

The Abingdonian
2003





The Abingdonian

Michaelmas 2003

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Editor's Foreword

STOP PRESS! May *The Abingdonian* be the first publicly to congratulate an outstandingly successful member of our community! **Howard Watkinson**, OA has recently been awarded a Prize by Peterhouse College Cambridge for 'highly meritorious results' in the University's English examinations in addition to his First Class degree.

I hope you will agree that congratulations are also due to everybody involved with this issue of *The Abingdonian*. I have just finished reading all of it - cover to cover - and it positively breathes a sense of celebration throughout. There is so much to celebrate at our School, in so many spheres of activity, by so many people, that a mere ninety-six pages can barely do it all justice.

That is why, for the first time, my team of boy Sub-Editors, whose names appear overleaf and to whom I am, as ever, enormously grateful, has striven long and hard to include a CD with your copy of *The Abingdonian 2003*. Please peruse it in a computer somewhere near you. Marvel at the technological dexterity of the young men who have created the introductory animation and see for yourself how they celebrate in a kaleidoscopic whirl the excitement of attending or working in Abingdon School.

The CD itself follows the Contents page of this magazine (overleaf) and includes many photographs, sound files and 'tasters' of forthcoming School recordings which never made it into the paper magazine, for reasons of lack of space. We do not claim copyright on any of these, so please feel free to print them out and give them to others so that you can join me in celebrating the excellence of Abingdon School as widely as possible. But as you do so, may I remind you of the words of the Appeal Director on pages 4 & 5: "Abingdon is not a rich school ... That is no reason to stop, however, and the Appeal is still open!" Donations will, I am sure, continue to be gratefully received. **Howard Abrahall's** cartoon on page 4 graphically illustrates the cost of an individual brick, just as the Appeal Director's smile on the same page shows the cumulative effect of buying many of them ...

Congratulations must be followed by thanks. They are particularly due to **PER** and **AMS**, who have spent many long and patient hours proof-reading, connecting colons and separating semi-colons. I also offer my thanks to all the contributors to this issue. I have found collating and publishing their contributions a fascinating occupation and I trust you find it makes an enjoyable read and a source of inspiration for the year to come.

DJP

Headmaster's Foreword



In time-honoured fashion the start of a new academic year and the frenzied activity that accompanies it give way to a lengthening of the stride and return to the comfort of routine. At this point the polite 'please' from the Editor of *The Abingdonian* for the Headmaster's foreword starts to contain notes of urgency if not panic as deadlines loom. Once the initial inertia of putting pen to paper is overcome, I always enjoy this opportunity to reflect in broad sweeps over the events of the last twelve months.

It has indeed been a particularly hectic period as, in addition to the day-to-day demands generated by a community of over 1000 strong, we have been building for the future.

On a personal level it has been wonderful to re-occupy Lacies Court after its extensive refurbishment and to see accommodation for boarders in both School House and Crescent House brought into the 21st century. The building of the new Arts Centre has not only caused significant disruption, particularly to our thespians, musicians and painters, but has generated a rising level of expectation as the completion date

looms. With that expectation has come much activity aimed at raising money for the Appeal. Although the economic climate has posed challenges for our fund-raising team, we have not been short of activity. Wonderful events such as the Sheldonian Concert, the Secret Art Exhibition and the May Fair have added an extra degree of richness to school life: many magical memories, as well as weight to Appeal coffers.

As I wrote last year of the glories of the all-conquering 1st VIII crew of 2002, little did I realise that their success would unleash a wave of spontaneous enthusiasm from our rowing community. Such was the strength of the wave that in little more than nine months a new boathouse has been planned, financed, built and opened. If ever there was a powerful symbol of what can be achieved when committed parties pull in the same direction, it is sitting by the banks of the Thames just off Wilsham Road.

These dramatic improvements to our site and facilities have been backed up less flamboyantly by a year of honest endeavour in our classrooms. Having approached the publication of examination results in

August with some trepidation, it was most rewarding to see our expectations more than met at all levels. Most importantly, almost all Abingdonians will be able to leave school and to pursue their preferred course at their first choice university, including twenty-two to Oxford and Cambridge.

2003 will also be remembered as a year of broadening horizons. All our major sports teams have made forays in pursuit of overseas competition: the rowers on several occasions, including at the Head of the Charles River in Boston, U.S.A., the hockey players to Holland, the cricketers to Barbados and, not to be outdone, the rugby players held their pre-season training in Italy. For the first time ever we held a parents' reception in Hong Kong in an attempt to build bridges with a section of the globe that produces some of our most talented Abingdonians. Of course this sort of 'rapprochement' can take place at home as well. The establishment of a new Governors' Liaison Committee will be exploring further ways of encouraging collaboration with the School of St Helen and St Katharine, and much

progress has been made in cementing relations with our Junior School, Josca's, and we have also been active in the OISSP – Oxfordshire Independent State School Partnership – for the first time. The theme of reaching out is further developed by the publication this year of the first edition of the *Abingdon News*, designed to complement *The Abingdonian* by presenting tri-annually major news stories and features about the School.

Having spent much of the Lent term under the imminent threat of flooding, it is slightly ironic that, as I look out of my study window, I see parched fields of a type normally associated with desert fringe. Whatever the adversity, flood or drought, I am confident that Abingdonians will respond with their usual mixture of calm fortitude and inventiveness.

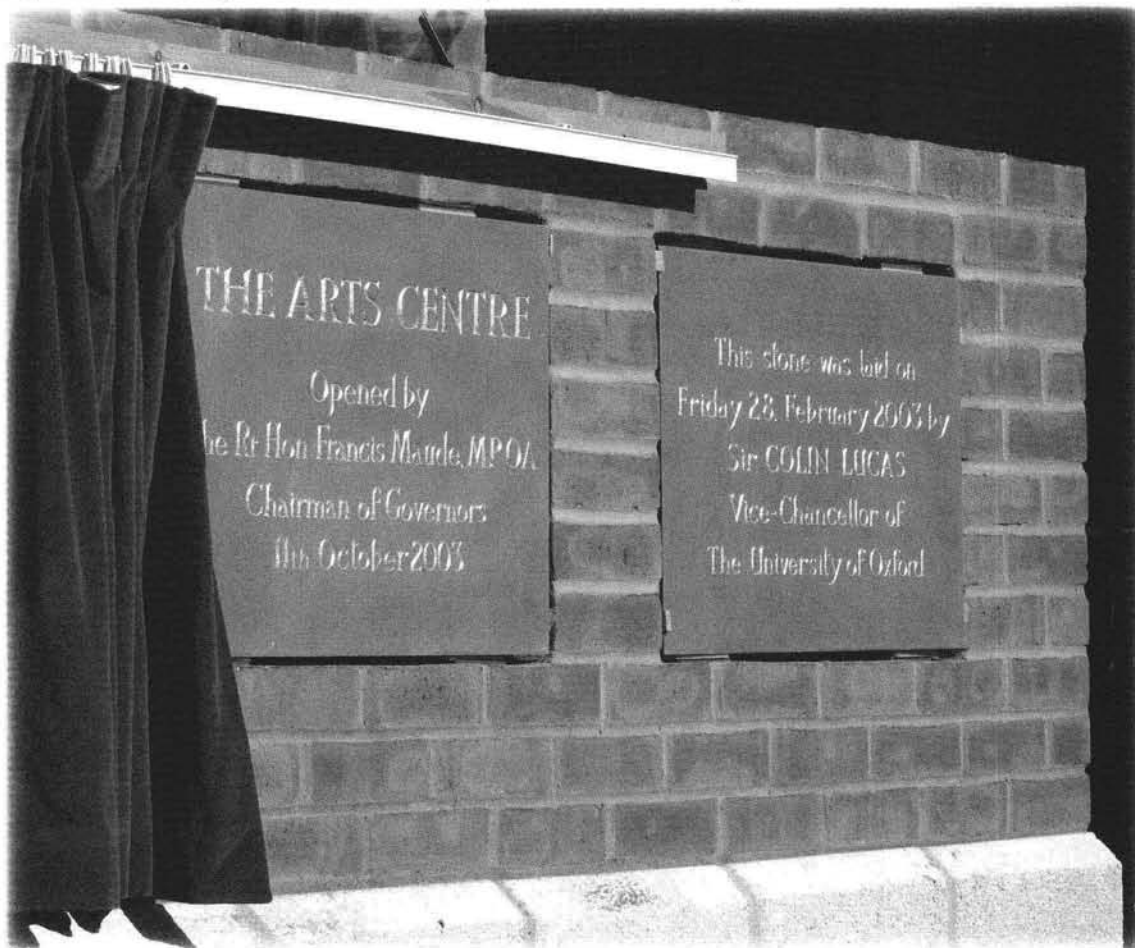
In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Editor and his team for their work which has built on the reforms of last year to produce a magazine of both interest and quality. I commend it to you.

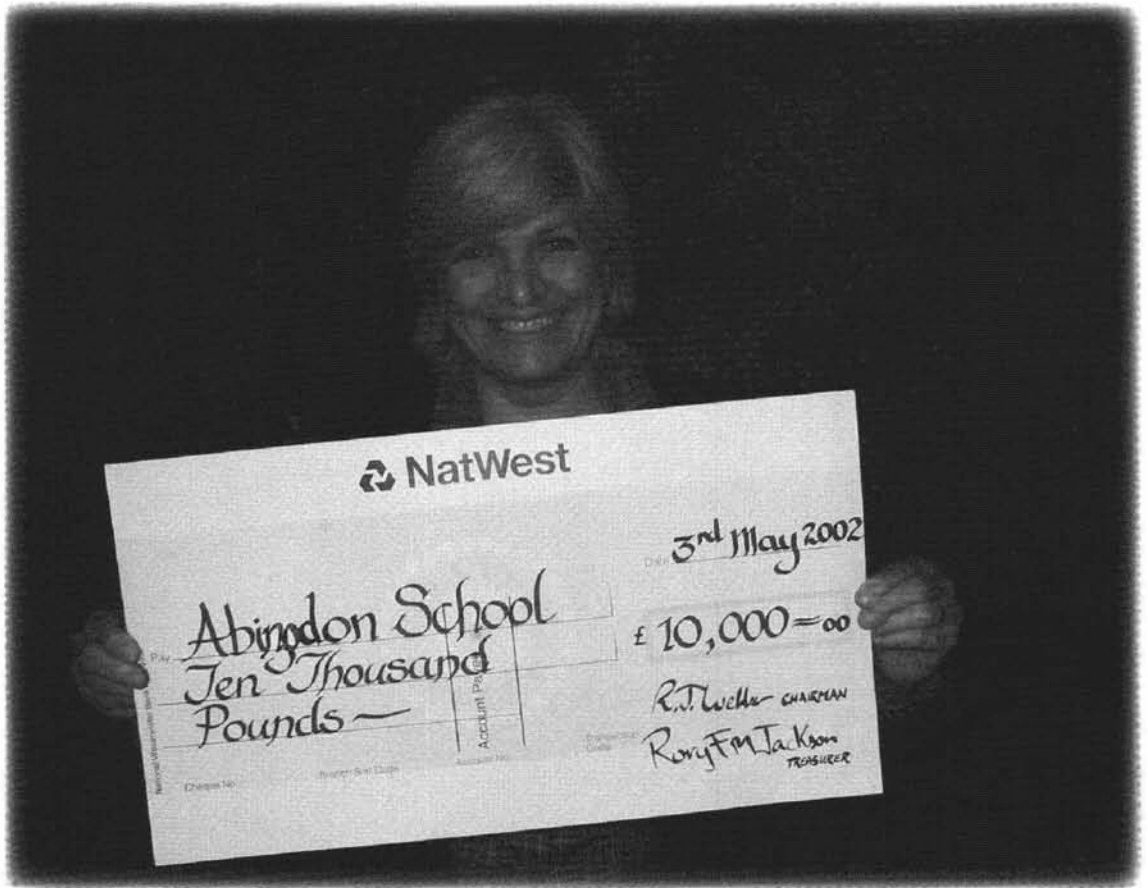
MT

The Arts Centre Appeal

The £3.2m Arts Centre was officially opened during our gloriously sunny Open Day on 11 October. This wonderful building will at last do justice to the exceptional abilities of the boys and

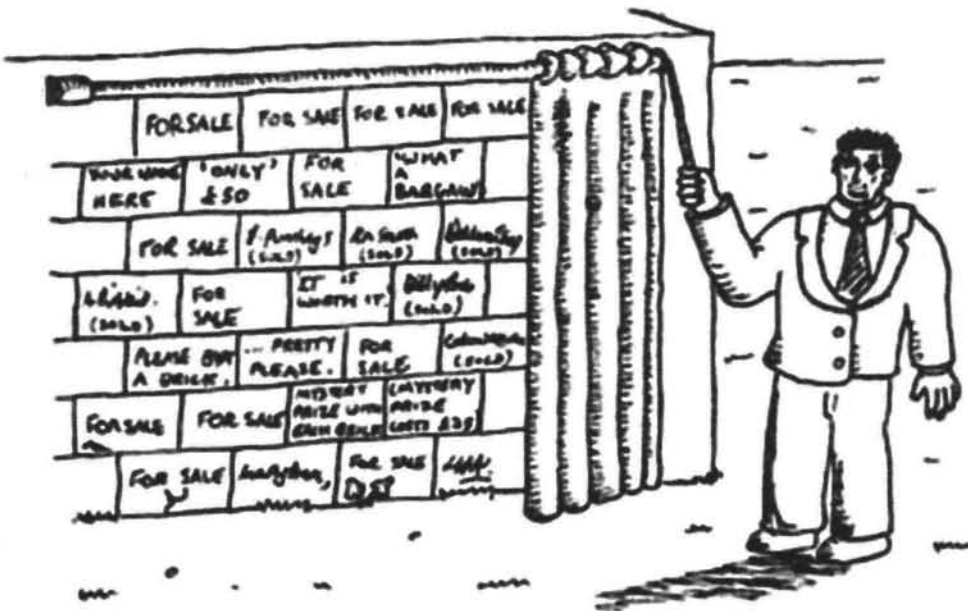
those who teach them, bringing together music, drama and art for the first time and creating a facility which will have significant benefits for both the School and the community.





The Arts Centre has been made possible through the generous support of friends and benefactors. The project is being financed partly from the School's existing resources and partly from an Appeal with a target of £1.5m, an Appeal which got off to a tremendous start with a £500,000 grant from the Mercers' Company, who have a long tradition of supporting the School. This was followed by £10,000 from TASS and many other donations from parents, Old Abingdonians and other friends of the School.

Highlights of the Appeal have been a series of events which have demonstrated all that is best about Abingdon – the music at the Sheldonian concert last September, the artistic talents demonstrated by the Secret Art Exhibition, the enthusiasm for buying a permanent stake in the School through the Brick-buy-Brick project and the tremendous sense of community shown by the participation of the whole school in the May Fair. Other personal highlights have been overseas visits to current parents and Old Abingdonians in Hong Kong and California, where loyalty towards the School and an almost insatiable appetite for information about what is happening here are heart-warming, to say the least.



CARTOON BY H. ABRAHALL 6 WHZ

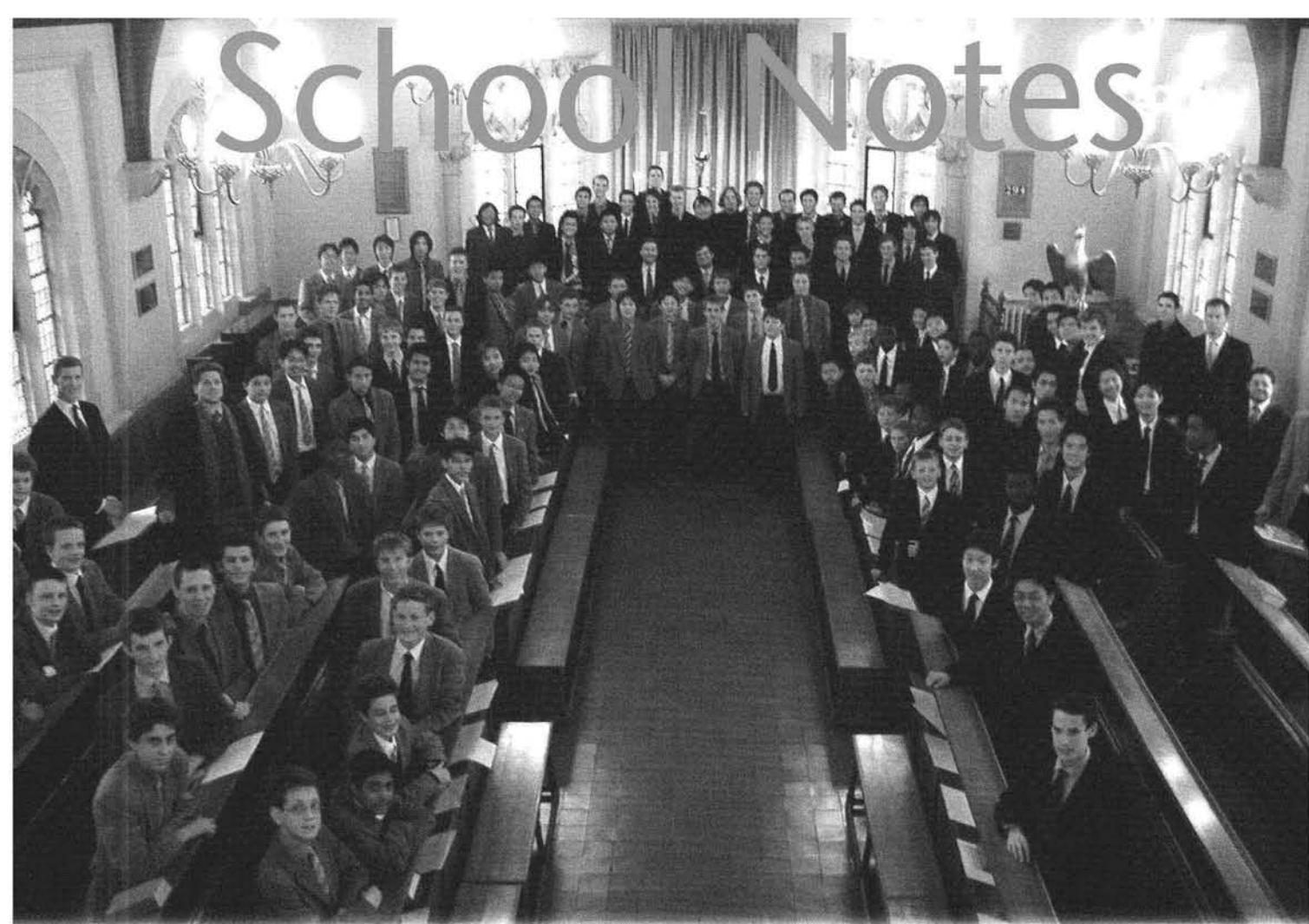
The magnificent result of all this is that the £1m hurdle is within sight. We are most grateful to everyone who has supported the project with such enthusiasm and generosity, and to those who (perhaps now prompted into the action they haven't quite got round to as yet?) will help during the last few months of the Campaign. Abingdon is not a rich school, and we are pleased with the results of the Appeal so far, when the economic climate is not conducive to fund-raising and many schools have been able to

expand only by mortgaging themselves for many years to come. That is no reason to stop, however, and the Appeal is still open! Whilst there is still some way to go, it is hoped that a final drive for support during the last phase of construction and equipping of the building will enable it to be concluded by the end of the year. Then the next project can begin!

FMR



School Notes



Common Room Farewells

Jeff
Drummond-Hay
(JDEDH)

Anyone seeing **Jeff** heading off purposefully towards his houseroom, charging up and down a touchline, refereeing a rugby match or teaching First Form Geography might be excused for not realising that he has been at Abingdon for thirty years.

Eric Anderson appointed him in 1973 as assistant PE teacher straight from his B. Ed. at Sussex, although by that time he had already been in the RAF Parachute Regiment, serving in Cyprus and Aden, until after four years he felt he had jumped out of enough aeroplanes and decided to find other, less suicidal ways of making a living.

Jeff arrived in South Africa at the age of four and was educated at a boarding school 'way out in the sticks' where 'sport was my life' - with the extra advantage that away matches 'got you out of the place'. He rediscovered rugby in particular when he saw someone coaching in Bristol and decided he wanted to do the same - hence Sussex and the teaching qualification. On arrival at Abingdon he coached most games at most levels, though it's probably with the Colts rugby that Jeff will always be most identified. He was in charge of gymnastics and his teams achieved many successes in



prestigious competitions such as the Public Schools' Gymnastics Championships. Few will remember that he also taught Drama and was responsible for a few productions in the Court Room (now chopped up into the Geography Department) or that he helped in the

CCF. He wanted to do classroom teaching as well so he elected to stay one page ahead of the boys in Lower School Geography - and continued to do so for the rest of his time here. Jeff must also have taken dozens of school trips over the years: to Hammarbank, Rydal Hall, skiing, rugby tours - with the 2000 rugby tour to South Africa being his favourite.

After ten years he was keen to move since he didn't like staying in one place, but he was persuaded to be Head of PE and stayed for what he described as his 'ideal job' - and he also married Maureen. He had a significant hand in planning the Sports Hall and has continued to be in charge of it and organising its use by the local community ever since. It was somewhere around this time that he revealed his thespian leanings in various Common Room entertainments. He was the dashing romantic hero in one play and on yet another occasion his rendering of Wordsworth's *Daffodils* brought lumps to the throat ... Rehearsals with Jeff were always memorable.

After another ten years he became a Housemaster and enjoyed that phase of his career even more. He claims that his success was all down to good Tutors but everyone else knows that his happy, successful House hinged on his enthusiasm, down-to-earth common sense and initiative. His competitive instincts have been hard at work in all sporting events: House music, public-

speaking competitions - and everything else.

Everyone who has known Jeff for any time has his own favourite anecdote or 'Jeffism'. There was the gymnastics display on Waste Court lawn when the gymnasts were vaulting over a Mini which had been mysteriously acquired. There were the three confused boys who were told to 'form up into a square' (although there was a logical reason for saying this and Jeff certainly knew what he meant). And there were those fussy mothers of the Colts rugby squad who seemed to object to breaktime training in normal school clothes - in the rain - and the mud. Dare one even mention Jeff's innovative refereeing and his creative approach to the 'sin-bin'?

Jeff retires to his house which is all of one hundred yards from the school but will continue to coach games, so it could be that he is about to find the even more perfect job - teaching at its best - with no lessons, no marking and no responsibility. His constant smile will be all the more evident. Finally, though, the key to Jeff, his huge contribution to the School and his achievements over thirty years, is his absolute, innate decency and his refusal to tolerate uncivilised behaviour. As PE teacher and Housemaster he has played a part in the lives of most of the boys who have passed through the School - and they certainly won't ever forget him.

GGB

G Geoff Rolfe came to the School in January 1979 to teach Russian and French and from the start impressed pupils and colleagues alike with the high standards he set and his meticulous approach to everything he did in the languages classroom. It was clear that here was someone with an amazing grasp of detail (soon to manifest itself in the then fledgling world of IT) and with whom one could have interesting conversations about word-etymologies and the connections between languages.

Geoff's real passion was for Russian culture and literature, and in the 80s when 'Russia' was still the USSR he accompanied **David Taylor's** triennial visits to Moscow and Leningrad with small groups of Russianists at Abingdon, contending with the cumbersome Soviet bureaucracy and its various demands. When contacts with the West became easier under glasnost, Geoff was able to set up the current exchange with a Moscow Grammar School (specialising in languages), in conjunction with Oxford High where his daughter was studying Russian. This exchange has run every year bar one in the last twelve years and has been enormously successful, involving as it does a huge amount of work to organise the many and varied cultural visits (and the annual concert!) undertaken during the 11-12 days of the trip. Several OAs have been inspired enough by

their experience of Russia and Geoff's teaching of the language to want to go out and work there for a spell (**Charles Parker's** son being one of the first).

Geoff was also instrumental in raising the status of Russian in the curriculum at Abingdon; under **Keith Hasnip** he became Head of Russian and the three languages taught at Abingdon were put on an equal footing, so for the first time sets of boys in Lower School were introduced to 'the language with the funny alphabet' and studied it as their main language up to GCSE. More Russian was now being taught and the department modestly increased to 2.5 staff.



Geoff Rolfe
(GCR)

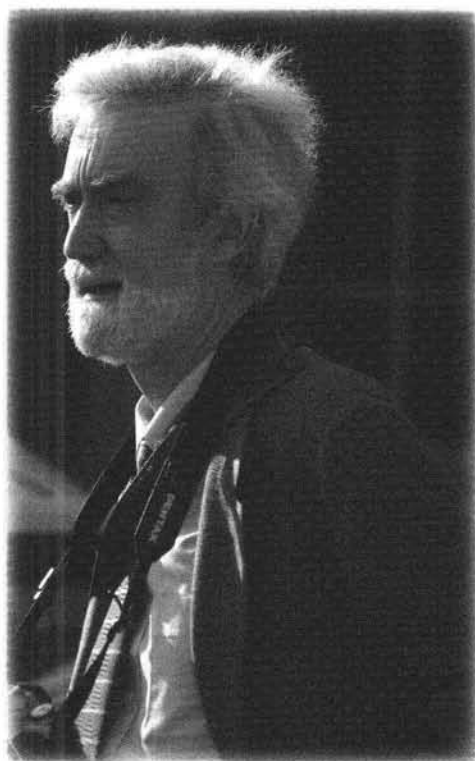
In 1986, Geoff took over the role of Public Examinations Officer from **David Milton**, having previously worked on the O&C examiners' panel for some years. This job was to be his main out-of-class activity, and it expanded enormously once GCSE arrived in 1988; needless to say, it required all the memory capacity and attention to detail that Geoff was able to bring to it. Meanwhile he also took some non-team games and ran a Computer Programming Club as well as the (now sadly missed) Car Mechanics Club where boys could learn to tune up the engines of staff cars and even build a complete kit car from scratch (with the aid of **Ian Smith**).

No account of Geoff's contribution would be complete without mention of his huge enthusiasm for computers, so much that one sometimes wondered if he was on a retainer from Steve Jobs to promote Apple Macs to the detriment of the oft-denigrated

'Wintel' PCs as he referred to them! Many a perplexed member of Common Room had his or her elementary problems with computing tasks sorted out by Geoff. He also wrote some of his own software for School use, particularly the *Polyglot* languages programme for pupils to use and much of the software used to construct the School database, of which he was in charge for many a year.

Ill health, a long-standing problem, unfortunately forced Geoff to take early retirement in December 2002 after a prolonged absence in the Summer term, and he has recently been diagnosed as having Parkinson's disease, but away from the stresses and strains of teaching Geoff's health will be able to stabilise and we wish him and Beth a happy time together. He will be much missed by all those staff and pupils who knew him, and who remember learning from his patient insights into his many complex areas of expertise.

PW



Keith
Bingham

Keith Bingham turned to schoolmastering in 1981 after a career of some twelve years as a research chemist with Unilever, and that after seven years at Oxford where he gained his doctorate in organic chemistry. How lucky we have been at Abingdon to have had somebody with such extensive expertise, in terms both of Chemistry (as boys doing science projects can testify) and of knowledge of the world of industry, which has proved invaluable in his role as a Careers Advisor.

It was not at all surprising that a deputation of Lower Sixthformers came to request that

the School should not release Keith for another year, until after they had sat their A2 exams. The reason was clear: they felt safe in his hands. His lessons are always meticulously planned, and this organisation finds its way into the work of the boys, however much some might try to resist it. Keith has a real love of Chemistry and an encyclopaedic knowledge of it. He delights in putting a new slant on old ideas and, with a sharp eye for detail, will pounce on inconsistencies.

When health and safety became an issue that schools had to take seriously, Keith was clearly the

man to turn to. He has been supremely effective in the role of Health and Safety Officer, with his industrial background, technical knowledge, a natural meticulous care and the perseverance to boil down weighty documents and distil their essence. We have been lucky indeed as, having gained a formidable amount of knowledge, he is able to dispense it intelligibly and apply it pragmatically. A further career as a health and safety consultant awaits him if he wishes it.

Keith is an essentially private man whose family mean a lot to him. His sons **Nicholas** and **Adrian** both went through the School with distinction and have gone on to start academic careers, in Geography and History. They, like their father, are table-tennis players. Keith has looked after table-tennis at Abingdon for twenty years. 'Looked after' is not really the correct expression for it implies passivity. Each Tuesday afternoon games session sees him transformed. No longer the benign, restrained figure but one eager to compete. With devilish slice and defensive spin, he can take on all-comers from the School, and often win.

Sometimes it is only when you are about to say farewell to colleagues that you fully appreciate all their strengths, and realise how much they have been taken for granted. So it is with Keith. Who will be there to take such scrupulous care in following up details, whether of Chemistry, careers or health and safety matters, but above all for the boys?

We wish him and Brenda many happy years of retirement.

TRA

Charmian's most obvious legacy to Abingdon is an R.S. Department any school would envy. Impressive though the statistics are - over thirty AS and A2 pupils, twelve of whom wish to read Theology at University - her main achievement is her approach to the subject and the whole educational process, which she has inculcated at all levels. She impresses on her charges that there are no easy answers, no short cuts in pursuit of truth. She also conveys her own relish and evident enjoyment, embodying the essential truth that learning is one of life's great delights. In this way she has enabled Abingdonians for nearly two decades to think for themselves, and is aided in this by her shrewd understanding of each individual and her unwavering wish that every one should do himself justice.

Her involvement with the School began with part-time music teaching. Organ pupils were helped to Grade VIII at astonishingly early stages, and one, **Geoff Styles**, was awarded scholarships to Westminster Abbey and then Christ Church. Some Latin teaching followed, then **Philip Butcher** recruited her to the Divinity Department.

For six years the Chapel Choir flourished under her direction. Sixty choristers on one occasion sang Evening in St George's Chapel, Windsor and an amazingly wide repertoire was built up, largely because of the number and variety of occasions and venues at which the Choir sang. In all that time she spent virtually every mid-morning break training the trebles and preparing them for Royal School of Church Music Awards.

1985 was a vintage year: nine new labourers in the vineyard, primed for action by the vigorous **Jon Gabitass**, and thus presumed to be ready for all eventualities. Of necessity taking centre stage was the new Chaplain, who materialised reassuringly to conduct his first Lower School Chapel service. No memory of the opening hymn, but gradually a great release of tension for this apprehensive participant as the preacher wove his narrative magic, summoning us into the landscape and feeling of a Camarthanshire Christmas, the Italian POWs weeping as they gather around the cradles of the parson's two infant sons - the sentiment suddenly shattered as **Peter** voiced the thoughts of one of the little boys: "Surely I'm not ugly enough to make them burst into tears!"

On that occasion none of us laughed out loud, but that would not always be the case in the years that followed. Perhaps there should be a ministry of laughter: a gift which takes the edge off tensions, worries, sadness and fears. In Peter's teaching, the same gift has enlightened generations of students: blessed is the boy who hears profound theological concepts mixed

This was followed by training for Ordination, which provided the opportunity for structured theological investigation which she had long craved and typically she made the most of the opportunity. Even before this she had made invaluable contributions to both morning Chapel and Boarders' Services.

Perhaps more than anything, she relished the role of Tutor. Initially in the Lower School and then the Upper School she won the deep and robust affection not only of her charges, but of many parents as well, and not infrequently their undying gratitude. Common Room 'to a man' valued her immaculate professionalism and often used her as a trusted confidante.

She leaves us to be Succentor of Worcester Cathedral, which is under the illusion that this newly created post will not be full-time. The people there will soon learn two things: firstly that no sermon is complete without a reference to her family, husband David, children and grandchildren or her completely mad cats, and secondly that there is no such thing as a part-time Charmian.

TPL



Charmian
Manship
(CMM)



with a direct and explosive joke or seasoned with his infectious humour, and how fortunate the community which he enlivens with his wit and his wisdom.

Peter Lewis
(TPL)

It was entirely in keeping with his values and his

sense of occasion that for the Evensong to commemorate the centenary of the consecration of the Chapel, Peter chose for his text *Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo*: the loving-kindness of the Lord. While Peter could be scathingly critical of cant and humbug, he was instinctively and warmly responsive to human need and sadness. A gifted communicator, he enriched the expression of his Christian faith through his wide knowledge and love of art and literature: indefatigable in his enthusiasm for theatre, he established a wonderful tradition of special staff teas which made the animated interval discussions of staging and interpretation even more delightful.

And then there was Peter standing at slip in a Common Room cricket match, ready to pounce but also exercising his inimitable style of sledging, which was couched in terms of the most affably diabolical advice and suggestions. Peter's sporting prowess was considerable in athletics and rugby, too, rivalled only by the huge generosity he evinced in responding to the frequent, inevitable requests to coach School teams, referee matches and drive minibuses all over the place.

Generosity and warmth were also palpable in the welcome one received at 25 Park Road: Mary-Jo must have provided thousands of cups of tea and the warmest of welcomes to hundreds of grateful visitors, though her hospitality extended to many greater culinary delights. Originally one encountered a *ménage à six*: two black cats of contrasting temperament, a little dog who dematerialised relatively early on, and the little boy who never stopped asking questions and who metamorphosed via school debater and graduate student of politics into the benevolent grown-up **Nick**, still the most conversible of companions.

Peter's departure leaves a void that can only gradually be filled: we shall miss his passion and his authority, so subtly counterbalanced by the *Simpsons* socks. His future Welsh flock will not be slow to appreciate the deep well of his kindness and the vision that he so powerfully communicates to young and older alike. Through his faith, his warmth and his generosity, Peter has taught us to open our minds and our hearts and to give thanks for all the good gifts around us. For his eighteen year ministry among us, we do give thanks.

AMS



Phil
Richardson
(PER)

Phil Richardson joined the Abingdon Common Room in 1993 from Wallingford School where he had been Head of Chemistry and Examinations Officer. A not inconsiderable strategist, while at Wallingford he had supplemented his professional training with no less than two sabbatical years, the first of which was an Advanced PGCE focusing on educational administration. In the second he was based at Keble College and studied for a M.Sc. in the theory and practice of

teaching. Around that time he was a senior examiner for GCSE Chemistry and principal moderator for the coursework element. He was also engaged in leading AQA GCSE INSET on coursework.

Phil was spurred to come to Abingdon so that he could continue to teach his beloved Chemistry as a separate science rather than dumb down and diffuse into Double Award Science. In doing that he joined a Chemistry Department of experienced teachers all of whom had studied Chemistry at Oxford University

in the sixties. His particular contributions to what emerged as a golden decade for the department were in setting high quality internal examinations and in ensuring that, when it came to coursework, the boys were thoroughly prepared and could be confident that everything that could be done to ease their way through the practical work had been done. The same qualities also applied to his approach to the business of developing the Examinations Officer role, which he took over from **Geoff Rolfe** in 1995 over a period in which the complexity of the examinations arrangements, especially as experienced by those sitting the papers, increased beyond all recognition. The boys and staff could be absolutely confident that all the administrative arrangements would be in place and crystal clear and that Phil would be both highly accessible and, through his wealth of knowledge and experience, attention to detail and sound good sense, would see them through the most potentially chaotic of scenarios.

For his contribution to the Other Half, Phil coached and managed 3rd and 2nd XV's. He is a man of many parts: a crossword enthusiast, whose proof reading expertise has been invaluable through successive issues of this magazine. He is also a keen traveller, an avid collector of John Betjeman publications and has a keen interest in the understanding of science through its history. Retirement will be rewarding and multifaceted!

RCBC

Nicholas Hele joined the Modern Languages Department in September 1999, having done a degree in French and Russian at the University of Birmingham, and having spent much of his PGCE year at Sevenoaks. As well as taking up his duties teaching his main languages throughout the curriculum at Abingdon, he immediately became the resident Tutor in Cobban, taking responsibility for the Thirdformers in Crescent and School Houses. Sports coaching at Abingdon was also strengthened by Nick's arrival, since he came with qualifications in a variety of sports. Throughout his time here he worked with huge energy, great enthusiasm and good humour in each of these three main areas of school life.

Nick's first brief was to support **Geoff Rolfe** in the teaching of Russian here, and all those who were taught by him in this language will have been impressed by his obvious love of the country, its culture and its language. He was most familiar with St Petersburg, but got to know Moscow better during his time here by accompanying our exchange party there on two occasions. He was usually the first one in the department to volunteer to give Open Day show lessons, and many visitors were able to appreciate his particular prowess with Lower School learners of Russian. At the other end of the school, Nick also had an excellent rapport with the current generation of Sixthformers in particular, again most obviously with his band of Russianists. The department will miss his invaluable contribution to its meetings, as well as to its teaching. We all recognise the important role he has played in the unsettled times of the last four terms.

Two years ago Nick took over the running of hockey at Abingdon, not his main sport by his own admission. He did this job with the minimum of fuss, dealing in his own inimitable style with the logistical difficulties of working off site and with keeping together a team of coaches of varying experience and priorities. The sport has continued to progress in the school during Nick's time in charge, and the new year 1st XI tour to Holland this year was a highlight for all those who went, and led to tremendous team spirit throughout the season. Rugby and cricket have also benefited from his talents.

He has tutored both Middle School and Lower School boys in his time, and they will all have appreciated his patience and humour. In so doing he also played an important part in the boarding life of the School.

Nick will be becoming even better acquainted with Russia at the end of the summer, as he and his wife Claire are moving out to Moscow to work at the British International School there. We hope very much that Nick has enjoyed his four years at Abingdon, and wish both him and Claire success and good fortune in their next posts.

VMW



Nick and
Claire Hele
(NJH)

Once again this year we welcomed our two French assistantes, **Virginie Pelletier** and **Laetitia Lefèvre-Thierry**, both from the University of Caen in Normandy.

Virginie and Laetitia, who knew each other before moving to Abingdon, adapted well to life here despite the cultural shock Abingdon School can provide to French nationals! (Believe me, I know!) They both worked very hard and provided us with fantastic displays as well as very well researched documents and files for the Sixth Form. They helped in lessons and took groups of pupils for conversation and oral activities in each French class. Their help was particularly valuable with our Lower and Upper Sixth boys.

Virginie and Laetitia both want to become teachers when they finish university. They have certainly been very patient with the boys who all loved to work with them. They encouraged them to improve and managed to get even the most reluctant ones surpassing themselves to speak their very best French! Their help

in the department in every respect has been invaluable and we are very sorry to see them go. They got on well with everyone, respected everyone's different ways of teaching and were always eager to do their best to help. Despite having university work to complete and exams to prepare for, they were always extremely reliable and professional in School. We thank them very much for everything and wish them all the very best for the future. Their stay with us does not seem to have put them off teaching for life, which is just as well, as they will make excellent teachers.

EMTS



Virginie
and
Laetitia



Zoltan Galik

The first year working as a teacher can be a difficult time, and few of us would have wished to exacerbate it by working in a strange country. **Zoltan's** arrival at Abingdon last September, on an HMC scheme that gives recent graduates from Eastern Europe a year's experience in Britain, was his first visit to this country.

So much was unfamiliar – the language, the people, the education system, even much of the maths taught in School – that nobody would have blamed him had he decided on a premature return home. It is to his credit that he persevered, completing the year with much improved English and confidence in front of a class. His meticulous and thorough preparation, combined with a patient and gentle attitude, will be remembered by his pupils. He returns to Slovakia for a year's 'national service', helping out in his former university.

DF



Karen-Ann Sherman

News of a colleague's imminent sabbatical sojourn is met with a mixture of emotions: envy, of course, and just a little anxiety about timetable cover and report writing and parents' evenings and exam marking. So to hear that **SAE** was withdrawing from the fray for the Summer term 2003 was the prompt for just that cocktail of admiration (how did he manage that?) and a sinking heart. We need not have worried. **Karen-Ann Sherman**, recently arrived from South Africa, slipped into the harness with efficiency, discretion and purposefulness. She quickly made her mark with her classes, and boys appreciated her combination of shrewdness and kindness. She has been endlessly tolerant of demands made of her and of her head of department's forgetfulness, and it's good to know that she will remain within hailing distance of Abingdon when she takes up a post at St Helen's. Our thanks and best wishes go with her.

APS



Judith Hogg

Opinion differs on how many times **Judith** has taught at Abingdon School, but it is certain that the first time was in the distant days when **RPF** ruled the Mathematics Department. It is difficult to believe that she will not be back, and no doubt the next Head of Mathematics but three will also have a chance to appreciate her hard work and willingness to participate in all ways. Her thorough and structured approach to teaching has been of great benefit to her pupils, and her enthusiastic activity on the river will also be remembered.

DF

The sudden departure of a member of staff, owing to ill-health during the academic year, is always a cause of great concern, not least because of the pressing need to find another teacher. This was most certainly the case for the Modern Languages Department when **Geoff Rolfe** left Abingdon at Christmas. We were, therefore, fortunate to be able to appoint such an experienced and well qualified teacher as **Kate Wilson**, who was able to slip into the timetable and take on the task of preparing boys for both GCSE and AS. Her energy and cheerfulness were appreciated by us all, as were her dedication and commitment to the boys she taught. We wish her well in her plans for the future.



Kate Wilson

VMW

Robin Krühler



On arriving at Abingdon, **Robin** quickly established himself as a conscientious assistant who took his work very seriously. His knowledge of Germany, his considerable intellect and his capacity for hard work and extensive research soon earned him the respect of the pupils and the Modern Languages staff. He offered valuable assistance to pupils preparing for GCSE orals, but it was his work with the Sixth Form which deserves special mention: his contribution at this level was invaluable and without doubt the success of the boys in their AS and A2 orals owed much to Robin's willingness to help

them individually in his characteristically thorough and thoughtful manner. He was always ready to seek advice as to how to improve the boys' performance and he spent a great deal of time on the internet looking for useful articles as well as producing his own copious material. Colourful and informative displays were also very well received. Rarely has the School benefited from a more conscientious and thoroughly professional young German teacher than we did with Robin. We wish him well for his future career in education.

NMR

Gapping at Abingdon School

My gap year at Abingdon started on 6 January 2002, which was a few days before term started. This meant that I could spend those days acclimatising to the English weather. I must say that it was quite a shock to the system leaving sunny South Africa at a comfortable 30°C and arriving in dark London at a cold -2°C.

I arrived at the Oxford bus station and was met by **WTP** and **Kimberly**. We just about managed to get all my luggage into their Golf, and we headed off to Abingdon. Upon arrival, I was shown my room in what was then Waste Court. Dumping my stuff, I had a look at what was to be my home for the next twelve months. The walls were bare, except for a newspaper clipping depicting an Australian cricket victory. Looking through my room, I came across a drawer full of clothes, books and other bits and pieces. I figured this must be all the leftovers from previous Gappers. Sifting through the drawer, I found two bottles of *Old Speckled Hen*. Upon closer inspection, I noticed that they were brewed in Abingdon, and must have been a form of welcoming gift. I unpacked and had a wander around to see what Waste Court was all about. The boarding house consisted of Upper and Lower Sixthformers, and First and Secondformers, who had all started to arrive that evening. I met **M. Labi**, the Head of House, who was also in the room next to mine. The House was busy with the Lower School boys running around, talking of Christmas holidays and the excitement of the new term. I settled into my bed that evening and realised that this was going to be quite a year.

Term started and **Andrew Buchanan** – the other Gapper whom I had met a few days before term started – and I were to meet with the PE Department to discuss what we were going to be doing for our year. So we were in this small office, with the potent odour of the changing rooms wafting through the room from outside, as **RSH**, **AMB** and **JDEDH** argued about what had happened to the bottles of wine that had been given to them by the previous Gappers! And with that, our year began helping with the Sports Department.

Having rowed at school for five years, I was also to be helping with the Boat Club. I was introduced to **TJCG**, a tall, enthusiastic staff member with whom I was going to be coaching. A trip to the boat house was in order, so we made our way down, and I was shown a fleet of boats of exceptional quality. During the year, I coached the J14s and J15s, which proved to be quite interesting and very enjoyable. My J15 B VIII had a pleasing result at the National Schools' Regatta, to end an exciting season.

On the first Monday of term, I was shown around Waste Court, so I could start my duty nights on alternate Mondays. This required me to control the reception of teas at five o'clock, sort out Prep, take the Lower School boys to dinner, keep them amused between 7.30 and 8.30 (which proved to be very amusing at times!), put them to bed, and finally to lock up the House at eleven o'clock.

On that first night, I started to wonder how I was to survive a year's worth of duties, but later on I found myself asking if I might have a regular duty night! And so Thursdays became my duty night, filled with fun, excitement and sometimes headaches!

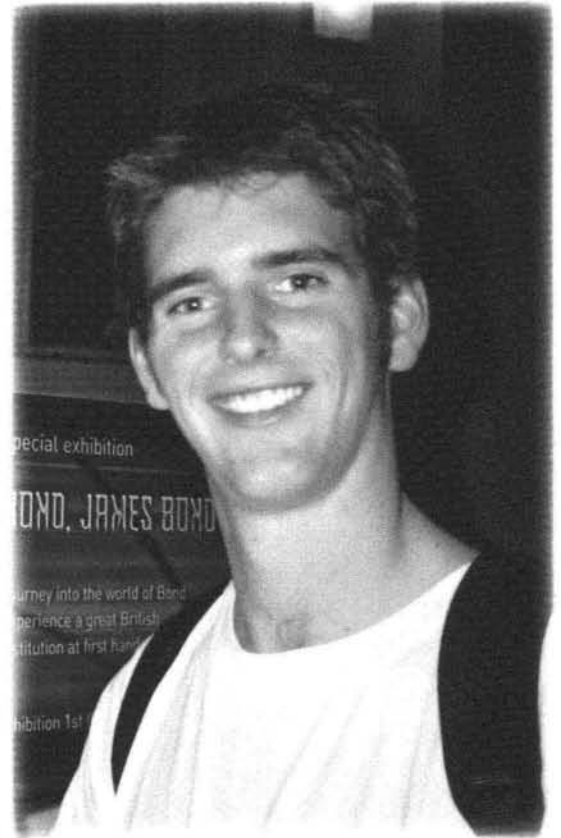
Being in a full-time boarding community meant that Housemasters had to keep thinking of ways to keep the boys amused. The solution found was boarders' trips. So during my year, I was able to go on trips to places of which I probably would never have heard: a clay pigeon shooting range, Thorpe Park, the Milton Keynes Snow Dome and the London Science Museum.

When my year came to an end I took away with me many memories: memories of playing T.V. games with the Sixth Form, busting the Lower School boarders when they were about to raid the other dorm, Thanksgiving dinner, discos, and many, many more.

And I found myself leaving two *Old Speckled Hen* bottles in the same drawer where I had found mine, amongst my leftovers – leaving it all there for the next Gapper. So that he might start his year's experiences and live through all that I, and all the Gappers before me, have done.

In conclusion, I would like to thank **WTP** and **Kimberly** for helping me through the year, and all the other boarding staff at Phelps' House: **AJJ**, **ACWB**, and everybody else who made this year into such a great experience.

PATRICK WATSON



What is The Mercers' Company?



enquire why silk was so expensive, the Company replied that it did not really know, because not a single member of the Company traded in that commodity any longer.

The other main form of admission was by an eight-year apprenticeship. Apprenticeship had to be genuine, rather than token, but as links with an active trade declined this became difficult. By the 18th and 19th centuries apprentices were being bound to Masters who were no longer practising their trade, and therefore no more apprentices were bound after 1888.

