

**Aylesbury
High
School**

1959

1975



This charming photograph of Miss Camp surrounded by old girls was taken from a window of the library in September 1971. Mr. Chaplin's ear is visible as he sneaks out of the picture (bottom left); Mrs. Norris smiles at the camera; Miss Smith and Mrs. McLauchlan are, characteristically, talking. Many of the girls are 1971 leavers, including Jane Finch, Elizabeth Hawkins, Carol Laurillard, Caroline Ireland, and Susan Chappell, but 1970 is represented by Sara Leigh and Lesley Jones, 1969 by Jennifer Patterson and Valerie Seamer, 1962 by Valerie Dodd. Our apologies to others whom we have not identified.

Foreword

To look back over the past sixteen years and write in appreciation of the achievements of The High School under the Headmistress, Miss Joan Camp, is a pleasure. While I wish Miss Camp on behalf of the Governors and myself a long and happy retirement, I regret the time has come when she wishes to retire.

The school was opened before the building was completed and the surrounding areas were mud patches waiting to be paved. The number of students increased quickly and more space was soon needed. The Old Barn was taken as a Sixth Form annexe. When that building was required by the County Council the Sixth Form moved to the former Technical School where the second forms soon joined them.

Over the last 16 years many changes have taken place on the Board of Governors, Mr. R.S. Clark and I being the only present Governors appointed before the school opened.

Through all the difficulties Miss Camp has encouraged happiness within the school. Several members of Staff have been with the school since it opened. It has always been a pleasure for Governors to visit knowing they will be given a pleasant welcome. Co-operation with The Grammar School has been encouraged with outstanding performances of concerts and plays.

The examination results have been excellent and work for the community has increased year by year. The development of a school during the early years is most important and the new Head will have a firm foundation on which to plan and build.

Thanks must go to Miss Camp for her distinguished service to the school and to education in general. I wish her good health to enjoy a well earned retirement.

Zena Williams
Chairman
Board of Governors.

Miss J.M. Camp: Headmistress 1959-1975

As I look at Aylesbury High School today I find myself seeing it in some respects as it was sixteen years ago. We opened in September 1959 with 430 girls, surrounded, as we are once again now, by building operations. The state to which the school can look forward in two years' time — that of all living under one roof — is one that we have rarely enjoyed during these last sixteen years.

In other ways the activities of our early days foreshadowed our future pattern. When the school was opened by H.R.H. Princess Alexandra in 1960, and in the forewords to the early magazines, I mentioned that I looked forward to the school building a reputation not only in the academic field, but for service to the community. Three themes have run through the life of the school — our academic record was very soon established as a high one; our social service in the community around us was even in 1960 part of our 'image' and we soon established links with schools in other countries, at first with Germany and France, and later also with Spain, The United States and East Africa. All of these links were to be developed during the ensuing years.

The Magazine each year has recorded the very varied opportunities, apart from academic work, which are available to all members of the school — in societies, clubs, choirs, and orchestras, and also the interesting visits of various kinds which have supplemented the work of all the school departments. I have always stressed that it is up to the girls to take advantage of these many and varied opportunities, and I hope they will continue to do so in the future, just as I hope that the high standards of academic achievement, the service to the community and the links with the outside world will continue to flourish.

J.M. Camp.

Headmistress 1959-1975



Academic Achievements

Over the last sixteen years very sound academic standards have been established, and in addition to exceptional individual achievements there has been a very high general level of attainment at Ordinary Level.

We record below some details of the 1973 and 1974 examination results, which not only show the successes of those years, but typify the general pattern of attainment which has developed over the years.

Ordinary Level Achievements

	Total number in Fifth Form	Number with 8 or 9 passes	Number with at least 5 passes	Numbers passing in the 3 subjects taken by all girls		
				Eng. Lang.	Eng. Lit.	Maths.
1973	107	55	92	98	94	97
1974	96	41	81	90	92	84

Some Advanced Level Achievements

- 1973 Ann Minogue: Russian (Grade A), History (Grade A), Geography (Grade A) and Distinctions at S.L. in History and Geography.
- Clare Scarlett: History (Grade A), English (Grade A), Latin (Grade A), and Credit at S.L. in History.
- Sara Prestidge: French (Grade A), English (Grade A), History (Grade B), Distinction at S.L. in French, and Credit at S.L. in History.
- Anna Doyle: English (Grade A), Geography (Grade A), History (Grade B) and Distinction at S.L. in English.
- 1974 Marguerite Dalton: Mathematics (Grade A), Biology (Grade A) Physical Science (Grade A), and at S.L. Distinction in Mathematics and Credit in Physical Science.
- Gillian Smee: English (Grade A), French (Grade A) History (Grade A), and at S.L. Credits in English and French.

Oxford and Cambridge Entrance Examination Successes

- 1973 **Frances Brown** was awarded a place at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics.
- Penny Friedlander**, while still in only her second year in the Sixth form, was awarded an Exhibition in Mathematics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.
- Gillian Smee** was awarded a place at St. Hilda's, Oxford, to read English,
- 1974 **Irene McMorland** was awarded a place at Newham College, Cambridge, to read Classics and Archaeology.
- Carmel O'Reilly** was awarded a place at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, to read Mathematics.

Staff Notes

Looking through staff lists and notes over 16 years has been a most interesting experience — so many names — the subjects taught — the particular interests. We have also had French, German and Spanish Assistants, part-time and peripatetic teachers. Some staff had only a brief stay, others spent some time with us, have kept in touch and even in some cases have returned to help in emergencies.

To all staff, past and present, the school owes much for personal interests — drama, music societies, sport — willingly used in the service of the school and enthusiastically shared with the girls, and this is an opportunity to say thank you to all of them.

Of the staff who started with the school the following are still here — Miss Camp, Miss Williams, Miss M.E. Cattell whom we congratulate on her appointment as Second Deputy Headmistress in 1973 Miss M. K. Cattell, Mrs. Madge, Mrs. McLauchlan, Mrs. Robertson, Miss Smith and Mrs. Tadman.

Others with long service are Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Evans (1960), Mr. Chaplin (1962), Mrs. Gleave (1964), Miss Hodgkins (1965) and Mrs. Tydeman (1966).

Over the last two years we have welcomed Miss Short and Mrs. Furby (Sept. 1973), Miss Bailey (April 1974), Mrs. Calverley, Mrs. Collard, Miss Davies, Mrs. Dunkley, Mrs. Fletcher, Madame Grouille, Miss Harrison (now Mrs. Finlay), Mrs. Hunt and Mr. Speakman (Sept. 1974).

We were pleased to have Mr. Chaplin back last September after his year in America — minus an American accent but plus a large moustache.

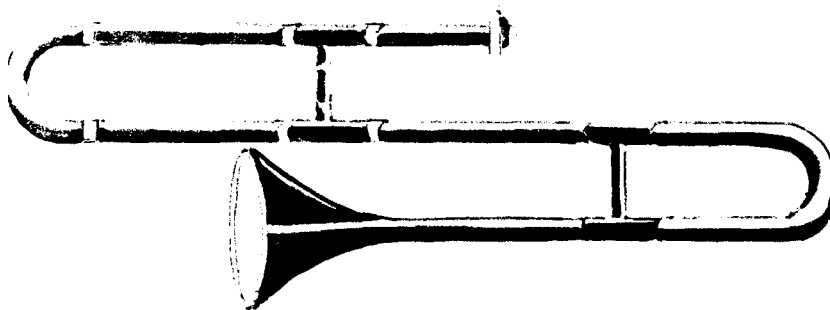
During 1973 — 1974 Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Pestell left to have their babies, Mrs. Wall went to join her husband in Zambia, and Miss Watts to a teaching post in Letchworth.

