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IRIS

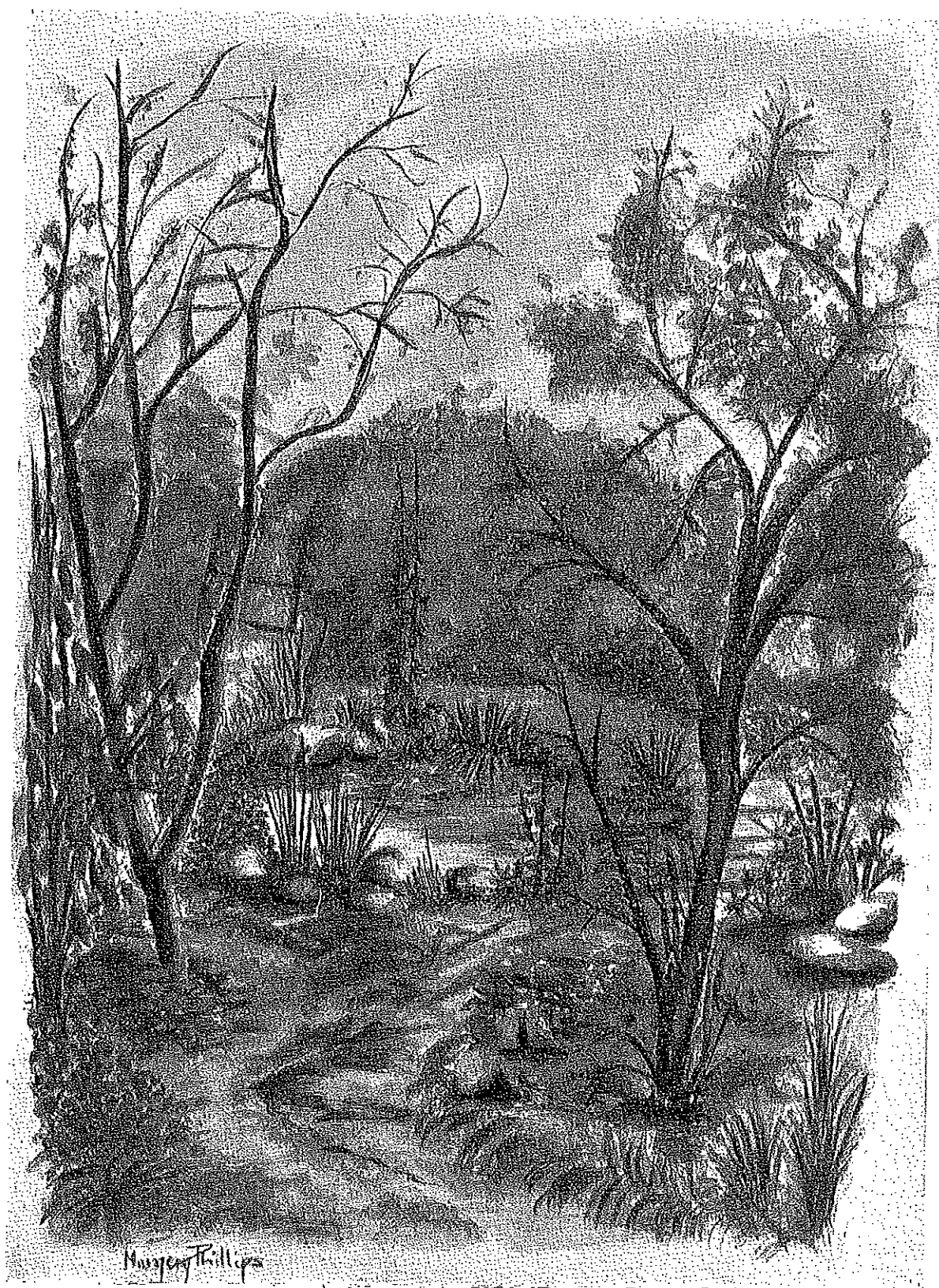
many coloured messenger



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THE SCHOOL POND

IRIS

WALTHAMSTOW HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE, 1951

Sheila Pasco, Head Girl.

Juliet Collinson, Vice-Head Girl.

PREFECTS, 1951—1952

VH	Sheila Phillips	Margaret Tuckwell
VS	Beryl Thompson	Frances Whitear
IVW	Glenys Grisley	Hope Meredith
IVH	Irene Hopper	Barbara West
IVS	Eleanor King	Stella Knowles
IIIW	Margaret Copestake	Ruth Miller
IIIH	Jean Cresswell	Dinah Seaward
IIIS	Doreen Hogg	Joyce How
IIW	Valerie Jones	Hilary Mayhew
IIH	Maureen Rogers	Marion Whiting
IIS	Janet Adler	Helen Goshawk

Head Mistress's Letter

DEAR FRIENDS,

I invite you to look back with me at the high lights that shone on W.H.S. during the Festival Year, 1951. Our special felicity was most fitting, were we not "governed" by Lady McEntee and led by two State Scholars? I hope that our Head Girl, Vice Head Girl and their contemporaries may crown the honours of their youth by such service to all as has been given by our Chairman and following in her example may prolong their youth with cheerfulness and a zest for life into the 21st century.

We are now familiar with the generosity of the Parents' Association in giving us our Christmas parties; the fathers doubtless foot the bill, which is considerable, but the value of the mothers' contribution of time and energy is inestimable. We are full of grateful appreciation. This year we rejoice in thanking them also for permanent gifts, most pleasant and suitable stage curtains and a set of thirty gay tablecloths which will make their first appearance at the parties. The Old Girls' Jubilee gift to the school, a solid silver tea set, is now in regular use and links the past with the present at frequent intervals and on happy occasions. All Old Girls will find a cup of tea waiting for them in my room at 4 p.m. on the first Monday of any month when the school is in session.

Since the last addition of *Iris* Miss Abbey has rejoiced in a double change of fortune. As Mrs. Church, she is now a lecturer in mathematics at Chelsea Polytechnic. Mlle. Fénard has returned to France after her successful year with us. To them both we give our good wishes. In their place we welcome Miss Thompson and Mlle. Viard.

I know that many Old Girls and former staff will feel that a link with the school has been broken when they hear that Miss Hall has had to retire prematurely to look after her sister who is ill. She has served W.H.S. for thirty years, but I can speak only of the last six years, when her wise control and guidance of I.H. were so obvious an influence for

good in the school. It was always a pleasure to see her welcoming back her Old Girls as mothers of her new I.H. and they were glad to think of their daughters in her kindly care. It is inspiring to know that such a good friend, from her house at the school gates, will keep an interested eye on us all. I feel sure that thirty generations of I.H. join with me in wishing her well.

A Happy Christmas to you all.

Yours affectionately,

M. M. BURNETT.

Editorial

I have an almost childish partiality for a Festival. Having experienced the luxury of a conversion from a bias against to a bias in its favour, I feel assured that the sight of the Lion and the Unicorn rampaging arm in arm under the flicker of the tiny yellow sails by the plumed torrents of fountains would have warmed the cockles of the heart of Charles Lamb himself. Would that he had been a contemporary to write on the lights, the people, the voyage by water, the fun. In default, of this impossibility the present copy of *Iris* robustly clad in crimson and gold, is dedicated to the idea of the Festival. We have to thank Mr. H. Allison for allowing his sonnet written for the occasion of his festival production of *Much Ado About Nothing* to strike the first note.

Our thanks are also due to Edna Timberlake, Cecilia Wheeler and Mr. Hunt for their contributions. It is pleasant to note a more plentiful entry than the last year or two. But remember the story of the men who contributed a glass of whisky each to the barrel. When the whisky was drawn it was found to be water! Congratulations to the Sixth on winning the Honour and Glory prize with ease. May next year's magazine present the spectacle of several forms racing neck and neck for this distinction. *Dum spiro spero.*

To the school—both staff and girls, both past and present, wherever they are, "*Iris*" sends her loving message of goodwill and happiness for Christmas and the New Year, "*Iris*" herself a message of faith and hope for the future.

A. H. PARK.

A Letter to Old Girls

It is incredibly difficult to find something to say when I take up my pen once a year to write something for *Iris*. No longer is what I write an "editorial" in the same sense of the word—since I am editor of nothing but my own thoughts—and sometimes my thoughts just refuse to be edited.

