

Random Jottings From St. Jim's



St. Jim's is the oldest public school in fiction, and has had a longer run than any other of its kind. Stories about St. Jim's have been published continuously for the last seventeen years. It is now doing as well as it ever was, and shows great possibilities for the future.

* * *

The stories in the "Gem" began when a merger was made of two big schools—St. Jim's and Clavering—the former retaining the name. The present Shell of St. Jim's was originally the largest Form at Clavering, and the School House-master, Mr. Victor Railton, was the Headmaster.

* * *

St. Jim's is a very old establishment, abounding with secret passages in the school, and subterranean tunnels which form a perplexing maze over a large distance between the school and Rylcombe. Many of these tunnels are unexplored, and many more have been closed up.

* * *

The most important tunnels can be ascertained from an old book in the library. The first is the single tunnel which runs from beneath the Old Tower in the Cloisters direct

to the Monks' Cell in the heart of Rylcombe Wood.

* * *

The Monk's Cell is an old ruin in white stone, while beneath the surface it is a kind of junction for a number of vaults and tunnels. Two of these tunnels, other than that one which comes from St. Jim's, have been explored.

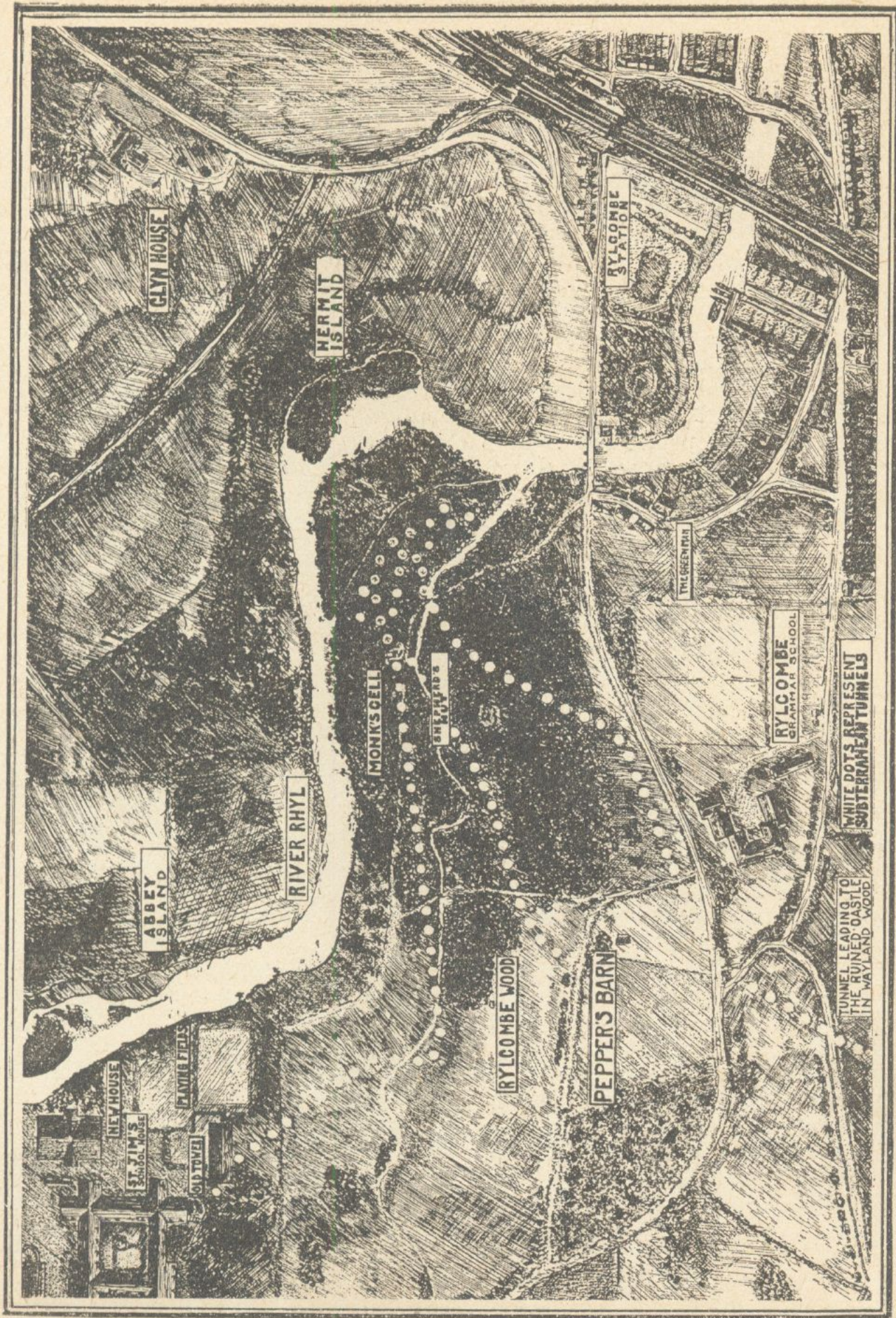
* * *

One of the two tunnels from Monks' Cell runs direct to the mysterious old barn in a field midway between St. Jim's and Rylcombe. This barn is the property of Mr. Pepper, a miser. The tunnel is artfully contrived, and has been used on occasion by the boys of St. Jim's.

* * *

The second tunnel leads direct into an appalling maze. Cardew and Doris Levison once had an experience in this which they are not likely to forget in a hurry. From the maze, a long tunnel extends far underground to the old castle in Wayland Wood, which adjoins Rylcombe in one particular part. The castle is situated very near the spinney in which the Abbey of St. James' sheltered its ruined walls. Many short cuts to these old places are known

Plan of the Country Round St. Jim's



This drawing, prepared from an aeroplane photograph by Manners of the Shell, gives a wealth of detail about part of the County of Sussex lying adjacent to the famous College. Followers of Mr. Martin Clifford's school stories will recognise many familiar landmarks.

to the boys of St. Jim's, and many a pleasant half-holiday is spent there.

* * *