July 1974 saw the departure of many friends. Mr. Cox returned to America, Mrs. Osptad moved to Amersham, Miss Stokes to Bridgenorth, Mrs. Norris gave up teaching, Miss Nix left to get married and is now Mrs. Borsay, Mrs. Pitt returned to Belgium and is teaching there, and Mrs. Rawlings retired. Our sincere thanks and best wishes go to all these, and especially to Mrs. Pritt (1959) who looked after the 'Good Cause' projects so ably, Mrs. Rawlings (1961) who started the Thrift Shop and developed it into a thriving concern, and Mrs. Norris who transferred with the girls in 1959.

At the end of this term Mrs. Gleave is leaving to become Head of the English Department at The Cooper School, Bicester, and Mrs. Dunkley is going to be Head of Religious Education at Queensborough School in Luton. We thank them both for their services, particularly Mrs. Gleave for the valuable work she has done for so many years with English and in the Library, and we wish them well in their new posts.

Sadly we learned that Miss Camp has decided to retire this July. Tribute to her outstanding service as Headmistress since 1959 is paid elsewhere in the magazine; we the staff, wish to record here our sincere gratitude to Miss Camp for the understanding and kindness she has always shown towards us and which has made ours such a pleasant school to work in.

MUSIC



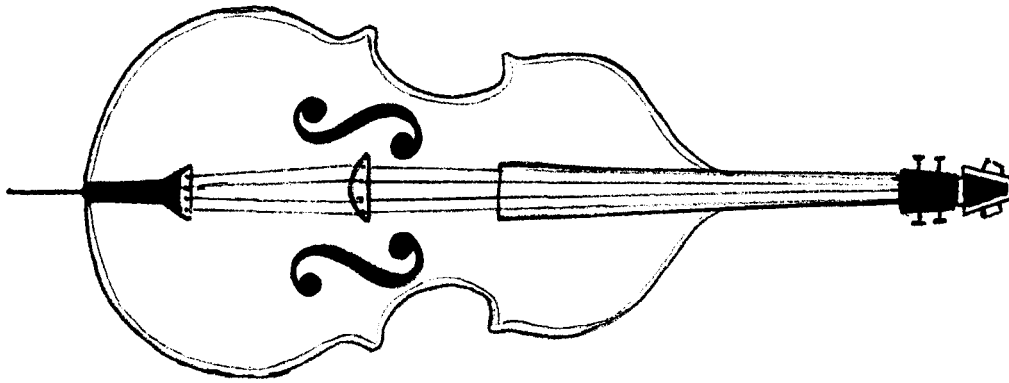
We inherited a musical tradition from the Grammar School and in the first year girls participated in a joint concert.

Miss Judith Williams became Head of the Department in 1960 and her enthusiasm and skill as a choral trainer led to the rapid expansion of various choirs. Initially, the only instrumental teaching provided by the County was of violin, with one or two girls learning the cello at the Grammar School, and shoals of clarinettists being taught privately, after school. Recorder groups became firmly established and regularly entered the Aylesbury Festival of the Arts. A somewhat unbalanced orchestra played weekly for assembly, coming in for good natured criticism regarding its small repertoire of hymns. For many years, the Assembly Choir flourished and, with valuable support from Tenors and Bases on the Staff, it was possible to break away from the usual female repertoire.

A Spring Concert, held jointly with the Grammar School in alternate locations, became a regular feature of the Easter Term. In the early years, programmes tended to comprise a large number of short items, the orchestras still being in a stage of development. However it soon became the custom to present a more substantial composition as the second part of the programme, and such works as Gordon Jacob's "Highways", Armstrong Gibbs' "Seasons of the Year" and Coleridge Taylor's "Hiawatha" were tackled most successfully. In later years, as both the choirs and orchestra matured, there were memorable performances of the Faure' Requiem, Britten's "St. Nicholas" and the St. Luke Passion by Schutz. More recently, the Senior Choir has had the opportunity to join both the December Festival and the Aylesbury Choral Society in performances of "Hodie" by Vaughan Williams, and Elgar's "The Dream of Gerontius", and it is with considerable excitement that we approach a performance of "The Elijah" next November, hopefully in the new Civic Hall, again at the invitation of the December Festival.

A precedent for the performance of opera was established by Mr. Charles Pope before the schools divided, with a production of "Dido and Aeneas", and in recent years this tradition has been revived. In 1971, "All the King's Men" by Richard Rodney Bennett was staged, and this was followed by Britten's "Noyes Fludde", involving almost 150 pupils. 1973 was something of a landmark when "Tom Baines", an original opera by Mr. John Brown, Head of Music at the Grammar School, was given its first performances. The following Spring Concert included "Trial by Jury" by Gilbert and Sullivan, in marked contrast with the previous production, and this year's full length opera "La Belle Helene" was also in comic vein.

There has always been close collaboration between musical and dramatic activities, one of the earliest examples being the Nativity Play "The Word". More recently, the production of "Much Ado About Nothing" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" have been enhanced by original compositions from senior girls, and last year's production of "Hobson's Choice" will be memorable for some because of the haunting tunes played by the "small town brass band" directed by the visiting brass specialist, Mr. Winter.



The House Festival, traditional at the Grammar School, continued when the schools divided. Initially entries were organised in set classes but this has gradually become more flexible, each House presenting a varied programme lasting approximately half-an-hour. It was particularly pleasing to have as our adjudicator in 1974 Mr. Charles Pope, who has been responsible to a large extent for the tremendous musical enthusiasm in Aylesbury, and who himself established House Festivals during his time at the Grammar School.

Probably the most significant factor in the development of instrumental and orchestral work has been the provision of visiting instrumental teachers by the County. Initially it was the school's responsibility to find a teacher. However, demand for instrumental lessons at this school in particular led to the establishment of a nucleus of full time peripatetic teachers, and we are now fortunate in being able to offer lessons on the full range of orchestral instruments, these taking place during the normal school day.

Many of our promising players and singers have belonged to the County Youth Orchestra and Choir, attending the residential courses during school holidays, and it was most exciting for the school that Margaret Campbell was admitted to the National Youth Orchestra in 1973, as a flautist. Lyndsey Durant and Lesley Shapr were Junior Exhibitioners at London Colleges of Music, while attending this school, and since the establishment of the Aylesbury Music Centre in 1966, many girls have been actively involved in Music there on Saturdays, playing in the various orchestras and bands, or receiving tuition as County Scholars.

Combined with the expansion of practical music in the school has been the growth of Music as an academic subject. Anne Cheshire was the first High School girl to go on to study full time at a London College of Music, and it was pleasing to have her back at the school teaching the cello for a time and to maintain contact while her husband Michael Eardley taught in the department. Gillian Wright studied at the Royal Academy, Carole Laurillard at the Guildhall and Janet Priest at the Huddersfield School of Music. Susan Chappell, one of our finest pianists in recent years, is remembered particularly for her fine performance of Rhapsody in Blue and Caroline Chamberlin is now reading Music at Durham University and Lyndsey Durant is combining Music and Drama in her degree course at York. Deidre Page has specialised in Music at Homerton College, and hopes to work in Music therapy. During her time at school, she did much valuable music with patients at Manor House Hospital.

This Autumn, four girls go on to collages of music, Margaret Campbell has gained a much coveted Open Scholarship to study the Flute at the Royal College of Music, and she will have as companions, Jane Mercy and Jacqui Clark who have been admitted to the graduate course specialising in bassoon and clarinet respectively. Veronica Read goes on to the Watford School of Music for a graduate course.

In the future, we look forward perhaps to our first professional orchestral player, and certainly to the much needed expansion of the Music block.

DRAMA REVIEW



The most important dramatic events of each year have been the school play, in conjunction with the Grammar School, and the House Drama Competition.

The previous page shows glimpses of past school plays produced in this school:

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (1960), 'The Merchant of Venice' (1962), 'The Lark' (1964), 'The Three Sisters' (1966), 'The Winter's Tale' (1968), 'Much Ado About Nothing' (1970) and in 1972 our 'revival' of 'The Dream' when the magic of the first fairy world epitomised by its beautiful backcloth had given way to a more disconcerting kind of magic.

