

# FRYERN



SPRING  
1973

# EASY

II



## EDITORIAL

Hello, and welcome to the second edition of FRYERN EASY. My first task, and a very pleasant one it is to be sure, is to thank you on behalf of "us on the committee" for your superb response to our first edition. Let's hope that this sells as well (or somebody will be presented with a year's supply of lining (for her bird cage). Now that we have actually embarked on our second "number", one could cast an eye to the future; the prospect of the magazine appearing once every term seems quite tenable, but only if you are prepared to donate, so have no qualms - please hand in any work you consider to be potential material to your English teacher.

We hope the presentation last time was acceptable - we tried to embrace a contrast between the rather starchy pages of the "Fryernist" and some of the assorted freaky mags that were issued in the VI form block last year. The latter, besides being so left wing they even had Lenin worried\* (to coin a phrase once uttered by a member of staff) were obviously catering for a minority. Well, that was what we tried to produce - rather idealistic, eh? - and no doubt bears not a hint of resemblance to the grubby piece of literature in your hand, and even less to the thoroughly boring editorial. However, somebody once said "seek and ye shall find!" thus, undaunted we press on (if you do not like it - submit some of your own work!)

Since our last issue a survey has been carried out by some of the more intrepid amongst our ranks, which revealed much (apathy), as you will find (anywhere). We have also adopted for this issue a "theme with variations", being that of the changing character of the school (a fact you are supposed to have supposed having seen the two cross-sections on the cover).

Thus I am simply left to reiterate; to thank you for your response to FRYERN EASY number 1 and to encourage you to submit some work. Throw off those shackles of inhibition! Remember there's a novel in us all (somewhere!).

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\* Please do not think that we are ardent supporters of the Rt. Hon. Edward Heath, P.M. - we are above such things - the epitome of objective reporting. Actually the plain truth is that we have had no politically-orientated articles!

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

General Editor ..... Nigel Ridgeon  
Sixth Form Editor ..... John Bruce  
Art and Design ..... Elaine Smith  
Cover ..... Nick Frost  
Sports ..... Bob Lorton  
Sales ..... Sue Pittock and Sue Wood  
Bits and Pieces ..... Sue Percy and Hazel Brown  
Fiction Editors ..... Dot Thomson and Janet Allen  
Features ..... Lesley Dewick  
Lino Mounters  
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Mrs. Seddon, Mrs. Green and  
Production ..... Commerce Department  
Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee ..... S. Dexter and J. Downey

## ARE YOU BLIND?

A recent survey of the readership of your School magazine showed that almost ten per cent of you did not even know of the "Fryern-Easy", even with forty posters plastered about the school!

However, several other questions were included and the results are as follows:-

Question: Did you read the first issue?

Answer: Yes - 29.2%  
No - 70.8%

(I'm glad one third of the school has good taste!)

Of those who read the first issue -

36% bought a copy  
64% borrowed a copy

(Whilst I'm happy that the lending increased the readership, please ask your friends to spend the enormous amount of 3p so that the extra money can improve the next edition).

Question: Did you contribute an article, regardless of whether it was printed?

Answer: Only four per cent of you handed in anything!

(So, the first issue was largely the material that was handed in. In order to increase the interest and scope of your magazine we need much more work to edit).

Question: Will you contribute to the second edition?

Answer: Yes - 19.8%  
No - 55.2%  
Don't know - 25%

(If the "don't knows" have joined the "Yes's" this edition should be magnificent. Thank you those who have written - let's hope the other half of the school wake up for the third edition).

Finally, the favourite item from the first issue was the "Teachers' Surnames" crossword by Simon Carter, followed by "Puff, the Magic Chemist".

These dubious mathematical facts were compiled by Sue Pittock, Hazel Brown, Robert Lorton and Nigel Ridgeon. We would like to thank those whom we put through the "third degree".

- N.C.R.

Teacher: Order, children, order!  
Tommy: Bacon, egg and chips, please.

FRYERNS IN 2000 A.D.

Jump onto my mini-craft. Blast off, here we go!  
I meet my mates in the sky and we make our way to school  
together. Approaching school ready to land. We jump  
onto a kind of conveyor belt which brings us into school.  
Now I make my way to the checking-in room. In this room  
are thousands of computers and each button has a number  
on it which stands for each boy and girl. I press 201  
and I get a card out which tells me the lessons I am to  
do today. Oh, no! I am on space duty at break. A bell  
goes and I go outside to make my way to my classroom.  
In each class are four boys, four girls and a computer.  
We walk in and stand. The computer tells us to sit. We  
turn on a little machine which we have in front of us and  
our lessons come up on the screen. We do not write but  
speak as the machine records everything we say and this  
goes up on the screen. Then we press a button and the  
answer goes up.

- Mandy Smith, 3B2.

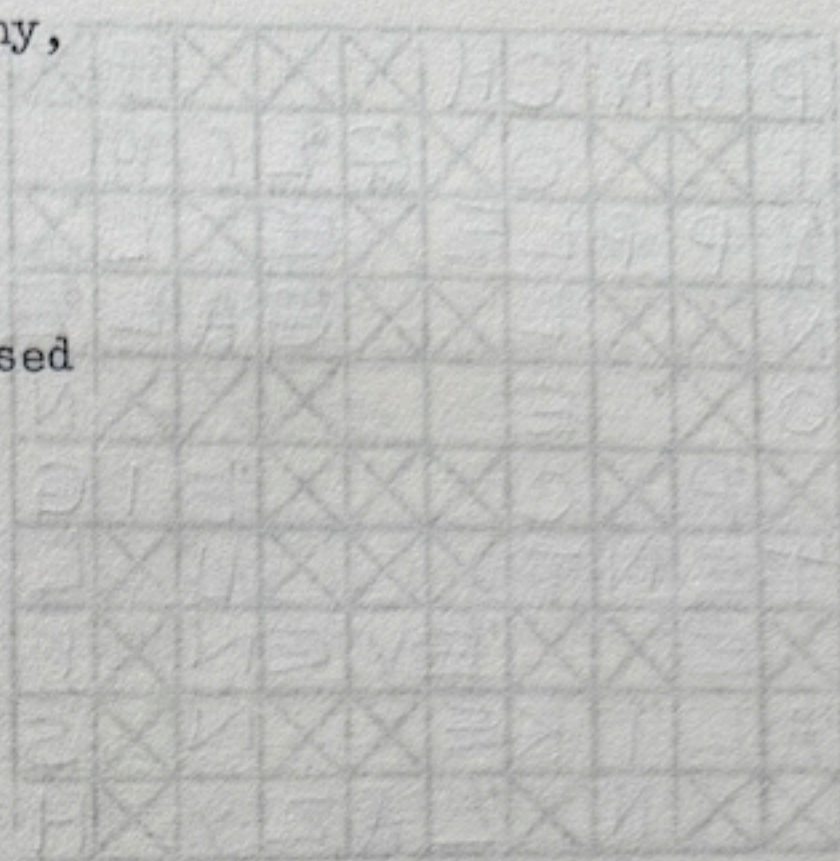
ON A HOT AFTERNOON

Sitting on the sticky, uninviting chair  
The teacher eyeing you critically.  
I'm not listening, just watching,  
Gazing out through the window.  
When will the bell ring?  
The teacher babbling on about some homework.  
Who cares about homework?  
Your eyes wandering over  
To the football match in the far corner of  
the field.  
The ball pushed upfield, a boy charges in.  
A goal!  
"You boy!"  
"Yes, Sir."  
"What is the homework?"  
"Don't know Sir."  
"Take one hundred lines!"  
The consequences of dreaming on a hot afternoon!

- Paul Have, 3G.

SITTING IN GEOGRAPHY

Sitting in Geography,  
I hate that man,  
Will keep talking  
Sounds like Gran.  
I look around  
Everyone's bored,  
Wouldn't be surprised  
If someone snored.  
Mind wanders,  
Think of Spain,  
Lovely holiday,  
No more rain.  
Lay on the beach,  
Someone winks,  
Boiling hot,  
Ice cold drinks.  
Pay attention  
Teacher cries  
Everyone looks up,  
Lots of sighs.



- 3rd Year.

BREAK IN WINTER

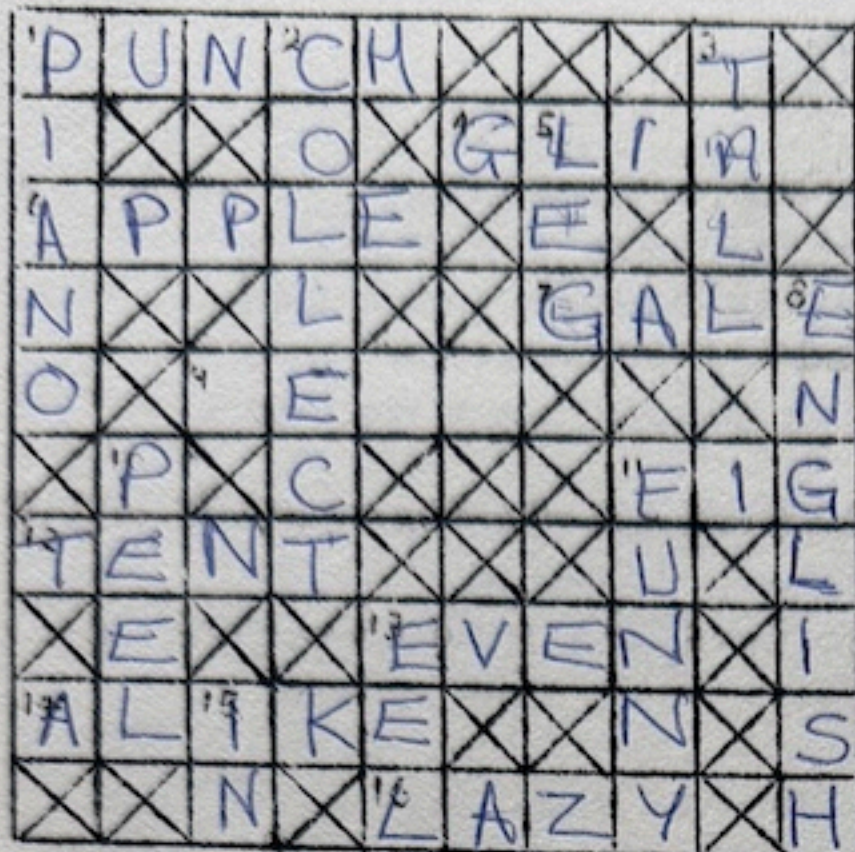
The minutes tick by  
The second lesson of the day  
Draws to a close.  
Soon the echoing chimes of the school  
bell

Will signify a break.  
A time to relax over coffee  
And the morning paper  
For the teachers.  
A time to contract and huddle  
In sheltered corners  
For us.

