

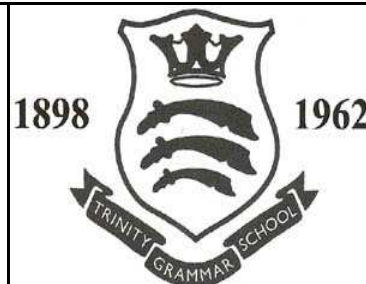
# Trinity Old Scholars Association

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## 70 years on

Extracts from the Autumn Magazine of 1939 (in Wood Green)

(Pages 1—8)

The pages that follow are an insight into an important part of our school's history—perhaps unknown to many of today's Old Scholars. Reproduction of the magazine in its original format was virtually impossible, but I hope you will all enjoy reading the actual accounts of how it was in September 1939 and the early weeks of the war.

## Editorial – Autumn Term 1939

To call this term unique in the history of the School-or, to broaden the statement, to call it unique in the history of education in this country-would be to utter a truism. Nobody imagined that just over a third of our pupils would be living and learning in an Essex village, just over another third attached for part-time teaching to Minchenden School, with the remainder eating their heads off in Wood Green looking for posts or evacuated by private arrangement all over the country. How has the School withstood this blow? Let it be admitted that the blow has been severe, and that its severity has been only a little mitigated by the absence, so far, of air raids-an absence entirely unexpected by any authority in this country. With its building commandeered by the military and all its facilities for games and swimming gone, the School, thrown at a moment's notice on an unknown village, with no accommodation for teaching, faced a formidable task. To a visitor once part of the School but now temporarily absent, it seems that the difficulties have been triumphantly surmounted. Rooms were secured and made habitable and teaching begun on the day appointed for the start of the Autumn term, gone on without interruption. The Headmaster has been installed in a room known by the simple name of "office" where human problems that range upwards from frayed nerves and loneliness are considered on seven days a week from early morning till late at night.

A corporate social life has been organised. Pupils and Staff are fit and healthy, and most are happy. Those at Hatfield Peverel are not exiles; it is we who are absent from that centre of busy and cheerful life including, if I may say it, those attached to other schools, who feel we are exiles from our own School.

**E. J. Brandon**

## FROM THE OUTSIDE

This is an introductory article for those who are, like myself, 'Outside the School'. For nearly a week before war was declared I had been engaged on an A.R.P. job, working with a very anxious mind on twelve-hour night shifts. On a fine Saturday afternoon I was awakened from a few hours' sleep by a hoarse loudspeaker voice, "Stand by for an important announcement!" and then followed from the van which had once amplified our results on Sports Day the details of the evacuation of Wood Green schoolchildren. The little cricket field in front of my home was empty in two minutes. That loud-speaker announcement remains one of the most dramatic and painful moments I have experienced.

Early the next morning the scholars who were going away assembled at School. Mr Eustance, who was on the same job as myself, went to wish them God-speed, but I could not bear to see my colleagues and my pupils leaving home, and I remaining behind. They went by bus, on a cloudless morning, and did not know where they were going. When they left Wood Green we were at peace; at the end of their journey we were at war. They arrived at Hatfield Peverel, a scattered village half-way on the main road between Chelmsford and Colchester. The village is situated on gravel soil, which means that fruit-growing is the main industry, and the country around is undulating and pretty. The people of Hatfield Peverel made their guests welcome, and staff and scholars have many stories to tell of kindnesses shown them. They are billeted in and around the village, some in big houses, some in cottages. Mr Swinden has been in charge of the billeting arrangements from our side, and his inexhaustible patience and good temper has contributed much to the good relations which exist between our party and the country people. The Head Master is billeted in a beautiful old house, called "The Stuarts," near the centre of the village. His hostess, Mrs Daly, has been kindness itself. She has provided him with a room which is his office, study, consulting-room, and club-room. It has, fortunately for her, an outside door, and through that door come a constant stream of scholars, members of the staff, parents, some old scholars, and Essex residents. There was no school accommodation available in Hatfield Peverel. But there was a Priory. The present building is an eighteenth-century country house, built on the side of a medieval Priory. It has been the property during the last year or two of a Roman Catholic order, the Marianhill Fathers. The Fathers and Brethren at Hatfield Peverel are refugees from Germany. They have given up almost the whole of the ground floor and basement to our use, and there we carry on our teaching.

There is insufficient room for the whole of our scholars, and we have to work a fortnightly timetable, those attending in the morning one week attending in the afternoon the next week. The Fathers have shown the greatest kindness to our staff and scholars; nothing could be more satisfactory than the good feeling which exists between them and the School.

The whole of the staff except four masters were at Hatfield Peverel for some weeks. Then *five* of them (Miss Chisholm, Miss Male, Miss Munday, Mr Edmonds, and Dr King), were recalled for clerical work in connection with scholars not evacuated. At the end of October any scholars left, behind were attached to Minchenden School, attending one or two half-days a week on a tutorial system, and Miss Andrews and Mr Bowesman were sent back to take charge of them. Miss Munday and Mr Edmonds are at Minchenden, Miss Chisholm is attached to Drayton Manor, Miss Male to Harrow Weald, and Dr King to Enfield Grammar School. It cannot be pretended that we find these staffing arrangements satisfactory, Mr Eustance, Dr Jones, Mr Shave and I have been engaged in some A.R.P. work, which is becoming, after a period of boredom, more interesting and much more responsible, but we find the long hours (some of them at night) and the absence of breaks rather trying.

Our School building was occupied for some weeks by the military. It is empty now, and its desolation is heartbreaking. Not one of us who has ever belonged to the School but looks forward to the day when its rooms will be filled again by our own scholars.

E. J. BRANDON.

### School Notes and News

The School Telephone number is Hatfield Peverel 77. But don't use it unless the matter is urgent.

We are sorry to learn that County Councillor Mrs H. Taylor Rhys, J.P., Vice-Chairman of the Governors of the School, had an accident at home. We are pleased that she is making good recovery.

We congratulate a former governor of the School, Councillor A. R. Harrison, the father of Bruce V. Harrison (1930-35), on his election as Mayor of Wood Green.