These productions provided many outstanding individual performances; Shelia Melzak's in 'The Lark', Penny Lamb's in 'The Winter's Tale' and Lyndsey Durant's Beatrice to mention only three.

In our most recent production, "Hobson's Choice", Jane Canover's depiction of Maggie will be one to remember as will be the splendid support given to her by Margaret Moran and Elizabeth Crowe; and the photographs of Christopher Vince and Peter Bailey below are a reminder of the many fine performances given by boys, not only in this play, but over the years.

However more important than the excellent individual performances has been the very happy team work on all occasions; there has been splendid co-operation between pupils and staff, between different departments and between the two schools, and each year the school play has been a memorable experience for all who have taken part on stage or behind the scenes.

WINNERS OF THE HOUSE DRAMA CUP

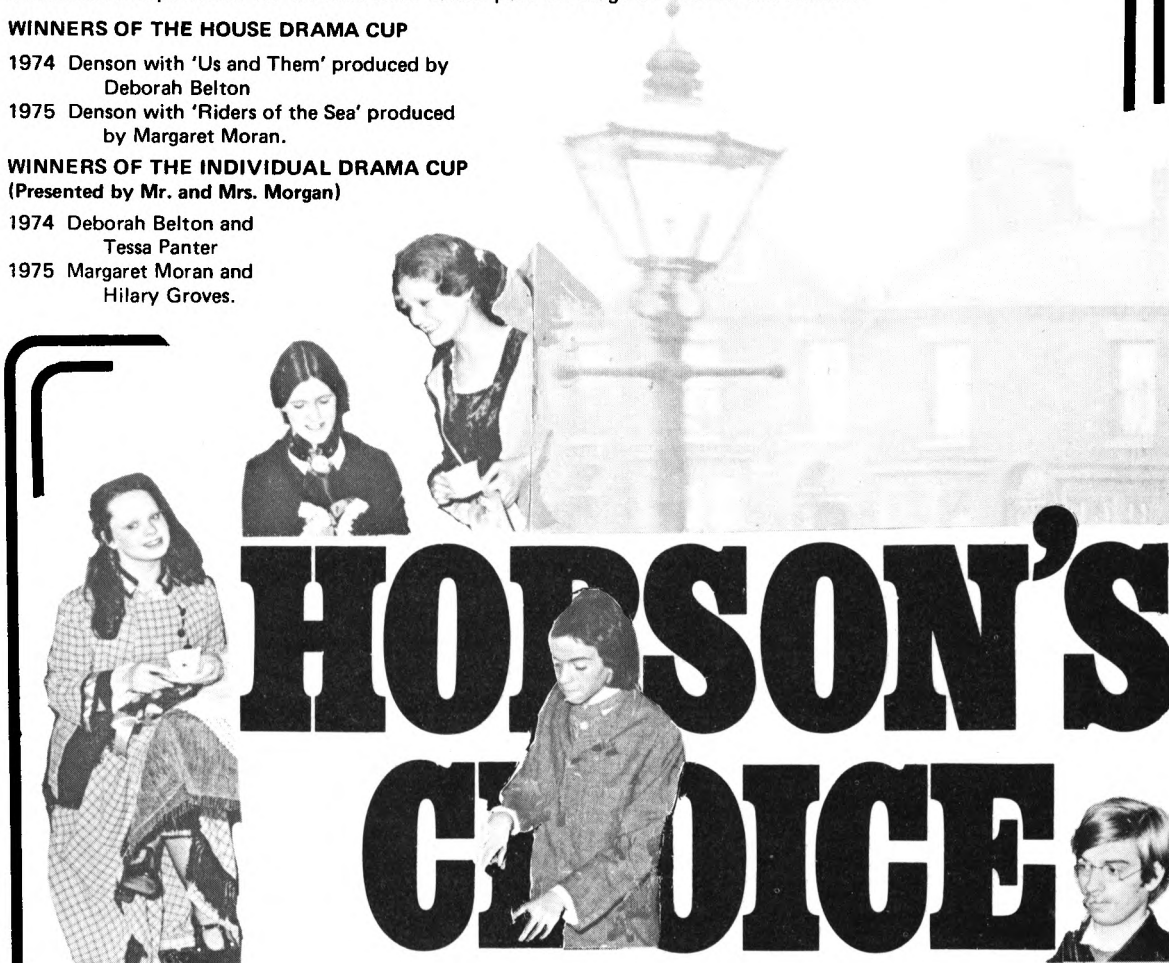
1974 Denson with 'Us and Them' produced by Deborah Belton

1975 Denson with 'Riders of the Sea' produced by Margaret Moran.

WINNERS OF THE INDIVIDUAL DRAMA CUP (Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Morgan)

1974 Deborah Belton and Tessa Panter

1975 Margaret Moran and Hilary Groves.



SPORT

It was not until I started reading old School Magazines and team books dating back to when the school opened that I realized how outstanding our sporting achievements have been. Individual successes are indeed most rewarding, but everyone who partakes in a Sporting activity whether in a House, School or County team, helps to set a tradition of which A.H.S. should be justifiably proud.

Games Captains

1974/75



Venetia Cosier
Bucks Tennis
1st Tennis VI
1st Netball VII
1st Hockey XI

1975



Theresa Gosling
Bucks Hockey
1st Hockey XI
1st Netball VII
U15 Tennis VI

1975



Cheryl Simon
Bucks 800m Champion
1st Hockey XI
U16 Netball VII
U15 Tennis VI
Athletics Team



1965 Senior Athletics Team which represented Bucks at All England

INDIVIDUAL SPORTING HONOURS

JUNIOR COUNTY HOCKEY			COUNTY NETBALL		COUNTY ATHLETICS AT ALL ENGLAND	
1959/60	P Pilgrim 1st Sen. XI		1965/66	J Norman Sen.	1959/60	E Stanton
	C Walker 1st XI			C Maylor Jun.	1960/61	M Oakley
	E Stanton 2nd XI		1966/67	C Maylor Sen.		V Tomalin
1960/61	S Eyre 1st XI			C Geeson Jun.	1961/62	M Oakley
	V Pitt 1st XI			E Heron Jun.		N Hindle
1961/62	M Oakley 1st XI			K Bray Jun.		L Kearton
	M Collings 2nd XI		1967/68	E Heron Sen.	1962/63	P Cranmer
1962/63	M Collings 1st XI			J Wolfe Jun.		L Kearton
	V Livsey 2nd XI			C Geeson Jun.	1963/64	V Hill
1963/64	M Collings 1st XI			E Young Jun.		L Kearton
	R Furley 2nd XI		1968/69	P Winford Sen.	1964/65	P Cranmer
	I Diederichsen 2nd XI			E Heron Sen.		D Edwards
1964/65	R Furley 1st XI			E Young Jun.		V Hill
	N Hindle 1st XI			C Geeson Jun.		L Kearton
	S Annat 2nd XI			S Taylor Jun.		L Warnick
1965/66	L Warnick 1st XI		1969/70	E Young Sen.	1965/66	A Limburn
1966/67	M Twemlow 2nd XI			C Geeson Jun.		L Kearton
1967/68	G Cox 2nd XI			S Taylor Jun.		V Hill
1968/69	E Davies 2nd XI		1970/71	D Edwards Jun.	1969/70	P Briggs
1972/73	P Lidstone 2nd XI			S Taylor Jun.	1971/72	G Matheson--S
					Counties Championship	
1973/74	P Lidstone 1st XI		1971/72	J Parfitt Jun.	1966	V Hill —
					England	
	E Purchase 2nd XI		1972/73	S Thackray U16	Junior County Tennis	
	V Thornton U15 XI			J Parfitt U18	1968/70	C Geeson
	T Gosling U15 XI		1973/75	S Galvin U16	1973/75	V Cosier
1974/75	T Gosling 2nd XI		1969	C Maylor England		
	P Christopher U15 XI					
	G Lee U15 XI					
Junior County Swimming			Bucks Junior Tennis Cup			
1959/60	P Hamill	C Philo	1972	J Minogue)	
	P Pilgrim	S Prior		G Matheson)	
1960/62	I Diederichsen represented			W Morris)	
	Division 7 at All England			J Mogford)	
1963/64	J Marshall			J Parfitt)	
1967/68	J Hill			K Bentow)	
1968/69	J Hill	R Wallace				
1969/70	S Lucas	R Wallace	J Hill			



TO REPRESENT THE MANY ACTIVITIES PROVIDED THROUGH SCHOOL SOCIETIES WE NOW RECORD AN ACCOUNT OF THE NEWLY FORMED CHESS CLUB, FOLLOWED BY ACCOUNTS OF THE MOST ESTABLISHED SOCIETIES.

