

**A photo of ... 2**

**1. A photo of ... A School Holiday starting on Hemsworth Station.  
20th August 1958.**



**Italian Tour 1958**

A party of 52 senior pupils led by Mr. Leonard and five members of staff will leave Hemsworth on August 20th for a cultural tour of Italy. The total cost of the tour is estimated at £38-10s per pupil, and this includes transport, accommodation, meals, First Class travel between London and Basle and a full day's excursion from Rome to Naples and Pompeii. The party will travel through London, Folkestone, Boulogne, Basle and the St. Gothard Pass to Venice, and after visiting Florence, will spend five days in Rome. On the thirteenth day of the tour we shall leave for Hemsworth again, to complete a journey of nearly 3,000 miles.

**P.A. Makings, Va.**



L-R: Mr. Leonard. Mrs. Leonard, Mr. Wharton, Miss Wimpenny, Miss Harris, Miss Ward, Mr. Swinbank

**From the School Magazine 1959.**

As the chalk cliffs receded into the distance, we really felt that our continental holiday had begun. The first night was spent travelling through France and few of us had any sleep. Arriving at Basle, we eagerly sampled our Swiss breakfasts. The journey through Switzerland took us through the famous St. Gotthard tunnel and we enjoyed the glorious mountain and lake scenery of Switzerland which looked like a kaleidoscope of white and blue. In the morning, we crossed into Italy and by the evening, we were in Venice among the lovely coloured lights, the canals and the legendary gondolas.

Our first morning in Venice was exciting and interesting: we went up the Grand Canal, under the famous Rialto Bridge and on to the Piazza San Marco with its thousands of pigeons. We went into St. Mark's Cathedral with its beautiful stained glass windows and into the Doge's Palace, where we saw a fine collection of paintings. We walked over the Bridge of Sighs, which connects the palace to the dreadful prisons over the narrow canal. It was over this bridge that prisoners who were tried in the palace, would go on their way to the cramped, ill-ventilated cells - hence its name. Our stay in Venice was brief but memorable. Well equipped with trinkets and souvenirs bought from the shops in the Piazza and on the Rialto Bridge, we reluctantly said goodbye to this beautiful city of water as we set off for Florence. We arrived early in the evening and were busy next morning exploring its wonders. About eight of us went to the English Church, while the others visited the Church of Santa Maria del Fiore with its high-pointed dome and melodious organs. Adjoining this dome is the high belfry tower which some of us climbed. In the afternoon, we visited the Uffizzi Gallery where we saw many masterpieces of painting and sculpture, and later walked up to the Piazza Michelangelo - a square which gives one a bird's eye view of the town: nearly every landmark of this splendid old place can be seen from here, with the dome and belfry tower of Santa Maria dominating. The bells were ringing and their liquid tones floated across to us in this idyllic setting - Florence lay at our feet and the mountains were in the background. Coming back from the Piazza, we crossed the Ponte Vecchio - the oldest bridge in Florence - with its gold and silverware shops on either side. We went on to visit the Pitti Gallery where we saw more magnificent pictures: the rooms here were furnished in their traditional manner, with gold and red chairs, highly polished tables and beautiful chandeliers. After lunch on the following day, we left Florence for Rome, where we arrived in the early evening. The Foro Italico where we stayed, is a large, modern, marble building which accommodates touring parties in Rome.

There was much to see in this great city and its environs, and the following morning we had a chance to satisfy, our curiosity. Among the places we visited was the Church of St. John Lateran where we saw the Holy Stairs which Christ is said to have climbed for his trial. At the foot of these stairs are two statues - one depicts Judas' kiss of betrayal and the other Pilate's appeal to the crowd as he shows Christ to them after the scourging. We went across to St. Peter's Square and to St. Peter's Church, which is the largest in the world. The mosaic work in the church was something to remember. The stones used were minute and the designs had the effect of beautiful paintings in stone. Later, we went by special

bus along the Appian Way to see the Catacombs. A priest showed us some of the underground tombs of the early martyrs. These tombs were like a series of shelves cut away into the side of the narrow passage walls; the bones and skulls in some places created an eerie atmosphere. In the afternoon we visited the impressive ruins of the Colosseum. The huge, stone structure where the Romans watched the struggles of the gladiators, was once covered with marble. We climbed to the top and had a splendid view of the city. On the way back to the Foro Italico, we saw Trojan's Column on which battles are commemorated in carvings. Most of the party spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying the blue waters of the Mediterranean at the Rome Lido, and at night we sampled some of the cafe bars around the Foro Italico. Two of the boys had brought their guitars with them, and they entertained us on the large roof of the building, while we sang and talked in the moonlight.

