THE LINK

CORONATION SOUVENIR

WE SERVE

WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

JULY 1953

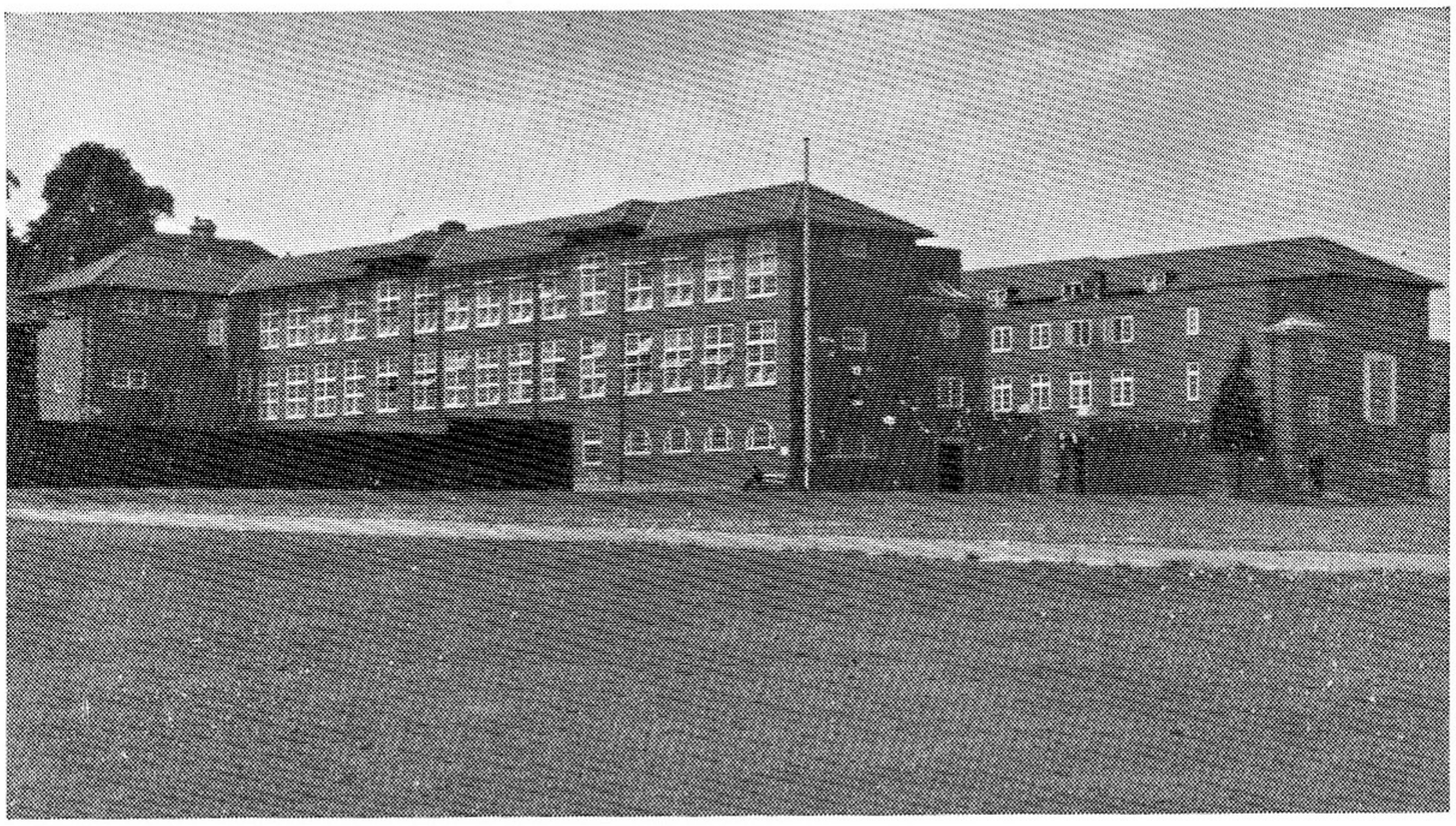


HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

THE LINK

THE MAGAZINE OF WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

VOL. XXXVIII JULY, 1953 No. 2



HEADMASTER'S NOTES

This special number of the School Magazine is in great part a Coronation gift from the Borough of Wandsworth. We thought it would be appropriate to have something lasting and tangible that a good Wandsworthian would wish to keep among the souvenirs of his schooldays, and particularly as a token and reminder of the great and memorable public events of this Summer Term 1953.

The date of the Coronation made it possible to add the three days' holiday given to the schools in celebration to the Whitsun week that we had already decided to have as a half-term holiday.

Coronation year coincides with the 21st birthday of the Parents' Association. The School will be interested to know that the Parents' Council are considering some suitable gift to the School to mark the double occasion. Following upon their magnificent Jubilee gift, the Proscenium in which we all take such pride and delight, this renewed generosity of the organised parental body is really most laudable and encouraging. The occasion of a 21st birthday reminds us that Wandsworth School Parents' Association can look back upon what must be almost a unique record of service to the School in every aspect of its life and activities.

The Ponsonby Handwriting Trophy is retained by the School for a second year. Although we did not win either first or second individual place, our team collectively ran out easy winners. The whole team, and especially Baker and Clowes who came third and fourth respectively, are to be congratulated upon their success.

Another gratifying success for the School is the winning of the Marchant Cup for a second successive year against keen competition from other fives-playing schools. We owe this to Harvey, Salway and Bitmead.

Elsewhere in "The Link" there is an account of the award to Dr. Basil Weedon of the Meldola Medal for outstanding work in chemical research. We are immensely proud of this great triumph.

Congratulations to Dr. Tint upon achieving that title. I often wonder whether parents and boys are really aware of the number of quite distinguished scholars we now have on the staff.

I note with approval and for the record the formation of new School society this term—a branch of the S.C.M. (Students' Christian Movement) with D. R. Morrison as chairman and T. R. Wright as secretary. These two and other prefects have planned and carried through some admirable Wednesday morning assemblies this term, an innovation not without precedent in recent years, but, I hope, from now on to become a regular weekly practice.

It is good to know that Donald Maclean has been accepted at Brasenose College, Oxford, for next term. He will be joined at Oxford by two of our present prefects, Morrison and York. In addition, sixth-formers to an unprecedented number are going to various other universities next term.

We held our annual Eisteddfod events at the end of last term, and so too late for a comment in the last Link. What was especially pleasing, in addition to the quality of the presentations, was the presence on each of the three nights of packed audiences of enthusiastic and appreciative parents and friends.

Maurice Henry, who left "Little Firs" in 1944 to study at the Royal Academy of Music, has sent me a copy of "Collected Poems of 1951-52," which contains two of his own pieces, one of which he tells me was broadcast in Palestine when he was on the staff of the Forces Broadcasting Service in Jerusalem. He makes a hobby of writing poetry and stories, and has had several poems published in America. We hear so little of the literary work of Old Wandsworthians that perhaps some of you will be encouraged by Henry's example to give your leisure to such creative and rewarding work. Many distinguished writers started in their school magazines. Won't a few more of the present school generation make such a start?

We should all like to congratulate Gosden upon being awarded an L.C.C. Modern Language Scholarship for three months' travel and study in Austria.

On behalf of the School, I should like to thank the Rotary Club of Wandsworth for planning and delivering a series of Careers Talks last term and for furnishing the Brains Trust on Careers for the Parents' Meeting. Further, in co-operation with other Rotary Clubs in the area for arranging a most striking and successful Careers Exhibition at Battersea Town Hall for the benefit of the schools.

Honourable mention to Form IIIA Speech Choir for taking part this term in a Speech and Drama Demonstration by pupils of schools in this part of London.

Shocking weather caused two postponements of Sports Day this term. In spite of having plans so disconcerted, the staff carried out arrangements at the third attempt with the customary efficiency and despatch.

A very commendable record of recent athletic achievements is given elsewhere. Under Davison's efficient captaincy, the School athletic teams have had their most successful season for many years. Perhaps the School Relay Team may be singled out for special commendation.

The Staff and School have heard with great pride and pleasure of the knighthood conferred as a Coronation Honour upon Alderman J. W. Bowen, late Chairman of the L.C.C. and for a great many years now a Governor of the School. Sir John, to adopt his new style, has a knowledge and experience of public affairs that enables him to make a most valuable contribution to the deliberations of the Governing Body. He combines wisdom, efficiency and modesty in a manner that makes him an admirable administrator and colleague.

Another good friend of Wandsworth School, Mr. Hugh Linstead, M.P. for the Putney Division, has also received a knighthood. We offer him our congratulations upon this well merited honour.

STAFF.

Headmaster—H. Raymond King, D.C.M., M.M., C. de G., M.A. (Cantab).

Deputy Headmaster—R. W. Fenn, B.A. (Hons.)

