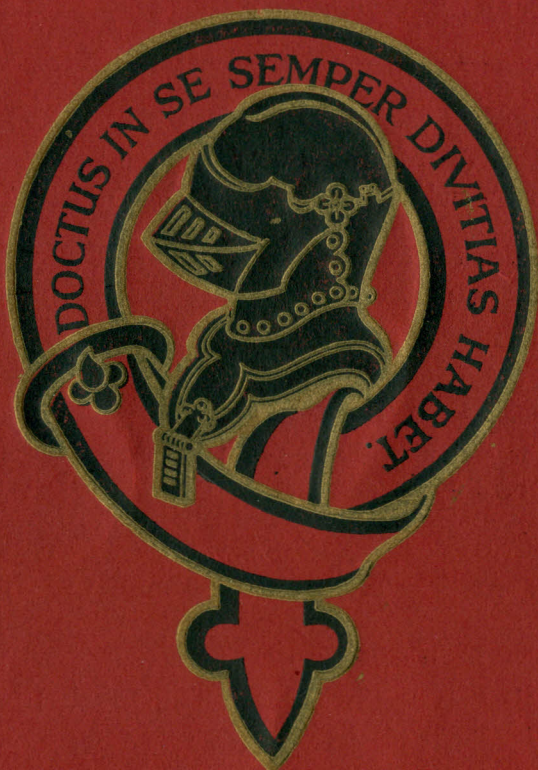


# THE VISOR

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**MAGAZINE OF  
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE**

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CHRISTMAS, 1961.



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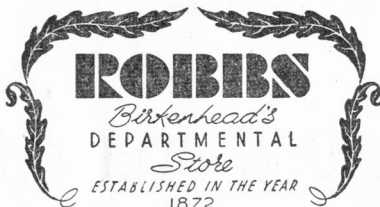
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A. Davies, D. A. Goodwin, J. A. G. Williams, B. Wood, J. S. Fraser, J. R. M. Gurden, M. J. Lanigan,  
J. E. Oxtan, M. Rushton, A. Steedman, K. C. Harding, D. G. Edwards, S. J. Glynn, G. O. Gregory, P. W. Tooley,  
Headmaster, Photo by Cull.





CHRISTMAS 1961.

## THE GOVERNORS

Councillor G. F. DAVIES, J.P.,  
Chairman of the Education Committee  
Chairman of the Governors.

Alderman C. S. McRONALD,  
Deputy Chairman of the Governors.

Alderman J. FURNESS, J.P.  
Alderman H. PLATT, J.P.  
Alderman C. J. YATES.  
Councillor D. A. FLETCHER.  
Councillor Miss B. JACKSON.  
Councillor R. D. JONES, J.P.  
Councillor Miss E. M. KEEGAN.  
Professor K. MUIR, M.A.  
Mr. S. V. GALLARD.  
Mr. G. J. LLEWELLYN.  
Mr. W. J. THOMAS.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR.

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Autumn Term began .....  | September 4th            |
| Half-term .....          | October 23rd, 24th, 25th |
| Occasional holiday ..... | December 1st             |
| Term ends .....          | December 21st            |

1962.

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Spring term begins ..... | January 8th            |
| Speech Day .....         | January 17th           |
| Half-term .....          | February 26th and 27th |
| Spring term ends .....   | April 18th             |
| Summer term begins ..... | May 7th                |

# **SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS.**

---

## **MAGAZINE.**

|           |                 |                      |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Chairman: | President:      | Advertising Manager: |
| Mr. Hall. | The Headmaster. | M. J. Lanigan.       |

## **PREFECTS.**

K. C. Harding (Head Prefect); D. G. Edwards (Vice-Head Prefect); A. Davies; J. S. Fraser; S. J. G. Glynn; D. A. Goodwin; G. O. Gregory; J. R. M. Gurden; C. Hansen; M. J. Lanigan; J. E. Oxtan; M. Rushton; A. Steedman; P. W. Tooley; J. A. G. Williams; B. Wood.

## **HOUSE MASTERS.**

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Atkin               | Stitt             |
| Mr. L. T. Malcolm.  | Mr. D. W. Jones.  |
| Tate                | Westminster       |
| Mr. J. H. Thompson. | Mr. J. D. Hughes. |

## **HOUSE CAPTAINS.**

|                  |                |                   |              |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Atkin            | Stitt          | Tate              | Westminster  |
| J. R. M. Gurden. | G. O. Gregory. | J. A. G. Williams | A. Steedman. |

## **CRICKET CLUB.**

|                    |                |                 |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
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| Mr. L. T. Malcolm. | The Headmaster | Mr. J. D. Hall. |

## **RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB.**

|                 |                   |                 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman:       | President:        | Secretary:      |
| Mr. J. D. Hall. | The Headmaster.   | Mr. J. D. Hall. |
| 1st XV Capt.:   | 2nd XV Capt.:     | Colts XV Capt.  |
| G. Clays.       | G. O. Gregory.    | M. McNulty.     |
|                 | Bantams XV Capt.: |                 |
|                 | A. J. Howarth.    |                 |

### **CHESS CLUB.**

|                    |                 |                |                |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Chairman:          | President:      | Captain:       | Secretary:     |
| Mr. R. H. Squires. | The Headmaster. | G. O. Gregory. | G. O. Gregory. |

### **LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.**

|                |                 |               |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Chairman:      | President:      | Secretary:    |
| D. A. Goodwin. | The Headmaster. | J. S. Fraser. |

### **ART SOCIETY.**

|                     |                 |                 |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chairman:           | President:      | Secretary:      | Treasurer:      |
| Mr. D. S. W. Jones. | The Headmaster. | H. E. Cotgrave. | D. L. Halligan. |

### **CROSS COUNTRY CLUB.**

|                    |                 |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
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| Mr. L. T. Malcolm. | The Headmaster. | Mr. J. D. Hall. |

### **GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.**

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### **GYMNASTICS CLUB.**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chairman:       | President:      |
| Mr. J. D. Hall. | The Headmaster. |

### **JUNIOR LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.**

|              |                 |                |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Chairman:    | President:      | Secretary:     |
| C. S. Lamb.  | The Headmaster. | J. H. Haddow.  |
| A. J. Laing. | Committee:      | P. H. Roberts. |
|              | D. Young.       |                |

### **STAMP CLUB.**

|                 |                 |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Chairman:       | President:      | Secretary:     |
| Mr. Langley.    | The Headmaster. | M. J. Lanigan. |
|                 | Committee:      |                |
| R. M. Fletcher. | G. Newbold.     | E. L. Pye.     |
|                 |                 | G. F. Brown.   |

### **SCHOOL SCOUTS (23rd Birkenhead).**

Scoutmaster: Mr. W. D. Coughtrie.

Assistant Scoutmasters:

|                |             |             |           |              |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| F. Tomlinson.  | R. Brookes. | A. Mathews. | D. Jones. | P. E. Ogden. |
|                |             |             |           |              |
| P. K. Farrell. | M. Shaw.    | D. Thorn.   |           | P. Watson.   |

### **Senior Troop.**

Scoutmaster: Mr. J. Clarke.

Assistant Scoutmaster: D. Potter.

Patrol Leader: D. J. Farrell.



## EDITORIAL.

Doctus in se semper divitias habet

A learned man always has riches in himself.

