

Misericordias Domini



in aeternum cantabo.

THE ABINGDONIAN.

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EDITORIAL.

THIS term brought us a new master, Mr. L. C. Hodgson, in the place of Mr. Le Maitre, who has gone to Branksome, Godalming. Mr. Hodgson, a Lancing and Cambridge man, rowed No. 2 in his College boat, and we congratulate the Four on now having an efficient resident coach.

We also welcomed the advent of the eldest son of our Head Master into the school as a pupil, and may success attend him.

Old boys will be glad to hear that at last the school is to have a Tower Clock. It is proposed to place it on the Tower between the Big School Room and the New Buildings, the present tower being raised about six feet. Subscriptions are coming in fairly fast. In another part of the paper will be found the circular letter of appeal for funds and also a list of subscriptions already received or promised.

We were sorry to see on the occasion of the match *v.* Magdalen School, Oxford, a lot of the boys instead of backing up the school preferred the attractions of Sequah. The latter, by the bye, seems to have done a lot of good in the town.

The Abingdonian

volume nineteen, number two 12 December 1990

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Editor's Comment

Clearly, 1990 is a year of considerable significance for the editor of the School magazine, celebrating, as it does, the centenary of that publication. It is a curious and happy coincidence that this year marks a number of birthdays in the history of the School in one way and another, for it is the 150th. of the Boat Club, as noted within, and the 750th. of perhaps the town's most distinguished son, St. Edmund, who was to become the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Though there is no certain proof that Edmund was in fact a pupil in the School as it was constituted in those far-off times, the assumption seems neither an unwise nor an unhappy one. Something of his sense of dedication and service has continued to percolate to us through the ages in sufficient degree for us to at least in the larger sense wish to claim him as 'ours'.

The Abingdonian has always seen it as part of its brief to be a journal of record, and that function has not changed since the magazine's earliest days when it was a short fascicle in quarto, containing a mention of all that had gone on, including a breakdown of aspects of the School's expenditure. Even then the Boat Club was sufficiently active to warrant a mention on the opening page: *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. When the history of the School comes to be written up the magazine will presumably play a part in the process, perhaps a little in the same way as the annals of the town's abbey served as a basis for Stenton's treatment of that institution.

Centenaries come and go, and it is with particular pleasure that we print contributions from two preceding Headmasters, firstly Dr. W.E.K. Anderson, now Headmaster of Eton, whom we thank for his birthday wishes, and secondly Sir James Cobban, who was, of course, 'at the helm' on the occasion of the celebration of the quatercentenary of the Schools' refoundation. Sir James' overview of the shifting character of the magazine in the post-war era is fascinating and informative.

From the perspective of the editor it can be seen that a number of distinctive aspects of the School's life have affected both the substance and form of the magazine. First, there is the increasingly international character of our exchanges and contacts. This can be witnessed in the regular visits and exchanges with France and Germany, in the outgoingness of the boys who have just left or are on the point of leaving, and in the input and commitment of those who come to visit and, happily, in many cases stay to share our ethos and endeavours. Flags from countries as far afield as Germany, Russia and Malaysia may be found at various points throughout the current number in one form or another.

The second area is that affected by advances in technology, consequences of which may be seen in articles such as those on the teaching of languages or Design. These have radically affected the form of the magazine and the process of its realisation. The present number is the fourth to have been produced using information technology. Last year, for the first time, we were able to use our new I.T. Centre in the Warehouse which was featured on the front cover of the 1985 edition.

Notwithstanding the ubiquitous presence of the computer, it is even now a little difficult to appreciate fully the changes which it has made possible. The benefits are several. Firstly, at a stroke it has removed the burden and inaccuracies of the cut and paste method. Much more emphatically, it has placed all decisions relating to the matter of page design and the disposition of the material in the hands of the editor. The old constraints of two-column page cards have quite disappeared. In addition, there is the matter of the economic imperatives, and publishing by the electronic method has certainly cut costs. Yet none of this has displaced the contribution of the boys. Their volunteer input is invaluable and an indispensable part of the gathering and garnering process involved in bringing together the 300 or so items which feature in the present edition.

The quantum leap lies in three further elements, the increasingly sophisticated capacity of the machinery, the complexity of the tools or programmes which make available such a wide range of options and possibilities, and, most importantly, the innovating and controlling hand and eye of the page maker. The recent upgrading in presentation and finish is in large measure attributable to these factors. A real pleasure in recent years has been that as each number has been taken to the printer it has been with the firm resolve, agreed with DJH, to try some further refinement the next time round. And each time so far we have done just that.

In recent years, too, the magazine has tended to settle at around ninety pages in length, a far cry from the days when it bravely extended to twelve in all, and this reflects many things, not least the size of the School and the variety of its undertakings. In an attempt to be mindful of Pascal's advice, I have aimed at conciseness, and have been pleased to see that the text remains within the self-imposed limit, even though a new section appears in which a number of colleagues offer their reflections on changing practice and new orientations in their subject areas. The decision to commission these features was partly in response to the sense of change and urgency currently abroad in the educational field, though when was that ever not the case? I am very grateful for their generosity in responding so willingly.

Centenary Wishes

From the OAs:

On the occasion of the centenary it is particularly pleasant to receive best wishes from the President of the Old Abingdonians, Mr. Roger Mortimer, who on their behalf offers the magazine heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Dr. Anderson writes:

One hundred years is a notable landmark for any school publication. The Abingdonian must, I think, be joining a very small and select band in reaching its centenary.

When James Cobban sent me some past numbers as part of the extended tutorial preparation he gave me for taking over from him in 1970, I remember how impressed I was both with what was going on in the school and with the magazine itself. The format has changed since those days, but the content and the writing still combine to give a lively picture of a thriving school. When the Abingdonian arrives on my desk amidst a lot of mail, I have to confess that I turn to it first and read quickly through before doing those things that I ought to have done first!

On the magazine's one hundredth birthday, many happy returns and all best wishes for your next century.

Sir James Cobban writes:

To rattle through seventy issues of the Abingdonian (some 4000 pages in all) is an evocative exercise. Forty-five years ago the Abingdonian was pretty traditional in format and in content. We aimed (not always successfully) to publish on the first day of each term. This meant hard work during the holidays for Donald Willis (the anchorman throughout) and the editors. We owed much too to our printer - for most of the time that O.A. extraordinary, John Hooke.

It was his co-operation which enabled us some years later to pull off our only real scoop. In January 1965 we were a few days late with the magazine. Winston Churchill died on the Sunday morning. Some visitors to the School on the following afternoon were presented with copies of the new Abingdonian, reeking from the press, with a black cover replacing the familiar cerise, and on the opening pages a short epigraph and a photograph of the school-flag flying at half-mast.

The primary aim of the magazine in those days was to provide a chronicle of everything that happened in the School. There was as yet no Griffen, so the Old Boys relied on us to relay their doings; nor was there that admirable Record to bring us up to date each term with the progress and achievement.

Our standards were high. Pride fell at the very end, when omission of a single letter implied that when my successors visited the School it was Mr. Anderson who stirred the hearts of the senior boys.

Although I breathed down necks (Donald, bless him, was incredibly patient with me) we stuck to the principle that the editorial should be genuine; and somehow the senior editor always found something worthwhile to say (not always an affair of the school). I remember with humble gratitude the way in which in September 1961 John Kelly ripped up his editorial and wrote a new one almost overnight, to meet unforeseen circumstances.



My own turn came in a subsidiary article in which I was able to discuss staff changes, new buildings, new examinations, and so forth. We soon decided that we should have to cut out all purely literary contributions. They were picked up by a succession of occasional - and occasionally very good - unofficial magazines. We tautened things up too. The complete, and cryptic, details of a leaver's athletics achievement went; so did the personal 'characters of the 1st XI/XV' - a tradition which had long exceeded its shelf-life. Those chatty letters from Oxford and Cambridge (a mixture of Pooter and Brideshead) became mercifully rarer.

There was so much going on that was clamouring for record, in and out of the classroom, on and off the games field. Here I can only note some acorns that were destined to grow into oak trees. The first OA Dance was in 1947. The inauguration of the Joint Club (1948) was followed by the arrival of the first young lady of St. Helen's to join one of our classes (1950). We had to wait until 1961 to get them in the School Play. A wireless set arrived in 1950, followed by a television set eight years later (though 97% of the boarders had claimed to have seen part or whole of the Coronation on TV way back in 1952). The significance of Harwell's gift of our first computer in the early sixties seems to have escaped the editors. The teaching of Russian dates from 1960, association with Bielefeld began so haphazardly in 1967, TASS was

established in 1968. The Chapel too extended its horizons, with an annual succession of American preachers; in 1967 we claimed to be 'perhaps the very first congregation' to use the new Order of Confirmation. And mass inoculation against influenza started in the early sixties.

Some themes recur. The magazine records the variations in the 'state calendar' (there is never a wholly satisfactory answer to this one). We early separated Old Boys' Day from Founder's Day; but the latter did not cease to be a form of 'arduous training' until the end of the period when Prize-giving was transferred to October. School millinery is one of the most controversial of subjects. It took until 1953 to secure agreement on the new cap. A few years later hesitant steps were taken towards its final abolition in 1968.

Not every project aired in the Abingdonian came to fruition. The new dining hall had to wait for WEKA, purpose-built new boarding-houses remains a pipe-dream. Did you know that the colonnade at the top of the drive was longterm planned as the entrance to the new School Hall? That splendid Amey Hall would have been cramped behind it.

The first photograph (of the new War Memorial tablet) appeared in 1949. There followed a gradual proliferation. There were the formal groups, of teams, of HM and prefects ("My dear, I was sitting on an encyclopaedia!"). But we tried to liven them up, by planned juxtaposition, by quirky caption, by unusual shots.

The Year of the Quatercentenary called forth a bumper number of the Abingdonian. It also produced a swagger commemorative magazine, the Griffen (no connection!), with its own editorial board.

Then in 1968 came the Big Bang - and not before time. A new editor, Charles Maude, determined to rejig the magazine, with a new fount of type, a new lay-out, a new sense of priorities. Hesitantly, I gave him his head (well, more or less) and the result was entirely beneficial. I



Mark Greaney, youngest boy in the School, turns the first sod of the Greening Wing, Mr. Greening viewing from the right.

suppose we were getting a little complacent. Read his editorial of October 1968 to see what he was about.

Since 1970 the School has made such dramatic advance on every front. In January 1948 the Abingdonian announced the death in his eighty-seventh year of what was the last known survivor of those who had been schooled in the Roysse Room. If William Ball could come back to us today, I am sure he would read the Abingdonian of the nineties with the same admiration - and just occasionally the same sense of déjà vu - that I do.

(And I am still wondering what the young Richard Branson was up to when he came over from Stowe "to make a survey of the School": see the Abingdonian for January 1967, page 8.)

JMC



From the Headmaster

ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON

The 1990 edition of *The Abingdonian* celebrates one hundred years of the magazine's history. It still faithfully performs its original function, of recording the life-history of the School, but its format and style have both changed much over the years. Congratulations are due for survival alone, but particular praise should go to the present Editor and his assistants for the imagination and energy with which they have developed this journal of record into something both more substantial and much more enjoyable - a publication which, we would like to think, says something both about and to Abingdon School.

The Abingdonian has lived through a whole world of change in its first century of existence. The England of its birth was a land of hope and glory, and the first numbers of the infant magazine were charged with sentiments which young Abingdonians could usefully carry with them as guides when they set out as soldiers, administrators or businessmen to the outposts of Empire. If this youthful world view was large and optimistic, however, it was strongly tinged with parochialism: we were a small school then, in a small town, and the same edition which carried news of O.A. exploits on the North-west Frontier might record in reverential tones a visit to the School by an Alderman in furred gown and cocked hat, or offer obsequious good wishes for the health of the Headmaster's family. Nuggets of news from South African minefields, or gleanings from Abingdonian farms in the North American wheatlands were surrounded by acres of dormitory gossip and whole mountain ranges of sports reports.

The second Boer War gave a Copernican shock to this cosy world order - and worse was to come. Lenin, Hitler and Stalin, aided and abetted in their various ways by Roosevelt, Mao Tse-Tung and Mahatma Gandhi, totally re-drew the comfortable system which placed Britain at the centre of world affairs, and Abingdon at the centre of England. Now the new order is crumbling in its turn; do today's Abingdonians care as much as yesterday's about what is happening around them?

True, the School has had its own little domestic preoccupations to think about. We have grown in size, seven- or eight-fold; we have changed our constitution more than once; and we have learnt to measure ourselves against schools whose names were only to be whispered with awe by our predecessors a hundred years ago. It would be a fraud, in fact, to claim too regular a continuity during this latest of the School's seven or more centuries of existence - we have changed almost out of recognition, like the world around us, and we are not so sure about our identity as were our predecessors. The closed certainties of a small boarding grammar school have given way to more individualistic, or at any rate pluralistic values. The only real ballast we carry, in the absence of any significant corpus of school traditions, is a shared devotion to the pursuit of excellence.

Sometimes, it is true, one senses a certain confusion in the minds of the pursuers between the concept of educational excellence as an end in itself, and the idea that the achievement of such excellence may bring about desirable social change. This latter has claims to be seen as a peculiarly English fallacy. It is interesting to note that it is not to be found in the educational philosophies of Scotland, France or Germany - philosophies frequently held up as models, particularly by businessmen suffering from guilt complexes about their own failures. English inverted snobbery inspired the comprehensive school experiment, which has so conspicuously failed to deliver the academic goods; the grammar schools of the early twentieth century may have suffered similarly from being treated as instruments of social engineering. It is a paradox that we may owe the lamentably ill-educated state of our population to the very fact that so many well-intentioned politicians have tried to use schools as devices for bringing about social improvement - whereas among our better-educated neighbours, talents have been thought worth cultivating for their own sakes.

The attempt to recruit schools as agents of social revolution shows no sign of diminishing as the next General Election draws closer, and it tends to affect especially schools such as Abingdon, where the submerged Puritanism that lurks in the corners of so many English consciences manifests itself in an uneasy vulnerability to left-wing reproaches over fee-paying, and over the privileges which are supposed to arise from the payment of fees. Yet it may be of critical importance to our health as a school, and, more broadly, to the educational health of England as a community, that we should give up this perpetual, morbid scratching at the sores on our social conscience, and concentrate instead on a rigorous regime of educational exercise to improve our general well-being.

To accord with such a policy, as *The Abingdonian* celebrates one hundred years of publication, we may feel it would be wrong to spend much time congratulating ourselves on having moved so far perhaps, rather, we should be asking ourselves whether we have moved far enough.

M.St.J.P.



The Chapel Choir singing Evensong in Pembroke College Chapel

NEWS FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Abingdon Alive was the title given to an initiative by churches of all denominations in the town for a series of events spanning the whole month of October. While many pupils became involved through the churches in which they normally worship, a large number of our boys also took part in a specially devised Secondary Schools' Day.

Pupil participation began at a very early stage, when the representatives of all secondary schools and the European School at Culham were consulted about the content and structure of the day. The result of their deliberations was that on 16 October a series of 'workshops' took place at the locations scattered throughout the district. The activities ranged widely, Art, Creative Writing, Drama, Geography, Local History, Music, Movement and Science. Each group numbered 20 or so pupils with representatives from each school invited.

At all centres there was an atmosphere of cheerful cooperation, and the different schools appeared to blend quite happily. The local historians took video cameras around the town, the geographers dispersed to conduct surveys. Musicians sang and played merrily all day at St. Helen's Church, the artists produced a magnificent circular collage. Scientists took samples of water from various locations, while the writers and actors were busily immured elsewhere.

In the evening there was a gathering in St. Helen's Church, attended by some 400 people when each group performed or exhibited samples of the work which they had done during the day. This was "compared" by Canon Paul Bates of Westminster who skilfully questioned participants and rounded the evening off with his own perceptive comments and observations. The congregation joined enthusiastically in the singing of music devised specially for either Abingdon Alive or for the day itself.

The abiding memory is of a busy hectic day to which people were generously prepared to commit themselves, often as an act of blind faith. There was a genuine delight at the achievement of all schools participating in the way they did.

Thanks are due to all who helped in the day, especially to Mr. Hunter, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Page who led the workshops, to Mrs. Manship for organising so much of the day, and especially to the Headmaster for allowing so many of us to take part.

TPL

CHAPEL CHOIR

After five weeks of intensive work snatched from odd moments of the lunch hour and after school, 50 singers achieved sufficient quality to sing Evensong, first in Pembroke College Chapel and then in Bristol Cathedral. Since then they have provided music for worship in the School Chapel on All Saints Day and Remembrance Sunday, and in the liturgical performance of a Haydn Mass in St. Helen's Church. Surprisingly high standards of musicianship, discipline, commitment and enthusiasm mean that an equivalent programme of events can be planned for subsequent terms. The impeccable and sensitively supportive accompaniment of John Oxlade is an added bonus, as is the apparently unflagging loyalty of some members of Common Room - RSP, IS and DP: a corporate effort that shows signs of going from strength to strength, especially if the sheer energy of trebles is anything to go by!

CMM



Primary school class

CHARITIES

During the past year the whole business of raising funds for charities has been reorganised, with responsibility for choosing charities and organising fund-raising events being handed to committees of boys. This has certainly involved a very large number of boys in the school, and, overall, a total of over £12,000 has been raised, with funds still rolling in.

All houses or year-groups have concentrated their efforts in this Autumn term on one charity in particular, S.A.I.D.I.A. This organisation, which has few overheads, aims to pay for scholarships enabling Kenyan children to get a secondary education. £650 will pay for 4 years at school, and those who benefit then pledge themselves to pay back that sum when they progress to one of the better jobs, and so the cycle begins again, in a self-financing way.

Our overall target is £500, or a £650 scholarship for each house or year group. This is currently very near to being achieved and, if we are successful, will represent a large effort by boys and those who have sponsored them.

JRG

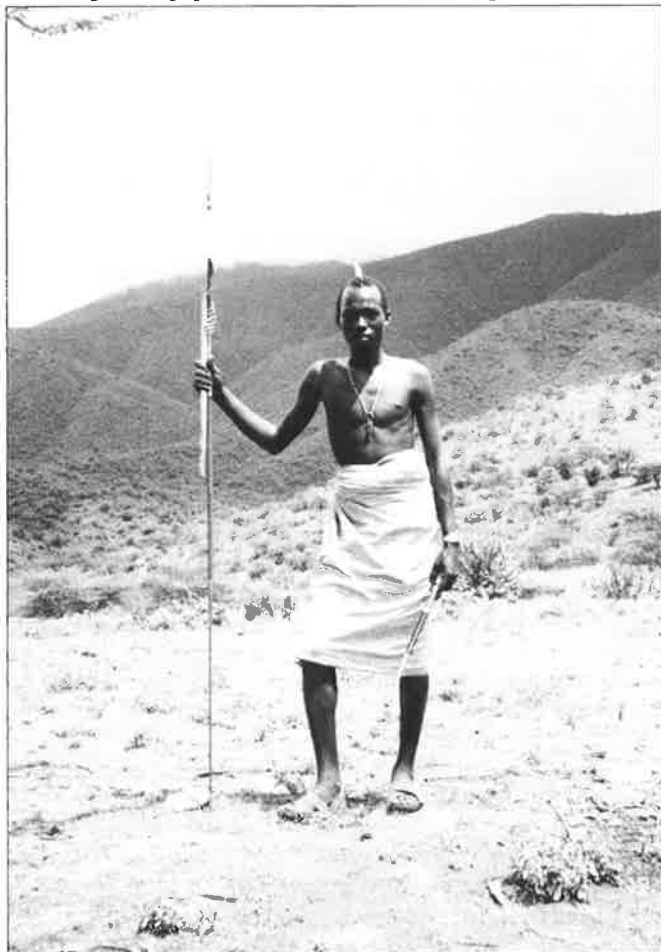
What follows is a list of the charities chosen and supported by boys in the course of the past year:

1. Finn Clarke's CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME, involving all years in the school, for LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH at the JR2. £1300
2. Lower 6th. 24 HOUR INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT for the BRITISH REFUGEES COUNCIL. £300
3. Upper VIth. lunch queue collection for MEDICAL AID TO POLISH CHILDREN £62 and their CHARITY REVUE on behalf of the ST. BOTOLPH'S SOCIETY for the homeless in London. £720
4. Lower School Home Clothes Day on behalf of P.H.A.B. (physically handicapped and able-bodied) £70 and their LASER-BEAM CLAY PIGEON SHOOT for the T.E.A.R. fund for 3rd World Children. £120
5. Page's House SPORTS MARATHON LUCKY DIP £1117 at the Spring Fair, and £91 programme sales for Beauty of Buttermere, £96: all for CHILDLINE.
6. Trotman's House Home Clothes Day and CAKE STALL during the road relay for LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH. £100
7. Crescent House DECATHLON WEEKEND for I CAN (Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide). £653.80
8. TAM RICHMOND'S and PHILIP SANDFORD'S CHARITY GIG in Oxford Town Hall on behalf of LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH £493
9. Coleman's House Home Clothes Day on behalf of LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH. £62
10. VIth. Form door-to-door collection on behalf of LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH. £200
11. Collections organised by the Housekeeping Department on behalf of the PAIN RELIEF UNIT at Marcham Road Hospital, the ABINGDON VENTURE SCOUTS and the SPECIAL BABY CARE UNIT at the JR2. £300
12. Mr. Derek Jones's VALE BAND CONCERTS in aid of LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH. £743
13. Recital for Oboe and Harpsichord by Mr. John Oxlade and Mr. Michael Stinton. £338
14. Adrian Himpson's National Convention for Dr WHO enthusiasts in the Arney Hall, on behalf of the Society for the Support of the Sick New-born and their Parents. £1005.00
15. Sixth Form door-to-door collection on behalf of South-West Oxon Society for the Mentally Handicapped, £147.00 and second-hand book sale for UNICEF. £61.00
16. Staff wine and cheese party organised by Mrs. Jane Egerton-King for UNICEF. £102.00
17. Chapel collections during one week of school chapels on behalf of refugee relief in Jordan. £213.41

S. A. I. D. I. A.

18. A 'RACE NIGHT' held by the Lower 6th. £166
19. A 50km. walk on the Ridgeway organised and completed by a team of five 4th. Year boys in Coleman's House. £306.55
20. GRAND AUCTION in the Amey Hall, organised jointly by Page's and Coleman's Houses, with the kind assistance of Mr. John Creasey as auctioneer and the support of many shopkeepers of Abingdon. £618.50
21. MUFTI DAY held jointly by Page's and Randolph's Houses. £80
22. Cakestall and Refreshments at the Middle School Sports Day, run by Coleman's House. £84.86
23. 24 Hour FAMINE held by members of School House during the Easter Holiday. £123.27
24. A Lower School Day of Work during the Summer Holiday. £181.04
25. Collections made at performances of CALAMITY JANE, and at a School Assembly, on behalf of the Iranian Earthquake Appeal. £505.80
26. LOWER SCHOOL Mufti Day, Orange drinks stall, Sponsored Walk. £2567.00
27. RANDOLPH'S HOUSE'S day of work in the Summer Holidays. £181.50
28. PAGE'S House's cakestall. £41.00
29. COLEMAN'S/WILMORE'S HOUSE concert by JOHN OXLADE Esq. £85.00. Refreshments stall at Middle School Sports. £84.86
30. Richard Davies' JAZZ CONCERT in the AMEY HALL featuring Tom Pilling, Ian Cotterill, Dominic Franks and Caspar Mason. £110.00
31. Page's cakestall at Open Day. £95.00

Secondary school pupil on a S.A.I.D.I.A. scholarship



A local waterhole

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Over the last 12 months, several 'old hands' have left and 'new hands' have joined, some to do a spell of Voluntary Service as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme. Several stalwart sixth-formers have continued to visit local primary schools including Dunmore, St. Nicolas, St. Edmund's and Bennett House special school to help out in classrooms once a week during term. In December 1989, drawing on funds left over from some time ago, groceries were bought in bulk from Tesco, apportioned into Christmas 'hampers' (cardboard boxes dressed in wrapping paper!) for all the elderly folk we visit, and delivered late one dreary December afternoon from the boot of my car! This year we shall need a new injection of funds in order to repeat the exercise and some enterprising members are needed to bring in the cash. It is also hoped to hold an 'old ladies' tea party' at school in late November or early December to add a 'Christmassy' flavour to the proceedings.

Early in 1990 we entered the National Westminster Bank's 'Project Respond' competition for the first time with a project for an electronic 'stimulus and reward' machine to help handicapped children, designed by two VI formers, otherwise unconnected with Voluntary Service, as their 'AS' Design & Technology project. To everyone's great surprise, we were awarded one of the top prizes of £150 for this and the certificate will shortly be hanging in the Library for all to see and admire. I hope some sixth formers may be inspired by this to come forward with their own ideas for ways of meeting needs in the local community.

We still need more volunteers and in particular boys who will commit themselves to regular weekly visits and sixth-formers who are willing to take on some organisational responsibilities within the Unit. The need for helpers - in primary schools, hospitals and old people's homes - is most definitely there, and I am sure that most volunteers (and perhaps particularly those doing some V.S. for their D. of E. awards) will attest to the personal value of the challenge recognised and met.

PW

THE C.C.F.

In many ways this year has been typical of those in recent memory. On the one hand the customary background of steady achievement and success in both Army Proficiency and R.A.F. Examinations together with a good mix of activities on parade days and on the other the relative high points of visits, week-end exercises and camps. Individual cadets have gone solo in gliders, climbed Alpine peaks, won flying scholarships and been awarded both Army and R.A.F. Sixth Form and University Scholarships.

Laudable though this is, it is not extraordinary. Yet to put this year down as just another passage of time would be an injustice, for several of our regular activities have had a special quality to them.

The week long Adventure Training Camp at Ripon was the best that anyone could remember. In view of the vagaries of climate in early April, the gods must have been smiling on us. The conditions of the Yorkshire Dales, local rivers and crags were testing enough but we did not freeze - nor were we soaked - except in the river! We were fortunate that 16 Cadet Training Team were able to assist us with instructors so that the blend of regular professionals, our own officers and Old Abingdonians provided an excellent ratio for the range of activities. Everyone's canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling and hill walking came on apace, the highlight being the 'Three Peaks' walk successfully completed within the challenge time by a team of senior cadets.

It was very good to see all members of the 'gold' and 'silver' Ten Tors teams complete their 55 and 45 mile routes in excellent times. Both teams contained a high proportion of C.C.F. cadets.

The summer provided two outstandingly successful camps. We had been a little apprehensive about the long journey to Cultybraggan in Perthshire for the Contingent Army Camp but as it turned out the travel arrangements could not have been better.

The range of training opportunities laid on by the Scottish Army Training Teams and supervised by 51 Highland Brigade exceeded all our expectations. Activities were provided which had not featured on any previous camps and vivid memories exist of the 'Glen Ogle Trail', 'Close Combat Battle Run', watersmanship on Loch Earn and the notorious forest 'mud run'.

Adventure training at Ripon



Initiative exercise on the RAF camp sports field

A few days after returning from Scotland a group was off to Anglesey for a camp at R.A.F. Valley. This was under canvas but very well appointed and the weather was idyllic. Whilst the rest of the country sweltered, we had cooling sea breezes night and morning as a background to our busy week. Flying opportunities were good both in Chipmunk aircraft and Wessex helicopters. Cadets saw every aspect of life on this busy fast jet training station but still had time for relaxation on the local beaches.

It would be easy to pick out many other successful moments from this year but the focus of much effort and a certain anxiety was the official Biennial Inspection in September. After feverish preparations the day went well. The inspecting officer, Group Captain I.R. Blunt, Officer Commanding, R.A.F. Halton, was in splendid form and appreciated the range of C.C.F. activities on display. He was particularly complimentary about the teamwork and enthusiasm displayed by boys which clearly showed the underlying strength of the organisation. It was something of a minor coup to have arranged two helicopters for the day, a Gazelle and a Puma, the second of which was piloted by Group Captain R. Forsythe, who is the school's official old boy in the R.A.F.

At the time of writing we are coming to the end of a period of change for the C.C.F. both in officer personnel and organisational structure. The leaner force which we now are has enabled the demands of the individual cadet to come to the fore. The quality of experience on offer is greater and there are more opportunities for all boys to benefit from the Services. We look forward with confidence to a further year of challenge and adventure.

CJB

GLIDING COURSE

In early April two cadets from the school went to R.A.F. Benson, home of the Queen's flight, to attend a four-day gliding course. As things progressed, we learned takeoffs and landings, flying in the circuit and, later we learned emergency drills such as engine failure. The aim of the course was to fly one solo circuit of the airfield on the last day.

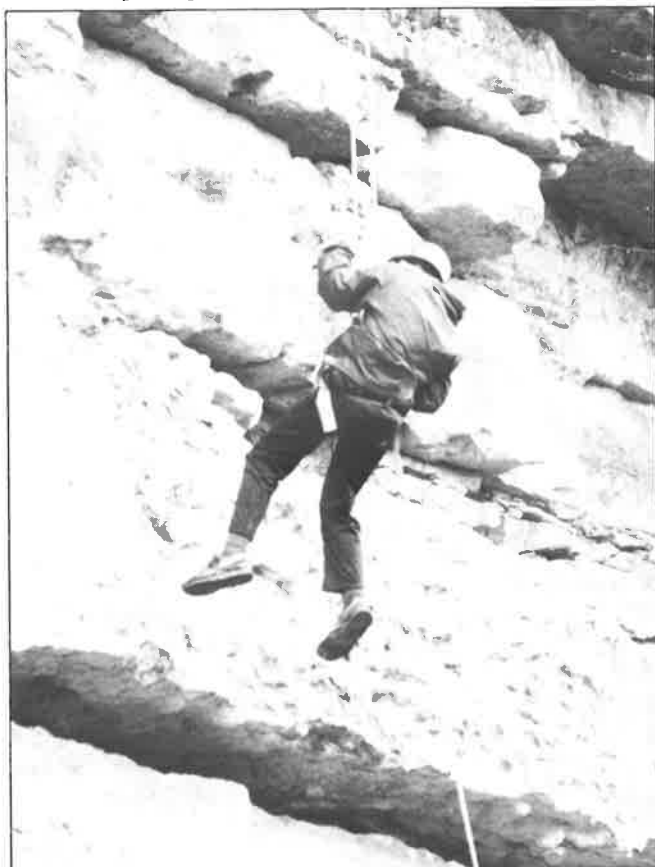
I was first to fly with my instructor and we just kept practising circuits and emergency drills. After eight circuits we taxied back to the end of the runway and switched off the engine. I thought this was a bit strange, especially when the instructor started to undo his straps and open the canopy. "Is something wrong?" I asked. The instructor replied, "No, I'm getting out. You're on your own. Remember what I told you and don't, for my sake, crash!"

For a moment I forgot everything I had been told and thought about getting out myself. I saw the instructor walking away, then everything came back and I got on with it. I remember talking to myself all the way. After the pre-flight checks, I switched on the engine, got the 'thumbs up' signal from the control tower and took off. The feeling of taking off for the first time without the instructor sitting beside me was indescribable. Everything went extremely well and when I landed and rolled to a stop, a land rover screeched to a halt beside the aircraft and my instructor leapt out and climbed into the aircraft. After the congratulations he said "I'll taxi back - you're probably not in a fit state to do it yourself!"

All six cadets completed the course successfully and we left Benson in the evening with full log books and our 'wings'. Everybody enjoyed the gliding course and I can recommend it to anyone who gets the opportunity.

M. Hadland 6C

Summer camp, Cultybraggan



Summer camp, Cultybraggan

EXERCISE ALPINE CHALLENGE

Exercise Alpine Challenge is a two week camp organised by 16 Cadet Training Team for boys from both Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire cadet forces. It is an outward bound camp based in Bavaria, in the Allgauer Alpen. Activities include walking, mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing, water-skiing and usually (but not on this occasion) paragliding.

Each day offers the opportunity for action-packed adventure, whilst the evening is spent relaxing in the plush accommodation of 'home' - one of the Royal Artillery's adventure training chalets in the town of Westach. From the 18 boys who turned out, three sections were found and they undertook a rotating three-day schedule of walking, rock climbing and canoeing. The walking took place in mountains where the summits were generally higher than the top of Ben Nevis. The rock climbing proved to be a nerve-wracking experience for the more courageous who enjoyed tackling climbs of 'Hard Very Severe standard'. The canoeing day was split into two, the morning being spent on a lake as an introduction to basic techniques and the afternoon on a seven kilometre stretch of white water - a wet experience for most, but fortunately without serious injury.

Also on the agenda was a three-day expedition to climb Germany's highest mountain (3000m) - the Zugspitze. Day one commenced with travel to the start point and this was followed by a compulsory abseil (complete with rucksack). Day two started early in order that the summit might be reached before nightfall. However, due to foul weather (which meant snow on top) the going was slow and treacherous. The bad weather persisted and the party had to rest overnight just short of the summit before returning down the mountain to the camp the following day.

Next, an options day was arranged when boys could choose their own activity. While some chose a leisurely trip to the swimming pool, others travelled with their canoes to Munich and shot the Olympic white water 'Eis Canal' - not even the instructor managed to stay in his canoe! The last day was spent water-skiing in the morning and a barbecue was arranged for the evening. Following this the two-day journey home was undertaken with everyone arriving back in England happy and relatively safe although completely exhausted!

D. Megaw VIE

FOURTH FORM PHYSICISTS AT HARWELL

At the beginning of February the Physics department was grateful to receive a new prototype radiation counting system, the Radcount. With it were included comprehensive instruction and investigation manuals. Harwell Laboratories, the designers of the system, wanted six schools in the area to test out their apparatus and we were very pleased to be chosen as one of the six. Mr. Smith allowed a small group of boys from his fourth year top set to carry out the investigations outlined in the manual supplied with the Radcount. Six of us started to familiarise ourselves with the operation of the apparatus. From the first time that it was used we were very impressed with its ease of operation. It was very well designed and all of the functions were easily accessible. We worked our way through the investigation manual, carrying out the various radiation experiments and writing reports of our results. Harwell Laboratories invited us and the students from the other schools back to give a presentation of our findings to the developers of Radcount. We gratefully accepted this offer and six boys from Abingdon School: Ed. Turner, Nick Hardy, Stephen Turner, James Scott, Ed. Duerr and Chris Graham travelled to Harwell on the 5th. of July and gave a presentation into which a great deal of effort had been put. Abingdon School were congratulated by the scientists at Harwell on their results and the standard of their presentation. We were very lucky to have had the facilities provided by the school Information Technology Centre. These facilities enabled us to produce high quality graphs and diagrams. Many thanks went to Mr. Smith and Mr. Haynes for their co-operation in the production of the presentation.

J.R. Scott. 4GCR



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE LIBRARY

The acquisition of our Apple Macintosh has transformed our Library 'housekeeping' procedures. The expertise has been primarily provided by Leigh Phillips, sixth form librarian, who spent a large proportion of his post GCSE summer holiday devising or refining ever neater versions of the basic 'Filemaker' program to fit our specific requirements.

At the centre of the system lies the catalogue: 12,000 plus titles (and growing) of which we now have approximately 3,000 on disc. Our indefatigable Library assistant, Mrs. Betty Dix, was entrusted with the mammoth task of updating the catalogues, and in the second phase of that endeavour she began in April to build up the catalogue database on disc as well as the routine checking and writing of the thousands of cards for the actual catalogue.