Living in Walthamstow makes it impossible for one to ignore W.H.S. if one is in any way connected, as I am, with social work, church work or youth work. Everywhere one meets W.H.S. present girls and old girls, and always one finds in them something which reminds one of W.H.S. principles and traditions, an encouraging "find" since it is almost a fashion to-day to denounce young people as selfish, thoughtless, indolent and pleasure-seeking.

Old girls who teach find it hard, or I do, to combat the apparent indifference of many young people to the things that we consider worthwhile in school life and in adult life. I would therefore encourage them by telling them what I find outside school, which would not be there if what they taught—and what they themselves have been taught at W.H.S.—had not taken seed and borne some fruit.

I have occasion to visit many churches in the town. In them I often find old girls and present girls helping to strengthen the church by their administrative and practical work. As some of you know, I am almost the only woman actively engaged in local administrative youth work. In the scores of youth clubs and organisations I find W.H.S. girls, past and present, taking an active part in the administrative and practical work of their organisations, forming the "backbone" and demonstrating—and therefore encouraging—loyalty and service. In netball, too, which I organise for Walthamstow's Youth Clubs Association, I find the reliability and sportsmanship which I always associate with W.H.S.

And so—by these findings—I feel that I am in closer touch with W.H.S. than I should be merely by attending Old Girls' meetings. And I hope that others of you feel that too. For those of you who are further afield—solitary old girls—there is the responsibility of revealing the W.H.S. tradition.

And the W.H.S. stamp bears fame with it however old you are! One of my netball players said to me, "My sister remembers you years ago at the High School." After stifling some amusement I discovered that I am ten years older than the sister! But in spite of the discrepancy in years we are both bound by the W.H.S. bond which transcends time, and by its repeated discovery, lightens, temporarily, the burden of decrepitude to which each passing year adds its quota!

Good wishes to you all.

EDNA TIMBERLAKE, O.G. Sub-Editor.

School Chronicle

During the past year, the School, like the rest of Britain, has been especially eager not to confine the Festival to the South Bank. We have all tried to make this year more pleasant for our friends and ourselves as well as continuing with our usual work and physical activities.

We were all sorry to lose Miss Abbey, who left to get married at the end of the year. We wish her and her husband every happiness. During the summer term, Miss Ekblom was a welcome visitor from Sweden. She gave us interesting information about her native land and showed us a film on Swedish Physical Training.

The Acting Competition at the end of the autumn term was judged by John Fernald, the famous producer and playwright. The winners were:—

Upper School—VIth form with an excerpt from "A Winter's Tale."

Middle School—IVS with an excerpt from "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The Parents' Association, which had been as flourishing as usual, once more gave us our annual Christmas parties. We would like to thank the parents both for organising these parties and for the present of new curtains for our stage.

The IVth forms again entertained the Old Folks of the almshouses to a party at Christmas. On the School Birthday, January 16th, each girl brought some kind of delicacy to school. These were arranged in baskets and taken to our sick friends.

The activities of the School Societies have been numerous and varied. The Literary and Dramatic Society visited the Old Vic Theatre to see "Electra" by Sophocles, as well as holding varied meetings and discussions. The members of the Science Society held their usual monthly meetings. Also they visited the Festival of Britain and Connaught Hospital. The Music Society held meetings on the lives of various composers, on folk songs and on special works chosen by members of the Society. The C.E.W.C. Society visited the Central Hall, Westminster, during the Christmas holidays for discussion on world affairs with young people from the whole of Britain. A report of the meeting was given to the school in the spring term.

A party from the Vth and VIth forms visited Combe Martin during the Easter holidays, accompanied by Miss Dennithorne, Miss Gilpin and Miss Rush. A great deal of practical knowledge was gained in both biology and geography. Miss Lea, Miss Thomerson and Miss Oldfield took another party of Vth and VIth forms to Lake Lucerne, Switzerland, during August. A pleasant time was enjoyed by all.

The physical activities of the school continued as usual due to the hard work of Miss Squire. These are the results of the various competitions:—

Gym	...	...	5.S.	3.S.	2.S.
Netball	...	...	5.H. & 5.W.	4.S.	2.S.
Sports	...	...	5.S.	4.S.	2.S.
Tennis	...	...	5.H.	3.H.	—
Swimming	...	...	VIth	4.S.	2.H.

An exhibition of Walthamstow's Schools' Art was held in the Assembly Hall during June. Paintings and needlework by girls of all ages was shown. Also a number of VIth form girls gave a demonstration of cookery.

During the year, the IVth forms spent an afternoon in the Forest, the IIIrd forms visited the South Kensington Museum, the school tennis teams visited Queen's Club, and the Ist forms spent a day at the Zoo.

In May, the VIth form invited the VIth forms of other schools to a dance in the School Hall. We are hoping to continue to do this every year on the occasion of our anniversary.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Walthamstow, Lord and Lady McEntee, kindly entertained a party of our senior girls and staff at the Town Hall in June.

At the end of the summer term we joined with the Monoux School to present a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the Greek Theatre. This was produced especially for the Festival with the following cast and details:—

THE PLAYERS

Theseus, Duke of Athens	...	...	...	...	Allen Knock
Egeus, Father of Hermia	...	...	...	...	David Bullar
Lysander	} In love with Hermia {	...	...	...	John Pritchard
Demetrius		...	...	...	Michael Fullagar
Philstrate, Master of the Revels	...	...	...	...	Frederick Sylvester
Quince, a carpenter	...	...	...	...	Peter Whiting
Snug, a joiner	...	...	...	...	Peter Kelham
Bottom, a weaver	...	...	...	...	Bryan Kendall
Flute, a bellows mender	...	...	...	...	Leonard Cripps
Snout, a tinker	...	...	...	...	Keith Barnard
Starveling, a tailor	...	...	...	...	Colin Browning
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus	...	...	...	...	Sheila Pasco
Hermia, daughter of Egeus, in love with Lysander	...	...	...	...	Ruth Wolpert
Helena, in love with Demetrius	...	...	...	...	Jenny Yelland
Oberon, King of the Fairies	...	...	...	...	Isla Hoppett
Titania, Queen of the Fairies	...	...	...	...	Ann Spouge
Puck or Robin Goodfellow	...	...	...	...	Catherine Sturgess
Fairies	Gillian Blackledge, Joan Malyon, Maureen Cannon, Beryl McLellan, Diana Tebbutt				
Rustics	Leslie Stringer, Kenneth Lovett, Paul Collins, Ivor Glogowsky, Jeannette Chalmers, Alma Wheatley, Eleanor King, Audrey Bryan, Margaret Tysoe, Maureen Nash, Margaret Bird, Alma Norrish				

Music arranged by Miss W. Berry.

Girls' dances arranged by Miss D. I. Squire.

Girls' dresses designed by Mrs. H. Allison.

Dance of the Clowns arranged by A. F. Ninnim.

Lighting by D. Curl.

Production by Miss A. H. Park and A. G. Brobyn.

We were fortunate in having perfect weather for most of the rehearsals and the three performances.

The school year was brought to an end by our Prize-giving which took place in the Greek Theatre once again. The prizes were given by Major Young, chairman of the Essex Education Committee.

This year has proved busier than usual for both the staff and the girls, but we feel that it has been worth a little extra effort since it has provided so much enjoyment for all.

SHEILA PASCO, VI.



"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"

January 16th

This year, the first since our Jubilee celebrations, the School's birthday was again remembered. When Miss Burnett suggested that we should show our appreciation of our own goodly heritage by sending gifts to any friends of the school who were ill there was an immediate and generous response.

In the morning the hall platform was loaded with fruit and flowers, sweets and books; and baskets, each bearing the name of the W.H.S. girl and the friend who would receive it, were beautifully packed by the VI form.

The many letters of thanks showed how welcome and successful the scheme was and it is to be repeated this year.

Prize Day

On July 25th in the Greek Theatre, Lady McEntee, J.P., chairman of the School Governors, presided over our Prize Day. Alderman Major A. Young, T.D., J.P., E.C.C., distributed the prizes after Miss Burnett had given her report. We should like to congratulate the girls whose names are on the following list.

PRIZE LIST 1951.

Cup presented by Councillor Simmons for Choral Singing—
School Choir.

Picture presented by Miss Ince Jones for best form in French in
Middle School—

Form 3W.

Winners of Inter-Form Tennis Competition—

Upper School 5h.

Middle School 5h.

Medals for Excellence in Physical Training—

Upper School—Dawn Bullivant.

