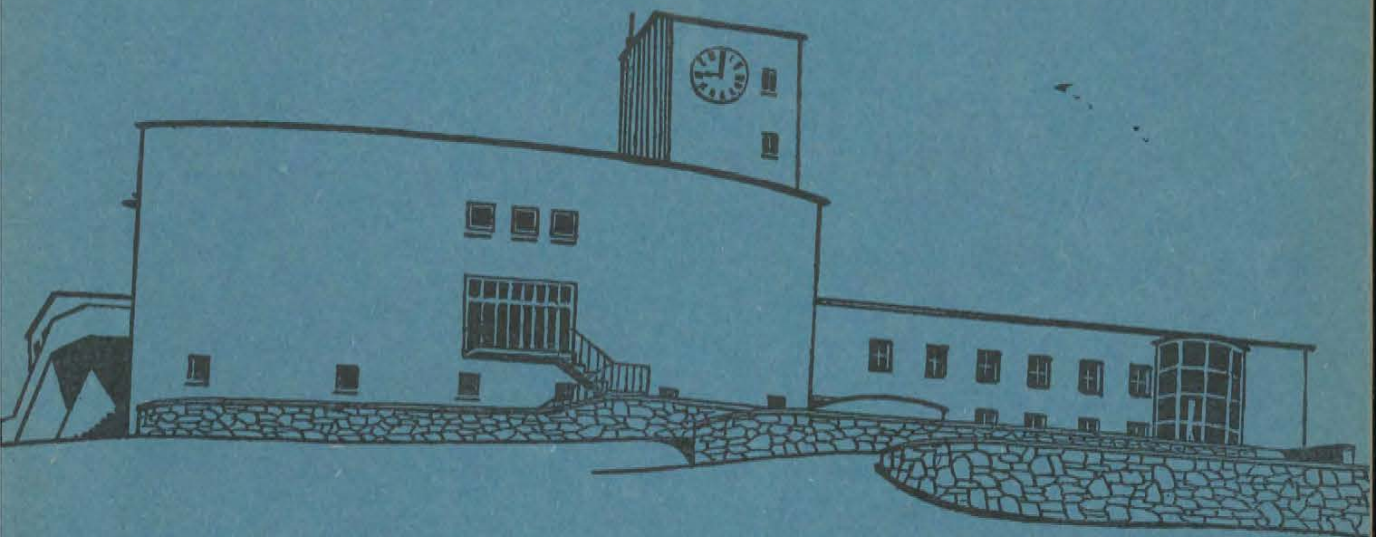


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JUNE, 1960

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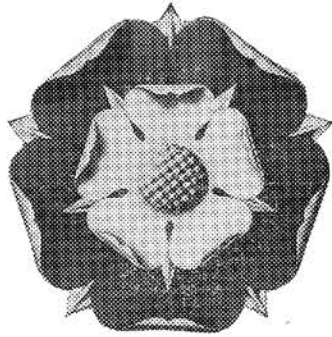
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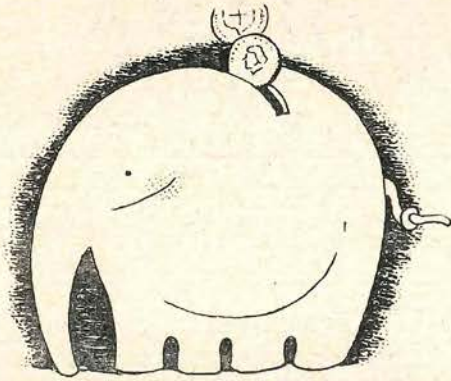
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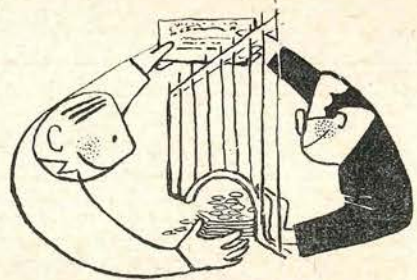
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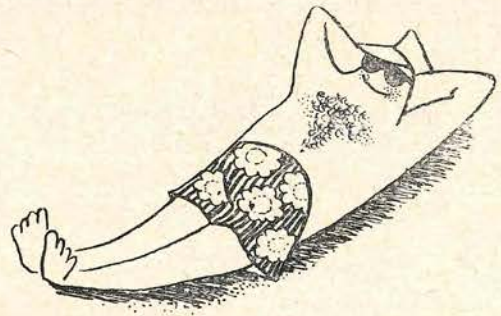
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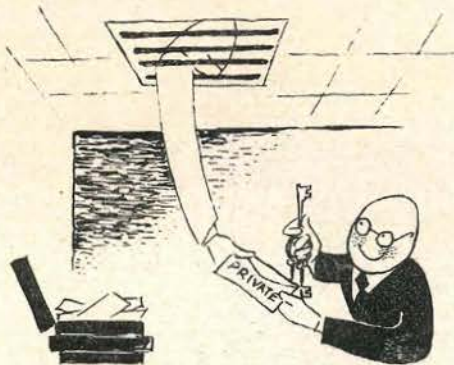
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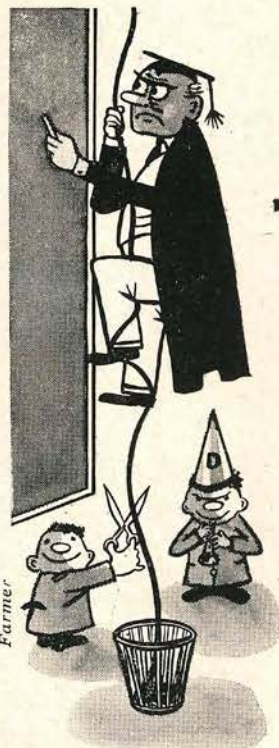
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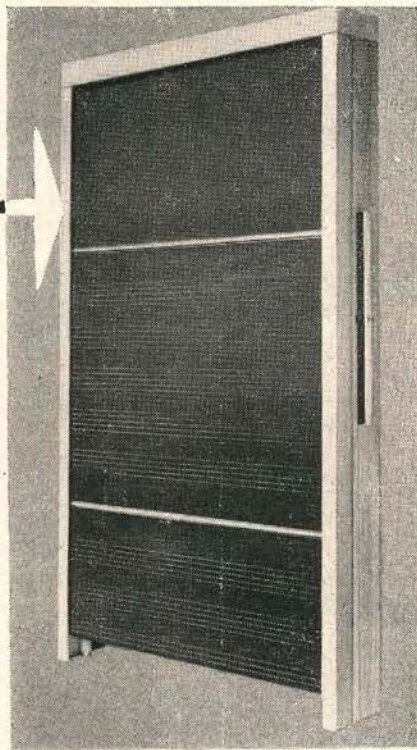
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# KILSYTH ACADEMY MAGAZINE

June, 1960



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## Foreword

*This Magazine, which is now in your hands, contains much which will interest and entertain you. Your entertainment will be no whit lessened if I seek now to intensify your interest by asking you to assess momentarily the patience, perseverance, application and ability which this production required.*

*Your appreciation, I am sure, will be added to mine.*

*And yet all these esteemed and estimable qualities which I have listed might regrettably have languished without the goodwill which nourished them. Rising production costs make us more than ever grateful to those who were kind enough to take advertising space. But for their encouragement this foreword would have remained unpenned.*

*Our Magazine in its present form has commended itself to a wide circle of readers, some of them young, and some, possibly to their regret, not so young. Many of these readers live in Kilsyth and the surrounding district but many now live in places far removed from this small town—a town which was once uneasily content to lie snug at the foot of the surrounding hills, but which now challenges the domination of these hills with an impatiently mounting growth of red tiled dwellings.*

*In the midst of these dwellings stands our School.*

*From it I send our warmest greetings to all who have in any way been associated with us and ours.*

FRANCIS T. KIDD,  
*Rector.*





## Editorial

Until we took over the production of the School Magazine, we had no idea how difficult or how satisfying a task it was going to be. Our thanks go to all members of staff for their help in the procuring of material; to the printers for their excellent work; to Miss Stark for her much-needed aid, and to Mr. Hampton for his co-operation and assistance in artistic matters. We must also thank the advertisers, without whom nothing could have been done.

This year, the Science Department is brought into the limelight in our centre pages. A few well-known faces may be discerned in these photographs, which were very kindly taken by Mr. Gillies, of the Art Department, to whom we are very grateful.

An innovation this year is the award of ten shillings for the best original Scots poem presented. We feel that we have done our best to choose the most outstanding poem offered.

Despite our frantic efforts to please everyone, there will be, no doubt, some dissatisfied and disappointed pupils—and parents. If so, we can only ask them

*“To wipe from mind  
The memory of this ill”.*

CHRISTINE J. G. ANDERSON.

## OUR LOCAL PAST

### OLD FAMILIES

#### THE EDMONSTONES

The Edmonstones are probably descendants of those Saxon barons who came to Scotland for the marriage of King Malcolm Canmore. The first Sir William Edmonstone of Duntreath was the nephew of Sir John Edmonstone who married Lady Isobel, the daughter of King Robert II. Sir William's son married Matilda Stuart, a daughter of the house of Lennox, and therefore became proprietor of Strathblane lands.

The fourth Sir William of Duntreath was appointed captain of Doune Castle. Through his wife Sybilla, daughter of William Baillie of Lamington, the Edmonstones claim descent from William Wallace.

The fifth Sir William lost his high offices for holding Doune Castle against the Queen's wishes. James Stewart was given the castle and later refused to restore it to Edmonstone when ordered to do so. Sir William and his two brothers lay in wait for him one night and murdered him. As a result, Sir William was forced into hiding, but in 1547 an Act was passed granting him remission for his part in the murder.

The seventh Sir William settled in Ireland but Archibald, his son, on his succession, made the redemption of Duntreath his first concern. His son, during the Irish Rebellion of 1688, stoutly defended the Protestant cause with his regiment, but died of exposure while defending a position near Coleraine. He was buried in Strathblane Church.

In 1783, the eleventh Sir Archibald sold the estates in Ireland and bought the estate of Kilsyth. Until the restoration of Duntreath, Colzium House was the chief residence of the family.