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club was formed towards the end of the Summer Term in 1974. One of the principal aims was to raise a school chess team to take part in matches organised by the Aylesbury and District Schools' Chess League, but our meetings every Friday lunch time have also provided members with the opportunity of playing chess regularly amongst themselves.

The club has not grown very large, but we have always managed to "field" a team for the league matches which have been played both "At home", and "Away" at other schools in the area. While it must be admitted that our position in the league has remained near the bottom, we were able to end the season on a high note with a convincing win against the John Colet School. With the continued support of our members we can perhaps look forward to repeating such successes next Autumn when the new season begins.

THE HISTORY CLUB

1973-4, The Walton Street Dig.

In July 1972, O and A Levels being at an end, several of us took the chance to help on an archaeological dig. The site was off Walton Street, where the original village of Walton had been and the archaeologists had only a few weeks to excavate the site before builders moved in.

At first, the finds consisted of rubbish such as plastic flowers, a china wash basin and a number of beer bottles. But then we began to find fragments of a rough black pottery. At first we called this "grotty pot", for although it was typically Saxon in appearance, our professional companions wanted to be certain before congratulating themselves (and us!) on finding the first Saxon remains in Bucks. Eventually proof outweighed the need for caution and the dig was hailed as a success.

Working on the site has been hot and exhausting but the Saxon finds — along with several other objects of later date — had made it all worthwhile.

Lucy Reid

1974-5

In the Autumn term the History Club paid a return visit to Walton Street, this time to an archaeological site next door to that excavated the previous summer. Members were given a conducted tour of the dig and allowed to handle some of the finds, which again included Saxon pottery.

After weeks of frantic preparation, plus several last minute crises, the term's activities culminated in a Christmas fashion parade of costume through the ages.

In July, the club is contributing a piece of work on local history to the Schools Exhibition at Waddesdon and a great deal of time and effort will have been put into compiling a suitable display. The year is to end (all being well!) with a production in mime and music based on extracts from the Diary of Samuel Pepys.

S. Collard.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

This began as the Science Film Society in 1961 and rapidly developed. It has always co-operated closely with the Grammar School, but also has a separate entity.

Many different activities over the years have included a series of winter lunch hour film shows; a lecture series on photography with practical sessions on developing and enlarging; a lunch hour electronics group which produced a practical course ending in constructing a radio, one group even building a cathode ray oscilloscope which is in use in the laboratory today.

Last Autumn a visiting speaker, Arthur Garratt, of B.B.C. fame, kept us fascinated, while subjects for other talks have ranged from birds to radioactive chemicals, from the universe to making meat pies.

Small groups have paid visits to various establishments, factories of all kinds, the Atomic Energy Establishment at Harwell, the Radiochemical Centre at Amersham, R.P.E. Westcott, the Daily Mirror Press, the Science Museum and a Stage Lighting Lecture at the Strand Electric Studio in Covent Garden.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

The International Society is one of the oldest school societies. Meetings were held at the Grammar School until 1967, and for many years the society raised funds for different international aids. The themes have been extremely varied. In 1962, the main theme was the Common Market while in 1963, the emphasis was on world politics. In 1964 and 1965, the topics were very varied, ranging from Japan and South America, to the problem of apartheid in South Africa. In 1966, the theme was the United States and Vietnam, while in 1967 there were two themes, the Arab-Israeli struggle, and human rights.

The subject of the meetings in 1973 and 1974 ranged from China, to Czechoslovakia, from Denmark to Mozambique. There were several meetings on Russia, as great interest in this country had been roused by the school Baltic cruise. One of the most enjoyable meetings was a debate on Ireland, between two outside speakers, Mr. Power, Roman Catholic, and Mr. Little, a Protestant. Many of the meetings, however, were taken by members of the school including talks on South Africa by Hilary Groves, the West Indies by Mrs. Gleave, and on Denmark by Miss Wharmby and two members of the Aylesbury Youth Orchestra.

This year has been very successful for the International Society. Thirteen years later, our theme is again the Common Market, and its relationships with Britain. The society has had several outside speakers and films on France, Germany and Sweden, while films and lectures on Denmark and Italy are planned for the rest of the year. There have also been two very interesting meetings outside the main theme, with Mr. Chaplin, who showed some excellent films on his year's stay in Florida, and Miss Camp, who showed her film of Kenya.

We should like to thank all those whose help and interest has made the International Society so successful over the years.

Susan Thackray, Corinne Besley, Sarah Parr L VIS

CHRISTIAN SOCIETY

Since 1959 the Christian Society has had regular dinner hour meetings and a variety of other activities. In 1967 we were joined by some boys from the Grammar School and it is now a joint society of the two schools.

Caroline Ireland who was in school from 1964 to 1972 writes:

"My memories of the School Christian Society are varied — an introduction to several I.S.C.F. holidays which I really enjoyed; Sixth Form Conferences in London and after-school training in how to lead Bible studies and discussions, valuable experience helping to organize prayer meetings, Bible studies, discussions, book reviews, assemblies etc.

Perhaps the greatest value I found in the society was the opportunity to meet and get to know Christians from different churches in Aylesbury and to feel a real sense of unity as we shared a common trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of our lives.

We learnt, too, from our mistakes and I certainly felt it was a well spent Monday lunch hour."

One particular meeting from 1967 stands out in Jane Eeley's memory: "We sat under a tree on a warm sunny day and one of the boys led a study on the passage from the epistle of James about the tongue. I think it is one of the most salutary things to learn that words can wound or heal and that we have a responsibility to be loving in all we say."

Pauline McBride, of the present Upper Sixth, writes:

"We have had a number of outside speakers this year; one talk which particularly impressed me was on "The Advantage of Being a Church Member" by the Rev. Colin Jee. This talk clearly illustrated the need for unity of the Church as a body with Christ at the head. Often one may be asked the question, 'Why should I bother to go to Church?' I think that apart from the obvious reason of worship, this talk clearly showed that one can benefit tremendously from meeting in fellowship with other Christians, to share the love and truth that Christ has to give."

Courses, Conferences, Field Trips and Day Outings

From the very many out of school activities organised by Staff and outside organisations, we have chosen the following to show the variety of interests available to the girls.

DORSET EXPEDITION

Sixth Formers studying Hardy (over 30 on each occasion) spent a weekend in Dorset in 1968 (the Hardy Festival Year), in 1973 and again in 1974. Comments on the 1974 expedition summed up what all three parties found:

Valerie Owen writes: "The most beneficial part was seeing Stinsford, Puddletown and Bere Regis churches, and also visiting Upper Bockhampton and Dorchester, where we were able to walk round and appreciate the beauty of Dorset. We then comprehended Hardy's love of Wessex and the inspiration it gave him."

"I found the weekend was a great help in getting to know more about Hardy as a person". — Lesley Merritt.

And Linda Brown comments: "The trip proved to be a great success, and Mr. Atkins, our guide, had a way of making the whole of Thomas Hardy's novels come alive."