The records of the Mercers' Company date back to 1348, but the Company is certainly older, for in that year new ordinances were drawn up for the conduct of its affairs. The Company's first charter was dated 13 January 1394, being a charter of incorporation from Richard II defining the government of the Company by four Wardens and enabling the Company to acquire property to support a priest and to maintain its poor members. In 1425 Henry VI granted the Company a second charter giving it a common seal.

The Company today

ALTHOUGH THE COMPANY has no trade to control, its modern life is a very busy and productive one, and is divided into two distinct areas: its corporate and its charitable life. The Company has its own corporate identity which has remained largely unaltered for the last 700 years - it still acts as a fraternity for its members, who meet regularly and enjoy dinners and social events together. The Company owns and manages a large portfolio of investments, many of which are properties in the City and West End of London. The surplus from the Company's operations is distributed to charitable trusts, also administered by the Company.

In common with other City livery companies, the Mercers' Company is governed by a Master and Wardens, elected annually in July, and a Court of Assistants consisting of the Master and Wardens, up to four members 'in waiting' and all past Masters. The Master is the ceremonial head of the Company, a new Master and three Wardens (essentially Masters 'in waiting') being elected annually. The Clerk and the staff direct the work of the Company on behalf of the Master and the Court of Assistants. Membership of the Company is currently around 250, and while admission to the Freedom is normally by patrimony, it is bestowed from time to time by redemption. Admission of Freemen to the Livery is at the discretion of the Court of Assistants. A General Court of all members of the Company is held four times a year, and members can contribute to the working life of the Company and the running of its charities by joining one of the several Committees that report to the Court of Assistants.

Charities and Education

OVER MANY CENTURIES members of the Company, and other benefactors, have left money in trust for the Mercers to administer for charitable purposes. The administration of so many

LIVERY COMPANIES ORIGINATED when medieval merchants of London banded together to form guilds or fraternities, also known as mysteries, from the Latin ministerium, meaning occupation. The guilds protected the interests of particular trades and the practitioners of those trades. Today there are 103 City livery companies, some of recent origin (Environmental Cleaners, Solicitors, Information Technologists, World Traders) and some of ancient origin (Mercers, Goldsmiths, Weavers, Fishmongers), but the oldest companies began in this way, protecting the quality and reputation of their trades. The order of precedence of livery companies, which places the Mercers' Company as the first, was decided by the Lord Mayor in 1515, following years of dispute between the companies.

In medieval times the trade of mercery put the Company at the very centre of the commercial life of the City and the development of overseas trade. However, the trade of mercery no longer exists, and the Company's links with an active trade have died out over the centuries. This was mainly because admission was possible by patrimony, and this necessarily weakened the link between the trade and the Company. In effect a person could become a Mercer because his father was a member, without necessarily practising the trade of mercery itself. The control of a trade had effectively ceased even by the 16th century, for when Elizabeth I wrote to

charities has become the Company's primary function in the 21st century, and as trustees the Mercers always endeavour to use these charitable funds in an imaginative and relevant way. In addition, the Company has its own Charitable Foundation, which supports a wide range of charitable initiatives concerned with the poor, the elderly, the arts and medical activities.

Some of the trusts administered by the Company are concerned with education. The Mercers have a formal link with a range of schools, collectively known as the Company's Cluster of schools, comprising twelve schools and colleges: seven independent schools, two state maintained sixth form colleges, a City Technology College and two state maintained schools. In addition to the St Paul's Schools, three more of these schools were also founded by Mercers - the College of Richard Collyer in Horsham, West Sussex, (known as Collyer's) founded under the will of Richard Collyer, Mercer, 1532; Dauntsey's School, West Lavington, founded under the will of William Dauntsey, 1543; and Abingdon School in Oxfordshire,

originally founded in 1256, and refounded by John Roysse, Mercer, in 1563. The Company's most recent educational venture was the founding (jointly with Tarmac plc) of a City Technology College, Thomas Telford School in Telford, Shropshire in 1991. This school is widely acclaimed as a highly motivated and exceptionally innovative educational establishment.

The Company's own grammar school, Mercers' School, founded in 1542, was closed in 1959. The Company established an Education Trust Fund in its place, which makes grants to individual students. Educational grants to institutions and individuals are also made from the Mercers' Charitable Foundation.

Over the years the Company has made numerous generous donations to Abingdon School, culminating in a gift of £25,000 in the last year towards improving our facilities and a further £500,000 to launch our Appeal for the new Amey Hall Arts Centre.

FROM THE MERCERS' COMPANY REVIEW 2002/3

The academic year began with a major (but in the event smooth) change to the pastoral arrangements for the scholars in which they were reintegrated into their Houses.

The level of intellectual activity certainly remained undiminished, as witnessed by a prosperous series of meetings of the Roysse Society which were, without exception, very well attended. At the first of the year, **Lt Colonel Tym Marsh**, OA spoke illuminatingly about aspects of leadership, from the benefits of his vast experience as both a military veteran of the Falklands campaign and as a director of a charity, giving us previously unrevealed insights into his army activities. A few weeks later Canon Bob Baker, Chairman of the Southern Division of the Church of England Synod, picked up the theme of conflict on a different tack, examining the Christian attitudes to war, with an active thrust of debate coming from the floor.

In the Lent term, Professor Fred Piper of Royal Holloway College, London University gave a fascinating exposition of computer privacy issues from both a social and political point of view, with some rather chilling results! Professor Piper deftly aimed the evening at a non-specialist audience, although the boys were able to pose some challenging technical questions. To round off the year, Dr Mike Watson of the Space Research Department at Leicester University presided over the biggest Roysse Society gathering for many years with a scintillating talk on 'The High Energy Universe'. Amongst other successful events was a trip to the Oxford Playhouse to see Terence Rattigan's *After the Dance*, a complex and interesting play about a man's route to self-destruction. The boys gained hugely from these and the many other talks and lectures organised by the School during the year.

As ever, the scholars were active in many other areas of school life. Four of our number

(**C. Lillycrop**, **J. Gallard**, **A. Kingdon** and **M.-L. Jones**) continued to be enthusiastic participants in the Vale of the White Horse Youth Forum, provoking some stimulating debate, and making a strong impression on the organisers. It is almost invidious to pick out individual achievements of the talented group of Upper Sixth under TCG's direction, but **B. Burnham** stood out as our champion debater, and proved to be a splendid chairman for the Society. **A. Lin** revelled in his role as a highly successful 1st XV rugby player, whilst fellow School Prefect **J. Anderson** swept to the top of the rowing tree as a gold medalist at the Junior International Regatta in Munich. **M. Cullen** (captain), **A. Peychers** and **W. Horwitz** were all pillars of the Cross Country Club, including competition at national level, and the latter two, along with **J. Anderson**, were awarded the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award for Young People for their services to the community.

In a vintage musical year, the Upper Sixth received plaudits from many directions. **M. Gardner**, **L. Berryman**, **J. Herford**, **I. Collin**, **M. Hardy** and **C. Johnson** all performed as soloists in concertos whilst **M. Gardner**, **I. Collin** and **J. Herford** also won finals places in the National Chamber Music Competition at St John's, Smith Square in London. **M. Hardy** also gained the highly unusual accolade of three Distinctions at Grade 8 in one week. This distinguished tutor group as a whole was heavily laden with talent, and they will all be missed for their conspicuous character and multifarious contributions to school life, admirably fulfilling the promise that they showed on entering the School.

RSE

Scholars' House



School House

This year we welcomed a group of new tutors: **D. E. Riddle**, **M. R. Gibbs** and **P. M. Daly**, as well as a resident Slovakian mathematician, **Zoltan Galik**. **Delphine** made her stately way to retirement after which life became quieter but perhaps more efficient under the kindly and energetic watch of our new housekeeper, **Diane Faulkes**. The House continued to become more varied and cosmopolitan in its composition through our American, Russian, Greek and Nigerian connections. Our new rooms in place of the old Big Dorm have been a tremendous addition and more minor changes such as the evening prep and activity programme have added to the opportunities available to the boys in the evenings.

The calendar included the usual highlights of the House Concert, in which we witnessed the talents of **D. Ridley** and **D. Mak** for the first time; **T. Fiennes**, **T. Gatten** and **D. Chung** particularly continued to contribute strongly to the School's music.

To bring the outside world into Abingdon more directly a series of outside speakers was invited to give us perspectives on Green politics, clinical psychiatry, an Antarctic expedition and the Iraq war. Another initiative was taekwon-do training, after which boys were seen following up a well-aimed kick not with another but with a courteous bow - all very old-fashioned and gentlemanly, but incomprehensible as it was Korean.

The House continued to make a contribution to School sport, with **H. Green** joining **J. Tarrell** in the

in the Third Form.

At the end of the year we said goodbye to some prominent and popular members of the House whose contributions will be particularly missed. **T. Schoeler** and **J. Tarrell** led the House strongly over the year, and their humorous care for the welfare of others set an example of good prefectship and responsibility. From the Fifth Form **H. Aspeling-Jones** goes on to Westminster and **G. Wong** to Winchester, where they will no doubt prosper.

Unfortunately, the middle part of the year was dominated for many of the Asian boys by the SARS epidemic, but it is worth remembering the calm fortitude with which they dealt with the anxiety of the epidemic and the inconveniences it caused. Many boys were not able to go home over Easter, but still managed to continue working without any fuss or diminution of effort. This was a great example for any who were tempted to feel sorry for themselves as examinations loomed. Deserving particular mention is **J. Li**, who was struck down twice in the year by a mystery stomach illness. After a total of almost ten weeks off school James recovered and worked, tirelessly to catch up for his GCSEs, and his reports suggest that he did so admirably.

The Head of House for next year is **P. Wong**, and I have every confidence that he and his team of House Prefects will build on and even exceed the standard of prefectship which has already improved so much over the past few years.

BAHF

Despite an almost entirely new set of House staff, and a change of Housemaster, Crescent House has continued its long tradition of successful involvement in all that Abingdon School has to offer both academically and with regard to the Other Half.

Members of Crescent House have always been involved in the Debating Society, and this year was no exception. **H. Hunter** and **T. Hooper** were Chairman and Secretary. **T. Allen** has been at the forefront of Crescent's musical endeavours, culminating in the organisation of the annual Music Evening. This is the one occasion when musicians of all ages and abilities can perform to the House and to their parents. The dark horse of the evening was **K. Shao**, whose virtuoso performance on the piano was unexpected and outstanding. **M. Futagami** and **J. Doh** also distinguished themselves, playing the Bach *Concerto for Double Violins*. **H. Taylor** won a music exhibition for the Sixth Form and **T. Allen** achieved a Distinction for Grade 8 trumpet. In the Summer Orchestral Concert, he performed Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto* to a packed St Michael's church. **M. Futagami**, **W. Sheppard**, **W. Lea**, **D. Jepson** and **E. Hofman** have also made a strong contribution to Abingdon music.

Rugby and rowing are major sports at Abingdon, and Crescent House is involved at all levels. In the Michaelmas term, Crescent was represented in the 2nd XV by **T. Hooper** and **H. Hunter**, the latter being awarded half colours for his efforts. It is in Game 2, however, where Crescent House thrives. Nine Crescent House pupils took part, with **D. Wong** and **C. Ezenwa** representing the 3rd XV. In the Middle School A team rugby was played regularly by both **M. Halford** and **C. Halford**. **N. Herbert** has been a vital member of the 1st VIII, and was in the triple-winning boat last year. With **PRW** and **TJCG** he has helped inspire younger members of the House to row. In the Third Form **C. Halford** was a member of the A boat, as was **O. Turner** in the Fourth Form. **W. Drazin** won a silver medal at the National Schools' Championship. **H. Taylor**'s smooth technique in winning a bronze in his coxed four attracted the eye of Cambridge's talent scout - the Middle School rowers are showing great promise for the future!

Although not the most visible sport at Abingdon, badminton continues to be the most successful and Crescent has played a role in this success. In the Oxfordshire Schools' Tournament, members of Crescent were vital to Abingdon's achievements. The U16 singles winner was **T. Rippon**. He also won the doubles event. **J. Michelson**, **R. Ying** and **K. Shao** were runners-up in the U19 doubles.

In the Athletics Competition, the Upper School Boarders came a respectable third. The Fifth Form had yet more success, coming in first, thanks in large part to **H. Taylor** in the triple jump, and **Z. Karim** in the discus. The Fourth Form came a close second, and first places were achieved by **T. Rutland**, **W. Drazin** and **M. Halford** in their respective events. The Fourth Form Boarders also won their Swimming Gala, led capably by **J. Arrowsmith**, who put in a fine performance to come second in the individual medley.

A wine-tasting evening was held in the Charles Maude Room, which gave the opportunity for Sixth-formers in the House to further their knowledge of certain wines. The evening was a great success and may well become a regular event. At Easter, in keeping with tradition, residents of Cobban and Crescent compete against Glyndwr in an egg-throwing competition. Each successful catch is rewarded with a point - not a subtle game, this! This year the result was a dead heat - seven all. Other social events included film trips, an Upper Sixth trip to *We Will Rock You* in London and year group barbecues. **M. Futagami** was *victor ludorum* in the House games after the Christmas Dinner, putting in a fine performance to win the spoon game, and **V. Hindocha** deserves special mention for his perseverance in chasing a 20 pence piece to the bottom of a cake of flour with his teeth.

Academically, Crescent House can compete with the best as attested by the impressive number of academic prizes. In April, **W. Lea** and **C. Turner** shared the Biology Prize (**C. Turner**'s submission on 'The Possible Solutions to Both Common Types of Diabetes Mellitus' later received national recognition) and the Fifth Form Academic Prize went to **P. Rowe**. At Prizegiving, Crescent was once again to the fore. **H. Hunter** won the David Taylor Drama Cup for the Upper School, and also received a travel bursary to help him teach in Fiji. **N. Herbert** won the TASS Quatercentenary Prize and **A. Rowe** won the Headmaster's Prize for Service. In the Middle School, **A. Chan** and **M. Halford** won the prizes for the Third and Fourth Form respectively.

Overall, it has been another very good year for Crescent, despite a number of changes in staffing. Many thanks must go to **Mrs Edwards**, the new Matron, for her efforts over the year to keep us in order and for her involvement in House activities. We also say goodbye to **CB** and **SPGS** who are leaving the House to take up responsibilities elsewhere. I am sure that next year the House will continue to thrive under the leadership of **W. Sheppard** as he takes over as Head of House, and I wish him well.

Phelps' House

The past year has been significant because, for the first time in Abingdon's history, there has been both a boarding and a dayboy house in one set of buildings: Phelps'. **WTP**, too, has been determined to lead these boys through a year of excellence in the classroom and on the sports field.

Academic success was expected but when we gained recognition for Other Half achievements, heads began to turn. Full School colours were secured by **R. Wood** for his superhuman strength and power, placing fear into the hearts of many a hockey opponent. **N. Orr** was awarded half colours for his rugby talents: very few Abingdonians can claim to judge a rugby ball's bounce so accurately. **J. Hanson**'s total commitment to the 2nd VIII explained why only lycra could be found in his wardrobe, and **N. Wang** took to non-team games like a duck to water. In the Lower Sixth **C. North** and **B. Zhao** were key figures in the unbeatable badminton club, and **H. Ho** recalled fast-moving glimpses of Roger Bannister in cross country.

In the Middle School all three forms adopted the principle that participating was as important as winning. Highlights included human pyramids in Tag Rugby, a five-a-side football team of laboratory assistants, then the controversial Easter Review full of sardonic wit, and the Swimming Galas. The Lower School has also proven that the future will be just as bright. The majority represented the School throughout the year in a variety of activities and **T. Ojo**, **D. Tejuoso**, **T. Ip** and **J. Todd** ensured that the inter-House tug of war result was never in doubt.

Nonetheless, it is achievement in the classroom that has projected the status of the House. As three old members of the House began their degrees at Oxford or Cambridge, the current Upper Sixth were just as successful. All obtained offers to their first choice university, and if the Lower Sixth and Fifth Forms achieve their predicted grades this summer, the House will provide many more candidates for the ancient universities. Meanwhile, **P. Appleton** proved himself to be the complete all-rounder: excelling in cricket,

music, drama, Christian Union, rugby and achieving the very highest Lower School examination results. The final word must refer to the House. It is unique in many ways, it has consistently participated in all the competitions and will only continue to grow stronger in the future. The inaugural year of Phelps' House has shown that enjoyment will always drive one to learn and succeed!

H. MONSELL VI DF

It is never easy to say goodbye but this year has been full of very difficult farewells. So many talented and gifted people associated with the House are leaving and it is daunting to see how the vacuum will be filled. I especially thank **H. Monsell** for all that he has done to steady the ship and inspire the rest of the House. As stated at Prizegiving, he has exasperated many teachers in the past, but in the last two years he has become a reliable, loyal institution in himself. **ACWB** leaves the House after one year and we trust that he remembers the experience with fondness. **AJJ**, who has lived in the House for four years, has also decided to move out and regain his privacy. He has been a tremendous colleague and friend whose insight and care are hard to beat. I am delighted that he is still prepared to visit the House and we all hope that he will be happy in his new home.

Seventy-five years ago the House was purchased as a memorial to the Old Boys who gave their lives in the First World War. To mark this occasion a new set of memorial boards was commissioned, listing the names, rank and place of death of each of the fallen OAs in the two world wars. These boards, placed in the Library, were unveiled by the Headmaster at the Reunion/Open Day on 21 June. Over one hundred and fifty people came for tea and strawberries in the afternoon and seventy-five people sat down to dinner in the evening. All the past Housmasters returned to reminisce and it was a pleasure to meet so many people with such happy memories of this place. There is no doubt that the House has a noticeable effect on all who live and work here.

Kimberly, Camilla and I have been very happy this year and we hope that all the pupils in the House have a relaxing holiday ready to continue to fight the good fight in September. We are fortunate to be surrounded by such talented and charismatic young men and we look to the future with certainty and relish. Over twenty-six new pupils, two new tutors and another Phelps' baby due in January means that the House will be even more dynamic and inspiring.

WTP

Inscription
on the newly
commissioned
War Memorial
Boards

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

To start a House report, an inaugural House report at that, with an observation about a filing cabinet might seem inauspicious, not to mention downright dull. I do so, risking the scorn of all, to record my realisation on inheriting **PJW**'s immaculately ordered House files that I had a very hard act to follow. The House was clearly in great shape, used to at least its fair share of success in competitions, and, more importantly, to strong pastoral leadership. This was clearly a job to relish, and in retrospect I have enjoyed just about every minute of it. I am very grateful to the Tutors as well as to all the members of the House for making me so welcome, and am delighted to be able to report that the House has continued to prosper over the past three terms.

The old hands in the Upper Sixth took the change of régime very much in their stride, as was to be expected. Their main focus for the year was obviously academic success, or at least making sure they got to where they wanted to be next, yet they found the time and energy to make a huge contribution to the life of the school. **H. Feather** was an effective and conscientious House Captain as well as School Prefect, and other Prefects in the House were **H. Holland**, **M. Holman**, **T. Jackson** and **D. Persaud**. It was certainly appropriate that **H. Feather** should be awarded a Service Prize at the end of the year; as well as leading the house so well, he was committed to the Chapel Choir, the CCF and rowing, and a valued coach. He also very quickly impressed the new Thirdformers with his pool prowess. **L. Berryman** was very involved in his music, but inspired younger members of the House as much as anyone, and also won a House Other Half Prize for other, perhaps less obvious contributions he made. We had our rugby players, with **T. Brewerton** in particular making a big impact in the senior teams, and our hockey players: **R. Cox** played some spectacularly good games in goal for the 1st XI, and **H. Holland** could be as stylish as anybody on his day. The group also turned out very much in force for events such as the Road Relay. Space does not allow me to go into much more detail, but the House wishes the leavers well, and is very appreciative of all their efforts over the year. They in their turn were very grateful, I know, for all the hard work of their tutor, **SAE**.

The Lower Sixth not only had a new Housemaster to deal with, they had two Tutors in the course of the year. **AJW**, standing in for **JFH** who was away on a term's sabbatical, got them off to a great start, and the group was very obviously going to make its mark in all sorts of ways - 1st XV Rugby, 1st XI Hockey and Cricket, Public Speaking, Road Relay, Athletics, Orchestras, Community Service, Moldova - they were at all these and more, and usually in force. They also finished the year in the sort of style they were getting

used to, as extremely convincing winners of the Lower Sixth Challenge, with **E. Antysz**, **G. Innes**, **N. Patterson** and **D. Sullivan** showing the others the way. Their energy and enthusiasm, epitomised among others by **N. Shaikh** in the Music Department, **D. Roche** on the hockey pitch, **R. Guast** on the river and **O. Sanders** from the rugby sideline, were tremendous, but their greatest quality was their loyalty to each other and to the House. I am grateful to them for that. Throughout the year it became ever more obvious that they would in their turn make a great senior section of the House, and as early on as the farewell dinner for **AJW** a leader of men was emerging - anyone who could deal with a vindaloo in the way **G. Innes** did on that occasion must be a force to be reckoned with. They thrived under **JFH**'s astute, good-humoured guidance, and will have achieved the measure of academic success they deserve. If a House is as good as its senior boys, then we have an excellent year in store for us. **A. McKenzie** and **O. Sanders** are both leaving the House to board in Phelps' for their A2 year. I am sure that they will both make an invaluable contribution to that House, as they have done to Aitken's. Come the rugby House matches, however, **R. Muirhead** and the boys will remind them of the foolishness of such a move.

The Fifthformers had a lot on their plates in GCSE year, but also had a great reputation to maintain. Their sporting involvement was second to none, and they were well represented in the rugby and hockey A teams, **C. Davies** for one playing an important role in both these sports. **S. Florey** and **A. Wimborne** both very much made the grade in the 1st XI for cricket, **B. Cullen**, **J. Fyne** and **N. Turnbull** were part of the successful J16 rowing squad and **A. Blackmore**'s contribution was particularly significant in the emergence of Abingdon as a sailing power. They made good showings in the Road Relay, the Tug of War, the House Athletics and Rugby Competitions, but their officially recognised finest hour was when the team consisting of **N. Turnbull**, **B. Cullen** and **B. Phillips** won the Public-Speaking Competition in some style in a full Amey Hall at the end of the Lent term. **B. Sapsford**'s contribution to Abingdon music was again outstanding, and **G. Cowie** was another member of the group who made a particularly good Other Half contribution, including his role in the Michaelmas term production of *Cabaret*. Congratulations are also due to **N. Turnbull** for winning an All-Rounder Scholarship for the Sixth Form. **PW** will usually have appreciated the whole group's sense of fun, and I certainly appreciate his work with them. I would



Andrew
Wheeler (AJW)
... got them
off to a great
start...

also like to thank **J. Fisher** and **M. Uttley** who more often than not helped me start the working day in the right frame of mind.

The Fourthformers found themselves in the strange no man's land inhabited by most of their age – no longer new to the House, not yet being really forced to take life too seriously, as they saw it. Without too many examinations to worry about, there were new hair colours to be experimented with, a lot of pool games to be played, and all sorts of boundaries to be tested; and a new Housemaster to be broken in. They will have been pleased to have had someone with the calmness and patience of **DJB** keeping an eye on them. All this might seem a little unfair on a group of boys who gained some of the top scores in the end-of-year examinations, who provided key players in possibly the School's most successful sports team – **T. Roche** and **C. Cowan** were in the Junior Colts hockey team, unbeaten until its final match, and who emulated their Fifth Form counterparts by winning the Public-Speaking Competition, **M. Nurton**, **A. Ingham-Brooke** and **J. Innes** being unsurprisingly voted the sweetest-tongued in the year. Neither the swimming pool nor the athletics track was their favourite habitat, but rugby and rowing in the year would have missed them badly. They also did their bit in a wide range of Other Half activities. I wish them well for their GCSE year, and am confident that they are going to do great things.

The Thirdformers (the other new boys to the House) had a tremendous year. They settled in very quickly and were obviously keen to make their mark in all sorts of ways. They were performing well academically from the very start, picking up commendations at a breathtaking rate. They were heavily involved in music, with **H. Scarlett** and **W. Stephenson** in particular making excellent contributions, working hard in the now compulsory service activities and providing several key players in the rugby squad. They were runners-up in the House rugby competition, losing to a Drummond-Hay's team they could and should have beaten, had they had the courage of their convictions; next year they will get it right, and **C. Checkley** and **A. Hamilton** will once again be leading the way. The Lent term was a quieter time on the sporting front, but **M. Harris**, **M. Wood** and **A. Preston** were beginning to get involved on the river, and **J. Needham** was working out whether or not he wanted to as well.

The House Athletics in May was when the world, well the Abingdon world, really stood up and noticed. The Thirdformers in the House were winners by over 30 points, with Aitken's boys coming in the top three in all but two events. **N. Holmans** and **M. Sutcliffe** were among the individual winners, but the fact that

neither of the *victores ludorum* was from this House pointed to our great strength in depth. A very commendable performance in the Swimming Gala, third overall, and providing players for the successful year group cricket team, including **M. Hutchinson** and **S. Sethi**, begins to complete the picture of a successful sporting term. And they finished where they started with some very good performances in the end-of-year exams: **A. Preston** taking the Academic Prize against very strong opposition. **PKHR** will have enjoyed working with such a positive group of boys, and they will have seen the value of having been kept in line by him. Spotting a future Head of House is an interesting game for a Housemaster – particularly when there are at least five of them in the same year ...

It is a privilege being a Housemaster at Abingdon, and I take an unreasonable amount of pride from the many and varied achievements of these young men. And their failings? It is my job to be almost blind to many of them, and to keep quiet about most of the others...

Aitken's House at Prize-Giving,
Summer 2003

Middle School Academic Prizes:

A. Preston,
C. Cowan

Sawbridge Choral Prize:

H. Feather

Sheldon Peach Prize for Pianoforte:

L. Berryman

David Taylor Prize for Drama:

T. Swarbrick

TASS Travel Bursary:

R. Cox

Freeman Prize for Service:

H. Feather

Mitchell Seward Cup for Debating:

B. Burnham

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award:

D. Persaud

In addition **M. Coleman**, **M. Derrick**, **D. Sullivan**, **L. Berryman** and **B. Cullen** had all been awarded prizes at the end of the Lent term.

DGA

In the final year of **JDEDH's** reign, the House has remained a dominant force in all aspects of House life, as it has for twelve years, whether on the sports field, academically or supporting charitable causes. The sighs of 'Not another Drummond-Hay's win!' rang throughout the corridors in 2002/3. This Housemaster is certainly a polymath, whether it be in preparing the tug of war team or sharing his knowledge of the finer points of debating. Seldom does one see a finer example of what a House community should be. For who else would push their Housemaster around the Road Relay in a chariot?

JDEDH has been aided by a strong group of House Prefects: **J.Chater**, **M.Cullen**, **J.Franklin**, **F.Hemsley**, **R.Silva**, **M.Smith**, **J.Watkins** and Head of House **D. Puri**, who was also the recipient of the David Barrett Cup for outstanding contribution to the School.

Drummond-Hay's House has always been labelled the 'sporting House' and this year has merely confirmed that accolade. Both the juniors and seniors were winners of their respective Tug of War Competitions, showing that brute strength is a big element of the ethos of the House. Drummond-Hay's House was also the overall winner on Sports Day, with every year group competing strongly. The House came very close to sweeping the board in the House Tag Rugby Tournament. Every year group won except the Fifth Form who, feeling charitable, came second. The House also acquitted itself well in the annual Road Relay. Both the Fifth and Third Forms came second and **M. Cullen** came fifth in the individual standings. Most importantly, the boys raised £400 for the charity *Breadline*.

House members also contributed heavily to School sport, with nine members of the House as 1st XV regulars. **D. Puri** and **J. Watkins** received full colours and **R.Silva**, **M.Smith** and **J.Franklin** half colours for rugby. A number of House members played an integral part in the hockey and cricket clubs, with **J. Watkins** captaining the 1st XI cricket team. **J. Franklin** was captain of tennis and **M. Watkins** of the Third Form also played for the 1st VI as well as being ranked in the top ten in Great Britain for his age group, a remarkable achievement by anyone's standards! **J. Watkins** won the Wintle Prize for Contribution to School Sport and **J. Franklin** won the Headmaster's Prize for Sport.

In addition to the House's unmatched sporting reputation it has many strings to its bow. One example was the Thirdformers' victory and another the Fourthformers' second place in the Public-Speaking Competition.

A number of House members won School prizes: **I. Collin** won the Music Society Prize for Strings and **B. Winton** the Aitchison Cup for Musical Versatility; **T. Gater** won the Cobban Prize and **M. Smith** won the Freeman Prize for Service. **B. Hayes** won a Tappins Travel Award and **R. Coster** of the Fifth Form has won a Sixth Form All-Rounder Scholarship.

The Middle School prizewinners were **R. Bucke** (Third Form), **A. Cole** (Fourth Form) and **R. Soames** (Fifth Form). **S. Robinson** won the House Academic Prize and **D. Puri** won the House All-Rounder Prize.



"Hence!
home, you
idle creatures,
get you home:
Is this a holi-
day?"
(Julius Caesar,
act 1, sc.1, l.1)

The House is very lucky to have so many talented individuals, many of whom have not been mentioned as there are simply too many for the space available.

As one can see, this year has been incredibly successful and a source of great pride for everyone in the House. All the House members eagerly anticipate the arrival of our new Housemaster, **RSE**, who, we are sure, will be keen to preserve the spirit of the House and develop it even further. We are all particularly looking forward to the revival of the House Singing Competition, for which all will be practising every morning in the shower! Both current and former members of the House wish to thank JDEDH for establishing such a legacy and being an inspiration to all around the houserom and School. We all wish him a very happy and well deserved retirement.

T. GATER & J. BARCLAY 6 DJTF

Fishpool's Another busy year draws to a close. The year has had its high points as well as its low but the members of Fishpool's continue to remain positive, friendly and active within the School community.

The arrival of CCTV in the houseroom has given me endless hours of amusement while I watch the monitor or recordings in my office. At times it has seemed as if auditions for television's *Big Brother* have been taking place: **T. Raftery**, **E. Wilson** and **S. Wylie** have perfected an impressive dance routine which they might consider performing in the Amey Hall when it reopens. Others offer nonchalant smiles as they scurry past. It is perhaps a sign of the times that this equipment had to be installed in the first place; the year has been plagued with thefts of 'fashion accessories' such as mobile phones and designer sunglasses. Security around the school has had to be tightened as 'visitors' from outside seem to be on the increase.

This said, there has been much to praise this year because, as ever, boys from the House have been engaged in a huge variety of exploits both within and beyond the School: School teams, Ten Tors, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Music, Drama, CCF, Community Service to name but a few. The past few weeks of the Summer term have seen the usual bout of frenetic activity. An abiding and reassuring sight has been to see so many boys with their heads down reading the latest instalment of *Harry Potter*; the art of reading, with such evident enjoyment, is still alive and kicking at Abingdon, whatever the critics might say.

This year's Middle School Swimming Galas saw Fishpool's holding on to their usual middle ground with some strong performances from **W. Clegg** and **T. Brooke**.

There were mixed fortunes during the School Sports Day Athletics Competition: our Upper School squad did not cover themselves with glory, but individual performances from **A. Mould** in the 800 metres and **S. Taylor** in the 400 metres were impressive. Our Middle School teams fared better with both the Fifts and Fourths securing fifth place in each of their competitions. **C. More**'s first position in the 200 metres certainly helped the overall positioning of the House. **L. Wilkinson** won the 800 metres, while **M. Coffey** and **T. Raftery** won first place in the triple jump and javelin respectively. There are some very promising athletes in the Third Form. **G. Salmon** won the 200 metres, **D. Mills** leapt to glory in the long jump and **C. Tucker** won the javelin. Next year perhaps we ought to apply more pressure to the other Houses and creep up the league table!

There were some very strong individual performances in the Road Relay. **R. Clegg** ran all four legs in an impressive 54m. 50secs, and our best time was one of our Fourth Form entries (**M. Coffey**, **R. Whitworth**, **E. Wilson** and **T. Davie**) in 39m. 58secs.

Fishpool's teams were again in action in this year's Public-Speaking Competition organised by our own **D. Hammersley**. There were some memorable moments but one that sticks in the mind was **J. Davison**'s highly amusing monologue on regional accents; he was ably supported by **S. Hosking** and **A. Pearce**. **J. Davison** also received a gold certificate in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. **R. Whitworth**, as a member of the Vale Youth Forum, visited the European Parliament in Brussels during February.

A growing number of the House have become involved in Community Service, which has grown into a huge and complex operation in recent years. **W. Horwitz** and **D. Hammersley** have been very active this year with tea parties and the like; **D. Hammersley** won a Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award for Young People.

It is time to bid farewell to those who are moving on to new places and in **KDB**'s case into retirement. Over the years **KDB** has been an outstanding tutor, always understanding and caring for those boys in his charge. It will be the one-to-one advice and guidance sessions that he so freely gave that will be remembered by his past tutees. I have certainly appreciated the meticulous care he has taken with the volumes of paperwork that mount during the year. We all wish him and Brenda, his wife, a long and happy retirement. This year's Upper Sixth have been an outstanding group of young men. They have been perhaps one of the most friendly and affable groups I can remember in recent years. Genuine compliments have been paid to them by many staff. The new Upper Sixth have a lot to live up to; **J. Kelly** and **S. Gordon**, the new joint Heads of House will, I am sure, take on the mantle.

Congratulations to this year's prizewinners:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Giles Lewis Memorial Cup: | W. Allan |
| David Taylor Drama Prize: | E. Wilson |
| Rugby 1st XV Trophy: | T. Dyson |
| Richard Anderson Trophy: | J. Cousin |
| Wheeler Cup: | S. Taylor |
| Mitchell Seward Cup: | D. Hammersley |
| Hester Tankard: | W. Horwitz |
| Duxbury Tie: | A. Champion |
| Russian Prize: | A. Huzzey |
| Fifth year Academic Prize: | S. Withnall |
| Fourth year Academic Prize: | M. Coffey |
| Third year Academic Prize: | A. Withnall |

Another year in the House has passed in record time. We continue to pack so much into life here at Abingdon that sometimes it is difficult to stop and reflect.

The Michaelmas term began and finished with a great deal of hard endeavour in the classroom and in Other Half activities. Boys in the House continue to excel in a variety of activities. I was impressed with the public examination results, which showed the amount of work that had been done in the classroom throughout the year. Outside the classroom, boys participated in sport and many other worthwhile pursuits. At times I was pleased to see the houseroom quiet and uninhabited.

A great number of boys represented the School at sport throughout the year. In the rugby term, **M. Paterson**, **A. Paxton** and **A. Marsh** represented the 1st XV. In the rowing season **J. Anderson** was a constant in the 1st VIII. **D. Madden**, **J. Moffatt** and **M. Burnard** flourished with their hockey sticks and rackets on both the badminton and tennis courts. **I. Mackenzie** played hockey as well as taking the field for the cricket 1st XI.

Away from sport there were other notable contributions to School life. **J. Herford**, **A. Robinson** and **A. Kingdon** played an important role in the School orchestras and added much value to Abingdon music. **O. deWilde** became an officer in the CCF and **T. Farmer** was involved in the Amey Hall technical crew. **R. Webber** did the House proud with his performances on the stage. Finally, the all-round contribution made by **S. Winearls** was outstanding across many areas of

School life.

The houseroom went through a sort of metamorphosis: it was decorated and new furniture was purchased. It probably could still be described as a 'shed' but at least it is slightly more of a posh shed! These improvements seemed to go down well with the boys and so far have been looked after. Even the new stereo has brought some interesting sounds to the houseroom.

In inter-House events throughout the year we saw some notable performances across all areas from public speaking to tag rugby. Alas, no outright victories and we had to relinquish our hold on the Tug of War Trophy. It was disappointing in one way but in another I felt that the boys in the House were becoming more willing to put themselves out. This was true especially of boys who were doing something they were not very good at. I take my hat off to them and commend them highly for their efforts and commitment.

On the whole it has been a very good year for the House, and as is customary I would like to thank those who have made it so pleasurable. Firstly, the two Heads of House: **K. Ramdoo** and **M. Burnard** for their help in organising the teams for the inter-House events, and secondly to the team of Tutors who have given so much of their time helping me and taking care of the boys.

I look forward to an even better year next year.

RSH

Hamilton's

2003

J.L. Anderson	Rowing
O.T. de Wilde	CCF
J.P. Herford	Music
D.J. Madden	Rackets/Hockey
I.A. Mckenzie	Hockey
J.A. Moffatt	Rackets
M. D. Paterson	Rugby
A.G. Robinson	Music
R.J.L. Webber	Drama
H.S.G. Winearls	All Rounder

Spencer's

A strange system this, whereby a new Housemaster heralds an immediate rebranding - so that Garnier's became Spencer's with a swiftness that would have made a South American dictator blush. I certainly came into a House with riches to exploit, riches which had been elegantly managed by **TJCG**. A houseroom which although small is robust; furnished spartanly but with an eye to detail. The sloping wooden seating which skirts the houseroom is bearable for about ten minutes (depending to some extent upon the natural upholstery each boy brings to sitting), exactly the time allotted before boys need to move on to tutor period or from morning break to lessons. Very clever. But a House is about the people in it. House spirit - **JEF** might call it the *genius loci* - is easy to spot but hard to define. It comes from boys and from tutors and from parents. We have a barrel of it! It means that the boys are keen to get involved in all aspects of School life. So that, for example, contribution to Community Service, by **G. Potter, J. Hoyle, A. Nash, J. Cole** and **J. Huddleston**, acts as encouragement to younger members like **P. Probert, J. Addis, E. Henderson** and **O. Margetts** to get involved. It means that House competitions are contested with passion but also that everybody contributes. It means that our success on Sports Day had as much to do with our seventh placers as our *victores ludorum*, **S. Henley, D. Graham** and **P. Tubman**. (For our excellent showing on the day see the athletics report elsewhere in this publication.)

Being new in a job gives one delusions of adequacy, or the so-called 'honeymoon period'. This said, I have loved my first year in the House. I came across a secret to success very quickly: ask a boy to do it! I have been wholly impressed with the creativity and initiative of the boys in my House. Schools are criticised for spoon-feeding examination groups but I have found the spirit of the individual to be very alive and kicking here. Call to witness our House pantomime which was written and produced by **J. Fisher** and **I. Sanderson**. *Aladdin and the Four Tea Thieves* was a stylish piece of work. I liked its structure and its lack of in-jokery which can often mar such productions. The introduction of a termly House newsletter also came from the boys. A throwaway idea was made flesh by Upper Sixthformers **O. Burdall** and **J. Pinner**. **P. Hatzis**, in the Third Form, edited the second newsletter with a firm hand and an eye for the breadth of House contributions. I see the newsletter as a key link between the House and parents and so would welcome parental contributions to the Michaelmas 2003 edition and beyond.

Books on leadership often cite the 'Captain Kirk' school of management. This sees the man in charge doing very little but listening to a team of expert advisers. In Kirk's case they are Mr Spock, Dr McCoy and 'Scotty'. I have a richer team of advisers in **RGH,**

AJPE, DJH, JEF and **NAFP**. It is they, along with the boys, who create the day-to-day House spirit which I mentioned earlier. I like the way that they have blended needs of the individual with those of the group. I like the way that success in the classroom and success in the Other Half are given equal weighting. In this context, my Uhura and Chekhov were **J. Pallett** and **P. Tubman**. These two Heads of House were good sounding-boards and very effective ambassadors. They will be ably succeeded by our new Heads of House, **G. Potter** and **T. Vaughan-Fowler**. The House is also proud that we have a Head of School in **S. Jackson**.

At the moment, I feel that we have something special. It is, of course, easy to slip into a jingoistic boosterism, but I am not embarrassed to sound a triumphant blast on the trumpet. For me, the beauty of the House system is that it gives boys with a wide variety of interests a common focus, where everyone can contribute. I would urge the boys of Spencer's House to give and take in equal measure as we move into a new academic year. Congratulations to all the prizewinners listed below:

Third Form Academic Prize: **J. Hughes**
Commended: **W. Barton P. Hatzis**

Fourth Form Academic Prize: **N. Houlsby**
Commended: **A. Kyprios M. Smith**

Music Society's Prize for Brass: **M. Gardner**

Drama Cup: **I. Sanderson G. Potter**

David Taylor Drama Prize: **A. Nash**

Layng Reading Prize (Senior): **T. Vaughan Fowler**

Layng Reading Prize (Junior): **A. Mugnaioni**

Science Times Cup: **H. Freeland**

Judge Medd Prize: **A. Lin**

Classics: **A. Lin**

Geography: **M. Cullen**

German (Birnberg): **P. Tubman**

Mock GCSE results: **B. Harris**
Commended: **J. Dingwall**

Mayor's Prize for Service: **J. Fisher**

Cobban Prize: **S. Jackson**

KJS

This year will be remembered for the introduction of table football - its success prompting similar purchases by other Houses. I am not sure whether to be pleased or not by the skill of some

and **J. Richards** was the outright winner of the Road Relay. **J. Richards** recorded the fastest time of the day.

Townsend's



'This year will be remembered for the introduction of table football' (and in House colours, too!-Ed.)

players as they eclipse my humble efforts: this is either due to their excellent hand/eye coordination, luck, or more likely, hours of practice, quite possibly to the detriment of preps. It is certainly very pleasing to see it being enjoyed more often than not by boys from different year-groups – it is a great leveller. The other notable introduction were the key pads on the doors: although everybody (except the staff and especially the Duty Master) knows the combination, it has reduced the flow of boys from other Houses through the house room and made it a little more secure.

Every year there is the same heady mix of inter-house activities and each year we compete with mixed fortunes but always do our best. Athletics has never been our forte but **3MMH** came third in its year-group with **T. Fegan** winning the *victor ludorum*. Traditionally we never reach the winners' rostrum in the swimming pool but our fortunes improved this year to see us third and fourth in Middle School Galas. There were disappointments in other competitions which we have won in recent years. We could come only second in chess and then by fielding a weakened team only second in the Senior Tug of War, despite having the bulk of the same team which won convincingly last year. Although we were narrowly defeated in the final of the Middle School Public-Speaking Competition, we were runners-up in the Lower Sixth Challenge. In the Shooting Competition we were right on the mark, winning both the Senior and Junior Cups under the captaincy of **P. Wakefield**. For the second year in a row, a dream team which consisted of **P. Brazier**, **J. Calnan**, **R. Browne**

There have been individual successes this year but one that stands out is the Gold Medal won by **N. Brodie** coxing the GB VIII to victory at the World Junior Rowing Championships in Athens.

One of the areas the House has always been particularly involved in is Community Service and charitable fund raising. We were in the forefront of running successful stalls to support the Summer Fête and took part in an impressive array of local community visits and activities. At Christmas the Third Form collected presents which were flown out to children in Bosnia and five Sixthformers from Townsend's made up part of a small group to visit Moldova at Easter. The aim was to see how money raised by individual Houses over the past two years was being spent; it was a fascinating visit which has cemented links between our School and various on-going projects in the Cisinau area of Moldova.

And then for something completely different. In October 2002 we had a House outing with twenty-three boys visiting the *Simon Evans Magic Show*. It was a fun evening.

Congratulations go to the numerous prizewinners in the House and I wish all our Upper Sixth leavers the best of luck with their various university careers. We will always be pleased to see them when they return to the School: they can use a visit to the new Amey Hall Arts Centre as their excuse, not that they need one.

JT

Lower School: Second Form

This year's Second Form had both a friendly and privileged year. Overall, it has been a prosperous and industrious Form with many highs and few low points.

The Michaelmas term was a hard term for many in settling down after the First Form and being the oldest boys in the Lower School. There was a hard-fought rugby season in which the As won ten out of thirteen games and the Bs three out of eight. Both teams were guided by **AMB** and **RSH**. Congratulations go to **M. Pursell 1A**, who played a number of games at fly half and to **S. Sam-Sadeen 1A** on the wing. **2H** won the Form Competition. Other highlights of this term included a Drug Awareness Day, an interview with the author Anthony Horowitz, and a long and tiring walk for charity. **S. Dent** was appointed Captain of Lower School.

The Lent term was packed with just as much action. A five-a-side football event was held for charity and we had a successful hockey season, losing only to Radley. The Form hockey was won by the invincible **2H** and the cross country won by **2Z: R. Wartke-Dunbar, R. Cadman, S. Dent** and **P. Appleton**.

In the Summer term scholarships were awarded to **S. Dent, J. Coleby, L. Himpson, D. Clive,**

R. Cadman, T. Middleton and **J. Paterson**. The cricket team under the captaincy of **W. Stockwell** did not do as well as some would have hoped, but we greatly enjoyed the inter-school athletics. We managed to beat both Millbrook House and Josca's, with **D. Tejuoso** giving an outstanding performance and winning two gold medals and a relay. There was an Inter-School Swimming Gala, which we also won. Then came the inter-form sports events: an entertaining Swimming Gala and an exciting Sports Day. Both events were won by **2H**.

A fine feat was achieved when, under the guidance of **FAD** and **JHT**, the Lower School performed *The Wind In The Willows* which turned out to be thoroughly successful if at times rather frantic! **P. Appleton** played Rat, **T. Metcalf** Mole and **J. P. Martin** Badger. Particular mention must be made of **J. Buckley** who played his role as the jailer's daughter with real enthusiasm and panache. For the musicians a fine term ended with a number of Second Form boys taking part in a successful Lower School and Josca's Music Gala. Well done to all who took part, including **J. Chan** (violin) and **S. White** (trumpet).

Lastly I would like to congratulate all the Second Form boys for the success and hard work that they have shown this year and the promise for years to come. Well done!

P. APPLETON 2ALB

Lower School: First Form

This has been an eventful year for the new members of Abingdon School. Despite early nerves, we have performed well academically and contributed much to the Other Half.

The Michaelmas term was mainly about getting to know each other and playing sport. The teachers let us settle in. We were introduced to rugby, a new sport to many. **M. Pursell**, already a strong player was joined by newcomers such as **T. Green, T. Deeks**, and **S. Sam-Sadeen**. The A team did very well and conceded very little in the way of points during their season. Meanwhile a strong badminton team was formed to include **G. Dugdale, J. Zhu, M. Heffernan** and **E. O'Neill**. The sponsored ten mile walk was good for charity but too tiring even to write about!

The Lent term was much more about academic work. The year-group was divided into three maths sets and we started to hear about examinations. The charity discothèque was probably the highlight of the term and we appreciated meeting students of the opposite sex. An Inter-School Football Tournament was a close run thing, but a team from Josca's held off the brave challenge of Abingdon's team. The sporting stars

on the hockey pitch were **T. Green, R. Copus, M. Pursell** and **P. Rabindran**. Meanwhile the chess team enjoyed a successful win over the Oxfordshire champions, MCS. **N. Howe, F. Ahmed** and **M. Scott** played particularly well.

The Summer term was dominated by examinations. As they neared we received endless revision sheets, but they were very useful and the year-group performed admirably. Cricket was the main sport and the key players of the highly successful squad were **M. Pursell, T. Deeks, A. Partridge**, and **L. White**. The U12A team was undefeated until the very last game of the season when it narrowly lost to Summer Fields. Meanwhile the Lower School drama production went extremely well with all the actors doing themselves great credit in a performance of *The Wind in the Willows*, [especially **M. Heffernan** as Toad.: Ed.]