Middle School—Margaret Johnston.

Lower School—Iris Young.

Form Prizes—

1w. Delia Barrett, Marion Best.

1h. Janet Elphick, Margaret Kay.

1s. Beryl McLellan, Mary Murphy.

2w. Maureen Cannon, Jean Green, Marion Lefever, Irene Smith.

2h. Frances Hooker, Jean Whitaker.

2s. Joan Carroll, Doreen Hogg.

3w. Marilyn Birmingham, Beryl Ellis, Mavis Tombs.

3h. Pat Cox.

3s. Maureen Ayling.

4h. Hazel Joliffe.

4s. Margaret Bird, Jean Jenner.

Subject Prizes—

- 5w. Pauleine Hodby—Latin, Geog., Phys./Chem., French, Eng. Lang., Eng. Lit.
 Ann House—Scripture.
 Ann Hummerston—Mathematics, Phys./Chem. Biology.
 Heather Kenyon—History.
 Shirley Kingdon—Art.
 Maureen Nash—Eng. Lang., Geog., Mathematics, Phys./Chem.
 Jean Powell—History.
 Beryl Shaw—Biology.
 Mary West—Eng. Lang., Eng. Lit., French, Latin, History, Art.
- 5h. Sheila Oliver—Mathematics, Eng. Lang.
 Helen Preater—Biology.
 Ann Spouge—History.
- 5s. Eileen Ashley—Biology.
 May Capell—Latin, Geog., Mathematics.
 Marjorie Phillips—Art.
 Jean Randall—Biology.
 Pat Skinner—Mathematics, Phys./Chem. Biology.
 Francine Young—French.
6. José Collins—French.
 Phyllis Greenhill—History, Geography.
 Beryl Luckett—Domestic Science.
 Jean Mallett—Art.
 Doreen Plant—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
 Shirley Pullen—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Domestic Science.
 Jennie Yelland—English, History.
 Isla Hoppett—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Domestic Science; Leadership of the School.

Games Notice

On the whole we have had a very successful netball season, from the autumn 1950 to autumn 1951.

During the spring term, 1951, the 1st team did not lose a match, the 2nd team have also had very pleasing results.

We started, after the summer holidays with a new 1st team and have been very successful so far in winning 7 out of 9 matches, having still one match to play.

The junior teams have also had good results, especially the under 14 team and under 15 team, which hasn't lost a match. The B teams, who have had many more matches this season, have also had very good results.

The 1st team is as follows:—C., S. Oliver; C.D., B. Kirby; C.A., S. Matthews; A., B. Philips; S., P. Hodby; G.D., B. Foster or B. Quainton; D., A. House (vice-captain).

The 2nd and 3rd teams were chosen from: F. Hazzard, K. Lowe, M. Barron, E. Gibson, M. Johnston, B. Foster, J. Caine, R. Morton, S. Chapman, F. Levin, L. Bird, S. Willett.

Results for Autumn Term, 1950.

Woodford.

Under 13 team, lost 12—19; under 14 team, won 22—14; under 13 team, lost 5—16.

Technical School.

Our 2nd v. Technical 1st, won 24—19.

Our 3rd v. Technical 2nd, won 19—11.

Skinner's.

1st team, won 25—19; 2nd team, won 20—11; under 15 team, won 24—17; under 14 team, won 22—11.

Greycoat.

1st team, lost 17—20; 2nd team, won 22—9; under 15 team, won 24—8; under 14 team, won 17—14.

Clapton.

3rd team, lost 8—18; under 15 B team, won 14—13; under 14 B team, lost 11—18.

Chingford.

1st team, won 25—17; under 15 team, won 28—4.

Brondesbury and Kilburn.

1st team, won 25—17; 2nd team, won 22—10; under 15 team, won 28—6; under 14 team, won 35—3.

Clapton.

1st team, lost 11—10; 2nd team, won 16—17; under 15 team, won 14—12; under 14 team, won 14—12; under 13 team, lost 7—8.

Leytonstone.

1st team, won 14—13; 2nd team, won 21—9; under 15 team, lost 10—16; under 14 team, won 16—13; under 13 team, lost 13—15.

St. Ursuline.

1st team, won 15—13; 2nd team, lost 10—15; under 15 team, won 19—13; under 14 team, won 25—13; under 13 team, lost 3—12.

Results for Spring Term, 1951.

Technical School.

1st team, won 26—11; 2nd team, won 26—9.

Brondesbury and Kilburn.

1st team, won 21—10; 2nd team, won 18—5; under 15 team, drew 15—15; under 14 team, won 13—5.

Skinner's.

1st team, won 24—8; 2nd team, won 23—7; under 15 team, won 14—9; under 14 team won 12—3.

Clapton.

1st team, won 15—12; 2nd team, won 20—14; 3rd team, won 21—7; under 15 A team, won 20—11; under 15 B team, lost 13—20; under 14 A team, won 38—5; under 14 B team, won 18—10; under 13 team, won 20—5.

St. Ursuline.

1st team, won 17—13; 2nd team, won 18—10; under 15 team, drew 16—16; under 14 team, won 17—13; under 13 team, drew 12—12.

Woodford.

Under 15 team, lost 12—13; under 14 team, drew 17—17; under 13 team, lost 20—12.

Greycoat.

1st team, won 13—11; 2nd team, won 23—10; under 15 team, won 30—10; under 14 team, lost 13—14.

Clapton.

Under 15 A team, won 17—15; under 14 team, won 17—13; under 13 team, lost 9—10; under 15 B team, won; under 14 B team, won; 3rd team, won.

Parliament Hill.

1st team, won 11—7; 2nd team, won 24—0; under 15 team, 19—4; under 14 team, won 24—4.

Results for Autumn Term, 1951.

Chingford.

1st team, won 9—2.

St. Angela's.

1st team, lost 15—20; 2nd team, won 13—10; under 15 team, won 18—10; under 14 team, won 21—6; under 13 team, won 30—7.

Woodford.

Under 15 team, won 14—13; under 14 team, lost 13—21; under 13 team, lost 8—22.

Technical School.

1st team, won 22—12; 2nd team, won 16—12; under 15 A team, won 25—5; under 15 B team, won 14—12; under 14 A team, won 25—3; under 13 A team, lost 5—28.

Greycoat.

1st team, won 14—9; 2nd team, won 13—12; under 15 team, won 22—11; under 14 team, won 22—4.

St. Ursuline.

1st team, won 23—20; 2nd team, won 14—12; under 15 team, won 25—12; under 14 team, won 20—17; under 13 team, won 16—12.

Clapton.

1st team, won 23—9; 2nd team, won 12—9; under 15 team, won 21—13; under 14 A team, won 16—8; under 13 A team, won 19—4; under 15 B team, lost 4—10; under 14 B team, won 19—15; under 13 B team, won 20—6; 3rd team, won 23—5.

Leytonstone.

1st team, lost 16—14; 2nd team, won 19—10; under 15 team, won 19—12; under 14 team, won 18—13; under 13 team, won 11—10.

Skinners.

1st team, won 20—16; 2nd team, won 17—9; under 15 team, won 18—10; under 14 team, won 18—14.

Brondesbury and Kilburn.

1st team, won 21—8; 2nd team, won 17—6; under 15 team, won 24—3; under 14 team, won 27—4.

Technical School.

Under 14 B team, won 15—6.

I should like to thank Miss Squire, Miss Adams and Miss Gilpin, on behalf of the teams, for giving so much of their time to coach us; we do appreciate it, and would all like to say a particular "Thank you" to Miss Gilpin.

S. MATTHEWS, Games Captain.

On the whole the results of the tennis matches were good. This season we played a match against a team of men from the Technical College, and although we lost, the scores were encouraging.

The first team was as follows:—Barbara Poole, Beryl Foster (vice-captain), Ann House (captain), Shirley Jones, Dawn Bullivant, Shirley Matthews.

The 2nd and 3rd teams were chosen from the following girls:—A. Sparge, T. Power, A. Lockhart, P. Hodby, M. Barron, M. Foster, A. Jackson, S. Pullen, J. Collins, J. Yelland, S. Pascoe, M. Willett, R. Wolpert, J. Mallett, P. Greenhill, S. Kemp, D. Plant.

The junior teams also played a few matches with pleasing results.

Tennis Results for Summer Term, 1951.

