

MAGAZINE

OF

BAKEWELL CHURCH of ENGLAND

SECONDARY BOYS' SCHOOL



Let Faith Be My Shield

SUMMER

1970

*This is the seventh issue of the School Magazine.
In most cases it is the first time a boy has had his work published.
There is nothing spectacular and the magazine consists mainly of sincere writing and
information about the School.*

A MESSAGE

*from the Reverend Charles R. Heywood, M.A., Vicar of Bakewell
and Chairman of the Board of Governors of this School*

Once again I welcome the opportunity of writing a Message in the excellent Magazine of our Church of England Boys' School and, once again, I wish to look forward.

Last year I wrote of the Boys of Our School and of the contribution which they and the Staff must bring into the Lady Manners School when it becomes the Comprehensive School for all the boys and girls of Secondary age within our Town and District.

This year, as I look forward, I want to write of the School Premises in Bath Street, which will become vacant when Staff and Boys go to Lady Manners.

It is natural that many people within our Town should be looking hopefully at the School Buildings and should be suggesting how 'their' interests could best be served within them.

The Evening Institute and the Youth Service have their ideas: the Scouts have theirs: the Library Service have theirs: the Swimming Pool Trust wonder about the Boys' School Garden.

It may, therefore, be well that I should point out that the land covered by the School Buildings and the School Garden is, for the most part, the Property of the Church. Without any doubt at all, the Church Authorities will give first consideration to the requirements of our Church of England Infants' School which will continue at Bath Street when the Boys' School is closed.

The present Infant School Premises are far too small for the number of Children attending the School. The Premises must be enlarged or New Buildings be erected. We know that the County Education Committee are now giving careful consideration to the future needs of the Infants' School. Here I wish to make it abundantly clear that the Church will put the requirements of the Infant School at the very top of the list. It is only when the Infant School has been adequately housed that we shall consider what Buildings or Land can be made available for other purposes.

CHARLES R. HEYWOOD.

ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL

(For the information of Parents and Friends)

The School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School. The present building, opened in 1894, has been added to and several major classrooms were built over twelve years ago. A Terrapin Hut was built five years ago. A fully equipped Science Laboratory is available. There are four Greenhouses, a Poultry Unit, a Forestry Plot (Rowsley Wood) and the Woodwork Room and Playing Fields are detached. Under present plans it is expected that the School will close in two years when re-organisation of secondary education takes place. Boys will then be transferred to Lady Manners School, which is to be extended and will become a Comprehensive School.

Mr. H. Schofield, (Headmaster) J.P., Nottingham University
Mr. T. H. Bateman, (Deputy Head) College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea
Mrs. E. A. Marsden, Ministry of Education Qualified Teacher
Mr. F. N. Valender, Loughborough College
Mr. F. G. James, D.F.C., Canada Hall Training College, Padgate
Mr. R. H. Oliver, Sheffield City Training College
Mr. B. J. Armit, St. John's College, York
Mr. B. P. Finney, College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea
Mrs. P. Atchison, B.A. (Fions. Eng.), Sheffield University

There are 144 boys in School at present.

Forms and specialised subjects taught by Staff (own form in brackets).

Mr. T. H. Bateman, Science, Technical and Machine Drawing;
Mr. F. N. Valender, Woodwork;
Mr. R. H. Oliver (Form 8) Maths, Practical Mechanics, P.E., Art;
Mr. B. J. Armit (Form 6) Rural Studies, Geography, Maths;
Mr. F. G. James (Form 4) General, Games and Junior Maths;
Mrs. P. Atchison (Form 2) English-all forms;
Mrs. E. A. Marsden (Form 1) English, History and General Subjects;
Mr. B. P. Finney (Form 3) Less Academically Gifted Pupils.

The School has a House and modified Prefect System.

Houses are Burre, Chantry, Crest and Field.

These names are those of well-known residences in the district.

A Prefect is the Head of each House.

Burre (David Morton),
Chantry (Robert Charlesworth),
Crest (Andrew Slater),
Field (David Taylor).

Prefects:

Head: Michael Welch (Bakewell), Deputy Head: Ian Wildgoose (Bakewell),
D. Taylor (Bakewell), David Morton (Stanton Ford),
Robert Charlesworth (Youlgrave), David Plumtree (Sheldon),
Neville Palfreyman (Monyash), George Pearce (Little Longstone),
Andrew Slater (Baslow), Christopher Ellis (Great Longstone),
Jeffrey Twyford (Youlgrave).

School Secretary: Mrs. B. Himsworth.

The School has a yearly intake of boys from Junior Schools serving the Parishes of Ashford-in-the-Water, Bakewell, Baslow, Calver, Curbar, Longstone, Monyash, Pilsley, Stoney Middleton, Youlgrave and Middleton-by-Youlgrave.

Kitchen Staff:

Cook Supervisor: Mrs. J. Mullins, Cook: Mrs. K. Turner, Assistant Cook: Mrs. S. Mantell, Mrs. J. Sheldon, Mrs. M. Carman, Mrs. M. Mosley, Mrs. J. Simpson, Mrs. M. Stewart. Approximately 500 meals per day are cooked, of which about 260 are sent to other schools in the district, namely Bakewell High-field County Girls' School, Ashford C. E. School, Cressbrook C. E. School, Great Longstone C. E. School, Elton C. E. School and Winster C. E. School. Over 72,000 meals were cooked in 1968/9. Approximately 120 boys per day take meals in the Brigade Hall and Bakewell C. E. Infants' School (approximately 115 per day) also take meals in this hall.

Caretaking Staff: Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Bramwell.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The School Governors:

The School is governed by a Board of Governors, twelve in number, who are appointed as follows:

Foundation Governors:

Two representatives of Bakewell Parish Church:

The Revd. C. R. Heywood, M.A. (Chairman) and Miss G. Boulsover.

Two representatives appointed by the Diocesan Board:

Miss M. Allsop and Mr. T. S. Wragg, M.B.E., T.D. (Vice-Chairman).

Derbyshire Education Committee Representatives:

Councillor S. S. Levick, Mr. R. Allinson and Mrs. M. Hudson.

N. W. Derbyshire Divisional Executive Representatives.

Mrs. J. White, Mr. W. Quarmby and Councillor C. Unsworth.

Bakewell U.D.C. Representative.

Councillor E. Brown. Bakewell R.D.C. Representative. Councillor A. Turner. Clerk to the Board of Governors. Mrs. B. Himsworth.

Mr. THOMAS HARDWICKE BATEMAN

Mr. T. H. Bateman (Hardwicke to his friends) Deputy Headmaster of this School for the past 15 years, will retire from the Teaching Profession at the end of December this year. He possesses a rare quality not only of scholarship but also of teaching skill. Few men can claim to be expert at teaching Science, Technical and Machine Drawing as well as Music. Trained in the 'Old School' he came up through the teaching days when the Form Master was expected to teach all subjects in the curriculum. His knowledge is wide, practical and useful. Since joining the Staff of this School over 2,000 boys have come under his personal influence . . . and notably those who profited from his excellent tuition in draughtsmanship. Precision, exactness and attention to detail are hallmarks in his approach to the attainment of high standards of workmanship.

