

P O T T A G E
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A M A G A Z I N E C O M P I L E D

B Y T H E

S C H O L A R S

O F

U P P E R S T R A T T O N S E N I O R

S C H O O L

(WITH CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES)

P R I N T E D A T T H E S C H O O L

A P R I L 1943

The Editor wishes to place on record his very grateful thanks to all contributors for an excellent array of items submitted this time, and also to express his sincere appreciation of the help accorded to him by those who took such care in looking over the contributions, and thus making the working out of this issue less arduous. Such help means more than may be imagined. Thank you indeed !

And another for our hard working printers.

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EDITORIAL

A production of Pottage is, in these difficult times, somewhat of an achievement, and with a certain amount of satisfaction we present another issue for your perusal and criticism. We sincerely trust you will find the contents, rather fuller than usual, well up to former standards, if not surpassing them. While on this matter we should like to make it clear - if there has ever been any uncertainty on the subject - that all items, without exception, are entirely the unaided efforts of the scholars apart from the initialled articles, which have been inserted by members of the Staff for the sake of completeness. Especially is this to be emphasised in the case of the rather striking poems to be found herein.

A magazine showing considerable seriousness of thought and outlook. Are our younger generation becoming grown up too soon, or is this idea to be commended? We have, however, throughout all our pages, endeavoured to maintain a high standard of literary merit; and should any reader think our little book dull reading, please remember we encourage our young contributors to write something worth while, informative, educational; and at all costs worthy of the modern senior department of a school.

Finally we trust you will note that the contents are fully representative of the whole school; we fear this meant that many brilliant articles by some of the older pupils had to be passed over - they will appear in the next issue. To include all would mean a magazine of over 50 pages - wartime paper restrictions will simply not allow this. But the enthusiasm displayed for "Pottage" is a striking and pleasing feature of our little community. May this issue prove that.

April 1943.

(Editor)

-----oOo-----
SALVAGE

Paper and Rags all help the store;

I'm sure if you looked you could find a bit more!

Iron and Steel are wanted too;

There are plenty of things for you to do!

If we want to help in winning this war,

We must go on saving more and more.

(Kathleen Sheppard-11B)

OUR PIPE LESSONS

4.

Most of 111A girls look forward to Wednesday morning because we play pipes. Arranging ourselves into groups of threes and fours, we go into different parts of the school. As we are practising in our groups, Mrs. Iles visits us in turn to see how we are getting on. Sometimes we play together, accompanied by the piano.

Three of us always practise together. When we have practised our piece for a while, we try playing in parts. We know several descants. We once intended to make up a tune, and did start, but then we changed our minds.

(Eileen Hall & Marion Page - 111A)

Just recently we have been taught to play the treble pipe, in our class. We are allowed to come in and practise in the dinner hour, boys one day, girls the next. It is difficult to buy bamboo now, so those who can get a piece bring their own to school and have their pipe made.

(Pauline Hall - 1A)

---oOo---

"DIG FOR VICTORY"

Daily we dig
In our
Gardens, for

Food is so vital today; that
On every plot we must
Raise all we can, so they say.

Vitamins these foods contain;
In our gardens we must grow
Cabbages, onions, peas and most of all,
The potato; which is a vegetable
Of great importance ! so
Rake and sow and gather the crop:
Young and old, Dig for Victory !!

(Kitty Lockwood - 11B)

---oOo---

ENGLAND

'Tis a beautiful country is England,
 A land full of cattle and trees;
 It seems like a gateway to heaven,
 And the love of its nation the keys.

The sheep on the slopes of the mountains,
 Its picturesque rivers and streams,
 The green of the grass, and the blue of the sky
 And the way which the sun on it beams.

I think of my country, my England,
 The country to which I belong;
 My life and my work are for England;
 Without it my life would seem wrong.

(Ivan Sparkes - 11A)

---oOo---

A CHANGE IN MY LIFE

I started work at Messrs. Lott & Sons' shop on the 9th February 1942, and for the first few days I found it very tiring, but I soon got used to the longer hours. My first few jobs were filling up fixtures with new goods, commonly called "filling up". I also marked off new goods which taught me where the different articles were kept.

After continuing this routine for about a week I started serving, but I did not manage my own change for about six months. I was not at this long before one of our assistants was called up to do war work.

Some think that a life like this must be very boring; in some ways I agree, especially when the customers are constantly asking for No.8 batteries, iron kettles, saucepans, and the like. But there is always something to do, and something fresh to learn. At least I find it so. The word "ironmonger" covers much more than you would imagine, such as hardware, tools, electrical fittings; and I find it a very interesting trade.

(Hart - an old scholar)

---oOo---

"Get the habit of doing the smallest things with care,
 and you will soon do great things with ease."

FORM NEWS - 111A

We are once again a large class, numerically and figuratively, there being 41 of us, and some of the boys, hefty fellows, quite tower above the smaller fry, and are proud of it. The girls are indeed quite young ladies, too, and endeavour to prove a credit to their form and school.

We have nearly completed the round of daily agony - to wit, reading the morning lesson in Hall, and so far Joan Hays' rendering has met with the highest approbation. Cheerfully we hand on this privilege of appearing before the public eye to Form 2A, whose turn follows next term. We wish all good luck to our blonde and brunette, - inseparable pals, - in their coming examination for the College Commercial Classes, and we wish you the best of futures, Julia and Laura.

Our leavers all seem to be fixed up in work - the finest of luck and good fortune be yours, we shall indeed miss your friendship and comradeship. We all feel we are a happy family -our form- and we shall see you leave us with many regrets.

(Thelma Gilbert & Tony Illsley -111A)

---oOo---

LORDS OF THE SEA

Lords of the sea,
As they may be,
Small is the thanks that we may give,
For the food that we may live.

To distant lands far away,
You sail through night and through day,
In the waters dark and deep
Unknown dangers lurk and leap.

They who go in ships on the mighty sea,
Who have given their lives for us,
There is little we can say,
But we can watch, and we can pray
For the Lords of the Sea.