Technical College (Men's team)	1	...	41—58	lost
(Mixed team)	2	...	32—12	won
Clapton	1	...	83—16	won
	2	...	36—8	won
Woodford	1	...	39—60	lost
	2	...	48—51	lost
Parliament Hill	1	...	46—53	lost
Brondesbury and Kilburn	1	...	83—16	won
Loughton High School	1	...	47—34	won
	2	...	2 sets 1	won
Skinners High School	1	...	73—26	won
	2	...	69—30	won
Technical College (Mixed team)	1	...	48—51	lost
	2	...	24—20	won
Brondesbury	1	...	110—34	won
	2	...		

SONNET

Spoken in the person of Shakespeare on the occasion of the Festival performance

of

* "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING"

in the Greek Theatre,

Though time has withered some, yet some remain
Of jests that shook the Globe; these still are fit
That travel with the centuries to gain
The fee of laughter and the name of wit.
If laughter love and love to laughter bend
No bones of mine shall stir amid their tomb
When unfee'd actors innocently rend
The tattered passions of pedantic gloom.
They crave your patience for imperfect words,
For mutilation of your favourite line.
They ask no thanks, the task itself rewards
The labour lost in love. This that was mine
Is theirs and yours to share when willowed Avon's gleam
Shines on these elms in Walthamstow, E.17.

H. ALLISON.

* performed by members of the W.H.S.O.G.D.S. and the Old Monovians Dramatic Society and produced by Harry Allison, June 28th, 29th and 30th, 1951.

Festival Land

Green blown glass; a chess board floor; a brick-red statue of a man and woman—these were my first impressions of what I soon thought of as "Festival Land." After less than a minute in this man-made country, I had realised that I would appreciate the design and decoration of the buildings, more than any exhibit.

When I had spent an hour in being pushed along in front of numerous glass cases, pictures and diagrams, I was left with the memory of a vivid abstract mural in violet and orange, a totem pole stretching up towards a midnight-blue domed ceiling, and the bored, disinterested stare of a Jersey cow. A strange mixture—but it showed how various were the exhibits, and would allow no-one to become bored or feel that they could understand nothing.

Even now, I had begun to feel tired. Then, to my delight, I found that the seaside front, built up by the river bank, made a pleasant spot for a rest. There, I sat gazing at a design of polished pebbles and shells set in cement, and ice-cream cornets being sold to elderly gentlemen as well as crowds of schoolboys. At the sight of these business-men licking their cream I realised that here, the British left behind their every-day worries, for they were visiting the Festival, the emblem of their spirit and character.

I wandered thoughtfully to the Dome of Discovery. As I entered, I stood—between two worlds, fascinated, frightened. There were strange bubbling sounds of, to me incomprehensible, machines. Semi-darkness enveloped the whole hall, pierced at intervals by flashing lights—ghastly green, mustard yellow. I was pleased to leave this new world, for it reminded me of the unimportance of man in our great universe.

Semi-darkness met me again as I returned to more friendly shores. Then, suddenly, the whole world became a fairyland. A silver cigar towered into the sky, coloured squares shone from the ground, trees glowed, shrouded in a golden mist, a jet of glistening water, now red, now green, shot up against the blackness of the surrounding night. At this moment, all the gaiety of the world seemed to flock to this tiny, insignificant plot which had risen from the ruins of misery and destruction. This was indeed the British spirit, to create from ruins this "Festival Land."

SHEILA PASCO, VI.

Then or Now?

I travelled by bus, a red, petrol bus which stopped continually at traffic lights or at a wave of a policeman's white-cuffed arm. Inside the bus was a medley of people, each one busy with his own concerns and content to let the driver of the vehicle weave his way through the traffic which hooted and shrieked at the least provocation.

Yet this was London!—London, the place where live the King and Prime Minister of one of the foremost countries of the world. It was an incredible thought.

Reaching my destination I dismounted from the bus and jostled with the crowd. I walked down the road, past railway stations, shops, embassies, past theatres and picture houses, on and on, while the busy life around me carried on unconcerned.

I came to a bridge, a beautifully, evenly paved bridge, under which flowed the Thames. A dirty, oily stretch of water flowing swiftly onward over which police launches, barges and ferry boats plied their different courses.

To my left stretched the South Bank Site. Yes—the centre of the Festival of Britain opened by His Majesty King George VI on the 3rd of May, 1951.

There it stretched, a mass of gaudy coloured canvas; who would think that under cover of these red and yellow erections were masterpieces of craftsmanship which would make strangers to this country remember that the British are leaders of the world of industry and science!

I walked through the turnstile and wondered where to start. After a short time I came to what almost looked like a glass-house.

But when I entered, how delightful it was! Of course I was in the 1851 Festival Pavilion, and in the centre, as you well may remember, was a model of the opening of the first Festival of Britain, inspired by Albert Consort, at which Her Majesty Queen Victoria presided.

It was so lifelike, that, with the loudspeaker booming and the recording of the Hallelujah Chorus, I almost forgot where I was and imagined that I had been there.

How splendid to have been the uninvited Chinaman, witnessing the scene the cause of which was to have such a bearing on the future of a nation!

To have seen the proud Queen looking prouder than ever at the outcome of her husband's arduous work, while he, standing near, quiet yet well pleased, although perhaps looking a little too care-worn, gave sureness to the occasion.

Joseph Paxton, the architect of the Crystal Palace, how contented might he feel to have beheld the finished object of his dreams! The Duke of Wellington and Lord Palmerston, the latter perhaps wondering how the results would affect the country.

The Royal Family in richly coloured dress; the bodyguard of red-coated officers; the rich draperies adding even more colour and splendour to the setting.

The great choir roaring out a thanksgiving which seemed to echo for miles.

The huge congregation including the foremost men and women of the time, and outside the crowd, dressed in holiday clothes and filled with the spirit of festivity.

All this was witnessed by the Chinaman standing down the room, his pigtail down his back, an uninvited guest but one who was not lost to the greatness of the occasion.

Afterwards the return home. The Queen and the Consort travelling in the Royal landau cheered by the crowds. After them the gay procession of coaches drawn by sleek ponies and within the coaches the nobles and ministers with their families, each trying his own steeds against those of his neighbour.

The parties and celebrations held in the halls of the fashionable, dancing till midnight and an abundance of good wine and spirits.

To have lived then, amongst these people who loved sport and extravagance, contrasted with the more evenly distributed pleasures of to-day—to have lived then or to be living now—it is a hard question to answer.

And yet—would I really like to try playing netball in stays and a wide brimmed hat?

MARGARET WILSON, IVH.

Battersea Park at Night

It is cold and dark outside. But enclosed in this fairyland of Festival, away from the sober other world, there is warmth and brightness, friendship and fun. The shawl of dusk has disguised the gaudiest of colours, muted the most raucous music, till the park could be a soft-toned bauble dropped from Olympus, near a winding river. And since this does not seem a night for usual jollity and good times, let us leave the prancing horses and monstrous Big Dipper, and wander off to a quiet corner of the Gardens, where "Madame Zara and her Wonder Snake" may be seen.

Outside the booth of Madame Zara stands a young girl robed in a sari, with black hair and great sloe-eyes. Who cares if her accent is Cockney? for on Festival nights she is a true princess of the East.

Following her into the dimly-lighted tent, we see an older woman, Madame Zara. Round her plump figure are draped countless lengths of blue and scarlet silk fashioned together by enormous ruby brooches. Many strings of glass beads adorn her neck and wrists. And in her arms there is coiled a hideous puff-adder, who steadily regards the winking beads, flicking out his tongue lazily. At a slight hiss of command, he lays his head along a swarthy arm, and with a sinuous curve, is round the neck. Then, slowly, he twists up and up and finally crowns the greasy locks of Madame Zara like a Gorgon.

We gaze, fascinated, but the show is over. We leave the tent and are caught up once more in the gay turmoil of the Festival crowds.

FRANCES HOOKER, 3H.

A Landscape at Night

By the silver ribbon
That sparkles between the trees,
The lovely willow lies;
Gently she sways and sees
The stately moon,
Silently sailing across the sky.
The owl in the barn does wink his eye,
And hoots a solemn mournful sound;
And on the ground
A mound does move,
The mole his energies profound,
Engages himself to dig the ground,
With branches uplifted to the sky
In silent tribute as the moon sails by.
The tall, gaunt tree in homage stands,
A dancing place for fairy bands.
A grey cloud slinks across the moon,
The old church clock, now hollowly strikes,
Ten, 'leven, twelve, now 'tis midnight.