**I**T is four o'clock on a murky Merseyside afternoon of November 1961, school is over for yet another day, and through the gloom, up or down Whetstone Lane, troop the discharged prisoners with the behaviour appropriate to their ages, from the chattering, quicksilver juniors to the taciturn, heavy-gaited sixth formers. And, as they go, others remain behind to share the extra-curricular life of the School, to attend a lecture or to take part in a debate, to play chess or badminton, to enjoy an art or a gym club, or even to atone in detention for past sins of omission or commission. Yet, even for those who leave at the normal time, work is by no means over for the day — there still remains the full stint of homework to be accomplished. And this perhaps is the hardest part of the day's duties — the *devoir*: the thing that must be done. But, if the homework task is the most difficult and distasteful, it is also the most valuable and the most rewarding. The character is most surely fashioned in the hours in which the devoted student, resisting the allurements of radio and television, gaiety and glamour, pores over his task and refuses to be diverted or distracted until perfection is attained. And then he has done more than ensure a good mark for his exercise: he has defied the urge to pleasure, so increasing his knowledge and strengthening his moral fibre.

It is certain that from earliest times there has always been encouragement for the idler and slacker. The advice of the Roman poet, Horace, "*Carpe diem*" — "enjoy the present hour" — is reinforced by the Italian praise of "sweet idleness" — "*dolce far niente*" — and Herrick's "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may". But to-day, when the temptations of the pupil to neglect his books and his learning are stronger than ever before, the youthful scholar requires advice of a different kind in order that, in Milton's words, he may be encouraged to "scorn delights and live laborious days", to the end that he may become most learned — *doctissimus*. In 1749 the celebrated Earl of Chesterfield wrote to his son, "Idleness is only the refuge of weak minds, and the holiday of fools". **Visor** recommends to its readers the saying of Solmon: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold".

To every member of School who has worked to the best of his ability **Visor** offers sincere congratulations and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and recommends the others to put a decision to work harder in future at the top of their resolutions for 1962.

# **SALVETE.**

Gunn, B. D.; Gunn, S. H.; Corker, K. G.; Edmonds, A. E.; Young, D.;  
Vare, P.; Abbott, S.; Ainslie, I. E.; Andrews, P.; Aldcroft, R. G.;  
Alldis, G. A.; Ashworth, T. L.; Barker, A. J.; Beattie, K. R.; Bradley, C. E.;  
Bullock, R. R.; Chamberlain, K.; Colgan, P. T.; Cook, R. F.; Corlett, D.;  
Cotgrave, A. G.; Cottrell, J. R.; Daniels, H. L.; Danson, G. P.;  
Darlington, C.; Darlington, H.; Faulkner, T. R.; Flint, J. G. E.; Fogarty,  
P. P.; Gallagher, R. H.; Griffiths, A. J.; Hall, P. W.; Halliday, A. B.;  
Halligan, A.; Hawksford, C. K.; Howarth, T. E.; Jackson, D. J.;  
James, E. R.; Johnson, P. A. P.; Jones, L. G. T.; Kelly, J. D.; Knowles,  
D. T.; Leeming, G. R.; Leicester, W. J.; Letheren, P. R.; Lloyd, M. D.;  
MacDonald, E.; Malloy, P.; Mercer, V. W.; Milnes, P. J.; Mitchell, A. T.;  
Pearson, D.; Pratt, K. L. T.; Price, R. S.; Rich, A. J.; Sherlock, J. G.;  
Sindall, K.; Stephenson, A. J.; Taylor, P. F.; Whitehead, P. R.;  
Wielopolski, Z. S.; Williams, J. H.; Williams, K. W.; Williams, M.

# **VALETE.**

## **SUMMER TERM**

Advanced—Anderson, M.; Bonney, M. W.; Boyd, R. V.; Docherty, D.;  
Donahue, M. J.; Doveston, B. W.; Elliott, J. K.; Fisher, P. A.;  
Johnson, W. G.; Lee, C. M.; Leeming, M. R.; Mattingley, J. M.;  
Peters, W. R.; Saunders, V. R.; Shorthill, C. G. C.; Stewart, C. S.;  
Timmons, D. J.

5A—Anson, D. K.; Collins, J. F.; Fleming, R. J.; Hall, A.; McIntyre, A. D.;  
Pye, A. A.; Swindles, J. G. A.; Thomas, D. J.; Wainwright, W.;  
Wise, G. D.; Woodfine, E. T.

5B—Davies, J. H.; Fox, A.; Grey, G. F.; Griffin, D. E.; Heede, J. C.;  
Johnson, B. G.; Laird, P. G.; Little, J. D.; Lythgoe, G.; McCoy, K.;  
McCulloch, M. A.; McIntosh, A.; Mason, M. R.; Mobbs, P.;  
Moorby, I. J.; Proctor, R. W.; Redfern, S.; Sanderson, R.; Storry, A.;  
Walker, J. L.; Waring, M. W.; Webster, R. C.; Williams, T.;  
Williams, W. J.; Woodworth, J. C.; Young, G. G.

4A—McLoughlin, R. H.

4B—Page, J. W.

3B—Hewett, G. J.

## **AUTUMN TERM**

6—Swift, V.; Wade, R.

4B—Burrows, D. M.

## STAFF NOTES.

IN September the Staff welcomed two new comers to their ranks in Mr. J. P. Langley, B.A., and Mr. N. Lingard, B.Sc., form-masters of 2B and 1A respectively. Mr. Langley studied at the University of Liverpool, where he took an Honours degree in Geography as well as the Certificate of Education, and Mr. Lingard gained his Honours degree in Chemistry and a Diploma in Education at the University of Sheffield. We hope that both will be happy at B.I. and will enjoy their classroom teaching as well as the out of school activities in which they are interested. We have also great pleasure in welcoming our new French "Assistant", Monsieur Lemosse, and trust he will enjoy his twelve months' stay among us.

## G.E.C. RESULTS.

### Advanced Level.

Anderson, M. — G.S.; F.  
Bonney, M. W. — P.  
Boyd, R. V. — G.S.; F.  
Docherty, D. — G.S.; E; G.  
Donahue, M. J. — G.S.; M; P; C.  
Doveston, B. W. — B.  
Elliott, J. K. — M; P; C (Distinction).  
Johnson, W. G. — G.S.; E; H; F.  
Lee, C. M. — A; C; B.  
Leeming, M. R. — M; P; C.  
Mattingley, J. M. — G.S.; M; P; C.  
Peters, W. R. — G.S.; E; H; F.  
Saunders, V. R. — G.S.; M; P; C.  
Shorthill, C. G. C. — C.  
Stewart, C. S. — A; C; B.  
Timmons, D. J. — G.S.; E; G; F.

### Key to Advanced Level Results.

G.S.—General Studies; E—English Literature; H—History; G—Geography;  
A—Art; F—French; M—Maths; P—Physics; C—Chemistry; B—Biology.

We particularly congratulate J. K. Elliott on his Distinction in Chemistry and the following six boys on having passed in four subjects — M. J. Donahue, W. G. Johnson, J. M. Mattingley, W. R. Peters, V. R. Saunders, and D. J. Timmons. Peters, the School Captain, deserves special mention for his achievement in view of the fact that he was ill for the six months before the examination and interrupted his stay in hospital to sit the papers.



## Ordinary Level

5A:

Anson, D. K. — E.; H.; G.; F.; P.

Blaylock, S. C. — E.; H.; G.

Branagan, R. E. — E.; H.; G.; M.; P.; C.

Clays, G. W. — H.; A.

Collins, J. F. — E.; G.; F.; P.; B.

Cotgrave, A. G. — H.; A.; P.

Davies, J. R. — E.; L.; H.; G.; La.; F.; M.; C.

Douglas, R. J. — H.; La.; F.; M.; P.; C.

Farrell, D. J. — E.; H.; G.; P.

Fleming, R. J. — E.; L.; H.; A.

Forshaw, D. N. — H.; G.; F.; M.; P.; C.

Fox, J. R. — E.; L.; G.; F.; M.; P.; C.

Hall, A. — A.

