

Of summer trips, Anthony Hopkins and Greek papers...

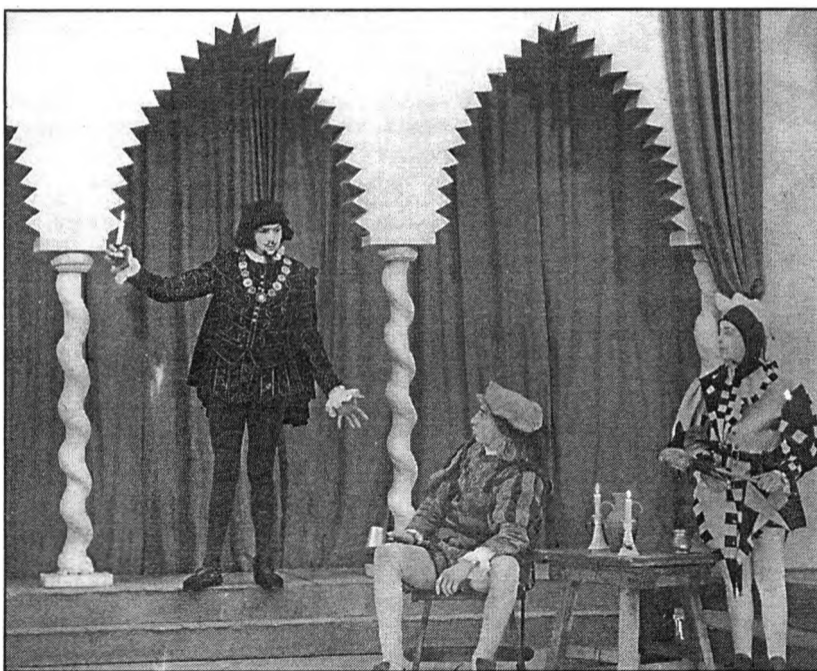


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ABOVE: The school trip to Brunnen on Lake Lucerne, organised in summer 1952 by Iolo Davies (pictured in his Jesus, Oxford, blazer and tie back row, far right). Actor Anthony Hopkins is standing next to him.



ABOVE: Most of the Cowbridge staff, - pictured in the garden front of Old Hall in summer term of 1955.



LEFT: The school's 1953 production of Twelfth Night, featuring Edwin Griffiths as Malvolio, Alister Daniels as Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Robert Humphries as Feste.

MANY long-established residents of Cowbridge will remember Peter Cobb, who for 17 years was geography master, and for much of that time, boarding master, at Cowbridge Grammar School.

He left Cowbridge in 1966, which gave me the chance to take his place as head of geography, writes Jeff Alden.

Peter, who then entered the church and was subsequently vicar of Penmark and of Magor, has now written his reminiscences of life at the school.

At Cowbridge Grammar School, 1949-1966 has just been published by the Cowbridge Record Society, and is an entertaining and informative view of a way of life which has long gone.

There are now no grammar schools in Wales and a grammar school with a boarding house was

exceptional, even in 1949.

Cowbridge Grammar School was always regarded as one of the 'top' schools in Wales; Peter Cobb takes a critical look at this opinion and advances his views about its achievements.

This quotation might give some flavour: "The Head could never stay away from the public examination room when a Greek paper was being sat.

"I have often seen him stalking along the rows with his head thrust forward, hands bunching his gown behind his back, for all the world like a black bird of prey; poke his beak over the shoulder of some Greek candidate, detect the error, and smite his brow with a gasp of anguish - 'Gee whizz!' - before stalking on as before."

Much more can be read about the headmaster, staff and pupils in the book, now on sale in Cowbridge at £4.95.

The book will be officially launched on June 15, between 7-9pm, in Old Hall where Peter Cobb and Patrick Hannan, a celebrated old boy, will be the guests.

Places are limited for this event, so anyone interested in a free ticket should apply to Keith Jones, 48 Eastgate, Cowbridge (01446) 775139.

"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved, and thy house."

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