Awards for outstanding performances this year go to **L. White** for running with the Abingdon Bs, **R. Copus**, for appearing in *Tooth* and *Goodbye Mr Chips*, and **N. Howe**, for making us all laugh. All in all it was a great year and we look forward to our future years at Abingdon.

M. HEFFERNAN AND T. DEEKS 1B



Memories of Abingdon School 1940 – 1946

Reading **J. Aldiss's** [OA 1940-46] reminiscences of his time at Abingdon School during the Second World War, one is reminded of L.P.Hartley's statement that, "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." Just how differently can be seen from this selection of extracts. These recollections mark, in 15,000 words, the sixty-third anniversary of James Aldiss's arrival at the School in 1940.

Of his arrival at Abingdon School in 1940 - "Officialdom made a mistake. I, as the only boy in my party, was evacuated to an exclusive boarding school for girls. It was some time before the facts ... were grasped by my guardian. No one approved. Among my uncles there was an inference that I had engineered the circumstances of my evacuation ... Our vicar had been at Oxford with the then headmaster of an ancient public school in Berkshire ... The place was considered suitable, firstly because it was a boys' school and secondly, because it would take me."

Of the Headmaster, **W.M.Grundy** - "To us he was 'HB', the Head Bummer, because of his predilection for thrashing bare backsides ... Golf was an obsession. The long, carefully delivered, cutting strokes, which he laid on with a rattan cane, were evidence of the power of his forehand drive. His cane strokes slashed into the exposed flesh of the unprotected buttocks one on top of the other leaving only one thick line of bruising. The precision was absolute."

French was taught by **Bill Bevir** - "Bill Bevir's first French lesson began with the collection of all the fountain pens in the class. Most boys had only just been given them as going-away presents. The pens were hurled out of the window by Bill Bevir and we were ordered never, ever, to use anything else but a 'dip in' pen and nib from there onwards ... French ... began with learning phonetics. This was a painful process in which we constructed a table on a special piece of squared paper in the manner dictated by Bill Bevir. The shape of the table was more important than the phonetics that were to be written into it."

Maths was taught by **W.A.Rudd** - "Burley Rudd taught at the pace of the fastest in the class. Maths were [sic] a matter of transparent logic to him and a failure to grasp the leaps from equation to proof were signs of inherent denseness and failures in one's home life ... One could and did get beaten in Rudd's class as in any other class in the School. Burley Rudd either put your head under one of the front row desks and swung at your backside with a broom handle called Julius Caesar, or flayed at the same buttocks with a rubber gym shoe called Widow Twankey. Rudd's

beatings were usually related to failure to understand what he had been talking about."

Regarding rowing - "As with all our sports, no separate training was done. There was no endurance road work, working out with weights, no stretches, no attempt to increase aerobic capacity. We rowed to get fit rather than getting fit to row. There were certainly lengthy and misguided discussions about the relative merits of cigarettes as compared with smoking a pipe whilst in training but not much else."

'They do things differently there.'

The war - "Air raid warnings were fairly frequent in 1940 and 1941. When the sirens sounded at night we scrambled off to the gym, carrying our rugs and blankets. In the gym the palliasses were spread out on the floor and we 'dossed' down to get what sleep we could. Above us, as ever guarding his flock, Grundy would set up camp in an arm chair on the stage at the end of the gym with a table loaded with books and a chess set ... No matter how many alerts a night brought they were not excuses for prep undone or tiredness in class the next day."

"In late 1940, Home Guard units were formed throughout Britain. A mix of elderly town's men, many of whom were 'Old Boys', and senior boys from the School formed our local company. The Home guard was made for Grundy who assumed the rank of lieutenant. He took our Sunday services decked out in his uniform with a small Italian pistol in a leather holster showing under his surplice."

"Every now and again word would trickle back of the death or wounding of a former pupil whom most of us had known, but I can only recall two public announcements in Chapel of losses. Both these deaths had occurred in bombing raids over Germany the night before. In both cases the son of one and the brother of another of the men killed were in Chapel for the announcements. No one comforted them as they made the required 'manly' attempts to suppress their grief."

After the war - "Career planning as an art was in its infancy. My guardian and Grundy failed to tell my long-absent naval officer father that I was within weeks of sitting for 'Responsions' and from thence that I would be off to read Divinity at Pembroke ... Thus, one pleasant summer evening, mid-term, completely without notice, I was removed, on one telephone call by my father, from the school. Three days later I was an apprentice aboard a run down, coal burning, Greek owned cargo ship, outward bound on a two year voyage."

SARAH WEARNE, ARCHIVIST

Surveys and Correspondence

Remembrance Day

The Abingdonian: How important is Remembrance Day to you?

E. Bailey: It is very important to me, and I think to others, even though we have never seen wars like the First and Second World Wars. If we don't have Remembrance Day we will lose our sense of respect.

W. Chang: I think it is of the utmost importance that we remember the people who gave their lives for us. If we don't remember, history could quite easily repeat itself and the tragedy of war could once again be upon us.

TA: Thank you for answering our questions.

School Lunches

The Abingdonian: What is the general opinion of school lunches?

C. Dixon: Pretty good, the caterers obviously work hard in the short time they have to provide a quality service. Of course there could be improvements.

H. Lester: There is quite a large variety, even a vegetarian choice!

E. Cottrell: They aren't actually that bad. Except that we should be allowed a baguette with our lunch.

S. Kapoor: School food is generally edible but I find that the catering staff don't always listen to your requests and put something else on your plate instead.

TA: How could the lunches be improved?

C. Dixon: The school has taken steps to give us more fruit and vegetables. I find the vegetables served not all that attractive and sometimes they are undercooked.

I. Marsh: I would like to see a different menu every week. New recipes like supreme of chicken wrapped with bacon should be introduced.

R. Wheeler: More food, and larger portions please; I get very hungry at school.

Drugs Awareness Day

The Abingdonian: What was your opinion of Drugs Awareness Day?

E. Bailey: Very informative indeed. The day was divided into two: in the morning we learned about alcohol and after lunch there was a talk about other drugs. It was very educational.

W. Chang: The day was helpful, and will have dissuaded boys from trying drugs.

TA: Was it necessary that a whole day be dedicated to learning about drugs?

E. Bailey: Yes, of course. Too many people die taking drugs, but their deaths could have been prevented if they had been educated about the subject.

W. Chang: This is an issue which should be treated seriously.

TA: Thank you for answering our questions.

H. Lester: Presentation of food could be better. But then 800 boys have to be served in under an hour, so implementing this would be very complex.

J. Fyne: I find that queues develop at the conveyor belt. It moves too slowly, and this means scrums can occur around the exit of the dining hall.

J. Wood: The baguette bar was an ingenious idea, but there should be more chicken and bacon baguettes available as these are delicious. I also think the beef-burgers on Friday should have buns to make them more desirable.

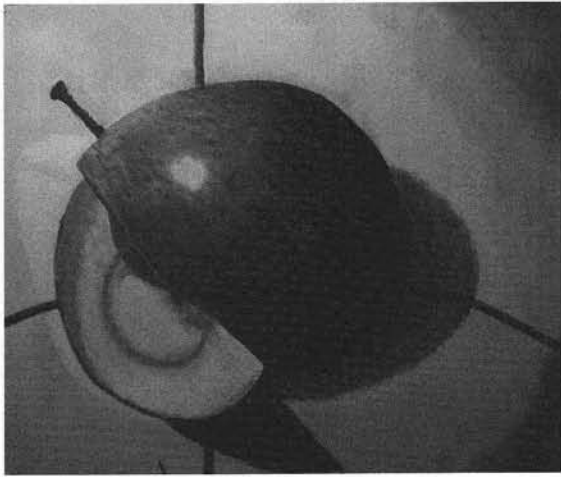
TA: Are school lunches healthy?

C. Dixon: As I have salad with my meal, I think I get my daily portions of healthy goodness. However, it is important that the school lunches remain tasty, because otherwise boys would snack at the tuck shop, eating very unhealthily.

H. Lester: Quite often chips or wedges are served with something else. I'm not sure that this is healthy, but it is appetizing.

J. Fyne: Yes I think it's fair to say that the lunches are healthy, but only apples and bananas are available to pupils. Perhaps we could see an improvement.

TA: Thank you for answering our questions.

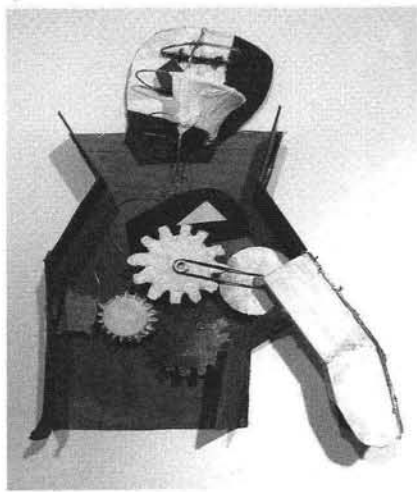


A



B

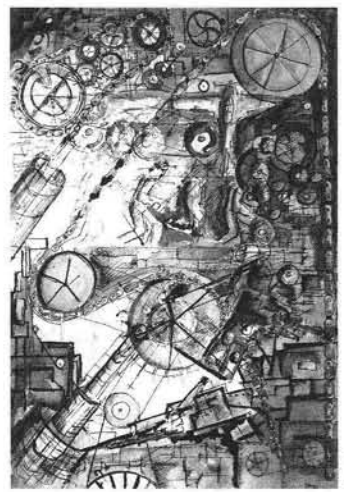
GCSE Art



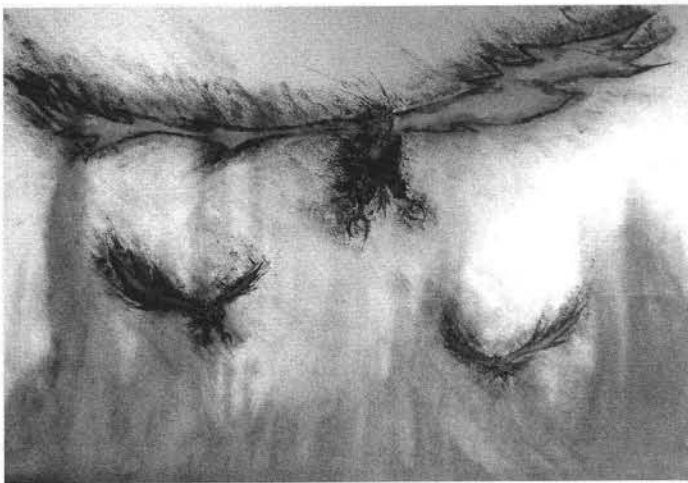
C



D



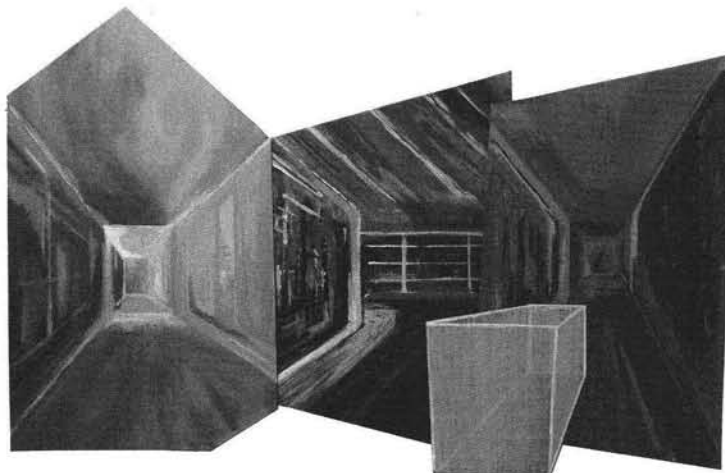
E



F



G



H

KEY:

A: "Apple form", acrylic on board, size A1, T. Astley SKDB

B: "Window", mixed media on board, size A2, C. K. Wong 5MRW

C: "The Human Machine", card, mod-roc, wire and withies, 36"x24",

R. Soames 5SRW

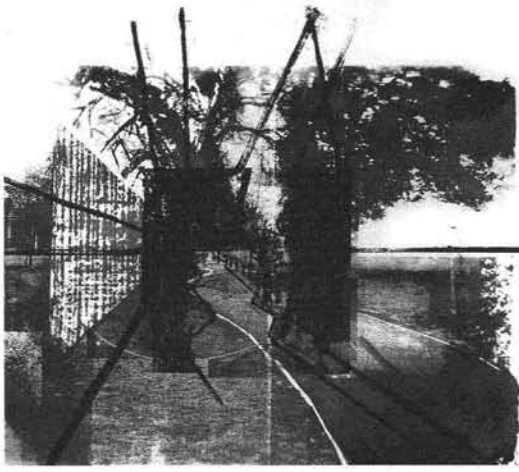
D: "Autumn leaves", acrylic on board, size A3, H. Cook 5RSS

E: "Locomotion", pen and wash on paper, size A1, T. Woods 5SRW

F: "Bird", watercolour on paper, size A1, I Cheng 5CB

G: "Music abstractions", acrylic on board, size A2, K. Kim 5KDB

H: "Supermarket triptych", acrylic on card, size A1, S. Moulds SDJH



A



B

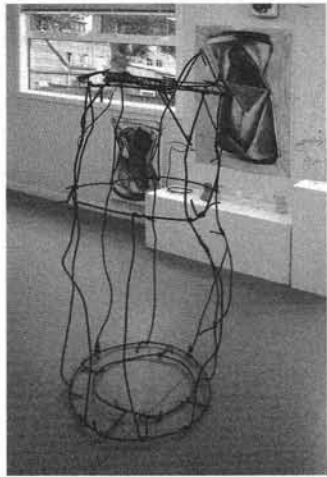


C

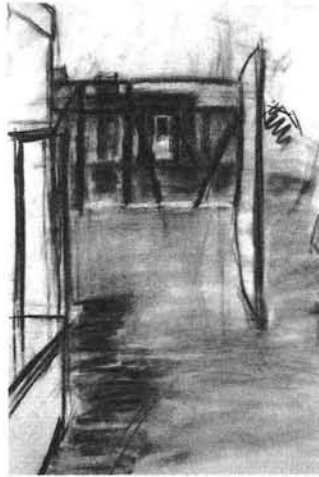


D

AS Art



E



F



G



H



I

KEY:

A: "Path structures", screen print, size A2, J. Birkett 6JFB

B: "Textural form", soapstone carving, size 12" x 10", C. Steel 6WHZ

C: "Cubist figures", screen print, size A2, W. Harrison 6MS

D: "Spring landscape", oil on board, size A2, J. Hu 6PMD

E: "Investigation of drink can", copper tubing and wire, 4'6" high,

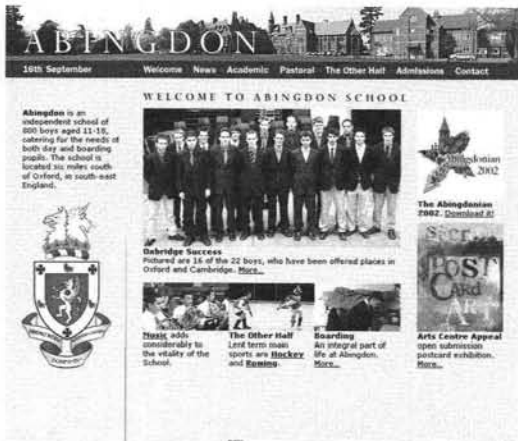
S. Gordon 6APS

F: "Buildings and nets", charcoal, size A2, H. Ho 6JFB

G: "Abstract", oil on board, size A2, W. Bright 6APS

H: "Big School", colour reduction lino print, size A3, H. Green 6PMD

I: "Architectural structures", oil on board, size A2, M. Last 6DJTF



which is run by **Matthew Smith**, OA. He had been trying hard to coax the powers-that-be into allowing and making provision for producing something much more lively and useful. Indeed it was Chapel Studios who had put the term's calendar onto the site, powered by a database, which enabled information to be automatically updated daily, so saving the site from complete obsolescence.

The **Headmaster**, after his arrival in January 2002, quickly set up a website committee, chaired by **TJK**, and a new website was commissioned from Chapel Studios. I was tasked with the role of editing the new site and a launch date of October 2002 was set.

Matthew and I had a series of meetings to discuss the new prospectus and CDROM, while he was involved in developing sites for Josca's (www.joscas.org.uk) and the OA Club (www.oaclub.org.uk). A new style, retaining the feel of the current guidelines, was developed and, with one agency only involved, was applied across the websites, prospectus and CDROM.

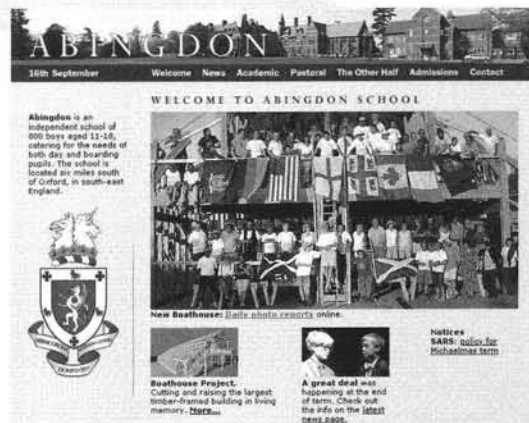
The result for abingdon.org.uk is a visually rich site structured into seven sections. Josca's and the OA Club's sites follow a similar design. Underneath each is a content management system (CMS) which allows an editor to update and change the site from any internet-enabled PC or Mac. The design architecture provides a 525 pixel section in the centre in which to put content. Everything else is either fixed or updated automatically from the database.

I knew from running the website at Bradfield College that the job of editor would be time-consuming and that there would not be a shortage of material. I had not expected that Abingdon would have quite so much good news to publicise. The site is like a weekly paper and there have been twenty-seven different home pages since October, although almost every evening there is some new event or achievement to record. My colleagues in Common Room have begun to understand the importance of passing information on in electronic form rather than just sending a handwritten note, and a culture of electronic communication has begun to evolve.

Others too have begun to use the site more. Total hits on the site in May 2002 were 121,938, while in May 2003 they had risen to 522,228. The number of unique visitors rose from 1,873 to 3,364. I don't think every parent is visiting the site every day as the Headmaster would wish, but we hope more and more will be looking at it weekly.

Matthew has been delighted with the increase in content but even he has been surprised by its magnitude, and it was becoming difficult to locate information easily. This summer, therefore, Chapel Studios has been working on an updated version of the site with drop-down menus, and a page for recently updated pages. The CMS behind the system has also been improved and streamlined, enabling quicker and easier uploading of information.

The site is not perfect and there will surely be more changes in the months ahead but at the moment we feel we do have one of the best school websites in the country.



Dec.
2002

Lent
2003

May
2003

June
2003

July
2003

JPN



A



B

A2 Art



C



D



E



F



G



H



I

KEY:

- A: "Dryland", oil on board, size A1, J. Anderson VITCG
- B: "Colour landscape", oil on board, size A3, A. Ashby VIGCR
- C: "Interior with figure", oil on board, size A1, M. Derrick VISAE
- D: "Still-life with lamp", colour reduction lino print, size A2,
R Williams VINMR
- E: "Seated figure", oil on board, size A2, J. Lewis VICMM
- F: "Park", oil on board, size A1, M. Paterson VIGCR
- G: "Burnt landscape", oil and collage on board, size A1, N. Sadler VISAE
- H: "Garden view", oil on board, size A2, D. Goodacre VIGCR
- I: "Tree", colour reduction relief print, size A1, J. Cousin VINMR

The Abingdon Arts Centre

Dear Sir,

Having recently performed a considerable amount of Drama, it came to my attention that there is currently very little room for groups to rehearse other than the Charles Maude Room and the Amey Hall stage.

Groups were practising in cluttered houserooms and other inadequate places. The Arts Centre is most definitely needed, and I put my full support behind it. The £3m cost might seem steep to many, but I am sure the rewards we will reap, for the School and for the community, will be priceless. It is important, too, for a leading independent school such as ours to keep up with competition from other schools where large developments are taking place.

The Arts Centre will surely offer a great deal and attract the best musicians, actors, and artists from around the country.

Yours, etc.

J.DINGWALL 5DJH

The importance of Golf

Dear Sir,

Why don't more boys at Abingdon play golf as a Wednesday afternoon activity? There being no hockey match one recent Wednesday for my team, rather than wasting a whole afternoon, I attended a golf session at the driving range. What a fantastic time I had! It was great fun and I was able to enjoy the fresh air instead of a stuffy Houseroom. There was a coach on hand who would give advice when requested and would even video your swing to pick up on flaws in your technique. With the satisfactory sound of well-struck golf balls filling the air, I really felt that I had achieved something that afternoon as we left the driving range.

So I believe that more people, instead of doing nothing on a Wednesday afternoon, should get out into the healthy fresh air and have an enjoyable time on the driving range amid its relaxed atmosphere. **JFH** is the master to contact.

Yours, etc.

S. FLOREY 5PW

An Interview with Tony Barnard, School Shop Manager

The Abingdonian: What are the business arrangements with the School regarding prices and how you run the business?

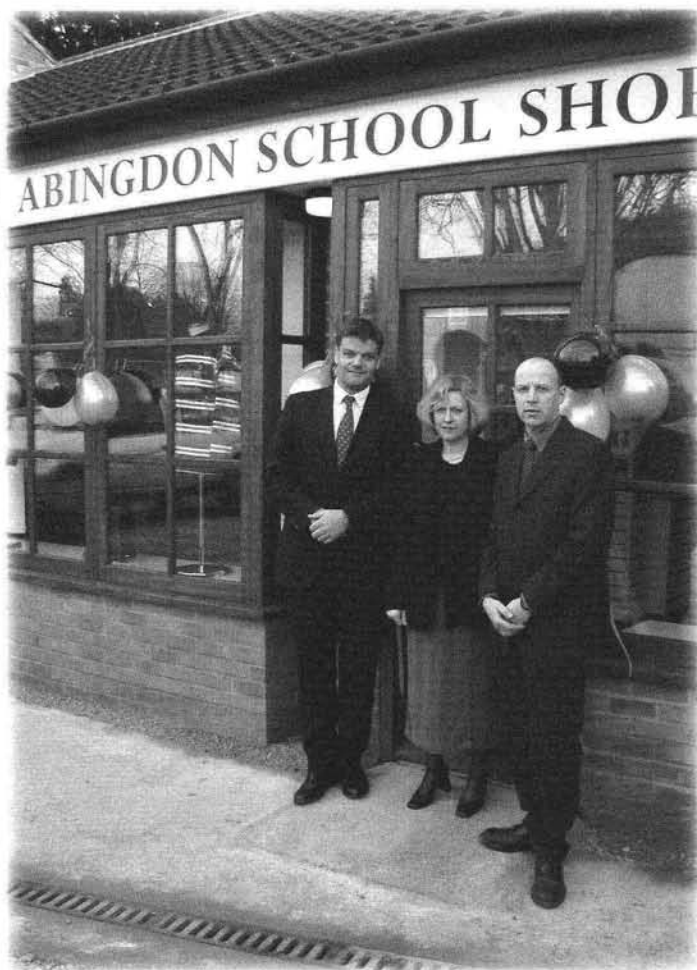
Tony Barnard: The School Shop is a subsidiary of Abingdon School and most prices in the shop are the same as when all the uniform was purchased from Shepherd and Woodward. Some prices have been rounded up to the nearest pound, i.e. £25.99 has become £26.00. The idea of the shop is for it to become the commercial centre of the School with all the items currently being sold by different masters now available in one place, including School mementos for Old Abingdonians that were sold through the Foundation Office.

TA: How is business at the moment? The Tuck Shop looks very busy but the Uniform Shop looks relatively quiet. Has the shop lived up to your expectations?

Tony Barnard: The Uniform Shop is becoming busier as boys and parents realise how easy it is for them to call in and book whatever is needed to their School bill. We are also listening to feedback from some masters with suggestions for items to stock. As you mentioned, the Tuck Shop is very busy, as the boys always seem to be hungry.

TA: On a personal note, how did you get involved and run the shop?

Tony Barnard: I saw the vacancy advertised in the paper and decided to find out more about it. I was selected for an interview where I had to produce a budget and a business plan. The Bursar and I discussed all aspects of the job and after all that I was still interested!



TA: What do you think of this new complex?

Tony Barnard: When I started here I knew I would have to wait for the shop to be built so the idea was to run the old Tuck Shop and organise the stock to come into the new shop when it was ready. The conversion of the old garage into the new School Shop by the builders and the School's own maintenance staff is a fantastic achievement and is proving a focal point for Old Abingdonians and new visitors alike, all of whom have commented that it looks very professional and how lucky the boys are to have this facility.

TA: What do you think of Abingdon School itself?

Tony Barnard: I am very impressed by the standards that the School has set and maintained, not just academically but by all the staff whose work here provides the community with so much.

TA: In the Tuck Shop, do you listen to requests for new things?

Tony Barnard: Anybody who visits the Tuck Shop regularly will see new lines being added almost weekly. This term we have introduced flapjacks and cereal bars in an effort to promote some

healthy eating! Although we keep being asked, we will not stock chewing gum.

TA: Do you enjoy your work here in the shop?

Tony Barnard: Yes, working in both shops keeps the day interesting and no two days are ever the same.

TA: What are your interests away from the School?

Tony Barnard: I live in Wantage. am married with two children and I enjoy reading, cycling and swimming, and spending time with my family.

TA: Finally, do you have any future plans in mind?

Tony Barnard: The Headmaster and I have discussed the possibility of selling Josca's uniform and more sports equipment. I would also like to expand the stationery side and introduce more Abingdon School gifts and mementos.

TA: Thank you for your time.

Oct.

2002



<http://www.abingdon.org.uk>

Abingdon School's website has been in existence for some time. The [abingdon.org.uk](http://www.abingdon.org.uk) domain name was first registered in 1998 but Abingdon School's first website, one of the first schools to have a website in the country, went live in late 1995. This was developed by DJH and I remember when I was developing Bradfield College's first website in August 1996 that Abingdon's was one of the schools' websites that I looked at for inspiration.

site (<http://study.abingdon.org.uk>) is used by departments to promote links to other websites, to post worksheets, reading lists and holiday work. It provides a quick link to the School website and email and is the home page that appears when a web browser is used from any School machine. The study site was first developed by DH in 1998 and has been constantly changed since then. It is a much more informal site than the main school site, because it is a working site used by teachers and pupils for learning. With DH's return next year to the ICT department we can expect to see this site develop some exciting new interactivity.

Nov.

2002



An essential characteristic of a good website is that it isn't static and can be changed at any time. A school's website can therefore become either an excellent tool for communicating up-to-date information or, if left alone, an unfortunate way of telling everyone how out of touch you are. Many schools, particularly independent schools, have websites which are little more than an online prospectus, built by an outside agency, rarely changed and therefore quickly out of date. Other schools mix in academic links and online study sheets to the prospectus and news roles. From a very early stage Abingdon has kept these separate. Abingdon's study

However, when I arrived at Abingdon in September 2001, the School's main website had fallen into a rather dry and tired state. Stuck with a style guide designed for print media, which made no allowance for viewing colours and typefaces on screen, and governed by the online prospectus view of websites, it was difficult for the site to become the attractive, engaging and informative vehicle that a website should be. For some time the website had been hosted and designed by Chapel Studios,



A



B



C



D



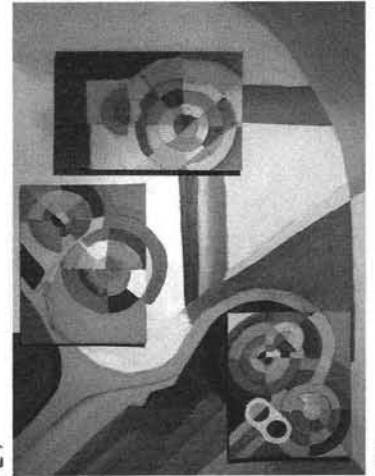
E



F

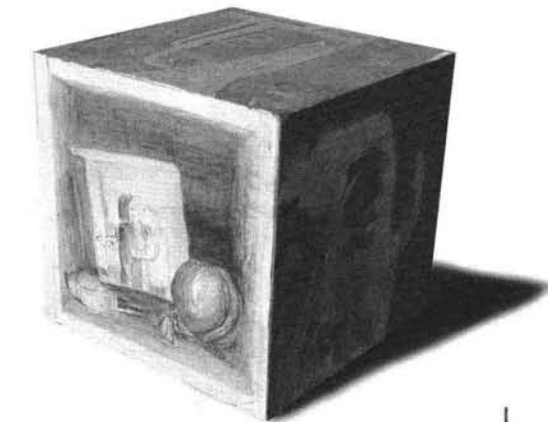


G



H

GCSE Art



I

KEY:

A: "Mackerel", acrylic on board, size A2, O. Diamond 5AMS

B: "Locomotion", acrylic and collage on board, size A1, A.Blackmore SPW

C: "Fish and crustaceans", acrylic, watercolour and chalk on paper, size A3, N.Hughes SPW

D: "Supermarket detritus", mixed media on board, size A1, T. Reid 5JPGB

E: "Dynamic landscape", acrylic on board, size A1, C. Kennedy SKDB

F: "Orchard", mixed media on board, size A1, M.McCormick 5CB

G: "Identity piece", acrylic on board, size A2, E. Cottrell 5SRW

H: "Colour explorations ", acrylic on board, size A1, C. Kennedy SKDB

I: "Identity box", mixed media, 24"x24"x24', R. Soames 5SRW

A bell rings out over an empty school. Proud masters stride from room to hallway, their long gowns fluttering in the stream of stuffy air caused by rushing boys in short blue coats, hurrying to get to their next lesson before it is too late.

Amid this disorder, the young child struggles with his overweighed games bag, the proud school emblem embossed upon it in a sickly shade of pink.

The rain pours down more and more heavily, covering the looming buildings in a cloud of grey, wet spray. The child struggles on, the weight of his bag digging into his shoulder, as if it were the burden of all those years before he came to school.

As he reaches a speed bump, the neatly trimmed figure of a master dressed in a black suit appears from around the corner. He strides closer to the child, back straight, face obscured by the dark shadow of his umbrella, not daring to look. As he nears the child, the child raises his head, as if to glance momentarily at this figure, to show him that he is respectful, that he too is trying.

A mere few feet before they cross paths, the bag strap catches the child's leg. He falls, landing in a puddle where the drain should have been working. The child does not stop for long, he must not be late for lessons. He crawls out, obviously in pain where his knee hit the perfect middle of the cast iron drain, blocked by years of debris flowing down the boastful school drive. He gets up, an unnoticeable red stain on his grey trousers, just below the knee, obscured by a thin mosaic of dark brown mud. He continues dragging the large

bag with him down the drive, as the pink emblem jolts with his slight limp, as if ridiculing his failures to the whole world.

The figure does not break stride, for he too is not exempt from time. He cannot be late.

Back straight, legs in rhythm, umbrella in one hand, books in the other, he presses on. Ahead there lies a turn in the road, sweeping left, with a thin, dark black rail on the inside corner, there for no apparent reason, simply to be there.

As the figure slowly walks around this turn, he begins to come into view. His face is at first half shown by the light, then as he comes closer and closer to the main building, it slowly is revealed.

He is not much more than a child himself, cold and bemused, having graduated only recently. On the right-hand side of his face, just between his eye and the curl on the corner of his lips, is a sick pink-coloured plaster. He

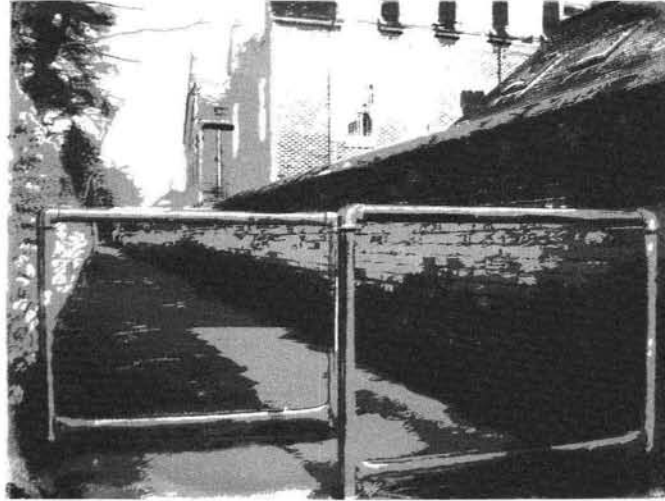
must have cut himself shaving the fluff of his face in the morning, probably rushing to be on time.

He enters the building and no more is seen of him.

He closes the huge white wooden door; the big school is closed virtually on time, no more than thirty or so seconds late. No one will notice. The Headmaster was away that day.

The child cannot even see the time and does not know that he is late, because of the heavy rain, as he presses on to lock away the bag.

O. ZELDIN 5SRW



"Long Alley", screen print, size A2, A.Jack 6JFB

Shameless

Today couldn't have been better. I was sitting in the shade on a hot day, slugging soft drinks that could have melted in this blistering heat. I was looking forward to not getting ready for school, as I thought I had done all my prep.

I was walking back to my house to take Ollie home when it hit me: I still had History prep. I had to do an essay about Joan of Arc. Mum was going to go crazy when I told her, because yesterday I had told her I had no prep, but she kept saying "You won't want to do it tomorrow, it's your last day of freedom before school" and not for the first time in my life, Mum was right. I didn't want to do it, but if I didn't, I would have a second adult in two days going crazy at me! There was no way out, I had to do it.

In the end I told her during the mealtime. It wasn't too bad, by that I mean her reaction - not the prep, that was terrible. Just to make it worse we had video-taped the omnibus edition of Brook-

side and were going to watch it that night, but I was to be typing up my History prep. At that moment I was in a sticky situation because I was in the middle of a huge row: about either watching Brookside then or doing my History prep. Halfway through the shouting contest (which I won) I decided to walk off and slam a door three times to let off a bit of anger, so I did. I got on with it, SLAM! The house was shuddering... SLAM! Shudder, once more... SLAM! Crash! Suddenly I couldn't see - a cloud of thick, choking dust had formed. I turned on my heel very slowly, only to see huge lumps of plaster everywhere. After what seemed to be about an hour, my brain connected. "That belongs to the ceiling," I thought. I looked up and there was a huge hole where the plaster used to be. I was fighting back laughter.

The next day at school was all right. I told everyone that I had broken a vase, but they weren't that stupid. They said, "No way! You'll get grounded for a month for that." So the truth soon came out and no-one could look at me without cracking up with laughter. Now, it's what I'm famous for - and I'm not that bothered.

G. RAFTERY 2Z

The Unwanted Guest

The Unwanted creature
Lay face up on the carpet.
Its tiny beady eyes
Shining through the darkness.

Many a myth has been written
Of this deadly night creature.
Those two gleaming fangs
Sharp as razors, lying ready to attack.

Still the dark, dull, dubious eyes
Watched me.
Until I dared to pick it up.

My hands closed round its dark figure,
Full of mystery.
But this was no killer.

Rather a soft, silky fur
Warm in my fingers.
Its fragile framework
As delicate as a flower.

It feigned to bite me,
I wasn't sure why.
Its perfect human fingers
So similar to mine
Drew the cape tighter
As it bided its time.

And so I threw it
And it flew off
Into the dark, deadly night.

But back it came
Nimble as a Swift
And yet larger than a Swallow.
It dived and swooped
A hair's breadth from my face.

Then finally it left
As quickly as it came.
Into the dark and deadly night.

C. CHECKLEY 3PKHR

Fog

Fog,
The misty,
The soundproof,
The damp.

Fog,
The seemingly innocent,
The potential killer,
Losing people on moors,
Muffling their death cries,
As helpless they fall.

Fog,
The doughnut-shaped freeze,
Chilling you to the bone,
Cleansing you all over,
Numbing your senses.

Fog,
The intangible,
The watery taste,
The view-dimmer,
The creeping,

Fog,
White, grey,
Seemingly shapeless...
Unless you concentrate.

Fog,
The smell-less,
The silent,

Fog...

O. BOURCHIER 1X

Staithe Seascape

Striped blue haze
On summer days,
Through half-closed eyes,
Seas and
Skies.

Distant white sail,
Shows kite's red tail,
Seagulls call
To striped beach ball.

Water,
Warm yet cold,
Waves flirt,
Turn tail.

Sun smiles,
Streaking blue horizon
Gold.
Wind playfully tweaking
Wave tops
Cold.

Moonlight slips across
Black, backlight stage of glass,
Glimpsing rhythmic rise and fall
Of a morpheic crystal
Wall.

S. DENT 2Z

The Direction of Studies



Abingdon aims to develop the talents of its pupils in many areas. Academic progress and success is a key component of the future of the pupils and the School itself, and this will be among the key objectives of the School's forthcoming five-year Development Plan. During this year many issues have been discussed within the School, in order to improve the academic opportunities and attainment of the pupils.

In August 2002 there was considerable uproar about the downgrading of pupils' marks in some units of A level examinations, which led to a government enquiry. Although Abingdon's pupils were unaffected by the rescaling of marks, as a result of appeals to examination boards some thirty-five grades at AS and A2 were increased. Concern about the A level system has prompted many schools to investigate the suitability of the International Baccalaureate, and each Department and the Senior Management Team have looked in detail at how Abingdon could implement the IB while still offering A levels, either in conjunction with the School of St Helen and St Katharine, or independently. Mike Tomlinson, formerly HM Chief Inspector of Schools, has been looking at how the sixth-form curriculum should be altered. He appears to be considering an English Baccalaureate, which incorporates many of the more attractive features of the IB. Although the decision was made not to implement the IB at Abingdon next year, the issue will remain under review for subsequent years.

Implementation of the IB, with its prescription of much of the sixth-form curriculum (each pupil must offer mathematics and his mother tongue as two of the six subjects he studies) would have been a significant change. Instead, other less dramatic changes have been implemented to enhance pupils' learning.

In our Sixth Form, Abingdon has traditionally offered much more than a limited diet of merely three or four A levels. Boys take General Studies courses in the Lower Sixth Form, and additional lessons are offered in lunchtimes to those with special interests, in preparation for entry to Oxford and Cambridge universities and the Advanced Extension Awards. Often these have clashed with boys' Other Half ac-

tivities, and various staff have found that the new AS and A2 levels would benefit from more time studying the prescribed curricula, either within small tutorial groups for those needing extra help or further extension work, or given to the whole set. Henceforward the curriculum will be organised in four rather than five blocks, allowing more teaching time, and enabling General Studies courses to be offered to both Lower and Upper Sixthformers.

First Form boys this year had only a five day teaching week, and, next year, neither year-group in the Lower School will have lessons on Saturdays. Early indications are that the boys have been less tired this year and thus more receptive to learning.

In recent years Spanish has been available only as a one-year course in the Fifth Form, for boys who took French GCSE at the end of the Fourth Form. To encourage pupils to develop their main language beyond GCSE, and to prepare for A level, all Fast Set French pupils will take AS French units in the Fifth Form. Boys entering the Third Form in September 2003 have been offered a wider range of second Modern Foreign Languages than in previous years: Spanish has now been made available as an option in addition to French, German and Russian. Spanish has already proved very popular.

All new boys entering the First Form will learn German as their main Language, though those who have already studied a significant amount of French will join the French set. Rather than Russian being the main language in alternate First Forms, it will be offered as a Third Form Option Language.

Abingdon is committed to reviewing its wide offering of academic A2 and AS level subjects, both alone and in conjunction with the School of St Helen and St Katharine. At present we broaden the combination of subjects girls and boys wish to study by co-teaching History of Art, Latin, Greek, Drama and Theatre Arts, Spanish, German, Government and Politics, and Chemistry.

Abingdon will continue to review its academic offering, and seek to enhance the breadth of choice offered by a large school such as ours.

The academic development of Abingdon is only possible with the co-operation and enthusiasm of every teacher, pupil and parent, and I would like to pay tribute here to those who strive to ensure that boys excel in their studies.

DJD, DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

The AS level defended

The poor old AS level has come in for quite a considerable amount of criticism recently. Many people are blaming it for overloading the examination boards and leading to last year's examination marking errors, by overloading the examiners with too much work to do in too little time. The former head of OFSTED, Mike Tomlinson, said the complexity of the system had led to confusion, and John Dunford, the General Secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association, commented that the extra AS examinations were leading to an 'over-examined' culture.

For those who are not up to speed on how the current A level system works, pay attention! To achieve an A level in any given subject you take six examination units over the course of two years (normally divided into three units a year). The examinations at the end of the Lower Sixth Form are called AS levels, whereas those at the end of the Upper Sixth Form are called A2 levels. An AS level is a qualification in itself, and so a student could leave the Upper Sixth Form with three A levels and an AS level in a fourth subject. These six scores are added up, and if you average over 80% then you will receive an A grade; an average of 70% then you will receive a B grade and 60% a C grade. This means that any slacking in the Lower Sixth Form will leave a huge amount of study in the Upper Sixth Form to achieve that top grade.

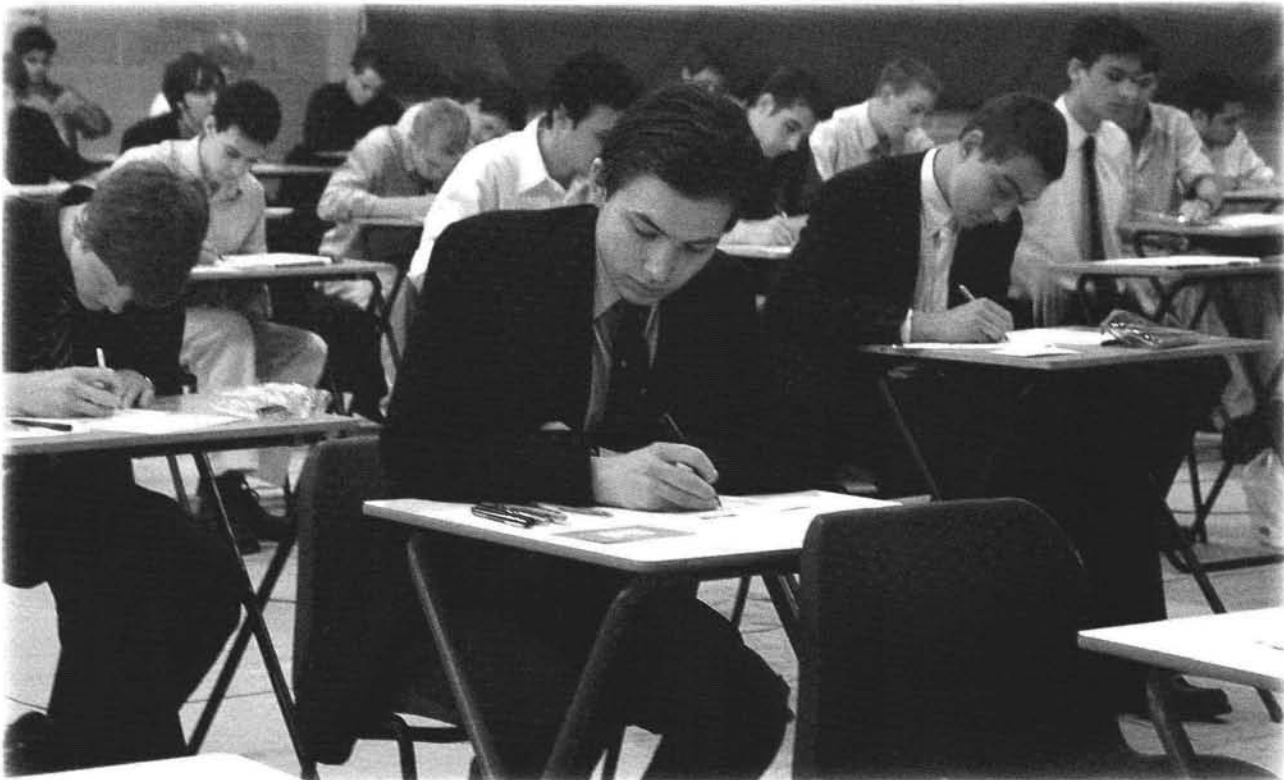
Despite all the criticism, one has to ask whether these examinations are really all that bad? Many students declare themselves, in fact, in favour of them.

They say that while it does mean Lower Sixthformers will have to take examinations in both years in the Upper School, this does help to relieve the pressure on the Upper Sixthformer. Rather than two years of study culminating in one six-hour exam, it helps to spread the work over two years. The AS level also helps a student to make his choice of an appropriate university, for the AS level provides a good indicator of how well he performs at A2 level and ultimately which university will accept him. Most departments of the School observed that the majority of students achieved the same grade in A level as they had in AS level.

A final advantage worth noting is the extra flexibility the AS level provides. The original idea was that students should take four AS subjects in the Lower Sixth Form and possibly drop one subject in the Upper Sixth Form. Such a system gives students so much more freedom to choose their subjects. As the AS is a qualification in itself, a student could drop to three subjects in the Upper Sixth Form and undertake an AS level for just one, final year in a subject that has always interested him. Indeed this was my path, dropping one Science which I found not to be my cup of tea and instead doing an AS level in Economics for a year.

In conclusion, whilst the AS level system may seem initially confusing, in my opinion it was well worth introducing.

J. ROSE VIDE



The Library



In May, a group of Lower School boys took part in the national 'Shadowing the Carnegie' scheme, whereby they read the short-listed titles for the Carnegie Medal at the same time as the national judges made their selection. The Carnegie Medal is awarded to the best children's literature published in the current year. In addition to displaying their reviews

The Library has had an interesting and varied year, with special events: the introduction of a questionnaire on favourite reads and a new venture as part of the Third Form service activity. The strong team of pupil librarians was led and inspired by three members of the Upper Sixth Form: **A. Champion, B. Street** and **R. Browne**.

Events included the annual celebration of World Book Day and was marked this year by members of staff finding a quiet haven (and coffee and biscuits) in the library for the luxury (necessity?) of a period of pleasurable reading throughout the day. Noisier but more lucrative was the second-hand book sale whose proceeds went to *Book Aid International*.

In March, all boys from the First, Second and Third Forms completed a questionnaire nominating their top ten fiction books. They produced a wonderful and varied selection, repudiating any suggestion that boys do not read! Although the overall choice of *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman was unsurprising, and similarly JK Rowling was the most popular author, about 245 boys suggested a staggering 528 different titles. See the website for a full breakdown.

on the national website, the boys took part in several joint events with the other secondary schools in Abingdon. This included a Carnegie quiz which tested their shared knowledge of the shortlisted books and produced many heated discussions; a talk by local authors Mary Hoffman and her daughter Rhiannon Lassiter; and advice on reviewing from the Literary Editor of the *Oxford Times*. The final local event was the 'Abingdon Forum' held at Our Lady's Convent Senior School, where over 120 shadowers met for the day to discuss and vote for their Carnegie winner. In addition, this year we were very honoured to be asked to send representatives to the national awards ceremony held at the British Library in July.

We are pleased to record donations from a number of sources including **Shaun Hullis**; Lady Bullock; *The Bookstore*; Argentinian visitors in November 2002; **William Chislett, OA**; **PER**; Mr Osborn-King; **James Horton, OA**; **DGA**; **Nigel Hammond, OA**; **ACWB**; Jean Harker; **Hugh Leach, OA**; Sue Mendelsohn; Mrs John Jones; **Roger Bolton, OA** and Wendy Cooling. In addition we have received a magnificent collection of rowing books through a bequest from **Roger Mortimer**.