In 1916 he came to Bakewell C. E. School as a scholar from Bonsall and gained what was, in those days, a County Scholarship to Lady Manners School. He served as a Student Teacher under the late Mr. Sydney Allcock (Headmaster for 36 years) and from 1924-26 trained at The College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea. Successfully completing this course he taught at Belper Pottery School

(1926-28) and at St. John's School, Ryde, Isle of Wight for six years. Joining the Staff of this School in 1934 he taught up to the 1939-45 War and later served for four and a half years in The Royal Corps of Signals including service overseas. After the last War he returned to teaching in the School and has been here (including War Service) for the past 36 years. Altogether he has been a regular schoolmaster for over 44 years truly a fine record.

Public and voluntary service claimed his energies and interests during the post-war years. He devoted his ideas and talents to Choirs and Music Societies; was the organist at Winster, Taddington and Baslow and became Chairman of Bakewell Band for several years. His professional work included the Hon. Secretaryship of Bakewell Association of Teachers (N.U.T.) for 12 years and also Past President. Secretary of Bakewell Branch of The British Legion for over ten years; member of Bakewell Urban District Council for nine years and its Chairman for three, he was also a keen gardener who became an expert grower of fuchsias and a member of the National Fuchsia Society. He has wide knowledge of green-house and hot-house plants and practice and is a past Chairman of Bakewell and District Chrysanthemum Society as well as an exhibitor at local shows.

A liberally minded man with a love of fair play, justice and integrity, Hardwicke Bateman combines not only wide but special gifts. His colleagues over the years all pay tribute, as I do, to the long period of devoted and unselfish service that he has given to this school, the town and district. We wish him well for the future and hope that both he and Mrs. Bateman will enjoy many happy years of retirement in our midst. At a later date we hope to pay suitable tribute to him.

H. SCHOFIELD, Headmaster 1959-70

PEDAGOGIC PICKINGS

By Mr. C. R. Allcock - former Headmaster, 24 years

The foundation of the endowed Lady Manners School in 1637 provides the earliest record of scholastic activity in Bakewell. It was conducted by clergy in premises on South Church Street until a move was made in 1827 to the upper floor of the Old Town Hall and Buttermarket.

In 1715 Mary Hague endowed a class for Bible Reading, with Mr. Roe, the Parish Clerk, as the first instructor to seven nominated children.

In 1790 a Church Committee operated Sunday school classes.

The Wesleyans already had their own.

Sunday school instruction became very popular since it did not interfere with the weekday tasks increasingly performed by children of all ages or with the changes thrust upon family life by participation in the new industries.

Small private schools began to open in the town. For example Mr. White Watson recorded that in 1804 Mrs. Pidcock conducted a Young Ladies' School in part of his house, the BathHouse. The subjects offered to fee-paying pupils were Reading, Grammar, Writing and Needlework. Other small 'Academies' and 'Dames' Schools played a role in the life of the local community throughout the century.

The enactment of the 1832 Reform Bill moved reformers to seek new fields for state intervention. Thus in 1833 Government Grants were made to two societies, the National and the British, formed to encourage and assist local communities to build their own schools. By 1854, aided by the National Society and the Manners family, Bakewell subscribers were able to build a National School for Boys, with Master's house, on the corner formed by Rutland Terrace and Little Bagshaw Hill. The playground space is now covered by Mr. D. Naylor's shop and by 'Jessica's'.

Attendance was voluntary, fees were paid by some and the average leaving age was approximately ten. There were frequent changes of Masters. The Wesleyan community erected their own school about 1866. Later Government Grants to Schools came to depend on the attendance and 'payment-by-results' system, not however with desirable effects.

Foster's Act of 1870 wrought many changes and freed the schools from complete dependence on local voluntary support, control and whims. In 1872 came the erection of the National Girls' and Infants' Schools in Bath Street made possible as in 1854. In 1874 Lady Manners School still operating in the Old Town Hall, ceased to function and its place was taken by a private Grammar School elsewhere in the Town. In 1822 the old School had been known as Mr. Brown's and offered its pupils instruction in English, Writing, Maths, Geography, Latin and Greek.

For the 1872-1894 remaining period of the 'Bagshaw Hill' School's existence, records kept provide some insight into the trials and tribulations experienced by those involved in early elementary education. Extracts from the LogBook convey some idea of the limitations imposed.

"10-11-1874. Geography in Class 1a description of the Earth as a Globe. Classes 1, 2, 3 had Dictation on paper this afternoon and being the first attempt this year it was badly executed. Took the Reading of Std.1. Very few can read words of three letters."

The blackboard chalk and scholars' slate pencils were the main instruments for written communication and many a little sleeve plus saliva helped to wipe the slate clean. One of the songs, listed as taught, was 'The Last Rose of Summer'. Much time was spent in learning by rote. Religious Instruction was an important item in the curriculum.

"17-11-1874. Many boys away, beating in the woods, gathering sticks, blackberry picking, gardening and hay making. Room cold."

Rather late hay making but the quotation illustrates some of the seasonal hazards which, with local events, played havoc with attendance and individual progress. The School had about 50 on the roll. Two entries in the first Admission Register used are:

No1. Isaac Andrew - 9 yrs. 10 mos. - Feb. 1872 - Over Haddon - Father, Shepherd.

No10. Albert Mountney - 11 yrs. Jan. 1873 - King Street - Father, Butcher.

In 1894 the Master and boys were transferred from Bagshaw Hill to the new National Boys' School in Bath Street erected with better amenities on ground behind the Girls' and Infants' buildings, all of which premises are still in use but with many additions. The number of pupils increased, as did the Staff. The curriculum broadened so that by the turn of the century, drawing, gardening and physical exercise periods had been introduced. The latter comprised Dumb Bell, Indian Club and Marching Drill, all enjoyed by the boys of the time as a means of letting off youthful steam. Organised Football became popular and one of the School teams played in the Derby-shire Schools' Final held on the Baseball Ground. Several of the new Pupil Teachers made their appearances in the local schools. They were local young men and women who during their apprenticeship soon discovered whether they were fitted for the major task ahead.

In 1894 some of our leading citizens took steps to resuscitate the Lady Manners School on modern grammar school lines with good Science facilities. The School income had accumulated since the 1874 closure and in May 1895 Mr. Nesfield laid the foundation stone for the new school in Bath Street. (Now R.D.C. Offices). The pupils were mainly fee paying, a few Scholarships being available for local children, chosen by examination. The 1902 Act brought new classifications and controls and Registers. However for the next twelve years schools were encouraged to get on with the job for which they were designed. The supply of teaching aids increased. Firm but just discipline made teaching a pleasure and gave a sense of security to the scholars. The good standard of attainment reached, enabled many a local lad and lass to make good in later life. The new PT system started whereby PT's spent part of their two years in professional training and part in academic work at Lady Manners School. A useful relationship developed between Schools, School Managers, County Staff and H. M.I. Two worthy advances gained were the improvement in pupil cleanliness, hair, neck and shoes, and the advent of a Schools' Medical Service.

The 1914-18 War created many pupil problems when fathers and men teachers were called to the Colours which required immediate correction in the post-war period.