Councillor D. C. Leach, B.A., of Highbury County School, a governor of the School, evacuated to St Neots, has been re-evacuated to Midsomer Norton.

The sympathy of the School is with Mr R. H. Cocks, M.A., who retired from the Headship of Glendale County School at Easter. His wife passed away at Cheltenham last month.

The new Head Master of Glendale County School. Mr S. A. Dymont, B.Sc. (Bristol), M.Sc. (Lond.), is having a rough passage to start with. We hope we shall soon be able to get to know him in pleasanter circumstances.

**School news and notes cont.....**

Mr Dixon is enjoying his retirement at Headcorn. Kent. We miss him.

Mrs F Chivers, known to us as Miss Steel is helping to run school at Hadley Wood.

Among those who attended the Girls' Camp at Heyburn Wyke was the Head Master's niece, Marjorie Bagnall. She was married as recently as last July, and campers will learn with deep regret that she passed away on November 28.

Through the kindness of Mr F. C. Corbett, J.P., the Declamation Competition has been revived. He offered two prizes: the first was won by Kathleen Brandle (Girl Guiding in Schools), the second by E. J. Larman (A plea for Sweet Reasonableness).

Our groundsman, R. Pettifer, took up his duties as stretcher bearer at the Middlesex Hospital at the outbreak of war.

A damaged barrage balloon on November 27 caused a little damage to the roof of the School.

We have already recorded the very willing help given by the Fathers and Brethren of the Marianhill Mission at The Priory. Yet another instance was the permission given to Dorothy Newling to sit for the Somerville Entrance and Scholarship Examination in one of their private rooms.

It is a pleasure again to put on record the very great help we have received from Mrs Daly and family at "Stuarts." where the school office is situated.

During the term two typewritten issues of the Magazine of the Trinity County School at Hatfield Peverel have been published. We have reason to believe that the first number distributed on September 22, was the first magazine to be produced by an evacuated school. The demand for this issue was so great that it, had to be reprinted twice. (See page 9)

A second number was published in October. Several of the seniors, were surprised when a member of the staff of Fox Photos came especially to Hatfield Peverel to photograph the production of the school magazine. The photographs appeared in the "Evening News" and the "Evening Standard" of November 28 and the "Daily Mirror" of November 29.

Mr Brandon is helping to make life at his A.R.P. post more endurable for his colleagues by the production of a topical magazine. We hope his love of stately prose will not suffer from over-emphasis on verse.

We are pleased to record that the enthusiasm of Miss Schofield and of Mr Brandon for life-saving has been recognised. They have both been made Honorary Associates of the Royal Life Saving Society.

There was an air-raid warning on November 22.

One of our A.R.P. boys on duty did not hear the all-clear and so enjoyed night air for an extra hour.

One of our scholars, Matilda Salmon, has twice attended a Meet of Hounds. She was taken by Mrs Collen, whose kindness has been unfailing during our stay:

The School is very grateful indeed for the large number of books sent to Hatfield Peverel by M. Peplow, the Wood Green Librarian.

For the Doll Dressing Competition in connection with the Wood Green and Southgate Hospital, Barbara Cannon (Form Iie) was awarded first prize (under 13) and Evelyn White (Form Va) second prize (13 and over) .

Mr Brandon left his gas mask at Hatfield Peverel after one of his visits. Mr Jones, when he came, of course nearly lost the last coach home, and, *of course*, left his gas mask behind.

D. W. A. Grammer (Form IIIa) has joined the choir at the Hatfield Peverel Church.

R. Harris (Form Ib), who was hurt in a coach accident at Hatfield Peverel, was detained in Chelmsford for five days.

On December 9, A. Longstaff (FormI Ib) was involved in a cycle accident. He was taken by ambulance to Chelmsford Hospital, where he is making good progress.

Congratulations to Form IIIb on the publication of a really excellent form magazine. The cover is particularly striking and the contents well above the average.

Our thanks are due to Col. Parsons for so kindly offering to provide us with a Christmas Tree for festivities at The Priory.

We are extremely grateful to Miss Luard, of Ivy Chimneys, Witham, for so kindly allowing us the use of many fancy costumes for our Christmas concert.

Last year the girls gained the following awards of the Royal Life Saving Society: 39 intermediate certificates, 24 bronze medallions, 5 first bars, 6 second bars, and 1 third bar to bronze medallion, 8 second-class instructor's certificates, 1 first-class instructor's certificate, and 1 Award of Merit (Irene Noble). Last term 10 boys gained the bronze medallion and 1 (P. Chiesa) the Award of Merit of the Royal Life Saving Society. Seventeen half-mile certificates were gained. The percentage of half-mile swimmers was: St. Andrew's House, 60.5 per cent., St David's House 44.9 per cent., St George's House 53.5 per cent., St Patrick's House 52.8 per cent., New House 53.7 per cent., School 53.1 per cent. The Elliot Life Saving Trophy was gained by New House, represented by K. Wakeman and L. Wischhusen.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the bright and breezy "Highburian" from Highbury County School at St Neots.

### AT HATFIELD PEVEREL. AN IMPRESSION.

On arriving at Hatfield Peverel we were herded into the village school, and whiled away the time by reading the posters on cleanliness and vainly attempting to fit ourselves into nursery chairs. Some of us were driven off in purring cars to secluded mansions, others trudged a simpler way to cottages and farms, but wherever we were sent our welcome was warm. Those of us destined to live in luxury found the smooth lawns and carefully tended flower beds very different from those strips of garden sandwiched between rows of slate and brick. In the cottages there always seemed to be a distraction just beyond the threshold-an inquisitive cow, a trespassing hen, or even one or two pheasants stalking across the dewy meadow.

From unfamiliar things at our billets we were glad to pass to the familiar faces at school: The Priory was a welcome addition to our interests. It was in a neglected state, and it was with energy that the girls, armed with pails, brushes and brooms, hunted out lurking spiders and diffident beetles. School life began in the nature of an experiment, but we soon became accustomed to lessons in a dining room looking out across the fields to a skyline uninterrupted by buildings.

