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ARMY

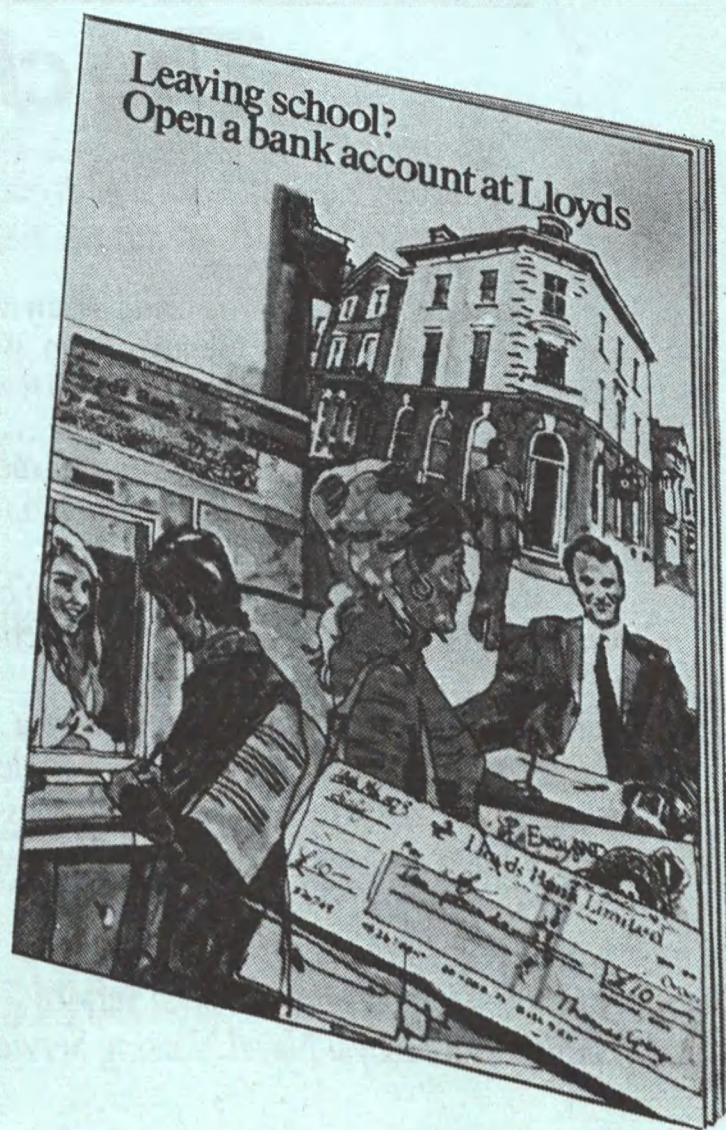
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EDITORIAL

One of the most serious concerns in Britain in recent months has been the question of our entry into the Common Market. Indeed, parliamentary history was made on June 5th when the first ever referendum in this country was held to decide the issue. The fact that we voted by a sweeping majority to remain a member is something from which, I feel, relevant inference can be drawn.

Britain has declared its willingness to take up a role in a developing community, not as a passive figure but as one prepared to participate fully in everything and to take a lead where necessary. If we now compare this with our own position, we find that many parallels can be drawn. In essence, we too, are members of a community and our role is much the same as that of Britain. It is up to us, during our time at the school, to play a prominent part in pursuit of both common and self-interest; that is, we must work for the school, as well as ourselves. Our advantage is that the community we belong to has already been established and its standards set. Therefore, if we succeed at this, we can pride ourselves on true achievement.

The comparison can be continued further. As the aim of the Common Market is eventually to influence the world, so ours should be to have a beneficial impact on society. In this way, the present apathetic and materialistic trends can be averted.

From what has been said, it can be seen why a school magazine is so important. This is, in effect, an attempt to capture the very meaning of our school life, together with all it entails, and thus translate an abstract quality into something material, which can then be appreciated by outsiders. This can only ever be brief, but it is to be hoped that its form and content are such as to be effective.

I would like to finish by thanking all those who have helped to make this the best edition of 'Centaur' for some long time. This applies in particular to my fellow members of staff, D.B. Buchanan (Art Editor), C.D. Tye and I. Johnson (Lay-out), D. Carter (Preparation), S. Houseman (Junior Editor) and S.J. Hollingsworth (Photography) and, naturally, to Mr. Prescott, whose driving force has formed the basis for everything. As always, the efforts of the Office Staff, Miss C. Hodges and Mrs. F.E. Hutchings, have been very much appreciated, as, too, have those of the actual contributors of material, for the most part voluntary but at times forced.

Rumour has it that this could well be the last edition of 'Centaur', but I hope that this issue will prove how necessary a part of the School it is. Yet, if our fears are confirmed, we, the production staff, feel honoured at being chosen to publish the final edition of a fine magazine that has for so long been a part of the Henry Mellish School.

Paul. I. Temple

6LA

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FOREWORD BY THE HEADMASTER

This has been a truly exciting year. The School has had its first comprehensive intake and has survived. Girls have walked where only boys and men have been before - they too have survived. The Centaur still stands four square against the world and our motto - Tenax Propositi - has not been changed. It is a fine motto and should be an inspiration to us all.

So it is that in a changing world the School has preserved what was good in the Grammar School tradition and has added to itself the best of the Comprehensive ideal.

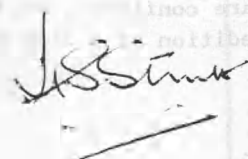
We have set up an elaborate structure for pastoral care. Subject teachers are now deeply involved as tutors, getting to know the pupils in their care, learning the problems they have to face and helping in every way to make their school life happier.

We hope that the first formers have enjoyed their year in the school and we know that the successes which our upper school boys will achieve will act as a spur to those who are younger to aim high.

We live in a world where we hear the phrase, "It's good enough". To each and every one of you I say that "good enough" is the same as "not very good but I do not intend to do better". We can all do a great deal better if we really set our minds to it. Only the best is good enough for us.

I want this School to be the best in Nottingham. Only when everyone enters into the life of the School - the work - the games - the music - the drama - the C.C.F. - only then will the School really achieve what it sets out to do.

It can be done but we must all play our part to the full. There are some who want to do it their way; they must be reminded what it means to be a member of this School. It is a privilege which we must not abuse in any way. The reputation which this School has is a good one - it must become better still in the years to come. This is your responsibility.



 SCHOOL NOTES

There have been, as we expected as a result of our change in status, several changes in Staff.

Mr. P. Henwood left us in July last year to take up an appointment in educational administration in Coventry.

In September we welcomed Mrs. D. Holloway who came as Senior Mistress for one term to help with the task of settling-in the new mixed intake.

At the same time we were joined by Mrs. A. Vellido (P.E.); Miss C. Hopkins (English); Miss B. Leek (General Subjects); Mrs. A. Shalton (Classics); Mrs. B. Glossop (French); Mrs. E.A. Harvey (Needlework); Mr. F. Isherwood (Maths.); Mr. C.M. Healy (History).

At Christmas, Mrs. Glossop left us and we were joined by Mr. J.E. Knewstubb (French), a former pupil of the school, who has for the time being settled in Nottingham again after teaching abroad. Mrs. M.E. Edwardson (Maths.) also joined the staff at this time.

In January, Mrs. S.A. Dauban took up her appointment as Deputy Headmistress, and the Rev. P. Louis joined us as Deputy Headmaster in charge of Curriculum Development.

Mr. C.M. Healy left at Easter to take up another appointment in Nottingham. Mr. P. Henry left to teach at Bugbrooke Comprehensive School, Northants. Mr. M.K. O'Connor joined us as Head of the History Department.

To all who have left us, our sincere thanks and our good wishes for the future. A welcome to all who have joined us; we hope that their stay will be happy.

We can say, with some pride, that we have adjusted to the new circumstances with reasonable success. The main difficulties have arisen from shortage of accommodation. It is unfortunate that we should be faced this year with the need for economies in education. Teaching space will have to be created out of cloakrooms and odd corners. We are hopeful that there will be some improvement next year, though any improvement will have to be set against the increased intake of pupils. The new block at present under construction on the field will provide rooms for art, needlework and cookery. We hope that this building will be available in September; the prospects, if we are without it, scarcely bear contemplation.