J. RUSSELL and J. PATERSON, Class 2A.

#### THE STIRLINGS OF GLORAT

The Stirlings of Glorat claim descent from a line of Sheriffs of Stirling beginning with Thoraldus apud Striveliei mentioned in a Charter in 1147. His grandson, Alexander,

was the first on record as Proprietor of the lands of Ochiltree and Cadder in 1244. One of the latter's descendants, Gilbert de Strivelyn, married Alicia de Erth, heiress of Craighbonnet and from the marriage descends the Craighbonnet and Glorat line of Stirlings.

In the 15th and 16th centuries the de Strivelyns of Craighbonnet were keepers of Dumbarton Castle and one of these purchased the lands of Glorat for his second son, William, in 1508. This William was murdered on Good Friday, 1534, coming from Stirling to Dumbarton on business for the king. His son, George of Glorat, withstood a siege of Dumbarton Castle for a hundred days against the English, till he could convey his charge to the Depute Arran in 1545. His descendant, Mungo Stirling, fought for Charles I under Alexander Leslie and later under the ill-fated Marquis of Montrose in 1646. As a reward for these services, the Stirlings of Glorat were granted a Baronetcy by Charles II at the Restoration.

One of the Stirlings of Craighbonnet who was out in the '45 Rebellion, is said to have hidden in a secret room at the Glorat with a price on his head. Later he was captured with James Stirling of Kerr and his son and all three are said to have escaped from Dumbarton Castle by means of a silk ladder Margaret Stirling of Glorat smuggled to them under her skirt.

In 1927, King George V revived the Office of Keeper of Dumbarton Castle in favour of the late Sir George Stirling whose wife and family still live at the Glorat.

BARBARA H. ROSS, Class 3A.

#### OLD STREET NAMES

In the earliest maps of Kilsyth only two streets are shown, one running east-west and the other north-south. Areas rather than streets were given names like Burnside and Newtown.

Some streets, as the town developed, took their names from their obvious connections—Manse Road contained the parish manse, Church Street, the Parish Church, while Westport was the western entrance to the Burgh, and Market Square where the

markets were held. Howe Road led down to the "howe" or valley, and the Tak-ma-Doon Road took one down from the hills to the town.

A few street names with Gaelic origins remind us we are on the Borders of the Highlands. Barlandfauld or Barlinfauld comes from Gaelic "barr linn", a wet height (though "fauld" is Lowland Scots for fold) and Canny Rinns is a corruption of the Gaelic Ceann-a reon, meaning the end of a mossy plain.

It is a pity that some old names are falling into disuse. Who among the younger generation knows the origin or location of the Soup Kitchen Road, the Meeting House Close, the Beggars' Close or the Holy Laun'?

Two street names survive, Shuttle Street and Pirnie Street, which bring to mind days long since when weaving was the principal industry. It must be remembered that, towards the end of the eighteenth century, when there were in Kilsyth two bakers, five teachers, six sicklemakers and forty miners, there were two hundred and eighty tam-bourers and four hundred weavers.

It is good that the story and industries of the town should be recorded in its street names. If reports regarding the short future of the mining industry are accurate, it may be that Dumbreck Road and Snibble Brae will require to be added to remind future generations that in Kilsyth the mining industry was as important in the twentieth century as the weaving industry was in the nineteenth.

ELIZABETH PARK, Class 4A.

### OLD BUILDINGS

Some of the older buildings in Kilsyth have interesting histories.

The Garrel Mill, for example, was a traditional eighteenth century meal mill, long associated with the Hay family of millers. There is evidence of an earlier mill immediately below on the banks of the Garrel, but the earliest part of the present building was erected in 1776 when the mill dam was built. The wooden mill wheel was in use till the late nineteen thirties.

The mill house was built in 1778 by the Forth and Clyde Canal Company. The crow-step gables, small windows, low ceilings and originally flagged floors, testify to its age.

Not far from the mill is the house associated with the first potatoes grown commercially in Scotland, Neilston Cottage, whither farmers came from all over to learn from Robert Graham about this new crop.

The Black Mill, further up the Garrel, was built in the early nineteenth century by a Mr. Paterson who opened it as an extension of his sickle mill in Banton. When sickles ceased to be used, Mr. Frew bought it for making charcoal dust which was sent to Glasgow.

Among the old buildings in the middle of the town is one dating from 1765. It stands in High Street next the Territorial Hall. At one time the Masons held their meeting in the top storey. Later, two ministers took it over because the numbers in their Sabbath School were increasing so rapidly. The building is now the property of the Kilsyth Orange Lodge.

H. PROVAN and M. THOMSON, Class 3A.

### AN OLD STONE

In the courtyard behind Colzium House is a large square stone set in the right-hand wall. It is a stone with an interesting history. Originally, it had been built into another Livingstone home, Westquarter House, and when this was taken down in 1935 to make way for a model village, the stone was brought to Colzium and built into the wall about 1950.

Think of the history that stone may have seen. Mary Livingstone was one of Mary Queen of Scots' four Marys and we know the Queen visited Callendar House for the christening of one of the infant Livingstones. Almost certainly she would go to West-quarter as the two houses were linked by an underground passage. The stone probably also witnessed some of Prince Charlie's troops resting near it after the Battle of Falkirk in 1745, before they, like the stone, were banished.

EVELYN KIDD, Class 2A.

# THE DOMINIE'S HAPPY LOT

## SPECIMEN CERTIFICATE QUESTIONS

Knowing how parents delight to pit their wits against their children's, we have this year made a selection from several subjects which we believe will prove how much more intelligent their offspring must be than they.

### DOMESTIC SCIENCE

- Identify and describe carefully the preparation of the following exotic dishes. (Nationality in brackets).
  - Stai ka Ningins (Portuguese).
  - Pur Itzsch (German).
  - Cauld Kale Het (Lallans).
  - Champ et Tautees (French).
  - Tum Chez (Czechoslovakian).
  - Min Shan Kurets (Chinese).
- Taking into account your culinary prowess, discuss the possibility of the following statements:—
  - If I'd known you were a comin' I'd a baked a cake.
  - You're the salt in my stew.
  - Tea for Two.

### HISTORY

- Arrange in exact order: Henry I, Henry II, Henry III. (Do not attempt to answer more than once).
- Write an essay of *at least three pages* on *one* of the following:—
  - "Know ye not Agincourt?" (Confess).
  - What convinces you that Henry VIII had VIII wives?
  - Why do you picture John of Gaunt as a rather emaciated grandee?
  - Why on earth was William of Orange? (Seriously, though).
  - Account for the success of Marshal Ney as a leader of Horse.
- Estimate the medical effectiveness of the following:—
  - Pride's Purge.
  - The Diet of Worms.
  - The Sikh War.

## ENGLISH

### Essays

- Describe *in a lively fashion* the autobiography of *one* of the following:—
  - a tombstone; (b) a flea;
  - sleeping pill.
- Give *an accurate and detailed* account of:—
  - A nocturnal visit to a coal bing you know well

*or*

  - The commentary of Rangers' supporters when their team is losing.

### Language

- Correct the following misquotations and suggest a reason for the errors:—
- He must not float upon his watery beer (Milton).
  - The nice yellow Guinness for me (Burns).
  - Is this a lager which I see before me? (Shakespeare).
  - Ale to thee, blithe spirit (Shelley).
  - Port with Amaryllis in the shade (Milton).

### Literature

- How far does Miss Stark owe her success to Shakespeare and vice versa?
- Assess your stamina by the way you stood up to:—
  - The Tempest
  - The West Wind
  - Sea Fever
  - Alexander's Feast
  - The Pibroch of Donuil Dhu.
- Giving as many reasons as you can for your answer, say which of the following you consider to be the greatest poet:—
 

Sheats or Kelley or McGonigall or Thomas the Rhymer.

C. J. ROSEWEIR and R. G. DRUMMOND,  
Class 5A.

## WHO'S WHO ON THE STAFF

1. A duck of renown.
2. " . . . . . raving mad".
3. Noisy public house.
4. What one might hope for at the races.
5. Half eagle, half lion.
6. Animal hairdresser?
7. Young goat.
8. Hot oriental condiment.
9. Fiery military general.
10. Acquaintance of Sooty?
11. Grand Jean (French).
12. A variety of colours.
13. Rantin' Robin.
14. Offspring of a fruit.
15. Popular pudding.

THE BARBARIANS, Class 5.

## A PREFECT

After "The Puddock" by J. M. Caie.

*A prefect sat by the swimming-pool brim  
An' he thocht there never was a prefect like him,  
He sat on his hurdies and waggled his banes,  
An' cockit his heid as he glowered at the weans.*

*The bigsy wee cratur' was feelin' that proud,  
He opened his mou' and croaket out loud,  
"Gin ye'd a'like ta see a richt prefect," quo' he,  
"Ye'll never, I'll sweer, get a better nor me.  
I've French an' I've Latin an' German forbye,  
At Maths I'm the apple o' t' dominie's eye!  
The lassies a' think me a fine strappin' chiel,  
An' I ken I'm a rale bonny singer as weel,  
I'm nae yin tae blaw, but the truth I maun tell—  
I believe I'm the verra best prefect mysel'!"*

*The dominie was passin' an' oh! whit a sin,  
When he noticed the prefect he shoved him  
richt in,  
He choked an' he spluttered an' waggled each  
limb,  
Then drownet—puir soul—for he could na'  
swim.*

AGNES BINNIE, Class 1D.

## A SORE TALE

*Report cards out, exams are past,  
Wee Shughie's gote his place in class,  
Wee Shughie's "derriere" is skintit,  
Life is diabolical, in't it.*

ROY MILLAR, Class 1B.

## MAGAZINE EFFORT

*I tried to write an article,  
But gave up in despair.  
I tried to write a letter,  
But my talent was not there.  
At last I turned to poetry,  
A simple thing I thought,  
But though I worked all evening,  
No poem I had wrought.  
Now Browning and the others  
I hold in great esteem,  
Ever since the DREADFUL night  
I tried to write a theme.*

CARLEEN BATSTONE, Class 1A.

## APT QUOTES

## Staff—

"For sufferance is the badge of all our  
tribe—*Merchant of Venice*.

## Male Staff—

"Behold, a ghastly band".—*Gray*.

## Female Staff.—

"Secret, black and midnight hags".