(Joan Braund - 1A)

---oOo---

"Avoid suspicion: when you are walking through your neighbour's melon patch, don't tie your shoe."

8.

FORM NEWS - 111C

As usual, what with the leavers and those "gone up" and those "come up" we are a different class since Christmas. Good luck to past and future leavers.

You might think we got a different teacher last November; but no, only the name has changed. We wish Mrs. Iles good luck too. As usual, we are among the school's chief gardeners, girls included. The girls love their woodwork and metalwork lessons. Several of us have been in the school teams.

(A little from all of us)

---oOo---

FOOTBALL, - RESULTS OF MATCHES 1942/3

<u>Opponents</u>		<u>Goals</u>	<u>Result</u>
Gorse Hill	Home	0 - 2	Lost
Gorse Hill	Away	0 - 5	Lost
College Commercials	Home	4 - 2	Won
Purton	Home	0 - 0	Drew
Purton	Away	0 - 1	Lost

TEAM THIS TERM

Goalkeeper	M. Hatton
Right Back	G. Hacker
Left Back	P. York
Right Half	B. Smith
Centre Half	K. Cook (Vice Captain)
Left Half	E. James
Outside Right	D. Wright
Inside Right	C. Day
Centre Forward	P. Hobbs
Inside Left	T. Rodway
Outside Left	T. Burden (Captain)

---oOo---

"Of all the hideous, horrid sounds of woe,
Sadder than the owl-songs, or the midnight blast,
Is that portentous phrase, 'I told you so'."

---oOo---

"The man who watches the clock usually remains
one of the hands."

---oOo---

BEAUTIFUL THINGS

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever" said John Keats. It is true that everyone loves to remember beautiful things. I myself delight in thinking of these:

Gilwell Park is about the happiest memory in my mind. Although I have not been there for a long time, I can remember all that was there as clearly as if I had only seen it yesterday. Everything is so quiet and peaceful that you feel you could stay there forever.

I also like to look back on a ride I once had into Devonshire. I can remember especially going up a hilly winding road, with the charabanc roof back so that we could see the tops of the trees on both sides. Since the war, many of the lovely places I saw have been bombed.

Roland House was left by Roland Philips in 1916, when he died fighting in France. He was a great soldier and he won some medals. These can still be seen in one of the rooms. Many people are persuaded to go in by the looks of the outside. It is an Elizabethan timbered house.

These are only three of the many happy memories which I have in my mind.

(Leslie Clark - 11A)

---oOo---
FORM NOTES - 11A

We were sorry to lose those children who were transferred to other classes. I came from 1A to take the place of one of these children. We were top for Red Cross collections last time and again this time. We hope we shall keep this record.

During the last term we made toys for Nursery Schools. The other day we had some letters from the older children at the school saying how much they appreciated the toys, and how well they were made.

When Mrs. Beesley was away ill, we missed her very much, and were glad when she returned.

(John Staniforth - 11A)

---oOo---

"Shallow wits censure everything that is beyond their depths."

---oOo---

10.

THE TOWN I WOULD PLAN

I would plan a town differently from our present ones. There would not be so many people, houses or streets in them, for they are too crowded at present, and are mostly unhealthy.

I do not think there ought to be more than 20,000 people in a town, as they would crowd the houses. I would have the residential areas on the outskirts of the town, where it would be healthier for the people. The country air would be good for them.

I would put the municipal buildings round the centre of the town, but not too far from the residential areas. I would have the church that most of the people go to right in the middle; the other churches and chapels further out. The libraries I would also put where people could get to them easily. The factories would be spread round beyond the outskirts, and not crowded together. The parks and recreation grounds I would place near the houses, where the children could reach them. I would not have a main road running straight through the town; I would divert it. The houses would be well back from the road and have gardens to them.

The houses would have French windows and a veranda. They would all stand in their own grounds. I would have central heating and tiled bathrooms.

Someday perhaps we shall live under these conditions.

(Joyce Salmon - 1A)

---oOo---

THE SCHOOL GARDEN

Mrs. Howes, our Gardening teacher, left last July, and Mr. Brice took us until Mrs. Sheild's came again. The winter has been very wet, so operations in the garden were held up. Now we are very busy planting potatoes, beans, onions, carrots and parsnips, as well as tidying up generally. Mr. Brice had some of the third year out helping.

Now that most of the garden is set we leave everything to Nature.

(Maurice Webb - 111A)

---oOo---

A few years ago I was an evacuee in Saunderton, a small straggling village, about five miles from High Wycombe, in Buckinghamshire. The countryside around there is, I think, one of the loveliest spots I have ever seen.

We lived in the valley and were surrounded by wooded hills. It was all very beautiful, and there seemed to be an atmosphere of peace and contentment about the place. When I used to take walks in the woods by myself, I sometimes felt almost afraid of the strange silence. After coming from the noisy streets of London the change was very great.

But the silence broke when I came near the house, for the man with whom I was billeted, was the owner of a sawmill. The whirr of the circular saw, and the sound of the crane lifting the logs, seemed quite homely. I was very interested in the sawmill, and tried to help as much as possible. I soon got into the knack of pulling the lever of the cutter, so as to remove another plank.

The lady I was evacuated with was not young, but she was very kind to me, and treated me like a mother. But there were many times when, as other evacuees, I longed for the sight of those who were far away. h

But generally I was very happy. I used to attend a school in the next village. This was on a hill, and was called Bledlow Ridge. It was two miles away, including the steep road up the hill, which seemed to make the way longer. We had no buses and had to walk. In the summer the lessons in Drawing, Geography, Nature Study and Local History were always taken out of doors; also Drama, Reading and Dancing were taken on the lawn in the garden. We had a very musical headmaster, and he always took the singing lessons himself.

Evenings on arriving home the tea would be waiting. One time I shall never forget was when my foster mother showed me the harvest moon rising. Just beyond the house was a big wood and looking in that direction we saw the moon gradually rising. The trees stood black against the sky and over the topmost

RURAL ADVENTURE (cont)

bought it came. Rising, little by little, until the whole golden reddish ball could be seen. It was a magnificent sight, the black outline of the trees standing out more vividly than ever.