Halligan, D. L. — E.; A.; F.; P.; B.

Hillhouse, D. — H.; A.; M.; P.

Jones, A. K. — E.; H.

Kevan, P. W. — L.; H.; F.

Lindop, L. C. — H.; G.; F.; M.; P.

McIntosh, A. — E.; G.

McIntyre, A. D. — E.; L.; G.; F.; M.; P.; W.

Manson, I. — E.; G.; F.; M.; P.; C.

Miller, P. J. — L.; H.; G.; F.; M.; P.; C.

Morris, J. W. — E.; L.; H.; G.; F.; M.; P.; C.; B.

Muddiman, J. — E.; L.; H.; F.; P.; B.

Pritchard, D. R. — E.; G.; F.; M.; P.; C.

Pye, A. A. — G.; M.; P.; W.

Sutton, R. J. — E.; H.; F.

Swindles, J. G. A. — L.; A.; F.; W.

Thomas, D. J. — E.; L.; H.; M.; P.

Wade, R. — G.; F.; M.; P.; W.

Wainwright, F. — A.; F.

Wise, G. J. — H.; G.; La.

Woodfine, E. T. — E.; L.; H.; G.; F.; M.; P.; C.

5B:

Aspey, K. — M.

Chisholm, J.B. — G.; M.

Davies, J. H. — M.; C.

Evans, A. F. — E.; G.; A.; M.; B.

Fox, A. — A.; M.; B.

Griffin, D. E. — A.; M.; P

Heede, J. C. — G.; A.; M.

Johnson, J. T. — E.; A.; F.

Lowthian, A. F. — H.; G.

Lythgoe, G. — G.

McCoy, K. — L.; A.; W.

McCulloch, M. A. — A.

Mason, M. R. — A.

Moorby, I. J. — H.; F.

Oldham, T. J. — H.

Parkinson, D. S. — L.; G.

Redfern, S. — G.; A.

Rigg, C. L. — L.; G.

Sanderson, R. T. — E.; A.

Swift, V. — E.; H.

Walker, J. L. — E.; H.; G.

Waring, M. W. — L.; A.; F.

Webster, R.C. — H.; G.

Williams, G. H. — H.; G.; M.; C.

Williams, T. — G.; A.; M.; P.; C.; W.

Williams, W. J. — G.; A.; M.; P.; C.

Woodworth, J. C. — E.

Young, G. G. — A.

Edwards, D. G — A.

Gurden, J. R. M. — P.

Rushton, M. — A.

Steedman, A. — H.

#### Key to Ordinary Level Results.

E—English Language; L—English Literature; H—History; G—Geography;  
La — Latin; A — Art; F — French; M — Mathematics; P — Physics;  
C—Chemistry; B—Biology; W—Woodwork.

At the ordinary level we congratulate J. Morris on his excellent performance in passing in nine subjects; J. R. Davies and E. T. Woodfine for their passing in eight subjects; and J. R. Fox, A. D. McIntyre, and P. J. Miller, with seven subjects each. In 5B, T. Williams with six subjects, and A. F. Evans and W. J. Williams, with five subjects, all deserve praise for their work.

## *MORSCHACH.*

**M**ORSCHACH, a quiet Alpine village high above the Lake of Lucerne in Northern Switzerland, was the setting for this year's school holiday abroad. A party of 38 boys and 3 masters set out from Liverpool on August 15th and arrived at Basle station in the early hours of Wednesday morning, after crossing the Channel from Folkestone to Boulogne and spending a night in non-sleeping compartments on a French train. After breakfast, the last lap by train to Brunnen and then by coach, and the journey was over. The juniors were installed in the Hotel Betschart with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Phipps, and the seniors soon after in the Hotel Rutliblick with Mr. Malcolm.

Despite travel tiredness, the party were agog to be active; for even the most blasé could not fail to be impressed by the scenery. The view from the Rutliblick across the green waters of the lake below was of the high snow-capped peaks of the Alps, and behind the hotel towered the Frohnalpstock.

Lunch over, exploration began. One of the first discoveries was the cog-wheel railway which ran between Brunnen and Axenstein. This was to be used daily by the party, and the staff soon took them for granted, and the procedure of showing passes was ignored. Brunnen proved a good centre for shopping and for swimming and fishing, and many a morning saw a number of boys dangling lines in the lake and waiting expectantly.

As the days passed by, excursions were undertaken over a wider and wider area. A visit to Lucerne by lake steamer was followed by a ride on the mountain railway from Vitznau to the top of the Rigi, a height of 5,906 ft. The heat from the blazing sun was replaced by an intense chill as the coaches climbed higher and higher, and pullovers were donned as the summit was approached. Just short of it, the party alighted to have lunch at the Hotel Rigi-Kulm before making the attempt on the peak. The view over the surrounding countryside took away any breath that was left, and boys were delighted to see an aeroplane flying below them.

This excursion was followed by one to Stoos, 4,245 ft., which was reached by funicular from Schwyz. After lunch at the Sports Hotel, the party basked in the hot sunshine and then walked to the ski-lift station. Each boy had to be nimble to leap into the chair at the correct instant to be carried upward with a sense of complete isolation to the summit of the Frohnalpstock towering above. There friends were made of the Alpine cattle which rang their bells as they moved from one feeding point to another. Far, far below stretched the Lake of Lucerne, and the world seemed very still.

From the heights to the depths. The next day saw the group underground, exploring the deep caves in the Muotathal valley. Equipped with miners' lamps, the boys inspected the rock formations and caverns, and were struck quite literally by a blast of hot air when they emerged into the open again.

Time was passing all too quickly. Visits to the Rütli meadows, where the leaders of three cantons first agreed to form a union, to Tell's Chapel, where Tell is reputed to have escaped from Gessler, and then ten days were almost over. Morschach, with the friendliness of the hotels' staffs, the table tennis games outside the Betschart, the boom of the church bell, had become a true home from home, and it was with deep regret that the farewells were said.

Next year? Dinant in Belgium.



WE respectfully offer our congratulations to Lord Cohen of Birkenhead on his election as President of the General Medical Council until January 1965. This is another outstanding honour conferred on Lord Cohen, who, for his services to medicine, has earned all the notable distinctions in his profession.

We were also pleased to read in a press account praise of the eminence of Birmingham for the singular foresight and speed with which it is carrying out large-scale planning, not because we are particularly interested in Birmingham, but because this pre-eminence was described as being due to the vision, drive, skill, and organising genius of another Old Instonian, Sir Herbert Manzoni. To Sir Herbert, too, we tender our sincere congratulations.

Earlier this year **Visor** reported that Sergeant T. Seville of the Birkenhead Police Force had been promoted to the rank of Inspector. We are very pleased now to record that Inspector Seville has been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on the completion of twenty-two years' service.

Mr. A. Parry, another Old Boy, is distinguishing himself as a bass baritone soloist with the celebrated D'byley Carte Opera Company. We are pleased to record his success and wish him a long and rewarding career.

**Visor** further congratulates another Old Instonian, Mr. C. S. McDonald, on his elevation from the rank of Councillor to that of Alderman. Alderman McDonald is also Deputy Chairman of the Governors.

The photographic competition, held in connection with the tour of Switzerland during the summer holidays, brought many entries, some of which reached a very high standard. The first prize was awarded to D. Birchall of 5A, and the second prize to I. G. Armstrong of 5A.

As this edition of **Visor** goes to print, we read in our local newspapers of another distinction gained by an Old Instonian. Dr. James Galloway, Medical Officer of Health for Wolverhampton, has been appointed Chairman of the Royal Society of Health, of which another Old Instonian, Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, is President. **Visor** offers sincere congratulations to Dr. Galloway.

