr. C. P. Taylor, has presented a rugby shield, a swimming cup has been presented by L. T. Thurston, Esq., S. H. Gayner, Esq., has given a House junior cricket cup for competition. Principal Murray, of the University College of the South West, Exeter, the speaker at last year's Speech Day, presented prizes for original poems on set subjects. The winning entries were those of Miss J. L. Cook, C. Jeffery, Patsy Harvey, and Betty Fennell; the work of C. Shearing was highly commended.

We wish we could give a more favourable report of the state of School Societies : but the Seniors, at least, have shown very little originality this year and the lack of self-consciousness in public speaking on which we commented so favourably last year has been unfortunately absent. The most successful meetings were those where outside speakers gave lectures. We should like to thank the following :—Mr. Jones, of the County Agricultural Executive Committee, for showing the film on "Milk Production" and for discussing the subject so fully with us afterwards; Sir Algae Howard, Garter King at Arms, for an extremely fascinating talk on Heraldry; Miss Cheesman, who talked on South Africa; in connection with the Exhibition then in Bristol; Major Blake, who talked on "The Problems of Palestine"; and Mrs. Marsdon-Smedley who lectured for the World Citizenship Society on Western Union. Junior Societies have kept up interest and enthusiasm among their members and House competitions and quizzes have been popular, especially in the Geographical, Historical and Scientific Societies.

At one meeting of the Literary and Debating Society the Third Forms acted plays written by themselves and at another budding poets read their own original poems. Short prepared talks given at the Geographical and Scientific Society meetings were informative and well-prepared, but a poor delivery often spoiled them.

Many new books have been added this year to both Reference and Fiction Libraries, and in particular a number of works on philosophical and psychological subjects. The Library is now open during the lunch-hour and members of the Sixth Form have acted as librarians. We should like to thank them and also Mr. Hill, who has done a great deal of work in connection with the Library. We should also wish to thank Mrs. E. H. Commeline, Miss V. M. Brown, Marguerite Morley and C. Adams for their gifts of books.

During the Spring Term Mr. Harwood set up an Advisory Bureau for those who wished for information concerning future careers. He has given much advice and information about suitable careers for those about to leave School and we greatly appreciate his help.

Two members of the Advanced Course, Mary Rouch and Kathleen Pullin, have been awarded County Major Scholarships this year and both have gained places at Universities for October 1949—the former at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, the latter at Bedford College, London.

Another member of the Advanced Course, Mary Heal, has obtained a place at Redland Training College.

During the year collections have been made in the majority of Forms for the Old Thornburians' Memorial Fund, the proceeds from which will be used to make the Gully into a Memorial Garden dedicated to those Old Thornburians who fell in the two Great Wars.

National Savings this year have reached the sum of £147 Os. Od. We are very grateful to Mr. Rabley for his hard work in organising these collections.

The Editors would like to thank all those who contributed to this issue, including N. Daley, Mary Rouch, Wendy Mogg, L. C. Hummerstone, S. Rugman and Fay Fenton. Miss Cook and Mrs. Williams we should especially wish to thank for their help in editing and arranging the entries.

We should like to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of School magazines from Wycliffe College and from the Grammar School, Chipping Sodbury.

Annual Events.

The Founders' Day Service was held on Wednesday, October 13th, in Thornbury Parish Church, and many Parents, Old Thornburians and friends of the School attended. The service was conducted by the Vicar; the Rev. R. C. Rawstorne, and the address was given by the Very Rev, the Dean of Christchurch, Dr. John Lowe.

Doctor Lowe took as his theme the Transfiguration of Christ, and showed how this story holds a lesson for us all. Just as the disciples of Jesus, after they had experienced great spiritual exaltation at the sight of Jesus transfigured, had to come down from the mountain and go about their everyday affairs, so we must be prepared to spend the greater part of our lives in the monotonous daily round, with the hope of spiritual glory to sustain us.

The School Choir led the singing of the psalm and hymns, and the Lesson was read by the Headmaster.

The order of service was as follows:—Hymn—These things shall be.

Prayers, including the Lord's Prayer sung.

Psalm 119—Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes.

Lesson—from Proverbs III. vv. 11-26, read by the Headmaster.

Hymn—The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

Prayers.

God be in my Head"—sung by the Choir.

Hymn—Be thou my guardian and my guide.

Sermon—The Very Rev, the Dean of Christchurch.

Hymn—Now thank w. all our God.

Benediction.

The Music Competition was this year held at the beginning of the Spring Term. It took the same form as last year's competition, with set items for performers, and a good standard was maintained both in choral and solo pieces. Mr. Jones, Music Master at Cotham Grammar School, very kindly acted as adjudicator in the finals. The preliminaries had been judged by Miss Jones and Mr. Pennington. Clare retained the Harwood Shield and Howard gained second place.

The Music Concert is now established as an annual event and was held this year during the Spring Term. The audience was not as large as had been hoped and as the quality of the performance warranted. The Concert consisted of excerpts from Handel's Messiah" sung by the Choir, with readings from the Bible by members of the elocution Class to provide continuity. Besides the choruses and solos, a new feature was the singing of quartets by the more experienced members of the Choir. Jennifer Rouch and Patsy Harvey were the soloists and sang with assurance and expression; Joan Timbrell accompanied the singing; and praise is due to them and to the Choir, who worked so hard to make the Concert a success.

The first House Reading Competition, which is in future to be an annual event, took place at the end of the Summer Term. Those

chosen to read for their House were divided into four classes, Junior, Middle, Senior, and Prefects, and each class had to read one prose piece and one poem, selected beforehand. The adjudicator, Mr. Cyril Wood, of the Arts Council of Great Britain, complimented the organisers Miss I. L. Cook and Mrs. E. H. Williams, on their choice of passages, and the competitors on the general excellence of their reading. He thought the idea of such a competition a very good one, and said that the competitors would gain valuable experience by taking part. He gave them extremely useful advice on methods of improving their reading, and read the passages aloud himself to demonstrate how to bring out the peculiar significance of each. The final results were very close indeed : Stafford won by a narrow margin from Clare. We are very grateful to Mr. Wood for coming to adjudicate.

The Dramatic Concert given at the end of the Spring Term was attended by large and appreciative audiences on both nights. What is becoming a most valuable and educative School tradition of Shakespearian production was well maintained by Mrs. E. H. Williams' abridged version of the "Winter's Tale" in which Jennifer Rouch, as Autolycus, gave the outstanding performance,

5A were the only Form to provide the entire cast of one play they acted very ably in a shortened form of "Le Médecin Malgré Lui," produced by Miss M. E. Gale. The part of Sganarelle was taken by E. I. Locke, who flung himself into it with infectious abandon.

The Junior play was "Fat King Melon and the Princess Caraway" an amusing trifle by A. P. Herbert. D. J. Malpass and Rhona Ewins, who took the title roles, acquitted themselves well, and were enthusiastically supported by the other players, Miss J. L. Cook produced this play. All those concerned with the concert, whether on stage or off, are to be congratulated on its success.

Speech Day this year was held on June 22nd, in ideal weather. A large number of Parents and Old Thornburians were present, but Captain Bennett (Chairman of the Governors) was unfortunately unable to attend owing to ill-health. The Rev. R. C. Rawstorne, Vicar of Thornbury, took his place. In his opening speech, he spoke of the excellent condition of the School grounds and complimented Mr. Mills on their upkeep. He then spoke of the pressure on accommodation, which the Governors hope will soon be eased by the erection of a new School canteen, so that the buildings of the Old School can be used to accommodate some pupils. He also hoped that the entire School would be redecorated during the summer holidays. In conclusion he spoke of the Inspector's very satisfactory report on the School,

The Headmaster, Mr. S. J. V. Rouch, then presented his report, speaking about the increased number of candidates from surrounding schools and the intense competition to gain entrance. He mentioned the success of the parents' Meetings with the Staff and commented on various School activities—the Orchestra, Societies, Handicraft Classes and Geographical expeditions organised by Mr. Cudmore. He then welcomed our guest, Mr. W. R. Watkin, the Secretary for Education for Gloucestershire, and expressed his appreciation of the honour Mr. Watkin did us by coming to speak,

After presenting the prizes, Mr. Watkin gave us a very lively speech; he said he was expected to speak about education, so he would devote the first part of his speech to a talk on education to the parents and would then finish with some advice for the pupils. Mr. Watkin stressed the importance of keeping children at school until they are eighteen, so that they may complete a sixth form course, and reap all the advantages of a sound education. Too many parents, he said, enter their children at School with the intention of removing them as soon as they legally can; by so doing, they deprive another child, who might complete the course, of the full advantages of Secondary education. He realised the financial difficulties of some parents, but

pointed out that with increased grants and scholarships, these are now lessening. The second part of his speech was addressed to the School; he said that the children's attitude at home often decided whether they stayed at school until they were eighteen. He advised boys and girls to help their parents as much as they could at home and to make as little trouble as possible over homework.