J. Ascher, B.A. (Hons.)
Off. d'Acad.
H. Aubrey, B.A. (Hons.)
J. E. Austin, B. A. (Hons.)
E. E. Bacchus, B. A. (Hons.)
T. G. Benyon, M.A. (Cantab.)
A. Burnett-Rae, B.A. (Hons.)
B. P. Clode,
B.Sc. (Hons.), A.K.C.
K. B. Coate-Bond.
S. Cowan, B.A. (Hons.)
A. P. Culverwell, A.F.C.
G. Elms, B.Sc. (Hons.)
G. M. Evans, B.A. (Hons.)
L. A. Fenn, M.Sc.
W. H. George, B.A. (Hons.)
G. R. Gibson, B.Sc.
A. Haggard, B.A.
H. C. Hall, M.Coll.H.
(City & Guild Certs.)
A. Hodgkinson, A.R.C.A.
J. Keyte, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.)
A. F. Lewinnek.
R. Levy.
A. M. Lincé, B.A. (Hons.)
A. L. Martin, B.Sc. (Hons.)
H. Medinger, D.Sc.
D. B. Mercer, B.Sc. (Hons.)
V. M. Nicholls, M.A. (Cantab.)
W. E. Payne, M.A. (Cantab.)
J. D. Solomon, M.A., Ph.D.
H. Tint, Ph.D.
L. Catto, *Secretary.*

PREFECTS.

Head Prefect—W. M. Stanley.

Second Prefect—M. J. Kelly. *Third Prefect*—D. J. White.

Prefects—A. A. Bennett, J. W. Bloss, C. B. Gosden, G. L. Harvey, D. R. Morrison, M. A. Phelps, R. Richardson, J. J. W. Scott, S. F. F. Weber, T. R. Wright, A. G. York.

Sub Prefects—J. R. Barucki, D. T. Glayzer, B. A. Holder, A. K. G, Salmon, J. S. J. Wharton.

EDITORIAL It has been my privilege to be the first pupil Editor of "The Link" for some years. I believe it was the custom at one time, before I entered the School, for a boy to be the Editor, but the practice lapsed. Unfortunately, I shall be leaving school this term, so this is my last magazine.

When I was in the Junior School I often used to imagine myself as an editor. Twice I even tried my hand at journalism, but these attempts were doomed to failure. I have enjoyed this brief experience, but to anyone who would like to succeed me may I say that with this magazine, at least, it is not so easy as it may seem. Time after time appeals have been made for more contributions. Old Boys have responded very well, but I am afraid the School response is less satisfactory.

This issue is a special edition; firstly, because it commemorates the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and also because, structurally at any rate, the School is about to experience great changes. I regret to say that with the price of printing so high, a magazine of this quality cannot be regularly produced.

It is hoped that the format of the previous issue was generally appreciated. Every effort is being made to make "The Link" better each time.

Finally, let me say that some more literary articles, *good ones*, are required, and if you have any ideas which you think may help to improve our magazine, why not tell us about them.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS

We are pleased to record that the following have gained University entrance, and we congratulate them on their success :—

Bennett, A. A.—Imperial College of Science.

Harvey, G. L.—London School of Economics (and was offered University College, London).

Kelly, M. J.—Imperial College of Science.

Maclean, D.—Oxford, Brasenose.

Morrison, D. R.—Oxford, Wadham.

Richardson, K.—London, University College.

Scott, J. J. W.—London, King's College.

White, D. J.—Imperial College of Science.

Wright, T. R.—London, King's College (and was offered University College, Cardiff).

York, A. G.—Oxford, St. Catherine's Society.

MELDOLA MEDAL 1952

The Meldola Medal is the gift of the Society of Maccabaeans and is awarded each year to the chemist who, being a British subject and less than thirty years of age on December 31st in that year, is considered to have shown the greatest promise as indicated in his or her published work. On the recommendation of the Council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, two candidates have been adjudged equal, and therefore two medals have been awarded for 1952 to T. L. Cottrell and Dr. B. C. L. Weedon, respectively.

Dr. Weedon was educated at Wandsworth School and the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and after graduating in 1942 worked at the Imperial College on the reactions of acetylinic alcohols. He later joined Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Dyestuffs Division), and spent two years in the research laboratories at Blackley. In 1947 he was appointed to his present position as lecturer in organic chemistry at the Imperial College, and with Sir Ian Heilbron (until the latter relinquished his chair), and then independently he worked on compounds of the vitamin A type. He is also associated with Professor R. P. Linstead in developing anodic reactions of preparative value in organic chemistry.

We are delighted to reproduce the above extracts from the April issue of *Nature*, and we gratefully acknowledge the permission of the publishers, Messrs. Macmillan & Co. Ltd., to print.

AVETE ATQUE VALETE Boys left since the last issue of "The Link."—Anderson, P. G., Annand, K. S., Baylis, M. A., Collins, J., Forbes, E. F., French, G. N., Gardner, B. J., Gatward, A. F., Gyves, M. G., Jeffery, B. G., Oliver, R., Salway, B. W., Tyson, S. J. J., Wotherspoon, C. S.

New boys since last issue of "The Link."—Leicester, P. H., Porter, R. T., Reisman-Arzi, A.

THE CROWN JEWELS The most wonderful collection of treasure outside of Aladdin's Cave must surely be the English Crown Jewels.

If it had not been for Charles I, England may have had even more jewels than she has. Charles I was always in need of money, and to get it he played havoc with the Crown Jewels. To begin with he helped himself to £600,000 worth of the Crown Jewels so that he could make a good impression in the Spanish Court when he went to woo the Infanta of Spain. His wooing was such a failure that when he became king he waged war

with Spain. As he did this against the wish of Parliament, he had to finance the expeditions himself, so once more he went to the Royal Treasury. This time he pawned most of it to Holland, and there are no records that it was ever redeemed.

The records show us that the gold and silver work does not date further back than the Restoration. But fortunately a few of the most famous gems have been left to us from antiquity

Now let us have a look at the history of some of these priceless gems : first, the Black Prince's ruby.

This jewel has belonged to the English Royal House since 1367 but was in existence long before. When we first heard of it the gem belonged to the King of Granada, but was so coveted by the cruel and unscrupulous Don Pedro that he murdered the owner for its possession. In 1367 the Black Prince led his army against Spain, on behalf of Don Pedro, and he won the battle. Don Pedro was so moved to gratitude over the victory that he gave the ruby to the Black Prince.

The Black Prince left the ruby to his son who became Richard II. When Henry Bolingbroke usurped the throne from Richard II he also usurped the ruby.

It was the custom in those days for the kings to lead their armies into battle wearing their jewels, so Henry V wore the ruby in his helmet. During the conflict, Henry V was challenged to a single combat, and once when he was struck his helmet fell to the ground. When it was recovered the ruby was found to have a chip where it had been struck by a sword.

About a hundred years later the ruby went into battle again, in the crown of Richard III who was defeated. During the struggle his crown fell into a hawthorn bush where it was found by the king's enemies who, surrounded by the dead and wounded, crowned Henry Tudor King of England on the battlefield.

The next adventure of the ruby was inglorious. It was sold to an unknown person for *£4*!

During a 'rough-house' between Colonel Blood and the guards of the Tower, the Black Prince's ruby fell from the Crown of Charles II, wherein it had been set, and a thief named Parret rescued it and hid it in his pocket, where it was found when he was captured.

The ruby is the size of a hen's egg, and is set in the front cross on the circlet of the Imperial State Crown. In this crown are also the Edward Confessor and Stuart saphires, a Star of Africa and four pearl earrings said to have belonged to Queen Elizabeth I.

Now we come to the two world-famous diamonds—the Koh-i-noor and the Cullinan. The Cullinan was found near Pretoria in 1905 and it weighed 3,025 carats. It was cut into the four large brilliants known as the Stars of Africa, the second largest being set just below the Black Prince's ruby in the Imperial State Crown. The stone was presented to Edward VII by the Government of South Africa.

When the stone was found the base was perfectly smooth and flat as if cut by a knife, which proved that it was only part of a larger stone. It is thought that the other part was accidentally crushed during mining operations as it was never found. The diamond was cut by an Amsterdam firm. The largest brilliant is drop shaped, and is about two and a quarter inches in length and one and three quarter inches as its broadest part. It is beautifully set in the head of the Queen's Sceptre. The second largest, Star of Africa is almost round in shape and is two inches by one and three-quarters. The two others, the smaller Stars of Africa, are set in the Queen's Crown. The larger, which is almost square, is in the front of the circlet and just below the setting of the Koh-i-noor.

The Koh-i-noor came from India; its name means Mountain of Light. It was called this because it was cut into a peak that caught the light in a way that recalled the snow-clad peaks of the Himalaya Mountains.

This famous diamond had a tragic history before it became one of the Crown Jewels of England. It was found in the mines of Golconda and was the property of the King of Golconda, but it was cunningly taken from him by Shah Jehan, Emperor of Delhi, in 1650. The Shah then ordered a Venetian named Ortensio Borzio to cut the diamond. When it was finished the Shah said that it was cut badly, and poor Borzio was bullied and fined £1,000. Thus the Shah had the diamond for nothing and made £1,000 into the bargain!