Fisher's 1918 Act fixed school ages as from 5 to 14, abolished 'half-timers' and stopped employment of under-12s. New aids to teaching became more readily available good textbooks, atlases, art and craft materials, stationery and useful furniture. Then the 'Geddes Axe', slightly blunted, did some pruning.

The Hadow report of 1926 introduced the familiar term '1 I-plus' and Infant-Junior-Senior classification of Elementary Schools. By 1932 consultations between the Managers of the Wesleyan and C. of E. Schools, the County and the H.M.I. had produced the Bakewell re-organisation agreement whereby the C. E. Boys' became the C. E. Senior Mixed, the Wesleyan became the Wesleyan Junior Mixed and the C. E. Infants' retained its identity. The C. E. Girls' premises were taken over by the Infants' School. Seniors were brought in from Over Haddon. With Religious Instruction safeguards a useful solution had been reached. Later, senior children from Sheldon, Ashford, Longstone and Middleton and Smerrill were transferred to the Senior Mixed School. In 1936 a transfer to new premises on Shutts Lane enabled Lady Manners School to collect its scattered classes under one roof. It was intended that a new Senior School should be built off Yeld Road but the 1939-45 War intervened and later the land was turned over for Council houses.

The 2nd World War also provided its crop of difficulties-men teachers on service, lack of materials, provision for evacuees and the suggestion that lessons might be eased off in times of stress. The Butler Act of 1944 projected the scheme for Secondary education for all children over 11, in two categories, Grammar and Modern, as applied to Bakewell. Further seniors were transferred from Pilsley and Monyash and plans prepared to build a new temporary Girls' School on Shutts Lane on part of the ground reserved for a permanent Mixed Secondary Modern School. The Senior Mixed School became involved with the 1948 Central School Meals Kitchen and preparations for the change to Secondary Modern status. The School was overcrowded till January 1949 when the girls left for their new school. Boys from Curbar, Baslow, Stoney Middleton and Youlgreave took their place. As the 'new' C. of E. Secondary Boys' School and after the correction of serious initial difficulties, the specialist teachers produced a higher attainment than had been advocated by the Ministry. Now after twenty years, unlike the Wesleyan Junior School recently re-housed in a delightful modern building, the 'wind of change' has decreed that the Secondary Modern Mixed School is never to be.

THE ENGLISH THOROUGHBRED

The English Racehorse is one of the best breeds of light horses in the world. "Thoroughbred" Or "Pure-bred" is the translation of the Arab word "Kehilan". English Thoroughbreds are hot-blooded horses, which have been bred in England for over two hundred years.

All Thoroughbreds are descendants of three Arab Stallions, which were brought to England about the end of the Seventeenth century. These were the Darly Arabian, the Godolphin Arabian and the Byerly Turk. These three were by no means the first Arab horses to be brought to this Country for many other Kehilan Stallions and Mares had come to these shores before this. But these three are the "foundation sires" of our present thoroughbred stock, and this breed of horse is of a very fine quality. A Thoroughbred can go about thirty miles an hour on the flat. All thoroughbreds of the present day can out-run an Arab horse.

Many people from all over the world come to the sale of thoroughbreds. Some people will bid up to about one thousand pounds for just one. For an ordinary horse they will pay about two hundred pounds.

RICHARD CROSTON, Age 12, Form 2

A WALK AROUND BASLOW

On walking up the hill out of Baslow towards Sheffield we come to Toll Bar Cottage where in olden days people had to pay to use the road. Next to this is Cupola Cottage, which derives its name from the old Cupola, which is farther up the road. This was built in Roman Times to make and weigh pigs of lead mined in and around Eyam. Towering above this is the bleak and rocky outline of Gardom's Edge. Here three men perished in a blizzard many years ago. When the bodies were found they were buried under three heaps of stone still to be seen today. These stones are called The Three Men.

On our left is Wellington's Monument which was built last century in honour of the Duke of Wellington who defeated Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. About two hundred yards behind lies the Eagle Stone, of which many tales are told. One is that eagles built their nests there and so it was called the Eagle Stone.

From here we can see Nelson's Monument which is in honour of Lord Nelson who defeated Napoleon's warships at the Battle of Trafalgar, fought on October, 21st, 1805. Nelson was shot and died in the hour of Victory. Behind Nelson's Monument are the Three Ships which are three very big rocks called Victory, Vengeance and Defiance, after Nelson's flagships.

RICHARD SMEDLEY, Age 11, Form 2

MY HOLIDAY IN MAJORCA

On June 14th last year I went with my family to Majorca for a holiday. We travelled on a B.A.C. One-eleven Jet of British United Airways and arrived in Majorca after a two-hour flight.

One of the first outings we went on was to the Caves of Drach. On the way through the caves there were men watching to see that the visitors didn't fall down, as there were lots of dangerous parts. The caves were packed with stalactites and stalagmites which had formed over the centuries into wonderful intricate patterns. After walking for about half an hour through the caves we came to a big underground lake. There were seats around where we sat down, the lights went out, and several boats came through decorated with coloured lights and with a band playing Spanish music. After that we were taken by boat across the lake to the exit from the caves.

The next day we went to Palma, which is the capital city of Majorca, and looked round and did some shopping. We went to a street market where they were selling live chickens and live rabbits, which the women took home in string bags to cook for dinner. There were also people selling snails which were crawling all over the boxes. There were lots of Spanish women trying to persuade us to buy brightly-coloured dresses, necklaces, polished wooden ornaments and red-clay models. We also watched Spanish dances performed by Spanish men and women in National costume.

One day we took a trip by rail across the island through beautiful mountain scenery, passing through tunnels, until we came to a beach. The island has many groves of orange, almond and lemon trees which we saw as we were travelling.

Another day we went to the glass factory. We saw a very large furnace and some men blowing glass through a long tube. Then we went into a room where there were lots of jugs, ornaments, animals and other things made of glass.

Another interesting place which we visited was the pearl factory in Manacor where Majorcan pearls are made from sea creatures.

After two weeks of warm sunshine, we flew back to England from Palma airport. During the night flight, we could look down at the lights of the towns and cities as we passed over them. This made an interesting ending to a most enjoyable holiday.

RICHARD HILDEBRAND, Age 12, Form 2.

RIDING

My favourite hobby is horse riding. I do a lot of riding in hunter trials and gymkhanas. My pony is called Flash. He is part Arab and part thoroughbred and he is more highly spirited than the other three ponies we have. He is twelve hands, two inches.

Riding him, I entered in thirteen shows, including hunter trials and won twenty rosettes in one year. I began riding two years ago and last year I entered in shows for the first time. The smallest pony we have is Tarquin. He is thirty-two inches high and he is a Shetland pony. We do not take this pony to shows because he is not trained yet, though he is fully grown.

My Sister's pony is called Minty and is a dappled grey. He is a Welsh mountain pony. My sister has won a few rosettes on Minty.

NEIL SMITH, Age 12, Form 4.

THE GREENHOUSE

A Greenhouse is capable of adding to the enjoyment of a garden, and if the garden is large, the greenhouse is commonly regarded as being a necessity in the raising of young plants that cannot stand Winter frosts. The assortment of plants which it can provide will create colour and interest for every Season of the year.

In the early part of the year one may grow cyclamen, primulas, and cineraria. In Summer the choice may be coleus, begonias, petunias, pelargoniums, or just tomatoes.