The School Captain, L. C. Hummerstone, proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker.

An excellent tea was provided by Miss Storey and her helpers from VA. After tea, Country Dancing and Physical Training displays were given on the School Field under the direction of Miss Jones, Mr. Williams and Mr. Harwood.

Out of School Activities.

We are very grateful to the members of Staff who have given much time and thought to the organisation of a varied programme of interesting and instructive tours and excursions this year.

Two walking tours were arranged by Mr. Cudmore for members of the Upper School. On Friday, May 6th, some pupils from the Fifth Forms travelled to Bath by 'bus, and walked two miles to the hostel at Batheaston. The week-end was spent in visiting the Abbey, the Roman Baths and other places of interest in the vicinity. The second week-end tour, this time for the Certificate forms, was centred on Croscombe Youth Hostel, near Wells, in Mendip Country. The pupils were able to study the characteristics of limestone scenery at first hand and visited Cheddar Gorge and Wookey Hole Caves.

On May 21st a cycling party of Fourth and Fifth formers in the charge of Mr. Hill, visited Tintern Abbey and several of the surrounding villages they crossed the Severn by the Aust Ferry and cycled up the beautiful Wye Valley.

One day during the early part of the Summer Term a party of Fifth formers, with Mr. Carpenter in charge, went by coach to the Wheatstone Hall at Gloucester to visit a History Exhibition there. The exhibition, consisting mainly of old parchments, occupied two rooms in the Hall. Thornbury was mentioned in the Manorial Records, and was also among the 'Market Towns.' Thornbury Castle had a prominent position on the County Maps. Other exhibits, comprising maps, bills, petitions and ancient deeds and records of various kinds, from all parts of the county, ranged from a Charter of Henry II. (1155) to Home Guard and A.R.P. records (1940-45). Afterwards the party went to the Cathedral and was fortunate enough to be shown round the adjacent cloisters, which were once part of a monastery. They left the cloisters at the rear of the cathedral, in order not to interrupt a service.

On May 27th a party from the School visited the Bath and West Show, assembling outside the School at nine o'clock, whence they caught a 'bus to the Centre. They arrived at the Showground at about ten o'clock. At the time we noticed the dull skies with little apprehension—we did not guess what was in store for us! On our arrival we split up into small groups, arranging to meet at twelve o'clock at a certain stand. We then began to inspect many interesting exhibits among which were furniture, refrigerators, and farming implements of all kinds, and of a very wide range. The electricity tent proved to be a great "draw" with many fascinating new gadgets. Cheapjacks, with a running flow of sales-talk, gathered crowds of amused visitors. Feminine interest centred mainly on the flower show, which contained many displays wonderful in colour and size. Another attraction for the girls was the handicraft tent, displaying many small, beautifully made objects. The honey tent was of interest to all, with different kinds of honey varying in colour from pale yellow to rich brown. The heavy skies then opened, and torrents of rain descended. We had, fortunately, been told to bring "macs" which protected us a good deal. We ploughed along through the churned-up mud, looking at stand after stand, including those of the Army, Navy and Air Force, which displayed many models of ships, aircraft and

vehicles used in modern warfare. The centre of attraction at two o'clock was the march round the ring of the Household Cavalry, resplendent in full dress uniform and riding magnificent horses. The sheep-dog trials had taken place a little earlier. The shepherd controlled four dogs, who were marshalling sheep, with signals, which were made by arm movements or whistles.

Lunch and tea were damp, rather cheerless affairs, as the rain was fairly continuous all the afternoon. However this did not detract from the party's enjoyment. A girls' P.I. squad perfumed outside the Education' tent, skilled chefs made marvellous swirls on iced-cakes, and a model cow made realistic movements to show that a particular cure was indispensable to her. Thornbury was represented by Mr. Cullimore's Brick Works stand, and by the Thornbury Toy and Cycle Stores, and Falfield, a close neighbour, was represented by her Forest and Orchard Nurseries. At six o'clock a damper but wiser party once more assembled, and made its way to the 'bus stop, arriving 'at Bristol Centre at about a quarter past seven. Our chief impression was the huge size of the show, and those who attended it are very grateful to the members of Staff who organised the trip and accompanied the party.

A full programme of industrial visits was arranged this year by Mr. Cudmore, and we are 'very grateful to him and to the guides who conducted the tours round the various factories and so patiently satisfied our curiosity. On a visit to the Evening Post Offices at Bristol the School party was shown all the printing processes, and was allowed to see the telegraph room, but not the editorial offices. Later, a party of pupils interested in aviation spent a very enjoyable Saturday morning at the B.A.C. works at Patchway, where they inspected the Brabazon aeroplane in its hangar. Visits to Lister's Engineering Works and to the cloth-mill at Cam were again made this year. The party was greatly impressed by the variety of products manufactured and especially by the agricultural implements at Lister's. While some pupils were at Cam, others were visiting the docks at Avonmouth, and seeing the daily activity of a busy port. The visit was especially enjoyed by the boys. A party from the School visited Coalpit Heath Colliery again this year, but this time only boys were allowed to go. They went down into the mine and inspected the underground workings. On the surface the hoisting machinery was particularly interesting.

Three visits to the Bristol Theatre Royal were made this year to see "Romeo and Juliet," "Hamlet" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and all were very much enjoyed. A small party of Sixth formers also went to see the film "Hamlet" at the Academy Cinema, and were greatly impressed by the treatment of the story and by the beautiful photography. We thank Miss Cook and Mrs. Ewens for kindly arranging these visits. Miss Jones also arranged a visit to the Central Hall, Bristol, to hear a recital by the distinguished pianist, Dame Myra Hess.

Various classes have been held as usual this year outside School hours the Chess, Art and Leatherwork Clubs are flourishing. Chess meetings are held on Friday evenings in the Geography Room, where Staff and pupils meet in friendly rivalry. Skill in play is greatly improved and the beginners are making good progress. The Art Club, working under the direction of Mr. Jaques, have continued the clay modelling which was begun last year, and have recently started bookbinding and poster-work. The Club meets after School on Wednesdays. The Leatherwork class, conducted by Mr. Harwood, has this year completed nearly half as much work again as in the previous year. The articles were generally of much better finish, and many were made from the pupils' own designs. It was sometimes difficult to procure the leather, but a fairly constant small supply was kept up. It is hoped that next year the Class will be able to admit third forms, but this will depend upon the numbers from the Upper School and the supply of leather.

The School Orchestra this year is making marked progress. We are grateful to Mr. Green, who put in so much time helping us, and

we are very sorry that this is his last term here. The new members have made a promising start. Senior members of the orchestra played incidental music during the School Concert, and their performance was much enjoyed.

Miss Jones has this year revived interest in Country Dancing and has taught the girls many of the simpler dances. It is hoped that a regular class may be started, where the girls may become thoroughly familiar with these folk-dances. A team of Senior and Junior girls gave a display of country dances on Speech Day this year.

The Severn Bore.

In the Spring Term a number of pupils went with Mr. Cudmore to Stonebench, a spot on the bank of the Severn, where the narrow river bends sharply, to see the Severn Bore as it came up the river. We arrived early and found good positions along the bank. The signs of the Bore's approach were, first, a curious rushing noise, and second, the slight disturbance of the hitherto calm water; then, on a distant bank, there was a spurt of white spray, and we saw a rolling wall of water three feet high across the river, moving rapidly and steadily towards us. In less than thirty seconds after we had seen that first spray thrown up, the Bore had passed us and was continuing upstream, dashing against the mud banks, and, incidentally drenching two ladies who had ventured too far out. To the School party, however, the most impressive sight was not the Bore itself, but the astonishing and almost frightening rate at which the flood water rose after its passing. A small bush at the water's edge, which was about four feet high, was completely covered a quarter of an hour after the tidal wave had gone it was fascinating to watch the level of the water slowly creep up from branch to branch, until no more could be seen. The force of the tide carried along large pieces of wood, and even small tree trunks some of us thought they recognised branches which they had seen peacefully floating downstream only a short time before. Soon the water overflowed the banks and we were obliged to retire before the road should be covered.

A Visit To London.

At eight o'clock in the morning of Monday, February 2¹st, a party of twenty-five Upper Fifth and Sixth Formers, in charge of Mr. Cudmore, Mr. Jaques, Mr. Hill and Miss Taylor, left Thornbury by coach for London, where they were to spend a brief stay. Their route lay through Marlborough, Reading and Windsor, the ever-changing scenery providing constant attractions, and so on to Trafalgar Square, which they reached at one o'clock.

A sight-seeing coach tour of London followed places of interest visited included the Tower of London, where the party was impressed by the glittering display of Crown jewels. St. Paul's Cathedral, Fleet Street, Whitehall, Buckingham Palace, Fell Mall, Piccadilly Circus, Hyde Park, the Serpentine and Somerset House. Those of the party who had never visited London before were specially interested to see the places that hitherto they had only read of or heard about.