## WHY BE SAD?

WHEN the smell of new-mown hay  
Comes drifting in the air,  
Then the songs of the small wild birds  
Will steal your worry and care.

When the purple clover and pink wild rose  
Raise their heads to the sun,  
When the golden corn opens its ears,  
Then you'll have some fun.

When the sun in the morning rises  
And sheds his golden rays,  
And there's nothing but beauty around you,  
You'll be happy surely these days.

K. Williams, 1A.

## SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMONDS.

THE story of the greatest diamond rush of all time began in 1866. Erasmus Jacob, the sixteen year old son of a South African farmer was amusing his brother and sisters with a handful of stones, among which was a glittering white pebble. During the game, a neighbouring farmer, Schalk van Niekerk, arrived and was interested in the white pebble; so Mrs. Jacob gave it to him.

Van Niekerk sold it to a hunter and pedlar, Jack O'Reilly, for a few pounds. O'Reilly was convinced that it was a diamond, and he sent it to a mineralogist in Grahamstown, Dr. Atherstone, for examination. Dr. Atherstone examined the stone and pronounced that it was a twenty-one carat diamond.

The stone, the Eureka Diamond, was bought by the Governor of Cape Colony, and put on show at the Paris Exhibition of 1889.

It was nearly a year before another diamond was found in South Africa, this being thirty miles away from the original find. After this, stray ones were picked up elsewhere. Suddenly the thought that there might be big diamond fields here struck miners and adventurers all over the world, and in 1869 thousands of treasure-seekers came pouring into the country, and by the end of the year 10,000 diggers had staked claims on both sides of the Vaal River, which rumour said was the richest area.



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In the same year another big diamond was found on the banks of the Orange River near where the first had been found. It weighed eighty-three carats, and the finder, a witch doctor, sold it to van Niekerk. Later it became famous as the Star of South Africa.

While the Vaal River miners were digging furiously, a small farmer, van Wijk, discovered a diamond in a wall of his mud house.

Up to this time diggers had mainly found diamonds in river gravel, but the mud of which the walls were made came from a huge area of yellow clay known as du Toit's Pan. As soon as the news of the yellow ground was spread, a frantic search for yellow clay began.

On a neighbouring farm, Vooruitzicht, the owners, the de Beer brothers, carried out digging themselves, but without much success. So they sold their farm of 16,000 acres for £6,000. Later there were two diamond rushes to the de Beer's farm, and it turned out to be one of the richest diamond mining areas of all time.

This area was renamed the Kimberley Mine, after the British Colonial Secretary of the time. As soon as the "diamond pipe" was discovered, claims which had cost ten shillings for a licence soared up to £2,000 or £4,000 each within a few weeks. Everyone worked in a frenzy. Some were lucky and found stones worth thousands of pounds right away. Others found nothing.

Open pit mining became dangerous, because of crumbling ground. So it was agreed to criss-cross the Kimberley mining area with fourteen roads, so that there was a way to every claim. As the miners dug deeper, the roads started to crumble, causing injury and death. After the roads fell in, the diggers were forced to build huge platforms around the edge of the Big Hole, now a quarter of a mile across, and hauled up buckets of yellow soil by means of winches. Soon the ropes to the platforms from the claims made a fantastic web.

At this time many financiers bought out individual diggers, and the future struggle of the big companies for power began to take shape.

Diggers had another big problem; as the Big Hole grew deeper, it flooded. Using hand pumps, diggers strove to keep their claims dry. Soon the water seeped through so fast that they could not cope with it. At this point a man who was later to play a big part in diamond mining introduced a steam driven pump, and rented it to diggers. His name was Cecil Rhodes.

After five years of mining at Kimberley, diggers reached the end of the yellow ground. They thought that they had reached bed-rock when they came to the greenish blue rock beneath it. So many diggers abandoned their claims or tried to sell them. But Dr. Atherstone declared that diamonds came from the middle of the earth, and, because they were found in yellow ground, they would probably be found in blue ground too. A few miners believed Dr. Atherstone, and began to break up the harder blue ground. One of them found a diamond, and soon the diggers rushed back again. In the next twenty years £50,000,000 worth of diamonds came out of this hole in the ground.

It was found that if left to weather the hard blue ground soon broke up to become yellow ground.

In the new excitement of finding blue ground, a new problem appeared. Great chunks of "reef", useless rock, around the diamond deposits began to slide into the Big Hole. The deeper the miners went, the quicker the rushing and dangerous land-slides of reef filled up the Big Hole.

This problem was solved for a time by a mining engineer, Edward Jones, who sank shafts by the side of the hole, and then tunnelled horizontally to reach the diamonds. Later many shafts fell in, miners were killed, and machinery was smashed, and eventually in 1914 work stopped altogether.

Today the Big Hole is about a mile around the edge, the depth is a quarter of a mile, and water has seeped in to a depth of 700 feet. About 25 million tons of ground were dug out of it to find about three tons of diamonds.

Nowadays most diamonds in South Africa are mined from deposits at mines around Kimberley especially Dutoitspan, which have been worked since about 1870.

The Cullinan Diamond, mined in 1905 at the Premier Mine near Pretoria, is the largest stone ever found in the world to date, the original weighing 3.024 carats before cutting. The biggest pieces after cutting now form part of the Crown Jewels, the largest piece being in the Royal Sceptre.

An area of alluvial diamonds exists for several hundreds of miles along the West Coast of South Africa on either side of the mouth of the Orange River, and is one of the most deserted, yet heavily guarded parts of the world. The South African Government have a digging area on the South side of the river, and the de Beers Organisation on the other.

All the mines in South Africa are now the property of De Beers Consolidated Mines or the South African Government. The De Beers Co. was founded in 1870 by Cecil John Rhodes.

Rhodes came to Africa in 1870 because of ill health. He made a fortune by digging diamonds himself, and buying up other people's claims, and finally gathering all the diamond mines into one big business which he controlled himself. In 1902 Rhodes died, and the company was taken over by Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, who carried on the great Rhodes tradition until 1957, when he in turn died. He was succeeded as Chairman by his son Harry Oppenheimer, M.P.

In 1957 large diamond fields were discovered in Siberia, and the Russian Government was persuaded by Mr. Oppenheimer, M.P., of the advantage to be gained by marketing their products through the De Beer's Organisation, on the original lines laid down by Rhodes. So that De Beers today has an almost complete monopoly of the diamond distribution throughout the world, the balance being distributed by well-organised smugglers.

A. GREGORY, 4A.

## MEETING WITH ROBERT GRAVES.

**R**OBERT GRAVES, the newly elected Professor of Poetry at Oxford University, is one of the most notable of living poets. As well as writing his fine lyrical poems, Graves has published translations, such as his noted one of the Greek Myths, an autobiography, **Goodbye to All That**, and historical novels such as **I, Claudius**. It was with these thoughts in mind that I visited him with my wife on August 26th of this year, at his home in Deya, Majorca. In 1927 he withdrew to this remote village surrounded by olive groves and orange plantations, because he was disillusioned with English society.

Deya is situated on the road from Soller, Majorca, to Valldemosa, where Chopin and Georges Sand lived. The village, containing 350 inhabitants, owned one main street overshadowed by a rugged mountain terraced with olive plantations. Half way up, the mountain trees grew thickly, although, as one looked higher, they seemed to despair of growing, and, gradually becoming sparser, they died out altogether at the top. The dusty and narrow, grey pavement of the village was not starved of sun, and contrasted vividly with the bright yellow houses and their green shutters. Opening their shutters, the villagers could see down over the precipice, which cut off their road from the luxuriant valley, leading to the blue Mediterranean about 4 miles away.