—*Macbeth*.

## Staff-room.—

"When flowing cups pass swiftly round".

—*Lovelace*.

## School Bell.—

"Tis a knell that summons you to  
heaven or to hell".—*Macbeth*.

## School Meal—

If it will feed nothing else it will feed my  
revenge".—*Merchant of Venice*.

## Mr. W. M.—

"Full well they laughed with counter-  
feited glee

At all his jokes for many a joke had he".

—*Goldsmith*.

## Mr. M. W.—

"He who increaseth knowledge, increaseth  
sorrow".—*Proverb*.

## Miss A.

"Is she not passing fair?"—

*Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

## Prefect Common Room (Female)—

"At every word a reputation dies".—

*Pope*.

## Prefect Common Room (Male)—

"Feeble and restless youth born to  
inglorious days".—*Crough*.

NOT GUILTY, Class 5.

## SCOTS POEMS

This year, for the first time, we offered a prize for the best Scots poem. I hope you agree with our choice. Besides the entries on these two pages you will find another under "The Dominies' Happy Lot".—Ed.



ANNE MILLER, Class 5.

### FIRST PRIZE

#### THE SCHULE DANCE

*The lassies, tho' they're in their teens  
Are a' dressed up tae look lik' queens;  
The strappin' lads appear richt braw  
An' try tae shed their cares awa'.  
The crazy louts, they loup an' prance,  
Lik' Indians in a war-lik' dance.  
They hack the lassies heels an' taes,  
An' very nearly tear their cla'es.  
As roun' about the ha' they jump,  
An' bruises gether bump by bump,  
Upon the lassies hearts an' feet.  
Och, hoo they lang tae tak' a seat  
An' nurse their mony tender pairts,  
Restore the calm tae loupin' he'rts.*

*The fun an' frolics still flee fast,  
But breath, lik' pleasure, canna last,  
The lads are gettin' coarse and rough,  
Galumphin' till they're oot o' puff.  
Guid sakes! Look at the lassies' faces*

*As sweat has left the tell-tale traces  
O' pooder an' a' the modern means  
That's used by hussies in their teens!  
The puir queans shake their heids in woe,  
Yet, e'en tho' fagged, are loath tae go.*

*But sine they win the cool o' nicht  
In weel-matched pairs—a bonny sicht,  
The lassies smile an' act as tho'  
They couldna' hae a nicer jo  
Than him that wants tae tak' them hame  
(Hoo hard it is tae be a dame!)  
She harks tae a' the bletherin' trash  
That's poored intae her ears, richt brash  
By him, wi' confidence an' vim,  
Quite sure she's really ta'en tae him;  
When there's wan thing wad mak' her gled—  
The comfort o' a cozie bed.*

LINDA ST. CLAIR, Class 4A.

### RUNNER-UP

#### THE LAIRD'S LOUP

*Whaur whaups and peeweeps skirl and swoop,  
'Mang bracken peat and heather,  
A lonesome horseman gangs his gait,  
An' heeds nae time nor weather.*

*He hauds a pooch o' siller bricht,  
That's scranned fae humble folk and puir,  
An' picks his wey ow'er bog and burn,  
Across the eerie mirky muir.*

*A band o' robbers lie in wait,  
Whaur glintin' Garrell gurgles down  
They set about the hated Laird  
An' bar his wey tae Stirling toon.*

*He canna veer tae richt nor left,  
The gorge ahead is deep and wide,  
His trusty steed he spurs, and loups  
And safely wins the ither side.*

*Amang the crags abune the toon,  
E'en noo when young chiels mak' their way,  
Sae brave a man, sae stout a steed,  
Are aye remembered tae this day.*

KENNETH MATSON, Class 1B.

## SANTA CLAUS

*Santa Claus came doon oor lum,  
Wi' presents for me and wee Minnie,  
He stole ma mammy's new fur coat  
And noo he's in Barlinnie.*

IAN BRAND, Class 1B.

## TO A WEED

(On discovering it growing in the garden)

*I saw it there, the wee red flow'r,  
As it poked its heid abune the stoor,  
I took ma haun that very hoor  
An killed it deid,  
I needed tae be cruel an' doure—  
This was a weed.*

*The deed was done, it made me shiver,  
This puir wee thing that harmed me never,  
Was deid an' faur awa' forever,  
Because o' me,  
But och, I shouldna start an' haver,  
Thae things don't die.*

*Twa, three days sine I had a look,  
At this wee weed I had dug oot,  
It grew and blossomed, taken root  
Where I had thrown it  
It gars me greet tae see it shoot,  
There's nae destroyin' it.*

*A day or twa there came anither,  
Perhaps its sister or a brither,  
An' suin a family, there the gither  
Sae smug an' meek,  
It seems that thae things dinna wither,  
They only sleep.*

NANCY ROBERTSON, Class 3A.

## THE WEE WALLY DUG

*The wee wally dug it stood on the shelf,  
Prood o' its place 'mang the rest o' the delf,  
It wis washed twice a year frae its tail tae its  
lug,  
Aye bright and shiny wis the wee wally dug.*

JOANNE GRAY, Class 1D.

## THE SCHOLAR

*Hae peety, dominie, on my soul,  
Ye'r muckle anger I maun thole,  
Ye rant an' rave at me the whole  
o' ilk day through,  
Till I maun dae the darg ye dole,  
Tae quaten you.*

*Ye haund oot lessons richt an' left,  
Sine I'm frae joy an' play bereft,  
But soon at a' ye'r wark I'm deft  
An' unco guid.  
An' tae some job my way is cleft,  
As sae it should.*

*But when some time frae you I'm free,  
I'll like as no' cast back my e'e  
An monie a siller shillin' I'd gie  
Tae be at scule,  
It's then ye'll get ye'r thanks frae me  
For a' my dule.*

MALCOLM MACNIVEN, Class 3A.

ON BEING ASKED FOR SOMETHING  
SCOTTISH FOR THE MAGAZINE

*Oh, were I like oor Rabbie,  
And kent the Scots tongue weel,  
I'd dae this for a hobbie,  
Tae tell ye a' I feel.*

*But, faith, it isna' easy,  
And I feel like a fule,  
In trying tae write the Scottish  
When it's English we get in schule.*

MYRA HUTTON, Class 3D.

## THE AULD WIFE

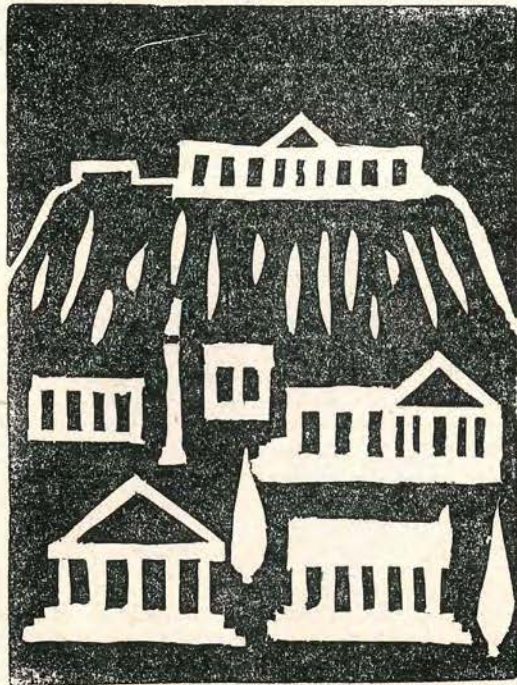
*On her rocker the auld wife sits,  
Efter a hard day's work she knits,  
Wi' the weans at school she has a guid rest,  
And fairly gets on wi' the wean's new vest.*

*At fower o' the clock she'll mak' the tea;  
From faur doon the road the weans she'll see,  
Playin' at beds wi' an auld blue ba'  
Not carin' about their tea at a'.*

MARGARET HARTLEY, Class 1E.

## HOME AND ABROAD

### ACROPOLIS



ROSEMARY LE POIDEVIN, Class, 4A.

### GREECE

I suppose I could be considered lucky to visit such a beautiful country as Greece. Most schoolboys have to be content with reading about Greece and all its greatness in lesson books, but I was fortunate enough to visit it in reality with my mother, and see all its greatness for myself.

Greece is mostly famous for its buildings and beautiful architecture. The most famous of them all is the Acropolis or the ancient town of Athens.

What struck me most about the buildings in the Acropolis was the massiveness of the stones and pillars, and how they have, through past centuries, stood up against war, weather and all the destructive natural elements.

Underneath the Acropolis they have modernised and enlarged the old museum which contains most of the original statues and records of past history found there. It also sports a very modern restaurant.

Greece is like Scotland in one respect. Many years ago, Greek highlanders took to wearing a kilt-like garment called the fustenella, which gave them greater freedom for clambering about the crags. In time it became an item of the national costume. The fustenella is still worn by the Evzones who mount guard at the Royal Palace and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Athens.

Although Greece is very mountainous, down south near the coast there are fertile patches. On these fertile patches are situated some of the biggest towns in Greece. The capital of Greece is Athens and its port is Piraeus.

JOHN PRINGLE, Class 1B.

### THE QUIET VALLEY OF FLOWERS

The valley was still in the morning sunshine and green leaves were peeping through the damp brown soil. Daffodils' spikes, narcissi stalks, and the tulips' broad leaves all came peeping through, although it was still winter. It was as warm as our summer in the silent valley of the Channel Isles.

They had been planted in the autumn to be ready for cutting and packing before the end of February. Now they stretched in neat rows as far as the eye could see to the end of the valley.

Later came the worst part, the cutting. This was back-breaking work, but still had to be done. After packing into boxes they would be sent to the markets and shops of Britain and France to beautify our vases.

EVELYN ERSKINE, Class 2C.

### THE CLYDE

*The river I love is not far away,  
From Glasgow and Greenock to old Rothesay  
Bay.*

*We journey round islands, some narrow, some  
wide,  
And all of these scenes are found on the Clyde.*

*Our journey's now ended, we've landed at last,  
And the gloaming is lovely as the day is now  
past,*

*So off to our slumbers to dream in repose,  
Of a day on the Clyde that has come to a close.*

JANETTE ANDERSON, Class 1D.



## TWO TRANSLATIONS



JESSICA TRUTEN, 6A.