A time to stay quietly  
In a classroom  
Until hussled out by prefects.  
Walk slowly to the door  
To take up time until  
Finally  
And reluctantly  
Shuffle out into winter.

Friends huddle in small rings  
As near to the door as possible.  
Stamping feet, chattering teeth  
And cold red noses  
Confront each other.  
The school rules say out  
Unless the weather is inclement -  
It is.

- 4th Year.



Across

- ~~1. A blow with the fist~~
- 4. Transparent
- ~~6. To keep the doctor away~~
- ~~7. A very strong wind~~
- 9. Contains atoms, and all things are made of them
- ~~11. An Eastern fruit~~
- ~~12. Needed to camp out~~
- ~~13. 2,4,6, etc...~~
- ~~14. Similar~~
- ~~16. Idle~~

Down

- ~~1. A musical instrument with many keys~~
- ~~2. To gather~~
- ~~3. A six-foot person is this~~
- ~~5. Everyone has two of these~~
- 8. One of the compulsory lessons
- 10. To eat an orange, you must do this first
- ~~11. A good joke ought to be~~
- ~~13. A long slippery fish~~
- ~~15. Not out~~

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD IN LAST ISSUE OF FRYERN EASY

ACROSS

- 1. Hanson
- 2. Parkinson
- 3a. Harley, 3b. Carter
- 4. Sells
- 5. Porter
- 6. Hopewell
- 8. Blowers
- 9. Hibbs
- 10. James
- 11a. Dale
- 11b. Capes
- 14. Doherty
- 15a. Keir
- 15b. Manure
- 16a. Debates
- 16b. Wray
- 17. Smith
- 18. Jenkins

DOWN

- 1. Doncaster
- 2. Parkhill
- 3a. Parry
- 3b. Reed
- 4. Hobbs
- 5. Eldergill
- 6. Dexter
- 7a. Gomer
- 7b. Clark
- 9. Appleby
- 10. Green
- 11a. Ormston
- 12a. Skeet
- 12b. Fisher
- 14. Wurbacher
- 15. Moss

FRYERNS 2000 A.D.

School is a lot different these days to what it was when I was a boy over thirty years ago. In fact the whole world has changed into virtually complete automation. This is a much worse situation than it was ever before because there are so many people relying on "dole" money.

As for schools and particularly Fryerns, my old School, which has about twenty pupils attending it because of the ridiculous price of a "fiver" a day. This price is for the maintenance of the robot teachers and machines.

The main objectives of the people who allow their "children" to attend school is for them to become nuclear physicists, because there are no other jobs available. Other jobs are automatic or robotized.

Children these days can be bought in Fine Fare, Sainsbury's and the Co-op in test tubes and polythene bags for about £3.00. When the children reach Fryerns they are about four feet in height and are virtually half brain.

Life is very dull for the P. E. teachers, Mr. Hobbsworthy and Miss P. E. Knickers, with only one person reaching more than two foot six inches in the long jump event. Miss P. E. Knickers was particularly disappointed when she had to include boys in her hockey team.

The Maths and Physics teachers have the happiest time because theirs are the main subjects. Head of this Maths Department is Robot 1, alias  $x + y = z$  twit. Head of the Physics Department is Robot 3, alias Mr. Voltamp. All that he prattles on about is some out of date twit who invented the simple cell. If somebody answers his questions wrongly he automatically bleeps out, "Write out Einstein's theory of relativity 5,000,000,000,000,000,000 times. He's dry and a rotten bore."

The Head Robot of Fryerns is Mr. Bean Brain, G.S.N. (Generally sub-normal). He is a great collector of famous memory banks and his special pride is video tapes.

The school itself is now being held together by scaffolding and has hardly had a single alteration since I was there.

P.S. My son told me all this!

- Tim Bradley and Robert Findlay, 4G1

.D.A. 0003 2787571

TELEVISION TOP OF THE FORM

On Wednesday, 10th January we were invited to watch the Top of the Form in the hall of Fryerns School. Geoffrey Wheeler was the quizmaster. He is getting on a bit now, although he makes plenty of programmes (and corny jokes). Fryerns were to represent Basildon and to play Clacton-on-Sea. There was a queer bloke there telling us when to clap.

Then we rehearsed and went through it once. The lights were bright and we had to keep silent even in the run through. After the run through test questions which we won on points, the actual recording began. The music began and a map was shown up, showing the places which will be visited in the first round of the competition. The game was close and the final score was 54-52 to Fryerns. So we did get through to the next round.

After the show a few people got Geoffrey Wheeler's autograph. This Top of the Form was the 216th edition and was shown on television on 19th February.

- M. Knazeswki. 1M1

TARTAN TORMENT FOR FRYERNS.

On Wednesday 7th March, our second match in the Top of the Form series took place. The recording took place in the afternoon after a short rehearsal, during which most of us were quietly sweltering under the strong lighting and the added effect of the hot, almost summery day. The contest itself was exciting and enjoyable despite the numerous 'technical hitches'. In the early rounds we gained nine point lead but Elgin slowly caught up again. The scores were neck and neck up to the last round when the Elgin team made up their points on the quick 'buzzer' questions and streamed ahead to win 72-55. Although we lost, our team did very well, and certainly showed that Fryerns is a school to be reckoned with! It was no disgrace to lose to a team such as Elgin who, I am sure, are destined for the final.

- Janet Allan LVI

## RULES! GLORIOUS RULES!

School rules always seem hard to bear - but they've been with us as long as schools. The Romans used the same word for "a game" and "a school" and even games have rules. Perhaps a few extracts from the three hundred year old rules of a Midland School (there were eighty-seven items all told) might make ours seem a little easier.

- "Item: that for each Scholar to be punished, one other Scholar to form a back, and to be paid one penny, this to be provided by the Scholar to be punished, unless it be more than twelve strokes, when he shall pay two pence.
- Item: that a new birch be provided for each punishment, this to be paid for by the Scholar punished.
- Item: that from the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary till the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, the Schoolmaster and Usher and both of them shall every day observe the hour to begin teaching in the said School at six o'clock in the morning. And from Saint Michael the Archangel to the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary the hour of seven o'clock in the morning for their repair to the School every Schoolday and continue there until eleven in the forenoon and return at the hour of noon and continue there until five of the clock in the afternoon or later, except that on Saturdays and Holy Evens they may depart at eleven or continue longer.
- Item: that all the Scholars in the Upper School do amongst themselves and to the Master and Usher use the Latin tongue or the Greek tongue and not the English tongue both in the School and abroad.
- Item: that the Schoolmaster and Usher jointly together and not one of them alone shall give liberty for any play day not oftener than twelve times in one year."

There was also a careful list of what had to be learnt - all the beliefs and practices of the Church of England, the Latin works of Ovid and Tully, Camden's Greek Grammar, the Gospels in Greek, and the Greek works of Horace, Homer and Demosthenes. Bellemine's Hebrew Grammar and the Psalms in Hebrew also had to be studied. The main studies were the Greek and Latin Grammar, but there was also provision for the ABC and English Grammar in the first year. A monitor had to be appointed to check that each pupil went to church. Any pupil not attending service was fined 3s. 4d. This was a stiff fine for a pupil, at a time when the Schoolmaster (or Head) got £25 a year, and the Usher (his assistant) £20 a year. Examinations were to be set four times a year.

Provisions for bad behaviour of the Schoolmaster were also made.

Item: if the Schoolmaster or Usher shall become an Atheist, a heretic, a Sectary, a Schismatic, a notorious Blasphemer, A Common Swearer, a Drunkard, a frequenter of Taverns, Ale Houses, or Wakes, a common Gamester, a Night Walker, a common Brawler or Fighter, an Appugner or Disgracer of the Government or Governors of the said School, or shall be outlawed or stand excommunicated by the space of forty days and shall be admonished by the more part of the Governors, three several times a month at least betwixt each admonition, that then he shall be expelled and put forth of his place.

Item: if the said Schoolmaster or Usher shall become 'Non Compos Mentis' or Lunatic or be distracted in his mind and so remain by the space of twelve months, that then he shall be expelled and put forth of his place."

Three months grace for criminals and twelve months for lunatics as teachers - there must be a moral somewhere!

Sh! You know who!

