

# THE COURT

*—being the chronicles of  
Shiplake Court during 1961*

## SCHOOL AND HOUSE OFFICERS, 1961

*Head of the School:* P. H. Morkel.

*School Prefects:* S. Azari, A. Barron, C. H. Bullock, D. C. Gutteridge, T. R. Hands.

*School Monitors:* J. M. D. Bryan, D. M. Hays, B. Osborn.

*House Monitors:* N. J. Findlay, D. E. Maynard-Taylor, C. C. Pepper, A. H. Slatter.

*Junior Editor of the Court:* N. J. Hill.

## SALVETE

*Spring Term, 1961* M. J. Kennedy, V. J. Marnham, S. P. E. Myers, C. W. R. Wigfall, G. M. Willans.

*Summer Term, 1961* A. H. Patmore, S. J. K. Stracey.

*Autumn Term, 1961* R. A. N. Arden, A. L. Barbour, M. E. Barnard, C. G. Clark, D. J. O. Cowan, P. L. Edwards, P. W. Forsyth, R. J. Forsyth, I. Grimble, G. R. Kirk, A. Marchant, R. N. Parker, P. M. Philby, A. L. Philpot, G. Pidsley, B. A. Sargent, R. M. Sheridan, H. L. B. Strachey, P. Tamworth.

## VALETE

*Spring Term, 1961* S. A. Fairbairn, M. R. Kenyon.

*Summer Term, 1961* M. J. Bardell (Rugby XV), A. Barron (School Prefect; Cricket XI), D. M. Hays (School Monitor), P. H. Morkel (Head of School; Captain of Cricket; Rugby XV), P. A. Ostrer, M. P. Shepley-Smith, N. Tambakis, J. C. Waterfield.

*Autumn Term, 1961* J. M. D. Bryan (School Monitor; Rugby XV; Cricket XI), C. H. Bullock (School Prefect; Rugby XV), T. R. Hands (School Prefect; Rugby XV), J. E. Jones, L. Mills (Rugby XV; Cricket XI).

## EDITORIAL

What shall we most remember about 1961 in years to come? A year that began with trouble in Laos, and soon saw fresh trouble in the Congo, which went on to see a revival of the old problem of East versus West in Berlin and seems to have culminated in an alarming series of Nuclear tests by Russia. Already we have almost forgotten the event which in the Spring seemed to be the main event of 1961—the Russian achievement of putting a man into orbit round the earth.

These events of world importance emphasise two points. We live in an ever-changing world and that world is an increasingly competitive one. We can talk to our grandparents about the world they knew when they were young—a world without radio or television entertainment, a world where the telephone, the flying machine and electricity were remarkable novelties and when a car on the road was as unusual as is a horse-drawn vehicle to-day. Will the world change as much again in the fifty years that separates the schoolboy of today from old age?

Not only is the world in which we live changing rapidly but it is an increasingly hard world to live in. 1961 has given us many examples of East competing with West. Our country is finding it increasingly difficult to compete for trade with other manufacturing Countries. Likewise business firms compete with each other to employ well-trained scientists.

We will certainly not find the world an easy place to live in during the foreseeable future. The lesson we must draw is this: To work hard to use both our working and our leisure time in School to prepare for the future. “The day returns and brings with it the irritating round of petty concerns and duties . . . help us to bear them like men” . . . So begins an attractive little prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson: He was thinking of boys’ problems when he wrote it. The schoolboy’s problem is always the same: to fit in all the things he would like to do with all the things he has got to do. Often duty to school and to parents does conflict with personal pleasures, but in this troubled world of ours not only does nation compete with nation but boy with boy for scholarships or attractive careers after school is over. What then would be a good aim for boys of Shiplake Court to take into 1962? Could it be that, having helped in the foundation of a new school, they should go on to use every opportunity the school offers to prepare for the difficult years ahead?

## FOUNDERS’ DAY

Founders’ Day took place on a delightfully warm June day, during a long spell of really fine weather, with the School grounds looking at their best for a really important occasion.

The ceremonies began with the first Enrolment Parade of the Cadet Force, which is referred to elsewhere. This was followed by the Speeches and Prizegiving

in the Great Hall. And, in the afternoon, cricket provided the focus of attention until after tea.

This, our second Founders' Day, was naturally an occasion for looking both backwards to the achievements of the past and ahead to our plans and ambitions for the future.

The Chairman of the Governors, Mr. P. F. Carter-Ruck, described the past year as one of very considerable progress in establishing the School in every field of activity. He paid a special tribute to the tremendous contribution made by Mrs. Everett to the adventure of founding the School, and said that he was sure that the parents felt especially grateful to her. He also paid tribute to the work of Mr. A. P. Goodwin, as Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body and as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, and to the Headmaster and the Staff; and welcomed Mr. Cecil Baker as a new member of the Governing Body.

He explained the great advances made in establishing the School on a firm financial basis for future expansion. In particular, he expressed the gratitude of the School to the parents who had contributed so generously and helpfully to the Endowment and Development Funds. These, together with other facilities arranged by the Governors, enabled the School to look forward with confidence to the completion of the first stage of the planned development of the School. The New Block would enable each House to have monitors studies and dayrooms, and the School would also have a new and really well-equipped Biology Laboratory, School Shop, as well as an improved gymnasium and recreation room.

He also stressed the importance of building up a first class Library and hoped that, in addition to what the School would do, parents and Old Boys would like to present books suitably inscribed with a presentation panel associating the gift with the time spent by past and present boys at the School.