GJC

Charitable fund-raising

This year's charity fund-raising got off to a superb start with the biennial sponsored walk. Over seven hundred members of the school walked the ten miles from Dorchester back along the Thames to Abingdon with transportation to the starting point being generously provided free of charge by Tappins Coaches. A mammoth packed lunch serving point was set up halfway along the route at Clifton Hampden to offer welcome sustenance, while the prefects did an admirable job of marshalling everybody in the right direction. The only confusion was caused by the **Headmaster's** dog, Havoc, who, living up to the name, decided to run the wrong way along the towpath back to the lunch point in an attempt to get a second helping of school sandwiches! When all the sponsorship money had been collected in, £15,500 had been raised, of which Lower School (a mere one hundred and thirty boys) contributed well over £5,000. The money was divided between four charities supporting projects both at home and overseas: the *Oxford Shelter*, *Hospice Care Kenya*, *Child Victims of Crime*, and *Breadline*.

This last charity is one that we donate to each term to aid its work in the Eastern European country of Moldova. In a very exciting development of this link, a group of Sixthformers accompanied **JT** and me on a visit to the Moldovan school that we support. This trip is reported more fully elsewhere in this publication.



Rescuing a ball. Is it Havoc's?

Other events in the Michaelmas term included the second annual Tag Rugby Festival which saw Drummond-Hay's triumph in all year-groups except the Fifth Form (where Hamilton's took first place) and led to a donation of £250 being sent to *Children in Need*. At the end of term, collections after the carol services and Christmas concerts raised £500 for the *Children's Society* and £650 for *Maggie Centre* respectively.

The Lent term saw a St Valentine's Day discothèque held in the Dining Hall for Lower School boys and the girls of St Helen's and the Convent. Tickets for this event sold at a breathtaking rate, with a black market developing, and whilst the dancing abilities on display were a little dubious, the evening was a great success and raised £450 for *Volunteer Reading Help*, a group working to help those in Oxfordshire primary schools with reading difficulties. The annual five-a-side football tournaments once again proved to be very popular events with the Sixth Form cup being won by 'The Footballers' Wives', 'Fompu' beating all comers in the Fifth Form competition, and 'Fishpool's Fliers', a Third Form team, beating

several Fourth Form squads to win the other trophy. As always, this event was held to raise money for the *Meningitis Research Foundation*. This year's total was £530. The separate Lower School/Josca's event was a fiercely competitive affair, eventually being won by 'And the Winning Team is...' from Josca's. £300 was sent to the Estonia Rugby Federation as a result, to enable the promotion of rugby in schools in Estonia.

The annual Road Relay was used by Drummond-Hay's House to raise money for *Breadline*, to help set up a lifestyle education programme warning Moldovan children of the dangers of drugs, drink, and child prostitution - all real problems in the area. In scenes reminiscent of the London Marathon, fancy dress runners joined the serious competitors to earn £450 in sponsorship. **JDEDH**, ever the showman, competed in his last road relay as Housemaster dressed as a Roman Emperor and carried in his litter (or trolley to be more precise) by a team of Sixthformers!

As in previous years, an appeal was made for Tesco Computer Vouchers and, as a result of vast quantities of parental shopping, 4,900 tokens were presented to the Kingfisher School in Abingdon to help them refurbish their computer equipment.

The brevity of the term and the pressure of examinations meant

that there were not too many charity events in the summer but even so a multi day raised £1,100, which was divided between *MenCap* and *Regain*, a charity which works with those who are disabled as a result of sporting injuries. The three Tug of War Tournaments were won by the Boarders (Lower School) and Drummond-Hay's (Middle School and Upper School) and the money collected as a result, when added to the proceeds of various refreshment stalls, has led to £500 being sent to projects working with children in Romania. These projects are run by two OAs, **M. Beaumont** and **B. Wells**. In addition, Phelps' House, through a series of events, raised over £400 for *Breadline*, again to go towards the funding of the lifestyle education programme.

The grand total raised for charity this academic year was just under £22,000 - an outstanding amount - and once again a wide range of charities, both in this country and abroad, have benefited from the generosity of many Abingdonians and their families.

AJJ

Combined Cadet Force: Recruit & Advanced Infantry Camp

Our annual Easter holiday training camp for both Recruits and Advanced Infantry Cadre took place this year at New Zealand Farm Camp in the middle of Salisbury Plain, with our allocated training area on our doorstep. We had forty-nine cadets on camp, made up of thirteen NCOs as instructors, twelve on the Advanced Infantry Cadre and twenty-four Recruits.

The bulk of the NCOs and the Advanced Infantry Cadre arrived on Saturday 5 April, with the Recruits arriving on Sunday. Sunday afternoon saw the Recruits getting stuck into their orienteering competition in perfect weather conditions.

The week then adopted its familiar format with reveille at 06.30. This year we had our own piper to pipe the camp awake, and whether we enjoyed or disliked it, we all appreciated the skill of Recruit **P. Hatzis**. Training was intense for both Recruits and the Advanced Infantry Cadre, with little time to rest.

The training was enhanced by co-operation with the other major unit using our area – 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment – who offered us their expertise in training the Advanced Infantry Cadre in operations in built-up areas. In return we offered some Senior NCOs and Officers to act as their enemy during a night exercise, which was very enjoyable, if somewhat cold. We experienced temperatures of -2°C in a stripped-down Landrover.

The Advanced Infantry Cadre started their 48 hour exercise on the evening of the 8th, and the Recruits started their 24 hour exercise on the 9th. Both exercises went well. The Recruits demonstrated how much they had learnt by some excellent fieldcraft and high morale.

Thursday 10 was the final day of the exercise for both groups and also saw the arrival of Captain John Bushell, AAC in his Gazelle helicopter. All the Advanced Infantry Cadre got the chance to reconnoitre their objectives by air, and six lucky Recruits were selected to fly as well, thanks to their positive attitude throughout the week.

Friday 11 was our Range Day, which dawned with thick fog, although this lifted just in time to

start shooting soon after 09.00. We had only the morning available as army ranges close at lunchtime on Friday! However, everyone who needed to shoot did so without having to rush.

Saturday morning was spent packing up and ferrying stores and weapons back to Abingdon. The afternoon was R&R, and we all went bowling in Swindon which was turned into a competition and enjoyed by all. That evening saw the traditional end-of-camp skits with some fine comedy performances, and some uncanny portrayals of Officers, much enjoyed by all, including those on the receiving end of the wit.

Sunday was spent preparing for the Passing-Out Parade, which parents were to attend, and much time and effort had been put in all week by all concerned to make sure it was perfect on the day. We were delighted to have the Regional Commandant for South West Region ATC, Group Captain M.J. Remlinger, as our Inspecting Officer this year, and also very pleased to have the **Headmaster** and Mrs Turner and their sons in attendance. The Parade was one of the best we have ever had, and a real credit to all those involved. We then all enjoyed a buffet lunch prepared by our contract caterers, before everyone headed home for a well earned rest.

Of course, this week would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Officers and NCOs and very many thanks to them all, but a special thank you to Flt Lt **Shaun Hullis** who returned from Winchester to join us for the week.

This year we also managed to record our activities for posterity, and our very own DVD will soon be available. Special thanks to Sgt **R. Browne** and Flt/Sgt **O. de Wilde** for all their hard work to produce it.

Awards for the week were as follows :

- Best Recruit: **J. White**
- Most Improved Recruit: **D. Rawcliffe**
- Advanced Infantry Cadre Best Cadet: **G. Scarfe**
- Advanced Infantry Most Improved Cadet: **M. McCormick**
- Best Shot on Range Day: **P. Hatzis**

DJM CARSON

Combined Cadet Force: Escape & Evasion Exercise

This weekend exercise took place on **Major Carson's** family farm in the Pewsey Vale, Wiltshire. The exercise commenced at 19.30 on the arrival of the cadets at the farm on Friday 7 March. Unfortunately owing to illness, a number of escapees could not attend, reducing them to only nine; however, numbers were made up by a hunter force, and some 'friendly' partisans.

The weather did its worst on Friday and we had to change some of our plans, although by Saturday morning we were back on schedule, and at 06.00 the prisoners had escaped and were on the run, reporting to checkpoints to collect essential items of kit.

They had little chance as at 10.30 a Gazelle helicopter, piloted by Captain John Bushell, AAC, landed to collect Captain **M. Schofield**, Flt Lt **D. Forster** and Sgt **T. Jackson** to track them down. This was followed an hour later by a second sortie flying the OC to disrupt the escapees' pause for lunch on the run.

The rain and wind returned towards the end of the afternoon, which meant our evening plans had to be amended again. This did little to spoil the eventual capture of the prisoners, who, after some friendly questioning (and attempted bribery by Mars Bars to reveal relevant information), found themselves free again.

Sunday morning dawned dry, but with an unexpected added dimension when C/Sgt **B. Prior** reported hare coursers trespassing on the farm. They were kept under observation until the police arrived and then followed along the canal towpath that runs through the farm, and finally stopped and questioned. They had obviously not bargained on walking into a military exercise in the early hours of a Sunday morning. The exercise then continued to timetable, with the final phase being the run for home through enemy lines.

It was a thoroughly exhausting weekend for all concerned and a credit to Sgt **T. Jackson** and Sgt **P. Wakefield** who wrote and planned the exercise. Many thanks also go to **T. Garside** and **R. Garside** (former senior cadet NCOs who came back from university to help), to the Adjutant and to Captain Hearsey from Eton CCF.

DJM CARSON

Combined Cadet Force: Army Air Corps Visit

Following a very thoughtful two days of Remembrance, Abingdon School CCF was back in uniform to discover the opportunities of the Army Air Corps.

On Tuesday 12 November 2002, Abingdon welcomed Captain Alex Stobo of the Army Air Corps

who is the Corps' Recruiting and Liaison Officer. He arrived by Gazelle about midday during a very small weather window, and took some ten boys on air experience flights in the skies above Abingdon town and Dalton Barracks. The Gazelle is the Army's short range reconnaissance helicopter used mainly for observation and surveillance.



The Vale Youth Forum

The Vale Youth Forum is a group of boys and girls of GCSE age who meet with members of the Vale of the White Horse Council at various locations. Meetings are held every month, and a variety of issues are addressed. Recent topics have been: 'Drugs: prevention or information', 'How to reduce graffiti in the Vale', and 'What does Abingdon need?'.

The level of discussion is always very high, and excellent ideas have been produced. Some ideas, such as modifications to security measures at the Abingdon Leisure Centre, and signs about graffiti penalties, have already made the transition out of the Forum and into effect.

As well as helping to enhance the Vale, the Forum also acts as a meeting point for all the schools in the area. It is a great opportunity to make new friends and to meet old friends from other schools. As a boarder,

and therefore someone with very limited opportunity for a social life outside school, I find this extremely useful. Meeting in fora like this can only help to reduce conflict between pupils at different schools.

Often, after a particularly important topic has been discussed, members report back to their own schools. The Forum also allows its members to find out a lot more about the Council itself, how it works, how it can be contacted, and which services fall under its control.

Sometimes members of the Forum undertake visits. Recently there was one to the Houses of Parliament. On this we looked around both Chambers, listened to debates, and had a chance to ask questions of our MP, Dr Evan Harris. There was also a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels.

C. LILLYCROP 4SPGS

Oxfordshire Independent State School Partnership



At the beginning of the Lent term four boys from Abingdon met up with four girls from Fitzharry's School. We were to discuss joining a local project supported by OISSP (the Oxfordshire Independent State School Partnership). It was our task to study 'Racism in the Abingdon area'. Both schools had suggested ideas to pursue, and we combined these to draw up a questionnaire. We decided to focus more on racial bullying, which we defined as 'physical, emotional or verbal abuse towards a minority group'.

To try to get the best results we circulated the questionnaires throughout both schools. We had to get responses from all age groups and ensure we both received the same number of complete questionnaires

for each year-group.

At our next meeting we decided that our next step towards tackling the problem would be to go into the town itself and pass questionnaires out among the public. The questions had to be altered slightly in order to fit the wider age-range of those we were asking. We had a good response from people in the town and in total received one hundred and fifty completed questionnaires. Next we analysed these results and prepared a presentation to the other schools which had participated in similar projects for OISSP.

The presentation ceremony, held in Witney in June, saw delegates from about twenty-five other schools attending and the list of projects undertaken ranged from 'Making a Community Garden for the elderly' to 'Recycling'. Many parents and headteachers also attended this ceremony, with the founder of OISSP there too. It was a good opportunity to talk to members of the different schools represented to discover what they had done to solve their 'problems'. All the presentations were very well set out and given and one school had even given their presentation on television the previous day.

This was an interesting project and a steep learning curve for all eight participants from our two schools. I do hope this is something next year's Thirdformers can continue.

W. STOCKDALE 3EMTD

Conservation

Many Thirdformers have chosen to undertake conservation as their service activity this year. In addition some older pupils have continued to work in conservation as an activity accredited by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Conservation volunteers have not had to travel too far and wide around our region to do their worthwhile work. The Ock Valley Nature Reserve stretches between St Helen's church and Tesco. Abingdon pupils have planted trees, cleared litter, and built a path allowing local residents the opportunity to walk through and enjoy this place of great natural beauty.

Abbey Fishponds is a nature reserve bordering the Radley Road. It surrounds the remains of our 12th century abbey. Abingdon pupils have reinforced existing paths and built new ones. They have also removed many dead trees blown down by the storms of last autumn, and have contributed to the general maintenance of the site by cutting back hedgerows, amongst other tasks.

Much of this work has been completed in co-operation with Abingdon Town Council and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust.

MRG

HRH Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award

Six Abingdonians have been awarded the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award for young people. These boys have made a difference to the lives of old people in the Abingdon area and have raised the awareness of service in the Middle School.

They entered the school in the Third Form, five years ago, determined to offer service. Their ideas and enthusiasm, which started with a small Christmas entertainment at Cygnet Court, formed the bedrock of today's flourishing activity: visits to four residential homes in the town, visits to elderly residents in their own homes and termly tea parties here in the Dining Hall. **J. Anderson** was the driving force behind the original group and **J. Fisher** has masterminded the Community Service tea parties in the last four years, ably assisted by **J. Buchan**, **W. Horwitz**, **A. Peychers** and **A. Eeles**.

The award-winners have been awarded certificates. Earl Spencer has offered them the chance to visit Al-

thorp this summer and they are invited to a tour of the House of Commons with the Abingdon MP, Dr Evan Harris.

About one hundred boys offer some kind of service each term. Boys in this year's Upper Sixth who have given four or five years' loyal service in a number of different areas are **L. Berryman**, who has visited an old gentleman who was depressed but since the visits is optimistic again; **I. Collin** worked at the hospital and has done gardening for old people; **D. Findlay** was one of the first visitors to Nicholson House where he and **D. Hammersley** arranged tea and entertainment. Both have recently worked at Abingdon Hospital and the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. **J. Pargeter**, famous for his sweet and doughnut charity sales in Middle School, has supported a number of service activities. Loyal service in itself is an achievement, but five years' loyal service is outstanding and these boys deserve congratulation.

MMH

Community Service Tea Party

"Pip's Party People", assisted by Fourth Form and Lower Sixth volunteers entertained fifty guests from Nicholson House, Old Station House, Fountain Court and Lady Eleanor Court and School families to tea in the dining hall.

Ralph Wiskin had prepared a delicious tea of fresh sandwiches and homemade cakes. During tea **Francis Haydon's** imaginative treasure hunt circulated. The treasure (a box of chocolates) was won by a visitor from Fountain Court. **G. Potter** as master of ceremonies launched the proceedings to a stylish start.

B. Allen was quizmaster for an imaginative and amusing quiz devised by **A. Beaumont** and **G. For-**

rest. The questions ranged from subjects such as the Coronation to *Eastenders*. **E. Caird**, **A. Kingdon** and **D. Ridley** gave an excellent performance of Handel's *Air on a G string* which had a marvellously relaxing effect on the assembled company.

By contrast we enjoyed equally **M. Hutchinson's** and **A. Mugnaioni's** clever and humorous reading of Wordsworth's *Daffodils* and Michael Palin's limericks. While digesting tea we had to hear the sad tale of *Keith, stuck in the Headmaster's teeth*. This term there were only three sponges in the raffle prizes, but lots of soft toys and flowers: prizes for almost everyone.

The **Headmaster** kindly said our farewells.

MMH

Community Service - its importance and effect ...

This year many students visited Abingdon Community Hospital each week. During the time spent there they helped the overworked staff on the ward and kept the patients company. Often the work on the ward was only helping the nurses to set out the tea things and sorting out the cutlery, but every little helps!

Keeping the patients company is probably the most beneficial aspect of our work. Whether it involved reading the newspaper to those with eye problems, playing scrabble or draughts, or just talking, it provided some variety to the patients' otherwise boring day. In addition to this, the work has given potential medical students fantastic experience of interacting with patients and the workings of local community hospitals.

T.FIENNES VI BAHF

Older and Bolder is for young at heart retired ladies and gentlemen. It offers a choice of different activities with the emphasis on remaining active and enjoying life to the full in a positive, relaxed and fun atmosphere.

We are also very lucky to have the company of the boys from Abingdon School. They come along each week and join in all the activities with much enthusiasm. They also bring ideas and suggestions for afternoon entertainment (definitely bringing a touch of spring to the afternoons), making us laugh and remembering our youth, enabling us to exchange experiences with each other. This is a positive approach to inter-generational practice, a way forward.

THANK YOU

Dear Headmaster,

I would like you to know how much the contribution that your pupils have been making towards the distribution of harvest gifts to the elderly in our area is appreciated.

Their regular visiting of the elderly as well as occasional activities such as this is exemplary, and I have received many indications of how much the recipients value them.

Mrs Manship, of course, puts a lot of work into organising these visits and activities, and has seen how much the boys themselves benefit from, as well as enjoy, this work, but I would like both you and they to know that their efforts do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

With warmest good wishes ...

Dear Mrs Hawkey,

I greatly enjoyed this afternoon at the tea party and heartily congratulate you on all the organisation involved. I cannot imagine that you had a rehearsal for today but fitting so much into the programme and finishing dead on time at 5pm was truly amazing!

Thank you and the boys for all that you do. Their help and friendship are greatly appreciated.

My best wishes to you for Christmas ...

Dear Mrs Hawkey,

I was delighted to read the report and appreciation the Community Service boys which is well deserved. I have enjoyed the friendship and help of Jamie, William, Iva, Alex and Max. I am hoping to move into Cygnet Cou soon and may see the boys again down there.

Thank you for all the work entailed in organising the activity. I hope you are enjoying the Easter holidays.

With best wishes ...

Dear Mrs Hankey,

I must tell you what a good job my garden-
ing trio did for me today. Armed with two seca-
teurs, two shears, brushes and green sacks they
attacked the ivy that encroached a foot over the
pavement from the low stone wall bordering my
garden. Vigorous brushing broke the broom but
Ivan soon had it mended. I was delighted with the
improvement that would have taken me a week
to achieve.

Over tea we had time for a chat about their
career aspirations and I appreciated their com-
pany.

I greatly value their help ...

Dear Mrs Hankey,

Another tea party greatly enjoyed. It was kind
of you to invite me ... to make new friends.

I am always amazed at the variety you man-
age to fit into eighty minutes.

I send my warmest thanks to you and to all
members of the 3rd Year Tea Party Committee.
They do a good job and are greatly appreciated.

All the best for the approaching summer holi-
days to everyone

Yours ...

Dear Mrs. Hankey,

It is a long time since we communicated with each other.
I would like to say thank you very much for sending Alex
Eeles to us for his Placement. His contribution on Thurs-
days has been very beneficial to the needs of our clients.
He made very many friends during his time with us. His
attitude and sympathetic understanding of the needs of
vulnerable people in the Day Centre made him very popular
with both staff and clients.

We all wish him well in his future career at university.
I do hope that you will be able to send some students next
term.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely ...

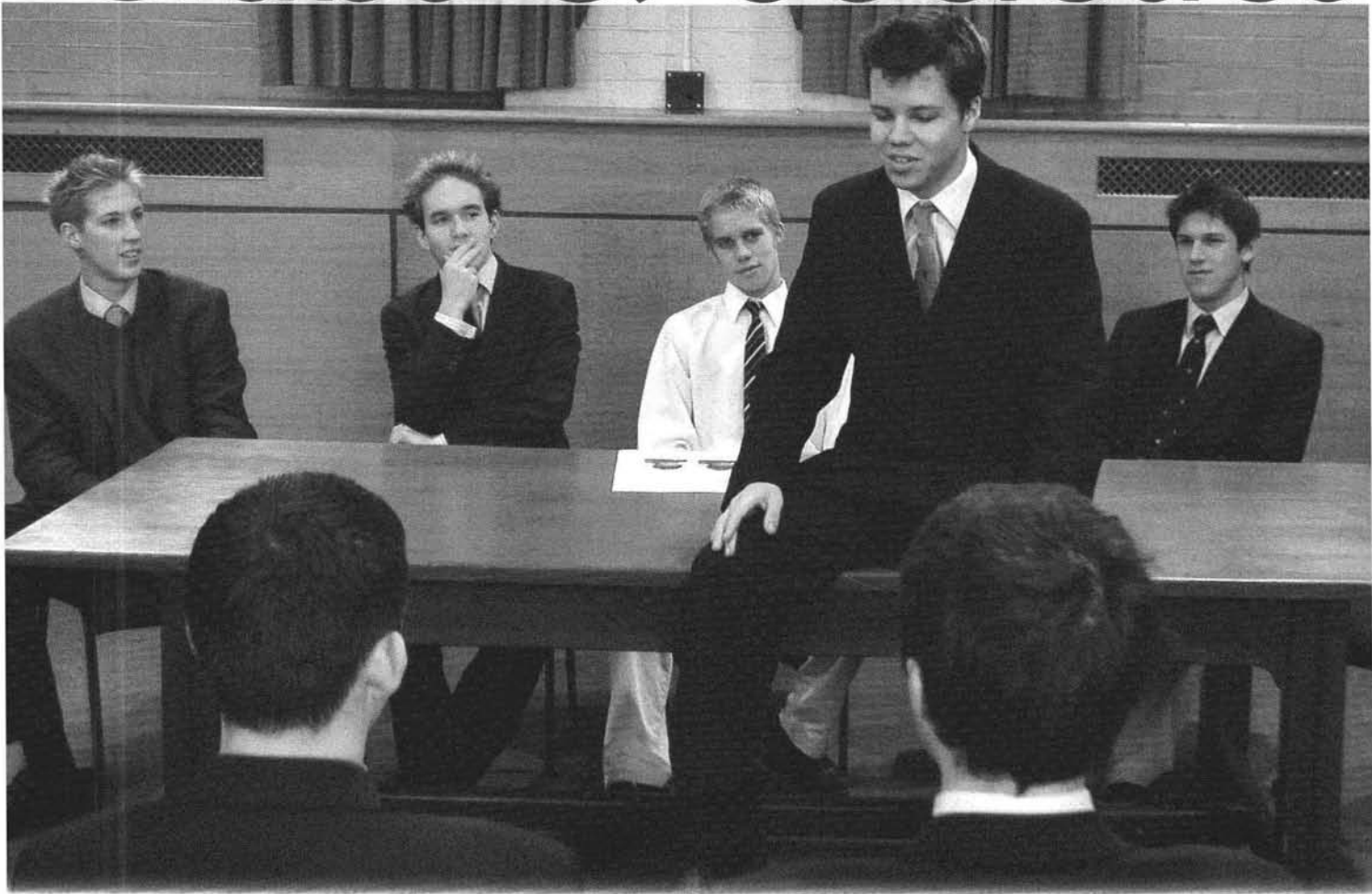
Dear Mrs Hankey

I would like to take this opportunity to thank-
you for your kind invitation for the residents
of Old Station House to attend your Christmas
Tea Party.

I was on duty when they returned yesterday
and all those who attended were extremely enthu-
siastic. They particularly praised the students
and commented on their kindness. Please pass
on my thanks to all involved. Wishing you all
a Merry Xmas.

Sincerely ...

Clubs & Societies



Debating

Abingdon School's oldest non-sporting society has once again had a busy and to some extent successful year. The debating season kicked off to an ostentatious start with the first series of debates held in the illustrious surroundings of the Amey Hall. This imposing platform allowed speakers to flex their oratorical muscles with admirable aplomb, offering forth rhetoric on motions as wide-ranging as 'This House Would Go To War With Iraq' and 'This House Would Go Swimming At Michael Barrymore's'. Whilst the former motion was somewhat trivialised by the orators involved, the latter was granted far more significance in the hearts and minds of both speakers and audience alike - revealing a penchant for puerility which resounded throughout the year. This was never more evident than during the Michaelmas term balloon debate, of which the theme was 'Disgraced Britons'. The event was won by **M. Burnard** as an alarmingly convincing Gary Glitter, who coaxed the audience into voting for him during various stages of undress. **T. Reeves** came an agonisingly close second as a debauched and dramatic Jack The Ripper.

The end of the Michaelmas term saw chairman **B. Burnham** and society secretary **D. Hammersley** take part in the Cambridge Union Schools' Debating

Competition. The first round was held in a sordidly intimate little room at Bloxham school; our team was knocked out by Warwick School in our first experience of parliamentary-style debating, and left the venue feeling emotionally dejected and intellectually violated. Following this, a tactical switch was made by debating impresario **WHZ**, and **M. Burnard** came off the substitutes' bench in the Lent term to compete alongside **B. Burnham** in the Oxford Union's equivalent competition. Over 3,000 schools take part in this competition from as far afield as Canada; having qualified from our regional round held at Headington School, and having seen off competition from the likes of Radley and Magdalen College School, we were invited to finals' day at the Union itself. In our first debate we were placed in the 'group of death' alongside King Edward's School, Birmingham and Derby Grammar School, both of whom reached the final eight schools in the competition. After performing admirably in the first three rounds our team failed to reach the semi-finals. A mention must go to **JFB**'s unfailing inspiration to the team during this competition in **WHZ**'s absence.

As the Lent term rolled on, the Amey Hall extension was under way and the Society was relocated to

the dank B14 in the English Department with the kind permission of **RSKM**. The eviction from our familiar surroundings to this diminutive chamber was profoundly unfortunate and subsequently **M. Burnard**, along with other top debaters like secretary **T. Hooper** and chairman **H. Hunter**, considered appearance in this forum to be a debasement of their expertise. Consequently, many bright stars of the future had a chance to shine - such as **G. Potter**, **N. Shaikh**, **T. Vaughan-Fowler**, **S. Kapoor** and the society's intellectual fulcrum, **M. Cross**. Many previously inauspicious debaters came out of the woodwork to deliver masterful speeches during the year as well, such as **L. Berryman**, **S. Cannon** and **A. Robinson**. This last reappeared as Prince Roy in the Lent term balloon debate on 'World Leaders' which was won by **A. Nash** as Jacques Chirac - a generic Frenchman offering irresistibly unholy communion from his baguette.

Finally, during the Lent term the Rotary Club Youth Speaks Competition entrants made a valiant assault upon retention of our regional crown. Unfortunately, there was no replication of the last two years' success

but in the face of stiff opposition our representatives **J. Rose**, **L. Berryman** and **M. Burnard** put up a good fight. Next year the Debating Society enters its centenary year and the present committee wish their successors luck in the future.

B. BURNHAM VITCG

The new central committee of the Debating Society for 2003-4 consists of three chairmen: **A. Nash**, **G. Potter** and **T. Vaughan-Fowler**, and two secretaries: **T. Reeves** and **N. Shaikh**.

In June there was a Lower School and Middle School debate, chaired ably by **W. Hall**; the motion that drug abusers should not be allowed to use the NHS was passed.

The last debate of the school year was another grand balloon debate involving 'Famous Sidekicks'. The winner (again) was **A. Nash** as 'Woodstock'; second came **WHZ** as 'Genghis Khan's Lieutenant'; and third was **M. Cross** as his father 'Gary Cross, a BMW Executive'.

WHZ

Public Speaking Competition

UPPER SCHOOL:

Spencer's : **T. Vaughan-Fowler**,
A. Nash, **P. Tubman**.

FIFTH FORM:

Aitken's : **N. Turnbull**, **B. Cullen**,
B. Phillips.

FOURTH FORM:

Aitken's : **M. Nurton**, **J. Innes**,
A. Ingham-Brooke.

THIRD FORM:

Drummond-Hay's :
T. Blakey,
S. Robertson, **T. Dean**.

SECOND FORM:

2W : **M. Neil**, **G. Rogers**,
J.-P. Martin.

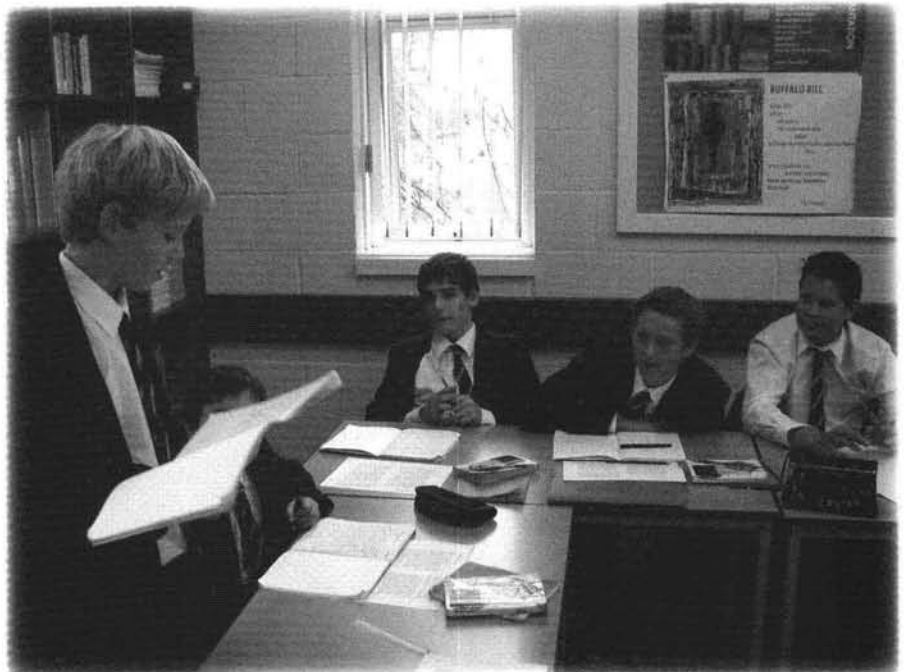
FIRST FORM:

1B : **R. Copus**,
M. Heffernan, **J. Zhu**.

Warm congratulations to all the winners. The Debating Society is also very grateful to all members of staff who took part as judges of the competition. **D. Hammersley** (the departing Secretary of the Debating Society) must be mentioned in this context; he played a vital role in the organization of the whole competition.

WHZ

Early lessons in
Public Speaking ...



Christian Union

We meet once a week during Tuesday lunchtime and discuss a section from the book of the Bible that we are studying that term. The CU is led by **TJCG** and **JPN** and they arrange our guest speakers and the programme, after asking for suggestions. The idea of the Christian Union is not only to try to understand what these passages mean and how we should relate them to our lives, but also to help those who aren't Christians to understand a bit more about what we believe.

Numbers have varied this year between ten and eighteen each week, mainly drawn from the Fourth Form, the Lower and Upper Sixth. Some Sixth Form girls from St Helen's also came along. This term we have been looking at *Exodus* and *Numbers*, exploring

the theme 'From Slavery to the Promised Land'. In the Lent term we studied St Paul's *Letter to the Philippians* and before Christmas we considered some of the common objections to Christianity in a series entitled 'Tough Questions'. At the end of the term we had a CU barbecue behind Crescent House, which was a lot of fun. We also enjoyed a great talk on 'The Man who makes a difference'.

There is a Junior CU for the Lower School, led by **ACWB** and **ALB**, which meets at the same time in Mercers' Court. The Abingdon School CU offers a great opportunity to look into the Christian faith and is a worthwhile venture. Anyone is welcome and refreshments are provided.

P. BIRKETT 4JHT

Bridge Club



There have been two competitions this year. Normally there are three but our leader **PKHR** has taken a sabbatical term recently – we await his return with impatient shuffling as we have not yet been told our placings countrywide from the Lent term competition.

In the autumn **J. Lillycrop** and **A. Huzzey** were first in the School competition while coming in the top ten in the country. In the Lent term

The numbers in the Bridge Club have swelled this year with newcomers from all age-groups. Competitions are always popular and we usually have six pairs attending for these needle matches. The competitions are games of duplicate bridge, which for those not in the know, requires every pair to play the same hands and those with the best score at the end of the hands win.

J. Gibson and **O. Bennett** were first in the school – hence the impatience – and goodness knows where in the country!

Bridge is a great game and very sociable – do come along at lunchtimes and Wednesday afternoons whether you know how to play or not.

O. BENNETT 4CJB

Fencing

Following an excellent recruitment drive after this year's Activities Fair, the Fencing Club has enjoyed a good year. With lots of First and Second Form interest, Herman Du Preez, our professional coach, has started to build and train squads for competitions in the local and national competitive events. The Club now meets twice a week for advanced fencing on a Monday afternoon and basic training on Thursday afternoon.

Fencing is a popular sport but the cost of buying the kit is very high. I have been delighted that, with the **Headmaster's** support, the Club has been able to secure a capital budget from the School for next year which will allow us to buy the urgently needed kit for training in the School. This will also allow us to fence competitively.

Shooting

A hectic year for the Rifle Club; many thousands of targets have bitten the dust in the quest for the perfect grouping.

A very strong senior team, captained by **P.Wakefield**, won promotion into the first division of the British Schools Small-Bore League after the winter season. With the departure of the captain, and also stalwarts **A. Campbell** and **N. Rogers**, their successors will have to work hard to stay in the top six schools next year.

Most shooting matches are conducted by post, but there were a few opportunities this year for the more exciting head-to-head competitions. Away matches against Winchester College and Ellesmere resulted in wins for Abingdon. An innovation was the Air Rifle match against girls from St Helen's – toughly contested, with a marginal win to Abingdon.

A number of visits to Bisley (the Mecca of Shooting) for training and competition took place during the year. One to be highlighted is our first full-bore competition at 600 yards for quite some time. This requires quite a different technique from small-bore shooting, and our team was pleased to come sixth.

At Easter a German county team from Stade visited Abingdon for several days to shoot against the School. Our teams won on both full days of shooting, at home and at Bisley. Next Easter we shall have a return match against them in Germany.

The House Competition was won this year by

There have been two competitions during the course of the year. A friendly match against St Helen's which we won convincingly: 1st Foil (Junior) won 6.3 - **J.Woods, J. Hemmet** and **S. Sam-Sadeen** - reserve was **T. Ojo**. 1st Foil (Senior) won 7.2 - **P. Norris, A. Brown** and **I. Sanderson** - reserve was **A. Hoath**. We did less well in a recent junior competition held at Summer Fields School in Oxford; the competition was strong and many of our rivals had been fencing for a long time! It was a valuable experience for our young players to see the level of competition that exists elsewhere.

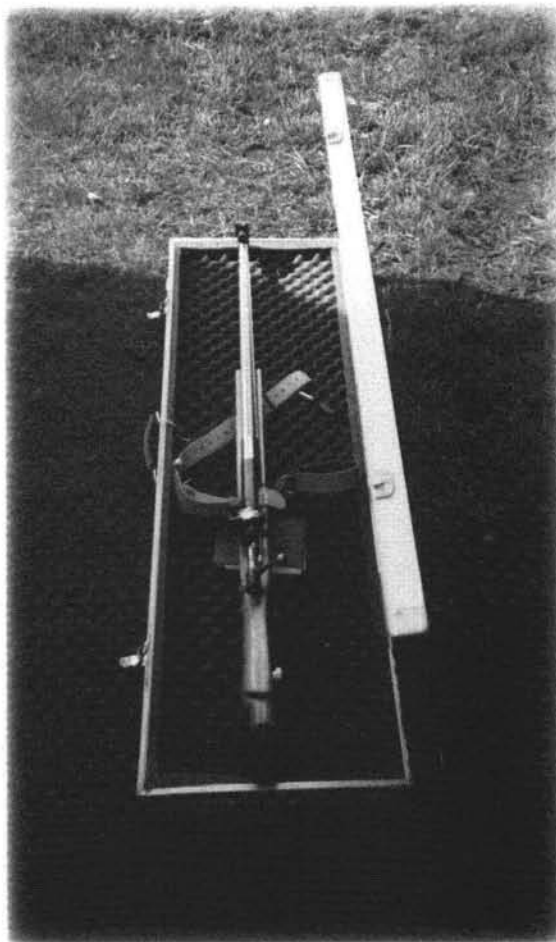
With new kit and continued interest within the School, I look forward to a buoyant and exciting new season in September.

ICF

Townsend's. **P.Wakefield** won the individual trophy. The staff competition was won by a Senior Management team led by the **Headmaster**.

The year was completed with the good news that **N. Rogers** has been selected to shoot for the Welsh schools' team.

DF



Lower Sixth Challenge

This well established general knowledge competition provided the Lower Sixth with an enjoyable and at times exciting attraction after their return from AS examination leave in June.

In the final, held on Monday 30 June in the Charles Maude Room in the presence of the entire Lower Sixth, **6 JFH (E. Anstysz, G. Innes, N. Patterson, and D. Sullivan)** beat **6 JFB (J. Ansell, A. Garton Ash, M.-L. Jones, and E. Mitchard)** by 530 points to 260 points. **6 JFB** had shown star qualities in the earlier heats of the competition but on this early Monday morning they did not seem fully awake; at no stage did they seriously threaten **6 JFH**. The winning team, in contrast, were on excellent form, as they had been throughout the competition: quick, focused, and

impressively knowledgeable. Interestingly enough, in terms of tutors, this was a reversal of the 2001 final; do we have the beginnings of a **JFH-JFB** rivalry?

Looking back at the whole competition, it was good to see that all the participants (thirty-six boys, that is exactly a quarter of the entire year group) were able to contribute to their teams' efforts and to tackle a wide range of questions. Current affairs were well answered, as well as sport, science, history, classical mythology, and music. Some of the contestants were on less sure ground when dealing with types of dancing, perfumes, the Irish police, the Gregorian calendar, the cinema, comic characters (are reading habits changing?) and some literary topics. There were no grotesque 'howlers' this year, although the quiz master was alarmed when one participant thought that Russia was joining the European Union in 2004.

WHZ

Schools' Challenge

The strongest individual performers in the Lower Sixth Challenge will be invited in the Michaelmas term, after some very rigorous and demanding tests, to represent the School in the Schools' Challenge competition which is played nation-wide. We very much hope that with the talent in our current Lower Sixth we can maintain our strong national position in 2003-4.

Our 2002-3 team (**A. Robinson** (VITCG), **N. Heaney** (VITCG), **A. Francis** (4 SEB) and **A. Boxell** (4 RPF) showed great

spirit and energy in their victorious match against Radley in November and went on to the Regional Finals in London in January. Alas, they were narrowly defeated by the City of London School who emerged as the regional winners. **N. Heaney** was a veteran member of our team and I would not be surprised to see him and **A. Robinson** appear one day on University Challenge. Our two Fourthformers showed great promise and will, I am sure, also make their mark representing the School again in the future. Very warm thanks are due to **PER** and **GJC** who very kindly took our team to London.

WHZ

Wargaming

The Wargaming Society has had a good year, with large numbers of avid wargamers attending the weekly sessions. These range from Firstformers to the Sixthformers who help run the Club. Every Wednesday B4 is filled with thousands of creatures doing battle, commanded by their masters. Armies are lovingly painted to reflect the master: brilliant green clashes

with blood red on one table, while on another the battle for Middle Earth is fought again! Games are created by fans, and played out with friends over periods spanning from a day to over a year! Wargaming is a good place to meet other people who share the same interests, and then smash them to pieces in a battle. New this year has been a very successful game, *Battle Fleet Gothic*, where players control spaceships kilometres long in a battle to control the galaxy.

I have been a member of Wargaming for four years now. Each week I look forward to Wednesday, when we all meet up and continue the next instalment of our epic quest. When I first started to attend, Wargaming was not that popular, with around ten regular members who would turn up each week. This year the Society has been packed with members from all parts of the School, so many that people have had to be turned away because the room has become full! Now I am responsible for the general running of the Society, a challenging post as I have to deal with everything from rowdy Firstformers complaining against the opposition, to buying new games and additions to current games. I have enjoyed being part of Wargaming, and I hope that it will continue to be as popular in the future as it is now.

C. ROBERTSON 6JEF



History Society

This year's distinguished visitors provided a welcome overview of two important subjects which continue to feature even in the much depleted A Level syllabuses of our day. In his address on 'Oliver Cromwell and the English Revolution', Dr David Smith, a Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, engagingly surveyed the career of the Lord Protector; he emphasized Cromwell's belief that he was doing 'God's work' and suggested that this attitude crystallised after Cromwell's 'mid-life crisis'. Sadly, Dr Smith could not vouch for the authenticity of the Cromwell autograph acquired by the School several years ago.

It was a pleasure to welcome again Dr Geoffrey Ellis, a Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford, and one of the country's leading

authorities on Napoleon and his age. In his talk 'The Napoleonic Empire Revisited', Dr Ellis identified areas where new research had been done since the appearance in 1991 of the first edition of his successful book on the Napoleonic empire - and which he had incorporated in the second edition of the work which has just come out. One of Napoleon's newly recognized legacies was the creation of the gendarmerie, which came to be adopted by most continental states of Europe.

Both talks provided our boys (and contingents of St Helen's girls) with much food for thought about the nature of power and about the role of great statesmen in periods of revolutionary upheaval; one of the much valued aspects of these talks is the opportunity they provide for stimulating discussion.

WHZ

The Golgi Body

The Golgi Body is a new discussion forum for Sixth Form Biologists. Each member gives an illustrated talk on an aspect of biology that interests him, and he may take the subject beyond the confines of AS/A2 specifications. The group asks questions and discusses issues raised by the talk. A buffet supper concludes the evening.

E. Mitchard gave the first talk of the year on his experiences in Amazonia with Prof. Sir Ian Prance. This was a very well informed and superbly illustrated talk about the threats to the fragile environment of the Amazon. The audience discussed several ways of implementing a sustainable conservation policy, but was not optimistic that this would happen.

M-L. Jones started the second talk with the question, "Why evolve?" Once we had established that evolution is a natural consequence of random mutations, he then asked us, "Why, if we are evolved from monkeys, are monkeys still around?" The question in fact relies on a misconception, for modern monkeys are different from original monkeys. They are now better adapted to their surroundings than when we evolved from them. We then discussed how bees can continue to flourish when their instinct to kill intruders in fact kills them, and finally rehearsed the old 'nature-versus-nurture' arguments. This was an interesting and thought-provoking speech, with some very involving questions posed afterwards.

T. Gatten began the third evening's talk by telling us how Gene Silencing (a technique meant to be capable of curing all viral diseases) was discovered by accident. Scientists had been trying to make blue flowers bluer by inserting another copy of the blue gene, but the resultant flowers were white. They discovered that eucaryotic cells have a defence system against viruses that we might use to 'vaccinate' against them. This could theoretically enable every virus to be destroyed when it entered a vaccinated human cell.

So runs the theory, but **C. Turner** then gave us a talk on the practical difficulties. It is nearly impossible to place double-stranded RNA into every cell in the body, since we have another defence

mechanism against it already. He finished his beautifully illustrated talk by offering potential solutions which may mean that this technology could save lives in the not-too-distant future. Although this talk highlighted the speed and number of new biological discoveries (Gene Silencing had not been heard of ten years ago), now it seems almost outdated and research is going elsewhere.

S. Jackson's fourth talk was a very detailed account of the various drugs taken by sportsmen and sportswomen. This was very informative and scientific, and showed us the subtle ways in which these drugs influence the body to increase its performance. He also discussed the dangers of taking such drugs. It amazes me that people still take them, considering they all have such long lists of side-effects. **J. Barclay** continued with an ethical account of how performance can be improved without drugs. There was an interesting discussion of different types of muscle, and how they change with only fairly limited amounts of exercise. Should a sportsman damage his own health and break the rules by taking drugs in order to compete with others who do? **S. McMahon** held the controversial opinion that sportsmen should be allowed to take drugs because regulation is impossible. Sport would become a competition of whose body reacts best to drugs!

W. Lee next gave us a very interesting and well presented overview of research into therapeutic cloning and stem cells and explained why many would like this research stopped. We were told why researchers are so keen to use embryonic stem cells because of their greater potential for growth speed and the number of different tissues they can become. Whilst there are a huge number of conditions that could be solved using stem cells - from broken necks to re-growing whole organs for transplantation - did we agree with embryos being destroyed for use in research? We discussed this point in detail, generally agreeing that a single cell should not have all the rights of an adult human being just because it has a potential to become one. Trying to decide on a cut off point after which no more research can be done on an embryo is very hard, however! This was a very interesting talk, covering issues that many of us may have to face in our occupations, so forcing us to take up our own position on these issues is very important.

E. MITCHARD VIJFB

Beyond Abingdon



Ski Tour to Colorado

This year's ski trip to Denver and the Winter Park ski resort was a great success. With America's beautiful views and great ski runs it was an excellent place to visit over the holiday leading up to Christmas.

After a good journey from Abingdon we arrived at the airport in time for the all-important burger, shopping and the plane to Cincinnati. After a long and fairly dull flight we arrived at Cincinnati where we boarded a flight to Denver. We then took a bus to our final destination - Beaver Village Lodge in the Winter Park Ski Resort: our home for the next week.

The rooms were great and the local people made us feel very welcome. The rooms were everything you would expect from a basic hotel including, to the relief of all, the vital television.

Next day was to be our free day for jet-lag recovery and we spent it enjoyably comparing the US shopping experience with our own. Strangely enough wandering pretty aimlessly around an outdoor shopping outlet in the US is very similar to wandering pretty aimlessly around an outdoor shopping outlet in the UK!

Over the next six days we skied every day with an hour's break for lunch. For the skiers the hardest part of the day was the start - having to lug your skis, poles and anything else you wanted to take from your room to the bus stop! When we got on to the slopes of the mountains for the first time and were skiing fast (fast for the first timers at least) it was an amazing feeling. As the week continued we all learned new skills and techniques which helped us to go faster but with more control. We were all helped and advised by the instructors at Winter Park who had no doubt seen it all before but, nevertheless, gave us valuable and much needed training and support.

In no time at all it was time to leave. It would be a long and tiring journey back but with Christmas just around the corner there were no real complaints and everyone was ready. The trip was a great experience and one that I will not forget in a hurry. Many thanks to all the staff for making the trip possible in particular **AJM** who was responsible for the inevitable organisation involved in a trip like this.

See you next year!

B. ALLEN 3MMH

A Gap Year in China

According to its inhabitants, Yantai is a small fishing village; however, it has a population of over 6 million and some of the most impressive skyscrapers I have ever seen. Of this population, there are about 40 westerners so I was naturally quite conspicuous. With celebrity status came the advantage of being bought drinks by complete strangers (who spoke no English whatsoever) and the disadvantage of being hassled by street vendors, beggars and thieves (one of whom went to the trouble of running down, robbing and leaving one of my fellow English teacher friends for dead).