The Koh-i-noor remained in Delhi unti 1739 when it fell by right of conquest to Nadir Shah, King of Persia; but it was obtained in a strange way. When he conquered Delhi, he annexed the royal jewels expecting the famous diamond to be among them. When he found that it was missing he ordered a frantic search, which proved futile until one of the ladies of Delhi declared that it was in her lord's turban which he wore night and day. The Nadir Shah invited the Emperor of Delhi to a banquet, and then proposed an exchange of turbans, which in the East is a sign of high courtesy no one will refuse, least of all a defeated monarch dining with his victor. Thus the diamond became the proud possession of the Nadir Shah.

When Nadir Shah was assassinated in 1747, one of his body-guards stole the diamond and fled to Afghanistan. From the body-guard it passed to his son who passed it on to Shah Shuya, King of Afghanistan. Shah Shuya was dethroned and fled to Lahore, taking with him the famous diamond. He sought refuge with the Maharajah Runjeet Singh at the price of the diamond. In 1849 the British defeated the Maharajah and the diamond fell by right of conquest to them; but still another strange adventure took place.

Five British officers controlled the Punjab, and failing to come to any agreement over the Koh-i-noor, asked Sir John Lawrence to take charge of it. Being a busy man, Sir John wrapped the diamond in some paper, put it in his pocket and forgot all about it. Some weeks later the officers decided at a meeting to present it to Queen Victoria. As soon as this meeting closed, Sir John rushed home and asked his servant saying: "What have you done with that piece of glass?" The servant said: "I placed it in your despatch case, and here it is." And there it was, in spite of it having lain in an open case in an open house for SIX WEEKS! The diamond was sent home to Queen Victoria, and it was cut into a brilliant and made into a brooch and was worn by Queen Victoria. But after her reign it was, and still is, fitted to the crowns of the Queens.

The Koh-i-noor is reputed to bring bad luck to any man who wears it; that is why it is only worn by our Queens and not by our Kings.

The Crown Jewels are kept in the Tower of London. But in spite of this, after a daring raid that robbed Dublin of the St. Patrick Jewels, King Edward VII called to his aid some engineering and scientific geniuses who designed a steel and glass case that reveals the splendour of the Jewels to all who wish to see them, but which still has a secret and sinister power which NO burglar dare challenge.

G. WRENCH.

THE REGALIA The Regalia, or Crown Jewels of England, date almost entirely from the reign of Charles II; the only exceptions to this are the Spoon used for annointing, the Ampulla or eagle-shaped vessel which holds the oil, the Black Prince's ruby, and Edward the Confessor's sapphire. After Charles I was executed in 1649, the Regalia was broken up and melted down for the value of the jewels and gold, hence few pieces date before Charles II. King Alfred's Crown was sold for £248/10/0, and the Imperial Crown for £1,110, but most of the ancient Regalia were sold for trifling sums. These acts of vandalism had a definite effect on the failing of the revolution.

Apart from the articles previously mentioned, all crowns and sceptres were made about 1660, and the names given to the Regalia parts do not mean that a monarch of that name actually used them. There are two crowns made at a later date—the Imperial State Crown (1838) and the Imperial Crown of India (1910).

The Regalia consists of the Sword of Mercy and the jewelled Sword of state; the Crowns, the Orb, the Spurs, the Ring and the Sceptres, and finally the Ampulla, Spoon and Armills. St. Edward's crown is the one actually used at the Coronation and never again in a Sovereign's reign because of its weight—which exceeds five pounds. The Imperial State Crown is the one usually worn by the Sovereign; it contains, among other jewels, the earrings of Queen Elizabeth I and the Black Prince's Ruby. The Sword of State is used at the opening of Parliament; the Sword of Mercy is the one of the three borne before the Sovereign at the Coronation. The others are the Swords of Spiritual and of Temporal Justice. It is the jewelled Sword of State that is laid upon the altar at the Coronation.

The Orb symbolises the World, the Cross on the Orb symbolises the rule of Christ over the whole world and is held in the left hand. The Spurs are the emblems of Knighthood and Chivalry. A Queen touches the Spur with her hand and a King has his heels touched. The Ring is called the Wedding Ring of England and by it a Sovereign is wedded to the country. The Sceptre with the Cross denotes regal authority, and is placed in the Sovereign's right hand; it contains the Great Star of Africa, cut from the Cullinan Diamond. The Sceptre with the Dove, which signifies the Holy Spirit, is placed in the Sovereign's left hand. Both are rods of gold about three feet long ornamented with jewels. St. Edward's Staff is a replica of the original used by Edward the Confessor and which may be seen in the Bayeux Tapestries. It is gold and about four feet seven inches long; at one end is a steel spike—for it is used to support the Sovereign. The original Staff was supposed to contain a piece of the true Cross in the Orb at the top.

A. PRESTON.

UNDERSTANDING OUR NEIGHBOURS

A Meeting organised by the Council of Jews and Christians.

Form 4A recently visited Conway Hall to take part in an inter-school conference on the question of mutual understanding and toleration of the different racial and religious groups of the world. We were shown two films during the first session. The first showed how a boy was killed in a clash between opposing 'groups' in a small American town; after this, his father, the editor of the local newspaper, agitated (by letters to the mayor and by publishing articles in his paper) for a youth organisation; the teen-agers themselves helped to organise activities in which all could share and through which prejudices could be overcome.

The second film, in cartoon form, showed that all men were basically similar in their blood as well as in their needs, and that such differences as existed were not connected with racial differences so much as with varying cultural opportunities.

After a short break and an introductory talk by Professor Lauwerys, we split into discussion groups. In the discussion group in which I was placed, we discussed the films and present day examples of intolerance of other races and creeds. We decided that the films were over-simplified and that the solution suggested by the first, of the problem of prejudice, would be impracticable in a larger community. We agreed that if young people were taught to be tolerant and understanding, many problems would be solved. We also decided to ask the Brains Trust, which was to be held later, whether intermarriage between different races should be permitted or encouraged.

After lunch, we heard the reports from the various discussion groups, I. H. Simons being one of the reporters.

A Brains Trust was then assembled. It included a Roman Catholic Priest, A Noncomformist, a Rabbi, and Leary Constantine from the West Indies; the chairman was Professor Lauwerys. Among the questions discussed was one concerning how the colour-bar could be abolished. As to intermarriage, one speaker said that it should be tolerated as a fact but encouraged only if both parties realised the consequences and had considered every fact very carefully. Shortly before the end, Mr. Constantine read an excerpt from a dictionary. Under the heading 'Negroes' it said · "The Negroes breed fast and if left to themselves are liable to become a menace"—a definition which was a perfect illustration of intolerance.

We enjoyed, not least of all, the very pleasant tea which was provided by the Council before we set off home, our minds filled with much interesting food for further thought.

A. PRESTON.

THE CORONATION STATE COACH The State Coach has carried Kings and Queens to be crowned for two hundred years. It was built for George III in 1762 and weighs four tons. It is always pulled by a team of eight horses called the Windsor Greys, but it is so skilfully sprung that even a boy could push it. The wheels at first had ordinary steel rims, but now they are rubber-tyred for more comfort. The body of the coach is slung from four large, carved Tritons. The carriage has the carvings of four palm trees that branch out at the top to support the roof. The coach cost £7,500 to build and an American offered £500,000 for it.

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

On 2nd June, 1953, Elizabeth, the elder daughter of the late King George VI, was crowned Queen of England in Westminster Abbey.

I was given a ticket for a seat overlooking Pall Mall. A television set was available, too, so I was able to see the Abbey ceremonies and the other parts of the procession as well as the 'real thing.' I was lucky to be given a seat but there was one snag—I had to be in my place before seven a.m. Luckily, London Transport provided an adequate early morning service, so I was there in good time. The weather was hardly suitable for the occasion, as it rained at frequent intervals throughout the day. I felt very sorry for those taking part in the procession and those lining the route. They had to suffer the rain for hours without wearing capes. The crowds on the pavements were pretty wet afterwards, too, but I think they thought it was worth it. The sun shone twice in the day, though—once when the Queen was at the Abbey, and then when she drove past me. I'm not drawing any conclusions from that, however!

For those in Pall Mall, the morning was mainly a period of waiting. Early on, three shining, horse-drawn coaches drove by, each taking a peer and his page to the Abbey. Shortly after that we were treated to a glimpse of the Australian Touring Cricket Team who passed by in a motor-coach on their way to a building near Trafalgar Square.

As lunch-time approached, a procession of soldiers was seen to be coming down Pall Mall. It was the route-liners coming to take up their positions. They lined themselves up extremely well and deserved what praise they received.

I will not dwell on the actual Crowning Ceremony as you probably saw it for yourselves. The real Procession began to pass at about two p.m. Those watching seemed to go mad; flags, hats and papers were waved with

wild abandon, but the soldiers in the parade all seemed tensed up and most of them had very determined expressions. The Grenadier Guards had just passed when the Procession halted. It was nearly half-an-hour before it moved off again. (It was raining most of that time!) The uniforms of the different regiments provided gay contrasts to each other, in spite of the rain. The overseas contingents were very popular with the crowd, and the rather unusual uniforms of some of them gave the crowd a shock. For younger people present the Mounties were a thrill. Their scarlet tunics certainly helped to make us forget the drab skies. The Household Cavalry also stood out in their splendid uniforms. Next came the Colonial Rulers. The Queen of Tonga has obviously won herself a place in everybody's heart, judging by the cheers she received. Then came the Prime Ministers. Last of these was the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Churchill, and I leave you to guess the reception he got. Finally, before the Queen's Procession, there were the Princes and Princesses of the Royal Blood, and then the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret.