The Youth Hostel in North London, where the party stayed was reached by a tube train journey, another novel experience for most. Time off was taken for tea, and for a general wash and brush up, then the party departed for Covent Garden Opera House to see a performance of Verdi's "Rigoletto" greatly enjoyed by everyone.

Early next day the party visited Covent Garden Market, but they had risen just too late and they found that most of the early trade was over. After breakfast, they visited Buckingham Palace, hoping to see the Changing of the Guard, but as the King was not in residence, they were again disappointed; however, they were able to witness this colourful ceremony at St. James' Palace later. They next visited Whitehall and Downing Street, and then at half past ten the party met Mr. Alpass, Labour M.P. for the Thornbury Division; who on a previous visit to the School had promised to show them over the House of Commons. Both the upper part of the House and the Crypt were

visited, and Mr. Alpass gave a short explanation of Parliamentary procedure.

Lunch was eaten in one of the central parks, then the tour was continued to Westminster Abbey, where the party encountered Mr. Brooke, former History Master at the School. Apart from the architecture and monuments of the Abbey, which excited great admiration from all, the party were particularly impressed by the Royal Air Force memorial window, and they saw the book containing the names of all Royal Air Force men who fell in the 1939-45 war. Each day a page is turned.

Then the party split up, one section to visit the National Art Gallery, the other to visit the South Kensington Science Museum. At the Science Museum exhibits traced the evolution of machines, and there was a large number of zoological specimens on show the scientists of the party were especially interested.

After this the party returned to the Hostel for the last time, and then picked up the coach at half-past five, to return by the same route as they followed on the outward journey, after a very pleasant weekend.

The Caving Club.

During the past year, caving has proved increasingly popular, and over twenty boys have now made at least one descent. There have been three School expeditions to the Mendips, and several of the seniors have, by themselves, explored Goatchurch Cave and Rod's Pot, both in the Burrington area.

Two beginners' trips were made to Swildon's Hole, and on the second occasion, five boys completed the exploration of the upper part of the cave by traversing the active stream route.

On July 28th, a School party paid its first visit to G.B. cave at Charterhouse. The main feature of this cave, which was first discovered by the University of Bristol Speleological Society in 1939, is a vast chamber, like a roofed gorge nearly 300 yards long, and in places 100 feet high. It descends steeply to a total depth of 480 feet below ground, and at the time of our visit, the main chamber could be reached only after one hour's strenuous crawling and climbing in muddy and tortuous passages. A narrow entrance leads to a steep passage ending in two beautiful grottoes where are some of the finest irregular stalactites in Britain.

The way in is full of excitement, for there are many interesting climbs and several horizontal "drainpipes," from one of which the caver emerges head first at the top of a 15-foot iron ladder. Below the ladder, the passage descends a series of potholes, and enters one wall of the main chamber through an insignificant crack.

So spacious is the main chamber that only the light of burning magnesium can penetrate the blackness and illuminate the fine stalactite formations of the roof and walls. Roughly half way down, the remains of the former stalagmited floor form a high gallery round the walls, and a bridge, near which is a lovely tributary passage. Here the party turned back, but more recently Davies, Rosser and Dicker have descended to the end of the cave and have found the new short route to the surface.

The most ambitious trip of the year was, however, the descent of the 40-foot waterfall in Swildon's Hole on May 14th, 1949, when Mr. Williams and Mr. Pennington took Davies, Rosser, Dicker, Selwood, Cooper, Teague, and Smyth into the lower part of the cave. With the assistance of members of the Wessex Cave Club, rope ladders were fixed and the party safely negotiated the 40-foot and 20-foot waterfalls and followed the stream, sometimes wading and sometimes climbing over fallen boulders, until they reached the awkward double-pot where only the agile members avoided immersion in four feet of water. A short distance beyond this point, where the passage divides at Barnes's Loop, the party had to return after taking a brief look at the beautiful white passage which forms the upper branch of the loop.

Of the return journey, with the increasing burden of sodden tackle and wet clothes, the least said is the better, for only those who have been in the cave can appreciate the difficulty of handling intractable rope ladders in the narrow upper passages. It was a wet and tired, but

happy party which eventually crawled out of the entrance hole after six hours underground”



MARKET STREET APPLEDORE.

Westward Ho! 1949.

The party was organised by Mr. B. H. Cudmore (Geography) and Miss C. L. Rees (Biology) who arranged a full programme for twentyseven members of the Advanced Course during their nine days' stay. The main purpose of the field week was again the study by the Biologists of the flora and fauna of the locality, and by the Geographers, an examination of the physical features and a study of the economic background.

The party had an opportunity to make a detailed study of local conditions—to see how man's environment controlled not only his work, but also his mode of living and outlook. Apart from the educational value of the excursion, there was a less obvious gain—that of working as a team and living together as a corporate body.

As this was the third visit to the area, the party met many friends. The Rev. H. Muller, Vicar of Appledore, conducted us around the small fishing port, and gave us a very entertaining lecture on Denmark. Mr. Sims, the Divisional Planning Officer, gave an informative lecture on N. Devon, from the geographical and economic point of view. Miss Sheila Hutchinson brought a new feature into our lectures her subject was "The River Torridge from Source to Mouth" and she illustrated the talk with her own paintings, which were greatly admired by the party. Mr. Fulford spoke on local bird watching and its attractions as Margery Huckle

The nearby town of Bideford was visited, and Appledore was

again a firm favourite. We spent a day at Great Torrington, where the party heard a lecture on local history by Mr. Hooper, who afterwards accompanied us on a short tour of the town. We visited the Torridge Vale Dairy, where two of the directors, Messrs. Sandford and Stacey, showed us to the various departments and explained the processes. We are very grateful to these gentlemen for giving up so much of their time to help us and we deeply appreciate their kindness.

The walks to Baggy Point and Clovelly were thoroughly enjoyed and the views across the bay were very good. The Dartmoor trip had a larger range with less concentration on one area. This tour included a walk up Lydford Gorge and a visit to Grimspound, with a special detour to Buckfast Abbey. The party had not visited the Abbey before and most of us were surprised by its air of modern activity and impressed by its great beauty. The moor looked pleasant in the sun but even the lovely day could not soften the forbidding appearance of Princetown.

Mr. Lampard-Vachell, M.A., LL.B., F.Z.S., Chairman of the Devon Education Committee, talked on local birds, of which he has made a study. Mr. Smith, formerly Senior Master of Bideford Grammar School, talked on the Manor Court of Bideford, in which he takes part, and told us of other local traditions. Mr. Fulford was kind enough to take the girls of the party around the Sudbury Glove Factory, where they saw gloves of all types being made: they were particularly pleased with the long evening mittens made of nylon fabric. The larger part of the factory's production is exported.

This year the non-Biologists had a chance to visit the sand-dunes, salt-marsh and rock-pools, under the supervision of Miss Rees.

The return journey was through Exeter, where the Party visited the Guild Hall, the Cathedral, the Castle and the City Wall. The castle grounds were very beautiful with everything in full bloom. The party, led by an official guide, inspected the Guildhall and found the main hall, with its beautiful panelling and imposing array of shields, very impressive.

We were fortunate in having excellent weather during the whole week, and no plans had to be altered. The old and new friends of the party in N. Devon contributed largely to our enjoyment, for without their help much of local interest would have been missed, and we are truly grateful to them. The thanks of the party are also due to the members of Staff, especially to Mr. Cudmore and Miss Rees for organising the excursion, and to Mrs. Cudmore for supervising the catering and giving us the excellent meals to which we have become accustomed at Westward Ho!

A Walking Tour in the Cotswolds.

MARY ROUCH, VI. Form.

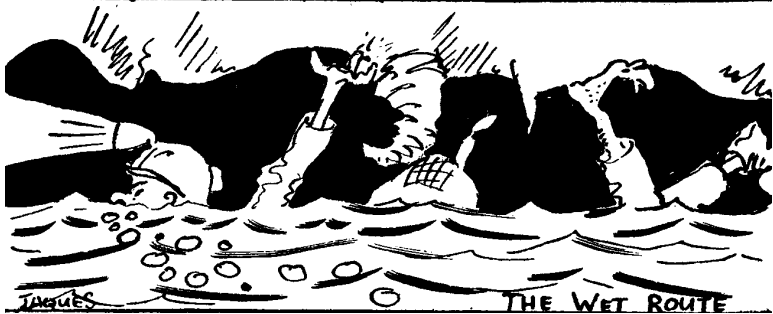
One bright Tuesday morning in April, a friend and I set out to tour on foot those rolling, friendly hills, the Cotswolds, which rise up on the edge of the Severn Vale.