I was staying in a two-bedroomed apartment in a block. Most families live like this. I was living with another English teacher from Reading rather than with a family. I taught 8 to 20 year olds at two different schools where class sizes varied from 60 to 120 pupils. The students are at the school for up to 15 hours a day, six and a half days a week and they spend most lessons in silence. This régime, and the fact that most of them had not seen an English person, let alone spoken to or been taught by one, made for a very receptive and entertaining group of students. The students were normally not allowed to speak or ask questions during a lesson so the smallest amount of freedom could mean a very enthusiastic or a very noisy class.

I spent most lessons trying to extend the pupils' vocabularies and to get them to be more confident when speaking. The main problem I encountered was that they were being taught English in a manner closer to the way I was taught Latin than how I was taught Russian (my modern language at Abingdon) and the teachers told me on several occasions that they thought my teaching style was very interesting and were surprised to hear that I was not a qualified teacher.

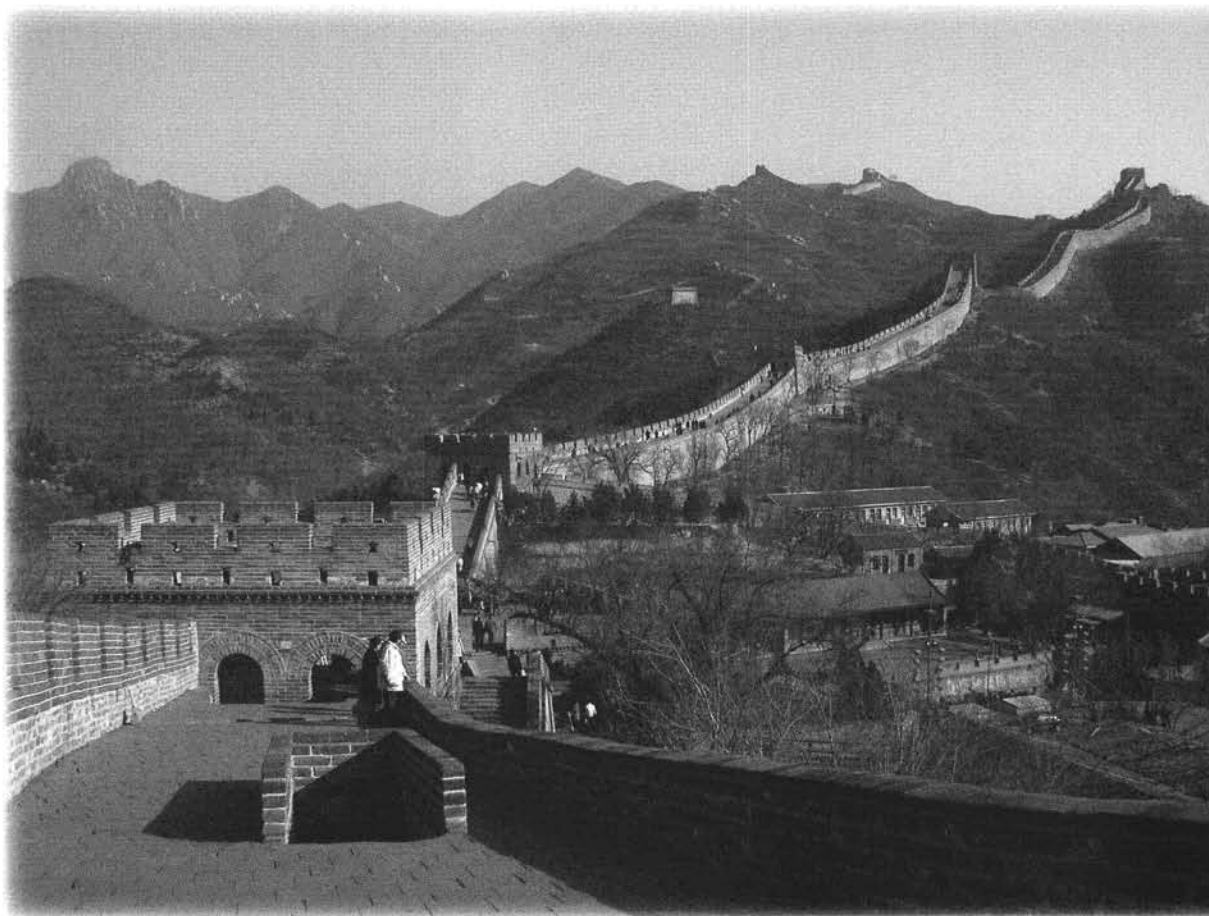
Many of the students had a very high level of written English,

but they would refuse to speak in class because they seemed unable to construct an answer in their head as they spoke. This was a problem which I could not overcome and so I just tried to correct some of the common misconceptions about England and its language. For example, the students now know (despite their Chinese teachers not believing them) that they can begin a conversation with an English person perfectly politely without talking about the weather.

As Yantai is a port, the food is mainly fish and other sea food (and nothing like the takeaway food available here), and apart from one meal where we forgot the Mandarin phrasebook and ended up doing animal impressions to find out what we had been served, it was very good.

Christmas is not celebrated very much and apart from some tacky ornaments in the supermarkets, including some festive pumpkins, there is little notice taken of it at all. The other three volunteers and I all had to teach on Christmas Day, but managed to organise a party in our apartment and despite everyone leaving at 9.00pm (they all had to get up at 5.30 for school the next day), we did manage to partake shamelessly in some festive karaoke.

G. STRATTON, OA



World Challenge: Tanzania

On the morning of 7 July, my ten travelling companions and I were waiting for our flight to Dubai and thence to Dar es Salaam. I had never been anywhere outside Europe before and so was excited and anxious to make the most of every moment, even the flight there. I felt confidently up to the Challenge, having completed 83 gruelling miles of the South West Coast Path and having spent two nights camping in Buxton and the Lake District. (Sleeping in a frozen tent is brilliant practice for a trip to Tanzania.) It was now up to us to make provisions for absolutely everything during our stay: food, accommodation, transport, guides and fuel, and anything else required. So we were interacting non-stop with the locals, in broken English, broken Swahili, and occasionally in French or German! Some we got to know really well, but all were incredibly friendly and eager to chat as best they could about everything from the African wildlife to Premiership football. Bus journeys and dalla-dalla journeys (minibuses) proved to be the best time for getting to know someone, jam-packed as we all were on one ride in the same overloaded coach for up to thirteen hours!

We began with a few days' low-level trekking in the south of Tanzania, in the rainforests of the Udzungwa mountains. Although one night the guards reported a lion in our immediate area, and although we followed an elephant's fresh trail for about a mile, thankfully we only saw the amazing views of the green mountains in the mist. Next we went to Little Ruaha, near the centre of the country. We saw the typical African bush land for the first time. Intermittent stops in Dar es Salaam, in Iringa and in Moshi throughout the month gave us a taste of the city life there (very different from anything I had experienced before).

The following week was devoted to working with the villagers of Tungamalenga to promote their developing tourist industry. We spent one morning building a mud-brick kiln with the locals (exhausting!), and the rest of the time exploring the large hill behind the village (the top of which is sacred to the people) for walking routes. This was a lot harder than it sounds, since we had to thrash our way through some miles of dense, twiggy undergrowth to make a route down the flank of the mountain, after having navigated the rocky outcrops at the very crown. Nonetheless we eventually plotted several paths, the guidebooks for which we have just completed and returned to the village. We have also written to *Lonely Planet Books*, asking that they might include Tungamalenga in the next edition of the Tanzania guidebook.

After the hard work of the last phase, we had decided to take in the Ruaha National Park by way of a Safari (Swahili for 'journey'). The park is in central Tanzania. It contains around 12,000 elephants and around twenty people at any given time! We saw elephant, gazelle, zebra, eland, baboon, impala, hippo, wild hunting-dogs, giraffe, buffalo, guinea fowl, and lions (at one time from a distance of ten feet!). Besides the abundant wildlife, the park itself is stunningly beautiful – especially at sunrise and sunset – and I would unreservedly recommend it over the crowded, domesticated parks in the North (the Ngorogoro Crater, and even the Serengeti).

From the relaxation of the National Park we took a thirteen-hour bus journey north to Moshi and the mountains and almost to the border with Kenya. From here we set out on the main trek up 4,566 m. of Mt. Meru, the second highest in Tanzania next to Kilimanjaro. Indeed we had breathtaking views of the 'White Mountain' between cloud layers. On the third day we left the hut at 1.30 am and scaled the upper heights of the mountain by head-torchlight so as to reach the summit by sunrise. We were rewarded with perhaps the most spectacular moment of the whole expedition, when the red sun came up through the clouds below us and beyond: the tip of Kilimanjaro, casting the shadow of the top of the mountain across the whole sky. Again, if you are thinking of climbing in North Tanzania I would recommend Mt Meru ('the Black Mountain') as a better option than the more popular, and hence more populous, Kilimanjaro. Besides the fact that you will benefit from the views of the larger mountain, the route is much more exciting than the 'motorway' up Kilimanjaro. Mt Meru also has the tallest cliffs in Africa (up to a kilometre in height) and, like its sister, it used to be a volcano; in fact, you walk around the rim of the crater to reach the peak and you can see the ash cone below you as you circumnavigate it.

The final stage took us off the west coast to Zanzibar, where we enjoyed the food of Stone Town and the swimming, fishing and diving off the long, white beaches. First, however, we were given a spice tour of the island – since it is known as the 'Spice Island' – and we learnt of its Sultan's and eastern connections, before tasting the spices from the trees on the plantations in a monsoon rainfall. We slept the last few nights on the beach, in palm 'bandas', making the most of the secluded northern part of Zanzibar in a place called Kendwa Rocks, which we had all to ourselves, thanks to the rain. After a flight back to the mainland in a small plane, we stayed a final night in Dar es Salaam to leave for Dubai and London the following day.

N. SADLER VI SAE

Language Exchanges: Russia

On the evening of 3 April I suddenly realised that I did not know the verb 'to be' in Russian. I was setting off at 05.30 the following morning to spend ten days in Moscow. So, you see, it was a worry!

Leaving the unusually warm spring behind us, we set off with a certain amount of trepidation to be plunged into single-figure temperatures, slush and even snowfall during our stay. Thankfully, I had my thermals and thick-soled boots, owing to the very thorough briefing we had been given by Mrs Earley and GCR. I had already met Marat, my exchange partner, the previous autumn when he spent ten days with my family. He and his father met me at the airport and I, and my huge amount of luggage (mainly presents), were bundled into the back of their Lada. We set off into the centre of Moscow and to their flat. My hosts were amazingly hospitable and incredibly kind to me. I was very embarrassed when I was given one of the two beds in the flat to sleep in. It was not that everyone else slept on the floor, it was just that there were a multitude of chair and sofa beds that were also used in order to make best use of the relatively limited space.

The first thing that struck me about Moscow was the amazing amount of public transport. Not only were there six main types but they were all so efficient! Marat lived a reasonable distance from the school so it took us about forty minutes to get there by tram and bus. One day we had a lift to school because Marat needed to take his skis home. I never quite discovered whether he skied to school in the thick of winter; if so, it must have taken hours! I do know, though, that the children ski in the numerous and huge parks in Moscow centre. It astonished me that there were such enormous parks there. Although the city is very grey and consists entirely of flats, there are immense green spaces.

If I told you our entire schedule for the ten days it would take most of the magazine. We were very busy and had a wonderful time. The first day was a perfect introduction. We went on a bus trip around Moscow and saw the Kremlin, St Basil's Cathedral and the White House and all the embassies (just in case!).

I really enjoyed going to the Space Centre where the teachers had their work cut out translating the guide! This was very orientated towards Gagarin and the Mir space station. Later we were taken to Kolomenskya, the summer residence of the early Tsars. **T. Carpenter's** acting was put to the test when he was pressed in to service as a bridegroom marrying a lucky Russian girl called Olga. Others were parents and the

priest and so we all learnt about Orthodox weddings!

We were exposed to Russian history and tradition in so many ways: by further trips to museums in the centre of Moscow and by spending time with our families and in the school. Every morning we had at least two lessons in the school. This included the adults as well. Mrs Hele taught English on more than one occasion! To be honest, my favourite lesson was English although I was astonished at how incredibly good they are at English compared to our rather scanty Russian! Stowed in my luggage was a rather amateur home-made crown that I had resisted the temptation to give away as this was an important prop for our day spent entirely at the Grammar School. I was to be Prince Charming in a play we performed for the Russians! The state circus was terrific although they had a great many more performing animals than circuses in this country. The clowns were funny, crossing all language boundaries with their antics! A visit to the ballet was in complete contrast. I wish that I had known the story of *The Nutcracker* but nonetheless it was an amazing experience. At the interval we had to go up a few flights on an escalator and then the escalator reversed direction to go back to our seats!0

So many memories ... Два и два, сто и пять - this is the announcer on the equivalent of Radio 1 ... feeling permanently full as the Russians do not have lunch but Marat's mother gave me a packed lunch every day, then Granny produced soup when we arrived home from school, then we had supper when the parents arrived home ... playing football on a mud plain - I still have Russian mud on my trainers ... Mrs Usinev being so unbelievably kind to me and even rushing out at night to find a proper Russian hat which she had spent most of the evening trying to track down by calling all her relations. It is a very beautiful hat ... the astonishing market that seemed to sell everything and not at the price advertised ... trying to learn Russian ...

When we arrived home I did not stop talking for hours because there was so much to tell and after all that, there is no verb 'to be' in the Russian language so there was no need to worry at all!

O. BENNETT 4CJB



"T. Carpenter's (centre) acting was put to the test when he was pressed in to service as a bridegroom marrying a lucky Russian girl called Olga."

Language Exchanges: Germany

Bielefeld

I had great fun in Germany. My exchange family was extremely nice, and provided everything I needed. Going to a German school was very interesting, and we even had a chemistry lesson in English, which was very entertaining!



At the weekend, I went with six other people from St Helen's and Abingdon and many Germans from the school to a small island off the north coast of Germany called Langeoog. Over there, the German school had a house, or a chalet, where we all stayed. Because it was winter, the island was pretty deserted, even though it had a town, with lots of shops in it. It reminded me of a movie set. This is a huge treat to the German pupils to come to the island. We played games, and went to

the beach a lot, which was all good fun.

Bielefeld city is a lovely place, rich in historic culture and traditions. It has an old city, and a bustling new city, where many of the malls and shops are located. The German exchange was great fun and was a superb experience, and I hope I will be able to go again next year.

A. LEWIN 4RPF

Berlin

Between 16 and 20 February a group of fifteen boys, accompanied by **DGA** and **JFB**, journeyed to a freezing Berlin for the German/History study trip. The aims of the trip were to familiarise ourselves with German culture, improve the German skills of the linguists and to learn something of the rich heritage of a country steeped in European history.

On the night of our arrival the rather weary troop undertook the inspiring visit to the Reichstag building, home of the German parliament, seeing the city by night from the transparent dome. Despite the late night, the group arose early the next morning for a day that included a panorama of Berlin from the top of the Fernsehturm, followed by a walk to the Brandenburg Gate - for us, one of the highlights of the tour. Other high points included The Jewish Museum, designed by Daniel Liebeskind, and the Charlottenburg Palace.

The visit to Checkpoint Charlie, the Stasi Museum and the film *Goodbye Lenin* enabled the group to gain an invaluable insight into the division and reunifica-

tion of Germany, and its influence today. The talk by **JFB**, at the feet of the statue of Frederick the Great on Unter den Linden, on the history of Prussia, lives on in the memories of all who heard it.

We also sampled the nightlife of Friedrichshain and Prenzlauer Berg, two areas of the old East Berlin which must have looked very different only fifteen years ago.

We all gained the impression of a city that is still very much a building site in some parts, but which already is a very exciting place to visit - and which can only become more so.

On behalf of all of the boys we would like to thank **DGA** and **JFB** for giving up their half-term to plan and supervise such an enjoyable experience. **JFB**'s historical knowledge, coupled with **DGA**'s organisational skills ensured a thoroughly informative and rewarding trip.

D. SULLIVAN 6JFH AND G. IVANOV 6MS

Language Exchanges: France

A group of fifteen Abingdonians from the Third and Fourth Forms, accompanied by **DJP** and **PW**, together with six girls from Our Lady's Convent Senior School with Mrs Burford, undertook the second part of this year's French exchange when they travelled to Prades in the eastern Pyrenees to stay with the families of their exchange partners who had visited Abingdon last October.

On Friday 4 April we set off to France on a RyanAir flight to Perpignan. Our teachers strongly recommended we take up the journey time looking at our phrase books. We were greeted by our exchange partners and families at the airport, and then we were taken to their homes for the weekend so that we could get to know our exchanges again.

As the weekend flew by it was time to attend lessons with our exchanges. I attended French and Catalan (a language which is a cross between French and Spanish). After a nice packed lunch I had time to talk to my friends about what they did during the weekend while climbing a steep hill to get to the historical fort of Liberia. We then descended an underground staircase called the 1000 stairs, although there were only actually 800 or so, to get to Villefranche, a spectacular fortified town.

On the next day we visited Perpignan to see Le Castillet and the cathedral. Unfortunately, Le Castillet was closed but we did see the spectacular Salle des Mariages. In the afternoon we visited Collioure, a picturesque fishing port on the Mediterranean associated with the Fauviste school of painting, where we listened to the French girls singing English songs - but they got all the lyrics wrong!

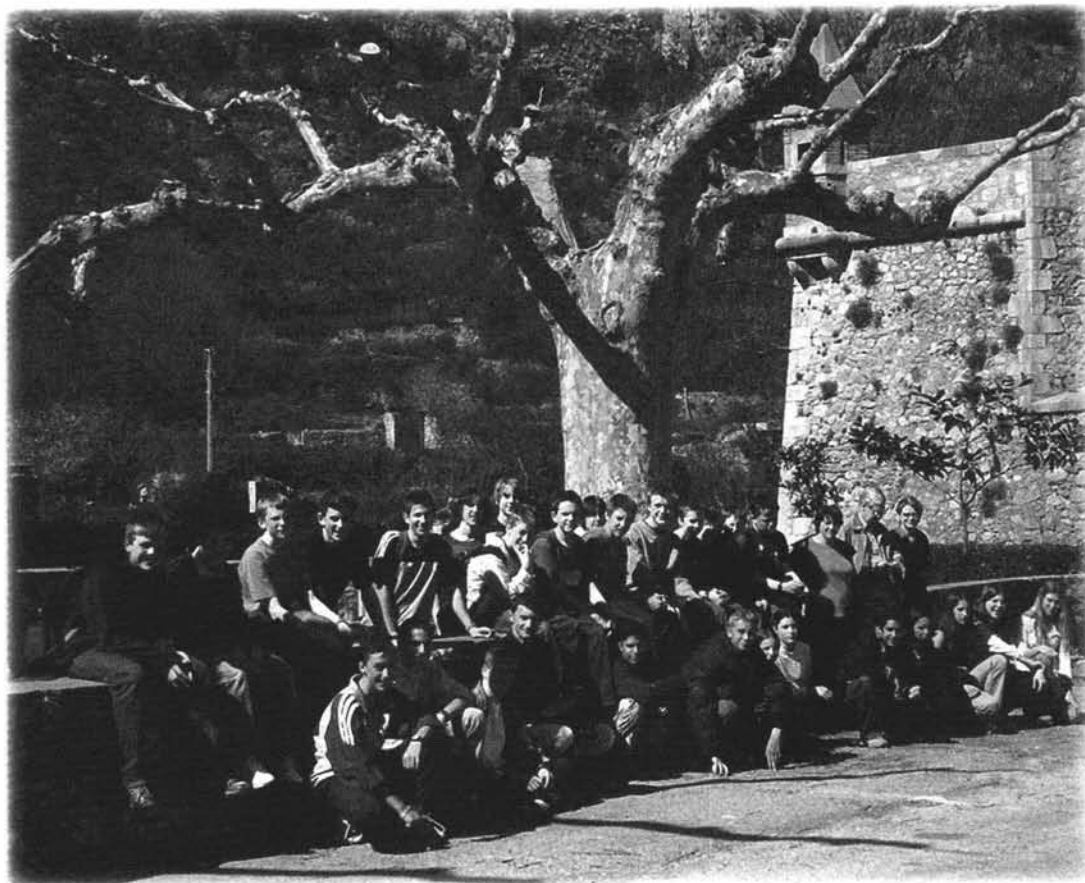
When Wednesday came we left Prades early to go to the abbey of St Martin du Canigou, accessible by climbing a concrete path up a steep hill for half an hour. The views were fantastic for taking pictures. After learning about the history of the abbey we then climbed back down and relaxed for the afternoon.

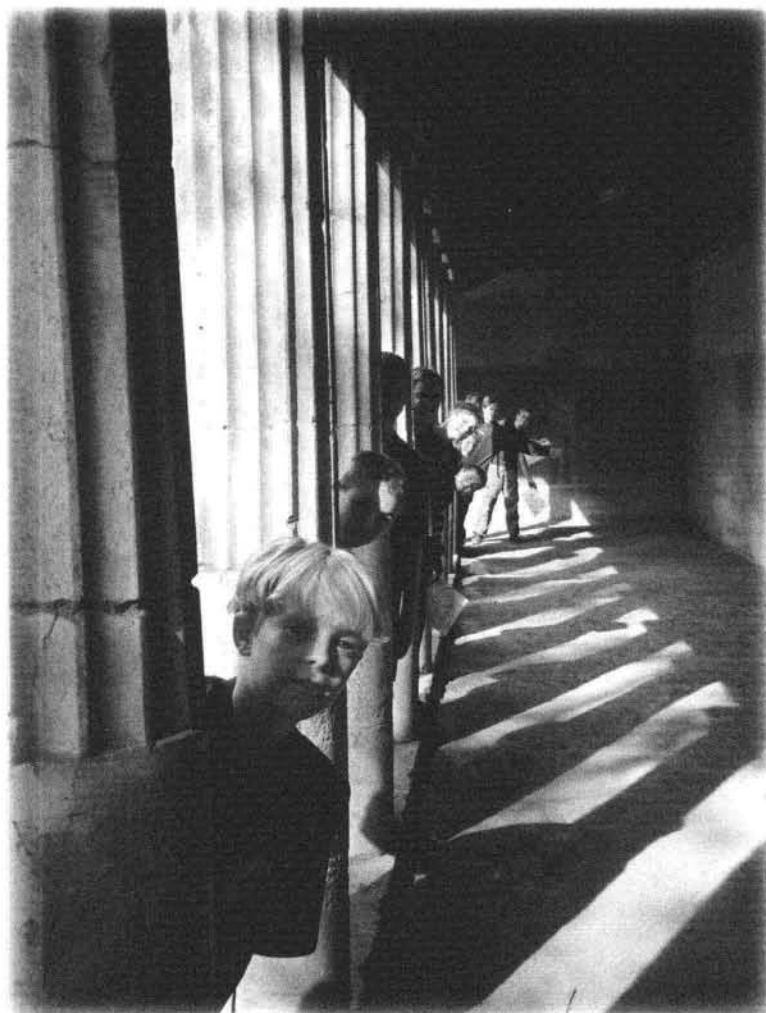
Thursday, our final day, gave us a walking tour of Prades and a visit to a jeweller, where we discovered the ancient Catalan and Mediterranean way of setting garnets in gold. After the final look around the village we said goodbye to our exchanges and their families and set off for the airport, sad that the time had gone by so quickly.

I would like to thank the teachers particularly for translating everything the tour guides were saying. *C'était formidable!*

L. TITLEY 3FAD AND PW

"We then descended ... to Villefranche, a spectacular fortified town."



Classics Trip to Italy

My younger sister was under the impression that I was leaving the country with the sole purpose of missing her birthday. In fact I was on the School's Classics Trip that visited Italy during the Michaelmas half-term.

Our hotel in Rome was ideally situated in the centre and once we had dropped our bags we set off to see the Colosseum - or the Flavian Amphitheatre to give it its correct title. It looked considerably more impressive from the ground than from the plane window. Although it is a building we are all familiar with and therefore it harbours few surprises - together with an army of pesky street-sellers - it is still a dramatic piece of architecture and it is a moving experience to stand within its walls.

The following day we embarked on a very long walk to the edge of the ancient city where we found JEF and son, who had craftily caught the tram. There we visited the Baths of Caracalla. This is a vast complex of bathhouses in a remarkably good condition. We were then marched to the Circus Maximus which could be easily mistaken for a park, but is where the chariot-racing took place. The rest of the day was taken up with seeing the Forum Romanum, Palatine Hill,

Nero's Golden Palace and the Capitoline Hill. We also saw the Arch of Titus as mentioned in our beloved Cambridge Latin Course.

Despite Rome offering virtually every form of metropolitan public transport it was decided that walking was the optimum mode of travel for Abingdon boys. Although most of the sights were in close proximity we were very glad of the 'dripping noses' (the public water taps) that are dotted along the pavement, especially as the weather was fine. On a night-time coach tour of the city I realised just how many buildings of historic interest Rome has to offer, not only ancient, but also dating from the Renaissance.

For me the following day's outing to Ostia was one of the highlights of the entire trip. Ostia was the ancient port of Rome. It has avoided redevelopment owing to the fact that over time the river Tiber and the sea have shifted away from the old port. Ostia gives a real sense of what a Roman colony must have been like.

The next day we took the coach to Sorrento on the Bay of Naples, stopping on the way to take in the tranquil delights of Hadrian's Villa. Having visited what remains of Nero's Golden Palace, this villa gave us a real idea of the full extent of a Roman emperor's villa, with its beautiful landscaped gardens and eccentric architecture. From Sorrento we could visit Pompeii. I was amazed by the sheer size of this ancient town and the way in which you could wander endlessly through its streets and houses discovering hidden mosaics, wall paintings and shrines.

The next day we visited Herculaneum. This is a smaller and less wealthy town than Pompeii, also preserved by the eruption of Vesuvius. Although there is less to see than at Pompeii, I enjoyed it more as there were far fewer tourists and, owing to its size, you can feel that you have seen everything there is. The most amazing thing about Herculaneum is how well it has been preserved: in some places the charred wood still remains. It is really special to wander round bathhouses that are almost completely intact. The trips to Pompeii, Herculaneum and Ostia really increased my interest and understanding of the ancient world.

All in all it was a fantastic trip. Not only were we able to visit some of the world's greatest classical sites but it felt like a holiday, especially when we went swimming in the sea at Sorrento in the shadow of a Roman villa. I bought my little sister an Italian football shirt as a birthday present. I think she has forgiven me.

H.ASPELING-JONES 5MRW

Geography Field Trip to Bristol

On 17 June, all Fourth Form pupils studying Geography were taken to Bristol in order to study issues raised in settlement geography. It was just a short coach journey away, and all were still bright and alert when we arrived. It was a good choice of area to study, because many staff knew the city well and were able to guide us.

Bristol, a city famed for its once-thriving docks, nurturing famous industries in tobacco, timber and slaves, had created a floating harbour in 1809 by constructing a dam. During the 20th century, however, this had declined and the city was faced with the problem of re-generating declining but potentially useful brownfield sites.

To look at this, we sent off on a boat trip along the length of the docks to look at the current land uses. We saw a wide range of expensive modern developments, offices and apartments. We also saw many modern services such as bars, restaurants, health clinics and clubs, services to those who live or work in the city centre.

Bristol has also been expanding its tourism industry with new science centres, recently refurbished historical ships and a new museum. Although many of the unlisted sites have been regenerated, there are still problems of pollution, traffic and toxicity from abandoned industrial sites.

We also studied the city centre, which has areas ranging from the ugly concrete forest of Broadmead to the pleasant park of Queen's Square. Here old buildings have been converted into offices and new firms have been set up. The city centre, however, does



have its disadvantages: it has less good accessibility and less parking space and land prices and space are at a premium.

It is for these reasons that we looked at an out-of-town shopping mall that has been newly built. It provides competition for city centre shops with attractive landscaped areas and many parking spaces. We looked at how the city centre has responded to this competition in services, resulting in shops being set up for different goods.

Good behaviour and organisation meant that we could gain much useful detailed case study material from the trip, as it displays examples of many aspects of urban geography. I would like to thank all the accompanying and Geography masters, and in particular **WTP** and **DGA**, for an enjoyable day.

C. PARKER 4AJPE

Latin Trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace

On Monday 30 June all the First Form and several teachers went to Fishbourne Roman Palace. As soon as we arrived we were given our lunches and it instantly started to pelt down with rain!

We split up into two groups and were then given sheets to fill out on all the parts of this site. The first part we went to was the museum. It had a lot of information with models and artefacts that were very interesting. We then had a slide show that told us about the building of the palace and its excavation in 1960. We then went to the mosaics which had beautiful geometric patterns, some in black and white and some in colour. A few of

the mosaics had a dip in them because the foundations were not deep enough so the weight of the buildings had gradually pushed the mosaics into the earth. After this we had an interesting lesson in classifying selected Roman artefacts, such as jugs, bowls and pestle and mortars. During this **S. Walton** and **S. Seller** dressed up as a wealthy man and a slave, respectively. **S. Seller** entered a typical Roman kitchen and carried out various kitchen tasks such as milling flour!

The day ended with a trip to the gift shop. This had been a fascinating and illuminating visit to the largest Roman palace north of the Alps.

A. CAMPBELL 1GGB

Moldova

Three years ago Abingdon School was approached by *Breadline*, a Christian charity working in Moldova, with a request that it should consider supporting a Moldovan school. The project was agreed and so began a link with No 4 School in Ialoveni, a small village on the outskirts of the capital city, Chisinau.



Among the many messages we have received from No 4 School was one from the Headmaster, Mr Mira, in which he made it clear that although our financial help was very much appreciated, what really meant the most to him and his staff was the friendship that the link represented. It was with this in mind that JT and I began to plan a trip to Moldova as the next step. Eight Sixthformers and one old boy signed up to join us and, with the help of *Breadline* and *Agape*, a very busy programme was organised.

After travelling for over 24 hours, we arrived in Chisinau to be greeted by Nicu, the leader of the *Agape* team, *Breadline's* partner charity in Moldova, who then took us to meet the Moldovan families that we were going to stay with for the next eight days. The poverty of Moldova was clear to see as we drove to Ialoveni: the roads were so full of potholes that any sense of lane discipline was lost because of having to swerve all over the place, and half-constructed buildings had been left to collapse where they stood when the money to build them had run out.

Any fears we Westerners may have had about staying in Moldovan houses were, according to Nicu, matched by the worries that our hosts had about letting Westerners used to much more luxurious surroundings into their homes. We soon discovered that neither side needed to have worried. Any problems of communication were either sorted out by sign language or by simply smiling broadly, and while we were quick to appreciate the very warm welcome that our hosts offered us, they also soon realised that we did not mind if they could not offer us hot running water or plush indoor toilets.

After spending the evening of our first day getting to know our host families, we spent the next visiting No 4 School. On our arrival we were offered salt

and bread, the traditional Moldovan welcome for visitors, and then given a tour around the school during which we saw some of the equipment we had helped to provide. The enthusiasm of the Moldovan children to meet us and practise their English was overwhelming - they seemed especially interested in asking us what we thought of Manchester United's defeat the night before at the hands of Real Madrid! - as was the obvious dedication of the staff to do the best that they could for their pupils despite their limited resources.

We returned to No 4 School several more times. On one evening a concert was put on for us in the school hall where we were treated to a superb presentation of traditional Moldovan dancing and music-making. Having been tipped off that we would be expected to perform ourselves, we responded with the National Anthem and a spirited rendition of *Old MacDonald had a Farm*, with sound effects provided by a thoroughly amused Moldovan audience. We also took part in a Moldova v England sports event at which honours were shared in basketball, football went England's way, while chess was most definitely won by Moldova.

Time was also spent visiting other projects which *Agape* is working with, including a school for the disabled in Ialoveni which has recently introduced a skills programme to give handicapped children the chance to attend classes in cobbling, embroidery, and hair dressing - this last gave one of our boys the opportunity to really break the ice by requesting a crew cut from a one-armed Moldovan student! In the village of Tintareni we spent time at a House of Transition for girls, established to look after teenage orphans and help them either obtain work or attend a further education course. We also learnt about a highly successful micro-finance scheme that had been set up to provide loans for small businesses.

It is difficult to sum up the effect that this trip had on all of us. We went expecting to learn more about Moldova and its people, which we most definitely did, but we perhaps learnt more about ourselves and about how we act in this country - the question has to be asked that if the trip had been reversed, would we, who have so much, have given as willingly to our guests as our Moldovan hosts, who have so little, had done to us?

Moldova is a country with many, many problems, but in the few days that we were there, and especially during the time that we spent with the young people of No 4 School and the dedicated workers of *Agape*, there was definitely a feeling that there is hope for the future.

AJJ

Kayaking trip to Devon

For a period of one week a group of ten boys, accompanied by TCG, took part in a kayaking trip to Devon. The week consisted of both surfing and white-water paddling. With the Rivers Lyn and Dart being close by our excellent bungalow, and the famous beaches of Croyde Bay and Saunton Sands just on the other side of Barnstaple, it was very easy for us to travel to water which catered for all standards of kayaking.

The trip commenced with some surfing of the highest quality, with waves reaching up to six feet. Fortunately, this surf lasted for the next few days, which allowed us to continue paddling. Despite the intensely cold north-east wind, everyone enjoyed the thrill of accelerating down the face of a six-foot-plus wave, before carving a turn at then bottom, or more often capsizing and hauling out on the shore – even the redoubtable R. Clegg was seen to miss a roll and have an unwelcome swim!

When the wind died, we spent a morning rock-hopping and exploring the many inshore channels along the coast at the north end of Saunton Sands. Though

fun, it is not demanding kayaking, and the party was glad when we drove to the River Lyn, around an hour from our lodgings. The river was very low owing to a lack of rain, and many rocks were showing.

The Lyn is steep and there are many falls and drops on it. Some of these were paddlable, and some we portaged around as we kayaked down the river. The water, being exceptionally cold in mid-December, provided an extra incentive for us to remain upright! We each had a packed lunch, and we had a brief stop for lunch on the banks of the river.

At the end of the day, TCG had to walk back to where we had left our transport which resulted in several very cold boys waiting for the minibus! The situation was vastly improved that evening, when S. Winearls cooked a fantastic Christmas dinner, which we had all thoroughly deserved. This ended a week where we had all joined in self-catering, and enjoyed a wide range of culinary art! Certainly an enjoyable end to a long term, and we shall return next year!

S. JACKSON 6JEF

Vancouver Sea and White Water Kayaking

Seven boys and a number of adults spent three weeks in Canada on a sea trip as their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition.

The group flew from Gatwick to Vancouver, and then caught the ferry from Horseshoe Bay, North Vancouver, to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Thence a five-hour drive took them to Port Hardy, the most northerly town on Vancouver Island. In Port Hardy Odyssey Adventure hired us sea kayaks, and we commenced our paddle northwards towards Cape Scott, the northerly point of Vancouver Island.

The group paddled alongside temperate rainforest with 200-foot trees growing right to the high-tide line. Seals and bald eagles became a common sight, and the whole vista of islets in the sound, and streaks of

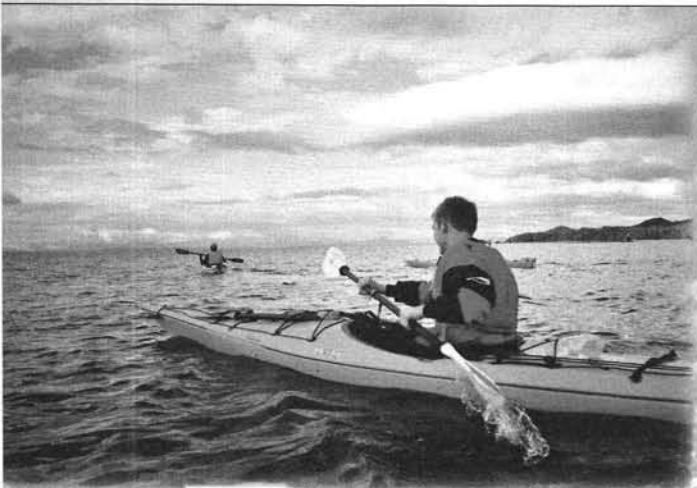
inversion cloud across the rainforest gave a spectacular backdrop to the trip.



Nightly camps were set up on the beaches as it is impossible to find space to pitch a tent in the rainforest, so dense is the undergrowth, and so numerous the fallen trees. Food was placed in drybags and hung up trees so the black bears could not eat it! This may have seemed an unnecessary precaution, until on one day (the most memorable of the trip

in many ways) three separate sightings of black bears occurred.

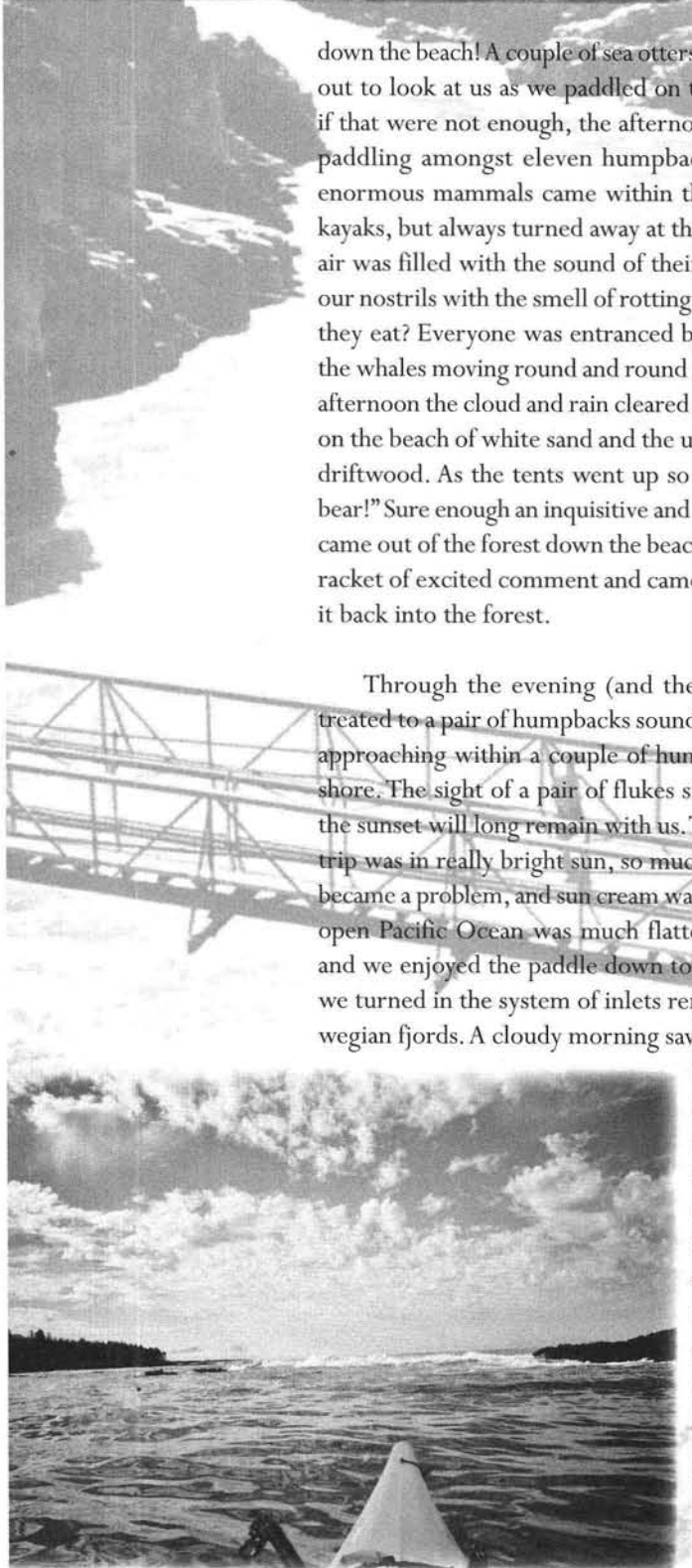
TCG saw a solitary bear foraging along the strand line as he fished from his kayak. He was able - foolishly perhaps! - to disembark from his kayak and approach to



within twenty yards of the bear. They cannot see too well and he was downwind. The main group was busy watching a mother and two cubs on another beach as one of the cubs was playing 'roll a rock'

down the beach! A couple of sea otters poked their heads out to look at us as we paddled on towards lunch. As if that were not enough, the afternoon saw the group paddling amongst eleven humpback whales. These enormous mammals came within thirty yards of the kayaks, but always turned away at the last minute. The air was filled with the sound of their exhalations, and our nostrils with the smell of rotting cabbage. What do they eat? Everyone was entranced by the spectacle of the whales moving round and round the bay. In the late afternoon the cloud and rain cleared as we set up camp on the beach of white sand and the usual abundance of driftwood. As the tents went up so did the cry of "A bear!" Sure enough an inquisitive and hungry black bear came out of the forest down the beach. But the ensuing racket of excited comment and camera shutters drove it back into the forest.

Through the evening (and the night) we were treated to a pair of humpbacks sounding in the bay and approaching within a couple of hundred yards of the shore. The sight of a pair of flukes silhouetted against the sunset will long remain with us. The rest of the sea trip was in really bright sun, so much so that sunburn became a problem, and sun cream was greatly used. The open Pacific Ocean was much flatter than expected, and we enjoyed the paddle down to Grant Bay where we turned in the system of inlets reminiscent of Norwegian fjords. A cloudy morning saw the group in ten foot swells, pushing us towards Quatsino Narrows, where the sea flows at eight knots through a 400 yard-wide channel. Here the cold Pacific waters react with the warm air to produce long moving layers of mist across sea



and forest. It was a truly atmospheric place.

After a visit to Marble River Canyon, into which you can paddle from the sea, the group finally reached Coal Harbour after eight days and 120 miles of sea paddling. *Odyssey Adventure* picked us up, and we spent the night in a campsite at Port Hardy and enjoyed a celebratory dinner in a local restaurant. Once back in Vancouver we refortified with breakfast at Denny's and a couple of nights' rest at the *Travel Lodge* before hiring a minibus and pick-up for the white water phase.

A short drive east to Abbotsford saw us hiring white water kayaks and a trailer from *Western Kayaks and Canoes*. Then our convoy headed to the Chilliwack River where we paddled along a good introductory grade two section. A few capsizes followed but everyone enjoyed the contrast with the sea. Nobody enjoyed the smell the skunks left round the tents, and they were not even spraying!

On we drove north-east to Hope and Merritt, only to find the rivers too low to paddle as the area sweltered in over 100°F. We reached Spencers Bridge on the Thompson River and found plenty of water. The next few days were employed on this large river and everyone enjoyed the big waves, but not the wide 'boily' eddy lines, for many capsizes and some epic rescues were caused by these eddy lines!

Two mile-long trains hooted their air horns at us as we paddled down river, and the whole scenery looked more like Arizona than Canada. In fact we had gone from the temperate rainforest to the driest part of Canada in half a day's drive.

Finally we retraced our steps to the Chilliwack River and on the last morning paddled a grade three/four section of the river, which culminated in a spectacular rapid, ending at the campsite. The trailer and kayaks were returned to *Western Kayaks*, and we returned to the *Travel Lodge*. A farewell dinner at Sam's restaurant made a perfect end to the trip, especially when eleven people piled into Sam's huge old Cadillac for a trip round north Vancouver! They all came back in one piece, but did have a few problems getting Sam to slow down, and return to base.

The last day was spent returning minibuses and shopping at *Mountain Equipment Co-op*. We just made the check-in and put up with the movies on the plane!

The enduring memories must be those of the big trees and the abundant wildlife. Everyone was impressed and I can well imagine a number of the group returning to Vancouver.

TCG

School House Trip to 'We Will Rock You'

The whole of School House made the coach trip to the grand Dominion theatre in London on the night of Monday 31 March. Being a huge *Queen* fan and contemplating whether to go and see this modern musical on many occasions, I was excited upon arrival at the Dominion.

This musical was breathtakingly original in many ways and the number of *Queen* classics that were rolled out did not fail to disappoint. The cast of brilliant singers and actors entertained the audience well and by the last song – the legendary *Bohemian Rhapsody*, everyone was on their feet and singing along (M. Jarvis, W. Blackshaw and myself were the first up!). Even though we saw the understudy of the main part, 'Galileo', he was fantastic as were all the other main actors, not forgetting the ensemble.

This show is unmissable for any *Queen* fan and this show is sure to convert you if you aren't. Some say that the storyline is weak, owing to the creators having to include every good *Queen* hit, but I think it's fresh, original and with Ben Elton's humour it was a very good night out. I thought that the scenery was special

and the punk/bohemian costumes were particularly good. After the third encore we left and while waiting for the coach, M. Rothkopf, J-W. Lee and I met the lead actor and spoke to him about the show.

We then returned to School House after midnight. Thanks to BAHF for taking us and arranging the trip and to DER, MRG and MRW for accompanying us. This show was not just a great spectacle but it also acted as a tribute to Freddie Mercury.

A. HALL 5MRW



Biology field trip to Abisko, Sweden

At the start of the summer holiday seventeen Lower Sixthformers and three staff set off to the Abisko National Park in Sweden. The region is a long way north of the Arctic Circle and so the group had to adjust to the midnight sun and disrupted sleep patterns which ensued. Accommodation was provided by *Camp Abisko*, so after a hard day's work everyone could relax with a good meal (locally caught elk, salmon and reindeer were some of the food on offer), a sauna and even an outdoor hot tub.

During the first part of the trip the students carried out two practical investigations in order to complete their A2 coursework. In the first investigation they compared the vegetation growing on raised hummocks with that in the surrounding hollows. This introduced the group to the local mosquitoes! Fortunately, we do not have to put up with this hazard at home. Next we investigated vegetation changes at different altitudes on Mount Slattatjakka. As a bonus, the mountain top provided stunning views of Lake Tornetrask and surrounding mountains. The group was fortunate to be able to use the facilities of the Swedish Naturalist Research Station during the trip. This gave us an insight into the scientific work being carried out in the area, especially regarding the effects of global warming on

ecologically sensitive regions.

Following the coursework part of the field trip, the group had a day's respite, which we used to visit the iron ore mine at Kiruná. This is the largest underground iron ore mine in the world and it is really impossible to convey the magnitude of it in a few words.

The final phase of the trip enabled the students to carry out a small project on an area of interest which they had chosen. A wide range of topics was chosen, from a study of ant-foraging behaviour to the effects of climatic changes on the growth of club mosses. The students were able to use their new-found skills of statistical analysis on their experimental data and then they presented their findings to the rest of the group.

On the last day some members of the group walked to Lappporten, a pass through the mountains and the route through which the Lapps herd their reindeer. The remaining students took the train to Narvik to visit the town and war museum. The train descends from the Abisko National Park to the sea at Narvik through stunning scenery, at often precarious gradients on the sides of the fjords.

SEB



Drama

"Marco Polo featured ... a strong Abingdon contingent ..."

In a year that saw the dream of new drama facilities both here and at St Helen's steadily turning into reality, the excitement of change was bound to come with a measure of disruption and inconvenience, yet it is to the credit of all concerned that the nine named productions presented under the banner of the Drama Department, to say nothing of several successful House productions, took to their stages in 2002/3 with a level of calm and polish that suggested 'business as usual'. The arrival of new full-time staff in the Drama departments of both Abingdon (**Ms Finola Donovan**) and St Helen's (Ms Jo Watt)

brought valuable reinforcements in the form of fresh ideas, expertise and energy, which soon translated into powerful and effective drama productions.