There are many other things I could tell you, but I should never get through them all, so I will have to leave them for another time. And although I like the country, I must confess that I would rather have London than anywhere else, because I do believe

"There is no place like Home".

(Betty Pannell - 111A)

---oOo---

MY RABBITS

I have two little rabbits;
They are very clean in habits,
They live in a hutch,
Which didn't cost me much.

I feed them every day,
And put them in straw and hay;
I shut them up at night,
With a latch that fits quite tight.

One's named Frisky, the other named Fluff;
One has a white tail, the other a buff.
On Saturdays I let them run
And jump, and roll in the sun.

(Geoffrey Turner - 1A)

---oOo---

OUR JUNIOR RED CROSS UNIT (continued from Page 28)

We received some parcels sent by a lady from a unit in Pennsylvania - we have delivered them to the children in the Stratton hospitals.

(Jean Breakspear - 11B)

---oOo---

As far back as eighteen-forty postage stamps were in use in Great Britain, these were the famous penny blacks and the twopenny blues. In the following year the former was changed to red owing to the difficulty in recognising the postmark. They were not perforated so they had to be cut apart with scissors. Twelve years later in eighteen-fifty-two, a man with an ingenious mind invented the perforating machine and steadily stamps have been improved until now they are playing a great part in everyday life.

There are many different kinds of stamps; first there are the commemoratives, these were issued at some great celebration, such as the Coronation or Olympic Games. Next I think is the airmails; these are used for letters going abroad by aeroplane. After these come the pictorials with a design of some great engineering structure, or a little South African village printed on its surface. Then fourth are the parcel post for use on parcels, and last, but not least, come the postage dues for use on not stamped or under-stamped letters.

Of course, there are always some forgers, either trying to hoodwink the post office, or the collector; but they are nearly always found out. Before the war the German nation seemed to delight in printing forgeries, as they were very common in the stamp world.

And then there are the freak or fake stamps, which are very different from forgeries, and are usually genuine; one striking example is a St. Kitts-Nevis which has Columbus with a telescope; yet this instrument was not invented in his time.

Sometimes you will see words or names of countries that have been stamped on after the stamp has been printed. It is usually in black, but occasionally in red; this is called an overprint.

Another little interesting fact is the water mark, which is impressed during the early stages of manufacture, and can be seen by holding the stamp towards the light; or more clearly by putting it face downwards on a black surface, with a few drops of benzine on the back.

I am an amateur philatelist, with a collection of over eight hundred stamps; but I have still a tremendous lot to learn. I hope anybody who reads this essay will become interested and begin to build up a collection of their own.

(Colin Burton - IITA)

MY STAMP COLLECTION

About a year ago I started stamp collecting with six English stamps. I now have two hundred and fifty. In the first four months my collection grew enormously, but since then it has slackened off a bit.

One day I went to London and bought a hundred stamps for 2/6, which I consider very cheap. I also bought some stamp hinges. Some of my stamps are very interesting, especially the new issues. Stamp collecting is a very good hobby for anyone.

(Dennis Iles - 1A)

---oOo---

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

Salisbury Cathedral is one of the loveliest buildings I have ever seen. When you are just outside Salisbury Station you can see the spire high above the houses, very tall and stately. The tower leans over twenty-two inches.

Inside there is one of the very first clocks. It is very big and looks something like a washing mangle. On the wall there is the portrait of Richard Jefferies who wrote books about nature, and lived at Coate.

There are many statues of famous men, and on the wall is the statue of a priest, in whose hand is a little gold model of the cathedral. On the roof there are pictures of our Lord with children around Him. There are also patterns in different colours. There are many altars in the different chapels, and a different one is used each day. Hanging up there are some very old flags nearly dropping to pieces with age. We saw the big lovely organ which is played by the famous Sir Walter Alcock. I have been to many churches, but Salisbury Cathedral is the biggest and loveliest.

(Betty Jones - 11A)

2C is a pleasant class to be in. During the Autumn we collected horse-chestnuts for Maclean's and with the money - £1.15.4d we intend to buy a tree to plant in the school grounds. In needlework the girls are making frocks. William Gentle left us to return to London, but was glad enough to come back again as the bombs fell. We were pleased to see him again. Some of the boys have worked hard in the garden this term. At football we have beaten 1C many times.

Heather Lancaster is in Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. We hope she will soon be better and will be able to play rounders with us in the summer.

(Yvonne Godwin & William Underhill)

---oOo---

HIGHWORTH

There are some very ancient buildings in Highworth. The town itself is situated on the top of a hill, and whichever way you go to reach Highworth you have to climb. It used to be a market town and one street is called Sheep Street, because on market days all the sheep used to be penned up there.

Inigo Jones, who lived from 1573-1651, built the doctor's house and there are some very historic railings round it. In the church there are some beautiful coloured windows, and there is one put up in memory of Mr. Brown's sons, who were killed in the last war.

Oliver Cromwell fired a cannon from Blunsdon and the cannon ball is in the church now. Lieut. Warnford is buried in the church; he was one of the first to bring down a Zeppelin.

In the High Street there is a Roman house; and while some men were digging near it they came across a tunnel which was used by monks, and it led up to the church; there was many peculiar things found in it.

Highworth is a very clean and healthy place.

(Cynthia Powell - 111A)

---oOo---

A VISIT TO A FARM

17.

Last Saturday I went to a farm for the day. On arriving I was met by four geese which craned their necks and spat at me, so I ran indoors.

I got a bucket and went round to collect the eggs. There were about two dozen hens' eggs. Then I went into a shed and found four goose eggs, but as I was taking them in, my aunt called out that a hen was sitting on them, so I soon put them back. Then I fed a two-weeks old lamb on a baby's bottle. It's mother would not look after it, so it had been taken indoors.

I then went with my sister to milk the cows. I had a try, but it is not so easy as it looks. I helped to serve the village people with the milk when it was cool. Afterwards I watched my uncle and some farmhands threshing, and as they lifted up the sheaves of corn, great numbers of mice ran out, which the boys stood ready to catch.