The Commemoration Service was held at Bulwell Parish Church on Friday, 18th October, 1974. The Service was conducted by the Rev. W. Beasley (1945-52), Rector of St. Mary's, Bulwell. He was assisted by the Rev. E.P. Bailey, (1946-52), Vicar of All Hallows, West Bridgford, and the Rev. F.G. Green, Vicar of Clipstone, Mansfield. The Sermon was preached by the Rev. E.P. Bailey.

The year has been well-filled by activities of various kinds - concerts, plays, athletics, swimming galas, etc. All these are recorded in detail in the magazine as are the various individual performances, some particularly noteworthy.

Sadly we have to record that the School has been the victim of the current spate of break-ins and the consequent vandalism. There is a kind of mindlessness about this kind of behaviour that leaves one with little sympathy for the perpetrators.

The Pupil Observers on the Governing Body, D. Buchanan and C. Rawding, have made a useful contribution to the meetings and the Governors have been very appreciative of the efforts that they have made to present the point of view of the pupils.

At the end of this term the Dramatic Society loses the services of A.J. Swift (6UA), S.D. Hunt and P. Carter (both 6USc.), all of whom have done excellent work as technicians (if that is the right word). They have dealt with problems of lighting and sound, and contributed greatly to the success of recent productions. Their places will be taken by H. Claringburn and C. Worthington (both 6LSc.) who, we are sure, will prove very competent successors.

Miss Johnson, the Cook Supervisor, left last term. Her place has been taken by Mrs. Beaman. Mrs. Beaman has been with us for some time now and we feel sure that she will be very happy in her new job. Certainly she has our very good wishes.

In March we welcomed the French party from Bayonne, making the reciprocal visit for that of our boys last November. The party included two or three 'jeunes filles' but, having been a mixed school for some six months, the reaction from the school was rather more blasé than would have been the case a year or two back. At all events the visit was a pronounced success. For many, the highlight was the entertainment provided by our guests on the evening of their departure. After an illustrated talk on Bayonne, given delightfully and wittily by M. Balseinte refreshments were conjured from somewhere or other; a very pleasant evening indeed.

The School has achieved a mini-bus. The efforts made by everyone - ably directed by Mr. Sutherland - in raising money, the spelling and swimming sponsored events, have proved worthwhile. The mini-bus should be a valuable asset in the future - providing we can afford the petrol!

We welcome a rival in our midst. "Censored" has made its appearance and seems a lively production. We wish it a long life.

M. Jaubert has been with us this year as our French Assistant. We hope that he has enjoyed his time with us; certainly we have gained much from his help.

The Staff played the Prefects in the annual football match. The Staff recorded their usual victory - perhaps they were fortunate in having the talents of Mr. Healy at their disposal. There were some minor irregularities, particularly when Miss Hopkins was awarded a penalty.

The School Captain for this year has been M. Shaw. Vice-Captains: M. Bennet, D. Costagliola and S. Hunt.



HOUSE NEWS

BARBER HOUSE

BALK HOUSE

House Captain:	M. Bennet
Secretary:	P. Whayman
Athletics:	C. Rawding
Cricket:	P. Hendry
Cross-Country:	I. Crouch
Rugby:	D. Gilbert
Swimming:	S. Goodyer
	D. Kelham

Captain:	M.A. Shaw
Rugby:	R.W.P. Wragg
Cricket:	M.J. Reed
Swimming:	P.D. Carlin
Athletics:	M.J. Reed
Cross-Country:	N.J. Lodge
Netball:	C. Banas
Secretary:	A.J. Swift

The enthusiastic attitude which manifested itself in last year's house results seems to have waned this year. A certain degree of apathy seems to have crept in once again. This is disappointing as there is still a fair amount of talent in the House.

So far we have won only three trophies, two of which have been taken by the Juniors. Their win in the Swimming Competition was a pleasant surprise to many of us. Special praise must also go to the girls of the first form, who won the first ever Netball Competition. Such results as these from the Junior Section of the House are encouraging and give us hope for the future.

The Intermediate Section had a particularly disappointing year. Their only noteworthy result came on Sports Day when they finished second to a very strong Balk team. More effort is, I fear, needed from this section of the House if they are to achieve any degree of success.

At present, the Seniors have captured only the Athletics Cup. This win was due mainly to our strength in field events and the record-breaking efforts of Captain Sam Reed. We were expected to retain the Kayser Cup for Senior Rugby but we could manage only a disappointing second place. However, the Seniors have high hopes of winning the Cricket Cup, if it is played for.

If the House is to prosper again, a greater effort must be made in all years of the School.

M. Bennet

M.A. Shaw 6UA

McEWEN HOUSE

Captain:	C. Chambers
Vice-Captain:	D. Costagliola
Rugby:	C. Chambers
Athletics:	D. Buchanan
Swimming:	M. Farndale
Cross-Country:	A. Shaw
Cricket:	J. Hart

This year has witnessed an unusual spate of enthusiasm throughout the House which has reaped awards at both Senior and Junior levels.

The Juniors have, generally, had an encouraging year, winning the Cross-Country trophy and finishing runners-up in every other competition (except Athletics where we were dogged by absenteeism) and thanks must be extended to all those unsuspecting, last-minute replacements.

The Intermediates have produced disappointing results despite some impressive performances, especially in Athletics where new records were established by both Murphy and Thomas.

The most surprising results, though, were achieved at Senior level which is traditionally noted for its large contingent of non-competitors. We finished in second place in every competition except that of the Rugby which we won outright. This latter achievement was gained with players of mixed ability combined together with that, too often, elusive House spirit.

For so long McEwen House has not realised its full potential but the efforts of the Juniors and Seniors indicate that if a true sense of loyalty to the House is invoked the House will soon gain the distinction it so fully deserves.

C. Chambers



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BULKELEY HOUSE

House Officers:

Captain of House:	J.W. Thorley
Captain of Rugby:	J.W. Thorley
Captain of Cricket:	J.W. Thorley
Captain of Swimming:	P. Baker
Captain of Cross-Country:	J.P. Wood
Captain of Athletics:	J.P. Wood

The results this year in House Competitions have not shown any very great improvement but it is pleasing to see a more enthusiastic spirit amongst the House members. The House was placed third in Senior Rugby and fared no worse in the Junior and Intermediate sections. Our endeavours on Sports Day did not go unnoticed but were overshadowed by the stronger Houses of Balk and McEwen. In a year which has seen our first girl competitors, Debbie Palmer must be singled out for congratulations on her performance in the Swimming Gala. P. Baker also swam strongly in a Gala which produced sound results in all three sections.

Once again we extend our thanks to Mr. J. Bastow, without whose help and organisation none of the year's achievements would have been possible. I hope that, in the future, the House will continue to demonstrate the tradition of enthusiasm and team spirit which has been shown in previous years.

J.W. Thorley (6UA)

C. Chambers

SPORTS

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RUGBY

1st XV RUGBY REPORT

Captain: C. Chambers
Vice-Captain: M. Shaw

Once again the Season for the 1st XV cannot be considered a particularly successful one but, when compared with the performances of previous teams, it can be seen as a vast improvement. Indeed, last year the 1st XV gained only one victory, this year we have amassed a total of seven.

Before the Season officially began, a number of us were invited to represent the School in a 'touch-rugby' Tournament at Henry Mellish Old Boys R.F.C. In the face of such formidable opposition as Carlton-le-Willows and Notts. Police Cadets we managed to win the Competition and become the first winners of the 'Mellish Trophy'.

The 1st XV as a whole quickly moulded itself into a tight and compact unit with great team spirit and determination. The forwards, displaying an intelligent approach to the game, gained plenty of possession which the three-quarters, using their wingers sensibly, were able to capitalise on. Such stalwarts of Notts. Schools Rugby as Carlton and Newark Magnus managed to defeat the team by only a couple of tries, and perhaps our most notable result was gained against Southwell Minster, whom we beat 11-10. In such a compact team, possessing players of such equal, if varied, attributes, one cannot hope to mention individuals for any success was the achievement of every single member. With such encouraging results, I have every hope that the success that has recently eluded the 1st XV will be achieved in the near future.