We left Cheltenham by 'bus and reaching Winchcombe set out across country for Hailes Abbey. Walking over the undulating springy surface of the pasture land, we eventually reached this former home of the monks, now a circle of arches in mellowed stone, blending pleasantly into a background of cultivated fir trees.

Here we intended to have lunch, but the presence of two evil-smelling goats forced us to continue our way over the fields towards Didbrook and purer air. At the little hamlet of Didbrook we were given a lift in a battered jeep, and rattled along to the charming villages of Stanton and Stoneway, where we spent an interesting quarter of an hour looking at the beautiful colours and proportions of the Cotswold houses, and examining an intricately carved Tudor doorway.

That night we reached Bidford, and the spacious black and white hostel, Broom Hall, where we were able to have a refreshing shower and a good meal. For our hostel duties we always chose to wash up after supper so that we could move off early in the morning.





Next day we set off for Stratford in brilliant sunshine. The place was beaming and gay with Spring, and to suit the mood, "Much Ado About Nothing" was being performed at the Memorial Theatre. After queuing for seats we managed to obtain two tickets. We had our lunch in the churchyard on the river bank where Shakespeare must have walked. Afterwards we saw his tomb in the church—a plain grey stone slab which seemed a very insignificant resting place for one so famous.

We thoroughly enjoyed the play, and returned to Broom Hall to find that we were the only English girls in the hostel that night. Our fellow-hikers were two Norwegian girls and an Australian lady who was seeing as much of the Mother Country as she could before returning to Sydney.

In the morning we heaved on our packs and marched off for a long tramp across country, chiefly through the flat vale of Evesham. We reached the mellow, peaceful town of Chipping Campden in pouring rain, but even this did not detract from the beauty of the grey stone houses, so skilfully and solidly built. We tramped on in the rain towards Shipton-on-Stour with dripping clothes and squelching shoes, and reached it at last, cold, weary, and very wet.

After tea in a café we felt warmer and more cheerful, and continued on our way to the hostel at Idlicote which is very much off the beaten track. En route we passed through the hamlet of Honington with Tudor houses clustered round the village green. There was an atmosphere of peace, content and prosperity as if no Industrial Revolution had shattered the quiet of the English agricultural fastness.

In contrast, the hostel at Idlicote was disappointing. It was a converted village school and we had to set to and light a fire, get our supper, and fetch water from a pump across the road. Friday was a day full of exploration. We visited those renowned villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter, the latter especially attractive with its stream, four ducks, water-mill, and profusion of purple and red rock plants, and yellow gilly-flowers in the cottage gardens. Bourton-on-the-Water was our next town, and after visiting the model village we wandered through the picturesque streets and looked around the church. The tomb-stones were similar to those at Lower Slaughter. The stonemason seemed to be fond of fat beaming cherubs and flowery lettering. We noticed the same thing at Winchcombe and we wondered if the same man had travelled round to the various parishes. That night we stopped at Stow-on-the-Wold at an excellent hostel in a Georgian house in the square. On Saturday we started off on the last stage of our journey. Reaching the small village of Naunton we crossed fields and picked our way through a copse by the little gurgling meandering Windrush. The country was full of life; we started up water-fowl and numerous families of rabbits scattered as we approached.

Leaving the Windrush we came to Guiting, passed through the village and tramped along towards Guiting Wood which spreads over the slopes on either side of the road. After lunch at Deadmansbury Gate, we made for Sudeley Castle over the hill, from which we could see Winchcombe nestling in the blossom-covered countryside with Bredon Hill silhouetted in the distance. Sudeley is a gracious Tudor mansion. In the chapel the last of Henry VIII. 's long-suffering wives, Katherine Parr, is buried. Reaching Winchcombe again we were soon at the last hostel on Cleeve Hill where we met one of the first hostellers who had been all over the country hiking, even in snow.

I had gained an impression of the serenity and gentleness of the Cotswolds, full of the atmosphere of contentment with little, for this is not generally an opulent area. The placid, well-designed villages we passed through were clean and friendly and there was the sweetness of Spring spread over the whole countryside which no world strife had destroyed.

My Choice of a Career.

FAY FENTON, Upper 5A.

If I were allowed to choose my career, probable or improbable, I would be a goat-herd. I see you are shaking your head in dismay, but wait until I have explained. I want to be a goat-herd in Arabia, to wander across the burning waste from oasis to oasis.

My friends scoff at me and try to deter me by pointing out the many difficulties that stand in my way, but the difficulties are hinged and I can push my way through them.

The first difficulty is, of course, money. I shall try a job in England for a couple of years, and when I have saved some money, which I still consider possible in spite of remarks about income tax, I shall make my way to one of the Red Sea ports, even if I have to go as a stowaway.

Then, my friends say, what about the language; although they admit that my goats would probably understand if I spoke to them in English, still there are other people in Arabia. But I have an acquaintance who speaks Arabic, and what she does not know I could learn from books, or by advertising for an Arab teacher in the papers.

When I reach the Red Sea port, either Jidda or Akaba, I shall buy some masculine Arab clothes and two goats, a buck and a doe; with those, over whose purchase some say I would be drastically cheated, I shall set off into the desert. Since I cannot be expected to know the desert like the back of my hand, as many of the Beduins do, I shall also take a map of the oases and a compass, in order to find my way.

Someone has found another snag; what about baths ~ As to that. I am not so fond of baths that I cannot do without them for two or three days. Every wash will be a treat, as I draw up the cold, sandy water, and having watered my goats and drunk a refreshing handful myself, splash the water over my body, and remove three days' grime at a time. I say three days' grime, because it takes three days to travel from one oasis to the next, on a fast racing camel, so I should probably take longer.

When I reach the oasis it will be night, and I shall settle down to sleep until noon, when I shall go to barter with the Arabs, perhaps offering to draw water, or do some other task in exchange for a small bag of meal, which I must carry on my back, with enough water to last myself and my goats until we reach the next oasis.

When I am on the road I shall sleep throughout the day, while my goats either do the same, or graze on the scanty scrub. Perhaps while I am sleeping a snake will coil up by me, but as long as I do not disturb it it will not harm me. I hope that my goats will reproduce themselves so that when I meet another Bedouin tribe in about two years time, I shall be able to barter several goats for a camel, and after many years, work up to the purchase of an Arab house as well.

In the course of my wanderings, I shall visit Petra, which sounds delightful as described by Lowell Thomas—a place of ruins and snakes, with some of the buildings standing almost wholly as they were left, and some with only the foundations remaining. What took my imagination most was the description of it in a quotation, “a rose red city half as old as time”—because the whole city is carved out of red rock.

To me this sums up the whole of Arabia, for I see it through rose-coloured spectacles; to me the Arabs would not seem half as fascinating if they were Christian—and the idea of walking for miles barefooted, over rocky desert in the scorching sun, simply makes it more exciting.

When I have to die, I think I would rather die after a hard and toilsome life and have my bones picked by vultures, than be buried in the quiet of an English churchyard.

Cat's Cradle.

WENDY MOGG, VA.

We had been playing at Water Gypsies all day, exploring fascinating little backwaters and derelict old hulks that lay in the more deserted canals. We were sailing down the river when we noticed it—a tiny cottage, half hidden by leaves and brambles. We wanted to explore it there and then, but we had to wait till after tea—a bite of sandwich, and a sip from a red thermos flask. Then we left the others to settle down to fish—spearing squirming worms on to hooks with a lack of feeling that was horrible to see.

We ran up the sedgy river bank, passing the bridge with the long white handle for pushing it round when barges chugged upstream, and watching with interest the fate of two small boys who leaned over too far.

When at last we reached the Witches' Cottage—for so we called it—the sky was orange and gold, and the sun a brilliant curve on the black horizon, for it had been a longer distance than we thought, and we had loitered on the way to watch a skimming bird, or to gather some of the lovely berries in the scarlet hedgerows.

When we saw the cottage at close range, I, at least, was disappointed. Just one tiny room, a tinier porch, and a lean-to shed affair, probably for coal or wood. Outside were the remains of what had once been a neat little garden—some overgrown apple trees, and the green curtain of a once orderly wild rose sprinkled all over with scarlet hips and haws.

In fact, the only pleasant thing about the cottage, in my opinion, was a large bramble bush, laden with luscious clusters of large and juicy blackberries. We carefully picked them, and put them into a fairly clean handkerchief, meaning to take them back to the others. The sun had disappeared completely now, and suddenly the sky was grey and purple. The evening, instead of becoming the silvery golden time of the day, seemed to become cold and threatening. The brambles were grotesque shapes against the skyline, the cottage taking on a sinister aspect. I shivered, and turned to go, but my strong-nerved companion protested vehemently against this retreat, her clear voice shattering the silence almost sacrilegiously I thought. "Oh, I say, don't let's go yet—we haven't been round the other side I" She pulled me round to the back of the house, but suddenly she stopped.