Chrysanthemums are of great interest in the Autumn. In Winter some people produce Spring salads, forced rhubarb, early beans, etc. For the specialist there are delightful things such as grapes, peaches, early strawberries or orchids and lilies.

In fact so much pleasure can be had largely depending on one's knowledge and finance. Care in the greenhouse and management are vital.

Overcrowding is a common mistake which people make. Plants have to be classified into groups for treatment. Some require shade, some need plenty of light, others need room to spread out their foliage. Whilst there are some that require very little water, others need watering often.

Cleanliness is most important. On no account allow plants to become infested with insects or the foliage to be coated with filth.

All evergreen foliage plant require sponging occasionally. Pots have to be washed and canes cleaned. Moss must not grow on the surface of the soil. Dead leaves and flowers should be removed daily. Temperatures have to be watched with care. Pests, many which soon multiply in a neglected greenhouse. To mention a few: Aphides or Green Fly which attack soft wooded plants. Earwigs feed on Chrysanthemums; White Fly invest Fuchias, Coleus and Tomatoes. Fungi is something which must never be overlooked, for it can destroy such plants as Carnations, Coleus, Chrsanthemums and any other plant. Whether you get Pest or Fungus there are plenty of remedies to be had from garden supplier which will terminate or check any further attacks.

When I leave school I hope to become a gardener myself. I have learned a great deal in the last three years which will be of great help to me in the future-in course of time I hope to set up in a business of my own.

ROBERT YOUNG, Age 14, Form 6.

1970, EUROPEAN CONSERVATION YEAR

1970 is European Conservation Year. Over twenty countries will take part and they will focus their attention on how to preserve the natural countryside and to observe the way we change it by building houses, factories, polluting rivers and so on.

Scientists will continue the work of preserving the countryside and wildlife.

In Britain, our conservation laws are the envy of many other countries. We in Britain have Nature Reserves, Forest Parks and National Parks-all protected by the law. We also have voluntary organisations for conservation of the countryside. Anyone can join these. The idea for Conservation Year came from Britain which has 70 kinds of land mammals, over 200 breeds of birds, 40 kinds of freshwater fish, 10 groups of reptile and amphibian, 20,000 varieties of insects, and 2,500 types of trees, flowers and shrubs.

If one type of wildlife was killed because it was considered a pest, this would probably have a serious effect on the balance of nature. This is because other useful animals probably use the pest for food.

Water pollution is a major problem. On the shores of a Scottish Loch, farmers spread hundreds of tons of fertiliser on the ploughed fields. This seeps through the ground into the loch and just as fertiliser encourages growth on the land, it also encourages life in the water (algae) to grow faster than at the normal rate. This increases fast to form a layer of something similar to ice. Some time ago there was a terrific storm and the next morning the waters of the loch were littered with the bodies of dead fish. Every single fish in the loch had been suffocated by the algae during the storm.

You can help the scientists even if you are not a member of an organisation, by not throwing stones and rocks into rivers and by observing points of the Country Code. Some of these are

1. Fasten all Gates behind You.

Cattle can wander into a road and cause serious injury to both themselves and others.

2. Guard Against all Risks of Fire.

The sun shining through a bottle can cause a fire. Do not throw lighted matches around.

3. Keep all Dogs under Control.

Prevent dogs chasing cattle which may run into barbed wire and seriously injure themselves.

4. Keep to Paths Across Farmland.

Crops are ruined by being trampled on.

5. Leave No Litter.

Cattle can cut their hooves on broken glass and swallow harmful paper.

6. Protect Wild Life, Wild Flowers and Trees.

Trees are not improved by carving initials on them.

7. Avoid Damaging Fences, Hedges and Walls.

Cattle can stray over broken walls.

Finally learn to respect the countryside.

There is a great deal more to 'Conservation' than I have written but it is enough to know that we shall have to be very careful looking after the countryside - the land, the rivers and streams, lakes and woodlands as well as what we build.

We have a duty to those who follow after us to preserve our ancient heritage.

GARY GILES, Age 12 years, 11 months, Form 4.

SWANS

Swans build large nests in shallow water.

A certain amount of moisture is needed to incubate the eggs, so the mother bird sits on them as soon as she returns from the water, with her feathers still dripping.

When cygnets are hatched the mother takes them to the bank.

She picks them up and, sitting snuggled on her soft back, the family goes off for a quiet and comfortable cruise.

The swan has a heavy body and, before he can fly up from the water, he has to "taxi" for metres, flapping and whirling his wings.

When swans fly in a group, they arrange themselves like fighter planes in a 'V' formation.

The swan is not a docile bird, especially during the breeding season, when it is quite fierce.

Before launching an attack, he draws back his neck and seems to coil himself like a snake, ready to shoot forward suddenly.

Wild swans can actually fly at 180 kilometres per hour.

In England all swans are regarded as the property of the Crown.

Swans get their food from the river bed, and they eat frogs, tadpoles, and water plants.

CHRISTOPHER JUPP, Age 14, Form 4.

THE BLACKSMITH

The Blacksmiths' craft is an old one. It started before Mediaeval times and has been going ever since. In olden times no community was complete without its Smith. They used to shoe horses, make farm implements, like ploughshares, as well as sharpening axes, picks and putting shafts in shovels. The Blacksmiths used to do ornamental work also. Scrolls or volutes were all hand forged and they had to be individually fire-welded or riveted.

True Blacksmiths would make their own tools to suit the job, such as tongs, drifts and chisels; also other things like sets (hot and cold) flatters, benders and hardies. There was a variety of different sized hammers ranging from 8ozs. to 14lbs. or more. The Farrier (a person who only shoes horses) would use a double-faced hammer weighing about 22lbs. This was handy for driving in nails as well as forging the shoes. The Blacksmith would use ball-pein hammers, for hammering down rivets so this was especially useful to him. The sledge-hammer was used mainly by the Striker who would be employed by the Blacksmith purpose only. Sledge-hammers would weigh from 7lbs. up to 14lbs. They were used for cutting metal hot or cold with the aid of sets.

The difference between hot and cold sets is that the cold set has more of a cutting angle than the hot one. Sets would have iron or wood shafts to prevent jarring the hands.

The modern Blacksmith is a different man. He has electricity and gas to help him as well as inventions like oxy-acetylene, arc welding and mechanical devices such as lathes and power hammers. Today even though there are such things to help there are not many Blacksmiths nor Farriers about.

NEIL MORTON, Age 13, Form 6.

WINEMAKING

Winemaking is an interesting hobby and can be approached from both a practical and scientific way. It is a hobby which young and old enjoy, bringing its own rewards, for there can be few pleasures to equal that of being able to offer a friend, and enjoy with him, a glass of one's own wine.

My first venture into winemaking was parsley wine as I had an abundance of parsley in my garden and it is a comparatively easy wine to make. At the moment I have eight gallons of wine brewing: two gallons of wheat, two gallons of rosehip, two gallons of grape, one gallon of blackberry and one gallon of elderberry. I have bottled the parsley wine which requires leaving for nine months to mature.

There are four main ingredients to most country wines.