On the following day, we went by train to Naples and Pompeii. Of Naples we only had a glimpse - we saw the glorious Bay with the town clustered around its shores. Pompeii was steeped in history. Its narrow streets had stepping stones across the middle and chariot wheels were said to have just fitted in these grooves, which also served for drainage purposes, as the town was built on a hillside. As we explored the ruins in the hot sunshine (the temperature was about 104° F in the shade!) we tried to picture what the town was like, thronged as it was with people of the past, before it was buried by the ashes from Vesuvius. In the museum we saw, among other things, blackened loaves of bread which were about two thousand years old.

We spent our last two days in and around Rome. We visited the Vatican Museum where we saw the lovely Sistine Chapel; at Tivoli, outside Rome, we went round the Villa d'Este with its hundreds of fountains and then on to Hadrian's villa where we saw the ruins of the emperor's palace, the Baths and Guard Houses. They are still excavating in one part. Our last day in Rome was confined mainly to promenading the streets and gazing at the shops and monuments. On our last evening we were allowed to go right into the city around the Victor Emmanuel monument. We enjoyed seeing the coloured lights and the fountains, as we had done our last-minute shopping for souvenirs and presents earlier on. We said our final goodbyes to various parts of Rome as we passed them on the bus which took us back to the Foro Italico.

We woke early next morning, having breakfast at about 6-30, and left Rome station at about 9-30 on the first stage of our long journey across Europe. It had been an unforgettable holiday, and we were all grateful for the wonderful opportunity which had been ours. We all thank Mr. Leonard and the other group leaders for all their hard work and patient supervision, and for making the holiday a successful and enjoyable one.

Jacqueline Leonard, V.A. (Holgate).

Carol Johns, V.A. (Holgate).

Wilson, R. V.S. (Guest).

## 2. A photo of ... An HGS visit to France in 1947



Image from Betty Dracup. Some names have come from Geoff Govier. Thank you.

Back Row L-R: 1, 2, Betty Dracup, Betty Johnson, 5, Muriel Hirst, Rita Clatworthy, Marion Roberts, Graham Hamilton, Bob Lumb  
Fourth Row L-R: 1, 2, 3, Dennis Baddeley, 5, Russell Allbrook, 7, 8, 9, 10, Geoff Manning  
Third Row L-R: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Doris Richardson, Florence Crossley, 8, 9, 10  
Second Row L-R: 1, 2, Janet Thorley, 4, 5, Pat Atkinson, Doreen Worsfold, 8, 9  
Front Row L-R: **Mr. Leonard, 2, Mr. Hamilton, Miss. Smith, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10**

### **A-Z of the group, excluding the Staff.**

**1. Russell Allbrook, 2. Pat Atkinson, 3. Dennis Baddeley, 4. Mary Boot, 5. Mary Charnock, 6. Rita Clatworthy, 7. Florence Crossley, 8. Betty Dracup, 9. Barbara Hamilton, 10. Graham Hamilton, 11. Joan Herbert, 12. Gwen Hickling, 13. Muriel Hirst, 14. B. Johnson, 15. Robert Lumb, 16. Geoffrey Manning, 17. Doris Richardson, 18. June Roberts, 19. Marion Roberts, 20. Janet Thorley, 21. Elaine Whiston, 22. Kathleen Woodward, 23. Doreen Worsfold**

### Esperanto Club:

This year has been a very busy one for the Esperanto Club. We have held very enjoyable weekly meetings at which we have had sing-songs, played games and told stories. We have 60-70 members who all show great interest in our work, the lower part of the school being especially enthusiastic and helpful. We have had two very interesting and amusing talks given to us by Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Lock, who spoke on the International Congress. The club has supported the Correspondence Movement in School. We correspond with seventeen countries in Esperanto. Most of our members have pen-friends abroad and we have received some very interesting and amusing letters.