Our thanks are extended to Mr. Hinshaw, who gave up virtually every Saturday to run the team and who even managed to sustain the loss of a tooth in his endeavours on our behalf.

Won 7; Lost 9; Drawn 1

C. Chambers 6UA

Under 15 Rugby

The under 15 Rugby Team had an extremely successful season, losing only three games all year out of 14. The heaviest defeat came at the hands of Newark Magnus (13 points to 7); but this disappointment was balanced by excellent performances against High Pavement, South Wolds, Keyworth and Carlton, three of the County's strongest school sides.

Throughout the year, spirit in the side was high and Jon Taylor, pack leader, with Russ Morton, captain, gave the side a strong lead. In the County Cup Competition only two penalties by Valley School, Worksop prevented us reaching the final, so unfortunately the season had begun and ended on a losing note. In the interim period, however, several good sides were crushed by a mixture of brute strength, ignorance and exciting, attacking Rugby.

The following people were picked and none let the side down, even if drafted into positions they were unused to:-

R. Shouls; I. Tooley; S. Loud; R. Fulcher; M. Williams; P. Walker; S. Coats; S. Clough; R. Morton (Captain); R. Carpenter; A. Richards; S. Cross; J. Taylor (pack leader); I. Daykin; M. Thomas; A. Holland; S. Karn; P. Miller; D. Machin; W. Webster; R. Harrison.

H.J.B.



Under 14 XV

You may have noticed hunched, grumbling figures disappearing through the school gates on cold winter evenings. If you did, they were probably the under 14 Rugby squad returning home after an extended session of Mr. Prescott's own version of the Japanese Martial Arts.* Hard work and an enthusiastic approach saw a richly deserved improvement in the performance of the team over the season and they have remained undefeated since Christmas.

Thank you to all those who played in the team - and to those who turned up on Saturdays and for training sessions without gaining regular team places. Special commendations to the captain, Bowater, to Hetherington for his inexhaustible energy,

to Chris Smith for his fearless tackling and to Brown for being Brown.

* (Thanks ref; this proved nearly as devastating in its effects on the opposition as Mr. Oxley's interpretations of the Rugby Football Rule Book - Exec.Ed.)

Under 13 XV

The under 13 XV had a fairly successful season. On occasions, the team showed great promise and is capable of achieving better results next year. Outstanding was the powerful running of Wayne Gee at centre.

C.McI.



cross country

Captain: J.P. Wood
Vice-Captain: I. Crouch

The general lack of enthusiasm for cross country this year from the upper school has led to disappointing results in inter-school matches. Lack of transport and general lack of interest in fixtures from other schools damped down any enthusiasm. I hope the minibus will enable the team to have more matches in the future.

As emphasised last year, the inadequacies of our present course are not the only reason for our mediocre results at inter-school level. If better results are to be obtained, runners must be prepared to train more seriously.

The highlight of the season came in the South Notts. School Championship. The Seniors were placed second to Bramcote Hills Grammar School by only 3 points, Intermediates 5th and Juniors and 1st Years unplaced. Congratulations to all runners who qualified for the Notts. Schools Championships held at Southwell.

I would like to extend my thanks to the regular team members and to all those who took part in the South Notts. Cross Country Championships.

J.P. Wood (6UC)

ATHLETICS

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This season has been one of mixed results. The juniors showed promise, particularly Gee and Oldershaw, and I hope this will develop in future years. The Intermediates were very disappointing, only Prentice in the Triple Jump who came second lived up to his hopes. The most pleasing achievement of the South Notts. Championships was the enthusiasm of the Seniors (something which has been sadly lacking in recent years). They came second overall, Reed came first in both Discus and Javelin, and the all round performance on Track and Field was highly commendable. It is to be hoped that the Seniors can continue in this vein, to set a fine example for the developing athletes in the lower school.

The acquisition of the mini-bus will hopefully mean more chances for competition which will help to develop a strong athletics team.

C.K. RAWDING
School Athletics Captain

NETBALL

In the latter months of 1974 a rather historic event took place in that two girls' netball teams took the field wearing Henry Mellish colours. In spite of the drama of the occasion, our debut against Padstow could hardly be called a roaring success as the first team lost by 12-6 and the second by 5-4. We were somewhat shattered by these inglorious defeats and - horror of horrors! - we also lost the next match against Manning.

However, our spirits were revived by the arrival of our long lost netball posts which had been in transit for the incredible time of four months. This seemed to change our luck, for our next fixture was a home match against William Derbyshire and our opponents wondered what had hit them - Doreen Grant and Charroll Wellington were in sparkling form, as they have been all season, and the scores ended 15-1 and 8-2. All in all, a satisfactory ending to the season. Finally, our thanks to Mrs. Vellido for her encouragement and organisation throughout the season.

Catherine Banas (I^B)

CRICKET

Unfortunately, 1974 was by no means an exceptional season, most of the teams not seeming to fulfil the hopes expected of them. This is especially true of the 1st XI, who won only two of their thirteen fixtures. However, it is hoped that in 1975, they will enjoy great success, especially with the wealth of experience they now have.

The 1st XI's season was one of many ups and downs, and the record mentioned above does not fully justify the performances. The school on several occasions, e.g. against Lincoln, West Bridgford, and Bilborough, were very much on the winning side of a draw. Useful contributions with the bat were provided by Hendry, Cooper and Reed, with the ball, Smith, Thorley, Hart and Reed. The team by no means revolved round a few, with, for example, Wragg fully establishing himself in the first team on several good performances.

The school 2nd XI, under the guidance of Mr. Henry (who has since left us) played their own enigmatic brand of cricket. Led by C. Roper, they enjoyed their cricket immensely, allowing many years to participate.

The under 15 had perhaps the most successful season in the school. They continued to make fine performances, even when losing their key players to the 1st XI.

Enthusiasm was continued in the lower years, overriding the occasional disappointing result. The nets etc. were always well attended, stretching the resources of the staff to the full.

Outside of inter-school cricket, Henry Mellish was always well represented in the county school sides, with J.W. Thorley, M.J. Reed, J.D. Hart and P.J.D. Hendry playing for the County School's XI and N. Flower for the under 15 side.

Particular congratulations go out to P.J.D. Hendry, who was selected to play for England Schools.

As always our thanks go out to all the members of staff concerned with cricket, who so generously gave up their dinner hours. Special thanks to Mr. Hurst, who arranged all fixtures and kit.

J. Hart (6UA)

CRICKET - 2ND XI

Of last year's successes Steve Cotton, who averaged 25, Simon Hunter, another good bat and all-rounder Peter Carlin, are still playing for us. Also from last year's team are Simon Goodyer, who is batting well this season, Martyn Shaw, the wicket-keeper and "Fred" Roper who again captains the side. We have some promising fifth-formers of whom opening bat Christopher Bonham and medium-fast bowler Peter Baker are playing very well. Support bowlers Nicholas Curson, Robert Crosby and John Dandy also look good prospects. Thanks go to Mr. Isherwood for his helpful encouragement.

C. Roper 6UA

HOCKEY

Captain	Phillip Hendry
Vice Captain	Paul Whayman
Secretary:	Nigel Howard

We began the 1974/75 Season with great hopes of success: the team was more or less the same as last Season, and we hoped the experience and understanding we had gained then would prove fruitful.

The first half of the Season proved to be so, beginning with a 9-0 victory over West Bridgford Comprehensive School. This began a series of seven games out of which we won five. One notable feature of this successful run was the goalscoring of Nigel Flower who netted 13 goals.

The Christmas festivities seemed to have some effect on the team which lasted for the whole of the second half of the Season! It was a most indifferent end to a fine beginning, and we won only one out of five matches. The most disappointing matches were those against the Nottingham High School in which we twice narrowly failed to win.