These are (1) Yeast, (2) Sugar, (3) Flavouring and (4) Water. Of these the main ingredient is yeast which is a minute living organism that brings about the fermentation, and if the fermentation is to be successful the yeast must be given ideal conditions in which to work. Those conditions are found in a sugary, slightly acid solution such as fruit juice when certain other yeast nutrients are present and when the temperature is favourable, say 65° to 75°F (18° to 24°C).

Wine has to be "racked" at least once before it is bottled. This means siphoning the wine off the dead yeast and deposit at the bottom of the jar. This deposit is called the "lees". The wine is then bottled and left to mature for about one year. It must be stored on its side so that the liquid swells the cork stopping any air entering the bottle.

True wine is the product of the grape, as people are often reminded, but any experienced winemaker will assure you that there is no cause to feel in any way ashamed of the "country wines" which can be produced from our native fruits, berries and flowers. Many of these sound wines, robust or delicate according to character, dry or sweet according to one's taste, are truly wines in their own right, quite able of standing comparison with many which can be obtained commercially, and it must be remembered that home-made wine is much more potent. There are hundreds of different wines to make, from pea pod to grape but all need care and attention while being made.

The alcohol which is sought as an ingredient of wine is a by-product of the yeasts process of reproduction. When the yeast's put into a sugary solution, it begins to multiply vigorously, and in the chemical processes which follow, the sugar is changed roughly half to alcohol by weight and half to carbon dioxide.

One of the worst possible things that can happen to a wine is for it to become contaminated by the vinegar fly which, as its name suggests will (if it is allowed to gain access to your wine) turn it all to vinegar. This would dishearten any winemaker.

Remedy: as the wine can be attacked at any stage the only remedy is to keep your wines covered at all times and during fermentation fix to the top of your cask or jar a fermentation lock. This not only ensures that the vinegar fly does not attack your wine it also controls the air that reaches it as well, making the yeast feed off the sugar instead of the air.

If you decide to start winemaking do not sell home-made wine, as this is illegal, and above all do not drink too much!

MICHAEL WELCH, Age 14, Form 8.
(Head Prefect)

THE VIOLENT EARTH

The earth can be violent in several ways, e.g., volcanoes, earthquakes, tidalwaves, boiling mud pools and geysers.

A volcano is a mass of materials that have been ejected from the earth a long time ago, through a weakness in the earth's crust. It forms a mount with a circular crater at the top. If the volcano is still active molten rock, lava, volcanic ash, steam and other gases will be erupted through the crater. These hot materials often force channels or vents through the side of the volcano.

There are five different groups of volcanoes; the main ones being as follows:-

The Hawaiian Type.

This type of volcano has a cone, which may gently slope up 14,000 feet above sea level and then drop suddenly 15,000 feet on the other side. It is usually classed as a quiet volcano although it continually pours out large amounts of liquid lava. Hawaii Island in the Pacific Ocean is made completely out of lava from the volcano. This island is very rich and fertile and has a beach made out of black sand. This is lava rock ground down by the sea.

The Strombolian Type.

This group of volcanoes was named after the island of Strom-boli, which is nicknamed "The Lighthouse of the Mediterranean". It has several vents but the main crater is 600 feet below the summit. The lava solidifies at a high temperature, so a thin crust keeps forming on the surface of the lava lakes. About every half-hour this is broken by explosions of gases that have built up below the crust. Occasionally a more violent eruption occurs and a cloud of ash is thrown out.

The Vulcanian Type.

These volcanoes are named after an island near Stromboli. They have stiff acid lava vents and violent explosive eruptions occur sending up great masses of ash and lava bombs in huge cauliflower clouds. So much lava is thrown out in an eruption that it takes a very long time for enough magma to collect in the magma chamber before the next explosion.

Pelean Type.

As before these volcanoes are named after an island, in this case, Mount Pelee which is on Martinique Island in the Caribbean, and this is now the most violent of all volcanoes. The acid lava is so stiff that it forms a solid plug in the mouth of the vent making a complete seal. This plug rises up into a column hundreds of feet high and no gases or magma can escape. Pressure builds up behind the plug and suddenly clouds of steam, gases, dust and ash burst through the sides of the volcano with a tremendous force, and completely cover the land swamping everything in their path.

Icelandic Type.

This type of volcano is different from the others mentioned, in that it has no cone. Large amounts of liquid basalt pour out of deep cracks in the earth's crust and form a vast flat lake. The lava flood may be several hundred feet deep and cover a very large area. As the lava cools it contracts and cracks and may form hexagonal columns. An example of this can be found in Great Britain in the form of "The Giant's Causeway" which runs from the North of Scotland under the sea and into Northern Ireland.

An example of total destruction caused by a volcano occurred at the Roman town of Pompeii. Pompeii was situated at the foot of Mount Vesuvius (an active volcano) and in AD63 an earthquake destroyed a large part of the town.

Whilst the people were recovering from the disaster a second one hit them in AD79 when Vesuvius erupted and the town was completely covered in white hot molten lava. Most of the town has now been uncovered and we have a good idea of what life was like in a Roman town nearly 2,000 years ago, as most of the town has been preserved and is as it was all that time ago.

Volcanic eruptions are by no means confined to days gone-by; in fact they can and still do happen. An example of this was to be found on the island of Tristan da Cunha in the Atlantic. The islanders who escaped were brought to safety in Britain.

The earth is by no means quiet and we are always hearing of volcanoes, earthquakes, tidal waves and earth tremors. Happily for us we are lucky as we live in a part of the world where these things rarely, if ever, happen, as they are usually confined to countries whose coast is washed by the Pacific Ocean.

Although there are no live volcanoes in Great Britain, there are a number of extinct ones. 'There is such a volcano at Calton near Taddington, and you can find volcanic rock at Millers Dale and Litton Dale.

Scientists are still trying to find out what causes volcanoes and earthquakes and to find some means of an early-warning system to help avert a major disaster. New instruments and methods are being discovered all the time so probably in the near future man will be able to control volcanoes, or at least be able to understand what causes them.

JOHN ELLIOTT, Age 14, Form 6.

ROWSLEY

This small village is Situated about half way between Matlock and Bakewell on the main A6 road.

Rowsley is a quiet village hugging the banks of the rivers Wye and Derwent which converge at this point. The road bridge over the Derwent was built in the 17th Century, but had to be widened in 1925 to cope with increasing traffic.

The village Church is quite modern but has some interesting features, one of which is a Anglo-Saxon Cross Head. Just to one side of the Church Door stands a huge Elm tree of great age, whose span covers a large area of the graveyard. Some of the houses in the village are very old--in fact, the one I live in dates back to 1651. Another old building is the Peacock Hotel which is much favoured by fishermen because of the good trout fishing in the Wye. In days gone by this place was a hostelry which catered for weary travellers in the Stage Coaches. To this day a Stage Coach visits it from time to time. It is run by enthusiasts from the riding school at Darley Dale.

The railway station, now closed, has seen many busy times as day trip passengers alighted there to visit Chatsworth some four miles away. To me, this village is beautiful and being my home I hope it retains its old world charm for many years to come.

DAVID RIMMER, Age 12, Form 2.

BAKEWELL BAND

Bakewell Band was re-formed by the Free Church Council in 1907. One of the prime objects was to give the boys and men of Bakewell an interesting hobby and a worthwhile education in music.