I think farm life is the best and most interesting life, and I was sorry to go home.

(Peggy Carey - 11A)

---oOo---

MY TRAVELS

I was born on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, 1931 in a little village not far from Dover. I lived there until I was five, and then we moved to a small town in Middlesex, called Hounslow.

When the war began in Sept. 1939, we went down to a village called Micheldever, five miles from Winchester in Hampshire. After a time my auntie was going to move so my brother and I went with her to a village in Gloucestershire, called Filkins.

After a year we moved again, this time into Wiltshire, to a little village called Inglesham, between Highworth and Cricklade.

There I am now and early in March I came to this school.

(Patrick Dawson - 1B)

---oOo---

BLUNSDON ABBEY

At Blunsdon are the ruins of a big house which looks like a castle and is called Blunsdon Abbey. There was a fire there some years ago, and the people moved out, because half the building was burnt down. No-one knew how the fire started. The tower is still in good order, and many people visit the ruins. Down in the cellars there are still the big meat hooks and broken bottles. It is very cold and damp, and the floor is muddy.

As you walk across one of the lawns, you see two manholes without their lids. The holes are very deep and lead to the wine cellars. It smells damp and musty. Most of the windows are broken in the Abbey. Ivy is growing all over the place.

(Edward James - 11A)

OUR WAR RELIEF FUND

Since this Fund was started in the school on Oct. 5th 1939 we have regularly continued to receive contributions, and to allot our monies to various places and people, according to the most deserving needs of the moment. During this past month we have sent donations to the "Aid to China" Fund and to the "Comforts for Merchant Navy" Fund; and have also sent the sum of £16.17.10¹/₂ to our old boys and girls serving in the Forces, or who are prisoners of war.

A summary of receipts and expenditure is given opposite to cover the whole period; the original balance sheets may be seen on application to the Treasurer, or to the Organiser. We feel we have done well towards providing some few comforts to the men and women who deserve so so well of us. We also wish to thank all our subscribers, helpers and well wishers, and particularly the children, who have been so keen and hard working in keeping the contributions going. We are still keeping on, and mean to keep up all our efforts.

{ Organiser - G.M.B. }
{ Treasurer - R.R.C. }

---oOo---

Statement (From Oct.5th 1939 to April 7th 1943) 19.

<u>Receipts</u>	£.	s.	d.	<u>Expenditure</u>	£.	s.	d.
U.S.S.S.Scholars	219	18	11½	Gifts O.Boys,Girls	44	14	3½
U.S.S.S.Staff	17	10	6	Xmas parcels to			
Private Donations	14	10	5	above	18	6	4
Sale Lavender Bags	2	6		Army Comforts	25	0	4
Sale Fowl	5	4		Red X-Swindon	22	10	4
Concert-Highworth				Wool,needles etc			
Girls	13	4		for knitting	45	10	7
				Stretcher made for			
				St.John's Amb.	1	14	0
				"Aid to Russia" F.	25	0	0
				"Aid to China" F.	13	0	0
				R.Navy comforts	10	10	0
				R.A.F. comforts	3	0	0
				Wounded Soldiers	6	0	0
				Postage,sundries	2	10	6½
				Merchant Navy	19	0	0
				Bath "Raid Fund"	7	0	0
				Norwich " "	4	0	0
				Exeter " "	5	0	0
				<u>Balance April 7th</u>	2	4	7½
				<u>1943</u>			
	<u>£253</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0½</u>		<u>£253</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0½</u>

---oOo---

CHEDDAR CAVES

When you have a day's holiday, and don't know where to go, I trust you will not repent of a visit to the Cheddar Caves. It is both fascinating and beautiful, one of the finest sights in England to go and see, with pinnacles and pillars all over the place. Stalactites hang down and stalagmites stand up. There are little pools of water about the floor formed by the droppings of the stalactites.

The caves are situated in the Mendip Hills in Somerset, and it makes a very enjoyable ride from Swindon. Really, you cannot describe the beauty of that scenery, which you see as you go along.

.. (Harold Berry - 11A)

---oOo---

AERO CLUB

The members are as keen and enthusiastic as ever. Indoor pole-flying has been in full swing during the Winter months and several keen contests have been held. The contest for the Club Challenge Shield was held in March, the three squadrons competing. The holders - "A" Squadron - were again the winners, and so retain it for another six months.

A visit was also paid to Westcott Youth Centre, Swindon to give an indoor flying demonstration. Recently a concert was given by the members, and it proved a great success, the proceeds being given to our Club funds.

With the advent of lighter evenings, outdoor flying will again commence. On May 1st we hope to hold our Annual Exhibition of Model Aircraft in the school hall, and shall endeavour to make it an even greater success than last year.

(A.H.B.)

---oOo---

FORM NOTES - 111B

Several changes have occurred in our class since last summer. There have been some "leavers", and four boys were transferred to 111A at the end of December. At the same time, some boys and girls were transferred to 111B from other classes, so that our number rose to 42.

We were very glad to welcome Fred Taylor who came from Llanelly, in South Wales, last November. Fred can really speak Welsh! Just before Christmas we were very sad to hear that one of our girls, Beryl Grey, had passed away after a long illness. Beryl was very much liked by everyone, and all the teachers and children subscribed to a fund to buy her comforts during her illness and a lovely wreath was sent to show our affection and sympathy.

At Easter we shall be sorry to lose some "leavers", including Pat Lewis, who has stayed on and will be 15 in May. We wish her and all the rest the best of luck.

(Rita Gee - 111B)

---oOo---

THE SEARCHLIGHTS

21.

I saw the searchlights the other night,
And oh! my goodness, weren't they bright !
They flashed about all over the sky,
To catch the aeroplanes flying high.

I stood by the gate and watched them. Then
I counted 1,2,3 and so on, up to ten.
Oh! what a marvellous sight to see !
I thought a pilot I should like to be.

But if I were a pilot, what a dreadful thing,
To be caught in a searchlight as though on a
piece of string.

So after all, I think I'd better be
A little man just like me.

(G. Head - 11C)

---oOo---

THE HOUSE I WOULD BUILD

If I were going to build a house of my own, I
would like it built in the country.