#### THE FIGHT

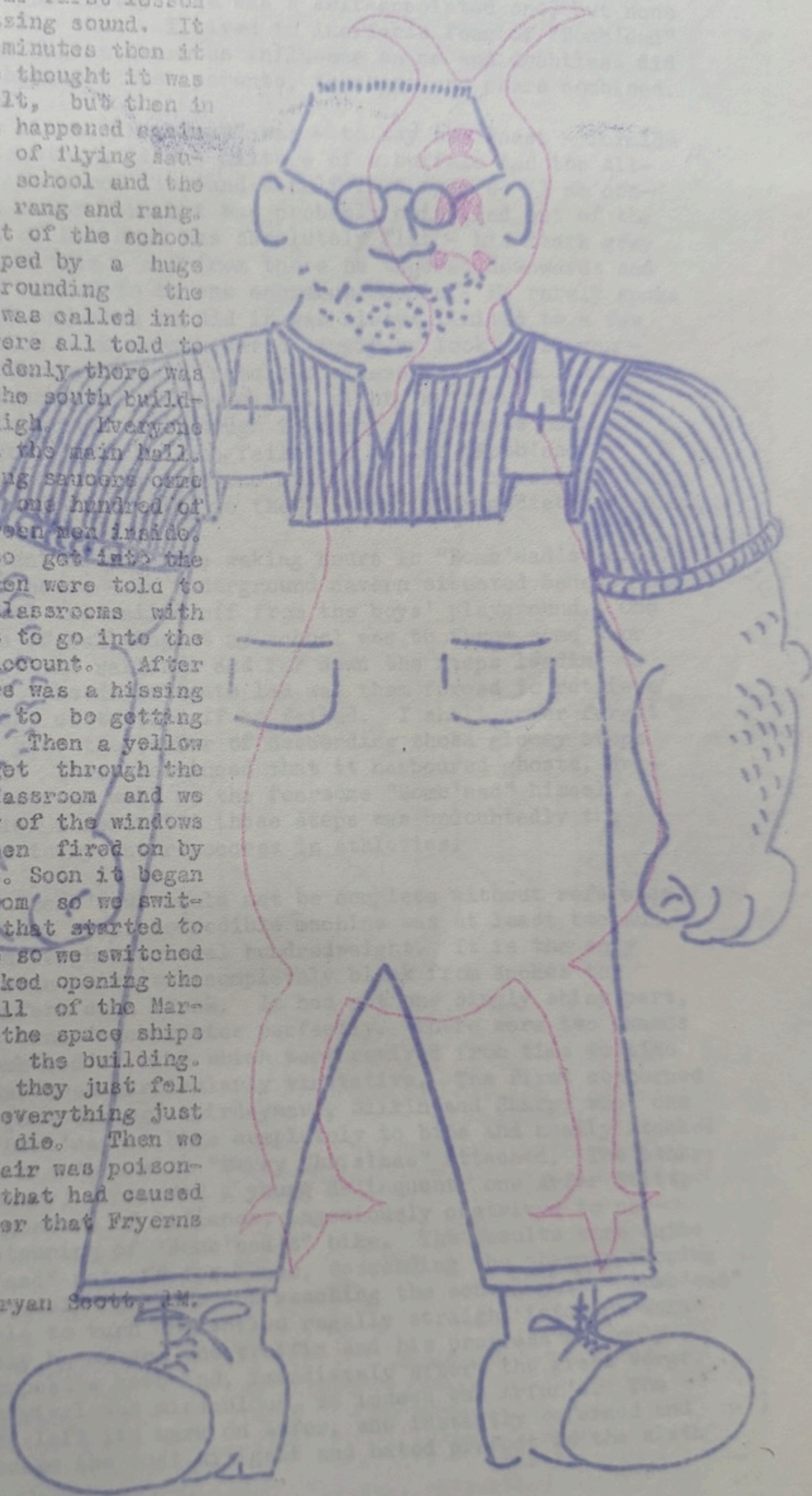
Two cats standing face to face,  
Staring arched backs, and still staring,  
Like silent statues,  
Tom moves a paw  
And as quick as a flash  
Ginger springs upon Tom's back,  
Eyes wide open,  
There they go,  
Hissing! Spitting! fur standing on end,  
Biting, scratching, in the mud they roll,  
Meeeeeow, Meeeeeow,  
They've had enough!  
Old Ginger's hurt,  
He scampers off, a sorry sight  
While Tom, the victor  
Hurries home  
To lick his wounds and forget this night.  
Meeeeeow.

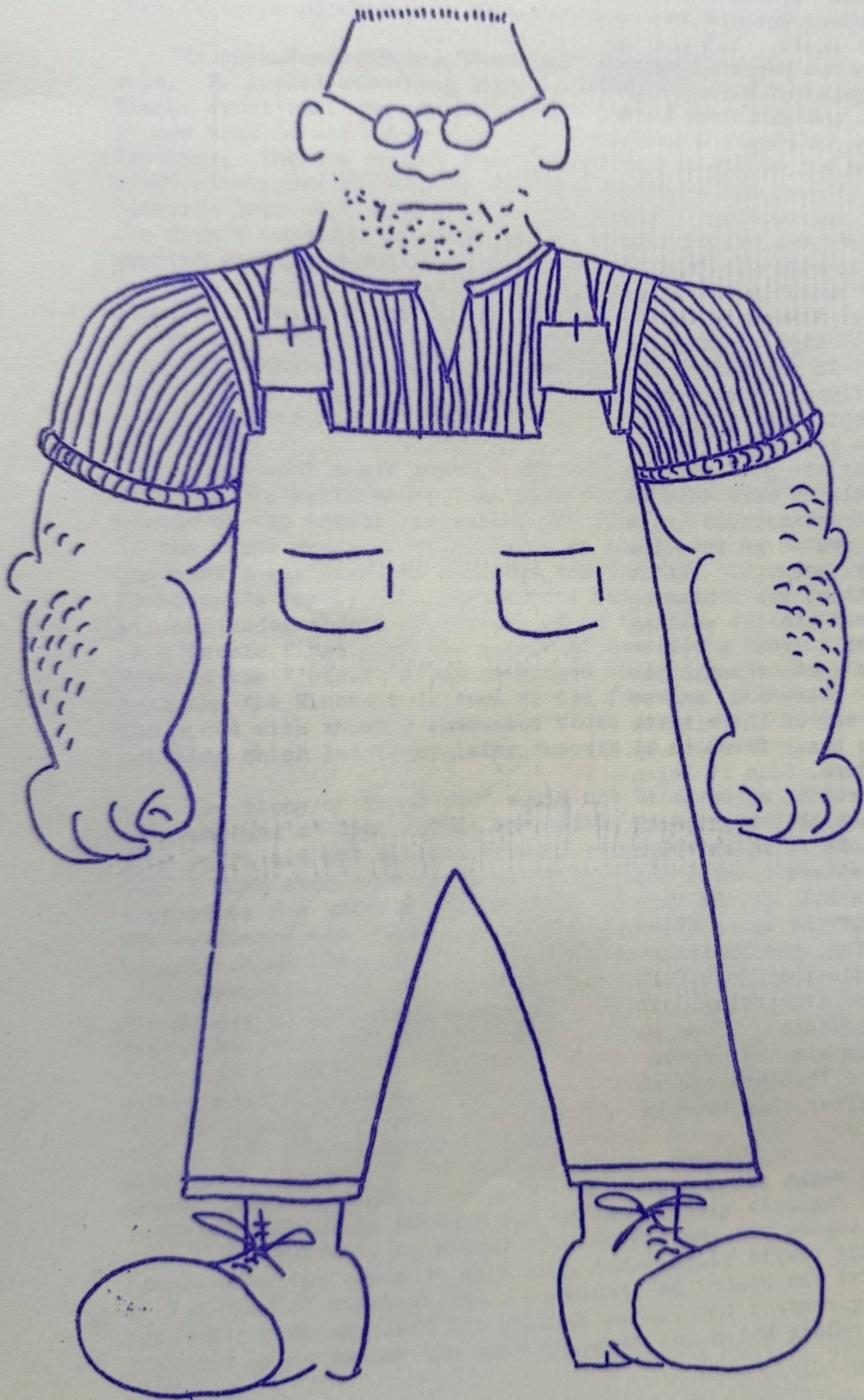
- Deborah Hendey, 1M

THE DAY THE MARTIANS CAME  
TO FRYERNS

One day in Fryerns School just as everyone was in their first lesson there was a loud buzzing sound. It lasted about five minutes then it stopped and everyone thought it was some electrical fault, but then in the third lesson it happened again but this time loads of flying saucers surrounded the school and the alarm bell rang and rang and rang. Everybody dashed out of the school but they were stopped by a huge electric beam surrounding the school. So everyone was called into the main hall. We were all told to sit quietly then suddenly there was a loud bang, half the south building was blown sky high. Everyone was scared stiff in the main hall. Then out of the flying saucers came little cars, about one hundred of them with little green men inside. They were trying to get into the school so the children were told to barricade their classrooms with desks and no one was to go into the corridors on any account. After about an hour there was a hissing sound. It seemed to be getting louder and louder. Then a yellow smoke started to get through the barricade in 1M classroom and we could not open any of the windows or we could have been fired on by the Martian invaders. Soon it began to fill the classroom so we switched on the fan but that started to give off green smoke so we switched it off. Then we risked opening the window and we saw all of the Martians coming out of the space ships and start attacking the building. Then all of a sudden they just fell to the ground and everything just seemed to vanish and die. Then we found out that our air was poisonous to Martians and that had caused them to vanish. After that Fryerns led its normal life.

- Bryan Scott, 14.





## "BOMB'HEAD"

"Bomb'ead" was our school caretaker and was also responsible for boys' discipline. The latter role was a self-appointed one, but none the less effective for that. I lived in ineffable fear of "Bomb'ead" for seven years; he had an enormous influence on me and doubtless did more to shape my character than parents, teachers and peers combined.