At School and in our billets we were kept busy, but that did not ward off the longing to see our homefolk. The first week or two saw a thin stream of parents from Wood Green, but later more and more came, and parents being introduced to the delights of Hatfield Peverel became a common sight. The weekly lorry from Wood Green provided another contact with home. Some who received parcels could not control their curiosity until they got home and ripped off the paper in the Priory Drive. Not infrequent were groans of disappointment when the expected parcels did not come; at times there were clinkings of coins and whoops of wild delight.

And now for another interesting aspect of our life. Since cleanliness is desirable, even in war-time, and since some of the billets have little convenience for bathing, a bathroom at the Priory has been allotted to us, and our scholars arrive for their bath according to the list posted up.

The evacuation scheme has given us valuable experience in living away from our own families, and it has taught us to live in harmony with strangers with whose moods and tempers we are not familiar. The war, which has severed so many families and brought sorrow to so many nations, has given us an experience which the children of no other age could boast of.

### OUR STOCK ROOM.

The trials of the stock keeper begin only when there is some stock in hand. For a week or two at the beginning of the Great Evacuation life was pleasant in the summer sun and country air, but the lorries and vans began to arrive, bringing stationery, desks, black-boards, soap and scrubbing brushes, gramophone, sewing machine, and even long lengths of timber. So the child grew, until now it is quite a thriving youth, though far from reaching the proportions of the parent room at Wood Green. We handle a varied assortment of goods-even khaki shirts are on sale-but the Staff do not always get what they would like when paper for tests is needed. Fortunately a small room, with shelves and cupboards apparently made for the purpose, was available and promptly seized. Here is the lair of the Quartermaster, and we trust that all that is distributed from its musty atmosphere will be economically used in these times of blackout and shortage.

S.S.D

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Outdoor activities such as organised games, cross-country running, and walks, have played a large part in school life at Hatfield Peverel, and our deepest thanks are due to the officials of the Hatfield Peverel Football Club for permitting us to use their recreation ground. A fine September gave added pleasure to outdoor games and cross-country running, an innovation to many boys, soon became popular, especially so with the seniors, when a run of two miles could be rounded off with a swim in the "Navigation" and a gentle walk home. Swimming had to cease with the colder October days but cross-country running still flourishes. Muddy paths and floods adding to its many pleasures.

Owing to the isolation of the Fifth form from the Fourth and the Sixth Forms and the Third from the First and Second Forms, the building up of representative football teams has been difficult, for good team work is essential for success. However, for the matches played to date results have not altogether been adverse and the games have at least been enjoyable.

Physical education is not limited to games alone. Classes have been held in First Aid, while each form has at last one hour's gymnastics every week. These gymnastic lessons include free standing exercises, minor games, boxing, ju-jitsu, and wrestling. A boxing class is held on Wednesday evenings for Senior Boys.

### NETBALL

This term our junior team has played three matches against Witham Senior School. The first game played in the playground of the Village School at Hatfield Peverel caused great excitement. Though the court was small, the game was very fast and very enjoyable. We won 18-4 but we lost our return game 18-5.

## H.P. SCIENCE

The task we were at first confronted with seemed the proverbial one of making bricks without straw. Laboratories with their installations of gas, electric current, and running water; benches, apparatus, and reagents are all of them the commonplace stock-in-trade of the science teacher. The Priory was as innocent of these as the cupboard on Mother Hubbard's return. The initial consternation overcome, there was the determination to carry on by discourse only. This might have been magnificent, but it would not have been science.

Apparatus was transported from Wood Green to a total bulk of a Suitcase and a couple of cigarette cartons. A cubicle opening out of a basement room became the store and preparation room, and gradually assumed a businesslike aspect. Such preparation as was necessary was carried out for the greater part of the term rather uncomfortably all the floor. This has now been obviated by the acquisition of a table. Individual practical work is, of course, out of the question. Demonstration apparatus is assembled in a packing case and carried to the room where the lesson is to be given. This mobility applies to water, heating, and low tension current. Water is carried round in sherry bottles; a heating unit has been made up in a case of its own, including Primus stove and spirit lamp—there is a blowlamp in reserve. The electrical unit is housed in another box containing Leclanché cells, switch, and flash lamps. What a contrast this is to Wood Green, with its running water from numerous taps, its array of bunsen burners and its accumulator installation in a room of its own, together with a charging set and distribution board. Perhaps a typical example of adaptation here is provided by a recent preparation of oxygen. There was no large, solid demonstration bench with its expanse of gleaming white tiles; instead, a card table of erratic stability. Large test tubes functioned as gas jars; a jam jar did service as pneumatic trough, and a spirit lamp as bunsen burner. The hands of the teacher played the part of stand and clamp. A certain amount of dexterity was called for if the occasion was not to be marred by an unseemly dropping of a vital part. Nevertheless, oxygen was obtained and the glowing spill relit as surely in the tube as ever it did in a gas jar. Generally speaking, our practical work is carried on with more or less adaptation of a similar kind.

These makeshifts are not without their merits, and they have played their part in making possible a respectable course in science this term. It would, however, to put it mildly, be an exaggeration to say we have discovered the facilities of the Trinity laboratories to be superfluous: we value them more than ever. It is, after all, simpler, as well as more sensible, to light a fire by striking a match than rubbing bits of wood together. **J.E.**

## HANDICRAFT

Our evacuation, instead of cramping handicraft activities, has had the opposite effect. True, the conditions are not as they are at home; in fact one could admit that they are difficult. Nevertheless, the range of our activities has been enlarged. We now tackle jobs which ordinarily would not have come our way because they are more in the nature of estate work. For example, we have just completed two pairs of double gates and one single live-bar gate. These boys are now painting. The projects on hand at the present are steps and a ladder for use in the Priory garden, benches around the entrance porch, and also some for the large hall, book shelves for the library, fifty picture frames, and various things for the Christmas festivities, including a crib for the Nativity play. The boys have been most enthusiastic, and when an appeal is made for volunteers for work to be done outside the ordinary lesson time the response has always been splendid. The difficulty has been to refuse those for whom facilities were not available. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the kindly help given us by the Fathers and Brethren at the Priory. whenever we have required anything such as timber, paint, whitewash, brushes, glass, putty, or tools, they have always gladly, and in a charming, uncalculating manner, supplied our need.