Good *Heavens!* " she said. Her face was white. "Look at that I

I looked. Nailed to a post which was driven into the ground were two cat's claws. That they were cat's claws, there was no doubt, for the claws were spread in the way that only a cat can spread them. One claw had been torn from the knee, the other from the thigh of the unfortunate cat. The fur had mouldered away, leaving a greenish skin stretched over the bones. We stared at them, horribly fascinated.

Suddenly a water-fowl whirred past, making us jump. It broke the spell. We ran.

After about thirty yards, we slowed down, feeling rather ashamed of our sudden flight.

A faint whistle sounded over the water. "Coming!" we yelled.

We found the others downstream, talking to the lock-gate keeper.

"Any luck?" we asked.

They gloomily shook their heads, and we tactfully avoided any further reference to the painful subject.

Instead, we casually asked the lock-gate keeper who had previously inhabited the cottage up the river.

"Ah, that there cottage be 'aunted," he said, pulling at his pipe.

"Who is it haunted by" we asked, ungrammatically.

Ole man wot kept cats, he was," the keeper rumbled meditatively.

'Ee 'ad nigh on 'arf a dozen cats in that there cottage of 'is. Daft ole fellow 'ee was—ee wouldn't open the door fer nobody after dark, not 'ee I

"Well then, nobody seed 'un around for some time, so the village

copper. ee went up t ave a look around an' see if 'ee's all right. Well, ale Bob, ee goes up, an' finds the shutters an' the door all barred up, so cc as ter break in. When 'Ce gets inside, what does 'ee find but the ole chap lying on the floor, stone dead, an' 'is cats all snarling round 'im. Seems 'as 'ow 'ee'd 'ad some sort of a 'Cart attack and died, 'bout a fortnight back. But them cats 'adn't. They wuz all locked in and they got a bit 'ungry, like, see? They 'ad ter shoot they cats afore they could take the body away. But the 'orrible thing about the whole business was that after that night, no-one could go ter that cottage, but what they'd run out a' they brambles proper demented—mad as atters. every one. 'Ad ter take 'em off ter the Loony Bin.

Funny thing wuz, though, they wuz scratched all over in reg'lar sets of four.”
He paused, letting his words sink in, watching our horrified faces with relish.
“Oh, it's all right now,” he said.

Ever since they gypsies were up there—they did some 'eathenish business by the light of the moon, or some such nonsense. They killed a cat, so they say, and buried it with a stake through its 'art, and its claws nailed to the top—mebbe you seed 'em?

Leastways, no-one's bin scratched since, 'cep my ole missus,” he said, twinkling. “And she was blackberryin' with the kids last Saturday—she fell over a stick, but then 'twasn't her face wot was scratched! “ Somebody shouted from the lock, and he hurried away, while we looked askance at his large black cat, which came out of his cottage and fawned round our legs, purring contentedly.

Danse Macabre.

C. ADAMS. Vb.

The night was chilly and Father O'Flynn retired to his bed in the presbytery rather earlier than usual. He was a newcomer, and, as it was his first night, he was rather excited.

As he divested himself of his rosary and cassock, he glanced out of the window and gave an involuntary shudder he saw the moon rise over the cedar trees that bordered the grave-yard, saw its pale rays glint on the tombstones and charnel houses. Piously crossing himself, he started to draw the curtain when his attention was caught by the furtive movements of two men in the churchyard below. Each had a coil of rope about his shoulder, and each a spade. The leader, the taller of the two, had a lantern which sent flickering shadows into the recesses of the tombs. “Resurrectionists,” breathed the priest, and was about to cry out when .

He saw a thing dressed in a long grey robe, and bearing a violin in its hands, silently approaching. It sat on a tombstone and dangled its legs, turning its violin the while. Its face, the priest noticed, was shapeless and glowed with the eerie, sinister, phosphorescence of decay. It struck a few chords, then frenziedly almost, threw itself into an eerie, weird tune .

The two men fell forward, prostrate, and the priest seemed to be hypnotised by the horrid sight as it swayed back and forth in time with the music.

Then suddenly. shapes began to rise from the graves, and dance to the horrible lilting tune. The priest tried to cry out, but no sound would come.

He fell forward in a faint. . . Outside, the dance went on, faster and faster, the bones of the skeletons rattling hideously; when the dance was at its height a cock crowed from a nearby farm, the grey light of dawn grew in the sky and the scene lay deserted and silent— except for wild laughter which rang out in the presbytery.

When Father O'Flynn's house-keeper brought him his early morning tea, she found, not a respectable Roman Catholic priest—but a raving lunatic.

And the two men

Oh yes; they were found next day in the shadow of a tombstone, quite quite dead, their faces twisted hideously into shapes of indescribable horror . .

Translation from French Verse.

BARBARA KEAR, Upper VA.

When the quiet evening shadows
Softly steal across the glade,
And the sun is disappearing
And the light begins to fade;
As the fragrance of the pine trees
Comes a'Hoating on the air,
Wandering youth and lingering maiden
Then the time is to beware.

For the silver moon arising
Casts a spell on all the earth
And blind Cupid shoots his arrows
When he hears your quiet mirth.
Love lies wait for all unwary.
For a short while makes them gay,
Then it leaves them broken-hearted,
And, still laughing, runs away.

An Eighteenth Century Letter.

SYLVIA GOPSILL, Form Upper VB.

The Lattices, Five-Ways,Bath.

My Dearest Charlotte,

13th April, 1770.

I know you will be surprised to hear from me from Bath, but my Uncle Peregrine has suddenly resolved that as I have now reached my eighteenth year, I should visit Bath to complete my education.

You can imagine how excited I was at the thought of the dangerous coach drive, and rather apprehensive at the prospect of so much company, especially that of gentlemen.

Bath keeps very respectable hours, all merry-making ending at eleven o'clock, although I have heard of some shocking creatures who actually carry on private parties well into the early hours of the morning.

Dear Charlotte, it would be delightful if you could be here to share my enjoyment, but as I know that cannot be, I must describe my surroundings to you, hoping it will not make you unduly dissatisfied with your own, quiet, country home.

Both the ladies and gentlemen here are very courteous and civil, but I was quite shocked yesterday evening when immediately after Mr. Darcy had finished addressing me, he turned round, and, in my presence actually swore to his friend, apparently heedless of my reproving glance.

From my short experience here I have already gathered that after dinner one goes to the Pump Room, not, as would be expected, to drink the waters, but to show off one's best, and most elegant clothes. I have now learnt to look my best during these hours, as I can assure you all the ladies compete to receive compliments from the equally fastidiously dressed gentlemen.

Yes, Charlotte, the gentlemen's clothes are brilliant although I confess that the costume of some seemed in the highest degree foppish. One may still see a profusion of wigs here, as the gentlemen are rather wary of the new fashion of wearing one's own hair. The wigs are tied back with large silk bows, and the wearers become most embarrassed if one takes the liberty to praise their style. I tell you this in complete confidence, for most certainly they would not thank us for these comments.

Mr. Faversham called on us yesterday; he drove up in his own phaeton, and I find he has the reputation of being a famous whip. I believe you made his acquaintance at Lady Wenford's annual ball. Will you be very vexed with me, my dear Charlotte, if I take this opportunity of saying how much I admire him? His behaviour to us has been, in every particular, as pleasing as when we were in the country.

I enjoy writing so much I could continue forever if economy did not stop me, for though I've used thin paper, and written fine, I tremble to think of the stamps this long letter will need. Let me hear from you very soon.

Adieu, my sweetest Charlotte,

JANE.

Sunrise.

BETTY FENNELL, Form 5A.

When mother earth has raised her head
From slumber calm and deep,
And twinkling stars have gone to bed
The sun his watch doth keep.
He walks majestic o'er the hills,
And paints the sky with dawn,
And laughing streams with silver fills,
And bids the shades begone.
The children welcome him with glee
The birds with grateful praise,
And all mankind are glad to see
His wealth of golden rays.

A Modern Fairy Story.

S. CUTTS, Form 3B.

One morning, at about nine o'clock, Joe Smith was walking to the station. Outside was a man selling newspapers, and Joe, feeling on top of the world, and rejoicing in a legacy of thirty thousand pounds, gave the man a five pound note as he passed. The little man said,

"Thankee sir, and may everything turn blue!"

Joe thought the man a bit silly, and passed on to the ticket-office, wondering. What was his surprise when he leant against the wall to see it turn blue, a horrible eye-dazzling blue. He was surprised that a ticket-office should be painted in this colour, but thought nothing more of it until he received his ticket and that turned blue, too!

Joe boarded the train, and sank down on the seat in a dazed fashion. An old woman was struggling into the carriage, so Joe lifted her suit-case for her it turned blue! The woman nearly fainted into Joe's arms, but he hastily backed away, lest she should turn blue. The rain that had been drizzling down intermittenly had now stopped, and there was a rainbow in the sky Joe's lips unconsciously framed the names of the colours as he gazed at it—a moment later, when he glanced at the suit-case, he saw it had regained its normal colour—he had found out by accident how to reverse the spell.