Speaking in French, I was directed by a bright-eyed Spanish boy to the poet's home. I learned that since Graves was the first foreigner to settle in the village, he had earned himself the title of Don Roberto. Five minutes later, I pushed open Don Roberto's gate, feeling apprehensive: poetic genius has often displayed temperament at being disturbed by strangers. His house, set back from the high road, was shuttered and silent in the afternoon heat. Only the crickets with their insistent chirping emphasised our effrontery. I thought he might be taking his siesta, and yet I called out, "Hello! Anyone there?"

A tall man of about sixty-five came out wearing a faded blue tea shirt and a pair of old grey shorts. He was about six feet two in height and looked as though he weighed over thirteen stone. Although unshaven and tousle-haired, there was nobility in his bearing. Because of his aquiline nose and upright walk I thought he resembled the image I cherished as a boy of the Roman centurion. He invited us in for a cup of tea which we took without milk or sugar, since he had neither in his house, and found most refreshing.

He spoke with a slight stammer, and I realised this was the result of a wartime accident. As he was a captain in the First World War at the age of 20 he had to take important messages by 'phone, and, on one occasion, a 'phone had blown up in his face. He told us he was now going to see a show, which puzzled us; for how could a show take place in this remote spot? This was clarified soon: we were asked to accompany him to his children's den where they were putting on an act for him.

We followed him over the sandy road to a four feet high wall which he vaulted without difficulty. Now we slanted across a vast field in which grew figs and olives. Eventually, after climbing over stones down an abrupt slope, we reached a cave. This, Graves told us, had been used by shepherds thousands of years ago, and was rich in their remains. In this historic dwelling his children seemed entirely unconcerned and entertained us with laughter and sweets. Candles lent an atmosphere of England to the sweltering place.





Following the poet out into the sunshine, we were told details of Robert Graves's life. He had married twice, and was the father of eight children. One of his grandchildren was eighteen. He showed pride in his achievements as a father, seeming to have great affection for children.

After meeting the poet's attractive wife, we were shown over his land. He told us of his recent visit to Greece where he found difficulty in speaking the language in spite of his familiarity with written Greek. I asked him why the Majorcan valleys were terraced. To this he replied that this arrangement prevented soil erosion, a farming hazard on the island. I inquired whether the islanders were losing their customs, and he reflected, in a curiously brittle way, that they were all becoming either 'bus drivers or waiters for tourists.

Our visit was drawing to a close, and Graves commented upon my wife's wedding ring. I showed the poet a gold ring I had found in the sea at Puerto Soller when bathing. This he examined, and suggested its value. I was interested in his general knowledge; for he now lectured us on the quality of gold used in the making of olympic and military medals. Earlier he had expatiated upon Irish surnames.

We bade him goodbye, after shaking hands, and left with a warm impression of this extraordinary man, as he stood sandalled and smiling on the bare grass. He had not once condescended, leaving us with the feeling that we had been welcome and that he had retained a sense of humour and a genuine interest in people.

T. J. WALSH.

| ATKIN  | STITT   | TATE  | W'MINSTER   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| HOUSE NOTES  |   |   |   |

### ATKIN

ATKIN'S performance this term has not given as much cause for despondency as in recent years, and it is to be hoped that this means that the House is going to enjoy more success in the near future than it has of late.

The junior rugby team was captained very capably by Corfe, and, although it only won one match, it showed a vast improvement on last year's performance. In the match against Stitt, Atkin won by 44 points to nil. The team lost to Tate by 15 points to nil, in spite of some very good play by Parry, and to Westminster, largely because it was under the false impression that Caplin was super-human.

The only senior match played so far was against Stitt, and, although it was lost by 5 points to 3, it was extremely close and exciting, and a draw would have been a fairer result. The final score was due to Hill's excellent kicking, which frequently extricated the team from an awkward situation. Had Jones, the captain, been available to play, the result would almost certainly have been in Atkin's favour.

It is to be hoped that, with the chess matches and two senior rugby matches still to be played, Atkin will maintain the present improved form and eventually regain its former high standard.

J. GURDEN.

### STITT

THE year began badly for Stitt, and at first it seemed as though we were going to relinquish the distinction of rivalling Westminster for the Coronation Cup, and assume instead the more arduous task of competing with Atkin for the dubious honour of being the bottom house. The junior rugby team lost all its matches, mainly because of a lack of cohesion in their playing. It was unfortunate that the first occasion on which they did manage to play as a team was during their last match and, incidentally, against the strongest opposition — Westminster. Since then, however, a

ray of hope has appeared in the House's prospects. The Seniors have in some measure, redeemed the House by means of convincing wins over Atkin in rugby (5pts. — 3pts.) and chess ( $5\frac{1}{2}$  —  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ). It is now to be hoped that, for the remainder of the academic year, the Juniors will strive to emulate the high standard which, I trust, will be set for them in all the remaining events by the Seniors.

G.O.G.

### TATE

UNFORTUNATELY Tate does not appear to have become any stronger this year, although the rugger matches have been played in an enthusiastic manner. These provided for the House two convincing wins against Atkin and Stitt by the junior House team, captained by Howarth of 3A. In these matches the packs were far superior to those of the opposition, and this enabled the ball to be passed quickly to the backs who then made good use of their opportunities and frequently scored. However, before the Atkin and Stitt matches were played, Tate had lost heavily to Westminster, the eventual winners of the junior rugby, who fielded a stronger and superior side.

So far this term only one senior House rugger match has been played. This was against Westminster. Despite hard playing by both the forwards and the backs we lost 11-0. The House can be justly proud of this result, as it is one of the lowest scores that Westminster has been held to for many years.

There is a shortage of good chess players in the senior half of Tate. In the only inter-House match played this term, again against Westminster, the House lost by six games to one. Our winner was A. Davies of the Upper Sixth Science, playing board number one, who played a most exciting game. The weakness of Tate in senior chess should provide a challenge to the junior boys of the House. Here they have an opportunity, especially the boys who are not remarkably good at sporting activities, to help the House. They can do this by practising regularly at their chess and thus provide a selection of good players for the junior chess matches to be played next term.

### WESTMINSTER

I WILL open by welcoming to the House the new first form members, and I hope that during their stay in School they will help the House to the best of their ability.

At the end of last term Westminster, for the fourth year running, was champion house, and there is no reason to believe that this state of affairs will change over the next year.

The only activity this term has been the rugby football competition. The juniors ran up high scores in all their games, beating Tate 33-0, Atkin 26-8, and Stitt 21-0. The whole team played well in all three games, with Laing, Caplin, Aspinall, and Roberts outstanding at times.



At the time of writing this article the senior team has played one game, which it won 11-0. This was against Tate, who may be the hardest team the side will come up against. The remaining two games against Atkin and Stitt will not be easy to win, but I think the House can look forward to them with a great deal of optimism.

It is hoped that the House will keep up a sustained effort over the year, and if they do then the destiny of the Coronation Cup is assured.

A. STEEDMAN.

## *FIRST XI CRICKET.*

THE 1961 cricket season proved to be a successful one and doubtless will appear to have been a vintage period when viewed in retrospect after the passage of a few years.

After losing to Wirral Grammar School by 28 runs in the first game, the team defeated Quarry Bank High School by 121 runs, Oldershaw Grammar School by 53 runs, Wirral Grammar School by 7 wickets in a return match, Helsby Grammar School by 86 runs, Rock Ferry High School by 82 runs, Wallasey Technical Grammar School by 3 wickets, Park High School by 7 wickets, Chester City Grammar School by 56 runs, Alsop High School by 93 runs, Caldy Grammar School by 8 wickets, and St. Anselm's College by 28 runs.

The right perspective was given to the picture when the team were defeated in the matches played during the last week of term when they lost to an Old Instonian XI by 8 runs and to a Staff XI by 108 runs.