It would have three or four bedrooms, bathroom,
drawing room, dining room, a small kitchen and a
kitchenette for cooking besides. I would have bay
windows in the front, and at the back path windows. I
would like a nice big vegetable garden and a flower
garden as well. Behind the house I would like a shed
to keep odds and ends in, and a greenhouse for growing
tomatoes.

There would be a few fruit trees in the garden.
I would like a lawn in front of the house, and all
along the paths everywhere, I would have arches with
roses trained over them.

A summer-house would be very nice, with creepers
over it. All round the garden would be fir trees. My
house would be near a wood so that I could gather wild
flowers.

(Gwen Mason - 11A)

---oOo---

3rd Year Boys

We have advanced well with the larger models and it is difficult to realise that a year ago we were making small joints. Our present models consist of first aid cabinets, book rests and stools. Many of the boys are doing jobs for the school, such as mending chairs. Others are making toys for War Nurseries. One of the boys in 3A is making a large book case, and has therefore had to bring much of the wood himself. It is made of oak and has now to be highly polished. Some of the boys hope to become carpenters when they leave school.

(J. Mayo - 111A)

2nd Year Boys

During the past few months we have been making toys for War Nurseries and have received some very grateful letters from the older girls in the school. The children in our school are always willing to help in this way and also repair the gardening tools. We are now helping to mend a few chairs that are broken. We are also making some articles for ourselves, but wood for large models is not always obtainable, so boys are sometimes asked to bring pieces of three-ply, or any other kind of wood to help during the shortage. Some boys are making models of their own choosing. For instance, I am making a handy writing cabinet, others are making tea trays.

(John Ilett - 11A & Thomas Hart - 11B)

1st Year Boys

First we made a scissors rack which included a butt joint. Next came a tooth brush rack in which the joint was the through-housing. We are now working on a pot stand. These are the tools which we have used: tenon saw, firmer chisel, rip saw, crosscut saw, jack plane, spoke-shave and smoothing plane. We have also learned to use the T square, set square, compass and drawing board. Mr. Brown, the woodwork master, says we are a good class.

(Gordon Jones - 1A)

GIRLS

Some of the 3c girls have woodwork on Friday afternoons. This term we have made the tooth brush rack, and crumb tray. We are now making the scraper for the latter. These are french polished. Last term two of the girls made good first aid cabinets. We all enjoy our woodwork lessons.

(Mavis Benham - 111C)

---oOo---

FORM NOTES - 2B Legion

When I first came to the Legion Hall there were two teachers, Miss Warde and Mrs. Saunders; Mrs. Saunders took 2B-L, a mixed class, and Miss Warde 3B-L, a girls' class.

At Christmas 3B-L were put in classes at the Senior School; Mrs. Saunders left and Miss Warde took 2B-L.

We have our Gardening, Woodwork, Metalwork, Science Needlework, Art and Games at the Big School, and other lessons we have at the British Legion Hall. Two boys, Hatton and York, have played in the school football team and Iris Hart has played in the school hockey team. Many boys in our class have stamp collections.

(Graham Green - 2B Legion)

---oOo---

EVENING SCHOOL 1942/3

The Upper Stratton Engineering Course in Mathematics, Machine Drawing, Geometry and Mechanics was held three evenings per week from the 21st Sept. to the 8th April. Attendance was very good, and the students worked well. The top three in the terminal tests were Neil Gore, Robert Brown and Hadley Fisher. As a sequel to the tests the names of eight students will be submitted for consideration to Mr. W. Blacklock, the Principal of the Swindon College, with the view to their taking more advanced work next year with the pick of the Swindon lads. They will then have entered the corridor that leads to the G.W.R. Drawing Office. Good luck to them!

(H.H.W.B.)

---oOo---

SPRING PROMISE

Spring is very early this year. My father tells me everything in the garden and fields will be very forward unless checked by late frost. When I lived near Salisbury, I remember looking away on the hills and seeing three or four teams of horses going to and fro over the furrows, sowing corn. My brothers used to say it was a grand sight. We could even see their coats shining in the sun. Just a rattle of implements; and the carters whistling or singing; or a rook cawing; these were the only sounds to be heard. I was thinking today my three brothers would be glad to see the same sights now; but that is impossible as they are widely separated; one being at Hull, one at Blackpool and one at Groydon. We are all looking forward to a great and glorious reunion before spring comes round again.

-(Gwendoline Mason - 11A)

---oOo---

FORM NOTES - 1B

My classroom is on the left hand side of the school. I like it very much because it has the morning sun. When I first came, I guessed I was going to be happy because all the children were happy and cheerful.

Christmas Examinations brought changes to our classroom, as it did to many others. So we had a few fresh faces to see. My friend went up into 1A, but as my other two friends were top in 1C they came into 1B. We have had two or three new girls and boys come into our Form, since Christmas.

We did very well in our Red Cross Collection this term, we reached £2.10s.0d, but we have done better than that. We have our teacher Miss Reed for P.T. and other lessons, but she is leaving and we are very sorry to lose her.

(Violet Bown - 1B)

---oOo---

We have had several changes in metalwork, including a change of teacher. Mr. Pitter has had the benches re-arranged so that the light falls where the boys are working. The work which our class is engaged on at present includes paper-knives, pastry cutters, coat hooks, caddy spoons and night lights; introducing operations such as soldering, filing, bending, shaping riveting and so on.

We enjoy our metalwork lessons, and are looking forward to the time when we shall be making the more advanced models which the third year boys are now making.

1st Year

At the beginning, we were told how we should progress through the first year of metalwork. Next we were told how to use the different tools. The first model we made was the angle bracket and keyhole plate, then we made the coat hook and we have just started on a model called the nightlight. All the boys enjoy handling the different tools. We are looking forward to making the more advanced models we see in the metalwork shop.