Under its original concept it was a brass and reed band but now it is solely a brass Band. The existing instruments were bought in 1930 at a cost of £400. Today if the Band wished to replace them it would cost between £2,500-£3,000.

The uniforms are maroon with long black lapels and flat topped caps.

There are approximately 26 playing members in the group; some schoolboys and girls; some young men, and some mature men who have been in the Band 30 years or more.

There are also some beginners who are now studying their instruments in readiness to fill any gaps created by the withdrawal of older members.

There is an invaluable library of music to which the Band has access in which there are many original works for brass and reed and brass band, consisting of light opera, musical comedy selections and modern dance pieces.

Most of the funds raised for new music and upkeep of instruments, etc are by efforts sponsored by the members themselves and fortunately the band collects funds from patrons in the town in the form of yearly subscriptions.

The Band attends many functions such as concerts, parades and processions, garden fetes, etc. One of our favourite engagements is going to the Whit-walks at Mossley where there is an exciting band contest in the evening. We also enjoy visiting Chatsworth Horse Trials where last year the Queen was present. One of our other regular engagements is at Parwich and Hartington where we march round the village and afterwards are given a superb meal at the Club Feast. Many readers in Bakewell will be aware that the Band plays Christmas Carols in various parts of the town. Several times during the Summer we are at Matlock Bath to give a concert in conjunction with the Venetian Nights illuminations and firework display, which gives a wonderful setting for a musical evening.

Lastly I would like to mention Band contesting. This calls for exact and precise playing which may mean two or three practices a week before the actual contest takes place.

Not too long ago Bakewell Band worked its way to the National Final at London where we were placed in the top third of the competing bands in our section.

I have never regretted joining the Bakewell Silver Band and like to feel that all inhabitants of Bakewell are as proud of their Town Band as I am.

IAN WILDGOOSE, Age 15, Form 8.

EXCAVATION AT BROUGH ON NOE

In between the villages of Bradwell and Hope in the Hope Valley there lies a hamlet by the name of 'Brough'. It is on this small place that my article is centred.

During the Summer of 1969, a Professor and about 50 students from Manchester University went to Brough to excavate the Roman Fort. When they were excavating, first they measured out certain areas of the field that had not been excavated previously.

In 1967-68 the site was excavated a number of times and certain objects of the Roman period were found. Some experts believe that it is a Flavian Fort of about the early second century.

There were two forts. One is of the first century probably about the time when Agricola was Governor of Britain about 75AD. This was probably made of earth, clay and timber with the principal building facing the south-west.

In the 2nd Century it was replaced by a stone fort on a different alignment with the principle building facing the North-East towards the River Noe.

An inscription relating to this mentions the Governor Julius Venus about 158 a.D. and the 1st Cohort of the Aquitaniae which is the same Cohort which left behind an inscribed Altar dedicated to Mars Braciaca now to be seen at Haddon Hall.

In the third century the 'praetentura' or court yard was occupied by six closely spaced buildings. The foundations were made of stone. One of the buildings was used as a stable. During the 4th century the fort was connected with lead mining and production.

A section of the defences were similar to the ones at Little Chester which is near Derby. Most of the recent excavations have been done by students from Manchester University, and they hold most of the findings.

ROBERT G. HILL, Age 14, Form 6.

METEORITES AND COMETS

Meteorites reach a speed of up to twenty-five miles per second when hurtling through space. Around the tenth of August a shower of meteorites will hit the earth's surface as it crosses the path of a now extinct comet. This comet was last observed in 1846. In 1852 two comets were seen to pass the earth. Scientists believe that these were the parts of the large comet which had split up between 1864 and 1852 and which also created this shower of meteorites.

The biggest meteorite ever to be found was discovered by Admiral Peary in Greenland and weighed over thirty-four tons.

Most small meteorites burn up in the earth's atmosphere and land on the earth unnoticed, as dust. Several thousand tons of this material is deposited on the earth every twenty-four hours.

There is a crater in Arizona caused by a large meteorite exploding as it hit the earth's surface. This crater is over one mile in diameter and six hundred feet deep. The largest piece of this meteorite which the scientists found, weighed over half a ton.

'Halley's Comet' was discovered by Edmond Halley who lived from 1656 to 1742. He proved that comets move round the Sun just as the earth does. This Comet is influenced in movement by Saturn and Jupiter. Halley calculated that it would appear again at the end of 1785, which it did. Halley's Comet will be seen again in 1986. It is seen about every 76 years. It was last seen in 1910 when the tail of the comet brushed the earth.

R. BLACKWELL, Age 12, Form 4.

Magpie Mine

I am not sure why the mine got this unusual name. It is situated 24 miles West of Bakewell and a 3 of a mile South of Sheldon. It is 1,025 feet above sea-level and is believed to be over three hundred years old, but records seem to have only been kept for half this time.

Water from the mine drains down a mile-long tunnel to the River Wye at Ashford.

In 1824 an engine was installed which was bought from Smiths of Chesterfield. A more powerful one was acquired in 1842. This required 80 tons of coal which cost £1,432 a year and £509 for transport of the coal.

Flooding occurred in the mine and water continued to rise to 458 feet below the surface. Drains were made in an attempt to stop the water ascending the shaft. They flowed to hollow part in Shacklow Wood.

Three men were suffocated in the mine in 1833. They were Thomas Wager, Francis Taylor and Isaac Bagshaw. In another accident a miner fell down the engine shaft and was killed.

Magpie was the third greatest lead producer in Derbyshire. It produced 181 tons of lead ore valued at £2,262 and 61 tons of another kind of ore valued at £244.

The first recording of zinc ore was made in 1883 when ten tons were produced, in addition to 198 tons of galena, which is a sulphide of lead.

The mine manager's house was completely destroyed by fire and has not been rebuilt.

P. MELLAND, Age 12, Form 4.

HOW THE EYRE FAMILY RECEIVED THEIR TITLE

During the Norman Invasion, William the Conqueror's horse was slain beneath him.

Falling to the ground, the king found his visor jammed and was unable to open it. "Give me air!" he cried. A young knight, hearing his calls, came to his assistance, prising his visor open and enabling him to draw breath. Grateful to the knight for saving his life he said, "I shall repay you for the great deed you have done this day".

After the battle was over William sent for the knight. Two soldiers brought him in on a stretcher gravely wounded and his leg severed. William sent for his personal surgeon who nursed him back to health. When he was fit to travel he went to William who re-paid his debt, saying, "From now on you shall be known as Eyre". He gave him Hassop Hall and the land surrounding it. On most of the Eyre Crests there is a leg symbolising the leg which was lost in the battle.

PAUL BEEDHAM, Age 11, Form 2.

ASHFORD WELL DRESSINGS 1969

On Tuesday, 27th of May 1969, at two o'clock, most of the children of Ashford went tip to the Vicarage to work on the Well-dressing for the Children's Well.

The first job was to get all the different flowers. Next we started to put the flowers into the clay. This needs a lot of patience for there are thousands of little petals to put in. This took us from Tuesday till Friday.

On Thursday there were a number of policemen in the village because Princess Margaret was expected to drive through. At 5.45 p.m. two police cars came along followed by a Rover 2,000. In the back seat was Princess Margaret and her lady-in-waiting. More police cars followed.