The Chairman then welcomed Sir Eric Berthoud, who had kindly consented to present the prizes. He described Sir Eric as a man of considerable experience in many fields, as a past executive of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and, more recently, as having earned the distinction of having served as our Ambassador on both sides of the Iron Curtain. He was first Ambassador to Denmark and later to Poland. He was a member of the Government's first economic mission to Moscow and prior to his appointments as Her Majesty's Ambassador held high office in the Civil Service and the Foreign Office.

The Chairman described Sir Eric and himself as at one time fellow travellers not politically but on the daily train journey between Bishop's Stortford and London. Sir Eric, he said, was a man who regarded the 7.20 evening train as an early one on which to travel home. He was a hard worker and his glittering attainments were due to efforts well summed-up in the words of Longfellow:

“ The heights by great men reached and kept  
Were not attained by sudden flight  
But they, while their companions slept,  
Were toiling upwards in the night.”

The main theme of the Headmaster's report was the School's progress during the preceding year. He said that the School used the Parish Church more and more as a result of the encouraging response of the boys to private prayer there, of the need to build up a worthy tradition of congregational singing and of the establishment of a regular School routine and organization which lessened the need for so many School Assemblies. In this respect he expressed the gratitude of the School for the help given by the Vicar in what was the foundation of School life and, indeed, of all life.

Academically, the term would see the first "O" Level attempts by a complete form, with the full flood tide of "O" Levels really flowing in 1962, and "A" Level entries to follow in due course.

In sport, our expanding fixture lists included matches against Bloxham, Bradfield, the Nautical College, Pangbourne, Radley and Wellington. The fact that our teams had served the School well in creating a good impression on and off the field was well shown by the fact that the initiative in renewing these fixtures was coming, in several instances, from our opponents.

In other directions, the establishment of a Cadet Force, and a Prefect system under a Head of the School, combined with every boy taking part in a major team sport at least three days a week, helped towards building up of a proper sense of discipline and duty. The first editions of official and unofficial School Magazines, the first School Play and the first public performance by the School Orchestra were all based on a combination of team-work and self-expression, and self-expression was also encouraged by the very wide range of Clubs and Societies running in the School.

Shiplake Court, the Headmaster concluded, was certainly surrounded by "the beauty of the wild, green earth" and he hoped that the School, in its turn, was doing its duty in ensuring the perpetuation of "the bravery of man."

Sir Eric Berthoud stressed that what he had to say was addressed essentially to the boys present. This was, he explained, the first time that he had ever presented prizes at a school; and he confessed to feeling nervous. First class actors and actresses, however, had told him they still experienced a feeling of tension after years of work. This made him feel that this feeling of tension was a good thing, because it made a person really think and try his utmost to do his best.

Sir Eric hoped the boys would try to choose jobs in which they felt that they could best express their personalities, in which they were fully extended and in which money was not the primary consideration. There was, he explained, a great thrill in thinking for oneself more and more, and in qualifying for greater responsibility. He also urged the boys not to hesitate to change their jobs if they found they had not started in the right ones. He himself had no regrets in making such a change, although it was financially a very disadvantageous one. There was plenty of variety in commerce and industry; but there was a greater reward in serving one's country and in getting on with foreigners.

It was, he continued, very important for parents and boys to be alive to the

problems of the future, to understand them and to approach them without prejudice. As an example of such a problem, Sir Eric instanced one with which he was concerned: Britain's entry into the Common Market. He regarded this as the best way of developing the country's technical assets. "We must become Europeans and take into the life of Europe the ideas that are the basis of our educational system," he said.

## PRIZE LIST

### THE BARRON PRIZE ESSAY

(Awarded this year for History)

A. J. C. Smither and R. M. Shingler

*Honourably mentioned:* A. Barron and M. G. Talbot-Smith

### SUBJECT PRIZES

<i>English</i>	-	B. Osborn and R. M. Elliott
<i>History</i>	-	G. T. Coulton
<i>Geography</i>	-	A. Barron and R. G. Blaxter
<i>Latin</i>	-	P. M. Devas and M. J. Hillman
<i>French</i>	-	T. R. Hands, D. M. Hays and N. J. Hill
<i>Mathematics</i>	-	D. C. Gutteridge and A. Tulyanon
<i>Science</i>	-	A. Barron, S. Azari, J. P. Turner, H. S. Lynes and L. J. Hutchings
<i>Music</i>	-	J. A. Osborne, H. P. Seaford and L. W. Osborn
<i>Art</i>	-	A. A. G. Buchanan and L. J. Hutchings

### SPECIAL PRIZE

(For outstanding progress during the year)

N. H. King

### FORM PRIZES

A. Barron, P. M. Devas, N. J. Hill, L. J. Hutchings and W. C. F. Eaton

### THE HEADMASTER'S PRIZE

(For the first Head of the School)

P. H. Morkel

## SCHOOL NOTES

We are extremely grateful to the Reverend J. E. Overton for his help to the School. Owing to his heavy commitments in a widespread parish, he can no longer teach Divinity. But he still takes a great interest in the School, takes our services and carries out the immeasurably important duty of preparing our candidates for Confirmation.

Members of our first G.C.E. "O" Level form took varying numbers of subjects in the July examinations, the most successful candidate being A. Barron with seven passes. There are likely to be more than three times as many entries next July.

Our first Athletics season was unfortunately marred by a tiresome "bug" which, while not causing violent ill-health, was of a nature to make strenuous physical exercise an unjustifiable risk. Nevertheless, many boys gained our own or the Duke of Edinburgh's Award standards. Elsewhere, you will read of our expanding School fixture lists and House competitions, quite apart from the inauguration of the Cadet Force, with shooting on our own range as an essential feature. Physical Training is also a vital innovation in ensuring fitness in every way; and we hope that we shall be playing hockey soon.