(Arthur Francis & Frank Coombs - 11A)
(Desmond Gibbons - 1A)

---oOo---

STYLES OF HAIRDRESSING

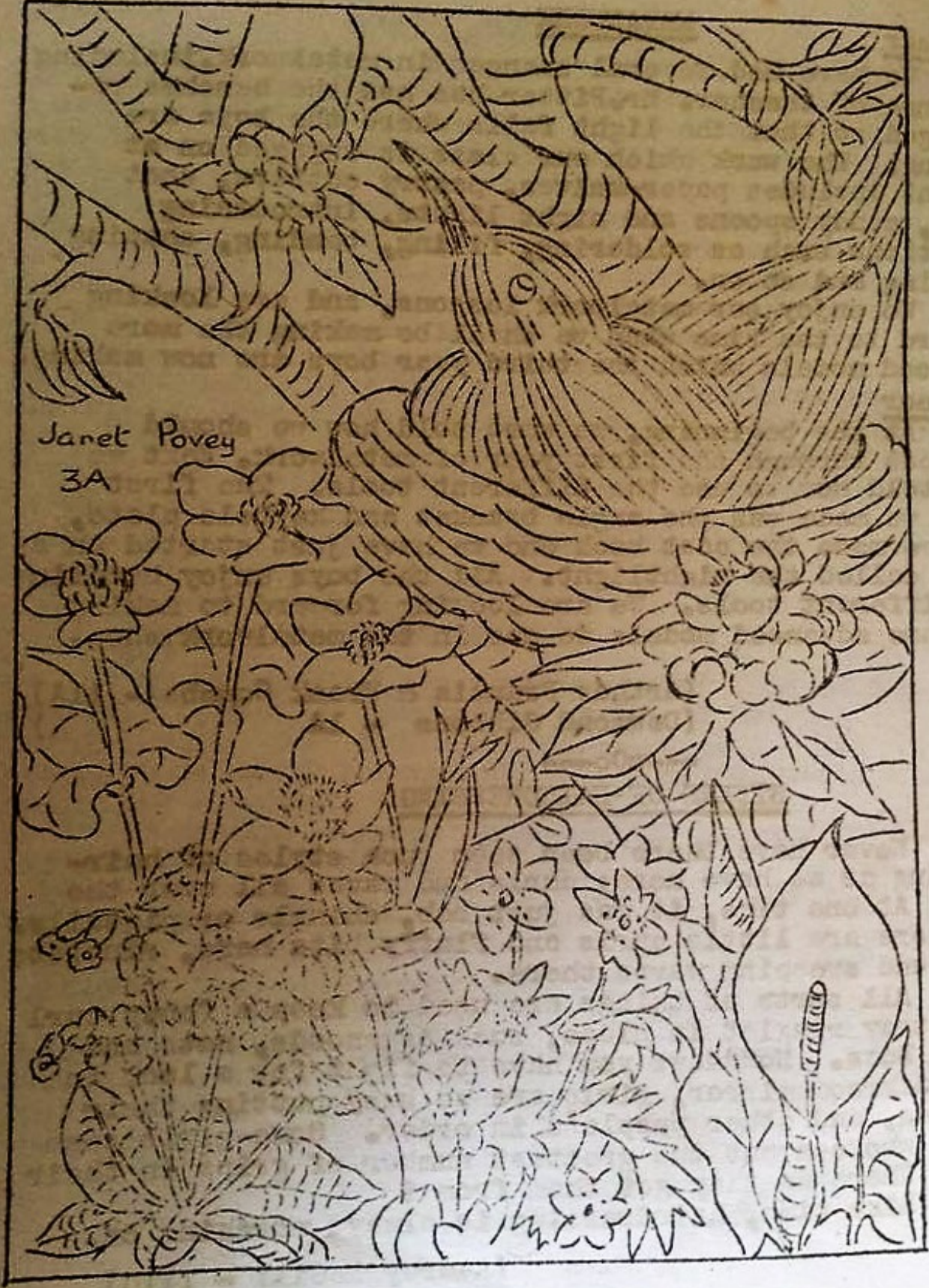
Never have there been seen such styles of hair-dressing as we have here; curls and waves all over the place. At one time, it was just bob, shingle or pigtails. Now there are little curls and fluffy bits here, ringlets rolls and sweeping waves there.

All sorts of things are used to keep a fancy curl or a stray ringlet in place, such as snoods, nets and ribbon bows. Nowadays you have to fight for a look in the cloakroom mirror, girls are so busy putting their fashions, and other people's in order. Some girls seem to see who can put the greatest number of grips in their hair. Where do they get them from?

Like time, hairdressing is always marching on.

... (Audrey McGill - 111C)

---oOo---



Janet Povey
3A

Robert Burns, the great Scottish poet, was born near the bridge of Doon at Alloway in Ayrshire, on the 25th of January, 1759, in a clay cottage which his father had built.

In his early life Robert Burns had a very hard struggle. He went from school to work on a farm when he was very young. One day he was driving the plough when a mouse ran in front, but he managed to avoid killing it. He wrote the poem called "To a Mouse" about this incident. Here is an extract:-

"Wee, sleekit, cow'rin', tim'rous beastie,
 "O what a panic's in thy breastie !
 "Thou need na start awa see hasty,
 "Wi' bickering brattle !"

This is just one example of the nature poetry Burns wrote in his own simple Scottish dialect. He was very kind-hearted and full of humour. He died when fairly young at the age of 39 years.

(Eileen Lewis - 111B)

---oOo---

S P R I N G

Look ! how the daffodil heralds forth the spring!
 Listen to it's golden trumpets ring !
 Lovely and stately, it stands in the light,
 While all other flowers join in with delight.

Primroses and sweet-scented wallflowers
 Grow in all our garden bowers;
 With violets fresh, and fragrant too,
 While around in the trees birds chirp and coo.

Surely here are the signs of spring !
 When all living creatures' voices sing;
 And all dark clouds have rolled away,
 To make welcome for dancing spring to play.

... (Glenys Harrison - 111B)

---oOo---

WHERE I USED TO LIVE

I have been living down here three and a half years. Before I came I lived in a place named Gillingham in Kent. Running through Gillingham is the old Roman Road called Watling Street. The river Medway runs into Gillingham, where there is a pleasant beach, boating and paddling pool for children.