On Friday, 30th of May, as we were putting the last few touches to the well, a large black car drew up outside. In walked Princess Margaret followed by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. We all said, "Good-evening" in low voices. They started to ask questions. We told them the title of the work was "A Light to Lighten the Gentiles". Princess Margaret asked many questions about the materials used and we told her that all the things we used had grown. Our visitors stayed about ten minutes. Later that night the men of the village came to put the well-dressing up.

On June 1st the blessing of the wells took place. I was a server carrying a candle. First a service was held in church. There were so many people that there was hardly room for the choir to walk down to the altar. Next the wells were blessed. This took about one and a half hours as there are five wells to be blessed. After that the procession went back to church.

ANDREW SHAW, Age 13, Form 4.

ON MY WAY TO GERMANY

Last year I went to Germany with my sister and my little brother Thomas. We made the journey by car.

I went home from school at 12 o'clock and we set off at four. When we got near Immingham I saw the Oil Refinery and soon after that we were at the Ferry Terminal. The ferry boat we sailed on was "The Hollandia".

That night on the boat, I could not get to sleep because of the people rushing about and the fog horn was sounding most of the night.

When I awoke next morning we were going up the North Sea Canal to Amsterdam.

It was half past ten when we disembarked from the ferry which was run by The Tor-Line. At eight o'clock my sister and I went on deck to see the boats and windmills. It was a very nice day with the sun shining brightly.

At half past two we were in the town of Gronav, where my Granny lives.

Gronav is in Westphalia. We stayed there for two weeks and had lovely weather.

STEPHEN NEEDHAM, Form 4

DAHLIAS

The dahlia is a half-hardy perennial. Its origins are the large high plains of Mexico and it was introduced into England in 1798 or thereabouts. It is described as a polyploid by scientist on account of its many chance pollinations with other wild plants. The Aztecs also produced what is known as the double dahlia and it was known as acoctli and cocoxochitl which means hollow pipes or water tubes on account of the hollow stems filled with sap. The dahlia tubers when lifted should be placed upside down to drain of this liquid to stop the tubers rotting.

The names acoctli and cocoxochitl were later changed to Dahlia by Abbe Cawanilles in honour of Dr. Andreas Dahl, an eminent Swedish botanist. Again it was changed to Georgina by a Professor from Berlin in honour of Professor Georgi, a teacher of botany, in St. Petersburg. The name Georgina has been known to be used along side Dahlia in the botanical gardens in Cologne. In Russia and Germany Georgina is still widely used. The modern dahlia is one of the most popular and widely admired of garden plants. It is used extensively in public parks as well as in private gardens. New hybrids or cultivars as they are some-times called are being produced annually by keen amateurs and specialists.

I intend to grow several dozen dahlias in my own garden and borders this year.

S. DOXEY, Age 14, Form 6.

THE MONACO GRAND PRIX 1968

This race took place on 26th May, 1968. The day before it had been raining very hard, but Sunday dawned fine and bright. It was ideal for the traditional Monaco Grand Prix which is run through the streets of Monte Carlo.

Servoz-Gavin took the lead straight away with Graham Hill in second place. Bruce McLaren skidded on some oil coming out of the tunnel and Jackie Oliver could not avoid hitting his car and they were both out of the race. Servoz-Gavin took a smack in the tunnel and on lap three took another smack and retired.

On lap seven Brabham dropped out and on lap eight Rindt crashed trying to pass Surtees. On lap nine Gurney retired with electrical trouble on his Eagle.

On lap ten it was as follows: Hill, Siffert, Surtees, Attwood, Rodriguez, Beltoise, Hulme, Bianchi and Scarfiotti who was a lap behind. On lap 00 Siffert dropped out so Surtees went into second place and he quickly closed up on Hill, who still held the lead. On the very next lap Beltoise crashed into the chicane.

The following lap Courage retired and on lap 17 Surtees retired because of gear trouble.

Then Rodriguez crashed leaving five cars in the race. Now the positions were Hill, Attwood, Scarfiotti, Denny Hulme and Bianchi.

On lap 42 Scarfiotti hit the chicane and burst a tyre putting him behind team mate Bianchi.

Then Hulme broke a half shaft which put him into fifth place.

The final placings were Hill, Attwood, Bianchi, Scarfiotti and Hulme.

STEPHEN LEWIS, Age 13, Form 4.

THE BAC-SUD-CONCORDE

The Concorde is a joint Anglo-French production. It will be able to carry up to 136 passengers and can carry them from London to New York in three hours.

It has a delta-shaped wing which has a span of over 83 feet and is constructed throughout with Aluminium RR 58.

The cruising speed of the Concorde is mach 2.2. Translated this means a speed of 1,450 miles per hour, and this represents more than twice the speed of sound. The power is provided by four Bristol Olympus 593 turbojets mounted in pairs underneath the wings, each giving 35,000 lbs. of thrust.

The most unusual feature of this aircraft is that the entire nose section is hinged, so that the nose can be lowered on landing

to give the pilot a better view of the ground, or raised to give a streamlined effect while in flight.

The control and navigation systems are fully automated. The take-off director, autopilot and landing equipment will control the appropriate phases of the flight and are all automatic. The crew will be there mainly to monitor the operation but, naturally, the pilots will have overriding control.

The Concorde will fly at heights where ice can form on the wings but the aircraft will pass these areas very quickly. Even so, as a precaution de-icing equipment has been installed.

The fuel stowage helps to trim the aircraft (to keep the weight evenly distributed), nearly 60% of wing volume and almost 50% of the space underneath the passenger floor is taken up by fuel.

The length of the prototypes is over 184 feet, and the pre-production aircraft has a length of over 191 feet. It also has a ground clearance of 35 feet.

The Concorde is scheduled to go into service in 1973, and one day you might be lucky enough to fly in this magnificent aircraft.

GARY GILES, Age 12, Form 4.

SUMMER CAMP

On Monday, 28th July I was on a coach going to Beer in Devon where the Bakewell Scout Troop were having a Summer Camp. Our route was by Matlock, Lichfield, Gloucester and Bristol. Out-side Bristol we went on the road leading under the Clifton Suspension Bridge. When we arrived at Beer the farmer was waiting for us with his tractor and trailer to take us to the campsite. We then unloaded our gear and pitched the tents.

That night it was still raining when I went to sleep for the night. Next morning we found out that we had been flooded out. The tent was leaking and there were puddles all over the ground sheet. That morning was spent drying sleeping bags and the afternoon was spent improving the campsite.

Next day I went into Seaton for the first time. The beach was pleasant but very pebbly. I also did a little shopping before I caught a bus back to the campsite. In the evening we played the patrol football matches. We reached the final but were beaten 2-1 by the Beavers.

Next day we walked to Lyme Regis to look round a Lifeboat Station. After being lost in cornfields we found the main road. When we had walked about three miles we found the Lifeboat Station. We looked around the Lifeboat Station for about fifteen minutes before we caught the bus back to the camp site.

On Sunday morning we went to church in Beer. The church was decorated with fishing nets, buoys and other kinds of fishing gear. In the afternoon we went fishing from Beer. I caught a mackerel and twenty more fish were caught by other people.