The two houses at St. Jim's are found quite sufficient to board the three hundred odd scholars which the place contains. Mr. Leslie M. Linton takes the Shell of both Houses at classes. He is an unemotional man with a well-balanced mind. If his boys work well at classes he gives them ample time to devote to sport, but if they try scamping things to get out earlier he comes down very hard.

Mr. Philip G. Lathom, on the other hand, has also to be rubbed the right way for best results. Unlike Mr. Linton, he is always very mild and generous with his boys, and seldom doses them with heavy punishments. It is possible to pull his leg to a certain extent, and wags like Blake and Figgins frequently attempt it. Mr. Lathom is more interested in geology and antiques than in driving wisdom and knowledge into his pupils, and the Fourth are considered very fortunate in this respect.

Mr. Selby needs little introduction. He is a kindred spirit to Mr. Ratcliff. He is a kill-joy and a spoil-sport. He teaches the gospel of gloom daily to his youthful-hearted charges, and suffers from chronic indigestion. He does not like boys, and regards teaching them anything as a waste of good time. The Third are never likely to learn a great deal from him, and at times their little lives become a burden to them. Mr. Selby's dear relatives have landed him into some unpleasant scrapes before now.

* * *

Eric Kildare is the captain of the school and leader of the School House. James Monteith is the leader of the New House. Rivalry has existed between the two from the time of their first appearance. Kildare is very much after the pattern of Mr. Railton, while Monteith is of similar principles to Mr. Ratcliff. James Monteith has altered lately, preferring obscurity to the limelight.

Kildare comes from Ireland, together with Mulvaney of the Sixth. Mulvaney minor of the Fourth and Patrick Reilly also come from the Emerald Isle.

Gerald Knox is the black sheep of the St. Jim's School House. He has an ally in Gerald Cutts of the Fifth. Both these fellows do their utmost to cause trouble with the juniors who are unable to defend themselves against older and more powerful fellows. Tom Merry & Co. frequently interfere with his worst schemes, and match their strength against him in a battle of wits. As he invariably retires defeated, Knox harbours a bitter hatred against the Terrible Three and the chums of Study No. 6.

* * *

The St. Jim's First Eleven is a powerful team, comprising Eric Kildare, Nigel Macgregor, George Richard Bruce Darrel, Philip Rushden, Philip Lefevre, Stanley Baker, Albert Gray, Gerald Cutts, Herbert Langton, and James Monteith.