When Joe got home that night, he had a plan in his brain, and after he had carefully told his wife the 'story of his adventures that day, he unfolded his plan to her.

"Listen," he said, "there is no such thing as a blue rose, is there? Well, I'm going to grow white ones and turn them blue."

Joe has been growing blue roses for two years now and is a millionaire—and his secret is still safe, for no-one yet has thought of reciting the colours of the rainbow to roses!

The Escapades of a Ginger Cat.

MONICA WYATT, Form 2A.

He is an excellent mouser, and once gave us a Christmas present by bringing a more dead than alive mouse into the dining-room, and letting it go, just as we were sitting down to our Christmas dinner. We had some trouble in ridding ourselves of the mouse, while the dinner cooled.

In the milk shortage, would this cat drink dried milk? Certainly not! We had to deceive him in the following manner: we poured the dried milk into an ordinary milk bottle while he was asleep and then let him imagine it was ordinary milk. It worked.

He comes and goes by windows, whether the door is open or not, and Ginger carries this habit a bit too far. At night he arrives at my bedroom window, climbs in, and goes to sleep at the foot of the bed. In the morning he wakes me up when he washes himself, which process jogs the bed and its occupant.

He used to sleep on the best chairs, until an unfortunate visitor sat on him—since when he has shown no desire to continue the habit. He can pick out the sound of his master's car among a medley of other noises and he has a thousand-and-one other tricks which would fill a volume.

The Needle.

C. SHEARING, IIIA.

I was made at the factory,
A needle am I
And if you ill-treat me
I'll soon make you cry.
My friend is the pin
But he has a head.
And if I'm not there
He'll prick you instead.

Examination Results.

We congratulate the following on their examination successes

BA. Hons. Bristol : Elizabeth I. Meredith.

County Major Scholarships:

W. I. Nicholls.

Kathleen D. Pullin.

Mary M. Rouch.

P. J. Winstone.

University of Bristol Higher School Certificate, 1948

D. J. Hawkins, English. History, Geography.

Kathleen D. Pullin, English C., French V.G., Geography, Latin (subsid.) V.G.

Jennifer A. Rouch, French C., Geography, History.

Mary M. Rouch, English C., History C., Latin.

M. Elizabeth Rugg, History, Geography (subsid.) (completing the examination).

H. B. Thomas, History. Biology, Geography.

P. J. Winstone, History V.G., in Geography C. *University of Bristol School Certificate, 1948*

Margaret E. 'Bishop, C. Mary Bishop (m), Brenda Bradford, P. A.

J Clutterbuck (in), Mary F. Clutterbuck (in), D. R. Cooper (in), W. B. Davies, C. A. Dicker (in). Jean E. Duncan (in), Barbara M. Eacott. C.

S. Haines, I. Harris, Mavis E. Heale. J. A. C. King (m), M. D. Lewis,

Patricia L. Morrissey, Janice M. Newman, Moreen A. Parker, M. W.

Pierce, Ula M. Reynolds (m), M. J. Riddle, R. Rosser (m), S. K.

Rugman (m), E. B. Selwood (m), I. Ruth Shepherd, Joan E. Timbrell

(in), Cynthia M. Tomkins, N. E. Wills, KathLenO. L. Withers (in).

Oxford School Certificate Local Examination, 1948:

V. Ginn (m), Rosslyn Nicholas.

Ula Reynolds gained a credit in French, and Mary Bishop a credit in French, thus completing their matriculations. Kathleen Pullin gained a Very Good in German.

SPORTS.

Swimming, 1948-49.

This year an improvement was apparent in the general standard of swimming throughout the School, and more pupils gained points for swimming distances.

The swimming sports were again held at the Blue Lagoon, Severn Beach, but unfortunately the weather was not very good : the sky was overcast and a cold breeze made it unpleasant for the competitors who had to wait before their races. The obstacle race, which was to have been introduced for the first time this year had to be abandoned because of these unfavourable conditions. About half an hour after the completion of the sports the breeze dropped and the sun broke through—too late.

The Rabley Shield was won by Stafford House with 1 394 points; Howard gained 135 and Clara 54~ points. The Thurston individual cup was awarded to Jennifer Rouch and we hope that next year a similar cup will be open for competition for the boys.

We hope that when the improvements to Thornbury Baths, now being planned, are carried out, more pupils will learn to swim, and that those who can swim already will increase their proficiency and improve their style : we shall then be able to send a strong representative team to compete in the Swimming Gala organised for the Public

and Secondary Schools of the County.

Athletics, 1948-49.

The annual Athletic Sports, held on July 27th, 1948, were favoured by excellent weather, so it is not surprising that good times were returned for most running events, and several new records were established. Howard House were again successful in winning both the House Athletics Shield and the Molton Cup for House Junior Athletics, with Stafford House a close second in the latter. Of the individual trophies, the Wilmot Challenge Cup was won by N. Daley (Clara) and the Stephens Cup was won by Molly Sage (Howard).

The Gloucestershire Public and Secondary Schools Athletic Sports were held on Saturday, June 4th, 1949, at Lydney, and ten juniors competed. W. J. Rudledge gained second. place in the high jump, clearing 5ft. 4 1/2ins., and second place in the hurdles; in both of these events the winner established a new record for the Inter-School Meetings. D. Malpass obtained third place in the hurdles, and won his heat in the 100 yards. Five of the boys taking part qualified for Standard Certificates, and, with more intensive training, we hope for better results next year.

Association Football, 1948.

An ankle injury during the summer holidays prevented Hannaford, the 1st XI. captain, from taking part in any of the season's games. He was joined on the inactive list by Daley, who wrenched his knee on a tackle whilst playing against a strong and heavy Bristol University 3rd XI. on October 16th.

In spite of these setbacks, we lost only one inter-school game. The team might well have remained unbeaten throughout the season, for Dursley Grammar School, the only team to defeat us, had lost at Thornbury by 13—3.

Of the XI. itself, it can be said that they played well as a team. Vizard showed himself capable of filling the double role of attacker and defender at centre-half; Hamilton was the main-spring of a rather slow forward line; Hucker, at centre-forward, though ponderous and slow off the mark, used his weight to advantage and scored some excellent goals during the term. Our 'finds' for the season were Pierce, who played extremely well in goal, and Haines and Clutter-buck, two wing halves who never stopped trying.

The Juniors enjoyed only moderate success this year. We hope they will be able to fill, in 1950, the numerous gaps left in the first XI.

RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
Sept. 25	Chipping Sodbury Grammar School 1st XI.	H	Won 5—3
25	Chipping Sodbury Grammar School Junior XI.	A	Won 4—1
Oct. 9	Dursley Grammar School 1st XI.	H	Won 13—3
9	Dursley Grammar School Junior XI.	H	Lost 1—4
16	Bristol University 3rd XI.	H	Lost 3—5
20	Baptist College 1st XI.	H	Drew 3—3
23	Kingswood Grammar School 1st XI.	A	Won 3—2
23	Kingswood Grammar School Junior XI.	H	Cancelled
27	Bible Churchmen's College 1st XI.	H	Won 4—1
Nov. 4	Wotton Junior XI.	A	Lost 2—4
6	Old Thornburians	H	Lost 2—3
13	Wotton Grammar School 1st XI.	H	Won 5—1
20	Kingswood Grammar School 1st XI.	H	Won 5—2
20	Kingswood Grammar School Junior XI.	A	Cancelled
24	Baptist College 1st XI.	H	Won 2—1
27	Chipping Sodbury Grammar School 1st XI.	A	Won 2—1
27	Chipping Sodbury XI.	H	Won 3—1
Dec. 4	Dursley Grammar School 1st XI.	A	Lost 2—3
4	Dursley Grammar School 2nd XI.	A	Lost 2—3

Rugby –Spring Term, 1949.

To play Rugby one must be fit: this was emphasised by the team's opening games, when some of the players failed to stick the pace which was set.

This resulted in poor following up and lack of push in the scrums. Since we started the season with seven new players required to complete the side, the chances of victory seemed very remote. In the first game against Marling School 2nd XV, the first half was quite lively, but the second half showed that the team could not sustain the fast pace. Next came the very heavy defeat by Fairfield Grammar School 1st XV, a much more experienced side: the pitch was also very small, with the result that the players kicked too far. The return match played later in the season showed a great improvement in the School side, which although playing with only fourteen men for the greater part of the match, looked like winning when the game had to be abandoned.

Several positional changes occurred during the season, the first of which resulted in a win over Kingswood Grammar School 1st XV. The return match against Marling was the best game of the season and resulted in a win by the School side.