### LATIN

#### Immortality (after Horace)

*Time cannot wear, nor rain nor wind destroy  
The monument I for myself have made  
Though pyramids may fall, and bronze decay  
This monument, my works, will never fade.  
Though I am in my grave, a part of me,  
The children of my brain will live for countless  
years.*

*Where brazen suns the lonely deserts parch,  
Where the wild Tigris seething water rears,  
While holy men communion celebrate,  
I shall be spoken of as he who came  
Of humble birth, arose from out the crowd  
To find in lyric song and poetry, fame.  
O muse! Arise and come, with rightful pride  
To take your honoured seat, with even pace.  
And on my head, with dignity and ease,  
The poet's envied crown of laurel place.*

CHRISTINE ANDERSON, Class 5A.

### GERMAN

#### Return of a Wanderer

*Entranced, like one in love, through the streets  
I wander,  
Seeing not the people there, just those houses  
yonder.  
The old squares too, and trees that rake the  
skies,  
Even the humble dust I seem to recognise.  
Something speaks inside me, and I feel I must,  
(Tho' you would surely scorn me) gather up the  
dust.  
But what is dust? Is it not a common sight?  
Maybe I'm being childish. Perhaps you're  
right.  
But I want to clasp these memories in my arms'  
embrace,  
See! The pavement-stone's still missing from  
its place.  
Quietly I wander on till I pause at a gate,  
And then at a hedge I must for a moment wait,  
Till, a little drunk, I resume my solemn pace  
Down the roads, where I as a boy was wont to  
race.*

(From *A poem by Florian Seidl*,  
Copyright by Mich. Lassleber,  
Kalmunz, Oberpfalz).

JAMES PATERSON, Year 6.

### THE EXAMS

*Oh May it is a merry month,  
When birds do sing so sweetly,  
But we are set the impossible task,  
Of doing exam papers neatly.*

*We swot and strain to escape the pain,  
Of failure hanging o'er us,  
While others compose with the greatest of ease,  
Great compositions which "floor" us.*

*Till at last we reach the climax grand,  
And worry about our marks,  
For the end of exams is now at hand,  
And soon we can stroll through the parks.*

MARY STIRLING, Class 1D.

### FOCUS ON SCIENCE

The photographs in the centre pages show some of the activities of the science department. The work can be divided into two main parts—specialist and non-specialist.

Science affects the life of every contemporary man each day. All pupils should have the opportunity to gain insight into the methods of science in order to understand the world of science. To select and safely use the many domestic appliances without blindly following the advice of others requires some knowledge of electricity, heat, sound and light. Politicians, soldiers and economists require an understanding of atomic structure, astronomy and mechanics. Botany and chemistry render invaluable assistance to the farmer and gardener. Thus the junior school general science course deals in a simple way with a wide variety of topics.

To maintain or improve our standard of living, a continued supply of highly trained specialists is essential. At school, this means intensive study of, say, physics and chemistry from the third year onwards. Even here there is great variety of practical, theoretical and mathematical work. Beyond school level, a student finally requires to concentrate on a section of one branch if he wishes to play his part in teams which develop the new ideas and processes required to enable us to compete with other countries in the industrial and military fields.

### NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

#### Interviewed by Class 2C

Armed with notebooks and pencils, we set off for our Modern Languages Department, where there were three new members.

**Mr. Meiklejohn**, our new principal, studied at Glasgow, Zurich and Rennes Universities; and graduated M.A. (Hons.) and F.I.L. (London). Impressed by his acquaintance with foreign parts, we asked what advice he could offer to a girl going abroad for the first time. "Halve her luggage," he said, "and double her money".

**Miss McGibbon**, a graduate from Edinburgh University, has also joined this department. We discovered that, in addition to Modern Languages, Miss McGibbon has many interests, including driving, dancing, tennis, swimming and music.

**Mr. Gray**, the third member, is a graduate, M.A. (Hons.), of Glasgow University. At

lunch-time, we did a little eavesdropping outside the music room, and discovered that Mr. Gray is an accomplished pianist.

**Mr. Williams**, another Glasgow graduate, M.A. (Hons.), has come from Falkirk High School to take charge of our Geography. We asked which were his favourite classes. "The working classes", he answered unhesitatingly.

In the Library we interviewed **Miss Torrance**, our new librarian. We enquired what qualification she thought most useful for dealing with young readers. She answered, "A sense of humour".

In a Science Laboratory, surrounded by plants, pupils, tadpoles and tropical fish, we found **Dr. Hamilton Smith**, who graduated M.A., Ph.D., at Glasgow University and did research at Harwell. We asked if he could suggest an addition to our school building. "Certainly," he replied. "Add an underground prison!"

As we left Room 25, a pleasant smell of home-baking attracted us to the Home-craft Department where we met **Miss Allan**, who has come from the Glasgow and West of Scotland College of Domestic Science. She, too, suggested an improvement for our school—uphill transport.

Last, but not least, we sought out **Mr. Purvis** who graduated M.A. (Hons. History), at Edinburgh University, and whose favourite hobby is amateur dramatics. His advice to new teachers is to have a course of Judo.

### WATCH THE BIRDIE

Watching the photographs being taken for the magazine, I couldn't help noting the variety of reactions. There's the camera-ophile, for example, who knows she's photogenic and unfolds like a flower; the preener, who's unphotogenic, but still vain enough to hope for the best this time; and the camera-phobe who instinctively shies at a lens.

Expressions can also afford delight to the detached observer: the fixed smile of those who say "cheese" (usually types 1 and 2 above); the poker face of the terrified; the stern, tight-lipped aspect of the hero facing fearful odds (masculine); and the refugee-waif look of the soulful.

But don't think from this I'm photogenic. After all, where would we females be without a portrait of our current idol to swoon over?

FIONA KIDD, Class 5A.

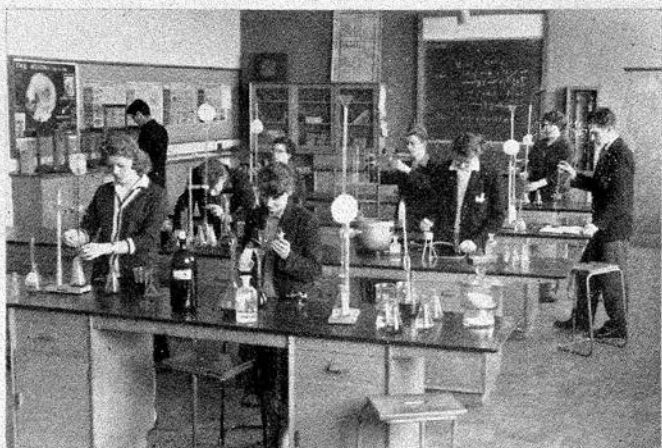


SCHOOL PREFECTS

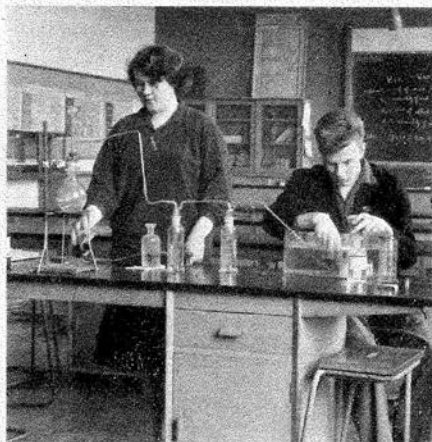


CLASS CAPTAINS AND VICE-CAPTAINS

# SCIENCE DI



Chemical Analysis—5th Year



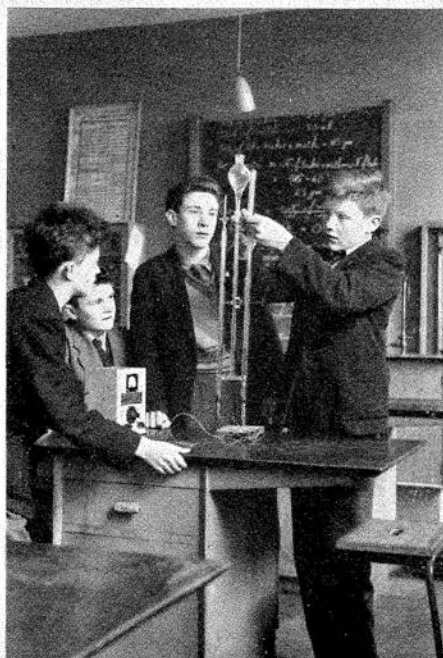
Preparation of Gases—5th Year



Visit to Marine Station

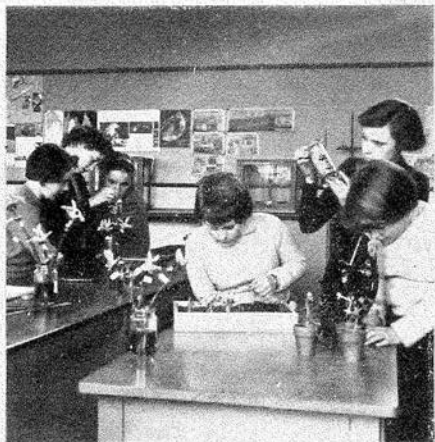


Botany—1st Year

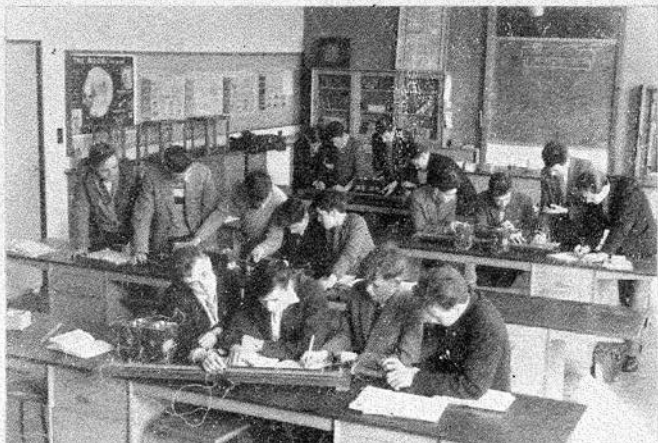


Electrolysis—2nd Year

# DEPARTMENT



Microscope—1st Year



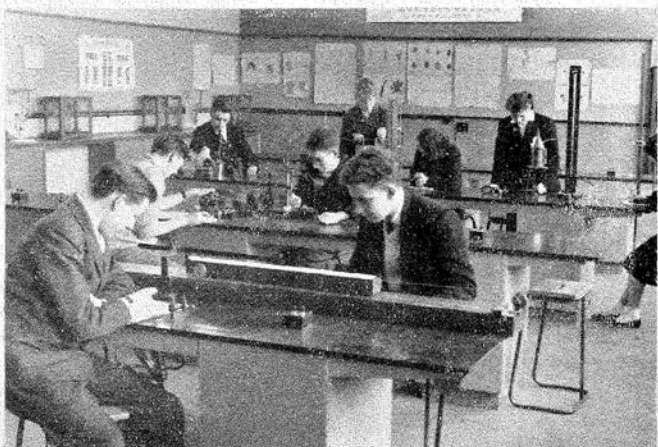
Electricity—3rd Year



The Aquarium



Gas Laws—4th Year



Physics—5th Year



**SENIOR  
FOOTBALL TEAM**

Back Row (left to right)—R. Burns, E. Robertson, A. Houlston, R. Maxwell, J. Macaulay, E. Wilson.