Of course, our younger boys still go through the proper disciplinary course of tool manipulation and joint construction, for it is still necessary that proper foundations should be laid for successful handicraft work. As, broadly speaking, the purpose of education is to make for complete and harmonious adjustment to one's environment, I think we can justly claim that here in Hatfield Peverel we have made our contribution to that great aim, this in spite of the difficulties which have had to be surmounted.

**F.C.C.**

On November 16 and 17, senior boys and girls found for the first time since evacuation a pleasant occupation for Thursday and Friday evenings. At 6 o'clock on these evenings the greater part of the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Forms learn ballroom and country dancing in the Salvation Army Hall. The hall is overcrowded every week in spite of the fact that on Thursdays we learn to waltz in a room containing a broiling fire, and on Fridays tremendous energy is required for the country dancing lessons. We have now learnt the 'Waltz, the Tango Waltz, the St Bernard Waltz, the Valita, and the Military Two-step at ball room dancing lessons, and at country dancing the Cumberland Reel, the French Reel, Goddesses, Ruffy Tufty, I Lost my Stocking in the Brook, and the Clap Dance. Those who have attended feel that they are greatly indebted to Miss Schofield and Mr Tucker, and wish to thank them heartily.

**W. E. M. GRINT (Form VIa).**

### THE TRINITY SUB~UNIT AT MINCHENDEN.

The main impression left by the vicissitudes of the past term seems to be an increasing awareness of the uncertainty of human purposes and a tendency to concentrate on the problems of the fleeting moment. After the regular routine of our peaceful life at Trinity we find ourselves journeying to Minchenden on one or two afternoons a week to have work set for us and to discuss that which we have already done and had marked. Perhaps in the past we have been inclined to leave too much to our teachers, and if this interlude causes us to rely more upon our own efforts and to realise our personal responsibilities we may derive great and lasting benefits from our experience of the tutorial system. We find our surroundings very different from those to which we have been accustomed.. The amenities of Minchenden, with its pleasant environment and spacious playing fields. fills us with envy. And yet, though aware of the shortcomings of Trinity in many respects, we dream regretfully of many happy days spent in our own old place. As we watch the progress of the trenches under construction at Minchenden and speculate on the possibility of our having to occupy them on some future occasion, we must confess to a secret hope that the efforts of those who are endeavouring to secure our return to Wood Green will shortly be crowned with success, and that the New Year may find us established in our own home. But do not imagine that that means that we fail to appreciate what has been done for us here. Far from it. We have received from Mr Gibbs a very warm welcome; he has given us every possible aid and encouragement, and been an unfailing source of genial and sound advice. Most remarkable has been his cheerful acceptance of the many inconveniences which our intrusion must have entailed. We are glad to have this opportunity of expressing our deep sense of gratitude for all the kindly thought and real hard work he has so ungrudgingly undertaken on our behalf.

### LEFT BEHIND.

#### TRINITY COUNTY SCHOOL BARRACKS ..

The older members of the School Staff frequently discuss changes in the School since they first came to Wood Green. While most of these changes have been improvements, there is one-fortunately only a temporary phase in the history of the School which could scarcely be said to have added to the well-known beauties of the group of buildings.

A few days before the outbreak of war, two or three large heaps of sand were dumped in the boys' playground, to be followed rapidly by an assortment of stores accompanied by heavily shod men in khaki. The office soon resembled a dug-out in France, with windows blackened, and sand-bagged both inside and out to protect the telephone operator. The Women's Staff-room became the Officers' Mess,

and the Masters' Room was converted to the use of the Sergeants. In the Physics Laboratory the officers slept between the benches, while classrooms were full of picks and shovels, or given over to sleeping quarters for the rank and file. The Butcher's Shop was in the Boys' Cloak Room, the cooks having the use of the Kitchen and Cookery Room. The men had their meals in the Dining Room, and, of course, both playgrounds were used for training in musketry, squad drill, etc. Access to the building could only be obtained by persuading the sentry not to use his bayonet as legitimate business was really intended.

During the few days which preceded our flight from Wood Green, a handful of willing workers from the Senior School, together with a fatigue party of troops, were busy emptying cupboards in the Form Rooms and shelves in the Staff Rooms. With photographs removed from the walls, the corridors looked dismal and bare and so our departure on that historic Sunday morning was from a School which had changed indeed.

S.S.D.

### A LETTER

London Civil Defence  
Somewhere in London  
December 7, 1939.

Dear Dr Jones,

Mr Swindon has written to ask whether one of us would write a humorous article on A.R.P. for the magazine. Messrs Brandon, Eustance, Shave, and I at once went into committee and unanimously passed a resolution censuring Mr Swinden for imputing that our work here could possibly be funny. A.R.P. is a deadly serious business and, to anyone but the most strong minded, deadly dull. It so saps your sense of humour that you cannot afford to be funny gratuitously. Fortunately, Messrs Brandon, Eustance, Shave, and I are extremely strong-minded (this was also resolved at our committee, so it must be true) by virtue of a long association with that tough breed of scholar, of both sexes, which somehow manages to find its way to Trinity. Hence we have just sufficient sense of humour left to make life still worth living. But what little we have we jealously conserve. The others have commissioned me to write this letter because they affirm, surprisingly to me, that I have managed to retain more than my fair share of humour and can afford to be more generous in expending it as a consequence:

This will probably surprise you, too.

I am not allowed by the rules of the game to give you details of our work here. The broad function of our branch of A.R.P. is to supervise and co-ordinate the Civil Defence organisations of eight Local Authorities, comprising a population, mainly urban, of nearly a million. We have a staff of over seventy men and women who are on duty day and night in

alternating shifts. As, most fortunately, we have not yet experienced the devastating air-raids most of us expected, our work is largely routine, though we do have spasms of real activity and real interest. We particularly enjoy going out on tours of inspection of A.R.P. preparations and exercises; they provide a pleasant break from the fetid atmosphere of the cavernous basement in which we live.