Members of the Upper Sixth set the ball rolling in November with two devised pieces performed in the temporary studio at St Helen's as part of their A2 Theatre Studies course. Both of the short plays they created were examples of drama at its most intense. Here was work that held a mirror to society in an attempt to understand its current concerns. *Marco Polo*, for example, told the story of a child's abduction and murder in what was a clear response to the feelings stirred by the deaths of two Soham schoolgirls during August. *Howl for Recognition* dealt with the increased threat of terrorist attacks on London in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy in New York. These may have been gloomy subjects, but the impression the performances left was one of life-affirming vitality. *Marco Polo* featured **T. Brewerton, T. Dyson, E. Gurney, H. Hunter** and **M. Johnson** as the strong Abingdon contingent in a cast completed by E. Dryer and V. Ellis from St Helen's, while *Howl for Recognition* saw compelling performances from Abingdon's **J. Bosley, L. Fowler** and **I. Sanderson**, with K. Dowson from St Helen's.



Hard on the heels of the devised pieces came the major joint production of *Cabaret* (see separate review).

This was intended initially for the Yolande Paterson Hall at St Helen's, but difficulties with building work there forced a change of venue after half-term, and the show was transferred to our own Amey Hall. This was not without its own problems, of course. The demolition men had been at work for some time by the beginning of December, so the large cast, orchestra and technical crew had to cope without lavatories, washing facilities and heating throughout the performance week as they crammed into the one remaining backstage room. Although this quickly became known as 'the black hole of Calcutta' among inmates, the audiences for *Cabaret* had no sense of anything untoward, as the show ran smoothly and with great success for three nights. **CJB, RJS, DJMC** and the technical crew deserve thanks and praise for their commitment to making things go without a hitch, whilst the backstage supervision of the cast by **SW** and her counterparts from St Helen's should be recognised with medals for gallantry and an issue of thermal underwear.

December also saw the latest in the growing list of Christmas pantomimes from Spencer's House. These mini-epics, revived under **TJCG** and now enthusiastically supported by **KJS**, preserve the fine Abingdon tradition of House plays written, produced and directed by pupils, many of whom have not chosen to study Drama or star in the major School productions. This year's offering, *Aladdin and the Four Tea Thieves*, came from the pens of **I. Sanderson** and **J. Fisher** and as the title suggests, featured all the customary comic delights as well as a truly impressive set, courtesy of **J. Knight** and his connections with the building trade. Its solidity suggested it could well become a fixture in many future CMR productions.

After Christmas, drama became a more serious affair again as around eighty Fourthformers, Fifthformers and Sixthformers prepared for performances that would be assessed for GCSE or A Level examinations. Much of this was devised work, incorporating subjects as wide-ranging as exile, mental illness, school, the family, love, hate and the insignificance of ordinary life. However, there were also productions of published plays at the end of March. The Lower Sixth Theatre Studies sets appeared in two - Tom Stoppard's popular spoof on murder mysteries, *The Real Inspector Hound*, and the less well-known modern tragedy by John Clifford, *Ines de Castro*. Both drew enthusiastic responses from their audiences in the Charles Maude Room. The first saw **A. Garton Ash** and **J. Bishop** playing the bumbling critics Birdboot and Moon with considerable skill, **J. Ancell** doubling impressively in the roles of cad Simon Gascoigne and Inspector Hound, and **A. Macdonald** stealing the show from his wheelchair as the mad Major Magnus. C. Cummings, A. Buxton and R. Galland were the St Helen's performers who delighted in the roles

of Lady Muldoon, Felicity Cunningham and Mrs Drudge. *Ines de Castro* was very different in style and tone, but again featured strong perform-

ances, this time from **A. Nash** as Pedro, **J. Mugnaioni** as the King, **G. Potter** as Pacheco and **J. Donnelly** as Death and Chorus. H. Thame and S. Brown also impressed in their roles as Blanca and Ines. In this production, we were indebted to **M. Heffernan** in the First Form, who performed the child's role in the final scene with great assurance despite deputising at the last minute for **R. Copus**, whose film commitments prevented him from taking part in the performances.

A week later, the Upper Sixth Theatre Studies sets took to the boards with edited versions of plays they had chosen and directed themselves. Here, their task was to develop a directorial concept and express it in production. The **Headmaster** was one of many who supported our senior actors at their performances in the Charles Maude Room and St Helen's Shed, and expressed admiration for their efforts afterwards. **L. Fowler, I. Sanderson, J. Bosley** and K. Dowson tackled Shakespeare's *Macbeth* head on and emerged bloodied (literally) but unbowed from an imaginative thirty minute account of the play that began on a mound of earth in the torch-lit St Helen's car park and then drew its audiences into the claustrophobic confines of the studio. A short interval allowed for the space to be transformed into a candle-lit arena for Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*, another powerful drama, this time dealing with rape, justice, truth and forgiveness. This featured **H. Hunter, E. Gurney** and E. Dryer, who all achieved the necessary levels of impact for this serious and demanding play. The last piece of the evening took place in the CMR



"Howl for Recognition saw compelling performances from J. Bosley, L. Fowler and I. Sanderson ..."

"...[who also] tackled Shakespeare's *Macbeth* head on and emerged bloodied ..."





"H. Hunter,

and was in lighter vein, as **T. Dyson**, **T. Brewerton**, **M. Johnson** and **V. Ellis** took on Neil Simon's modern American comedy, *God's Favourite*, about a wealthy businessman whose faith is tested when an unlikely messenger from God breaks into his house. Comedy demands just as much from its actors as tragedy, and the cast displayed a wide range of skills in this production. All three plays combined to make a stimulating evening of quality and variety that was a fitting curtain call for our senior actors. They have contributed much to the success of drama at Abingdon and St Helen's and we wish them well. Our thanks are also due to the small army of technicians who made many of the ideas into realities, particularly **A. Rowe**, **N. Herbert**, **T. Bennellick**, **O. Thompson**, **G. Smith**, **Freya Dolby** and **P. Norris**.

(above)

The last term of the School year brought an opportunity for the junior actors to shine, and this they did in a delightful production by **FAD** of *The Wind in the Willows*. Once again, the builders had a part to play in the drama, but this time it was the Amey Hall that was declared out of bounds, so Lains Barn near Wantage was hired for the performances. It proved an excellent location: its rustic beams and old farm machinery provided the perfect backdrop for the familiar adventures of Toad, Rat, Badger and Mole. The cast of First and Second Form pupils was uniformly lively and committed, but particular praise must go to **P. Statham** and **J. Buckley**, whose drag acts were worryingly good; **P. Appleton**, whose Rat was a beautifully cultured performance; **J. P. Martin**, whose Badger possessed all the gravitas one associates with these noble creatures; **T. Metcalf**, a Mole with unusually Aryan good looks, but all the wide-eyed wonder and diffidence required, and, of course, **M. Heffernan** as Toad, a supremely confident performer in every sense. **SRW** completed a year of distinguished service to drama with some inspired musical accompaniments. **T. Bennellick** served up vital and entertaining sound effects while **RJS**, **O. Thompson** and **G. Smith** worked incredibly hard to transform the venue from barn to theatre in a

few hours. **SW** performed her own immaculate version of the Washerwoman's role in the course of providing the cast with clean costumes from the School's store.

Wind in the Willows was the last of the productions before the summer holidays, but still to come was another visit to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with a repeat production of *Ines de Castro* in August. We had feared at one stage that the building work during the year would limit what we were able to do, but as so often happens, one set of difficulties led to another set of opportunities, and a pretty full programme of drama was able to take place as a result.

As we look ahead to the opening of the drama studio next year, there are already exciting glimpses of what it will mean for Drama to have a home of its own for the first time. An introductory series of dance workshops with David Hudson during the Summer term opened the way for regular visits from choreographers to assist with specific projects. Our voice coach, Deirdre Trundle, who worked with the cast of *Cabaret*, and has been making regular visits from her home in Glasgow since 1998, will now be spared her usual billet in a drafty corridor and enjoy her own teaching space for the first time. We hope to extend the practice of attracting professional writers, actors and directors such as John Clifford, Nick Rawlinson and members of *the Propeller Theatre Company* to work with our pupils, whilst the provision of permanent sound and lighting facilities within the Drama Department should enhance pupils' understanding of these elements of theatre and may, eventually, lead to the appointment of a dedicated theatre technician to teach them. Finally, there will be new space to revive the study and practice of film-making at Abingdon, and contact has already been made with OA and distinguished documentary maker, **Michael Grigsby**, for guidance on the best use of the cameras and editing facilities that the new buildings will allow us to house. With prospects like these, the temporary inconveniences of this year will soon be forgotten in what we hope will be an exciting future for the arts at Abingdon and St Helen's.

JHT



E. Gurney and
E. Dryer all
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necessary levels
of impact for
*Death and the
Maiden*."

provided ... for
the familiar
adventures
of Toad, Rat,
Badger and
Mole."

(bottom right)

Cabaret

The decision to stage this show at this particular time reflects one of the dominant themes of the musical: triumph against adversity. For two of the three directors this was their first term at their respective schools and the challenge of casting, rehearsing and staging such a major production must have been daunting. If you add the complication that both schools were undergoing dramatic building works on both school theatres, requiring a last-minute change of venue from St Helen's to Abingdon, then you can begin to understand some of the adversity faced. If you were able to see the logistical complexities of a rehearsal schedule that frequently involved four or five different members of staff – acting, dancing, singing, voice coach, orchestral – in four or five different locations at the same time with a cast of more than seventy students and orchestra of nearly thirty, you might well have wondered whether the decision was wise. But for every member of the three sell-out performances at the culmination of this process, there was not an inkling of doubt about the triumphant outcome.

Firstly, the casting – a sometimes forgotten, but absolutely crucial element – was brilliant. From the very first moment when the audience was faced with the elegantly sinister figure of **G. Potter** welcoming us to the cabaret with his wonderfully pure, yet cruel voice, we knew we were in for a remarkable performance. He encapsulated everything that was so strong in this production: accents were authentic, enunciation crystal clear and every gesture of those white-gloved puppeteer's hands was telling. The other leads were just as convincing. **R. Webber** as Cliff and **A. Nash** as Ernst established themselves quickly in the next scene as amiable young men about town, and both developed subtleties in their characterisation which could be revealed later as the mood changes so powerfully as the play goes on. The friendly figure of Ernst, promising 'whoopie' at the Kit Kat Club, at first made himself comical and popular with the audience, but this made the shock of his later denunciation of the Jewish Schultz all the more disturbing. **R. Webber**, whose American accent never faltered, grew in stature as the play unfolded. Initially diffident and awkward in the seductive world of late Weimar Berlin, his growing sense of unease and horror



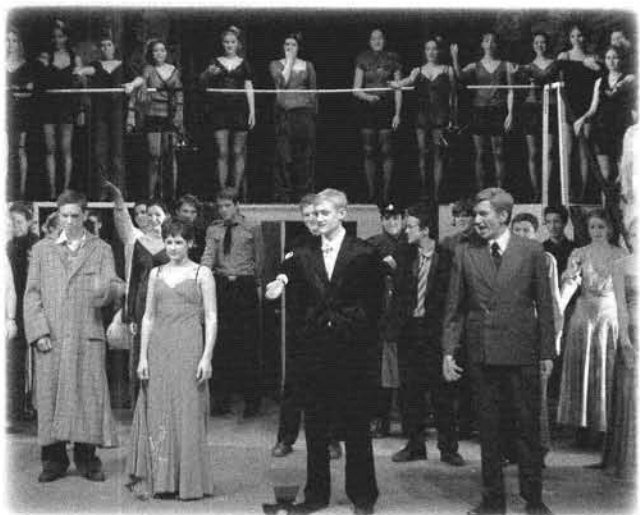
at political events was convincingly portrayed, particularly in his later scenes with Sally. For H. Rhodes in this role, the task was even harder. The memory of Liza Minelli will be there for many in the audience and in other ways this is not a straightforward part. Are we meant to share Cliff's fascination with this rather shallow, selfish and empty-headed survivor or should we condemn her blindness to the truth of life in pre-Nazi Berlin? H. Rhodes captured the brittle vulnerability of Sally well, with a cut-glass accent and sense of bravado, which only occasionally slipped to reveal a younger, more natural figure underneath the flashy fur coat. And finally, as regards the couple of elderly lovers, Fraulein Schneider played by R. Towe and **I. Sanderson's** Herr Schultz, I suspect for those of us brought up on the famous film version of *Cabaret* where Minelli and Michael

York dominated the action as Sally and Cliff, this pair of characters was quite a revelation. They brought the older couple closer to centre stage, thoroughly enjoying the humour of their roles and endearing themselves to the audience immediately, both in their acting and in their musical interludes.

In a production with so many of these memorable musical numbers, it is obviously impossible to pay tribute to them all. For me, the most lasting impression of the performance was the way in which the directors

stressed the disturbing clash between individual moments of warmth and affection with the ever-growing presence of the uniformed, jack-booted Nazi Youth. Thus, we were allowed a glimpse of a conventional happy outcome for Schulz and Schneider following their charming *Pineapple* duet, when he sneaked boyishly into her bedroom on one side of the stage. The irony of that intimate moment, followed immediately by the focus on the opposing side of the stage with a spotlight on **T. Gatten** singing *Tomorrow Belongs to Me*, was penetrating. Not only did we have to enjoy the sinisterly beautiful anthem, but we also had to witness ranks of soldiers and Kit Kat waiters rising above him in their chorus. Physically, the shadow of the approaching oppression of the individual and the Jewish in particular was inescapable in the staging. And the sudden apparition of Emcee gloating over his own solo last line here – for tomorrow did belong to him – produced an authentic frisson. It was at this moment that the audience began to hear the remorseless approaching beat of the jack-

"... the elegantly sinister figure of G.Potter welcoming us to the cabaret with his wonderfully pure, yet cruel voice..."



“The dancers were stunning, the chorus numbers always strong and whenever you looked at any individual member, he or she was not only in role, but also, quite obviously, having the most wonderful theatrical experience.”

boot. The next Kit Kat musical number, *Mein Herr*, and the accompanying dance routine, striking the chair legs in threatening and eerie unison, was chillingly effective. We heard the same menacing drumbeat in the stamping party-goers at the engagement party in another tour-de-force scene of genuine dramatic

power. Here, we experienced the shock of seeing the previously lovable prostitute, Fraulein Kost, played most winningly by S. Burns, metamorphose into an eager, fresh-faced Nazi sympathiser. The transformation was the more surprising, because her earlier scenes with her innumerable ‘relations from Hamburg’ had been played so sympathetically and humorously. The shift from the innocent, childlike glee demonstrated by Schultz and Schneider to the blank stare of the Nazi chorus, left the audience unnerved at the interval and all too aware that beneath the surface glamour of this show there is an appalling historical reality.

This grim truth dominated the second half: the lighting of the Kit Kat Club somehow became more lurid and sickly as the musical numbers there grew increasingly harsh. Money started us off along this route, with C. Cummings’ greedy and grasping *Sprechstimme* blending powerfully with Emcee’s delivery. In some ways this prepared us for the really horrific climax of George’s next song. Addressed, touchingly it seemed,

to a gorilla dressed in tutu and veil, this is an ostensibly romantic tribute to his love’s beauty in spite of outward appearances. The grotesque cruelty of his casual swipe of her handbag into her stomach and then the cut-throat hiss of the punchline – ‘If you could see her through my eyes... She wouldn’t look Jewish at all’ – was another stunning theatrical moment. Thus, the final scene was thoroughly prepared: Sally returned to the Cabaret and belted out her defiant number in an effective blend of triumph and half-concealed doubt; Cliff left Berlin a wiser man who could now write his novel and the perfectly drilled Chorus marched in regimented ranks backwards and forwards across the stage as the Nazi banners unfurled from the heights of the Amey Hall.

A brief word about the Chorus, who deserve more praise than I have space to give. From the audience’s first entry into the theatre, faced with the alarmingly convincing allures of the Kit Kat dancers, to that culminating scene, they added an extremely effective layer to the overall success of the show. The dancers were stunning, the chorus numbers always strong and whenever you looked at any individual member, he or she was not only in role, but also, quite obviously, having the most wonderful theatrical experience. The same must be said of the orchestra, who can so easily be overlooked. Supremely professional under the sensitive direction of **SRW**, not just in their immaculate accompaniment of each musical number, but also in establishing the mood between scene changes and the swift shifts of atmosphere. This will be a production that the cast and audiences will always remember and we should all be grateful that the team of **JHT**, Jo Watt and **FAD** had the vision and determination to make it work so triumphantly against so many odds.

MRS C. NASH

“Ines de Castro” at the Edinburgh Fringe

Eight pupils from Abingdon and St Helen’s Theatre Studies sets, along with one intrepid member of our Lower School, travelled to Edinburgh in August with **JHT** and Jo Watt to perform John Clifford’s powerful modern play *Ines de Castro*, in what was a most successful and enjoyable trip to the largest Arts Festival in the world, an event in which more than a thousand shows compete for the attention of the public.

The cast and crew gave a total of six lunchtime performances at a venue close to the Royal Mile, and managed to attract very respectable audiences of roughly thirty people each day, despite the serious nature of the play and its early afternoon slot. The average audience for a Fringe show is four people, so this was no mean achievement, and arose from a lot of hard work publicising the production through leafletting in the streets and giving daily performances on specially created stages on the High Street.

Unfortunately, the press was slow to respond to our invitations to review the production, and *The Scotsman* newspaper’s journalist only made contact after we had given our last performance! Nevertheless, our actors and technicians made excellent impressions on all who saw their work, most notably when veteran theatrical producer Richard Demarco, the man who discovered the young Sean Connery in the early 1960s, attended our production and declared himself ‘bowled over’ by the performances. Rumours that **G. Potter** will be the next James Bond have been hotly denied....

Thanks and congratulations go to all the actors: **G.Potter**, **A. Nash**, **J. Mugnaioni**, **J. Donnelly**, **M. Heffernan**, Sasha Brown, Holly Thame and to our outstanding technical supremos: **T. Bennellick** and Freya Dolby.

A. NASH 6JEF

Why did I write it?

Musings on the development of the Phelps' House Easter Review, from the first spark of inspiration to the final performance.

You know, I've always wanted to write something and have it performed. Ever since I was quite young. Why did I write a review? Well, the main reason is that it is far easier to get off the ground than a proper play. There is far less effort involved for actors; no in-depth character studies, no endless learning of lines. It doesn't require a large cast either. A review is an interwoven tapestry of sketches and music and other interesting acts – this means players can have multiple roles: they are not confined to single characters. Most importantly, though, is the fact that a review is much easier to write than a play or a pantomime – it has a looser framework, which allows for much more variety in performance. Another reason why I fancied tackling a review is that, as far as I can recollect, there has never before been one done by anybody in Abingdon School: it would be a new thing to do! And a challenge. Our review was done in a low-key fashion: a House event: The Phelps' House Easter Review. There was no price for tickets (just a retiring collection) and so it was safe to assume that no one would really mind the quality. I think, actually, that everyone who came to see it enjoyed it.

Before writing anything, I first had to find some people who would like to be in it. This was the easiest part! Before long, we had a magician, two presenters, some musicians and a couple of actors. Great! All the ingredients needed for a classic Cambridge Footlights-style production – the typical concoction for such a gentle little show. Then came a rock band. Things were taking a bizarre turn! It was now my job to produce some kind of script for us to work to. I did this over about a week of the Christmas holidays and, I have to admit, it was not an easy job. First of all, I had to try and come up with ideas. Then, I had to type them up and try (desperately!) to make them even remotely amusing. That was only partially successful! This script was mainly for the presenters (**N. Pollard** and I) and consisted of sketches that would link together the different acts that made up the review. When I got back to School, this script was then circulated amongst those involved (now including **DF**) and rehearsals began in earnest. Well, sort of...

With most of the cast involved in various sports, many were not available for rehearsals. I also discovered that it was necessary to add two more sketches for timing reasons. One addition was quite heavily based upon a hilarious sketch called *Six Of The Best* and the other came from an old book in **JHT**'s possession, entitled *Fatal*

Beatings. Both went down well on the night. The rather disjointed mode of rehearsing continued until about nine days before the 'big night' when everyone began to panic. Had everyone learnt his lines sufficiently? Would the audience laugh? – these are examples of some of the thoughts swimming through my mind as we neared the performance. A couple of days before it, I suddenly remembered something: we didn't have a proper ending! Oh, my...! What to do? I know – a song. And so, on the afternoon before the 'big night', I handed around copies of a little number to which I'd written some lyrics the night before. It was simply called *Finale Song*.

The big day! **N. Pollard, L. Hall, C. Parker, P. Norris** and I got into the Charles Maude Room after school. The room was a mess: no stage set up, lights pointing the wrong way, no chairs, flats in the wrong places. On top of this, we had no props, no idea how we were going to accommodate amplifiers for the rock band and the room was filled with detritus from GCSE Drama examinations that had taken place during the week. The performance began at 7.30. We had exactly four and a half hours to set up the stage, lights, seating and sound, to have a dress rehearsal, to buy props and to have our first run through of *Finale Song* and *In On Friday*. A tall order!

At this point, I should take the opportunity to thank **J. Thomas, R. Thompson, T. Stanley, M. Smith, ACWB, J. Stagg** and anyone else whom I have neglected to mention for stepping in at the last minute to help with setting up. Without them we probably would not have done so in time.

7.15: the audience thronged into the CMR. Rehearsals were over; the script was written; (mostly) the lines were learnt. Now, after weeks of preparation, it was the performance. Mouths dry, guts churning, **N. Pollard** and I stepped onto the stage and began the show.

9.00: the air was still. All was silent except for the last strokes of applause being gently carried on the breath of the wind...

Altogether, the review raised over £160 for *Meningitis Research*. As **WTP** said, it had been a great success! Much of that success was born out of an excellent cast: **N. Pollard, J. Thomson, A. Thomson, T. Dawson, M.-L. Jones, J. Ancell, M. Stagg, P. Antony, B. Shelton, P. Godsmark, J. Hanson, E. Mitchard, D. Emerson** and **DF**. It was such a success, in fact, that we are already planning another review for Christmas. It will, I hope, take place in the refurbished Amey Hall.

T.DAWSON 4ACWB



Review of the musical year 2002-3

The musical year has been characterised by vigorous activity both logistical and musical. Hardly had the Michaelmas term begun before huge numbers of boxes, packed at the end of the Summer term were being moved into this as yet unfinished temporary Music School supplied by Sibcas and sited on the grass tennis courts adjacent to Crescent House. Much of the material not required during this academic year was deposited in a large container next to the maintenance workshop but, despite this, one of the great challenges was where to find sufficient shelf space for textbooks, scores and material required for teaching. It seems miraculous that instrumental teaching started promptly and is a great tribute to the music staff who got on with the job cheerfully.

This moving of equipment contrived to be one of the challenges facing boys and staff throughout the year for there were to be ever-changing restrictions as to where rehearsals and concerts could take place. Rehearsals seemed to rotate between the Amey Hall, the Charles Maude Room and the music department according to the changing needs of the Charles Maude Room and of productions and examinations, whilst concerts were given both in these venues and

in St Michael's Church, Park Road with the kind and enthusiastic support of the Church Secretary and ex-Abingdon Housemaster, Mr **Hugh Randolph**. We are indebted to him and to the boys, cars and trailer (!) which shifted so many stands, drum kits, basses (and piano). Mention, too, must be made of **RJS** and **CJB** for their forbearance and of **TJCG**, his housekeeper, and the boys of Cobban House who so helpfully allowed the music empire to infiltrate their TV and games rooms for Associated Board and Guildhall examinations in all three terms.

This was also a year of movement among our visiting staff; it was good to be able to welcome several new musicians, including **Joseph Tong** (husband and piano duet partner of **Waka Hasegawa** – they now drive to us together from Croydon) and **Jez Cook**, a new guitar teacher to replace **Mark Ridout**. **Jennifer King**'s maternity leave was covered by **Susanna Proudfoot** while **Beverley Calland** (saxophone) was able to survive the Michaelmas term before the happy arrival of twins in January. **Steve Davies** joined us then and the South African-born pianist **Lynette Stulting** at Easter to replace **Jennifer King** who returned to Canada.

Of course the epic and successful continental music tour to Vienna, Prague and Budapest, and its preparation, had dominated the summer of 2002 and it was on the strength of that success and experience that it was decided to hold an Arts Centre Appeal Concert in Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre in September. A number of Old Abingdonians, both recent and less so, were able to join us for that occasion and to replace others who could not return, having started university courses elsewhere. So **L. Berryman** (piano) was able to play his Grieg *Concerto* for the fifth time in less than a year, with **Jonathan Mak**, OA (piano) his virtuoso Mendelssohn *G Minor* and Roderick Morris, OA (violin) his Mozart *Concerto K218*, before heading off to Magdalene College, Cambridge to start his Music degree course.

The structure of the musical year after this early concert followed very much the tried and tested formula of previous years, and repertoire, as ever, was chosen with the strengths of senior musicians carefully in mind. With a particularly fine group of such in the year's Upper Sixth, this made relatively straightforward the choice of a number of challenging concertante works for a variety of instruments. **L. Berryman**, having had much concerto experience the previous year, was able to devote essential time to his solo piano preparation for his music college application and we were to hear the benefit in a special recital that he gave on the School's restored Steinway D grand piano. It had been arranged that our wonderfully refurbished piano would be stored in St Michael's Church in Summertown, Oxford to avoid the building site of the Amey Hall, and this was where Luke gave

his concert on 7 December to a small but enthusiastic audience. The proceeds of a collection went to the Arts Centre Appeal.

The Christmas Concerts the following week were given in the Amey Hall, as had been the highly successful production of *Cabaret* (see Drama review elsewhere in this publication) under **SRW's** expert musical direction the previous week. There were many excellent musical elements to savour in this: **G. Potter's** remarkable performance as the host of the Kit Kat Club and **T. Gatten's** cantabile tenor as the young Nazi, quite apart from the professional quality of the pit band, comprising of musicians from both Abingdon and St Helen's Schools.

The first of the year's concerto performances was given by **M. Hardy**, who breathed wonderfully controlled dynamics and colour into the sublime *Adagio* of Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto* – unfortunately he would attend only the second performance owing to an Oxford interview on the first. The Christmas Concerts also featured Second Orchestra, First Wind Band and Big Band, with solos in each of the last two from saxophonist **N. Hawken**, notably in *Georgia on my mind*. The Chapel Choir and First Form Choir combined this year in *Rocking Carol* and *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*, while the orchestra contributed Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, Ravel's *Pavane* and Strauss' *Radetzky March*.

The Lent term was more crowded than ever, starting with the Spring Concert on 7 February, this time featuring both Head of School, **W. Allan**, in the

"One of the great highlights of the year was the Joint Choral Society's performance ..."





Burana and Britten's *Ballad of Heroes* on Saturday 8 March. This concert had been in rehearsal from the previous September and it included over two hundred singers and instrumentalists who were just squeezed, with extra staging, into the Amey Hall. One of the logistical problems, as with the Christmas Concerts, was the absence of backstage space, owing to building works on east, west and south sides. As before, the orchestra turned up and came on from Hamilton's house room with internal refreshments served in the Charles Maude Room. The performances achieved this year under **SRW** were magnificent and provided a platform for some remarkable solo contributions given by

Sophie Bevan (soprano), **DJP** (countertenor), **Andrew Yeats** (tenor) and Henry Herford (baritone).

Preparation for AS and the A2 recital performances, together with four days of Associated Board examinations, dominated the end of term, together with Commemoration Service music and a Foundation Dinner when no less than three musical ensembles performed, with jazz at the Reception, the Academicals singing madrigals and a Grace at the start and an entr'acte of a Schumann string quartet after dessert.

The start of the Summer term saw a spate of concert-giving of a sort that could rightly be described as a week-long festival. It opened with a refreshingly short Bands Concert on 9 May with performances by the three senior bands, including *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* featuring a mellow solo with Brass Band and the outstanding Holst *Second Suite* and Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*. On 14 May Thames Vale Youth Orchestra played in the Sheldonian Theatre with Bernstein's *Candide* and Shostokovich's *Symphony 10* in an exciting and challenging programme, which also included Arutiunian's *Trumpet Concerto* with Abingdon soloist, **M. Gardner**, in a thrilling performance of this 1950s Soviet masterpiece. A review in the local press caught the mood of the time, noting that Shostokovich completed his vast symphony in 1953 after Stalin's death, and this fiftieth anniversary coincided with news of the fall of Saddam Hussein, who had modelled his

first movement of the Mozart *Clarinet Concerto* and, again, **M. Hardy** with its *Adagio*. Other ensembles, performing this time at St Michael's Church, included Second Wind Band, Brass Band and the Abingdon Academicals, directed by **DJP**.

The Chamber Concert this year was a more high profile occasion, given Art Centre Fund-raising status and held in the Jacqueline du Pré Building in St Hilda's College, Oxford, on 12 February. This concert yielded some really memorable performances, including a Schumann string quartet movement played by U13 Music Award holders, **D. Ridley**, **A. Kingdon**, **H. Scarlett** and **T. Barrow**. In the Chamber Orchestra performance, **J. Herford** and **C. Johnson** were soloists in the Vivaldi *Double Cello Concerto*, whilst young soprano, Harriet Molyneaux, herself a cello pupil of **Valerie Findlay**, was the soloist in a remarkable performance of Villa Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5* for eight cellos and voice. Other noteworthy performances were given of Schubert's *Trout Quintet*, first movement, of pieces by Chick Corea and Rodrigo by the Jazz Ensemble and of Shostokovich *Piano Trio Op.67* with **I. Collin** (violin), **J. Herford** (cello) and **M. Gardner** (piano), an ensemble that was to win through to the Finals Concert of the National Chamber Music Competition at St John's, Smith Square, London on 16 March.

One of the great highlights of the year was the Joint Choral Society's performance of Orff's *Carmina*

Abingdon
Academicals
enjoying them-
selves on the
Riverboat Cruise.
(this page)

Mrs Findlay
and her twelve
cellists in
concert.
(facing page)

repressive régime on that of the Soviet dictator.

M. Gardner completed a rather extraordinary double, performing the second and third movements of Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto* only forty-eight hours later in the School's orchestral concert. The high quality CD that records this concert (with highlights from the Chamber Concert and the Bands Concert) testifies to this most mellow and musical of trumpet sounds in the lyrical slow movement. It was fitting that one of our other five senior trumpeters, **T. Allen**, played the first movement of the same work. Other notable performances in this concert

included **I. Collin** (violin) in the first movement of Haydn's *C major Concerto*, together with Arnold's *Little Suite No. 2* and Walton's *Coronation March, Crown Imperial*. **Mrs Findlay's** twelve cellos were in fine form again in Klengel's *Hymnus*, as was Second Orchestra under **RSE's** baton and **S. Wylie's** committed leadership.

The customary halt imposed by three senior year-groups on public examination leave was broken by a foray made by Chamber Orchestra to Ashfold Preparatory School on 21 June to link up with their Choral Society Concert of Pergolesi and Mozart, with the orchestra providing accompaniment, together with Pachelbel's *Kanon* and Marcell's *Oboe Concerto*, led from the oboe by **MAS**, the Director of Music. The Music Society's biennial Musical Riverboat Trip gave further opportunities for the Junior String quartet and for close harmony singing but it was the Lower School with Josca's who brought the musical year to a close, again in St Michael's Church.

This was an exceptional year, with three boys gaining conditional places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities to read Music: **M. Gardner** to Christ Church, **M. Hardy** to Merton and **J. Herford** to Caius, Cambridge on a Choral Scholarship, and another, **L. Berryman** (piano), winning the Reading Symphony Orchestra's Young Musician of the Year Award, guaranteeing him a concerto with this orchestra in 2004. In the 180 music examinations taken, nineteen at grade 8, twenty distinctions were gained. In the Lent term, one boy scored an amazing achievement. **M. Hardy**,

entered for three grade 8 examinations over three days, gained high distinctions in each and every one: on Monday, piano (140), on Tuesday, clarinet (135) and on Wednesday, percussion (140).

It was a year when short-term frustrations were swept aside by the exhilarating excitement of the better and more modern facilities to be provided by the Arts Centre. This became a dawning realisation, promoted by planning meetings and budget-setting as the moment crept closer. Perhaps this final paragraph should make mention of nuptial celebrations: the happy news of Abingdon Bandmaster **Fiona Parker's** marriage in April to clarinet teacher, **David Rye**, and of the incomparable **RSE** to **Nina Oldroyd** on 17 August. We wish both couples much happiness together.

MAS



Cambridge 1,
Oxford 2:
Abingdon's
success!





Recording a CD

With summer approaching, staff and boys alike were perplexed to hear Christmas carols floating through the corridors of Big School on Monday and Friday lunchtimes. The reason for this became apparent when it was announced that Chapel Choir, along with the Brass Band, would be contributing to a recording, to be sold in aid of the Amey Hall Arts Centre during Christmas 2003.

When faced with the fact that all of the tracks had to be recorded in one day, the Chapel Choir, under the charismatic command of **SRW**, leapt into rehearsal immediately. By contrast, the Brass Band, under the irrepressible **Fiona Parker**, started rehearsing just one hour before the recording; but that's brass players for you!

Trying to record a large number of carols and recordings in one day is harder than it seems, and as the day wore on and the pressure increased, so did the tempers. Battling against a permanently sharp tuba and

constantly nattering trebles, 'Ssh' seemed to become a regular part of the English language.

Noise seemed to be a constant problem: if it wasn't the crackling of paper or the creaking of feet, then it was cars, or trebles on their 'break' outside. Despite this, we made the utmost effort to record the pieces in two or three takes: if we made a small mistake we had to do the whole thing again. This approach amazed me: surely if the music was being recorded into a laptop, then we could just redo the relevant section, and then do a bit of cutting and pasting to save some recording time?

Particular mention should be made of **P. Appleton** and **P. Statham**, whose treble solos were performed splendidly, along with all the other soloists and readers. The session was successful, and both choir and band performed at their very best.

M. SMITH 4AJPE

Don Giovanni

On 2 July members of the Third and Fourth Forms who are studying Music went to *The Apollo* in Oxford to see Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni*.

In outline, this is the story of a man who travels from country to country trying to seduce as many women as he can. He then leaves them and moves on. One of the women, who is madly in love with him, follows him to try to seek revenge for the pain he has caused her.

Don Giovanni kills the Commendatore and tries to seduce his daughter. His daughter then tries to get revenge for the death of her father. Don Giovanni visits the graveyard and as a joke he invites the statue of the Commendatore to dinner with him. To his shock the statue arrives at his dinner party and gives Giovanni the chance to repent his sins and go to heaven. Don Giovanni refuses to repent and is taken away to hell.

The opera was well produced and the scenery was dramatic. The singers were spectacular and the story line, although confusing, contained interesting and unusual ideas. The words were in Italian even though there were sub-titles to try and explain what was going on. We also had a talk before the opera which helped us to understand it.

Even though it was the end of a long year, everyone enjoyed it and stayed awake through the entire three hours.

R. PARKER 3MMH



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Oil portrait by B. Krafft 1819

"The flourishing Music Department"

This year has been an interesting one for Abingdon music, with the School orchestras performing in many venues to much critical acclaim and becoming gradually more accustomed to general renown. **J. Garrett** tells us of the part he played in the recent *Carmina Burana*:

"It was pretty good on the whole," he said. "The best part of it was seeing it all come together; it was interesting to see how much the whole orchestra had improved between the last rehearsal and the live performance."

SRW, the master conducting the performance, added to this by commenting, "There was some excellent percussion playing ... the violinists seemed to steal the show, but the whole orchestra were playing the best I had ever heard them, and the audience was very supportive."

Of course, the orchestra is not the only part of the School's flourishing Music Department. The School welcomes many different genres of music and when the new Amey Hall Arts Centre is finished, there will be a big rock concert performed to celebrate its return to use.

Fans of alternative music should be pleased to hear that bands offering a broad selection of different musical tastes have expressed interest in this occasion, so the night's concert promises to showcase a very good cross-section of the School's musical talent.

We should remember that many of these bands are writing their own songs, generally to a very high standard, and we can say that we heard them here, first, before they became famous.

The Chapel Choir contains many of the best singers in Oxfordshire: indeed, it is the voices of the Choir members which seem to dominate the Chapel services that are held every week, and their contribution on School occasions, such as the services at the beginning and end of the terms, is invaluable. Without them, these occasions would be much quieter, much less reflective and probably much less tuneful overall.

There is a tremendous amount of very high quality music going on at this school, in all musical genres. Everybody can and does appreciate it, whether as a performer or member of an audience. See you at the next concert!

E. COTTRELL 5SRW

Sport

Seniors Rowing

The rowing season began with lots of training in the gym and on the river for an earlier than usual start to competition. This was in preparation for a trip to Boston USA for the Head of the Charles Regatta and an autumn training camp. The 1st VIII performed well in Boston, finishing third in the under 20s category. The 2nd VIII was unfortunate to hit another crew, which slowed them down considerably.

The gym training soon started to pay off when the Abingdon team of **J. Tarrell, I. McKenzie, J. Anderson, T. Williams, N. Herbert, J. Prinold, J. Hansen** and **N. Turnbull** won the Junior team event at the Indoor Rowing Championships on 17 November. Each had to row 2 km on an indoor rowing machine at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. There were some very strong individual performances with **J. Tarrell** finishing sixth in J18 heavyweight with a new school record. Other notable performances came from **I. McKenzie, T. Williams, J. Prinold, N. Herbert** and **J. Anderson**.

On Saturday 1 February we went to Peterborough for the Head of the Nene. This is a long race over a fairly straight and plain course and was raced in very cold conditions with snow covering the ground. The aim of the day was to get used to a race situation after the winter. We raced in four pairs during the morning, with Abingdon leading the field and winning the Senior 2 event - the fastest pair of the day. The afternoon saw the eights racing over 5000m into a stiff headwind. The 1st VIII won the Junior event by a long way and finished second overall, only beaten by Nottingham Boat Club. The 2nd VIII rowed well in Senior 3 and finished strongly.

There was another busy day on Saturday 1 March at Worcester Head of the River. First we raced over the 6 km course into a stiff headwind. The 1st IV won its event comfortably - the fastest coxed four of the day. The other half of the 1st VIII also won. Then we raced in eights. The conditions were still very difficult and uncomfortable, with the 1st VIII finishing third of the school clubs, behind Shrewsbury and Hampton. The first of the main events was the Schools' Head of the River on Thursday 13 March on the Tideway in London. The conditions were average for the stretch, with a nasty headwind over the longer straights. The 1st VIII went off first of the 220 or so crews at 12.00 noon. They raced well and showed some real power in the first half of the race. However, St Paul's 1st VIII was hot on their heels from the start, and was the superior crew. St Paul's drew almost level by the finish, catching up twelve seconds over the 7 km course. Pangbourne's 1st VIII was also on top form, pipping the Abingdon crew by one second. The 2nd VIII had a solid race and finished fifth in their category.

On Saturday 29 March the 1st and 2nd VIs travelled back to London for the Head of the River Race - a huge event of 500 men's eights rowing the 7 km Tideway course. The 1st VIII had a much smoother race than their last appearance on the Tideway, but lacked some power during the middle of the race owing to illnesses and last-minute crew changes. As well as this, they received a time penalty, for 'dangerous and aggressive steering towards the black buoy'. With the time penalty they finished 101st overall, behind Pangbourne, St Paul's and Radley. The 2nd VIII performed particularly well, finishing 165th.

Easter saw the Boat Club travel to Agde, in the South of France for an Easter training camp. On Sunday 13 April they competed in a local regatta, held over a 1000m tidal stretch away from the river mouth. The 1st VIII, senior coxed and coxless four and the senior pair all finished second, each time behind Imperial College, London.



The beginning of the regatta season was on Sunday 3 May at Dorney Lake for Wallingford Regatta. The six-lane 1500m course saw some great racing. The 1st VIII finished third in S2 behind a very strong Pangbourne crew and Molesey RC, but beating old rivals St Paul's by over a length. Then in Junior VIs the 1st VIII had a very good race, and beat the same Pangbourne crew by three-quarters of a length to win the event.

The weekend of 10 May was a busy one, with the 1st VIII and J16 VIs heading to Ghent, Belgium. The 1st VIII was two men down, but managed to get silver in U23 coxed fours and U23 eights. It finished behind Hampton School in the eights and a strong Leander crew in the fours. **J. Anderson** and **N. Brodie** were meanwhile in Munich representing Great Britain. **N. Brodie** coxed the eight and won a bronze medal on the line from the Spanish. **J. Anderson**, rowing in a pair, won the B final on Saturday and followed this with a gold in the A final on the Sunday. We then headed up to Nottingham for the National Schools' Regatta. The Saturday was predominantly for eights and it saw the 1st VIII have a poor first row, then having to make the final through the repechage system. This meant three hard races in fairly quick succession. The final was a terrific race which we led at the start but were gradually overhauled during the middle and we dropped to fourth. A desperate push at the end could not overhaul St Edward's for third, so the final finished Pangbourne, Radley, St Edward's and then Abingdon. Less than one length (three seconds) covered all four boats. The 2nd VIII rowed very well both in the heat and the final and timed their pushes well to get the silver medal behind Radley. On Sunday we raced in a few fours, finishing a disappointing fourth in J18 coxless fours and fifth in J18 coxed fours.

The next competition was Reading Amateur Regatta on 14 June. The newly selected 1st VIII split into a coxed and a coxless four, which were both knocked out by the eventual winners of their events. The 1st VIII then beat St Paul's 2nd VIII in the final of the Junior eights to win the University of Reading Challenge Cup. Marlow Regatta saw four of the 1st VIII racing where they won S2 coxless fours. Henley Royal Regatta began on 2 July with the 1st VIII being pushed hard in the first round by Schiller-Schule, Germany, whom they beat by one-third of a length. An early start at 8.35am the following day saw the eight win by three and a half lengths against Kingston Grammar School and proceed to the last eight of the competition. The Friday proved to be Abingdon's last, with a strong Pangbourne crew overpowering the 1st VIII by three lengths.

After Henley, Great Britain trials saw **N. Brodie** and **J. Anderson** making the World's eight. They went on to win gold both at the National Championships and in Athens over a shortened 1000m course. Meanwhile, back at home work began on the new boathouse. Parents and skilled timber framers alike gathered to create and help raise the wooden frame of what will soon be a spectacular timber boathouse. It will become a proud asset for Abingdonians past and present. Many thanks go to all the people involved in making this an unforgettable season, especially the coaches, and in particular to **MDM** for all his time and effort over the season.

I. MCKENZIE 6MS AND T. WILLIAMS 6WHZ

J16 Rowing

The rowing season started early this year, when **M.White**, **J.Fyne**, **N.Turnbull**, and **G.Cowie** were invited to row in the 'development boat' alongside the provisional 1st VIII, at the Head of the Charles in the U.S.A. On their return **N.Turnbull** and **M.White** both went to the National Indoor Ergo Championships, where they came 5th and 14th respectively in the country.

After a relaxing Christmas holiday, the squad started the official season, and by the first week were training six times a week, and twice on Tuesdays. After an invigorating 5 km ergo test, we were in good shape for Peterborough Head. This proved to be a portent of our success in the head season, with the IV+ (**T.Woods**, **M.White**, **J.Stanier**, **N.Turnbull** and cox **D.Boardman**) overtaking all competition, starting last in this time-trial event. The VIII was in the novice event, and came second. Two weeks later we were at Henley (head), with **M.Jarvis** stroking both boats. Once again the IV+ won its event, with the IV coming second to Eton, the start of a year-long rivalry.

The main contenders for J16AVIII were beginning to emerge, and at Worcester Head the coxed IV+ won again, while in an impressive performance the VIII won by 3 minutes. With a fairly certain 'A' boat and a week to the biggest event of the season so far, the 6 km course of National Schools' Head, **RSS** thought we were having it too easy, and decided to shake things up a little.

Usual bowman **T.Woods** was moved to a newly bowrigged stroke seat, owing to the lack of able strokesiders, who for various reasons couldn't stroke. Despite his relative inexperience in the position, he was clearly doing something right, as we then proceeded to win Schools' Head! This made us national champions in the J16 category, and we were all feeling very pleased. Especially as we had beaten Eton by 6 seconds, Abingdon 2nd VIII, plenty of other senior crews and had come within 34 seconds of our own 1st VIII who came third in the whole event. The IV+ also did well to come second in their event.

Feeling secure in our position, we entered Radley's invitational head. Lending **G.Clarkson** and **J. Stanier** to a Hampton boat, we took on **B.Cullen** and **H.Lester** in the 3 and 4 seats. It was clear to see that there were ten people of adequate ability for the eight seats available.

Only eight could make it to a fantastic training camp in Agde, France, so **J.Mills** and **J.Cundell** were drafted in. **H. Feather** and **T. Guiver** came to coach us in the sunny south of France. We started our regatta season by beating the Marseilles J16, the regional champions. Things were looking good, and we were looking forward to winning plenty of tankards! We managed to clock up the best time of the day, beating both the 1st VIII and Imperial College, who were training on the same stretch.

After lots of sea racing, and an average of 15 km a day, we returned feeling refreshed and full of energy. Our first proper regatta was approaching and we were feeling confident that we could have a successful day at Wallingford. That was until Eton turned up, and managed to gain victories over a bowrigged IV+ stroked by **J.Fyne** and the VIII. This was disappointing, as this was the first event where we had come home without winning. There were now only three weeks to National Schools' Regatta, and we were feeling a little blue. But a trip to the international regatta at Ghent in Belgium cured that, and we were awarded a new strokeman. Still a bowsider, **C.Kennedy** proved himself more than worthy of his promotion, and was an excellent stroke. Ghent was enjoyed by all, despite the lack of wins against some extremely tough crews, including Imperial College once again. The same weekend saw the remaining IV+ race at Eton's invitational regatta, where it managed to beat many VIIIs over 1500m.

The next two weeks were going to be tough, and everybody was training hard for success at National Schools'. We had discovered a week before the event that only three crews had been entered into the 'A' event: Eton, Abingdon, and Radley. Powering away at the start, we were first at the 500m mark, though not really being able to hold Eton. By 1000m we were behind Eton by half a length, with Radley a length behind. Our stroke rate was 35, exhaustion was setting in and that familiar pain had been around for a while. It looked as though we were going to come second. Unfortunately, Radley was not going to accept this, and in their trademark push managed to get ahead of us in the last 200m. Then medals were awarded only to gold and silver! The IV- (**J.Fyne**, **G.Clarkson**, **N.Turnbull**, **T.Woods**), and the IV+ (**J.Cundell**, **B.Cullen**, **J.Stanier**, **H.Taylor** and cox **D.Boardman**) both won bronze medals. After National Schools', the 2nd VIII went their separate ways, and having no use for the newer, faster and yellower boat, it was inherited by the J16s. This was strokeriggged, so we strokesiders were given another chance at proving ourselves! **G.Clarkson** was put at stroke, but at the next regatta, Reading Amateur, failed to push us ahead of Radley. Luckily, the IV+ of **G.Cowie**, **H.Lester**, **M.White**, **C.Kennedy**, and cox **D.Boardman** scored an easy victory.