One of the outstanding events of this year is the Esperanto trip to France in August. Many wished to take part in this trip but numbers were limited. The members of the group are waiting patiently for August to come when they will spend three weeks in Barbezieux (near Bordeaux). During the morning we shall take lessons from French teachers. The rest of the day will be filled with rambles, sight seeing, visits to places of interest, and concerts. On behalf of the Esperanto Club I should like to thank the members of Staff who have helped us so much. We appreciate their work very much and hope they will continue it.

**Elaine Whiston. 4A. Talbot.**

**Geoff Manning**, who was on the visit, sent us his memories of the trip.

"I remember the trip well as it was the first trip abroad for most of us and it was just after the war. Boulogne harbour was a mass of rubble with only a small area cleared where the Ferry docked. Much of Northern France was badly damaged but by the time we got to Paris there was little sign of war. We had a meal in Paris where among other things we were served a dish of fried chicken legs (or so we thought) which were very tasty and were then found to be frog's legs !! A couple of the girls who had enjoyed them were immediately sick! While we were in Barbezieux, the Tour de France came through - nothing like as massive as it is today but it still took over an hour to get through the town. Anouk Aimee was a young French film actress who joined us, I think, to improve her English and came later to Hemsworth and attended a school dance where I acquired some 'street cred.' by dancing with her! She went on to become quite famous known simply as 'Anouk'."

### 3. A photo of ... Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Burnell preparing for the Staff Play - Easter 1967.



Photo from Stephen Batey. Thank you.

Mr. Hamilton was a regular member of the casts of the Staff Plays. In this play, My Three Angels, he played Gaston Lemare.

"This year's staff-play, 'My Three Angels', was a comedy and provided an excellent contrast to last year's thriller. The action of the play took place in the home of M. Felix Dulay, a shopkeeper in French Guiana, and its humour was dependent largely on the antics of three convicts who came to spend Christmas with the family. Convict 3011, known as "Uncle Joseph", had been imprisoned for fraud and displayed an appropriate degree of craftiness and an eye for quick if not always honest profit. Mr. Connolly played this part most convincingly, convict-accent and all, even though he did have some difficulty with his false nose. The more understanding Jules, convict 6817, was benignly played by Mr. Waters. The third convict, Alfred, fell in love with Marie-Louise, the daughter of the house. This contradiction in character led to many amusing situations, as when he knocked her out and then carried her in over his shoulder, an act which fired the pupils' imaginations. Mr. Baker was very convincing as M. Dulay, a weak shopkeeper whose generous ity invariably leads to trouble, especially when the owner of the shop decides to check the books. Mm. Dulay was well played by Mrs. Plummer. The acute shortage of lady members of staff made it necessary for Christine Stevens (Sixth Form) to play the part of Marie-Louise, the beautiful and innocent daughter of M. Dulay. **Miss Evans as Mme. Parole and Mr. Hamilton as Gaston Lemare both acted with their usual degree of ease and competence.** Mr. Harrison was most amusing as Gaston's nephew."

Margaret Preece UVIA.



Mr. Hamilton checks his lines....



.... and then has a little rest.

4. A photo of ... Staff Cricket July 1967



Mr. Parkinson knocks up before going in to bat for the Staff Team watched by Mr. Pacy.



Mr. Minards in the Cricket Pavilion.



Mr. Knox waits to begin his innings.

5. A photo of ... Geography Field Trip to Malham 1954



Miss Ward, Miss Harris and Mr. Leonard at Malham.



Miss Harris relaxes in Malham.



## 6. A photo of ... The Main Staircase



Just past the Stars and Stripes Board?

### Mr. Collette and the Main Staircase

For this tale to be understood, one has to remember the first landing of the main staircase, which had a couple of steps leading off it, up towards a stained-glass window. To the left was the doorway to a classroom at the top of more steps (room 12?), and the sick room was also thereabouts, and to the right of this little landing was the Staff toilet. Continuing up the staircase, one would arrive at the homework pigeonholes on the right, and the female Staffroom door on the left. It was here that the story begins.