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

This Easter, 31 girls from the Upper and Lower Sixth attended a 4 day course in Swanage, Dorset.

The Dorset coastline is magnificent (if inaccessible) and geologically one of the most interesting in the country. The Isle of Portland, with the sea pounding against the limestone rocks, and the 9 mile long shingle ridge of Chesil Beach are impressive sights. The walk from Durdle Door (a natural arch) to Lulworth Cove is breathtaking in every sense. The mud claimed several victims including Mrs. Loarridge who, until then, had been resplendent in white suit and handbag!

A land use survey was conducted by small groups of girls, each mapping about 3 square kilometres. Some girls were enterprising and engaged farmers in conversation to ascertain farm practices. At the end of the day, all the information was assembled and analysed — finding the relationship between land use and geology or slope.

Wareham was chosen for a farm survey. Traffic was counted, people were questioned and buildings were

classified according to age, construction and function. The interviews investigated shopping habits, etc. to evaluate Wareham's sphere of influence, but the personal responses were often very entertaining!

N.D.C.

BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP SEPTEMBER 1974

Despite driving rain, our field trip at Orielton (in a remote corner of Pembroke) was very enjoyable and instructive. The work, however, was exhausting, lasting from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with occasional hourly breaks, usually for recuperation before the next excursion to the various rocky coves. There we counted, identified and measured the various organisms in the inter-tidal zone, sometimes numbering over 500 in the case of barnacles. The sea was bitterly cold when encountered at the bottom of a wellington and this together with the pouring rain, made us realise what they had meant by the need for fully waterproof clothing! We did, however, learn the basis of many ecological methods, and the interaction of organisms on the shore; it was a very valuable trip in relation to our A-level course.

Tania Green V12

INTER-SCHOOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP COURSES

In 1974 Catrina Weight went on a Fine Arts Course. "During our nine-day stay in Holland we visited many of the Dutch art galleries to see a wide range of both two and three dimensional art, encompassing a great variety of styles. During the day we went on coach trips to the various galleries and in the evening attended discussion groups or lectures. Apart from the extremely interesting course, the thing which impressed me was a very friendly atmosphere amongst both students and staff.

In 1975 Jane Malpas went on a Mathematics course at Chester. "As the week progressed, my knowledge both of Maths, and of the Christian Faith was increased. It was not only an academic course, I found, but a social exercise as I had to meet other students and make friends with them. It was all very enjoyable and I would welcome the chance to return next year."

Susan Arnott went on a Course in Seashore Ecology on the Isle of Arran. "Over the course of a week we learned the basics of ecology, the special features of the shore as an environment and the problems shore life must cope with. We also learnt the drastic effects man's behaviour can have on a community. In the evenings we discussed various aspects of Man and Christianity. Being an atheist, I found myself engrossed in emotive arguments from which I learnt a lot about human nature as well as Christianity!"

COMPUTER COURSE JULY 1974

Having just finished our 'O' level exams, about 15 girls from the Fifth form decided to take advantage of the early end of term and attend a 3-day course, run by the Aylesbury College of Further Education, on computers, a topic that had long fascinated many of us and which we were eager to know more about. Though a little confused at first, we soon became familiar with all the technical terms involved in computer language, and after being shown the basic principles of writing programmes we were soon busy working out simple programmes for ourselves, and feeding them into the computer terminal (part of the Open University Time Sharing System at Walton). Our first attempts, perhaps understandably, were littered with errors and usually met with the discouraging response "Last input ignored — Retype it!" However we persevered and gained a great deal of satisfaction on finally producing a programme that worked. Most of us in fact still have our little rolls of punched tape as proud mementoes.

Another fascinating morning was spent doing "Simulation Games and Exercises". For one of these, we split into 2 groups to form rival companies and, provided with certain information, had to make decisions, often after heated arguments, on how to run the business. This was fed into the computer which sorted out all the facts in only a few seconds and responded with a full report on the state of the business and its profit margins. Thus we saw for ourselves how useful computers are in dealing with large masses of complex information, and their importance in commerce and industry.

We were also given very interesting talks on the history of the computer, the work of the systems analyst and the modern applications of these complex machines, with a variety of films to illustrate them. On the last afternoon, Mr. Ray Knowles from the County Offices gave us a comprehensive and informative talk on career possibilities in the computer industry.



The policy of the school during the past decade and a half has been to take advantage of visits as much as reasonably possible, and looking back over the years there have been an immense variety.

At one time we had a combined Studies Outing when members of the V1th Form spent a day exploring Art, Architecture, History and Geography by packing the day absolutely full with activities. A different area was studied each year, Chichester, Arundel and Brighton in 1965, Chedworth, Cheltenham and Tewksbury in 1964 and more recently Winchester and Portsmouth. There are, and always have been, frequent theatre visits. Stratford is a favourite venue, but groups have also been to Nottingham, Oxford, London, Cambridge and several other places to see plays appropriate to their courses of study. Our homeland is packed full of art, historical and architectural interest, so the history people are always tripping off to some fascinating place. Besides the stately homes there are exhibitions at the British Museum such as the Tutankhamen one of 1971 and the Chinese of 1972. They also make use of the Victoria and Albert Study Days. For the past three years sixth formers have attended these excellent audio-visual presentations of the cultural history of Europe in different centuries as a supplement to their work in History, English, French, Art and Music.

The girls studying Art find time to visit galleries and on occasion they join forces with the Home Economics students to visit an exhibition of furniture design. This type of exhibition has been held at the Victoria and Albert Museum and also at the Design Centre. The P.E. Department takes advantage of big events such as hockey at Wembley and tennis at Wimbledon. The Economists visit the Stock Exchange and also find out the practical side of banking. Less frequently, but still as part of their studies, they visit factories to explore the everyday side of economics. For scientists there are always places to go; factories, research centres and museums are high on the list, but the biologists have a fascinating time once a year when they visit the zoo, where a special day's programme is provided.

K.W.E.

Service to the Community

HELP FOR THE ELDERLY

I was not really looking forward to visiting an old lady as I find it's bad enough trying to keep my granny happy. The first visit was just as I expected; with us sitting stiffly on the best, hard chairs with a cup of tea and a biscuit. However, we soon got to know our Mrs. Driskell very well and as she came from London originally, she has a great Cockney humour. She tells us what life was like when she was young and loves to hear about the places we had visited and about our current boy-friends. At Christmas she bought us some lovely presents which really pleased us. Now we are the best of friends and look forward to visiting her.

Teresa O'Reilly VD

Every Thursday afternoon after we leave school we call at Mrs. Clarke's bungalow to talk to her for about an hour. When she opens the door she usually says "Hello dears do come in, I wasn't sure whether you were coming this week or not" — even though we go every week.!

Mrs. Clarke is quite an active old lady for her 83 years and does nearly everything herself. She is always grateful for our company and talks nearly all the time! She usually chats about her past and her eyes glitter as she does so. We enjoy to visit her and hope to see her for a long time to come.

Christmas Party 1974

Tuesday, 17th December was the date set for the annual Christmas Party. As usual, all the elderly in the area came to enjoy the food and the entertainment, the latter being a very amusing fashion show through the ages and a round of 'Old Tyme Music Hall' songs.

The highlight of the afternoon was reached when, aptly, Mr. Chaplin appeared as a bedraggled and rather thin Father Christmas. Little presents like cigars and chocolate were handed round to all of the guests and a few of the lucky ones got a kiss under the mistletoe from Santa.

All enjoyed themselves if the thank-you letters were anything to go by and as one old lady said "Everybody went away fine, fat and friendly".

Interview with Mrs. Spittles who has attended every Christmas Party since the School opened.

Why have you been coming for so many years?

Because it's a very enjoyable afternoon out where I can meet new friends and chat to old ones.

Which parts do you especially enjoy?

The Nativity Play and the entertainment generally, especially Father Christmas — and of course the food is lovely.