The three best bowlers at St. Jim's are Herbert Langton of the Sixth, Fatty Wynn of the New House Fourth and Ernest Levison of the School House Fourth.

Gerald Cutts of the Fifth is a very wealthy fellow, and the nephew of Major Cutts, who is an uncle of Robert Arthur Digby of the Fourth. Digby's father is a baronet.

Cutts's pals are Philip Gilmore and Arthur St. Leger. All three are undesirables. Cutts spends his spare week-ends in town, and his evenings and half holidays in Wayland hotels. He condescends to tolerate the company of Aubrey Racke of the Shell. It is because Racke is the son of a multi-millionaire and free with his money. Racke, of course, can't see this, and believes Cutts enjoys his society.

* * *

One of the biggest fights in the history of St. Jim's took place between two Fifth Formers. One was a fellow called William Lee; the other, Tuck Purkiss, was a regular bruiser, who frightened fags out of their wits. Lee was an ignorant individual, with a burly appearance and a large pair of fists. The fight arose, so the tale goes, over an accusation by Lee against Purkiss of stealing a new pocket-knife. Purkiss decided to fight his accuser. The fight took place in the heart of Rylcombe Wood, and with the exception of a few prefects and the masters, the entire school mustered to see it. After Lee had

THE NIGHT RAIDERS!



When Tom Merry and Co. of the Shell visit the Fourth Form Dormitory at the head of a raiding-party, Jack Blake & Co. are not slow to take up the challenge, and a lusty pillow-fight ensues.

broken his opponent's front teeth, Purkiss smashed his man about very badly. Even though he proved to be the victor of the affair, Purkiss did not enjoy the fruits of his victory, for somebody played "nark," and brought the masters on the scene at the close of the fight. Purkiss was expelled a week

later, and Lee had to go abroad for a whole term to recover.

* * *

TOM MERRY.

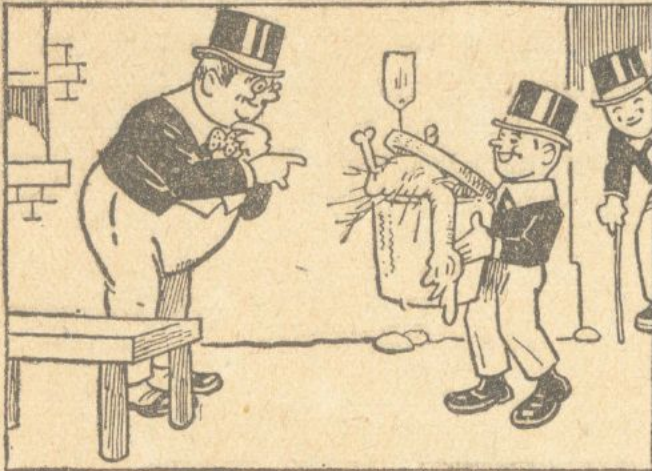
It is doubtful whether any boy has travelled more widely for his age than Tom Merry. Harry Wharton & Co., of Greyfriars, have



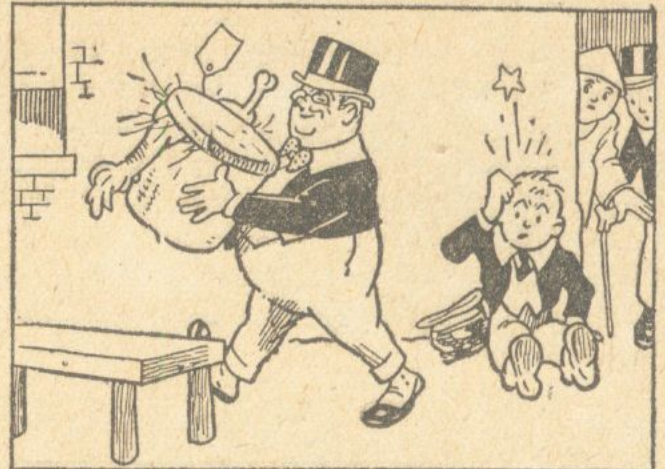
Popular Sports and Pastimes at St. Jim's

Billy Bunter Tries to Get Out of Doing His Lines!