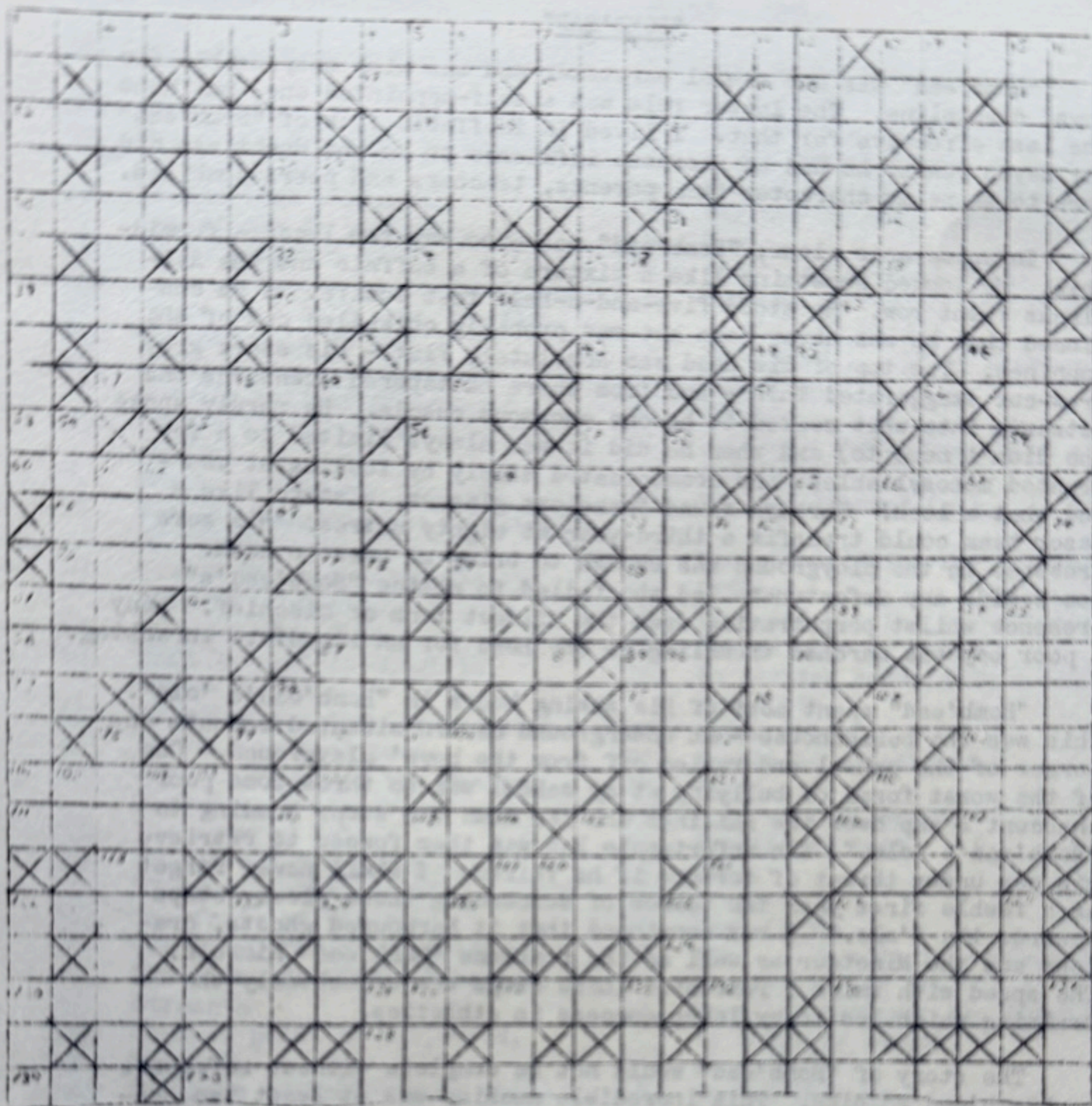
In appearance alone, "Bomb'ead" was - to say the least - formidable. He looked something like a mixture of a buffalo and the All-Blacks front row. He stood five-and-a-half feet square. I am convinced that he was never born but was probably chiselled out of the Pennines. The top of his head was absolutely flat - his stark grey crew-cut exaggerated this - and from there he tapered downwards and outwards into what seemed to be one enormous muscle. He rarely spoke (he didn't need to) and when he did it was always limited to a few grunted monosyllables. He communicated simply by looking at you - and what a look! Through round frameless glasses, a stare like a laser beam could transfix a third-year at eighty metres. His mere presence in the playground was enough to bring an awesome hush. Woe betide any unfortunate lad who failed to notice "Bomb'ead's" presence whilst perpetrating even the mildest form of mischief. Many a poor boy was marched trembling to the Head for an immediate thrashing.

"Bomb'ead" spent most of his waking hours in "Bomb'ead's 'ole". This was the boilerhouse - an underground cavern situated beneath one corner of the school and railed off from the boys' playground. One of the worst forms of bullying at my school was to throw some poor innocent's cap over the railings and far down the steps leading to "Bomb'ead's 'ole." The unfortunate lad was then forced to retrieve his cap under threat of torture if he failed. I shall never forget as a feeble first year the terror of descending those gloomy steps towards the "'ole." I was convinced that it harboured ghosts, dragons and the Minotaur as well as the fearsome "Bomb'ead" himself. The speed with which I remounted those steps was undoubtedly the training which led to my later success in athletics.

The story of "Bomb'ead" would not be complete without reference to "Bomb'ead's" bike. This incredible machine was at least two hundred years old and weighed several hundredweight. It is the only bike I have ever seen which was completely black from spokes to handlebars - a uniform dull black. It had not one singly shiny part, but reflected its owner's character perfectly. There were two famous legends about "Bomb'ead's" bike which were revived from time to time when "Bomb'ead" had been particularly vindictive. The first concerned two incorrigible (and daring) third-years, Silkin and Sharp, who, one Christmas, took "Bomb'ead's" bike completely to bits and neatly stacked each part outside his 'ole with "Merry Christmas" attached. The other, more impressive story, concerned a young delinquent, one Arfer Stitt, who one day as a gesture of defiance, ingeniously contrived to partially lock the steering of "Bomb'ead's" bike. The results were quite dramatic. "Bomb'ead" set off for lunch, descending the sharply sloping school drive in stately fashion. On reaching the school gates "Bomb'ead" found it impossible to turn and sailed regally straight into the main road. Miraculously he missed the traffic and his progress was only arrested by the opposite kerb and, immediately after, the grass verge. If "Bomb'ead's" survival was miraculous, so indeed was Arfer's. The incident, however, left its mark on Arfer, who instantly reformed and in later years became the most diligent and hated prefect in the sixth form.

Whether "Bomb'ead" survives to this day, I know not. If he does, I wish him well - I am far too much a coward to do anything else.

J.B.D.



CLUES - ACROSS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. English King who led the Crusades (4 words)         | 33. To water down a liquid.                       |
| 13. A spiked eating instrument.                        | 36. The abbr. for Irish Republican Army           |
| 17.. The abbreviation for "estimated time of arrival". | 38. Alternative.                                  |
| 18. Gas used in lighting.                              | 39. The organ in the body which circulates blood. |
| 19. Star constellation, figured as hunter with belt.   | 40. The abbr. for Automobile Association          |
| 21. Negative.  | 41. A magician does this.                         |
| 22. Dizziness.   | 42. The "..... west story".                       |
| 24. The French word for shout.                         | 43. A gardening tool.                             |
| 26. The priest of the ancient Colts.                   | 44. The home of the Surrey County Cricket Club.   |
| 27. "There is a ..... -away on board," said the mate.  | 46. The opposite of even.                         |
| 28. Automated tools.                                   | 47. To get going before time (2 words)            |
| 30. "Rudolf the Red-nosed- ....."                      | 51. The abbr. for United Arab Republic.           |
| 31. "..... Horse to Banbury Cross" (3 words)           | 53. And, across the Channel.                      |
|  | 55. "..... a name I call myself".                 |

CLUES - ACROSS (Continued)

56. The abbreviation for Naval Officer.
57. Changeable.
59. The abbr. for "War Department", or member of staff.
60. Sounds like a painful experience in carpentry.
63. To be tampered with.
65. .... Hunter plays for Leeds.
68. Drops that fall from the sky.
69. To ascend is to go ..
70. A far eastern country.
73. A small ball of medicine.
75. Grease (on the back of some shirts)
77. Female across the Channel.
79. Man was supposed the descendant of these.
80. Remedy which counteracts the effects of poison.
81. An elongated fish.
82. This happens to dough to become bread.
83. This arrives through the post.
86. Short, pastoral poem.
87. This is found on the Russian flag with a hammer.
89. The city of Ohio.
92. Is, across the Channel.
93. "I went .. the shops".
94. The fruit of the rose.
95. The abbr. for Royal Academy.
96. The abbr. for Royal Dragoons.
97. Strength
100. Highest point in the world.
103. Hurried.
104. The name of Beethoven's third symphony.
108. The abbr. for Ordnance Survey.
109. The abbr. for Steamship
110. Jumped.
111. The capital of Brazil, before Brasilia (3 words)
115. .... flow (in the Orkneys)
116. The abbr. for Physical Education
118. The reverse of on.
119. To give out (e.g. playing cards)
121. A small lizard
122. A most famous English playwright (2 words)
127. The capital of Switzerland.
129. A race of people.
130. A high level, dangerous circus act (2 words)
135. The abbr. for New York
136. A still electricity.
138. The end of World War II is commemorated by ..... Day.
139. A long-tailed rodent.
140. Our allies in the last war (4 words)

CLUES - DOWN

1. This flows through London (2 words)
2. The gristle in the human body.
3. A one-humped camel.
4. Symbol for Helium in chemistry.
5. Engrave on metal with acid.
6. Lasso.
7. "Sur" (in French) means ...
8. Someone suffering from Myopia is this (2 words).
9. "Westward ... !" by Charles Kingsley.
10. Finish.
11. Circular attraction found at the fair.
12. To mean "three" (e.g. ... angle, ... 0).
13. The abbreviation for "Foreign Office".
14. The wind blowing towards the land.
15. Bowled over (2 words).
16. To scatter seeds over a land for crops etc.
20. Vague belief.
23. Cannot be classified.
25. Inside of.
29. Solo part in opera.
31. Running contest.
32. Fuel.
34. Heights.
35. Send forth.
37. The .... Grande is a river dividing Mexico and the U.S.A.
42. Venetian explorer who travelled to China (2 words).
45. Conceited.
48. Showed the way.
49. He met a pican (2 words).
50. Pole.
52. Shakespeare's Danish prince.
54. Projectile fired from submarine.
58. Remains of a demolished or decayed city.
61. Re-assemble.
62. Expire.
64. Edge of anything.
66. Ceremonial practice.
67. A short name for Alan.
70. Abbr. for "South America".
71. Near to.
72. The ... .. Lamp was invented by Humphrey Davy.
74. Evil omen.
76. Abbr. for "Territorial Army".
78. Pertaining to animal fat.
79. Inquire.
81. One or the other.
84. Edible tortoise.
85. Get away (e.g. from a prison).
88. Adam and Eve's home.
89. A well in "Alice in Wonderland".