MYRTLE BAREHAM, II.W.

November the 5th

"Light the bonfire! go on Dad,"
Said young Willy, feeling glad;
"Now the night has come at last,
I want to see the fireworks cast
Out their golden stars and rays,
This is the jolliest of all days.
I want to hear the bangs so loud
And see the smoke shoot up in clouds.
I want to hear a cracker splutter
Then to see it jump and stutter,
I want to watch a Catherine wheel
And see the colours (a great deal).
Light the bonfire! go on Dad,
Said young Willy, feeling glad.

CATHERINE STURGESS, II.H.

Autumn

The leaves are falling,
The wind is calling,
Rain is coming,
Bees stop humming.
Winter is nearing,
Children are cheering,
Fires are glowing,
Nothing is growing.

MARY BARRACLOUGH, I.S.

Recovery—A Science Review

1. Research on the Peckham Flora—by Euphorbia Catmint.

While travelling in the remote district of Peckham, I came across several new and curious plants. These vegetables were not only unheard of, but were generally held to be impossible.

One surprising specimen, found growing in the homes of the natives has been named the Potsan Pansy.

Classification given for the benefit of our readers is after De flora and Von Blumen.

Order seed boxæ (see opp.)

Family Vesselacæ.

Species Vessella.

Genus Catmintü. Fig. 1. Potsan Pansy.

General characteristics.

Habit—peculiar.

Inflorescence—a pannicle.

Leaves, long stalked and circular (pannate)—modified, having small perforations which allow excess water to drip through, a phenomenon known as colanderisation, typical of sub-sink flora.

The fruit is a cap-sule or in some varieties, a beret.

Fig. 2. Beret of Potsan Pansy.

The morphological detail of the pink Retorta (Backchatta Rosaceus) is also of great interest.

Unusual aerial "test tubers" are found attached to the stem. These often contain a hard irremovable deposit of iron filings and sulphur due to the activities of the first-form bird (classics primo).

Fig. 3. Pink Retorta (see opp.)

There is, alas, no room to more than mention such rarities as the Cat's Zinc (e.g., Dog's Mercury), the unclerrhinum, locally known as nosyuncle, gutswort—a liverwort (see diag.) and mess—a moss.

Fig. A. Gutswort.

2. The Planimal.

The world of science rejoices at the discovery of yet another "missing link." It is believed to be the ancestor of plant and animal and several forms are still extant.

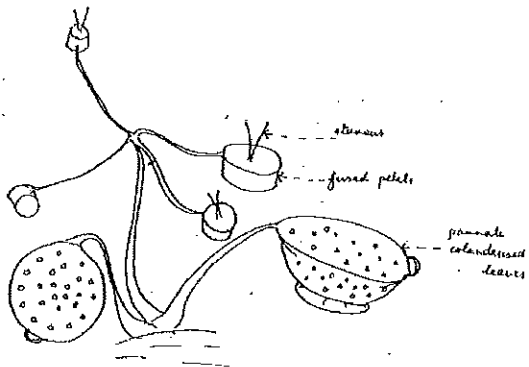


FIG 1. PANSY PANSY (*Ussella Caticumbia*)

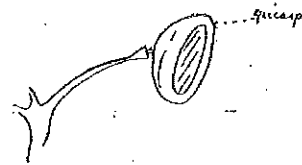


FIG 2 BERET OF PANSY PANSY

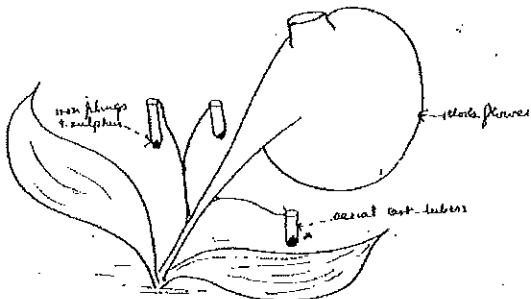


FIG 3. PINK RETORTA (*Baenchiata Rosaceus*)

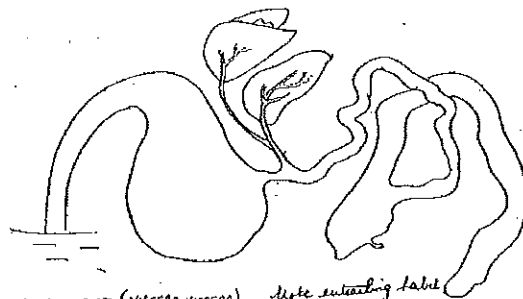


FIG 4 CUTSWORT (*Viscera Viscera*) Note entering tube

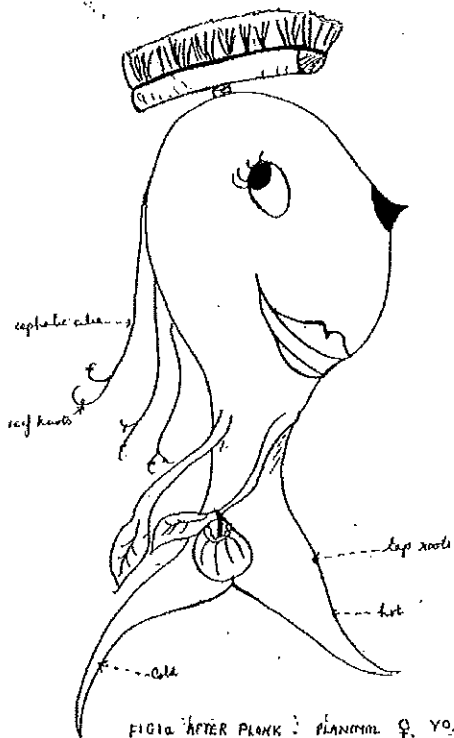


FIG 1a AFTER PLANK: PLANITIA Q. YOUNG

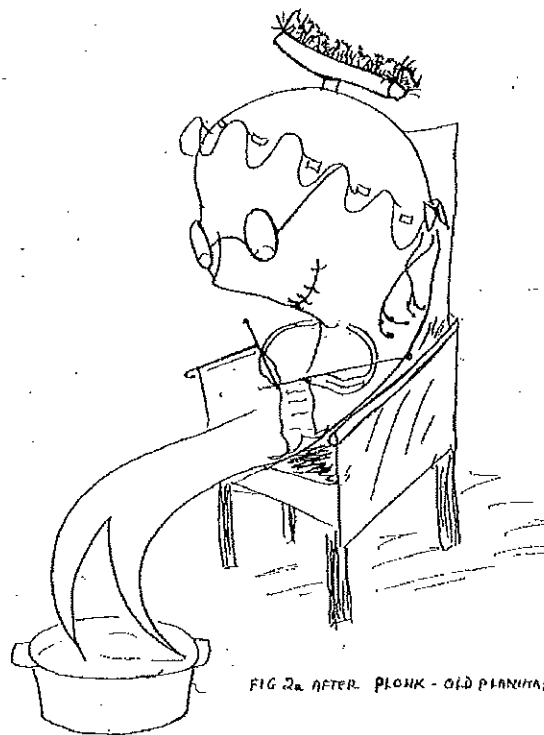


FIG 2a AFTER PLANK - OLD PLANITIA

A fossil specimen has recently been excavated from the primary ooze rock at a force-meat quarry. Portions of the creature were noticed protruding from the rock by a labourer who thought it was the remains of a stone age football coupon. On investigation, however, the object proved to be the planimal.

Research on the subject has been carried out by the eminent aultrio-pologist, Professor Hiram K. Plonk of Little Beetle University, U.S.A. We here reproduce some of the professor's notes and drawings.

The creature is rotund in form with two projections which are tap roots—one hot, one cold.

Fig. 1a. Planimal, female young.

The cephalic cilia are reef knotted in young specimens but they slowly metamorphose into grannies in older organisms.

Fig. 2a. Old Planimal.

The planimal lives in waterbutts where the cilia may often be observed projecting above the surface.

More research is being done on the life history and we may assure readers that we will print information as soon as possible.

In next week's issue:—

1. The Coefficient of Expansion of Brass—using Potter's Bar—by H. Einstein-Cockle, B.Sc.
2. Bearacic Acid—by Flora Crumpet, M.D.
3. The Economic Importance of the Salvaging of Smoke—by Brassica Jelly, Ph.D.

VIVIENNE HUTCHINSON,
RUTH WOLPERT, VI.

Romance?