We had one chance left to regain our status with Eton and Radley at Marlow, and despite leading for the entire course, Radley took us in the last 3 seconds. This was very disappointing, but it was noted that 'Radley may be the fastest crew at the end of the year, but they didn't win Schools' Head, or National Schools'!' Thames Valley Park Regatta was fairly successful, though, and **R.Coster** stroked the novice IV to victory against a boat that really should have been in the veterans' event!

Another gift from the 2nd VIII was their place to qualify in the Temple Cup at Henley Royal Regatta, so despite the end of GCSEs and the beginning of study leave, we started training hard again! The replacement of **J.Fyne** with **O.Burdall** and **N.Turnbull** as new stroke meant we were going well but had learnt from previous experiences not to be too confident. But luck was with us, and by 8.06 pm the boat crossed the line. Twenty minutes later a roar went up, as we were notified that we had qualified. The days until Wednesday passed quickly, and Reading Town Regatta handed out tankards to many crews.

As is to be expected, the Abingdon J16 boat did not beat Glasgow University, but still rowed well. Still, we were the first J16 to qualify since 2000, and it was a fantastic experience. Finally, the IV- from National Schools' qualified for the Anglo-French Regatta held at Nottingham.

RSS has been a great coach, and thanks to his policy of ever changing boats, the whole squad won at least two events. He had put up with us throughout winning streak, losing streak, catchphrases, quotes, insults, arguments and countless games, and despite all this and getting married, he seems to have spent more time with us than with his wife!

N. TURNBULL 5PW

National Schools' Crew	Additional A boat members
Stroke - C. Kennedy	B. Cullen
7- G. Clarkson	J. Stanier
6- T. Woods	
5- N. Turnbull	
4- J. Fyne	
3- M. White	
2- H. Lester	
Bow - G. Cowie	Cox - D Boardman

J15 Rowing

Thirty-five contenders appeared for selection in January and were divided into two balanced pools after the first ergometer test and airfield run. Competing crews were then selected for training from within these pools until the initial A to C crews were finally chosen at the end of January. Having only two boats and a large number of boys necessitated double outings every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, which put a lot of pressure on the equipment (and on the coaching staff). Our main goals were for the A Crew to qualify for the final of the A8+ event at the National Schools' Championships - something not achieved in over a decade - and for the B Crew to win a medal in the 2nd 8+ event.

Our first test came on 1st March at Worcester Head, where unusually the spectators could look down from the edge of a horse-racing track as the boats processed past. The A Crew came a distant second to Hampton but were comfortably ahead of Shrewsbury, King's Worcester and others. The B Crew were victorious in their competition, beating Hampton by three seconds and Shrewsbury easily.

Our results in the Schools' Head of the River Race in London - the major event of the Lent term - were positive but mixed. The A Crew, rowing the long course from Mortlake to Putney, finished twelfth, three places up on last year, but this time a disappointing six places behind Shrewsbury. The B Crew, rowing the short course, fared better, moving up from last year's eighth place to an excellent second place, just two seconds behind Hampton.

Shortly afterwards came the inaugural BASHER Head, a private competition named after the six schools involved. A heavyweight A Crew was tried out on the Radley reach as an experiment, but this performed badly against the opposition, as did the rearranged B Crew and the C Crew in their first contest of the year.

Because of staffing constraints, the Easter Camp in 2003 was held at Abingdon. No exotic waterways or exciting new cuisine were on offer this time, but the weather was good and the camp, in purely rowing terms, was highly successful. After two or three outings a day over five days, making use of the longer reaches beyond both locks, considerable progress was made by all twenty-five oarsmen involved. For many it was a first chance to row in fours and pairs, and the results of extensive seat-racing in fours helped decide new squad rankings.

Wallingford Regatta, held at Eton's Dorney Lake, was the first event of the summer season. The A Crew had come second at this event last year but this time failed to make the final, being edged out by Pangbourne in what was easily the fastest of the two heats. The B Crew performed better, coming fifth in their final. A week later came the BASHER "Festival of Rowing", also at Dorney Lake, a three-round competition over 1900, 1500 and then 250 metres. The A Crew came second overall on points, behind Eton, and the B and C Crews also enjoyed a useful day of training and competition. Over the same weekend, our irregular J15 coxswain **S. Butterfield** coxed the seniors in Ghent, winning silver medals in both their 8+ and 4+ events.

At the National Schools' Championships, held in Nottingham, the competition in the first J15A8+ eliminator was fierce. Lined up in Lanes 1-6 were Radley, Latymer Upper, Hampton, Shrewsbury, Eton and Abingdon. Only three would go through to the final. After the first 500m, Abingdon was trailing in sixth place but was still in contention. At the 1000m mark, we had moved ahead of Shrewsbury, and with 500m to go we were still in 5th place. It was only after the final push that we overhauled Latymer and drew level with Radley. No one could tell which crew had secured third place until the electronic scoreboard flashed up the result and the Abingdon oarsmen punched the air in triumph. In the final itself they enjoyed the bonus of pushing Bedford Modern School into sixth place but were well short of the leaders: Pangbourne, Shiplake and Eton. The B crew also had a very good day, winning their semi-final and passing Eton in the latter stages of the final to win the silver medal, just a few seconds behind Radley.

In the second half of the Summer term, we attended three further sprint regattas on successive weekends: Bedford Star, Thames Valley Park and Reading Town. At each regatta at least one of the top three crews in the country was present, which made the pewter hard to come by. But, especially in the final regatta, there were some very promising Abingdon performances. Over the 800m distance at Reading Town, the As came within a third of a length of Pangbourne in the A8+ event, and in the A4+ event they came within three-quarters of a length of Shiplake. The Bs also did well. In the B4+ event Shiplake needed a highly questionable dead heat decision and a re-row to defeat our crew.

With the A Crew finally succeeding in qualifying for the final at Nottingham and the B Crew winning second places in the two major events of the J15 rowing calendar, it has been a notably successful season. Many thanks go to **TJCG** for his excellent and generous coaching assistance.

AJPE

	J15 A Crew Schools' Head	J15 A Crew Nat. Schools'	J15 B Crew Nat. Schools'	J15 C Crew T.V.P.
Bow	T. Davie	T. Davie	T. Stanier	P. Jones
2	M. Beevor	O. Turner	H. Carter	F. Fryd
3	C. Halls	C. Halls	A. Locatelli-M.	J. Arrowsmith
4	W. Drazin	M. Nurton	W. Drazin	P. Antony
5	O. Waite	C. Edson	O. Waite	J. Rogers
6	T. Raftery	T. Raftery	A. Muir	S. Ahmed
7	C. Edson	N. Houlsby	E. Wilson	T. Lodge
Stroke	M. Nurton	M. Beevor	M. Williams	B. Carter-F.
Cox	W. Statham	A. Kyrios	W. Statham	A. Gordon

J14 Rowing

A combination of lack of experience, bad weather and rugby shirts - rather than the lycra sported by the opposition - made us apprehensive before Bedford, or the first regatta. Three hours and one victory later we were already plotting the route to winning at Henley.

Our next regatta at Wallingford proved to be something of a setback: it proved hard to row when our stroke's seat broke off and our 2 had pulled off his footplate in the first ten strokes! But we bounced straight back and after making the switch to octos won the next four races at Dorney Lake, Oratory, Pangbourne and Marlow. This last race was the first time we had lined up against Radley. The B octo also did well, getting a first, two seconds and a fifth.

The final regatta was scheduled to be in Peterborough but was switched to Nottingham because of a problem with the lake. The A crew did well and led for almost all of the final before an unfortunate crab gave Radley the lead. We did not give up and were catching up all the way across the line, eventually losing by a canvas. The B crew also excelled, reaching the A final and coming second in the B category.

Overall, these have been a very successful set of results and proof of the hard work and excellent coaching from **MRW**. We look forward to more victories next year.

T. DEAN 3EMTS

Rugby

The 1st
XV at
home
against
MCS.



There was much promise for this season, when ten players returned from last year's squad. The pack was expected to be strong with powerful players such as **A. Eccles**, **T. Dyson**, **A. Lin** and the established back row unit of **D. Puri**, **M. Paterson** and **A. Paxton**. The back line was to contain the familiar faces of **H. Monsell**, **A. Marsh**, **J. Watkins** and **J. Henley**. However, this Abingdon team was again to be riddled by the injuries to several key players, none more significant than that of our captain **H. Monsell**.

The season started badly with a home defeat at the hands of a weak MCS side. Despite playing below our potential, aggressive forward play and powerful debuts by **T. Gater** and **J. Barclay** intimidated the opposition and some good work by the back line secured a stranglehold on them for most of the match. Then there was a fumble during an Abingdon attack in their 22, the ball was kicked upfield by an MCS player, and despite the valiant efforts of **J. Donnelly** and **J. Watkins** chasing back, the opposition player pounced on the ball to get the winning score.

When our principal ball winner **M. Paterson** became a casualty in the previous match, we went to Stowe with another depleted side. Essentially we were beaten by one player, and without our specialist open side we had nobody to counteract him. But there were some encouraging moments of play, typified by **R. Muirhead**'s elusive running and a smooth back line move leading to a try by **J. Watkins**.

We travelled to Radley in the hope of a first win. **J. Henley** was a powerful figure on the wing, not allowing any Radley players past him, **N. Orr** was courageous, putting himself on the line in defence, although despite their efforts we were soundly beaten by a very good side.

RGS High Wycombe on Open Day provided tough opposition. We took to the field fired up and shocked them with an early try by **A. Lin**. Our lineouts ran very smoothly with excellent throwing by **T. Dyson**, and **J. Franklin**

was acrobatic in the air, stealing a good deal of RGS ball. Nevertheless, this was not to be our day. Whilst the score line flatters them slightly and our defence frustrated their team, they did not score a second half point until the last five minutes, when our fatigue really showed.

We beat Oratory without playing particularly well, which was an encouraging sign at this stage of the season. Our defence was reasonably solid and there were some potent attacking moves from our backline. **A. Marsh** scored two of our four tries.

We returned from half-term holidays revitalised and travelled to Pangbourne. We coped better than they did with the heavy rain and waterlogged pitch. Credit should go to **H. Cole** for providing good ball in these difficult conditions. Our back row hampered the Pangbourne's half backs effectively. But they scored a try early on and we never quite managed to convert all our pressure into points.

We were soundly beaten at Marlborough by a very well drilled team, and despite all our efforts we could not contain their powerful forwards and quick backs.

Our last game of the season was against Bloxham at home. Beforehand it was decided that we would try to enjoy ourselves in the match. This tactic paid off as we finished convincing winners despite conceding an early try. This was one of the few games of the season when there was a genuine hunger for victory, and we played with aggression, pace and style, bolstered by **H. Monsell**'s commanding performance at fly half.

The following received full colours: **T. Dyson**, **A. Lin**, **D. Puri**, **J. Watkins**, and **H. Monsell**. **J. Franklin** received half colours.

The squad would like to thank **RSH** and **ADW** for their sustained efforts throughout the season despite our lack of success.

D. PURI VI CMM

1st XV

RESULTS - 1st XV

MCS	L 8-10
Stowe	L 11-14
Radley	L 13-45
High Wycombe	L 7-36
Oratory	W 24-12
Pangbourne	L 5-13
Warwick	L 3-12
Marlborough	L 3-51
Bloxham	W 52-15

2nd XV

RESULTS - 2nd XV

MCS	W 5-0
Radley	L 7-38
Stowe	W 11-10
High Wycombe	L 0-97
Oratory	L 10-22
St Edward's	W 10-8
Pangbourne	W 13-12
Warwick	W 25-10
Marlborough	L 5-10
Bloxham	W 41-5

This season was one in which the 2nd XV matured as players and grew as a team. We had a slow yet promising start with wins against MCS and Stowe, and a stormer of a first half against Radley. A heavy and haunting loss at the hands of RGS and a disappointing home performance against Oratory left us demoralised approaching half-term. But we were able to take a lot of positive things away from the field. Our weekly loss of players to injury worked against us in the first half of the season and our lack of players for specific positions meant that we would often have to move people into positions they hadn't played in before. However, by half-term this had worked

to our advantage. The team had become so versatile that we were able to relocate players anywhere comfortably. The first half of term also provided us with a chance to witness the potential of the team, its strength, weaknesses and individual talents.

After half-term the team bounced back with amazing determination and motivation, winning four of our last five matches, including convincing wins over Warwick and Bloxham, and only a narrow loss to Marlborough. The highlight of the season was without a doubt our victory over St Edward's. Directly after half-term we were faced with one of our most demanding encounters, and well able to rise above expectations, we produced a game that reflected the true potential of the team. Despite the miserable conditions and the disadvantage of an away fixture, the 2nds dominated the game from start to finish, not giving the opposition any room to develop. We turned over their ball, maintained possession and forced them to play our game.

There were relatively few forwards in our pack, so we focused mainly on the technical aspects of our game. This proved to be most effective, as on many an occasion we were able to out-scrum, out-ruck, out-jump and outlast much larger opposition. The pack consisted of experienced players such as **W. Allan** (flanker), **M. Smith** (lock/prop), **S. Winearls** (hooker), **H. Feather** (prop), **J. Chater** (lock) and **R. Silva** (number eight), and also welcomed



an influx of talented new faces: **H. Green** (flanker), **W. Poole** (flanker), **N. Paterson** (lock), **P. Wong** (hooker/prop) and **R. Morton** (hooker/prop). This powerful pack proved that size is not imperative on the rugby field, and could often be seen strong in support, making penetrating runs and devastating tackles. Our halfbacks could not have been any more different as far as individual styles of play go. **H. Hunter**'s intense energy at scrum half and **J. Cousin**'s calm and calculated decisiveness at fly half created a balance that the team relied on for the flow of play. The back line: **S. Jackson** (centre), **J. Kelly** (centre), **T. Vaughan-Fowler** (fly half/centre), **T. Hooper** (wing), **A. Mackenzie** (wing), **G. Stern** (full back) and **J. Hoyle** (full back) was a group of players who possessed great ball skill and flair. Strong in both defence and attack, they had electrifying pace and were capable of fantastic running rugby.

The team spirit was second to none and the players' effort and determination must be credited. A special thank you must go to **JDEDH**, who supported us brilliantly as we played and developed our rugby. He is definitely the main reason we found the season so enjoyable. I would like to thank the team for making my job much less stressful, and I wish them every success both on and off the rugby field. It has been both a pleasure and an honour captaining the 2nd XV.

R.J. SILVA VICMM

Senior Colts A XV

The season started with a performance that largely undermined our potential as a team. Despite having the majority of possession and sustained pressure we lost narrowly 5-7. Although we lost this game, there were many positive outcomes, especially the try scored by **N. Turnbull**, which was the result of relentless pressure applied to MCS.

Against St Edward's we were faced with a sharply tuned team: our forwards were overwhelmed by a pack of significant strength and stamina, while their backs were equally praiseworthy in their efforts.

We were slow off the mark versus Marlborough, conceding an early try, thus enabling the opposition to gain the psychological advantage. The second half saw some of our best rugby: we played with skill and passion, but unfortunately our spirited efforts did not suffice and pressure could not be converted into points... again.

We were surprised to be faced with an unusually strong Bloxham team. The game initially looked very promising: **K. Kim** opened the scoring with a typically flamboyant try. However, instead of capitalising on our head start, we suffered from complacency. This was then thoroughly utilised by the Bloxham backs as they drew themselves back into the match and came out to win narrowly. Their sense of achievement was more than evident at the end of the game.

The match against Oratory was the low point in the season. We were defeated 22-8 owing to our casual tackling and basic errors. Even a late try from **J. Hopkins** was not enough for us to win. There was much encouraging play from **R. Coster** and **B. Cullen**, but we did not play as a team unit.

Fine performances all round against Stowe, as for one of the only times in the season we seemed to click, giving us a comfortable lead at half time. Stowe put up a resilient fight in the second half, but following some fine tackling by **B. Harris** and excellent link-up play between **P. Jones** and **N. Hopkins**, we were able to sustain our healthy lead and emerge contented victors as a result.

One of our finest performances was against Radley. Having been neck and neck at half time, it was more than disappointing to have gone on to lose the game, thanks to **R. Heath** and **V. Raine** going off with serious injuries. Replacing these key players with substitutes from the B Team took far too long and it was at this point that Radley seized the initiative and won the match. Enduring the bitter disappointment proved tough, despite the referee's condolences and assurances that we had outplayed them. Special mention must go to **C. Moger** for his sustained spirit and efforts throughout.

A typically strong RGS, High Wycombe side delivered what was expected of them: scoring heavily in the first half. However, the defensive reform that was implemented paid off as they scored only once in the second half.

Our first fixture against Warwick ended in disappointment. They proved to be bigger, stronger and faster and outpowered us in the first half. But a much improved spirit after an inspirational talk during half time instigated greater will and drive within the team. As a result, no further tries were scored. **R. Coster** was especially impressive: his dummy runs certainly fooled the opposition, and on occasion many of our own players as well!

A much better performance against Pangbourne was epitomised by fine tackling from **J. Fyne** and **R. Heath**. Thanks go to **C. More** for converting a try under difficult circumstances, and a spectacular length-of-the-pitch run from **M. Duhan** ensured a victory.

Despite a testing season in terms of results, much good rugby was still seen. Bone-crunching tackles from **C. Moger**, **B. Harris**, **N. Turnbull** and **V. Raine** acquired much admiration. Discreet and elusive running from **K. Kim**, **P. Jones**, **N. Hopkins** and **M. Duhan** was worthy of much praise. It was a very enjoyable season, even though the results did not go our way. Thanks on behalf of the team to SAE and all who attended to support us.

S.KAPOOR 5 DJH AND P.JONES 5 JPGB

RESULTS - Senior Colts A XV

MCS	L 5-7
Radley	L 3-20
Stowe	W 30-12
High Wycombe	L 0-44
Oratory	L 8-22
Pangbourne	W 16-10
Warwick	L 0-29
Marlborough	L 5-29
Bloxham	L 12-20

Senior Colts B XV

This was a very successful season, although we were not able to play as many matches as we would have liked owing to a number of late cancellations.

Our season started on the back foot following a disappointing defeat to a strong Radley XV, caused by a lack of defensive organisation ending in a 20 point defeat. After this initial setback, the team progressed from strength to strength with stunning victories against Stowe, Oratory, Warwick and St Edward's.

The season reached its high point with a magnificent victory over Marlborough during the last game of the season. This fixture had resulted in defeats for the previous two years. But following a wonderful team performance and a last-minute try by the influential winger **A. Mak** (which brought up his 50 points for the season), we won convincingly.

Another outstanding performance during the season came from **S. Florey**, whose boot kicked many teams into submission and resulted in another 50 point haul for the season.

Our pack dominated throughout, providing a platform for the backs to work their magic, enabling us to become one of the most successful teams in the School.

The team would like to thank our coach, **PMD**, for his help, support and encouragement throughout the season. Unfortunately, owing to prior engagements he was not able to attend some of our matches, and therefore the team would like to thank those who stood in during his absence: **PJW**, **RSS**, **RSH** and **AJW**.

C.DIXON 5 KDB

RESULTS - Senior Colts B XV

Radley	L 0-20
Stowe	W 55-0
Oratory	W 24-19
Warwick	W 66-0
Marlborough	W 18-17

Senior Colts C XV

RESULTS - Senior Colts C XV

Radley	W	38-17
Oratory	W	17-0
Marlborough	L	0-34

The Cs will always be remembered as a team which was above training ("Not great at turning up," as **RSS** says); nevertheless, the genuinely enthusiastic attitude and (on occasion) unconditional desire to win were just two of its many qualities. This team was gifted, not only as a unit, but also as individuals.

The season was infamously initiated with a comprehensive victory against arch-rivals Radley College: nothing seemed to bring these players more euphoria and exhilaration than Radley's demise. We were then faced with the fervent opposition of The Oratory. We embraced the challenge, and emerged triumphant owing to a new team effort and skilful play by **S. Kapoor** and **C. More**. The next two games were somewhat disappointing as our utmost endeavours proved to be inadequate when faced with a robust St Edward's side. Our final match was against Marlborough College, where a praiseworthy opposition outplayed us for the best part of the match. We were unlucky not to score despite valiant efforts by captain **R. Gray**.

All in all, this was a thoroughly enjoyable season for all involved. One and all deserve a mention, especially **R. Gray** who never failed to lead from the front.

On behalf of all the team I would like to thank **RSS** for all his support and help throughout the season, and congratulate all who took part.

S.KAPOOR 5DJH

RESULTS - Junior Colts A XV

MCS	W	19-3
Radley	L	0-17
Stowe	W	27-7
High Wycombe	L	7-52
Oratory	W	10-5
St Edward's	L	0-26
Pangbourne	W	23-10
Warwick	L	17-27
Marlborough	L	5-13
Bloxham	W	31-14

"All in all, this was a thoroughly enjoyable season for all involved."



Junior Colts A XV

This was a season that had its moments but must ultimately be viewed as a disappointment for this talented group of players. We did not score as many points as we should have done against the weaker sides and made far too many poor decisions and basic errors in the tougher games to give ourselves any chance of winning. In particular, the performance against St Edward's was nothing short of a disaster.

Our strong pack of forwards dominated at times, especially in the early stages of matches. This should have given us the platform to score plenty of points. Unfortunately, the cohesion of the pack was not as it should have been and though we had plenty of players willing to take the ball and run at the opposition, with **S. Henley** and **T. Raftery** prominent in this department, our passing out of the tackle, work at the breakdown and recycling of the ball were often found wanting. More players must be prepared to do the unglamorous jobs (rucking, mauling and support work) to a higher standard if the team is to retain possession for longer periods of time and exert concerted pressure on the opposition. **M. Halford** was always right in the thick of things and never shirked these basic duties; for these reasons, he was selected as the forward of the season.

The back line was blessed with a number of strong elusive runners and **T. Davie** and **P. Roberts** showed just how dangerous they could be with marvellous solo efforts against Stowe and Pangbourne respectively. Unfortunately, we rarely created the opportunities for our runners, and in the games against Radley, St Edward's and RGS, High Wycombe we never really threatened the opposition try line. Too many basic handling errors were committed, the speed and accuracy of the passing were simply not good enough, and the lack of depth adopted by our backline did not allow us to come onto the ball straight and at pace. With **O. Waite** (back of the season) at fly half we had greater cohesion and an obvious focal point for our back play. This improved matters in the later games but there will be plenty to work on in the future if the try count is to be improved. We hope **A. Grant**, who forced his way into the team late on, can continue his impressive progress next year.

Defensively, these boys never shirked their responsibilities. One-to-one tackles were rarely missed and although our awareness of and reaction to threats posed by the opposition was sloppy at times, many of our players showed that they enjoy the physical side of the game. Our defensive efforts against a huge team from Warwick were commendable and although that match ended in defeat, the team showed pride, courage and determination and **O. Burnham** scored a hat trick of tries.

I wish all of the boys well for next season and I am sure that they will want to avenge some of their 2002 defeats. They certainly have plenty of individual ability but they will need to play more as a team if they are to win more games. To this end, the application and dedication shown by some players in training must improve next year!

SPGS

Junior Colts B XV

The Junior Colts B XV enjoyed a reasonably successful season. Individual skills did develop but the boys' best wins were brought about by coherent unit play. The games fell into three categories: easy wins, heavy defeats and tight matches. There were fewer in the first category than the second but, pleasingly, a good number in the third (of which we took our share).

The two big wins came against Cokethorpe's A XV and Pangbourne - who showed little of the combative spirit that made the 2001 clash so memorable. Heavy defeats were inflicted by RGS, High Wycombe, Radley (whose tidy XV punished our unacceptably frequent defensive errors), Marlborough (more physical - and somewhat less sporting - than when we beat them last year) and St Edward's (where with eight players missing we never really got going).

The first of the tight games, at Rendcomb, went the hosts' way. On a narrow pitch we made a good percentage of our tackles to minimise their captain's impact. It became increasingly obvious that our squad had progressed much further than theirs since the last meeting. The game could have gone our way but again their skipper proved the difference between the sides, flooring breakaway Abingdon backs to deny us a decisive try.

Stowe yielded our first win of the season. The boys worked well together to defend the blind side, in particular, and seized

their opportunities imaginatively in attack. Oratory brought the toughest performance of the season out of this squad. Abingdon, defending the bottom of a considerable slope, survived a second half onslaught. A notable win was thus recorded.

The last hard game went against us and cost us a break-even season. Warwick's team contained some of the biggest players seen on the circuit but the game remained tight as we kept good shape. Only when their handling improved did they secure the win. Abingdon's XV had chances to score a winner but seemed to lack the killer instinct. More games this well-matched would be welcome and would do a great deal to develop our team's resolve.

The fixture list was indeed tough: MCS's request for our C XV to play their B XV denied this side a morale-boosting local derby win and Shiplake did not feature this year but the pack, despite long-term injuries to **C. Thomas** and **A. Muir**, should have given a better account of itself in some games. More physical commitment in games and training is needed if others hope next year to match the considerable improvement managed by **E. Jones**, **C. Halls**, **A. Grant** and **P. Thomas** in the backs.

Good luck to those involved in the Italy training expedition and to all squad members for the 2003 season.

NJH

RESULTS - Junior Colts B XV

Rendcomb	L	24-26
Radley	L	10-34
Stowe	W	12-0
High Wycombe	L	3-50
Oratory	W	41-12
Pangbourne	W	31-5
Warwick	L	0-37
Marlborough	L	5-31



Juniors A Rugby

RESULTS - Juniors A XV

MCS	L	0-34
Radley	L	5-27
High Wycombe	W	12-10
Oratory	W	20-19
St Edward's	L	5-19
Pangbourne	W	22-0
Warwick	L	0-34
Marlborough	L	0-22
Bloxham	W	15-0

The Juniors A XV had a mixed season - but given the great potential within the squad, we will of course improve as we go through the School! Our first match was against a strong MCS side. We had not practised enough for such aggressive opponents, especially in the early part of the season. It became a one-man game: their fly half kept on running through our line and they piled on the points. We learnt some important lessons in that game. The next match was against Radley. They had another powerful, skilful side, but our starting line-up had changed, and we competed well. The main problem was in the loose: they kept rucking us off the ball and we did not have much possession to use. But eventually **C.Quarterman** found a gap from the five metre line and touched down.

We then had two weeks to prepare for our encounter with RGS, High Wycombe. We practised our rucking and handling - and worked on our pace. It was Open Day and we faced the task of showing off our skills in front of parents and coach. We were honoured with the opportunity of playing on the 1st XV pitch and we got off to a very good start. Soon, a break from **T.Meadows** gave us an early score. It was even on the half-time whistle, but then a try from **C.Checkley** and a vital conversion by **C.Halford** took us into the lead which we managed to keep, showing great team spirit. We felt proud to be the only A team to beat RGS and achieving it on the the top pitch made it an historic occasion.

In the final match before half-term we played an evenly matched side, Oratory. There were very good passages of rugby played, and the score was close for the whole match before we ran out as winners with **A.Paxton** scoring the deciding try in the last minute. There were other good tries from **M.Sutcliffe**, **R.Bucke** and **C.Checkley**. A well deserved win.

Half-term ended and we practised hard to get back into the swing of rugby. St Edward's was next, and our confidence was high as we were on a two-match winning roll. By now the Waste Court pitch was very wet. The game was scrappy, but we managed to win some possession and a good try from **M.Wood**, but St Edward's was hard to defend against, with some very quick backs, and the game went away from us. **W.Clegg** put in some very brave tackles. Next came Pangbourne, and we wanted to show that we could play attractive, flowing rugby, and also show how our communication had improved since the start

of the season. The first half was fairly even, with good support play and rucking developing in the second half. The ball kept on getting stuck in the forwards but when we started moving the ball wider through the backs we found we could exploit our pace. **A.Freeland** scored a good try. We then travelled to Warwick and played on a very muddy pitch and, although we lost, we managed to keep battling on, with great work from captain **N.Li**, and vice-captain **R.Bucke** keeping spirits high. Then we faced another long away trip to Marlborough, which was never going to be easy. Although they were bigger than us we were determined to do well and we demonstrated we had greater skill in some areas. Tireless tackling in the midfield from **J.Hughes**, **T.Fegan** and **A.Hamilton** kept us in the game.

Our last match was against Bloxham. We wanted to finish with a strong performance - and we wanted to change our Away record. On this rare occasion we faced a side which was smaller, although Bloxham was surprisingly effective in defence, hardly missing a tackle, so we had to work very hard for our tries. The highlight was a super forward solo run and try by **H.Moore**. **S.Robertson** and **H.Parmenter** played solidly in defence and attack. The season has ended on a positive, winning note. Special thanks to **SAE**, **BAHF** and **R.Hamilton** for excellent coaching. The team was greatly supported by parents throughout.

N. Li 3 MMH

I have great praise for this team, for the way that they have stuck to their task through a very long, tough season. They are a talented, well motivated group who should go on to do very well further up the school. Wins were very hard to come by, because the opposition on the circuit this year were big and strong, on the whole. They found themselves having to defend rather more than attack, but they took their scoring chances brilliantly - and the victory over RGS on Open Day and the last gasp winning try against Oratory showed the character and determination in the side. **N.Li** (Captain) and **R.Bucke** (Vice-Captain) deserve special praise for their superb attitude throughout the term.

I have enjoyed coaching the squad, thank them for their efforts both in training and matches - and wish them good luck with their rugby in the future. And remember - keep working on the pace!

SAE

Juniors B rugby

RESULTS - Juniors B XV

MCS	L	5-12
Radley	L	10-34
High Wycombe	L	5-16
Oratory	W	41-12
Pangbourne	W	51-0
Warwick	L	0-37
Marlborough	L	5-25
Bloxham	W	60-0

In an age when every team has to be anthropomorphically branded, this team adopted the epithet of 'The Minnows'. Granted the thought of facing the Abingdon Minnows did not strike the kind of fear into the opposition that a team of Tigers, Bulls or Panthers may have done, but this team held their own on the circuit well, won their fair share and battled to the end when up against the wall: the second half comeback against Radley comes particularly to mind.

There is an unwritten law in rugby, as in most sports, which dictates that the smaller the physical presence of a player the larger his vocal contribution. We were fortunate to have a number of players among the backs who subscribed to this rule, notably **T.Blakey**, **B.Taylor** and **J.White**. They were ably assisted by the fellow smurfs, **T.Dean**, **M.Watts** and **S.Robertson**. To counter their relative lack of size, and to complement their vocal game, they all developed a canny and thoughtful approach which will stand them in good stead in future years. Orchestrated by **M.Watts**, with **P.Hatzis** as the cutting edge and **S.Robertson** as the defensive shield, the backs played some attractive and effective patterns to break down bigger defences.

In the forwards we had to develop scrummaging technique to win enough ball, but with the ball in hand there are some strong runners here, particularly **H.Moore** and **J.Blair**. In defence **R.Worth** found his Welsh blood stirred by the sight of English opposition bearing down on him, and he accounted for more tackles than any three other players put together in the course of most matches. **R.Marsh** and **H.Parmenter** supported him ably in the back row, which formed a consistent unit within the team.

The players enjoyed playing, and even training, so if they can start matches rather more vigorously and not leave their best to the second half, they should develop strongly over the next few years. They were fun to work with and I wish them well next year.

BAHF

Forwards: **J.Blair**, **J.White**, **J.Greaves**, **H.Moore**, **M.Harris**, **W.Stockdale**, **H.Parmenter**, **R.Worth**, **R.Marsh**, **B.Christiansen**

Backs: **T.Dean**, **M.Watts**, **T.Blakey**, **H.Richards**, **L.Knight**, **S.Robertson**, **B.Taylor**, **C.Kerr**, **A.Paxton**, **S.Barton**, **H.Freeland**, **P.Hatzis**, **A.Mugnaoni**.

Juniors C Rugby

In 2002 the Juniors C fitted their description! Our campaign started on the wrong foot with defeats in the local derbies, at MCS and Radley. Although the scorelines were 5-20 and 5-19, it must be said they did not reflect the gameplay much. On both occasions we scored first and the two losses demonstrated two fundamental weaknesses: poor tackling and a lack of fitness. So with a fortnight break between fixtures we had some tough training sessions.

When Oratory presented us with a chance to show what we had, the team took it. A few changes in position, notably the inclusion of **S. Barton** at inside centre and a reshuffle which brought **G. Mouradian** into flanker from full back and **T. Phillips** moved from that position to the wing, made all the difference. We ran out resounding victors with a 41-0 scoreline and two tries from **T. Phillips**. The team played with determination. A just reward for weeks of hard training.

Our next game saw us pitted against a determined St Edward's side in miserable conditions. We came back from a try down to

level minutes after half time and it seemed that we had the ascendancy leading into the final quarter, but some poor finishing let us down and we were to go down 5-10 in a disappointing end. It was fantastic, however, to see the boys rallying behind each other in the adversity of defeat. In the final match of the season we were totally outplayed by a skilled and drilled Marlborough. Their winning margin was indicative of the rift between the teams.

In the year there were many outstanding performances, both individually and collectively. **W. Henley** was instrumental at fly half while **H. Freeland** was dangerous with his running of angles from full back. **H. Wimborne** played hard rugby all season while in the forwards **Y.-R. Kim** stood out with good technique and strong scrummaging skills. He was ably supported by **B. Allen** and **R. Hayley**. Many thanks must go to **R. Hamilton** and **WTP** for both their coaching and administrative support.

A. BUCHANAN

RESULTS - Juniors C

MCS	D	5-5
Radley	L	5-19
Oratory	W	41-0
Warwick	L	15-27
Marlborough	L	0-48

This is a talented squad with the potential to develop into an outstanding team as they move up through the School. There is an excellent team spirit within the group and with plenty of competition for places, it made team selection very difficult throughout. Their attitude to training was good but the attribute that impressed most was their determination and willingness to dig deep and not give in – something that is often lacking in schoolboys, particularly at this level.

The whole squad worked hard and have learnt a lot about themselves and how to develop their game. There was some excellent rugby played, which was of a very high standard and a real joy to watch. The fact that the team did not rely on any one individual to run the show is testimony to the talents within the squad and it really was an all-round team effort throughout the season.

The first few games were relatively easy ones, which allowed us to rotate the squad and develop our attacking options, but when we came up against Warwick and Moultsford, who were big and well organised, our defensive frailties were exposed and unfortunately we came off second best. However, the boys responded positively to the defeats and following some intense work on defensive drills in training they proved a much harder team to score against.

The high point of the season was without doubt the performance against Summer Fields. This was an enthralling encounter with some breathtaking rugby played by both teams. Abingdon started well and took a 5-0 lead, but Summer Fields fought back to score in the dying seconds of the first half to turn round 7-5 up. Summer Fields then pounded the Abingdon line at the start of the second half and all looked lost, but Abingdon defended resolutely, showing real grit and character to hold out against the odds, before working their way downfield to score two late tries to record a memorable and thoroughly deserved 17-7 victory.

Starting in the forwards, **J. Buckley** and **H. Graham** led from the front with some mauling runs and a high work rate, whilst **J. Warlow** was probably the most outstanding player in the latter part of the season, making endless tackles and turnovers at crucial stages. **W. Stockwell** was the cornerstone of the pack until his unfortunate injury in the Cothill game, whilst **B. Jackson**, **M. Neil**, **S. Dent** and **J. Moulds** all made telling contributions throughout. **T. Ojo** and **J. Howell** made up the remainder of the pack, both have huge potential and excellent ball skills, but tended to flit in and out of games too much and need to get more fully involved if they are to become a real force next year. Of the backs, **D. Clive** led the team well and was a most reliable last line of defence and was always a threat with the ball in his hands. **E. Barrett** and **J. Soames** shared the scrum half role, showing great

tenacity and good ball distribution, although their game would benefit from a more vocal approach in future. The fly half role was filled by **M. Pursell**, an outstanding talent, who orchestrated the back division shrewdly for one so young and always appeared calm and collected even when under intense pressure. The centre combination varied between **E. Hallett**, a deceptive ball carrier with good awareness and a clamp-like tackle, **T. Clee**, a strong runner with a good left boot and **R. Cadman**, a reliable player with excellent positional sense. Then there was real strength in depth on the wings with four quite different but very effective players to choose from who would have walked into an A team in most other years. **D. Tejuoso** has genuine pace and flair and finished the season as the top try scorer whilst **O. Raban** proved an excellent finisher with a deceptive turn of pace and an eye for the try line. The others were **P. Appleton** and latterly **S. Sam-Sadeen** from the First Form, both of whom are very elusive runners who showed real tenacity and determination in defence.

The whole group have been a real joy to coach and I hope they will continue to display such a positive and dedicated approach to their rugby in the future. I look forward to following their progress through the School.

AMB

After our triumphant first-year season, the whole Abingdon squad was ready to face the challenges of the second year. A year of new opposition, with more frequent and harder matches. The squad was basically the same as it was in the U12s, except for the addition of **M. Pursell** from the First Form, a very talented player who will be a key asset to the Minors As of next season. **S. Sam-Sadeen**, another Firstformer, also came into the team towards the end of the season and showed real pace and flair.

We started the season with five straight wins, including victories over Radley, the Oratory and St Edward's. In these matches we scored 144 points and conceded only eight. Sadly, we lost our unbeaten run when we came up against a very strong Warwick side. We also lost to Moultsford and St John's, Beaumont, a brand-new fixture for Abingdon. All of these defeats were due to the size and strength of our opponents.

The final record of 10 wins and 3 defeats, scoring 248 points and conceding 105, is a great set of results that will boost everyone's confidence for next year. The best win of the season was probably against Summer Fields when we came back from 7-5 down at half time to win 17-7. Our top try scorer was **D. Tejuoso** with 11 tries and **M. Neil** kicked the most conversions with 6. Everyone played well on their day.

D. CLIVE 2NJH

Minors Rugby

RESULTS - A XV

Radley	W	32-3
CCCS	W	12-0
Oratory	W	10-5
St Edward's	W	46-0
Josca's	W	44-0
Warwick	L	0-22
MCS	W	19-0
Marlborough	W	22-0
Moultsford	L	5-36
Cothill	W	22-5
Summer Fields	W	17-7
St J's, Beaumont	L	0-20
St A's, Pangbo'	W	17-7

B XV

Josca's	W	29-7
Warwick	L	12-27
Cokethorpe	L	0-24
MCS	W	7-5
Moultsford	W	27-12
Cothill	L	7-12
Summer Fields	L	7-19
St J's, Beaumont	L	5-17

1st XI Hockey

Beach hockey
on tour

The longest and fullest Abingdon hockey term on record began on 2nd January 2003, when the senior squad departed for Haarlem on the School's first overseas hockey tour.

Holland did not yield any positive match results: strong adult club sides from Strawberries and MBS inflicted heavy defeats on their guests. Nevertheless, we scored in both games and, while our term-time opponents warmed up with some sale shopping, our team spirit grew through 'powersliding', beach hockey in sub-zero temperatures and the 'post-shuffleboot episode'.

Just four days after our return we beat KES, Southampton (once-feared opposition) by the odd goal in seven and a week later it took a spectacular reverse stick winner for a strong St Edward's side to deny us a draw. Large-margin (but not especially satisfying) victories against Pangbourne and Shiplake sandwiched an RAF Cup Sunday when we came back memorably from two down to knock out Radley before losing narrowly again to St Edward's in the final.

Dean Close the next weekend was stronger than most sides on Abingdon's tough 2003 fixture list. Few teams matched our achievement of putting three goals past their 1st XI and **A. McKenzie's** outrageous strike was the goal of the day, but with supreme sticks skills in midfield they put our raw defence under sufficient pressure to find the net five times. At Stowe, goals again flowed freely and our open attacking play brought about a satisfying triumph. This game also witnessed the best goal of the 1st XI's season: defensive tenacity won Abingdon the ball in the left back zone and a sweetly hit crossfield pass released **D. Madden** to tear apart the home team's back line.

There was, unfortunately, a significant downturn in form

after half-term and a poor run of results ensued. Eton never gave us the time and room to settle into a desirable rhythm and the big loss to a fairly ordinary Bloxham side, played out in a strange atmosphere at a recently deforested Tilsley Park, was quite frankly embarrassing. A strong Warwick XI (National Schools' quarter-finalists) then rolled us aside to extend its 20-game unbeaten run. To enjoy so little possession of the ball in this match was hardly ideal preparation for two local derbys, but there can be no excuses for a nervous performance against MCS in particular. Defensive errors cost us dear here and those boys who play in the corresponding fixture next year should look at Radley's inability to wrestle control of the first half from their county cup conquerors (us!) to realise how much impact confidence can have in deciding the pattern of these key games.

In fact, the margin by which Radley eventually won was hugely flattering to them, as we played some excellent hockey in this game. There was definite evidence that the squad's performance level improved over the term. Although the team had less training time and coaching personnel available than the many better equipped schools on this strong circuit, the boys generally made the most of this provision. Matchday discipline also improved as the side faced tougher opposition and some of the junior members of the squad understood more fully the workings of the Association umpire's mind. It was not, therefore, surprising that the season ended with a win against Merchant Taylors', Northwood. These were not poor opponents, yet without sacrificing our attacking edge, we looked a sharper defensive unit than in our early fixtures. **W. Poole** and **D. Sullivan** both finally emerged as confident defensive players in partnership with **D. Roche**, as did **R. Wood** and versatile captain **S. Holland** who will be sorely missed next year. Other leavers are **D. Madden** and **H. Holland** on the wings, the increasingly flamboyant **I. McKenzie** and **R. Cox**.

RESULTS

Strawberries	L 2-5
MBS HBC	L 1-4
KES, Southampton	W 4-3
St Edward's	L 1-2
Pangbourne	W 7-1
(RAF Cup)v Radley	W 3-2
St Edward's	L 0-1
Shiplake	W 5-1
Dean Close	L 3-5
Stowe	W 4-3
Eton	L 0-2
Bloxham	L 3-7
Warwick	L 1-7
MCS	L 0-2
Radley	L 2-5
Merchant Taylors'	W 4-1

2nd XI Hockey

Blame the manager! Consistent selection and tactics are the hallmarks of a good manager. Unfortunately, we had a different team for almost every game and I lost count of the different systems we tried. Modern hockey not only requires speed and physical fitness but also tactical thinking and our use of a range of different systems – 442, 433, 4312, 13121 – although impressively tactical was perhaps excessive. However, illness, university open days and promotion to the 1st XI all made consistent selection difficult.

We had a very mixed season, but on many occasions we played some excellent hockey. I remember particularly Stowe, but the high point was a fine win in our last game against Merchant Taylors' School. The low point was the defeat to Shiplake on the astro next to Henley's Tesco. Was our early arrival and raid on the store's confectionery to blame? Nevertheless, the team was always enthusiastic, no more so than the captain **J. Chater**, who at right back was fearsome with his sliding one-handed tackles. At centre forward, **P. Tubman** scored an impressive 15 goals, many through his superior speed and long reach. Without his goalscoring I would have been sacked before Christmas.

D. Burnard played his best hockey at right wing and once he was fit, towards the end of the season, was very impressive. **A. Nash** played on the left, or as second striker just behind **P.**

Tubman. At his best his touch and clean striking of the ball made him very effective. The team's midfield was perhaps the weakest area during the season. **J. Moffat**, **G. Stern** and **R. Muirhead** all played there, but **D. Sullivan**, when he was not selected for the 1st XI, stepped up from his usual role at the back and really impressed, especially in his dominant play against Stowe. But a team's midfield is its mainstay and our backs struggled from lack of support. At the back **W. Allan** was the most reliable and improved player of the season. **I. McKenzie**, **J. Wilcox**, **S. McMahon** and **A. Gould** all played positive hockey. **M. Woodward** was an impressive goalkeeper, making excellent saves and keeping us in the game on many occasions. **J. Donnelly** played all season in a variety of positions from left wing to right back. He never stopped running and will improve to find a fixed role next year.

Next year brings new management at the top so on the basis of these results, I tender my resignation and we shall see if I am reappointed at this level. My lack of success doesn't deserve it, but thanks, lads, for making it an enjoyable season.

JPN

Those who played:

J. Chater (capt), **M. Woodward**, **J. Donnelly**, **S. McMahon**, **W. Allan**, **I. McKenzie**, **G. Stern**, **D. Sullivan**, **J. Moffat**, **M. Burnard**, **P. Tubman**, **A. Nash**, **R. Muirhead**, **J. Wilcox**, **A. Gould**.

RESULTS

Merchant Taylors'	W 4-3
Rendcomb	L 0-8
Radley	L 2-4
MCS	L 1-4
Bloxham	W 2-1
Eton	L 2-6
Stowe	D 2-2
Dean Close	L 0-4
Shiplake	L 2-3
Warwick	L 1-2
Pangbourne	W 4-0
St Edward's	L 2-3
KES, South'ton	W 5-0

3rd XI Hockey

The 3rd XI ended with a finer playing record than the other two senior XIs. A full fixture list was much enjoyed and narrow margins in most matches confirm that games were worthwhile. **JT** and **DE** provided excellent coaching.

Convincing wins came against Pangbourne, Shiplake, Bloxham (all away on grass) and Stowe (on the astroturf at Tilsley). Games versus Warwick and MCS both ended in 1-1 draws and although Radley (4th XI) and Eton were both too strong for us we managed

a goal against each and did not capitulate entirely. Rendcomb's 2nd XI was not the side that the final scoreline might suggest and our second half performance would probably have been less dismal had a winning record for the season not already been guaranteed.

Star players were goalkeeper **E. Antysz** and captain **D. Persaud**, but it was strength in depth that made this a successful squad.

D. PERSAUD VI SAE

RESULTS

Pangbourne	W 3-1
Warwick	D 1-1
Shiplake	W 3-2
Stowe	W 2-0
Eton	L 1-4
Bloxham	W 2-1
MCS	D 1-1
Radley	L 1-3
Rendcomb	L 3-6

Colts Hockey

Although this report will soon turn to a focus on the A team's matches, it is only right to start by saying what a great squad this was to work with. Twenty players represented the A team at some stage or other during the season, and whenever gaps had to be filled this was done with the minimum of fuss and the maximum of enthusiasm. Very rarely was the team obviously weakened by first choice players not being available. Training sessions at Tilsley in early February are not always the most joyous of occasions, but the participation and commitment of this squad was usually exemplary. The main moan, from the B squad players in particular, was that there were not more turnouts, and indeed we did lose some momentum three or four weeks in. The players also deserve credit for putting up with more **DGA/KJS** humour than anybody should be expected to.

In terms of squad results the season was well balanced, with 6 matches being won, 7 lost and 4 drawn; we scored 34 goals and let in 37. The teams also played well against senior sides, not to mention the matches against the Fourth Form...

As usual the season got off to a quick start, with a trip to KES, Southampton. Going a goal down very early on could have been a disaster, but the defence pulled themselves together quickly, and

with **P. Stern** having an inspired match at left back and **J. Wood** learning the sweeper's role on the job, we looked comfortable for most of the time. Our captain **J. Dingwall**, who was to lead by example throughout the season, scored the goal that earned us a good draw. Then came St Edward's at home; once again things were not looking too good, as we went down 4-1 at half time, at the same time as the captain leaving the pitch injured. An inspired second half performance brought us back to within a goal, but we narrowly failed to get the draw we at least felt we deserved. So we were two weeks into term without a win, but had already given two of our best performances, as things turned out later.