The first part of the Queen's Procession consisted of officials in various services. That the Queen was approaching was shown by the appearance of the Queen's Escort of Officers from the Colonial and Commonwealth Contingents. Next came the Yeomen of the Guard in their world-famous uniforms. Then, the Queen's Bargemaster and Watermen passed, followed by the band of the Royal Horse Guards and two more Divisions of the Sovereign's Escort.

The State Coach, drawn by eight grey horses, was a magnificent sight. It was much bigger than the other coaches and was, of course, golden-coloured. The Duke of Edinburgh was with the Queen in the coach, and it goes without saying that the crowd was with them as they drove along. The Queen was wearing the Imperial Crown and carried a Sceptre and the Orb. She seemed very young for one with such responsibility. The State Coach was followed by twelve more officials and two more Divisions of the Sovereign's Escort.

A minute later, when the crowds were hurrying through the streets to get home and rest, it seemed impossible that such scenes of splendour could possibly have taken place; but one thought in particular was uppermost in my mind—how tired one gets when one has to get up at four-thirty in the morning.

A party of thirty-eight boys from Wandsworth School, under the care of Messrs. Aubrey and Coate-Bond, went to Victoria Embankment to watch the Procession going to the Abbey. The party left school at 6.30 a.m. and arrived at its place at 7.0 a.m. They were near Westminster Bridge, so they were able get away easily afterwards. The Queen came by at about 11 a.m., so they were able to leave by 12.30. Every boy was given an ice-lolly and a drink of orange squash. Let me thank, on behalf of the boys concerned, Messrs. Aubrey and Coate-Bond for their help. The boys were selected by ballots held in the tutor sets.

M. J. KELLY.

WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

The father of one of the eleven year-olds due to join us in September, was being shown over the school last week. Afterwards he said, "I did not know that there was such a fine school here. Is it new?" He was by no means the first to discover, with surprise, tucked away in its almost rural surroundings, the school that bears the name and the arms of the largest borough in London—but Wandsworth School is not new!

On the site where the red-bricked mass of the Wandsworth Technical Institute now stands, opposite the new Town Hall, there used to be a curious agglomeration of shops, houses and offices clustered around St. George's Hall, an unattractive building with a stone floor and a canvas ceiling, for all the world like the Big Top in a circus. It had previously

been a roller-skating rink. In such unpromising accommodation the Wandsworth Technical Institute was opened towards the end of the last century. In 1895 a Science Day School was started in connection with the Technical Institute. It was to be known as the Wandsworth Technical Institute Secondary School, and later still as Wandsworth School.

In 1896 the Governors decided to admit girls, and the school became first co-educational and then dual, and so remained until 1909 when the girls were transferred to Mayfield.

In 1900 Dr. Waite (then Mr. Waite) was appointed Headmaster, and was to direct the fortunes of the school for thirty-two years. Gradually it became more independent of the Technical Institute, and its numbers and academic reputation steadily increased until in 1918 there were 530 boys on the roll. It was surprising that so many boys could possibly be crammed in, until further investigation revealed a whole rabbit warren of adapted rooms and corrugated iron huts. Looking back across the years from the comfort, indeed the relative luxury of our present untroubled existence, it is quite amazing that so much excellent work was maintained in such discomfort. Every general inspection produced a new condemnation of the buildings. Plans were eventually made for a new school, but the first world war swept them into limbo; and still the life of the school went on and flourished with hardy exuberance.

Had you been able to visit us in those days, you would probably have passed the door several times before you discovered the gloomy tunnel that led into the back of the hall, with another similar but less gloomy tunnel facing it and leading out into the playground. At the back of the hall were the laboratories and two science lecture rooms. Across the other end of the hall ran the plumbing shop, which had nothing to do with the school at all, except as a short cut between sections of the maze, and along one whole side of the Hall were nests of lockers. If you owned one on the top row you were lucky. The unfortunates who had to grovel for the bottom ones did so at the risk of life and limb. Part of the other side of the hall was walled off as the carpentry shop, whence came the penetrating note of the circular saw at the most inconvenient moments. Through the further tunnel were the 'tin huts'—the corrugated iron class-rooms, each one opening straight into the fresh air! It was all very well in the summer, but in the winter it was another matter. To get from one classroom to another usually involved either an undignified sprint, dodging the raindrops, or a more leisurely progress beneath an umbrella—or a mortar-board if you were fussy about academical congruity.

Heating was always a problem in the winter. The classrooms were warmed by slow-combustion stoves, which either refused to burn altogether or else got so hot that the pieces of india-rubber, concealed in the lids by small boys, smelt to high heaven.

Memory preserves a host of pictures, grave and gay :—

Mr. Beale taking P.T. in the Hall to the accompaniment of the circular saw over the wall, his ventriloquial efforts making strange voices say stranger things from away up in the roof.

The five boys who came back to school after serving in the 1914-18 war, some of them as officers. Nice chaps they were but difficult to fit into the rigid frame of school discipline.

The little door in the wall through which the staff came in and the boys sometimes slipped out to nip across to Bloss's sweet shop and get back without being caught.

The first issue of "The Link" in 1917 in its sober brown jacket.

Dr. Jory's herculean efforts to produce "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the Hall on a creaking trestle platform that served as a stage.

The first appearance of the School Song at Speech Day in 1925.

The memories are so many, but the most vivid recollections are of personalities—the men whose devoted service built the School. One thinks particularly of certain names :- Soutar, Grutchfield, Barratt, Scott, Padfield, V. V. Smith, Couch, Dobbs, Hatfield, Phillimore, and Powell who alone is still able to visit us.

At last in, 1927, the present building was completed and we moved in, proud of our fine new premises, proud of our new name—Wandsworth School—proud of our coat of arms, and consoled for the years of hopes deferred. And yet, curiously enough, we found ourselves missing the old tin huts, with their many associations, and it was sometime before we really felt at home. We were glad to see Mr. Allen, who had been assistant school-keeper in the High Street, duly installed in the new cosy little School House. At the ceremonial opening of the new school the School Hymn was sung for the first time.

In 1929 the Pavilion was built as a memorial to the Old Boys who fell in the 1914-18 war. By 1931 we had raised enough money to build the swimming bath, and a little later the Parents' Association got us the fives courts.

In the new School the House system was re-organised. Until then the Houses had been labelled with colours—Red, Green, Yellow, Blue and Brown. The new names chosen were those of prominent people who had some association with the Borough—Thomas Cromwell, Edward Gibbon, John Morley and William Pitt the younger.

In 1932, Dr. Waite retired and Mr. King took over the reins. He it was who introduced the Tutorial System, Diligence Marks and the Parents' Association, all of which have since played so important a part in the life of the School.

The smooth and successful development of the new school was sadly interrupted by the second world war. None of us are likely to forget that morning in September 1939, when we shut the doors of our houses and set forth with 'hand luggage only' and, like Abraham, "not knowing whither we went." How great was our relief when we were bundled out at Woking. The rigours of exile were to some extent mitigated by the possibility of bringing so much of our belongings into the evacuation area. It was an unenviable but also an enlightening experience. After six years of frustration, exasperation, improvisation and discomfort, we were at last able to return home and rebuild. It was a case of rebuilding in a very real sense, because although the fabric of the school had remained intact, practically none of the boys who had gone forth with us in 1939 came back with us in 1945. Gradually the old traditions were revived and slowly new ones were created, till now we are once more firmly established.

And what of the future? Within a year or two we shall face another major transformation—the creation of a Comprehensive High School, with Wandsworth School as nucleus. It will be the end of one chapter in our history, but also the beginning of another. As a school we face the prospect with mixed feelings. It is hard to say which predominates—misgiving, optimism, nostalgia, faintheartedness or courageous enthusiasm. Our main preoccupation is with the problems and opportunities which the new development presents. One hope most of us cherish—that in its new and larger form it may still be known as Wandsworth School.

R.W.F.

SPRING IN SHEEP LEAS

ALONG the winding path I wend my way,
Between the dogwood hedge and wayfare' tree;
A blackbird hops aside to let me pass,
And sunlight floods the vale of sweet Sheep Lea.

The squirrel scuttles into yonder beech;
The barks of sheep dogs in the distance fade;
My rustling footfalls echoing through the vale,
Disturb the courting couples 'neath the shade.

The wary rabbit ups his scut and runs;
The chirping chaffinch flies from rambling rose;
The humming bee descends on flowering trees;
And a gentle breeze through the ruined stable blows.

But soon the bark of axe will fill the vales,
And Man's condemning hand will nature squeeze;
No more the midnight owl from barns will cry;
No springtime thrush, no flowering white beam-trees.

R. BULLEN.

THE SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD On three evenings during the last week of the spring term at Wandsworth, there assembled at the School a substantial gathering of parents, visitors and boys to watch and appraise the annual Eisteddfod.