"From the moon. A hundred years ago, or else a minute—for I have no conception how long I have been falling—I was up there, in that saffron coloured ball."—Cyrano de Bergerac.

I have an ambition—to go to the moon.

This idea has been in my mind for quite some time now, in fact I am told that even in my early childhood I wanted "the moon to run away with." But at that time, my tender years did not allow of much thought about the matter and I was easily pacified with promises of "plum jam for tea."

Even now there are many people who consider the moon a most undesirable place. To this I will partly agree for any book on astronomy tells of a world where there is no air or atmosphere, no winds to stir the dust or water to moisten it. No cloud ever moves across the airless sky or flash or fire comes from an erupting peak. The land is cold and dark and over all broods a terrible darkness.

These facts make the prospect of life there all the more promising for I would gladly forsake all my worldly comforts if I could only stay there for one short day. Many will ask how I am to live there, for with nothing to breathe and probably nothing to eat or drink, human life could not exist on the moon. But I will manage with a small oxygen tank and a packet of marmite sandwiches. I shall also provide myself with some sort of anchorage in case I were to float away, and maybe take a jumping stand to break the world record with a jump of 36 feet.

To pass the time away I shall take with me my physics problems in the hope that there in that other world, I shall find "something" to explain them to me. For did not H. G. Wells say that there might be inhabitants living underground. If I remember, my knitting shall come too—I might find time to finish it.

But for the present these dreams must remain unfulfilled because no one has invented a rocket ship to take me into space. And so unless I invent one of my own I must remain on earth, jumping only 2 feet in the school sports and struggling alone with absolute coefficients or expansion.

RUTH WOLPERT, VI.

Fashion?

Perhaps you have never thought much about fashion, if that is so then I fear the following can hold no interest for you. You probably spend your waking hours wearing clothes which you change only two or three times a day. Terrible! You should be ashamed of yourself!—At least, that is what the present-day fashion designers seem to think.

Have you seen the latest? A suit to wear while choosing a book (non-fiction, of course) containing a spectacle-case on one side, a pencil and paper on which to express one's opinions on the other, and a neat little secret pocket in which can be concealed the "Encyclopædia Britannica," volumes I, II and III, for the illiterate. Perhaps we may go one better. What about a blouse and skousers (skousers are my idea of a cross between a skirt and trousers) for replanting daffodils (only daffodils, for the colours *must* clash) in the right hand flower-bed facing east? You are not a gardener perhaps? Then there is a wonderful dress for watching television whilst knitting a fair-isle jumper. This dress has simply everything but the kitchen sink. No, I beg your pardon, it *has* the kitchen sink; also included in this galaxy is a pair of scissors for cutting the knots which will doubtless result from knitting a fair-isle jumper while watching television.

I do hope you are one of the many who read text books in bed, just for sheer pleasure, at the same time practising to be a contortionist. If you *are* then the designers have just the thing for you. It is a double breasted, red, tri-striped flannelette nightgown which is a "must" for everyone who likes to have, well *you* know, that soigné look. Oh yes, there is absolutely nothing better than red flannelette to give that much-desired effect.

But now you must excuse me, for I have to be in bed in two hours time, and it takes me two hours to disrobe. "Two hours?" is your credulous query.

Of course, for can *you* get out of a suit designed for writing 1951 *Iris* entries in while sitting in the hand-basin (*most* essential) eating spaghetti?

LINDA GIBSON, V.S.

Sixth Form Hobbies

Jennie Waring—Cleaning her cat's ears.
Beryl Foster—Tennis.
Helen Preater—Cycling.
Shirley Kingdon—Ballet and losing things.
Ann House—Tennis and finding things for above.
Shirley Hanson—In loco parentis pro Margareta Dobsona.
Ruth Wolpert—Red examples in physics.
Sheila Pasco—Tidying the VIth form room and archery.
Anne Hummerston—Self cooking at youth hostels.
Beryl Shaw—Washing up after Anne.
Eileen Ashley—Vote for—
Margaret Dobson—No, don't!!
Enid Gibson—Cubs and pen-friends.
Pamela Brown—Reforming the Navy—or the last days of Pompey.
Juliet Collinson—Reforming Pamela Brown and French trains.
June Metcalfe—Talking and table tennis.
José Swanton—Denying relationship with Hilda Mountney.
Hilda Mountney—Mistaken identity.
Terry Power—Foreign correspondents.
Mavis Willett—People with motor cycles, squeezing boxes and consoling Terry.
Pauline Hodby—Getting hoarse at football.
Margery Phillips—Racing the late bell.
Ilse Juhn—Doodling and Paris.
Shirley Matthews—Housework.
Sheila Oliver—Losing hair grips and netball.
May Capelle—Reading and cycling.
Mary West—Singing in the bath.
Heather Kenyon—Rowing and reading in the bath.
Maurcen Nash—Talking to herself and dancing.
Vivienne Hutchinson—Swabs and dinosaurs.

Who knows?

The mistress who wanted to slide down stairs on a tea tray.
The girl who ill-treated the piano.
Who called which form sluggards.
Which mistress splits with the greatest of ease.
Which mistress thinks that Teven "dawdles."
The girl who dropped her carrots and onions.

Who remembers?

The mistress who paid 2d. for an article in lost prop.
The little red shoes at a dancing lesson.

Helvetia, 1951

If you have ever felt depressed, as I have, by the morbid "greyness" of some parts of London and the suburbs you would, no doubt, be exhilarated and refreshed by the startling whiteness which greets you on arriving in Lucerne. One can almost imagine chosen members of Lucerne County Council (do mundane institutions of this nature exist in such a country?) rising early, before the brightly coloured shutters yawn themselves awake, and industriously making use of an endless number of mops and buckets of water!

I first became acquainted with this delightful town in the mid-morning of Tuesday, August 7th, when, with fellow members of the V and VI forms, the last lap of our journey was about to commence. At that moment, however, we had little time to explore, for one of the lake steamers was ready to convey us to Beckenried, a charming and picturesque village on the Lake of Lucerne, where we were to spend the next nine days.

We arrived there at about noon, and were warmly greeted by Frau Ruttimann, whom we soon discovered to be the perfect hostess; leaving our luggage to follow later, under the supervision of Xavier, Frau Ruttiman's son, we made our way, gazing rapturously into the shops (only to be dragged mercilessly away by unsympathetic staff!) to the Pension Rigi, a large white stone building, complete with balconies and shutters, typical of Swiss architectural design.

After we had washed and lunched we were taken to our allotted rooms, and in an unbelievably short time ecstatic cries of "Oh, *do* come and look!" and "We've a marvellous view from our window!" reached our ears from every room; the corridors were alive with girls running in all directions, determined to miss nothing.

During the next few days we ascended the Klewen Alp—a mountain behind the village—by cable funicular railway, an experience which few will forget, as for thirteen minutes we rocked perilously in a carriage suspended from wires which seemed incapable of bearing such a load; we visited William Tell's Chapel; journeyed, via Flivelen and Göschenen to Andermatt, a famous winter sports resort in the Alps, where the river Renss thundering over huge boulders was a sight not to be missed, and visited Lucerne, this time with ease, and money in our purses, which, needless to say, did not remain there long! The main attractions, apart from the shops, which have to be seen to be believed, were the Cathedral, with its two towers dating from the Gothic period; the Weinmarkt Fountain, also Gothic; the Lion Monument, sculptured in memory of the Swiss Guards killed during the massacre of 1792; the Chapel Bridge, bearing on its roof famous paintings of the town's history, and in which, at roughly the centre, can be found the Water Tower, built in the 13th century, and belonging, at that time, to the town's fortifications.

It is, of course, quite impossible to relate all the incidents which occurred during our all too short holiday, but those of us who went know very well that without the staff our brief stay could not have taken place; so it is our very best thanks to Miss Lea, Miss Thomerson, Miss Oldfield and her friend Miss Prestige, who made it possible for us to catch a glimpse of the land of snow-topped mountains and blue lakes, and also be the proud possessors of wonderful memories and bulky photograph albums!

JULIET COLLINSON, Upper VI.

Devon

The Journey—A. Hummerston.

The great day had arrived at last. We assembled at 10.30 a.m. under the indicator board at Waterloo. Miss Dennithorne made sure we were all present and then we boarded the train for Ilfracombe. We talked and ate and ate and talked, occasionally answering one of Miss Gilpin's questions about the passing countryside. At Ilfracombe we were met by a coach which took us along a rocky road to Combe Martin.