Meanwhile, over the summer, Leigh was entering the reader information file: a reader number for every member of the school, along with information about tutor groups, how many books each year group is allowed to borrow at any one time, etc.

From the interactions of these two databases can be generated all the information we require for all the various 'housekeeping' procedures: book issues, book returns, books overdue, reminder notes, fines, book orders, book reservations, and all the queries we receive about a multitude of matters. The beauty of the system lies in its simplicity: one 5 figure number (accession number) releases all the relevant information in the catalogue, and one 3 figure number (reader number) all the relevant information on the borrower. In practice, all our operations are speeded up and made more efficient. The facility to print our information saves endless hours writing out reminders, book lists, fines, etc.

Leigh would be the first to acknowledge his debt to DJH for months of patient, practical advice and help, and to Philip Bowman O.A. for initiating some of the early program writing. And the future? When we have 10,000 titles on disc we can begin to operate as a really useful information retrieval centre.

AMS

TUESDAY LECTURES

General Studies lectures to the Upper Sixth on Tuesday afternoons have been generally well received with much pertinent questioning and many constructive comments. As usual, we have broached a wide range of subjects following a number of broad themes. These have included:

Current Affairs

1. Dr. Ruth Baker (General Secretary, Friends of the Church in China): 'China's continuing revolution?'
2. Mr. N. Mays (Lecturer in Medical Biology, Department of Community Medicine, University of London): 'Reforming the NHS'.
3. Mr. T. Adshead (Dept. of Russian Studies and St. Antony's College, Oxford): 'Is perestroika feasible?'
4. The Royal Air Force Presentation Team Demonstration.
5. Mrs. Kathy Evans and Mr. V. Orban (founder of 'Fidesz' Young Democratic Movement): 'Democratisation in Hungary'.
6. John Patten, M.P. (Oxford West and Abingdon): 'Politics Today'.
7. Mr. Bill Yates, (Deputy Director Campaigns, Oxfam): 'Kampuchea'.
8. Mr. P. Villet-Philippe (French Cultural Attaché): 'Television sans frontière: Transnational Strategies in European Broadcasting'.

Modern Society: Problems and Challenges

9. Dr. Richard Warwick (Division Head, Environmental and Medical Sciences, AERE Harwell): 'Energy in the Environment'.
10. Dr. R. Ainsworth (Fellow of St. Catherine's College, Oxford): 'Engineering: In at the sharp end'.
11. The Reverend Nerissa Jones (Deacon of St. Botolph's, Aldgate): 'Homelessness'.
12. Dr. David Cook (Director of the Whitefield Institute and Fellow of Green College, Oxford): 'Medicine and Ethics'.
13. Mr. T. Jones, O.A. (Ecole Internationale du Théâtre, Paris): 'Travelling, living and working abroad'.

Arts and Self-expression

14. Mr. A. Humphries (Visiting Lecturer at Rycotewood College): 'Antique furniture from the inside'.
15. Mr. P. Fleming: 'Body language'.
16. Mr. M. Vine (Christ Church College, Oxford): 'Jazz'.
17. Mr. L. Goldman (Oxford University Dept. of External Studies): 'William Morris: from art to politics'.

Personal education and citizenship

18. Br. Hugh, S.S.F. (Lent Visitor): 'St. Francis and his challenge to us today'.
19. Mrs. Pamela Hyder (Afro-Caribbean Adviser at the Oxford Multicultural Centre): 'Prejudice: whose problem?'.
20. Mrs. Caroline Willbourne: 'The Legal Profession'.
21. Supt. A. Beaumont (Thames Valley Police): 'Policing as a political activity'.
22. Mr. J.P.A. Roche (Cole & Cole): 'Citizens' Rights'.



Figure in clay by J. Hahn



The picture, courtesy of Mr. Stinton, is taken from a French Book of Hours of the first decade of the eighteenth century.

In the midst of pressure and hectic activity in term time, it is always difficult to find the time to reflect on the objectives and the balance of priorities in a busy music department. Of course, the Music Calendar seeks to cater for those aims; to give the greatest opportunity to the largest number, to stretch and stimulate the more advanced and gifted and to introduce all to the joys of performing. This is indeed heady stuff, but from time to time such reassessment is a very necessary process.

If those aims are only partially achieved, then it is a tribute to the hard work of the boys, the dedication of a gifted music staff and the immensely valuable support and encouragement from elsewhere. It is that support which has facilitated a number of innovations and new ventures within the department which it is hoped will be consolidated and sustained in time to come.

September 1989 saw the arrival of a new member of staff, Mr. Matthew Vine, who came to us from Christ Church, Oxford. A man of many talents (saxophonist, pianist, tenor lay-clerk at the Cathedral and motorbike despatch rider at other times), he came to teach "jazz" to a number of boys who had already shown remarkable enthusiasm and promise. At the same time, our distinguished saxophone teacher, John Daniels started up the "Big Band" which performed at several concerts throughout the year; it takes time to really establish such a tradition (several members left at the end of the year) but there is tremendous potential at Abingdon. This activity also gave a new focus for Paul Reynolds, our guitar man, who has been teaching jazz styles alongside classical for some time and has now branched out to string bass. It is all very exciting and an ambition must be to provide the "house band" for the Griffen Ball one year.

A clearer programme for Lower School music came with the inauguration of a complete First Year Choir which sang Horowitz' "Captain Noah" at the Christmas Concert and, together with the Second Year, six numbers from

Andrew Lloyd-Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the summer term's Lower School Concert. Under the direction of Iain Donald and John Oxlade, this venture brings the boys into the thick of the school's music-making and it was a delight to see the fun and enthusiasm the boys brought to their involvement and the encouragement they gave to their contemporaries in the Amey Hall as they formed an audience for solo and chamber music items when not singing "en masse".

Two material innovations in the department will greatly assist and enhance its strength. The first was the purchase of a new Yamaha upright piano for Studio 2. This fine instrument has already proved its worth in three Associated Board exam sessions and is ideal for regular practice use by the more advanced pianists, so reliable is its response and so durable that it should withstand heavy use and large fluctuation of temperature. The second, the result of £800 raised by the Music Society, consists of the refurbishment and repair of the school violin stock. This has remained in a sorry and tatty state for a number of years and the money has been carefully spent after consultation with Philip Brown, a luthier and violin repairer from Newbury and Mariette Pringle, our senior string specialist. This regeneration of the violins will be of fundamental importance in the building of Abingdon's string playing, providing instruments for beginners to try or borrow and for more advanced players to use in orchestral rehearsals, not to say the recalcitrant pupil who forgets to bring his own violin for a lesson!

Another feature of the last year has been the increased opportunity, in addition to the four Subscription Concerts, to attend professional recitals at the school. Jonathan Freeman-Attwood gave a stunning display of trumpet playing at his recital on the 12th October (using instruments of all sizes) and the Australian pianist, Ian Holtham, gave an afternoon performance to Lower School boys and others of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" pre-



First Orchestra - Dvorak Symphony no. 7

ceded by an engaging and informative talk. In the Lent Term, Simon Weale, a piano teacher at the school enthralled a good audience on the 5th March with Schumann's "Etudes Symphoniques", whilst in the summer Michael Stinton and John Oxlade gave a recital for the oboe and harpsichord which raised over £400 for Leukaemia Research.

There were other events which raised funds for Charity. The Chamber Choir sang carols in Trafalgar Square for the King George's Fund for Sailors, Derek Jones' Vale Concert Band gave its two concerts raising £800 for Leukaemia Research and money was raised for S.A.I.D.I.A. by the Production "Calamity Jane" and by a chamber concert in Iffley organised by Mr. Oxlade.

So, to the Calendar. As in previous years, the Michaelmas programme featured two informal concerts on the 19th. October and 23rd November, the Music Scholars' Concert on the 3rd November and the large Christmas Concert on the 8th December. The November Choral Concert was deferred until March for a long and ambitious programme. In the first informal, David Porter's warm-toned Mozart Andante gave much pleasure whilst it was good to see Matthew Beaumont's tuba playing progressing nicely in de Souza's "Military Suite". Of the twenty-six items in the second informal, Ben Uttenthal and Daniel Seward gave good accounts of their piano playing - both performances were musical and well projected, if a little hurried. A deep breath before starting might have helped both!

Armen Georgian showed his characteristic sensitivity in the Chopin Mazurka that he played in the Scholars' Concert and Thomas Pilling delighted in the long-breathed phrases of his Adagio from Bach's E major violin concerto.

Brother Ben's playing of the Gb Impromptu by Schubert was musical and moving - he got the silent pause treatment at the end, and how well deserved for a trombonist who, only a year before, had taken up the piano again after a long break.

The Christmas Concert was sold out two weeks in advance, perhaps not surprisingly as the performers numbered some 250! Separately reviewed elsewhere, this included three performances (Mascagni, Mozart's "Ave Verum" and Beethoven's 5th symphony finale) by Second Orchestra which opened the concert and two movements (second and third) of Dvorak's D minor symphony given by First Orchestra to conclude. Chamber Orchestra played Warlock's "Capriol Suite" and Boyce's F major symphony, an exuberant and tuneful work, whilst a lighter mood was touched upon by Brass Band, First Wind Band and the complete First Year in a choir which sang "Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo" under Iain Donald's direction. This year the audience was called upon to join in singing two Christmas Carols with orchestral accompaniment which rounded off the proceedings and sent all off into the night in seasonal spirit.

The busy schedule of Chamber Choir receives separate mention, as does that of the Music Society, which again treated us to a John Cutforth illustrated lecture on the 14th October - this time on Henry Purcell - and a trip to the Barbican to hear the LSO and Midori in the Mendelssohn violin concerto. The two Subscription Concerts were given by the Mistry Quartet and by the Endymion Ensemble. Both were of excellent quality; these groups are of the highest calibre and the committee were rewarded by better audiences than in previous seasons.

All were delighted to hear of Philip Saxon's richly



Derek Wilcox in Beethoven's Romance for violin and orchestra

deserved success in winning a Choral Scholarship to read Classics at Magdalen College, Oxford.

The 'flu bug which afflicted the school before Christmas was still lingering by the time of the first school concert of the Lent Term and it forced the absence of the present writer along with others from the Informal Concert on the 24th January. The show went on, however, and was significant for featuring the debut of the Big Band in "Chatanooga Choo-Choo" and "Ballad for Stormy" alongside other performances by Second Orchestra, Second Wind Band and ensembles for flute, horn, clarinet and saxophone.

The scholars' concert on 3rd February included some twenty-four performances. Andrew Browne's Brahms: Intermezzo in A was a highlight for its control of "vocal" line and sensitivity whilst Philip Saxon was most impressive in his Brahms Rhapsody. Sadly, a throat infection deprived us of his Pergolesi "Quae Moerabat" for countertenor voice but Giles Lewis' singing tone and lovely phrasing in Fauré's "Morceau de Concours" for flute more than compensated.

Jonathan Freeman-Attwood returned at the invitation of the Music Society to give an entertaining and instructive Brass Masterclass on the 12th February. The seven brass players selected to perform acquitted themselves very well and the event was a great success, the evening being rounded off by some marvellous playing by Mr. Freeman-Attwood of music for trumpet by Fasch and Hindemith.



Brass Band entertains

The School Choral Society was joined by the Oxford Sinfonia for their concert of English Choral Music on the 10th March. Iain Donald conducted the society this year and chose an unusual and ambitious programme of English music; Stanford's "The Revenge", Finzi's "For St. Cecilia", Vaughan Williams' "In Windsor Forest" and Parry's "Blest Pair of Sirens". For such a highly successful concert the audience was very disappointing in size. It is hoped that this year's reorganisation of the choirs, which includes the collaboration with a local girls' school and a newly recruited parents' and boys' Choral Society, will help to redress this problem.

The Chamber Choir spent the larger part of the Lent Term preparing for their concert tour of Holland and the Low Countries over the Easter

holidays. Despite some technical hitches with the tour company it was, by all accounts, a trip of great success and much enjoyed by all.

The orchestral concert, this year on 18th May, dominated the music programme of the Summer Term and it was a time for formal farewells to be said to a large number of boys in the Upper Sixth. Derek Wilcox, Ben Kendrick, Jon Greenwood, Nick Hill, Philip Goldsworthy, Philip Saxon, Craig James, Alex Ions, Peter Winterbottom have all given untold service to school music throughout their time here. It was fitting that Derek Wilcox should have played a solo with the orchestra, Beethoven's F major "Romance" for violin which he played most stylishly at this concert. Sinfonia played Mozart's 25th symphony in G minor, an ambitious start to the concert, along with Elgar's "String Serenade". Second Orchestra continued with some Haydn and Tchaikovsky but it was left to First Orchestra to conclude with Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite" and Eric Coates' "Dambusters' March" which received an encore.



The Chamber Choir with Mr. Donald at Marsh Gibbon

The two informal concerts of the term were remarkable for different reasons. The first, on 22nd May, presented a fascinating programme of music largely comprising GCSE compositions which were performed both live and by the computer which was set up at the Amey Hall for the interest of those present. The originality and stylistic individuality of the compositions made for very interesting hearing; the pianistic "tour de force" of Armen Georgian's "Etude in Bb minor", the authenticity of Nicholas Holloway's "Mediaeval Nightmare", the harmonic complexity of Leo Carey's "Twilight Danse Macabre" and the avant-garde nature of Giles Smith's "The Emotions of Fear" (to name but a few) was absolutely riveting and a great tribute to ICD's imaginative teaching.

The Lower School Concert, on the other hand, was a grand affair with a positively 'gala' atmosphere. This element was generated by the full audience attracted by having the complete Lower School singing together at the beginning of the second half! This was a good formula. Many of the thirty items were refreshingly short (which avoided an all-night sitting) yet the experience gained and to such an enthusiastic reception will have given inestimable self-confidence to all those performing. Here was talent in depth for the future, none more so than that exhibited by a First Year Piano Trio, Edward Smith, Daniel Hammersley and Mark Pritchard who played Adam Carse's "Rondino" without assistance and with most convincing control and sense of ensemble.

It was sad to hear of the loss of Isabelle Cutforth, the day after Chamber Choir's visit to Marsh Gibbon Parish Church. But it was heartening to see John at the Service of Thanksgiving later that week. We look forward to greeting him at the school next term for his illustrated lecture when his subject will be Beethoven. On a happier note, it was a delight to be able to spring a surprise lunchtime party upon our distinguished saxophone teacher, John ("JJ") Daniels, who happened to be seventy-five on one of his teaching days here.

The Music Society's "Thames Musical Cruise" on 27th June was repeated this year by popular demand and was sold out early in term. It made us feel that, perhaps, the end of term was in sight whilst the production, "Calamity Jane", from the Taylor-Donald stable provided, as ever, a splendid and confident note upon which to end the school year.

MAS

CHAMBER CHOIR

As usual, the Chamber Choir's commitments started early in the Michaelmas term, with a Sung Eucharist in Magdalen College Chapel only three and a half weeks after the beginning of term. This form of service has not often been used by the Chamber Choir, and with little time to prepare, and no stock of suitable music, ICD ran up an "off the peg" Missa Brevis, using recycled materials. More by chance than design, the result worked, even if rehearsals became fraught, with the pages of each movement appearing piecemeal as composition progressed.

The rest of term was spent in preparation for the Remembrance Service, shortly after half-term, and the annual Carol Services. This year the former was more than usually affected by absentees. As a result the introit, Purcell's "Hear my prayer", and the anthem, Byrd's "Iustorum Animæ", were less effective than they should have been. The Carol Services followed the usual pattern, and included a setting of "Balulalow" by Philip Saxon. A particularly tricky set of carols was performed with considerable success at both services.

Trafalgar Square and carols under the Christmas tree began the holidays. This year the weather was unkind to us, and there was a wet and windy hour's singing for the choir. As a result we collected only just over £30, not even



approaching 1988's excellent total.

The Lent term programme of events was changed this year, to enable us to prepare for our tour of the Low Countries. Our programme for this consisted of five of the anthems which the choir has performed over the last few years, and Fauré's Requiem, which we sang in Pembroke College Chapel in 1988. We gave two performances of this programme, in preparation for the tour. The first was in the school chapel, and the second, an excellent affair, in Wantage Parish Church.

The Holland trip took place in the last week of the holidays, and a report appears elsewhere. I would like to take a little space here to record personal thanks to the adults who accompanied the tour, in particular CMM, for her indefatigable organ playing (in the face of considerable difficulties on all the instruments), TPL, particularly for saving the concert in Cologne Cathedral, and JSO, for joining the trip at only 24 hours notice, and coping with some very complex financial arrangements.

The Summer term's events started almost immediately after our return, with the choir taking part in the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year Competition at Warwick University's Arts Centre. This was excellent experience, particularly being able to hear so many other choirs sing. Unfortunately, the judges were unable to distinguish a good performance if the music was not sufficiently jolly; they considered our programme, drawn from the music for the Holland trip, far too sombre for a competition. One of the judges thought we were quite good, the other didn't. I have always had reservations about the competitive side of this sort of event, and the judges of this competition, whose reports were contradictory on every point, said nothing to make me change my views. Nonetheless, it is useful and valuable to sing to other choirs, and to hear them sing.

We were invited to spend a day in London, taking part in a lunch-time Sung Eucharist at St. Martin-within-Ludgate, but based at St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe. This was a repeat of music used earlier in the year at Magdalen College Chapel (by request - this was not a choirmaster's vainglory!). The rest of the day in Blackfriars was spent at the College of Arms, an interesting visit, although perhaps over the heads of some of the youngest, and then at the British Telecom Showcase, which was enjoyed by all.

The rest of the term was taken up with the usual programme of events; Choral Evensong at Marsh Gibbon, the Leavers' Service, and finally the Commemoration of Benefactors. At the Leavers' Service, the anthem was Orlando Gibbon's "This is the record of John", with the solo sung by Philip Saxon, who earlier in the year had gained a choral award at Magdalen College. The Commemoration Service was one of the best for some years; the anthem, Basil Harwood's "O how glorious is the Kingdom", being particularly well sung. The organ part for this piece is of considerable difficulty, but of course JSO was note perfect from the first rehearsal.

The current academic year will see considerable change in the operations of the Chamber Choir, and a substantial expansion of the school's choral activity.

ICD



Conducting the community carols

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The moment that the lights in the auditorium dimmed and the stage lights came up on the seventy smart, white-shirted members of the Second Orchestra, it was clear that the keynote of the 1989 Christmas Concert was participation. In an ambitious and varied programme, over one third of the school played or sang. The players' enjoyment of the music and of its performance was obvious throughout the concert, and was certainly part of the capacity audience's pleasure.

The Second Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Michael Stinton, began the evening with some well known melodies from 'Cavalleria Rusticana', and really began to find their confidence in a pleasantly melodious 'Ave Verum Corpus', by Mozart. They were at their best, though, in the Finale from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, when a sharpness of attack and adventurousness in rhythm and volume produced a rousing performance.

The Brass Band, 24 strong and under Mr. Derek Jones's apparently effortless direction, introduced the next phase of the evening with a sonorous and atmospheric performance of 'Amazing Grace', but their next number, 'MacArthur Park', was really snappy, with some incisive and exciting playing from the more stentorian instruments and some well judged effects from the trumpets. A quick shuffle of seats, and for many a change of instrument, resulted in the even larger First Wind Band materialising. The opening 'Sleigh Ride' was sprightly, well controlled and enjoyable, even if Richard Haynes stole the limelight with his sleigh bells and clappers. Much more demanding was a medley of Christmas music, with its rapid array of different rhythms, sound effects and wealth of colour. This was performed with great gusto and precision and, for me, was one of the highlights of the evening - and not just because of more virtuoso sleighbell jingling!

Most of the audience missed the jazz group in the interval, which was a shame, as they played Charlie Parker and Miles Davis with considerable musicianship and relish. They were succeeded, though, by the Massed Voices of the First Form, singing Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz's witty and entertaining 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo'. Mr. Donald had obviously captured the fun of the piece for them and they sang with surprising

togetherness and liveliness, pausing only to listen to Mrs. Manship's splendid raindrops on the Bechstein. Ian Cotterill's authoritative drumming also gave pace and stirred up some interesting rhythmic shufflings from the performers, most of whom were singing a substantial work in public for the first time.

The rest of the evening concentrated on the Chamber and First Orchestras, both of which were directed by Mr. Stinton and remarkable for the age range of the players: no other school activity has a first form boy sitting alongside an upper sixth former as an equal. The Chamber Orchestra began with the subtly demanding 'Capriol Suite' by Peter Warlock. Their ensemble was at its most homogeneous in the lush Pavane and later in 'Pieds-

en-l'air' - which I misread in the gloom of the hall and wondered why and how people should wear garlic on their feet.... William Boyce's splendidly baroque Fourth Symphony followed and there were moments of really buoyant playing, the sound being greatly enriched by the fuller range of orchestral instruments.

A final flurry of efficient chair moving by some of the younger Amey Hall stagehands prepared for the appearance of

the First Orchestra and the second and third movements of Dvorak's Seventh Symphony. This was obviously the most authentic and richest orchestral sound of the evening, though perhaps the intense nervous energy of the scherzo brought out the orchestra's most positive playing. It was hard not to be affected by the concentration and energy of such a large group of young musicians, who were then able to relax and lead the audience in the lusty singing of a couple of carols.

The music staff deserve congratulations for producing such a rewarding evening and for demonstrating so amply how many boys enjoy learning instruments and having the chance to perform in such a range of bands and orchestras. It was good to see so many boys of all ages, their parents and friends so warmly involved and so evidently enjoying themselves. Final tangible proof of such support emerged in the presentation to the school of a mini double bass by Mrs. Gill Ward, as representative of the Abingdon Music Society, who do so much to encourage and help the school's music.

GGB



The first year choir rendering 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo' under the guiding hand of ICD

CHAMBER CHOIR HOLLAND TOUR

The attraction of Adventure Travel International's Holland-based performance tour was a special 'Church performance' option, which could include concerts in four different countries. In good faith, I booked this tour for the Easter holidays, 1990. It became apparent, as the date of departure approached, that their agent in Holland was neither totally efficient nor understanding of our requirements. The final itinerary, which was given to me when our coach arrived at Dover, included only one concert outside Holland. However, that was in Cologne Cathedral - quite a prospect!

Despite a certain amount of disappointment with the loss of venues in Luxembourg and Belgium, the tour as it emerged (the itinerary continuing to evolve as the week progressed) proved ultimately successful and satisfying.

We stayed in Valkenburg, a tourist resort in Holland's mountain region; there are three hills over 500m - impressive enough for the Dutch to install a chairlift on one! The hotel, less comfortable than I expected from the brochure, was conveniently central. The largely pedestrianised town was excellent and safe for all ages to enjoy without too much supervision.

The first of our four engagements was a concert in Valkenburg's Protestant Church. This had been announced to the congregation, and a large number of them turned up to hear us. The church was well over half full. The programme (the same for all our concerts) consisted of five English anthems, from the late 19th century to the present day, and Fauré's Requiem. The soloists for the Fauré, who performed creditably all week, were Mark Pritchard and Derek Wilcox.

Next we sang at Cologne Cathedral - nearly a disaster, as the organ had not been booked for us, and they would not let us use it. The concert was saved by the good offices of TPL, with help from a student who generously gave of his time to help us, and Conrad Purcell, who interpreted. Thanks to them we were given permission to use a small instrument in the south aisle; later than intended, as we had to wait for the key, and CMM had to perform without any chance to familiarise herself with the organ. Many thanks are due to her, for her expert playing on difficult and unfamiliar instruments. The choir, throughout the long, cold wait for the key to the organ (about one and a half hours) conducted themselves impeccably. It was gratifying to have so many staying and indeed waiting with us to listen, including the Headmaster and his family, who had broken their journey to East Berlin to be with us. For many, I think, this was the highlight of the week.

We visited two other particularly impressive buildings, both early churches - 12th century basilicas. One was the cathedral at Aachen which was originally built by Charlemagne, but with many Gothic additions. Charlemagne spent the last years of his reign in Aachen, and built a large complex which included the Cathedral. The other was the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Maastricht, reputedly the oldest city in Holland. The medieval centre, with its narrow streets and tall buildings was fascinating. The basilica itself was a dark atmospheric building, and we sang anthems during the mass, and gave a brief concert after the service. We were in the balcony at the West end, the usual site for choir and organ in churches of this type. The balcony was large enough to hold our forty-five singers on only one side of the magnificent 17th century organ. The acoustic and atmosphere in this ancient building made for a memorable evening.

The final event was something of an anti-climax; a

modern church in Valkenburg, with a hopelessly out of tune organ, but with the usual warm welcome, and an appreciative audience for our performance of the Fauré. Again, during the service we sang anthems, and it was interesting to hear the congregation singing familiar hymn tunes to unfamiliar words - loud and vigorous - and unaccompanied, perhaps because of the state of the organ.

ICD

JOHN J. DANIELS

John Daniels is a distinguished saxophonist and saxophone teacher at Abingdon School, and has been for the last thirteen years. In the summer term we sprang a surprise party on him on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

He was born on 26 June 1915 into a musical family in Gillingham but his real home is in Rosyth, Scotland. Since he was very young John has led a musical life and he has had a fascinating career in Jazz on the saxophone and a multitude of other instruments. Here Dominic Franks and Tom Pilling interview him about his life and memories:

Mr. Daniels, what are your earliest memories as a child?

Oh, a couple really. First, in the First World War, seeing a stray Zeppelin coming over Rosyth in flames, lighting up the whole sky red and being hauled away from the windows by my mother. Another is of a young sailor who was billeted with us - watching him shave with a cut-throat razor and eating "ship's chocolate", two inches thick and rock-hard.



You've been playing the sax for a very long time, when did you start?

1932, actually...

And had you been playing any instruments before that?

Yes. I was persuaded to take up the violin at 8, then a little later the cornet. My father was a musician and played both cornet and concert flute and later on I took up the flute as well and in later days the banjo, which became very much in fashion round about 1928-9.

Do you still play that at all?

No, I haven't got one now, but it was the finger-style banjo (five string) which was quite interesting.

But you started playing in bands on the saxophone. What were the first bands that you played in?

Through the banjo, really, I managed to get into a small group and at that time I couldn't afford a saxophone. I dearly wanted to have one so I got rather a horrible substitute; a piece of brass tubing with a few holes in it and a couple of keys called a 'saxette'. I really started in bands on that.

When you were fairly young you won a competition, I believe?

Yes, at a slightly later date I sold all my cycle racing gear (which was my hobby at the time) to buy my first saxophone - a Beltona and I won my first award on this. The award was from a 'Melody Maker' competition in 1936 and I was with the winning band. The following year the same band won again and in 1938 I got the individual alto prize... that was a good start.

You must have travelled pretty widely with your bands.

Well, at that time it inspired me to get a decent instrument and it was then, in 1938, that I bought my Selmer balanced action and it's the instrument I still have today.

Has it been done-up at all?

Two major overhauls. The last one was about three or four years ago and cost me quite a bit.

So where have you travelled with your bands in the world?

Well, some of it was forced through the war situation and I went first of all to Canada. I didn't know what my musical prospects were, but I found a band and started playing in the NAAFI to the lads. From this it spread to other things and I managed to get into a local Canadian band at a ski club where I took up skiing.

Then you travelled around America after that?

Yes, I went to the Bahamas eventually, to Nassau and had an interesting time, also playing and meeting people. It was at this time that I was met by the Duchess of Windsor on arrival and from then on I saw quite a lot of her because I formed a band on the RAF station where we were and we were given quite a lot of engagements at Government House. It was then that our drummer got criticised by the Duke of Windsor who jumped up onto the stage, took his place and did a very good show on drums! I asked him about it later and he said that he used to play drums at Balliol or Brasenose, the college that he used to go to at Oxford. That was after the Duke had abdicated and he was acting as Governor of the Bahamas.

Then you returned to England?

Yes. I had accumulated 36 days leave which I hoped to spend with my wife in Devon. We went all the way down on a tandem but 48 hours later we were recalled and I was sent out to India.

And did you manage to find another band out there?

Yes. There was a little card lurking away in my service documents which said I was a musician and what I played. So the C.O. sent for me and said he had a vacancy in the SEAC (South East Asian Command) military band, so I snapped it up not knowing what they had in store and it turned out to be excellent. From that moment I was flown all over India.

You must have played with many other bands, so what are the main ones you've played with?

Well, a lot of the bands, of course won't mean much now but some were extremely good. There must have been about seven smaller groups (five to eight piece) and at least eight Big Bands, mostly rehearsal bands, which were becoming very expensive to run.

It must have been hard to have had a normal family life sometimes.

True, at one period when I was playing at a residency over a period of almost twenty years, really in the thick of it, we were playing almost every night, sometimes twice on Tuesdays and Saturdays, for "Tea Dances" and things like that and then there were the Balls in Oxford.

Well you've played through all the different types of Jazz there have been, really. What do you think of Jazz nowadays?

I think it looks extremely healthy because I have noticed a slight leaning again towards what I would say is the lyrical style of Jazz. When the Fusion first happened in the seventies it seemed to me that the Rock took over, rather too much. The one thing that struck me was the sudden collapse of highly technical drummers. They seem to be so "same-ish" these days.

And have you always been playing more traditional jazz?

No, traditional jazz in the proper sense I'm afraid I tried to leave behind as soon as I could. I found it a little too stilted and cryptic. I much prefer the swing era and the Kenton era and the modern methods of scoring.

What have you been doing more recently?

I've been seventeen years now with the Eddie Curtis band and through that I joined the BBC Radio Big Band and I played with them for quite a long time.

So, how long have you been teaching?

Thirteen years here. I've cut down on my other playing to do it - the night-travelling and long hours became a bit too much for a start.

What plans do you have for the future?

I hope I'll still be able to accept a few concert gigs with Eddie Curtis. I've retired from the band twice, but every so often he gets on the 'phone and says would you like to do so and so, and so and so.... I can't refuse really! It's in the blood!

Well, thank you very much for talking to us.

D. Franks 5CJB and T. Pilling 5LCJG



Last year was a notably busy one for Drama as the following list of events will demonstrate:

Michaelmas Term

A Man For All Seasons by Robert Bolt
Presented by Jill Freud and Company,
a professional group who have visited us regularly.

Les Mains Sales by Jean-Paul Sartre
Presented by the French Upper VIth, in French.

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare
An Upper and Middle School production,
directed by Mr. David Taylor;
the music was composed by Mr. Iain Donald
who was also the Musical Director.

Aladdin written and directed by Finn Clarke
A pantomime presented to commemorate
the life of Richard Turner, and in aid of
leukaemia research at the JRI.

Lent Term

Amadeus by Peter Shaffer
Presented by the Abingdon and District
Inter-Schools Drama Society;
produced and directed by Upper VIth
Formers Philip Johnson and David Ratcliff.

The Beauty of Buttermere
A Middle School production, directed by
Mr. Graham Barrett;
the Musical Director was Mr. John Oxlade.

Summer Term

Hard Times
Adapted from the novel by Dickens;
a professional production, presented by
Not the National Theatre.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
by Tom Stoppard
Directed by Upper VIth former, Luke Barrett.

Burke and Hare
An original musical by Francis Pott;
A Lower School production directed by
Mrs. Anne Soper;
the Musical Director was Mrs. Charmian Manship.

Calamity Jane
School Musical directed by Mr David Taylor;
the Musical director was Mr Iain Donald.

The Revolutionary's Ball

An original play, written and directed by
D. Ratcliff;
produced and designed by P. Johnson.

For a Director of Drama, any year's programme of drama is bound to be somewhat makeshift; you have to use the facilities available - both material and human. Directors may be very short on the ground; actors, too, may not fit the plan that is developing in your mind - Hamlets do not grow on trees, neither do competent actors who can sing well enough to take a big part in a Musical. If, at the end of a busy year, you can look back at a varied and energetic programme, the product of the genuine enthusiasm of a band of activists, then you can be fairly satisfied. This year's programme had behind it little more than a general wish to give plenty of people an opportunity to do what is suitable for them. In that, I think we have succeeded, though I must admit to a regret that we could not give that opportunity to more boys in the Lower School (Burke and Hare had quite a small cast.).

Makeshift or not, it is very important to bear in mind the absolute need for variety of experience. An ideal school drama programme would no doubt include plays from the classical repertoire alternating with modern plays, tragedies with comedies, 'straight' plays with musicals, English with foreign. As it happens, last year's programme fitted those criteria quite closely, though no 'classical' tragedy was on offer. But this was largely by accident, and because there was so much on offer.

I have to say that I doubt whether we can keep up such a level of activity indefinitely - last year was an exceptional year; no fewer than four of the nine school productions were done by the boys. So there are likely to be vintage years, like this one, and less productive ones. But the possibilities are always there, and after all, Quality and Quantity do not always go hand in hand.

There is always the danger in school drama of complacency. On the whole, school audiences are very tolerant beasts. Comedies in particular tend to be judged by audience delight at seeing people they know doing unlikely things on stage. The obvious pleasure felt by audience and cast alike on such occasions is perfectly

valid, and helps, I suggest, to make the school a more cohesive place. But the danger lies in thinking that that is all there is to do. The fact is that drama cannot always rely on in-jokes and audience compliance. When it cannot, then there is no substitute for hard work, commitment and an understanding that it is very difficult to act well.

Drama and Music are strictly comparable activities; both relying on performance and audience; both dedicated to the interpretation of someone's vision; both of equal artistic value. But there is one big difference between them that colours people's attitude to them. Whereas the musician is expected to spend many hours learning his instrument, and then comes to rehearsal for a concert with a basic skill already there, the actor especially in a school, but elsewhere too often arrives at rehearsal with little or no conception of the skills needed to interpret a role. Even in the professional world, most actors only began a serious study of Acting when they left school and went to University or Drama school. Compare that with the Musician who often starts his study of an instrument in early Primary School. Drama brings many benefits to people who are growing up - an enhanced self-confidence, a better knowledge and understanding of other people, an increased sensitivity to language, gesture and behaviour, a wider and deeper knowledge of dramatic literature from many ages and countries. Of course it also offers entertainment and relaxation, just as Music does; but essentially - just like Music and indeed many school sports - it is a serious pursuit.

I often lament the fact that Drama is almost always at the end of the queue for boys' time and for space (we still have no drama rehearsal room except the stage itself, which we share with Music and other activities), but I have to admit that many people's view of Drama as a somewhat less than reputable, rather dilettante activity can sometimes seem to have a small basis in fact. We must work to change that view.

Drama is a very complex activity, and the actors and Director rely on a large number of boys and Staff putting in a lot of time behind the scenes. This is not sufficiently recognised in the school at large, and I am very glad to have the chance to express my thanks to all those who have helped so much behind the scenes this year; especially Mr. R.J. Strawson, Chris Lewis and Andrew Hart on the technical side, Jon Turner and Robert Dalby backstage, Mr. C.J. Biggs and Mr. N.W. Hunter on the design side, Miss D. Lupton (and my wife!) for costumes, Mr. I. Smith, Mr. G. Barrett, Mrs. A. Soper and Mrs. J. Chapman for Front of House and Ticket Sales, and Mr. R. Milner for Publicity. Also the Music Staff, especially Mr. I. Donald, Mr. J. Oxlade and Mrs. Manship, who have invariably given willingly of their time when needed, and have made an incalculable contribution as Musical Directors of various productions, and Mr. Stinton, who has supported us in many ways, and shown remarkable forbearance when we have - yet again - upset his arrangements for Music Rehearsals. I also have a personal debt of gratitude for our Choreographer, Liz Boon, who has given an enormous amount of her time to our Musical productions over the years, and has happily dealt with all the problems I have thrown at her. Without these and many others, the operation would never get off the ground.