The most rewarding match of the Season was our home game against Peveril. Our 1-0 victory was their first defeat since their formation some years ago.

The end of the Season was rounded off with a most enjoyable match against the Manning Girls School. The game resulted in a 4-0 victory for us, but the opposition played attractive hockey!

Finally our thanks to Mr. Sutherland (with the aid of Subbuteo) for his encouragement and refereeing. And as many of the team are leaving the School this year, we wish Mr. Sutherland and the team all success for the future.

Nigel Howard 6UA

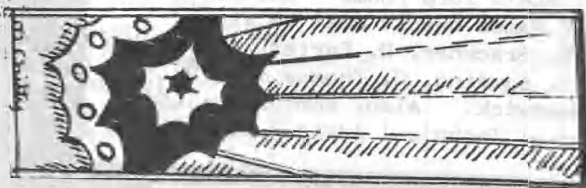
THE HORSEMAN

I saw a horseman
ride over the hill
the moon was clear
the night was still.
His helm was silver
and pale was he
and the horse he
rode was of ivory.

And then he spotted
a maiden fair;
she was jumping
like the springy air
and singing,
just like a maiden fair.

He thought how he
and she would
match together
and forever
they could be
with children three.

Then she and he they met
with love that shimmered like a net.
He took her up by her one gold band
And together they rode far out of the land.

Toni Jackson I^H

THE FLEA

As I bent over it
it curled hard and round.
I scooped up the hedgehog,
the spines were sticking in
my hand.

I laid it back down.
a small, bright orange object
moved on my wrist -
a flea.

I went to pick it up but
it jumped to the other side
of my hand.
I laid my finger on it
And I felt the desirable keen urge
To finish it.

Now, along my hand, a yellow line
- squashed Flea.

S. Farmer (3A)

Tibbel tabbel boil and bat.
Squibbel squabbel a dinner mat.
Old Garton's head
A slice of bread.
Now my spell's begun.

Head of a subingaby
which flies in the sky.
An old red sock from Charroll Wellington
Mixed together with a skellington.

There she blows
and there she goes.
In my pot of spells -
Ha! Ha! Ha! Haar!

Boy's teeth
and Ted Heath.
Will make a delight
with jellynight.

Sir's mustash
will make a splash,
as in my pot it goes
and, of course, his nose.

Out pop Dawn's eyes
and in go some flies
together they will make a broth
that can kill a man and moth.

Tracey Leivers
and Gary Cleaver
standing side by side -
now they're mine.

Cold eyes of Tracey
mixed about Lesley
the rest of old Garton
and an Indian's tartan.

My spell has worked
I'VE WON!
Ei, Ei, Ei, Eiiier!

Nigel Jarvis I^H

THE VOLCANO

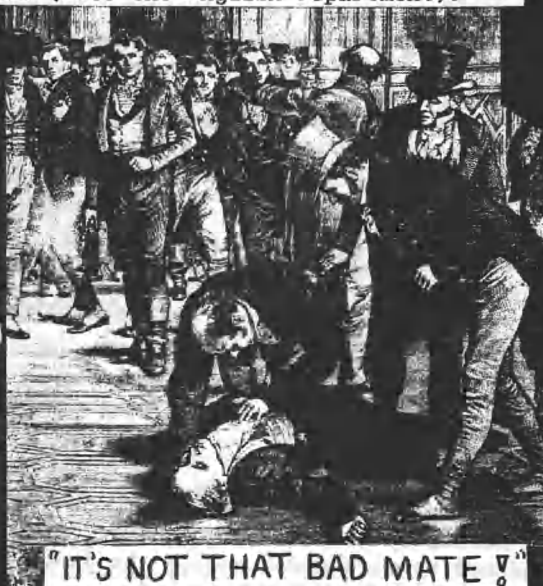
The volcano was angry
He was boiling up with envy
For nobody climbed him
They all climbed rocks and mountains.
Then as if it was the end of the world
he let out his anger -
flaming lava rolled down his side,
the lava scorched the volcano's side.
Everyone ran in terror.

The volcano saw this-
he took a deep breath and
swallowed his anger.
The people came back and the
volcano was content.

Clifford Archer I^B

EVERY COPY CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING....

Possibly the most alarming single development of recent times within the school has been the eruption into prominence, fame and notoriety of a broadsheet entitled "Censored". The aforementioned publication attempts (with a high degree of success) to satirise, plagiarise and generally take the (3p per copy) out of varying aspects of school life and even tries to undermine that which (within this establishment) is noblest, finest and best (i.e. the English Department).

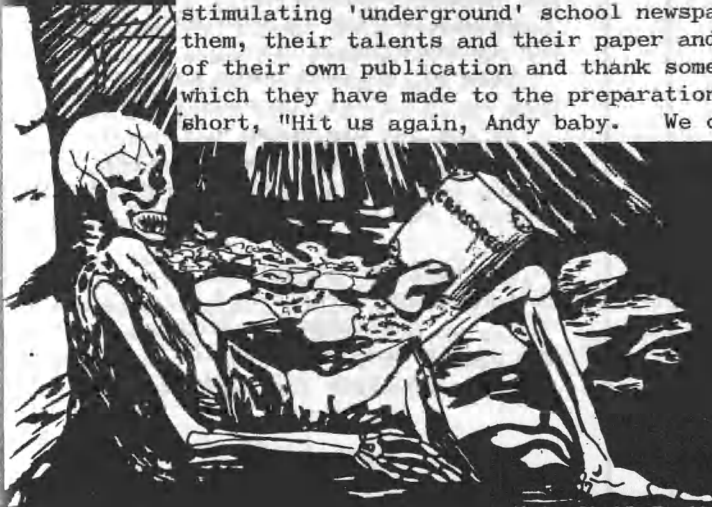


"IT'S NOT THAT BAD MATE !"

The perpetrators of this outrageous onslaught upon the senses, minds and pockets of our pupils are mostly to be found skulking in the vicinity of 'Desolation Alley' or, as it is sometimes known, 6LA's form room. The mouth recoils from uttering, the pen from writing their names but it must be stated that they are probably D. Buchanan, P. Temple, R. Brackner, D. Carter, I. Johnson, N. Crosby, A. Walker, M. Crich, C. Tye, S. Cox, C. Rawding, G. Thomas and (Oh shame!, Oh infamy!) A. ("Cop hold of this one") Swanwick. Also, someone called L. Coronato, who appears to be accorded the status of Technical Advisor on Matters of the Heart.

Together, this team of scandal mongers, back-biters, lampooners and noxious vilifiers have succeeded in immortalising such school personalities as "Ziggy", "Spikey", "Black Belt Bob" and a lank-haired individual whose main attribute, according to the publication, appears to be his endless capacity to iterate "Peace".

Besides all this, of course, they (inspired, we understand, by Miss Hopkins) have also demonstrated just what heights of expertise and artistry can be attained by a group of talented, industrious and good humoured individuals who use only simple and inexpensive materials in order to create a lively and stimulating 'underground' school newspaper. The school is fortunate to have them, their talents and their paper and we congratulate them on the high quality of their own publication and thank some of them for the valuable contributions which they have made to the preparation of this (rather more staid) one. In short, "Hit us again, Andy baby. We can take it (just)".



THE UPPER WORLD

As I approached the upper world
 My mind was a blank
 Grasping for breath
 As I scrambled
 Blindly towards the top.
 The I broke through,
 A Massive world of smoke
 and Buildings.
 A small animal
 against a world
 of Giants -
 The coldness of the world
 Made me shiver,
 As I tried to find
 My way about.
 Then shots were fired at me
 I ran blindly across the
 Narrow pathway
 of this strange world.
 I could not see
 where I was going
 But I could hear shots
 Miles off
 I ran
 and kept on running
 Bumping into blocks of things
 as I ran.
 The hot sun
 Blazing on my fur
 I could feel it burning
 Then I fell in a pool of icy water
 I did not recover
 I felt myself
 Dying, drawing
 in the water.
 The bright lights
 Burned my back
 As I tried to run wildly
 away from the pellet shots
 which fired
 and kept on firing.
 It was too much
 I died a grisly death
 in a pool
 of cold icy water.

