SECTION VII
School Notes
This section of the archive delivers an impressive potted history of the School over a considerable period of time. These notes appeared in every school magazine, and we are fortunate indeed that we can start with the very first issue, which was published in 1938. They were usually, though not invariably, written by the incumbent Rector, and were called variously Rector’s Notes and Staff Notes as well as School Notes. This section is far from complete, however, and we would be grateful if readers could provide us with the missing years. The gaps between 1938 and 1946 and 1946 and 1951 are especially noticeable. Furthermore, the eagle-eyed among our readers will have noticed that the School Magazine seems not to have been published after 1984. Is this indeed so, or could it be merely an Orwellian slip? Answers on a postcard, please, to bbhs-fpa@live.co.uk.

The FPA Newsletter occasionally prints Extracts from the School Log. These are gradually being added to these notes to provide an even more comprehensive picture of Bell Baxter over the years.

**1938**

Every year brings with it changes in the staff and the session 1937-8 will long be remembered for alterations in this direction. Last year's summer holidays brought to a close 18 years in which Mr Douglas served Bell-Baxter as one of the most loyal and popular Rectors it can ever hope to have. An appreciation of his work appears elsewhere in this issue. (Reproduced in Section IV – Ed.)

The introduction of new blood is a stimulus for any organisation, and in Mr G W J Farquharson the school has secured a Rector who is in every way suited for the arduous task of not only maintaining a reputation which the school already has but of giving it new energy to achieve further distinction. His enthusiasm for his work and the new ideas which he has brought to the school can have only good results. His keen interest in the games side of the school activities is encouraging to the pupils and very much appreciated by them.

The Science Department regretted the departure of Mr Lamb, Principal Science Teacher who, after 9 years of distinguished service, left to take up an appointment as one of HM Inspectors, a promotion which he richly deserved. This has indeed been a year of major losses. Mr Peter Cunningham, our janitor, retired at the Christmas holidays. After so long a period of service he seemed to be part of the school itself. A nickname is always a sign of popularity and the fact that he was never called Mr Cunningham shows to what degree his popularity ran. Both these last two responsible vacancies have been filled. Dr Robertson, assistant teacher of science at Boroughmuir School, has succeeded Mr Lamb, and Mr James Cunningham is establishing himself as a worthy successor to his father.

Shortly after Christmas Miss Batchelor, principal lady teacher, entered hospital and we regret to say that she has not yet recovered from a prolonged illness. We can only hope that she will befit and ready to resume teaching in the new session.

During the session the House system has been revolutionised. Formerly there were only two houses, Bell and Baxter. There are now four, Bell and Baxter as before, the two new ones deriving their names from former Rectors, Douglas and Dawson. The change has necessitated more house matches in both hockey and rugby, and although
enthusiasm and competition have increased, difficulty is being found in making complete teams. By another year such difficulties may be overcome.

The extent and popularity of the library have increased considerably this session, owing mainly to the efforts of Mr Lindsay, Principal Teacher of English. Another book stack has been installed to shelve the new books which have been added. Selected periodicals have also become a regular feature. Prefects have now taken over library duties from the teachers, and who will deny that here too an improvement has been made?

The number of prefects has been increased this year and at present there are nine girls and nine boys.

The Literary and Debating Society was revived again this year. Many subjects were debated and despite the fact that we discovered no young orators in our midst the standard of speaking became higher as the year advanced. Many of the papers were of good quality but a lack of speakers in open debate often detracted from the success of the meeting. The Society, however, was making a fresh start, and we feel that next year pupils will not be so reticent.

A society which, by means of the local papers is making itself known even outside the school, is the Biological Society. Biology students, besides giving lectures illustrated by the epidiascope contribute articles to the Fife Herald and Fife News under the title ‘Nature Notes.’

As we go to press the results of the Dundee University Bursary Competition have come to hand. Stephen Bayne and Winnie Ross are placed first and second respectively; Elizabeth Swan is 27th, and John Fisher is 31st. These results reflect the highest credit upon the successful pupils, and we offer them our warmest congratulations.

1939

At the re-opening of the School in September 1938 we welcomed a new member of the Staff, Mr Herman H. Siemers, who came from Shortridge High School, Indianapolis, to exchange places with Mr McLauchlan as Assistant Maths Teacher. Throughout the session he has given interesting lectures to the Debating and Biological Societies. He is an expert photographer and has taken photographs of several of the local beauty spots. In the second term, he was responsible for an exchange of Art Exhibits between Bell-Baxter and Shortridge High School, when we had an excellent opportunity of seeing some fine examples of American Art. During his stay in Cupar he has been very popular with the pupils of Bell-Baxter, and we shall be sorry to lose him when he returns to Indianapolis at the end of session.

On 11th November of last year, an Armistice Service for the School was held in St Michael’s Church. The service was conducted by the Rev William Souter BD of St John’s Church.

During the last week of the winter term the Junior and Senior School parties were held. There was a large attendance at each and they were capably arranged by Miss A C Batchelor, assisted by members of the Staff and the Prefects. The catering for the parties was done by Mrs Orchison. Classes IV, V and VI hold their Summer party on 23rd June.

The Annual School Concert was held this year on 26th January instead of at the end of the session as formerly. The Chairman was Provost Boucher and the Conductor Mr J Barclay Sheddon ARCO. Songs and various violin and pianoforte solos were included in the programme, and also a trumpet solo. The school Orchestra gave a capable rendering of several pieces under the Conductorship of Mr Sheddon. The
programme this year did not include a play, but the Dramatic Society hopes to produce one next year.

The Bell-Baxter Dramatic Society was formed this year. There were two branches, the Juniors who met every Thursday and the Seniors who met every Tuesday. The Society was under the leadership of the Rector and Mr Liddle, and although no play was produced much work was done, and we hope that next year a performance will be given.

On 16th March there was a successful egg collection for the Adamson Cottage Hospital. The hens laid well and we had a record of 135½ dozen eggs.

A photograph of the School and photographs of each individual class were taken at the beginning of this term. As usual, it took a whole period to arrange the pupils, and strangely enough, the camera survived the tests.

During the session, seven pupils have been successful in gaining an entrance to the Civil Service. Good luck to them all! Several boys are at present sitting the Aircraft Apprentice Examination. We include an article in this magazine by one of our former pupils who left school last session to enter the Royal Air Force as an apprentice.

It is rumoured that we are soon to have ARP training at Bell-Baxter; the training is to include the method of donning and removing of respirators and also testing for gas.

The recently formed Bell-Baxter Pipers’ Club has held several successful meetings. Under Miss Cape’s supervision the twenty-three members made and turned their bamboo pipes. These, at present, are all of the treble kind, but soon it is hoped to have alto, tenor and bass as well. Some specially arranged pipe music has been purchased and the members are finding much pleasure in playing this.

1940

Shortly after the beginning of the session war was declared and the normal activities of the school were naturally affected by it. The evacuation took place during the weekend in which war broke out and the school was given a holiday. The teachers and Cupar pupils in Classes V and VI attended school to help to make up the rations and escort the evacuees to their billets.

Some of the poor teachers vow that they will never forget the evacuation—it was such a TERRIFIC experience. One of the male members of the staff might have been seen propelling a pram along Cupar streets.

The school was sorely in need of Lebensraum when the evacuees turned up for classes but very few are still with us. Several teachers, Miss MacKenzie, Miss Hardie, Mr Stephen, and Mr Hewitt, accompanied the evacuees to Cupar. Miss MacKenzie and Mr Stephen have already left, but Miss Hardie and Mr Hewitt are still at B.-B. Mr Hewitt, who is himself a keen athlete, has taken a great interest in the sporting activity of the school.

One of the girls, Christine Grieve, who was in lib last year went to Canada on a cruise during the summer holidays, but owing to the outbreak of war, was unable to return. Christine has been able to continue her studies at Ottawa Ladies’ College thanks to Miss Bowlby, the Headmistress.

We have to welcome back among us Mr McLauchlan, who, during last session, was teaching at Shortridge High School, Indianapolis, and congratulate him on his marriage to Miss Juliet Baker which took place in America.
At the beginning of the session Mr Reid came to B.-B. S. as geography teacher in place of Mr Thoms, who left to go to Dunfermline High School. Mr Reid started a boxing club during the winter and has introduced javelin-throwing into the sports.

In the middle of the second term Mr Masson left us to become a gym instructor in the army. His position is filled by Mr Murray, who has just completed his training at the English College, Fredensborg, Denmark. Sometime later Mr Sutherland also joined up, and at the beginning of the third term, Mr Aitken, a teacher from Castlehill School, came to B.-B. to take his place.

Our school has been helping the country at this time of national need. The ladies of the staff and the senior girls have been knitting comforts for the troops, under the direction of Miss Mathers. In May, 36 articles were handed over to the Cupar and District Voluntary Workers’ Association.

Some time ago pupils were told that collections of bones would be made at school but the response, however, has been very poor. Silver paper is also being collected but again the result is disappointing; only 10 lbs of silver paper have been collected up to the present.

Bell-Baxter is replying to the Government’s appeal by Digging for Victory. The waste ground at the side of the Hockey Pitch and behind St Michael’s Church has been dug over and planted.

The Scottish Forestry Commission has made arrangements for senior schoolboys to do important national work and at the same time to spend an enjoyable holiday. The boys will be sent to various lumber camps in Scotland. They will live in huts or tents and will have plenty of spare time. Food will be provided and all expenses to and from the camp will be paid. Twenty-six boys and several of the staff have volunteered. A scheme on similar lines is to be arranged for agricultural work.

Owing to the difficulties caused by the black-out the usual activities of the School Societies were not carried on during the winter and there were no meetings of the Biological Society or the Literary and Debating Society. The school parties, however, took place as usual before Christmas. They finished earlier this year owing to the increased difficulties of travelling but were very successful.

The Annual Sports will be held this year on Thursday, 13th June, on the school hockey pitch, and a week later, on the 20th June, the gym display will be given. The concert is fixed for 27th June, and the Prize Giving for 28th.

On Thursday, the 30th May, a golf match was played between the boys and members of the male staff. After many keen encounters the Staff won by 6½ to 4½.

1941

The school reopened on August 12th 1940, and saw a number of changes in the staff. Mr Reid left shortly before the close of the summer term to join the Air Force, and Mr Lindsay took over the Geography teaching, Mr Badenoch taking over the History classes. Mr McLauchlan and Mr Murray also joined the Air Force then, while Mr Muir and Mr Aitken have just gone, and Mr Paterson may leave us soon. We welcomed as new members of the staff the following: Miss Geddes, Miss Armstrong, Miss Provan, Miss Robertson, Mrs Miller, Mr Bain, and Mr Dallas, who has since joined up.

But the most important staff change was the appointment of Mr McLeod to the Rectorship of Madras College, St Andrews. He was one of the pillars of the school, having been with us for 14 years, and we all wish him every success in his new post.
His place as Classics Master has been filled by Mr Reid of Buckhaven, who took over after the Christmas holidays. Dr Inglis was appointed Deputy Rector.

The school had the second half of its summer holidays from September 21st to October 21st to enable some of the pupils to help local farmers with potato lifting, &c. During the year, the girls knitted comforts for the Forces, and senior pupils and teachers took part in various ARP and civil defence services, while a branch of the ATC was formed on February 1st.

The school has not been greatly affected by air-raid alerts this year. During an alert, all classes are transferred to the ground floor of the school and lessons continue. When an alert occurs during the night, it is left to the parents to decide whether the children will absent themselves from school the next day. In the event of severe bombing, the school is to be used as a rest centre at which the senior pupils will assist.

On Saturday November 9th a pupil of the school, Archibald Stewart, Class IIA., rescued a younger boy from drowning in the river Eden. He was presented with three letters for bravery, one from the Chief Constable, one from the Royal Humane Society, and, on February 17th, one from the School Management Committee.

We have had several lectures and films during the year, the first being on missionary work in China, given by Rev. Mr MacNaughten of Moukden. Then Miss Biddick addressed the girls on education in a girl’s school in India, in which she spent a number of years. Later we were shown fire-fighting and Ministry of Information films.

The results of the Edinburgh Bursary Competition have been announced and both candidates from Bell-Baxter have been placed, Sidney Paton being fifth and Rachel White seventh, while Paton also gained second place in the John Welsh Mathematical Bursary. The results of the St Andrews Bursary competition are now known, and of our candidates three were placed, Rachel White and Sidney Paton being third and fourth equal, and Margaret Lamb being 28th equal. Paton has gained the Taylour Thomson Bursary of £50 for four years, and Rachel White the Taylour Thomson (Medical) Bursary of £40 for five years. Two FPs of the school have also distinguished themselves, Matthew McLeod gaining a Major Scholarship for Cambridge, while Jessie Paton was second in the London County Council examination.

We have to acknowledge the gifts to the school of a number of French books by Mrs Warren, Haymount, and of Canadian papers by Miss Kininmonth.

We must congratulate Mr J D Downie on his marriage last summer to Miss Jean R Anderson, and also Mr Aitken, whose engagement to Miss Jean Durie, was announced recently. Miss Durie is the captain of the Bell-Baxter FP hockey team.

During the spring term a large number of the pupils were inoculated against diphtheria. Instead of the customary Staff Hockey Match, the 1st XI this year played a team representing the Rugger teams, and although the play was lively, the result was a draw, with no scoring by either team.

Although the number has diminished in the course of the year, the session started with 28 Prefects, including two from Class IV. This is a record for the school.

1944

We started this, our fifth session, with a large number of staff changes. Miss Georgina Seaton left us at the end of last session, as did Miss Macbean on the occasion of her marriage. During the current session Miss G Graham, our gym mistress, left to take up a post in St Andrews University, while Miss A G Gullon, a member of the English
Department, was transferred to fill a vacancy in Kirkcaldy High School. In their places came the following new members of staff to whom we extend a warm welcome: Miss Simpson (Modern Languages), Miss Dallas (Commercial), Miss Watt, Miss Reid, and Mrs Cellars (English) and Miss Kirk (Gymnasium.) The last three ladies are FPs of the school. We also have with us again Mr Badenoch of the History Department, after an absence of two years in the army.

In the course of the session we have been privileged to hear talks on subjects of current interest from many distinguished visitors, among whom were Captain Paterson of the American Red Cross, Madame Gill, Monsignor Renédurôme, Miss Li Po Kan, Major Matheson of the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and Captain Borthwick, observer officer with the 51st Division. To all these ladies and gentlemen the school owes a debt, and to the Rector also who made their visits possible. But the pupils of the school were not content to let others do all the talking. On the 10th January there met for the first time in Room 9 a Radio Discussion Circle where we debated problems of to-day and to-morrow. As might be expected the meetings were lively and some of the ideas put forward were nothing if not original. One bright member naively suggested that Lancasters could be converted into family planes after the war. ¹

In the field of scholarship the school has well maintained the traditions of the past. This year 48 pupils have gained the Senior Leaving Certificate. The half century is temptingly near. What about it, 1945? Our pupils in Class VI. have had a busy term attending the Bursary Competitions at Edinburgh, Dundee, and St Andrews.

In St Andrews the 4th, 6th, 10th, 12th equal, 15th and 28th places were taken by Ian W Laing, James Balneaves, Betsy Innes, Robert Black, Walter Laurence, and Janet S Webster.

We report with pleasure that it has been found possible this year to hold school Sports again. The running of the sports is a considerable undertaking, and we wish to thank those members of the staff whose cheerful acceptance of these additional duties contributes so much to our pleasure. The pupils’ enthusiasm for the sports may be reckoned from the enormous entries—over 2,000 individual entries involving 56 per cent of the school population! Well, well, we can’t all win, can we?

The Hockey Match, Pupils v. Staff, provided an excellent afternoon’s light entertainment and resulted in a draw. At a certain crucial period in the operations Lt Inglis made a determined sortie from his defensive position against the enemy front line. Unfortunately the ball did not know the Home Guard rules and infiltrated into the net. Later in the match the girls allowed Mr Downie to equalise for the staff—in the interests of discipline.

In April the school assisted in the Cupar Salute the Soldier Week. Besides contributing to small savings we helped to stimulate interest in the campaign by carrying through, in conjunction with Castlehill, a number of competitions in which Bell-Baxter winners were Iain Macdonald Va, Lindsay Proudfoot VI, Philip Wheatley IIC, Arthur Kinnear IIIa, Christine Bowden Ia, and Dennis Hetherington IIId. Some of the winning efforts are printed in this issue.

In October the school had the honour of housing the Art Exhibition Recording Scotland and so popular did it prove that in the course of a fortnight the exhibition was visited by nearly 2,000 people. The success of this experiment led Mr Liddle to search for

¹ This bright young spark was not too far off the mark when one considers the number of Lancasters and other World War 2 bombers that were converted to airliners. (Ed.)
another suitable show, and we learn as we go to Press that he has succeeded in obtaining from the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts the promise of a collection of pictures by modern Scottish artists in October. We look forward to this show and hope confidently that such exhibitions may become a regular feature of our school life. It will be noted that our magazine this year owes much to the illustrations contributed by our own former pupils.

The Air Training Corps and its young sister organisation, the Girls Training Corps, continue to flourish. The former has increased in numbers and in efficiency as the passes in Proficiency Parts. 1 and 2 show, and in February was publicly commended on the radio for its achievements. Last August a successful and instructive camp was held at a Naval Station and nearly all the cadets took the opportunity of having long flights. This year we hope to repeat the experience. Frequent visits from distinguished Air Force officers as well as from Old Boys home on leave have helped to keep the Squadron alert and up to date.

The GTC has lost two Assistant Commandants in succession in Miss Graham and Miss Gullon. But under Miss Reid, the new Assistant Commandant, and Miss Kirk and Miss Stewart, new Junior Section Officers, the work has gone on without interruption. The weekly parades and classes in First Aid, Morse, Aircraft Recognition, Despatch Carrying, and Nutrition have been keenly attended. It is hoped that next session will bring in still more recruits.