Mr Brandon and I work on the same shift. I believe I do Mr Brandon good. He is dreadfully jealous that you have succeeded in producing a magazine without his help, though he is full of admiration for it (we all are). However, he cannot drop his old habits easily and he has started a weekly magazine here. It is called "Ourselves," and is a roaring and scandalous success. It simply ignores the law of libel. It publishes rumours as truth and manufactures facts as they are wanted. Mr Brandon, by the way, has become either very gay or very morbid-whichever view you care to take of it. He has taken to wearing lurid coloured polo shirts and a yellow tie with dogs on it. On second thoughts, I don't believe I do Mr Brandon good. Mr Eustance has become an institution in himself and is very popular, especially with the female staff. He, too, finds it impossible to drop his old habits. He still writes assiduously for the local papers and produces reams of witty stuff for "Ourselves." It is quite on the cards that London Region Civil Defence are producing a Christmas Card, for which it was Mr Eustance who provided the general idea of shields and crests, and, of course, the Latin motto.

Mr Shave has had a stroke of bad luck. While helping with constructional work he slipped off some sandbags and fractured n bone in his left arm. The injury, however, has not prevented his turning up regularly for duty or playing darts, though it will prevent his playing billiards for some time. Mr Shave now knows the topography of N.E. London (he has dozens of maps to browse over) as well as he knows geography. He, too, is popular with the female staff.

We are always eager for news of you at Hatfield Peverel. I cannot tell you how anxiously we awaited news of the result of the evacuation and how relieved and proud we were to hear of its success. We could guess what tremendous effort and loyal co-operation that success must have entailed. When I visited you I set out prepared to be astonished by the new conditions under which you worked. I think the greatest compliment I can pay you is to confess I felt at the time no astonishment whatsoever. You had so adapted yourselves to your novel surroundings and so resolved the appalling difficulties which must have faced you, that it didn't strike a visitor to look for the abnormal in your situation. But I marvel now how you managed it.

We all wish you, the staff and the scholars, a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and continuation of your phenomenal contentment and success in evacuation.  
Yours very sincerely

**R.A. Jones**

### **CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS**

Christmas preparations this year are very different from our usual procedure. The Priory, specially festive with its decorative masses of holly tied with gaily coloured bows, and its tall illuminated candles, will hardly resemble the "School" of the past few months. The porch, though blacked-out, adds to the general atmosphere of jollity with its cheerful silhouetted pictures, and a large gaily decorated Christmas tree, sparkling with its many fairy lights. This will be the setting for our Christmas activities. Our annual form parties are giving way to a week of festivities for the entertainment of children remaining here over the holiday. During Christmas week the Priory will be open every day and evening for all children who 'wish to use' it as a club: There will be facilities available for reading, writing and all indoor games and amusements. Rambles, competitions, and tournaments will be special features of the week; whilst Socials will play a prominent part in the programme. On Saturday, December 16, a Christmas party at the Priory was given to the children of hosts and hostesses in the village. There were light refreshments and presents from the tree, and some of the Girl Guides provided a short entertainment. The Sixth Form assisted the Staff to give our young guests an enjoyable afternoon. A concert given in the Salvation Army Hall on December 20 and 21 consisted of a Nativity Play, musical items, dancing and a ballet. "The Sleeping Beauty"

### **EXTRACTED FROM SCHOOL REPORTS**

Form Ia: Likes its first aid lessons; is enjoying its first tests at Trinity.

Form Ib: Enjoying life and all the activities at Hatfield Peverel; hopes the boys will not start boxing practice on the girls.

Form IIa: Most of the form have settled down nicely, and cannot understand member's of some other forms wishing to go home.

Form IIb: Thinks its form room at the Priory much better than the old one at Trinity; is glad the library is started, and wishes there was not so much mud in Essex; appreciates what the Staff has done to make it feel at home.

Form IIc: Enjoys school at the Priory but objects to the smell of bubble and squeak every morning; doesn't quite like the idea of being housed in the one-time nursery.

**ORIGINAL VERSE.****THOSE BYGONE DAYS.**

Should letters cease, and dumb grief  
 Come to dwell within our midst  
 Because we know not where you are,  
 We will remember the lovely past  
 When on the sands we played with you,  
 When down the mountain side we ran together.  
 Those sunny hams of bygone days  
 Will never, never fade away.  
 Those happy memories we will cherish.  
 No sound of guns will fade those prints,  
 And time will not wash you from our minds.  
 Their great glory shall live for evermore.  
 Ah! Happy, happy days those were!  
 And in our heart the hope remains  
 That you will come to us once more,  
 And with you we will live again  
 Those sunny days, those peaceful nights,  
 In some far corner of this old, old world.

**W. B. M. GRINT** (*Form Via*).

**GOING TO SCHOOL NOW**

A morning dark; the rain pours down,  
 I fight the wind across the field.  
 I long for pavements as in town  
 Instead of swamps by grass concealed.  
 I slip, I slide, I skate, I glide,  
 But still in time I reach the gate  
 Where trees which reached aloft till late  
 Are lying now in mournful state  
 With branches lopped, as if to say,  
 " We're down and out: We've had our day,  
 Our corpses must be in your way,  
 For which, you must forgive us, pray!  
 " I climb, I trip, I pant, I drip,  
 And now I hear a hand bell ring.  
 Some minutes early, I'm aware,  
 But up the gravel path I tear  
 And long'-as ne'er before-for Spring.

**S.S.D**

**RANDOM RHYMES.****THE NATIVITY PLAY.**

In School, boys' dispositions and girls' tempera-  
 ments are such  
 That they are oft reluctant to reveal  
 Of goodness, or of beauty, or of wisdom very  
 much;  
 In fact they tend these virtues to conceal.  
 But when they reassemble in the Priory Hall at  
 night,  
 A wondrous transformation then is seen;  
 The girls appear as angels, all innocent and  
 bright,  
 The boys as Wise Men-pious, pensive, keen.