This Gallic name, which tends to surprise the uninitiated, describes a festival of the arts, crafts and sciences. It is peculiar to Wandsworth and is produced and managed entirely by the boys themselves.

This year, Thursday, 26th March, was devoted to the drama; Friday to a mixed exhibition of hobbies, athletics and the marvels of science; and the Monday to music and the winning items of earlier competitions.

Of the four Houses, Gibbon was adjudicated the winner with 205.5 points. Pitt was the runner-up with 152.5, followed by Morley and Cromwell. The Eisteddfod trophy was presented by Mrs. Raymond King to A. G. York, captain of Gibbon House, which thereby repeated its triumph of 1952.

The science exhibits this years were novel and startling. All phenomena, including the exploding machine, were explained on typed cards for those with the means of interpreting them, but the ladies were interested in demonstrations of how stains of every description could be removed from fabrics. There was also a demonstration on the recognition of various textile fibres. The exhibitor was Morgan of Morley.

As in former years, an athletic display took place on the second evening. Also, the evolution of the sport of fencing from its origin in the days of sword and dagger duelling was illustrated by members of the fencing club in dramatic form.

The concert, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Fenn, took place on the concluding night. One of the best performances was that of Cassidy (Pitt), who delivered readings from the New Testament and from Lewis Carroll with great success. Sharp's (Cromwell) piano solo from Handel was notable, as was the song by the Cromwell, Morley and Pitt choirs, conducted by Donald King (Pitt), who also rendered a violin solo.

Two scenes from Shakespeare's Richard II occupied the second half of the evening. The concert as a whole was so competently managed this year that it ended at the time appointed. The range of educational facilities that schools of to-day afford, and the variety of hobbies which engage boys out of school hours, could be appreciated at this exhibition.



THE STAFF — *see page* 28.



SURREY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS — MOTSPUR PARK, 3RD MAY, 1953.
Youths' Sprint Relay.
Winning Team—Wandsworth School.
Left to right—J. Davison, R. Cheeseman, J. Herbert, J. Lothian.



Butler winning the Mile,
THE SCHOOL SPORTS, 1953.

The Eisteddfod is a proven success already. The only question would seem to be whether, in the not so distant future, it will begin to strain at the present limits of three evenings only!

A.B.R.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS (*Names in order of merit*).

Section 1.—MUSIC. Adjudicators: Mr. J. Keyte and Dr. J. Solomon.

Piano.—Elementary: Hammond, S. W., Palmer, J. F., Gosden, C. B.,

Intermediate: Sharp, J. W., Hore, R. S., Towson, P. A. White, D. J.

Advanced: Weber, S. F. F., Edwards, R. W.

Violin.—Elementary: Preston, A. E., and Crofts, G. M., Christadoulou, C. G., Richard, A. J.

Intermediate: Irving, C. D., Croombs, G. H., Coleman, B. J.

Advanced: King, D. T., Williams, G. R., Savage, A. C., Wrench, G. D.,

Solo Singing.—Bass: King, D. T., Gosden, C. B., Wrench, G. D., Gugan, K.

Treble: Johnston, B.C., Cassidy, P. N., Townson, P. A.

Community Singing.—1st, Cromwell; 2nd, Morley; 3rd, Gibbon.

House Choirs.—Cromwell, Morley, Pitt—all equal placings.

Section 2.—LITERARY COMPOSITION. Adjudicator Mr. J. Ascher.

Verse.—Senior: Nye, D. G. C., Salmon, A. K. G.

Essay.—Senior: Preston, A. E., Phillips, T. F.

Story.—Senior: Eastman, C., Carney, M. A., Jones, R. E., Fox, J .P., Batty, D. T.

Description.—Junior: Harding, B. R.

Story.—Junior: Cormack, J., Cross, D. B., Vallé-Jones, J. C.

Section 3.—SPEECH.

Adjudicators: The Headmaster, Messrs. J. E. Austin, T. G. Benyon, S. Cowan, W. Payne and H. Tint.

Choral Speaking.—1st, Gibbon; 2nd, Morley; 3rd, Pitt; 4th, Cromwell.

Public Speaking.—Morrison, D. R., and Stanley, W. M., Gosden, C. B., Kelly, M. J., York, A. G.

Solo Reading.—Senior: Wright, T. R., Salmon, A. K. G., King, R. D., Gosden, C. B., and Morrison, D. R.

Intermediate: Preston, A. E., Fox, J. P., Simons, I. H., Lambert, R. G.

Junior: Cassidy, P. N., Smith, N., Pavitt, T. F. J., Lloyd, R. B.

Section 4.—DRAMA.

Adjudicators: Mrs. R. King, Messrs. C. Fisher and J. C. Grieves.

1st, GIBBON.

Excerpt from "King Richard II," Act IV (W. Shakespeare).

Producer—T. R. Wright.

Cast—T. R. Wright, M. A. Phelps, D. J. White, A. K. G. Salmon, R. D. King, G. Tonks, C. Smith, J. P. Fox, D. Hurley, N. Kaphan, A. Taylor.

Stage Manager—A. N. Chalk.

2nd, CROMWELL.

Excerpt from "King Richard II," Act I (W.Shakespeare).

Producer—R. G. Hall.

Cast—G. L. Harvey, S. Whiteman, B. Colegate, R. Oliver, R. G. Hall, R. Griffiths, P. Ryan, A. L. Cooper, M. Green, L. E. Bicknell, J. W. Sharp, D. J. A. Livingstone, P. Burton.

Stage Manager—A. C. Bergson.

3rd, MORLEY.

Excerpt from "The Merchant of Venice," Act IV (W. Shakespeare).

Producer—C. B. Gosden.

Cast—C. B. Gosden, G. W. C. Wort, J. Bloss, J. S. J. Wharton, A. J. Sawyer, G. D. Wrench, G. L. Gingell, G. H. Croombs, J. M. Gooders.

Stage Manager—F. Bloss.

4th, PITT.

Excerpt from "The Rivals" (Sheridan).

Producer—J. A. Herbert.

Cast—D. R. Morrison, D. T. Glayzer, I. H. Simons, J. A. Herbert, S. R. Morrison.

Stage Manager—R. Worrall.

Section 5. ART.

Adjudicators : Messrs. S. Cowan and A. Hodgkinson.

Paintings.—Senior : Swallow, C. J., Percy, E. G., Reeve, G. R., and Szyjkowski, W. T., Taylor, A. J.

Intermediate : Burr, M. J., Walters, D. J., Clowes, P. M.

Junior : Warren, A. R., Paxman, A. E. G., Croker, I. W. D., Saunders, M. P.

Drawings.—Senior : Stafford, R. F. S., Reeve, G. R., Kreuchen, K. D.

Intermediate : Tickner, J. R.

Portrait Drawings.—Senior : York, A. G. Junior : Croker, I. W. D.

Design.—Senior Reeve, G. R., Crowther, J. N., Junior : Warren, A. R.

Lino-cut.—Senior : Grantham, P. R., King, D. T., York, A. G.

Intermediate : Gant, T. Junior : Lystor, D. H., Lewis, P. G.

Handwriting.—Senior : Herbert, J. A., Salmon, A. K. G.

Intermediate : Webber, M. J., Deegan, R. F., Newson, C. M.

Junior : Blackman, C. J., Willis, G. W., Beharrie, D. A., Hitchins, B. L.

Clay and plaster models.—Senior : York, A. G., Elliott, W. J.

Junior : Paxman, A. E. G., Bannister, D. A.

Section 6. HOBBIES.

Adjudicators : Messrs. P. Culverwell and H. C. Hall.

Models (scientific).—Senior : Weber, S. F. F., Chalk, A. N., Hore, R. S.

Junior : Smith, M. R. M., Filmer, M. J., Carr, E. R.

Mathematical.—Junior : Willis, G. W.

Aircraft (flying).—Senior : Pearce N. C., Kelly, M. J., Watts, G. A., Grant, J. V.

Junior : Trussell, G. J., Harmer, R. V. H., and Salmon, G. R. G., Eves, A. W. R., and Stewart, P.M., Hensman, D. W., and Taylor, D. M., Robertson, J. A.

Meccano.—Senior : Hore, R. S., Savage, A. C., Norton, B. V.

Junior : Carr, R. J.

Historical.—Senior : King, D. T., Williams, G. R.

Junior : Libby, P., Legezynski, G. A., Tudgay, J., Carr, R. J.

Ships and Boats.—Senior : Douel, M. J. A.
Junior : Lillistone, M., Cowper, G. A., Tyson, S. J. J., Douel, G. P.

General.—Senior : Willson, J. C.
Junior : Bowyer, C. T. A., Swaine, B. G., Ayshford, D., and Carr, R. J., Old, K. F., and Fowler, E. A.

Collections. Adjudicators : Messrs. A. Lincé and K. Coate-Bond.
Stamps.—Senior : Kreuchen, K. D., Bates, P. M., Edwell, J. S., Skeef, J. S.
Junior : Mount, D. J., Edwell, R. A., May, D. J., Simmons, R. D.
Beginners : Oldall, A. A.
Miscellaneous.—Senior : Cook, A. D. (Butterflies)), Kreuchen, K. D. (Motor-car pictures), Holder, B. A. (Coins).
Junior : Wort, G. W. C. (Shells), Haslett, A. M. (Cigarette cards), Kesseler (Matchbox tops), Douel, G. P. (Coins).