Cricket Colours were awarded to W. G. Johnson and G. Wise.

For their excellent services to the team over a number of years, special presentations were made to D. Docherty and A. McIntosh, Docherty receiving a pair of Old Instonian cuff links and McIntosh an Old Instonian tie-pin.

## *FIRST XV.*

AS was expected, a new, inexperienced 1st XV has taken many weeks to settled down, and victories have been difficult to win. The forwards settled reasonably quickly and have given most teams a hard game, but the backs have been uncertain and hesitant, with the result that many tries have been scored against their inadequate defence. However, team spirit has been most encouraging, and all players have shown a willingness to learn, and training sessions have been very well attended. The team played particularly well against West Park, who won by 19 pts. to nil, and the following week they really excelled in defeating Holywell Grammar School by 42 pts. to nil. In this game the score was 8-0 at half-time, and in the second half we were all treated to a fine exhibition of handling and passing. I hope the experience of the early season will help all the players to gain confidence, so that they can look forward to a successful second half. Results to date:—

|                            |      |      |
|----------------------------|------|------|
| Helsby .....               | Lost | 3—9  |
| Calday Grange G.S. ....    | Lost | 5—21 |
| Wirral G.S. ....           | Lost | 0—13 |
| Grove Park G.S. ....       | Lost | 3—11 |
| St. Edward's College ..... | Lost | 8—26 |
| Wallasey Tech. G.S. ....   | Won  | 11—0 |
| Park High School .....     | Lost | 6—13 |
| Oldershaw G.S. ....        | Lost | 8—13 |
| West Park G.S. ....        | Lost | 0—19 |
| Holywell G.S. ....         | Won  | 42—0 |

## COLTS XV.

**M**CNULTY was made captain of the Colts XV at the beginning of the season, and, on paper, the team appeared to have as good a prospect of success as any in the School. However, this success has not materialised, the team having lost six matches and won only two. The reasons for this failure lie in absentees necessitating constant team changes, in too many players shirking tackles and the duty of dropping on the ball, and in weakness in every aspect of forward play. Although the team has individuals of ability, they do not blend well together, and lack the will to fight back against adversity. The team must become eager to learn new skills and to develop a genuine enthusiasm for the game.

Scorers: Tries—McNulty (4), Hinds (4), Brown (2), Pye, Ritchie. Oldham, Howarth, Foulkes; Conversions—McNulty (4); Penalty—McNulty.

## 2ND YEAR XV.

**T**HE team has not had a particularly successful season as far as winning games is concerned. The season began with an enjoyable match against Calday which was lost, although the Calday line was crossed. Woodchurch S.S. defeated us twice, although, in the return game at Woodchurch, B.I. showed more purpose, and came near to scoring on several occasions. Against Park High the 'A' team lost, although playing reasonably well, and the 'B' team drew, playing attractive, open rugby.

Against Grange, at home, the team played its best game, winning by 6 points to 3. The forwards fought well, displaying more determination than in any previous game.

Individual players of outstanding merit have been McKay, the captain, Laing, Beettley, Harper, Diamond, Birss, and Loy.

If more determination and toughness are displayed in the remainder of the season, the team should remedy the poor start. The main thing is that we continue to enjoy our rugby, maintain enthusiasm, and keep up the happy team spirit.

T.J.W.

## CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

THERE have been three matches run so far this term, that against Park High School having been lost by 38 points to 40 points, that against Oldershaw Grammar School won by 49 points to 31 points, and that against Wirral Grammar School won by 57 points to 25 points.

v. Park High School: 1 Fraser, 2 P.H., 3 P.H., 4 Graham, 5 Gurden, 6 P.H., 7 P.H., 8 Aspey, 9 P.H., 10 Edbrooke, 11 P.H., 12 Gray, 13 Tooley, 14 Brown, 15 P.H., 16 P.H.

v. Oldershaw Grammar School: 1 Fraser, 2 O., 3 Graham, 4 Gurden, 5 Tooley, 6 O., 7 O., 8 Gray, 9 O., 10 Edbrooke, 11 Parry, 12 O., 13 O., 14 O., 15 O., 16 Morris.

v. Wirral Grammar School: 1 Fraser, 2 Graham, 3 Gurden, 4 W., 5 Edbrooke, 6 Aspey, 7 W., 8 Tooley, 9 W., 10 Gray, 11 W., 12 W., 13 Parry, 14 W., 15 W., 16 W.

## LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

THE Literary and Debating Society has had a successful term so far. meetings having been held on October 16th and 28th, and November 9th. At the first debate, the motion, "This House Believes in the Retention of the Bomb", was carried by 5 votes, and the motion before the House at the second meeting, "This House believes in the Abolition of the Monarchy", was also carried, by 6 votes. An amusing and interesting Balloon Debate, in which the characters of Napoleon, Von Braun, Picasso, Ena Sharples, and Acker Bilk were defended, was held with considerable success.

We have been fortunate in obtaining the use of Beechcroft Hall as our meeting-place, although the School Hall was used on one occasion. Attendances have been exceptionally good, averaging about fifty persons per meeting, and some very fine speeches were made from the floor. However, there has been a certain reluctance to speak from this, the greater part of the House, and we must remind members that the success of a debate depends, above all, on the contributions from the floor. Although points raised, at some meeting, aroused members to violent repartee, the debates never wavered from the control of the Chairman, Mr. Goodwin, and his gavel.

Our thanks to those supporting the society, as main speakers, Lanigan, Blaylock, Jones, Williams, Farrel, Hansen, Gregory, Kevan, Wood, Tooley and Steedman, and also to all those individuals who assisted from the floor of the House. All meetings, this term, have been supported by a Staff attendance—sincere thanks to those masters concerned.

A programme of interesting debates is being prepared for next term, and it is hoped that many boys, Fifth and Sixth formers especially, will attend.

J. S. FRASER.

## THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY.

THIS term saw the start of the Junior Debating Society, supported by Mr. Shaw and Mr. Langley. At the inaugural meeting a committee was formed, under the chairmanship of Stanley Lamb, and the first debate, "This House believes that space travel should be stopped", proved very successful.

The Society has gone from strength to strength, and a number of its members are becoming skilled debaters. A recent motion, "Pop music is to be preferred to classical", drew out the very best from the speakers, and, rather surprisingly, the motion was defeated (much to the amazement of Mr. Shaw).

Another surprise was the decision that soccer should replace rugby as this School's chief sport.

Although the society is in a very healthy state, new members are very welcome, and, if you like a good argument, or have strong views on any particular subject, this is definitely the society for you.

D. YOUNG, 3B.

## CHESS.

WITH only Gregory, Pye, and Burrows, surviving as playing members from last year's team, of whom Burrows left School after the first match, extensive experiments have had to be made this term in team-building, and a match-winning combination has not yet been secured. The four Wright Shield Matches so far played have been lost to undoubtedly superior opponents, but in some cases the mistakes which lost us individual games which should have been won were almost beyond belief. It must be realised that over-eagerness in pressing home an advantage in attack can prove just as fatal as lack of concentration in defence.

There has been more interest shown in the Middle and Upper School this term than last year, but activity has generally been restricted to dinner-hour play, and attendance at sessions held after School, except by the younger juniors, has been poor. Although it is realized that this is in a large measure due to the counter attraction of other out-of-school activities whose number grows apace, all serious chess players who may be called upon to play for School or House should take every possible opportunity of practice.

There have been fewer new recruits than usual from the First Forms, and further players would be welcome as well as boys who wish to learn the game. It must be realized that future School teams will be formed from them, and the Junior House Matches which will take place next term may give some an early opportunity of playing in representative matches.