The winners of Shields for House Competitions have been: Cross-Country Running: Skipwith; Cricket: Burr; Lawn Tennis: Burr; Swimming: Burr and Skipwith; Rugby Football: Senior: Skipwith; Junior: Burr.

The Library has now reached the healthy state of the shelves becoming inadequate for the number of books. New shelving will be installed during the holidays.

We held our first dance just before Christmas. The School Hall proved ideal for what was a very delightful occasion and we are very grateful to Mr. Osborne for his magnificent Mastering of the Ceremonies.

The School Choir has progressed considerably this year. At the Carol Service, none of the unevenness noticeable in the singing last year could be detected. This was the result of a lot of hard work, which culminated in the Choir, supported by a Wind Ensemble, visiting houses in the district, Carol Singing. Their effort was very well received and over £20 was collected for the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief.

## THE NEW BLOCK

The New Block, as we write, has walls, a roof and windows. All concerned with its completion have assured us that they can foresee no obstacle to its completion in time for all essential furnishings and fitments to be installed for Mr. Foster's House

(except, alack, for Mr. and Mrs. Foster!) moving in en bloc at the beginning of the Spring Term. We cannot express too much gratitude to the many parents whose contributions to the Endowment and Development Funds have enabled us to build this vital addition to the School. It will enable each House to have a Dayroom and the School to have a substantial shop, selling clothes and sporting equipment, as well as food and drink, instead of just a small tuck-shop in what is little more than a cupboard. The Masters and Ladies on the Staff will no longer be overcrowded in a quite inadequate Common Room. Altogether, everybody will be more comfortable and the organisation of the School more efficient.

### CADET FORCE

Another important landmark in the history of the School was the formation, in the summer term, of a Detachment of the Army Cadet Force affiliated to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Our ultimate aim is to form a Detachment of the Combined Cadet Force, but all Schools have first to complete two years satisfactory service in the Army Cadet Force.

The declared object of the A.C.F. and of the training undertaken by Cadets is to give mental, moral and physical training to boys and so to form the characters of each to enable him to start well in life, and to develop in him the principles of patriotism and good citizenship. Thus will be brought out qualities of self-confidence, self-respect and ability to face and accept responsibility with the power to control himself and others.

Out of many volunteers, the first group of 25 senior boys was selected and enrolled at a ceremonial parade which took place on Founders' Day (24th June). Considering the short period of preliminary training they had, our Cadets acquitted themselves very creditably. The presence of the Governors and many parents and friends who took a keen interest in the ceremony was a great encouragement to the Cadets and to the Officers responsible for the formation of the Detachment.

A further group of 39 volunteers were taken into the Detachment at the beginning of this term. We now have, therefore, two Platoons. No. 1 Platoon consists of the original 25 Cadets and No. 2 Platoon consists of the 39 new volunteers.

On December 15th No. 1 Platoon took the Examination for Part 1 of "Certificate A" under the supervision of the Deputy Commandant of the Oxfordshire A.C.F. Of the 23 Cadets available to take the examination 20 passed and seven of these obtained Credits. We shall now be able to appoint some Non-Commissioned Officers from this Platoon.

On December 7th, No. 2 Platoon was enrolled at a Ceremonial Parade for which six Cadets of No. 1 Platoon acted as Non-Commissioned Officers, each sponsoring and giving all the orders to a small group of the Cadets of No. 2 Platoon.



Rifle shooting has begun and is proving a particularly popular feature of A.C.F. Activities, and we are fortunate in having our own excellent Miniature (.22) Rifle Range in "the Quarry." We entered three teams of four for the A.C.F. County .22 Postal League Competition. In the first round both our A and B Teams beat their opponents. In addition, our A Team were top scorers in their division of six teams. At the time of writing we are waiting for the results of the second round of the competition. This is a very promising start, especially as only No. 1 Platoon (25 Cadets) had reached a sufficiently advanced stage of training to qualify for selection. Special mention must be made of the steady shooting of D. Blackwell, M. Fleming, T. R. Hands, N. H. Sharp and D. C. Gutteridge. We are indebted to a parent who has very kindly donated a Silver Shield for an inter-House shooting competition, which will take place in the Summer Term.

The highlight of A.C.F. activities is undoubtedly the Annual Camp, which will take place early in the Summer holidays—from 8th August to 19th August, 1962. As this will be the first opportunity for the Shiplake Court Detachment to operate as a unit, it is hoped that as many Cadets as possible will be able to attend the Camp which should prove not only excellent training but also very good fun.

### **"THE HOUSEMASTER"**

The previous edition of *The Court* went to press too soon to permit of a report on the School's first full scale dramatic venture. Although this production took place a year ago its success at the time deserves more than a casual mention.

The producer, Mr. J. F. Foster, is to be congratulated on choosing a play suitable for an initial effort, complicated changes of set and lighting were thus evaded and a depth of characterisation and imaginative range beyond our inexperienced actors was rightly avoided. We look forward to more complicated productions and perhaps to an outdoor production in due course—for our grounds are ideally suited for such an enterprise.

The play was twice presented before audiences of parents and friends of the School. The confidence of the actors, the set and the adaptation of the Great Hall for the purpose were warmly praised—rightly so, for these were a team effort. The decor was constructed and painted in the School under the supervision of Brigadier Gaskell. The stage, proscenium, and lighting were rigged up by an enthusiastic group supervised by Colonel Travers. In addition the provision of costumes were greatly simplified by a number of helpful loans and by the practical help of a number of ladies connected with the School.