Towards the end of the season a series of injuries upset the team, which had showed signs of improving. Hannaford led the pack efficiently, and he and Lewis proved very good wing forwards. Davies hooked quite well, but could not play in the later matches owing to a knee injury. Cooke and Daley combined satisfactorily behind the scrum and Cooke should be an asset to the team next winter. Daley ably captained the team and worked hard throughout the season.

The House Seven-a-Side games were hard and vigorous, and Howard House retained the Shield. In the first round Howard gained an easy 20—0 win over Stafford. Stafford then met and defeated Clare by a last minute try, and the final score was 6 points to 5. The game between Clare and Howard was fast and open and Howard won by 12 points to 8.

The final game of the season was between the School and the Staff and was played in heavy rain on a muddy field. The Staff XV. had an easy 36—3 victory.

The team's weakness lies in poor tackling and an inability to use the ball advantageously. The defence must learn to tackle decisively and effectively and the forwards must follow up every move : and an increase in speed and economy in movement would greatly benefit the team as a whole.

Rugby is now well established in the Lower School and fixtures have been arranged for a Junior XV. next season. Rugby will in future be played in the Autumn Term and not in the Spring Term as at present.

RESULTS, 1949

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
Jan. 22	Marling School 2nd XV.	A Lost	3—15
29	Fairfield Grammar School 1st XV...	A Lost	3—33
Feb. 12	Kingswood Grammar School 1st XV.	H Won	6—3
23	Marling School 2nd XV. ...	H Won	6—3
26	Cathedral School 2nd XV. ...	H Lost	0—20
Mar. 5	Fairfield Grammar School 1st XV. ...	H	*6--11
12	St. Brendan's College 2nd XV. ...	H Drew	14—14
19	Cathedral School 1st XV. ...	A Lost	0—6
April 5	Staff XV... ..	H Lost	3—36

*Abandoned

HOUSE SEVENS

Howard v. Stafford—Howard won 20—0.

Stafford v. Clara—Stafford won 6—5.

Clara v. Howard—Howard won 12—8.

Hockey, 1948-1949.

1st XI. CAPTAIN: JENNIFER ROUCH

The season has been marked by constant rearrangement of the team owing to players leaving and through illness, but, despite this, a fairly high standard of play has been reached, though not so high as our match results would suggest. We were fortunate in having a nucleus of seasoned players, and the new-comers promise well. Avenging our defeat by the Old Thornburians and securing a victory over the Redland Ladies' Club were high lights among our results.

The defence was stronger than last year. The half-back line too frequently played a defensive game and were sometimes slow at seizing a useful opening, but Beryl Palmer gave very forceful support to the forwards. The forward line was led by Jennifer Rouch, often brilliantly backed up by Miriam Craik-Smith, and Paddy Morrissey gave very good exhibitions of skilful combination. Close marking of the opposing team must be developed.

Miriam Craik-Smith played a consistently good game throughout the season and was chosen for the Gloucestershire Junior team in their match against Devon at Weston-super-Mare. Jennifer Rouch has been a very vigorous captain, and is to be congratulated for having scored fifty-five goals this season. The death of Paddy Morrissey has been very keenly felt by the team. She will be missed for her play, which was, on occasion, brilliant, and for her merry presence at the tea-table. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

Colours

Rewardared for the 3rd time—Jennifer Rouch.

Rewardared for the 2nd time—Miriam Craik-Smith.

Rewardared for the 1st time—Paddy Morrissey.

Awarded—Enid Burgess.

1st ELEVEN RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
1948			
Sept. 25	Chipping Sodbury GS...	H Won	8—2
Oct. 2	Badminton School ..	A Won	6—0
9	Redland High School	H Won	9—1
20	University 2nd XI...	H Won	10—7
23	Pates' CS., Cheltenham	A Won	9—1
Nov. 13	Old Thornburians ..	A Lost	5—3
20	Kingswood GS. .	H Won	8—0
27	Chipping SodburyGS...	A Won	8—2
Dec. 4	Redland Ladies H.C.	H Drew	3—3
1949			
	Stroud High School ..	H Won	10—0
15	Colston's Girls' School	H Won	5—1
22	Redland High School	H Won	4—3
29	Old Thornburians	H Won	6—4
Feb. 5	Badminton School ..	H Won	5—0
19	Stroud High School	A Won	7—3
26	Redland Ladies H.C.	A Won	3—2
Mar. 12	Kingswood CS. .	A Won	7—1
19	Pate's GS., Cheltenham	H Won	6—2
26	Red Maids ...	H Drew	3—3
April 2	Thornbury gained second place in the Schools Tournament		

2nd XI. CAPTAIN:, MARY HEAL

The 1st XI. was constantly drawing upon this team's players with the result that their play was somewhat disorganised. Slowness and lack of determination were too often evident, frequently causing uninteresting contests.

RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
1948			
Sept. 25	Chipping Sodbury CS. 2nd XI. ...	A	Lost 5—2
Oct. 2	Badminton School 2nd XI. ...	A	Lost 2—0
9	Redland High School 2nd XI... ..	H	Won 2—0
23	Pate's G.S., Cheltenham, 2nd XI. ..	A	Won 6—3
Nov. 20	Kingswood G.S. 2nd XI.	H	Won 2—0
27	Chipping Sodbury CS. 2nd XI....	H	Lost 3—1
Dec. 18	Stroud High School 2nd XI. ...	H	Won 4—2
1949			
Jan. 15	Colston's Girls' School 2nd XI. ...	H	Lost 3—2
22	Redland High School 2nd XI... ..	H	Won 3—,1
Feb. 5	Badminton School 2nd XI.	H	Lost 6—0
12	Colston's Girls' School 2nd XI.	A	Cancelled
19	Stroud High School 2nd XI.	A	Won 3—2
Mar. 12	Kingswood GS. 2nd XI.	A	Lost 5—0
19	Pate's GS. 2nd XI.	H	Won 3—2

JUNIOR XI. CAPTAIN: EILEEN POWELL

This team played two games during the season, and includes many promising young players.

RESULTS

Redland High School Junior XI.	H Drew	3—3
Badminton School Juniors	H Lost	2—6

Cricket.

Up to the time of going to press, the School XI. have won three matches, drawn two and lost three. They have shown in two instances that they have a wagging tail. Redden and Daley (captain) were responsible for a stand which defeated the Bible Churchmen, and Hannaford, Lewis and Pierce made a good recovery when we had lost two wickets for one run against Kingswood. The fielding, alas, has been patchy and the bowling lacks some of the sting of last season.

RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Ground</i>	<i>Result</i>
May 7	Bible Churchmen's College	H	Won (103-92)
14	Wycliffe College 2nd XI.	A	Won (By 9 wkts.)
21	St. Brendan's 1st XI.	A	Drew
21	St. Brendan's Junior XI.	H	Won (53—31)
28	Queen Elizabeth's Hospital 2nd XI.	A	Cancelled
28	St. David's College Junior	XI. H	Won (73—32)
June 4	Chipping Sodbury GS. 1st	XI. A	Lost (116 for 5— School 86 all out)
4	Chipping Sodbury GS. Junior XI.	H	Cancelled
11	Cotham GS. Junior XI.	H	Drew (143 for 6 and 131 for 9)
16	Wotton GS. Junior XI.	H	Won (205—52)
18	Kingswood G.S. 1st XI.	A	Won (100—30)
18	Kingswood G.S. Junior XI.	H	Lost (97—115)
25	Wotton G.S. 1st XI.	A	Lost (99—145)
July 2	Dursley G.S. 1st XI.	H	Won (110—105)
2	Dursley G.S. Junior XI.	H	Lost (77—82)

Tennis.

The team must record their sincere appreciation of Mr. Johnson's kindness and enthusiasm in again acting as coach both to them and to potential team members in the middle school.

Mary Rouch (captain) played for the first two games and her leaving has broken a very successful first couple partnership with Jennifer Rouch, who is now captain. The team is settling down to play with new partners. Each match shows an increase in the confidence of the younger members and the development of closer co-ordination between the partners.

We are very grateful to Kathleen Pullin and Sheila Nelmes for umpiring the home games.

RESULTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>
April 30	University 2nd VI.	H	Lost 33—48
May 7	Stroud High School 1st VI.	H	Won 64—35
14	Badminton School 1st VI.	H	Lost 27—72
21	Red Maids School 1st VI.	A	Won 54—24
28	Colston's Girls' School 1st VI.	A	Cancelled
June 18	Kingswood Grammar School 1st VI.	A	Lost 48—51
25	Fairfield Grammar School 1st VI.	H	Lost 49—50
July 2	Chipping Sodbury Grammar School 1st VI.	H	Cancelled

The Old Thornburians' match has still to be played.

Cross Country Running, 1949.