Karen Wells I^V

PRIME MINISTER PIG

This is a story about a pig that changed places with a Prime Minister and caused chaos. This pig had a very good reason for doing this. He was about to be killed. His big difficulty was to get away. He escaped by pushing some of the pigs forward to knock a wooden gate over. After he was free he ran for the big main road then, because he had learnt to read, he followed road signs all the way to the Prime Minister's house.

He jumped through a window and made all the people run out. All that day the pig sat in the Prime Minister's chair, telling all farmers not to kill pigs because if they did they would be fined £500.

At the end of the day, the pig let the Prime Minister out of his cupboard and set off home again. On the way he unluckily bumped into his owner and was taken back to the farm and killed for meat. All that he had done was a waste of time. But it was bad luck for the Prime Minister. He got thrown out and was never seen again.

Timothy Billingham (I^V)

PYRAMIDS

They drag the heavy tablets of stone across the desert -
 Pulling, heaving and collapsing in the burning sun.
 Many of them died, but the rest carried on..
 Finally they reached the place, and began to build.

It rose fairly slowly at first, but gradually began to gain height.
 Finally it was finished,
 Standing proud and tall in the desert.

They carried the King's body inside
 And laid it on the table with all the riches.
 The massive stone was pushed into its place
 And his body was lost forever.

David Maxfield
I^G

Following last year's sensational revelations about the private lives of members of staff, the editors of 'Centaur' magazine feel proud and privileged to present the following extracts from -

THE DIARY OF ERNEST POTTERFORTH:



SEPTEMBER.



First day at School!
everyone seems very friendly
and the boys + girls seem
to take part in all the
different kinds of jolly,
exciting games

NOVEMBER.

Parents night. Mum had
a smashing time but didn't
like something that one of
the prefects said about her
legs. Pity, because we all
liked Bennet while he
was with us.




DECEMBER.

Spent Xmas day with the
editor of the school mag.
Seemed to be quite merry.
Despite all my bribes he was
still determined to print
my diary in the mag.



MARCH.

Enjoyed school today (makes a change!). The rev (up) Louis made his final attempt to clear about 20 of us. With cheers of excitement he sped up the yard and flew into the air --- never seen so many ambulances. 

Next term Mr. Louis hopes to challenge Mr. Sutherland and his mini-bus to 20 laps of Kersall Drive.

MAY

Privileged to meet today one of the greatest athletic coaches of modern times. This Italian superstar is world renowned for his superb advice on all subjects from modern poetry to the latest ideas on fitness training. Even gave me a free ice-cream.



JUNE.

Forgot to do my english homework last night. Sir erupted into a rage and put me in detention.

Spent the night sweating away in the punishment compound.

Think I'll do my homework in future.

Photos by courtesy of "Stol" our lurking lensman.

ACTIVITIES

(What you could join and how to set about it)

FIRST YEAR CLUB - (Mr. Sutherland, Mrs. Vellido). Both girls' and boys' sections of the club got off to a very good start this year with large numbers enjoying such activities as Trampolining, Gymnastics (leading to B.A.G.A. awards), Table Tennis, Badminton and Cross-Country. The assistance of older pupils was much appreciated. Girls meet Wednesday lunch times at the Gym (with Rounders and Tennis in the summer). Boys meet Fridays after School. A.V.

HELPING HANDS CLUB - (Mr. Isherwood). During the year, members of the club have made regular visits to old people in the Bulwell area and have collected unwanted newspapers to help raise money for the hospital, as well as helping with the Christmas collection. First years wishing to join the club and any third or fourth years wishing to do community work will be made welcome. F.R.I.

DANCE CLUB - (Mrs. Dauban, Mr. Sutherland). Meets at 1p.m., Friday lunchtimes. Intended for first and second years. Entrance fee 1p. The intention is to combine tuition in Old Time Dancing with enjoyment of short spells of "Pop". All years are welcome if they are prepared to participate and dance with girls. S.A.D.

COMBINED CADET FORCE - (Messrs. Clark, Hadwen, Hutchinson). Cadets are placed in one of the three Service Sections where they undertake training applicable to the Service.

R.N. SECTION - Boatwork, Navigation, Signalling etc. Courses in Gunnery, Submarines, Helicopters

ARMY SECTION - Weapons training, Fieldcraft, Signals etc. Courses on all Army Training.

R.A.F. SECTION - Principles of Flight, Aircraft and Helicopter operating. Flying at R.A.F.

Newton, Gliding Courses at R.A.G. Syerston, Primary Glider.

Common to all Sections are Map Reading, Adventure Training and Flying Scholarships. Uniform and transport to camps and courses are free. A small charge is made for food. E.A.H.

ORCHESTRA - The Orchestra consists of string, brass and woodwind instruments. There are 20 who play in the Easter and Summer Concerts.

JUNIOR BAND - The Junior Band is made up of brass, woodwind and percussion instruments, and numbers 16 players from years I to III. It provides a training ground for children who will transfer to the Senior Band.

BAND - The Band is made up of brass, woodwind and percussion instruments, and numbers 20 players. The practices are held on Tuesdays and the events in which the Band takes part are the Commemoration Service, Carol Service, Easter Concert and Summer Concert.

CHOIR - The Choir is drawn from all sections of the School and has the usual four voices: treble/soprano, 'alto, tenor and bass. There are about 35 members, who practise on Mondays and Thursdays. The Choir sings in the Commemoration Service, in the Carol Service, the Easter Concert and the Summer Concert. Anyone able to sing in tune may join. M.H.C. (Mr. Cobley is in charge of all Music activities).

DRAMA - (Mr. Prescott). The Dramatic Society bursts into wild, noisy and even violent life once or twice each year in order to prepare and present major performances for public audiences. Admission to the Society is by means of auditions (acting tests), the dates and times of which are announced. Competition for places is quite intense and high standards of acting and reliability are demanded. Pupils who are already heavily committed to other school activities (e.g. Choir, Band) are usually advised not to consider trying for membership of the Dramatic Society. M.P.

CHESS CLUB - (Mr. Best). The Chess Club meets in Room 1 on Tuesdays and Fridays at 12.30p.m. If you wish to join this thriving club contact Mr. Best without delay! D.R.B.

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION - (Mr. Best). God is not dead, as some would suggest. Interesting meetings taking various forms, e.g. discussion, visiting speakers, films etc. are held periodically as announced in assembly. D.R.B.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB - (Mr. Carley). The club operates in the last half-term of the School year, after Whit holidays. Boys wishing to play should wear P.E. kit and must join the appropriate group: Mondays - 2nd years, Tuesdays - 4th years, Thursdays - 3rd years, Fridays - 6th years.

WAR GAMES CLUB - (Mr. Hadwen). The School War Games Club meets on Friday evenings in the Junior Biology Laboratory. Newcomers are welcome and should apply to P. Hydes or M. Callicott.

Contact the teacher concerned if you want more information about any of these activities. Further reports on some of these activities appear later in the magazine.



GROUP CAPTAIN DAVIES REVIEWS CADETS AT THE ANNUAL INSPECTION.



TWO MEMBERS OF THE CHESS CLUB ENGAGE IN A DUEL OF SKILLS.



MR. COBLEY CONDUCTING THE BAND.



MEMBERS OF THE DRAMA GROUP PREPARING A SCENE FOR THE DEMONSTRATION EVENING.

* * * * * DRAMA * * * * *

Intense schedules and a lot of hard work have formed the usual pattern of events for the school's Drama Group. Three major activities have been prepared since last September and each was carried out with great power, energy and success. 'Lifestar', the main production of the year, was presented in December and provided a fine demonstration of the group's collective spirit and individual talents. Although the actors were unaware of it at the time, the future direction - and even the existence - of the Dramatic Society was dependent upon the success of this production. In the event, the cast met the challenges ably and, among all the creditable performances of those two winter nights, it was the quality of strength and intelligence so evident in the acting skills of M. Chitty (3A) and T. Smith (3B) which proved most impressive.