Front Row (left to right)—A. Adam, A. McLaughlin, I. O'Pray (Capt.), W. Ralston, W. Cunningham.

**HOCKEY TEAM**

Standing (left to right)—Jean Robertson, Rosemary Le Poidevin, Elizabeth Anderson, Mary Macniven, Fiona Kidd, Moira Taylor.

Sitting (left to right)—Phyllis McNeil, Netta McLaren, Johann Crawford, Rosemary Carmichael, Margaret Spiers (Capt.).



**INTERMEDIATE  
FOOTBALL TEAM**

Back Row (left to right)—M. Prentice, I. McKie, I. Pringle, W. Bauld, T. Wilson, D. Mitchell.

Front Row (left to right)—R. Coffey, M. Macniven, J. Kane (Capt.), A. MacLean, R. Yuill.

## THIS MODERN AGE

### THE FAMILY WATCHING TELEVISION

When television begins, our family sits down to watch it regardless of food, household chores and school lessons. My father comes home and sits in his armchair in a state of boredom during a quiz game, while we display our skill in general knowledge.

Suddenly a transformation takes place. Father appears to have taken a "pep" pill and demonstrates his left hooks and straight rights and offers advice to the wooden box. Disgust appears on all female faces.

When sport is finished, the head of the house sinks slowly into his chair, remonstrating on the type of programme we watch, and declares that he never has any say in what has to go on (except an hour of sport almost every night, during which our favourite spot has passed).

The advertisements break in, some with perhaps a little value, and some providing a few laughs when the younger occupants of the house chant the jingles with delight.

Meals are affected by television. Each person has a plate on his or her knee and, as a moment of suspense is reached in the weekly thriller, forks stop half-way to mouths which are left gaping wide, while, as an expression of contempt, another fork continues upward and in.

I always think I have spent an enjoyable evening until I find a pile of neglected dishes waiting to be tidied away. When I have washed the dishes, I then watch my sister run back and forth with the dishes in her hands to see what has happened, and keep up a commentary for her.

Television switched off, the family go rather late to bed, and as for this essay, who knows, it may have been written while watching television.

SANDRA BURNS, Class 4B.

### THE HAPPY VIEWER

*It's nice to go a wandering  
The great big world to see  
But I'm content to stay at home  
And watch it on T.V.*

JAMES HOOD, Class 1A.

### REAL GONE!

*When I listen to Cliff Richard,  
All the world is bright and gay,  
Cares and worries quickly vanish,  
Every day's a holiday,*

*I am sent*

*When mother listens to Cliff Richard,  
Pain and horror shade her face,  
Father also frowns and splutters,  
I am clearly in disgrace,*

*I am sent—to bed!*

AILEEN MORRISON, Class 1B.

### THE VILLAGE BEATNIK

*At the open jazz club door,  
The village beatnik stands,  
Susie, a smashin' girl is she,  
A wigglin' to the band.*

*She wears a tight black, knee-length skirt,  
A sweater red and bold,  
The pendant swinging round her neck  
Is something to behold.*

*Night in, night out, from six till one,  
She jives and sings and sways;  
This never tires our Susie out,  
Since she lies in bed most days.*

NESTA STIRLING, Class 3A.

### SLEEPING

*We sleep in trains,  
We sleep in cranes,  
We even sleep in aeroplanes.  
We sleep in trams,  
We sleep in prams,  
We also sleep in caravans.  
But when we're tired, it's often said,  
The place to sleep in, is in bed.*

DONALD RUSSELL, Class 3C.

## THE INNER MAN

### KILSYTH FARE

In defiance of deportation or of being "sent to Coventry," I ask this simple question. "How did steak pie become the traditional dish of Kilsyth and district?"

I don't want to give the wrong impression, because I do enjoy eating steak pie, but when it is served with unflinching regularity at christenings, weddings, funerals and all social functions it becomes monotonous. Take Hogmanay celebrations, for instance. After visiting about half a dozen homes and eating that number of helpings of steak pie, one is left with the feeling that to eat the stiff before next Hogmanay would be too soon. If you are a Burns enthusiast and attend several suppers in the last week of January, the result is another orgy of steak pie. Now I've read of "Oor Rabbie" sitting down to Cock-a-Leekie, Haggis, Champit Tatties and Topsy Laird, but not steak pie.

Is it any different at local socials or dinner dances throughout the year? Many times I've watched my mother dress up in her finery and sit in front of a mirror for an hour or so applying cosmetics and fixing her hair style—all to confront steak pie!

After one such function, if you asked a local worthy how he enjoyed the previous night's "do", you might get an answer like, "No' bad, but you could have played peevers wi' the pie paste", or very, very rarely, "Nae guid! Im-a-a-gine! Nae steak pie!"

Yes, I'm afraid Kilsythians are in a rut as far as social fare is concerned.

IAN MCWHINNIE, Class 1A.

### A HAGGIS HUNT

During a holiday at an International Guide Camp a haggis hunt was held. Some Scots turn up their nose at a haggis but to Danish, Swedish and Norwegian Guides, it was something to be feared. The haggis were painted and decorated with sticks and feathers till they were really fearsome. They were then hidden. The foreign girls were told to search for an animal and each description of

it was more gruesome than the one before. When one of the Danish Guides saw something up a tree answering to the description given, she fetched a Scots girl to collect it for her because she was afraid.

All the foreign damsels looked at it in terror. One girl stabbed it with a knife and a Danish Guide immediately ran away to bring the First Aid attendant who arrived with her medical case to treat the cut of the animal which had been brought into camp. You can imagine her surprise when she saw her patient.

Eventually they were told the truth but some still had their doubts. The following night, however, they overcame their fear and sat down to a plate of mashed potatoes, turnip and haggis.

CHRISTINE McDONALD, Class 3A.

### ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY PUB

(With many sincere apologies to Thomas Gray)

*The barman calls last orders for the day,  
They gulp their drinks and stagger to the door.  
The shuffling mob winds slowly on its way,  
And leaves some cronies lying on the floor.*

*Now fades the inward glow of taken drink,  
And all the street a solemn stillness holds,  
Save where uncertain footsteps homeward  
clink,  
And a faint song from maudlin lips unfolds.*

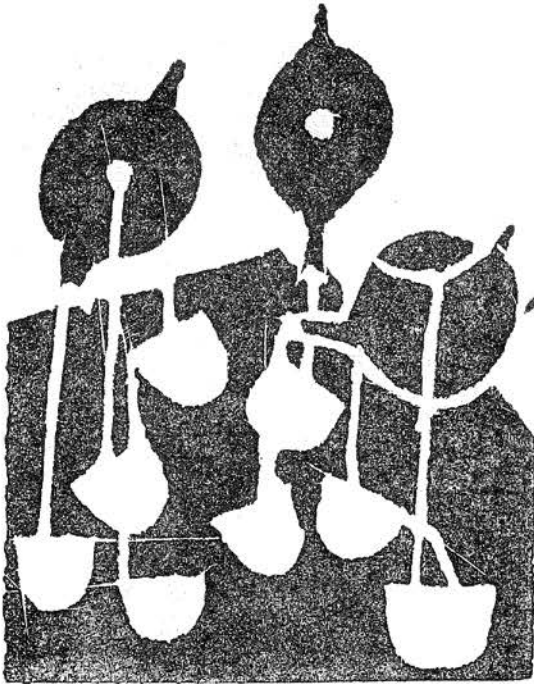
*Save that yon loud inebriated fool,  
The discontents of all mankind makes clear,  
To such as, idling near the empty "Bull",  
Share his disgust at cost of sport and beer.*

*Happily some decent-living soul may say,  
Oft have we seen them on the following morn,  
Puckering their haggard brows at debts to pay,  
And swearing evermore foul drink to scorn.*

MOIRA BANKIER and BRENDA WELSH, Class 3A.



## TEA IN THE STAFF-ROOM



MAE FORREST, 4a.

## TEA IN THE STAFF-ROOM

(With apologies to Pope)

For lo! the board with cups and spoons is  
crown'd,

The kettle whistles, and the staff rush round;  
From "shining" ash trays of old brass they  
raise

Their cigarettes; their fiery spirits blaze,  
As from the spouts the muddy liquors glide,  
While eager cups receive their smoking tide;  
See how they rush, that they may not be last,  
And frequent cups prolong the rich repast!  
Outside they hear the "fairy-airy band",  
And many a gruesome punishment is planned.  
Tea (which makes e'en the ill-paid teacher wise;  
And see through all things with his half-shut  
eyes),

Sends up in vapours to his learned brain  
New stratagems, the brainless ones to train.

ELIZABETH ALLAN, Class 4.

## ANIMALS

## MY HORSE

I have a horse,  
It won't go.  
Why not beat it?  
No! No! No!  
Put it in the stable,  
Give it some hay.  
If it won't eat it,  
Give it away.

ARCHIE McCULLOCH, Class 1G.

## BATH TIME—FOR A SNAIL

It's raining fast  
Along the path  
A snail creeps out  
To take a bath.