Do you ever bring a friend?

Yes sometimes, but even if I don't I usually see some people I know and can have a chat to them about old times. But what I appreciate the most is the kindness and generosity of all the girls and the staff. We are not treated just like doddering old people but as individuals who all have something to contribute, and the girls all seem to be enjoying themselves too, which makes it even better.

FRIENDSHIP FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The most memorable occasion in the eighteen months I helped at the club for mentally sub-normal girls, was the day we went to the Pantomime of "Peter Pan" at Oxford. The girls, who range in age from twenty to eighty and are of mixed ability, were very excited at the thought of seeing Anita Harris – a real star! The coach journey was surprisingly quiet as most of the girls sat with shining eyes dreaming of the evening ahead of them. Sweets were passed round as a special treat and all the girls were dressed up, many with new hairdo's, so that an air of expectation and eagerness was very apparent.

As soon as the curtain went up on the nursery scene, every girl sat open-mouthed and eyes agog, watching the dog-nanny do her opening dance. From that moment the girls hardly spoke a word except to gasp in admiration at the children flying out of the window with Peter, or at Tinkerbell in her fairy home. However, as soon as audience participation was required, they joined in with gusto. Never before I am sure has Captain Hook met with such resounding 'boos' or Tinkerbell been revived so violently.

When the curtain finally fell on the last song, a unanimous decision of "Wasn't it lovely!" was the view of all as they reluctantly left the theatre clutching precious autographed programmes.

Rachel Glenny V1²

Manor House

For some years now, members of The Service Club have been going to Manor House in a voluntary capacity to help with entertaining residents in their own houses or going to various departments. More recently members with swimming certificates have started swimming "lessons" for the higher grade residents in the newly-opened pool.

Caroline Doyle and I have been going along to one ward for the physically disabled and severely mentally subnormal. At first we felt like 'spare parts', but gradually we became more useful and knew each individual very well. From here we were able to develop their skills. We began working there during holidays and gradually picked up a great deal of knowledge both from the staff and from the films that have been shown to nursing staff. A few months ago we were able to attend a workshop on behaviour modification which was invaluable to Caroline since she is going to teach mentally handicapped children, and also to me, as I am going into the nursing of mentally subnormal and psychiatric patients.

Linda Jacobs V1¹

FUN FOR CHILDREN

After months of preparation it was with a great sense of forboding that we arrived at the Southcourt adventure playground on April 7th. Our day was due to start at 10 o'clock, and while we were removing the shutters from the glassless windows the first two victims arrived. We half hoped these might be the only two arrivals, but before long children were springing up everywhere. We threw some of them outside to attack several volunteers from the Grammar School, and let the quieter (?) ones loose on the paints. We soon had organised chaos which continued for most of the morning.

This was the general pattern for the rest of the week. All our carefully organised games had to be abandoned as the children showed a marked preference for playing football, having non-stop 'piggy-backs' or throwing paint around. A break in the week was made with Janice, Sue and Joan taking 20 8-10 year olds through a blizzard to the ambulance station. On returning Janice was heard to say as she collapsed on the floor "Never again".

However, despite the sore shoulders from piggy-backs, the frayed nerves and grey hairs, we thoroughly enjoyed organising this playgroup and would willingly do it again.

Jane Robinson V1¹

ENGLISH FOR FOREIGNERS

At the English Language Centre.

At the beginning of the Lower Sixth we were given the opportunity of helping at the English Language Centre during two or three of our free periods each week. I, and a few others who were interested, decided to find out what was involved.

The Centre has about fifty immigrant pupils ranging from the ages of seven to sixteen. All the lessons are conducted in English so that the children quickly adapt to the sound and idioms of the language.

As volunteers we listen to the children reading individually, help them with creative writing, reproducing stories, and answering all manner of questions. I have found the work extremely rewarding, and as I have come to know some of the children personally through teaching them weekly, I have been able to follow their progress, and feel, with them, a great sense of achievement.

Christine Oliver V1¹

At the Grange Activities Centre

Over the Easter holidays, a group of innocent, unsuspecting volunteers took on the task of socialising with immigrant children to help improve their English. They turned out to be mostly excited youths who towered above us and had their minds set on things other than their English. But when the ice had been broken, we found ourselves involved in games of football, cricket and table-tennis which the boys played like squash. All enjoyed themselves and both sides benefited. The children gained more confidence in speaking English and we are now obvious rivals to Billy Bremner.

Theresa Gosling, Jennifer Smith VD

At Home

Every Thursday afternoon as I trundle home on the bus, after my weekly visit to Mrs. Mohan, two thoughts regularly cross my mind.

Firstly, there is the tremendous problem Mrs. Mohan has conquered, little owing to my efforts, I must honestly admit; never before have I been so acutely aware of the inconsistencies and inadequacies of my own language, as when struggling through frustrating points of grammar and the idiosyncratic vocabulary of our textbook. Mrs. Mohan was plunged into our strange, damp country, with her family, three years ago. scarcely able to communicate at all. After an enormous effort of determination and confidence she is now able to understand basic English and make herself understood at work, out shopping or at the doctor's.

Secondly there is the vast amount of pleasure we all get out of our lesson, and I use "all" intentionally, for the afternoon usually ends up as a riotous family gathering; seven year old Kaushik begging for sums to do, which he practically devours in his eagerness, his elder brother patiently calculating the number of seconds in a year, or philosophising about the existence of dinosaurs, and their sister Kanta, undergoing the rigours of C.S.E's discussing art projects and dress patterns. After an inevitable trudge through the rain I am welcomed into the family with a hot cup of tea and some delicious spicy Indian confectionery and then there is the appeal of a long chat with Mrs. Mohan; discussing television programmes, a new shampoo or a visit to London; anecdotes about her childhood in Tanzania, such as coming face-to-face with a huge poisonous snake in the top of a tree, and the disadvantages of not being able to pop into the sea for a bathe before breakfast; untangling problems about the heating, the exorbitant rent and letters from the council, and admiring her exquisite, glowing embroidered saris and the proudly displayed photograph album, packed with posed family portraits and snapshots of the children in a dusty African garden under a blazing sun, or playing delightedly in the snows of Aylesbury.

Helen Brazier V1²

Links with The United States



Miss Camp's sense of internationalism, which has been a hallmark of her 16 years at Aylesbury High School, is epitomised by her involvement in and promotion of links with the U.S.A. Her personal interest in America goes back to the war when Miss Camp made a study of the U.S.A. and acted as a guide for the American Red Cross. She organised an Anglo-American Youth Conference at Slough Social Centre in 1943 and this was attended by 500 young people.

Teacher exchanges between Great Britain and the U.S.A. made a slow start in the 1920's and in the 15 years prior to the war, only 134 British teachers had been privileged with this unique experience. Miss Camp was in the group of teachers that led the revival of the exchanges in 1946-7, when she was assigned to the Middle West – teaching History to High School students in Bloomington, Indiana. That must have been an enlightening experience because the British and American interpretations of their mutual history tend to differ – especially regarding the War of Independence in 1776 when we British were the 'bad guys'!

Having straightened out the Middle Westerners on a few factual details, Miss Camp returned to England determined that others should benefit from this cultural interchange. She was seconded to the British Committee for the Interchange of Teachers and for several years acted as deputy Director. She was eventually responsible for the Administration of the Interchange Scheme.

Aylesbury High School became very much involved in these exchanges when, in 1966-7, Miss Pat White (now Mrs. Newman) found herself teaching in Cambridge Central School in Upper New York State. In return, this small sleepy town yielded up Mr. Clem Crowe and family! That year still lingers in the memory of the staff and the pupils involved as being one of fascinating conversations, refreshing ideas and often hysterical humour. The girls were amused at Clem's three-line tests; meanwhile Pat was trying to introduce the "essay" to students brought up on multiple-choice tests.