On Wednesday we went to Plymouth, travelling over Dartmoor so that we could see the Clapper Bridge at Postbridge. We also saw the Dartmoor Prison near Princetown, which is the highest town in England. On arrival at Plymouth I went to the Hoe. First I went up the old Eddystone lighthouse of 1756 which was re-erected on the Hoe in 1882.

On Friday we were on our way by 7.30 a.m. Our route was by Taunton, Warwick and Derby. I was glad to get into my own bed that night but the camp had been a most enjoyable experience.

JOHN BRIDDON, Age 12, Form 2.

TROPICAL FISH KEEPING

Tropical Fish are very hard to keep because they catch so many different diseases, like White Spot and another disease which makes a hole right through the fish. I have a number of fish in my tank and they are all community fish and do not fight very often. To keep tropical fish you need certain equipment. A net to catch dead fish or any loose leaves, a filter, and also a little vacuum cleaner and an air pump. This equipment is used to keep the tank clean and to put oxygen into the water. Also, and probably most important, the tank must have a heater for the water, and a thermostat to see that the correct temperature is maintained or the fish will die. Plants can be grown in the water. There are many different sorts of plants. The most expensive plants cost about ten shillings.

There are many different kinds of tropical fish, which can be kept in a tank. The Sword Tail is a popular one, and there are several different sorts. The best known ones are red Sword Tails and green Sword Tails. They are live bearers and you have no trouble breeding them unlike the Honey Gouramie which lays eggs. The Neons and Cardinal Tetras are very interesting fish and there is not much difference between them. The Cardinal is blue and red right across his stomach and a Neon is blue with a little bit of red. The Angel Fish has weak eyes and has feelers to feel its way about. It is a good fish to have, but it has a nasty temper and it will eat any little fish. I feed my fish on Tetramin and dried worms but these are only a few out of hundreds of different sorts of foods. The aquarium should not be placed directly in front of a window or where it will catch direct sunlight or algae will grow too thickly. If there is no suitable place, you have to stop the light getting to the fish by putting some kind of lid or cover over the tank.

KEVEN BARNSLEY, Age 11, Form 2.

MY HOBBIES

I have two hobbies. One is collecting stamps and the other is collecting cards with pictures of footballers on one side and on the other side information about the player. In my collection I have about four hundred stamps, seventy of which are British. Although not a member of any stamp club, stamp collecting fascinates me and is a hobby in which one can make good progress on one's own.

Several of my stamps are rather valuable (so a friend told me), including an American stamp with a picture of Sir Winston Churchill on it, and also two British stamps which have been valued by him, the first one being a stamp which was issued after Sir Francis Chichester had sailed around the world and which has a picture of Gypsy Moth i[on it. The other one is the Penny Red stamp.

I also have sets of stamps. One of them was issued when Prince Charles was invested as the Prince of Wales, this set has five stamps in it. Another set which has four stamps, have pictures of famous churches on them.

But there is one set which stands out in all my British stamps. This is the set which was issued when the Queen Elizabeth 11 first sailed. The set contains six stamps which are the Q.E. II worth five pence, the S.S. Great Britain and the R.M.S. Mauretania both worth one shilling, the East Indiaman, the Cutty Sark and the Elizabethan Galleon all worth ninepence.

My second hobby is collecting picture cards with pictures of footballers on. I write out what is written out on the back of the card which is all about the player and then stick the card in a book This way I can keep a record of the players who are on the cards and mark down any transfers which have taken place.

I have written out one set containing fifty-four and another set containing fifty-five cards. At the moment f am writing out another set with one hundred and seventeen cards in it. I have already written out one hundred and seventy-five cards and when t have finished t will have written out two hundred and twenty-six.

I have been collecting cards' for three years. Each year a new set is issued.

Both my hobbies are interesting. It is hard but worthwhile work.

ALAN FEARN, Age 13, Form 6.

WINEMAKING

Winemaking is not difficult. The main things to have for this hobby are a bucket, corks, funnel, glass jar, siphon and a fermentation lock.

If wine is left in a cold place in the Winter it will not freeze, but the room does not need to be warm or the wine will go flat.

Wine gets stronger if left for a long time in the bottles.

There are many different kinds of bottles. I think that the green bottles are a lot better because they make the wine look nicer.

There are tools for making wine which cost a lot of money. At home to put the corks in the bottles t have a cork gun. I keep all my wine in a cellar at home. I have six gallons of different wine.

To get wine clear you need a piece of plastic pipe and two glass jars. The jar with the wine in should be put on a table and the other on the floor. Then the plastic pipe is placed in the jar con-taining the wine to siphon it off into the other jar and leave behind the sediment.

R. MULVEY, Age 13, Form 4.

SWIMMING

Swimming is one of my favourite hobbies and it is becoming extremely popular both as a competitive sport and a recreation. Like walking, it exercises the whole body and can be practised either in a leisurely way or as energetically as one likes. Not only is swimming a sport or recreation but also a method of progression through the water. It can be a means of saving life, and for this reason everybody should have, at least, some knowledge of it.

Although swimming is becoming more popular in Britain, twenty-five million Britons cannot swim, and this lack of skill may at sometimes endanger their lives.

There are many methods of swimming. Probably the most important is the breast stroke. This stroke is done in a relaxed way and practised for most life-saving tests. Strokes aiming for more speed are the front crawl, (the fastest of all the strokes) the side stroke, the butterfly stroke (probably the hardest and most energetic stroke of all) and the back crawl, which is similar to the front crawl but in reverse position.

Even though we cannot all become champion swimmers, I would say that anyone who has learned to swim reasonably well has acquired a most valuable accomplishment.

RICHARD HILL, Age 12, Form 2.

GLIDER FLYING

It is nearly a year ago since I went glider flying with the Air Training Corps. As we arrived at the airfield we were shown into a big RAF Bedford lorry which took us across to the hangars. Here we saw three types of gliders, two seaters, single seaters and privately owned ones.

There are two types of twin seaters. There is the side by side, and the tandem which is one person behind the other. A corporal showed us how to "hook up", which is the method of attaching the winch cable to the underside of the glider. It was a simple process of hooking a ring of metal into a clip.

From the hangars we drove to the winch box, which is a cabin, with a strong and fast motor on it. The motor powered a drum and wrapped around this was strong cable, which was fastened to our truck and taken to the flight caravan. Here we unhooked the cable, and fastened it on to the awaiting glider.

The pilot chose me to go first and I climbed into a tandem glider. My safety harness was strapped and we were ready to go. The pilot then climbed in, strapped himself in and called for the slack to be taken up. He then called "All out", and with a jerk we were off. For the first few yards we bumped and bounced along and then we soared up. The sensation is similar to that of going over a hump-backed bridge, only prolonged for about twenty seconds. Once at the correct height, the pilot released the winch cable.

You do not need a microphone to speak in a glider, you can converse quite freely without any artificial means.

The flight lasted for five minutes and I had two more flights later on in the afternoon.

We started for home at four o'clock as it was too windy to fly any more, but first we had to put the gliders away in their hangars.

Altogether it was a thoroughly enjoyable day and I would like to do it again.

NICHOLAS SIEVEWRIGHT, Form 8.