DCT



AMADEUS

This Johnson/Ratcliff production of Amadeus was prefaced by a lengthy suspense-generating buildup. The production-to-be was proclaimed as "The World's Media Sensation"; not surprisingly, the audience's expectations on the first night were high. Given the further fact that this was the first production of the Abingdon Inter-School Dramatic Society and was produced entirely by pupils, its success was all the more important.

The performance's impact was immediate as the audience was summoned by the aged Antonio Salieri (Jonathan Smith), to examine, and to attempt to understand, his bitter and jealous existence. Jon accomplished this role with great power, evoking the audience's curiosity and pity for his impoverished, wheelchair bound old age, and ensuring their interest in the events to be portrayed. Magnus Pitt, too, gave a highly effective performance as the prodigal prodigy, Mozart. He brought out the contradictions in the character to great effect, enabling the audience to both sympathize with Salieri's jealousy, and to admire Mozart's openness and generosity. He impressed in both the climactic scenes, first crouching under a table crying "O God! O God!", and later in the more reflective moments, thinking back to his life's unhappy beginning. Helen Howard-Allen as Mozart's wife provided a fine emotional counterpart to the young composer, demonstrating power and sensitivity in her portrayal.

In the supporting parts, the Venticelli (Elaine Slade and Louise Goff) deserve special mention for their vivacious, not to say garrulous performances. John Campbell and Joshua Mandel acted with the mastery of character we have come to expect from them in previous productions, whilst Dante Peters and Peter Purdie as noblemen of the court were impressive in their first major roles.

Of course, the large part of the credit for the success of "Amadeus", is due to the director and producer, whose original idea the production was. David Ratcliff's direction emphasized the play's comedy, while never losing sight of its more serious themes, particularly that of man's relationship with God. His skill was fully backed up by that of Philip Johnson, whose set was both versatile and eminently suited to the play. Lastly it should be pointed out that this was the last play directly involving Stage Manager Mark Reed, and Props Manager Ian Turner, both of whom have made great contributions to the success of previous Amey Hall productions over many years. Our thanks goes to them, and to all involved in the Inter-School Dramatics Society, for a production which went much of the way to satisfy the claims of its publicity campaign.

Ed. Newey VI C

THE BEAUTY OF BUTTERMERE

or A MAID BETRAYED



About forty boys from the middle school appeared in this comic musical melodrama by Alistair Brown and Ian Carswell at the end of the Lent Term. The story is based on true events which happened at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and follows the career of a crafty conman John Hadfield, whose smooth-tongued slyness and devious eloquence were expressed with admirable slickness by James McCormick, leaving the audience with a feeling of indignant horror at his trail of deserted and erstwhile rich wives, but also with a sneaking admiration for his cunning.

Hadfield's downfall eventually occurs when he succumbs to the charms of the beautiful but penniless Mary Robinson, the famous 'Beauty of Buttermere', portrayed by James Nicholson in one of the many convincing female impersonations in the play.

During his career in crime Hadfield comes into contact with an incredible variety of characters, and almost every member of the cast appeared in at least one, if not two speaking parts, as well as doubling up as prisoners, tourists, jurors and.....daffodils!!

In a play in which every single actor played such an important role it is very difficult to single out individual performances, but since I cannot name every person who deserves a mention, I will take the plunge and mention four actors in addition to those named above, whose performances suggested that they have much to offer the Amey Hall in the future: Michael Fowkes and Robert Porter were excellent as Mary's shrewd, business-minded mother and henpecked father, complete with unforgettable accents, while Toby Wright and Alex Webster delighted the audience as the poets Wordsworth and Coleridge, conversing with each other and singing their "Greatest Hits" with great gusto.

Indeed, the highlight of the play for me, and one which left the audience in tears of laughter, was the musical rendition of Wordsworth's "I wandered lonely as a cloud..." Nor shall I ever forget the sight of Andrew Harding cavorting and pirouetting across the stage dressed as a cloud surrounded by a crowd of dancing daffodils!

Congratulations to Mr. Barrett for not only so undemonstratively keeping the cast under control, but for channelling their energies so responsively into such an enjoyable and thoroughly entertaining show.

J. Mandel 6C

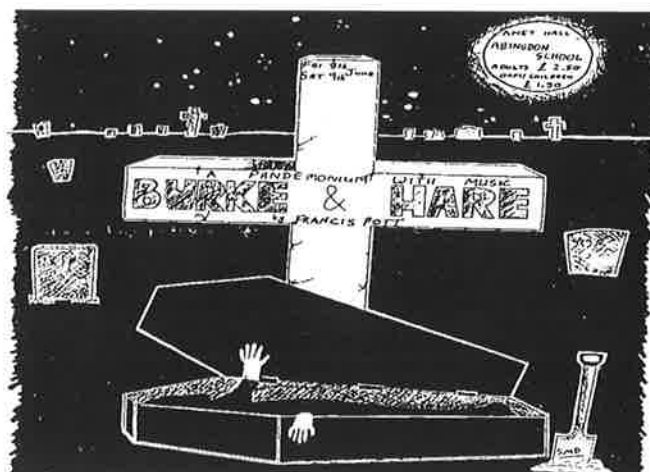
BURKE AND HARE

The musical farce 'Burke and Hare' is the handiwork of a former music teacher at the School, Mr. Francis Pott. This production by the Lower School achieved major feats in overcoming all the obvious limitations of age and size on the part of the participants. The cast of twenty did extremely well dragging each other's dead bodies around the stage, while at the same time reaching impossibly high notes. Indeed the whole performance, directed by Mrs. Soper, promised from the start to be a thoroughly entertaining evening.

The play was set in a dingy tenement in the 'wrong' district of Edinburgh at an unspecified point in the nineteenth century. The two main characters, Burke and Hare, played by Ian Silverwood and Daniel Hammersley, employed themselves in the rather sinister profession of grave robbing. The plot begins to develop as Dr. X. Hume discovers their dubious activities, and blackmails them into recovering Hawkes' body, and the property deeds that were with it. Our heroes soon find themselves in even more trouble as Dr. M. Balm appears on the scene and requests the very same 'favour'! The pair have no alternative other than to retrieve the body. From here on the play seemed to develop into some sort of 'Carry On' film starring Tom and Jerry. The farce grows and grows as more and more people enter the scene. Both X. Hume and M. Balm arrive to collect the body, only to find that it has woken up and gone walkabout. As they retire to hide, Mrs. Casket comes in to steal the purse from Bella (Hawkes' daughter), but manages to disappear under the table. At this point Burke and Hare wake up to find Mrs. Casket (who they gag) and X. Hume, who tells all. Then the three men go off to try and find Hawkes' body. Little do they realise that he is alive and well, and hiding in the cupboard. He emerges at the same moment as M. Balm, who promptly faints. At this point, Isaiah Boosey (who was drunk on the embalming fluid) and Mrs. Casket wake up. The audience were left in hysterics as Boosey and Hawkes try to pick up Balm, only to drop him with a horrifying thud. The police arrive, and raise more laughs as they try to lift the large and unconscious Mrs. Casket on to the box. Eventually, the comedy is sorted out when Hawkes returns and the play is rounded off with a happy ending as Bella and the Reverend get married.

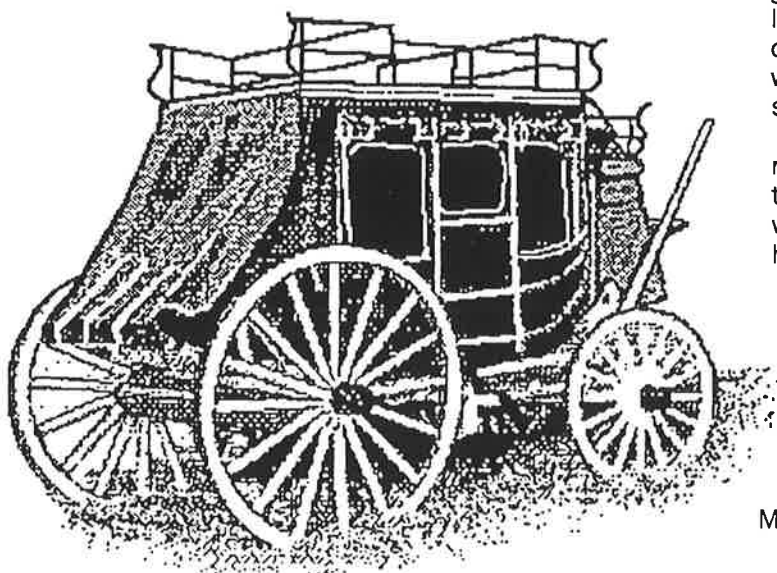
The performance was excellent, particularly the part played by Nicholas Lewis. However, it must be said that all credit should go to Mrs. Soper for defying all odds in controlling the uncontrollable and producing a most spectacular and enjoyable evening.

P. Mildenhall 6E and A. Beaumont 6T



Calamity Jane

A Musical Western



With the exception of one fifth year and one member of the upper sixth, Calamity Jane was exclusively a lower sixth production. This led to a relatively unusual situation, for, as the curtain rose, there was an agreeable and unaccustomed match of proportions among the actors, and so in this regard the production demanded less than usual from the audience by way of 'willing suspension of disbelief'. It was immediately compensated for in other areas, for however unlikely the thought of Sarah Swift as a can-can girl, or of Josh Mandel as a transvestite might have been before the play, moments such as these were carried off so stylishly that by the end of the evening you could not doubt them for a moment.

In the same vein, the consistency of the three best actors was most unusual for a school production. Louise Grey's persistent squeaks and giggles as 'Katie' brought to life a part that might otherwise have been run-of-the-mill. Elaine Slade's belligerent impulsiveness in the title role provided the mainstay for the whole performance. But Boris Randall's hassled 'Henry Miller' was quite superb. Whenever you looked at him, whether he was at the back of the chorus or in the spotlight, he was always vexed and anxious, fretting about this, that or the other.

These three actors really excelled; but were well supported by hard men Paul 'Charles Bronson' Crutchlow (Wild Bill) and Andrew 'Clint Eastwood' McMullen (Danny Gilmartin), and also Josh Mandel, Sarah-Jane Welland, and the proud and haughty songstress Ellen Carlisle.

On the musical front Elaine and Louise excelled in their articulation and projection; and it was particularly noticeable that these two in particular acted all the time they were singing. The chorus supported the main parts well, doing everything with gusto, and unity, though the volume did fluctuate. The accompaniment was provided

by Mr. Donald, who put together an excellent pit band, a mixture of professionals and pupils led by David Johnson, whose violin playing was first rate.

Perhaps the play's potential for choreography was not fully exploited. The success of this sort of play depends on the 'in for a penny, in for a pound' attitude, which was generally prevalent, and in that respect perhaps a little more use could have been made of the obviously talented chorus. However the dancing that was offered was excellent, above all Calamity's 'soft shoe shuffle'.

An unusual feature of this production was the restrained character of the backstage crew! Most of the bangs, clatters and muttered imprecations that we have come to expect were eradicated. This helped to contribute to the smooth professionalism of the production.

The performance was rounded, and acted with tremendous enthusiasm, as befits a production of this nature. So it is appropriate that I should finish by mentioning the man who deserves the most credit for this achievement, having committed a huge amount of time, effort and I am sure anxiety, to the rehearsal schedule, Mr. Taylor.

B. Pilling VIM

Mr. Taylor adds: Since Ben Pilling was a valued member of the orchestra, he was naturally diffident about making any reference to the part played in the production by them, and in particular by the musical director, Mr. Donald - who, as always, displayed extraordinary patience in dealing with Director, Choreographer and Cast during rehearsals, and who directed the orchestra with great aplomb during performances.

I don't usually answer points made in a review, and I am very grateful to Ben for his generous remarks - but one point does need to be made clear: if the choreography was in any way inadequate, it was entirely my fault for leaving insufficient time for that aspect to be practised. The choreographer, Liz Boon, was as always a mine of imaginative ideas and energy, and I am eternally grateful to her.

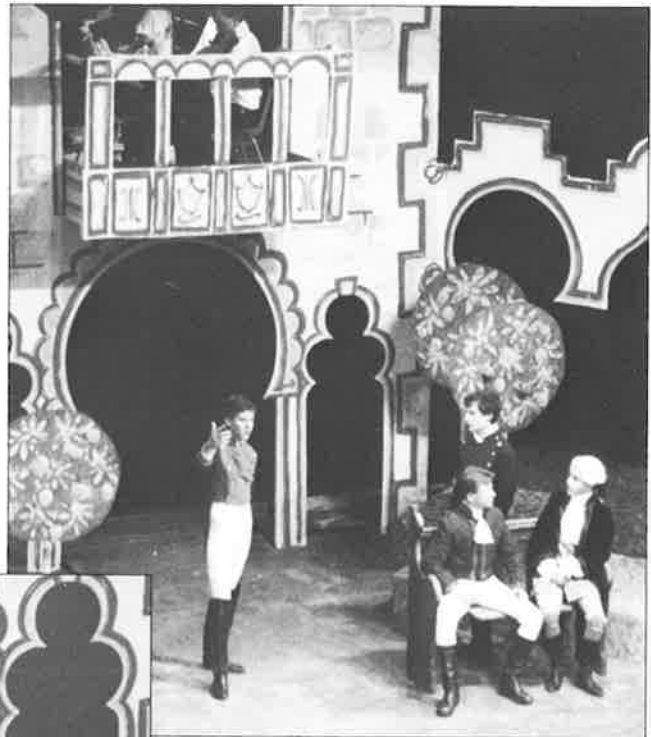
Calamity and Wild Bill





*Ellen Carlisle as Adelaide Adams,
with admirers*

Much Ado



About Nothing

Trips

TOM KENYON IN BRAZIL

After leaving Abingdon in July 1988 I spent a year in Brazil as a Project Trust volunteer. Like most of my fellow volunteers, all school leavers, I was teaching English in a privately-run language school. Although my situation was socially and culturally rather sheltered I felt that by the end of the year I had come to grips properly with the people, language and culture.

From September to March I worked in Londrina, a smallish city (by Brazilian standards meaning about 500,000 people), in the more developed south of the country. Londrina has withstood Brazil's catastrophic economic situation better than most cities. It has little or no industry: most people make their money from agriculture, particularly cattle and soya beans. I lived in a family who owned two very large cattle ranches, one in Mato Grosso and one in Amazonia. They lived on the fifth floor of a curious apartment block and owned two BMWs. Like the offspring of many former immigrants, Hélio, the father of the family, had built up his wealth from nothing and was fond of saying how, as a child, his father had hauled him out of school to sell oranges from a barrow in the street.

I also worked in a local orphanage at weekends. People seemed vague about how it managed to keep going: members of the public used to bring food and clothes, and there was a vegetable garden with which I became involved. I still don't know whether it received any state aid. There were about 120 children, some of whom were genuine orphans, some of whom had been abandoned by their parents who could no longer afford to keep them. Occasionally the parents would come back and there would be squabbles over custody. Their ages ranged from zero to sixteen or seventeen. The older ones went to school in the morning and worked in the afternoon, shining shoes in the city or stacking shelves in a local supermarket. All of them, but especially the younger ones were astonishingly free and easy in their affection, and almost desperate in their desire for physical contact. I left in March, and when I went back in July to visit, there wasn't one who didn't recognise me.

I spent the last three months of my time in Brazil in São Paulo state, responsible, incidentally, for about 40% of Brazil's shoe production. The memory that lingers most

is the smell of the tanneries. Apart from shoes, people make their money from coffee. My role at the 'Cultura Inglesa' (English School) there was to be 'cultural events organiser' which meant organizing English-speaking dinner parties and accepting invitations to barbecues. I had a pretty good time.

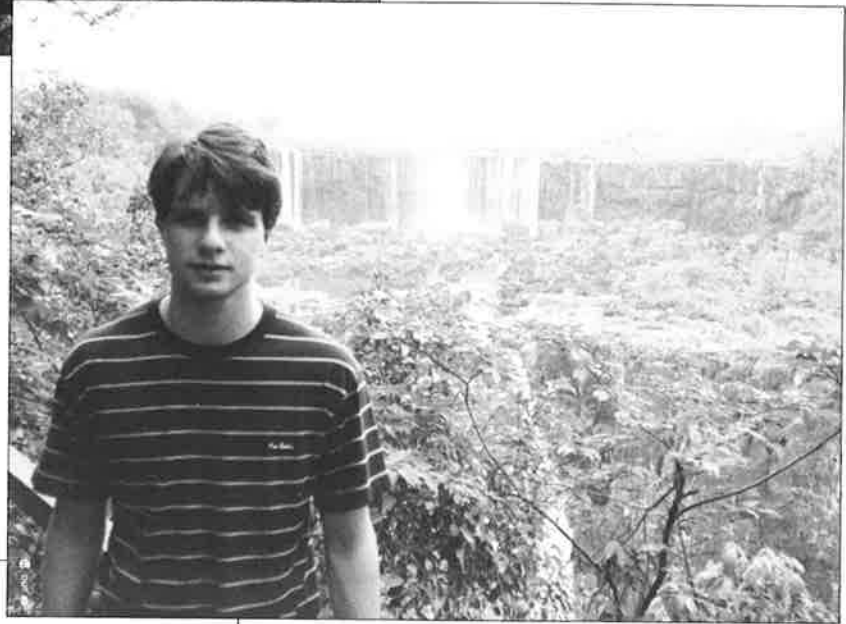
I think being a volunteer taught me many things. As well as developing my confidence and personal skills, it gave me some insights into the customs and values of a completely different society and by comparison, gave me a fresh perspective on Britain. I emerged with a feeling of having done something really worthwhile. The experience benefits both those who have a clear idea of what to do and those who, like me, may be undecided and want to look around a bit before committing themselves. Whatever sort of person you are, you need feel you have nothing to lose.

Tom Kenyon O.A.

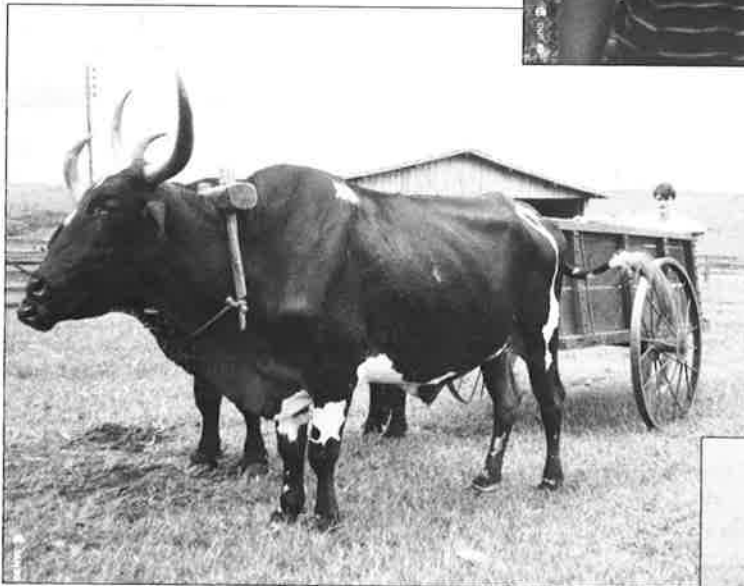




Canoeing on the Amazon with a true Brazilian Indian



The falls at Cuiabá



Farm oxen on the Pantanal, the Mato Grosso



Irrepressible smiles

FILLING A GAP

The monsoon was almost over in early September when I arrived in India. It was 3 a.m. as I drove into Delhi from the airport and though the bus had no glass in the windows, there was a strange warmth and humidity, as if the air itself was sweating.

I then had to get an autorickshaw (a roofless Robin Reliant with a small lawn mower engine) to a hotel; the driver said it would only cost one rupee. On arriving at a completely different hotel from the one I had asked for, my driver informed me that the fare was now 100 rupees. I naturally objected but I was informed that there was actually "no problem" - I failed to see the reasoning. He failed to see the 100 rupees.

I remember that time in Delhi as if in a dream. One's senses were overwhelmed from every side, the heat, the noise, the smells; pigs in the gutters, cows in the road, lepers on the pavement.

Eventually I caught my train north; it was twenty hours late. A day later I walked into the Education Office of the exiled Tibetan government in Dharamsala. The relief was enormous when, after much confusion, I was told I was expected and would be driven to my home for the next three months. I was now in the hands of the Tibetans, and more caring or hospitable hands I could not imagine. The Institute of Buddhist Dialectics was relatively advanced by Indian standards, one of the classrooms even had tables and benches. The pupils were all monks, shaven in their saffron robes, aged from 8 - 24, about 70 of them, living fairly comfortably in double study bedrooms.

When the Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1953 after the Chinese invasion, he had to ensure that Tibet lived on outside its geographical boundaries, for the Chinese were murdering it within. The school at which I taught was set up to preserve and further the academic side of the religious culture. The monks would spend hours learning religious scripts, would have tuition, and then their knowledge would be tested in the great debates which were held.

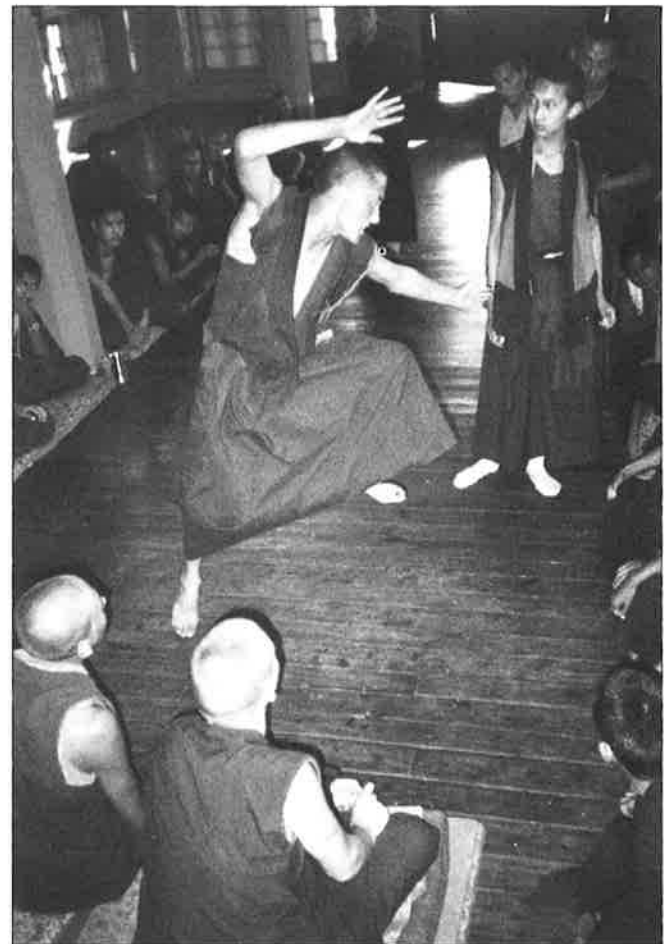
The debates ran on different lines from western ones. Two monks, the "Answerers" would sit facing up to eight monks who would fire series of questions, aiming to force the answerers into an intellectual corner causing them to concede to the questioners. The points argued were very exact and demanded great concentration and precision of thought. What made the debates so exciting was the speed and action with which they were conducted. Each questioner wanted to prove himself, so he would jostle with the others to get into a position to fire a question. In the excitement I saw monks lift each other up and hurl their friends to the side to get access to the answerers. These monks who were normally so peaceful would almost become possessed with the fervour of the occasion. To add to the excitement each time a question was asked the questioner would raise his right hand over his head, lifting his left leg, and on completing the question would slam his leg down on the floor simultaneously slapping his right hand down onto his left with a shout. It was as impressive as it sounds complicated. I couldn't understand a word of what was going on, yet the first time I saw this spectacle I sat fascinated for four hours.

I daily taught four different classes ranging from the most basic to relatively advanced. All the monks I taught could already speak at least a little English. With the bottom classes the going was slow, we worked our way through a text book, often going off on tangents as I explained the rudiments of water skiing or what a bath

looked like and how it was used. Sometimes I would get out of my depth; how do you explain what a walrus looks like to someone who has never seen the sea? I think I left the monks with images of amphibious dogs with mutilated legs.

With the middle classes I would sometimes give a lesson of Geography, or of basic science or maths; often completely new topics for many of the monks. I also read them extracts from "Winnie the Pooh" which I had brought with me. To my delight they loved it and would often enquire about the "silly old bear".

My top class was the most testing. Five pupils of



Debating, Tibetan style

about my age, all very good at English and there was no course structure. The syllabus was very eclectic: Politics one day, Advanced Physics the next, often with them knowing as much as me. We studied the lyrics of Tracy Chapman, the poetry of Emily Dickinson - whatever I could think of. The greatest success was the acting and role playing. I saw monks transformed into jealous Shakespearean tyrants and doting maidens. I saw them improvise scenes between imaginary alcoholic executives and their concerned secretaries.

I had had no time for any teacher training before leaving, I just had to gauge my success or failure by the monks' response. Some lessons fell disastrously flat, but those where one felt a really strong positive response made up for the flops a hundred times.

There was an hour's break in the teaching for lunch, it was not a high point of the day. The school could not afford to provide much in the way of variety or nutrition. Potatoes and bread for lunch, lentils and rice for supper



Young monks in training

- seven days a week. The monks would munch on fresh green chillies to provide some variety.

After the evening meal I would walk round the hillside to a small nunnery for my last lesson of the day. The nuns were even poorer than the monks, yet were undoubtedly the kindest, happiest, most generous and good natured people I have ever come across. We would sit in a circle on cushions, sharing four books between about ten of us. There was a blackboard but no chalk, and maybe one in five lessons was interrupted by power cuts: about the only thing you can depend on in India.

The nuns' English was of a lower standard than that of any of the monks, and the academic progress very slow, yet the nuns were such enthusiastic pupils that the lessons flew by. These young girls and women could only be distinguished from their male counterparts by their incredible capacity for giggling and their occasional beautiful faces. It was not a Western beauty, but a beauty of innocence and purity, a rare commodity.

I would pass the evenings in the village sitting with the Tibetans in their shops or restaurants, or engrossed in conversation with a Tasmanian "drop-out", or a hippy from Norwich: anyone who was there. When in a country as alien as India there is an automatic bond with any other "alien" traveller. There is no gossip to talk about, no petty social conventions to adhere to (I don't think I talked about the weather once in three months). One meets

other people so easily and one can only normally talk about one's travels or the important parts of humanity we all have in common. It may sound pretentious but nothing was more natural. I had more obviously rewarding conversations in those three months than ever before or since. There was also no prejudice against my youth. I was only 18, my fellow travellers were five or ten years older, but I was judged on what I had to say: something little seen in the West.

During my stay in McLeod Ganj I had three "blessing audiences" with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In a queue with many other Westerners he would shake your hand and bless you and you would then be given a blessed thread to put round your neck. The most striking thing about His Holiness is his natural simplicity and his nun-like propensity to giggle. A friend had coloured threads in his plaited hair which hung like antennae. His Holiness looked at the plaits, giggled and simply said, "Good - yeh?". He delighted in the children he met in a way so far removed from canvassing politicians back home.

This is an article about my year off, not a piece on politics, but to the Tibetans who showed me so much kindness I owe a debt. My furthering the West's awareness of the Tibetan situation, however slightly, helps balance the books.

It was said in The Sunday Times in September that Tibet is the only place where genocide is still going on today. Since 1949 1.2 million Tibetans have been killed as a direct result of the Chinese occupation. Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot were responsible for more deaths but they, or at least the first two of them, are in the past. China's atrocities in Tibet still continue.

When in McLeod Ganj I attended a lecture given by a nun who had recently escaped from Tibet. She had been held a prisoner for over 20 years. The facts she reported were horrific. The prisoners were so underfed at times

they had no choice but to eat faeces to survive. She witnessed a man rip and eat the guts out of a dead horse by a roadside.

When a Tibetan is publicly executed by the Chinese they first rip his or her tongue out so they cannot shout their loyalty to the Dalai Lama and Tibet before they are killed. Meanwhile the Government refuses even to speak to the world's most famous proponent of

peace because China is too financially important to upset.

I realise this is strong stuff for a school magazine. It is, however, fact, and the Tibetans made my year off the worthwhile enterprise it was. As a people they can teach the world a lot, but their population and culture are being destroyed. Tibetans are shipped to China and replaced by Chinese. If we forget the cause led by the man who won the Nobel Peace Prize there may soon no longer be a Tibet

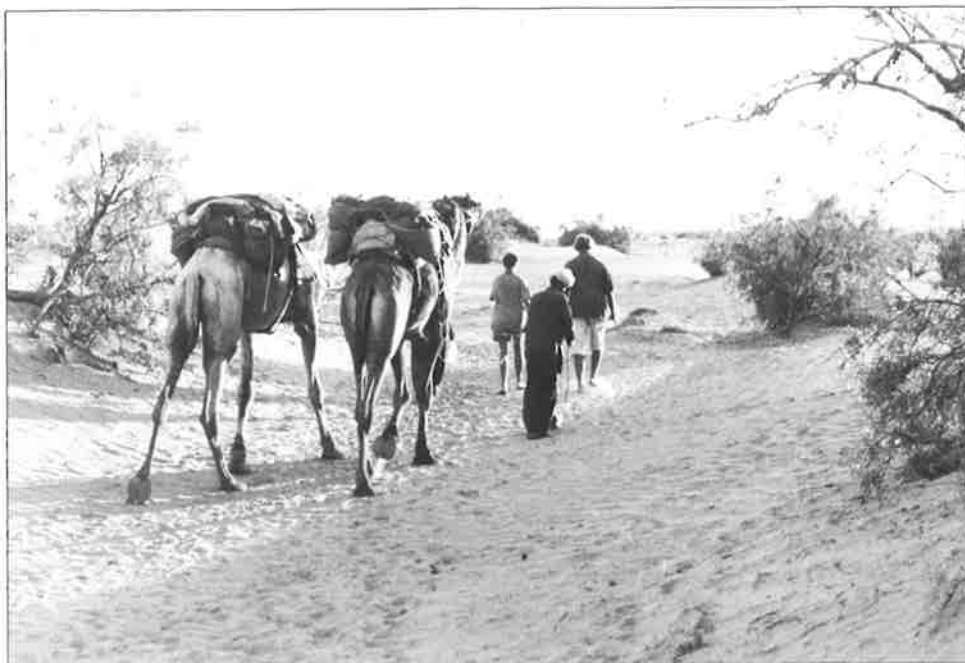


Elderly Tibetan women preparing to dance in celebration of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize

to save.

I left McLeod Ganj with presents and tears and spent the next three months travelling the length and breadth of India and Nepal, living on deserted beaches, camel trekking across deserts, climbing the Himalayas, rowing down the sacred Ganges. I witnessed poverty, greed, kindness and disease, and every day there was something new and interesting, shocking or unexpected. That aspect of travelling is addictive: freedom to do just what you like when you like - away from telephones and commitments. It makes one feel that there is something missing in life in England.

I found my job through Gap ActivityProjects, a charity based in Reading. Demands for such placements are high so organize yourself early: Christmas of the L6 may be too late. Not everyone is suited to a year off, nor to India: but I have not met one person who regrets



Arriving at an oasis

taking a break before university nor anyone who has been to India and doesn't want to go back.

Miles Kendall O.A.



A lagoon in Costa Rica

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Without a doubt, a gap year between school and university holds enormous potential for a great deal of time wasting. It also represents a unique opportunity for the individual to pursue any activity which appeals to him/her, for whatever reason, anywhere in the world. After all, when else does one have a spare fifteen months with no commitments to restrict one's movements or activities?

As I finished my A' Levels in June 1989, I certainly was determined to spend the next 15 months in a worthwhile manner. I wanted adventure and travel, and yet as well as these popular demands, I wanted an opportunity to test and practise my organisational and man-management skills. I wanted to be given responsibility and be forced to rely on my own initiative. Perhaps an expedition to South America, Africa or India would have satisfied my former demands, and an office job with a large multinational oil company or publishing firm, the latter. But neither would have satisfied both.



Cadenas OP on the Guatemalan border

However, although seemingly unheard of by anybody except my school's Army Liaison Officer, a Short Service Limited Commission did seem to me to hold many of the ingredients for a "year off well spent", and it did not take me long to realise this was not an opportunity to be missed. I passed the Regular Commissions Board in September 1989, and just four weeks later arrived at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for my first taste of Army life. The aim of the three and a half week course is basically to train you to fit into whichever unit you are destined for, as fully as possible. Of course, you will not pass out of Sandhurst with as much knowledge, whether it be about the Light Support Weapon or how to glean the most from a group of reluctant soldiers, as someone who has spent six months or a year there. However, you will receive an introduction to both these skills, and indeed, many, many others.

The course is very intense - the instructors naturally

try to fit as much as possible into the limited time available. The three and a half weeks of early morning drill, room and kit inspections, assault courses, initiative test, weapon training, overnight exercises and numerous classroom sessions on topics ranging from signals to the Geneva Convention, are thus quite a shock to the system after a twelve week summer holiday. When we were commissioned at a magnificent passing out parade at the end of the month, the twenty or so recent school boys and school girls had certainly learnt a great deal. Self discipline, working under pressure, and strength of mind are three attributes developed which instantly spring to mind. In addition to these, the things I learnt about myself and about other people would, I feel, undoubtedly be beneficial to anybody, whether he be in a military or a civilian environment.

The Royal Artillery were my sponsors at Sandhurst. I chose them for two main reasons. Firstly, the way that the 'Gunners' are involved in such a variety of skills, held great potential for offering me a broad insight into the army. As well as working on the gun line, itself a very satisfying job, the observation parties, which move with the infantry companies that the guns are supporting, offer a taste of infantry work. Secondly, the numerous worldwide locations of Artillery batteries and regiments offered me great travel opportunities.

At Sandhurst I was told by the Royal Artillery representative quite simply "The Royal Artillery has units in the following locations". I was then asked, "where would you like to go?". "Belize, in Central America." was my instant response. It offered,

in my opinion, the greatest potential for adventure. As well as this, Central America is currently, politically, a very interesting place to be, and I would also have the opportunity to see and experience a 'third world' country.

After Sandhurst, I was introduced to the basic principles of gunnery during a week long course at the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill. The Regiment with a battery of guns in Belize at that time, was 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. I joined them in Aldershot immediately after finishing at Larkhill, and very shortly after that flew out to Belize. I was to spend five months stationed in that "jungle covered paradise", posted to F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery Royal Horse Artillery.

The staggering amount of responsibility that can be given to SSLC officers was demonstrated to me in very real terms just ten days after arriving in Belize. I flew by helicopter to an observation post on the Belize/Guatemalan border, with eight soldiers under my command. We were

to remain there for eight days monitoring activities across the border twenty-four hours a day. Fifty miles of impassible jungle separated us from the nearest British camp, and our only link with them was by radio. I was in charge, and responsible for every event that took place at the OP. It was strange to think that less than five months before I had still been at school. Later in the tour, I took command for two weeks of an OP on an uninhabited coral island seventy miles off the coast of Belize. Duties there included checking the documentation of ships in the area.

I spent, in total, about six weeks on Exercise in the Belizean Jungle. In this scenario too, I could trial and develop my leadership skills, whether it be in the Gun Line Command Post, or organising a night move between two gun positions. The responsibility thrust upon an eighteen-year old with so little military experience, was immense. But when things worked, the job was very satisfying.

The opportunities for adventure were also prevalent.

