

Headstone's Ancient Connections

The Archbishops of Canterbury have had close connections with the Headstone Lane and Uxbridge Road area from A.D. 825 until 1546. In 825 they took over a large piece of land, which we know as the Manor, and held it for over seven hundred years. In 1344 the See of Canterbury acquired Headstone as a pleasant country residence. They were soon deprived of this, however, when Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and gave the land to his favourite, Sir Edward North, in 1546. This ended the connections with the Archbishops of Canterbury, the land becoming a moated farm until recent years.

When the Headstone estate was built it seemed appropriate to use the names of the Archbishops of Canterbury as the names of roads on the estate. Some of the Archbishops whose names have been used are John de Ufford (1348-1349), William Courtenay (1381-1396), Henry Chicheley (1414-1443), John Tillotson (1691-1694) and Matthew Hutton (1757-1758).

JANET STEDMAN and SALLY ADAMS (6th).

The King of Instruments

In the first of the school magazine, 1961, it was announced that the 4th year boys were to erect a pipe organ in Room 13. Due to the fact that the boys readily accepted the scheme and found considerable satisfaction in the work involved, a complete scheme was designed for them in which the main work was to be the building of an organ.

The course started in September 1961 and by December of that year we had been given a sufficient number of parts by Messrs. J. W. Walker & Sons Ltd., of Ruislip (Royal Organ Builders), to begin serious work. In January of 1962 we were hard at work on the first stage, and by Easter we had reached a stage that left no doubt in anybody's mind that we were serious in our efforts to attempt something that some considered an impossible task.

The back wall of Room 13 was transformed from a wooden structure that had not been anything definite to an artistic and well designed organ frontal, with polished oak panels, cornices and columns, and gleaming silver pipes all finished in the school colours — truly a fine piece of work by the boys concerned, as they have been responsible for the general layout and for all the work involved. (I make a point of doing as little as possible except supervise. The school badge in the centre over the console is my only contribution to the work.)

With the exception of the console itself the most spectacular part of the work is nearing completion. The task for this summer term will be to design and build the console, prepare the mechanism for the action, and repair and make ready the Great soundboards to take the pipes.

If all goes well during the next few months we should have the "air on" and the pipes speaking by Christmas of this year.

It is only fair to say that this would not be possible but for the invaluable help and assistance of Messrs. Walker of Ruislip. They have provided us with all the parts required to build a pipe organ, including all the wood (some of which is from Whitworth Hall, Manchester University), an electric motor and blower, bellows, wind chests, pipes and all the mechanism required. As a result we now have sufficient parts to build what should be one of the most interesting organs in the country because the parts have come from cathedrals, churches, concert halls and private homes from all England. Our task has been to repair and adapt these parts to our requirements.

The next group of boys will have the interesting job of making and assembling the mechanical side and they will, we hope, hear the first sounds.

A. ANDREWS.

The First Day

I opened the door of my Tutor room
And looked at the walls so bare,
No writing yet upon the boards,
No posters hanging there.
First day of term at Blackwell —
A difficult muddled affair!
But from chaos soon came order
When the master sat in his chair.

ANTHONY SHEPHARD, 3/7, C/29.

The Fencing Club

At the beginning of last term Mr. Levy put forward the idea of a Fencing Club to the boys of 3/1, 3/2 and 3/3. At the start there were twelve of us present but this soon decreased to eight. This made things a bit easier.

We meet every Thursday in the Boys' Gymnasium where we strain our leg and back muscles in an attempt to make our efforts look something like the fine art that fencing is. It is not all "Touche!" and "Choose your weapons!" There is a lot of thinking to be done in anticipating your opponent's moves. It is like a game of chess speeded up. Often you have only a split second to work out your plan of defence or attack. Fencing is a very entertaining and fine sport for all.

R. FRANKLIN, 3/1, F/48.

If you crossed a sheep with a kangaroo, what would you get?
(:raduwn! sɹɹooɹw V)