And now the end of the session draws near. The school closes for the Summer Vacation on Friday, 14th July, when many of the pupils will be answering the farmers’ call for help in the fields. But before that day comes there are many events to be enjoyed—a concert, in homage to music, a Gym display, in tribute to Hygeia, and, lest Terpsichore be forgotten, a grand and glorious dance to provide a fitting climax.

1945

All school activities this year have been overshadowed by the critical illness which befell the Rector, Mr G W J Farquharson, at the beginning of the second term. For weeks his condition caused great anxiety among his many well-wishers in and out of school. We are very happy to report that he has regained some of his former vitality and has been able to visit the school. May he soon resume his post.

We offer our congratulations to Dr A Inglis (Depute Rector) for the very efficient manner in which he has shoulderred additional responsibilities.

During the session there have been a number of staff changes. Mr G A Short retired from his post as singing master and was succeeded several months later by Mr A Johnson. We also extend a welcome to Mr D C McKenzie and Mr J K M Meikle who have come to fill the posts vacated by Mr Grant (Commercial Subjects) and Mr Paterson (Technical Department). Illness prevented Mr Pratt from being at school during the first two months of the third term and his place in the Science Department was temporarily filled by Mr Bctt. Lastly we welcome back to the school Mr T T Muir who, after three years' service in the RAF, has returned to active operations in the Modern Languages Department.

The recent high standard in the scholastic field has been maintained, and out of the 45 pupils who were presented for the Leaving Certificate, 39 secured it.

We have had a very successful year in the University Bursary Competitions. At St Andrews Robert Davidson gained a Patrick Hamilton Residential Scholarship of £100 per annum, while in the Entrance Bursaries Barbara R Robertson was placed 10th,
gaining a Bayne Bursary of £14 and grant from Taylor Thomson Fund of £6, both for four years; Ian G Murray 12th with a Taylor Thomson Bursary of £40 for four years and grant of £40 in fifth year, lain D Macdonald and Robert M G Meek gained 20th and 26th place respectively. At Dundee Barbara R Robertson gained 7th place with a Clyde Henderson Bursary of £40 per annum; Robert M G Meek 9th place with a Laing Bursary in Engineering of £30 for one year; and John R Barrie 20th.

In non-scholastic activities we anticipated the return to normal conditions by resuming certain functions which had been in abeyance for several years. Under the fatherly eye of Mr Lindsay the Literary and Debating Society staged a very successful come-back. Among the items of special interest in a varied syllabus may be mentioned two Brains Trusts and an Inter-School Debate with Madras in which Bell-Baxter acted as hosts. The enthusiasm roused by this venture augurs well for the future of the Society.

By far the most popular event in the school calendar, however, was the revival this year of the annual Christmas parties. May we offer our congratulations to those of the staff who, flinging their gowns and their dignity aside, joined wholehearted in the Christmas spirit. More of this please!

Every encouragement this year has been given to the pupils to increase their knowledge of Art, Literature and Music.

Under the auspices of CEMA (Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts) an exhibition of paintings was presented in the Art Rooms in October. In an interesting and balanced display there were some pictures to suit every taste. For this exhibition and also that of the ‘London Group’ which opened on June 16th we are indebted to Mr Liddle.

Under the direction of Mr Lindsay Classes V and VI went to see an excellent presentation of Hamlet in Dundee Repertory Theatre in October. On the last Saturday in May 110 first year pupils paid a similar visit to see Twelfth Night. The actual performance was somewhat dimmed, according to an eyewitness, by the skilful way in which the staff shepherded their young flock through the busy streets.

It was with rather wary steps that some of the seniors trespassed one afternoon in April into the Younger Hall in St Andrews to fathom the mysteries of a symphony concert. Whatever misgivings may have been entertained were forgotten during the excellent performance given by the BBC Scottish Orchestra under its conductor, Ian Whyte.

Again this year we were favoured by the unforgettable sight of how hockey should not be played, when those two bitter foes, the Staff and the girls’ 1st XI. met in a fight to the death. An intimate knowledge of how to give battle in a muddy terrain, as well as an utter disregard for the rules, enabled the staff to defeat their youthful opponents by 2 goals to nil.

An attempt is being made to ease the shortage of accommodation by building two utility classrooms in the quadrangle. These buildings, however, must be strong since, so far, they have resisted all attempts by the Junior School to demolish them.

For several weeks before VE Day the pupils, according to a usually reliable member of the staff, had been suffering from victory ‘jitters.’ These jitters, however, turned to cheers when, in spite of detailed orders to the contrary, a benevolent Government granted us two days’ holiday.

As the end of the session draws near, the school is seething with activity. From the music room youthful voices may be heard singing or croaking according to each pupil’s peculiar talents in preparation for our annual concert to be held on the 12th of July.
From the Gymnasium may be heard the creaking of long disused muscles and the thud of light fantastic feet as we prepare for our gymnastic display. Since such strenuous efforts must not go unrewarded, the senior pupils are preparing to forget their sorrows in a glorious dance to be held on the 6th of July.

1946

Others have paid tribute to our late Rector's memory better than we may do here. We record his death on 16th November 1945 and leave unexpressed the sorrow and sense of loss which we all feel. He was our Rector and our friend. We need say no more except that, in his memory, the school has decided to erect a plaque, to remain for all who knew him a reminder of the admirable man that he was.

During the interim period pending the appointment of a new Rector, Dr Inglis, as Deputy Rector, took over the running of the school. We could have wished for none better in this capacity. At once principal teacher of Mathematics and Rector, he worked Trojan-like at both, bearing the double onus admirably and meriting from all, teachers, pupils, and all outside the school the highest praise and admiration. We of the school are grateful for what he did for us, and have suitably expressed our gratitude by the presentation to him of a wallet and notes, not merely, we might add, as a formal gesture, but as one of appreciative sincerity.

We welcome to the school, as new Rector, James Erwin Dunlop, who started his term of office in March of this year. He becomes rapidly popular and respected for his obvious competence and the celerity with which he has established himself. We like him.

There have returned once more to the bosom of the Alma Mater, one or two former members of the teaching staff who have been on service during the war. Among these are numbered Mr Masson, gymnastics instructor, and Mr Sutherland, science master, who returned in December of last year, the former having been a lieutenant in an airborne division, and the latter a major in the RAOC. Both are well-known in sporting circles. Unfortunately Mr Masson left us in April 1946 for Dundee Training College, but his brief sojourn here will be well remembered by the legacy of stiff muscles and joints he left with us. Also we welcome back from service Mr Sheddon, music master, and Mr Dawson of the Art Department. Both saw service out East, as their tan betrays.

Welcome Home!

New additions to the staff include Mr Troup to the Mathematics Department, Mr Seath to the Science Department, and Miss Smith to the English Department, all joining us in August 1945. Along with them we welcome Mr Marwick who came in March 1946 and Mr Brown and Mr Martin in April.

We say good-bye to Miss Graham of the English Department who retired at the end of the second term, and we express to her our gratitude for services rendered, and our sorrow that she is no longer with us.

Salient events in the school year include the annual fiasco, the Staff Hockey Match, from which the Staff emerged victorious. The 1st XI has ever since deservedly been hid in shame. The pupils were also defeated by the Staff in the revived Staff-versus-pupils golf match.

During the school session there have been several journeys of the school, or parts thereof, to the Dundee Repertory Theatre. In the course of these expeditions many grey hairs have been added to the heads of escorting members of Staff, but the pupils enjoyed themselves, so what matters it? ‘We are the many, they are the few.’ The whole school
also went to see the film Henry V, and several other trips were arranged, one to Clydebank and another to Cupar Foundry (no anti-climax intended), and the science and engineering students involved seem to have enjoyed the two outings, and benefited therefrom.

On the scholastic side, Bell-Baxter has, as usual, been prominent. In the Higher Leaving Certificate there were recorded 40 passes out of the 52 candidates presented. This percentage of passes, as compared with other schools, is high, and our school seems not to have suffered so much from the drawbacks of war-time education as others have. We pat ourselves on the back. In the Edinburgh Bursary Competitions, Misses Dymock and Blow appeared 22nd and 32nd respectively on the list, a creditable performance. They ought to pat themselves on the back.

The session began with the appointment of 28 Prefects, the senior girl being K Tracy, and the senior boy J Black. The Prefects, burdened perhaps with more duties than former Prefects have had, bore up well, and maintained discipline throughout the year, despite the inevitable, detrimental effects on their popularity.

The session, as a whole, has been important, mainly because of external events, and Bell-Baxter can look forward now to a more prosperous and placid existence with an outside world at peace.

1947

The Session opened on 19th August when Forms I - III returned, to be followed a fortnight later by the senior school. Staff changes were few, the only additions being Mr Leishman as assistant Art Master, and Mlle Claude Malet-Pauphilet from Poitiers as assistant French teacher. We welcomed home in June, 1946, Mr W D Dallas, who for fifteen months was a prisoner of war. Mr Dallas describes some of his experiences in our later pages (of the School Magazine – Ed. This article was also reproduced in Issue 56 of the FPA Newsletter.). During the war years his place was taken by Mrs Miller. Our PT Instructor, Mr W H Martin, was appointed in September to a similar post at Dunfermline High School. He was capably succeeded by Mr John Blair, who came to us from the Royal Air Force. In January we were joined by Mr West who replaced Miss Provan, transferred to Ceres, and Mr W G Simmers as teacher of Commercial subjects. Mr Simmers also gives Vocational Guidance, and this, we believe, was the first appointment of its kind in Scotland. He succeeded Miss Dallas who was appointed to Kirkcaldy High School.

In the second term, during Miss Wood’s absence through severe illness, her place was capably filled by the Rector and Mr Derrick T Dawson. Miss Wood has made a good recovery and has returned to duty.

During the Easter holidays, Dr Inglis was one of a party of six sent on a visit to Holland by the EIS. We must congratulate two members of the Science Department, Dr J Robertson and Mr J Wilson. The former has been appointed to the Inspectorate, and the latter made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Finally, Mr Wm G Howie was appointed interim headmaster of Springfield School for the month of June.

On September 27th installation of prefects took place. School captains for the Session were Marjory Stewart and Ian E Hutchison. During Ian’s illness the duties of School Captain were undertaken by Gordon McColm. Ian died at his home in Wormit on March 18th. We include a tribute to him in our pages. The funeral, which took place on Thursday, March 20th, under severe weather conditions, was attended by the Rector,
the Depute Rector, the two captains, sixteen prefects, and twelve of Ian’s classmates and most intimate friends. The sympathy of the entire school is extended to the Reverend James Hutchison and family in their bereavement. In memory of Ian, a new cup had been instituted, which the School Captain shall receive every year. It is to be called the Captain’s Cup, and is inscribed ‘In memory of Ian Elliot Hutchison, School Captain, 1946-47.’

The Session has been an extremely prolific one from the entertainments point of view. Visits have been paid to the School for Scandal, Macbeth, Caesar and Cleopatra, and the film of the Royal Tour of South Africa.

At Christmas, the usual parties were enjoyed by all, and at Easter an inter-school dance with Madras College was held in the Gymnasium. This was repeated at St Andrews on June 26th. The Annual Summer Dance is to be held in the Gymnasium on July 7th.

We are very pleased to record that the School Savings Movement has been restarted. On Sunday, November 10th, in the B.B.C. Scottish Savings Bulletin, it was stated that ‘A former governor of BBS, Cupar, Mr D M Rollo, has presented to the School a Silver Cup for competition among the various classes in the School Savings Association.’ We note with pleasure that on May 12th the School Savings for the Session topped £1,000.

During the Christmas holidays Bell-Baxter was represented by Arthur Kinnear at a conference held by the Council for Education in World Citizenship at the Central Hall, Westminster, London, which lasted from December 30th to January 2nd. Kinnear and Gordon McColm were delegates to an Easter Conference held in Edinburgh, also by the CEWC.

During the past Session BBS pupils have been in the news. On February 18th, Ronald McDonald and Donald Dow, the two best pupils in agriculture, were selected to go to Denmark on a tour arranged for students of agriculture. On May 10th, a photographer from the Central Office of Information in London visited the School and took about ten photographs of agricultural students at work for a pictorial record entitled Education in Scotland. Finally, several pupils of Bell-Baxter have been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree to be held in Paris during August.

On May 20th, pupils in Forms VI. and V. were given a most interesting lecture on The Origin of Life on the Earth, delivered by Dr E Finlay Freundlich, Lecturer in Astronomy at St Andrews University. This was not the first visit paid by Dr Freundlich to the School, and we hope that he will not be long in giving another lecture at Bell-Baxter. It is not often that the School is honoured by such a distinguished personage.

During the second term, School was very much disorganised as a result of the severe snow storms which disrupted communications. Attendances during the second and third weeks of March were only from a quarter to a half of normal. The results of the Higher Leaving Certificate were 42 passes out of a total number of 60 who sat.

We end this year’s School Notes recording that the 1st XI. beat the staff in the Annual Hockey Match to the tune of six goals to two.

1951

School reopened for the new session on Monday 28th August 1950 with a record roll of over 1020 pupils. Accommodation was strained to the limit, classes being held in store
rooms, the dining-hall and the school office. To alleviate this problem, negotiations are going on for the purchase of St Michael's Church.

Staff changes continue. Miss Christine Stewart joined the Mathematics Department, and Mr John Brady came to the Technical Department from Dundee. Mr Brady left again in October, and his place was taken by Mr James McKenzie from Kirkcaldy. Miss Helen Calder has replaced Miss Adams (Commercial Subjects), and Mrs Chalmers has returned to help in the Mathematics Department. Mr J P Ewen joined the Modern Languages Department from Dumfries High School.

It was with regret that we bade good-bye to Mr J Barclay Sheddon (Music Department) in December. Mr Sheddon has taken up an appointment in Girvan High School. We are grateful to him for his many years of service, and for his able work with School Choirs and the School Orchestra.

Mr Sheddon was succeeded by Miss Jean B Hoggans, who came with a very high reputation as a professional musician, having played under the baton of numerous eminent conductors.

Another old friend who has sought fresh pastures is Mr W D Dallas. After ten years at Bell-Baxter, Mr Dallas has gone to Auchtermuchty J S School. In his place came Miss Jean R Downs (a former pupil of Bell-Baxter), who has transferred from Ladybank J S School.

A shadow was cast over school by the death of one of our boys, Eric Carver, of Springfield, on the evening of his first day of the new session. Eric, aged 14, died after taking part in a football match at Springfield. The Rector and eight of Eric's companions from Bell-Baxter attended the funeral.

A further blow was sustained a month later, when, on 9th October, Elizabeth Syme (III.C1) died from injuries received in an accident on the railway line near her home. The Rector and Mr D C McKenzie, Elizabeth's Form Master, attended the funeral.

Facilities were granted to pupils from Newburgh, Newport, and Tayport to join in welcoming Her Majesty The Queen when she visited these burghs on Tuesday 19th September 1950.

Numerous school excursions of cultural and general interest were again arranged as usual this session. On Wednesday 18th October 1950 a party of thirty-five pupils travelled to Kirkcaldy to hear a concert by the BBC Scottish Orchestra. Several hundred pupils attended another concert given by the BBC Scottish Orchestra (Conductor—Ian Whyte) in the Corn Exchange, Cupar, and another party went over to Dundee to hear the Scottish National Orchestra under the baton of Walter Susskind.

On Friday 27th October 1950 114 pupils accompanied by Mr Muir, Head of the Modern Languages Department, and two other members of staff attended the performance of *Le Voyage de M. Perrichon* by the Troupe Française in St Andrews.
Some twenty-five Science students, escorted by Mr Hood, Head of the Science Department, attended the Christmas Lecture of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in Dundee.

A party of Rural Science and Agriculture pupils visited the Sugar Beet Factory with Miss Sangster, under the direction of Mr Bett.

Forms I.—III. saw a matinée performance of *Treasure Island* in the Regal Cinema on 21st March 1951. On Thursday, 24th May, 35 senior pupils, accompanied by Dr A I Inglis, had a most enjoyable excursion to Dundee, where they visited the Festival Ship *Campania*. A number of senior girls visited Dundee Training College on 14th June, by arrangement with the Director of Studies, Professor Skinner, a former pupil of Bell-Baxter, and were afterwards entertained to tea.

On Tuesday June 5th 1951 a party of senior pupils enjoyed an excursion to the May Isle, under the supervision of Mr Hood. It is understood that vast quantities of lemonade, sandwiches, and cakes were consumed!

Mr Reid, a Post Office official, lectured to Fourth Form pupils on the Postal and Telegraph Service on 1st May. Six weeks later, Mr Thomson from Dundee gave a further talk on the Telephone Service.

Professor Erwin Findlay-Freundlich of the Department of Astronomy at St Andrews University delivered his annual lecture to Fifth and Sixth Forms on June 12th 1951. His subject this year was *The Astronomical Aspect of the Origin of Life on the Earth*, and proved even more interesting than usual.

Senior girls attended a lecture by the Matron of Kirkcaldy Hospital on Nursing and Allied Careers.

During the Christmas Holidays, the School Captain, James Ford, represented School at the annual CEWC holiday lectures.

Bell-Baxter sent five sopranos, four contraltos, two tenors, and one bass to the Easter School of Music for Fife pupils, held at Broomlee Residential School, West Linton, Peeblesshire. The choir gave a recital in the Younger Hall, St Andrews, on 18th April 1951.

The School parties, which are a well-established feature in Bell-Baxter life at Christmas time, were again a ‘howling’ success, due in no small measure to the capable organisation of Miss Batchelor, who was assisted by colleagues, prefects and senior pupils. The climax of school festivities was again the Senior Dance, held on 20th December.