/continued ...

THE CONTINUING STORY OF .....

Craylands began in 1935 as a Secondary Modern School comprised of only two buildings, for cookery and woodwork. Children who wished to study these subjects would travel from neighbouring schools. The School was then built around a quadrangle and still stands today, in spite of the war. During this time there was never any real damage, although windows were often shattered and wreckage of aircraft was found in surrounding fields. The only real excitement was the discovery of an unexploded BOMB, which finally turned out to be an empty shell. When Miss Clarke joined the staff in 1938, there was a strict separation of boys and girls and even the staff from either side were not allowed to mix. Many Children left because it was not compulsory to stay at school after they were fourteen. After the war Mr. Gomer joined us. His most vivid memories are of the poverty caused by the grim pre-war years, when children rarely saw boots, let alone wore them.

The continuing story of "Peyton Place" now turns to the beginning of Fryerns in 1955. Mr. Smith, one of our four formidable forefathers, has been with the school since its humble beginnings in King John School, Thundersley, where we had three classes. He was then living in Pattiswick Square. The forms were moved in September 1956 to the unfinished building of Fryerns Grammar and Technical School, next door to Craylands. Mr. Doncaster then joined the School and in his time has solved many mysteries including that of the 'Dreaded' Stink Bomb Planter.

The North Corridor was not quite completed and much of the first term was spent in unpacking equipment. When Miss Moss arrived the following term, the school was finished, but virtually unknown. Both she and Mr. Doncaster had difficulty in finding their way to Fryerns especially since the boiler chimney made it look like a factory! By September 1956 there were about 250 pupils. The school still had plenty of room and was able to offer hospitality to pupils waiting to go to Timberlog Lane School, and children from an overcrowded Wickford School. Although Fryerns had a very wide intake area there were only four First forms, (we now have Eleven). A memorable occasion of the early days was the production of the first full-length play. The cast was mainly drawn from the first fourth year, but the leading role was played by Stephanie Perkins (a third year pupil) whose sister Miriam is in the present Upper Sixth.

Meanwhile, as Fryerns and Craylands increased their numbers Mrs. Dexter and Mr. Clark having survived primary education were challenged with higher education. Their first day began and whilst Mr. Clark was going through initiations, including a kind of christening in the 'loo', Mrs. Dexter was waiting in a huge hall with a handful of other young ladies at a Public Girls' Boarding School. To survive in Mr. Clark's East London School it was necessary to be physically tough; to survive in Mrs. Dexter's School, to be mentally alert and to climb to the top of the system. (It may be interesting to know that Mrs. Dexter's punishment was numerous visits to Church in starch uniform, whilst Mr. Clark was continually caned). Mrs. Dexter's most vivid memories are frozen washing water, long dormitories and the agonies of meal time when "one offers rather than asks". Mr. Clark recalls his erratic attendance and consequent daily caning.

The advent of the Comprehensive System saw the joining together in September 1968 of Fryerns and Craylands to become FRYERNS SCHOOL. Mr. Hopewell joined us at Easter 1969 having already been a headmaster of a Comprehensive School for seven years. There are many difficulties in

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a union of this sort, including movement between buildings, arrangement of timetables, attempts to make the School one unit, and the drains. There are now more than 1,400 pupils. Mr. Hopewell is very optimistic for the future, and hopes for the co-operation of parents as well as pupils, for the success of the new "Fryerns Association". He believes we have a lot to be proud of in this School. We have a good games record, produce better pantomines than the "Arts Centre", have better examination results, and have been on the TELLY TWICE! More than any other School in Basildon.

Grateful thanks for the co-operation of all those involved in this article.

Paula Richards, Elaine Smith, Janet Allan, Sue Pittock, Sue Percy and Sue Wood.

DRAW IN YOUR OWN CARTOON ABOUT  
SCHOOLDAYS HERE!

All jokes - Suzanne Gannaway and Janet Wiseman, 20.

### BEASTLY BOYS

The boys think the girls are to blame  
But everyone knows we suffer the pain  
With their beastly earwigs and centipedes  
They never learn the lessons they need  
With their aeroplanes and catapults  
They never take notice of adults  
West Ham and Arsenal scribbled over the desks  
Oh boy, what a mess!  
I love Susie, she loves me  
That's all we hear and all we see  
Boys are beastly, the girls know that  
It is a very well-known fact.

- Karen Harris and Debbie Sharp, 2A.

### EXAMS

No more talking,  
We're about to start  
Hope no one can hear  
The beat of my heart.  
My stomach turns over  
I try to write.  
Look at my sheet  
All empty and white.  
Can't remember anything  
That I've been taught.  
Everyone's writing  
So very fast  
If I don't do much more  
I know I'll come last.  
The time's up  
I put down my pen.  
Tomorrow I'll have to  
Do this again.

- Lynn Cassar, 3G.

Question: What goes 150 m.p.h. around an ashtray?

Answer: An E-type fag!

Question: What goes 60 m.p.h. in the water?

Answer: A motor pike!

Question: What sits on the bottom of the sea and shakes?

Answer: A nervous wreck!

All jokes - Suzanne Jannaway and  
Janet Wiseman, 2G.

FRYERNS 2000 A.D.

Today, 15th September, Andrew, my young cousin, started school, Fryerns School.

"How did you like school," his Mum asked when he came home. "It was great, we didn't do any work in the morning, just in the afternoon."

When Andrew went to school the next day he wore his uniform very smartly, long tight black trousers, white silk shirt and the tie which was the same as when I went to Fryerns, gold, silver and black.

When Andrew and all his class-mates enter the classroom they have to place a plastic tag into a slot which registers them. Each time a pupil enters a classroom for a lesson they have to repeat this procedure. At the end of the week an inspector opens up these registering computers and checks that no lessons have been missed. If they have, a letter is sent to the parents of the child concerned and if the child had not been kept home by a parent there would be a black mark on his or her report.

The actual teaching is still done by a good, old-fashioned teacher, though in actual fact, they are far from old-fashioned. He sits at a desk of about twenty controls. There are some to allow the teacher to talk to one particular pupil and other various controls to play recordings and records and to project films and diagrams onto a small screen on the pupils' desks. There is not a blackboard, instead there is a large grey glass screen. The teacher speaks into a microphone and everything he says is printed onto the screen. If the teacher wishes to draw, he draws his desired picture or whatever on special slates and pushes it into a slot and the drawing is reproduced onto the screen. The screen is automatically cleaned by pressing a button which is marked 'erase.'

In P.E. lessons the pupils learn to walk in anti-gravity conditions and fly with jet-packs and super shoes which are boots with a jet engine on each, which is powered by 'Kelium' a newly discovered gas which can power an engine at nearly half the cost and with twenty per cent more power than petrol.

It is dinner time for Andrew now and he can stay at school to have dinner or go home. The school meals aren't paid for until the end of each month. To acquire a meal you must push the tag that you use for registering into a meal machine and select your meal by turning a dial to the meal you wish to have, then press your foot onto a foot pedal and your meal is delivered in an aluminium tray. You do the same for your sweet and drink. When the full course has been delivered, your tag is returned to you and your bill has been registered in the computer.

When the meal has been eaten you go to one of the several rest rooms and lay down for an hour and rest until lessons begin again. When they do, the school becomes suddenly very quiet and peaceful until the school day ends and everyone goes home.

- Lynne Schofield, 2GB

## SCHOOLDAYS

"I believe that our whole education system is evil." Fitting words for an article on 'Schooldays', these originally came from an article entitled 'Teaching is the most dangerous profession'. Written by A. S. Neill, head for fifty-seven years of the famous Summerhill School, it is a summary of his views on modern education. Mr. Neill, now eighty-nine, attacks the way:

"... every nation makes schools that will castrate the children by making them fearful of authority and sex, so that when adults they won't have the guts to challenge anything."

From the first slap of a baby's bottom, to parental violence and barbaric caning, he believes children are continually brutalised:

"At a recent meeting in Scotland I was told that out of one hundred (teachers), ninety-six wanted to BELT PRIMARY PUPILS ... And later, when the belted take to mugging, the teachers cannot see the connection."

Mr. Neill thinks that all that is wrong and corrupt today is mainly due to the treatment of today's adults when they were children:

"I believe that the only hope for humanity is to let children be free, free not only from sadistic parents and teachers but free from the moralists, the holy anti-porn lot who are blind to the fact that they have encouraged pornography by making sex a sin ... Porn is only one symptom of an evil, sex-negative society. Porn is in the eye of the beholder."