Following the accomplishments of 'Lifestar', the members of the group enjoyed a very short rest and then found themselves hard at work in the Spring Term. Their services were demanded in order to provide a Drama section for an evening of demonstrations of school activities. The concept was new but the large, good-humoured audience seemed enthralled by every aspect of the actors' work and all the group responded with confident and powerful presentations. The most forceful performances of the evening were those given by Smith and Chitty, Langham (3A), Ablitt (3A), Allbutt (3A) and Pearson (2B).

Less than two weeks after the demonstration, the Dramatic Society presented its Easter production. 'Place of the Skull' had an even larger cast than 'Lifestar' and a number of new names and talents were added to the Society's ranks. Once more, the boys' efforts were well rewarded and enthusiastically received by their audiences. At times it was hard to believe that many of these young actors had never performed publicly before and that even the most experienced among them had begun their senior acting careers only a year earlier in another Easter play. Every role was played convincingly, the most memorable performances being those of T. Smith (lead), M. Langham, D. Robinson (3B), P. Wragg (3B), A. Ablitt, G. Bowater (3A), P. Pearson, T. Mee (2B), R. Common (2A) and P. Stancliffe (2B). Further credit must go to all the cast for proving that third and second year boys can work hard and well together, even through all the turmoils and tensions of rehearsals.

It has, then, been a most active and rewarding year for the members of the School's Drama Group and I should like to express thanks to the Headmaster, to parents, prefects, technicians and numerous school staff for their support and assistance during recent months.

Also this year, for the first time in the history of the School, the Headmaster made the award of a trophy for services to Drama. The presence of this trophy should provide even more incentive for future drama work in the School. Inevitably, and very deservedly, the first holders of the Highbury Cup for Drama are M. Chitty and T. Smith.

M.P.



COMBINED CASTS OF 'LIFESTAR', 'PLACE OF THE SKULL' AND THE DRAMA DEMONSTRATION.



There is an old Indian proverb which says, "Chess is a sea in which a gnat may drink and an elephant may bathe." This year the Chess Club has suffered from too many gnats and not enough elephants! In order to improve your play it is necessary to record your games and read books on chess, particularly on openings and end-games. The one person who has done so this year is Martin Tuer who has been rewarded with some excellent results. Five school teams have been run this season:- One in the Sunday Times National Tournament, two in the Nottingham Schools' Chess League under-15 Section, one in the under-13 Section of the same League, and a first year team which has played several friendly matches.

MELLISH RECORD FIRST EVER WIN IN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

For the third year in succession the school entered a team in the Sunday Times Chess Tournament. This competition is open to all schools in Great Britain and is organised on an age-handicap basis. Initially the teams are divided into geographical zones and we found ourselves in the Derbyshire, Notts. and Lincs. zone which stretched from Barton-on-Humber in the north to Stamford in the south and from Derby in the west to Skegness in the east. In the first round we were drawn at home against Gladstone Boys' School (Ilkeston) and despite the absence of Geoff Goldberg, (on the trip to Bayonne) the team of George Beesley, Martin Tuer, Howard Teanby, David Henson, Mark Jezioro and Chris Pike played very well to win by $5\frac{1}{2}$ boards to $\frac{1}{2}$. In the second round we travelled to Grantham to play King's Grammar School whose team was much older than ours. This meant that even if we lost 4-2 we would still progress to the third round on handicap. In the event we lost the match by $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ and so went out of the competition by the narrowest possible margin. It is worth noting that King's Grantham went on to the

zone semi-final before being beaten.

UNDER-15's UNBEATEN AT HOME

The under-15 'A' team competed in the first division of the Nottingham Schools' League and remained unbeaten at home but failed to win a match away from home. In the first match Rushcliffe were beaten easily $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ and later Becket were held to a draw but away defeats at the hands of the High School, Arnold and Becket put the team in a position dangerously close to the bottom of the division. In the last match of the season we needed a win over High Pavement to guarantee continued first division status next season. The result was a 3 - 3 draw so the question is still in doubt.

MODERATE SEASON FOR JUNIOR TEAMS

The under-15 'B' team playing in division two of the League managed wins over the 'A' sides from Top Valley and Loreto but were beaten by Mundella 'A' and Bramcote 'B'. The under-13 team under the captaincy of Martin Butler has had only a moderate season, as with the first year team more practice is needed here.

Next year the Chess Club will greatly miss Mr. Oxley who moves to Bishop's Stortford High School to take up the post of Head of History. The under-15 team will well remember his devotion to the intricacies of the Ruy Lopez and the dragon variant of the Sicilian defence in our mutual search for an "ideal" opening for junior players. Perhaps this could be revived in a fixture against Bishop's Stortford next term!

Finally a few quotations, facts and a fantastic problem.

"Pawn endings are to chess what putting is to golf" (Purdy)

"The blunders are all there on the board, waiting to be made" (Tartakower)

"First restrain, next blockade, lastly destroy!" (Nimzowitsch) (good advice to junior players who move out the queen too soon).

"Place a knight at K5; checkmate follows by itself" (Tartakower)

Did you know that

- for more than a thousand years more people have played chess than any other game?





CFC



F



Although not quite up to full Establishment Strength, the Contingent had a good recruiting year from the Fourth Forms with the emphasis this year on Cadets wishing to join the R.N. Section. This influx put this Section well above strength but left the Army Section rather low in numbers.

The July 1974 Camps and Courses were a great success. The Army Section had their usual good weather and excellent training facilities at St. Martin's Plain near Folkestone in Kent. A larger party were the guests of 2nd Field Regiment R.A. at Hemes in Germany. This visit was most instructive and interesting and included visits to the Mohne Dam, Isenholn and Belsen Concentration Camp. The cadets also attended live firing exercises with modern artillery weapons.

The R.A.F. Section Summer Camp was held at R.A.F. Halton where many of the Air Force technical staff are trained. At R.A.F. Halton they have all the facilities for training airmen in the Technical Trades and much of this work was shown to the Cadets.

As over the past few years, the R.N. Section Training is mainly in the form of Courses and some of those attended were:- Rotary Wing Course, Range Firing, Weapons, Communications and Gunnery.

At Easter, Cadet O/S Featherstone was fortunate enough to attend a Joint Services Camp in Malta.

Training throughout the year has been very much based on the classroom as many Thursday afternoons have been too cold or wet to allow outside activities. It is hoped, however, that the last few weeks of the Summer Term will be kinder and will allow outside training to be carried on.

During the Easter holiday, Adventure Training was again held at O.T.A. Otterburn on the Cheviot Hills. The weather was very cold, with night temperatures showing 18° of frost. The days were often bright for periods but heavy snow showers were frequent, making the conditions quite arduous. In spite of the weather and mud all the major exercises were carried out with some credit to those Cadets who took part.

The Annual Inspection, held on 16th May, 1975 was once again blessed with fine weather. The Reviewing Officer was Group Captain W.A.L. Davies, C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C. Commandant of Cadets in Northern England. He was accompanied by Lieutenant G.J.G. Hunt; Staff Officer H.M.S. Cochrane; Captain W.S. Bell (Para) Officer Commanding No. 14 Cadet Training Team and Flight Lieutenant R.M. Wilkins R.A.F., C.C.F. Liaison Officer, H.Q. Air Cadets. The Parade was commanded by Cadet Staff Sergeant N.J. Lodge.

For Annual Training this Summer the Army Section breaks new ground and goes to Pennybridge near Brecon for the first time. The R.A.F. Section return to R.A.F. Brize Norton where they will have their last chance to fly in Transport Aircraft before the effect of the Defence Cuts are felt. The R.N. Section Cadets will again go to 'Courses' at various R.N. Establishments.

Congratulations are due to: Cadet Sergeant M.R. Wilson on the award of an R.A.F. University Cadetship; Cadet Junior Corporal A.D. Long on receiving a Flying Scholarship; Cadet Junior Corporal C.J. Worthington on passing 'A' and 'B' Gliding Certificate - all of the R.A.F. Section. Congratulations also to Cadet R.I. Crosby of the Army Section who has obtained a place at Welbeck College.