On a stretch of green there is a monument in memory of the fallen of the last war. About a mile away is the Darland Banks, a lovely lot of woodland and grassy hills. There is also a Marine, a Naval and Soldiers Barracks. The chief occupation at Gillingham is shipbuilding.

About three quarters of an hour's walk from our house is Rochester. It is a very ancient city. There is a lovely museum, castle and Cathedral. In the museum there is a room showing all of Charles Dickens' personal belongings including chairs, tables, books, letters and a telegram which was sent to the doctor while he was dying. The sofa which is shown is fairly long, narrow and made of cane.

Near the museum is the "Bell Hotel" in which Dickens often resided. There is an estate quite near which is named after him - "The Dickens Estate". Still to be seen is Gad's Hill on which he used to ride along in his coach.

Over-looking the river is the old Norman Castle. There is still some remains of the wall and moat. Living in the dungeons and the slits in the wall of the keep are pigeons. The Cathedral and bridge are very old. The bridge is the only way out of Rochester. If you ever go that way, try and visit Rochester, as it is very interesting.

(Eileen Hall - Form 111A)

---oOo---

OUR JUNIOR RED CROSS UNIT

Every Thursday night I go to a Red Cross class at Highworth Junior School. We learn to tie different bandages. We have lectures for eight weeks, and then take an examination. Last Christmas we made all sorts of toys and held a toy stall and dance in the school.

(continued on Page 13)

SAVED FROM THE REVOLUTIONARIES(With apologies to Baroness Orczy)

It was a cold winter night, and we were all assembled in my château. There was a big fire roaring in the stove, but we all sat quiet, listening in case the peasants should attack our home. Now and again we could hear reports from rifles and cannon firing upon a neighbouring château.

Suddenly there was a loud report, and we started with the shock, as a cannon ball shook our walls. My guards rushed in to see if we were all right, and reported that the peasants were approaching. My men and I went into the tower to man the guns. When the rebels were quite close we opened fire, but we could not hold them, they were coming in hundreds, so we could only wait.

They captured us and flung us in prison, after a very short trial by the Committee of Public Safety, so-called. We stayed in prison for a long time, with very little food.

One day a mysterious visitor came in. He seemed a very old man, but we who knew him saw through his disguise. He was an English nobleman, who had rescued many of my friends. He had shot one of the prison guards and taken the keys from him. Our brave rescuer soon had us free, and later we were on his ship sailing for England. I have now joined his band of helpers myself.

(Edward Cheesley - 11A)

---oOo---

FORM NOTES - 1C

We are in the youngest class in the school. There is one evacuee with us. The girls are always glad when sports day comes to have a game of hockey and are longing for the time when they will be able to have cookery. The boys are keen footballers and like gardening with Mrs. Shields on Friday mornings. Our War Relief Collections have been very good.

(Joy Stump & Jean Hibbert - 1C)

---oOo---

"A man's manners are the mirror in which he shows his own portrait."

WHITE HORSE HILL

White Horse Hill is about a mile and a half from Uffington. It is 900 feet high and was an old Roman Camp. The White Horse itself is 374 feet long. The road leading to the top is cut out of the hillside; on one side the ground rises steeply and on the other falls away.

Below the hill is what is known as the Manger; one side is formed by Dragon Hill, where, according to the legend a dragon was killed; and where his blood ran down is, no doubt, the easiest way up the hill. On the other side are the Giants' Stairs, which are not anything like stairs.

Leading from White Horse Hill is the old Roman Road, the Ridgeway; and about a mile along is Wayland Smith's Cave. This is a collection of stones, set in a ring of beech trees. The story goes that in the olden days, when a traveller wanted his horse shod, he could tie his horse up, put down the money, and walk a short distance; when he returned his horse would be shod. It is said that Wayland Smith also made swords. No one ever saw him. There are many tales about the downs which are very thrilling.

(Mary Hibberd - 111A)

---oOo---

RABBIT KEEPING

We have fifteen rabbits altogether at the Limes, four of which are does nesting for young. All the rabbits have names except the six young ones.

Every rabbit is cleaned out every night except Sundays, but on Saturday afternoons they are cleaned out extra well. The hutches are scrubbed out once a month, and white-washed twice a year, to keep the flies away from the rabbits. We feed them on cabbage, carrots, turnips, parsnips, hay or grass. We often give them one or two twigs off the apple trees, to stop them from gnawing their hutches. One rabbit we call "Mother". We have had her the longest, and of course she is the oldest of all.

(Graham Embling - 11A)

---oOo---

"If we remember that life is a great and fine building, it may help us to behave like bricks".

Most of us enjoy being at the Senior School and doing Woodwork and Metalwork, and we all like the Gardening. Another joy is to play Hockey and Football in such lovely grounds. Banger Hobbs is our professional at Football, being the goal scorer, while Pam Brown is our champion at Hockey.

We were sorry to lose Grace Hays, our top girl, who has returned to her home in London, and we hope she will be spared the horrors of bombing. She will be missed in the P.T. lessons. We wish success to Rita Rogers and Sylvia Wilde in the coming Scholarship Examination.

---oOo---

COOKERY

In our school we are lucky in having a cookery room. In it there are two gas stoves, one big range, a gas copper and other things for Domestic Science use, besides a storeroom and larder.

Each class except the first year, has Domestic Science lessons. Our class has theirs on Wednesdays. When we have been through our cookery and laundry course, we start on group work. In our groups we do both cookery and laundry. Most of us like cookery, but not washing and ironing. Besides this, Miss Every has a list of duties, such as cleaning sinks and gas stoves, and we all have a duty each week.

(Muriel Savory & Audrey Woodward - 111C)

---oOo---

A FARM IN WINTER

I live on a farm, and a farm in winter is very muddy and dirty. The ducks help to make it so as well as the cows. In winter, ducks and fowls do not lay very well either.

We have twelve hens and thirty ducks. We also have three geese, and they lay every other day. We have had a doubled yolked goose-egg, which weighed 10 ozs.