The House Cross Country Championships were held on Monday, April 4th, 1949. and no changes were made in the courses. The standard of running was good, especially in the junior race, which provided an exciting finish. Howard Juniors, who had put in much useful practice, ran well and deserved their win. The first ten competitors in each race were

Seniors

1 M. Pierce (H)	6 J. Hannaford (C)
2 P. Clutterbuck (C)	7 C. Haines (S)
3 D. Cooke (S)	8 D. Watts (H)
4 A. Sandifer (S)	9 W. Rudledge (H)
5 D. Hamilton (H)	10 R. Vizard (H)

Juniors

1 D. Green (C)	6 B. Dyas (S)
2 A. Pritchard (S)	7 J. Harbinson (C)
3 Howell (H)	9 O. Exell (H)
5 R. Rosser (S)	10 B. Riddiford (H)
	26

<i>House Points</i>	<i>CLARE</i>	<i>STAFFORD HOWARD</i>
Seniors	0	8 15
Juniors	0	5 10
	0 (3rd)	13 (2nd) 25 (1st)

Physical Training.

Members of the voluntary P.I. class, in their Christmas display, varied their vaulting programme by having several of the performers dressed as clowns; after each vault had been performed in the proper way, the clowns gave their unorthodox version of the same exercise, causing much amusement. It was then decided to include some similar clowning in the Speech Day display.

The team for Speech Day included Vizard, Hucker, Davies, Bullen, Hawkins, Williams, Cantrill, Thompson and Whittingham, and their vaulting was as good as in previous years. The three clowns, Clutterbuck, league and Cooper, deserve praise for the way they carried out their more difficult evolutions with such deceptive ease. The whole was an enjoyable spectacle.

House Notes.

CLARE HOUSE. Captains: Kathleen Pullin, N. Daley

We are glad to report that the progress of the House this year has amply fulfilled our hopes and that prospects for the future are bright. It is discouraging, to work hard for a long time and see no results, as Clare did for so many years; but we feel sure, now our efforts are meeting with success, that all members of Clare will do their best to keep up the good work.

We have two defeats to record : Stafford have won the Academic Shield by the narrow margin of two points; and Howard have taken the Cross-Country Shield. We have won the Harwood Shield, and hope to gain both Tennis and Cricket trophies. It is also pleasing to note that we are keeping up in the race for the Games Shield better than we have done for many years.

STAFFORD HOUSE. Captains: Enid Burgess, XV. B. Davies.

Stafford has gained the Swimming and Academic Shields after a close fight with Howard and Clare respectively. There are no more successes to report but the standard throughout the House is improving and there is a balance between Junior and Senior abilities and achievements. Let us hope, however vainly, that Stafford will challenge Howard successfully and gain the Athletics Shield.

We regret that Mrs. Timbrell and Mr. Brooke have left us but we are pleased to welcome Miss Taylor, Mr. Loudon and Mr. Carpenter. We were also sorry to lose Mary Rouch, the Captain of the House, at the end of the Spring Term. We congratulate her on gaining admission to Lady Margaret Hall, and hope that the loss to Stafford in tennis and swimming will not be irreparable.

HOWARD HOUSE. Captains: Jennifer Rouch and L. C. Hummerstone.

In 1948-1949, Howard have been able to retain most of the Shield, and trophies that we gained last year and to win several others. We have retained the Rugby and Football Shields and have great hopes of holding the Athletics Shield for the eleventh consecutive year. We have added the Junior Hockey and Cricket Cups to our trophies, and hope to win the Cricket Bat this season. Clare have taken the Hockey Shield from us, but we in turn have won back the Cross Country Shield from them.

Enthusiasm among our Juniors is a very encouraging sign of the vitality of the House, and in athletics at least, we feel that the Juniors will do us credit both now and in the future.

Valete, 1948-49.

<i>School Captains :</i>	V. Ginn	P Yeeles
L. C. Hummerstone	C. S. Names	Γ. Godfrey
Mary Rouch	Annette Gazzard	C. Spratt
Kathleen Pullin	Marjorie Huckle	Pat Hathway
<i>Prefects :</i>	Cynthia Tomkins	Moreen Parker
E P. Hardman	Margaret Bishop	Evelyn Jackson
E. F. Addis		
N. Daley	<i>Upper VA:</i>	
H. Cullimore	Pamela Betty	VA
A. Hannaford	Patricia Ward	Janet Hanks
M WPierce Sheila Nelmes		
Enid Burgess	Barbara Penny	VB
friary Heal		W. K. Taylor
Anne Pritchard		J.C. Theobald
	<i>Upper V8:</i>	IIJC:
<i>Commercial :</i>	R. Vizard	A. Shepherd
P A. J. Clutterbuck	G. Tout	

Old Thornburians' Society.

Wednesday night is Society Night" at School, the evening on which tennis or badminton is played, according to season and weather. At these activities there is plenty of room for more old pupils, whether recent or vintage. For either game, enthusiasm is worth more than skill, because you can always be sure of finding someone present who is no better than you at the game. We are not really concerned about proficiency, but are trying rather to promote a friendly association amongst people with a common meeting-ground, that of having been educated at the same, and incidentally, the best school. At the moment, our active players range from "antiques," who were at school in 1930-when there was only the Old School—to the late 1948 models, who have only known the delights .of study under very modern conditions. Those who remember the Chemi. Lab, in the Old School will probably appreciate this point most keenly.

We had no murals then, and the present dining-room was the Assembly Hall, with a partition to turn it into classrooms after prayers. Blakes" was forbidden territory and the Quarry was literally named, although unused. There were no trees around the playing field, and the cricket square had yet to become sacred.

School uniform was very much the rule. (It is now !—Ed.) There was a master who travelled frequently over roads used by pupils cycling to and from school. Caps were always considered to be a nuisance, but since we never knew when this master would be about, discretion usually won—but how we envied people on other routes without this hazard.

When the New School opened, there were about two hundred pupils, and everyone had plenty of room. The House system was then started, with Mr. Laycock as House Master for Clare, Mr. Morse for Stafford, and Mr. Rabley for Howard. These members of Staff picked the members of their Houses in turn, and it soon seemed that Mr. Rabley had made the best choice, for Howard romped away with everything there was to win. Mr. Laycock was a very far-seeing gentleman, however, and his former juniors soon matured to oust Howard, who quickly lost their stalwarts. At that time, the dark blues merely brought up the rear, but I believe that they have since claimed their share of victories and triumphs. The author's House shall remain nameless!

Preservation of the floors was a subject of bitter complaint -in the body of the School. It seemed hard—in 1932 when the country was in a difficult position and money extremely scarce—to require pupils to provide soft-soled shoes to wear in School. However, orders were orders, and the state of the floors after seventeen years of continuous and heavy wear shows the wisdom of the ruling.

I wonder if there is still the keen competition that formerly existed between the Scientific and Literary Societies? The School magazine of 1936 contains a long and excellent poem, written by one of Miss Dicker's best pupils, which exhorts scientists to follow the paths of righteousness and literature : but in the 1937 issue, an almost equally literary scientist refuted this baseness on behalf of her colleagues.

These memories could go on for a long time but Editors are impatient people, and we must return to business.

Our Hockey Club is short of playes. Are there any potential Hockey palyers (girls) who are interested? The fixture list is very nearly full – not so the team list. Should anyone feel like an energetic winter, our Secretary, Robin Bennett, would welcome a letter. Matches are played on the Cricket Field at the Ship, Alveston on Saturday afternoons.

We find difficulty in getting up-to-date news of O.T.'s and any help will be much appreciated. Old Thornburians are invited to write to the Secretary, Robin Bennett, whose address is:

Gloucester Road, Thornbury, Glos

News of Old Thornburians

Our former Secretary, Rita Curtis, is now Mrs Hart, and our Hockey Secretary, Audrey Harroway, is now Mrs Atherton. We wish you both the best of fortune and happiness. John Dennis who we all thought was pretty reckless at School has now been appointed as Test Pilot with Fairey Aviation Ltd., and is primarily engaged on rotating wing aircraft – yess, that's helicopters. John has had a lot to do with aeroplanes – as a member of the R.A.F.V.R. before the war, a Blenheim pilot in the war, and piloting many other types of aircraft since. Good luck, John, in your new job, and happy landings!

Hugh Thomas has gained entry to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He will take up his eighteen-month course in August.

Barbara Neads is showing unexpected talent as an athelete at Exeter, where she broke the record for discus-throwing at the College Sports. She was later selected as a member of the Exeter team to compete with Reading University.

OFFICERS

Our Officers this year are :-

Chairman : Fred Styles

Vice-chairman : Dennis Hosken

Secretary : Robin Bennett

Treasurer : George Excell Address: Gloucester Road, Thornbury, Glos.

Committee : Ellen Goodfield, Vera Knapp, Pat Sainsbury, Leslie Hawkins, Jim Hayward, W.G. Rabley, Esq (Staff Member)

LATEST RESULTS

July 9	Parents XI	H	Drawn	(99 for 8 and 153 for 9)
July 16	Old Thornburians XI	H	Won	(144 for 6 – 121)