"I was standing alone at the top of the Main Staircase, near the female Staffroom door and the homework pigeonholes, preparing to descend, when Mr. Collette came up behind me, and asked if I was alright. I said I was fine: there was no-one else around, and then there was a pause, as we looked at each another. I was low in spirits at the time, and it must have shown in my face, because after a quick look to the right and to the left, Mr. Collette --- MR. COLLETTE.... cocked a leg over the bannister and slid down in schoolboy fashion to the bend in the rail, his gown flapping as he whizzed along! I stood in disbelief at this scene, the amazement compounded as the Boss emerged from the Staff toilet to witness the final yard or so of the slide. Ignoring Mr. Hamilton completely, Mr Collette regained his feet and continued down the stairs, looking upward to me and giving me a wink on his way. Mr Hamilton stood rooted to the spot for a second or two, showing no facial expression, and then continued on his way. I was left wondering whether it had really happened."

Frances Harrison

It's a true story of a special moment in time which speaks volumes about the participants.



By the Pigeonholes.

7. A photo of ... Staff v Pupils Hockey Match 1966



The photo was provided by Terry McCroakam. The girls' names have come from Dianne Sell. Thank you.

Back Row L-R: Derek Wilkinson, Maurice Shelton, Frank Morley, John Murray, John Smith, Miss Alliott, Miss Williams, Kath Lowe, Gordon Knox, Linda Lindley, Mr. Hamilton, Terry McCroakam, Sue Wren, Pat Glenn  
Front Row L-R: Jenny Swift, Carol Millthorpe, Cath Griffiths, S. Radford, 5, Kath Byra, Jean Kilvington, Dianne Sell, Marrion Pearson, Sue Holder

8. A photo of ... A Jumble Sale in 1956 to raise money for Rugby Shirts.



L-R: Peter Smith, Colin Nye, 3, 4 (partial), Brenda Pawson, 6 (partial), 7, Geoff Curran, Sid Kenningham, Brian Moore, Ron Stansfield

If you have any memories of this or similar events, please let us know.

9. A photo of ... Major Jenkinson's 90th Birthday Reunion March 21st. 1964



The photo was taken in the School Hall and comes from Audrey Carrington. Thank you, Audrey.

Back Row (Standing) L-R: Doris Jackson, 2, Emmie Wilson, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Maurice Jebbett, 10, Ralph Miles, 12, **13**  
Middle Row (Seated on chairs) L-R: Marion Finch, Hilda Finch, Emma Bate, Freda Swaine, Major Jenkinson, 6, 7, 8, 9  
Front Row (Seated on the floor) L-R: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Some members of the group were among the first pupils at Hemsworth Secondary School. Freda Swaine was the first Head Girl. Articles which have been written by Major Jenkinson, Freda Swaine and Marion Finch appear on the site.

## 10. A photo of ... The front of the school in 1951



### From a Home to a School

The last private owner and resident was Samuel Gurney Leatham, who died at the Hall in September 1919. His wife, Annie Gertrude, died four years earlier.

Samuel moved into Hemsworth Hall in 1887 and brought his wife and 12 children with him. His father had retired to another property he owned in Pontefract, and so the 62 year old Samuel became the local Squire, Justice of the Peace and leader of the local community. Although he and his wife had created a large family, not all of them were still alive, and it was the second eldest son, Eustace La-Trobe Leatham who inherited the Hall. He had a successful naval career, and was Commander of the Naval College at Dartmouth. From 1919-1920 he served as Aide de Camp to King George V, and so he had little use for Hemsworth Hall, and a month after the death of his father, Eustace put the Hall up for sale..

A local newspaper dated 26th June 1920 gave the first report that the West Riding County Council's Education Committee had entered negotiations to purchase Hemsworth Hall for £9,000, in order to create a secondary school in the Hemsworth District. The land, comprising 20 acres, also belonged to Samuel Gurney Leatham and it was estimated that a further £7,000 would be spent in adapting the Hall. In the middle of January 1921 the County Council approved the initial expenditure of £2,000 for the adaptation of Hemsworth High Hall to the purposes of a secondary school. So begins the story of the Hall as a School.