To boost cricket club funds, an informal dance was organised in the last week of the Spring term. A sum of over £12 was realised. Fifth and Sixth Forms have their last ‘fling’ at the Flannel Dance on June 29th.

Bell-Baxter Association Football Team, founded last year, has this season won the Championship Shield in the North-East of Fife Inter-School League. This achievement reflects great credit on the boys and on their mentor, Mr John Meikle of the Technical Department, who has trained and coached these boys to victory. The captain of the team was Alexander Lathangie.

In the St Andrews University Entrance Bursary Examination, four places out of 24 awards (132 candidates) were won by Bell-Baxter School pupils:—

4th Gordon W Downes—Russell Bursary of £50 for 4 years.
10th James Ford—Patrick Kidd Bursary of £35 for 3 years.
14th Lindsay J Morris—Taylour Thomson Bursary of £30 for 3 years.

The School Captain, James Ford, also won the McDougall Trust Bursary of £100 for 3 years, open to boys and girls born in Perthshire. To mark this occasion, school was granted a half-holiday on Tuesday, 5th June 1951.

The Burns Club Prizes and Federation Certificates were won this year by John Hart (Senior Boy); Frances Wilson (Senior Girl); Ritchie Myles (Junior Boy); Rae McCallum and Isabel Livingstone (Junior Girls).

In the annual hockey match, the staff beat the girls decisively by 4 goals to 1. The other staff matches have yet to be played.

1954

On Monday 24th August 1953, 1017 pupils answered the call of duty—some willingly, others under strong compulsion—but of that number 70, having decided that one term was more than enough, left at Christmas, and in February the Preparatory class arrived. Of these 39 are at Castlehill under Mrs Paterson and 46 make up 1G at Bell-Baxter.

Mrs Gray and Mrs Harborth came to join the Mathematics Department in August to replace Miss Stewart and Mrs Christie. At Christmas Miss Anderson of the Domestic Science Department left to study Dietetics in Edinburgh, and Mrs Thomson came to take her place. At the same time Mr Ewins, teacher of Agriculture, and Miss Macdonald, School Secretary, left—Mr Ewins to fly to America to study agricultural methods there before taking up a post in England and Miss Macdonald to go to London, where she has received a Civil Service appointment. She was succeeded by Miss Sheila McKay whose place as junior secretary was taken by Miss S Ross. Mr Ewins was succeeded by Mr Duncan, who transferred to Ladybank in March, and Mr Forsyth was appointed his successor. In April Mr Dawson was appointed Head Teacher of Art at Madras College—his place was taken by Mr Rodger. Miss Buick, teacher of Speech Training, has been visiting school on alternate Thursdays since March. As we go to press we learn that Mr J Wiseman is leaving us to take up a new appointment in Inverurie Academy.

In September the Captains, Eleanor Wilson and Alasdair Breckenridge, and prefects were given their badges of office. During the Christmas holidays Alasdair represented the school at the CEWC conference in London.

On 7th April Sir William Murrie, Secretary to the Scottish Education Department, visited school with two Inspectors.

We were sorry to hear that on the first day of the Easter Holidays Mr A Adamson, our Geography teacher, was seriously injured in a car accident in Dundee and was taken to the Infirmary suffering from a broken leg and concussion. Although he has been unable to return to duty this term, he is making a good recovery.

The School parties and dances were much enjoyed at Christmas, thanks to the capable organisation of Miss Batchelor, Miss Berwick, Mr Blair, and Mr Hood.

From now on there will be various activities to distract the attention of pupils—especially those 99 who sat the Higher Leaving Certificate in March, endured visits from 15 Inspectors and are now anxiously awaiting the results. We hope to have the School Hall ready for the Flannel Dance on 25th June, Concert on 30th June, and Junior and Senior Prize givings on 1st and 2nd July, when Mr and Mrs Pollock will be the guests of honour. The Sports were held on 10th June and Gym Display on 24th.
On 7th April the Staff succeeded in gaining a victory over 1st XI by beating them 5 goals to 2. 110 Senior French pupils, with Mr Muir and Miss Batchelor, visited St Andrews in October to see a performance of Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. Senior Science pupils have had several outings this year—at Christmas 60 attended a lecture in Dundee on *The Realms of Carbon*, in May the sixth form saw a film on *Gravimetric Analysis*, and the following month visited Perth Glassworks. On 11th June an astronomical lecture was given to classes IV, V and VI by Dr Cisar, while on 22nd 30 boys went to see over HMS Jamaica. At the end of March those intending leaving school were given a Career Talk on *The Hotel and Catering Trade*, and there were lectures for girls on Nursing and the WRAF. Twenty-four Senior pupils spent their Easter Holiday at Broomlee Camp School for Music, Drama and Art. Our thanks are due to the Weather Clerk for the heavy fall of snow on March 3rd which resulted in school being closed for the day at lunch-time.

Bell-Baxter was again successful in St Andrews Bursary Competition when Alasdair Breckenridge, Captain of School, won a Harkness Residential Scholarship of £100 for four years. As a result school was granted a half-holiday.

James Murdoch, class V, gained third place in Great Britain in a Royal Naval Examination, and in the Civil Service Examination, Lorna Sime was fourth, Isobel Livingstone 14th, Merilyn McRae 74th, and Ian Angus 375th.

**OUR SCHOOL HALL**

In 1932 prices and costs were so low that a Cupar shopkeeper could advertise: ‘Buy 1 lb of my special tea at 2/-, and get 4 lb of sugar free!’ Nevertheless, the great building-extension added to Bell-Baxter in that year did not include a School Hall, ‘for reasons of economy’!

Shipbuilders do not omit a rudder from their design, nor car manufacturers a steering wheel: yet twenty years ago school architects could blithely dispense with a hall, which should give direction to its pupils' lives, in which a school should live and move and have its being, in which the pupils should meet as one great family, united by ties of religious worship and friendly loyalty, and which by its treasured memories should foster an abiding love of whatsoever things are true, and pure, and lovely, and of good report.

In this connection, at least, even we of the older generation have to admit that we now live in a more enlightened age. For more than twenty years my predecessors and I have had to assemble school in the quadrangle and there address from six hundred to a thousand pupils, like Demosthenes on the shore declaiming against the thunder of the waves.

Nor was it an occasion for slow and stately rhetoric. We had recourse to a leather-lunged rapidity which was due not so much to an indecent haste to return to our desks, as to the wish to spare our audience the damp and chill discomfort of a winter morning, or the equally unpleasant rigours of a Scottish summer.

But now the days of the open-air harangue are ended. After years of planning and pleading and waiting and watching, we have a School Hall. The old St Michael's Church, which stood so conveniently and so invitingly close to our walls, was bought by the Education Committee last year, and has now been reconstructed and transformed with wonderful skill and artistry into a combined hall-and-gymnasium.

The side galleries were removed, with the pulpit, the pews, and the organ. We tried unsuccessfully to save the organ: but it had faithfully accompanied the voices of
St Michael's flock for about a hundred years, and could not, we were told, be made playable again for less than a thousand pounds. A grand piano has taken its place.

A new gymnasium floor was laid, electric lighting installed, and a complete set of gymnastic equipment supplied, including wall-bars, buck, horse, mats, netball sets, posture mirror, agility mattress, and all the paraphernalia of modern physical education. The wall at the rear of the Church was breached in two places, making doors leading to dressing-rooms and shower-baths, which were specially designed by Mr R S Lawrie, County Architect.

Tubular lighting is fitted in the blue-painted ceiling, the walls are painted cream colour, and a hydraulically-operated platform, measuring twenty feet by ten feet, was added, for school concerts and dramatic productions. This platform, when not in use, sinks to floor level, leaving the entire floor area free for gymnastics.

On panels in front of the organ gallery are erected five shields made by the Technical Department, and painted by the Art Department. The shields depict the arms of Dr Andrew Bell, Sir David Baxter of Kilmarn, the Royal Burgh of Cupar, and Fife County Council, and the fifth is the composite crest of School, which embraces all four. These shields are magnificently constructed and painted, and have been warmly admired by all who have seen them, including one of our most distinguished visitors, Sir William Murrie, Secretary of the Scottish Education Department.

As soon as a protective floor-covering is provided, we shall enter into full possession and use of the hall. The covering will protect the floor during school-assembly, and thereafter it will be rolled up. The floor will thus be undamaged, and clean and fresh for gymnastics for the rest of the day.

Stacking-chairs providing seating for 300 people have already been delivered. For morning prayers, however, School will require to meet in a standing assembly, of about ten minutes' duration.

After this recital of our new-found fortune, we turn to give thanks to those who have earned the gratitude of School. First we should mention the Territorial Army. For nearly twenty years School has been indebted for the use of ‘The Terriers’ Drill Hall’ as a second gymnasium. It is a tribute both to the children and staff who have used it, and to the soldiers who leased it and looked after it, that the Drill Hall has never once been the subject of any friction or animosity between the military owners and their youthful tenants. We are deeply grateful to the TA Association for their helpfulness during all these years.

Another ‘external’ benefactor has been Mr Q McC Craig, proprietor of the Regal Cinema, who has put the Cinema at our disposal for School Concerts and Prize-Giving for many years. We are glad to record our indebtedness and thanks to Mr Craig.

We are obliged also to the Director of Education and the Education Committee for agreeing to purchase St Michael's Church for us, to our School Chaplain, the Rev R Graham Brotherton, and the Presbytery of Cupar, for granting our plea, to the County Finance Committee for their generous support, to Mr David Wilson, County Organiser of Physical Education, for his enthusiastic co-operation and advice, and to the County Architect and his staff for making such a beautiful transformation of the old building.

By a happy coincidence, Mr Lawrie assigned much of the direction and supervision to one of the younger members of his staff.
1955
School opened on the 24th August, 1954, with a total roll of 1005 pupils. Christmas leavers brought the figure down to below the thousand mark, but numbers were augmented again by the addition of a new Class I in February. Because of overcrowding part of that class had again to be accommodated at Castlehill School.

Almost immediately upon returning to school we were greeted by the sad news that Miss Batchelor, Modern Languages Teacher and Lady Superintendent of School for twenty years, was soon to retire. It was with deep regret that School bade her farewell in September. Her place in the Modern Languages Department was taken by a former pupil, Miss Dymock. Other staff changes include Mr Allan and Mr Clark replacing Mr Leishman and Miss Edgar in the Art Department, and Miss Thomson, Miss Wallace and Mr Cattan replacing Mrs Chalmers, Mrs Thomson and Mr Wiseman in the Mathematics, Domestic Science and Science Departments respectively. At Easter there were two more additions to the teaching staff in former pupils, Miss Balfour (Art Department) and Mr Hood (Music Department). On 23rd November we were able to welcome back Mr Adamson after a long absence from school following his accident in April, 1954.

Our new school hall, which was ready only in the last few weeks of last session was used for morning prayers for the first time on Monday, 30th August, and has continued to be used for this purpose, weather permitting, ever since. A fortnight later the school captains and prefects were installed during morning assembly. The captain of School this session is Eric A Betsworth, and Girl's Captain, M Eileen Hall. At Christmas, Eric represented School at the annual Conference of the CEWC in London.

In this picture of the men’s staff room in the 1950s can be seen Alex Johnstone, Mr McKenzie, 'Tich' Howie, Bill Badenoch and Mr Striven, from Poland, who is the one standing reading a book.

In September, School suffered a great loss in the death of Bailie Alexander Kinsman, a former member of the School Management Committee. A further blow was sustained in February when there died, at the age of eighty-four, Mr Lewis Graham, a former teacher of Commercial subjects, who to his end retained a keen interest in the affairs of school.
In October we had guests from the other side of the border when the rugby team of Rothwell Grammar School returned the visit of a Bell-Baxter team two seasons previously.

On 19th November—just in time it was whispered, to organise the Christmas Parties—Miss Livingstone was appointed by the Education Authorities to succeed Miss Batchelor as Lady Superintendent. These parties were, as usual, thoroughly enjoyed by all; for which thanks should go to Miss Livingstone, Miss Berwick, Mr Blair, and Mr Hood.

The Annual School Concert was held this year just before the Christmas holidays on the 16th December. The performance was a credit to Mr Johnson and Miss Hoggans despite the fact that the numbers of both artists and audience were greatly reduced by an epidemic of influenza. On the day of the Concert the epidemic caused as many as 455 absentees.

As usual the paramount interest in March was the SLC examination. The ninety-nine candidates who sat them are still waiting, some eagerly, some perhaps with trepidation, for the results at the time of our going to press. Our pupils have again distinguished themselves academically this year. In April we learned that, for the third year in succession, a Bell-Baxter pupil, this year Jack E Paton, had won a Harkness Scholarship in the St Andrews University Bursary Competition. For this we gained a day's holiday. Later in June, it was announced that School Captain, Eric A Betsworth, won a Myles Bursary to Queen's College, Dundee.

In the Civil Service Examinations for the Directorate of Colonial Survey and Ordnance Survey Departments, Roy Brown and Mark Lironi were placed 12th and 19th respectively out of over 200 candidates.

We had a distinguished visitor to our end-of-term service on 22nd March, for to it our School Chaplain, the Reverend R G Brotherton, invited Professor Edgar Dickie of St Mary's College, St Andrews University.

Excursions from the School this session have again been numerous. In December a section of Junior School attended a showing of the film of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar at the La Scala Cinema, while in March seniors attended a special showing of Romeo and Juliet in the Regal Cinema. Science pupils of forms V and VI attended the Christmas Lecture at Queen's College, Dundee, entitled From Woad to Terylene. In May, the sixth form Geography pupils under Miss Watt paid a visit to a Dundee Jute Mill. In school itself, there have been several lectures on careers, including Careers in the RAF given by Squadron Leader Smith. Also, in June Dr Cisar of St Andrews University gave a lecture to Classes V and VI on astronomy.

And so to our present summer activities. The heats for the School Sports to take place on 16th June are at present in progress; preparations are being made for the forthcoming Drama Club productions; and side-by-side with these the ever-so-slightly-fading routine of day-to-day classroom work has been given a reviving impetus by the visits of HM Inspectors.

Soon another term will be over. On July 1st is the School Summer Dance, on July 5th the end-of-term service, and on July 6th the School Prize-Giving. Then all will be over, another session will have been completed.

1956

The session began on Monday, 29th August, 1955. A fortnight later, the captains and prefects were appointed in the School Hall, the captains being William P Marshall of
Markinch and Isabel A C Logan of Dairsie, and the vice-captains Henry B Smith, also of Markinch, and Margaret T Thomson of Cupar. At Christmas, the captain represented the school at the Council of Education in World Citizenship in London.

There have been several staff changes during the session. Mr Galloway joined the music staff when school re-opened, and later Miss Dorothy Dixon came as a visiting teacher. In the science department, Mr Rutherford, who left to take up an appointment with the Department of Agriculture, was replaced by Mr Forsyth from Elmwood Agricultural Centre, and in December Mr D G Neilson joined the staff. Mrs Harborth left to go to England, and Mr R W D Mitchell took her place in the Mathematics Department.

On 23rd November, Miss Berwick, teacher of Physical Education, left school to be married. The girls of the school met in the Assembly Hall to present her with a silver salver, and the Hockey Club gave her a Doulton China figure. Miss Margot Fettes, a former pupil, came as her successor in February. In the interval before her appointment, Miss Purdie, who has since left to be married, and Mrs Cunningham, who had joined the staff at the start of the session, ably ran her side of the Department.

Mr George H Mowat was appointed Principal Teacher of Classics at Lenzie Academy, and his place in Bell-Baxter was taken by Mr W Ross Napier from Fraserburgh Academy. In the Art Department, Mr A G Goodall joined the staff when Mr S G Clark left to go to America.

Several members of staff have been absent during the session through illness. After Christmas, Miss Reynard came back to school, and in April Mrs Sinclair, Miss Auchterlonie and Mr Liddle, who had also been ill, returned to duty. We are glad to see them and also Mr D C McKenzie restored to health.

The Senior School Dance, attended by 160 pupils, was held on 16th December, and the school parties followed in the next week.

For the Debating Society's Burns Supper, Mr Galloway and Mr Johnson formed a senior choir, which has since performed successfully on many occasions.

On 11th October, a party of senior boys, escorted by Dr Inglis, visited Rosyth Naval Dockyard. Later, pupils of the Fifth and Sixth Forms attended a science lecture in Dundee, and many members of the senior school went to the performance of Moliere's *L'Avare* by the Troupe Française in St Andrews.

In March, fifteen pupils, accompanied by Mr Galloway, left for the Easter Vacation School of Music, Drama and Art at Meigle.

School has been visited by lecturers representing various careers. On 24th May, a specialist talk on nursing was given, and on 29th May RAF Liaison Officers spoke to senior pupils. A week later, there was a Coal Board Lecture.

Dr Gisar of St Andrews University gave the astronomy lecture to Fifth and Sixth Forms.

On 30th March the Rector received a letter from the Commanding Officer, RAF Cosford, Staffordshire, to say that David F Black, a former pupil of the School, had obtained first place in the Order of Merit at the Passing-Out of his Entry on 27th March. Alastair Walker of Va won the Cupar Rotary Club's prize for his essay on *Ten Years of the United Nations*.

David G Combe gained 25th place out of approximately 200 candidates in the Civil Service Examination for Cartographical Draughtsmen.
In April we learned that four Bell-Baxter pupils had been successful in the St Andrews University Bursary Competitions. Elizabeth M Farmer won the Bruce Bursary of £70 for 3 years, and was later awarded the David Anderson Bursary of £30 for 4 years. Also in the Faculty of Arts, David Hay gained the Malcolm and Foundation Bursaries, both of £20 for 4 years, and William P. Marshall the Pro Patria award of £25 for 1 year. In Science, Thomas S. Blyth won the Mitchell Bursary of £40 for 4 years, and a Taylour-Thomson award.

