

1954

March: Dad took motorbike on tour of Devon.

### **Dad took trip to the Saltees Islands**

May: Mum + Dad went on tour of S. France in the Hillman.

Summer:

Aug: 3 Spins Troop Display at Grinagle Dhu.

Began 4U or J<sub>2</sub> year.

Capt. of the U13 XV this year (one match 53-0 v. Linnavady) centre

## THE EASTER CONCERT

At the end of the Easter Term, on March 28th and 29th, members of the school gave a programme which, for the first time, consisted of music in various forms.

The first half of the programme was made up of short items. There were three piano soloists—Lorraine Crockett, Olive Evans and Brian Dunlop—all of whom gave very creditable performances of works ranging from the established classics to those in the modern idiom. Elizabeth Evans sang two songs which contrasted well and which showed her to have a very pleasing voice as well as technical ability.

Light relief was afforded by members of the Kindergarten and Form III who presented two ballet dances. These were an innovation as far as the school is concerned and were greatly appreciated by the audience. It was obvious that there was no stage-fright here, as the dancers performed with a freshness often absent from such items. They were trained by Miss Caldwell of Belfast who has been taking a Preparatory Division class in dancing since the middle of the Autumn term.

1954

No school concert would be complete without choral singing and this was provided by three choirs of girls from the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools. The songs they sang were varied, including classical arias, romantic songs and folk songs from different parts of the British Isles.

After the interval came the highlight of the programme, the production of "The Idea," a comic opera by Gustav Holst. This was also a new venture for the school and it proved to be highly successful. The cast all played and sang their parts with an enthusiasm in which the audience soon joined and which did much to ensure an enjoyable performance.

Of the principals, the Sentry, played by Peter Burton, was in evidence on the stage for a considerable part of the time. Both he and Mona (Jennifer Egan) played their parts very well, especially in Act II when their positions were reversed, and Mona was gingerly mis-managing a rifle, while the Sentry was attempting to knit with no conspicuous success.

The King and Queen were well characterised by Robert White and Ann Farley. The King had a difficult part in acting the down-trodden consort, while the mature voice of the Queen matched her regal bearing. The Prime Minister was played by Christopher Brennan who gave the part just the touch of comedy it deserved, while the Prime Minister's wife, Elizabeth Evans, both sang and acted with an easy assurance.

The singing of the chorus was of a high standard. That, and their well-disciplined actions did much to bind the story together, and make the production such a success.

The operetta was produced by Mr. J. M. Scofield, and Mr. G. W. Sutton was in charge of the music. Other members of School Staff helped with the stage management, lighting and make-up, while the parents of the cast and friends helped to provide and adapt the very colourful costumes which were designed by Miss D. Madden.

A copy of the programme is appended :—

1. Form IV Upper One—Songs  
    "Up the Airy Mountain" ..... Hugh Robertson  
    "Where'er You Walk" ..... Handel  
    "Come to the Fair" ..... Easthope Martin
2. Olive Evans—Piano  
    Third Movement from Sonata in D. .... Haydn  
    Waltz in B Minor ..... Chopin
3. Kindergarten—Dance  
    Painting the Mushroom
4. Elizabeth Evans—Songs  
    "Goodbye to Winter" ..... Thomas Dunhill  
    "The Piper from over the Way" ..... May H. Brahe
5. Form V Lower Two—Songs  
    "The Keeper" ..... (trad.) arr. Cecil Sharp  
    "Thanksgiving" ..... George Dyson  
    "Will you walk a little faster" ..... R. Houston Macdonald
6. Lorraine Crockett—Piano  
    "Welcome to May" (Op. 68, No. 13) ..... Schumann  
    "To the Moon" (from "Five Idylls") ..... Felix Swinstead
7. Form III—Dance  
    "The Maids and the Gardener"
8. Brian Dunlop—Piano  
    Courante ..... Mozart  
    Polonaise in A Major ..... Chopin
9. Form V Upper  
    "Swaying Blossoms" ..... Brahms (arr. Geehl)  
    "Happiness" ..... Schumann  
    "The Magic Melody" ..... Paderewski (arr. Geehl)

— INTERVAL —

### "THE IDEA"

An Operetta in Two Acts  
by Gustav Holst

Characters in order of appearance :

Sentry ..... Peter Burton  
King ..... Robert White  
Queen ..... Anne Farley  
Mona ..... Jennifer Egan  
Caroline (the Prime Minister's Wife) ..... Elizabeth Evans  
Prime Minister ..... Christopher Brennan  
Chorus : Eileen Berryman, Derek Crothers, Elizabeth Ellis, James  
    Getty, Elaine Hutchinson, Marion Leith, Eileen McMaster,  
    Ivan Martin, John Turner, Janet Willan.

Scene : Outside the Palace

Produced by ..... J. M. Scofield  
Musical Direction ..... G. W. Sutton  
Costumes ..... Miss D. Madden  
Stage ..... R. W. Turner, N. McAteer & J. M. Smyth