The first round of the Senior House Matches has so far been played, and has resulted in easy wins for Stitt and Westminster against Atkin and Tate respectively. It would appear that the Senior championship lies between these two Houses, and the over-all result will depend on the Junior matches next term.

## ART SOCIETY.

THIS term the Art Society has not yet held any evening meetings, but the dinner-hour sessions are often too well attended, with the result that the Art Room floor sometimes has more powder paint on it than the masterpieces. The next project to be carried out by the society will be a large frieze of a dockland scene.

D.S.W.J.

## THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

FOUR meetings of the Geographical Society have taken place on Tuesdays this term, two of which were held in the physics laboratory and the remainder in the geography room. In all cases, in order to increase the interest of the audience and to clarify their subject, the speakers used coloured slides.

The first meeting took place a few weeks before the half-term holiday. Mr. Taylor has often said that if he were to be the only speaker the Society would appear to be more like a lesson, and so a number of the boys who took part in the School Trip to Switzerland agreed to show the photographs they had taken. They each described one of the excursions on Lake Lucerne, up the famous Rigi or the Frohnalpstock, and on a result of these descriptions and the colourful illustration everyone obtained a clear picture of what that district must be like. Perhaps the fact that this meeting was so interesting and successful may induce other boys to contribute in the future.

Later in October Mr. Taylor gave an account of a journey he had made to Yugoslavia, and after describing Tito's attitude towards Russian influence he showed a series of pictures of Zara, Sibenik, which is a submarine base, Split, and Dubrovnik, a medieval city where no motorised transport is allowed.

Mr. Langley provided the subject of the third meeting, which was Spain. A summary of Spain's recent history was first given, and then the speaker recalled a trip he had taken in Spain while he was at the University. Starting at the resort of San Sebastian, he made his way through Burgos, Madrid, and Valencia to Barcelona.

Lastly, on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 21st, some forms had the privilege of listening to Miss Jarett, of Australia House, giving a talk on Australia. It must be admitted that, although the speaker gave a fine picture of that continent as a whole, many boys were disappointed because the speaker did not describe a few points of interest, such as the Snowy Mountain Scheme, in more detail. However, it was obvious from the numerous questions put to the speaker after the slides had been shown that the listeners were sufficiently interested.

It appears evident that the members of the Geographical Society are keen because of their continual attendance; it can only be wished that equal interest will be maintained next term.

P. W. TOOLEY.

## SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY ON PLASTICS.

THE fourth, fifth and sixth forms had the privilege of hearing Professor Bawn when he visited the School in November, and gave us an excellent lecture, with demonstrations, on Plastics. This exciting topic, which is normally part of the undergraduates' course, was admirably explained, enabling, I feel sure, everyone present to understand the basic principles involved.

We learned how the Plastics industry has grown, in the post-war years, to such an extent that all of us make use of its products. These include such substances as nylon, orlon, acrilan, terylene, polythene, and P.V.C.; examples of which Professor Bawn brought with him.

The Professor explained, and then demonstrated, how a plastic results from the joining-up in a chain-like fashion of thousands of separate molecules into one giant or 'macro' molecule. This joining is effected merely by choosing the correct catalyst or 'accelerator'. We learned of the analogy between natural rubbers and a coiled spring; and also the use of X-rays in showing that only stretched rubbers and fibres have the beginning of ordered shapes normally associated with crystals.

Professor Bawn demonstrated how synthetic fibres such as nylon are made from solutions and extruded into fine threads. These are then stretched to give tensile strength, enabling them to be woven into products which both supplement and replace the natural fibres:— wool, cotton, and silk. New creations themselves create new problems, however; and with the plastics industry new methods of colouring and dyeing have had to be developed. We learned also how the production of foam rubber makes use of carbon dioxide, a principle not unlike the one used in the rising of bread.

To Professor Bawn, our thanks for coming to talk to us; and we should like to see more of these visits. Not only do these link the School laboratory with the material world outside; but they also strengthen the ties between secondary and tertiary education.

N.L., Chemistry Department.

## SCOUT NOTES.

THE highlight of the Scouting Year is, of course, Summer Camp, and this year we spent a fortnight, along with the 63rd Troop and Seniors, at Slaidburn in Yorkshire, near the Trough of Bowland. We had a very enjoyable time, although the weather during the second week almost spoiled our Camp. One day it rained solidly for eleven hours, and our Scoutmasters said it was the worst rain they had experienced in all their years of camping. However, we survived and two days later we welcomed no less than ninety-eight visitors from Birkenhead. As usual, Mr. Tomlinson was kept extremely busy with our large brown teapots. Towards the end of Camp we had a day out, and travelled by coach to Bowness-on-Windermere, via Wigglesworth, Long Preston, Settle, Kirby Lonsdale, and Kendal. We stopped for lunch at Kirby Lonsdale, and, in spite of the rain which persisted all day, we had a good time.



At the beginning of this term we welcomed a number of new recruits, one of them being Andrew Halliday whose father, Mr. Bryce Halliday, is an Old Scout of the 23rd.

We were all very sorry to hear of Patrol Leader Peter Farrell's road accident in September, and of his long stay in hospital. It is encouraging to know that he is making steady progress, and we look forward to his return to Troop Meetings as soon as he is well again.

In October the Troop had a successful Halloween Party, and we hope to hold our Parents' Evening in January.

Since September the Seniors of the 23rd and 63rd have had joint Meetings, and have all recently gained the Ambulance Badge after attending a course run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

The motto of the Rover Scouts is "SERVICE", and our three Rovers have certainly put this into practice by the help they have given over the past few weeks to the Woodchurch Senior Scouts who were without a leader. Two of our Rovers have also attended a Scouters' Training Course at Overchurch.

It is a pleasant task to end our notes by extending our congratulations and best wishes to Assistant Scoutmaster David A. Jones whose engagement to Miss Jill Fenton was recently announced.

M. R. CLARKE.

## ***THE STAMP CLUB.***

**T**HIS term has seen the advent of yet another society in the B.I. — the Stamp Club. It has been formed, not only to provide facilities for the exchange of stamps, but to give those interested a deeper insight into this most interesting hobby. Many boys know little about such subjects as perforations, watermarks, and slight variations which may distinguish two otherwise similar specimens, and it is the object of the society to introduce the members to this side of their hobby.

The first meeting was held on Tuesday, November 7th with the assistance of Mr. Langley. At this meeting a Committee was elected as follows, Pye, Brown, Fletcher, and Newbold. Since that date Newbold of 4A has spoken about the correct way of collecting stamps, and on November 24th the meeting was given over to exchanging stamps between members.

An interesting programme of meetings is being arranged for the future, including a Stamp Quiz on December 12th and exhibitions of their collections by various members of the society. After Christmas the programme includes, besides special talks on subjects such as 'Stamp Forgery', and 'British Stamps' and 'Indonesian Stamps' by serious members, short talks and exhibitions by the junior forms.

We welcome the interest of all members of the School in our society whether they possess a 'penny black' or Q.E. II 3d. deep purple as the basis of their collection.

M.J.L.

# **THE OLD INSTONIANS ASSOCIATION.**

## **President :**

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## **Golf Secretary :**

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## **Committee :**

Messrs. A. BUSHELL, R. D. DORRITY, J. FISHER, A. H. JACKSON,  
D. S. W. JONES, J. E. JORDAN, B. RILEY, P. ROBINSON.

**T**HE Old Instonians' Association moved to its new headquarters at 40 Argyle Street on 24th November, when the Club was opened by an Honorary Life Member, W. L. Cottier, Esq., C.B.E.