On Friday 11th May School had a half-holiday to celebrate these successes.

Mr A Allan of the Art Department has had his painting *Roses and Ivy* hung in the Summer Exhibition of the Royal Academy. In May, Mr Neilson, assistant science teacher, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by St Andrews University.

Now the session is drawing to a close. On 7th and 8th June two plays were presented in school—one by I1g and the other by fifth year girls. A conference on Religious Education for Fifth and Sixth forms of Madras College, Bell-Baxter and Waid Academy took place in St Andrews on Friday, 8th June. Later in the month senior girls interested in teaching as a career visited the Training College, Dundee, and for prospective engineers and scientists a visit to Queen's College has been arranged.

On 2nd and 3rd July the School Drama Club will perform Shaw's *Arms and the Man*. Tickets may be obtained at Bell-Baxter from Miss Swan and from Messrs J. & G. Innes, Grossgate, Cupar. The session will end with the Church Service and Prize-Giving.

1957

School reopened for the new session on Monday, 27th August, a roll of approximately 1,050 pupils.

At the beginning of the session there were several staff changes. A new subject on the curriculum was introduced when Mr James Turnbull, MA EdB, joined the staff as Specialist Teacher in Religious Instruction. Miss Betty Soote MA, joined the Mathematics and Science Department. Miss Anne Jamieson succeeded Miss Agnes Inglis in the Homecrafts Department. Mlle Monique Breysse is the new assistant in the French Department.

Our congratulations go to John Ferguson, Class VI, who is British Boys' Golf Champion of 1956.

On Monday, 17th September, school captains and prefects were installed during morning assembly. This year's captains are Ian D Beattie and A Rosalie Hood and vice-captains are Norman J Pollock and Rosemary Bowden.

On Monday, 22nd October, we were distressed to hear that Isobel Liddle, IIIA, had been taken to Cameron Bridge Hospital. Isobel is now in the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, Edinburgh, and school sends her best wishes for a speedy recovery.

On 1st November Miss Dorothy Chapman joined the School Office Staff.

On 8th November school was visited by Dr Scott, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, who delivered an address in the Old Parish Church.

The Senior School Dance was held on 13th December, and the various other Christmas parties took place in the following week. These activities were once more a great success for which we must thank Miss Livingstone, Miss Fettes, Mr Hood and Mr Blair.

School broke up from Friday, 21st December to Monday, 7th January for Christmas.
During this Christmas Holiday our school captain, Ian D Beattie, represented school at the Christmas Conference organized by the Council for Education in World Citizenship in London.

On 7th January Miss Jean Turner joined the Homecraft staff in succession to Mrs Shepherd and Mrs Johnston, who had been working mornings and afternoons respectively. Also early in January, school was addressed by Mr J Henderson Stewart, Under Secretary of State for Scotland.

Then came the School Burns Supper followed by our annual ordeal, the Highers.

School has been extended, with the addition of eight new hut classrooms behind the present buildings.

At the end of March, the senior boys were given a talk by Captain L W Smith on Careers in the Merchant Navy.

In April we learned that school had once more been very successful in the University Bursary Competitions. In the St Andrews Competition, C Donald Sinclair won a Harkness Residential Scholarship of £100 for 4 years, Elizabeth M. Carmichael a Taylor-Thomson Medical Bursary of £50 for 6 years, and Alistair J. S. Walker a Ramsay Bursary of £50 for 4 years. In the Dundee Queen's College Competition, Neil Cameron won a Clyde Henderson Bursary in Science of £50 for 4 years. Because of this notable success, and in response to a request made by the school captain, the School Management Committee granted a whole holiday on May 24th.

In April the preliminary sketch plans for the new Bell-Baxter Senior Secondary School were submitted to the rector. The present school buildings will serve as a Junior Secondary School and a Technical College.

On 18th May our senior mixed choir competed in the Edinburgh Music Festival. The choir was placed third in a class of four, with 171 marks—three marks behind the winners, Buckhaven High School. The choir also gained the highest mark in its class for its rendering of Elgar's *My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land*.

On 30th May the sixth year travelled to Kirkcaldy High School to attend a conference on Ghana, organised by the Imperial Institute. The pupils were addressed by the Reverend P S D Martinson, a native of Ghana, and Mr A J Loveridge CMG, who served in the Colonial Administrative Service for 26 years.

At present some of our school golfing enthusiasts are attending a course of lessons on golf at Scotscaig Golf Course, Tayport. The lessons have been organised by the Golf Foundation.

School is at the moment bristling with activity, for it is nearing the end of another session. Preparations are in full swing for Sports Day, Drama Day, and the School Concert. The fifth and sixth forms are in fear and trembling awaiting 'the results' and we are all, with varying feelings, looking forward to the 5th of July, when our Guest of Honour at the Prizegiving is to be Sir James Henderson-Stewart, and when once more yet another school year will be at its close.

1958

Refreshed and re-invigorated by our summer vacation, we returned to school on 26th August, 1957, most of us for a whole session, but some only to ‘serve their time’ till Christmas. In February this loss in numbers was made up by the arrival of the Preparatory class.
We welcomed three new teachers at the beginning of the session: Mr W F J Glover and Mr W B Johnstone to join the Technical department and Mr E J Davidson to teach Mathematics. A few days later we heard that Mr A J Forsyth had been appointed to a post with the Department of Agriculture and that Dr D J Neilson had accepted the offer of a lectureship at Queen's College, Dundee. After an interval of two months Mr I Ross succeeded Mr Forsyth. In February Mrs Shepherd arrived to teach the new IG.

On 9th September the Rector invested the new captains and prefects with their badges of office. The Captains this session are John Henderson and Jane D Clark; the vice-captains are David J Whyte and Margaret K Whyte. The captain represented school at the CEWC Christmas Holiday Lectures in London.

For the second year running a former pupil of Bell-Baxter was elected senior student of Dundee Training College, former girls' captain, Eileen Hall, emulating her predecessor, Eleanor Wilson.

In a Road Safety quiz, a team of Bell-Baxter junior pupils defeated all their Fife rivals, only to fall to a Dundee team. The strength of our rugby team was underlined by the selection of David Whyte and John Henderson as members of the Midlands District Rugby Fifteen, David being appointed captain. In later matches Dennis Cook, David Duncan and Ian Black also represented the district on the rugby field.

The Christmas parties and dances were again enjoyed by everyone thanks to the capable organization of Miss Livingstone, Mr Hood, Miss Fettes and Mr Blair. Just before Christmas the senior choir sang in a performance of part of Handel's Messiah in St. John's Church, the object being to raise money for the choir to participate in the Musical Festival in Edinburgh the following May.

At the end of term service a collection was taken which raised £22, half of which was sent to Princess Margaret Rose Hospital and half donated to the National Fund for Polio Research. Earlier in the term, Mr Goodall, Mr Rodger and senior art pupils painted two large paintings which they sent to Cameron Hospital, Windygates, and, in the new year, the junior school collected £14 for the British Sailors' Society.

In January the Burns Supper provided some respite from the ‘Prelims,’ but after surviving a blizzard which one day reduced our numbers by over 500, we again found ourselves submitted to the dreaded ordeal of the ‘Highers.’ This year a record number of 131 candidates sat the Examination.

After the Easter break we welcomed back a party of senior girls, who, chaperoned by Miss Livingstone, Miss Rintoul, Miss E S King and Miss Dymock, had visited what we understand was a rainy but, as ever, gay Paris. Mr Young arrived at the same time to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Dr Neilson.

On April 22nd the health of our juniors was further safeguarded when 700 of them received anti-Polio vaccinations.

In the St Andrews University Bursary Competition, Bell-Baxter had two successful candidates. David Whyte won a Harkness Exhibition of £70 a year for 4 years and Graeme Fyffe was awarded a Taylor-Thomson Bursary of £50 a year for 4 years. At Edinburgh, John Henderson was placed 27th on the list of competitors.

We have also had some notable successes by former pupils of Bell-Baxter. Kerr Brotherton gained an award as ‘the best student apprentice of his year’ in the Ministry of Supply; Ronald Rennie, who is studying at Dundee Technical College, won the Armitstead Silver Medal and Prize and the Bruce Ball Medal and Prize in Mechanical Engineering; at Bridge of Earn Hospital, Isabella Riddle gained the Dr McLeod Medal.
for General Nursing Ability and the Prize for Gynaecological Nursing, while Ann Duncan was awarded the First Prize for Senior Nursing, Dietetics and Tuberculosis; and Claire Fullerton won an Andrew Grant Scholarship of £250 a year at Edinburgh College of Art.

We have had the usual full quota of visits and excursions this session. These included talks by officers of the Army, Navy and Merchant Navy and the annual astronomy lecture by Dr Cisar of St Andrews University. Senior Science pupils have had trips to the Christmas Lecture in Dundee, to Henry Balfour's works in Leven, to Dr Cisar's observatory and to Perth Glassworks. Senior French pupils saw Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme at St Andrews. In May our 190 voice Senior Choir and its conductor, Mr Galloway, went to Edinburgh to compete in the long-awaited Musical Festival. Apparently our singing was not sufficiently lusty for the adjudicator's liking and we were placed behind our old enemy Kirkcaldy High School in both hymn singing and part singing. However, we were not without success, for the third year girls gained the James A Norrie Memorial Shield for being first in their class.

At the time of going to press the heats for the School Sports on 12th June are in full swing and we are looking forward to days in the sun as we prepare for the Gym Display. The session will end with the end of term service and Prize Giving.

1959

On Monday 24th August 1958 after seven weeks' holiday, school opened her doors to 1,133 pupils. This number was swelled by some hundred preparatory pupils in February.

Several staff changes have taken place this session. In August we welcomed Mr Meikle to replace Miss Watt in the Geography department, and Monsieur Debuisne who is the new assistant in the French department. Miss Turner left the Domestic Science Department to be replaced by Miss Mackintosh and because of increasing numbers in the pupil population we were joined after Easter by Miss Donald for the maths department, Miss Thomson who teaches music, Mr Paulin to teach English and Mr Thomson for the classics department.

Shortly after the beginning of the Session the captains and prefects were elected to office. The captains this year are John Black and Anne F Gordon; the vice-captains are Peter R Dew and Anne Downie. As usual the boy captain represented school at the CEWC Christmas Conference in London.

The autumn term was lightened by several enjoyable excursions. Parties from school went to Kirkcaldy to hear a concert given by the Scottish National Orchestra and to St Andrews to see Le Malade Imaginaire enacted by La Troupe Française. In November many of us were most fortunate to attend a special film performance of the Bolshoi Ballet.

The Christmas Concert was held in St John's Church by kind permission of the minister, the Reverend Mr Porteous, and the Kirk Session. Under their conductor, Mr Galloway, the senior mixed choir gave renderings of part of Handel's Messiah and Zadok the Priest, and the Senior girls sang Cedric Thorpe Davie's Rejoice and Be Merry.

Thanks to the expert organisation and management of Miss Livingstone, Miss Fettes, Mr Blair and Mr Rodger the Christmas parties were as successful as always.

A Collection was taken at the End of Term Service and cheques were sent to the National Deaf Children's Society and the Royal School for the Blind.
An unusually large number of candidates sat the Leaving Certificate Examinations in March and they are at present fearfully awaiting the results.

During the Easter holidays twenty-four senior boys, combining education with pleasure, went to Switzerland under Mr Meikle's supervision.

Tragedy, however, struck school in this summer term for we were very profoundly distressed to lose three of our boys in road accidents—Peter Jordan of the First Year, Ian Gold and Michael White of the Sixth Year.

In the middle of May the senior choir, under Mr Johnson and Mr Galloway, proceeded in seven buses to the Musical Festival in Edinburgh. The adjudicator although impressed by our numbers was not so impressed by our singing, for we gained only one merit certificate. The notable success, however, was that of our School Orchestra who gained 85 marks and a Merit Certificate.

This is a great credit to Mr Galloway and the Orchestra, for it is composed mainly of First and Second year pupils.

At present school is a hive of activity. Large audiences enjoyed the school concert which was held on the 3rd and 4th June. Dr Mearns, renowned in medical spheres, has given a talk on 'Personal Relations' to the senior girls and boys. Sports heats are now being run. At Kirkgate preparations are being made for the Mannequin Parade which is to be held on the evening of Sports Day. Pupils of all ages are rehearsing for Drama Night. On the 18th June the seniors of the Fifth and Sixth forms will attend a Religious Conference at Buckhaven.

With mixed feelings we are awaiting the end of term. School will indeed be sorry to lose Miss Cape who is retiring at the end of the term. A former pupil of the school, Miss Cape has taught piano lessons here since 1917. The year will finish with the End of Term Service and the Prize Giving at which Professor Copson of St Salvator's, St Andrews University, will be the Guest of Honour.

1960

On 24th August, 1959 one thousand two hundred and twenty pupils, invigorated by their summer holiday, arrived to find school enlarged by the addition of thirteen new hutted classrooms. The session opened with the good news that four members of Class VI, John Todd, J Allan Stewart, Derek Barrie and Marjorie Urquhart had won four out of the first six prizes in the East of Scotland Area in an Essay Competition run by the Overseas League.

This year's Captains were appointed at the beginning of September — J Allan Stewart and Judith A Brown, and the Vice-Captains, Richard Anderson and Susan Thomson.

Staff changes have been so numerous that it is difficult to catalogue them. Mr Seath has been promoted to be Principal Teacher of Chemistry. Mr Napier and Mr Cattan have been promoted to be Special Assistants. Miss Grewer has joined the Homecraft Department replacing Miss Jamieson, who became Head of the Homecraft Department at Buckhaven High School. Miss Alice Fleming has replaced Miss Cape who retired last year from the position of pianoforte teacher which she had held since 1917. Mrs Stewart joined the Staff to teach French and Latin, Miss Anderson to teach Mathematics, Mr Davidson having left the Maths Department for a London School and Mr Mitchell having become Principal Maths Teacher in Stanley JS School. Mr
Hutchison also left us to become Principal Teacher of History in Doncaster Secondary Modern School. Mr Watts came to teach Technical Subjects.

A new assistant Janitor, William Stewart, was appointed.

Before September was over we learned, much to our regret, of the Rector's illness which necessitated a period in hospital in Edinburgh. He was discharged on 7th October, but since then recurrences of the trouble have been frequent and increasingly severe, and in May he had to give up any attempt to keep going till the end of the Session. He returned to the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh where an operation was successfully performed on 2nd June. The warmest good wishes for his speedy recovery go from us all. We hope he will soon be completely restored to health and able to be back with us.

In December the school was saddened to learn of the death of Mr Stivens who taught in the Geography and Over-age Departments. We deeply regret his loss. In the same month came the news of the illness of Mr Howie, Head of the Classics Department, who was absent from school for five months. School was very glad to welcome him back in May.

Two School Excursions were made in the Autumn Term. The Senior Science students, accompanied by Mr Hood, attended a lecture on dyes at Queen's College, Dundee, and Senior French students a French play, *Le Voyage de M Perrichon*, performed in St Andrews by the Troupe Française.

The Christmas Concert was held in St John's Church by kind permission of the Minister, the Reverend Mr Porteous, and the Kirk Session. With Mr Galloway as conductor and Mr John Tainsh as guest soloist, the choir performed Benjamin Britten's *St Nicholas*.

The Christmas Parties, owing to the hard work and expert management of Miss Livingstone, Miss Finlay, Mr Blair and Mr Rodger, were as successful as ever.

Allan Stewart, Captain of School, attended the Council for Education in World Citizenship conference in London in the Christmas holidays.

The main event of the Spring Term was, of course, the Leaving Certificate Examination. The numbers sitting were larger than ever this year. The candidates await the results with the usual mixture of hope and trepidation.

It was announced that Edward Jarron, Class VI, had won a Flying Scholarship entitling him to flying instruction, as a result of which he now (aged 17) has a Private Pilot's Licence.

In the Easter Holidays 28 Senior girls and 4 lady members of staff went on an exciting trip to France. They all returned!

Recent additions to the Staff have been: Miss Eileen Butler (English); Mr James W Campbell (Science); Mr Thomas Carnie (Mathematics); Mr John Docherty (History); Mr Malcolm Gillespie (Mathematics); Mr L W Johnson (Over-age Department) and Mr John Methven (Geography).

At the beginning of the summer term four boys went to play in the Scottish Boys' Golf Championship. They all did well, especially Sandy Wilson, who, playing splendid golf, reached the Final.

The School did extremely well in the University Bursary Competitions. At St Andrews, J Allan Stewart (School Captain) won a Ramsay Scholarship and John R C Todd a Low Scholarship. Both are of £100 for four years.
Albert Karasiewicz won a Taylour Thomson Bursary of £60 for four years and Derek Barrie a Ramsay Bursary of £50 for four years. Marjorie Urquhart, Class VI, was placed seventh in General Subjects in the Edinburgh University Competition.

A MacDougall Trust Bursary of £60 for three years was awarded to Judith Brown (Girl Captain). She will attend St Andrews University.

The Senior Boys were given a most informative lecture by the Dundee Naval Recruiting Officer.

A talk on Health and Hygiene was given to the Senior Girls by Dr Simpson.

It has just been announced that Thomas Howie, Class VI, has won a Prize (un des cinq Meilleurs de l'Ecosse) in an Essay Competition for Great Britain organised by the Institut Français.

The School Orchestra has also recently acquitted itself well by winning a Merit Certificate at the Musical Festival in Edinburgh.

The Sports have taken place and the Gymnastic Display has had to be held in the Assembly Hall because of the intrusion of those huts on what was our precious sports ground. The End of Term Service and the Prize-Giving Ceremonies bring us to the end of another year.