After a year it would be rather unkind to offer detailed criticism of individual performances. No one would wish to pretend the performances were wholly without blemish; but the cast faced up to their audience and made their presence felt by

audible speaking and confident bearing. C. Ferguson was especially fluent in the title role which demanded his presence on stage for the greater part of the action. J. L. Gates rose superior to a bad cold that laid him low immediately before the dress rehearsal: B. D. Bowles and P. Shepley-Smith were also particularly effective in their respective roles. The main praise must go to the players of feminine parts especially to Nicholas Findlay and Richard Lyon as charming "bright young things" and to R. V. Johnson for being so convincing a school girl. Occasionally the players of the men's parts failed to extract the full humour of Ian Hay's dialogue, but the boys cast in feminine parts succeeded particularly well in making the best of their lines.

Mr. Foster, as producer, together with Mr. D. F. K. Welsh, his assistant, must be congratulated on combining the efforts of actors and backstage helpers to a successful conclusion.

Altogether, this was a highly encouraging start to the building-up of a dramatic tradition in the School.

H. E. W.-F.

### THE SCHOOL CONCERT: EASTER 1961

The second School concert took place in the Great Hall, at the end of a term struck by influenza—however, the bug seemed to pass the School Choir and Orchestra by—music obviously being a very healthy pastime.

The concert opened with a very spirited rendering of Bach's "Peasant Cantata"—quite an achievement considering the time the School Choir has been in existence. This was followed by solos and duets played by flutes, oboes and clarinets, and two piano pieces. Then came a near perfect performance of Hooke's "Sonata in F" for treble recorder and piano, played by L. Osborn and J. Osborne. Next came Brahms' "Love Song Waltzes" for piano duet, a song for counter-tenor and piano, a Trio Sonata by Valentino played very musically by the Osborne Trio, and two more piano pieces. The climax of the concert came with the first appearance of the School Orchestra, twenty-four strong, who played "Four Dances" by Claude Gervaise arranged Healey.

It was quite a thrill to hear them for the first time particularly since the majority of the orchestra had only been learning their instruments for about six months. The ovation they received at the end of the concert was very well deserved.

The following boys and masters took part: Allain, Barham, Booth, Bowles, Cowley, Crowder G., Crowder M., Culne, Eaton, Fell, Fraser, Gates, Griffiths, Hawkins, Hawthorne, Hill, Jones J., Lyon, Mansfield, Maynard-Taylor, Osborn B., Osborn L., Osborne J., Seaford, Sharp, Shepley-Smith, Sleight, Smither, Stoneham, Turner, Wigfall, Mr. Hartley, Colonel Kirkwood, Mr. Rowlands and Mr. Wood.

D. E. H.

## CRICKET, 1961

The season was dry, fine and enjoyable. In terms of results, two victories, two drawn games and four defeats, the season was not as successful as 1960. However, we were being quite ambitious in our second full season in taking on some quite strong fixtures. The dry weather exposed the limitations of the 1st XI bowling and the batting was less reliable than expected. Rarely did more than two of our batsmen score well in the same match. Furthermore vital catches were sometimes not held.

In fixtures with other schools the XI generally scored well but in every game the same pattern appeared: our bowlers having taken several wickets quite cheaply, were unable to break a stand. At Bloxham our opponents' score was carried from 47—4 to 97—5, at Wellington, from 50—6 to 101—7, at Radley, from 30—4 to 82—5. Pangbourne added 48 for the last wicket. The village XI added 65 for their eighth wicket. All this points to our bowlers being unable to push home an advantage they had gained.

P. H. Morkel, in his second year as captain, demonstrated his powers as a fast scoring left-hand bat. His last innings against the Village was most commendable for he batted with one arm useless owing to a fall when fielding.

A. H. Slatter, the secretary, found the hard pitches unhelpful to his brand of slow left arm bowling. Bowlers of a like type who played against us seemed to push the ball through rather more quickly than he does and they seemed to be more successful. N. C. Fawkes scored consistently with good strokes into the covers and off his legs. J. M. D. Bryan kept wicket safely and made some useful scores. D. Blackwell bowled very well at times but he should remember that his best ball is a slow medium delivery. If he does this he will eliminate the inconsistency which is his main fault.

J. L. Gates, D. C. Gutteridge and P. H. Todd were other regular members of the side, and L. Mills, M. J. Larke, M. Hampson and M. Hillman played several times.  
H. E. W.-F.

### RESULTS

May 11th	..	Trial Match: Rest 44 (Todd 4—8). Probables 45—9 (Mr. Jefferies 4—13, Blackwell 4—17).
May 16th	..	Court 96 (Morkel 55 not out). Bloxham School Colts 97—5.
(Away)		
May 18th	..	Court 103—5 (Hillman 29, Gates 23). Masters 31 (Slatter 5—6).
May 27th	..	Court 120 (Morkel 49). Wellington College Occasionals 113—7.
(Away)		
June 10th	..	Court 142 (Fawkes 63, Bryan 33). Radley College Colts 143—6.
(Away)		
June 21st	..	Henley Police 129 (Slatter 4—39). Court 114—8 (Mr. Osborne 39, Slatter 20).
June 24th	..	Twelve-a-side Match: Headmaster's XII 101—10 declared. Court 102—5 (Fawkes 30 not out).

- July 1st .. Nautical College (Pangbourne) Colts 124 (Blackwell 5—43).  
Court 56 (Gutteridge 20 not out).  
July 22nd .. Shiplake Memorial Hall C.C. 121—8 declared. Court 76 (Morkel  
24).

#### JUNIOR CRICKET

- June 10th .. v. Radley. Juniors 110—9. Radley 111—4.  
(Away)  
July 1st .. v. Pangbourne. Pangbourne Juniors 62 (Hillman 6—16). Juniors  
(Away) 55—8.  
July 11th .. v. Brockhurst. Juniors 52. Brockhurst 56—7.  
2nd XI v. Wellington Occasionals. 2nd XI 93 (Adams 23 not out,  
Devas 28). Wellington Occasionals 98—4.