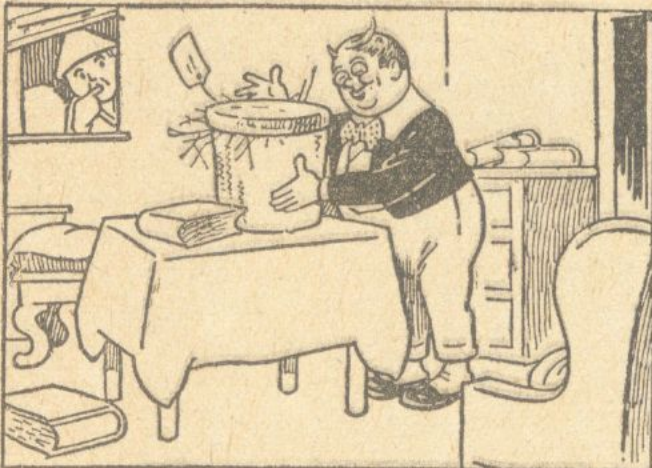
Another funny adventure of Loo Lummee, the Merry Magician from "Chuckles."



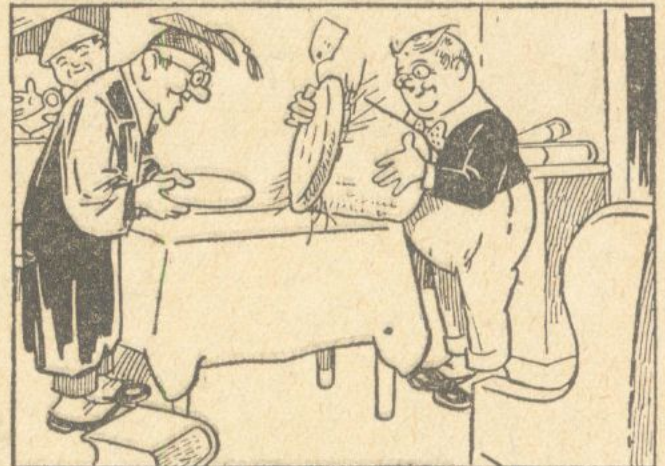
1. "Good-morning, my cherub," murmured Billy Bunter, as he saw the little fag taking the turkey up to the school: "that's a fine bird you have there. But oh, it's much too heavy for a little lad to carry!"



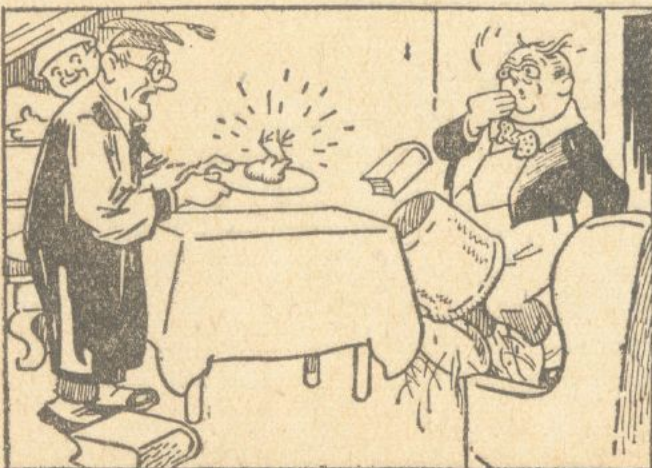
2. But when Billy tried to take the hamper the little fag raised an awful hullabaloo about it. So the ponderous Porpoise gave him a tap on the noddle to keep him quiet. But Loo Lummee was round the corner.



3. And when Billy Bunter took that hamper into the study of the genial master, the cheery little Chinese was not far away. "There!" puffed Billy. "It was a frightful weight, even for an athletic chap like me!"



4. Soon in toddled the master. "I've brought a great plump turkey for you, sir," murmured Billy Bunter, and he thought: "He'll be so pleased, he'll wash out those lines he gave me yesterday. Tee-hee!"



5. But little Loo Lummee at the window gave his lucky lamp a gentle rub-a-dub. Hey, presto! What a sight when Billy opened the hamper! "A turkey!" gasped the master. "A plucked sparrow, you mean, you—you great dumpling!"



6. "You deserve something for bringing it here," went on the master, as he reached for his cane. But Billy didn't wait! "Ha, ha, ha!" laughed Lummee. "Me tinkee I teach that dumpling a heap useful lesson!"