The bull-dozers have begun to cut away the ground for the foundations of the new Bell Baxter. A process we had begun to think of as partaking of the qualities of a mirage has actually begun. Next year’s School Notes should see a Progress Report.

1961

The session began on August 21st, 1960, with a roll of 1,232 pupils. This year’s Captains were appointed—John Hunter and Janet Heron and the Vice-Captains—James Bell and Isobel Liddle. Changes amongst the Staff this year are legion, too numerous, in fact, to list in full. The most notable was the retirement on 30th September of Miss Ethel M King, after 25 years at Bell-Baxter. Mr James Cattan was promoted to the post of Principal Teacher of Science at Mackie Academy, Stonehaven, while Mr Thomas Galloway left to become Principal Teacher of Music at Peterhead Academy.

To Miss King, we wish a long and happy retirement, and to Messrs Cattan and Galloway every success in their new posts. Miss Downs is in hospital as a result of a car accident on April 19th. We wish her a speedy recovery and the best of health in the future.

The senior pupils enjoyed many excursions in the course of the first term. A hundred and ten scholars attended the annual French play in St Andrews. Kirkcaldy was the venue for two evening visits by Bell-Baxter pupils: a party of sixth-formers was present at a discussion on ‘University Failures’, and a number of our pupils enjoyed a concert given by the Scottish National Orchestra. An effort to interest our boys in the Navy was made when a Royal Navy Recruiting Officer gave an interesting talk on ‘Careers in the Royal Navy’. Twenty senior boys later visited Queen’s College, Dundee, to hear a Lecture on ‘The Work of the Railway Chemist’.

As always, the Christmas Parties were run smoothly and efficiently under the direction of Miss Livingstone, Mr Blair, Miss Finlay, and many others. The term ended with the Christmas service, at which a collection was taken on behalf of Princess Margaret Rose Hospital and the Polio Research Fund.

During the Christmas Holidays the School Captain represented the School at the annual conference of the CEWC in London. On February 6th, our numbers, depleted by the
Christmas leavers, were more than replenished by the arrival of 96 Prep. Class pupils. The main event of the 2nd term, of course, was the SLC Examination.

Unfortunately, inclement weather caused the cancellation of the Staff Hockey and Football Matches.

On returning to school for the third term, we were grieved to learn of the Rector’s illness, but were pleased to welcome him back on May 8th. We hope that his work will not be further interrupted by ill-health. Early in the term 5th and 6th year girls were addressed on ‘Careers in the WRAF’ by Flight Officer Chalmers, and the 3rd year girls were given a lecture on hygiene by Dr Simpson. A great many trips have taken place or are planned for this term.

A party of Junior Secondary pupils visited Innes’s printing works, and they intend to go to the Zoo in Edinburgh on 23rd June. Engineering and science pupils of the 6th form were shown the Applied Science Department at Queen’s College on April 23rd, and 40 of our scientists attended a lecture on ‘Magnetism’ by Sir Lawrence Bragg in St Andrews on 25th May. British Association films were shown in School on the previous day.

Once again Bell-Baxter Sportsmen have won distinction. Lyle Croll, Wilfred Cameron, and Michael Waddington were chosen to play in the Midlands Schoolboys’ Rugby team, while Catherine Sutherland and Dorothy Erskine were selected for the Midlands Schoolgirls’ Hockey team, Catherine being appointed captain of the side. In the Elie Girls’ Golf Championship, both finalists were from Bell-Baxter. Kathleen Cumming triumphed over Jennifer Gardner to win the Championship. Scholastically, our achievements included the winning of two bursaries at St Andrews University. Derek W Smith won the Clyde Henderson Bursary of £50 a year for 3 years at Queen’s College and John A A Hunter was awarded a Malcolm Bursary of £40 a year for 6 years at St Salvator’s College.

In connection with Commonwealth Technical Training Week, the Technical Department held an ‘Open Night’ from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday, 30th May. Work done in the course of the session was on display.

The school sports will be held on June 8th, and on that and the following day, there will be an Art Exhibition of the Juniors’ masterpieces. The Seniors’ work will be on view on June 21-22.

On June 15th, three plays will be presented by the Drama Club. These will be Let Wives Tak Tent, an excerpt from School for Scandal, and The Relapse of Lady Teazle.

The school Concert will take place on June 21st-22nd in the Assembly Hall, and the Prize Givings will be held on June 29th and 30th.

For twenty-seven lucky 5th and 6th Year pupils the term does not quite end on June 30th. They will embark the following day on the SS Dunera for a cruise under the supervision of the Rector, calling at Corunna, Lisbon, and Gibraltar. We trust that they will enjoy themselves, and return cherishing some unforgettable memories of a school at sea.

1962

The session began on August 23rd, 1961, with a roll of 1,204 pupils.

Several pupils, on their return to school, were conspicuous by their well-tanned faces, this tan having been gained on the school cruise, which was greatly enjoyed by the boys and girls, who took part in all the activities. Some won places in sporting and academic
pursuits, while others found a hitherto unknown talent as amateur disc jockeys. The ports of call were Corunna, Gibraltar and Lisbon, and the party, under the leadership of the Rector, showed how successful such a cruise could be.

Our first success of the session was the winning of five prizes in the Royal Overseas League Essay Competition. In the Senior Division prizes were won by Ian Wilson and Evelyn Sime and in the Junior Division by Doreen Shewan, Kathleen Stewart and John Sinclair.

This year's Captains were appointed—James Thomson and Sandra Peebles, and Vice-captains, Lyall Wilson and Aileen Paterson.

Staff changes have again been numerous. Mr Campbell left the Science department and went into industry. Miss Balfour and Mr Goodall left the Art department, emigrating to Australia and becoming head Art teacher at Glenwood Secondary School respectively. Mr Ross of the Agricultural department left for Dumfries and Miss High of the Music department left for Primary School work. We wish them all success in their new posts. Dr Robertson and Mrs Myskow have joined the Science department, Mr Scott, the English department, Mrs Duncan and Miss Booth the Art department and Mr Greenshields the Music department.

In the course of the first term, senior French pupils attended the annual French play at Madras College. Mr Mill, from The Times, addressed senior pupils on the newspaper industry, and the sixth form pupils were given a talk by Mr Dixon, Founder Director of Voluntary Service Overseas. The senior Science pupils attended the Queen's College Christmas Lecture when Dr Magnus Pyke spoke on Vitamins. A party of fifth year girls, with Miss Thomson, attended the Edinburgh Festival where they heard the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Chess Club has been re-started and clubs concerned with dancing, basketball and sailing have come into existence. The Sailing Club has, thanks to a grant from the East Fife Educational Trust, been able to acquire two sailing dinghies, Alpha and Beta, the former being launched by Mrs Dunlop at Newburgh on the fifth of May.

The Christmas parties were as successful as ever, owing to the efficiency of Miss Livingstone, Mr Blair, Mr Rodger, Mrs Oliphant, Miss Todd and many others.

The first term ended with the Christmas Service at which a collection of £24 13s 10d was taken, the money going to Guide Dogs for the Blind and the British Sailors' Society. The Staff v. Pupils Hockey and Football Matches at the end of the second term provided much amusement for spectators and participants alike.

This year four University Bursaries were won by school pupils. James Thomson won a Harkness Residential Exhibition of £75 a year for four years, and Ian Wilson won a Taylor Thomson Bursary of £60 a year for four years. Both of these were in Mathematics and Science at St Andrews University. At Aberdeen University Morag Rennie won the Rose Bursary (Classics) of £30 a year for four years. Evelyn Sime was awarded a McDougal Trust Bursary of £40 a year for three years. She will attend St Andrews University.

Our sportsmen once again won distinction. Andrew Manzie played at wing forward for the Midlands Schoolboys Rugby Team, playing against the other regions and touring in Ulster at Easter. Dorothy Erskine played at right back in the Junior Midlands Hockey Team. School entrants were outstanding in the Elie Golf Competition.

The Over-age pupils' knitted blankets for the Red Cross have been warmly welcomed by that Organization.
We were distressed to hear of the death of one of our first year boys, James Marshall, who was killed in a road accident.

The new Leaving Certificate, the Scottish Certificate of Education, took place in May and early June. With the introduction of the O level, the numbers sitting reached a new peak, and this necessitated an examination period of five weeks. It has also caused the curtailment of what were regarded as our normal summer-term activities, only Sports Day on 14\textsuperscript{th} June and the Prize-giving remaining.

For this, however, the advent of the new school must also share the blame, since a flitting such as ours is a major upheaval. But that any immediate drawback will be amply counterbalanced by the many advantages of our fine new premises we do not doubt. The new school incorporates all the modern facilities of education in ideal surroundings. One of its outstanding features is the library. A nucleus of £2,000 from the East Fife Educational Trust has been provided, and members of the Staff have been cataloguing the books, to which access will be a boon to staff and pupils. We wish success to those who will occupy this splendid new building and may they carry on all that is best in Bell-Baxter's traditions.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE SCHOOL LOG 1962**

*Man. 27\textsuperscript{th} August* The new Session opened today in the New School. Senior High School roll 499, Junior High School 894—Total 1393.

*Tues 18\textsuperscript{th} Sept.* The School has been very cold this past week and a number of children have been sent home sick, possibly owing to the coldness of the classroom. Mr Michie, Assistant Director, was telephoned on Saturday morning for permission to switch on our electric under-floor heating, but he said he would consider the matter. The Rector again phoned yesterday asking permission to heat the school. Mr Michie said he would require to consult a higher authority. Today (Tues. 18\textsuperscript{th} Sep.) the Rector switched on the heating, as the cold weather continues. Mr Michie has not telephoned his answer, and the County Buildings have their electric under-floor heating on.

*Fri. 5\textsuperscript{th} Oct.* The 500 copies of the Souvenir Brochure were delivered about 4pm to-day for Monday's Opening Ceremony. The Janitor and cleaners have worked with real enthusiasm. School is shining like a new pin from floor to ceiling, in every department. No public building could be more clean or beautiful.

*Wed. 16\textsuperscript{th} Oct.* Mr. D.—(County Architect's Dept.) is to bring a party from the North Riding of Yorkshire (Electricity officials, Medical Officer of Health, etc.) to examine the under-floor electric heating and the swimming-pool heating and chlorination plant, on Wed. 24\textsuperscript{th} Oct, 1962.

*Tues. 23\textsuperscript{rd} Oct.* The Rector was invited by the Air Ministry to fly to Cyprus with a party of Headmasters and University Vice Chancellors on Monday 29\textsuperscript{th} Oct., ...This morning, however, he received a telegram from the Air Ministry intimating that the flight had to be cancelled because of "operational commitments" (perhaps not unconnected with the current "crisis over Cuba").

*Thurs. 8\textsuperscript{th} Nov.* Miss Alice Donald (Hons 1 Maths) leaves at the end of November....For the first time School is really hit by the severe scarcity of Mathematics teachers. The Rector has been informed....that all they have "on their books" is "two Indians and a Greek".

*Thurs 14\textsuperscript{th} Nov.* Dr. Inglis phoned to tell the Rector that Mr. M. had informed him of a change in the Education Committee's plans for Cupar. The new Junior High School will be built, in about five years, *someone was living in Cloud Cuckoo Land - Ed.* in the field adjoining Wetlands Playing field, on a site separated from the New Senior High School by Westfield Road. The present Junior High School...will become a Primary School (instead of a Junior Technical College, as was previously proposed). Yet another option!

*21\textsuperscript{st} Nov.* The Rector is communicating with the famous Concert Agents, Messrs. Ibbs and Tillett, 124 Wigmore St., London W1, to see if we can have a Celebrity Concert artist to perform in Bell Baxter Senior High School Hall. The fee would be paid by the East Fife Educational Trust.
1963

The session began on the 27th August with over 1,500 pupils who are now housed under two roofs, the senior pupils being in the new school.

On the 11th September, captains and prefects were appointed, Lewis M Reay and Elizabeth A Gordon being Captains, and Sinclair Winskill and Frances V Hutchison Vice-Captains.

On the 8th October, the school was officially opened by Sir Hector Hetherington, Principal Emeritus of Glasgow University. Many other important people were guests of honour. The school captain and a prefect, David J Thomson, presented Sir Hector with a coffee table made for the occasion by members of the technical department.

During the course of the year, numerous visitors have come from places as far apart as Canada, New Zealand and Guiana, and all were very favourably impressed with our school.

An Educational Trust grant enabled us to purchase the pictures which now grace our walls.

This year the Music Club was revived, its aim being to foster musical appreciation. It makes good use of a fine record-player and has a large and enthusiastic membership.

In November, Miss Alice Donald left to take up an appointment in Edinburgh, and in December, Miss Spittal took her place in the Mathematics department.

During the first term, senior French pupils were at a performance at St Andrews University of L'Amour Medecin by Moliere and Intermezzo by Giradoux, and senior science pupils attended the Christmas lecture at Queen's College on the chemistry of light.

On December 12th the school captain had the honour of being presented to the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace while receiving the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

The Christmas dances were enjoyed by all, thanks to the capable organisation of Miss Livingstone, Mr Blair, Mr Rodger and several others.

A collection was taken at the service at the end of the winter term and a cheque for £18 7s was sent to the British Institute for Cancer Research.

As usual the school captain attended the CEWC Christmas holiday lectures in London.

On the 27th and 28th March, performances of the School Concert were given before large and appreciative audiences. The junior school members supplied two one-act plays and choirs, while the senior school had the school choir and orchestra and several other items including dancing, piano solos and ensembles and gymnastics. The concert was a great success in every way, and much credit is due to the staff and pupils concerned.

Lest the staff may appear eclipsed by the doings of the pupils, we are pleased to call attention to the winning, by Mr Lindsay and Mr Johnson, of a Scottish song-writing competition organised by the Burns Federation.

Shortly after our return from the Easter vacation, we were very grieved to hear of the death of Mr Wilson, Head of the Technical Department. On the 29th April, a service was held in St James's Episcopal Church which was attended by staff and pupils. His loss is deeply felt throughout the school.

The end of May saw us recovering from the Leaving Certificate Examinations; 261 pupils were presented. The results are awaited with the usual mixed feelings.
At Perth Musical Festival David Rennie of VIb was first in the 16-18 years Piano Solo Class, and also won the Special Award for the best instrumental performance of the Festival.

At the head of events still to come as we go to press is a Celebrity Concert by the world famous opera singer, Joan Hammond. This is a new departure for Bell-Baxter and a tremendous privilege. Other items on our summer programme are the School Sports, where Miss Wood will present the prizes, and the annual Prize-giving where the guest of honour is Professor Walmsley of the Department of Anatomy at St Andrews University.

The Junior High School began the year with a roll of 897 pupils and 58 members of staff, 28 of whom were newcomers. On 31st August, however, two of our most esteemed members of staff left, Miss can R. Downs, to take up an appointment in Horsham, Sussex, and Mr Ian G Docherty to take up a Rotary Scholarship which entitled him to one year's study in the USA.

Shortly after the beginning of term came the first appointment of monitors - 12 boys and 12 girls - with W Brian Bayne as Head Boy and Kathleen Rattray as Head Girl. The latter left school on 31st October and was succeeded by Jean W Hallyburton who in turn was succeeded on 1st February by Lorna Rose.

On 10th December two films on India were shown, by Miss V B Kamath on behalf of the Tea Board of India, to second and fourth year pupils who were studying the geography of the country. On 2nd May these films were shown again to the first form along with films on New Zealand presented by Mr James Stirrat who had recently returned from that country.

The collection taken at the Christmas church service amounted to £25 10s 3d and it was given to the Fife County Fund devoted to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

The four Christmas Parties for the first and second forms were held in the Junior School Assembly Hall, while third formers and seniors attended the dances in the senior School.

On 4th February the numbers were swelled by the addition to the ranks of three Preparatory Classes, the roll then being 989, the maximum roll of the session.

During the session the Overage Department have had three excursions of educational value, two to St Andrews, on the 22nd January and on the 14th May, when the castle and abbey were thoroughly explored, and one to the flag factory of Messrs D M Stenhouse, Ltd., Cupar. All three excursions were arranged and controlled by Mr J T Wills.

The Junior School Prize-giving on 4th July will have as guests of honour Brigadier and Mrs H W Crawford.

We hope that the standard expected of our school will be kept up and do not doubt that it will flourish under two roofs as it did under one.

The Official Opening of the New School

I was not entirely pleased when I learned that, being a member of the school choir, I would not be on holiday on Monday, 8th October, as would my less musically-minded friends. To make matters worse, the sun had to shine brilliantly on that day as I struggled to straighten the seams of the black stockings the female singers had been asked to wear for this very important occasion. I groaned as I thought of my more fortunate friends who, at that precise moment, would only have ten minutes' journey by train before they would reach Edinburgh.

As I skulked up the road, I felt rather conspicuous and supposed, from the startled expressions
on some mothers' faces at seeing us in full school uniform, that they could not decide whether we were mad or whether Tommy was not being truthful when he said that Monday was a 'holiday'.

As 2.15 p.m. approached, the time when all choir members were to be in their seats, we made our way to the assembly hall. We were surprised to discover that, over the weekend, two sizeable evergreen trees had sprung up at the back of the stage! Undoubtedly, however, the plants added brightness, and the scene confronting us met with my approval.

When we were seated, the staff, resplendent in academic hoods, the brilliant colours of which were shown up by their black gowns, passed down the aisle in a long procession. They were followed by the platform party, well-known figures in political, educational and administrative spheres, the most prominent of whom was Sir Hector Hetherington, Principal Emeritus of Glasgow University, who was to give the address and officially declare the school open.