#### HOUSE MATCHES

Burr 105. Skipwith 99.  
Everett 69. Skipwith 70—5.  
Burr 195—3 declared. Everett 54.

#### RUGBY FOOTBALL

The School has expanded its fixture list considerably this year having extra fixtures with The Nautical College, Pangbourne and Radley College and new fixtures with The Oratory School, Reading School, Henley Grammar School and Gillotts School.

The 1st XV has played a much more stable, open game this season—being helped in this by the remarkably dry season we have had and the excellent weather-resisting turf of Green's Field, our new Rugger ground on the Henley road.

D. C. Gutteridge has captained the side throughout the Season and has helped considerably to make a team of it. The forwards have been led by A. H. Slatter and he and C. C. Pepper have made a very efficient attacking wing forward pair. B. D. Bowles was unfortunate to miss two matches with a cracked collar bone (but otherwise we were lucky to be injury free). N. C. Fawkes, at centre, has made remarkable progress in his first season of Rugger and R. G. Blaxter has been a most safe full back.

Those who have played include: Blaxter, Bowles, Bryan, Bullock, Fawkes, Gutteridge, Hands, Hawthorne, Larke, Maynard-Taylor, Mearns, Mills, Osborn B., Osborn L., Pepper, Slatter.

Of special note in the junior teams was Hawkins' performance as full-back (and Captain) of the Junior Colts.

J. F. F.

## RESULTS

### 1st XV:

v. Pangbourne 3rd XV (Away)	..	..	..	..	..	Won	9—3
v. Bloxham Colts (Away)	..	..	..	..	..	Lost	3—11
v. Radley 3rd XV (Home)	..	..	..	..	..	Lost	6—17
v. Oratory 3rd XV (Home)	..	..	..	..	..	Won	25—5
v. Henley Grammar School 2nd XV (Home)	..	..	..	..	..	Won	18—3

### Colts (under 16) XV:

v. Pangbourne 2nd Colts XV (Away)	..	..	..	..	Lost	3—9
v. Radley 2nd Colts XV (Home)	..	..	..	..	Won	23—6

### Junior Colts (Under 15) XV:

v. Radley 2nd Junior Colts XV (Away)	..	..	..	..	Lost	5—6
v. Bloxham 2nd Junior Colts (Away)	..	..	..	..	Won	6—0
v. Gillotts Under 15 XV (Home)	..	..	..	..	Won	5—3
v. Reading School Under 15 XV (Away)	..	..	..	..	Lost	0—3

## ROWING, 1961

With somewhat limited resources Rowing was a major sport in the School during the Summer Term and no less than sixty-seven boys enjoyed the facilities of the Club in what can best be described as excellent weather; and rarely is such a term applicable to an English summer.

The target for the term was the House Races as we were not sufficiently experienced to complete in the various local Thames regattas; and, to this end, the organization of fours was restricted to bringing on House crews. No attempt was made to form a crew likely to represent the School as yet. For another year at least the youth of the Club will be a severe handicap to our entering events even limited to schools, though Pangbourne has a race for under sixteen crews which should be within our reach by next year if progress is maintained.

Progress was steady and encouraging; advances being made from the tubs into the fixed seat fours and quite a number of boys are learning the art of handling an oar on the full scope of a sliding seat. It is a pity that our part of the river has not got a tow path that would make coaching from a bicycle a practical proposition, but this will be overcome when our boats include an adequate launch and it will be possible to follow the crews on the river.

The House races were a great success. Circumstances made it necessary for each crew to complete the course separately against the clock, but this method had the advantage of eliminating the possible difficulty of a fresh crew competing against one that had already completed a full course. On the other hand it gave more scope for interference by the weather and it must be admitted that a strong headwind, that blew early and late, but which died away during the middle of the afternoon, may have had some bearing on the ultimate result. To include as many boys as possible,

the Shield was awarded to the House having the best aggregate total for first and second fours, the latter to count half their time over the course to ensure that the best crew had the major influence. The result was in doubt until the sixth crew had finished and the judges were able to compare their findings and to agree that Burr House had beaten Everett by two seconds with Skipwith a further five seconds behind, very close in recorded total times of nearly four minutes.

Rowing Club facilities were also available in some measure for the owners of private craft which gave boys the opportunity for sailing, including some involuntary swimming when the wind was gusty, conoeing and an occasional expedition in less orthodox craft. In addition, the tub pairs were made available so far as could be at week-ends for the camping club and so made possible many Saturday nights being spent under canvas, tents and improvised shelters, on the Island. It is true that a certain amount of damage resulted but overall it can be considered to have been a sound investment as the boys had the greater opportunity to learn watermanship and to appreciate the necessity of taking full care of the craft in their charge.

Looking to the future, we hope to build up the Club gradually until the name of Shiplake Court is fully recognised among the rowing schools. This must, of necessity, take a little time, as considerable capital outlay is involved in building up a full Boat Club, but we shall gain our ends in the next few years. Though extension will be gradual, plans exist for continuing on the lines on which we have started and the prospects are good if, probably, not to be reached immediately. At the same time we shall continue to encourage private enterprise and hope that next Summer will produce an even wider selection of craft upon the river from which still more boys will learn to appreciate fully our ideal situation to enjoy all that the Thames can offer to us.