Mr. Neill goes on to say that discipline - total obedience, fear of punishment, make schools and armies grotesquely alike, he thinks teachers should be equal friends with pupils, rather than the 'drill sergeants' they are now. He quotes a letter from a woman teacher:

"I almost got the sack. The head heard a kid call me Mary and told me I must keep my distance and ban familiarity."

Mr. Neill believes the large majority of school subjects are a waste of time. I agree very strongly, surely a change in the syllabus in secondary schools must occur in the near future, if only at first to accommodate the extra year of pupils when the school leaving age is raised. What can be the use of a good grounding in mediaeval history to a car worker? And when he tries filling in a tax return? I agree wholeheartedly with everything A. S. Neill says on this subject, I would have written it all myself but he puts things so well. A change in the present education system is imminent:

"The world will be free only when children are free from character moulding and external discipline and fear. ... We do subtly what the USSR and China are doing, castrating children in their cradles so that they will always be sheep."

- John Bruce, L VI.

(with a great deal of help from 'Teaching is the most dangerous profession' by A. S. Neill from The Teacher, 9th March).

YOUNG SURGEON OF THE YEAR, 1973

This extremely interesting competition for schools takes place every twenty-five years at twelve midnight in a convenient field. The much-coveted 'Study of an Amputated Leg' Award (by Slim S. Gone) is competed for by schools of all types, and our brave team of scientists, drawn from all different 'Arts' classes in the sixth form, were up against stiff competition in this, the 93rd round of the battle.

The five categories in which the team had to show a knowledge of medical surgery were -

1. General surgery - gall bladders, hernias and things
2. Orthopaedic surgery - break a leg on this one
3. Neurosurgery - are your nerves on edge?
4. Lung surgery - this will take your breath away!
5. Cardiac surgery - set your heart beating, this will.

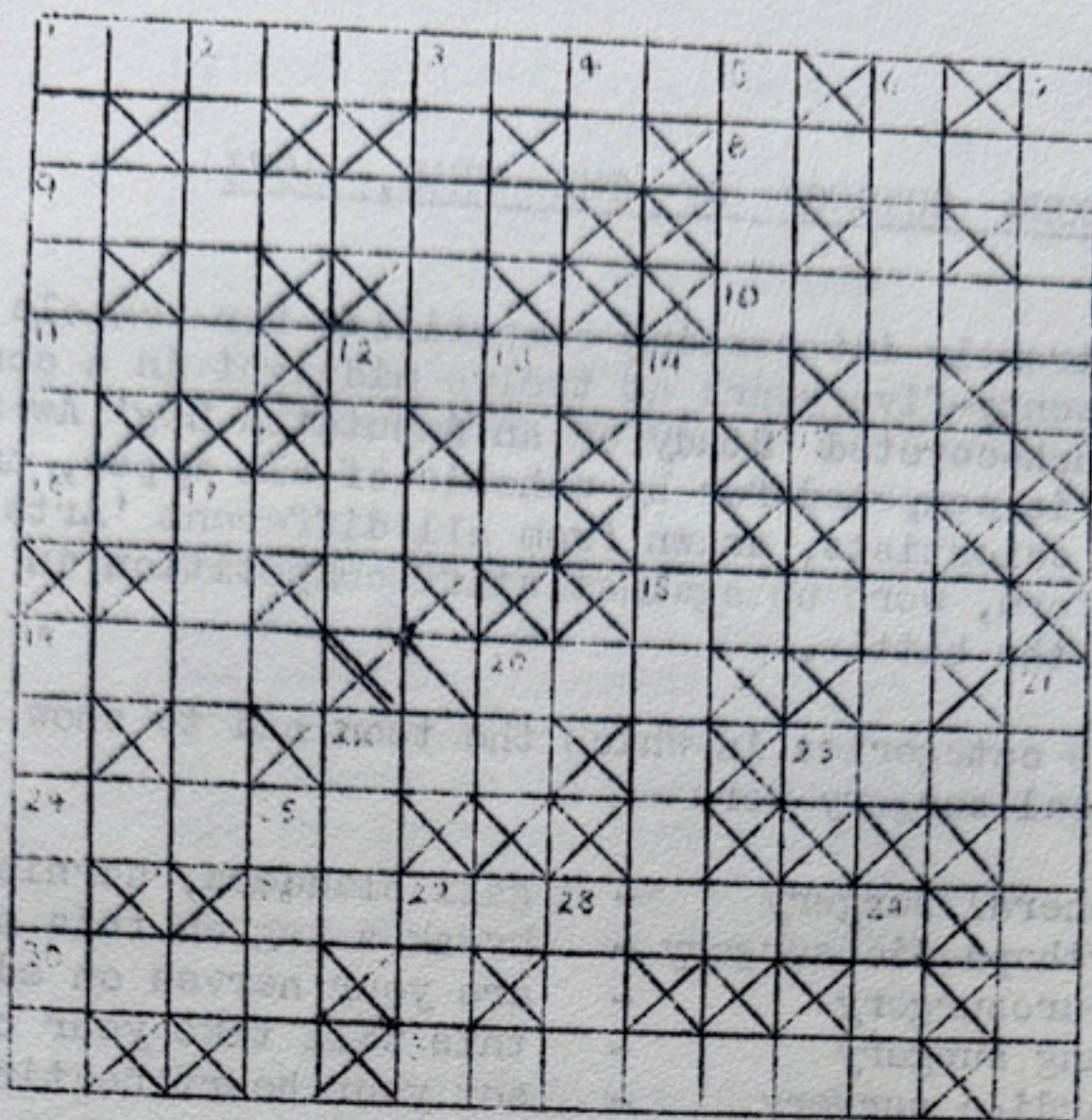
The operation decided upon by our team was that which entailed the removal of a large section of a fork-lift truck from the stomach of a Serbo-Croat Used-Camel Salesman from Outer Mongolia. This was ALIMENTARY, my dear Watson! (If Watson is reading this, remind dear Sherlock that he left his 'deerstalker' where the deer could not.) It was an operation classed under the General surgery category. General surgery could not attend the competition but he sent his aide-de-camp - Major Surgery instead.

To continue, anaesthetic was applied to the patient (grateful thanks to the Camping Society for the loan of the wooden mallet) and our most experienced member of the team (name withheld in case of intimidation from the B.M.A.) made the initial incision with a vegetable knife (grateful thanks to the school kitchens.) I will not go into the details of the operation but it went off perfectly (went right off, Phew!) and the cut made into the patient was expertly closed with a neat French seam by our needlework expert.

Unfortunately, despite our professional attempt at this delicate operation, we were brought down on points when it was discovered that we had operated on an empty stomach (our team's stomachs were empty, not the patient's whose was full of axle rods and hydraulic brakes.) The prize and the competition was won by the Chelmsford School of Mobile Midwives (Emergency Department) with their operation on the same Serbo-Croat, this time to remove the surgical shears and swabs from the patient's stomach.

Yet, we look forward to our future appearances in other exciting competitions such as "Young Amputator of the Year"; "Young Brain Surgeon of the Year"; "Young Christian Barnard of the Year" and "Young Psychiatrist of the Year" with great excitement and anticipation.

- The Mad Scientist (E.T.S.)



CLUES

Down

1. Mental or physical agony.
2. To run about in a murderous frenzy.
3. Measure for weight of gold.
4. Whether, on condition.
5. To correspond or balance.
6. High state of law official.
7. To talk monotonously.
12. To rebuke.
13. Purpose.
14. Slanting.
17. Used to photograph bones.
19. A stone figure.
20. All right (initials)
21. Composed by witches.
22. Affirmative.
25. Plant associated with the Welsh.
27. Just more than one.
28. Used in cricket.
29. Atilla was one.

Across

1. A written copy.
8. To detest, hate.
9. A plant with an edible stalk.
10. Cloth of flax.
11. Large type of deer.
12. Robust.
15. To ask for.
16. Character or structure of a woven material.
18. Triangular wall under the eaves of a house.
19. Famous actor or actress.
20. Used to make gravy.
22. Long-haired Tibetan mammal.
23. A snare.
24. Passage through a church.
26. To set up.
30. To encourage.
31. Eight-sided figure.

Janet Allan LVI

SPEED IS THE "MOTTO" OF FRYERNS GIRLS

Speed was the keynote of those girls who took the Pitman's Shorthand Examinations on the 14th February.

Sixth Formers

Patricia Murray - 120 and 110 w.p.m.  
Ann Sayer - 80 w.p.m.

Fifth Formers

Sandra Ridsen - 120 w.p.m.  
Lesley Reavill - 100 w.p.m.  
Stephenie Price - 90 and 80 w.p.m.  
Carol Elloway - 80 w.p.m.  
Esther Fogarty - 80 w.p.m.

Fifth Formers

Lynne Murray - 80 w.p.m.  
Susan Proctor - 80 w.p.m.  
Gail Rontree - 80 w.p.m.  
Janice Jennings - 80 and 60 w.p.m.  
Lynn Robertson - 60 w.p.m.

AND THE NEXT RESULTS MAY CONTAIN  
130 w.p.m.!