Sun Ray—M. Willett.

The Sun Ray Hotel, Combe Martin, is a delightful guest house situated about a hundred yards from the shore and commanding a wonderful view of the sea on one side and the Devon landscape on the other. Some of us slept in the house whilst others were in the adjoining annexe which possessed a games room. Here we gathered every evening to review and record the day's finds and also to enjoy a game of table tennis or a sing-song round the piano. Mrs. Eastman is a splendid hostess and made our stay all the more enjoyable by her wonderful food.

Climbing Hangman—S. Cornwell.

One afternoon we set out to climb Little Hangman. On reaching Lester Point some of us scrambled down to Wild Pear beach while others laboriously climbed to the top of Little Hangman itself and stood cooled by the strong sea wind. We returned via Challecombe, taking much mud with us.

Watersmeet—J. Powell.

Our visit to Watersmeet was one of the most enjoyable visits of the week. A steep winding path led down to the swiftly flowing river at the bottom of the valley, whose banks were covered with primroses, violets, adoxa, dog's mercury and many ferns, mosses and liverworts. The whole valley was shaded by tall overhanging trees, and we left with an unforgettable memory of this beautiful spot.

The North Walk and Valley of Locks—S. Pasco.

On leaving Tynmouth some of us chose to take the north walk along the edge of the cliff. In the distance, across the Bristol Channel, we could see Swansea in Wales and could pick out the colour of the fields. At length we reached the Valley of Rocks from the top of which we saw several wild mountain goats.

Bull Point Lighthouse and Woolecombe Sands—J. Metcalfe, M. Nash.

The whole party went by coach to Morthoe and from there walked to Bull Point Lighthouse, where the keeper showed us many interesting objects. On returning to the coach we set off for Woolecombe Sands. This flat sandy beach is entirely different from the rocky beach of Combe Martin.

There were other exciting times—hunting for red and green seaweeds and sea anemones and exploring the caves. Many were the efforts to get snapshots of the lambs which frolicked in the hills. We even tasted Devonshire cream.

The interest of all these walks was much increased by all we learned of the flora and creatures in different conditions. Our map reading, too, improved a great deal and did not lead us too far astray when we were at the mercy of the VIth form geographers.

We all want to thank Miss Dennithorne, Miss Rush and Miss Gilpin for making such a memorable week possible.

R.W.; V.H.

The Arts and Crafts Exhibition 1951

When one walks through an exhibition of any sort it is difficult to realize what a great deal of hard work and planning had gone before to make it a success. The Arts and Crafts Exhibition, held at the Assembly Hall, Walthamstow, in July, was one which many of the W.H.S. staff and girls will not forget, for at the opening day of the Exhibition they were able to look with an appreciative eye remembering the scene a few hours back when the floor was strewn with the work of many young artists and the greatest demand of the moment was for drawing pins.

The Organising Committee, which included Miss Burnett, began work in March, discussing what form the Exhibition should take; it was decided that the work would be arranged in age groups instead of schools. The general colour scheme was arranged by Mrs. Allison and Mr. McBryde from the S.W.E.T.C.

A centre-piece was formed by four great pictures of the district and it fell to us to paint St. Mary's Church and the Waterhouse. The Sixth form began sketching the one in April, with the wind tugging at their boards, and the other in a June heat wave. Later, girls from many other forms helped with these pictures, right down the school to 2.H, who even came during the dinner-hour to paint daisies in William Morris' garden.

While these two pictures were well started the V form were busily painting life-size figures of school children which were to be displayed on the stage of the Assembly Hall. Marjorie Phillips and Shirley Kingdon undertook the bulk of this work and were helped by Mary West, Joan Brogden and Barbara Staines. Glenys Chapman, II.S., painted the whole of one small boy. When the work went well the figures were called by elegant names such as Deborah, but woe betide them if they did not conform to their creator's ideas! One such, whose shoes were painted at least ten times, was christened *Agatha*.

The crafts section had not been forgotten, and as the opening day of the Exhibition drew near a delicious smell of cooking hung in the air on the east side of the school and the staff were able to supplement their meals with many varied dishes which they purchased from the practising cookery team. Meanwhile the selection committee met at W.H.S. to select the most suitable work from a countless number of paintings which flowed in from schools all over Walthamstow.

The opening day of the Exhibition was also to be the day of hanging and arranging. Time was short and the amount of work to be done seemed enormous, not one person in the Assembly Hall that day was idle. W.H.S. fifth and sixth forms, students and staff had pinned up every picture in the show except for one section.

The crafts were many and varied and gave us a clear picture of what other schools were doing in this direction. One school had even built a boat. Every one showed a keen interest in the cookery demonstrations by the girls and the metal-work demonstrations by the boys, through these practical demonstrations showed a great deal of careful teaching and practice. I remember an elegant pewter toasting fork and a bridal retinue made from pegs and scraps of veiling. There was some lovely work from the VI form Monoux boys and brilliant parrots in cages from Woodford. Ruth Lyon's "House by the Water" was much admired and Teresa Power's broderie anglaise blouse, the only example of its kind at the Exhibition.

I do feel that the Exhibition was a great success for it gave both pupils and teachers a glimpse of the high standard of work that it is possible to attain in school studios by the ordinary child and not just by the talented few who will make art their career.

JEAN S. MALLET.

(It was the writer who painted the large romantic study of St. Mary's Church. A small boy walking past declared it was much prettier than the real one).

P.K.A.

Parent's Association

President—Miss M. M. BURNETT.

Hon. Secretary—Mr. A. W. HUNT.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr. R. PARKER.

The new policy of the Association to put it in "Minute Book" phrase to "use its energies to obtain the necessary funds to provide extra-educational requirements" was handsomely given practical effect during 1951.

By a generous grant from the General Fund and by the efforts of the Drama Group, the school received financial benefit to a large extent.

The Drama Group not only is an instrument for providing extra monies for the Fund, but a section whose members derive much amusement and social pleasure.

Their production of J. B. Priestley's "Mystery at Greenfingers," last February, marked their real debut, and when one considers the difficulties involved, which are very particular to mothers of young children, this event was a real accomplishment. Even after such a production their activities were not retarded, for in November we saw a second effort in the shape of two One Act Plays. We do hope the small group will expand and whilst they are considering their next production, we wish them well. The Association suffered a great loss in the death of Russell Licence and tribute was made to his memory at the Annual General Meeting.

This year many new parents joined our ranks and it is hoped that both new and old will continue to give us every support.

The Old Girls' Association

President:

Miss Burnett

Vice-Presidents:

Miss Norris

Miss Jacob

Miss Goldwin

Minnie Foxon

Co-opted:

Miss Meek

Jean Davis (Catering)

Miss Park (Dramatic Society)

Dora Busby

Edna Timberlake (Magazine)

Connie Hill

Committee:

1949—1952—Norma Holden

Barbara Hull

Edna Kenney

1950—1953—Irene Barrett

Audrey Cole

Irene Dixon

Ivy Drayton

Myrtle Hadley

1951—1953—Audrey Dixon

Vera East

Joan Lummes

Pamela Miller

Treasurer:

Lily Browne, 25 Sunnydene Avenue, E.4

Secretary:

Cecilia Wheeler, 20 Albert Road, E.17

At the Spring Social in March the Old Girls presented to the school a silver tea set as part of their Jubilee gift. Miss Burnett received the tea set on behalf of the school and proposed to be "at home" to Old Girls on the afternoon of the first Monday in every month. This suggestion was enthusiastically received and some have already "taken tea" on first Mondays. If you are thinking of visiting the school you can be sure of meeting other Old Girls at this time.

At our socials this year we have been entertained with travellers' tales. Miss Burnett and Miss Norris have told us of their holidays in Greece and Austria and, at the Christmas Social, we hope to hear something of Vera Beale's travels in the U.S.A.

We are most happy to report that this year we have re-established relations with the sixth form. It has been a great pleasure to have them with us at socials and we hope they will continue to come.

C.M.W.

Jottings from Staff Letters

America is wonderful! I've never had so much fun! And its fun all the time. There is a system here whereby the office can talk to us any time through a loudspeaker and we can answer back by the same machine. The principal can listen-in to our lessons whenever he likes! but all the staff agree he's too much of a gentleman!