W. H. C. T.

#### RESULTS

			<i>1st Boat</i>		<i>2nd Boat</i>		<i>Total</i>
1st	Burr ..	..	2—26.2	..	1—14.0	..	3—40.2
2nd	Everett ..	..	2—22.4	..	1—21.8	..	3—44.2
3rd	Skipwith ..	..	2—28.2	..	1—20.9	..	3—49.1

#### BOXING

A small squad of keen boxers put in several afternoons' hard training a week for the first five weeks of the Easter term, concentrating on style, partly as a matter of principle, partly because we had no ring. We now have our own ring and look forward to home as well as away fixtures. Boxing is also now part of the P.T. curriculum and we hope that more and more boys will be encouraged to take part in boxing as a competitive sport.

The highlights of the Season were matches against Bloxham and the Nautical College, Pangbourne. Our opponents were tremendously co-operative in matching all our boxers to furnish even bouts, including conceding age and weight or selecting

their reserves rather than first strings for the contests. But we were able to be more ambitious than last year in taking on their genuine team members in some instances and two excellent afternoons' sport resulted. We could not—though we hope we soon shall be able to—claim that we were taking on our opponents on a real School versus School basis; so the matches were unofficial and both were narrowly lost. The results were close, however, and very encouraging for the future. The *Bloxhamist* commented “we were very impressed with the speed with which Shiplake adapted themselves to ring conditions, and we shall be very much on our guard in years to come!” This is a highly complimentary challenge that we accept with pleasure.

D. J. S.

#### MATCHES

v. Bloxham. Lost 3—6. Marnham beat Zvegintzov. Long lost to Baker. Blaxter lost to Batt. Gutteridge lost to Daisley. Azari lost to Watkinson. Bardell beat Stevens. Osborne beat Isaac. Gates lost to Nash. Bardell lost to Fowler.

v. Nautical College, Pangbourne. Lost 4—5. Marnham beat Woolley. Myers lost to Collings. Long lost to Brown. Shepley-Smith lost to Aitken. Gates beat Hollebone. Gutteridge lost to Byrne. Azari lost to Bailey. Bardell beat Cockburn. Osbourne beat Reid.

#### LAWN TENNIS

The hard court had plenty of use this summer, and a grass court was made to take the extra numbers. Our tennis-coach, Capt. Uberoi, has remarked favourably on the standard of the School's tennis and will be in charge of the coaching of the team for fixtures with other schools next summer.

The main event was the House Match, which was enthusiastically played and a high standard of tennis was kept up. Skipwith I was unfortunate to have their game against Burr I stopped by rain three times, just as they were warming up.

D. F. K. W.

Result: Won by Burr House.

TEAMS						
Skipwith ..	1.	{ Adams	2.	{ Morkel	3.	{ Mills
		{ Barrett		{ Slatter		{ Mearns
Everett ..	1.	{ Gutteridge	2.	{ Bowles	3.	{ Devas
		{ Todd		{ L. Osborn		{ Sutcliffe
Burr ..	1.	{ Bryan	2.	{ Blackwell	3.	{ Hillman
		{ Sharp		{ Gates		{ Tulyanon

Results:—

Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers
Burr 1	v. Skipwith 1	Burr 2	v. Skipwith 2	Burr 3	v. Everett 3
Burr 1	v. Everett 1	Burr 2	v. Everett 2	Skipwith 3	v. Burr 3
Skipwith 1	v. Everett 1	Everett 2	v. Skipwith 2	Skipwith 3	v. Everett 3

## SQUASH RACKETS

SPRING, '61.—A match v. the Nautical College, Pangbourne, under 16, at home.

Team: Slatter, Blackwell, Devas, Buchanan.

Result: Lost.

All the games were close, and we were unlucky to lose as heavily as we did. Slatter as first string was up against some very stiff opposition and put up a good fight, but his opponent was too experienced for him. The other members of the team were closely matched and played well.

Other fixtures, against Bradfield College, and Eton College, had to be cancelled because of illness.

AUTUMN, '61.—v. Bradfield College, under 16½, at home.

Team: Slatter, Blackwell, Barrett, Mearns, Sharp.

Result: Lost.

This was a similar match to the one against Pangbourne in the Spring. Slatter and Blackwell were unfortunately very much outclassed. Barrett played extremely well in his first appearance in the team, and was within a hair's breadth of winning. Sharp was also on the point of winning but seemed to crack up at the last minute.

D. F. K. W.

## DO YOU KNOW?

*[Answers on page 22]*

- (1) What the fields on the other side of the Thames from the School are called?
- (2) Who has the right of appointing Vicars of Shiplake?
- (3) Who won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley in 1961?
- (4) Is there any connection between the Baskerville Family of Crowsley Court and Conan Doyle's novel "Hound of the Baskervilles"?
- (5) Who is the French Revolutionary General buried in Henley Parish Church?
- (6) What sides fought at the Battle of Caversham Bridge and when?
- (7) What 15th Century Bridge recently proved to be more sound than an iron bridge built a century ago?
- (8) Who burned down Wargrave Church in 1913?
- (9) What happened to the last Abbot of Reading?
- (10) Why Shiplake Memorial Hall is so called?



## **DRAMA**

The School Dramatic Society was formed during the term following the production of "The Housemaster." The Society meets on two Sundays in each month and by courtesy of Mr. Foster meets in his rooms. Valuable experience is being gained by our twenty members in the reading of a variety of parts from plays as diverse as "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "Ring Round the Moon" and by authors ranging from Peter Ustinov to Agatha Christie.

C. FERGUSON

## **THE ELECTRONICS CLUB**

The Club is gradually coming to life, somewhat handicapped by an excess of some materials and the expense of buying other items not in ample supply. In an age when old wireless sets are still used, except by those who feel that they must have a transistor set to give continuous music the whole time, there remains a market and such sets are not given away. On the other hand television sets, without the tube, can be had in any numbers for the asking and provide an unlimited supply of the parts that can be obtained by breaking them down.