In welcoming some sixty members, the Chairman, Mr. L. T. Malcolm, praised the work of his committee and mentioned in particular the efforts of Messrs. R. D. Dorrity, J. Bell, D. S. W. Jones, B. Riley, A. Bushell and C. Thompson who, together with Mr. R. H. Jackson, had been principally responsible for the preparation of the new premises. He urged the members to support the Club both by making full use of its facilities themselves and also by introducing other Old Instonians to the Association and its activities.

Mr. Cottier prefaced his formal opening of the Club with an interesting and entertaining address in which he expressed his appreciation at being invited to a function which he saw as a turning point in the history of an Association for which he held a high regard. He was pleased to note that Mr. E. G. Webb, President of the Association and Headmaster of Birkenhead Institute, had been able to attend; and he felt that the link between the Old Boys and the School which his presence represented was a good augury for the future.

The accommodation at Argyle Street comprises a comfortable lounge-bar, a games room, a well-furnished committee room and a ladies' room, all decorated in a pleasing, tasteful style. Currently the Club will be open to members on Sundays (12 - 2 p.m. and 8 - 10-45 p.m.), Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays (7-10 - 10-45 p.m.) and Saturdays (4 - 10-45 p.m.).

There is no doubt that, centrally situated and with convenient parking facilities, the new headquarters are extremely attractive and the Association may look forward to a flourishing and prosperous future.

On the last day of the summer term, Mr. Stuart Huntriss, an Old Instonian who once played rugby for Birkenhead Park and Cheshire, went to the School to represent the Association at the breaking-up service and to present the Old Boys' Sports Prizes to A. McIntosh of Stitt, B. W. Doveston of Tate, and D. Docherty of Westminster. A Prize was not awarded to Atkin House.

\* \* \* \*

Wreaths were laid on the two war memorials in the School on Remembrance Day.

\* \* \* \*

The trustees of the fund, six Old Boys, have awarded the War Memorial Prize for 1960-61 to A. McIntosh.

\* \* \* \*

We regret to record the deaths of two of our members: Mr. J. Abbott, who left the School in 1930, and Mr. D. Boggie, who left in 1934.

\* \* \* \*

As Christmas is approaching, we would take this opportunity of reminding members of the large range of Old Instonian goods which can be obtained from Messrs. Bibby and Perkin, Grange Road, Birkenhead. This includes the Association tie (black with open gold visors in diagonal lines, in a new and much improved material, for which an Association membership card must be produced), scarves, tie pins, cuff links, tankards and car badges.

## OLD INSTONIANS A.F.C.

(Members of Liverpool Old Boys' League.)

I, II, and IV Divisions.

**Grounds:** 'Woodslee', Spital Road, Bromborough.

Arrowe Park, Birkenhead.

**Chairman:** A. SAGAR, Esq., 'The Chalet', Manor Road, Irby, Wirral.

**Secretary:** A. CLAYS, Esq., 29 Alfred Road, Birkenhead.

**Treasurer:** P. J. LYTGOE, Esq., 33 St. George's Avenue, Birkenhead.

**Team Secretary:** B. BALL, Esq., 5 Beaumaris Drive, Thingwall, Wirral.

**T**HE commencement of the 1961-62 season has been a most promising one. Both the 1st and 2nd teams are top of their respective divisions, whilst the 3rd team is lying half way.

The records of the teams so far are:—

## DIVISION I.

### 1st Team.

|      |                       |    |     |
|------|-----------------------|----|-----|
| Sep. | 9th—Old Holts         | A. | 5-3 |
|      | 23rd—Old Wallaseyans  | A. | 8-3 |
|      | 30th—Collegiate O.B.  | H. | 4-1 |
| Oct. | 7th—University        | A. | 2-1 |
|      | 14th—Old Bootleians   | H. | 4-1 |
|      | 21st—Quarry Bank O.B. | H. | 4-0 |
|      | 28th—S. T. Old Holts  | H. | 3-1 |
| Nov. | 11th—Essemmay O.B.    | H. | 3-3 |

| P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 7  | 6  | 1  | 0  | 30 | 12 | 13   |

## DIVISION II.

### 2nd Team.

|      |                        |    |     |
|------|------------------------|----|-----|
| Sep. | 2nd—Old Wallaseyans    | A. | 9-2 |
|      | 9th—Old Swan T.C.      | H. | 4-2 |
|      | 16th—Waterloo O.B.     | H. | 1-1 |
|      | 23rd—Waterloo O.B. (F) | A. | 5-0 |
| Oct. | 14th—University        | A. | 3-3 |
|      | 21st—Alsop H.S.O.B.    | H. | 3-2 |
|      | 28th—Waterloo O.B.     | A. | 3-2 |
| Nov. | 4th—St. Mary's C.O.B.  | H. | 3-3 |
|      | 11th—Old Swan T.C.     | A. | 2-0 |

| P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 8  | 5  | 3  | 0  | 28 | 15 | 13   |

## DIVISION IV.

### 3rd Team.

|      |                        |    |     |
|------|------------------------|----|-----|
| Sep. | 16th—Old Xaverians     | A. | 4-4 |
|      | 30th—Prescot G.S.O.B.  | A. | 0-3 |
| Oct. | 7th—N.P.R.L.           | H. | 3-3 |
|      | 14th—Collegiate        | H. | 8-3 |
|      | 28th—St. Mary's C.O.B. | H. | 2-6 |
| Nov. | 4th—Old Wallaseyans    | A. | 7-3 |
|      | 11th—Liobians (F)      | H. | 2-3 |

| P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 6  | 2  | 2  | 2  | 24 | 22 | 6    |

With a membership of over fifty, the Club is growing in strength after the very successful season we had last year. It is pleasing to note the younger players doing so well: Roy Povall, leading goal scorer for the 3rd team with nine goals. Paul Lomax, well established in the 1st team, Alan O'Connor, Geoff. Greaves, George Wise, playing well in the 2nd team, the last being leading scorer with nine goals to his credit.

The 1st team went forward to the 2nd round of the Senior Trophy at the expense of Old Holts, whom they defeated 3-1 after being a goal down early in the game.

Social activities off the field of play are expected to increase with the opening of the new headquarters of the Old Instonians' Association in Argyle Street.

At the Annual General Meeting both Roy Dorrity and Jack Kernaghan were elected Honorary Life Members for their great efforts which have resulted in the Club's present happy position. Although Roy no longer plays for us because of injury, he is still an active member in the running of the Club, and Jack is playing very well as captain of the 2nd team.

We are happy to see Frank Taylor playing so regularly although still doing his National Service.

Finally, I send the Club's best wishes to the Headmaster, Staff, and boys, for a very happy Christmas.

A. CLAYS.

## *OLD INSTONIANS R.U.F.C.*

THE members of the Rugby Club are very pleased with the close ties that exist between them and the School and, in particular, with the efforts and standard of the boys who have played for the Club. Four boys, Clays, Cotgrave, Lindop, and A. K. Jones, have played for the second team, and, as it is hoped to field a fourth team this season, I should be glad if any boy interested in playing would forward his name and address to me — via one of the masters who have been so helpful to us.

This year five members of the Club were selected for the Junior Clubs' Cheshire Trial Team versus Birkenhead Park, and I note that in the Birkenhead Park team were two old boys of the School and that the full back was A. Steedman.

As some of you know, we have acquired a field on Woodchurch Road near Swan Hill, and the contractor is in the process of levelling and draining the ground at a cost of over £1,000. The results will, however, merit this outlay; for we shall have two first-class pitches and a pavilion which will be one of the best in the area. The building is scheduled for completion by June 1962, and, as the club will have to expand to match up to such a "home", I do ask that as many boys as possible ensure that they become associate members of the Rugby Club before they leave School — it is quite free and provides a link with the School and old friends.

R. HARRIS.

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