**MUD**

From the Green up to the Priory and from  
 Nounsley to the street,  
 The mud on many a footpath clings in handfuls to  
 our feet.  
 We paddle in the puddles, but we never fear  
 rebuke,  
 For haven't we our " Wellingtons " to walk up to  
 the " Duke."

**"EMPIRE'S BEST"**

Here comes the Coach!  
 From Witham down the Street  
 That ancient highway trod by men of old.  
 It pauses on its homeward run to load a cargo rare,  
 Of boys and girls in scarves of blue and gold.  
 Empire's Best? We trust they are-or will be-should  
 the call  
 To service or to sacrifice one day demand their all.  
 But for the present all is fun,  
 Their week-end leave is due;  
 So heaven bless the Empire's Best,  
 And pack the coach of blue.

**H.J.T.**

What follows is the unexpurgated **copy of the first magazine produced by the school at Hatfield Peverel. (see page 3).** It has been religiously copied and typed, warts and all, (faded and almost unreadable so too faint to scan) and I make no excuse for devoting this newsletter to that period in time. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed producing it. B.D.S.



## EDITORIAL

We live in historic days, and we ourselves are making history. For Trinity County School, Wood Green, in its new home in Hatfield Peverel, is already part of the already historic evacuation, is carrying on as a school, and, at the same time, entering helpfully into the life of this village community in very useful and varied ways. Hatfield Peverel, Essex, is in a fruit-growing district where the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” has a glory of colouring which can but faintly shadow. It is a place of peace; here under blue skies, looking out over meadows and cornfields, or walking beneath majestic trees, centuries old, one feels that war is incredible. Yet it is war that has brought us here to this hospitable little village, with its kindly, welcoming people, who are doing and have done their best to make us feel ‘at home’. We are indeed fortunate that “the lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places”, in the village, in homes, and in our new school, The Priory. Our sincere thanks are due to all who have so generously helped us. We hope that their memories of these first weeks of Trinity county in Hatfield Peverel will be as pleasant to them as they are to us..

## THE EVACUATION

The school assembled in the girls’ playground on Sunday Sept 3.1939 at 8 am. Scholars, parents, and friends crowded the playground, while the military viewed the proceedings from the comfort from the form room windows.

The first difficult task was to separate children from adults. Scholars were divided into groups of ten each in the care of a member Staff. After numerous difficulties scholars and Staff made their way to the Town Hall to join the buses, of which five were filled by the Trinity party.

By 10 o’clock the party was ready to set out on the first part of its interesting journey, and it became known that the buses were making for Braintree.

It seemed difficult to realise on such a glorious Sunday morning that the school was leaving Wood Green to go into the country to escape from the horrors of warfare. A few miles from Braintree we received the news that war had been declared.

We arrived at Braintree at about 12.30 p.m. and the buses were parked near the Billeting Office. Before long, it became evident that we were not yet at the end of our journey. At 1 p.m. we left Braintree for the village of Hatfield Peverel. During the last few miles we were all wondering about our new village home.

At 1.50 p.m. the buses drew up outside the village school and our scholars paraded in the playground. What a contrast to the playground we had left at Wood Green! The sun was still shining brilliantly, the trees were swaying in a gentle breeze, and the silence of country was disturbed only by the sounds from many happy Wood Green Scholars.

Billeting was quickly and efficiently carried out by the

Billeting officers: the scholars were taken from the school to their billets in the cars of many kind helpers. It is impossible for us to express our gratitude to all who so cheerfully welcomed us to, and settled us in, Hatfield Peverel. All the billeting was finished by 7 o’clock and we were settled in our new homes.

## OUR NEW HOME

Very few of us had ever heard of Hatfield Peverel, but since we have been here much of the history that we learned from books has become real.

The Street in which some of us are staying is actually an old Roman road, and we can imagine the Roman soldiers Marching along it to their first Roman colony in this country—Camulodunum (Colchester).

The Saxons gave the village the name of ‘Hatfield’ or ‘Clearing in the Uncultivated Ground’.

Later, in the time of Alfred, it is included in the Danelagh. After the Norman Conquest the Manor of Hatfield was granted to Ranulf Peverel, a Norman knight, hence the name ‘Hatfield Peverel’ It is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) that “Hatfield was held by Alimar as a manor is now held by Ranulf ”

In our history lessons at Trinity we learned about Henry VIII’s Dissolution of the Monasteries, 1536. Our temporary school The Priory of Hatfield Peverel is actually built on the site of a dissolved monastery.

The Priory has a most interesting history, a college for the training of secular canons was founded here in 1087 by Engelrica, the Saxon wife of Raulf Peverel mentioned above. After her death it became a Priory of Benedictine monks under the great Abbey of St Albans. Later a church was built nearby. The nave of the present church dates back to the beginning of the 12th century.

Benedictine monks continued in possession of the Priory until its dissolution in 1536. Everything in the monastery was valued even to the smallest utensil in the kitchen: e.g. “Item—a frying panne at three pence” The house and lands, including the cemetery, were granted to Giles Leigh of Walton-on-Thames. They passed into the hands of his daughter Margaret who married John Aleyn, and they remained in the hands of the Aleyn family until 1764 when they were bought by John Wright, who had the old Priory pulled down and the present house rebuilt in its place.

Last year once again a religious order inhabited the Priory and have most generously offered Trinity County School a haven of refuge.

There are a number of interesting churches and villages within a few miles’ radius and we hope to explore these as soon as possible.