The Club therefore consists of twenty more-or-less enthusiastic members, several biscuit boxes full of miscellaneous bits and pieces, and an amply fitted club-room up a spiral staircase in the old water tower. It may well be that our existence has displaced the previous inhabitants who, dressed in the tall hats and boots of a bye-gone age, used to haunt the stable yard and find refuge in the deserted rooms beneath the water tank. Perhaps they gain some consolation from the noises emitted by the club radios competing well with their former ghostly wails and satisfaction from the crash of glass when a non-member from outside throws a stone through the window. This latter, however, much as it may give pleasure to our predecessors, has had its day so far as the present generation is concerned.

So there exists a Club on the foundations of which we hope to build at least further wireless sets to be played wherever and whenever the law permits. We plan within reasonable time to be in full contact with such centres as Luxembourg, though it is regretted by some that the construction, or importation of a television set to put us permanently in touch with I.T.V. has been emphatically banned by authority.

## **THE MODELLING CLUB**

This was once known as the Carpentry Club. During that time, its members constructed a number of work benches now used and the club was equipped with an adequate supply of tools—though these have, over the months, completely disappeared! Because of this, the Modelling Club has now been formed. This Club is mainly occupied in turning out all types of model planes, some of which are feats of artistry—others aerodynamic freaks which astound their makers and any by-standers by staggering drunkenly into the air.

One of our more worthy efforts was a radio-controlled, single channel scale model of a Tri-Pacer, made by one of the Club's Founder Members, R. M. Shingler. Even though, in all fairness, it was a very elegant piece of work, no one but the owner saw it fly, so the performance in the air was left to our imagination.

Though combat flying has always been the main ambition of control-line flyers, it was only recently that B. Osborn and R. M. Shingler managed to get two planes in the air at once, in the same circle. Needless to say, while gaining proficiency at this type of sport, crashes, numerous and costly are quite common.

Though powered planes are the Club's main attraction, it is by no means its only one. Rubber powered planes, electric boats and gliders play a predominant part. Roger Leach, one of our better carpenters, has turned out two or three yachts of his own design.

Stephen Batiste, always ready to try anything once, has produced a medley of strange contraptions which usually to the astonishment of his fellow members have been, as far as flying performance is concerned, completely successful.

Material for repair work can be bought at the Model Club shop which sells all small necessities, and it goes without saying that this part of the Club does a roaring trade.

R. M. SHINGLER.

B. OSBORN.

## MUSIC SOCIETY

The past year has been one of considerable progress, both in the standard of performance and in attendance, the average attendance being over 20, a marked increase over the previous winter. It was decided by the Council that the Society should "rest" during the Summer Term in order that the standard of performance should not drop through performers being overworked.

The year started with a recital of music by Debussy, given by Mr. Healey ("Clair de Lune" and "Golliwogg's Cake Walk" being most popular). This was followed by the First Birthday Party, at which selected boys performed, after which the remainder of the Society consumed a birthday cake, ice cream and ginger beer. The remaining concerts consisted of a programme of Far Eastern Music, an Organ Recital, a very successful Debate, a performance of Saint-Saens' "Variations on a Theme of Beethoven" and two recitals by professional musicians. The first was given by Miss Cecily Houseman on the flute and included music by Poulenc, Rimsky-Korsakov and Bach. The second on the clarinet, given by Mr. Peter Battine, included Weber's "First Concerto" and Saint-Saens' Sonata.

After the summer break, the first concert was a Piano Recital given by Mr. Hartley, this was followed by a lecture on the history of Jazz. The next concert, which was very well attended, was an experiment in combining Music and Poetry, with admirable results! At this point in the term the Council decided to cease having subscriptions as lack of pocket money sometimes stopped boys from attending. Some of the members however decided to donate their subscriptions, with the idea of

presenting the School with records of Tschaiakovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" and "1812 Overture." The remaining meetings comprised a debate on "Music being the most primitive of the arts," a concert of music for Violins, oboe, and double bass, and an instrumental and choral concert which included Britten's "Choral Dances," Finzi's "Carol" for clarinet, "Pavane" by Gluck for horn, and "Romance" for oboe by Schumann.

The term ended with a lecture and a visit to Handel's "Messiah" in Reading Town Hall, and the traditional Mad-House Concert—the latter being the 44th Concert given by the Music Society. (There will obviously be need for celebration when we reach number 50).

The following boys have performed at Recitals this year: J. Osborne (7), Bowles (3), Cowley (3), L. Osborn (3), Seaford (3), Ferguson (2), and Allain, Barham, Bird, Griffiths, Hawkins, Hutchings, Long, Lyon, Maynard-Taylor, B. Osborn, Smither and Turner (1 each).

Mention should here be made of the posters littering the School every Wednesday—for which the Council accepts no responsibility. These have been prepared by Messrs. Allain, Cowley, Leach, Myers and Healey.

NOTE SUPPLIED BY THE COMMITTEE.

### NAUTICAL SOCIETY

As a result of suggestions made by a number of boys interested in the History of Ships and Sea Faring, this Society came into being in September. Since then we have accumulated some twenty members. Meetings are given over to the study of ships of all types and the uses made of them. Recently the conduct of naval warfare under modern conditions has been the crux of our studies although we have held meetings about various types of Merchant Ships. Mr. Gordon gave us an account of the life and job of a cruiser's signals officer during the Second World War. Mr. Wells-Furby gave a lecture and led a debate on the conduct of British Naval operations during 1914-18.

At the end of the Autumn Term we showed some movie films and we hope to have some more at our disposal next term. Our thanks are due to the Shell Corporation for lending us these films as, indeed, they are due to all the other Merchant Shipping Companies who have provided us with a truly wonderful assortment of pictorial literature.