The Chairman, John Allan JP, announced the hymn, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation*, and, after a hearty rendering had been given of it, the school chaplain said the prayer of dedication. Then came a few opening remarks, with the Chairman showing great consideration by introducing us to the VIPs. Sir Hector then performed the opening ceremony. I noticed that a few words had been jotted on the papers he held, but during his entire speech he looked only a few times at these papers. He was indeed a great speaker—a 'speech' seems far too stiff and formal for the manner in which he addressed us. I became so captivated by the friendly tone in which he spoke, that I was completely oblivious of my surroundings and almost convinced he was talking to me and me alone. His address was delivered in such a kindly manner, and he was so unassuming that it was not difficult to conceive why he is one of the most beloved and respected figures in this country. After the school had been officially opened, came the choir's rendering of *Jerusalem*, and *Pomp and Circumstance*, the latter of which, I thought, we sang with more verve than we had ever sung it before—perhaps its words had sprung to life and we had found new meaning in them. When the choir sat down, we listened to some remarks by our Director of Education, and then Dr Dunlop closed the programme with his vote of thanks.

As I made my way home, I began to realise that in being in the choir I was one of the privileged few and no longer felt envious of my friends in Edinburgh who had missed such a memorable occasion.

Alix M Brown, Val

When the ceremony was over, the guests of the school toured the building and the prefects took the responsible job of acting as guides, after which we appreciated the competence of the catering department as it was shown in our beautiful dining-room where tea was set.

But the convoying of distinguished visitors was really only a practice run! When parents and friends were allowed through the school, both teachers and prefects were run off their feet showing people here and there, although no-one grudged doing this.

A route was marked with arrows, round the school, for visitors to follow. This ended at the Dining-Hall, where Miss Livingstone was supervising 'teas at 1/-'. (The money was going to the School Funds.)

It was interesting to listen to people's comments on the school. Nearly everyone spoke about the Assembly Hall and the swimming pool. As we were all so busy, it was soon nine o'clock. There were fewer people walking around then, and I had time to stop and
admire the school. I had been in it for weeks before that night, but I had never stopped to think how lucky I was to have a chance to be taught in such magnificent surroundings. Somehow the school looked different that night, lit up and nice and warm. I was overcome by a sense of pride, which I am sure showed on my face, and when a kindly old woman asked me if I enjoyed being at school, I answered, surprisingly, with a truthful ‘yes’.

When I went home that night, I sank gratefully into a chair, resting my weary legs. I realised then that from half-past one until half-past nine, I had been sitting only for the one and a half hours during the ceremony. I was exhausted, and I am sure everyone else was too, but I wouldn't have missed it for anything.

ELSPETH M BREWSTER, VC

Pupils working on the table that was presented to Sir Hector Hetherington on the opening of the new school.

The New Bell-Baxter

When we entered our new School on the 18th June, 1962, we did more than open a new building: we inaugurated a new phase in the history of Scottish education. Here, in the Cupar area, we have the first example of a fully centralised system of post-primary education, where all the pupils, on completing their primary schooling, proceed together to one school for the secondary stage, irrespective of the course which they are to follow.

From thirty primary schools, therefore, within a radius of about ten miles from Cupar, all the pupils transfer to Bell-Baxter, wear the same colours, blazers, badges and ties, share the same teachers, enjoy the same experiences, cultivate the same loyalties. Yet there is no attempt to impose a common pattern of education upon the children. Every child's natural gifts and educational achievements are carefully studied (together with the parents' wishes), and that course of education is offered from which each one, according to his or her abilities, aptitudes and interests, is likely to profit most.
After two years in the Junior High School, the pupils who have been following an H (Higher) course transfer to the Senior High School, which contains Forms III-VI of the H stream. Those pupils who are following an O (Ordinary) or an S (Secondary) course continue their education in the Junior High School, where, in the Fourth Form, they will be presented, at the Scottish Certificate of Education examination, in all the O grade subjects for which they are fit. If any O or S pupils wish to try Higher grade examinations after success at Ordinary grade, they will transfer to the Senior High School (Form V).

We thus have two closely-linked branches of Bell-Baxter - a comprehensive Junior High School and a selective Senior High School, with a genuine ‘facility of transfer’ between them.

By this system we have the best of both worlds. We have healed the social wound caused by the dispersal of twelve-year-old children to different schools according to their courses, and at the same time we have ensured that the ablest children in our community will be educated to the utmost of their ability.

A great deal of hard thinking has gone into this organisation, and already it has attracted the attention of educationists all over the world. Last week we had visitors from Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and Swaziland!

With the help of able and loyal teachers and pupils, and interested parents, we hope to make Bell-Baxter a name to conjure with in the world of Education.

‘ ‘Tis not in mortals to command success,
But we'll do more, Sempronius: we'll deserve it.’

J E DUNLOP, Rector.

1964

The session began on Wednesday, 28th August, with a total of 1,576 pupils, of whom 461 were in the Senior School.

The school year started sadly, with the news of the tragic death of John A Sinclair (Va1) on 10th August while on holiday in Austria, and the death of Dr Alex Inglis, Depute Rector, who was on holiday in Wales. On 30th August members of staff and pupils attended a memorial service for Dr Inglis in St Fillan’s Church, Newport.

There have been several staff changes at the Senior School. Miss Wood, of the Classics department, retired at the end of September after 37 years in Bell-Baxter. In October, Mr W L Lindsay succeeded to the post of Depute Rector in charge of the Junior School, and, later in the year, Mr Badenoch, principal teacher of History, announced his intention of retiring for health reasons. We have lost Mr Cooper, Mr Glover and Mr Meikle, and new arrivals include Mr E Young (English) and Mr L Young (Technical). Mr Rodger leaves for Glenrothes at the end of the session.

On Friday, September 13th, this year’s captains and prefects were appointed, John S B Martin and Jennifer D Seath being captains, Geoffrey W Paton and Elspeth M Brewster, vice-captains.

A team of three Bell-Baxter pupils, Charles Davidson, Helen Mercer and Donald Ritchie, competed in the Scottish Television programme Round-Up Quiz, on 24th September. On 28th October, the Rector flew to Cyprus at the invitation of the Air Ministry.

During the first term, in the Senior School Assembly Hall, senior French pupils saw a performance of Molière's Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme. Senior Science pupils attended the Christmas lecture on colour at Queen's College.
In November, Mr Turnbull was taken ill and was absent for several weeks, but he is now happily recovered.

Just before Christmas, the School Drama Club presented the play *I Have Five Daughters* by Margaret Macnamara, based on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. This highly successful production was under the charge of Mr George Scott, of the English department.

The Christmas dances were enjoyed by all. Our thanks are once again due to Miss Livingstone, Mr Blair, Miss Todd, Mr Rodger, the prefects and many others.

At the end of term services, £35 was collected for the Fife Society for the Blind.

During the Christmas Holidays, the School Captain attended the CEWC lectures at the Central Hall, Westminster.

On March 17th, School was entertained by the Fife Teachers' Drama Group, who performed excerpts from the Shakespearean plays *Hamlet*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Bell-Baxter pupils repeated their successes of last year in the Elie Sports Week Championships at Easter. Dorothy Low retained the senior girls' golf title, and James Farmer won the intermediate boys' championship. In the tennis section, Gilford Bradley retained the senior boys' singles title, and John Martin and Gilford Bradley won the Boys' doubles, also for the second year running.

Bell-Baxter has achieved considerable success in bursary examinations and scholarship interviews. Joyce F Cunningham won a Cupar Bursary of £40 a year for 4 years in the Arts Faculty at St Andrews University. Geoffrey W Paton gained a Clyde Henderson Bursary of £50 per annum for 4 years at Queen's College, Dundee. No fewer than three boys won industrial scholarships — Geoffrey Paton, a Caltex University Scholarship of £425 per annum for 4 years, and Angus C McNicoll and Martin C K Pope both gained Babcock and Wilcox Student Engineering Apprenticeships of over £300 per annum, for 4 years.

The School was shocked to hear, on 10th May, of the death of Mr Alfred R Simpson, assistant janitor (better known as Fred to thousands of Bell-Baxter pupils). The Rector, members of staff, school captains and prefects attended the funeral service.

Senior English pupils are looking forward to their visit to Pitlochry to see Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, on Thursday, 4th June, and the sixth year Chemistry class is to visit the North British Glassworks in Perth, on Monday, 8th June.

Following the success of last year's Celebrity Concert in which Joan Hammond entertained the school, Louis Kentner, the world famous pianist, is to play for us on Friday, 19th June.

Events also to come include, on June 11th, the School Sports, where the guest of honour is to be Mrs John Blair, the school 'At Home,' when we hope, in the afternoon and evening, to show parents and friends the many varied aspects of the school at work and at play, and, on 8th July, the School Prizegiving, where the guest of honour is Mr M C Grassie depute Director of Education for Fife.

In the Junior High School there have been fairly numerous staff changes, which for lack of space we omit to mention.

On 11th September the monitors were appointed, Michael Cox being Head Boy and Janet M Crane Head Girl.
In common with the Senior School, the Junior School was inspected from ‘floor to ceiling’ by Her Majesty's Inspectors for three weeks in the autumn.

The Christmas parties, held in the Junior School assembly hall, were a great success, as was the Junior School Burns Supper.

On 30\(^{th}\) March a party of 70 pupils, under Mr Dick and other members of staff, set off for Amsterdam. Reports of the holiday can be read elsewhere in the magazine.

On June 4\(^{th}\) members of class II are to sit an international maths test composed by the Council for Research in Education; the same test will be taken by pupils in the USA, Sweden, etc., on the same day.

During the year, talks have been given by army and navy officers on careers in the Services, and by Dr Craig of the Missionary Service in Bhutan and Kalimpong.

This year will see the first winner of the Dr Alex Inglis Memorial Medal, presented to the Dux of the Junior School.

On June 18\(^{th}\) 20 boys and girls, under Miss Swan, are to visit Stratheden Hospital. Another day is to be spent orienteering, following the success of last year’s expedition.

On June 30\(^{th}\) and July 1\(^{st}\) the Junior School Drama Performances will be held in the Senior School Hall, and the Junior Prizegiving on 7\(^{th}\) July will have Mr Scroggie, of Kilmany Manse, as guest of honour.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE SCHOOL LOG 1964**

**Wed 3\(^{rd}\) June**  Miss Joan Clark, BBC Producer, visited school to-day to select a team of four girls (out of 12 nominees) for a *Top of the Form* Radio Programme ... the girls selected were: under-13 Patricia Laing, under-14 Eileen Blicharski, under-16 Jennifer Cowieson, under-18 Kathleen Ballantyne.

**Thu 4\(^{th}\) June**  A party of 76 pupils, accompanied by four teachers, went to Pitlochry Festival Theatre this afternoon and greatly enjoyed the performance of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*.

**Fri 14th June**  Our (annual) Celebrity Concert (paid for by a £175 grant for the East Fife Educational Trust) was held to-day, with Louis Kentner, the world famous pianist, as our guest. He gave a dazzling performance of great musicianship and virtuosity. His programme consisted of Beethoven’s *Appassionata* Sonata, the 24 preludes of Chopin and five pieces by Liszt. It was a memorable day.

25 June School *At Home* to-day (afternoon and evening) to parents and friends. Thanks to the enthusiasm of Staff (especially Miss Livingstone and Mrs Sinclair, Mr Muir and others) and of the Senior pupils, the day was a most successful occasion, from the educational, social and financial point of view. From stalls of food, fruit etc., a total of £228 was raised. Hundreds of cars filled the forecourt and overflowed into the roadway leading to Springfield.

**Fri 4 Sept.** The Forth Road Bridge ... was opened today by HM the Queen at 11am. All Fife Schools were closed for the day and 2000 schoolchildren were conveyed to the Opening Ceremony. Bell Baxter had 56 pupils’ and six teachers’ places assigned.

**Wed 9 Sept.** Bell Baxter beat Rothesay Academy in the BBC *Top of the Form* programme (recorded in School to-day) by 9 points. The scores were Bell Baxter 33, Rothesay Academy 24.

**Fri.11th Sept.** The Rector to-day received from the BBC a cheque for £10, in payment for the *Top of the Form* programme recorded on Wednesday of this week.
**Mon 14 Sept.** The Rector has had several notices (SILENCE) placed in the School Library, to ensure that the Library is used for serious, silent study by senior pupils, not as a common room for general chit-chat. It is most important at this stage to teach our pupils habits of private study, in ideal surroundings.

**Tues 27 Oct.** Bell Baxter were soundly beaten (40-29) by Montrose Academy in the second round of the *Top of the Form* radio programme. (BBC).

**11 Nov.** The Rector today gave to Mr John Stoane BSc (of the Chemistry Department) a cheque for £5 with which to start the newly-formed Camera Club. The boys propose to build an enlarger for their Club use.

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**1965**

There are few things quite so daunting as a blank sheet of paper. It is even more unnerving if the Editor says, in true English-master fashion, ‘Write a brief account of the past year in the life of the School!’

The life of Bell-Baxter means the life of 1650 pupils, (all of whom have a pulse like a cannon), and 105 teachers (some of us grope feebly and anxiously at our wrists to see if there is a pulse at all).

It is difficult for a Rector to imagine what (if anything) goes on in children's minds. How does he know what they find interesting, or what they consider important? His childhood is separated from theirs by fifty years—the most momentous half-century in world history. When I was a boy (the time-honoured preamble of the crashing bore), I could walk the hot summer pavements in my bare feet, buy three boxes of matches for a ha'penny (just for the fun of sparking them), get into the cinema for a penny, and get my hair cut for threepence.

And now? The boys wear cowboy boots, the girls wear trousers, the boys look like girls and the girls look like boys, and barbers are dying of starvation.

Are the pupils impressed by our Spartan upbringing? Not a bit. They say, with Mark Twain, ‘There are three kinds of people—commonplace men, remarkable men, and lunatics— and all three kinds are to be found in our School.’ The teachers smile, and reflect, ‘Once long ago, I too was young.’

Here then, is a cursory glance at some of the highlights of the session. There has been nothing spectacular—just a lot of hard work and some very happy interludes. As the opera critics wrote of a performance in New Mexico, ‘The singing here was a rich grade of mediocrity.’

The first thing to be noticed in a session is the new members of Staff. Teachers who had served the School for ten or twenty years or more, retire, or climb the professional ladder, and new, eager colleagues step into the breach. Mr Badenoch (History) and Mr Hood (Physics) retired, and were succeeded by Mr Adam and Mr Hayward respectively. Mr John Rodger (Art) became Principal Teacher at Glenwood, and was succeeded by Mr Saxon. Miss Pole (Homecraft) replaced Miss Gladys Cairns, who left to be married. Mr Thomas Carnie became Principal Teacher of Physics at St Andrews High School, Kirkcaldy, and has just been replaced by Mr Harold Foster.

In September, the Fife Schools had a holiday to commemorate the opening by the Queen of the Forth Road Bridge. A few days later Bell-Baxter beat Rothesay Academy in the BBC radio programme, *Top of the Form*.

We have had a number of School Excursions—to the Borders, to Iona, to the Scottish National Orchestra, to Pitlochry Festival Theatre, to the Byre Theatre, St Andrews, to
hear the London Mozart Players in the Younger Hall, to the film of Strauss's opera, Der Rosenkavalier, and an Electronics Exhibition in Dundee. And people have come to see us, from near and far—including an Inspector of Schools from New Zealand, and a Schoolmaster, Mr Gudmundsson, from Iceland.

One of our boys, Lachlan McIntosh, gained admission to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and another, John Jarron, followed in his brother's footsteps by winning an RAF Flying Scholarship to Cranwell.

Kathleen Ballantyne, Girls' Captain, won a Taylour Thomson scholarship at St Andrews University Bursary Competition.

At Christmas we had a very successful concert—A Festival of Christmas Music—a lovely start to the Christmas season. We made a practical gesture of Christmas goodwill by collecting £30 for charity, and sent cheques of £15 each to the Cupar Occupational Centre for Handicapped Children, and Cupar Old People's Welfare Committee.

We had about 350 candidates sitting the Scottish Certificate of Education examinations in May, and when the exams ended, the whole School flung itself into an orgy of culture, high jinks, and general innocuous dissipation—School Sports, Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance, and our annual Celebrity Concert. This year our distinguished guest is the world-famous violinist, Alfredo Campoli.

In these last five weeks of the session, after all the tensions of study and examinations, we can unwind, and according to our temperaments, our reactions range from refined and delicate titters to the shoulder-shaking upheaval of hearty abdominal laughter. And so the School Year runs the gamut from tragedy to farce. Now, on the crest of this wave of post-examination hysteria, we float happily on towards Closing-day, when our Guest of Honour will be Mr William McL Dewar, OBE, Headmaster of George Heriot's School.

Best wishes for a happy holiday.

The Rector

EXTRACTS FROM THE SCHOOL LOG 1965

Mon. 1st Feb. The Rector has been trying for several months to engage a famous Italian operatic tenor or baritone for our next Celebrity Concert in June 1965, but without success. None seems to be available at that time, and it would cost about 300 guineas to bring one from the continent. The Rector is now hoping to engage the world—famous violinist, Alfredo Campoli.

Mon. 22 Feb. Messrs Ibbs and Tillett … today confirmed the engagement of … Alfredo Campoli to play to School on Monday 28th June. The fee (for himself and his accompanist, and including travel and hotel expenses, (if any) is 175 guineas …

26 April The Rector has agreed this morning with Mr Lindsay, Depute Rector, that no wholesale ‘leave of absence’ will be granted for the Fife Agricultural show … Pupils will be allowed to attend only (1) if parents are attending (2) if the pupil is competing (e.g. showing a pony).

1966

Here are a few of the interesting events of the School year.

School opened this session with a total Roll of 1551.