US 'N' THEM

At nine o'clock each morning  
The school bell rings  
And once inside the building  
We do all sorts of things  
Breaking some of the windows  
Writing on the desks  
Having just a normal day  
At being ruddy pests

In assembly we're all hidin'  
In case Mr. Hopewell sees  
The brightly coloured jumpers  
Or the patterns on our sleeves  
We pretend to sing so sweetly  
But the teachers they are slow  
'Cause we're talking about physics  
And the homework we don't know

The lessons they are boring  
Chemistry is the worst  
But it usually brightens up a bit  
When the test tubes suddenly burst  
Although I really hate school  
I wouldn't like to leave  
But if one day I got chucked out  
I'd be the last to grieve

So to the teachers we're sorry  
We don't want to pester  
Really its a load of fun  
When we try to test yer  
But just one word of warning  
When the next third year comes  
Better get some throat lozenges  
To exercise your LUNGS!

- Valerie Sargeant, 3A.

DUSK

Bright red arcs appear in the greying sky  
Something flutters, maybe a butterfly  
Blue and purple streaks from a banner gay  
For 'tis the ending of another day.

Singing ceased, birds have gone to sleep  
Gradual darkness through the stillness creeps  
Wild animals, no more seek their prey  
For 'tis the ending of another day.

Twinkling stars are distributed now  
No more sunshine no more puffy clouds.  
Simply moonshine sending out its ray  
For 'tis the ending of another day.

- Lynn Strutt, 2G.

## THE BATTLE OF TABBY AND GINGER

Tabby, lying on the lawn,  
Stretching his paws and giving a yawn.  
Settling down for a peaceful nap,  
Oh! Who's this coming through the gap?

Tabby, ears pricked, startled, scared,  
He could not move 'cause if he dared  
Ginger would get him once again.  
Tabby's a coward, that's quite plain.

Ginger leaps into the air  
Giving Tabby an awful scare.  
He falls on Tabby, his claws go in.  
Tabby makes a terrible din.

Battle commences, spits and hisses,  
Wild excitement as Tabby misses.  
Suddenly, Ginger lashes out,  
Tabby wonders what it's all about.

Still in battle, the minutes go by,  
Whiskers, fur and cats' hairs fly.  
Ginger soon has had enough,  
He didn't think Tabby was so tough.

Ginger slinks back to rest,  
Tabby's proved he is the best.  
So back to sleep in the summer sun,  
Tabby's proved that he has won.

- Jill Day, 1M.

## NUCLEAR AFTERMATH

I am queen of my realm,  
My courtiers surround me.  
They lie at my feet,  
They're dead.

I am in a world  
A world of my own.  
No one can interfere,  
They are all gone.

I am a nut,  
A madman, a loony.  
You would have locked me away  
But you can't, can you?  
You're all dead.  
Only I survived -  
A mad queen in the world of her own.

- Kim Green, 5 Gen. 1.

UNIVERSITY LIFE - OR HOW TO SUCCEED EVEN IF YOU COME FROM FRYERNS

Scene: A University  
From: Our Own Correspondent.

When you get to a place like my university and you see all the other drips that the Secondary Education System has earmarked for 'higher things' (nudge, nudge), you get a new perspective on life. Even if you think yourself a not inconsiderable drip, you're certain to find many whose dimensions in that capacity are even more momentous than your own. In this article I will compare what certain aspects of life were (I can't vouch for it now) like at Fryerns, what they are like at this place and what they are usually like at other schools around the country. The description of this place may not give a general University picture and the descriptions of other schools are coloured by the exaggerations of my friends who were usually too smashed or stoned to remember anything.

First of all we'll deal with the subject closest to teenage hearts (or at least to mine) - SEX. You'll all be disappointed to know that University ain't all it's cracked up to be. Exercising the ferret is as hard here as it was there (mind you, I've heard that the younger generation push the python more nowadays). Fryerns seems to have been a bit more liberal than other schools in this respect. The advantages of going to a mixed school are more than you'd think (no innuendo intended!). If you've ever seen one of the samples of single-sex education whose whole idea of a girl is a pair of funbags and something else for which I can't find a suitable euphemism, you'll know what I mean. Mixed schools breed healthier attitudes to sex as I have already amply demonstrated above. Single sex schools seem to cause a certain social stunting (amongst other things) and some very predatory attitudes. Surprisingly Essex seems to be the only place with about 80% mixed schools. Elsewhere the figure seems to be nearer 20%.

Let's deal with DRUGS next and get the controversy bit over with early. Dope is relatively plentiful at most Uni's if you know the right people. Dope was almost non-existent at Fryerns or maybe it wasn't because I didn't know the right people; I suppose I did really but I'm trying to be tactful. Elsewhere the dope ~~is~~ farther in, man. About 20% of my friends here had experienced some hallucinatory drug or other, at Fryerns it was nearer 10%.

RACISM - university is a hot-bed for this. Yours truly, yer typical white, middle-class apathetic liberal was very shocked by this. What's just as bad here is that the blacks discriminate against us. Enoch Powell shouldn't rip off students because believe me they are right behind him, black and white.

As for POLITICS - when it comes to political activity University is as dry as a Kukkaburrer's kyber (sic!). The days of the revolting student aren't gone but the days of the politically revolting student are. The political societies supply many meetings and demos but no one goes. To show how apathetic this place is - a meeting was called to vote for bigger grants, 200 people out of 6,000 were needed for the meeting to be 'official' - fifty turned up. The stupid drips are too apathetic to vote themselves more money! O.K., O.K., I admit it, I wasn't amongst the fifty but I have a good excuse - the souldwas willing but the flesh was gorgeous.

Let's get WORK over with quickly. You can get by with less than in the sixth form if you are reasonably good in the first place.

Life at University is much fuller and more interesting than life at Fryerns. For three years you are presented with many opportunities to have new experiences. In order to appreciate this one should be prepared to change one's ideas readily and have a less rigid attitude to life and convention. Surely the secret of life is experience.

As for Fryerns, as much as I dislike the place and wished I was elsewhere, I must admit after comparing notes with my friends that Fryerns seems to be a relatively good school. It's tragic to think what the others are like.

By the way, I lost 25p. when Basildon beat Clacton.  
Big Heads!!

The End.

"Bugsy" would like to remain anonymous.  
(sorry about the cuts.)

#### DOG SALLY

As we weep under the willow tree  
Where our darling's grave doth be  
We think of the love bestowed on her  
Sally, with the brown paws and shaggy fur.

Her bed is empty, a black ribbon round it  
Her ball is idle, gone the small dog who  
found it,

Her paws no more to tread the hall  
Her answer to a loving call.

Her wagging tail shall not be seen  
Nor her playful gambols on the green  
No more shall we see her soft brown eyes  
Which were so faithfull, kind and wise.

The cats she chased sit on the wall  
Wondering when she will answer their call  
And rush out, barking at everyone  
But they shall not share her loving fun.  
For, God willing, she shall be  
Forever under the willow tree.

Lynn Strutt, 2G

MISSION ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE

"Scramble, scramble" the crackled voice came over the speaker. "Bandits in the north corridor." Three prefects roused themselves from their deep armchairs and coffee (not to mention the Focus), and flew out of the Common Room. "Juliet Bravo, Juliet Bravo, climbing to Angels 30."

"Received and understood, Juliet Bravo. Good luck lads." The three flew in formation, approaching mach 2.

"Initiate E.C.M."\*

"Roger, Golf Kilo." They dug into their pockets, scattering Polo wrappers behind them as they entered the north building.

"See if you can head the blighters awff, November Charlie Romeo and Golf Kilo."

The formation broke and N.C.R. and G.K. left bearing 090° while J.B. headed due north. "Have visual contact, have visual contact. Firing fifty lines, NOW."

"Okay Golf Kilo, escort out of building air space and land at base Foxtrot Sierra Papa for refuelling and rearming."

"Willco."

---

\* Electronic counter-measures, i.e. jamming.

THE MISERY OF EXAMS.

Silence fills the air,  
Exams, they're just not fair.  
Oh, what a horrible sight,  
Seeing children shaking with fright.  
Nails will be bitten,  
Nothing has been written.  
Gloom and sorrow,  
Hurry up tomorrow.  
The bell ends the hell  
Of what the kids have been through.  
Maths and Art have been finished too.  
They all run out and shout and cheer,  
The exams have gone for another year.

BASILDON SCHOOLS' SOCCER LEAGUE - U/12'S

FRYERNS 3      NICHOLAS 1

The Fryerns first year regained their pride in defeating Nicholas in this league match. Unbeaten Nicholas are the only side to have beaten Fryerns (5-1 in the Cup Final) and revenge was sweet.

Play in the first half was very even, Nicholas cleared off their line and at the other end Peter Eldridge produced two fine saves. The determined Fryerns' defence shut out the Nicholas forwards well and by half time there was no score.

Nicholas started strongly in the second half and the Fryerns side escaped narrowly after a goalmouth scramble. This stirred the Fryerns' boys to action, Moorcroft and Williams combined well on the right and Fitzgibbon headed home Williams' cross. Fryerns pressurised Nicholas and Williams hit the second from twenty yards. Nicholas stormed back to grab a goal to make it 2-1. Again Fryerns pushed forward striving to regain their rhythm. Nicholas went close to equalising before Fryerns forced a corner, Moorcroft rolled the kick to Dyer who hit it into a crowded penalty area where Fitzgibbon turned it in to clinch the game.

This was a good all-round performance by the Fryerns boys, however, the game could not have been as good without the fine opposition supplied by the talented Nicholas lads.

First year team's thanks to Mr. Downey for refereeing the game and also to the Fryerns' pupils and parents who came to support.

FRYERNS TEAM: Eldridge, O'Callaghan, Brown (Capt.), Holmes, Dingwall, Dyer, Drane, Humphries, Moorcroft, Williams, Fitzgibbon, Brown and Harvey.