Clem, in one of his more serious moments, reflects on that year as follows:—

"Miss Camp's retirement from A.H.S. makes us pause and remember our wonderful time there and the part Miss Camp played in the success of that memorable year. The thoughtful telegram as we landed in Southampton, introductions to enable us to obtain "peanut butter"; informal dinners at her house, arrangements to visit other schools, all made us realise that Miss Camp wanted our year to be a great success. Our whole family were included in the affairs of the school and this made us feel very much "at home". The year will always be a high point of our lives...."

The links between Cambridge C.S. and A.H.S. have continued with the exchange of several students. Stephanie Rust went over in 1969-70 and lived with Polly Wilmot's family on a remote chicken farm. Stephanie recalls: "It was a wonderful year. I found the Americans extremely hospitable and eager to explain customs or expressions I didn't understand . . . I was impressed by their perceptiveness. "Polly came to the "city" of Aylesbury the following year and experienced her first train ride. "At first I was very apprehensive about attending an all-girl school. I need not have worried, the girls were so friendly helpful and patient. I will never forget my working with the other Sixth form girls in the 'Tuck Shop'. A most rewarding and satisfying experience was working with and helping handicapped people at the Stoke Mandeville Paraplegic Games. On June 12th, my English "Mum" and I went to see the Trooping of the Colour. . . . I caught a glimpse of the Queen and the Royal Family . . .

Thank you, Miss Camp for making my year in England possible. It was a most rewarding experience that I shall always treasure." Apart from her fond memories, Polly returned to the U.S.A. with a brown belt in Judo – no mean achievement.



Another student from Cambridge, Bliss White, will be remembered for her fine flute playing. She is just graduating in music and religion at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Bliss feels that her year in England has influenced her philosophy of life. "Again and again I've thought back to my year in England and how I perceived the culture . . . that time stands out as a sort of model for further discovery."

Heather Campbell from Waddesdon, like all visitors to the States, found the Americans hospitable and receptive. She writes: "I learnt to become more independent, learnt more about people and lost my shyness — when I am qualified (as a nurse) I am going back again, possibly to work."

One of our present Sixth Formers, Teresa Riley recalls vividly "The vast open spaces, green, living; the wooden houses, white and verandahed.

Yellow school bus, lights flashing. The morning salute to the flag — 2 minutes silence — then bedlam as the school day begins.

English — "Macbeth" in American, spelling corrections — color, color, color. Social Studies — role playing, being held personally responsible for the British involvement in the War of Independence.

Snow — two feet thick overnight and the crisp air freezing as you breathed . . ."

It is not just with Cambridge, New York, that Miss Camp has encouraged American links, Janet Sebright and Gillian Smee were American Field Service scholars — a hard-won honour. Gillian remembers her year in Southern California "with Nancy and her Mom and Dad. MacDonald's hamburgers and 31 flavours of ice cream . . . the big game (football?) on Friday night . . . arguing politics and singing peace with 17 other foreign students . . . riding the cablecars in San Francisco . . . listening to — 'I just love your accent — say something! . . ."

Other girls have visited the U.S.A. — with other Bucks Students — attending McLean High School in Virginia, on the fringe of Washington D.C. Lasting 3 weeks, these exchanges have still left vivid impressions of the considerable cultural differences between the Americans and the British.

My family and I, recently returned from an exchange year in Florida, where we had been overwhelmed by the friendliness and hospitality extended by the Americans. They love the British and are bemused by our traditions and attitudes. They are so ready to show warmth, enthusiasm or patriotism — we feel it has been a great privilege to have had the opportunity of meeting so many Americans on their home ground. Meanwhile the staff at A.H.S. were enjoying the company and the southern-accented conversations of Mr. Lynwood Cox and family. Camille became a member of form 2W where she is remembered for her friendly charm and enthusiasm as well as for her prowess in music and swimming. The Coxes managed to see half of Europe in their year of exchange as well as a fairly comprehensive coverage of the British Isles!

The final tribute to Miss Camp rests with Mr. James Platt, the Director of the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges: "Miss Joan Camp has been a member of the Central Bureau Board of Trustees, on the nomination of the Secretary of State for Education and Science, since 1971. She has brought an extensive knowledge of international co-operation in education to the meetings of the board and her characteristic enthusiasm, good humour and wise counsel have been much appreciated . . . Her own experience has been a rare and happy mixture of project operation, advisory work and administration. . . Sir Ronald Gould, Chairman of the Central Bureau and formerly President of the World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession, has asked me to express his gratitude for the contribution that Miss Camp has made, and we of the staff hope that she will be able to continue to help us in the future."

N.D. Chaplin

The High School and Europe

Miss Camp has said how much she values our international contacts, and has encouraged not only cruises and skiing holidays abroad, but above all, our contacts with Link Schools in Cognac, Besancon, Chatellerault, Stuttgart/Feuerbach, Barcelona. We are proud to have enabled hundreds of girls, in these last sixteen years, to take part in the 13 French, 9 German and 4 Spanish home-to-home 3 week exchange visits. 1974 saw the end of the Chatellerault link, with a party of 25 exchanging. 1975 had a mammoth group of 35 going to Germany at Easter and 18 to Barcelona, and now we await their return in June-July. For Miss Smith, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Rawlings and Mrs. Hunt, linking means recruiting participants, then endless waiting for letters, battles with travel agents and insurance brokers, hours of pairing applicants; but it also means giving each succeeding generation a chance to share the rewarding experience of travel in depth and of language enrichment, and this makes it all worth while. Susan Thackray can speak for all the participants with her "memories of the ridiculously early morning departure and the rough Channel crossing" — of being "far too excited to sleep, at the thought that soon we would be cut off from an English-speaking world and become part of a Spanish-speaking family". There was a "typically exuberant welcome", and then "ski-ing, a visit to their summer home, a tour round Barcelona, a guided trip (with free samples) to the Champagne cellars".

The indefatigable Mrs. Pritt had terrible confrontations in Customs on the way back from Cognac! "The quantity of that beverage which crossed the Channel was quite alarming — enough to float the proverbial (or an actual) battleship". So write Mr. and Mrs. Litchfield, and they ought to know, for the first of their three daughters went in 1961, and Elizabeth (the third) in 1974. Speaking as parents they recall that the first exchange "was not quite what we expected and had its difficulties", with a "young lady who was more than content to spend as much time as possible at the swimming pool, much patronised by French boys!! Two years later we had two girls together and this exchange was an almost unqualified success. The following year we had a German visitor which was most interestingly different and definitely a success". Finally there was Syvie, whose "English on arrival was very good and, by the time she left, outstanding, due to her persistence in learning". Congratulations and thanks to such dedicated exchange parents.

Throughout these 16 years Miss Camp has lent her full support to these programmes, encouraged, admonished the girls, given hospitality to the leaders, attended our 'welcome' parties, watched from her room the coachloads gathering for a day's outing to Stratford or Windsor, invited Mrs. Williams, Chairman of the Governors and sometimes the Mayor as well, to meet the visitors. We feel sure that our occasional failures are far outweighed by the benefits from the hundreds of successes and we know how our language work has been immeasurably enhanced by it all.

We hope that Miss Camp will remember with special pleasure the production in 1964 of a full length French Play, Andre Obey's "Noe".

OTHER CONTACTS WITH EUROPE

She will also recall the happy buzz of staff and Sixth Formers talking in the Library every year to visiting groups from Germany, and once even from Russia, and with wry amusement the more doubtful benefits of annual visitations of "La Troupe Francaise".

ASSISTANTES

We have been generously dealt with by the Education Department and had a full share of the benefits of having young women, and occasionally men, from Europe to practice conversation with the girls. Their names are rich in associations for those of us who have been with A.H.S. since 1959, Gesa, Leonie, Arlette, Fabienne, Anne Marie, Alfred, Carmen, Gertis, Chris, Francoise, 1 and 2, Rachida, Chantal, Jacqueline Margarita — some of the three dozen who (since 1959) have lived more or less happily with us for one year. Their testimony about us tell us much about the community we have become over the years, and its impact on those from outside. We are only too pleased if we have been able to contribute something to the development of these young teachers in the making.