Photography. Adjudicators : Messrs. J. Makin and G. R. O. Wootton.
Outdoor landscape : Williams, G. R., Kelly, M. J.
Outdoor portraiture : Williams, G. R.
Indoor : Kelly, M. J.

SECTIONAL AND TOTAL HOUSE POINTS.

	Cromwell	Gibbon	Morley	Pitt
1. Music	26	8	39	28
2. Literary Composition	8	36	12	44
3. Speech	4½	41½	28	27
4. Drama	30	40	20	10
5. Art	35	34	6	25
6. Hobbies	11	46	24½	18½
Total	114½	205½	129½	152½

1st, *Gibbon* 2nd, *Pitt* 3rd, *Morley* 4th, *Cromwell*

HOUSE ORGANISERS.

Cromwell	Gibbon	Morley	Pitt
Music			
Edwards, R. W.	Wiliams, G. R.	Wrench, G. D.	King, D. T.
Speech			
Scott, J. J. W.	White, D. J.	Bloss, J. W.	Glayzer, D. T.
Drama			
Hall, R. G.	Wright, T. R.	Gosden, C. B.	Herbert, J. A.
Co-ordinator			
Harvey, G. L.	York, A. G.	Bennett, A. A.	Kelly, M. J.

G.E.

HOUSE NOTES

CROMWELL It is hardly with any feeling of satisfaction that we record our achievements of the past term. In recent years Cromwell's *esprit de corps* has sadly diminished, and only by the determined efforts of every Cromwellian can our past triumphs be repeated. That this enthusiasm is unfortunately not yet forthcoming, was clearly demonstrated in certain sections of the Eisteddfod. The Eisteddfod is a competition designed to encourage individual effort, and nowhere is this more obvious than in the Speech and Hobbies sections—in both of which Cromwell gained

a very poor fourth place, in spite of the great enthusiasm of the general co-ordinator, G. L. Harvey. The final result is indicative of the lack of effort on the part of the majority of the House.

The beginning of the term did, however, bring us more success. Although our chances of winning the Athletics Shield again were considered slight, under the enthusiastic captaincy of L. E. J. Bicknell we snatched the prize from the favourites, Pitt. The following day brought another success when our table-tennis team—Harvey, Bicknell, Granfield and Whitesman—won their final match and so made certain of an easy victory in the Inter-House Championship.

In Diligence, although three of our Tutor Sets have maintained a quite creditable standard, the fourth—Cromwell C—has been unable to improve its average. Indeed, it has often been content to remain at the bottom of the list. Reading through our House Notes of the past few years, one notices the frequent exhortations to better diligence, and is appalled at the lack of response from habitual offenders whose low diligence marks constantly lower our Set and House averages.

Next term the Cross-country run will be held, and we should like to see more enthusiastic support for this. In the last few years Cromwell House has regularly been placed third or fourth in this event as the direct result of lack of co-operation, especially among the seniors. This is a team race, and to win it we need better support and regular practice.

The House is in desperate need of a revival of the famous old Cromwellian spirit. Remember the great year, which is still in the memory of our seniors, when Cromwell won nearly every inter-House cup and shield. This term we have had two successes, last term we had none. Cromwellians, CONSTANTIA PRAEMIUM REPORTAT!

R.G.H., D.J.A.L.

GIBBON Since the last issue of "The Link" the fortunes of Gibbon House have fared quite well. Our best success has been the winning of the Eisteddfod Trophy. This year we were 53 points ahead of our nearest rival, which is 33 points better than last year. This was largely due to the energy of the House organiser, A. G. York.

In the Music Section we did badly, gaining only 8 points in spite of the gallant efforts of G. R. Williams. The House has few members with musical talent.

In the Literary Composition section, organised by A. K. G. Salmon, we fared rather better, gaining 36 points compared with 33 last year. Eastman gained a second place and Fox a third for a short story.

In the Speech section, in charge of D. J. White, we gained 41½ points compared with 38 last year. As usual our Speech Choir came first. In the Solo Reading competition T. R. Wright, A. K. G. Salmon and R. D. King gained the first three places in the Senior section, J. P. Fox came second in the Intermediate section and N. Smith was second in the Junior section. In the Public Speaking competition, W. M. Stanley was bracketed equal in the first place and A. G. York gained a fourth place.

The Drama competition was deservedly won by Gibbon. The play chosen, an excerpt from Shakespeare's "King Richard II," was excellently produced by T. R. Wright who was supported by a good cast including M. A. Phelps, A. K. G. Salmon and R. D. King. This gained 40 points compared with 25 last year.

In the Hobbies section, in charge of M. A. Phelps, we gained 46 points compared with 43 last year. The following obtained First places :— K. D. Kreuchen, D. J. Mount, A. A. Oldall, R. G. Williams, K. S. Kreuchen, C. T. A. Bowyer, C. P. Pearce and J. C. Willson.

In the Art section we gained 34 points compared with last year's 29. A. R. Warren, A. G. York and T. Gant all gained First places.

We have thus improved our position in nearly all sections of the Eisteddfod, and hope to do even better next year.

In Cricket we have only played one House match so far and the Senior team, captained by A .G. York, has defeated Cromwell. On Sports Day we were not very distinguished, being placed fourth. There is, however, a lot of promising material among the juniors, which points towards a happier result next year.

Our Table-tennis team, consisting of C. Smith, A. K. G. Salmon, E. Patterson and G. B. Dodge, gained second place in the House competition.

Congratulations to A. G. York who has gained admission to St. Catherine's Society, Oxford.

On the whole, the past year has shown a pleasing growth of House enthusiasm. If this new spirit is maintained, as we hope it will be, the future looks bright for Gibbon House.

W.M.S.

MORLEY Only two important Inter-House competitions have taken place since the last House notes were written. They are the Athletic Sports and the Eisteddfod, and although Morley House performed creditably in both, in neither did we achieve the success we hoped for. In Athletics, although we only gained third place, a number of boys distinguished themselves, among them Bedale, who put up a magnificent performance in winning the half-mile, and Holder who won the high jump and tied with Thompson in the long jump.

We also came third in the Eisteddfod, and here we were lucky not to beat Pitt. Our successes included the Violin, Singing and Speech sections. Our Speech Choir came second; special mention must be made of C. B. Gosden's production of the Trial Scene from "The Merchant of Venice."

We have started the Cricket season well by beating Pitt in the Senior match. Pitt declared at 81 for 6 wickets, and we easily passed their score for the loss of four wickets. Hazard and Edwell, who is our only regular First team member, batted well for Morley.

We continue to maintain our position in the Diligence Averages, and if we do not relax our efforts we should win the Shield.

J.W.B.

PITT Since the last issue of "The Link," Pitt House has had rather an indifferent record. Our modest successes hardly balance our failures. To take the latter first, we have fallen off badly in Diligence Averages Instead of our usual position near the top we now occupy last place, although Pitt C. usually does well.

Our senior cricket team has not distinguished itself. We lost to Morley, in spite of a half-century from Sommerville—the captain, and we drew with Gibbon. The junior matches have not yet been played.

On the credit side we have Athletics and the Eisteddfod. In the Inter-House Sports we did well to come second and, considering the small margin by which we failed, we should no doubt have come first had not Szyjkowski been troubled by an old knee injury. Indeed, Pitt is unusually well represented in recent athletic successes. Herbert and Davison were members of the school relay team that won the Surrey Schools Championship, and Davison, the School athletics captain, has gained other athletic distinctions. He won the Shapcott Cup and is the Wandsworth and Surrey champion over 440 yards.

In the Eisteddfod we came second. We won first place in the Literary section; our Choir tied for first place, thus qualifying to sing at the Eisteddfod concert in the combined choirs of Cromwell, Morley and Pitt. Pitt Speech Choir came third, and we did well in the Art section to finish second. Our Drama group unfortunately came last, possibly through attempting to play Restoration comedy in modern dress.

On the whole, then, our successes in the past term seem to be due mainly to the efforts of a few individuals. If the many would only profit by the example of the few—in other words, if only we could all be Davisons, Herberts or Sommervilles—we should soon be seeing the green rosette firmly fixed under the Championship House Trophy.

D.G.N.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY Several meetings were held this term but, due to the end of term examinations, they all occurred before June. Talks were given by M. J. Kelly (Flight Theory) and A. A. Bennett (Helicopters). Fardell, Batty and Grant provided us with plenty of practice at aircraft spotting; so many members of the Society are keen on it that we hope to hold competitions in it.

A proposed trip to the R.A.F. airfield at Biggin Hill was cancelled as only members of recognised cadet organisations are allowed to visit the 'drome. However, other visits, to factories and airfields, are being arranged.

The Society extends a welcome to every boy in or above the Third form who is interested in aircraft. Meetings are usually held on Wednesdays, but occasionally alternative arrangements have to be made.