CROSSWORD CLUES (Continued)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 90. For propelling a boat manually.                              | 102. International language.                |
| 91. An insecticide.  | 105. The abbr. for "Religious Instruction." |
| 97. The fine wire in a light bulb.                               | 106. Image.                                 |
| 98. Seen on a clear night after the earth's satellite has risen. | 107. The abbr. for "Church of England."     |
| 99. .... Mahal.  | 112. "Ready! .....! Fire!"                  |
| 101. The abbr. for "National Union of Railway Men."              | 113. A girl's name.                         |
|  | 114. A poem.                                |

THE V.I.P.'S.

EAMMON MARTIN

Do you run forty-five miles a week training four or five times every week after school? If you do, perhaps you could claim the achievements of Eammon Martin of 3G. Eammon who has been running since the first year has won the 1500m. track event and cross-country in school and for the District winning the latter against older boys in a time of 4 minutes 22.2 seconds, beating the old record by nearly 10 seconds. In the cross-country he completed a 2½ mile course in record time to win the Essex County Schools Championship of February, 1973.

Eammon also has a list of other sporting activities as long as your arm, including district football and rugby, school basketball and cricket. All these he had to give up in order to concentrate on his athletic pursuits.

GEOFFREY BROWN

Geoffrey Brown is a first year - a member of 1P in fact, and has already shown himself to be a competent footballer. Geoffrey is the captain of the Under 12 school team and also plays for the District side, his position being right half.

The Under 12 school team has done well this season in losing only one of their nine games so far. Lee Williams is leading goal scorer with eleven goals to his credit. The team's biggest win was against East Ham just before half term when they won 10-0.

DONALD HUTCHINSON

Yet another member of 3G has shown his better side to be sport. He is Donald Hutchinson who gives his best on a rugby field. The fact that he is the cousin of Mick Russell, probably explains all. (For those who don't know what I'm talking about - ask your elders.) But for the uninitiated - read on. Donald who has been playing, nay, captaining the school team since he came here, is now a member of the Thurrock and Basildon Rugby Club, playing for the District Under 14 side. Not content with a captaincy, he has been the leading scorer in both seasons for 1971 to 1973 as well as playing for the sixth formers against the fifth year. (Remembering of course that he is only a third year.)

Donald also plays basketball for the school third year team who have so far only lost one out of seven matches.

## SIXTH FORM TRIUMPHS AGAIN

Once upon a time on a wet, cold and dark field, two sides prepared to do battle. The mud became deeper, the fog closed in and then Mr. Hobbs blew his whistle to begin.

It was, in fact, nothing more harmful than the noble sport of rugby. The game it is said that was designed for hooligans but more often played by gentlemen.

The annual (?) game of rugby was underway, the contest of strength and swiftness between sixth and fifth formers commenced in the gathering gloom. The game began as expected with what seemed like a scrum down occurring every minute. No one seemed to notice a certain Mr. Zeigler appearing in the sixth form scrum and not even one cry of 'unfair' was heard from the fifth form.

The game progressed to a high pitch of excitement with Phillip Osborne and Graham Reffell doing well for their sides. At one point the scrum, inextricably locked together and oblivious of the outside world, pushed and shoved until the fifth form were pushed completely off the field. After the twenty-five yard push from the sixth form it was discovered the ball had been on the other side of the pitch all the time!

Mike Wrangmore and Tom Dines of the sixth each had tries disallowed because the referee claimed it was too dark for him to see. In the end the sixth form won by 24 to 12 points, a scoreline not reflecting the closeness of the match which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and who no doubt look forward to a return match eagerly!

DEAR MOTHER . . . .

Dear Mother,

I am writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast. I was going to send your birthday card but when I stuck the envelope down I remembered it. Well, anyway, happy birthday for last July.

I hope you are well. I heard that you had all your teeth out and a sink unit put back in. I have some digs in Ashton-under-Lyne. They asked me to make my own bed so I took my money from my piggy bank and bought some wood and nails. They also asked if I had a good memory for faces - they said I'd need one as I haven't a mirror in my room.

We had a cottage pie for tea - I've still got some thatch stuck in my teeth. We also had rock cakes for tea - so I took my mountaineering pick.

It was Uncle Arthur's birthday today. I bought him a walking stick but it wouldn't move an inch.

Well, I must go now to read my book, "Recollections of a Refuse Collector." by Lydia Dustbin. So far it's a load of rubbish.

Your loving daughter, as always,

Prudence.

- Tracey Bridgeman, 2G.

### THE FINAL WORD

Seven years ago I took my eleven plus examination, and a month or so later, my parents received a letter saying, "We think your son would be better suited if he attended a secondary modern school."

So, at the beginning of the autumn term I started at Craylands Secondary Modern. Looking back at the conditions of Craylands at that time, I am almost horrified at what we had to put up with. The conditions of the so-called changing rooms were enough to put anybody off sport for the rest of their lives. The boys' changing room was a square room, with benches around the walls, the only place for your clothes being the floor. They had to go on the floor if you were not one of the first fifteen or so boys to obtain a part of a bench. The room was as small as that! Showers were not heard of, so if you became muddy in winter, there was one of two sinks to choose from (if the water was running). Conditions were so bad that P.E. staff had to change in the cupboard where they kept the sports equipment.

In those days there was no question of prefects not letting you in to go to the toilet because the toilets were outside, and in winter many people managed to hold themselves until they went home, for obvious reasons.

Classrooms were not too bad but the occasional desk which managed to survive the 1950's could still be seen. Occasionally during the winter every classroom was furnished with an oil heater to enable temperatures to be reached in which staff and pupils alike could work in relative comfort.

Concerning the academic side of Craylands, everybody was taught with the aim in mind that the pupil would be taking C.S.E. examinations only. If a person wanted to take G.C.E. examinations he had to try and get into Fryerns Grammar and Technical School or go to night school, which put him at least a year behind everybody of his own age. This is not the only factor that put some people off doing C.S.E. examinations. The change from C.S.E. to G.C.E. courses didn't only entail harder work but a complete change in surroundings, friends and teachers. Because of this many people who could have obtained G.C.E. passes did not.

This was the prospect that faced me, but as I entered the third year the comprehensive system was introduced and, with it, many changes. At first they were not noticeable, but after two or three years the old Craylands building had been remodernised. Classrooms were altered and the inside of the building transformed and brought completely up to date as we know it today. The three-storey block, sports hall, gym and drama hall and also the sixth form block were built, due to the combination of Fryerns and Craylands.

As well as these changes in the buildings, pupils were given a better chance to do the best they could. When I took my C.S.E. exams in the fifth year I was given a chance to take 'O' levels in my best subjects. With help from teachers during lunch time and after school a few of my friends and I obtained quite good grades. This would have been impossible if we had not gone comprehensive. This meant I could start an 'A' level course in the lower sixth instead of spending a year taking 'O' levels.

Today everybody comes into Fryerns with an equal chance. The opportunity to obtain 'O' levels is there for everybody, it is now up to each individual if he takes advantage of this opportunity or not. Since the school leaving age has been raised and everybody has to stay on into the fifth year a person should pass as many exams as he can so as not to waste, what we used to call the "extra year."

In my opinion, comprehensive education has brought about a great change for the better. Those of us who are in the sixth form and used to go to Craylands could never have visualised such changes would happen, changes which have been of great benefit to us all.

Brian Theobald

In these days there was no question of protests not letting you in to the toilet because the toilets were outside, and in winter many people managed to hold themselves until they went home, for obvious reasons.

Classrooms were not too hot but the occasional breeze which managed to survive the 1950's would still be seen. Occasionally during the winter every classroom was furnished with an oil heater to enable temperatures to be reached in which staff and pupils alike could work in relative comfort.

Concerning the academic side of Craylands, everybody was taught with the aim in mind that the pupil would be taking C.S.E. examinations. If a person wanted to take C.S.E. examinations he had to go to Fryerns Grammar and Technical School or go to night school, which put him at least a year behind everybody of his own age. This is not the only factor that put some people off doing C.S.E. examinations. The change from C.S.E. to G.C.E. seems to me didn't only entail harder work but a complete change in surroundings, friends and teachers. Because of this many people who could have obtained G.C.E. passes did not.

This was the prospect that faced me, but as I entered the third year the comprehensive system was introduced and, with it, many changes. At first they were not noticeable, but after ten or twelve years the old Craylands building had been redeveloped. Classrooms were altered and the inside of the building transformed and brought completely up to date as we know it today. The three-story block, sports hall, gym and dance hall and also the sixth form block were built, due to the expansion of Fryerns and Craylands.

As well as these changes in the buildings, pupils were given a better chance to do the best they could. When I took my C.S.E. exams in the fifth year I was given a chance to take 'O' levels in my best subjects. With help from teachers during lunch time and after school a few of my friends and I obtained quite good grades. This would have been impossible if we had not gone comprehensive. This meant I could start an 'A' level course in the lower sixth instead of spending a year taking 'O' levels.

FRYERNS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

At a meeting on 21st March, the basis for an association of parents of pupils of the school and staff, and past-pupils was discussed. The Association aims to hold social occasions - dances, sales - to possibly raise funds for more sophisticated facilities for the school and generally improve relations between the school and parents. The latter may well be interested in the modern method of teaching employed.

For more information, you may like to contact the three parents' elected on to the steering committee. They are -

Mr. H. T. Bruce	24 Gaynesford, Basildon
Mrs. Ramsey	52 Claydon Crescent, Basildon
Mr. W. Hall	130 Lampits Hill, Corringham

Other members of the steering committee are -

Three members of staff	- Mr. D. J. Skeet
	Mr. B. Wray
	Mr. J. Ormston

And three sixth formers	- Clive Morley
	Paula Richards
	Nigel Ridgeon

In order to start the ball rolling, we plan to hold a Social and Dance on Saturday 7th April at 7.30 p.m. Admission will be 30p by ticket, obtainable by filling a form which you will have or will receive shortly. We look forward to meeting you.