Three easier matches followed, against Pangbourne, Warwick and Shiplake, with the team scoring 12 goals without reply. **C. Davies**, **C. More**, **M. Duhan**, **K. Kim** and **J. Hopkins** all showed that they knew where the goal was. **C. Davies** and **K. Kim** also showed that they are the sort of players who can turn the course of matches on their own.

The next big challenge was our first trip to Dean Close in Cheltenham, and the failure to impress here was one of the main disappointments of the season. The match was summed up when **A. Green**, usually our most reliable defender, gifted the opposition

RESULTS

KES, South'ton	D 1-1
St Edward's	As L 3-4
	Bs L 0-3
Pangbourne	As W 2-0
	Bs W 1-0
Warwick	W 8-0
Shiplake	W 2-0
Dean Close	L 1-3
Stowe	D 1-1
Eton	As L 1-5
	Bs L 1-2
Bloxham	W 3-1
MCS	As L 0-2
	Bs D 1-1
Radley	As L 1-8
	Bs D 2-2
Rendcomb	W 5-1
Merchant Taylors'	L 1-3



stage of this second match by the umpire and author of this report did not help the cause!

Having won 3-1 against Bloxham, with **M. O'Byrne** at last impressing in a match as much as in practice sessions, and even scoring, we had three matches left to bring the season fully back

a goal just after we had got back into the match. And all was not well in goal - **J. Garrett**, who had always performed to an extremely high standard, was losing his appetite for the job. A draw snatched from the jaws of victory against Stowe, and a heavy defeat against a very tidy and competitive Eton College team added to the mid-season misery. A lapse of concentration at a crucial

on track; we lost all of them. The performance against MCS was a strong one, and we were unlucky not to win, let alone to lose by 2 goals. Many chances were created, and it was more down to inspired goalkeeping than to wasteful finishing that we failed to get a result. So it was with a degree of optimism that we set off for Radley College. This was looking very misplaced by the end, when we caved in completely, and poor **B. Sapsford** thought that he had had enough of goalkeeping too! Nobody enjoys letting in eight goals. The final match was neither the oddly satisfying MCS performance nor the Radley débâcle, but then nor was it the way we had wanted to finish the season. The best things about the day were **S. Paterson's** goal and the performance by goalkeeper number 3 - **B. Harris**, the sort of man anybody would want in their squad.

We have all had better seasons, but then there were some great moments. The squad had a reasonable amount of quality in depth as well as some stars. **J. Coleman**, not yet mentioned, played his part well throughout the season, **S. Florey**, **N. Hughes** and **H. Poultny** on odd occasions. But in the end we will have to say that we underperformed - very rarely was everyone in the team on form together. Despite all that, this was one of the most receptive squads I have worked with, and I look forward to seeing them make up for some of this season's disappointments in the School's senior teams.

DGA

Junior Colts Hockey

RESULTS

KES, Southampton	W 3-2
St Edward's	W 4-1
Pangbourne	W 7-0
Shiplake	W 4-0
Dean Close	W 2-1
Eton	W 3-1
Bloxham	W 5-0
Radley	W 3-2
MCS	W 2-1

Although the normal practice with regard to match details would be to list them at the end, I have decided that the circumstances are exceptional and that they therefore appear to the left at the beginning of this report.

First of all I would like to stress that this was a tremendous achievement and that I am proud of the way the side performed. Many congratulations are due to everyone involved. I am, however, concerned about the future, but more of that later.

To start with KES, Southampton: given little time to prepare is always difficult and we were unable to convert our technical superiority into a wider margin. Our passing was too gentle, our tackling rather awkward and we were guilty of wasting a number of chances. A much more impressive performance against St Edward's saw us beat them convincingly. Relationships were beginning to gel and it was good to see four different names on the score sheet (**J. Canlan-Shaw**, **T. Brooke**, **R. Wheeler** and **T. Roche**). Seven goals in fifty minutes against Pangbourne confirmed that this was likely to be a special season. **A. Cole** scored a hat trick and our short corner routines were beginning to bear fruit.

It was strange that we proved to be far less impressive against Shiplake. Thanks to **D. Graham** producing some excellent saves, we ended up with a scoreline that read much better than the game itself. There was a clear need for a more 'robust' approach to tight situations, plus earlier and sharper passing in mid-field.

Dean Close proved to be the first real test of character and we came through it well. Slick passing in mid-field and some strong running from **R. Wheeler** resulted in a number of chances being created, but it wasn't until the second half that we took the lead. We then surrendered the initiative and went through a very sticky patch, when our passing became very ragged. The defence was called upon to 'hold the line' and came through with flying colours. **C. Cowan**, in particular, was a tower of strength.

The performance against Eton varied between brilliant and awful and we were guilty of sitting back and allowing the initiative

to change hands. **D. Graham** again rescued the situation with important saves. A super individual goal from **T. Roche** set us on our way against Bloxham. **T. Brooke** created a number of openings with his intelligent positioning and use of the ball. Perhaps the highlight of the season was the result against Radley. Here we had to muster reserves of strength to hold on at the end, having dominated the early stages, but without converting that dominance into goals. **E. Jones** replaced the absent **J. Canlan-Shaw** and did a fine job of linking the forward line with the mid-field. A very lethargic performance against MCS could have ended in tears, but we pulled through thanks to two goals from **J. Canlan-Shaw**.

The final game against Merchant Taylors' was fast and furious and, at one point, we appeared to be dead and buried. A terrific fight back, which included two cracking goals from **R. Wheeler**, left us one goal down and bemoaning the fact that we had missed a succession of short corners in the first half. That said, the opposition deserved their victory.

It may seem hypercritical to suggest that we could have done better than this, but in a number of areas we did not make the most of our assets. An unwillingness to work really hard at improving techniques and raising fitness levels could mean that sides that we've beaten this season will catch up with us. Radley demonstrated what a technically inferior side can do, if the players have the drive, determination and fitness to fight their way out of trouble. We also need to pay greater heed to 'expert' advice, such as that given by Paddy Roche. We need to play through the mid-field, rather than run the ball from mid-field. We need to recognise when forwards have slipped their opposite number and get the ball to them early. There should not be phases of play when individuals are standing watching, while others strive to deal with the situation. Every individual should be looking to improve a technical deficiency and/or a lack of tactical awareness!

Finally our thanks go to **NJH** for all his organisation, Paddy Roche for helping with the umpiring and advice and all those mothers and fathers who came along and supported the team.

PJW

Juniors Hockey

Our first practice was on the first day of term. It was needed as many of us had not practised for some time. Our team seemed very talented, but we had too many players who continued to play in the same position. We lacked a few defenders and forwards.

The first match was against King Edward's, Southampton after the first week of term. They fielded a strong team but we matched them, although our short time together had not yet enabled us to bond properly as a team: some selfishness on our side was apparent. The goals from **N. Li** and **T. Blakey** gave us a respectable final score.

Our next game was against St Edward's and we played with good communication and technique. Every time the opposition scored, so did we! At one point we were leading 3-2, but then we lost both concentration and the lead. **N. Li** again scored two goals and **M. Watts** scored a 'cracker' from the edge of the D.

We learned from our mistakes, though, and produced a very good win over Pangbourne. We used the available width of the field more than in the previous two matches. This time **T. Blakey** scored a well earned hat trick, **N. Li** offered us another goal and **M. Watts** produced a second 'cracker' through both **N. Li's** and the goalkeeper's legs!

We continued in high spirits to our match against Shiplake. We played much better hockey without the earlier selfishness and much more passing, so that **N. Li's** two goals won us the match.

Dean Close had probably one of the better teams we faced. We were beaten by pace, technique and final score! In fact Eton and Bloxham in combination with Dean Close now had ensured us three big losses. We were eager to win a match, but sadly the fixture against The Dragon did not bring us victory either, although **M. Watts** produced a third 'cracker' from his position parallel to the goal.

MCS with their county players then beat us (without any county players) at home, and we set our minds to trying to beat Radley, our long-term rivals. This was a very even game in which each team had many opportunities to score. Unfortunately for us, Radley scored twice, although **J. Ambler** made some good saves. In the 90th minute a short corner was awarded and **N. Li** scored, which cheered us up immensely.

Our final match was against Merchant Taylors'. A long coach journey to their school made us quite tired, so we failed to play very well. We needed to use the wings more but kept the ball in the middle, leaving great areas of the pitch very vulnerable.

We thank **NMR, PMD, SPGS, NJH** and all the coaches who improved our standards of play. We need to learn from all our errors and win some more matches next year!

Our team:

J. Ambler, A. Hamilton, A. Paxton, S. Robertson, R. Parker, T. Blakey, C. Lester, G. Salmon, H. Freeland, M. Watts, N. Li (capt.) and J. Gerard.

N. Li 3MMH

RESULTS

KES	L 2-3
St Edward's	L 3-6
Pangbourne	W 5-1
Shiplake	W 2-0
Dean Close	L 0-7
Eton	L 0-6
Bloxham	L 0-6
Dragon	L 1-2
MCS	L 0-8
Radley	L 1-3
Merchant Taylors'	L 0-5

Under 13 Hockey

Overall, the U13A hockey team had a reasonably good season. We played six matches, of which we won four and lost two, both by narrow margins. We scored in every match, scoring 14 overall and only letting ten goals in. We kicked off our season with a game against Radley at Tilsley Park. We won this match 2-1. The next game was against Christ Church Cathedral School on War Memorial Field, which we won rather comfortably 5-1. Later that same week, we played away at the Dragon, beating them 3-1. We played Radley again and narrowly lost 2-1, as they unfortunately scored with the last shot of the match. MCS then beat us 4-1 at Tilsley Park, despite us scoring the first goal. We finished our season with a 2-1 win against New College School.

The U13B enjoyed four fixtures over the term. They opened with a goalless draw against Radley's U14E but were later on match for the same school's U14D, going down by four goals. Their next game saw them play a team of their own age and they produced a thrilling 3-2 victory over local rivals MCS. Unfortunately, with three different outcomes behind them, they did not manage to beat New College School in the final game. Playing away from home, and on grass for the first time, the side lost by a single goal. The U12 played just one game (against Millbrook House) and recorded a victory.

All these teams contained talented and enthusiastic players, who will find that the move up to the next year-group brings more matches and, we hope, an even more successful term of hockey.

R. CADMAN 2Z





1st XI Cricket

Eton	Lost by 5 wks Abingdon 135 for 9 Eton 136 for 5
Oratory	Lost by 39 runs Oratory 197 for 4 Abingdon 158 all out
Stowe	Match drawn Stowe 189 for 7 dec Abingdon 113 for 8
St Edward's	Lost by 40 runs St Edward's 179 all out Abingdon 139 all out
Pangbourne	Won by 68 runs Abingdon 207 for 6 Pangbourne 139 for 9
Berkshire Gents	Won by 4 wks B. Gents 184 for 4 dec Abingdon 185 for 6
High Wycombe	Lost by 105 runs RGS 261 for 9 dec. Abingdon 157 all out
S. Ox. Amateurs	Match drawn SOAs 182 for 6 Abingdon 178 for 9
MCS	Lost by 2 wks Abingdon 204 for 7 MCS 205 for 8
MCC	Lost by 48 runs MCC 215 for 4 Abingdon 167 all out
Birkenhead	Lost by 193 runs Birkenhead 271 for 8 Abingdon 78 all out
Univ.College	Lost by 3 wks Abingdon 286 for 3 UCS 287 for 7
KEQMS	Won by 106 runs Abingdon 279 for 9 KEQMS 173 all out

drawn matches could easily have ended up as Abingdon victories if we had been able to show earlier in the season the same positive approach and killer instinct that we developed as a group in Barbados, from which we departed with a record of played three, won three. Only two of our defeats were by crushing margins and I must congratulate both Birkenhead School and RGS, High Wycombe for the excellent cricket that they played against us. The fact that only one fixture had to be abandoned showed just how important our new cricket covers will be. Not only was very little cricket lost to the weather but the wickets on War Memorial Field were also considerably firmer, and therefore better, on a weekly basis.

We did not cover ourselves in glory in the short and very congested first half of term, with two defeats, one draw and one match rained off. At that stage of the season our prospects did not seem too bright as it was only **J. Watkins** who looked capable of scoring runs on a consistent basis and our bowling looked unthreatening, with far too many loose deliveries.

As a result of some hard work in the nets with **Gary Palmer**, our cricket professional, our batting improved markedly after half term and, though there were only four different players who were able to score half-centuries or better (**J. Watkins**, **P. Stern**, **G. Stern** and **S. Kapoor**) a further five players were able to register scores of 40 or more. Our leading run scorers were **J. Watkins** (batsman of the season with 557 runs at an average of 34.81), **P. Stern** (480 runs, average 28.23) and **G. Stern** (335 runs, average 20.93). In addition, both **S. Florey** and **S. Kapoor** were able to achieve healthy batting averages of 25+ for the season. These statistics bode very well for next summer.

On the bowling front, the return of **J. Mugnaioni** (14 wickets at 24.14) from injury added movement and accuracy to our seam attack and the progress made by **A. McKenzie** as a hostile strike bowler was very encouraging. With 20 wickets at an average of 18.7 apiece, he won the award for bowler of the season. **G. Stern** (17 wickets at 34.17) showed that he could be a useful wicket-taker with his left-arm spin but proved rather expensive in some games and will need to work at this side of his bowling next year. The other bowlers who took the 10 wickets necessary to get their names in *Wisden* were **S. Hollan** (13 wickets at 24.69), **S. Florey** (11 wickets at 21.36) and **A. Rehman** (11 wickets at 32.18). A number of players showed talent and promise with the ball during the season but we struggled to bowl teams out and the accuracy and mental toughness of our bowlers will need to be

The 1st XI had to endure some difficult times during the 2003 season but by the time our Caribbean tour finished in late July there were plenty of positives on which to reflect for next year. Though a record of eleven losses from our twenty matches makes for unpleasant reading, five of our defeats and one of the

worked at next year if they are to complement a batting line-up that looks reasonably strong on paper.

The obvious highlight of the season was the successful tour of Grenada and Barbados. Other notable successes included victory in the Holmwoods six-a-side tournament at Hampton School, in which our team of **J. Watkins**, **J. Mugnaioni**, **G. Stern**, **P. Stern**, **S. Holland** and **A. McKenzie** played superbly and beat John Fisher School in the final, scoring 107 from five eight-ball overs and restricting the opposition to just 74 in reply, and centuries in the same innings against University College School for **G. Stern** and **P. Stern**. This was a very unusual achievement, especially as these centuries were the first scored by either player for the 1st XI.

The biggest disappointment of the season came in the manner of our defeats in several games that we should have won, in particular against Magdalen College School and against University College School at Birkenhead. Too many of our players lost their focus and their self-belief too often under pressure. This meant that batsmen scored their runs too slowly and gave their wickets away with rash shots, bowlers sent down too many wides, no-balls and poor deliveries which were dispatched to the boundary and fielders dropped crucial catches and gave away runs with sloppy ground fielding. The mental side of our game hardened during our Caribbean tour but this underlying fragility under pressure and habit of throwing away matches which we had a good chance of winning will need to change if we are to be more competitive next season. MCS should never have been allowed to win a match in which they were 5 wickets down with only 28 runs on the board chasing 205 for victory and UCS should never have been allowed to get near their target of 287 from 50 overs. It is defeats like these that damaged team morale and individual confidence and I hope that the winning habit that we picked up in Barbados will mean that we start the 2004 season in much stronger fashion.

To conclude I would like to thank **Gary Palmer** for the hard work that he has put in this season not only with the 1st XI but also with the full range of age-groups. The technical batting coaching that the boys have received has given every team a greater number of potential run scorers and this can only improve results at 1st XI level in the future. Secondly, I would like to thank **Paul Robson** and his team of groundsmen for preparing and tending to the playing surfaces and practice facilities on a weekly basis and therefore enabling our cricketers to perform to a high standard. I would like to thank the captain of cricket, **J. Watkins**, who leaves us after four productive years with the bat at 1st XI level and whose contribution to School cricket will be sorely missed. John Chapman volunteered his services as a minibus driver for the Birkenhead Festival and his generosity and friendliness were much appreciated by the squad of players. Finally, a mention should go to all the boys in the Game One squad this summer. **CB**, **Mr Hibberd** and I thoroughly enjoyed their company at practice sessions, on match days and on tour and their sportsmanship and conduct on the field were commented on favourably by a number of neutral umpires during the season. Though results did not always go our way, I am proud of all of the players for the manner in which they acted as ambassadors for the School wherever they travelled.

Colours were awarded as follows:

Full colours:	J. Watkins (re-awarded)
Half colours:	P. Stern S. Hollan S. Florey A. McKenzie J. Florey A. Rehman

Extracts from Grenada/Barbados Cricket Tour

Grenada P 4 W 1 L 3
Barbados P 3 W 3

Monday 14 July:

First match against St Andrew's at Grenville. On arrival, we notice that grass in outfield is extremely long and there is no pavilion, scoreboard or shade of any kind. Our scorer (**C. Lillycrop**) wisely decides to base himself in minibus for the afternoon. We bat first, scoring only 119-6 from 35 overs, with **P. Stern** top-scoring (37). Our first experience of batting in the heat has not gone well. After a poor start, St Andrew's knock runs off for loss of only four wickets and with plenty of overs to spare. A disappointing result in our first match but we take a few lessons away with us from the game.

Tuesday 15 July:

Second game versus St David's at La Sagesse. Picturesque ground, this time with stand and scoreboard, but pitch is soft like plasticine. We bat first once more and do much better: 150-7 from 35 overs with **J. Watkins** scoring 77. Unfortunately we don't bowl well enough and their middle order smash us around to win by 6 wickets with four overs to spare – very disappointing. We head back feeling a bit down, with fines meeting and karaoke later at the bar.

Wednesday 16 July:

Third match v Grenada Boys' Secondary School at Grenada's second stadium, Tanteen. Lovely setting with flat, hard wicket. We bat first again and struggle to 127 for 9 from 35 overs. We lose by just one wicket, with only just over two overs to go, though **S. Florey** gives us hope towards the end with four wickets including a hat trick. Another defeat and it's all doom and gloom after the game.

Friday 18 July:

Match four against St George's in National Stadium (used by the West Indies as a One-day International venue). This time we bat second. **S. Holland** takes four wickets as opposition score 125-8 from 35 overs, but we drop seven catches – lots of fines this evening! We struggle to 116-8, with just two overs left and **A. McKenzie** on strike. Dot ball, then a four, then a huge six to win us the game – victory at last!

Tuesday 22 July:

No match today so we book glass-bottomed boat trip out to the coral reefs at Hometown where we go snorkelling – absolutely fantastic! We then have hour of watersports, riding on rubber rings and banana boat pulled by speedboat. Great fun had by all.

2nd XI Cricket

The 2nd XI enjoyed a hugely successful season and remained unbeaten until the very game against RGS High Wycombe, a match which was lost by the narrowest of margins, just one wicket. The team enjoyed victories against The Oratory School, Stowe and Pangbourne College and only the weather denied them a well deserved win against Magdalen College School.

J. Florey captained the side with distinction, demonstrating good tactical awareness and an ability to get the best out of his players. Nobody was more disappointed than the skipper when the team lost their unbeaten record in the last over of their final game. The excellent team spirit shown by the 2nd XI throughout the season reflected very well on James' captaincy and on **CB's** dedication and powers of motivation as coach.

Although the excellent results were the product of effective teamwork, the performances of certain individuals deserve to be mentioned. Half centuries were scored in exhilarating style by

Wednesday 23 July:

Fifth game v Queen's College. Sheldon Branch transports us to venue and gives us passionate team talk. Start delayed because opposition have only five players. After hour-long wait, still only seven players. We give them four of our players to speed things up and we also have to provide both umpires. This sets tone for whole afternoon. A poor game of cricket, but we get second win. **G. Stern** top-scores with 38. Trip to Marshall's Bar in evening for dinner and **C. Watson's** birthday bash. Sheldon joins us and Desmond Haynes also makes an appearance, entertaining us with stories and passing on some advice.

Thursday 24 July:

Match six v Harrison College. Ground is well maintained and pitch is firm: an excellent game of cricket is in store. Opposition bat first and score 165-7 from 35 overs, a decent but achievable target. We score too slowly in reply and following the loss of **J. Watkins** and **G. Stern** in quick succession we are in trouble on 91-5 with only ten overs remaining. Positive strokeplay from **J. Florey** and **S. Florey** gets us within reach and **S. Kapoor** hits the winning runs off the last ball of the innings. What a game and what a win! Return to Sunset Crest to begin packing for home.

Friday 25 July:

Team sets out for final match v. Foundation School in determined fashion. Nothing other than victory will do – we want to finish tour with winning record. Can we do it? Opposition bat first and we bowl and field poorly to leave ourselves 205 from 35 overs for victory – a daunting task. We start positively and with **J. Watkins** and **P. Stern** in together things are looking good. **P. Stern** is run out with direct hit from fielder falling over as he throws and **J. Watkins** is out immediately afterwards for 69. **J. Florey** (41 not out) and **A. McKenzie** see us home with ten balls to spare and we have won another extraordinary game of cricket.

Not only a success from a cricketing point of view but also a wonderful holiday, this tour could not have been a more enjoyable experience. My thanks go out to the nineteen boys involved, who were a credit to the school both on and off the cricket field, to **Stephen Hibberd** (Master i/c Games at Josca's), who accompanied us and was an absolute star throughout the two weeks and to the parents who paid a significant amount of money to give their sons this fantastic opportunity. After a six-year gap since Abingdon's last trip to the Caribbean, I hope that cricket tours can become a more regular event in the future and I can only hope that they are all as successful as this one.

SPGS

H. Holland and **W. Poole**, while the determination and application shown by **M. Duhan** and **A. Hall** during their century partnership against High Wycombe bode well for the future. On the bowling front, **J. Wilcox** could always be relied upon to ask questions of opposition batsmen with his left arm seam and swing bowling, while **J. Mugnaioni's** extraordinary, match-winning exploits against Stowe (four wickets in four balls, all bowled) will be remembered for a long, long time. **H. Cole** bowled beautifully against Magdalen College School and was desperately unlucky that his four wicket haul did not result in victory for the team, as the match had to be abandoned as a draw.

Overall the season was a success on every front, serving to highlight the wealth of cricketing talent to be found at Abingdon. It is to be hoped that some of the younger players will be able to compete for 1st XI places next year, while I wish the leavers every success on and off the cricket field in the future.

SPGS

Eton	Drew Abingdon 158 for 7 Eton 119 for 9
Oratory	Won by 11 runs Abingdon 154 for 6 Oratory 143 all out
Stowe	Won by 74 runs Abingdon 202 for 5 Stowe 128 all out
St Edward's	Drew Abingdon 166 all out St Edward's 156 for 8
Pangbourne	Won by 4 wickets Abingdon 124 for 7 Pangbourne 125 for 6
High Wycombe	Lost by 1 wicket RGS 197 all out Abingdon 198 for 9

Junior Colts Cricket

Eton	Lost by 39 runs Eton 182 for 5 Abingdon 143 for 7
Oratory	Won by 6 wickets Oratory 123 for 9 Abingdon 126 for 4
Stowe	Won by 41 runs Stowe 161 all out Abingdon 202 for 6
St Edward's	Lost by 45 runs St Edward's 100 all out Abingdon 55 all out
Pangbourne	Won by 9 wickets Pangbourne 56 all out Abingdon 57 for 1
High Wycombe	Lost by 4 runs High Wycombe 147 all out Abingdon 143 all out
MCS	155 for 7 Abingdon 152 all out

The Junior Colts A team has had a good season, winning three matches and losing four, two of which went right to the end and could have gone either way. The highlight of the season was the match against MCS, which we allowed them to win by only three runs!

Our batting team showed characteristic strength, with three half centuries coming from **A. Verdin**, **J. Canlan-Shaw** and **S. Henley**, and very respectable innings from **F. Gater**, **P. Thomas** and **S. Thakore**.

On the bowling side, there were some outstanding performances by **M. Halford**, our opening bowler, picking up ten wickets and **T. Roche** who claimed thirteen. There were some positive contributions by **P. Thomas**, **O. Burnham**, **A. Francis** and **J. Swarbrick**. A special mention goes to **A. Cole**, who kept wicket bravely and consistently.

It has been an enjoyable season. Thanks go to **AMB** for helping me with the fielding positions, and **JFB** for keeping the B team in order!

J. CANLAN- SHAW 4SEB

Juniors Cricket

With one of our weakest teams for many years at this level we were always going to endure a trying season. Against the better sides our frailties were cruelly exposed and we suffered several heavy defeats, so it was pleasing to record our three victories in the Lords Taverners' Trophy to reach the final, which we hope to play in September.

Our batting left much to be desired on far too many occasions with a major collapse always a distinct possibility. Faulty technique and lack of application meant the batsmen were unable to resist against good bowling for any length of time. **T. Blakey** showed more resolve than most but even he succumbed cheaply towards the end of the season.

The bowling was much steadier with **G. Salmon** being the most consistent and **H. Wimborne** and **T. Blakey** providing good support but we tended to lack the ability to bowl sides out from good positions. The prime example of this was when we allowed St Edward's to recover from 16 for 6 to post a target of over 100 which proved to be well beyond our fragile batting.

The highlight of the season came in the last match against Lord Williams's in the Trophy semi-final. Having suffered our usual batting disaster, a gallant last-wicket stand of 36 between **N. Li** and **S. Barton** lifted our score to 100. We then produced our best sustained bowling and fielding display to bowl out the opposition for 54. We will certainly have to raise our game considerably in the final, however, if we are to overcome a very strong MCS side.

Captaining this team was no easy task but **G. Salmon** did well in the circumstances and certainly led by example.

My thanks to **JFH** for his good-humoured help and driving and to **Gary Palmer** for his attempts to instil some basic skills into the squad.

Team from:
G. Salmon (capt.), **M. Hutchinson** (wkt.), **T. Blakey**, **C. Quarterman**, **C. Checkley**, **S. Sethi**, **H. Wimborne**, **N. Li**, **S. Barton**, **A. Hamilton**, **J. Blair**, **P. Taylor**, **C. Halford**, **D. Mills**, **J. Ambler**, **C. Tucker**, **H. Sargent**

RPF

Under 13 Cricket

The end-of-season festival at Durham School replicated the term that had preceded it for the Under 13 AXI: highly enjoyable and successful after a tough opening game, but with a disappointing close.

The term-time fixture list started with a 56-run defeat at The Oratory but then brought five successive victories. Stowe lost by 40 runs, Cokethorpe and Wheatley Park managed just twenty runs off the bat between them and St Edward's U14 C selection served us buffet bowling. The game against NCS almost ended in farce after some scorebook turmoil but **L. Himpson** and **J. Moulds** spared their Tutor's blushes by scoring the last couple of runs to ensure a win by one wicket.

What in league terms would have been termed a 'winning draw' against Josca's aside, we failed to record a positive result in the remainder of the term. Strong sides from Summer Fields, RGS, MCS and Bilton Grange all beat us convincingly. We had a plethora of good bowlers available but made merely decent teams look good and ourselves inept by batting and fielding ineffectively. Too many batsman gave their wickets away easily: that only two regulars (**D. Clive** and **T. Clew**) managed to avoid being bowled in at least half their innings suggests defensive frailty elsewhere in the squad; additionally, run-outs featured too frequently in declaration and longer limited overs games where the pressed

single is not so valuable. With less tolerance of costly errors in the outfield and fewer dropped catches on the square, the outstanding **D. Clive** (25 wickets at just over 10 runs apiece) and captain **W. Stockwell** (26 averaging 12.5) would have returned even better figures.

The Durham festival was a great way to round off the season and although poor fielding and diffident batting were very much in evidence against Colet Court on day one and The Dragon in the third place play-off, the middle two days saw some fine Abingdon performances. **T. Deeks**, who ran into form on tour, and fellow Firstformer **M. Pursell** both made unbeaten half-centuries against Dutch opposition and key bowling contributions against a Scottish regional selection. Nobody, however, surpassed **O. Raban's** 59 against St Edward's or **D. Clive's** 6 for 6 at Wheatley Park.

I would like to thank spectating parents, **SPGS**, **AMB**, **CB** and **JFH** for their support. They would all, I feel sure, agree with me that the boys were a thoroughly good-humoured bunch. Beyond the individuals named in this article, **E. Barrett**, **M. Neil**, **J. Rhodes**, **J. Soames** and others all have obvious potential. I wish all these boys success in their cricket next year and hope that many members of the **W. Cullen**-and **B. Prior**-inspired BXI (victorious at Pangbourne) will continue to don whites through the Middle School.

NJH

Oratory	Lost by 56 runs Oratory 166-6 Abingdon 110 all out
Stowe	Won by 40 runs Abingdon 132 all out Stowe 92 all out
Cokethorpe	Won by 57 runs Abingdon 85-5 Cokethorpe 28 all out
Wheatley Park	Won by 60 runs Abingdon 85-9 Wheatley Park 25 all out
St Edward's	Won by 118 runs Abingdon 179-7 St Edward's 61 all out
NCS	Won by 1 wicket NCS 83 all out Abingdon 84-9
Banbury	Lost by 10 runs Banbury 111-9 Abingdon 101-7
Summer Fields	Lost by 105 runs Summer Fields 182-6 dec Abingdon 77 all out
High Wycombe	Lost by 100 runs RGS 194-7 Abingdon 94-6
Josca's	Draw Abingdon 154-6 dec Josca's 79-8
MCS	Lost by 108 runs MCS 221-2 Abingdon 113-9
Bilton Grange	Lost by 6 wickets Abingdon 63 all out Bilton Grange 67-4
Colet Court	Lost by 8 wickets Abingdon 90 all out Colet Court 93-2
Rood en wit	Won by 107 runs Abingdon 192-7 Rood en wit 85-9
West of Scotland	Won by 4 wickets West of Scotland 142 all out Abingdon 143-6
Dragon	Lost by 117 runs Dragon 177 all out Abingdon 60 all out

Athletics

This year's House Athletics Competition was the most open in many years. It was splendid to add Phelps' House to the teams competing. Now separate from the combined Boarders' team, this meant we could fill all eight lanes on the track.

Drummond-Hay's House won the overall event but did this without winning any of the individual year-group competitions: proof that in his final year in charge **JEDDH** can still mobilise his boys with a general's eye for strategy. Aitken's (Third Form winners) and Spencer's (Fourth Form and Upper School winners), two Houses under new management, did well, as did the Boarders' (Fifth Form winners).

As with many whole School events, one is most impressed by those boys who got involved for the pleasure of taking part and scoring points for their House.

KJS



Badminton

This season had the usual run of nearly perfect success, the only loss in a friendly match against our strongest opponents (Millfield) with a team of promising future talent, owing to the unavailability of most of the veteran first team players. However, in the rematch, using our full squad, the result was 1-4, a sufficient atonement for the prior slip. Other notable victories for the U19s included whitewashes against Rugby and Henry Box and a sterling performance against a strong King Alfred's, resulting in 5.5 -1.5 victory.

The Oxfordshire Schools' Badminton Association County Tournament has seen the normal string of unbeaten results for Abingdon. With the full 1st team present in most rounds, the opposition was comprehensively demolished. The closest contest was the win against King Alfred's School. The U19 OSBA final was scheduled for the Summer term and was won by default by Abingdon since the opposition were unable to produce a team.

Excellent performances this season came from all members of the teams, and the calm and collected presences on court of **J. Moffatt** and **D. Madden** will be sorely missed as they leave for university this summer. Their bedrock pairing was the basis around which the 1st team was moulded and it should be noted that the 1st team remained unbeaten whenever they took to the court together. Sad farewells must also be said to the captain of badminton, **P. Craig**, famous for his mastery of a seemingly effortless style of play and for his easy-going nature. **P. Lau**, our regular 2nd team captain, also leaves for university, taking his reflexes and smash with him. **G. Wong** from the U16 squad has put in strong performances over his time at Abingdon but unfortunately the time has come for him to move on to Winchester.

These losses will be difficult to replace but the up-and-coming players moving into the Sixth Form next year bode well for the future of the Badminton Club. **C. North** and **S. McMahon** registered only one lost game as 1st pair and no match containing the pair has yet been lost. **N. Gardner** and **I. Cheng** have been an extremely solid pair for the 1st team; we hope that they will excel next season, too. **H. Chi** has been a crucial member of the 2nd team this season along with **J. Li**, the **Mak** brothers, **Y. Gao**, **T. Rippon** and **B.H. Teh**; sometimes it feels as if the School should really field two 1st teams.

The youth divisions also had successful seasons this academic year. The U16 squad won the OSBA Tournament with an entirely unbeaten streak and capped their exploits with a whitewash in the final against Wood Green. We look forward to seeing them excel next season. The U14 squad suffered an unfortunate defeat in the OSBA Tournament at the hands of a strong John Mason team and next season will hope to return the favour and dominate the county. Lower School badminton has been coming along in a very promising direction under the supervision of our Master of Badminton **IAM** and **AJJ**'s help with the Club has been greatly appreciated.

Captains of Badminton for the forthcoming season are **C. North** and **S. McMahon**. Half colours have been awarded to **I. Cheng** and **G. Wong** for excellent contributions to the Club's glory and the future looks bright for all members of the Abingdon Badminton Club, moving from strength to strength with every passing year.

S. McMAHON 6MS

RESULTS:

Bloxham	Won 14-2
Oratory	Won 6-2
Cheltenham	Won 16-2
Stowe	Won 15-3
Radley	Won 16-2
Millfield	Won 14-4
Bloxham	Won 10-6
Rugby	Won 18-0
Wellington	Won 14-2
Rugby	Won 13-1
Cheltenham	Won 13-3
Radley	Won 6-3
Millfield	Lost 11-16
Oratory	Won 14-2



RESULTS

1st VI
 Bradfield Lost (on sets) 3-3
 Shiplake Won 9-0
 MCS Won 6-3
 Bloxham Won 6-2
 St Edward's Won 8-1
 Stowe Lost 7.5-1.5
 OXIST Won 3-0

2nd VI
 Shiplake Won 7-2
 MCS Won 5.5-3.5
 Stowe Lost 9-0

Under 16s
 MCS Won 6-3 & 7-2
 St Edward's Won 5.5-3.5
 OXIST Bs Won 2-0

Under 15s
 Shiplake Lost 4-2
 MCS Lost 9-0
 St Edward's Won 6-3
 Stowe Lost 7-2

Under 14s
 Stowe Lost 5-4

Tennis

The professional era?

This season we were fortunate to have the services of a professional coach, and even more fortunate that he brought a genuine enthusiasm for the game as well as technical expertise from which the players could draw. **Phil Warr** will continue to work with team players through the winter, which should bring on their games considerably.

The other good news of the season was that we enjoyed a successful run of games and the leadership of a talented and willing group of Upper Sixthformers. However, the frustrations of competing with a congested examination timetable grow every year; two fixtures had to be cancelled altogether and several others were prejudiced by the unavailability of players owing to examinations.

The seniors - 1st, 2nd and 3rd VIs

After the invigoration of a week on the dance floor of the Windmill Hill training centre, the 1st VI knitted themselves into a competitive team. **J. Franklin** as captain provided an example of technical proficiency and competitiveness which others have followed. At 1-4 down against MCS he told **W. Allen** that they were not going to lose, and they won 6-4. There is no doubt that **J. Franklin** has given much more than he has taken from Abingdon tennis, as he has always been a notch above most school tennis. He has made his contribution with modesty and humour, and we will miss his team talks and supportive asides as much as his on court play.

The real strength of this team, however, has been its unusual depth. A number of players have improved consistently though the last five years to the stage where they were able to overcome Radley, MCS and St Edward's in the Oxfordshire Independent Schools' Tournament. **W. Allen, J. Moffatt, M. Cullen, D. Madden, J. Kelly** and **M. Burnard** all benefited from their own application as much as from Phil's advice, and earned their colours for the achievement of prising the OXIST cup from Radley for the first time. For any younger boys reading this, this group have shown what satisfaction and fun can be gained from putting some time, enthusiasm and effort into a sport at School.

At the Independent Schools' Championships at Eton we came up against a strong Cranleigh IV in the first round and went out of the main Cup. In the Plate we beat Bradfield and Charterhouse on the way to the semi-finals, but lost a close match against Sevenoaks in the deciding singles.

M. Watkins requires a special mention as he played in the three main competitions and took over from **J. Franklin** as the singles specialist at Eton. He has evidently a fine talent, and when available will be our cutting edge for years to come. Although competitive on it, **M. Watkins** is modestly soft-spoken off court, and looks to have the temperament to cope with the requirements of national and international tennis. Good luck to him as he progresses through the rankings.

The 2nd and 3rd VI had fewer matches in which to show their colours. There is some talent here for the 1st VI next year, but the winter training will be crucial to competing as strongly. **C. Dyer, J. Nicholls, T. Vaughan-Fowler, P. Wong** and **N. Gardner** are enthusiastic players with some good shots but as yet without the consistency or power of 1st VI players. If they progress and are joined by **G. Potter, D. Roche** and **W. Poole** then we might have

a nucleus to build around **J. Kelly**, next year's captain of tennis. Others who played for the 2nd and 3rd VI were: **T. Schoeler, D. Wong, P. Lee, J. Lillycrop, I. Chau, N. Orr.**

Colts, Junior Colts and Under 14s

With their sights on GCSEs it was difficult for the Colts to generate much consistency in training or matches. As shown by the two matches they did play and the victory of the B IV at OXIST, there is talent in this year group, but as yet not the enthusiasm or cohesion which could transform them into genuine senior school players. **T. Reid, P. Jones, H. Poultney** and **N. Hughes** formed the core of the 1st VI and responded well to the coaching they received. **S. Hekmat**, the most naturally gifted player in the year, was sadly unavailable for matches but again trained well when he was here. **M. Haste** and **J. Garrett** broke into the AVI by keeping the ball alive (even if their opponents expired with weariness). **R. Coleman, R. Mallett, M. Rothkopf** and **J.-W. Lee** also played in the Bs.

The Junior Colts, by their own admission, lack a genuine first pair, and so struggled to pick up sets against the better opposition. What they lack in flair they make up for in spirit, however, and approached the game with real zest. **J. Innes** and **H. Park** rose to the top, **P. Birkett** and **R. Woolley** trained hard and will improve, as will **B. Shelton, D. Lam** and **J. Thomas**, who also showed energy and commitment. **S. Maclachlan** and **S. Crowther** took a too casual approach to the game, and must learn to turn up and play their part in exchange for the training which the School offers.

The loss of other year-groups to examinations was the U14s' gain. They had a lot of time on court, and benefited greatly from Phil Warr's coaching. There is solid core of players here, led by **A. Bell** and supported by **M. Sutcliffe** and **M. Watts**, and **D. Fry, W. Henley** and **H. Richards**. Once they learned to turn up, **A. Chan** and **J. Michelson** showed some style, but not the consistency which more court time gave to the others. Next year there will be more matches, and greater competition for places.

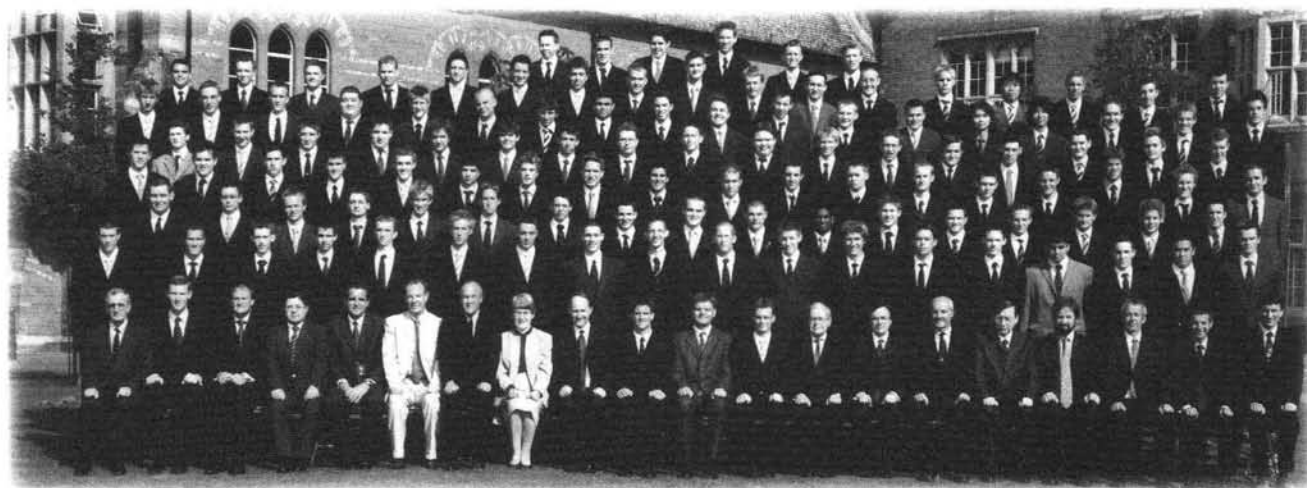
We entered the Oxfordshire Schools' Tennis Tournament at U14 and U13 levels, with some success. **O. Raban** and **M. Kibble** won the U14s competition and were joined in the finals by the U13s pair, **J. Robinson** and **A. Campbell**, who found the opposition too strong this year. Apart from this proven talent, there are other players of some promise such as **M. Derbyshire** and **H. Graham**.

O. Raban also had the distinction of reaching the final of the Buckley Cup (the internal School competition), beating two Sixthformers in the process, but losing to **M. Watkins** in the end. **M. Watkins** himself reached the final two years ago, and is now the youngest winner of the trophy.

BAHF



The 2nds
 battling
 valiantly at
 Stowe ...



Leavers 2003 and their Destinations

WJ	Geography	Cambridge	Kyprios, R	Biological Sciences	Newcastle
TL	Economics/Management Studies	Leeds	Lai, JGH	Medicine	London
son, DT	Business Administration	Bath	Lau, KP	Computer Science	Southampton
i, JRG	Law	Nottingham	Lee, PWK	Accounting & Finance	LSE
MJ	Industrial Economics	Nottingham	Leung, NCH	Applied Business Management	London
r, JM	Architecture	Portsmouth	Lin, AS	Law	Oxford
r, PJ	Biochemistry	Newcastle	Maclean, AD	Agriculture	RAC
ie, MR	Geography	UCL	Madden, DJ	Journalism, Film & Broadcasting	Cardiff
all, JRJ	Mathematics/Modern History	St. Andrew's	Manners, CJ	History	London
ll, OC	Medicine	Cardiff/WCM	Marsh, JR	Psychology and Philosophy	Warwick
rd, MJ	Theology & Religious Studies	Cambridge	Mayhew-Archer, SA	Psychology	Leeds
am, BA	Law	Cambridge	McKenzie, IA	Law & French	Cardiff
bell, AP	Religious Studies	Edinburgh	McLeod, RJ	Economics & Econometrics	Bristol
n, SD	History and French	Exeter	Moffatt, JA	History	Exeter
, BJ	English	Leicester	Myers, RA	Molecular & Cellular Biochemistry	Oxford
tion, AJ	Physics	Durham	Orr, NEC	History	Liverpool
, JD	Geography	Southampton	Pallett, NJJ	Accounting & Finance	Exeter
an, M	Philosophy	Durham	Pargeter, JDD	Accounting & Finance	Exeter
, IC	Medicine	Bristol	Paul, JD	Engineering	Oxford
RB	Rural Resource Management	Reading	Persaud, DB	Biological Sciences	Exeter
PA	Management Sciences	Warwick	Phillips, PJ	Commerce	Birmingham
well, BJ	Electronic Engineering	Southampton	Pinner, JAC	Natural Sciences	Cambridge
n, TP	Biology	Bath	Prior, BHJ	Geography	Leicester
ish, NP	Law	Southampton	Puri, DS	History	Birmingham
de, OT	Mechanical Engineering	Bath	Ramdoe, SK	Medicine	Leicester
, TA	Law	London	Richards, J	Geography	Oxford
AE	Medicine	Southampton	Robinson, AG	Natural Sciences	Cambridge
, SR	English & Drama with Education	Cambridge	Rogers, N	Biological Sciences	Southampton
r, TER	Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Loughborough	Rose, JT	Politics	York
r, HIG	Biochemistry & Biology	Keele	Rowe, AJC	Mechanical Engineering	Bristol
y, DR	Medicine	Leicester	Sadler, NAD	Theology & Religious Studies	Cambridge
, JWV	History	UCL	Salmon, MP	Money, Banking & Finance	Birmingham
, JER	Agri-Food production with Marketing	Harper-Adams	Schoeler, TM	Media Studies	Sheffield
r, LC	Drama & Theatre Studies	Kent	Sergeant, AE	Education & Religious Studies	Cambridge
lin, J	Sociology	Cardiff	Silva, RJ	Broadcasting	Leeds
er, MJ	Music	Oxford	Sippitt, AM	Environmental Sciences	Southampton
icre, DE	Architectural Design	Edinburgh	Smith, MD	Geography	Southampton
y, EOS	Geography	Newcastle	Smith, MP	Management Studies/Mathematics	Leeds
rshaw, BR	Business Management	East Anglia	Stratton, GB	Biology	Bristol
ersley, DJ	Medicine	Oxford	Street, BS	Mechanical Engineering	Bristol
n, JPC	Theoretical Physics	London	Tarrell, JHJ	Engineering	Oxford
, MHD	Music	Oxford	Taylor, SA	German/Mathematics	Cardiff
, SG	Religious Studies	Newcastle	Thomas, RD	Accounting & Finance	Warwick
, BM	French & Russian	St Andrew's	Thomson, CHR	Biomedical Sciences	UCL
y, EA	Mathematics	Cambridge	Thyagaraja, P	Zoology	Bristol
s, JCG	Classics	Oxford	Timberlake, PM	Physical Education & Sport Science	Hull
ey, FM	Business & Information Management	Sheffield	Tubman, PR	Law with German	Nottingham
y, JK	Geography	Loughborough	Turnbull, RP	Accounting & Finance	Bristol
rt, NPB	Aeronautical Engineering	London	Wakefield, PW	Mechanical Engineering	Bristol
d, JP	Music	Cambridge	Wall, BMJO	Mathematics	York
, AT	English	Birmingham	Wang, N	Computing	London
id, HJ	Geography	Leeds	Warren-Upham, AP	History	Birmingham
id, SM	Geography	Loughborough	Watkins, JAD	Ancient History	Nottingham
in, MCS	Electronic & Communications Eng.	Bristol	Wei, J	Management	LSE
r, TA	Geology with Physical Geography	Southampton	White, RJ	Financial Economics	Leicester
tz, WM	Natural Sciences	Cambridge	Williams, RJ	Architecture & Landscape	Sheffield
r, JHW	History	Leeds	Winearls, HSG	Medicine	Leicester
n, TE	Civil Engineering	UCL	Winton, BR	Music	Nottingham
on, CG	Mathematics	Cambridge	Wong, D	Geography	Portsmouth
SG	Motorcycle Engineering Design	Kingston	Wood, RPH	Civil Engineering	Cardiff
ig, EC	Geography	Birmingham	Wright, CJ	Commerce	Birmingham
aw, RJ	Biology	Leeds	Yeung, NNK	Economics	UCL
MG	Physics	Warwick			



*Front cover: The Amey Hall
Arts Centre, September 2003.*

*Back cover: Josca's main
building, October 2003.*