**Daphne Tracy**  
**Marjorie Daft Form III**

**DIARY OF EVENTS****Sept 3. to Sept. 11, 1939**

- Sunday, Sept. 3. Assembly in girls' playground at 8 a.m. School evacuated to Hatfield Peverel.
- Monday, Sept. 4. A lorry service, operating weekly from Wood Green, was established through the kind offices of Mr Jack Burr. Acquisition of school office at "Stuarts"  
First assembly in Hatfield Peverel Church School playground at 6 p.m. Temporary use of The Priory as a school obtained.
- Tuesday, Sept. 5. First assembly at the Priory 9.30 a.m. Scholars supplied with a stamped postcard to send to parents for urgent necessities. Office partly furnished by Mr Chick and helpers, the 'phone installed: Hatfield Peverel 77. Games and rambles organised. A second assembly at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 6. First lorry service arrives from Wood Green, at noon, delivering parcels of all shapes and sizes.
- Thursday, Sept. 7. 6. p.m. assemblies cancelled. Further organised activities. Preparations made for cleaning The Priory.
- Friday, Sept. 8. Cleaning vigorously proceeding.
- Saturday, Sept. 9. Cleaning: organised games.
- Sunday, Sept. 10. Assembly at The Priory 10 a.m. Short service and address by the vicar, Rev. Donald Taffinder. A bathe and picnic by girls at Little Baddow.
- Monday, Sept. 11. Priory made ready for temporary school use.

**Sept. 12 to Sept 21.**

- Tuesday, Sept. 12. Assembly 9.30 a.m. First, second and third years begin normal subject lessons until 12.30 p.m. Seniors organised games. In the afternoon the senior school began regular lessons from 2 to 4.30 p.m. while the juniors had organised games.
- Wednesday, Sept. 13. Instructions as yesterday. An organised party of fifth year boys and girls under the supervision of Miss Stewart and Mr Ellison went fruit-picking at Pleyhill Farm. A second lorry arrived from Wood Green.
- Thursday, Sept. 14. School as usual.
- Friday, Sept. 15. School as usual. Pear-picking in morning, but abandoned in afternoon owing to rain.
- Saturday, Sept. 16. Lessons for the junior school were held until noon. Fifth form boys went pear-picking in the morning under Mr MacPhee. Mr Penney, Mr Saunders, and nine boys played a local football team in the afternoon: the result was a draw, four all. A Guide company was formed under the leadership of Barbara Taunt.
- Sunday Sept. 17. A short service was held at The Priory at 10 a.m. Several members of the school afterwards attended local churches. Twelve buses left Wood Green with parents on visits to their children.
- Monday Sept. 18. School as usual—and pear-picking. H.M. gave the information that our stay at Hatfield Peverel was likely to last for some time. H.M. received a visit from Councillor D.C. Leech, a School Governor.
- Tuesday, Sept. 19. School and pear-picking as usual.
- Wednesday, Sept. 20. School. Lorry arriving with some three tons of school equipment in addition to the usual parcels. Milk in schools scheme started with 80 scholars receiving milk.
- Thursday, Sept 21. 120 scholars receive milk. Different timetable due to division of First Form into two parts.

### PREPARATION OF THE PRIORY

When it was decided that The Priory at Hatfield Peverel should be new home of Trinity County School we realised that much work would be necessary to adapt the rooms for our use. The hall and ground floor rooms were lofty and spacious but had long been unused. The semi-basement rooms comprising, bath room, woodwork room, stock room, and others were similarly needing renovating before they could be used as school premises.

A number of girls and members of the Staff set to work courageously. They swept, scrubbed, and polished with a will and many relieved the toil with song.

Meanwhile, the boys under Mr Chick revelled in plaster, paste, paper, distemper, paint, buckets, and brushes. They extracted nails, filled in holes and cracks, distempered and painted day after day till the whole place below and above was transformed. Dull paint and distemper gave way to brightness, dust was dispelled and floors and furniture shone. Chairs and Tables were arranged in the various ground floor rooms and the new school was ready for Sept. 12, 1939

Some of the older boys, supervised by Mr Tucker (the new gym master) have taken up cross-country running, followed by swimming in the river; while the less energetic ones play football in the Recreation Ground. In the afternoon the programme is reversed and the seniors have ordinary lessons and occasionally (!) watch the Juniors enjoy themselves in The Priory grounds. School is a very unorthodox place now. In one formroom you may see a French lesson in progress, one boy out front holding up the black-board; in another room a maths lesson is proceeding with the board propped up on a cupboard or even a chair. Such lessons as Art are much more interesting for visits are made to the old church close at hand, where the architecture studied in the classroom can be sketched from the actual building.

Biology and botany, too, are enjoyed to the full in the organised nature rambles.

Trinity is but a shadow of her former self; everything is so arranged as to be hardly recognised, but Trinity is still Trinity.

Barbara Taunt Form VI

### A DAY IN SCHOOL

A quarter to nine! The bell rings and the whole school troops in. What a familiar picture it is. How well we know the scrambling that takes place in the cloakroom, the cheery greetings passed from one to another, the "sights and sounds" of the beginning of another day at school. In five minutes another bell will ring and the school will congregate in the hall for the morning assembly. This has been happening at Trinity for the past sixteen years, but how different everything is now! Each morning as we assemble, not in our familiar school hall, not in Wood Green. We are living through strange times, time which few of us understand at all; none understands completely. Through the kindness of the people of Hatfield Peverel we have found happy homes in a safe place away from the danger of war; And by the kindness of the Mariannahill Fathers we have been given permission to hold a school in their lovely old Priory.

In these strange circumstances we meet each morning at 9.30 at the foot of The Priory Steps, and hold our assembly in the open air. After assembly the first, second and third forms have ordinary lessons, but in very extraordinary surroundings. Two classrooms have tables and chairs and the other two just have chairs. We have no desks. As yet we have one exercise book each and no text books, so the work is much more difficult than it would otherwise be.

During the morning, the senior girls, under the direction of Miss Schofield, play games (rounders, skittleball, netball, and others) or have gym classes. Many of us, both boys and girls, during the last few days formed into squads for apple and pear picking; other organised themselves into squads for cleaning The Priory and making it habitable as a school.

### NOTES AND NEWS

We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to Colonel Parsons, the billeting officer, Mrs. Collen, Mr. Hiscock, and all their willing helpers for the courteous, cheery, and efficient way in which they carried out the arduous duties of billeting.