I've seen Niagara Falls and the 1,000 islands and the Finger Lakes and Eskimo dogs and the great stone face, and miles and miles of vivid, gorgeous fall foliage—crimson, purple, blood-red, gold, orange, green. My vocabulary is a source of innocent merriment. They hooted when I said I'd brought bootees for the winter; here these are worn only by babies. On the other hand I slept in New York in a cot! And I've learnt that before American teachers can teach they have to be certified! Several times I must have astonished kind mistresses by offering to help them wash up (= have a good wash).

The children are all delightful, much nicer than any I've ever taught anywhere else. It is easy to keep discipline by lifting one eyebrow.

At the moment they're all interested in the British election. The newspapers and radio tell as of all the developments, including Mr. Attlee's heckling at Walthamstow, and the offer to Dr. Edith Summerskill of a one-way ticket to the moon. The King's illness took precedence of everything, even the resignation of a star baseball player. Here everyone loves Prince Charles and Princess Anne, and all the young people are most interested in Princess Margaret. Elizabeth and Philip feature prominently in the daily news.

M. DERHAM.

Old Girls' Dramatic Society

A performance of that notable Nativity Play, "Holy Night," by Martinez Sierra, was given by the Society, aided by noble support from without, before Christmas, 1950, in the Parish Church of St. Mary, by permission of our late kind friend, Canon Oakley. The play was a powerfully challenging modern nativity play that brings intercession into the foreground of our lives. Later in the year we gave a successful performance of *Life with Father*, thanks to splendid help from such brilliant performers as Alfred Rogers and Cecil Collins. Grace Putnam and Barbara Rolfe were among our old girls taking part.

Our Festival efforts were prodigious. Not only did the present pupils of the High School and the Monoux combine as has been recorded elsewhere in performing "A Midsummer Night's Dream," but the Old Girls and Old Monovians once more provided Shakespeare in the Greek Theatre as in past times.

Walthamstow High School Old Girls' Dramatic Society and Old Monovians' Dramatic Society presented "Much Ado About Nothing" by William Shakespeare, in the Greek Theatre, Girls' High School, Church Hill, E.17, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 28th, 29th and 30th:—

Characters in order of appearance were:

Page	JOAN MALYON
Leonato (Governor of Messina)	ERNEST G. PARROTT
Hero (daughter of Leonato)	GLADYS WATSON
Beatrice (niece of Leonato)	GWEN MANSFIELD
Conrad (gentleman in service of Don John)	ALFRED ROGERS
Don Pedro (Prince of Arragon)	A. G. HELLMAN
Don John (bastard brother of Pedro)	CYRIL MALYON
Claudio (a young lord of Florence)	DAVID E. BUCK
Benedick (a lord of Padua)	HARRY ALLISON
Borachio (a gentleman in service of Don John)	ALLAN A. WOOD
Margaret and Ursula (waiting maids to Hero)	PAT TWYMAN and PEGGY GARNHAM
Balthazar (page to Don Pedro)	JOYCE PARROTT
Citizens of the watch	KEITH BARNARD, DOUGLAS GOLDIN, LESLIE STRINGER, DONALD WAKEFIELD
Dogberry (a foolish constable)	VIN GREEN
Verges (a headborough)	RONALD GRAINGER
Friar Francis	PETER T. VICARY
Francis Seacole (a sexton)	STANLEY G. HOLDSWORTH
Antonio (brother to Leonato)	JOHN PAYLING

Epilogue spoken by CECIL COLLINS

Production by HARRY ALLISON

Lighting effects were by DEREK CURL

Costumes were designed by DOROTHY BROOKS and executed by Members of the Society under the direction of the Designer

Music arranged and presented by Mr. PERCY TIMBERLAKE

We were indeed fortunate that the two societies were once more able to combine in this their outstanding contribution to the festival. Thanks to the brilliant work of Harry Allison the Shakespearean conditions of the Greek Theatre were utilised. His fresh and powerfully directed production will long live in our memory. We are deeply grateful to him and to all who made such valuable contributions to the successful effort which was repeated at a later date with some slight change of caste.

In addition to the final combined effort of the Walthamstow Theatre Guild production of "Walthamstow goes to the Theatre," our item of Maria Marten or Murder in the Red Barn in its fifteen minute tabloid version proved how irresistibly stimulating melodrama can be. Alfred Rogers was the thrilling leering villain, Cecil Collins a brilliant Ishmael, Eric Leech, the popular Heavy Father, Pauline Berry, a matching heavy mother, David Buck, the sinister Bow Street Runner, Barbara Rolfe acted intelligently and attractively as the picture of injured innocence as Maria. Gwen Jones at the piano was an integral part of the play as was the lighting and stage management by Peggy Garnham, Jean Davis, Ruth Dodds, Betty Sharratt.

We hope next June to put on Shakespearean comedy under the combined auspices of the W.H.S.O.G.D.S. and the Old Monovian Dramatic Society. Please send in your names to Jean Davis, 18 Empress Parade, Chingford, E.4.

News of Old Girls

Margaret Witt has been awarded a Scholarship of £100 on the results of 2nd M.B. examination to enable her to take a special Honours B.Sc. degree in Physiology in the middle of her medical course.

Margaret Swonnell was awarded the Silver Medal of the Eastman Dental Clinic.

Jean Ford, B.A. (Lond.) Hons. Fr. Class IIb.

Brigitte Feldt, B.A. (Lond.) Hons. French Class IIa.

Doreen Stevens is with "Shell" Refining and Marketing Co. Ltd.

Ann Huggett is secretary to General Manager of Simpson's Restaurant.

Muriel Dennison is on the staff of Halex, Highams Park.

Myrtle Hadley is secretary to the Publicity Manager of Branded Textiles Group.

Maud Wicks is nursing at Westminster Hospital.

Kathleen Patch is nursing at St. Margaret's, Epping.

Margaret Gracey is assistant private secretary to Sir Walter Monckton, Minister of Labour.

Eleanor Morris is training as a radiographer at Middlesex Hospital.

Shirley Abbott is the representative of 1951 leavers on the O.G.A. Committee.

Audrey Jackson is training at the Royal Free Hospital as a Medical Laboratory Technician.

Vera Beale has returned from America after a happy and successful teaching experience there.

Miss M. Derham is in Marblehead, Massachussets, for a year.

Hilary Smy is teaching at the William Morris Technical School.

1951 Leavers.

To Universities—

Isla Hoppett, King's College, London.

Doreen Plant, King's College, London.

Shirley Pullen, University College, Southampton.

José Collins, Westfield College, London.

Margaret Foster, University College, Leicester.

To Training Colleges—

Shirley Jaques, Trent Park T.C.

Margaret Rhynas, Weymouth T.C.

Sylvia Richardson, Hockerill T.C.

Patricia Twyman, Dudley T.C.

Patricia Shearing, Balls Park T.C.

To S.W. Essex Technical College.

Ann Sizer,

Rhona Bremner.

Joan Dixon.

Patricia Manning.

Rita Baldwin.

Renee Hall.

Shirley Wright.

Scholarships and Awards, 1951.

State Scholarships—Isla Hoppett, Doreen Plant.

Essex County Major Scholarship—Shirley Pullen.

Essex County Major Exhibition—José Collins, Margaret Foster.

Monoux Exhibitions—José Collins, Margaret Rhynas, Patricia Shearing, Patricia Twyman, Margaret Witt.

Mallinson Exhibition—José Collins.

Robert Ozler Trust—Brenda Carter, Patricia Shearing.

Marriages

Miss Abbey to Douglas Church, July 28th, 1951.

Joan Austin to George Kenyon, June 2nd, 1951.

Betty Rhone to George Goddard, September 29th, 1951.

June Jacobs to David R. Stone, August 18th, 1951.

Margaret Jean Foster to Brian D. Pate, July 7th, 1951.

Jean Ford to E. James.

Births

Gwen Linford (Mrs. Bourdon), a son, Richard, brother for Janice, May 4th, 1951.

Frances Rubin, a son, Paul, February 2nd, 1951.

Gweneth Hodby (Mrs. Place), a daughter, Sally Bridget, February 13th, 1951.

Rosina Beard (Mrs. Czul), a son, John, July, 1951, a brother for Magdalene.

Joan Craddock (Mrs. Holder), a son, Clive, September, 1951, a brother for Carolyn.

Doris Lines (Mrs. Goodall), a daughter, Christine, March 5th, 1951.

Deaths

Mrs. W. W. Ling (Emily Briggs), April 24th, 1951, aged 68.