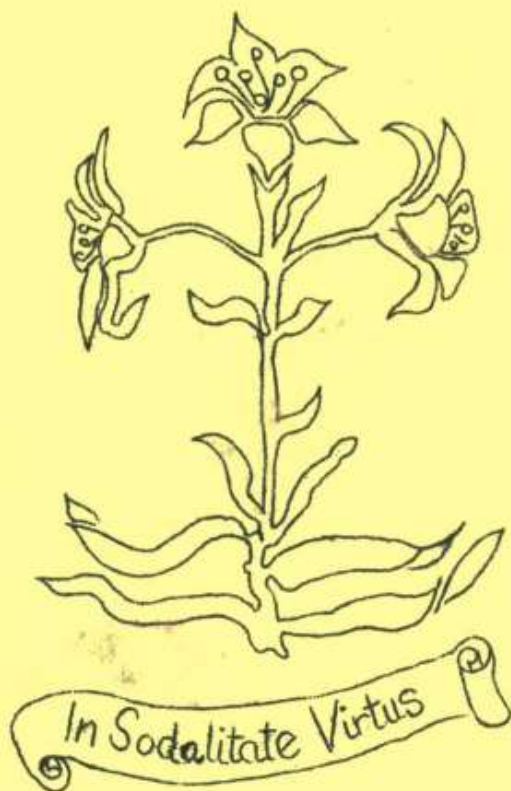


THE SANDLEFORD BLUESTOCKING

The Magazine of
S. GABRIEL'S SCHOOL, NEWBURY



1970-71

HEADMISTRESS'S LETTER

Sister Sheila has actually departed from Sandleford! The idea seemed incredible. It still is. Who can replace her humanity, her interest her energy?

In the meantime Sister Mary Monica and I are deeply grateful for the good-will expressed and shown by girls, past and present, Staff and Parents.

It was a great pleasure to have just on forty Old Girls on October 9th - most of whom attended the meeting, expressed the desire for up-to-date information about School events, and planned to bring a hockey team for a match and possibly a cheese and wine party in aid of School amenities.

The term was quite eventful. Caroline Johnston and her father Major Johnston provided the expertise for a highly successful and enjoyable session of "Going for a Song" on November 19th. Miss Blomfield with her group of Upper V. and a broken wrist, gave us convincing and most entertaining performances of "Dear Brutus". The next excitement was the break-down of the school heating system and the wearing of trousers and the lighting of fires to cope with the misery and the chill.

The Christmas Music took the form of Nine Lessons and Carols by Staff and School. There was not even standing room left!

This term started with news of success. Sixteen items from the School are on display at the Bladon Galleries. We welcome Mrs. Gann and Mrs. Taylor to teach music and singing, and Mrs. Delaney and Miss Gibson as Matrons. Mrs. Harrison is enjoying a well-earned rest and retirement after many years of service. Lower IV started the year in S. Andrew, expanded, and moved to S. Patrick, moved into the Theatre because of the fuel crisis, and into S. Denys to leave room for Mock O and A levels. They have born up well!

The Spring term has seen the start of new clubs -for stamps, crochet, recorders, chess and gym, and we are rebuilding our voluntary choirs hoping for great things. And so life goes on.

Sister Sheila - An Appreciation

In a short tribute such as this, it is indeed difficult to express one's thoughts and feelings in any kind of adequate way.

Anyone meeting Sister Sheila for the first time must surely have been struck by her warmth of friendliness and the welcome she gave to one and all. She has known and loved Sandleford Priory for nearly twenty years. During her time at the School, early on as a teaching Sister and latterly as Sister Superior she endeared herself to all those with whom she came in close contact and she won the respect and admiration of many others who saw her less often.