Living and working for up to two weeks at a time in the jungle was a tremendously challenging and at the same time, an absolutely fascinating experience. Practising military skills and working with the roulement infantry battalion (1/2 Gurkha Rifles) was also most enjoyable. Belize represented an excellent place for me to gain a broad insight into military capabilities. As well as the Gurkhas, the REME, RCT, RAMC, RAOC, Royal Signals, Royal Engineers and the Army Air Corps were in Belize. The RAF's helicopters and Harriers were routinely used on exercise, and in everyday life. Even the West Indies Guard Ship, a frigate, was involved in exercises. It was very interesting to see and experience how all these forces can be intimately combined to produce a devastating result. I was also lucky enough to take part in a three week adventure training expedition in Mexico. We set out to climb two ice-covered volcanoes just south of Mexico City. Both were around 18,000 ft. in height, and the sense of achievement when both were conquered, was well worth the pains and extreme cold caused by spending a relatively long time at such a high altitude.

A description of my time with the Army in Belize would not be complete without a mention of the leisure activities available to the troops stationed there. Caribbean water sports such as scuba diving, snorkelling, windsurfing and sailing are all available freely to Service personnel, and I can assure you that I did not fail to take full advantage of the opportunities available. Belize's Mayan History is fascinating, and this, combined with such activities as white water rafting, never leaves a dull weekend. I also

took leave in Costa Rica during my tour, which was superb.

The final three months of my SSLC were sadly restricted by a broken ankle sustained a couple of weeks before I was due to return from Belize. This meant that I could do no physical activities. I was determined however not to waste my remaining time, and so immersed myself in the 'organisational' tasks which were allocated to me. Despite being on crutches, I managed to learn a lot about coordinating many outside agencies to produce a successful event. I certainly consider this a worthwhile exercise, during which a lot was learnt. I suppose this aspect of my SSLC experience would have been equivalent to working in the large oil company or publishing firm which I mentioned earlier.

SSLC officers are paid the same amount as an officer cadet at Sandhurst (about £7000 a year). This admittedly is not much, but what it has meant is that the experiences which I have had in my year off have not cost me a penny.



At 18,000 ft. on the summit of Ixtacchuatl Volcano, Mexico

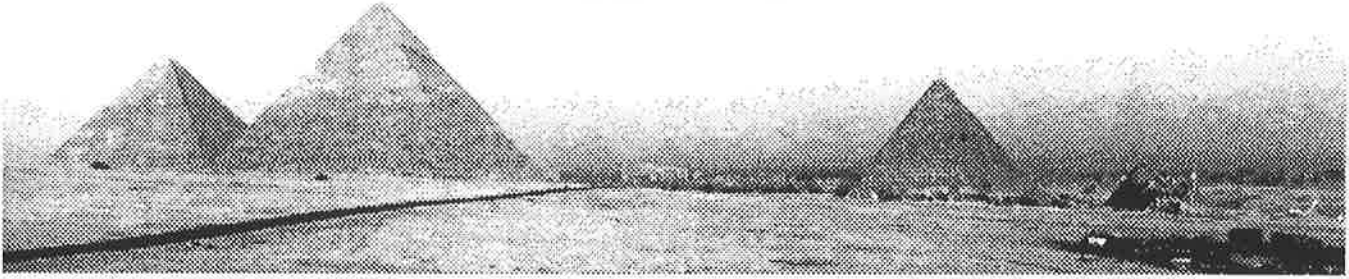
In fact, despite holidaying in Costa Rica, mountaineering in Mexico, and pursuing some very intense water sports training in Belize, I have actually managed to save quite a considerable amount.

I will go to Bristol University in October 1990, exactly one year after driving through the gates of Sandhurst. My time in the Army has taught me many things. Some I appreciate now, many I'm certain I will not realise for several years. I am definitely satisfied that my year off has been spent in a very worthwhile and beneficial manner. It has also been thoroughly enjoyable, and I would certainly recommend it to anyone, even if they were not considering a career in the Army after university.

Looking back, I don't see how I could have used my year off in a more worthwhile way than by serving a Short Service Limited Commission. If you take the opportunities available to you, you certainly won't regret it.

2Lt A.R.K. Whittaker RHA

Egypt Trip



Our first taste of Egypt was Nile fish, served to us on our Egypt Air flight to Cairo on 21st October 1990. We arrived at the Bel-Air Hotel, picturesquely located on the edge of a vast stone quarry and surrounded by military installations. Next day, after an early morning swim, we set off for a restaurant in the suburbs of Cairo and the sound of women ululating as they baked pitta bread in brick ovens outside the restaurant. Then off to see the disappointingly small and crumbling Sphinx, in the process of being tastefully restored (or rebuilt) in new stone and concrete by the Egyptians, and to crawl up a hot and claustrophobic passage inside the Great Pyramid. Mrs. Chapman sidled off for a shifty camel ride with Sarah Swift, unbeknownst to the rest of the group.

We caught the overnight train to Aswan at Giza Station, and were soon trying to sleep as the train rocketed along at a dizzy 30 mph, with frequent stops to remove camels from the line. 18 hours later, after a

Ramses at Luxor



A felucca at Aswan

spectacular ride through desert and Nile scenery, we stepped from our cushioned, air-conditioned carriage into the 100° heat of Aswan. After finding luxurious quarters on our (unplanned) Nile cruise ship we were whisked off to see the Aswan Dam, a site of great natural beauty and interest - so we were told by Hossam, our inarticulate yet loquacious Egyptian guide.

Next day a felucca trip took us to see the Aga Khan's tomb, perched on the edge of the desert, and the botanical gardens of Kitchener's Island. Our cruise ship left Aswan after lunch and we headed for the breath-taking Ptolemaic temple of Komombo, the first of several such spectacular sights. The boat continued to Edfu where we moored for the night, enabling us to visit the temple there early the next morning. This astonishing building, nearly contempo-

rary with the temple at Komombo, is still almost complete, with its massive pylons and colonnades preserved by its burial in the sand for centuries. The boat hurried on to join the queue of other cruisers waiting to pass through the lock at Esna. From here we went on by coach to Luxor, where we visited the famous temples of Karnak and Luxor with their rows of sphinxes and their huge pillars, carved with complex hieroglyphics. Karnak is particularly impressive, as the original complex of pylon, courtyard and sanctuary was added to by successive pharaohs, each new pylon greater than the last. The main temple has six pylons, of which the last and greatest was left unfinished, with the ramps of clay bricks still in place behind, and there are four more great pylons in another more



Pylons of the temple of Horus at Edfu



High street shopping, Aswan

V's tomb. The first tomb we saw, Horemheb's, was unfinished in part, and showed all the stages the artists went through to achieve the finished article. In the afternoon we tried out our haggling skills in Luxor bazaar, and offended several Arabs by our reluctance to part with any money.

The highlight of our last day in Egypt was the Cairo museum, and especially the treasures of Tutankhamun crammed untidily into a side room, in true Egyptian fashion. A few intrepid travellers joined Adrian Saunders in a walk through medieval Cairo, aromatic with sewage and spices, and scattered with crumbling mosques and ragged children. By now only three of the thirty-six of us had a clean bill of health, the last of the Arret having been given to Mr. Revill on the return train journey - a waste of time as it happened . . . Only Peter Haynes, Jenny Cox and Mrs. Chapman ate the Air Egypt meal with any appearance of enjoyment. Six hours later we were shivering in sub-zero temperatures in the coach park to the accompaniment of storm warnings.

By zee vay also, vhat about zees coach park. I'm gonna to tell you . . . zees is not a true story but I'm gonna to tell you anyhow . . . during zees time, zees coach park . . . (Come on crocodiles! Hurry up crocodiles!) . . .

JEC/NMR

Colossi at Memnon

ruinous complex to the east. The hypostyle hall beyond the second pylon is the most impressive sight of the temple, with 134 pillars, each one 3m in diameter.

We rejoined the boat at Esna, and finally went through the lock at 1.00 a.m. We awoke to find ourselves moored by a sugar plantation on the west bank at Luxor. Those who had not yet succumbed to the Egyptian bug were taken by bus to the scorching Valley of the Kings out in the desert, and descended into the depths of the tombs of three Pharaohs long since plundered by grave robbers. In the tomb of Tutmosis III, the rough drawing on the walls resembled Lowry's stick-men - a sharp contrast to the ornately carved and richly painted passageways in Ramses



FAMILY LIFE IN GRENOBLE

When it was announced at school that there would be a French exchange visit with Grenoble, in the French Alps, the coming Easter, I decided to take a letter about it home to my parents. They had said that I ought to go on an exchange, so I thought it would be deceitful of me not to inform them of the Grenoble trip. I myself was apprehensive about going. Two weeks, hundreds of miles away from my family, with foreign people whom I had never met before. However I knew it wasn't anything new: people were always going on French exchanges, and I knew that Grenoble was a particularly beautiful part of France.

Well, I was put down for a place, and eventually got the details of my exchange partner: he looked big and quite daunting, but he had a friendly smile, and we seemed to have similar interests. But what would his family, friends, relations, neighbours and home be like? Would they be welcoming, hostile, quiet, lively..... there were thousands of possibilities: I would just have to wait and see.

So eventually the holidays arrived and the time came for the depart. After a long, enjoyable journey with a coach load of boys and girls who seemed every bit as nervous as I was, we arrived in Grenoble, and I met Sébastien's mother. At first sight she seemed like a gentle, caring, friendly woman: just the sort of hostess you would wish for in an alien environment.

From when we drove off in her small car we slipped easily into conversation, and from then on, I felt that my stay wouldn't be so awkward after all. The next member of the family that I met was Fabrice, Sébastien's 18 year-old brother. Sébastien was still at school. Fabrice was also friendly and talkative and just as easy to get on with, if not more so than sixth-formers at school. It was an easy way to get used to the town, driving through it, meeting one member of Sébastien's family at a time, and having his mother point out monuments, etc., as we drove around. Eventually we arrived at home and I met Sébastien, his little brother Cédric and his father, César.

Right from the first day I was there, I knew that I was going to enjoy myself. The family was exactly what I had hoped they would be, and I couldn't believe how lucky I was. There was a strong family instinct, they were very close, and I knew I wouldn't find it at all difficult to settle down.

The family, especially the father were very attached to Cédric, Sébastien's little eight year old brother, and I think he had a large influence in making the atmosphere in the family so welcoming. The parents, especially the mother, were very kind. They were always checking that I had what I wanted in all areas; food, pastimes, everything. They tried to make my two weeks as interesting, enjoyable, and worthwhile as possible. They didn't have a large house or lots of money, but I didn't want to be taken to the most expensive restaurant in town. They provided what was within their means and the meals were always excellent. They took me up the mountain to a ski resort where we went tobogganing, into Grenoble, where I went up in the 'boules' and I also visited many of Sébastien's friends and relations. They, like the family were all very friendly and interested in what I was doing in France, and what home and school were like in England. I felt that I had spent a thoroughly interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile fortnight in the care of a lovely family.

A.N. Janisch 4MCS



Téléphérique Grenoble - Bastille

THE FRENCH EXCHANGE TO ARGENTAN

Perfect timing by the Modern Languages Department meant that 'Part 2' of the 1990 French Exchange with Argentan took place during Italia '90, thus allowing all involved uninterrupted coverage of the matches; and of course for the tennis fans there was Wimbledon all day, every day. The first leg of the exchange (at the end of April, when 'they' came to 'us') had gone well, their trips to Blenheim, Stratford, etc., being enjoyed by all. The highlight, as expected, was the excursion for everyone (French and British) to Drayton Manor Park (and Zoo). No one ventured into the zoo, except Mr. Willerton, but nevertheless the day was fantastic, Steve Kenyon being so full of gratitude that he offered Mr. Willerton 'la bise' to thank him as we left the coach!

By the time we arrived in France, on the June 23rd., the French had almost finished their summer term, so most of our time was spent 'chez eux', sampling family life, and testing our competence at speaking French (the commentary to the football matches being very instructive). There were three excursions, one of which was enjoyed in particular, although all three had their moments. Firstly, there was a trip to Paris which, apart from our being dropped off about five miles away from where we should have been (meaning a long, long walk in 31 degrees heat), was really a very good day. The train from Argentan took us to Le Mans, from where we took the TGV to Paris. Once there we were shown such sights as the Eiffel Tower, l'Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysées, and the Jacques Cousteau exhibition, which was incredible - I recommend it. The other trips were to the Memorial at Caen (an enormous complex, totally dedicated to the Second World War) and to the chateau at Falaise (where William the Conqueror was born). It must be said that for the philistines, the best part of the latter trip was the hour of free time we had in the town where our limited skills at 'le flipper' and 'le babyfoot' came to the fore.

Although we were defeated 8-0 in the 'friendly' football match at l'Ecole Notre Dame (played against overwhelming odds!), most people's spirits had revived sufficiently to enjoy the weekend and two days with the host families, who were by and large extremely hospitable and took their English guests to all parts of Normandy and beyond! A very long journey with many delays (beginning with an oversleeping coach driver!) brought us back to Abingdon on the Wednesday, in time for the last three days of term. Our grateful thanks go to Mr. Willerton and Mr. Clare for organising everything and putting up with us so well.

M. Buckley VIP

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

During the Easter holidays thirty-three boys from the lower sixth (and Andrew Hyde) travelled to Malham Tarn Field Centre in Yorkshire under the watchful eyes of Mr. Ellis and Mr. Henderson. On the journey north the group was split into three groups. Some went by school minibus while the reckless few took their chances with the C.C.F. vehicle and the rest went by train.

On arrival we were shown to our accommodation and later introduced to 'Sal', our instructor for the week. After a brief lecture we were given our timetable and issued with a rather ragged but immensely stylish set of waterproofs. That evening we relaxed, blissfully ignorant of the hardships to follow. Some of us played pool, others watched the box and a few mingled with the Croydon girls.

The course was split up into four days of physical geography on the one hand, leaving the remaining two for human geography. The next day fieldwork began. Luckily the weather held out as we tackled fluvial geomorphology. With two main objectives in view, we began to investigate various hypotheses on velocity, gradient and discharge of the river (to name but a few). Thoroughly drenched (from the river) we returned to the classroom for three hours writeup. After initial complaints we realised this sequence was to be par for the course.

Over the next few days we worked on hydrology and landscape evolution. On the fifth day, the weather changed for the worse. From being used to walking round in T-Shirt and shorts we found ourselves in snow. It really was true what they say about rapid weather changes up there after all! Fortunately, we were well equipped for all types of weather as we went on a 'classic limestone' walk that day.

The next day ushered in the study of human geography. On this, the first of the two days given to the human study, we were to journey into the surrounding countryside to collect data on "Rural Settlements". This information enabled us to assess whether;

1. Central Place Theory could be used to explain the size, distribution and function of settlements in the area, and
2. whether these settlements were undergoing changes of any type.

After an energetic week we spent our last day in Lancaster, examining many aspects of the city for links with urban land use models. Having been out of touch with civilisation for so long many of us found McDonalds a welcome relief. After a long lunch break, it was back to work and after that back to Malham, which, although only forty miles away, took over ninety minutes to get to. We concluded that Lancaster

1. was divided by the River Ribble, to the north of which lay low class housing, while to the south was the high class housing.

2. had a definitive Central Business District
3. was divided into sectors, like Hoyt's model
4. these sectors had an element of zoning.

From this we deduced that Lancaster could not be labelled as corresponding to any one urban land use model. However, certain features of the various models could be used in explaining land usage in the city.

Then it was time to leave Yorkshire. The area will never again be the same without us.

P. Mildenhall VIE/A. Ashley VIN



SKI TRIPS

After last year's success we once again ran two ski tours, one for the Sixth Form and one for the Middle School. The Sixth Form tour was to Badgastein in Austria, a fairly large cosmopolitan and historic 19th. century spa town. Our last day there was marked by a strange procession through the centre of Badgastein by local people dressed in some very strange outfits! Evidently this occurs only once in every seven years.

Badgastein boasts a good snow record and although the snow was thin, the cold air kept what snow there was crisp. Beginners did not find these conditions easy, the possibility of "catching an edge" on a stone just below the surface makes you very wary. However, better skiers found the long sweeping runs exhilarating, and the lack of any queues meant lots of skiing miles were covered. The thermal baths proved an excellent way of reviving tired and aching limbs, the outdoor hot pool, like a giant jacuzzi was not an easy place to leave.

The Middle School tour was to Pra Loup in the Southern French Alps, which by contrast to Badgastein is a modern purpose built resort. Fears of four metre snow drifts and avalanches were all ill-founded. Once again snow was at a premium by the end of the week as a relentless sun made sunburn the biggest problem.

A very comfortable hotel provided us with interesting architecture but, more importantly, very good food. With the bubble lift attached to the outside of the hotel, walking, if not queuing, was minimal.

The easy greens and blues gave beginners lots of confidence while the more adventurous skier found fast schusses and steep mogul fields gave them all the excitement they could handle.

AJM



Krampus figures can be met throughout Austria during Fasching.

UPPER SCHOOL TOUR REPORT

The sixth form ski tour visited the Austrian town of Badgastein, with a party of almost thirty upper and lower sixth formers, and four masters.

The 'hotel' was comfortable, although the food at times left a lot to be desired. There was some snow, but its quality was mostly poor, with many patches of ice and several runs closed. This did unfortunately restrict the diversity of our skiing, especially for the more advanced, and some people took the opportunity to take a bus to nearby Sportgastein. However, it was possible to ski every day, with coaching available for all standards each morning, leaving the afternoons free for us to do as we pleased, and everybody made best possible use of what snow did exist. We were in fact lucky compared to many other resorts, throughout Europe with the relative height of Badgastein's pistes proving a great benefit.

Après ski was quite extensive with almost everybody taking advantage of the hot town baths. We chose the best possible time to visit, with New Year's Eve celebrations in almost every part of the town, providing an enjoyable and, for some, an expensive evening. Apart from the night attractions, the town was also very scenic, and provided some 'nice views' for those who cared to look. The shops were also extensive and varied, yet were also very expensive, apart from the standard cheap supermarkets which had most of our trade.

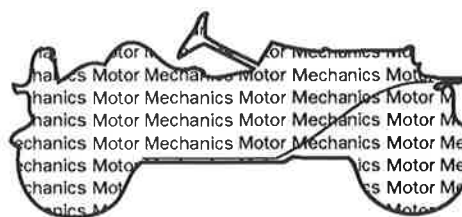
The week ended well, coinciding with a large street procession. Thankfully it was free from injury and a good time was had by all.

J. Dorkings VIM

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP REPORT

Our spirits rose when we checked in at the Hotel 'Kappa Club' in Pra Loup and were treated to a pleasingly good meal. The telecabins which were situated right by the hotel took us to a half snow-covered mountain. New skiers anxiously awaited for instructions while the 'pros' once again took off in a rather stylish way. The whole resort, we were to learn, coped well with the numbers of people, though the runs became a bit bare and a few had to be closed down, but skiing was never really a problem. The only real difficulty was caused by the scorching sun. Skiing was increasingly reduced to a bare minimum, and many people relaxed in deckchairs in the restaurant opposite the telecabins. The holiday as a whole was well organised and enjoyable.

L. Davy 5AFM



After five years on the production line the Moss Roadster kit car eventually ventured on to the public roads in mid-July. There had been times when it seemed that heady moment would never arrive, so dearly had manufacturer's error cost us in time and effort. Major modifications to the chassis, endless adaptation of the steering gear and windscreen wipers, and the need to build out the rear wings until they covered the wheels properly are just a few examples of the unanticipated tasks that faced us and which sometimes held up progress for months at a time. Without the excellent facilities of the technology centre, and, more particularly, a variety of welding equipment, none of this would have been possible. Yet the car passed its test of roadworthiness first time and quickly clocked up its first 500 miles in the summer. Getting in and out calls for a certain agility on the part of the driver, but, once installed, one is in for an exciting experience, until it rains that is! Acceleration is not so much exhilarating as brisk, but, with its distinctive 1930s styling, the car never fails to draw attention and has not infrequently been mistaken for a genuine Morgan.

GCR



ABINGDON 10, DARTMOOR 0

Ten Tors: 45 mile silver route

This arduous expedition began on Friday 18th. May, when we left school in the minibus with its windows covered with paper bearing the logo, 'Abingdon School vs. Dartmoor'. In the evening our kit was scrutinised with a fine toothcomb and we watched the new improved video about safety on Dartmoor. We then took the walk down to Okehampton to tuck into some chips, intending to follow it up with a good night's sleep.

No such luck! So many tent canvasses were rattling during the night that it seemed nobody managed any sleep at all. The pop music was blaring out of the megaphones as everyone was preparing for the off, just like at a Butlin's holiday camp, except this trip was going to be no holiday.

At 7.00 a.m. after a lovely breakfast of Mr. 'The Chef' Simons' hotdogs the Ten Tors prayer was read and then the starting pistol was fired. Suddenly there was mayhem as every team went off in different directions.

The day was clear but cold and the first two Tors were easily found. Everyone was in good spirits, especially our comic Matthew Mowat. The pace was good and the team leader Paul Coleman was making all the right decisions, as he directed us to the correct Tor.

After a while it became a bit monotonous but morale was still high and the pace was so quick that Mr. Simons and Mr. Revill in their Renault minibus could not catch up with us. By the end of the first day we had six Tors behind us and we were now well on our way on the return leg.

Believe it or not, there are some days when it is hot on Dartmoor, and fortunately that Sunday happened to be one of them. Everyone woke up refreshed and after a quick breakfast the excitement began to mount once again. The next Tor was soon reached, but then the most demanding section was to come when the teams had to stay on a path to the next Tor. Once this Tor was passed, everyone knew the finish could be met within the allotted time. Teeth were gritted and pains put aside as the rest of the route was struggled against.

Shortly after meeting Mr. Ellis (who in the meantime had been making a quick run over the moor!), the finish came into view. A massive crowd was waiting to applaud us and the whole team just ran down the last hill as fast as their blisters could take them. We felt like heroes as the deafening applause took us past the finishing podium. After Matthew Trump had had his Gruyère-styled feet photographed by the local press we collected our medals and our certificate for finishing with no team members lost.

Many thanks must go to Mr. Simons, Mr. Revill and Mr. Mansfield, for without their help and encouragement none of this would have been possible, and to our great team leader Paul Coleman, and in particular to a brilliant

team, most of whom will probably go back next year.

J. Denée VIP

TEAM: P. Coleman (Capt.), R. Darby, D. Megaw, M. Mowatt, M. Trump, J. Denée

Ten Tors: 55 mile gold route

This year's 55 mile Ten Tors team consisted of Matthew Deacon, Craig Hoyle, Mark Reed (Capt.), Nicholas Silver, John Smith and John Smythe. After getting up at 04.30 on Saturday 19th. May, we set off from Okehampton camp at 07.00. Due to the distance between two of the Tors, the organisers made all the teams on our route check in at Combestone Tor to break up the walk, so, in effect, the team visited eleven Tors. Due to contouring around the hills (and avoiding bogs!) the 55 mile distance on paper turned out in fact to be 63 miles.

The team covered 33 miles on the first day and the remaining 30 were completed in just over 13 hours of further constant walking (apart from a ten minute lunch stop with Mr. Ellis). On the second day during the expedition all the team felt like dropping out at one time or another, but all carried on. There were morale problems and just a few physical ones as well. Special mention must be made of Nicholas Silver who staggered around the moor experiencing severe problems with one of his knees, of John Smythe for continuing with bad feet and a bad back and of Craig Hoyle who was unfortunate to be stricken by the painful 'Dartmoor Rub'.

The whole team finished at 16.40 on Sunday 20th May. All of the members of the 55 mile Ten (+1) Tors team would like to thank Mr. Ellis, Mr. and Master Mansfield, Mr. Revill and most of all Mr. Simons who gave his constant support and his infamous Ten Tors breakfast.

Mark Reed (ex VIB).





The Sultan Abdul Samad building in Kuala Lumpur

There are at present ten boys on a scholarship scheme from Malaysia in the sixth form and the following article offers -

A MALAYSIAN VIEW OF ABINGDON



From the moment we got off the plane we could feel the change of climate. It was 11°C then, while in Malaysia the temperature never goes below 25°C, and the coldest places are at the peaks of Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain

in South East Asia, where there might be the occasional snowfall. It's funny the way the climate can change the way of living in another country, for example, the food, clothes and culture. In Malaysia more emphasis is placed on the taste of the food, which is why the food is spicy. On first tasting English food it seemed tasteless, and we used to cover our food with pepper and salt to the amazement of the other boys. Here we had to wear jackets and jumpers to keep us warm: if someone wore a jacket in Malaysia he would look odd in contrast to the ordinary shirt and trousers. Taking off your shoes before entering someone's house is customary. This is not done here because the floors are cold.

As badminton is a national sport, we practically took over the school badminton team with our flexibility and agility. Taking part in sports activity and boarding made us develop a sense of belonging to the school and to Abingdon. We regard the school as our home since it is the only permanent place that we are at while studying in England. What I liked about the education system here is the freedom to express one's feelings and thoughts and to generate discussion. This is not common in Malaysia since we are taught regimentally and adhere to strict discipline.

Abingdon is a pleasant town, not too big, and can cater for one's basic needs. I know that when we leave Abingdon we will miss the place and the people dearly. We will always remember our experiences here and would like to thank our housemasters, tutors and colleagues for their help and friendship.

Razly Wan VIM



The Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque



Rajah Brooke butterfly

EXCHANGE VISIT

Spending a year out is an increasingly popular option with school leavers. Here Richard Taylor from Canberra Grammar School offers some reflections on his experience as an Australian on the teaching side in an English school.

After surviving five and a half years of senior school down under, the thought of completing my H.S.C. (A level equivalent) and then plunging straight into a five-year law course was, to say the least, uninviting. It was this feeling which sparked an intense desire in me to broaden my horizons, to discover new lands, whilst also giving me time for meaningful introspection - in other words, I needed a holiday. The "Rent-a-Roo", as opposed to "Rent-a-Pom" scheme was the obvious answer.

My year off in England has been all I hoped it would be, although upon arrival I had serious misgivings about what I had got myself into. After one glimpse of the dark, wet, cold and miserable weather I was overcome by the urge to catch the next plane back to the Lucky Country's sun, surf and sandy beaches. I could almost feel my tan cringe and fade as the first icy chill hit me. However, once I had settled down in Abingdon and got used to the glorious weather, things improved dramatically.

In terms of working at Abingdon I could not have been more pleased. The school basically gave me a free rein to do whatever I wanted, which allowed me to indulge in my greatest interest, sport. I thoroughly enjoyed helping out in areas such as P.E. and games, 1st. form rugby, U-12's, Junior Colts and 1st.'s cricket and Colts rugby during the year, and I am especially thankful to Jeff Drummond-Hay and Andy Broadbent for allowing and helping me to do so. This free rein also meant that I could experience some classroom teaching in the form of Ancient and Modern History lessons which were also enjoyable and satisfying.

It was not only the friendly staff but also the boys who combined to make my year in Pommyland so worthwhile. I was constantly hounded by poor, yet amusing, imitations of the Oztraalian accent, asking whether I could give a XXXX about anything or if I wanted me kangaroo to be tied down, sport. I was also badgered by questions like was Mark Taylor really my cousin? Does it ever rain in Australia? And, of course, what happens in "Neighbours"?

In my free time I did my best to experience the joys of English tradition. One of these is, of course, pubs. Despite the thick, flat, warm beer and early closing time, I found those time-honoured establishments much to my liking. Another area of enjoyment was the club cricket - in which I participated as much as possible for the Oxford Downs Club.

The lengthy holidays gave me the opportunity to travel widely to places such as Bulgaria (supposedly to go skiing but we suffered from a severe lack of snow), Scotland, and all over Europe. The trip around Europe in the summer was somehow accomplished in a decrepit green van, affectionately named "The Hulk", despite the fact that I managed to wrap it around a tree on the very first day we had it. It was a great experience, even if I was subjected to a rather ironic nine-day delay, courtesy of a nasty French viper bite.

I am extremely grateful to everyone at Abingdon (staff and boys) who have helped to make this year such a "beauty". I've made some good friends and will return home with only fond memories of my time overseas.

R. Taylor

MARCIN MODZELEWSKI

The visit during the summer term of Marcin Modzelewski, a Master of Economics from the Central School of Planning and Statistics in Warsaw, did much to enhance our understanding of the 'other half' of Europe at a period of dramatic historical change. Naturally enough, Marcin spent most of his time in the Economics Department where his contributions on the planned economies and the environmental problems of the formerly communist states were stimulating and valuable, and much appreciated by the boys. He also gave a series of talks for Mr. Brown's 'roundabout' politics course, and regularly attended Dr. Zawadzki's General Studies course on Stalin to Gorbachev; here too the boys were able to benefit from Marcin's experience of the realities of Eastern Europe. He was also able to give some useful tips to several VI year leavers and OA's planning to travel to Poland during the summer holidays.

At the same time Marcin was able to learn much about Western economics as well as about certain less well known areas of the Soviet past, and to further his current research on the world refugee problem. He was often to be seen in the Grundy Library ploughing through Keetings Archives which he found to be a mine of relevant information, not always readily available in Poland.

Marcin got on well with members of the Common Room and joined numerous lawn-tennis parties. He was an excellent ambassador for his country who made a genuine contribution to international understanding.

WHZ

Спасибо большое! -

in other words, Thank you!

The photograph, courtesy of The Abingdon Herald, shows Mrs. Tatyana Nikolaevna Gumennik, Principal of Moscow School No.78, West Moscow, presenting the Headmaster with gifts on the morning of the first assembly after Michaelmas half term, a Soviet flag, a matrioshka and a book about travelling through the USSR. The exchange lasted for ten days in all and was part of a joint venture with The Oxford High School. There were six Russian girls, one of whom came to Abingdon, along with the four boys.



In early September 1989 I was given the opportunity of spending three and a half months at the Ratsgymnasium in Bielefeld. My exchange partner, Thilo Oldiges, came over to Abington during this time and I stayed with his family.

It did not take me long to fit into the Ratsgymnasium, being passed off as one of those eccentric Engländer and all but deified when I told the English class that I came from Oxford. Most of them seemed obsessed with what was known as the "schöner Oxford Akzent", the perfect accent, than which there is no finer. As a result, I ended up coming back more English than I had been going out!

Owing to my rather unusual position in the school, my timetable was difficult to organise, and I was put into half a dozen different classes ranging in age from 14 to 19 or so. This was also partly due to my different abilities in each subject relative to the others. The Ratsgymnasium, which would correspond roughly to our grammar school, has its classes organised as below, with their English equivalents:

OI	Oberprima	
UI	Unterprima	Upper Sixth
OIIa,b,c	Obersekunda*	Lower Sixth
UIIa,b,c	Untersekunda+	Fifth Form
OIIIa,b,c	Obertertia	Fourth Form
UIIIa,b,c	Untertia	Third Form
IV	Quarta	Second Form
V	Quinta	First Form
VI	Sexta	

* = Often a gap year which can be spent in any foreign country, usually English speaking.

+ = At the end of which comes the "Mittlere Reife", equivalent to GCSE

The main difference between the German school system and ours is the three years spent on the equivalent of our sixth form studies, known as the "Abitur" course, as opposed to the two on the 'A' level. After this comes the "Wehrdienst" or military service, which now lasts fifteen months and is compulsory for all males, except for conscientious objectors, who have to serve longer (two years to make sure they are what they say they are...) doing other tasks. Only then are they free to go to university, and consequently graduate when they are considerably older than their counterparts in Britain, say 26.

The town of Bielefeld was built up around a textile industry and was quite an important target during World War II. As with so many German cities, it was devastated, suffering heavily from a single bombing raid in 1944, and the centre is almost entirely rebuilt. On the whole, the Germans' post-war building has been considerably more tastefully done than ours, but there is something very irritating about red cycle tracks on twee pavements where



Wappen
der Stadt Bielefeld

One of the many agreeable aspects of our contact with our friends in the Ratsgymnasium in Bielefeld, Germany, is the Dr. Reinhard-Hector-Stipendium, a reciprocal scholarship arrangement which enables our schools to exchange a pupil for a full term. Last year Stephen Kenyon, now in the Upper Sixth, was the recipient of this award and below he outlines some of his reflections on the exchange.

BIELEFELD: DIE FREUNDLICHE STADT AM TEUTOBURGER WALD.

Wall. The mixture of graffiti was bizarre, strange, even frightening and suggested something of the feelings of resentment and fear associated with it over the years. It is strange, now, to think that I must have been one of the last Englishmen to see it intact.

S. Kenyon VIJC

the grass never grows in the cracks.

Half term saw me going off to Berlin with Felix, a boy from the Oberprima, which is the top year. It was early October by this time, roughly a month before the Wall started to come down. The GDR was celebrating its 40th. anniversary the weekend we arrived, and Gorbachev had come to join in the celebrations. This made it impossible to get over to East Berlin, but we were hopeful that the restrictions would be lifted on the Monday, after his departure. They were not. We had to be content with visiting the attractions which were offered in each of the three western sectors and stare at the grey hulk of the

A tranquil corner of town



Reflections

The momentous changes in Germany in recent months have major implications for the future of education in Germany. In the light of this our old friends from the Ratsgymnasium, Bielefeld, Dr. Ohly and Herr Steinsiek, have kindly offered their thoughts on what is entailed and suggest possible courses of action facing their country in the future.

GERMANY IN A STATE OF TRANSITION —

IMPLICATIONS OF REUNIFICATION FOR ITS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

THE BACKGROUND

The unexpectedly sudden collapse of the German Democratic Republic - now more and more regarded as the result of what, essentially, amounted to economic and structural bankruptcy - introduced the rapid process of formal, political unification of the two former Germanies; it led to East Germany's joining the Federal Republic of Germany whose provisional constitution ("Grundgesetz", Art. 23) provided the constitutional basis, together with the almost universal vote of the newly and democratically elected East German parliament. Undoubtedly this process would not have been possible without the impetus of Gorbachev's policy of perestroika and the generous support of our Western allies, of most of their politicians, their parliaments and their peoples. Its rapidity, however, has to be attributed to the psychological pressure resulting from the expectations of a population that had for many years been dissatisfied with a low standard of living, with many goods and often even the daily needs being in short supply; but that pressure grew even more from their revolt against the manifold restrictions under a Communist regime, against being kept in leading-strings, denied the right to travel freely, and being controlled by an omnipresent state security police ('Stasi').

THE CHALLENGE

Now that political reunification has been achieved, the German politicians and public are gradually becoming aware of the true dimensions of the problems arising from it: reorganizing, partly even rebuilding the economy, the infrastructure, the health and social security systems as well as improving the ecological situation of what used to be East Germany will for years require extraordinary efforts by Germany's economy, by all branches of its political system, and last but not least by the whole population. The necessity for such efforts has been largely accepted by the public; the media are full of programmes and articles on the problems to be solved - but as so often the main emphasis is on the financial and economic aspects. What is given much less attention and news coverage, and yet (at least on a long-term basis) will prove to be among the crucial problems of reunification, is the adaptation of two educational systems that so far have been essentially different in organization as well as



*Zwei Mädchen unarmen sich auf der Mauer:
courtesy of the Berliner Illustrierte, 3 October*

in substance. Education which was geared to achieving uniformity in thinking was a cornerstone in the ideological edifice of most Eastern European, socialist countries; on the basis of the Marxist-Leninist concept of society axiomatic truths and solutions were provided by decree, through centralist organs. A particularly interesting example of this was the official re-assessment of Martin Luther on the occasion of the quincentenary of his birthday in 1983, when the absolutely negative 'judgment' - propagated in the 1950's and 60's - of the Reformer as a submissive servant to the princes ('Fürstenknecht') was changed into that of an altogether positive historical figure within the 'early bourgeois revolution'.

PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFICULTIES

In the "GDR", much more so than in Poland under a less dogmatic party, the educational system was used as a central instrument of political indoctrination, and its organization and teaching were structured accordingly: from the nursery school and kindergarten with an almost universal intake of children to a comprehensive school system, leading on to an additional two-year upper school for those aspiring to a place in a university. These educational phases and institutions were not only used for socialising the children in accordance with the socialist creed, but also for the selection of a 'socialist elite', carried out under the pervasive influence of the Socialist Unity Party (the 'SED', which, as the song declared, was 'always right') and its aim was to achieve 'the perfection of socialist society in the first German state of workers and farmers', as countless red banners proclaimed. Not only were generations of pupils influenced and shaped by this educational doctrine; the same was true for their teachers who were exclusively trained in the methods of teaching uniform, dogmatic thinking. What they lacked, what they were denied was the opportunity to develop and practise the pluralist approach to what they taught; and the teacher who tried to practise it all the same took a great risk, if, for instance, he or she wanted to collect knowledge or information deviating from the party line and its monopolized views and provide his pupils with it. The example of a film used in teacher training shows what the teachers' task was in a subject called 'Gesellschaftskunde', which translates literally as Social Studies. They had to discuss the problem why (not whether!) the latest party conference resolutions were guidelines. Similar in content but often more aggressive



that several approaches, points of view and judgments can exist side by side. And indeed it may not be easy to understand and accept that on the one hand a liberal democracy tolerates, for example, a Marxist approach, but on the other hand has to set limits to pluralism wherever human rights and democratic principles are at risk.

The teachers now find themselves in a professional situation which requires a much higher degree not only of knowledge, but of flexibility and willingness to consider problems from varying points of view. Essential, too, is a new degree of personal and professional commitment when dealing with problems. Teacher training will therefore have to be changed profoundly, and as most of it will take place at the universities they should be fully included in the reform, too; all the more so as they must get rid of their reputation of partly still being bulwarks of a political ideology that was abolished by the people in November 1989. Some changes have already been made: the subjects 'Wehrkunde' and 'Gesellschaftskunde' disappeared from the timetables months ago and the discussion about the monopoly of Russian as the first foreign language is in full swing; but as shown above, educational reform must go far beyond such organizational and didactic changes. It must also free the ideas and the minds from the Leninist notion of possessing the absolute truth and claim on realizing the predestined course of history.

STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS

The German Democratic Republic ceased to exist on October 3, 1990, and was restructured into five new federal states (Bundesländer); they immediately joined, and now form the eastern part of the Federal Republic of Germany - a country that defines itself as a unit based not on centralist foundations but on the political and cultural variety of the 'Länder'. Thus in modern Germany it is not the Federal Ministry of Education, but rather the Conference of the Cultural Ministers in charge of education in the 16 federal states which decides on crucial educational matters. Germany, as a whole, profits from this federal structure which is a guarantee of its variety and against any predominance of the republic as a whole or of parts of it. In a possible new German constitution education will certainly be kept as a key element of the federal fabric.

Advocates of a more centralized organization of the new German educational system argue that it would prove more efficient and therefore more appropriate in the present situation when it comes to coordinating the educational policies of as many as 16 federal states and to reforming the socialist educational practices in the five eastern Länder. As we see it, their suggestion is inconsistent with what the cautious makers of our 'Grundgesetz' laid down in 1949, when building a constitutional framework (to be transformed into the constitution of a reunited Germany) on a clearly federal basis. In creating a federal balance their design was to protect Germany, this populous country in the middle of Europe, and also its neighbours, against the possible dangers of a new German centralism. In this way they followed an essential pattern

in tone was the teaching of 'Wehrkunde', a military-orientated subject for propagating hatred of the 'western enemy of the working-class'. Even what was taught in the sciences and the languages had to be fully in tune with the party's views. On the other hand, the party-state interfered with religious activities and teaching, and in many cases the children of vicars and other church-connected persons were not admitted to any institutions of higher education. To avoid being treated like those outsiders of socialist society; a vast majority of pupils had to undergo a socialist youth initiation ceremony ('Jugendweihe') meant to supplant confirmation and first Communion and eventually the Christian faith as such.

SHIFTS IN ATTITUDES

Obviously, a democratic political system cannot be based on the educational principles practised in the former German Democratic Republic; however, a system keyed to them for more than 40 years cannot be reformed root and branch within weeks or months, especially not with members of the 'nomenklatura' (the network of old party pals) still in influential positions in the schools as well as in the universities and in the educational administration. This, and the fact that a pluralist, democratic state neither decrees a certain point of view nor bans nor outlaws a particular world view, tends to create great insecurity among the pupils and students and their teachers. With democratic freedom comes the realization that there is not just one 'proper' interpretation of a phenomenon or 'the' solution to a problem, and what is more,

*Silhouette of Goethe
and his young pupil,
Fritz vom Stein*



1806, was a community of near independent states; even the German Reich (1871 - 1918) and the Weimar Republic (1919 - 1933) were federal states. In fact, there were only two historical phases of centralist regimes: those of Nazi Germany and of the German Democratic Republic. It is to be hoped that breaking up the centralist structure of the "GDR" and its educational system will prove a safeguard against any relapse into totalitarianism.

PROPOSALS

Now faced with the task of replacing a centralist dictatorial system by a democratic order based on freedom and pluralism, Germany's politicians and people have to accept that the process of unifying the educational system within the federal framework will require considerable time and funds and that it will not proceed without frictional losses.

Before reunification 'West Germany', as the British used to call it, consisted of 11 federal states, with a comprehensive school policy pursued by the northern, SPD-governed Länder on the one hand and the southern, CDU-governed Länder favouring a more differentiated school system on the other. Together with the five newly established eastern Länder they will not only have to set the necessary, above-mentioned reforms in hand, they will also have to create a new well balanced educational system, with due regard to the following factors:

1. To keep as many of the tried and tested features as possible in the various federal states.
2. To bring the strong federal element into agreement with a necessary degree of national uniformity, for instance when it comes to examination standards or to keeping the vocational school system.
3. In view of the European process, to keep Germany's educational system efficient and flexible at the same time.

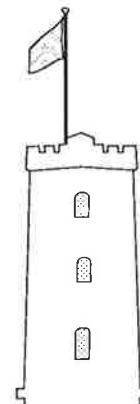
No easy task. Concessions will have to be made, and proven elements given up, when differences are settled by compromise; we may end up with an educational system that looks very different from the present one, at least in some parts of the country.

Among the proposals for changes already being discussed, or at least imaginable, are those that would lead to the whole-day school, probably comprehensive, and to 12 (instead of 13) years of school from primary school to the 'Abitur' (A-level examination) — all of them

features typical of the former East German school system and still being practised in the five new Länder.

Whether they will stick to them may to some extent depend on the results of the coming elections; what changes will largely depend on the importance attached to education by the political parties and by the voters. Conservative parties traditionally tend to underrate it.

But irrespective of their political inclinations, all sides involved in the task of restructuring the country's economy and infrastructure should think of the educational system as one of the main pillars of Germany's future; in a modern country without a long-standing tradition as a nation state and with only few raw material resources, political stability greatly depends on technological and social progress - and that means on its people's skills, on a high standard of education.



Dr. W. Ohly,
Herr. O. Steinsiek.

MODERN LANGUAGES

No subject in the school curriculum has seen more changes in recent years than Modern Languages, in teaching methods, materials, and in the content and aim of examinations: all the indications are that further changes lie ahead. We are still waiting for the final report of the national curriculum modern languages group - already some three months overdue - but the interim report with its statement of attainment targets for levels 9 and 10 showed that grade A at GCSE will not be an adequate signing-off to study of a language for able boys and girls - nor should it be.

For many years, language teaching was bedevilled by changes in teaching method, so that what you taught seemed less important than how you taught it - direct method, audio-visual, audio-lingual, communicative; the problem was that until the examinations were reformed there could only limited progress. O level was, like A level, a written exam. where the oral component was grafted on, rather than essential. For the less able linguist the marking methods used, whereby a score of nought out of thirty was all too easily attained, ensured that many pupils ceased their study of a language not only without a pass grade but also with a profound sense of failure.

It would be wrong to see the introduction of GCSE as having achieved on its own a transformation, but by giving equal value to the four skills of listening and speaking, reading and writing at the same time as marking positively, so credit is given for what is acceptable to a 'sympathetic native speaker', it has given a jolt to the teaching of languages that was badly needed. This has gone hand in hand with a wide and regular use of the cassette player

and walkman, the opportunity to bring native speakers into the classroom, not only by the use of language assistants but by the use of video recorders and satellite transmissions.

A level too has seen changes - no longer are candidates required to write about the literature of the language studied in English, but are offered a wide choice of topics to be examined both orally and in writing, all in the language. Here however, there is still more work to be done, so that a good candidate can show his own approach to the culture of the country studied, or so that language can be more closely integrated with the other A and AS subjects that the candidate is doing. The position of AS languages is still not fully thought out; at present they are half an A level in content, but seem too heavily dependent on the requirements of main A level languages, rather than connecting with the main A levels studied by the candidate.

What lies ahead as we approach 1992? This is certainly a bad moment to forecast, with the national curriculum report due any day, the proposed changes to A levels to be announced in the near future, as well as a general election with the focus it is already bringing to the whole field of education; even so, some things can be stated with a reasonable degree of certainty: the position of modern languages in the curriculum will be strengthened - not only in GCSE, but as a requirement for A level too, at least to AS level.

With English clearly the first foreign language of the Community, a wider choice of other European languages than French must be offered - diversification is the key word for this, and Abingdon has taken the step with our 11-year entry, and gone beyond the present boundaries of the Community by introducing Russian as well as German.

Other subjects in their higher levels are likely to be taught, at least partially, in a foreign language: this implies exchanging teachers between schools for periods of a term or more.

Greater use of information technology in language teaching, so that pupils can correct their written work on the word processor, and so that materials can be exchanged rapidly with schools and organisations in the country studied.

More opportunities for pupils to spend a term - or a year in the country studied. Here we are lagging behind many of the best schools on the continent, so that many of our pupils are conscious only of the difficulties of the language studied, rather than the insight it offers to the culture, geography and life of a whole country.

Finally, should we look beyond Europe and 1992? It would certainly be unwise to assume that boundaries are fixed for the future - so much has happened in the past year to show that changes can take place with amazing speed - and our pupils need to be aware of the challenges posed by Arabic, Chinese or Japanese: Europe must not be the limit of their horizons.

KGH

As an addendum to Mr. Hasnip's article Mr. Henderson explains how the department is already launching into the considerable benefits offered by satellite communications.

If you approach the school along the rear path from the Faringdon Road entrance and look up towards the bell tower, you will see the backs of two new 90cm satellite dishes. They are so discreet that few people even know they are there! With the two dishes we can receive live

transmissions from three French satellites (TELECOM 1C, TDF1 and TDF2) a German satellite (TVSAT) and a European satellite (OLYMPUS). This means we can view and record programmes from 3 German stations (3SAT, SAT1 and ARD), 6 French stations (TF1, Antenne 2, La 5, M6, La Sept and Canal J) together with three German and 5 French radio stations - not to mention all the multi-lingual broadcasts on the European Educational 'Eurostep' channel.

A very generous grant from TASS made this all possible, and the recordings are already making an impact on our modern languages teaching. The emphasis in the sixth form A and AS level language courses these days is very much an oral and aural skills as well as presupposing a knowledge of topical current affairs. In view of all this the ability to view live broadcasts from the countries in question is a considerable advantage. Sixth formers should in the near future be able to go to the room 5 annexe to view and record programmes of their own choice. Many other departments are discovering programmes of interest put out by Eurostep and recordings have already been made for the Geography and Economics departments. Hopefully others will benefit in a similar way. We are one of the very few educational establishments in the country to have such a sophisticated satellite system, and it is generating quite an amount of local interest and envy! Watch this space for further developments.

DMH

MATHEMATICS



"The mathematics you do now is nothing like the subject I did when I was at school", is a comment often heard at parents' evenings and other occasions, and it is certainly true that there have been many changes in the content of mathematics courses in the last 30 years.

The Schools Mathematics Project (SMP) has been at the forefront of these changes and was introduced in the early 1960's 'to devise radically new secondary school Mathematics courses to reflect, more accurately than did the traditional syllabuses, the up-to-date nature and uses of mathematics'. Out went most of Euclidean geometry and in came motion or transformation geometry. Matrices, vectors, set theory, abstract number systems, topology, linear programming, statistics and probability all found a place in both the new O Level and A Level syllabuses, inevitably leaving much less time for other topics, with perhaps algebraic techniques suffering the most.

During the late 1970's and 80's the pendulum swung back a little so that now a more balanced view prevails, with most of the excesses of the 'new' mathematics having been superseded by a good blend between traditional and modern.

More recently GCSE attempts to test a wider range of skills other than the ability to answer questions under timed examination conditions has led to the more open-ended, investigational approach of extended pieces of work (EPW's), with an opportunity to do practical work, and more emphasis on the verbal communication of mathematics through oral tests. Examination questions are now set in context, for example:- 'A 3-course Sunday lunch

in a restaurant costs £9.95 plus 5% service charge. What is the total cost of the meal?' Previously this question might well have been: 'Increase £9.95 by 5%'. There are also clear indications that many of the GCSE style innovations will be included in A Level within a very few years.

Technology has been a major influence in the revolution. The replacement of logarithm tables and slide rules by cheap, powerful calculators, has not only taken the drudgery out of long, tedious calculations, but has allowed more 'real' data to be used in problems as well as making topics such as iteration readily accessible. The concern has been, however, that the introduction of calculators has led to a decline in numeracy. This is undoubtedly a danger, and to help counteract this, mental mathematics has made a welcome return. It is, in fact, essential to understand number fully if a calculator is to be used effectively and accurately, with the not inconsiderable ability to estimate being of great importance. Relatively inexpensive microcomputers are now widely available and owned by many pupils. The importance of their use in generating graphs, shapes, databases, etc. is clearly identified in the recently introduced National Curriculum. This, together with the more practical aspect of modern mathematical education means that schools will have to make a significant investment in equipping mathematics departments and training teachers if they are to meet the challenge of the 1990's in order to give their pupils the necessary confidence and expertise to survive and prosper in an increasingly technological world.

RPF

TJK INTERVIEW

Dr. King is widely known for his commitment to the study of Biology. He kindly agreed to give an interview to Martin Scott-Brown and Nicholas Jakubovics on his research interests, his views on changing public perceptions of the nature and significance of Biology and on its study in schools.

Dr. King, what do you think has been the most significant discovery in Biology since you first became acquainted with the subject?

The discovery of the structure of DNA has revolutionised Biology and the molecular techniques used in Biology have come to the fore. The majority of new jobs are to be found in genetic engineering and the medical applications of DNA technology. At a time when Government funding of research at Universities is being reduced there has been a big increase in applied research. There is a lot of money available for medical research and research into the production of new drugs and vaccines. The funding of biological research has been taken over more and more by companies which have a stake in making a profit from these techniques, less and less by universities.

What would you have been interested in doing research into?

I still do research into plant ecology, why plants occur where they do, how plant communities are formed and how they maintain themselves. The three main topics I have investigated are why ant-hill vegetation is different from the surrounding vegetation, why desert shrubs are evenly spaced across the desert and how a 'climax' forest community maintains itself over thousands of years, with the same range of species being found in the same proportions.

You are more interested in ecology and getting out into the field then?

That's one major thing that interested me in biology - I always enjoyed getting out into wild places and ecology is partly a way of getting the wind into your hair.

Is this the sort of work you did your doctorate on?

Yes, I did my doctorate on ant-hills and their vegetation.

It is sometimes a little difficult for the layman to see the point of research. What is the relevance of ant-hills and desert plants to modern society?

Plants in the desert and ant-hills aren't relevant to modern society at all, but the learning of ecology at school and the inculcation of ecological principles is relevant to pupils. If they understand how the natural world works, then they'll understand more of the impact of pollutants and human activities on organisms, and in the long run their own survival. So although my research hasn't been relevant to the needs of society at all, my books have been.

Can you give us some idea what your books are about?

They are mainly teaching books written partly to generate income and partly to inform schoolboys about ecology. Ecology has always been a "cinderella" branch of Biology in schools because it is thought of as rather vague and not experimental. I've been keen to try to put over the idea that it is experimental, it is specific and relevant to modern society. I've written six books; a big practical book, three about ecology, one about the plant groups and how they have evolved, and another series of essays on various A-level topics.

Do you feel you have made any important discoveries in the work you have done over the years?

Yes, I have made two. One is that many seeds do not germinate underneath vegetation because they have a different light quality falling on them than seeds growing in gaps. Underneath vegetation the leaves take out certain wavelengths of light (the red and blue light, which is why leaves look green) and underneath vegetation there is a high proportion of far-red light falling on the seeds. I discovered that this stops the germination of some seeds. When you chop down the vegetation above these seeds they will germinate. They have less far-red light and more red light and this is a method of gap detection. I'm proud of that discovery.

The second is the research I've been doing in America on how a plant community maintains itself. I've been looking at a mature virgin forest (see picture) with four major species in it and I've been trying to work out how the community maintains itself for hundreds of years by one species replacing another. The mechanism is basically reciprocal replacement. This means that when a tree falls down it's replaced more often than not by a tree of a different species. This perpetuates the community because if in a pair of species, species B falls down, it is always replaced by species A, and vice versa; that maintains both species in the community. This was my most pleasing discovery. Ecology has been slow to produce predictive mathematical models of natural plant communities, and I have been responsible for some of the first.

What do you think of the controversial aspects of biology such as embryo research and genetic engineering?

I think they are useful tools except when they are used



An ecologist sees not only what is there, but what is happening there. This is a "virgin" forest near Mountain Lake, Virginia, in the Southern Appalachian mountains at 4 000 feet. A hemlock whose stump persists at bottom right, fell in 1700, and the four trees established in a line at the right germinated on its trunk over the next sixty years, with shade-tolerant hemlock growing beneath birch. Another hemlock (horizontal trunk) fell in 1872, knocking down a birch and creating a gap colonised by the young birch in the centre of the picture. This pattern was established by analysing the pattern of the growth rings in cores taken from the tree trunks.

for warlike purposes. As long as the general public knows that there are strict regulations on embryo research, the benefits of embryo research probably outweigh the disadvantages. For the majority of people, the potential benefits of being able to modify an organism so that any genetic defects might be altered before it is put into a womb and allowed to become a full term baby ought to be explored. But there are a lot of potential hazards in genetic engineering. Engineered organisms might escape into a natural ecosystem and affect the way in which organisms operate. And then there are the potential applications in war, of genetically engineered organisms, e.g. anthrax, which could be released in battle and then cause a worldwide pandemic. That sort of use, in the hands of irrational dictators, worries many people. These techniques must be protected in the same way as secrets about nuclear weapons to stop the wrong people getting their hands on them.

What, in your view, is the next major challenge to the biological world?

Now that DNA is understood at the molecular level the next step is to sequence the genetic code of a human. The sequencing of the human genome should be completed in the next six or seven years. Then we shall be able to see how DNA is organised, what each gene codes for and how much 'junk' DNA there is. The next challenge is developmental biology and discovering how all the cells in an individual interact together to produce an organism with a whole range of tissues all in their correct places, working in harmony. In an insect, as an egg develops into a larva, then a pupa and then an adult, exactly what happens to all the cells in that process? Once that is discovered we should be able to understand biology from the molecule upwards.

Do you think an "added interest" in Biology is necessary to take it up at A level?

By the age of nine or ten I had a considerable biological library and had visited many natural history sites, identifying wildlife. I had decided to become a biologist at the age of eleven or twelve and never considered any other career. When I was at school most people did either pure arts or science. Now the majority of pupils - about 60% of our pupils - do courses which are mixed arts and sciences. So although a lot of the people who are doing Biology are doing it for a career, there are some who do it simply out of interest. Biology attracts people with a particular sort of mind - it is the sort of subject where the analysis of figures and the discussion of data are very much to the fore. At the moment we have twenty-seven doing Biology in the lower sixth. They are all doing it out of interest and about fifteen have biological careers in mind.

What do you think of the changes in the G.C.S.E. syllabus, in applied Biology and Geography, and do you think they have gone too far?

An important aspect of new G.C.S.E syllabus is the emphasis on applied Biology and Geography and the relationship of these subjects to everyday life. When I was at school we only learnt about organisms; we didn't cover any applications of Biology in medicine, ecology, and so forth. No, I don't think they have gone too far, because you have two groups of pupils, the committed ones who would be interested whatever is taught in the subject, and a wide range of pupils who are doing the subject to G.C.S.E because they have to. These pupils are only really interested in the subject if they can see the relevance of what

they are learning to everyday life and so it is important to engage their personal interest.

Apart from the writing of books, awareness of green issues has been heightened by the media. What do you think of the media's representation of ecology, for example David Attenborough's new series?

I'm very impressed by the range of topics which he brings into his programmes. The main mistakes are where Attenborough takes short-cuts so that the general public can understand what he's saying. He attributes to organisms some sort of purpose which they probably don't have when they carry out a particular action, but if he described everything in detail it would be far too tedious and time-consuming if he was going to be biologically accurate. I'm also worried that the majority of people look at the programmes and regard living with wildlife as something remote from the communities in which they live. People in biologically sterile environments are peering through the TV screen at biologically rich environments. They don't realise how much their actions are reducing wildlife. Some of those scenes may disappear within ten years because of their actions.

So do you think the general public is not particularly biologically aware?

Yes. From the point of view of wildlife, certainly. I think the media attention has helped in making more people interested in going to the countryside and visiting wild places but there is considerable ignorance. Most people don't want to change their particular pattern of life and are too selfish to give up aspects of life which they enjoy for the sake of the long-term preservation of wild communities. There is a lot of interest, but there is also a lot of selfishness which is impossible to overcome.

N.S. Jakubovics VIP, M.W.G. Scott-Brown VIM

LIVING FOR DESIGN - A PERSONAL VIEW

Are you a sit back and take it sort of person? Do you, like Hamlet, believe that "there's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will"? Such questions are relevant when considering a large building project or the birth of a new vehicle. Years of preparation go into such products. The ideas, the inspiration, the planning, refinement, production, research and follow through are all part of the complex and continuing design process.

The British are justifiably renowned as inventive and pragmatic thinkers. A growing number of British designers and architects are at work round the world, shaping the environment of tomorrow and much in demand. The question of design as a central element in life has been given greater prominence in recent years. Government inspired schemes and initiatives, educational curriculum changes and contributions by influential figures have all served to bring the broad concerns of design to the notice of a wider public.

Environmental issues have also risen to prominence in the late eighties and look set to be a dominating factor in the nineties. The link between design and environmental concerns is also coming to be appreciated. Good design can bring such rewards as economy of materials, efficiency of energy consumption, recycling of materials considerations, an aesthetically pleasing surroundings, and much more.

So what have we been doing about all this at Abing-

don? It may, perhaps, come as a surprise to some - but quite a lot! A good education should, in my estimation, be a design for life. What would a good design for life be? - a synthesis of the absorption of and respect for the past, a response to the needs of the present, and a vision of the future. The School has been steadily moving forward with curriculum enrichment throughout my sixteen years experience here. The planning process resulting in increasing subject options has consistently kept ahead of nationally devised educational policy and responded to the growing needs of our pupils.

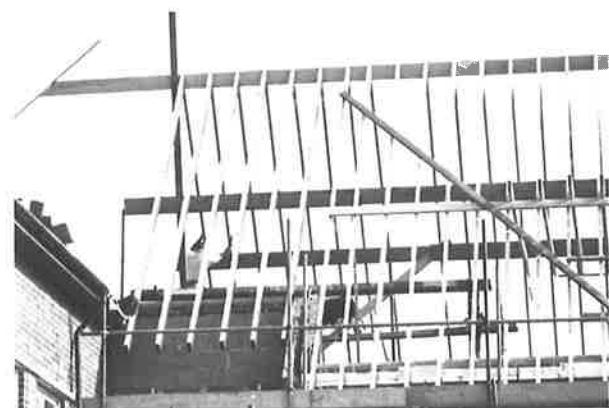
Recent provision in the areas of Art and Design, Craft, Design and Technology and Information Technology have put at the disposal of boys the means through which they can express design concerns in a variety of ways. The introduction of a Design and Communication course to

latest in a distinguished line which has steadily enriched our environment, adding to and improving upon what existed beforehand. The task of refurbishing older parts of the School is never at an end and many areas are almost unrecognisable by comparison with their earlier state. An example which comes to mind is the Boarders' Hall where a light and airy space has been created out of thin and dingy corridors. That this area is so well suited to its role as a gallery gives added point to my argument. The grounds too have been subject to good design. Areas of pleasant gardens have become features in the landscape encouraging an appreciation of beauty and the contemplative mood which accompanies it. Planting of trees and shrubs have both emphasised existing assets and created new ones.

If an Old Abingdonian who had not visited the School for many years were to drop in on us tomorrow, he would doubtless be surprised and I hope delighted by what he would see and discover. At the same time I hope that on reflection he would also recognise essential qualities which were very much a part of the place in his earlier experience. If I am right, then the School would have scored a very notable achievement in living by design.

It does not matter whether you are currently involved in curriculum design work or a spectator to the process, I invite you to open your eyes and train yourself to look. Participate at your level in what affects us all and make contributions whenever you are able. If you do not like what you discover, then design something about it!

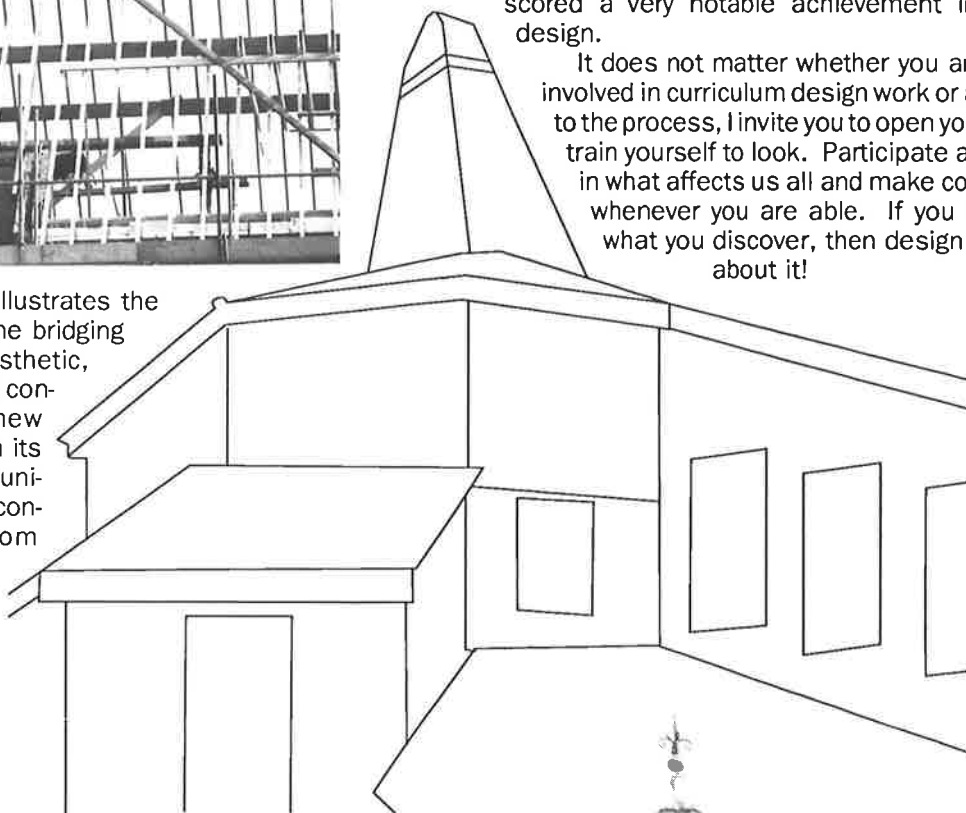
CJB



GCSE level this year illustrates the importance given to the bridging concept between aesthetic, practical and technical considerations. The new course contains within its syllabus many opportunities to express visual concepts, ranging from traditional drawing and sketching skills, through 3-D realisation with plans and models, to fully fledged computer-aided design. Information Technology and the computer power which goes with

it is enabling an increasing number of boys to produce visual material of a quality which might never have been reached by those relying solely on hand and eye. The ability to call up visual material, alter it at will, repeat, print out and store ideas puts a very professional standard of work within the reach of pupils and staff alike.

Consider, furthermore, the visual environment and its effects on our everyday performance. Over almost twenty years now we have created 'good' buildings, structures where form and function come together in admirable and effective ways, buildings which reflect our traditions at the same time as providing for our future. The new Greening Wing extension to the science building is the





who are doing Russian at any rate! We welcome Miss Webber as our first Lower School Russian teacher and new first year tutor.

We were sorry to lose Mr. Henderson, who moves on to become a tutor in the Middle School. His contribution has been invaluable in many areas. Games sides have flourished during his time as coach and last year's outstandingly successful rugby season was a fitting climax.

Although more fully reported elsewhere, the utterly memorable 'Burke and Hare' cannot go without mention here. It was good to see so many boys involved in the production at so many levels and with so much obvious enjoyment. Plans for this year's Lower School production are already under way.

MGHD

THE LOWER SCHOOL

Once again one of the most pleasing and encouraging features of the year has been the number of boys who have entered enthusiastically into so many different activities and who have been able to make such a significant contribution to the whole life of the school.

This year's trip to the Lake District was felt by many to be the most successful for several years. We were blessed with exceptionally interesting as well as good weather conditions - only one wet day, in which nevertheless one heroic group achieved the summit of Scafell Pike, returning home triumphant long after everyone else had called it a day and scuttled for shelter! For the rest of the time the combination of fresh snow during the night and clear weather during the day made all the other walks even more delightful than usual.

The four day visit to Normandy took place in the summer term and was greatly enjoyed by the forty or so boys who went. One of these days was designated excursions day for the remainder and parties went as far afield as York, Portsmouth, Bristol and the bottom of Goatchurch Cavern.

This year has seen significant changes in the School as a whole in the way we go about charity fund-raising and there is no doubt that the general level of awareness and response has been considerably heightened by the activities of the charities committee, whose Lower School representatives have been extremely active. Foremost among the efforts made this year by the Lower School must rank the laser shoot organised at the end of the Lent term in aid of TEAR Fund which proved both a highly enjoyable as well as very successful way of raising money. A day of work during the summer holidays was less well supported, but we hope to make up for this in due course.

Substantial changes in the curriculum have also been taking place: after one year the impact of IT on the Lower School has already been considerable; this year the diversification in modern language teaching has received an enthusiastic response from the boys, or from those

The pictures show Lower School boys variously enjoying themselves at Wednesday Afternoon Club, run by GGB.





FIRST XV

The season began in the best possible way with an excellent performance at the Douai festival. Pre-season optimism and hope were heightened by excellent open rugby and victories against some formidable opponents. A tentative start against Colstons was quickly followed by a splendid 7-0 win against Rugby and an emphatic 13-6 victory at the expense of Taunton. Suddenly and deservedly we were in the final. Our opponents, R.G.S. High Wycombe had just returned from a successful pre-season tour. They were aggressive and very physical and despite a well worked try by Andrew Lyon we went down 6-13. Nevertheless an impressive and encouraging start to the season.

The domestic season started with a drawn match at home to Bloxham and an impressive win at Berkhamsted, who the week before had lowered the colours of R.G.S. In retrospect this was probably

our best performance of the season.

The following week we travelled to Pangbourne full of confidence and for the first half ran the home side ragged. Superb rucking set up quick second and third phase possession and pace coupled with fine handling did the rest. Jo Boorman, Ben Birks and Donald Stanley scored excellent tries with conversions by Matthew Gordon. A 24-0 half-time scoreline should have resulted in an easy victory but, alas we allowed them back into the game with two soft tries and in the end were lucky to escape with a 24-10 win. As the captain reminded me, "a game of two halves". This familiar cliché seemed to crop up on more than one occasion and easily sums up the entire season.

The game against M.C.S. was as disappointing as one could expect and in the final analysis we were probably fortu-

nate to get away with a draw. Once again we dominated the early exchanges but managed a solitary try despite the considerable pressure and territorial advantage and dare I say it, M.C.S. seemed much hungrier for the victory they truly deserved.

The Shiplake game preceded the Radley encounter by three days, the former possessed big aggressive forwards and played in a style that was all too predictable but in the end effective. The usual hype and tension was apparent on the following Saturday but our preparation and tactics were rewarded with a dream start from a fine opportunist try scored at the lineout by Ben Themen. This was quickly followed by a well struck penalty by Gordon. Suddenly we were in full control and the Radley faithful were shocked by the sheer pace and commitment shown by all fifteen Abingdon players. Gradually, however, they began to

exert control in the tight and their powerful front row started to dominate. Eventually, and despite some determined defence, we were beaten 10-19 but only, I might add, after a rather embarrassed referee had played forty minutes each way instead of the usual thirty-five.

The results and performances after half term followed a rather familiar pattern. Too often we dominated the first half but failed to turn pressure into points and invariably gave away silly tries in the second half. The results will show that we didn't do ourselves justice but that we managed to lose games rather than the opposition win them. Towards the end of the season fine victories were recorded against Douai and Plymouth College on tour and it was a great honour for the boys to be refereed by Mr. Roger Quittenton in the Douai match.

In my first season as Master in charge of rugby I was disappointed for everyone concerned with the 1st. XV but particularly for the captain, James Hewes. He had every right to expect a better playing record and perhaps if we had all shown his commitment and attitude some of the results may well have been different. However, I believe that there is sufficient talent in the school to produce an exciting and successful 1st XV next year. I am also greatly encouraged by the excellent records of the 2nd XV, Colts and Minors age group. Their achievements suggest that better things are to come.

We must learn, however, from the lessons of this year and approach every game with more singleness of purpose. We must never be satisfied with mediocrity. Real satisfaction comes from over performance and never under performance. More than anything, there must be the realisation that winning rugby matches



is very hard work; every member of the team must take full responsibility for the team's performance and cannot hide behind any member of the side. As we all know the quality of player and level of skill is important, but it is the attitude of mind and the will to win that makes all the difference.

And finally, can I express my sincere thanks to Mr. Trotman and Mr. Gabitass for all their help and advice in a difficult season and all those coaches who continue to give up a considerable amount of their time to coach rugby football at Abingdon. ADW

Full colours were awarded to:
J. Hewes, B. Mamane, B. Birks, M. Gordon,
E. Creasey.

Half colours were awarded to:
H. Wilkinson, D. Stanley, M. Seager,
M. Hancox, R. Gerdes, J. Boorman.

Other regulars included:
D. King, J. Wallace, A. Lyon, B. Howard,
M. Annett, G. Thomson, E. Tilley,
C. Jephson, S. Mitchell, B. Pilling,
J. Bichard, A. Ashley, R. Milne.



First XV Results

P 18. W 7. D 3. L 8.
For 192. Against 189.