In the Senior High School, staff changes have been few. Miss Cargill succeeded Miss Pole in the Homecraft Department and Miss Keenan succeeded Mrs Scott in Art.
In the Junior School our ‘arrivals and departures’ were more numerous.

Early in the second term an influenza epidemic laid low 415 pupils in a single day.

We congratulate two colleagues on their promotion. Miss Stirrat became Special Assistant in the Physical Education Department, and Miss Dymock was appointed Principal Teacher of Modern Languages in succession to Mr Muir, who retires at the end of this session after 32 years in Bell-Baxter (including War Service with the RAF). We shall miss his scholarly teaching, his warm friendliness, and his Gallic ebullience.

Mr Turnbull, our Religious Education Specialist, retires early next term. We are grateful to him for ten years of devoted service.

Our second Festival of Christmas Music was again a delightful occasion, and our Christmas End-of-Term collections realised £27 6s 6d, which we handed over to the Cupar and District Branch of Fife Society for the Blind.

Mr Ewen was absent for two months, and several other colleagues were ill, but are happily returned to duty. The tragic exception is Mr Downie, of the English Department, who has been seriously ill since the beginning of the term.

A party of 52 Junior High School pupils, escorted by seven teachers, visited Spain at Easter.

We had visitors from Northern Ireland, three Professors of Education from America, and the Royal Air Force ‘dropped in’ on us by helicopter.

Jean Barron (VIA) won a Simson Bursary of £50 a year for four years at St Andrews University Entrance Bursary Examination.

One of our Sixth Form boys, George Lyall, a professional footballer, caused a sensation by being transferred from Raith Rovers to Preston North End for £10,000.

Messrs. Tullis Russell, Paper Manufacturers, Markinch, have this year inaugurated the Tullis Russell Silver Medal for the Dux in Science, and also Dux prizes in English, Science, and Mathematics.

School’s growing Art collection has been further enhanced by the purchase of a painting from the distinguished former-pupil artist, Mr George Mackie.

We are indebted to Mr Liddle, Secretary, and to Cupar Fine Art Society, who generously handed over their funds to School for this purpose.

The Dr Inglis and Mr Wilson Memorial Medals Fund has reached its target, and the medals are now endowed for all time.

After months of negotiation with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Paris Opera House, and La Scala, Milan, I have succeeded in engaging the distinguished operatic tenor, David Hughes, to sing for School at this year’s Celebrity Recital. The date is Tuesday, 28th June, at 2.15 p.m.

Our Guest of Honour at the Senior Prize Giving on Friday, 8th July, at 10.15 a.m., is Dr Douglas McIntosh, CBE, at present Fife’s Director of Education. On 1st July he takes up duty as Principal of Moray House College of Education, Edinburgh. We look forward to his visit to School.

Our Guest of Honour at the Junior School Prize Giving will be the well-known former pupil, Mr Gordon McQuitty, dentist, of Cupar.

Hail and Farewell.
‘Partir, c'est mourir un peu’, says the poet—‘When we part, a little of us dies.’ I had thought it would be easy to write my last School Magazine notes, but it is really quite difficult. My glasses get steamed all over, which is strange in this fine weather.

I shall soon no longer be among you, dispensing justice like Rhadamanthus in Hades, but merely a dimly-remembered figure looking down upon your bustling ongoings from the tranquility of my Valhalla.

To those, therefore, who are leaving school this term, and to all, at home and abroad, who have passed through our hands these two decades, this is ‘Thank you, and Goodbye.’

I taught Greek and Latin for twenty years, and I have been Rector for twenty years: a fair division of labour. I remember vividly my first entry into Bell-Baxter. I was a stranger: my reception stranger still. I was confronted by a great wave of friendly apathy. Young Fifers don't make friends very easily: they eyed me askance, like Achilles.

As the years passed, the little boys and girls grew up, and became teachers, doctors, surgeons, lawyers, engineers, architects, and merchant princes. Many had known no other Rector, and so I was theirs. For good or ill, I laid my imprint upon them. I trust it has been good, for other men's children are a schoolmaster's immortality. I hope they will allow me to say, ‘I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.’

J E Dunlop 19th May 1966 Rector 1946-1966

1967

The most notable events of this school year have been the retiral of Dr J E Dunlop, who had been Rector of Bell-Baxter High School for twenty years, and the arrival of Dr A McLaren to take up the position of Rector.

Dr McLaren came to Bell-Baxter from Kirkcaldy High School, where he had been Depute Rector for five years, and had gained the respect of staff and pupils alike through his conscientious work and interest in the school. Dr McLaren is a graduate in Chemistry of Aberdeen University (he took his Ph.D. in research in polymer science) and he did not enter the teaching profession immediately. Before embarking on his present teaching career, Dr McLaren was employed as a chemist in industry, for approximately four years, working both in research laboratories and on the manufacturing side. Dr McLaren first held a teaching position at Aberdeen Academy, and was then promoted to Principal Teacher of Science at Mackie Academy, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire. He held this post for seven years until his move to Kirkcaldy High School. His progress in the teaching sphere has culminated in his present position as Rector of one of the country's most progressive High Schools.

Dr McLaren is not, however, a man dedicated to his work to the exclusion of all else: he enjoys sport, being a keen hockey and badminton player, but he regrets that he cannot devote as much time as he would wish to recreation. He remarks ruefully that, due to pressure of work and a busy home-life (he has three children whose ages range from eight to thirteen), he is prevented from participating in these sports at present, and is also unable to play chess, another of his favourite pastimes.
From the outset, Dr McLaren has taken a keen interest in extra-curricular activities, and the School can look forward to many years of fruitful progress under his rectorship. This has been a school year dominated by staff changes, and before its end in July, it will have seen the retirement of the Rector, Dr Dunlop and of the Depute Rector, Mr Lindsay, absent through illness since October; two principal teachers, Mr Liddle and Mr McKenzie; Miss Auchterlonie, Miss Spittal and Mr Cunningham, the Senior School Janitor. Our good wishes go with all of them.

Mr Matheson left for British Honduras and Miss Melville for Australia. Miss Keenan has gone to England and so will Mrs Edwards and Mr N Howie before the start of another term.

Mr Smith was appointed principal teacher of Commercial subjects, Mrs Bennett replaced Dr Fitches, and Mr Cameron, Mrs McManus, Mr Cornish and Mr Fleuchar (janitor) joined the staff.

Two depute principal teachers were appointed, Mr Jardine to the Physical Education Department and Mr Methven to the Geography Department.

The deaths of Mr Turnbull, who retired earlier in the year, Mr Rutherford our former chief invigilator for the SCE examinations, Miss MacPherson of the Junior school office, and Morag Shilliday of Class IC2 caused us great distress during the year.

Dr R Leonard Small, the immediate past Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, honoured us with a visit in September, addressing both schools, and nine Japanese Headmasters were shown round the school in October.

Joan Dick gained a Duncan Bursary of £80 for four years at St. Andrews University and Isabelle Low came first in the English section of the Edinburgh bursary merit list and was awarded a bursary of £100 per annum.

We look forward to the drama production and the exhibition of work, past and present, by the Art Department which, along with the annual sports and Prize-giving days, will round off a notable year.

1968

At the beginning of the session, Miss Leven (qv Sect I Pt 2), Art, Miss Malcolm and Miss Leishman, Mathematics, Mrs Robinson, French, Mr Watt, Science, and Mr Rodger (qv Sect I Pt 2), Principal teacher of Art, joined the staff. In September, however, we were all shocked by the death of Mr. T. Howie (qv Sect I Pt 1), whose long distinguished connection with the school spanned a lifetime of excellent work as pupil and teacher. We miss him very much.

Mr Johnson carried with him in January our best wishes for a long, happy retirement, leaving memories of fine achievement by the music department. Mr E Young was appointed Rector of the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, Mr Methven and Mr Stuart became principal teachers at Hawick and Bo'ness, Mr Wiffen is head of the Liberal Studies Department at Elmwood, Mr Cornish returned to industry, Mr Boyle and Mr Duff took up posts in other schools, Mrs Young left the Remedial Department and Mr Fleuchar, Senior Janitor, left in February for Australia, our good wishes go with him.

Mr Brown's absence was temporary only as he was in New York taking advantage of an Arts Council Scholarship in Art.

Mr Adam was appointed Depute Rector of the School in December and we welcomed Mr Duncan from Blairgowrie as Principal teacher of History, Mr Galloway and
Mr Walker became Principal teachers of Classics and Music. In the Junior School Mr Scott succeeded Mr Wiffen as Depute Principal teacher of English and Miss Smith from Kirkcaldy became Depute Principal teacher of Geography. We also welcomed Mr Innes, Mathematics, Mr Geddes, Art, Mr Di Falco (qv Sect II Pt 2), English and History, Mrs Vallance, Remedial Department, Mr Nisbett, Senior Janitor, Miss Lamond, auxiliary, and Mr Watson, Senior Laboratory Technician.

It has been a busy session. Many outings have taken place and speakers and players have visited the school. A successful production in St John's Church of *Noye's Fludde* was given in October, followed in December by a Christmas Concert. Still to come are the School Sports, Drama productions and a needlework exhibition.

Finally we congratulate Stuart Kane and Michael Gilmour on gaining bursaries in the St Andrews University Entrance Bursary Competition.

**1970**

Another session is in its last weeks thus seen a number of staff changes.

Mr Seath (Principal Teacher of Chemistry) retired last September and Miss Muir (Deputy Principal Teacher of Homecraft) and Mrs Paterson (modern languages) are retiring at the end of the present session. Our very best wishes go with them.

Mr R Walker left to become Principal Teacher of Music at St Columba's High School. Other teachers to leave are Mrs Arnold (music), Mrs Johnston and Mrs Mackintosh (Physical Education), Mrs. Robinson (modern languages), Mrs Miller (Science) and Miss Johns (Art). Mr Kidd goes to be Principal Teacher of Art at Bo'ness Academy at the summer and also leaving us there are Miss Forbes (English), Mrs Smith (mathematics) and Mrs Shanks (Classics).

Mr Currie joined the staff as Principal Teacher of Chemistry and we also welcome Miss Gray (mathematics) Miss Forbes (English), Mrs Webster (Physical Education), Mrs Smith (Biology), Miss Tyrell (Domestic Science), Miss Cameron and Mr Prain (Art). Miss Rose (Physical Education) will be joining the Physical Education Department in June. Our thanks go to a number of teachers who have helped out from time to time in a temporary capacity.

The many friends and colleagues of Mr Alexander Johnson, Principal Teacher of Music until his retirement in 1968, were shocked to hear of his death in May of this year. Our deepest sympathies go to Mrs Johnson and his son Alan.

The bus strikes during the winter and spring term seriously affected the work of the school but it has nevertheless been a lively and productive session. A host of sports and activities continue to flourish and scholarship continues to be maintained, George Clark gaining a Mathematics Bursary at Edinburgh University.

**1972**

It has been a session of activity in all aspects of school life but overshadowing it have been the deaths of Mr. Jenkins (principal teacher of English) and Mr. Reed (teacher of Music). We mourn their loss. In their different ways and disciplines they were devoted teachers dedicated to their pupils and subjects. Our sense of shock not yet gone. We still miss them and we give our deepest sympathies to their wives and families.

Under the new structure of promoted posts six assistant rectors were appointed, Miss Swan and Mr Dick with responsibilities in the Lower School (1st and 2nd Years).
Miss Dymock and Mr Hayward in the Mid School (3rd and 4th Years) and Miss Livingstone and Mr Galloway in the Upper School (5th and 6th Years).

A number of teachers left during the session including Mrs L Clark (Depute Principal Teacher of Homecraft) and Mr G Bell (Technical Subjects), Mr W Cameron (Geography), Mr J Stoane (Chemistry) and Mr E Jardine (Depute Principal Teacher of Physical Education) who were promoted to Principal Teacherships. Our very best wishes go with them and also with Miss H Smith (Depute Principal Teacher of Geography) who retires at end of the session. May she enjoy the long and happy retirement which she so richly deserves.

Other departures included Miss J Laverty (Remedial Department), Mrs Johnston and Mr Duncan (Religious Education) and Mr J Smith (Remedial Department), who was with us for one term, and again we wish them well.

We welcomed at the start of the session Miss E Anderson (English), Mr A Cochrane (Music), Miss Lind; Mrs Wallace (Physical Education) and Mr D Ross (English) and later in the session Mr H Bain (Technical Subjects) and Mr T Harrow (Chemistry).

Mr. Cook started as Depute Principal Teacher of Physical Education at the end of May and we appreciate the help given to us in a temporary capacity by Miss A Robertson (English) and Mr J Rossiter (Art).

1973

The death of Mr Ewen in March was a great shock to us all. It was so sudden, so unexpected. In his quiet, dignified way he did a great deal for the school through his teaching, his great interest in tennis and his exemplary arrangements for our prize-giving ceremony. To Mrs Ewen and other members of his family we give our deepest sympathy.

Under the new structure of promoted posts six Principal Teachers of Guidance were appointed - Miss Mackie and Mr Johnstone (1st and 2nd Years), Mrs Myskow and Mr Thake (3rd and 4th Years) and Mrs Steele and Mr Simpson (5th and 6th Years).

Miss Livingstone is to retire at the end of this session after being associated with Bell Baxter for 36 years, mostly as Lady Adviser but latterly as Assistant Rector. With the interests of the school at heart she has exerted a profound influence for the good of the school in every sphere of activity. An invaluable member of staff, her sound advice, her firm but human approach to problems and her sense of humour have guided us through many difficulties and changes. It is impossible to imagine the school without her. A long and happy retirement to you, Miss Livingstone. You richly deserve it.

Mrs Coutts (Remedial Department), Mrs Pirie (Languages) and Mr Maclean (English) also retire this summer, and Mrs Sinclair (History) retired in September after 25 years of devoted service to the History Department. Best wishes to you all.

Mrs Stephens and Mrs Smith (Biology), Mrs Viney (English), Mr Forster (Physics) and Mrs Robertson (Mathematics) left during the session, as did Mr Clark (English), who returned to Australia, and Mr Harrow (Chemistry), who became Assistant Principal Teacher at Viewforth. Our good wishes go with all of them.

We welcomed Mr Dewar (Classics), Mr Macfarlane (English), Mr Hill (Modern Languages) and Mr Taylor, (Physics), all as Principal Teachers of their respective subjects, and Miss Hutton (Homecraft), Mr. Brown (Mathematics) and Mr. Macpherson (Geography) as Depute Principal Teachers. Mrs Casey and Miss Laverie joined the English Department, Mrs Shearer and Mr H Ross the History Department, Mrs
Henderson, Miss Thomson and Mr Burr Geography, Miss Christie, Mathematics, Mrs Browne, French, Mr McDonald, Physics, Mr C Johnston, Art, Mr Miller, Music, Mrs Glencorse and Mr Urquhart, Physical Education and Miss Brighton Speech and Drama. Our congratulations go to Mr Geddes, who was promoted to the post of Depute Principal Teacher of Art.

It has again been an eventful and successful session, our many activities and successes being reported elsewhere in the magazine.

1974

We have welcomed many new members of staff this session: Mr Crawford as Principal Teacher of Biology when Miss Rintoul was appointed Assistant Rector, Miss Liddle as Assistant Rector (Guidance and Remedial Education) and Mr Morton as Depute Principal of Biology. Miss Fleming, Mrs McDowell, Miss Vickers and Mrs Wishart joined the English Department, and Miss Low taught for a short time before moving to Uddingston. Mrs Wannan and Mr Gould started in the History Department; other new additions were Mr Peyton (Geography) Mr Malczynski (Mathematics) and Mrs Maillie and Dr Robinson (Science). Mrs Johnston (Biology), after teaching for one session, is leaving this summer to teach in Oxfordshire. We also welcomed Mr Seth (Modern Languages), Miss K Anderson (Home Economics), Mr More (RE), Mrs Spence, Mr Stormonth and Mr Shearer (Art), Mrs Forrester (Music), and Miss Pearson and Mr Gilchrist (PE).

Mr D Ross was appointed Principal Teacher of History at Grove Academy and Miss Tyrrell became Principal Teacher of Home Economics at Newbattle. Mr Easson also left to take up the post of Assistant Principal Teacher of PE at Glenrothes High School. Mr Beaton and Mr Cook leave in June: Mr Beaton to be Principal teacher of Chemistry at Rockwell High School and Mr Cook to be Principal Teacher of PE at Kirkland High School. Our best wishes for success go with these teachers.

Mrs Casey and Mr Bridges (English) and Mr. Rossiter (Art) left during the session and Miss Brighton (Drama) and Miss Laverie (English) will be leaving at the summer. Mr McLean carried out a special study of ring net herring fishing, using a scholarship awarded to him by the Scottish International Education Trust. We are grateful for the help of Miss Young who taught in the Art Department during his six month's absence. Miss Reynard retires at the end of the session after teaching in Bell Baxter for twenty-five years. Her great personal interest in her pupils and the school generally, her very high standards, and her help and advice based on wide experience of education will be greatly missed.

Missed also will be Mr Neilson and Mrs Turpie, both of whom are retiring at the summer. They will be remembered by their pupils with affection and by their colleagues with respect. To all we give our very best wishes for long and happy retirements.

1975

At the start of the session we welcomed a number of newcomers to the staff: Mr Bell (Business Studies), Mrs Brown (Assistant Principal Teacher of English), Mr Davison (Mathematics), Mrs Ewen (Special Classes), Miss Gardiner (Geography), Miss Gow (English), Mr Henderson (Modern Languages), Mr Howell (Physics), Mr Johnston (Technical Subjects), Mrs Lapraik (Chemistry), Miss Law (English), Mr Mill (Music), Mr Shilson Biology), Mrs Taylor (Art), Mrs Tricker (Geography), and Mrs Wylie Home Economics).
We were also pleased to welcome Mr Caskey, who came as an exchange teacher for one year from Canada, his place in Canada being taken by Miss Gray (Mathematics).