The rain has gone  
The sun is high,  
The snail is crawling  
Home to dry.

ANDREW WHIGGAM, Class 2F.

## THE SEA-HORSE

You cannot ride a Sea-Horse  
However much you wish,  
For he is not a horse at all  
But just a little fish.

LORNA BURNS, Class 1G.

## A CAT'S LIFE

Timothy Tabby tastes in his dream  
Many a brimming saucer of cream;  
Then licks his whiskers and sneezes his fur,  
And still half-asleep, purrs a soft purr.

He stretches a paw and opens his eyes,  
And seeing no cream there, Timothy sighs.  
Then curled by the fireside, all snugly and  
round,  
Timothy slumbers without a sound.

MARGARET BURNS, Class 2E.

## SCOTTISH ISLANDS

### THE ISLAND OF LEWIS

As we sail across the Minch to the open sea, Skye and the mainland disappear in the misty distance astern. We disembark in the only town on Lewis, Stornoway, whose younger men are mostly in the Merchant Navy, though the fishing boats in the harbour show the older men still carry on the occupation of their forefathers. The town is small, but boasts a tweed mill, a poorhouse and a beautiful modern hospital which serves Harris as well as Lewis.

The island itself is sparsely inhabited, its tiny villages separated from each other by desolate moorland besprinkled with little lochs. Some of the older people still live in black houses, quite primitive thatched one-roomed hovels; but the younger folks are building new houses. All, except a few tradesmen, are crofters with a few sheep, cows and hens. Peat is still the main fuel, coal being too expensive because of transport charges. Each family rents a piece of moorland, and in summer works at cutting and drying its peat for the long winter.

Everyone on the island is religious and goes to Church every Sunday dressed in black. In spite of an absence of what we would consider essential amenities, the Lewis people appear to live a very contented life.

MARJORIE SHEARER, Class 2A.

### STONES OF IONA

This is not a treatise on geology but history as revealed in Iona's stones.

Near the Abbey used to stand the ancient and sacred "Black Stones", so called because doom fell on anyone who broke an oath taken on any one of them. The Stone of Destiny is supposed to be one of these. Legend says it is the Biblical "Jacob's Pillow", brought to Iona by Eastern tribes and finding its way, via Scone, the seat of the Celtic kings, to its place in Westminster Abbey under the Coronation Chair.

Iona marble, a fine white stone veined with green serpentine, is found in churches in many parts of the world. St. Giles, Edinburgh, and St. Columba's Church of Scotland, London, are two such churches.

A more unusual Iona stone is the translucent "green-stone", washed up on the pebbly shore from a reef in St. Columba's Bay. Since this "St. Columba Stone" is supposed to make its owner proof against drowning, visitors to the bay spend much of their time searching for a "magic" pebble.

I wish there were more space to describe other interesting Iona stones such as Columba's Pillow, the stones of the Druidic Circle known as the Hermit's Cell, several historical cairns, and the cobbled stones of the Street of the Dead.

But as I write of them, I begin to yearn again for the white beaches with their coloured pebbles sparkling in the sunlight as the tide recedes from the shores of Iona.

JOHN MILNE, Class 4A.

### THE ISLE OF ARRAN

What is the spell of Arran that brings back families to this enchanted island year after year?

For most perhaps it is just the sheer beauty of its mountains, moors and bays. But the geologist can find infinite variety in the rocks of Arran; the botanist, a wealth of flora; the archeologist, plenty of evidence of prehistoric man; the climber, worthy tests of endurance; the simple holiday-maker, simple holiday pleasures.

I myself have found most interest in the historical relics of the island, from the castles at Brodick and Lochranza, the ancient Christian remains on Holy Isle to the King's Cave at Drumadoon on whose walls are many primitive carvings of animals, men on horseback, Celtic rings and at least one line of Ogham script.

Have I inspired you yet with a longing to see the place if you have not already been there?

ALISON WHITE, Class 3A.

*Coming down the helter-skelter,  
Nellie went at her full "pelter",  
Dress upon a nail she caught,  
Nell was gone but dress was not.*

B. W., M. B., Class 3A.

## THE WAKENING YEAR

### WALKING IN SPRINGTIME

*I wandered in the woods in spring,  
And there in a tall oak tree,  
The first young blackbird began to sing,  
Alone, just him and me.*

*I wandered on by the rippling stream,  
And there I saw with glee,  
The first young trout in the sunlight gleam,  
Alone, just him and me.*

*I wandered on by the grassy way,  
And was rejoiced to see,  
The first young butterfly out to play,  
Alone, just him and me.*

MORAG PRENTICE, Class 1A.

### THE WILD FOREST

*I go to the wild forest every day,  
in which the little birds sing.  
They sing their little songs to the leaves,  
and the trees and for me too.  
Then I go to the burn where the  
fish swim about and dart from  
place to place looking for something  
to eat, for they are hungry.  
The little squirrel comes to me  
to get some nuts to eat,  
He is so tame I can lift him up and let  
him eat from my hand.*

MALCOLM CALDWELL, Class 1E.

### TREES IN MARCH

In the first March days willow buds appear; the silver-grey furry buds of the catkins, and the shiny green of the white willow, herald the beginning of Spring. The beech and the oak trees still cling to the previous year's crisp bronze leaves, which, when blown by the wind, sound like the murmuring of a distant stream. The tiny red buds nestling at the base of twigs netted with prodigious prickles are the characteristics of the hawthorn. The dog rose, like the hawthorn, has prickle-protected buds, the spikes diminutive in comparison with the hawthorn's, but nevertheless effective! The elm has unusual and attractive buds on its knotty stem. They are round, and rose-like, and from a distance look like berries. From the rather droopy branches of the chestnut tree, hang its brown-coated buds which are far less conspicuous than the similar buds of the monumental sycamore tree, the buds of which are a light glistening green.

I love March, for these promise-bearing buds have a beauty of their own as well as being a clear announcement of golden days to come.

BETH MITCHELL, Class 3A.

### SPRING

*The Lady Spring is here at last,  
Spreading green mantle o'er the grass,  
Bearing a train of flowers behind her,  
Sweeping aside the cold of winter  
With her warm breath,  
Melting the last reluctant snow-wreaths  
On the brown heath.*

*Those winsome breezes fan the brows  
Of the village labourer as he ploughs.  
He hears the lark's song high above,  
Pouring its heart out to its love  
With keen delight;  
And watches at the furrow's end  
Its soaring flight.*

*His heart is glad that Spring once more  
Announces weary winter's o'er;  
He sees on every leaf her hand,  
He hears her calling through the land  
Her tidings gay;  
And feels her stir his blood again  
In her sweet way.*

MARY MACNIVEN, Class 4A.

## SCHOOLDAYS

### ON SCHOOLDAYS ALMOST OVER

As the days draw near to breaking-up time, and I realise that I shall be one of the students who won't be returning, I have qualms about my inexperience in practical work. I dread facing an office full of strange faces, turned on the raw recruit, though I try to convince myself that expertness will soon come with practice and hard work.

I feel, as days speed by with alarming swiftness, an unwonted affection for my teachers and begin to realise that they must have had much to bear from us. Up till recently, like all the others in my class, I thought that we had far too much homework. Now, I cannot get enough practice as I visualise the time, in the all-too-near future, when no teacher will be at hand to solve my problems. My only comfort lies in the assurance of some of the girls who have already braved the business world that things are not as bad as I imagine. They even go so far as to say that they love their work.

Kilsyth Academy is a school to be proud of, and I trust that I, too, will "Go forward in hope" and never bring dishonour upon its name.

JOYCE DAVIDSON, Class 4B.

### THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL

It wasn't until I saw the Assembly Hall prepared for the Leaving Certificate examinations that I realised how many uses the Hall can be put to, the variety of activities which take place there and the different appearances it can have.

For the examinations it becomes bleak and miserable with several desks scattered at intervals across the vast floor. In front the table is laden with mathematical instruments, piles of blotting paper, pencils and the brightly coloured Leaving Certificate Papers.

When I looked at the Hall then, my mind immediately returned to the gay scene which greeted my entrance to the Christmas dances. Gaily coloured paper lanterns were hanging from each light subduing the harshness of the naked electricity and hundreds

of tiny stars strung from the ceiling were swaying gently as the dancers swirled past. Besides continental umbrellas and branches of greenery there was, at the top of the Hall, a stately Christmas tree glinting with fairy lights. This fairyland scene was indeed a pleasant contrast to the one which greeted me in March.

As I gazed on, my thoughts turned to the future. Then I tried to imagine the Hall as it would be for the end of term concert. These have always been very popular and successful and when I see the stage brilliantly illuminated against the blackness of the area, I find the atmosphere very like that of a real theatre.

Of course, the Hall has other uses, including School Assembly held three times each week but thinking these more pleasant thoughts helped to cheer my depressed spirits before the ordeal which lay before me.

MARLENE S. WATSON, Class 5.

### SCHOOL WITH A DIFFERENCE

When I went to Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, I was only eight and it was decided I should carry on with school. The only school available was a Convent School where the teachers were Italian Nuns.

The pupils were of many different nationalities, British, Indian, Arabian, Pakistani and varied in colour from dark brown to white.

The school buildings were single-storied with very high ceilings. Large electric fans kept the room cool as the temperature was over 100°F. in summer. School hours were from eight o'clock in the morning till one o'clock in the afternoon, with a half hour break in the morning.

The subjects taught were the same as in the Primary 3.

Some of the Nuns were very pleasant and spoke very good English.

I enjoyed myself very much and some day I would like to go back and see the Convent School.

ISABEL MILLAR, Class 1D.

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF ... ?

### HIKING

The art of hiking is simple. All you need is a pair of good feet and a love for beans and spaghetti. If you happen to have a portable ambulance, motor car, boat or an aeroplane, everything will go smoothly. If you haven't, face the grim fact that you must walk.

The art of walking can be learned very quickly. All you have to do is move your legs. The kit is easy to acquire. All you need is spare clothes, ten pairs of shoes, a sleeping bag, cooking utensils, toilet kit, a basin (for soaking your poor feet), an ambulance box, a rucksack and your hostel card. (A revolver and a tent are really also necessary in case of angry wardens). Money might also come in handy in case you might like to eat or take the first bus home.