Douai Tournament

Colstons	D	6-6
Rugby	W	7-0
Taunton (s-f)	W	13-0
RGS (f)	L	6-13

Matches

Bloxham	D	6-6
Berkhamsted	W	20-8
Pangbourne	W	24-10
MCS	D	9-9
Shiplake	L	6-19
Radley	L	10-19
Marlborough	L	0-15
Newbury	W	18-6
Reading	L	3-12
St. Edward's	L	9-24
Warwick	L	10-18
Douai	W	17-4
Truro	L	9-20
Plymouth	W	9-0



SECOND XV

Although Mr. Gabitass has described the 2nd. XV season as "One of the most successful ever", he has neglected to reveal the reason for this success. Whereas previous 2nd.'s had used superior rugby skills and technique, this year's team was a notable exception. We relied on two factors to clinch our success as a rugby football side.

The first vital factor was that this side was without doubt the most unattractive of any previous Abingdon offerings. Many rugby aficionados cite aggression, fitness and physique as essential parts of winning sides, but nothing can match sheer ugliness. In this department all 38 players who represented the 2nd.'s excelled. Seldom has a rugby team been able to boast what no doubt Mr. Nigel Starmer-Smith would amply describe as "An embarrassment of riches which graces the field hereupon seen". However, as they say, beauty or rather ugliness is in the eye of the beholder and every practice this took the form of the indisputably handsomely chiselled features of J.R.G. He did not suffer such a cruel blow without retaliation, though, but instead unleashed our other main weapon.

The second integral part of our team was the catch phrases. Summoning all his experience as a teacher of English and raconteur, Mr. Gabitass produced a stunning array of one-liners, nicknames, phrases and clichés. Every individual in the team soon steeled himself to the prospect (far more daunting than any of Mr. Trotman's routines) of receiving the phrase "money in the bank", usually accompanied by a suitably dour and taci-

turn glance. We found the only way to avoid these verbal pummellings was to beat as many of the sides we played as possible, thus reducing the coach to stunned silence.

In the match against Bloxham we outshone them in all departments, with "Silky Wilkie" Wilkinson proving in particular a devastating force with four tries. However, against Berkhamsted we came unstuck as they gave us a lesson in contorted facial expressions, particularly daunting in the backs. Having lost all danger of an unbeaten season we settled down to a run of victories. The match at Pangbourne had to be stopped after 42 minutes as their players were coming off, not able to stand the sight of all 15 faces at the kickoffs. From then on, out of fairness to the other side, we emerged from the changing room in two's and three's, the captain with a large industrial bin liner over his head, assembling only seconds before the whistle. The Radley match, won 6-0 in the final two minutes after an inspired shout of "Link, link, link!" from the coach, is being dealt with by Mr. Gabitass who is at present working on the fifteenth volume of his Anglo-Saxon account. However, new depths of ugliness were plumbed when the injured captain was replaced for Shiplake by J. Richard. Historic victories against Marlborough on their first XV pitch, and what Mr. Starmer-Smith would term, "Festivals of rugby skills - a bonanza of rugged, workmanlike, dazzling displays" against Reading, Warwick and Douai followed. Even hours of mindless drudgery on scrum machines and the much loathed "diamonds" exercise could not get us out

of the rut of winning. Unfortunately, St. Edward's overwhelmed us with their breathtakingly unattractive side and we went down to a better team. The coach, his vocal exhortations from the touch-line reduced to shouting all our moves so the opposition could anticipate them, had to pull out a couple of old chestnuts for the South-West tour after the end of term. In the end, "It'll be a hard battle up front" (accompanied by crashing his fist into his face to illustrate this point) and "100% committed" did the trick and we won against the valiant Truro and Plymouth College sides. After threatening to shatter several windows with the traditional post-win "Oggies", the team was reduced into silence upon seeing the flicker of a smile twitch faintly at the corners of the Gabitass mouth. Perhaps it had been worth it after all.

David Engwell, awarded the rugby progress cup for his pioneering tactic of missing virtually every conversion in order to keep the side from lapsing into complacency showed great courage in playing every match, together with Ben Miller, for such a hideous team. Simon Newton, captain until injured against Radley, was an inspiration with his unique grimacing technique, which was never bettered. Steve Mitchell, captain for the last six matches, carved out his own niche as a dissatisfied centre with a heart of gold and led the side magnificently. Players like Lenny Charlton, Chris Jephson and Ben Pilling aided and abetted by Rob Milne, Andrew Ashley and Dave Pringuer formed the backbone of a frighteningly ugly pack. Martin Scott-Brown, Andy Lyon, Craig Hoyle and Darren King, not to be

outdone, worked hard on their scowling and frowning techniques.

Special thanks to Mr. Trotman, Mr. Watkins and the versatile player-coach-manager-psychoanalyst Mr. Gabitass. Thanks also to all our supporters; perhaps next year you will be able to peep between your fingers without fainting.

J. Bichard

Results			
Bloxham	(h)	W	42 - 0
Berkhamsted	(h)	L	14 - 15
Pangbourne	(a)	W	36 - 0
MCS	(a)	W	13 - 6
Radley	(h)	W	6 - 0
Shiplake	(h)	W	14 - 9
Marlborough	(a)	W	14 - 3
Reading	(h)	W	54 - 6
Warwick	(h)	W	24 - 10
Douai	(a)	W	20 - 13
St. Edward's	(a)	L	6 - 16
Truro	(a)	W	22 - 10
Plymouth	(a)	W	48 - 0

P 13 W 11 L 2

Points for 313 Against 88
(Tries 62 Conversions 23 Penalties 3)

THIRD XV

On paper this was the strongest 3rd. XV I have ever worked with and at times this showed through on the field. Unfortunately a tendency to grumble among ourselves, when things went wrong, prevented the side from reaching its full potential.

The season began well enough with a fine win over Bloxham. The backs

moved the ball quickly down the line and Paul Aitken's kicking from full back was excellent. The next fixture versus Berkhamsted proved a great disappointment and that negative grumbling certainly came to the fore.

Pangbourne produced a big strong side and this proved to be a game of contrast; our back play against their tactic of keeping the ball up front. A sterling performance by the forwards enabled us to hold them to 14 points, while some fine flowing moves in the back division resulted in our scoring the 15 points needed for victory.

A heavy defeat at the hands of Radley was followed by a very tight game against Marlborough. Henning Schuss scored a fine try and we led for much of the game. The superior fitness and strength of the opposition finally told, however, and the match slipped away in the last ten minutes.

One of the more disappointing encounters was that against Cokethorpe. We seemed unable to really get going. Tackling let us down and enabled the opposition to score when they ought not to have done. Louis Golding scored a fine individual try and during the following phases we looked like taking the game by the 'scruff of the neck'. Alas it was short-lived and the match slipped away. We followed it with a big victory over Reading. Spencer Hickson, recovering from injury, bolstered the pack and traffic was decidedly one-way.

The most disappointing game of the season came next against Warwick. We outplayed them in the first half, but a variety of circumstances resulted in their leading 10 - 4 at half-time. We certainly

did not help our own cause with some wayward kicking. In the end we lost quite heavily and our poor tackling was a major feature. Against Douai we produced an excellent performance, with plenty of flowing rugby. Matthew Mowat did a good job as stand-in for Stefan Hutchings (on duty with the 2nd. XV) and Joff Dorkings replaced the 'poorly' Paul Aitken with telling effect. Stephen Morgan had the side buzzing throughout the 60 minutes.

Our final game, against St. Edward's, might have gone the way of the Radley match, but for another excellent performance. They were very strong, fast and fluent, but we held them for long periods and shook them up with a number of counter attacks. Had we scored in the last 5 minutes, when camped on their line, it would have been a fitting end to the season. Sadly it was not to be, but all left the field satisfied that we had played our hearts out.

PJW

Results		
Bloxham	W	15 - 4
Berkhamsted	L	0 - 13
Pangbourne	W	15 - 14
Radley	L	0 - 41
Marlborough	L	9 - 20
Cokethorpe	L	9 - 14
Reading	W	50 - 0
Warwick	L	8 - 30
Douai	W	30 - 0
St. Edward's	L	0 - 18

FOURTH XV

As ever the 4th. XV found itself filling the gaps, as injuries and illness affected the higher echelons of the club. In general then, the players had done little, if any, coordinated work together and struggled to find that fluency gained by repeated practice.

Our first fixture against Bloxham went well and we gained an easy victory. We outplayed Bloxham in the set pieces and the forwards won most of the ball. We did not, however, move the ball quickly down the line and at times gained little ground. The next fixture against Berkhamsted was disappointing, because we finished losers despite being the better side on the day. Our tackling, or lack of it, let us down and enabled the opposition to take a four point lead against the run of play. We failed to form tight rucks and mauls and much of the forward play was scrappy. One pile-up left Andrew Wood with a nasty back injury and he had to leave the field. We then played with renewed vigour, winning a good deal of possession. An easy penalty kick was declined in favour of running the ball and Hugh Taylor touched the ball down near the corner flag to level the scores (taking the wrong decision can sometimes work out right!). More missed tackles allowed Berkhamsted to score



again and they then weathered the storm. We fought hard, but when a glorious two man overlap was ignored (Oh dear Nick!) we lost the chance to win the game.

The next fixture against M.C.S. 3rd. XV was very much one-way traffic, but we were unable to convert possession into points and had to settle for a 4-0 victory. For once the narrowness of the Waste Court pitch worked against us. A heavy defeat against Radley followed. As usual they were much too strong and well organised, but despite all, the team fought hard to the bitter end. The match against Shiplake was decided by a superb Henning Schuss try. Shiplake fielded a very young side and we dominated up front, but were unable to produce quick, fluent moves along the back row.

The last match versus Marlborough was another bruising encounter, against a side far too strong for us. Phillip Johnson left the field early in the game, to recover from a second trampling and the Marlborough forwards, rolling the mauls with great efficiency, ran riot.

All sorts of problems prevented us from playing any other fixtures, so that, sadly, the season rather petered out.

PJW

Results				
Bloxham	Won	28-0	Atkins/ Jones (3)	
Berkhamsted	Lost	4-8	Taylor	
MCS 3rd XV	Won	4-0	Bowen	
Radley	Lost	0-58		
Shiplake	Won	4-0	Schuss	
Marlborough	Lost	0-44		

COLTS RUGBY

Success is the main objective of any team. This success is dependent upon results, enjoyment, and the improvement of individual players and the team. One could not have hoped for a more successful season for this year's Colts XV, winning ten of their twelve games, with eight players representing the County at under 16 level.

Most of our competitors have very good Colts XV's, and the

scores reflect that there is very little between the sides. The full boarding schools have a slight advantage in the number of boys playing rugby, but the difference in the overall skill of the teams is minimal. The successful teams are those which practise hardest, have the best team spirit, and the most determination to win. Success breeds success, and if a team gets off to a good start, it is easier to keep the momentum going. Fitness too is an important factor, and the Colts XV have been fortunate this season to field an unchanged team for most of its games.

Every season has its highlights, and the victories against Radley, Pangbourne and Warwick in particular were the most rewarding. All these games could have gone either way, and if played again, no-one would bet on the result. On the day Abingdon deserved to win these matches, and that is what matters.

Anyone watching the Colts play this season would see the main strength of the team in the half-backs and centres. This is because between them they spearheaded most of the attacks, and scored the most tries. This group undoubtedly had the flair and were often in the limelights, but the wingers, and full back in particular, made up for their lack of speed with their solid defence.

The main battles however, were up front. The front row of Theo Ratcliff, Ben Fisher and Garry Strange were solid throughout the season and no opposition really gave them any trouble. Ben and Garry excelled in the set scrums, but must work hard on all other aspects of forward play in the future. Theo provided the sound foundation of the scrum, and his contribution in the

loose was invaluable. He is a very strong runner and most effective in the penalty moves. Phillip Page and Guy Rands put in a great deal of hard work in the second row. Guy is a very steady player and always gave 100% in matches. Phillip was the line-out specialist who dominated in this department.

The back row of Douglas Johnson, Scott Milne and Alastair Ross always kept up with the play, and were active around the base of the scrum. Douglas, the pack leader always got the best out of his pack, and his defence improved as the season progressed. His accurate throwing in in the lineouts was also a great asset to the team. Unfortunately, Douglas's loyalties were split between his Rugby and Ice Hockey and fatigue set in at the end of the season.

Scott went from strength to strength and proved equally effective at scrum half, hooker and flanker. He was particularly effective at flanker because of his keenness to 'ferret' the ball from the rucks and mauls. Alastair, the most experienced player in the side, enjoyed an excellent season at no. 8. He was certainly one of the most committed and fittest players in the XV and led the pack with determination in Douglas's absence.

Malcolm Lyon at scrum half gave good service to his backs and, when under pressure, used the blind side well. He developed a long pass as the season progressed, and his accuracy of pass will come with experience. Joe Allen, the



captain and leading points scorer, lived up to his expectations. With good hands, quick acceleration and a superb boot, he has all the skills to turn a game to his advantage. The Radley and Warwick victories were certainly his best performances. The team was most fortunate in having such an outstanding captain on and off the field, and I am most grateful for the important part he played in the team's success.

James Tilley and Charlie Wakefield are two very exciting players. James's greatest asset was his timing of the pass, and his outside breaks accounted for nine tries in the season. Charlie's main weapon was his strong straight running, and given the smallest of gaps, he was unstoppable. His tackling too proved decisive, particularly against Warwick and Radley. John Richards and Richard Wright tried hard to penetrate the defence, and when they got into their stride, both ran with determination. Both improved their defensive skills, and Richard was a very useful stand-in Full Back for Gareth Ogden. Gareth's season was plagued with a nagging back injury. This, however, did not deter his determination. I cannot remember him missing a high ball, and his tackling under pressure was devastating.

Adrian Mutton, Matthew Lister, Chris Richardson and Joe Gold also played for the XV. Coming in for injured players, they never let the side down, in fact against Reading, Adrian and Joe were the men of the match.

My thanks for Joe Allen, Douglas Johnson and Alastair Ross for their determined leadership. They certainly played a major part in getting the best out of the team.

The squad has benefited a great deal this season from the coaching and enthusiasm of Mr. Stevenson. I am grateful for his help, and the results of the B XV were particularly impressive this year.

JD-H

The following played for the XV:

J. Allen (Capt.) D. Johnson (V. Capt.)
G. Ogden, C. Wakefield, J. Richards,
J. Tilley, R. Wright, M. Lyon, T. Ratcliff,
B. Fisher, G. Strange, P. Page, G. Rands,
S. Milne, A. Ross.

Also played: A. Mutton, M. Lister,
C. Richardson, J. Gold.

Results			
P.12	W.10	D.0	L. 2
Pts + 148			
Bloxham	W		10 - 6
Berkhamsted	L		4 - 28
Pangbourne	W		11 - 10
MCS	W		25 - 0
Radley	W		7 - 6
Shiplake	W		27 - 4
Marlborough	W		6 - 0
Newbury 2nd XI	W		7 - 0
Reading	W		14 - 3
Warwick	W		15 - 10
Douai	W		12 - 0
St. Edward's	L		10 - 29



JUNIOR COLTS

This was an enjoyable season even though the final record only stood at a 50% success rate. Everyone in the squad displayed a great deal of dedication and enthusiasm both in games and, equally as importantly, towards their practice, and this was a major factor in the immense improvement as a team during the season.

The forwards developed into a large yet very mobile unit, who gelled together nicely. On their day, they were a formidable force and performed well throughout the second half of the term, with only an even larger Warwick pack managing to stem their dominance.

The backs, who probably possessed more individual skill and flair than the forwards, were very effective in attack when given a bit of time and space, but often struggled in defence against bigger and stronger opposition.

However, the most encouraging aspect of the team's play was their determination to succeed and their will to fight right to the bitter end. They were certainly battlers, and although their performances did not always fulfil their ability, one could never have faulted their effort, even when the odds were stacked against them.

This was epitomized in the final game of the season against St. Edward's, where everyone gave 110% effort, dominated proceedings for the most part of the game and ran themselves into the ground trying to break down a solid defence, only to see 'Teddies' snatch a victory with a late try from their solitary venture into the Abingdon 22. The look of despair on the players' faces as they came off the field said a lot about their character (they did not like losing), but they should also have been feeling very proud of themselves. The result may have been the same as in the opening 2 games of the season, but the performance had improved no end, and showed just how hard everyone had worked throughout the term.

Finally, I would like to express my

thanks to Richard Hume, whose help with the coaching of the 'A' XV backs was much appreciated by both the boys and myself, to R.J. and Paul for their parts in the leadership of the team and to Mr. Coleman for all the time and effort he put into coaching the 'B' XV.

AMB

The following played for the team:

R.J. Stratton (Capt.), J. McIntosh, L. Stopps,
M. Patey, K. Taylor, S. Ruhl, J. Glynn,
B. Rayner, T. Jephson, A. Janisch,
P. Engwell, S. Gould, N. Drake, R. Morris,
T. Ratcliff

Results	'A' XV	'B' XV
Bloxham	L 10-24	L 10-22
Berkhamsted	L 0-16	L 0-8
Pangbourne	W 18-14	L 0-14
MC.	W 26-0	W 12-0
Radley	L 0-12	L 0-16
Shiplake	W 44-0	W 36-0
Marlborough	L 3-14	L 0-48
Newbury	W 36-0	
Reading	W 12-0	W 11-4
Warwick	L 0-32	L 0-14
Douai	W 46-0	
St. Edward's	L 0-6	W 20-0

JUNIORS

A playing record of six wins and six losses was about right for the Juniors 'A' XV this year; it was a side of steady players but no real stars. The opening matches against Bloxham and Berkhamsted were both lost narrowly; the former match, in particular, emphasising the requirement for decisive, first-time tackling. Against Pangbourne the team started to get into its stride, Michael Litchfield, whose pace and size on the wing caused some opponents considerable difficulties, scoring three tries. A weak Magdalen side was then brushed aside easily before we encountered a Radley team whose back division was streets ahead of ours. The first half of term ended with a seesaw match against Shiplake. After going six points up in the first minute we then tried very hard to lose the game, missed tackles returning to the repertoire, before some real determination enabled us to squeeze home in the last minute. The first match after the break was really the highlight of the season; a win, away from home, against Marlborough, a school not beaten at this level for many a year. Admittedly, the opposition was weaker than usual but nevertheless it was a fine achievement. The following week we scraped a win against a resolute Newbury side and followed this with an easy victory over Cokethorpe. The last three matches were a considerable disappointment. St. Edward's were very much stronger than us but the same was not true of Reading and Warwick. The decline was initiated by a minor epidemic of flu which considerably



reduced the effectiveness of some of our players and after that the team never really got itself together again.

My thanks are due to Guy Horton, the captain of the 'A' XV and always the giver of 100%, and to TPL for his coaching, encouragement and management of the B XV.

RSP

Regulars for the 'A' XV:

A. Brown, M. Litchfield, C. Keith, G. Horton, B. Burbank, P. Jupp, N. Woodward, N. Edmonds, R. Browne, D. Richardson, D. Collins, A. Marsh, B. Marnane, A. Batty, J. Sporie, B. Fuggles, A. Guy, P. Godsell, J. Winterbottom and R. Clarkson also played on more than one occasion.

Regulars for the 'B' XV in addition to the 5 occasional 'A' team players:

P. Baker, R. Scott, D. Otterburn, H. Powell-Jones, B. Uttenthal, P. Cooper, W. Hoodless, S. Lord, D. Malcolm, J. Brownlee, K. Stopps.

Results

	A XV	B XV
Bloxham	L 9-10	
Berkhamsted	L 8-12	L 8-20
Pangbourne	W 18-3	L 16-18
MCS	W 42-4	W 34-0
Radley	L 4-50	L 0-35
Shiplake	W 22-16	W 12-0
Marlborough	W 18-16	L 7-12
Newbury	W 4-0	
Cokethorpe	W 32-8	
Reading	L 0-34	D 10-10
Warwick	L 0-36	W 22-20
St. Edward's	L 0-52	

MINORS RUGBY

This has been one of the most enjoyable and successful seasons in U-13 rugby history! As you can see from the table, we have had 9 wins in 9 games scoring 194 points and only conceding 20. Our toughest games were against Oratory Prep. whom we narrowly beat for the first time (12 - 10) and against St. Bartholomew's School, Newbury (8 - 0). It is worth noting that neither of these opponents lost to any other team throughout the season and Oratory's fixture card is quite a bit stronger than ours!

The success of the team lies in its immense natural talent, the balance of skills in the backs and the forwards, their enthusiasm, their ability to learn quickly from mistakes and (rather unusually for Abingdon School sides) a good deal of controlled aggression.

The second team was almost as successful, winning half their matches, scoring 84 points and conceding only 54.

The outstanding first team players who were almost all awarded colours were List, (Capt.), Cooke (V. Capt.), Wyatt, Hankin, Craig, Thomas, North, Grinstead, Hewes, Finch, Diamond, M. Morris, Drake, Voss and Melin. Other players were: Collins, Pajak, Shrimpton and Hodges.

To finish the season we put out seven-a-side teams for the three tournaments at Dragon, Moultsford and Oratory Prep. Schools. Although we did not win any of them we did very well, getting to the semi-final at Moultsford.

A fitting climax to the season was our first ever Minors Rugby Dinner which gave us a suitable platform to thank the large number of parents who faithfully turned up to support their team. I was also able to thank AM for his skill in leading the second team and AMB, RH, JD-H and JT for their help in coaching, refereeing, etc.

We know of several good players joining us from the prep. schools in the third year so we expect some vintage performances from this squad as they progress up the school. At present they are one of the best sides in the south of England and they deserve every success in the future.

DMH

Results

U 13 First XV		
CCCS (h)	W	26-0
St. Hugh's (a)	W	32-4
Oratory Prep. (h)	W	12-10
Pinewood (a)	W	24-6
Dragon 2nd. (h)	W	20-0
Millbrook House (h)	W	30-0
Newbury (a)	W	8-0
MCS (a)	W	20-0
Priors Court (h)	W	22-0

U 13 Second XV

Oratory Prep. (h)	L	0-16
Pinewood (h)	W	12-10
Dragon 4th. (h)	L	4-10
Millbrook House (h)	W	28-0
Oratory 1st.	L	12-14
MCS	W	28-0

UNDER 12'S

This turned out to be another very enjoyable and extremely successful season for the U-12's. From the outset, it was apparent that there was a lot of talent amongst the boys, but it was the sheer number of boys who displayed an enthusiasm to learn the game that prompted us to organise a 'B' XV for the first time at this level. The 'A' XV remained unbeaten throughout the season which was a great achievement, whilst the 'B' XV only lost their final game against Berkhamsted by the narrowest of margins, leaving the squad with a most impressive overall record of 11 wins, 1 draw and only 1 loss. If you also consider that most of the boys had not played rugby before this year, and their opponents were often older and bigger, then it reflects just how well both teams performed, and is a clear indication not only of the quality of several individuals, but also the depth of ability present in the year group as a whole. The success of both teams was predominantly based upon good solid teamwork and an eagerness to compete and do well. However, there were a few occasions, especially early on, when some individuals tried to dominate proceedings, but as the season progressed and the opposition became stronger, they began to real-



ise the necessity to work together and play as a team. The highlights of the season for me were the displays against Pangbourne, Summerfields and Berkhamsted for very different reasons. The Pangbourne game was extremely tough and initially, everyone was overawed by their size. Consequently, they spent the whole of the first half camped on our try line, but solid, if sometimes desperate, defensive work kept them out. In the second half, the team began to believe in themselves and fought back with great courage and determination, and although it remained very tight and physical, they ran out deserved winners in the end. Summerfield's are always a very strong, well organised side, and this year's team were no exception, so it was an excellent achievement to beat them. However, what was especially pleasing about this performance was how well everyone pulled together and played as a team following the disappointing display against Cothill in their previous game. Berkhamsted was the final game of the season, and proved to be a fitting finale as it was undoubtedly the team's best all round performance. The first half was very even and ended at 4-4, but the team started the second half in the most determined fashion. Everything came together at once, and they proceeded to demolish the opposition with a superb display of quick, controlled rugby which

was an absolute joy to watch. There is a great deal of potential amongst the squad, and they have all trained hard and shown an immense amount of determination and enthusiasm to develop such a sound

base of skills in such a short period of time. The scrummaging and rucking of the forwards was most impressive when they all pulled together, whilst there is a lot of speed and flair amongst the backs. All in all, it is a very well balanced team that could develop into one of the best year groups the school has had, but obviously there are certain areas that they really need to improve next year if this is to be so. Notably, producing cleaner possession in the lineouts, being more direct in their running and most importantly, developing their tackling, which with the exception of a few, was much too high.

AMB

Regular members of the 'A' XV were:

M. Morris (Capt.), D. Hankin, D. Chadwick, A. Moss, R. Binning, O. Greasby, M. Pajak, P. Rutland, O. Cox, P. Dunphy, C. McGarry, P. Woodward, J. Mackay, R. Finch, A. Morris, A. Edmonds.

Those who played for the 'B' XV were:

L. Clements (Capt.), A. Edmonds, O. Cox, S. Burchett, M. Byrne, D. Payne, R. Duerr, J. Prior, A. Twinn, J. Arthur, T. Williams, D. Hammersley, R. Smith, E. Smith, T. Rendell, I. Silverwood, M. Denny, D. Jenkins, D. Armstrong, S. Morris.

Results

	A XV	B XV
Larkmead	W 16-0	
Millbrook House	W 28-0	W 24-4
MCS	W 42-0	W 40-0
Pangbourne	W 10-0	W 8-4
Cothill	D 10-10	
Summerfields	W 12-0	
Reading	W 24-0	W 12-7
Berkhamsted	W 18-4	L 0-4





A word from the President

It is a happy chance which brings together two celebratory occasions for the school this year, the centenary of the magazine and the 150th. of the Boat Club. We have great pleasure, therefore in printing a few reflections, carefully mulled over by the Club President, who is, of course, also currently President of the Old Abingdonians.

Congratulations to the Abingdonian in its centenary year from the Boat Club. Were it not for The Abingdonian much of the history of School rowing would have been lost to posterity, so it is to be hoped that the good work will continue. What a pity that the magazine did not first appear in 1840!

The editor has asked for a few thoughts on the special place that the Boat Club occupies in the affections of our oarsmen, so this is an attempt to define the indefinable!

For many years the Club was a small club in a small school, and in seeking to expand in both quality and quantity was faced with enormous difficulties both in terms of numbers and of finance. But the struggle to overcome these hindrances resulted in a bond of loyalty and endeavour which lies at the heart of the ever increasing success enjoyed by the oarsmen today.

Pride has much to do with it. Pride, not only in success but in appearance. Sparkling boats, spotless rowing kit, a general sense of purpose in upholding the high standard of the School in the public eye in every respect - in short the pursuit of excellence. This must be sought at all times in our sport. It has been said that no one has ever rowed a perfect stroke, so every one rowed must be performed better than the one before. A constant goal.

Rowing is also one of the ultimate examples of team spirit. In other games - and this is in no way a criticism - the individual can shine personally, but in an eight or a four it is the blending of individual talents and endeavours which produces a successful crew; and here it may be added that the enthusiasm and perspicacity of the coach makes him part of the crew as well.

So by way of exhortation to the oarsman: mow the grass, paint the blades, scrub the oar handles, wash the boats, take pride in aiming at perfection in all that you do, and your satisfaction will be great and your success increase.

Roger Mortimer, President, ASBC

BOAT CLUB REPORT

"I would always give the prize to Abingdon for the best turned-out of crews." This is a quote that pleases me but at the same time disappoints me. It is very admirable and desirable to look smart and put on a good show, but it is sad to be remembered or acknowledged in the rowing world mainly for the state of our rowing kit.

We showed, at times, this season to be worth more attention. The 1st. VIII squad managed to accrue some 12 victories in 8's and 4's, beating the likes of St. Edward's and Shrewsbury on the way. The J-16 coxless four won Gold at the National Schools Regatta and Silver at the National Championships.

We started off badly with an altogether disappointing set of results from the Schools' Head in March. The policy of coming together in January does not allow us much time to get ourselves sorted out in time for this event. Many - or most - of our rivals now row three terms a year. We did not enter any J-15 or J-14 crews for this reason. The flooding in February kept the younger crews off the water for a substantial time.

By the time the Tideway Head came around things were looking better. The 1st. VIII had a few wins behind them - as had the J-16's. The three VIII's entered came 88th., 195th. and 202nd. with the 1st. VIII rising a couple of places and showing a marked improvement when compared to other school crews.

For the main season hopes were quite high. By Avon County Schools Regatta the whole system was in motion and we had a very large entry from all age groups. The overall results were heartening. The 1st. VIII won overall, the 2nd. and 3rd. VIII both won their categories,

the J-16 IV was third, and the J-15 IV seventh. The J-14's, in their first competitions were good. The quad scull was third, the eight was third, the coxed IV was third and one of our scullers was third. There is great promise from this group.

The next main event was the National Schools Regatta and although the J-16 coxless IV came home with gold, I cannot help but feel disappointed at the rest of the results. Maybe I expect too much! The 1st. VIII rowed with great skill and composure to qualify for their final in first position. The second VIII looked good for their final. The J-16 VIII, reduced to almost a 'B' eight by the extraction of the coxless IV, tried extremely hard, but only just missed out on qualifying for the final. The J-14's VIII reached the final, the quad reached the second round. That was as far as it went. One set of medals was all we got; getting to the finals, but rarely showing the nerve on the big occasion to come back with the medals. It happened on odd occasions throughout the season.

There was hope on the second day when our coxed four came 5th of 24 in Championship IV's only 2 lengths behind the very best Eton crew. It was a real taste of the 'big-time'.

Henley came, and went. The 1st VIII got knocked out in the second round by Eton - who were unbeaten throughout the year. The National Championships saw the 1st VIII come third - controversially!! - and the J-16 coxless IV came second.

One or two other good moments in the year were Bedford Schools Regatta when all our not-so-competitive J-14's tasted competition on an extremely wet afternoon, and were very successful in

showing the other schools how it should be done. The same day saw our J-15 VIII fend off a challenge from a strong St. Edward's crew. Their coach was not happy at that defeat.

The 1st VIII succeeded at Notts. City Regatta and Bedford Regatta when on both occasions the plan went right and we picked our moment to hit the front and won most impressively.

There is plenty to look forward to in the coming season. Our J-16's are extremely keen to carry their success to junior level and are trialling for International selection with the remnants of last season's 1st VIII. Our J-14's are bountiful in numbers and enthusiasm and can look forward to success at J-15 level if the training can be maintained.

One sad note, from our point of view, is the departure of Andrew Trotman to higher things and pastures new. Andrew takes over as Depute Rector at Edinburgh Academy in January. Andrew must be bionic - or hyper-active - with eyes in the back of his head and six pairs of hands. He managed to occupy over 50 boys on 4/5 days a week and produce some very good crews and talented prospects for us to encourage next year. We will undoubtedly miss him, but we owe a debt to him for his energy over the past years and we wish him all the very best for his new life in the wet, windy and wild North.

The running of the club would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the coaches and we owe our thanks to them both staff and helpful parents and friends - Rodney Mearns, Bill Potter, John Clare, Tom Simons, Dr. Baker, Paul Watkinson, Jim Rutland, Tom Pollard and all the others who have given their time to help.

MDM



Making a push at Chiswick Steps

FIRST VIII

With this year being the 150th anniversary of the School Boat Club there was more pressure than usual for the 1st eight to perform well. This, together with the new master in charge of rowing, Mr. Martin gave us the incentive to put our best foot forward and start the year with the highest ambitions. The Michaelmas Term saw Mr. Martin coaching a few boys in a tough and rigorous way: lots of weights and ergos, and lots of time on the water! Commitment seemed to be the name of the game, and this was established and then vindicated in the Lent and Summer Terms.

The Lent term saw a crew picked from a vast squad. This crew was our 'Head' crew, trained to perform over long distances. The work had been hard, but we all felt ready to take on the rowing world in the coming season. It took some time to get into a winning vein, but we broke duck at Bristol Head, Gloucester Head and Abingdon Head (A 1st IV also achieved pleasing victories at Gloucester Head and Worcester Head). However, when it came to the big event, the Schools' Head, the result was less satisfactory. For some reason we were struggling to compete with crews we had previously beaten, so a change was indicated. Mr. Martin ushered Jim Hewes and Jim Bichard into the bows to form our comedy duo, as well as creating a bow four with an average weight of thirteen and a half stone!

The new crew was pushed to its limits in training both mentally and physically! After several weeks we ventured off our home water and travelled to Evesham. The VIII beat a big, powerful Shrewsbury crew, but lost to Cheltenham in the final. The 1st IV, meanwhile, cruised to victory with Mr. Martin in the boat!

We went away knowing that we had the potential to do well, but had to put it together when it mattered. With this in mind we headed off for Avon County Schools Regatta. Seeded as a 'B' crew by the organisers we were determined to win outright, and so we did. Out of 20 crews we came top beating crews like Bryanston and St. Edward's. With morale high we went to Notts. City Regatta the

very next day. Although tired by the previous day's exercise we were determined to prove ourselves again. We rowed to win our heat over 1500m, and then headed into the final with the fastest qualifying time. In a good final against Oxford Poly 'B' and Durham University we sprinted home to victory. The weekend had made all the hard training seem worth it.

On a high we moved on to the major event, the National Schools Regatta. Expected to do well, we flopped. It appeared that we had 'peaked' too early. However, it was later realised that it was a flu bug that had affected three of our crew. Bitterly disappointed, we moved on again, this time to the London Docklands Regatta. Here we met Eton's 'B' VIII who had us in their sights. However, we rowed them down to win yet another medal.

From here on our attention was firmly fixed on Henley. Training sessions were transferred to Henley so we could become familiar with the course, all 2.1km of it! Mr. Dalley made sure preparation for our first round match with Shrewsbury was ideal by treating us all to a meal at Leander! This obviously gave us the right type of energy, because we managed to row through Shrewsbury the next day. The victory brought us to Eton in the second round. They were favourites for the event and went on to win in classic fashion.

There was one more event left for us to enter, but it was 2 weeks after the end of term, the National Championships. We did so knowing that second place would be enough to allow us to represent England in the Home Countries International. Unfortunately, we achieved 3rd. place, but then had to surrender our medals to Monmouth because of an oversight in the registration of our crew.

S. Hickson VIE

Crew: J. Hewes, J. Bichard, S. Hickson, R. Greasby, I. Dalley (capt.), G. Harding, P. Eland, R. Winter, T. Richmond (cox).
Also rowed: D. Chadwick, C. Jones, B. Miller, A. Ross (sec.).

SECOND VIII

After a solid start to the season consisting of heavy land training and rowing in small boats a recognisable 2nd. VIII emerged shortly after the Schools' Head. After a good row at Bristol Ariel Head, we had two mediocre rows at Gloucester Head and the Head of the River Race in London. A mid-term excursion to Scotland provided useful training and everyone had a 'smashing' time!

Extensive Easter holiday training put the crew in high spirits and looking forward to the regatta season. We had some good rows at Evesham Regatta, doubling up in fours as well as the eight, narrowly missing out in the finals. We went to the Avon County Schools Regatta with high expectations and scored a memorable victory in the final over Eton and our arch rivals the 3rd VIII.

We travelled to the National Schools Regatta in realistic mood and hoped to reach the final. We achieved our aim and got into the final six, being beaten finally by some very good crews.

We finished off the season in great style winning the Junior schools event at Bedford Star Regatta against a Radley crew, and this made the victory even sweeter!

In early July a composite crew made up from 2nd and 3rd VIII rowers entered the qualifiers for the new Henley Prize event at the Henley Royal Regatta. We had a very good row over the Henley course but were not strong enough for the excellent competition, most of whom were University crews.