Sister Sheila threw herself wholeheartedly into every enterprise and function which took place, be it of a serious nature or otherwise. She had a lively sense of humour and on rare occasions she showed a joyful abandon. Yet she also had her serious moments and could, when occasion rightly demanded it, show a stern and wrathful face. Her natural gifts and accomplishments are many and various but above all, her true sense of loyalty and her deep concern for the welfare of the School, with its particular purpose as a Community work, her constant interest in the pupils and her many kindnesses for girls, Staff and Sisters alike; these were always of major importance. In all her endeavours and works she set a fine example of God-fearing Christian living. Her influence for good must have been felt by many a young person who passed through her charge.

For those of us who know her well, Sister Sheila has undoubtedly left behind happy memories of working together at Sandleford Priory, through the many vicissitudes of a busy boarding-school life. We certainly wish her well in the future, whatever it may hold for her.

Anon.

THE SCHOOL DIARY

September 1970

- 15th The School year began.
19th Thirty six girls went to the Newbury Show.
29th Michaelmas Day. Sung Mass at S.George's with Falkland, conducted by Father Birt. Miss Brown showed some slides of the walks on the Ridgeway and Savernake Forest. Team teas; some girls went swimming.

October

- 4th Sister took Miss Tame, M.Wells and L-A.Pyecroft to a concert at S.George's. Sister Anne Verena took members of Lower V. downwards to S.George's to see an Exhibition of Art done by some school members and others for Conservation year.
5th Sister Sheila took Miss Blomfield and Miss Tame to the Watermill Theatre to a Poetry Reading for Conservation Year.
6th Mrs. Willis took Lower IV to the Museum to see an Exhibition.
10th Old Girls' Meeting.
13th A 'Bring and Buy' sale was held in the Theatre to raise money for buying materials to make things for the Bazaar. Sister Marion and Miss Tame took a party of girls to see Films in connection with the Conservation Week, at the Plaza.
20th A party of girls from Upper IV went to Oxford to see the Ballet at the New Theatre.

November

- 1st All Saints Day. Sung Mass for the whole School.
5th Miss Blomfield took members of A level English class to see The White Devil at the Old Vic Theatre in London.
8th Remembrance Sunday. Boarders watched the Service of Remembrance on Television.
10th Requiem Mass for Benefactors of the School.

- November 12th Sister Sheila took four girls and Miss Tame to see films shown by Hampshire Naturalists' Trust.
- 18th Form Lower V. went to the Cinema to see Richard III.
- 20th Christmas Fayre.
- December 5th A party went to Newbury Choral Society's Concert "Petite Messe Solonnelle."
- 9th Members of Upper V. went to the Old Vic to see Twelfth Night.
- 11th The Junior Choir gave a Recital of Christmas Music and Poetry. Collection in aid of National Society of Mentally Handicapped Children.
- 12th The School Choir gave a performance of Christmas Music from Handel's Messiah in the Theatre, conducted by Miss Lovett. A collection of £20 went to the Shaftesbury Homes.
- 16th Term ended with a Service of Nine Lesson and Carols.

1971

- January 11th The School Term began.
- 22nd Major Williams gave a talk and showed a film on Save the Children Fund.
- February 3rd. Films of the Alder Wasps and S.Kilda shown in the Theatre.
- 4th The school went to the Cinema to see "The Lion in Winter".
- 28th Mr. Martin How, Chief Commissioner of the Royal School of Church Music came to Evensong and spoke to the Choir and congregation afterwards.
- March 10th Members of VI. and Upper V. went to the Ideal Homes Exhibition.
- 12th Three Vith Form girls went to a week-end Conference at S.Katharine's Foundation in London.