But think of the wonderful exercise, think of the pounds you'll lose, and think twice about going.

GRAHAM CLARK, Class 1C.

### A NATURE CLUB

Last summer, I decided along with some friends to form a club for the study and preservation of wild life. We used a garden shed as our headquarters where we housed a small library, an aviary and an aquarium. People who found injured birds or animals brought them to us for assistance.

Once, for example, two boys brought us a baby magpie deserted by its parents. We saved its life by hand-feeding it with milk-sops four times a day, and eventually put it in the nest of another magpie which adopted it.

Besides helping animals in distress, we have been on many exciting expeditions and mean to carry on again this summer.

JAMES HUTCHINSON, Class 1A.

### TAKING AN INTEREST IN ASTRONOMY

When I was very young, I used to look up at the sky and wonder what all the bright

lights were. My curiosity increased as I grew older and I began to read books on Astronomy.

My father encouraged my interest by buying bigger binoculars through which I was able to identify the galaxy Andromeda. This merely whetted my appetite and I proceeded to make a fairly successful telescope. Now on clear nights I could see faintly the rings of Saturn, a much brighter Andromeda, and one of the polar caps of Mars which was then close to the Earth.

On my brother's birthday, my father gave him a three-inch telescope which has a hundred and ninety magnification for one of the eye-pieces. Now we could see a spiral nebula, many star clusters, such as the Pleiades, many moons of Jupiter, and the rings of Saturn quite clearly.

We are now trying to fit a camera to the telescope to take photographs of craters on the moon. My hobby of Astronomy has become a serious interest.

DAVID MCBRIDE, Class 1A.

### A CAREER

*Some people soldiers want to be  
But that is not the life for me.  
Some say that in the Royal Air Force  
Life is just a matter of course.  
Some say that in the Fleet Air Arm,  
You cannot come to any harm.  
But the life on the open sea,  
Is the only life for me.*

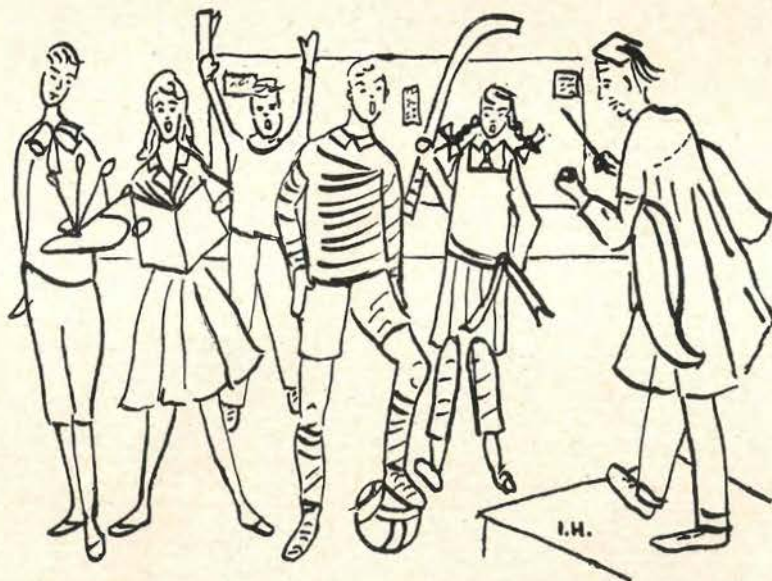
ANGUS KENNEDY, Class 3C.

### COLLECTING MATCHBOX LABELS

The beginner should simply collect every matchbox label he can find, but later he can purchase packets of labels of various countries.

The label should peel off after soaking the box in luke-warm water for five minutes and is easily dried on a blotter. It should then be placed in an album according to the country of origin.

RAYMOND QUEENAN, Class 2A.



## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### FOOTBALL

**Senior XI.**—The senior teams finished second top of their league, but were beaten in the Secondary Shield by St. Modan's. The team had a sound defence and, although the forward-line seldom managed to convert their artistry into goals, they undoubtedly played constructive football.

**Intermediate XI.**—After an exceptionally good start, the intermediate team fell away, mainly because several key players left school before Christmas. The team eventually finished fourth in the league and reached the third round of the Intermediate Shield.

**Under 14 and under 13 XI.**—The younger boys did not fare so well as the other two teams but are full of enthusiasm and hope for better things next season.

**Individuals.**—Iain O'Pray, 5A, played in a trial for a Scottish "cap" at Lesser Hampden, and Malcolm Macniven, 3A, played in a representative match for Stirlingshire at Brockville Park, Falkirk.

**Staff v. Pupils.**—Following their success against the Intermediates last season, the staff boldly challenged the Senior XI. Resplendent in strips kindly lent by Kilsyth Rangers, the staff trotted on to the muddy pitch and gave a very good account of themselves until the second half, when they had the misfortune to score twice through their own goal. A very interesting hilarious tussle ended in a 4-0 victory for the pupils.

### HOCKEY

This season the hockey pitch was again waterlogged and as a result the girls did not have very much practice. Considering this, the team played very well in friendly games against teams in the area.

### CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP— MCGHEE TROPHY

This was held on Wednesday, 6th April, at Denny High School, over a very wet course. The Academy entered two teams, one of which was placed 3rd, and consisted of J. Smith, 3rd; T. Wilson, 15th; D. Taylor,

25th; W. Cunningham, 39th; C. McMurray, 75th. The other team was a First Year team and is to be congratulated also on running extremely well. The members were: I. Caskey, 67th; J. Hutchison, 86th; M. Caldwell, 88th; W. Motherwell, 89th; E. Breton, 103rd.

### COUNTY SPORTS, 1959

The County Sports were held last year at Graeme High's playing fields. In rather unfavourable weather, all the boys' groups acquitted themselves well, especially Group C boys who won the E.I.S. Shield. The members of this team were W. Hardie, R. Gault, J. McLean, R. Kelly, J. Smith, N. Beaton and R. Williamson. The girls were obviously more seriously affected by the trying conditions than the boys and must hope for better weather and better results this year.

ROBERT MAXWELL, Class 5A.  
*Sports Editor.*

### DEBATING SOCIETY

The following people were elected as members of the Committee.

*Honorary President and Vice-President:—*

Mr. Kidd and Mrs. Maxwell.

*Convener:—*Miss Stark.

*President:—*Jessica Truten.

*Vice-President:—*James Provan.

*Secretary:—*David Taylor.

*Treasurer:—*Clifford Roseweir.

The session began with a "Brains Trust" with four teachers as the eminent brains. A debate "That things do go bump in the night" followed. A "Holidays Night" was next held in room 12 so that two films could be shown. Following that came a mock election in which there was a straight fight between Labour and Conservative, the latter polling the majority vote. This meeting had the highest attendance of 90. The following week the Debating Society retired to room 14 to hold its "Desert Island Discs". A debate, "The Ideal Teacher" followed. Two very interesting debates, "That Western

Democracy has been tried and found wanting" (4th year debate), and a 3rd year debate, "That modern education is a poor preparation for life" followed. This 3rd year debate was a very enjoyable one. Two "Hat Nights" were held during the session, and just before Christmas the North and South Kilsythians, the Lennoxtonians and the "Provinces" battled it out in a knockout game of "Ask me another". The season's programme was wound up with one of the most successful Debating Society dances yet held.

We were pleased to note that a few teachers, though not as many as last year, attended the Society. We should like to thank Miss Stark and all those pupils who in any way contributed to the debates and made it a successful session.

DAVID TAYLOR, *Secretary*, Class 4A.

### SCRIPTURE UNION

This session Scripture Union meetings have again been well attended. There has been a decided increase in attendance at the boys' meeting on a Tuesday when, after a study of a Bible portion, games are organised. The girls' meeting on a Thursday has been taken largely by pupils and games of netball have also been organised. On several occasions senior discussion meetings have been held with a local minister in charge. Several members have attended the S.U. camps during the Easter holidays. The S.U. are also making an effort to raise money in school for World Refugee Year.

WILLIAM MOTHERWELL, Class 1A.

### ART SOCIETY

The highlights this year were a very interesting film on the Dutch masters; a panel of pupils and teachers passing judgment on four pairs of pictures which afforded much entertainment and enlightenment; and a lecture by a young architect, Mr. Ian Dyce, on Modern Architecture, which was accompanied by his own delightful colour films.

ALISON VAUGHAN, Class 5A.

## COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

**National Bible Society of Scotland Essay:**—Each of the following Third Year pupils will receive a Bible for writing the best essay in his class:—

3A, Margaret Thomson; 3B, Grace Neilson; 3C, James Shillinglaw; 3D; Ann Muir

Margaret Thomson's essay has been forwarded to the Society as an entry for the special prize.

**Kirkintilloch Players' Essay:**—Fiona Kidd, 5A, has won this year's gift voucher for the best review of "The Happiest Days of Your Life".

**Burns Competition, 1959:**—Helen Muir, 4B, was the winning candidate.

**Colzium Award for Public Speaking, 1959:**—The cup was won by Marlene Watson, 5A.

**Road Safety Quiz:**—The Junior Secondary team was defeated by St. Patrick's, but the Senior Secondary team went on to the second round before being defeated by Stirling High, the ultimate winners.

**Art Competitions:**—This year The Glasgow Art Galleries presented Robert Hannah with a certificate commending him for his painting.

Both Norman Macdonald and Robert Hannah were commended for excellence in the Burns Federation Art Competition.

The winners of the Brook Bond Tea Competition, Alison Vaughan, Jessica Truten and Alan Wilson, each received a book token.

There have also been a number of entries for the National Exhibition of Children's Art, organised by the Sunday Pictorial.

**Life Saving Awards:**—Thirty Intermediate certificates have been gained by the younger boys and eleven by the girls. Thirty-three girls and twenty-three boys have passed the Royal Life-Saving Society's examination for the Bronze Medallion. The Bronze Cross was awarded to sixteen girls and ten boys, and the Award of Merit to six girls and five boys. The following girls and boys have gained the Instructor's Certificate:—Fiona Kidd, Marlene Watson, Elaine Nicolson, Phyllis McNeil, Arthur Adam, Robin Russell, James Provan, and James Paterson.

SANDRA SHAW, Class 5A.