We are greatly indebted to Miss T.H Hope whose book "the Township of Hatfield Peverel" we have used as a text book for history lessons during the past fortnight. This book was used as a basis for the article " Our new home on page two " (see page 9)

Dr. Jones is preaching the sermon in the parish church on Sunday next, September 24, at 11 a.m.

We congratulate Kathleen Brandle on gaining entrance to the Society of home students at Oxford. She returned home from Hatfield Peverel on Sunday, September 10.

S. H. G. Coleman left Hatfield Peverel on September 16, to take up a government appointment at Woolwich Arsenal.

Milk was supplied to the scholars at The Priory for the first time on Wednesday, September 13.

The HM' S. injunction with regard to conduct: he said he could summarize it into three words' mind your own business!' The editor Staff has counted the words in this phrase many times and make it -- four!

We are pleased to note that 34 of our girls have had a bath. One of the number even had a bath deluxe!

Cont. page 12.....

...from page 11

Who can guess the effect on the H.M. after five minutes with a cross-cut saw ? ( No prize offered) Why does M.P. always have pressing business when a cross-cut saw is mentioned in the office. Senior boys who are curious come and find out !

We are pleased to note that the Staff has obeyed the Instruction about not climbing trees, though Miss Schofield's climbing the ladder came very near to breaking it.

There have been, of course, some mishaps. "Boys will be boys" is an old saying and is intended to warn us that boys in their thoughtlessness will do things which girls have no inclination to do, and we have experienced its truth.

Our first accident took place on the day following evacuation. When John Bridgman climbed a tree after 'conkers', a branch broke and he fell on a wooden fence, a paling of which injured him under the arm. Miss Andrews conveyed him in her car to Witham where he was seen by Dr Benjamin and later treated by Mrs Claydon, the village nurse. He has made a good recovery.

Another boy, whose name is with-held, ate overmuch of turnips: he too has learned something of dietetics.

Yet another has learnt to 'let sleeping dogs lie'. He attempted to stroke a strange dog which promptly bit him.

Yet another boy Kenneth Coleman went after 'conkers' and after a prohibition by the H.M. He stepped on a branch which broke under him and he fell on his back but by a miracle sustained only a minor injury which was treated by Dr Wainwright, a distinguished London doctor who has attached himself to the school. He too has recovered and learned his lesson.

Had the H.M.'s instructions been followed none of these accidents would have occurred and much time and trouble to the Staff and others would have been avoided.

### **BACK TO THE PRESENT Trinity Old Scholars Awards to Nightingale Primary School.**

On 14th July, Reg Rogers 34 our President, together with Beryl Skinner (Hayter) 42, Margaret McGinn, (Stretton) 48, Roy Augood (41), Mick Osborn (47), Grace Brown (Wardell) 37, Jackie Rooke (Wood) 44, Dorothy Peters (54) and Derek Coleman (42) with wife Ann attended the end of year awards at Nightingale. What another happy experience that was. It was rewarding to see the children being recognised for good work, behaviour, and attendance throughout their school year and did they enjoy themselves ! The presentation of the two awards from the Association was made by Reg Rogers. Chosen by the teachers, they were each given a framed Certificate of Merit, together with a DVD of Encyclopaedia Britannica and also a DVD of The Oxford English Dictionary.

### **The Reunion Dinner is ON !**

Attendees so far (as at 18th August) Please note that wives who went to Trinity are listed in their own year.

Dinah Ireland 27 with daughter Janet

Reg Rogers 34

Beryl Ivett (Cole) 39 with Geoff

Grace Brown (Wardell) 39

Chas Stancer 40

Bob Good 41 with Ann

Frank Gray 41 with Audrey

Roy Augood 41

Tony Judkins 41 with Joyce

Beryl Skinner (Hayter) 42

Les Brooks 42

Derek Coleman 42 with Ann

Derek Jones 42 with Patricia

Ron Bates 42 with Patricia

Stuart Wells 42

Derek Hale 43

Tony Chaston 43 with

Elizabeth

Rosemary De Rossi (Willson) 43

Tony Churchman 44

Audrey Augood (Latter) 44

Irene Hale (Briers) 45

Ron Bishop 45 with Sheila

Alan Rutter 46

John Glyn 46 with Anne

Colin Moor 46

Peter Seager 46

Valerie Churchman(Ebbs) 47

Peter Sinfield 47

Alan Rogers 47

Janet Smith (Willson) 47

Leslie Hollis 47 with June

Josephine Gillard (Payne) 47

Margaret McGinn( Stretton)

48 with John

Audrey Barnett (Busby) 49

John Rout 50 with Merryl

Alan Johnson 50

Mary Davies (Parker-Smith)

51

Pamela Tompkins (Cotsford)

51 with Robert

Contact address

Beryl Skinner

110 Reading Road

Finchampstead, Berks,

RG40 4RA

Please mark envelopes TOSA

**David Gillett 52**

**Judith Neville (Crook) 52**

**Tarik Ghafur 53 with Lorna**

**Alan Gardner 53**

**John Jones 53**

**Anne Dunbar (Munro) 53**

**Janice Thompson (Churchman) 53**

**Philip Rawlings 53**

**Dorothy Peters 54**

**Peter Turner 54**

**Penny Gillett**

**(Johnson) 54**

**Hazel Andrews**

**(Cotsford) 54 with**

**David**

**Pauline Johnson (Rust)**

**55**

### **LATE BOOKINGS**

We may only accept bookings up until **5th**

**October**

and in any case, we cannot guarantee Hotel rooms if you are booking late. After **5th October** please contact Ramada direct to book your accommodation.

Telephone -01707

252403-Events

quote **TRINITY.**

You will still need to send a booking form

with your cheque for dinner to me, Beryl Skinner, regardless of

whether you are

**Dinner only or with accommodation Please**

**mark form**

**Accommodation**

**Booked if you have**

**done this.**

**Phone or email me for form if lost.**

**Address in previous**

**Column.**

**I am on holiday from**

**12th-28th September.**

**Contact Reg Rogers on**

**0208 3669427 during**

**this time.**