P. A. BOOTH.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

The Club was the idea of two boys during the last Easter Term. They were very interested in photography and wished to know more about it. After a long time spent in planning, a room was found and running water was installed. Then it was redecorated by the Members.

Now there are thirteen members and the Society has large funds, some of which has been spent on buying an enlarger, printer, dryer-glazer and warmer. A useful reserve remains.

Although the Club was opened on Founders' Day, there have been few good results as yet. The Dark Room, which is used as the Club Room as well, has been distempered again and there have been a few alterations.

The chemicals are made up by boys assisted by the President, Mr. D. J. Bailey.

The object of this Club is to assist the members to understand and to achieve the best results from their cameras and also to teach them how to develop and enlarge and use the printer.

We hope to have equipment for the making of cine-films in due course.

R. D. STAGNELL. J.M. SUTCLIFFE.

### YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB

The Shiplake Court Young Farmers' Club was started this term. The idea of the Club is to teach those who want to become farmers or who just want to know more about farming and the countryside.

At the first meeting we decided to make Mr. F. Doble president of the club, Mr. B. Doble club leader, and D. Whitehead and S. Stracey joint secretaries.

The first farm walk that the Club had was over Mr. Doble's farm. He showed us all the farm buildings and his two other farms by the river.

Mr. Keble visited us and showed us a film of his farm. At this meeting, we decided to invite Mr. Holt to pay us a visit and advise us on how to run the Club. He suggested we ought to be affiliated to the Federation.

Mr. B. Doble has also showed us a film about his farm, including hay making and harvest. The term's activities will conclude with a quiz and, finally, a talk on malting by Mr. Wynne of Henley Brewery.

SIMON STRACEY.

### " THE PHOENIX "

*In June 1960 the School produced its first literary magazine. To limit the expense of publication it was duplicated on the premises, bound by the boys under a cover designed in the art department.*

I was called upon to write a brief review of *The Phoenix* in my capacity as an alleged neutral, and I tried hard to be just that. But one can't be neutral about Phoenixes; one is either for them or against them. Even if it had been a teeny-weeny little Phoenix, sitting apologetically amid a large heap of ashes, not quite sure whether it existed or not, I would have been on its side; but this is an authentic Phoenix, triumphantly radiant. An awkward, rough bird, perhaps, with some of its feathers better-developed than others—but clearly a creature of light that has come through the fire.

To descend from these allusive heights and, in the words of W. W. Jacobs "speak up like a Englishman wot I really mean," this magazine is a wholly commendable effort. It features articles by the most surprising people. (No offence will be taken, because none is meant. We are all potentially surprising people, if only we can get someone to inspire or bully us into showing what we can do) and not one of the articles is without some real merit—a freshness of phrase, an honesty of feeling, and sometimes a burst of real inspiration. If I have to single out some contributions for special praise, I would say that those of Christopher Ferguson and Peter Shepley-Smith, and the powerful and apposite "Finis" by Jeremy Fraser, show a very real talent. There is, in many of the articles, sentimentality, triteness, and occasional crudity; but there is no article that does not deserve its place.

And what a range they cover! Life and death, love and hate, rivers and roses, fleas, dogs and swans. There has been some very real inspiration behind all this—and the call has been freely answered.

Long may this and other Phoenixes continue to radiate the little world of Shiplake Court—a world that is no less real for being small in scale—with its lurid, interesting and revealing light.

C. T. G.

## A CHANGING VILLAGE

The following facts are all drawn from historical documents:—

New houses are springing up in Shiplake and many houses have been built around the station. This part is known in "Doomsday Book" as Lachebrook (Lashbrook). We are told that the population was six villeins, five bordars and two serfs—thirteen men and their families presumably.

In 1351, Edward III tried to fix wages—apparently carpenters were to have 2d. a week. Wages in the building industry have obviously improved!

In 1541 after the suppression of Great Missenden Abbey, which appointed the Vicars of Shiplake, being Vicar of Shiplake was said to be worth £8 13s. 4d. a year!

In the 1550's Shiplake Church had a steeple with three bells in it.

In 1660, according to the Hearth Tax returns, there were twenty-three householders in Shiplake Parish.

The Magistrates of Oxfordshire fixed farmworkers' wages in 1687 at 9d. per day in the summer and 10d. in the winter. (In February 1962 the minimum farm wage will be £8 15s. per week).

In 1738 the Vicar reported to the Bishop of Oxford that he celebrated Holy Communion eight times a year with an average attendance of ten. He was glad there were "no Roman Catholics, no Quakers and only four puny presbyterians" in the village.

Over a century later, in 1854, Holy Communion was still only being celebrated eight times a year. The normal Sunday congregation, said the Vicar, was cut down severely by rain: then, as now, most people lived more than a mile from the Church.

## ANSWERS TO DO YOU KNOW?

- (1) The Borough Marsh.
- (2) The Dean and Chapter of Windsor.
- (3) The Russian Naval Crew.
- (4) None at all. The Baskerville Family were not pleased with the title of the book but were satisfied with Conan Doyle's assurance that he did not even know there was a Baskerville family living at Shiplake.
- (5) General Dumouriez.
- (6) Charles I and Parliament 1643.
- (7) The stone bridge over the Thames at Sonning. The iron bridge leading to it now has a two-ton limit.
- (8) The militant Suffragettes (women agitating for the vote).
- (9) He was hanged in 1538 for refusing to hand over the Abbey at the time Henry VIII dissolved the Monasteries.
- (10) Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Mardon gave the ground and the Hall (which cost £10,000) as a memorial to their son and thirty-two other Shiplake men killed in the First World War. It was opened on St. George's Day, 1927.