## FILMS IN THE SCHOOL

During the year many films were shown to pupils which were of interest to all who saw them.

In the History Department, Mr. McCallum arranged for the showing of "The Louisiana Story" to pupils after school hours. This film, the story of a boy's life amid the swamps of Louisiana, is now regarded as a classic. At Christmas, younger pupils enjoyed the showing of the film "The Children's Puppet Theatre of Warsaw", "Biskupin", a film depicting the excavation of a prehistoric lake settlement in Poland, stimulated interest of would-be archeologists. Among many others shown were two of special interest, "The Mediaeval Castle" and "The Mediaeval Monastery".

The Science Department used films extensively to help pupils to grasp facts more clearly. Among those of general interest in physics were "The Electric Cooker" and "What is Electricity?" Chemistry was represented by "The Principles of Gas Making", "Producer Gas", "The Water Cycle", and others.

The English Department was able to bring to the screen Shakespeare's "Richard III" with Sir Laurence Olivier in the title role. This magnificent film, a vividly realistic portrayal of the period, excited the imagination of all who saw it in the Assembly Hall.

ROSEMARY CARMICHAEL, Class 5A.

## SCHOOL OUTINGS

There have been many enjoyable school outings this session to stimulate our interest both in the Arts and Sciences.

### English

Early in the session, senior pupils attended "Othello" in the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow. The Kirkintilloch Players kindly invited us to attend their presentations of "The Devil's Disciple" in November and "The Happiest Days of Your Life" in March. A short visit by forty pupils to Stratford-on-Avon has been planned for June which will include seeing places of historical interest such as Warwick Castle as well as attending a performance of "The Merchant of Venice" at the Memorial Theatre.



### History

Mr. McCallum has undertaken to organise several outings, a few of which have still to take place. These include a visit to the Kelvingrove Art Galleries Museum, the Hunterian Museum at the University, Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument, as well as some of the local places of historical interest such as the Roman Wall and forts.

### Geography

In September, some senior pupils went for a weekend to Glendoll Youth Hostel with Mrs. McKenzie, the Geography mistress, who organised instructive and pleasurable all-day hikes over the hills.

At Easter, Mr. Williams took a party of boys to Garth Youth Hostel, near Aberfeldy, for five days. They climbed several mountains, including Ben Lawers and Schiehallion.

### Science

Class 4A visited the Scottish Industries Exhibition in September and the I.C.I. Sulphuric Acid Works, Glasgow, later in the session. Class 5A visited the coke ovens at Queenzieburn and attended two lectures—"Our Smallest Servants" by Dr. Morris at the Royal College of Science and Technology, and "Synthetic Fibres" by Dr. Johnston at Graeme High School.

### Music

In October, a large party of pupils attended a performance of "Swan Lake" by the Royal Ballet Company in the King's Theatre, Glasgow, the principal dancer being Anya Linden. In May, another large party enjoyed a concert in the Albert Hall, Stirling, by the Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by Muir Mathieson.

### French and German

It is hoped that visits will be made to the Cosmo Cinema, Glasgow, to see French and German films.

### Miscellaneous

Other visits included an outing to the air base of the R.A.S. at Abbotsinch by the senior boys with Mr. Corbett in March. Some of our senior pupils joined a party of former pupils on a visit to the French Gallery in the Art Galleries, Glasgow.

MARLENE WATSON, Class 5A.

## THE UNCANNY

### SIR LANCELOT

*In days of old when knights were bold,  
And dragons still breathed fire,  
There lived a knight, a trusty knight,  
Sir Lancelot, Esquire.*

*Now this bold knight he had a fight,  
But he was forced to yield,  
The dragon he'd been fighting with,  
Had melted down his shield.*

J. BRANNAN, Class 2B.

### EPITAPH OF JOHNNY JONES

Johnny listened. Was it his imagination? But he heard it again—scrape, scrape, like someone digging. He slowly crept up the ridge of dirt to see two men shovelling furtively. Body-snatchers! Then Johnny realised whose grave it was. He stood up and laughed; then, with a short run and a hop, he flew up into the air and came swooping down over the thieves who cringed back in terror. Then as Johnny's angel spiralled higher and higher, the trembling men gazed at the gravestone. It read:—

Johnny Jones  
died: 24th June, 1846.  
R.I.P.

ARCHIE KENNEDY, Class 1C.

### FERRETING OUT THE ANSWER

Electricians wiring a factory were faced with the problem of getting 600 feet of new wire through a network of 4-inch pipes underneath the floor. Normal methods would take weeks; yet they did the job in two hours!

A ferret was brought on the scene, one end of the wire fixed to its collar, and the scent of a freshly killed rabbit blown through the tubes from the far end. The ferret, getting a whiff of the rabbit, ran through the tubes and made an expert job of the wiring.

DONALD WILSON, Class 2B.

## FORMER PUPILS

Kilsyth is a difficult place in which to run any form of corporate activity. In the past many societies and associations have been founded, run for a time with great enthusiasm, and then faded to obscurity and a lingering death, leaving little behind but the hollow memories of former glories. This, of course, could be said of many places, but it seems to be specially applicable to Kilsyth. I have heard of several explanations put forward for this, such as the nearness to Glasgow, sharp religious and social divisions, and so on, but while there may be much substance in these, they do not get at the truth. "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves", a quotation which should be familiar to everybody above the second year.

The intelligent reader will have assumed from this preamble that the Former Pupils' Association is not flourishing, in fact, he or she may even have reached the conclusion that it is on the way out. We have to admit to one big disappointment—the meagre attendance at our annual reunion. This was held in April in Mathieson's Rooms, Falkirk, and took the usual form of dinner and dance, with Miss Fletcher as guest of honour. Though the number attending was hardly sufficient to justify the work and time required to arrange such a function, the enjoyment of those who did come was so manifestly great that it is highly probable that another attempt may be made next year, though on a reduced scale.

Happily, the other activities of the Association are more satisfactory. The Badminton Club, which plays in the school during the winter, has had a successful season; the Art Group has gone from strength to strength; the young Record Club has made an auspicious start; the Social Club had some enjoyable evenings; the Festival outings were well patronised, and a new section is coming into existence. This is the Cricket Club, born out of the enthusiasm of your Mr. Griffin, and we hope that it will provide a pleasureable outlet for the activities of former pupils for years to come, and perhaps even revive something of the former glories of the sporting life of Kilsyth.

An Association such as ours is, is bound to have its ups and downs. We have

had to contend with many difficulties in the past; we will have to contend with many difficulties in the future. But this I can say with perfect assurance, that, if you live in Kilsyth after you leave school, it can help to make your life richer and happier, if you leave Kilsyth, it can still serve as a link that binds you to your friends. In fact it is an Association worth joining—see Mrs. Maxwell about this before you leave—and well worth keeping alive.

JAMES WHITE, *President.*

### BULLETIN

Once again, last year's fifth and sixth have spread their abilities over a fairly wide field. Robert Morrison has chosen Dentistry as his career; William Thom is studying for a B.Sc. degree at the University of Glasgow and Ian Stirling has gone to the Royal College of Science and Technology. This is the first time for many years that St. Andrews has claimed any of our pupils. There, two of our girls, Jean McGinnes and Anne Wilson are studying for an Arts degree. Four girls have started their training at Jordanhill College of Education—Irene Hamilton, Barbara Lindsay, Elizabeth Martin (last year's dux of the school), and Sandra Stevenson. Gillian Garden is a student at the Glasgow & West of Scotland College of Domestic Science. Margaret Bruce is training at Stobhill Hospital to become a Medical Laboratory Technician. Alex. Paterson is in Insurance and Andrew Witton in the County Treasurer's office at Viewforth. John Barrowman is studying Poultry Farming. Two girls are in the Civil Service—Jean McGregor and Elsa McAllister.

Since the publication of our last "bulletin" several Former Pupils have completed their training and are now appointed to posts in the county. Ian McGinnes is in Denny High School, James Hunter in Kilsyth Academy and Lennoxton, Helen Patrick in Kilsyth Primary and Fay Caldwell in Balmore. Elaine Garden is now a radiographer in the Royal Infirmary of Halifax.

The school follows their progress with interest and we all send them congratulations and good wishes.

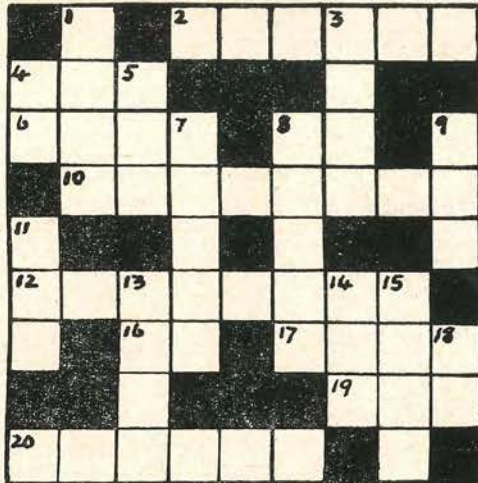
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Prize of 7/6 for first correct entry opened

**Across**

2. Essential to a secret agent (and a person of no importance).



4. Handy for pouring on troubled waters.  
 6. One of these modern painters (after Paul).  
 8. Rod-totin' Chigaco gent (sounds such a homely type).  
 10. Scottish Royalist who saw Baillie off.  
 12. Blue-eyed Victorian Statesman with the correct address.  
 16. If you remember your Latin, that is.  
 17. Garibaldi's birthplace sounds like a pleasant place.  
 19. Politicians are adept at rolling this.  
 20. "Veni, vidi, vici". So he said.

**Down**

1. Seen at the pictures.  
 3. Worn by saints.  
 4. Sounds as if everything is all right with our trans-Atlantic friends.  
 5. What a ferocious name for a Pope!  
 7. Betwixt and between, across the Channel.  
 8. Lost in the wood in "As You Like It".  
 9. Wound over (slowly) by lowing herds.  
 11. All this about nothing? And at Stratford-on-Avon too.  
 13. A poetic sort of male parent.  
 14. Gold diggin' gal (precious type!).  
 15. Russian idol. (Not Mr. K!).  
 18. Most of what the hen laid, for example.

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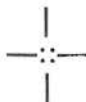
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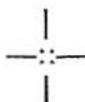
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