

The Friars' Chronicles

Letter Rack

Dear Editor,

Great day out at study tea- look forward to Cheshire Cheese on Feb 11.

I'm grateful to Peter McCall for his work on the hobby - seemed a nice bloke, too.

Study Tea – Robinson was called before the House UnAmerican Activities Committee – Senator McCarthy had nothing to do with it.

Wonder if Orwell had ever read the *Magnet* or *Gem* as a boy? He was certainly no expert - Hamilton left him with egg on his face! May I add that Orwell's caricature vision of Hamilton's Britain is one I have a lot of sympathy with? If only the statesmen of Europe had had more sense in 1914!

Barbara Redfern was at Cliff House, not High Cliff, and there was Dick Redfern at St Jim's. They didn't seem to be siblings.

Arthur Revels took me back. I've read almost all of them in one form or other.

247-254 – Greyfriars Crusaders – an outstanding series.

Many Remove names mentioned in passing but never or hardly ever again - names like King and Hughes in first few *Magnets*.

173 -174 based on the contemporary Archer-Shee case, the basis for "The Winslow Boy". Interestingly, Fish was one of Bob's friends at the time!

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I wonder what would have become of the *Magnet* if Bunter had been expelled in no. 177?

To be fair – the only people who called Linley a cad were cads themselves. One of Hamilton's few faults – he made the good guys too good and the bad guys too bad.

"Inky Minor" never appeared. I believe the "ruined" plot was later got up by Vernon-Smith himself to keep Redwing at Greyfriars in 1918.

I remember the Courtfield Cracksman series but suspect that Christopher might have had in mind Bunter and Wharton's fruitless visit to Bunter's Uncle George in a nursing home.

Mark Taha

Dear Editor,

Just been listening to Wednesday's repeat of 'The Write Stuff' on Radio 4 Extra. They always end with spoofs of other authors' writing. This week it was Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series - what if heroine Bella had transferred to an English school.

Sebastian Faulks (whose teenage daughter is hooked on Twilight) sent her to Greyfriars. At the mention of both the school and Bunter the audience really reacted. Faulks clearly knows the Greyfriars stories well enough to use in his parody and the audience knew enough to appreciate the joke.

It's on BBC IPlayer, Radio 4 Extra on Wednesday (i.e. yesterday) at 9 am. Bunter as a vampire!!!!

Phyllis Brighthouse