We have been on the farm for eight years, and I have enjoyed being there very much, but it is very trying on some winter days, especially wet days.

(Olive Glover - 111C)

---oOo---

HOCKEY AND NETBALL

We have had two Hockey matches this season. One against Commonweal which we lost 1 - 0 and G.T.C. 5 - 1, both on our own ground. We have a return match with Commonweal on April 3rd 1943.

<u>TEAM</u>	
<u>GOAL KEEPER</u>	Muriel Savory
<u>RIGHT BACK</u>	Doreen Hart
<u>LEFT BACK</u>	Iris Carter
<u>RIGHT HALF</u>	Nora Westmacott
<u>CENTRE HALF</u>	Mercia Viner (Capt)
<u>LEFT HALF</u>	Iris Hart
<u>RIGHT WING</u>	Iris Woolford
<u>LEFT WING</u>	Muriel Hedges
<u>CENTRE FORWARD</u>	Peggy Carey
<u>LEFT INNER</u>	Joan Hays
<u>RIGHT INNER</u>	Veronica Holdman

We have played several netball matches this year, some on our ground and some away. Since Christmas we have lost Pearl Dobson who played attack, and Eileen Smith who played centre.

<u>MATCHES</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>		
Pinehurst	Away	Lost	27 - 0
Pinehurst	Home	Lost	13 - 5
Gorsehill	Away	Lost	11 - 10
G.T.C. Seniors	Home	Won	10 - 3
G.T.C. Juniors	Home	Lost	5 - 3
Ferndale	Away	Lost	8 - 5

<u>T E A M</u>	
Goalkeeper	Veronica Holdman (Capt)
Defence	Doreen Hart
Shoot	Mercia Viner
Attack	Joan Hays
Centre Attack	Eileen Lewis
Centre Defence	Betty Pannel
Centre	Peggy Carey

(Mercia Viner & V. Holdman - 111B)

---oOo---

NEEDLEWORK NOTES

We are still carrying on in spite of "coupons" and it is a great advantage to many to be able to make a garment at school. Many of the girls who are leaving are budding dressmakers, and may well be proud of the frocks they will wear this summer. The first year are making their cookery aprons ready for lessons next year.

Our needlework room looked like an old clothes shop a little while ago, but the rabbits, ducks and golliwogs made justified the muddle. Susie Rabbit and her "Boy friend" made many younger brothers and sisters happy at Christmas time, and we were able to send two large boxes of toys to the Nursery Schools. Our own Infant Schools are benefiting by our work, for we are making slippers, shoe-bags and many more little articles which they need.

Another large parcel has been sent to Mrs. Praeter, the Red Cross Commandant, for her department.

---oOo---

FORM 2B-L

In the Form of 2B-L
Are boys and girls, and so
Our class is at the Legion Hall,
I expect you all will know.

We have some lessons at the School;
We run up and down and do not fuss;
We have no time to waste, and must make haste,
Especially the ones that come by bus.

But really I must run along,
It's time for school, you know;
Well, I am going down to the Hall,
So bid you cheerio!

(Marion Basson - 2B-L)

---oOo---

"A fool manages to keep the fact from himself longer than he does from anybody else."

FORM NOTES - 11B

Our teacher is Mrs. Clanchy, who marks the register, and takes us for Scripture and Mathematics. She also takes the boys for P.T. and games, but for other lessons we have different teachers.

We have not a classroom of our own, as the other classes have; but we use the hall for Scripture and registration. Mrs. Clanchy has not been very long at Upper Stratton Senior School, but we all like her.

(Jean Phillipa - 11B)

---oOo---

IT'S IN THE DICTIONARY

If you are ever puzzled over a word and you come to the toss about it, look for your dictionary.

There you will find all about it, including the derivation, which often comes in very useful.

Also, when you are doing a crossword puzzle, the old family dictionary tucked right at the bottom of grandfather's chest is useful for the synonyms.

Now that there's a war on you have to save paper, and in order to do that, find abbreviations for all the long words you want to use. They are in the dictionary too. You may not often have to write to the King or the Prime Minister, but if you do, and you don't know how to address the envelope, go to your old friend the dictionary, and it will even tell you how to set about this. "Atlas" is a very interesting name. It comes from the name of a god, who, the Greeks believed, held the sky on his shoulders. The word now means a book of maps of all the countries in the world. The word "dunce" is taken from the name of "Tuns Scotus", a Franciscan friar. He disapproved of the learning of his day. So, although he himself was a clever man, all poor scholars are called "dunces" after him. The word "evacuee" was not heard before the war. Now it is very much in use, as first of all the children from the towns, and later people who were nervous or had been bombed out went to some quiet place of safety, away from the German air-raids.

(Pat Rogers & Barbara Burroughs - 11A)

---oOo---

SOUTH DEVON

Many people go to Devon to restore their health, as well as to view the scenery. There is a convalescent home at Torquay; when you are on the sea front you can see it on the hill.

To get to this home, you go up through the gardens, which make a very lovely scene. These gardens are full of beautiful flowers in many colours. When you are at the top of the gardens, you still have to go up more than two hundred steps. You need a rest after that.

Then there is Plymouth. Many people go to see the Mayflower stone there. People also go upon Plymouth Hoe, where Sir Francis Drake was playing bowls when the Armada came.

There is also the old Eddystone Lighthouse in the park on the sea front. You can look round it for 1d or 2d, or you could until the war began. I suppose the front and the Hoe are closed now.

(Iris Carter - 11A)

---oOo---

A VISIT TO LECHLADE

When I went to Lechlade I saw the river Thames. There were many men fishing there. I saw one man catch a large pike. I asked him how much it weighed, and he said, "About 9 pounds".

I noticed he used a large hook with a small fish on it. He had a very strong rod and line.

I asked him if that was the biggest fish he had caught. He replied, "No, the biggest fish I have ever caught weighed 14½ pounds". Then I asked, "How much do these weigh?" He said, "About 4 or 5 pounds I should think, and this one nearly 7 pounds."

I had to leave him then, and ran to catch the 4 o'clock bus back to Stratton.

(Peter Collins - 11B)

---oOo---