

1 Taverton St.

W.C. 1.

Feb. 24th 1952

4984

Dearest P.

I was very glad to hear of your sluggish existence. Though I must say the social round sounds pretty strenuous. I hope your weather has improved, as it has here - yesterday was really springlike, & today the still sun still shines & the atmosphere is mild. I think the worst must now be over.

The chief excitement here has been Quentin's wedding. The young couple came to dinner here the night before & I joined the party. I thought Olivia was very charming, & they were both most friendly. James, Alex & I went together to the party the next day where there were numbers of my old pupils - Igor, Nicko Henderson, & of course Olivia herself. Julia & Lawrence Gowing too. ~~It~~ I really think L.G. is too revolting. He rushed up to me spluttering & howling, as if I was his dearest friend, whereas I think I only met him once before. He deenched

Alix, so that she was obliged to retire and wash her person & clothes. Another figure was Noel's son, Benedict, who said he knew me, but I'm sure it was really you, who sat next him at Glyndebourne. However he insisted it was me, was very affectionate, helped me down the steps to the taxi, and sat in it by my side while waiting for J. & A. Most romantic!

No sooner had your letter arrived with Oliver's address than O. himself returned. I am now back at 5/- for bi. weekly meals. O. & I went round to James after dinner to hear his tapes. He played a bit of Cosi which came across beautifully - the balance was perfect, & quality very good. After O. had gone he did the bit from Forza with Una fatale. This was not so good - perhaps because it came from Edinburgh. Peleri's voice did not come out well. J. has another recording of this, made by Ellen during a rehearsal, which he says is much better. He has also got Wozzack, but I have not heard any of this.

Ralph is not to have his operation - perhaps later, they say. Nancy, on last hearing, was very well again.

Love to all

Majorie