Our thanks are due to the Senior N.C.O.'s of all Sections who have given several years' service to the Corps and who have helped train the Junior N.C.O.'s. Cadets who will take over their instruction duties next year. We wish them every success in their future careers and hope the training they have received will help them.

THE MODEL CLUB

**NOW
YOU
KNOW**



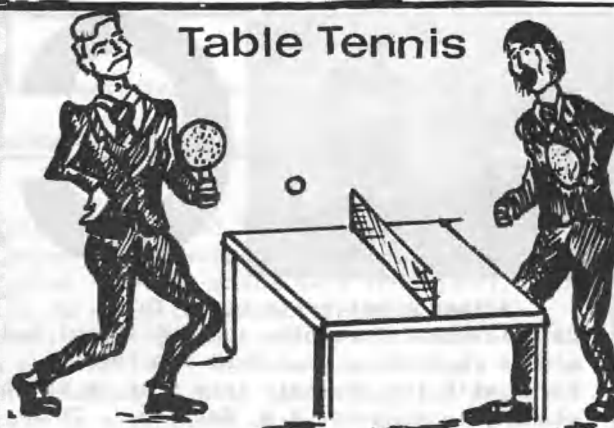
The Henry Mellish Model Club, and its subsection The Henry Mellish Wargames Club, meets on some Friday nights after School until five o'clock in the Junior Biology Laboratory. The Club is open to all pupils in the School to construct their own models from balsawood or plastic kits. The members who fight wargames have had a successful year, having completed over twenty major battles. Also we have held our first meeting outside the School which proved extremely successful. Next term the last two of the original founder members of the Henry Mellish Wargames Club will be leaving the School and handing over to the second generation of wargamers.

The Model Club has continued to exist for several years now, during a time in which most of the other Clubs and Societies in the School have lapsed. Interest among the lower school is now beginning to revive again, as can be seen by such ventures as the Dancing Club and it is to be hoped that some of this enthusiasm will over-flow into the Model Club and that it will continue to flourish. Finally, the members of the Club wish to thank Mr. Hadwen for giving up his time to supervise our gatherings.

M. Bennet (6UA)



Table Tennis



Under the amazing handling of Mr. Carley, that well known connoisseur of all that is connected with the sport, the Table-Tennis Club has thrived; membership is now well over five in the Senior Section. The Junior Section meanwhile has more regular players but they are still striving to reach the heights set by Mr. Carley's 'pets', Paul Grayson, Roger Brackner and that fine, skilful, dashing and debonair player - Myself. These keen, sensible young fellows, though, are subject to continuous ridicule by Roulstone and O'Brien.

With future matches to be arranged by Mr. Carley the Club must be put in the world class reckoning.

Geoffrey C. Thomas.

DANCING

Most Friday dinner times at one o'clock, one can hear the sound of music - ranging from waltzes to the latest hits - echoing down the usually silent corridors. The centre of activity is the hall where Mrs. Dauban and Mr. Sutherland hold the weekly dancing club for the first and second years.

With girls in the school for the first time, the pressure was somewhat increased for a discotheque and so at Christmas, when Mrs. Dauban arrived, a compromise was reached. If we were going to indulge ourselves in today's pop then we would also learn some old-time dancing and this, it was hoped, would bring reluctant boys into dance with the girls!

The club has an entrance fee of 1p and all the proceeds go towards buying new records to get an even bigger range of music.

The newly founded club has had a very successful start and we hope it will continue to flourish in the future.

Catherine Banas (1B)



The School has held a number of eventful concerts throughout the year. The Band played in the Commemoration Service, adding a little variety to the programme and the Choir sang the anthem "From the East unto the West" from Solomon, by Handel.

In December, the Carol Service was held in the parish church at Bulwell, the Band playing and accompanying some carols. The choir sang a number of Christmas pieces which were from different countries and which included one sung in German and one in Latin. A small choir, under the direction of Robert Richardson, sang a carol from Finland. The climax of the service, 'O Come all ye faithful', was accompanied by Band and organ.

The Easter concert exploited the talents of solo instrumentalists, the Junior Band, Choir and Senior Band. The second half of the evening was devoted to the Easter Service

On May 20th, the culmination of the year's music making was displayed in the Summer Concert, held in the School Hall. In the first half of the programme there was music performed by the Choir, Orchestra, Junior Band, a Wind Ensemble, a Clarinet Quartet and a number of varied items. The second half was given by the Senior Band and the Band from Arnold Hill, along with soloists.. The Band went to Arnold Hill School in May and combined with the Band there. Two days after, the combined Bands played in Arnold Market Place as part of the Arnold Music Festival.

Many thanks to Mr. Copley, Mr. Nabarro and Mr. Glazebrook for their work in making the above concerts successful. Our thanks go also to the peripatetic music staff who have given tuition to pupils on various days throughout the week. Besides Mr. Nabarro, who has taught brass, and Mr. Glazebrook, piano, Miss Mace has taught violin and viola, Miss Dover and Miss Linning have taught 'cello and double bass and Mr. Gledhill, woodwind. Fifty four pupils are receiving lessons on musical instruments.

At the end of the year we say farewell to Robert Richardson (flute and piano) who is going to the Trinity College of Music, London. We offer our thanks for his work here and wish him well in the future.

Wayne Straw 5B

Tuck Shop boom

21

The Tuck Shop staff display their wares



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council has now been in existence for well over a year and has matured and progressed as one would have hoped. It has dealt with a wide range of issues which affect school life in this time, all of which it has treated sensibly and discussed rationally. It is pleasing to see the lower school, as well as the upper school, playing an active part. Its final decisions and suggestions have also been very much in a constructive vein and I feel sure they have been a great help to the powers that be.

This latter fact raises an interesting point. Many people have criticised the School Council for apparent futility - this is totally wrong. The Council is in no way a legislative body and was never intended to be so, something that most of the would-be critics do not realise. Rather it is, to be precise, 'a means of testing the climate of opinion in the School'. This, I maintain, it is doing most efficiently.

Finally, I would like to thank all the representatives for their enthusiasm and effort in helping the Council to fulfil its function and, in particular, Martyn Shaw, the Chairman, who has contributed a great deal. I hope the period under the next Chairman will be just as successful.

Paul I. Temple 6LA
(Secretary)



THE RIVER

I look down to a river bed
And looking down I see a head.
I look closer - it's a HE
I look again and see it's ME!

A boat comes down, the water moves -
My face looks as if it's full of grooves.
The boat goes by, the water's still,
Then again my face does fill.

On the river-bed there are things made
of metal:
A bar, a lock, a key, and a Kettle.
As well as those things there are sticks
and stones,
A wheel, a handle and two little bones.

Down by the river you can have lots of
fun-
A round shape in the river I know it's
the sun.
There on the surface a little stick lay -
If my parents would let me I'd sit here
all day!

Colin Wilkinson IG

IT

It ran towards me, its hooves making
no sound,
The purity of its body glistening, glowing
softly.
Its twisted horn, marble against the
hazy, swirling background.

It dipped its head, sympathetically
flashing its warm, scarlet eyes.
I stretched out my hand, touched its
cheek.
The deep silky hair ran through my
fingers.

It bent down gently, mane flashing silver
in the soft moonlight,
It started to slide away into the
blackness.
I opened my mouth to call it back -

My mouth uttered no sound to disturb the
perfect peace.

E. Allbutt 3A

THE MAD PROFESSOR

The mad, evil Professor Sphinx gave
all his relatives and servants a break and
told them to leave the castle and skate
around the glittering frozen moat. He
also stayed out for a while and then quietly
sneaked back into the castle.

There was a cold, misty, evil
atmosphere as black clouds started to
suffocate the turrets of the castle. The
evil professor went slowly down the winding
staircase that led right under the frozen
moat into his laboratory. He then started
the boiler that would work his new
invention. This machine produced a thing
called electricity.

This feeling of a new source of power
made him shudder and laugh. He took off
two leads from the machine and dragged them
slowly up the staircase.

In the kitchen there was a window that
actually came into contact with the ice over
the moat. The Professor grinned as he
plugged the leads into the ice.