Let them have the last word, then, in this year where we are taking an over-all look at ourselves:

Francoise Guiton writes – “You fill in lots of papers and, one fine day in September, you arrive in Aylesbury High School”.

Then you immediately begin an entirely different life – First you think you will never manage it – but, little by little, without *really realising it*, everything improves; you enjoy the “English way of life”, and the life at school, so different from your own school. You almost forget you are a “foreigner”, that you are here only for one year till the day you are asked to write something for the school magazine, which means the end of the year is here. You can just thank the Headmistress or the staff and your pupils for a very enjoyable ‘English year’.

Brigitte writes: “When you arrive as an assistant you feel all excited about the things to come in a foreign country, and at the same time you are a bit afraid of the teaching you’ll have to do, – for it is the first time you teach and you really lose your courage, when you think of your own schooldays. But you are amazed to find how disciplined the girls in this school are, even in a ‘conversation’ lesson! The next thing you are astonished about are all the activities taking place at school, performed by teachers and pupils, such as the different plays and music evenings. I was very impressed and thought of the enormous amount of work which they must have put in.

Then, when you’ve got used to everything, even to the little English oddities – such as queuing for everything and being called ‘love’ in every shop – then you suddenly realise that you are in your last term and that a very enjoyable year will soon be over.”

Uganda

We were all very glad when Miss Camp agreed to talk to us about her experiences in Uganda, as ‘Operation Uganda’, set up by her ten years ago, became a by-word in Bucks.

For one year, in 1964-5 she worked as an Inspector of Secondary Schools and Advisor in Girls’ Education travelling through beautiful countryside where “Elephants have right of way”. This meant journeys of hundreds of miles, crossing the equator many times.

Less than half of Ugandan children have parents who can afford to send them to school. After the first year, in which they are taught in one of the 13 native tongues, English becomes the language of the schools. After six years of primary education, the children take a Primary Leaving Certificate on the results of which, those who obtain a place in a secondary school are chosen. As the fees for a year are the same as the average annual income, very few children, especially girls, have parents who can afford secondary education.

When she returned to England, Miss Camp still thought of the problems of Uganda. As a result of her concern and efforts “Operation Uganda” was born. To explain this to the schools of Buckinghamshire, she showed a film called “And gladly would he learn”. This emphasized the tremendous wish of all Ugandans to obtain an education. The response was immense: the county school pupils raised £1,500 in six years, financing the education of 22 Ugandan girls. Of this sum, Aylesbury High School raised enough for 4 girls in a number of interesting and unorthodox ways. A hairdressing salon was set up in the Tower Block, and various members of staff offered themselves as victims. The sixth form put on a historical costume display and the whole school ate more cakes and sweets than ever before.

The Ugandan High Commissioner visited the school in person to thank the people of Buckinghamshire, and Miss Camp especially for her dedicated work. This visit and the whole project was widely reported in Ugandan papers.

Many of the girls who received their education in this way have written to Miss Camp. The project called "Operation Uganda" ended in 1971 and in its time helped an emergent country to gain some of the professional people it desperately needed. Both the girls, and their country will never forget Miss Camp.

III L

Notes on Old Girls

Space limits us to these brief notes on a few among the very wide range of activities in which our former pupils are now engaged. Dates in brackets indicate the year of leaving; O and A indicate completion of G.C.E. courses at Ordinary or Advanced Level.

Shirley Foster (1961, A) First Class Honours English, London University. Harkness Fellowship to the United States. Now lectures in American Literature, University of Newcastle.

Beverley Woodward née Guy (1962, A) Degree in Modern History and Politics, at University of Reading. Now has a son and daughter and is writing advertising copy, free-lance, for television and other media.

Valerie Dodd (1962, A) Degree in English at St. Anne's College, Oxford, after winning State Scholarship. Now teaching American and British students for London External degree in English, while completing D. Phil. on the intellectual background to George Eliot's work.

Loraine Blaxter (1963, A) Degree in social anthropology, University of Sussex. Lived in remote French village to carry out research into its society. Lectured on anthropology two years University of Belfast. Now lectures on sociology, University of Papua, New Guinea.

Susan Nicholls née Horlock (1964, O) Business and secretarial course, Aylesbury College. Now our very efficient secretary at Aylesbury High School.

Anna Czarniecka (1964, A) Degree in Law, University of Birmingham. Became a chartered accountant and now lectures at the London School of Accountancy.

Astrid Szameitat (1964, A) General Arts Degree, teaching certificate, taught London comprehensive school. One year V.S.O. on the Faculty of Education at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Now Youth Action Co-Ordinator in Buckinghamshire.

Angela Grouille née Ravens (1965, A) Degree in French, University of Manchester. Four years teaching in Clermont-Ferrand. Now teaching French at Aylesbury High School.

Nicola Palfreman née Richardson (1965, A) Degree in sociology, Portsmouth Polytechnic. Has now taken a further degree, and lectures on sociology.

Virginia Samuda née Landon (1966, A) Degree in English. University of Sussex. Editorial work on *The Listener*. Has taught in Brazil under a British Council scheme, and now teaches in Oxford.

Teresa Szczuka (1967, A) Spent a year in Poland before taking degree in sociology at Nottingham University. Recently married, living in rural Suffolk.

Gillian Quartly née Hopcroft (1967, A) Market research work until marriage. Now lives on a farm near Aylesbury and has two small sons.

Rosemary Shovelton (1968, A) Degree in geography, University of Sheffield. Now carries out varied duties of a responsible executive position with the World Trade Centre in London.

Marjorie Bastow (1968, A) Has worked past four years for Possum Controls Ltd; lectures to appropriate groups on the firm's electronic equipment for the disabled and instructs individual patients in their homes.

Hilary Merralls (1969, A) First class Honours degree in English. University of Nottingham. Now plans to teach (Steiner method) in Stuttgart for a time.

Janet Ripp (1970, A) Trained in physiotherapy. Now married and living in France and teaching in a village school.

Susan Chappell (1971, A) First class Honours degree in English (with some philosophy) University of Sussex. Many professional performances as solo pianist, or with orchestra. Has just won a Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship at Harvard University, for 1975-6, one of five awarded in the United Kingdom.

Susan Young (1971, A) Practical course at Aylesbury's Industrial Training Centre prior to degree course at Cambridge, where she transferred from engineering to surveying. Now working in British Columbia.

Marcia Goring (1972, O) Came to Aylesbury High School from the West Indies. Now in her third year at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, working enthusiastically to become a State Registered Nurse.

Lyndsey Durant (1973, A) Employed for a year as Assistant Stage Manager at Ipswich Arts Theatre. Now preparing educational programme for television, as part of Music/Drama course at University of York.

Jacqueline Bradley (1974, O) Has this year joined the staff of Princes Risborough Laboratory (formerly Forest Products Research Laboratory).

Past magazines have recorded happenings of each year, but now we have a magazine with a difference; while we have recorded in it some of the important happenings of the last two years, we have in addition attempted to look back over the sixteen years of the school's life.

With the retirement of Miss Camp the first era of the school's life comes to an end and as we look back we realise not only how much has been achieved, but how the achievements are so closely linked with what Miss Camp set out to do. At the Official Opening of the School by Princess Alexandra in 1960 and in her forewords to early magazines Miss Camp made it clear from the very beginning that she wanted the school to keep a balance between academic and other achievements, she wanted the school to establish firm links with other countries, and to become a real help in the life of the local community.

The achievements of the school with its varied and worthwhile work and activities of present and former pupils owe much to Miss Camp's ideas, example and encouragement, and we ask her to think of this brief record of the school's first sixteen years as our tribute to her for establishing the school on such a firm and worthwhile foundation.