M. J. Kelly.

ATHLETICS

Captain: J. R. Davison. Vice-Captain: D. Granfield.

This season has undoubtedly been our best since the war. We started very well indeed by having three Surrey County Youths' Champions and by winning Surrey County Youths' Relay Championship.

Results.

Surrey County Youths' Championships.—May 9th.

Ash broke the County record for the High Jump with a jump of 5′ 6½″. Davison created a new record for 440 yards, his time being 53.6 secs. Granfield won the Shot Put with a personal best of 41′ 6½″. Congratulations to all three boys upon an excellent performance. Bicknell also ran in the 440 yards and qualifield for a County Standard Certificate.

South London G.S.A.A. Championships.—May 11th.

Out of the twelve competing schools we were placed fifth. The three most outstanding competitors for the School were Liggitt, Butler and Ash. Liggitt was placed fourth in the 100 yards and third in the 220 yards—a brilliant performance. Butler ran very well against much older competitors to be placed third— an excellent performance. His time was 4 mins.-47.3 secs. Ash again established a new record in the High Jump (under 16) with a height of 5′ 6″, and Wort was placed second in the Junior High Jump at 4′ 9″, a very fine effort. Davison won the 440 yards Senior in 53.6 secs., while Holder was third in the High Jump and Granfield finished fourth in the Shot Put.

Belgrave Harriers Inter-Schools' Relay.—May 18th.

The School team finished second in this 4 x 110 yards relay. Nebbitt ran very well for a boy of fourteen years. The older members of the team were Herbert, Davison and Cheeseman.

South London Harriers Inter-Schools.—May 20th.

The School finished second to Wallington G.S., the School scoring 26 points against Wallington's 30 points. The relay team, consisting of Cheeseman, Herbert, Lothian and Davison, finished first. Granfield won the Shot Put with a personal best of 45′ 1½″. Butler, Harvey, Gale and Thompson also represented the School at this meeting.

Wandsworth District Championships.—May 22nd.

The School did very well indeed to finish first in the Junior and Senior Events. In all, the School gained ten first places, eight seconds and five thirds. It was pleasing to note in this meeting that the School possesses some very good juniors. Results :—

Under 13.—Atkinson 1st Hurdles.
,, 14.—Cross 1st 100 yards. Liggitt 2nd 220 yards.
,, 15.—Nebbitt 2nd 100 yards. Wort 2nd High Jump.
,, 15.—Corkett 1st Javelin.
,, 16.—Ardley 3rd 220 yards. Perry 3rd 440 yards.
,, 16.—Bedale 2nd 880 yards.
,, 17.—Szyjkowski 2nd 100 yards. Bicknell 3rd 100 yards.
,, 17.—Davison 1st 440 yards. Thompson 1st Long Jump.

Surrey Youths' Relay Championship.—May 30th.

The School team, which consisted of Lothian, Herbert, Cheeseman and Davison, ran brilliantly to be placed in first position. All four members of the team had practised very hard for this event and certainly deserved the well-earned victory. Congratulations to all four runners.

In the South v. North London G.S. meeting, we hope to have a good representation of the School's athletes in the South's side. Matches against St. Olave's and Sloane in July and the London Schools' Championships in June will, we hope, round off a very pleasing season.

J. R. Davison.

THE SCHOOL SPORTS

After being postponed twice because of rain, the School Sports were held in fine weather on Monday, May 4th. The double delay in no way diminished the enthusiasm of either competitors or spectators. Excitement grew as Cromwell and Pitt, running neck and neck, outpaced Morley and Gibbon, and reached flash-point when it appeared that the last relays would decide the day. Cromwell emerged as winners, beating Pitt by three points, with Morley 29 behind in third place—42 ahead of Gibbon.

It is a pleasure to record such a high standard of performance all round—more especially in the Junior events. New records were established as follows :—

Track :—

440 yards Senior—Davison, P., 56.3 secs. 440 yards Middle—Perry, G., 59.5 secs. 880 yards Middle—Bedale, C., 2 mins. 16.7 secs.

Relays.—Under 12½ years—Cromwell, 1 min. 24,9 secs. Junior—Pitt, 1 min 18.8 secs. Middle—Cromwell, 1 min. 10.9 secs. Senior—Pitt 1 min. 9.2 secs.

Field :—

Shot Put, Senior—Granfield, C., 40 ft. 5 ins.

In the Junior Hurdles event, Bishop, P., equalled the record with 13.5 secs.

Several other performances are worthy of mention. Liggitt, in the Junior Class, won both the 100 and 200 yards; Ardley, in the Middle class won both 100 and 220 yards, while Butler ran a very good mile in 5 mins., 8 secs.

The prizes were afterwards distributed by the Headmaster, who introduced Mrs. Shapcott, the donor of the Shapcott Cup, to the assembled parents and pupils. In his remarks, Mr. King praised the work of Mr. Coate-Bond and the Staff for the excellent organisation of the meeting, and especially mentioned the untiring efforts of Mr. Robinson, the Groundsman, to keep the fields in good order.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Captain : J. R. Davison. Vice-Captain : E. Patterson.

The School team finished off their most successful running season by winning both Senior and Junior events in the South London Grammar Schools' Cross Country. The highlights of the season were the victories over Ranelagh Harriers, Hercules A.C., Belgrave Harriers and the S.L.G.S.

RESULTS.

v. Ranelagh Harriers, Inter-Schools.—February 14th. Owing to the indisposition of one or two members of the team, the School finished tenth out of twenty-two schools. However, Mitchell must be congratulated on his showing in such a large field by running 21st.

v. South London Grammar School.—March 11th (Juniors). The School finished 30 points ahead of its nearest rivals, St. Olave's. This was due mainly to the brilliant running of the whole team. The two most outstanding runners for the School were Cobb and Patterson, who finished first and third respectively.

(Seniors). The Seniors just managed to win by a little less than ten points. Butler and Edwell were the two most outstanding runners, both of whom could have qualified as Juniors but volunteered to strengthen the Senior team. Both ran brilliantly to be placed fifth and eighth respectively.

The prospects for next year's cross country running are very good indeed for, with only one exception, the School will be able to field the same team. We look forward to next year with high hopes.

CRICKET

Captain : G. L. Harvey. Vice-Captain : D. J. S. Granfield.

Hon. Secretary : A. G. York.

With only one member of last year's First XI remaining, our prospects at the beginning of the season, in contrast to last season, looked far from bright. But members of last year's Second XI have risen in status and fill this year's places with enthusiasm, if not always expertly. Our opening attack, consisting of Granfield and Sommerville, is good and has only once failed to take wickets. The first change bowlers, Harvey and Smith, have been steady if not always dangerous.

Our batsmen have had only three opportunities to show their talents and have made good use of only one of them. On the other two occasions the run getting rate was too high for us to hope to achieve, and our naturally slow scoring batsmen had to be content to play for a draw.

The main weakness of the team is poor fielding. Slowness in moving to the ball and picking it up has cost us many runs. Throwing-in lacks both speed and accuracy.

Here I should like to record our gratitude to Mr. Robinson who has transformed a battle-scarred rugby field into a near perfect cricket square. In maintaining our fields at the high level he achieves, he has undermined his health. I am sure I speak for the whole School when I wish him a speedy return to his old self.

Our most successful bowler and fieldsman this season has been, without a doubt, Granfield. His opening attack is always deadly, although recently a tendency to overpitch has appeared. His slip fielding is easily the best in the team. The player who has improved most is York who is now a truly expert wicket-keeper. After a shaky start to the season he has settled down well, and in our last match there were no byes recorded. His batting has been steady and solid but any movement to faster scoring would be greatly appreciated. The last remark applies to all our recognised batsmen who rarely raise their bats higher than their kneecaps. Sommerville is our most useful player, a good opening bowler, a stock spinner and a batsman who is not afraid to clout the bad ball. Smith, Phelps, Salmon and Edwell are competent bastmen, and each made at least one high score this season. Smith, J. B., has ensured his place in the First XI by some accurate and intelligent spin bowling.

RESULTS.

v. Putney Town C.C. (A). Lost by 26 runs.
Putney 109 (Smith 4 for 14). School 83 (Harvey 26).

v. Mitcham School. Lost by 6 wickets.
School 45 (Brodie (15) Mitcham 45 for 4 wickets.

v. Surbiton G.S. Game drawn.
Surbiton 112 for 9 declared. (Sommerville 3 for 30).
School 79 for 9 (Phelps 21).

v. Sir Walter St. Johns. Game drawn.
"Sinjuns" 175 for 6 declared (Sommerville 4 for 31).
School 69 for 6 wickets.

v. Raynes Park G.S. Won by 75 runs.
School 150 for 8 declared (Smith C., 29 Harvey 25, Sommerville 24).
Raynes Park G.S. 75 (Granfield 7 for 31).

HISTORY SOCIETY Since the last issue of "The Link" we have held two meetings of the Society.

The first meeting was on 13th March when T. R. Wright read a paper on "Wales—Past and Present." Beginning with the interesting origins of the Welsh people from both Celtic and Egyptian stock, Wright summarized the story of the Welsh from the Roman Invasion to the present day. The discussion afterwards was lively and varied; a hectic difference of opinion arose between Mr. Keyte and Wright on certain contemporary issues. The meeting was not too well attended but was by no means unsuccessful.