- March 17th Members of VIth and Upper V. went to Salisbury Arts Theatre to see a performance of Hamlet.
- 24th S. Gabriel's Day. The whole School attended Mass.
- 26th Miss Fisher and Mrs. Perren took the History Group to London, and Miss Brown took the Geography Group to North Wales.
- 27th A party went to Newbury Choral Society's performance of Brahms's Requiem.
- April 1st Passiontide Service at the end of term.
- 27th Beginning of the Summer Term.
- May 6th Cookery Practical Examinations.
- 8th Members of Upper V and Lower IV to the last of a series of Ernest Read Concerts. Sister Sheila, Miss Tame and two seniors to a Festival Concert at the Corn Exchange.
- 12th C.S.E. Paper II Arithmetic.
- 15th Some members of the upper school went to help with Christian Aid in Newbury.
- 19th Sister Sheila, Miss Tame and the Chapel Choir went to Kingsclere Church for a rehearsal of Evensong, taken by Mr. Peter Stevenson of the Royal School of Church Music.
- June 6th Baptismal Service at Evensong. Sally Davenport was baptized.
- 7th Beginning of G.C.E. A and O levels.
- 24th Confirmation Day. The Confirmation was in the setting of the Mass. The service was taken by The Lord Bishop of Reading.
- July 2nd Dance for Upper V. and VIth Forms. Host and Hostess Mr. and Mrs. Bowden.
- 4th Swimming Sports. Cup won by S. Alban.
- 8th Some members of Lower V went to the National Theatre to see The Merchant of Venice.
- 11th Summer Concert conducted by Miss Lovett.
- 15th Goodbyes were said to Miss Brown and Miss Tame, and presentations made. Prayers in Chapel closed the Summer term.

SCHOOL OFFICERS.

1970 - 1971
Autumn Term

Head girl	Yvonne Wilkins
Deputy Head	Margaret Wells
Games Captain	Philippa Purser
Games Secretary	Diana Harris
Librarian	Margaret Simpson
Ass: Librarian	Anne Marshall

<u>Prefects</u>	Y. Wilkins, M. Wells, L-A. Pyecroft
Sub. Prefects	P. Purser, M. Simpson, D. Harris

Spring Term 1971

Games Captain	P. Purser
Secretary	D. Harris

<u>Prefects</u>	Y. Wilkins, M. Wells, L-A. Pyecroft
	P. Purser, M. Simpson, D. Harris.

Summer Term

<u>Prefects</u>	Y. Wilkins, M. Wells, L-A. Pyecroft
	M. Simpson, D. Harris, Susan Glynn.
Sub. Prefects	J. Austin-Crowe, P. Druett, R. Fowler.

IN MEMORIAM

Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby, KCB, KBE, MC, DFC, AFC, DL.

It is almost impossible to believe that we shall not again see the familiar figure of a tall elderly man on two sticks coming through the front door with a friendly smile and cheerful greeting. Sir Robert had become so much a part of the life of the School, always present at Governors' Meetings although latterly often in poor health and great pain, and often just looking in as he passed by to enquire how some project or other was going. He took the keenest interest in all our ploys, but perhaps the Swimming Pool was the one nearest to his heart, as he enjoyed so much to watch good swimming and diving.

Sir Robert's own daughters, Mary and Anne were at S. Gabriel's, Mary distinguishing herself as our first Queen's Guide. When he was no longer the parent of a pupil still in school, Sir Robert became a Governor and in 1960 when Mr. Somerset Cowper had to resign through ill-health, he became Chairman of the Governors, being unanimously re-elected each year since. He was a superb chairman, full of wisdom and steering meetings through difficult patches with infinite courtesy and patience. He had an astounding grasp of the essentials of any situation and his wide and detailed knowledge of a tremendous range of subjects was given unreservedly to the service of the School. This was typical of him - that he gave himself wholly to anything he undertook and nothing was too small for his care.

Service was the keynote of Sir Robert's life, and he gave it in so many spheres. Much has been said in the obituary notices of his distinguished career in the R.A.F. and his work for the R.A.F. Association and of his work locally for the Newbury Borough Museum. Little has been said of his untiring work in the preparation of the Newbury Naturalists' Guide and his beautiful drawings in it, and his part in the surveys of Hambridge and Penn Wood; of the work he did for the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Naturalists' Trust and the hours he spent with such enjoyment encouraging schoolboys in their study of his beloved moths and butterflies. He was the most humble of men, simple in his tastes and generous in his nature giving of himself to the end. The School has lost a great and valued friend and we can only be deeply grateful for all that he did for us. Our sympathy goes out to Lady Saundby and her family in their great loss.

+ Sheila C.J.G.S.