Mr West, Depute Principal Teacher of Technical Subjects, retired in April after a long and successful association with the school. The 28 years of his teaching have had a deep and lasting effect for the good of the school, and one that we shall miss. Our best wishes for a long and happy retirement go with Mr. West.

Mr Walker, Principal Teacher of Music, left last August for the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, taking with him our best wishes and our appreciation of the skill as a musician and as Head of Department that he showed in making music such a vital part of the school.

Mr MacDonald (Physics) left in October, promoted to the post of Assistant Principal Teacher at Dunfermline High School, Mr Urquhart (Physical Education) is taking up a similar post at Balwearie High School before the end of the session. We wish them success and happiness in their new jobs.

Mrs MacLennan (Geography) retired in December after 15 years of loyal service to the school, much appreciated by pupils and colleagues. We are also indebted to Mrs MacLennan for helping in a temporary capacity since then.

Mr Cochrane was appointed Principal Teacher of Music and Miss Mitchell became Assistant Principal Teacher of Music.

Other teachers welcomed during the session include Mr Foster (Depute Principal Teacher of Biology), Mr. Hay (Depute Principal Teacher of Technical Subjects), and Mr Pratt (Depute Principal Teacher of Physical Education). Mr Duncan from Kirkland High School will be taking up the post of Principal Teacher of Religious Education before the end of the session in place of Mr Tindall, who left at the end of January after a 10-year association with the school, three of the years as Principal Teacher. We wish him all success and happiness.

Other teachers to leave during the session are Mr Cross (Special Assistant Teacher of Technical Subjects), Mr Gilchrist and Mrs. Glencorse (Physical Education), Mrs Henderson (Geography), Mrs Jack (Physical Education) and Mr Young (Mathematics). New members of staff include Mr Brown (Geography), Mrs Campbell (Physical Education), Mrs. Hulme-Jones (Modern Languages), Miss Leitch (Office Staff), Mr. Lindsay (Technical Subjects) and Mrs Mills (Teaching Auxiliary).

Mr Lennox (Violin), Miss Seymour (Science) and Mrs Townsend (French) retire this summer, and may long and happy retirements be theirs. With their special skills they have done a great deal for the school and their work will be long remembered and appreciated by staff and pupils.

Miss Fleming, Mrs MacDowall and Miss Vickers (all of the English apartment) and Mrs Wylie (Home Economics) are leaving this summer also and to them go our good wishes.

1976

We were happy to welcome at the beginning of the session a number of new members of staff: Mr Botur (Chemistry), Mr Jarvis (English), Mr Langlands (Mathematics), Mr Lochhead (Mathematics), Mr McCullough (Physics), Mr Noble (Physical Education), Mrs Pagan (Physical Education), Miss Ratajczyk (Librarian) Mr. Russell (Physical Education), and Miss Thomson (English).
During the course of the session, we welcomed to the staff Mr Fowler (Mathematics), Mr Maitland (Science), Miss Dunn (Home Economics), Miss Levy (English), Miss Mayo (English), Mrs McGregor (Home Economics), Miss Money (Violin), Mr A King (Technician) and Mr Laing (History).

Early in the session, we lost Mr Stephens (Mathematics), and Miss Gow (English). Mr Stephens, after thirteen years service to the school in the Physical Education and Mathematics Departments, left to undertake a year's course at Jordanhill College of Education, in which we wish him all success. To Miss Gow, we wish a long and happy retirement.

Other teachers to leave during the session were Mrs Lapraik (Chemistry), Mrs Campbell (Physical Education), Mrs Shearer (History), Mrs Stewart (Home Economics), Miss Dunn (Home Economics) and Mrs Hulme-Jones (Modern Languages).

We were particularly sorry to bid farewell to several teachers who had, over the years, given unstinted service to the school in a part-time capacity, Mrs Brown, Mrs Drummond, Mrs Mackintosh, Mrs Johnston, and Mr Lindsay, in the Physical Education Department Wilson (Modern Languages), Mrs Thake (Mathematics/Remedial), Mrs Johnson (Home Economics) and Mrs Stewart (Classics). The contribution they have made to the school is deeply appreciated.

At the end of the session we shall be losing Mr Bell (Business Studies), who is taking up a post at Melville House, and Mr. Noble (Physical Education) who is transferring to Airdrie. We wish both every success in their new appointments.

We shall also be saying good-bye to Mrs Shepherd, who retires at the end of this session, after sixteen years service in the Remedial Department. Mrs Shepherd brings to her teaching a deep empathy and an understanding which have been of immense benefit to the pupils under her care. May she long enjoy a very happy retirement.

1977

Staff changes this session have been overshadowed by the death of Miss King and of Mr Adam, leaving us still with a great sense of loss. Miss King's sincerity, kindness and good humour along with her depth of feeling and knowledge made her a teacher respected by all who worked with her. Mr Adam, in his modest and quiet but effective way, helped greatly to guide the school through many difficult changes. Each made an important contribution to the success of the school and both are missed very much.

Mrs Gowans and Mr MacGregor (Physical Education) and Mr Rougvie (Business Studies) joined the staff of the school at the beginning of the session, and at various times during the session we welcomed Dr Power (Chemistry), Mrs Scott (English), Mr Dobie (Assistant Principal Teacher of Modern Languages) and Mr Brown (Physics). To them all we wish success and happiness at Bell-Baxter.

Mrs Grant retired during the session after more than twelve years service in the Remedial Department. She brought to her teaching an understanding of the needs and problems of her pupils along with a sympathetic ability to help them overcome their difficulties. We wish her a very happy retirement.

Mrs Allan retires this summer after seven years service in the Art Department during which many young pupils have benefited greatly from her skills and understanding. May she too enjoy a long and happy retirement.
Soon after the start of next session Miss Grewar retires from her post as Principal Teacher of Home Economics. Miss Grewar's department is the most widely scattered in the school, having rooms in the three buildings, but despite this she has run a most efficient department, leading, with care and precision, a team of teachers producing workmanship of very high calibre. She brings to her teaching and to the organisation of her department a great knowledge of her subject, and a great understanding of her staff and her pupils, resulting in the high respect with which she is regarded not only in the school but in the Region. To her also we wish a long and happy retirement.

During the session Miss Law and Mrs Cathie (English), Mrs Taylor (Art) and Mr McCullough (Chemistry/Physics) left us and Mr Howell leaves at the summer. Our best wishes go with all of them. To Mr Galloway we extend our congratulations and best wishes on his appointment as Depute Rector.

1978

Just before the start of the 1977-78 session we welcomed Mr Brown (Physics), Miss Fraser (English) and Mr Glover (Technical Subjects) and at the start of the session Mr Aitkenhead (Art), Mrs Forrester (Art), Mrs. McAlinden (Physics), Mrs Paterson (English and History), Mrs Thake (Remedial) and Mr Whitehead (Physics) joined the staff of the school. At various times throughout the session we welcomed Mr A Hutohison (Technical Subjects), Mrs McShane (PE), Mr Weir (English), Miss Romewood (Librarian), Mrs Davie (Auxiliary), Miss Johnston (Office) and Mr Mitchell (Janitor).

Mrs Edwards joined the staff as Assistant Principal Teacher of Home Economics, Mrs Mitohell as Principal Teacher of Home Economics, Mr G Hutohison as Principal Teacher of Special Education, and Mr Marshall as Principal Teacher of History. Early in the session Mr Duncan took up duty as an Assistant Rector with responsibilities in the Upper School. To all we give our best wishes for success and happiness.

Miss Grewar retired in September from her post of Principal Teacher of Home Economics. A most respected teacher, she brought to her department and to the school a great knowledge and understanding of her pupils and staff along with impeccable organisation. Mr. Lindsay of the Technical Department retired in December and in him we lost a teacher who had a deep understanding of the needs and problems of his pupils, coupled with a most pleasant approach to his work and colleagues. Mrs Wallace of the Home Economics Department retired at the end of the session, her teaching making an important contribution to school and greatly appreciated by both pupils and staff. To them we give our best wishes for long and happy retirements.

Our very best wishes accompanied Miss Hutton, Depute Principal Teacher of Home Economics and Mr Burr, teacher of Geography and Modern Studies, who left us to take up promoted posts.

Other members of staff to leave us were Mrs Arnood (Geography), Mrs Gowans (PE), Mrs Spence (Art), Mrs Stewart (English), Mrs Brooks (Librarian), Miss Coles (Assistant in the Library), Mr Hood Janitor) and Mrs Hutchison (Auxiliary) who for 11 years had patiently, efficiently and with courtesy and cheerfulness helped with the office work of the school. Our best wishes go with them all.

We welcomed at the start of the present session Miss McIntyre (Geography), Mr McLauchlan (Mathematics), Mrs Miller (Home Economics), Mr Miller (Mathematics) and Mr Webster (Geography).
 Soon Mr Foster, Depute Principal Teacher of Biology, leaves to take up a promoted post and also leaving are Mrs Duncan (English), Mr Fowler (Mathematics), Dr Power (Chemistry) and Miss Milne (in charge of the Senior Kitchen). They take with them our very best wishes.

1981

The death of Mr. Crawford deprived us of a friend and colleague whose wealth of experience, knowledge and human understanding were invaluable in his position as Principal Teacher of Biology. He enriched the lives of us all bringing colour and cheerfulness, courtesy and encouragement into the school. He had led a rich and varied life and this rubbed off on his pupils and colleagues to the benefit of all. His department under his leadership has been surrounded by success not only in the day-to-day basis of teaching but in many wider contexts. We all miss him very much, and Mrs Crawford and other members of his family have our deepest sympathy.

Mr Blair, Principal Teacher of Physical Education, left early in the session due to ill health leaving a gap which will be very difficult to fill. He led his department for many years with skill and vigour having a profound effect throughout the school and for the good of the school. Every aspect of the life of the school has benefited from his influence not only in the day-to-day teaching in his department but in the multitude of sports, games, and activities which came under his able direction. He set and maintained high standards in every sphere of school life including behaviour, dress and attainment. We are all sorry that illness has intervened losing us the services of a friend and colleague of long standing and great ability. We give Mr Blair our best wishes.

Mr Adamson retired from the post of Principal Teacher of Geography last summer still leaving us surprised that one so ‘young’ and active had reached that stage. We miss his skills, his infectious enthusiasm, his cheerfulness and his unstinting work for the good of his geographers and the school in general. We wish him many happy years of retirement.

We are fortunate to have Mr. Cameron, a protégé of Mr Adamson, as our Principal Teacher of Geography.

Miss Mackie, teacher of Religious Education and Principal Teacher of Guidance, retires at the summer, Miss Mackie being one of the first of our Guidance Teachers. Her many pupils have benefited greatly from her wide experience in the teaching profession, her conscientious and resourceful approach to her work, her firm but very pleasant manner and her active participation in many activities. We all wish her a long and happy retirement.

Mr Macgregor retired last session as Principal Teacher of Remedial Education and as there were no Staff Notes in last session’s magazine, there was not an opportunity then to pay tribute to him. Mr Macgregor gave 18 years of conscientious and devoted service to the Remedial Department. He did a very great deal for his pupils, setting and obtaining very high standards of attainment and behaviour from them. His interest in their welfare extended well beyond the classroom and included the finding of suitable employment for them. We all give Mr Macgregor our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

We welcomed Mrs Milne as our new Principal Teacher of Remedial Education.

Mrs. Steele was promoted to the post of Assistant Rector with responsibility for fifth and sixth year girls. Our congratulations and best wishes go to her.
At the beginning of this session we welcomed Mrs Anderson (Mathematics), Mrs Cossar (English), Dr Dawson (History), Mrs Gibb (Home Economics), Mrs Jack (Physical Education), Mr McLean (Art) and Dr Scott (Biology).

Since then Dr Dawson, Mrs Jack and Mrs Gibb have left and Mrs Shearer (History) has rejoined the school staff.

Mr Hutchison, Principal Teacher of Special Education, left to take up a similar post at Woodmill High School and Mr Wilson started as our new Principal Teacher of Special Education.

Mr Redpath (Technician) left due to his promotion to be Senior Technician in another school.

Other teachers to leave during the session are Dr Hendrie (Mathematics) and Mrs Wright (Modern Languages) when Mrs. McLeod joined the Modern Languages Department.

We welcomed Mrs McClean (Special Education), Mr Connelly (Physical Education), Mrs Ronaldson (Auxiliary), Mrs Crichton (Technician) and Mr Blues (Janitor) who took the place of Mr Ferrie who left during the session.

Our very best wishes go with all who have left and also to all who have started at Bell-Baxter.

Many temporary teachers have helped us in various ways, often at great inconvenience to themselves. We appreciate their help very much indeed and it is difficult to see how we could have managed without them.

At the beginning of this session we welcomed the following members of staff — Mrs Arbuckle (Home Economics), Mr Erskine and Mrs Myles (Physical Education), Mr Macfarlane (Religious Education), Miss Parkinson as Principal Teacher of Guidance, Mr Reid (Art), and Mr Young (Mathematics).

Mrs Smith (Mathematics), who had been helping us previously as a temporary part-time teacher, joined the permanent staff in August.

During the session Mr Smith (Art), Mrs Dakin (Mathematics) and Mrs Taylor (Science) joined the staff.

To all who have come to Bell Baxter we wish every success and happiness.

Mr McLean (Art) left to take up a post at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art. Mr. Lochhead (Mathematics), Mrs Watchman (Art) and Mr. King (Technician) also left during the session and Mrs Bennie (Assistant Principal Teacher of Home Economics) and Mrs Chalmers (Mathematics) will be leaving at the end of the session.

They all take with them our very best wishes.

We give our congratulations and best wishes to Mr Shilson on his promotion to the post of Principal Teacher of Biology, to Mr Pratt, who towards the end of last session became Principal Teacher of Physical Education, to Mrs Clark who was promoted to the post of Assistant Principal Teacher of Physical Education and to Mrs Smith who is now Assistant Principal Teacher of Biology.

In the absence of Mrs Milne, Principal Teacher of Remedial Education, on a course concerned with Pupils with Learning Difficulties, Mrs Ballantine has helped in the Remedial Department in a temporary capacity. In other departments too we have
appreciated very much the welcome help of many temporary teachers without whom the departments concerned would have been in great difficulties.

The end of this session sees the retiral of Mrs MacKenzie, teacher of French, after serving the school since 1966. Her work has been wholly concerned with Junior classes but these early and formative years of the pupils' lives are extremely important and Mrs MacKenzie has laid sound foundations with her excellent teaching, her conscientious and skilful work and her personal qualities. These have benefited the school greatly and set her pupils an excellent example standing them in good stead in their later years.

Mrs Fraser, Home Economics, is also retiring this summer having taught for almost eighteen years. Her considerable experience, her real care for her pupils, and her pleasant and friendly personality are all qualities we shall miss and particularly so will her many pupils who have gained so much from her teaching.

Also retiring at the summer is Mr Morris who came here nineteen years ago. Seven years ago Mr Morris was promoted to the post of Assistant Principal Teacher of Guidance. His kindly and caring personality coupled with his many years of experience and his considerable skills have led to his success as both a subject and a guidance teacher. His going is a great loss to the school and, of course, to his pupils who have benefited so much from his teaching.

We shall all miss the teachers very much and they take with them our thanks and our very best wishes for long and happy retirements.

1983

The death of Miss Soote in January of this year is very much in our minds, leaving us all still with a great sense of loss. For over twenty-six years she gave her pupils a thorough grounding in science, conscientious preparation, excellent teaching and a real care for her pupils being the hallmarks of her success. She expected and obtained high standards of work. As a friend and colleague we miss her very much and give our deepest sympathies to all members of her family.

The session started on a sad note with the news in July of the death of Mr John Blair who for over thirty years loyally served the school as teacher and Principal Teacher of Physical Education. He is remembered as a friend and colleague and for the profound influence for good that he had in the school. Our deepest sympathies went to Mrs Blair and the other members of his family.

New members of staff who joined the school in August are Mr Jess (Physical Education), Mrs Stockton (Home Economics), Mrs Webster (Biology), Mr Whytock (Mathematics) and Mr Wilkie Technical Subjects).

At the start of the session we welcomed back Mrs Gourley (Home Economics) covering temporarily for Mrs Bennie and Mrs Watchman (Art), both of whom had taught previously in the school. Mrs Peebles (Modern Languages) joined the permanent staff having helped on many previous occasions in a temporary capacity.

We wish success and happiness to all.

Mrs Miller (Biology) has left and Miss Winnicka (English) leaves at the summer. To both we give our very best wishes.

Mr Cochrane (Principal Teacher of Music), Mr Glover (Technical Subjects) and Mr Simpson (Principal Teacher of Guidance) are retiring this summer.

Mr Cochrane has continued to develop music as an integral part of school life and this contributes greatly to the social, cultural and academic standing of the school. The
number of pupils involved is very large and the variety of the work and interests in his department seem even larger. Every aspect of music and of its performance and understanding is part of the everyday life of his department, all this being punctuated by shows, concerts, operas, and revues of first class quality. He has successfully guided music into the highly technical electronic era without sacrificing the development of the more traditional aspects. School life will be much the duller for his going.

Mr Simpson has given over 24 years of loyal service to the school firstly as Depute Principal Teacher of Art and latterly as Principal Teacher of Guidance. As one of the first teachers to be concerned with Guidance, his knowledge and expertise have been invaluable in developing and establishing Guidance in the school. Many pupils and members of staff have benefited from his calm, sensible, even-tempered approach to problems.

Mr Glover (Technical Subjects) also retires at the summer after six years service to the school and we give him and Mr Cochrane and Mr Simpson our best wishes for long and happy retirement.

1984