We had a very enjoyable year and look forward to the coming season, hoping to do even better. We would like to thank Mr. Martin, our coach, whose cries of "weights and ergos after school!" terrified even the most hardened of oarsmen!

D. Chadwick VIE

NSR crew

J. Denée (Bow), J. Britton, A. Charlton, C. Jones, S. Snipp, R. Godfrey, G. Thomson, D. Chadwick (Stroke), M. Haycock (Cox).





3RD VIII

The characteristic crew motivation was clear from the start. We were, however, rather thrown in at the deep end in our first event; the Schools' Head on the Tideway. We had a good row, overtaking Monkton Combe and Radley, although Eton passed us half way through the 5km course. Our next event was Reading Head: we rowed well and probably beat somebody.

Next came Bristol Ariel Head. The weather was perfect with scenery and "Webster's" to match. The long winding river and the blazing March heat invited a

very demanding row which we gauged our response to rather carefully: we came fifth with the 1st. and 2nd. VIII's ahead of us in first and fourth positions, respectively. The very next day we were at Gloucester Head in which the VIII rowed admirably to come third. However, the stern four doubled up and disconcertingly rowed to victory in the senior 3 event in IV's.

The Regatta season began at Evesham. At one point we were lucky enough to get a row over, but then met a massive Winchester crew whom we beat

by half a length. This was followed directly by the final against an even larger and more experienced Bedford crew. At this stage discretion seemed the better part of valour.

Next was Avon County Regatta. The complications of the racing arrangements here are probably best left undescribed, but there is no doubt that by the end of the day we had beaten Radley and Bryanston crews: they agreed with us.

Our final event was the National Schools Regatta. We embarked on a rigorous two week training programme, broken only by the 150th birthday celebrations at which our guest crew member was the Headmaster. The next Monday disaster struck: Dante Peters and Adam Beaumont went down with a virus. Had the powerhouse of the boat been lost forever? We arrived at Nottingham where our devastating start took us half a length up on both Radley and Eton. It took Eton a 1000m to restore normal order, but we kept on leapfrogging to the finish with Radley in quite unpredictable fashion. They beat us by .6 of a second. We ended a most enjoyable season on the balcony of the official building in reflective mood watching crews coming in to collect their medals. We would like to thank Mr. Potter, without whose enthusiasm and devotion we would never have developed with quite such style.

P. Mildenhall VIE



JUNIOR 16

The season started informally in September 1989. In the course of the year we achieved a total of nine different awards in a season, notwithstanding the bad weather and a number of unfortunate mishaps. We raced on a total of four different Sunday events and managed to claim victories at Worcester Small Boats Head and again at Kingston. This provided a very good basis upon which to start the new season in January under the guidance of Mr. Mearns and early season plans were to establish a J-16 group which would stay until the end of the summer. Unfortunately, however, our eight was damaged on the return from a trip to Scotland, and was ruled out of commission for the whole of the season. This created difficulties, for the numbers ran to an 'A' VIII, a IV and a 'B' VIII. Much of the season's training was characterised by versatility as people moved in and out of every kind of craft, more or less at a moment's notice.

Due to the cancellation of the Henley and Abingdon Heads, we stayed in the eight, and opened the season's account with a heartening victory in the Reading University Head, beating Radley and Pangbourne, among others. Five days later marked the Schools' Head and we were caught in the cycle of training peaks which we were only really to begin to appreciate as the season progressed, and managed only seventh in our class. This time it was the turn of the coxed IV, however, and they came third out of more than 40 crews in their class. Eventually, towards the end of the Lent term the rest of us were allowed to prove ourselves in the coxed IV, and the habit of doubling up gained the squad victories in IV's in J-16, Senior 3 and Junior at Gloucester, while we were just squeezed into second place by St. Edward's in the afternoon in the VIII. At the postponed Abingdon Head we won the IV's division, while at Avon County Head our 'Schools' Head' IV won handsomely while the VIII, which won convincingly, incurred penalty points for multiple clashes on the course which in the event we were happy enough to emerge unscathed from. The Head season reached its climax by a fine row in the Tideway Head of the River race when we came 206th out of a total of 430 crews. As we passed Chiswick Steps in the March sunshine we were one of five crews all abreast, and we soon passed the other four, even though we were on the outside of the bend and in the slack water!

At the start of the summer term, it was suggested that we should try rowing coxless fours. A new event had just been created for this category at the National Schools Regatta and it was thought that we should try for it. This entailed a restructuring of the crews. The IV- was to make up of the stern of the Lent term VIII, while the remainder made up the VIII together with the 'Schools' Head' IV.

While the resulting VIII did not win in the course of the regatta season, it performed very creditably indeed at such events as Avon County, Bedford Star and Reading Town. In the National Schools it was squeezed into fourth place by a mere three feet in a heat which included the crews which were to come first and second in the final. Our time was fifth fastest overall. Meanwhile, rowing in the coxless IV was a first for us and the Boat Club, but we persevered with this new style of boat, always looking ahead to the National Schools deadline.

Owing to the rarity of this category for schoolboys all the J-16 events we entered prior to the event were in the coxed category. For the first time the National Schools was a two-day event and we were to race coxed on the Saturday and coxless on the Sunday. It would be our first ever coxless race and none of us knew what to expect. In the coxed IV we came fourth overall, a creditable performance in a notoriously tough event. In the first round of the coxless the following morning we cruised through to victory, somewhat to our surprise, but then came up against King's School, Chester, in the final. They had come second the previous day in the coxed event and had won the Schools' Head by a quite exceptional margin. Other IV's included the stern of the Winchester VIII which had won the VIII's event the previous day, Shiplake and Westminster. For the race itself we got a good start and found ourselves around one length up over the rest of the field after just 500 metres. After 1000 metres we had half a length, and from here on in it was a mad fight for the line between us and King's Chester leaving the rest of the field some distance behind.

The final verdict was a win for Abingdon School by half a length. A historic victory.

Following this major success we decided we would try to get selected to row for England in the J-16 Anglo-French match. This, we were told, would depend on victory at Nottingham International Regatta in June, and probably on the National Championships in July. So training continued, and we competed at Bedford, Marlow and Docklands Regattas in the Senior 2 category. This is the lowest level

at which events are made available by the ARA for the coxless category and is an indication of the difficulties of the class and the kind of opposition, universities and club IV's, we constantly found ourselves up against. Nevertheless, we even managed to bring home a bronze medal from the Docklands. By the time it came to Notts. International we felt ready to try and defeat Chester for a second time. However, when it came to the actual race, despite rare calm conditions at Nottingham, we did not perform up to our expectations and came home disappointed with our second place, but not altogether disheartened, since the selectors decided that the final decision was now all down to the National Championships, three weeks later. So, in a brand new boat, kindly donated by Mr. Martin following our success at National Schools, and with exams finally out of the way, we started into the holidays with three weeks of intensive training. We were all determined now to beat Chester and by the time it came to the Championships we were all ready to fight. For our race we were confronted by a strong cross-tail wind in a boat which was the first of its kind - an East German mould which was extremely difficult to keep balanced but which clearly had the capacity to be faster than any other boat there. With our lane,

however, we had some half a length disadvantage over Chester, and despite a slight lead over the rest of the field at half way we could not quite hold on to the finish and were narrowly defeated by Chester. We were all devastated but had all had the race of our lives, and an extremely rewarding season, tinged with a little disappointment at the end by our failure to get selected to row for England by such a narrow



Silver presentation at the National Championships

margin.

G. Montier 6B/ B. Moseley 6S

Crews

Lent term: VIII: R. Wright, J. Soames, A. Nicholson, P. Lamaison, M. Patey, A. Ross (sec.), G. Montier. B. Ulyatt, S. Day (cox). IV: B. Moseley, R. Claye, J. Schoof, C. Richardson, S. Biggers (cox).

Summer term: VIII: B. Moseley, J. Soames, A. Nicholson, P. Lamaison, J. Schoof, R. Claye, R. Wright, C. Richardson, S. Day (cox). IV: G. Montier, A. Ross, M. Patey, B. Ulyatt.



The Colts' VIII shooting Hammersmith Bridge at the Schools' Head

JUNIOR 15

After several weeks of land training due to the bad weather, the J-15 age group finally got out onto the river by half-way through the Lent term. Soon after, an VIII was entered for the Avon Head of the River Race on the 10th of March, a course of 2.5 km. Although our crew was very inexperienced and we had never before rowed in our boat, the St. Helen, it was felt that the crew rowed well, even though we didn't manage to find out the placings. It was a valuable first race for the whole crew and we thoroughly enjoyed the day. The Avon head was the only race that term and the only head race in which we entered.

Our next race took us to the Avon County Schools Regatta on the 12th of May. We entered an eight and a four, with the IV faring slightly better than the VIII by reaching the semi-finals. As this was our first race with a regatta start we found the practice invaluable for the next very big race.

A fortnight later we were on our way to the National Schools Regatta, the largest event we entered and, indeed, the largest event there is in Junior rowing. With 517 crews in total at the event and 14 Abingdon crews racing (3 of whom were from the J-15 age group, an VIII, a IV and a double scull). None of these fared quite as well as they could have, but given the size and quality of the field the crews were pleased with their times.

On the 19th of May 1990, the Boat Club celebrated its 150th. anniversary, with both J-14 and J-15 crews doing a 26 mile 'marathon' to raise funds for the boat club. A super time was had by all with Old Abingdonians returning to the club to do some friendly racing against each other - even the Headmaster joined in the fun!

A month later, however, it was back to serious racing and on the 16th. of June we travelled to Bedford Star Regatta over a short 800m sprint course with the J-15's rowing in a IV and then being joined by four others to row in an VIII. The IV, again, did slightly better than the VIII, reaching the semi-finals only to be knocked out by Emanuel School, the eventual winners.

With spirits high a couple of weeks and a lot of hard training, later, we decided

to win the Reading Town Regatta. However, our plans were dashed as our regular stroke had to pull out. This led to a crew reshuffle, causing rather more complications than might have been previously expected. As a result the crew rowed somewhat below itself and after taking an early lead the pace slowly dropped and we were relegated to the third position as we crossed the finishing line.

This regatta ended a very enjoyable first season of competitive rowing for the J-15's, and although we didn't bring back any silver, the experience was invaluable and will, form the basis of a more successful season next year in the J-16 age group. We were very grateful to Mr. Trotman for the time and trouble he took on our behalf.

M. Ferguson 5AFT/ S. Dickins 5RPF





JUNIOR 14

During the Michaelmas term (although the main season had not begun) some sculling was done by the die-hards who insist on rowing all year round. A quad and several small sculls were entered in a few Heads and some excellent performances were achieved, including a win by an Abingdon double at Kingston Head. The main rowing season was hindered by the exceptionally bad weather conditions which put our training programme back by a month. When we started in earnest, the emphasis was put on sculling as this aspect of rowing is becoming increasingly important for younger age groups as a consequence of the national decision to stage only J-14 sculling events as from 1993. After a short time, a scratch quad was put together and did well at Abingdon and Avon Heads. Later an eight was formed, which, along with several scullers, the quad, and a four, entered Avon County Regatta. Everyone did well, notably David Smith in a scull and the four which went on to win its class. Avon had been a rehearsal for The National Schools' Re-

gatta at Nottingham. The eight did exceptionally well and got into a very strong final while the quad reached the second round. This venue is notorious for its winds, and on Sunday it lived up to its name. The double (J. Watkinson and T. Baker) rowed one of the closest races in the regatta winning the heat by a rather slim 9 inches against Kingston, only to be knocked out in the semi-final.

Bedford Star provided an enjoyable row for a newly formed and improved VIII. The quad was knocked out in the second round after easily beating Radley in the first. David Smith again rowed in a single and would have won had he not had an argument with the bridge! At Bedford

Invitation Regatta, the restricted IV's showed their worth and swept the field by winning their class overall. Lastly, Reading Town arrived complete with dreadful conditions. The VIII was just beaten by King's Canterbury (medal winners at NSR) after a very hard row in the strong wind which made the use of stake boats impossible! The Year's rowing was enjoyed by all and we express our thanks to all who helped with the coaching and outings namely, Dr. Baker, Mr. Scott, Mr. Watkinson, Mr. Pollard and others. Last, but not least, our thanks to Mr. Trotman who has been our invaluable coach throughout. We shall miss him and wish him well at his new school

J.R.W. Watkinson 4NHP





FIRST XI

With a good number of players from last year's 1st X1, we could be forgiven for expecting a good set of results this year. The season began well enough, when following a disheartening journey (rain all the way) we produced a good solid performance against a talented Southampton side. Donald Stanley's powerful running caused the opposition's defence many problems and Stephen Mitchell scored a good short corner goal to make up for a penalty miss.

Next we played M.C.S. at Bisham Abbey and found ourselves floundering on the plastic surface. M.C.S. produced quick, incisive hockey and at no stage were we ever in the game. In fact the scoreline (0 - 3) flattered us somewhat. The scoreline against Bradfield, however, did no justice to the game at all. Here we were doing well until a strange umpiring decision resulted in Bradfield taking the lead. From that point Bradfield did not look back, while our heads dropped. Up to this point in the season our play had been too much oriented to the left and our opponents were able to deal with this, despite some speedy and skilful work from Hugh Wilkinson.

On our own patch we produced a spirited performance against Radley, but when a fine Donald Stanley goal was disallowed (incorrectly in my opinion) it seemed that the season was beginning to slip away from us. Further defeats followed despite our more than matching the opposition. Both Pangbourne and St.

Edward's must have counted themselves lucky to gain victories against the run of play. We, for our part, were beginning to let things happen, rather than make them happen.

Our first victory came against Reading and ironically the scores came during the poorest phase of the game, when we had lost our earlier rhythm and supremacy. Hugh Wilkinson scored a goal that should have been saved, but Matthew Mowat will always claim that his shot was unstoppable! The game marked the return of Simon Newton and it quickly became apparent how much we had missed him earlier. In the next game, against a much vaunted Bloxham side, we worked hard to control the mid-field and largely succeeded. Against the run of play, Bloxham took a 1 - 0 lead, but Hugh Wilkinson quickly levelled the scores and that was the way it remained.

At the request of the Hockey Association we hired the Radley plastic pitch and were given the usual lesson in the art of quality hockey. It was good that we were able to bounce back against R.G.S. High Wycombe. It has to be said that the Wycombe approach was rather strange, but their casual attitude allowed us to, at least, share the honours in midfield and score the vital goal, minutes from the end. Again it was Hugh Wilkinson and what a splendid goal it was!

The O.A.s surpassed themselves this year and were able to make no less than three substitutions at half time. A side

full of 'stars' played with exactly the right amount of commitment and good humour and shared the honours, despite losing a penalty-flick competition at the end. Who will forget Neil Franklin's shorts (borrowed from Mr. Randolph) or Duncan Buck's running commentary. Was that really Paul Mitchell? and good to see David Ingram ('squealer' to his friends) in such good form. Jig Gold looked bigger than ever, while Andrew Wintle has clearly decided to commit suicide down tobacco road. John Johnston did his best to fill the O.A. goal, but failed to keep his legs together when Stephen Mitchell flicked a penalty shot into the middle of the goal. A number of O.A.s. promised to return next year!

Results

Southampton	D	2 - 2	Mitchell, Seager
MCS	L	0 - 3	
Bradfield	L	0 - 4	
Radley	L	0 - 1	
Pangbourne	L	1 - 2	Wilkinson
St. Edward's	L	2 - 4	Mitchell, Wilkinson
Reading	W	2 - 0	Wilkinson, Mowat
Bloxham	D	1 - 1	Wilkinson
HA	L	0 - 7	
RGS	W	1 - 0	Wilkinson
OAs	D	1 - 1	Mitchell

The Players

Nick Richards: An excellent goalkeeper, who went through a phase where he leant back when shots were fired at him. This resulted in a loss of balance. He regained his composure and produced some excellent saves. Awarded full colours at end of season.

Martin Scott-Brown: An excellent eye enabled him to stop most balls in his vicinity, but needs to work on his striking. Awarded half-colours at end of season.

Duncan Sparkes: Seemed to have a phase in all games when he hit the panic-button, but when in control of his emotions proved a skilful and steady defender. Awarded half-colours at end of season.

Simon Newton: Missed the first half of the season due to a 'silly' injury, but made an immediate impact on his return. Excellent tackler and fluent striker of the ball. Full Colours '89.

Matthew Mowat: Often moved forward in support, to good effect and surprised all with mazy dribbles. Must improve marking for next season. Awarded half-colours at end of season.

Jonathan Dorkings: Good steady defensive play, even when 'outnumbered'. Rarely allowed his wing to get round the back. Awarded half-colours at end of season. Did an excellent job as secretary - Thanks!

Paul Aitken: Once again failed to get into the right position as often as one would like and received much less ball than would have been ideal. A skilful player, who needs to work on beating the wing-half outside, rather than inside. Awarded full colours at end of season.

Barry Mamane: Did a fine job as captain of the side, earning the respect of all. Worked hard in mid-field. On occasions should dwell a little longer on the ball and avoid the hurried pass. Awarded full colours at end of season.

Mark Seager: A tower of strength in mid-

field, despite perennial problems with striking. Still uses that horrible reverse sweep. Awarded full colours at end of season.

Stephen Mitchell: Had a disappointing season, partly due to carrying too much weight and lacking fitness. Tended to use his super skills in too deep a position and to dwell too long on the ball. Produced the goal of the season at the indoor tournament. Full colours '89.

Donald Stanley: A very quick and direct forward, with good close control. Overdid the lone attack, often losing the ball, when a short pass would have reaped dividends. Nevertheless created many important attacking situations. Awarded full colours at end of season.

Hugh Wilkinson: Very fast and skilful winger, who scored most of our goals (some 'Roy of the Rovers style'). Always proved a headache to the opposition's defence. Awarded full colours at end of season.

SECOND XI

Our hopes for a successful season couldn't really have got off to a more encouraging start than a 4-0 win over Leighton Park. We missed too many opportunities in the first half due to the lack of match practice, but in the second half our golden touch returned and we began to play some inventive hockey.

After this early season confidence booster we were quickly brought down to earth with a bump, with defeats by Bradfield, Reading and Pangbourne. All three games were played on the unfamiliar astro-turf, which requires radically different tactics to grass hockey; it was a surface we were never able to adapt fully to until the end of the season. Despite an appearance by the self-styled star of the first XI M. Seager, we lost 2-1 against Bradfield. The Radley match was marred by the physical nature of the game; a few members of the team lost their cool, but after a severe talking to during half time, we came back and scored two goals through Steffan Hutchings which in part made up for the aberration earlier in the match! Although we lost 6-2 to a team well adapted to astro-turf, it could easily have been more had it not been for the superb goal-keeping of Kieran Hyder, and the defence of Louis 'Duncan' Golding.

St. Edward's was a game we deserved to win. After only just holding on during the first half, again mainly thanks to Kieran, we outplayed Teddies in the second period. However, we were robbed of victory by a goal which had to one or two the appearance of having been kicked in. The game against Shiplake was played on a superb pitch, and produced excellent hockey. The highlight of the game was the dive by Benny B. Birks, for which he surely should have been awarded a BAFTA award, to secure the penalty flick. Unfortunately, as on a number of occasions this season, the flick was a 'Steff Special', and

barely moved from the spot. Sorry Ben.

A game against Reading produced a 10-1 victory and Ben Williams was unlucky to have his splendid effort thwarted. James Johnstone was determined not to miss out on any action, and sure enough scored a hat trick, whilst receiving near concussion. Bloxham produced the match of the season, in which we successfully overcame the opposition, thanks to Bill Hutchings in goal 'neutralizing' the dangerous centre forward, and to Ed. Tilley for some great battling in midfield. The final match against RGS High Wycombe gave us a fine finish to the season, with a 7-1 win. Ben Williams finally got just rewards, with a good goal. Nick Hodgson, single-handed, baffled the defence, and James Johnstone behaved in his normal fashion!

The report could not be complete without mentioning the enormous effort and determination of James Kingsland, for which he was never really properly rewarded, the captaincy and fierce play of Ed Tilley, and finally the patience and time that Mr. Payne generously gave us. Thank you.

S. Hutchings VIN

Results

P	W	D	L	F	A
9	4	2	3	32	16

Leighton Park	a	w	4-0
Bradfield	a	l	2-1
Radley	a	l	6-2
Pangbourne	a	l	3-1
St. Edward's	a	d	2-2
Shiplake	a	d	1-1
Reading	a	w	10-1
Bloxham	a	w	4-0
RGS	a	w	7-1

Played

K. Hyder, W. Hutchings, B. Kendrick, L. Golding, J. Frishberg, P. Crutchlow, B. Birks, J. Johnstone, E. Tilley (capt.), G. Dodd, N. Hodgson, S. Hutchings, J. Kingsland, B. Williams.

Because of adverse weather, fewer school fixtures were played at Colts level than has been the norm in recent years. This was a pity because the squad contained a good number of talented and enthusiastic players who needed rather more continuity to establish confidence and a distinctive playing pattern. Actually, the B XI, under the guidance of Mr. Watkins, had an excellent season despite the difficulties. They were all-victorious.

In the first fixture, against King Edward's, Southampton, we were matched, as usual, with the opposition's 3rd XI. They had the advantage in speed and strength, as one would expect with older boys, but also had a skill advantage. We were well outplayed. Two cancellations followed before we faced Radley on their new astro-turf. For half an hour the match was very evenly contested and well played, but then Radley, fielding their strongest side at this level for some years, got right on top. In fact we were indebted to some superb goal keeping from Douglas Johnson for keeping the goals conceded to three.

Three weeks later, following another cancellation and then a long period without fixtures, we started the second half of term against St. Edward's. A first victory was well deserved, especially in the light of a fluent first half performance. Reading were then despatched in no uncertain terms, James Tilley notching a hat-trick, and then we went one better, in terms of goal scoring, with six against Bloxham, in a match in which we played a lot of skilful and penetrative hockey.

It may be wishful thinking, but I believe that this team would most probably also have won the four other fixtures lost to the weather.

In goal, Douglas Johnson did a fine job until ruled out through injury. He was then replaced by Giles Smith. Giles was less commanding in the circle but nevertheless a very competent goalkeeper. Scott Milne and Charlie Wakefield were the full backs; Scott, rather inclined to the extravagant gesture but a difficult man to get past; Charlie, not a great hitter of the ball but a tireless and effective coverer. In the middle at the back were Philip Page and Chris Martin. Both had composure and no little skill on the ball. Joseph Allen, the captain, John Wilkinson and James Tilley formed the midfield trio. James was the most direct of the three and emerged as top goal scorer with five, John was the most successful ball-carrier; he must, however, tidy up his tackling; he conceded too many free hits for 'stick tackles'. Joseph was the most composed of the three and the overall director of operations. When these three were on song the team certainly looked very impressive. On the left wing Joe Gold had a steady season, reserving his best performance for the last game. Edward Paleit displayed a lot of skill playing at centre forward although naturally more of

an inside forward. Matthew Lister was the initial choice on the right wing but was displaced by the bustling and ebullient Adrian Mutton who came up from the B 'XI'. Russell Roan also played, capably, in one match.

B. Lloyd-West, S. Jones, A. Sweeting, C. Lord, T. Davison, P. Haynes, E. Hirst, A. Abbott, S. DaCosta, G. Ogden and P. Skala appeared for the B 'XI' (in addition to G. Smith, R. Roan and M. Lister mentioned above.)

RSP

Results

	A XI	B XI
Southampton	L 1-3	W 2-1
Radley	L 0-3	W 1-0
St. Edward's	W 1-0	W 2-0
Reading	W 5-0	
Bloxham	W 6-0	W 4-0



JUNIOR COLTS

The weather took a heavy toll of the matches and practice games this season, with one more match being cancelled than played. Fortunately, we were able to make use of the Sports Hall once a week in the late afternoon and early evening and most of the 'A' team and some of the 'B' team were able to take advantage of the extra hour in the Hall. These practices allowed the players to improve their stick skills considerably and were invaluable for the goalkeepers, who were kept particularly busy.

The Radley game was a fair result, but it would have been interesting to have played them again at the end of the season when Harding had returned to strength, while in the defence goalkeeper Mitty had mastered the art of defeating the lone forward at the edge of the circle and Morgan meanwhile had become a skilful and elusive forward. Against High Wycombe the team played above themselves, taking their few chances of scoring, and defending well against a team which was loaded with high quality stick work but whose players were generally less athletic than ours. The team worked hard against St. Edward's on an exceedingly windy and cold day and thoroughly earned their draw. Reading were outplayed in all departments and by that stage in the season the defence was looking decidedly sound, the game being played almost exclusively in the Reading half. The Bloxham game was more nerve racking for the Abingdon spectators because, while it was clear that Abingdon was the more lively side, their game did not click and they made their supporters wait a long time for the decisive second goal!

Paul Engwell played and captained well and his clean, hard hitting, together with that of R-J. Stratton, Alex Webster and Andrew Harding, was much appreciated. Stuart Gould dashed around successfully on the right flank and scored goals. By the end of the season there were no real weaknesses in any of the positions.

The bad weather and poor pitch conditions particularly affected the fortunes of the 'B' XI who, in comparison with recent years, had a season to forget. Our thanks and commiserations to R.G.H. for his stoicism in the face of such adversity.

RCBC

The following played for the 'A' XI:

C.A. Mitty, C.D. Busby, S.C.M. Ruhl, A. Webster, T.P. Jephson, A.P. Harding, P.D. Engwell (capt.), C.E. Hutchings, S.R. Gould, C.J. Morgan, R.J. Stratton, R.D. Jones, B.J. Rayner.

Results

Radley	a	l	1-2
High Wycombe	h	w	3-0
St. Edward's	a	d	1-1
Reading	a	w	3-0
Bloxham	a	w	2-0

JUNIOR HOCKEY

The match season began memorably with a drive down to Southampton through the uprooted trees around Newbury. The game itself was played in the rain, and bad weather became rather a feature of the season. In all eight matches were called off.

The quality of play was better than last year. The 'A' team, led by Thomas Stanworth, developed a well coordinated attack early in the season. Rowan Browne and Ben Keith were particularly effective. As the match against Radley revealed, however, there is still room for improved defending and quicker response. We also missed a truly reliable goalkeeper, with the result that Richard Haynes had to be called out of 'retirement'! This being said, there were notable wins against R.G.S. High Wycombe and, at the very end of the season, Oxford School.

The 'B' team, though on the face of it no worse than their unbeaten predecessors, fared much less well. A major handicap was the poor condition of the pitches, which made effective skills practice much more difficult than for our rivals, many of whom have astro-turf.

All in all, then, a somewhat lacklustre record: but the boys played with typical enthusiasm and good sportsmanship. Let us hope that our improved pitches will enable their successors to put energy and principles into practice.

RCRM

Results

	A	B
Southampton	L 2-0	
Radley	L 7-0	L 2-0
RGS U14	W 6-2	
St. Edward's	D 2-2	L 5-1
Reading U14	L 1-0	
Bloxham	L 1-0	L 5-0
Ox. Boys U14	W 7-0	
MCS, Bradfield, Pangbourne, Shiplake	cancelled	

STAFF HOCKEY MATCH

M.C.S. 0 ABINGDON 3

This match followed the usual pattern of previous encounters. From the whistle the young M.C.S. side surged forward and might well have scored inside the first few minutes. We soon settled, however, and slowly, but surely, took control. Drummond-Hay and Revill provided a solid defence, while Taylor, Page, Payne and Wilmore took control of the mid-field. Some nice interchanges began to develop and the M.C.S. defence looked decidedly leaky. A short corner was won and Finch pushed accurately out to Wilmore and calmly worked the return pass across the face of the M.C.S. goal. Coleman was on hand to snap up the chance. More attacks followed and a short corner shot was glanced over the bar by a defender's stick. The long corner was taken quickly and in the resulting goal-mouth scramble, Watkins forced the ball home. The best move of the game followed shortly afterwards, but with Bigmore moving in from the left to surely score, the umpire mistakenly awarded offside. M.C.S. could only manage occasional raids on the Abingdon goal, but Broadbent was in such fine form that nothing came of them.



In the second half play became more scrappy as both sides tired. M.C.S. relied on the long pass and Abingdon were noticeably slower to the ball. An unfortunate decision cost M.C.S. a goal,

while at Hofton's end a good Abingdon move ended when Watkins crashed in the third goal. The remainder of the game had little worthy of note and a minor 'incident' involving Drummond-Hay almost went unnoticed. Post-match conversation centred around the performance of the new 'striker' and the inevitable comparisons with others, who have served in this role!

PJW



HOUSE MATCHES

Once again the house matches were played to a successful conclusion. Most participants enjoyed themselves despite the rather one-sided nature of the competitions. Trotman's proved to be too strong in both sections and their A and B sides scored maximum points. In the senior section Pages came second, while in the junior section the Boarders were the runners-up.

PJW

League Tables

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
A TEAMS							
AFT	4	4	0	0	19	4	8
RSP	4	2	1	1	10	8	5
BDRS	4	2	0	2	3	7	4
RCBC	4	1	1	2	6	3	3
HTR	4	0	0	4	2	17	0
B TEAMS							
AFT	4	4	0	0	15	1	8
BDRS	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
HTR	4	1	1	2	6	12	3
RSP	4	0	2	2	4	8	2
RCBC	4	0	2	2	3	10	2



FIRST XI

With several members of last year's team present once again, expectations of a successful season were high. There was a lot of depth in the side, both in terms of batting and bowling and things began very well with comfortable victories over St. Edward's, M.C.S. and Douai early on. The scalp of Radley should also have been added, but having bowled and fielded superbly to restrict them to 129, the middle order batting collapsed when the game was there to be won with the score at 70 for 2, and in the end the team had to settle for a draw.

Unfortunately the team were unable to continue this encouraging start through the middle part of the season. One reason for this was the negative approach of the opposition who, far too frequently, appeared over cautious to ensure they avoided defeat, and never seemed to

contemplate the idea of trying to produce a reasonable contest, which in turn would have enhanced both teams chances of success. This became more and more frustrating as the season progressed, and led to numerous drawn games which were incredibly tedious to watch and no doubt to play in too.

Another factor in the mid-season lapse was the disruption created by the irregularity of fixtures and the pressures of public examinations on all but one of the regular team members. This made practising very awkward, which in turn meant several players were not performing with any consistency during this period.

However, things began to improve towards the end of the season, with some entertaining games taking place during 'cricket week'. The team gained victories over N.H. Payne's XI (30 over

game), U.C.S. Hampstead and the OA's, and although they also lost 3 games, against High Wycombe, M.C.C. and S.O.A.'s, there was no disgrace in the defeats, which arose through the team's positive attempts to pursue victory.

The final statistics of 6 victories and 3 defeats from 17 games indicates a reasonably successful season, especially under the circumstances, although after such an excellent start one would have hoped for slightly better.

Considering the depth of batting the team had (7 players made at least one half century during the season), the biggest disappointment was the inconsistency of the team's performance with the bat. A lot seemed to depend on the first 3 batsmen of Don Stanley, James Tilley and Ed Tilley, who were the only ones to score runs with any sort of regularity, and if they failed, the team as a whole tended to struggle. However, in the defence of the middle order batsmen, more often than not they found themselves in the difficult position of coming in and being required to score runs quickly right from the onset. Thus they had very little time to play themselves in properly, but this certainly was not always the case.

However, the accuracy and consistency of the seam bowling throughout the season was most pleasing, and coupled with some excellent fielding in general, meant the opposition were under constant pressure and only a handful of batsmen all season managed to overcome this and take control of the bowling. The only problem with this approach occurred against the less adventurous teams, who appeared content to play for the draw (even when batting first!), and here there was a need for greater variety in the attack. Consequently, the lack of a senior spinner proved costly, and the team were unable to dismiss these sides quickly enough to produce a realistic chance of achieving victory.

This was the last season for a large number of the side, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the time and effort they have dedicated to school cricket over the years and to wish them well in the future. As a result, next years team will be very young, but a few have already had at least one full season in the side and will have gained a great deal of experience from this year's events, whilst several others had a taste of First XI cricket and acquitted themselves well enough to suggest they are capable of continuing in a successful vain.

Finally, I would like to thank Ed. Tilley and Don Stanley for their roles in the leadership of the team, and Mrs. Tilley and the rest of the mothers for their excellent teas.

AMB

RESULTS

P 17	W 6	L 3	D 8
Pangbourne	Drew		
Pa. 158-8d.			
Ab. 99-5	J. Tilley 36*		
St. Edward's	Won by 29 runs		
Ab. 130			
St. E. 101	H. Wilkinson 3-23		
	P. Page 3-26		
	B. Marnane 3-27		
MCS	Won by 6 wickets		
MCS 150	J. Tilley 4-34		
	B. Marnane 3-35		
Ab. 153-4	D. Stanley 82		
Oratory	Drew		
Or. 172	P. Page 3-25		
	B. Marnane 3-41		
Ab. 93-5	J. Tilley 48		
Douai	Won by 10 wickets		
Do. 113	N. Pree 5-22		
	J. Tilley 4-41		

Ab. 114-0	J. Tilley 58*		
	D. Stanley 52*		
Radley	Drew		
Ra. 129	J. Wallace 5-28		
Ab. 107-8	E. Tilley 36		
Berkhamsted	Drew		
Be. 169-7d.	E. Tilley 3-25		
Ab. 106-8			
Berks. Gents	Drew		
Ab. 243-9d.	P. Page 56		
	R. Taylor 46		
B.G. 200-8	B. Marnane 5-67		
Bloxham	Drew		
Bl. 160-8d.			
Ab. 83-4	E. Tilley 35*		
Reading	Drew		
R. 252-8d.	J. Wallace 4-57		
	L. Allen 3-74		
Ab. 243-6	D. Stanley 79		
	E. Tilley 73		
	J. Tilley 39		

RGS	Lost by 8 wkts.		
Ab. 170-4d.	R. Taylor 99		
	M. Gordon 31*		
RGS 171-2			
M.C.C.	Lost by 56 runs		
MCC 195-6d.	P. Page 3-58		
Ab. 139	E. Tilley 63		
	J. Wilkinson 35		
30 over game			
N.H. Payne's XI	Won by 19 runs		
Ab. 142-8	J. Allen 36		
NHP 123-7	L. Golding 3-43		
UCS Hamp.	Won by 6 wkts.		
UCS 152-9d.	L. Golding 5-41		
Ab. 153-4	J. Tilley 61*		
	D. Stanley 33		
Highgate	Drew		
Ab. 220	J. Allen 61		
	D. Stanley 42		
H. 170-6			
O.A.'s	Won by 4 wkts.		
OA's 209-7d.			
Ab. 212-6	D. Stanley 57		
	E. Tilley 57		
	B. Marnane 45		
S.O. Amateurs	Lost by 5 wkts.		
Ab. 231-3d.	D. Stanley 83		
	J. Taylor 58*		
	E. Tilley 49		
SOA 235-5	D. Stanley 3-34		



The photograph, courtesy of the Daily Telegraph shows Mr. Mitra in fine batting style, and was amusingly captioned as follows:

The Rector of Abingdon School, Munna Mitra, hits out on his way to a score of 58 which helped Oxford to beat Rochester for the second consecutive year, in the final of the Church Times Inter-Diocesan competition at Southgate, North London.