He ran down the stairs back to his
laboratory and opened a valve to start the
machine. Four thousand volts went
screaming through the leads and into the
ice which, in a couple of seconds, had
melted.

All that could be seen was a jiggering
of bodies that cluttered the moat. Then
nothing but floating corpses and dead fish,
and from the deep heart of the castle came
the faint laughter of the mad, evil
Professor Sphinx.

S. Akers (3C)



AN ENGLISH SUMMER

An English Summer
Is a Summer like no other.
Where the sunbeams change
Into rain.
Where the winds are cold
And the drains can't hold
And the people can never
Take the strain.
Where the English wander
And soon begin to wonder
If the Summer will ever
Be the same.

G. Schofield 2B

Geography Field Week

The morning of March 17th 1975, saw the apprehensive members of VI Lower Geography, clad in their own concepts of School Uniform, setting out upon their long anticipated journey to the wastes of Dorset, accompanied by Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Bowles. The journey was uneventful, despite Mr. Bowles' efforts to swerve off the road, and we all checked in at the Hotel Belvidere, Weymouth.

The latter establishment turned out to be a pleasant H.Q., equipped with a genial landlady, whose meals were delicious. The bedrooms were large and well-furnished, the beds reasonably comfortable, and the company amiable and talkative (till all hours).

Work was plentiful but most enjoyable. It had warned in the list of rules and restrictions issued beforehand that work would carry on at any time between 9.00a.m. and 9.00p.m. and this was a promise that was strictly adhered to. Notes were made and diagrams drawn during the day, which were later to be copied out in detail.

The first day saw the whole group engaged in a town study of Dorchester (during which time a certain hat became infamous) - hard work which was nevertheless informative and interesting. We were left to ourselves in the town, but as our guardian 'angels' had promised, the Field Trip was not a holiday, but a week of solid work, punctuated by meals and occasionally a few hours sleep.

The second day found us tramping across country involved in a study of Dorsetshire coastal features, including Durdle Door and the Stair Holes. This was followed, naturally enough, by the third day, which meant further detailed studies, this time of Chesil Beach (a large collection of variously-shaped bits of rock), and Portland Bill. Evenings found us busily copying up notes taken during the long, hard day.

However, day four was without doubt the most interesting. Each group of three was to prepare a village study, which meant in some cases roaming about a deserted collection of prehistoric houses, looking for villagers who seemed reluctant to show themselves. Nevertheless the inhabitants who were interviewed were most helpful and friendly and pointed out many local features of interest, pointing a very clear picture of village life here in general.

The week provided a rewarding break from the monotony of school life. Work was tackled in an atmosphere of measurable tyranny, and discipline was of a very high standard. The free time in the evenings was spent in congenial local surroundings studying the Purbeck stone holding up the ceiling of a certain pub in Weymouth, then there was more work to be done, until about 11.00p.m. at night.

The whole Field Course was interesting, varied and a novel experience to all. The fruits of our labours may materialise with future 'A' level results. Finally, it needs to be said that, despite the impression which Messrs. Hutchinson and Bowles strive to put across, the Field Trip is not a thing to be dreaded, and we wish to thank them for the work they, too, put into the whole exercise.

R. Brackner 6LA

ECOLOGY **FIELD** **COURSE**

Early one wet Wednesday morning in March, three budding biologists waited at Nottingham Station, their destination the outer reaches of the National Snowdonia Park. These three keen students were greeted at this well-known labour camp called "Rhyd-y-creau" (what a ridiculous name) with a cup of cold tea and some biscuits.

During the week these poor over-worked students visited Penman Point on the Isle of Anglesey, after which several pupils had to be treated for frost bite. Each evening they were subjected to hours of apparent endless lectures. The final day a block of about twenty students were deposited at Llanrwst, and with the Lecturer they were left to find their way back to the Centre through the vast jungle. Wednesday morning saw the departure of these now qualified ecologists, coupled with tears after the parting of friends.

I think I can honestly say on behalf of myself and my colleagues that this course was beneficial to our educations and during our stay we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

We would like to thank Mr. Key for making the trip possible.

T. Kirk 6LS

GOODBYE

Speech Day---

The Public Speaking Contest was held this year, according to custom, and proved, as always, a great success. Indeed, there were rather more contestants than usual, most of whom are recognised figures in this field. They, and their speeches, were, in order of performance:

K-H. Bloch	"Betjeman"
D.J. Barlow	"You Don't Have to be Mad - But it Certainly Helps!"
R. Abbott	"DI.Y. Film Animation"
R. Gosling	"Tips on Passing your Driving Test"
A. Swanwick	"From Biology, Through Frivolity, To Gaiety"
L. Murray	"Home Brewing"
P. Rushton	"Adult-Adolescent Relationships"
G. Beesley	"The Wonderful, Illustrated, New Revised Who's Who of Teachers"

Perhaps the main difference, however, between this year and the others was the quality of the speeches. All were well-written and certainly far better prepared than those of preceding years. As a result, the interest of the audience was held to a far greater extent. We would like to thank the panel of judges, consisting of Mr. Ellis (Chairman), Miss Hopkins, Mark Bennet and Robert Wragg. They had a very difficult task in deciding a winner but finally A. Swanwick was placed first, closely followed by G. Beesley - a decision which, I think, nearly everyone agreed with.

Final thanks are due to Mr. Prescott who spent considerable effort in arranging everything.

Paul I. Temple 6LA



FROM THE "CENTAUR" STAFF.

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RAF officer

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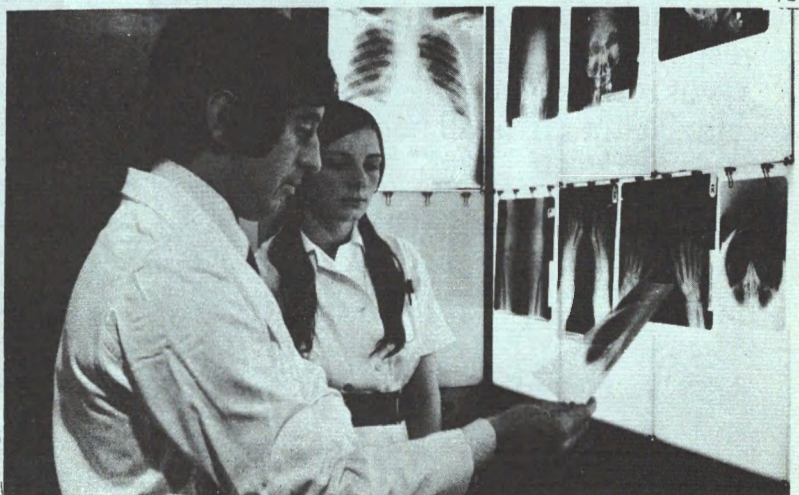
but, if you are interested in **RADIOGRAPHY; MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY; one of the REMEDIAL THERAPIES; or some other Para-Medical Career**, you may very well elect to train or subsequently work on a University Campus. For this is where **Nottingham's Medical School** is situated and where **Phase I of the adjacent University Teaching Hospital** — eventually catering for over 1,400 Patients — is fast approaching completion.

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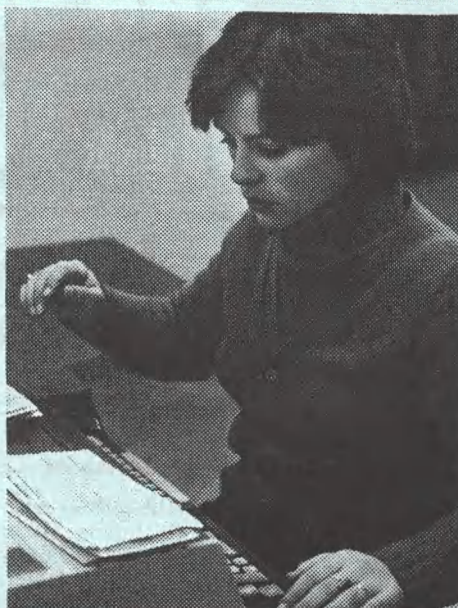
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