

Theatre Visits 1940s

1948 Theatre Parties



During 1947 and 1948 there have been numerous theatre parties - mostly for the 5th and 6th Forms. The 6th Form has been to see the Young Vic's performances of Dekker's "Shoemaker's Holiday" and a translation of Andre Obey's "Noah". Members of both the 5th and 6th went to see Donald Wolfitt's "Much Ado About Nothing" and "King Lear". The 6th Form also had expeditions to Leeds to see the University Union's production of "St. Joan" and to Ackworth to see the school's performance of "Murder in the Cathedral". The 5th Form went to "Merchant of Venice" at Huddersfield, and the Juniors hope to go to Doncaster to see "Toad of Toad Hall".

Elizabeth Storer U6A.

1948 Party to Stratford



A party of 16 members of the literary Society and three members of the Staff spent a week in Stratford last Summer (1948) during the Shakespearean Festival, the girls being in caravans and the boys under canvas. We got off to a fine start by leaving the tent poles on the train, and since the resources of British Rail were insufficient to recover them in less than twenty-four hours, the boys were only saved from spending a night in the open by the proprietor, who let us use two vacant caravans. Thanks to the fine weather, we were able to spend most of our time outdoors, and most of us visited such places as Warwick Castle, Charlecote House and the Shakespearean Museum. Another popular pastime was boating, and if we were not all expert in our handling of canoes and punts, the water, being warm and not very deep, was insufficient to dampen our ardour! We were not, however, alone in this, two of us effecting the rescue of two "jeunes canotiers" in distress. The evenings were occupied by visits to the beautiful Memorial Theatre, where several of Shakespeare's plays, including Hamlet,

were presented in magnificent settings, by a company including Diana Wynyard, Robert Helpmann and Paul Schofield. Altogether a most enjoyable time was had by all, thanks to the efforts of Miss Thompson, Mrs. Burn and Miss Metcalfe. It is to be hoped that the party which Mrs. Burn plans for this summer (1949) will be as great a success.

John Askew U6S.

1949 Theatre Parties



This year the Sixth forms have been to see four plays: "The Rivals" at Huddersfield; "The Cherry Orchard" by Chekhov at Ackworth; and "Dr. Faustus" and "The Beaux Stratagem" at Leeds. The Fifth form saw "Twelfth Night" and the Third and Fourth forms saw "As you Like It". The Juniors also turned Shakespearean and went to Leeds to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Many of these plays have been of great advantage to those people who are studying them for examinations, and I am sure these people are grateful to Mrs. Burn and Miss Thompson for organising these parties.

Muriel Addy, U6A (Price).

1949 Innocents Abroad or Paradise Mislaid



It has been said that the two places which bring out one's true character are the House of Commons and a caravan. Only our M.P. the Rt. Hon. M.R. Zackroyd has any experience of the former, but the group of 6th Formers, who went to what now seems to have become the annual camp at Stratford, can certainly vouch for the latter. However, we intrepid adventurers could not be deterred (not quite) by such minor discomforts of camp life as gas stoves which refused to light and furniture which collapsed at the slightest touch. We soon became accustomed to sleeping on spring plywood bunks and even, in time, to eating the rather weird meals prepared by the amateur cooks among us. It is perhaps a tribute to the organising ability of Mrs. Burn, and Misses Metcalfe, Ward and Wimpenny that we seemed to be the only people in the camp who had enough strength left, after experiencing the rigours of caravan life, to walk into nearby (so near and yet so far) Stratford. Each night we went to the

Shakespeare Memorial Theatre where we saw some lively and polished productions, each of us having our own particular favourite actor or actress. We spent most of the time, however, wandering around quiet, rural, uncommercialised Stratford, having a good honest stare at everyone who looked in the least like either an American tourist or one of the theatre company. Besides boating on the river in a style which would have put Oxford or Cambridge to shame, there was country dancing to watch, though we noticed that when the collection box came round for the Morris Dancers, the crowd miraculously disappeared. We also visited the usual tourist places such as Shakespeare's birthplace, Warwick Castle, Harvard House, Anne Hathaway's Cottage (which was such a long walk out of Stratford that we wished the lady of Shakespeare's choice had also been the girl next door) and Trinity Church. Thus, in spite of occasional setbacks, we spent an enjoyable and all-too-brief week for which we should like to express our thanks to Mrs. Burn and Miss. Metcalfe who made all the arrangements for our trip. Some of us are looking forward to spending another week at Stratford this year also (1950), and we hope we shall profit by our experiences of last August.

Rita Doughty, U6A Holgate