The other meeting, too, took the form of a paper read by a Sixth Form history student, this time C. B. Gosden. He read a lucid and educative account of the early history of Russia, up to and including the rule of Peter the Great. In the ensuing discussion, several points relevant to present day problems and matters arose. We look forward to hearing Gosden's second paper.

T.R.W.

TABLE TENNIS

Captain : D. Glayzer. Vice-Captain : L. Bicknell.

The School team had two matches this season, against Battersea and Sutton. In the first match the School were well beaten—seven matches to three—but against Sutton School they had a resounding victory of ten games to nil.

D. Granfield won the Individual Championships and performed a remarkable feat by winning every game.

The winners of the Inter-House Competition were Cromwell, who won all their matches, second Gibbon, third Morley and fourth Pitt.

L.E.J.B.

S.C.M. This year we saw the formation of a new Society for the discussion of Christian principles. There has been a similar Society in previous years, and a need for the existence of such a Society was expressed to Mr. Fenn and members of the staff by some senior pupils. It is always a very pleasant experience for the initiative in such matters to come from the pupils in a school as it infers a special need and enthusiasm on their part. At an inaugural meeting, held on 4th May, 1953, it was decided to set up a Branch of the Students' Christian Movement; D. R. Morrison, U. VI, was elected Chairman, and T. R. Wright, U. VI, Secretary. At this meeting it was proposed that a speaker from the headquarters of the S.C.M. be invited to speak to the Society on vital Christian principles. Mr. Fenn, the Deputy Headmaster, who was elected President, kindly undertook to arrange this matter.

On Monday, May 18th, Rev. A. F. Piachaud from the S.C.M. Headquarters, addressed the Branch on the approach to Christianity. The speaker was most clear and inspiring, surveying the main aspects of Christian beliefs in the present day.

On July 6th, Mr. Haggard led a discussion on "The Approach to Christianity."

One of the main aims of the Branch is to encourage boys to discuss problems and difficulties concerned with Christian belief and conduct, and so we welcome not merely those who already accept the implication of the Christian faith, but also those who find them difficult and are even hostile.

We trust that this year we shall put into operation a Society that will be available for next year's session of boys.

The Branch welcomes the support of Mr. R. Fenn and Messrs. Bacchus and Haggard, and are especially indebted to Mr. Evans for his valuable assistance.

T.R.W.

THE WANDSWORTHIANS LODGE It is gratifying to record that this Masonic Lodge has "come of age" in this auspicious year 1953. It was founded on the 15th July, 1932, to unite in the closer bonds of Freemasonry those who in many ways have been connected with the School. It originated through the efforts of the late Dr. H. Waite (first Head Master of the School, 1900—1932) supported by nineteen of his colleagues, old boys and other friends. It has now sixty-six members, of whom sixty are O.W.'s; the oldest of these left school in 1898, the youngest in 1944.

The Lodge continues to meet at the Ardington Rooms, Clapham Junction on the first Fridays in February, May, July, October and December. Further particulars may be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the Wandsworthians Lodge, c/o Ardington Rooms, Clapham Junction, S.W.11.

OLD WANDSWORTHIANS ASSOCIATION

Pride of place of this report of the Association's activities has been awarded to our Rugby Club whose 1st XV, during 1952/53, completed its most successful season ever. The Club's Hon. Secretary has received congratulations from many quarters on its fine performance. The final 1st XV record was as follows :—

Played	*Won*	*Lost*	*Drawn*	*Pts. for*	*Pts. against*
27	20	5	2	225	105

These excellent results were attained in spite of numerous injuries, none serious, fortunately, and the travels of key players to various parts of the world during the season. In all, forty-three members can claim to have represented the 1st XV during the course of the season. The heavy demands made by the 1st XV had slightly adverse effects on the records of the 'A' and extra 'A' XV's, but even so they more or less held their own. The 'B' XV, although only having played six games, must be congratulated on their one hundred per cent. record. Details are as follows :—

	Played	*Won*	*Lost*	*Drawn*	*Points for*	*Pts. against*
'A' XV - - -	26	12	13	1	290	235
Extra 'A' XV - -	24	10	12	2	215	250
'B' XV - - -	6	6	—	—	79	23

When watched on one occasion by the Chairman of the Surrey County Rugby Football Union, the Old Boys' 1st XV put on one of its best performances in beating the Old Mid-Whitgiftians by eleven points to three. In the Surrey 'Seven-a-Side' competition, our 'seven' distinguished themselves by reaching the quarter-finals before being defeated by Harlequins, the eventual winners of the tournament. The Annual General Meeting of the Rugby Club was held on the 13th May, when Officers for the 1953/54 season were elected. R. St. C. Duncan is now the Club's team Secretary, and school leavers who wish to join the rugger section should write to him at 15, East Sheen Avenue, East Sheen, S.W.14. The following Officers were also elected :—

Hon. Secretary—A. Dicker, *Hon. Treasurer*—P. J. Bull, *Hon. Match Secretary*—R. F. W. Finch , *Captain 1st XV*—K. Dore, *Captain 'A' XV*—A. Attfield, *Captain Ex 'A' XV*—R. St. C. Duncan.

The Table Tennis section, under the leadership of Peter Brunning, also completed an excellent season and finished amongst the leaders in their Division of the Wandsworth Table Tennis League. Our congratulations to the team on making such a success of this venture into a new sphere. It is anticipated that the Old Wandsworthians will be elected to play in a higher division next season. The name of the Old Wandsworthians is now well known in table tennis circles. In fact Peter Brunning has received many challenges from clubs in many parts of South-West London. The Old Boys' own table tennis trophy, the "Frank Hunt" cup has been won by W. A. Forrester, who has thus repeated his 1950 success.

The badminton and darts tournaments have now reached their final stage, whilst the competition for the "Samuel Samuel" lawn tennis cup will commence during the next week or two.

We are looking forward to the Annual Fete on July 4th, which is once again being held, with the co-operation of the Parents' Association and the Skeena Hill Allotments' Association. It is anticipated to be the last Fete we shall hold on the present School fields, and a grand day and bumper attendance is hoped for.

News from Bernard Pauncefort and David Wood, in trouble spots Malaya and Kenya respectively, indicates they are settling down well in their new and completely different surroundings. Our best wishes to them both.

R.F.W.F.

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION My comments on the past term's activities must be confined to the A.G.M. on May 15th as this issue of "The Link" must go to press before I have the opportunity of reporting the Annual Fete and the Parents v. Boys cricket match.

The A.G.M., despite a very wet evening, commanded a very fair attendance, and following the Tutorial-at-Home and the business meeting, we enjoyed an excellent film show of past activities of the School, for which we are indebted to Mr. Makin and to whom I tender our best thanks.

The Secretary submitted a generally favourable report of the year's activities; our events, with the exception of the Whist Drive and Dance on 22nd November, 1952, met with general success. The members were reminded that this year marked our 21st Anniversary, and in view of our long record the need for continued and active support was very necessary to sustain us in the position we had attained.

The Treasurer again produced an excellent balance sheet, showing subscriptions in excess of the previous year and our financial position very sound. The report and the balance sheet were adopted without dissent.

The election of a new Parents' Council was resolved by the members of the retiring Council, with the exception of Mrs. Tyson who had resigned, agreeing to re-election, together with two new members—Mrs. W. Blackie and Mr. J. Tudgay—who offered themselves and were co-opted at the first Council Meeting on May 20th. Your Association now has the benefit of a full and experienced Council to direct its affairs for the future.

The Council will welcome from parents any problems they would like explained or discussed from the platform, or suggestions for meetings or social events. We are elected to carry out your wishes; do not hesitate to acquaint us with your desires.

H. J. Scott.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO 'THE LINK.'

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STAFF PHOTOGRAPH (page 14) — *Reading from left to right.*

Front row—T. G. Benyon, B. P. Clode, G. Elms, R. W. Fenn (*Deputy Head Master*), H. Raymond King (*Head Master*), J. Ascher, H. Aubrey, Mrs. V. Sawyer (*Laboratory Assistant*).

Second row—J. Allan (*School keeper*), A. Martin, A. M. Lincé, L. A. Fenn, J. D. Solomon, J. E. Austin, A. Hodgkinson.

Third row—H. Medinger, A. Burnett-Rae, J. Keyte, W. E. Payne, V. M. Nicholls, H. C. Hall, K. B. Coate-Bond.

Back row—W. H. George, E. E. Bachus, A. F. Lewinnek, G. M. Evans, A. Haggard, D. B. Mercer, H. Tint, A. P. Culverwell.

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE :

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CLOSING DATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AUTUMN ISSUE : 5th NOVEMBER.

This is the latest date on which contributions will be accepted for consideration—NOT the date for handing in. The majority of contributions should be in at least ten days before the closing date.

This Coronation Souvenir issue of "The Link" has been made possible by a substantial financial contribution donated by the Wandsworth Borough Council towards the cost of printing. The School wishes to place on record its real apreciation of this generous gift.

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