Averages Batting

	PI	Inns	N.O.	Runs	H-S	AV'GE
J. Allen	14	10	0	173	61	17.30.
L. Golding	5	2	1	8	6	8.00.
M. Gordon	15	14	2	234	31*	19.50.
A. Harding	4	3	2	38	17*	38.00.
J. Johnstone	17	7	2	24	13*	4.80.
B. Marnane	9	6	2	54	45	13.50.
P. Page	17	13	3	144	56	14.40.
E. Paleit	6	3	2	10	6*	10.00.
D. Stanley	17	17	1	527	83	32.94.
J. Taylor	6	5	1	102	58*	25.50.
R. Taylor	5	4	0	169	99	42.25.
E. Tilley	17	16	1	397	73	26.46.
J. Tilley	14	14	4	355	61*	35.50.
J. Wallace	13	2	1	1	1*	1.00.
H. Wilkinson	11	8	3	70	24	14.00.
J. Wilkinson	9	5	1	54	35	13.50.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Ave
J. Allen	68	6	286	9	31.78
L. Golding	53	10	150	10	15.00
M. Gordon	5	0	33	1	33.00
B. Marnane	105.4	24	322	17	18.94
P. Page	205.2	50	494	25	19.76
N. Pree	40	11	122	8	15.25
D. Stanley	20	2	79	4	19.75
E. Tilley	82.2	17	285	7	40.71
J. Tilley	46.5	7	229	10	22.90
J. Wallace	147	38	407	18	22.61
H. Wilkinson	70.2	19	246	14	17.57

2ND. XI

Results: P 7 W2 D3 L2

In a season curtailed by fixture losses and examinations, so that only three matches were played after half term, the 2nd. XI showed great promise and an open-minded approach to the game. The squad which practised in late April was formidably equipped with batting, to the extent that the lower middle order could be chosen from players of the calibre of L. Golding, J. Wilkinson, G. Ogden, C. Martin and D. Johnson; the bowling was solid, spearheaded by N. Pree, but was 'traditionally' weak in the spin department.

The opening three matches saw Abingdon bat first and compile an abundance of runs. Against Pangbourne everything ran in our favour, J. Taylor making an undefeated 101 to establish a supremacy which was compounded as N. Pree took 6 - 10 to rout the opposition for 17! At MCS it was the turn of E. Paleit (72) and M. Scott-Brown (47) to build a platform for victory, but on a slow pitch we could only capture 6 wickets; the Oratory game was similar, C. Ogden (59 n.o.), E. Paleit (57) and J. Hill (51 n.o.) all batting attractively but the attack being able to take only 4 wickets one the opposition had decided to 'dig in'. The Berkhamsted match was the best of the season; we restricted their powerful batting to 158 - 8 dec. and, led by J. Taylor (54) embarked on a run chase at 5 per over; unfortunately the openers "self-destruct mechanism" cut in at a critical moment and we were left 15 runs short with 3 wickets standing.

After half term the side was much depleted by the demands of the 1st. XI and on batting lost its air of invincibility. Against Bloxham we were bowled out for 138 with only L. Golding (46) showing the selectivity required for 'permanence'; our second string bowling could not tax the opposition sufficiently to prevent a 5 wicket defeat; for a similar reason we lost to RGS High Wycombe after declaring at 150 - 5 with J. Taylor (66) again the mainstay of our innings. The final match against the O.A.'s saw a return to earlier ways, a punishing 75 from A. Harding putting the match beyond the reach of the 'eclectically' talented old boys.

Overall, the side displayed much practical and excellent spirit, the latter largely due to the example of the captain, M. Scott-Brown. It is not always easy to play at this particular level, when many of the matches lack the intensity of those at Colts and 1st. XI standard and when the team is seldom settled for any length of time. I trust that the bowlers have learned a little more of the need for concentration and more judicious choice of stroke; it has been a pleasure to see this psychological aspect of their games developing, albeit somewhat erratically!

JFH



THE THIRD XI

The Third Eleven started the season with one of the strongest squads we have had for some time. An easy win over Douai, Simon Newton 52 n.o., and Keith Sadler capturing seven wickets in nine overs, gave us an excellent start, and we had high hopes for a splendid season. Although this early form evaporated as the season progressed, the Third XI was never outmatched, giving a good account of itself.

The highlights for me were Keith's seven wickets in the first match and also a Bothamlike attack on the bowling against Oratory. Simon Newton well deserved his two 50's and Robin Murdoch changed from bowler to batsman for a sparkling 20 against Berkhamsted. Finally, Barry Gale gave us an indication of what was to follow later in the international matches with some spin bowling.

Capt.: S. Newton
V. Capt.: P. Johnson
AJM

JUNIOR COLTS

The Junior Colts cricket season has been one of outstanding success. In fact more matches have been won than any other Junior Colts side of the past seventeen years and perhaps beyond that. The final record of p.10, w.8, d.1, l.1 is a record to be proud of. The only defeat was in the quarter finals of the Lord Taverner's to Wellington College, the eventual winners of the national competition. Scores in this competition against Wellington show Abingdon to have been their most difficult opponents.

The team relied on its three main strengths in winning matches - a long batting line-up, accurate bowling and competent fielding. Captaincy and good team spirit were also major factors. Paul Engwell, with Adam Janisch in support, excelled as a captain, and has been a great help in getting the best out of all players in the matches and practice sessions. Sensible bowling changes and shrewd field placing is the captain's main responsibility, but Paul had the added weapon of keeping all players alert and enthusiastic in the field - no easy task!

The long batting line-up had its advantages and disadvantages. The in-form top order batsmen scored enough runs between them to give the bowlers enough time to get sides out. This resulted in the 'middle order' often being deprived of a bat, or going in for the 'slog' before the declaration.

The opening partnership of Alex Smith and/or Nick Watts and Andrew Harding gave the foundation to the innings, and often went on to build the winning total. Alex, hampered by his back injury, scored 400+ runs for the season in five innings, at an unbelievable average of 203! His strength lay in his concentration, and ability to hit the loose ball, which on Upper Field often resulted in a six. His best shots are off the back foot, and if he can use his feet more when playing forward, he will enjoy many more hours at the crease in the future.

Nick's main strength is his power of concentration. He is a difficult player to get out because there are few unforced errors in his repertoire of shots. In the 'short game', and particularly at the beginning of his innings, his style of play can appear negative, but Nick very soon embarrassed his critics, and no one more than his coach, by his quick acceleration once he had got his eye in! I have been particularly encouraged by the improvement in his straight driving during the season and there is every possibility that Nick will score even more runs next season.

Andrew Harding is another very accomplished batsman who times the ball well, and his 52 n.o. against Berkhamsted was one of the best innings of the season. His only weakness is rather too much use of the right hand and the miss-hook off the back foot to the low short ball! I have every confidence that he will emerge as

one of the leading batsmen in the first XI of the future.

Adam Janisch, promoted up the order to no.3, emerged as the most improved batsman in the team. He must work hard on his calling and running between the wicket, otherwise he will run out of partners! If Adam improves next year, as much as he has done this season, it would not surprise me if he reserves a regular place in the First XI.

Paul Engwell will be disappointed with his batting this season as he has the potential to score lots of runs. On so many occasions he has looked like building the big innings, but then a rush of blood, or temporary lack of concentration, brings about his downfall. This was not the case, however, in the last match of the season against High Wycombe where a modest target from the opposition denied Paul his fifty.

David Allison, like Paul, wants to force the run rate irrespective of the type of delivery. I hope he has learnt his lesson this season that patience in the end will prevail. David is one of few batsmen who uses his feet and times the ball well, and if he were to concentrate, he has more potential in his batting than perhaps he realises.

Stephen Ruhl, Tim Jephson, Chris Morgan and Chris Busby were not really given the opportunity to show their true batting potential, but all made useful contributions.

Alastair Mills, Ben Gannon and Daniel Hartley, dubbed as tail-enders, have shown that they certainly can bat and all have enjoyed important innings Alastair's 21 runs against Warborough, Ben's 20 against Wellington, and Daniel's 18 against John Mason. Daniel has been the team's main wicket taker. He is a shrewd bowler relying on movement off the wicket and change of pace. Most of his 31 victories fell to his yorker and slower ball, and on his day, he is capable of tying up the best of batsmen.

Andrew Harding's extra pace and good length have rewarded him with 23 wickets this season. He is a natural all-rounder and although he has had more success with the bat this season, he is the bowler the captain would call upon to break a partnership. Ben Gannon has perhaps the most potential of the three quick bowlers. With his fluid action he

has the ability to produce the unplayable ball. As he matures in strength and confidence, he will be a very dangerous strike bowler. David Allison and Adam Janisch also bowled well this season, as did James Weedon, Alastair Mills, Tim Jephson, and Tom Moloney. Given the chance in the future, all are very capable of taking wickets.

The team's fielding ranged from amazingly pathetic (seven catches dropped against Douai) to amazingly good (seven catches held against Douai in the same match!) The fielding certainly improved as the season progressed, and

good fielding won the Haberdasher's Aske's and Bloxham games. Paul Engwell was a most reliable keeper and, contrary to his beliefs, certainly has the ability to keep wicket at senior level.

All in all, this was a season to remember, where the top order batsmen and main strike bowlers stole the honours, and all other players in the squad made their contribution.

My thanks to Richard Taylor, still unforgiven for being caught on 99 in the First XI game against High

Wycombe, but remembered for his catching in the Common Room games. His dedication and enthusiasm made an impact on the team, and we all wish him well on his return to Australia.

JD-H

The following played for the team:

P. Engwell (Captain) A. Janisch (V. Capt.)
A. Smith, N. Watts, A. Harding,
B. Gannon, D. Hartley, D. Allison,
T. Jephson, S. Ruhl, J. Weedon, T. Moloney,
C. Busby, C. Morgan, A. Mills.
Also played in the Lord Taverner's Games:
B. Fuggles, L. List

Results		P 9	W 8	D 1	L 1
Pangbourne	Won by 156 runs	A. 189 - 1	A. Smith 119 n.o. N. Watts 35 n.o. D. Hartley 6 - 6 A. Harding 2 - 2		
P.33					
MCS	Won by 101 runs	A. 197 - 4	A. Smith 123 n.o. A. Harding 5 - 32 P. Engwell 39 D. Hartley 4 - 43		
MCS 96					
Oratory	Won by 4 wkts.	O. 168 - 9	B. Gannon 4 - 50 A. Harding 3 - 40 A. Smith 71		
A. 169 - 6					

Douai	Won by 7 wkts.	
D. 98	A. Harding 4 - 11 B. Gannon 3 - 63	
A.99 - 3	A. Harding 34A Janisch 24	
Berkhamsted	Won by 10 wkts.	
B.114	D. Hartley 3 - 29 A. Harding 3 - 48 N. Watts 57 n.o. A. Harding 52 n.o.	
A. 118 - 0		
Bloxham	Won by 100 runs	
A. 183 - 5 B. 83	N. Watts 100 n.o. B. Gannon 3 - 43 D. Hartley 3 - 43	
John Mason	Won by 22 runs	
A. 144	A. Harding 36 P. Engwell 24 A. Janisch 21 D. Allison 3 - 18 D. Hartley 2 - 20 A. Harding 2 - 22	
J.M. 122		
Warborough	Draw	
A. 105	A. Janisch 21 A. Mills 21	
W. 104 - 5		
High Wycombe	Won by 9 wkts.	
H.W. 139	D. Hartley 5 - 38 D. Allison 3 - 37 A. Smith 77 n.o. P. Engwell 36 n.o.	
A. 142 - 1		
Other Games:		
Habs'. Aske's	Won by 1 run	
A. 181 - 6	A. Harding 43 D. Allison 37 B. Gannon 3 - 23	
H.A. 180		
Well. College	Lost by 8 wkts.	
A. 180 - 9 W. 192 - 2	N. Watts 80 A. Harding 2 - 43	

JUNIORS CRICKET

For a team that relied heavily on the contribution of two or three individuals, particularly in batting, the playing record was very respectable. However, being able to call on three under age U-15 players for the Lord's Taverners matches, considerably strengthened the side, so it was a major disappointment that we failed to retain the trophy won so excitingly the previous year.

We fell narrowly to Radley College in the semi-final having trounced weak opposition in the earlier rounds. Choosing to bat first on what turned out to be a poor wicket unworthy of such an important match, proved to be the decisive factor in a tight, low scoring game. Even then, if two vital catches had been taken, one of the 'sitter' variety, victory could well have been ours.

Possibly our best performance of the season was against old rivals MCS where dogged batting by the tail lifted our total to 122 and then, much to his and everyone else's surprise and delight, Richard Haynes ripped through the MCS line-up in his only protracted bowl of the summer.

Throughout the summer Luke List



was the mainstay of the batting, just failing to reach a century on no less than three occasions. A fine stroke player with a sound defensive technique and a very competitive nature, he will clearly be a heavy scorer at school, county and even higher level, particularly if he can curb a tendency to play the odd extravagant shot early in an innings. His opening partner, Tom Pollard, also of U-13 age, was an ideal foil. Although minutes at the crease far outweighed runs scored he featured in many excellent partnerships, including an opening stand of 118 at Bloxham; probably the best batting of the season. His strengths are his ability to play straight and an apparently unflappable temperament. As he gains in strength and further develops his range of strokes the runs will inevitably flow. The other main contributor with the bat was the captain, Ben Fuggles. He is a fine timer of the ball, exuding much confidence, but too often promising innings were cut short by over ambitious shots. Guy Horton was somewhat unlucky to occupy the problem number three position and as yet has not quite the technique required, but the potential is there. Tom Stanworth can strike the ball powerfully but poor footwork and shot selection let him down too often. Richard Haynes has quite a solid defence but his range of strokes is very limited at present. Brian Marnane is very watchful but rather restricted, whereas Sheridan Lord appears to lack the concentration and commitment required to utilise his ability.

The bowling showed far more depth and variety. The opening attack of Fuggles and List was penetrative, accurate, and at times hostile, and should be a real force in the future. Able support came from the 'find' of the season, Jonathan Winterbottom, who was 'rescued' from the Boat Club. Although his action is far from 'Hadleean' his natural away swing

caused all batsmen problems. Rowan Browne, with his prodigious leg breaks, was a match winner on several occasions, and given the right encouragement could become a fine bowler, as well as a useful lower order batsman. Richard Haynes has a nice 'loop' to his offspin but needs to be bowled more in match situations if he is fulfil his potential. Others who could develop as stock bowlers are Horton and Marnane who both have good actions and Stanworth, whose less orthodox style caused him control problems and a subsequent loss of confidence.

Nick Woodward kept wicket for most of the season, until injured and unavailable. He has a good pair of hands but needs to work hard on his footwork and be more prepared to tidy up inaccurate throws. The U-13 keeper, Robert Finch, stood in for the last three matches, including the semi-final, and looked the part with some very neat displays. Some of the fielding was most impressive; Horton, Fuggles and List in particular taking the eye although this is part of the game that all could work on profitably.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the season was the enthusiasm of those members of the squad who had few games but always attended practices and were prepared to fill in at short notice, often to travel long distances with little chance of a bat or bowl. The likes of Barnaby Ulyatt, Ben Uttenthal and Matthew Porter were fine examples of boys who are the backbone of school cricket, and who make taking a team such a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

The following are to be congratulated on their selection for the Oxfordshire Schools (OSCA) and Oxfordshire Clubs (OCCA) sides:

Ben Fuggles at U-14 level and Luke List (capt.), Tom Pollard and Robert Finch at U-13 level.

Finally my thanks again to PJW for his expert assistance with both coaching and umpiring, and to Richard Haynes for his meticulously compiled computerised statistics.

RPF

Regular Players

B. Fuggles (capt.), L. List, T. Pollard, G. Horton, T. Stanworth, R. Browne, B. Marnane, R. Haynes, J. Winterbottom, N. Woodward, S. Lord.

Also Played

A. Janisch (Lords Taverners matches), N. Watts (Lords Taverners matches), B. Gannon (Lords Taverners matches), B. Ulyatt, B. Uttenthal, R. Finch, M. Porter, M. Woodward, P. Jupp.

Results

	P14	W7	D3	L4
Pangbourne	Draw			
A 136-5 d.			List 94	
P 75-5			List 3-24	
Cokethorpe	Won by 4 wickets			
C 81			List 4-24	
A 83-6			Janisch 37	
MCS	Won by 60 runs			
A 122			List 42	
MCS 62			Haynes 5-14	
Oratory	Lost by 8 wickets			
A 98-5 d.			Fuggles 42	
O 99-2				
Douai	Won by 67 runs			
A 167-7 d.			List 91	
D 100			Fuggles 5-25	
Berkhamsted	Lost by 5 wickets			
A 112				
B 115-5			List 3-30	
Warriner *	Won by 10 wickets			
W 95			Gannon 4-9	
A 96-0			Watts 35 n.o.	
			List 34 n.o.	
Bloxham	Draw			
A 176-5 d.			List 67	
			Pollard 51	
B 137-7				
Gosford Hill *	Won by 10 wickets			
GH 43			Browne 5-9	
A 44-0				
Oxford School	Won by 73 runs			
A 139-3 d.			List 89	
O 66			List 5-20	
			Browne 3-20	
Reading	Draw			
A 112				
R 100-9			Winterbottom 5-35	
			Browne 3-19	
Camel U15	Won by 7 wickets			
C 54			Winterbottom 4-21	
			Browne 3-3	
A 57-3				
Radley *(S.f.)	Lost by 3 wickets			
A 87-9 (35 overs)				
R 88-7				
RGS	Lost by 6 wickets			
A 115				
RGS 117-4				

* Lords Taverners Trophy matches



JUNIORS; LEADING AVERAGES						
BATTING	Ins.	N.O.	Rs.	H.S.	Ave.	
List	12	2	488	94	48.8	
Fuggles	9	1	157	42	19.6	
Pollard	12	1	182	51	16.5	
Stanworth	11	3	80	21*	10.0	
(Qualification:- 5 completed innings)						
BOWLING	O	M	R	W	Best	Ave.
Browne	61.2	5	230	23	5-9	10.0
Winterbottom	54.4	9	164	15	5-35	10.9
List	116	29	283	23	5-20	12.3
Fuggles	101	24	217	16	5-25	13.6

UNDER 13

The summer 1990 season heralded mixed fortunes for the U-13 XI. The opening match against Oratory School, in which rain cut the game down to fifteen overs each way, saw Abingdon struggling to make 36 runs, and led to a rather miserable defeat. To Abingdon's credit they put this game firmly behind them to win their opening match in the 'Morland Cup' knockout competition against Wood Green School by 10 wickets. From then onward the season progressed well, Abingdon's figures ending on; played 10, won 5, drawn 2 and lost 3. The high spot of the season was undoubtedly the successful defence of the Morland Cup in the final against Temple Cowley School. Throughout the summer it was particularly gratifying to see the unswerving enthusiasm and tenacity of the squad. Robert Finch was a very fine captain leading very much from the front, whilst keeping behind the wicket! His final batting average of 38.6 runs is a clear indication of his considerable ability as a batsman, whilst as wicket keeper he showed himself in a class well ahead of the opposition. He commanded respect and admiration from the squad. Tom Pollard played a key role in the majority of the Abingdon victories. His batting prowess cannot be doubted, as he ends the season with an average of 40.1 runs. Coupled with his natural courage and concentration he is developing into a formidable batsman. Both Tom Pollard and Robert Finch have earned added distinction by representing the County, both the Oxfordshire Schools, and Oxfordshire County teams. This brings great credit both to themselves and to the school. Martin Diamond is also emerging as a fine all-rounder. He ended the season with an average of 31.7 runs, the result of much concentration and tenacity at the stumps. David Melin and Christopher Drake produced some excellent bowling figures for the season. Plenty of practice should see them on their way to considerable success as they go through the school. A special word of thanks also goes to Luke List who

played for the team in the Morland Cup matches. He is a fine player, who gave the team a great deal of confidence. Also special thanks to Andrew Callaghan who scored for the side in all the matches, and showed unwavering loyalty. On a

cautionary note, the team will need to improve their skills on the field. Too many needless runs were given away, and too many opposition batsmen remained in when they should have been on their way.

It only remains for me to commend the whole team for their effort. They have a great future ahead of them.

TJS

The Team: T. Pollard, M. Diamond, R. Finch, A. Walker, R. Duncan, M. Pajak, D. Melin, D. Thomas, M. Cooke, T. Porter, C. Drake, T. Wragg, C. Purcell, L. List. (Morland Cup Matches.)

A. Callaghan (Scorer/player)
Averages

Batting

T. Pollard: 40.2 runs, including 48 vs. High Wycombe, 50 n.o. vs. Warriner, 65 n.o. vs. Temple Cowley.

R. Finch: 38.6 runs, including 51 n.o. vs. Berkhamsted.

M. Diamond: 31.7 runs including 52 vs. Priors Court.

Bowling

Runs per wicket

L. List 5.25, D. Melin 11.86, C. Drake 12.33.



Inter-form Road Relay

In the early 1960's, the cross country club used to finish the season by taking part in one or two road relays by way of relaxation. However, Aubrey Smart, Governor and parent, saw these as opportunities for the school to make a name for itself, and suggested an internal race in January as a means of discovering talent and creating enthusiasm for the necessary training. If I approved, he would provide a team trophy. In those days the whole school population was divided vertically into four athletic houses — Bennett, Blacknall, Reeves and Tesdale — so obviously the new competition would be inter-house, and to encourage interest by all age groups, the teams of four were to be made up of Senior, Junior, Intermediate, Senior. The Takeover and Finish would be south of the Library (Big School in those days) and each runner would do a double lap of Albert—Park and—Upper-Field keeping to the tarmac and the gravel. To avoid a dangerous scramble at School House Corner, the Start would be at the Well Head - a most convenient landmark which made the first lap the same length as all the others. The inaugural race was held on 23/1/67. Bennett House won the handsome "Smart Cup" in 36:22, the

only team out of 15 not to be lapped by student master and international athlete Fergus Murray whose one—man team time of 33:02 has yet to be beaten. Houses continued to enter about four teams each until 1975 when the athletic house system folded, and the relay became "inter-form" with "separate" competitions in each age group and double the number of competing teams. By this time, due to increased traffic round Park Crescent, runners were allowed to run on the grass verge. The advent of middle school houses in 1978 saw house teams replace tutor group teams in these age groups, but the essence of peer group rivalry coupled with the possibility of comparisons with other year groups and MCR teams, seems to have been an attractive formula, and on several occasions extra batons have had to be hastily cut from old broom handles just prior to the race. This increased participation by teams of widely differing abilities caused considerable problems for the judges who were still trying to time each of the 8 laps while coping with multiple lapping, the odd funny guy who insisted on wearing his number somewhere else, and enthusiastic spectators obstructing their view. Making sense of the results not infrequently led to a burning of the midnight oil. So in 1988 the course was slightly changed. At the end of his first circuit, each runner now by—passes the change-over by going north of the Chapel, across

Royse's Alley at the kitchens, to rejoin Park Crescent by the grass tennis courts. This shortens the course very slightly, so previous times can still be regarded as valid for record purposes.

Teams:	
House - Bennett	34:59 (1969)
Tutor Group:	
VIP & 6E	34:28 (1988/90)
One-man:	
Fergus Murray	33:02 (1967)
Individual:	
Sixth Form:	
Nick Smart	7:53 (1969)
Fifth Form:	
Ian Cullen	8:21 (1975)
Fourth Form:	
Julian Day	8:46 (1986)
Third Form:	
Robert Walker	8:29 (1989)
Second Form:	
Matthew Gillan	9:11 (1985)
First Form:	
Justin Hemsley	9:40 (1982)
Other one-man teams which have finished ahead of the field: NAFF (1971); P Flavel, OCAC, (1974); Richard Hingley (1975)	

In 1989 Julian Day came very close to the record with 7:58. In doing so he came even closer to the school maintenance vehicle and the latter lost its wing mirror. Mounted on a wedge of Blenheim beech, "Jules' Wing" now makes an attractive and unusual trophy for the fastest lap. Some day, perhaps, Abingdon will make a name for itself by coming first in a whole series of major inter—school relays, but whether we do or not, our own inter-form justifies itself. With sixty-three teams competing this year, it has become by far the biggest voluntary sporting event in the school year.

RHB



Ed Newey displays the 'Jules' Wing' trophy

Cross-Country

As is often the case, the Cross Country Club enjoyed a season of generally sound results, with one or two outstanding team performances, and the occasional dissent to the opprobrium of defeat. Unfortunately, the first match against the Haberdashers' Aske's school fell into the latter category, mainly because of a rather severe lack of fitness on the Abingdon side. Nevertheless, the season continued successfully with victories over RGS High Wycombe and Watford on two occasions, and also over Bradfield and Tiffin. The two losses against Warwick and Marlborough were mainly attributable to the outbreak of flu, which at one point restricted the U15 team to two people: low even by Cross-Country Club standards!

The highlight of the term was the excellent performance by the six-man U-20 team in the Doctor Challoner's Relay.



Mini Triathlon Challenge

The first Abingdon School Mini Triathlon was held on Thursday fifth July 1990. The twelve participants, mostly lower sixth formers, and Mr. Milner, tutor of 6M, gathered at the school swimming pool before the start of the race. The triathlon consists of three disciplines: swimming, cycling and running which have to be completed in that order. This event tests the mental and physical endurance of a person. The event started at 3.45 pm with a gruelling ten length swim. J. Dorkings was the first on the starting blocks. Participants were sent off every minute as the school swimming pool could not accommodate all of them at once.

After the swim, the participants had to move on to the cycling part of the course which was five and a half laps of Waste Court Field. Then finally they finished by running twice around the park and back to the sports hall which was the finishing point. Participants could not rest or waste time changing gear between the disciplines as they were timed from the beginning of the swimming until the end of the running.

The competition for first place was between J. Smythe, B. Clothier, W. Razly and J. Dearman. W. Razly was the fastest swimmer, J. Dearman and J. Smythe the top two cyclists and B. Clothier the fastest runner. J. Dearman had the strongest determination of all and managed to overcome the physical exhaustion to push his body to the limit to win in a record time of 17.59. W. Razly, B. Clothier and J. Smythe followed after with only a few seconds separating the four of them.

I would like to take this opportunity to Mr. Baker who helped run the event on the day and for his entertaining commentary on the race through the loud speakers, Mr. Hunter for helping to organize the event, Mr. Drummond-Hay for being the official starter on the day and all the boys who helped out to make this event a success.

W. Razly 6M

The school came fifth out of eighteen teams in this, one of the toughest relay events in southern England. The term ended with the County AAA's Championships, in which Matthew Deacon, Jonathan Smythe, Edmund Newey (U-20), Robert Walker (U-17) and Robert Duncan (U-15) were all selected for the County.

The U-20 team had a slow start to the Lent term, but the U15's scored a resounding victory over Fitzharry's gaining seven out of the top ten positions. This set the tone for the seniors in a series of good runs in the Oxford University Tortoises Relays, the Merchant Taylors' meeting and the Bagnall trophy at Highgate. This last event was the club's greatest success of the year, as the U-20 squad of Deacon, Newey, Smythe and Webster beat all twelve opposing teams with the exception of Doctor Challoner's Grammar School, one of the top teams in the country. On this occasion all four Abingdon runners finished within thirty seconds of each other in an admirable team performance.

Sadly, the club failed to keep to this form against Berkhamsted and in the RGS Worcester Relay, but the inter-school season ended on a suitably amicable note in the RGS High Wycombe "Friendly Relay", in which each team is composed of runners from different schools. The captain repeated his success of the previous year in running for the victorious team, thus collecting a highly sought after commemorative T-shirt, much to the mortification of his fellow Abingdonians.

The 1990 Road Relay was won by 6JE, in a time of 34 minutes 28 seconds which equalled the record for the new course. VIP, the self-appointed pre-race favourites, were beaten into third place by a fast staff team. The other year-group winners were 5AFT (7th), 4AFT (11th), 3HTR (16th), 2RHB (34th), and 1AMS (25th). Amongst the individual times, Andrew Deane's 9 minutes 53 seconds established a new, and extremely fast

first year record. The season was rounded off by Old Abingdonian match on the Sunningwell course, in which the school team gained the first five places. The sixth man home was Richard Harvey, winner of the very first race held on this course back in 1958.

In the Michaelmas term Full Colours were awarded to Matthew Deacon and Edmund Newey, and Half Colours to Jon Smythe, Mark Gelder and Ian Dalley. Mark Webster was awarded Half Colours in the Lent term. Recognition should also go to fourth former Rob Walker for his fine runs for the Senior Team, and to Darran Chadwick for his valuable contribution in the Michaelmas term.

Many thanks to Mr. Barrett, Mr. Ellis and Mr. Pritchard, and in particular to Mr. Baker, whose help, support and organisation made the season so enjoyable for all.

Club Championships:

Michaelmas			Lent		
1st	M. Deacon	102	1st	E. Newey	
2nd	E. Newey	96	2nd	J. Smythe	
3rd	J. Smythe	78	3rd	M. Deacon	

Regular Team members: M. Deacon (capt.), E. Newey (sec.), M. Gelder, J. Smythe, R. Walker, I. Dalley, D. Chadwick, M. Webster, M. Eyre-Brook, R. Duncan, P. Huggill.

E. Newey VIC

Triathlon Results:

NAME	T/G	SWIM	BIKE	RUN	TOTAL	POS.
J. Dorkings	6M	6:52	4:14	9:33	20:39	6th
A. Himpson	6M	6:46	5:00	12:46	24:32	11th
M. Buckley	6P	7:00	5:17	9:55	22:12	8th
J. Richards	6C	6:34	5:16	11:11	23:01	9th
I. Calderbank	6C	5:25	4:39	10:15	20:19	5th
J. Smythe	6H	5:51	3:59	8:52	18:42	4th
J. Whetter	6T	6:38	5:23	12:57	24:58	12th
J. Dearman	6T	4:17	3:49	9:53	17:59	1st
B. Clothier	6T	4:30	5:05	8:46	18:21	3rd
W. Razly	6M	3:40	5:00	9:37	18:17	2nd
R. Milner Esq..	MCR	7:06	4:46	12:12	24:04	10th
P. Mildenhall	6E	6:05	5:08	10:16	21:29	7th



Tennis

The 1st. VI had the now traditionally disappointing start to the season with a close defeat to MCS in the opening match 3-5 - 5-5. Three days later came the match against Oratory, and again the team did not have it together, losing by the dismal score of 2-7. The team knew it could do better and was eager for a victory. A winning streak ensued with well deserved victories over Bloxham, RGS Worcester, Carmel College and Shiplake. The Pangbourne match was a very even affair with the result decided by the last set of the final match in which Nick Hodgson and Cyrus Nikkhah fought back incredibly to win the tie-break and the match for Abingdon. The finale to the 1st. VI calendar (apart from the encounter with the O.A.'s on the last day of term) was the Radley match which was played in awful weather conditions and on an unfamiliar (to us) all-weather surface. A 1-8 loss resulted which was disappointing as we could have played so much better if a steady temperament had been maintained throughout.

The junior VI's worked hard and were unlucky to finish with a tally of only 4 wins to 6 losses. Tom Barton and Russell Bell were often commanding and impressive, and became the most consistent pair at

U-16 level, although both fiery and canny tennis was produced on occasions by Steven da Costa and Jo Gold, and the regular third pair of Malcolm Lyon and Daniel Smith were always prepared to rally and try their hardest. The U-15's had some most enjoyable and hard-fought scraps, particularly when just winning against Oratory and just losing to Shiplake. The first pair of Philip Jupp and Nick Rees lacked consistency and the ability to rein in when their natural free-hitting game went awry; but they promise well for the future. Felix Carr and Robert Carder cleverly bamboozled many opponents with their unconventional strokes and tactics, and ended the season as the most successful pair. Matthew Dearman and Daniel Blake were seldom overawed, and always played with spirit, good humour and exemplary sportsmanship.

The Buckley Cup was contested throughout the summer term with an exciting final between Benjamin Williams and Nick Hodgson being played at the end of the term. The final score was 6-2, 6-3 to Ben who was awarded full colours along with Jonathan Dorkings, his partner in the 1st. VI.

If tennis at Abingdon School is going to continue at the high standard that it has enjoyed for many years a regular coaching session of the type provided

recently by Tim Robson needs to be reintroduced as it had proved so successful in sharpening play and attitudes. And the unpredictable bounce of the grass courts now seems to be an increasing problem in these dry summers which needs to be looked at - though, in spite of the difficulties, grass remains the favourite surface for most Abingdonians.

B. Williams VIM

The 1st. VI were selected from B. Williams, J. Dorkings, M. Seager, J. Frishberg, C. Nikkhah, S. Mitchell, N. Hodgson, D. King, P. Winterbottom, T. Barton. The 2nd. VI from D. King, P. Winterbottom, N. Hodgson, A. Lyon, P. Crutchlow, J. Dearman, M. Scott-Brown, A. Ashley, S. Palmer-Ward.

The U-16 from T. Barton, R. Bell, S. da Costa, J. Gold, M. Lyon, D. Smith, G. Smith.

The U-15 VI from P. Jupp, N. Rees, F. Carr, R. Carder, D. Blake, M. Dearman.

Results

1st. VI:		
MCS	I	3-5 - 5-5
Oratory	I	2-7
Bloxham	w	7-2
RGS Worcester	w	7-2
Carmel College	w	7-5 - 1-5
Shiplake	w	5-5 - 3-5
Pangbourne	w	5-4
Radley	I	1-8
O.A.'s	I	3-6

2nd. VI:		
MCS	w	5-4
Radley	I	1-5 - 7-5

U-16:		
MCS	w	5-5 - 3-5
Oratory	I	3-5 - 5-5
Bloxham	I	3-5 - 5-5
Carmel	w	6-3
Radley	I	4-5

U-15:		
MCS	I	2-5 - 6-5
Oratory	w	5-4
Shiplake	I	4-5
Pangbourne	w	8-1
Radley	I	1-8



Badminton

For many years there has been a great demand to play badminton, and this year as always the numbers had to be cut down through lack of court space.

The season's first fixture was U-19/ U-16s vs. Stowe School. A lively drive up to Stowe, courtesy of GGB, and a solid performance gave the season a good start; U-19's won 7 - 2, while the U-16 did even better, winning 8 - 1. Bloxham came next and were sent back to the drawing board - an emphatic 9 - 0 victory.

The Barclays Bank Challenge for U-16's has a new sponsor; it is now the Browning Star Schools Championships. The U-16 side, D. Blake, R. Bell, T. Barton and N. Myatt had a very good match against Crickhowell School. All the games were very close and we won 4 - 3 through to the next round against Royal Grammar School, Worcester, who - despite our best efforts - proved too strong, winning 7 - 0. Between all these matches, the U-14's and U-13's played friendly matches against many schools outside our leagues, notably Presentation College.

We fielded an U-19, two U-16 and an U-14 team for the leagues. The first U-19 league fixture was against King Alfred's, Wantage. A slightly slippery floor caused a rather happy-go-lucky U-19 to tumble to its first defeat, 5 - 2. Everything was put straight against Matthew Arnold School - a 6 - 1 victory. While the U-16 A's were winning, the U-16 B's lost 7 - 0 to a very good side from Larkmead, but U-16 A's got revenge by beating the same side 5 - 2. U-14's didn't get much press but they had a good opening fixture against Larkmead, though eventually lost 5 - 2.

On our way to the finals of U-19 and U-16 leagues, the U-19's beat West Oxon. Tech., Henley College and Magdalen College School twice! U-16 A's beat Oxford School and our own school U-16 B team. The U-14's unfortunately didn't quite make it to the finals because of the earlier loss to Larkmead.

As always (or at least as far as I can remember) we managed to get at least two teams to their respective age group finals. These were played at the newly revamped Redefield Sports Centre. The final line up was U-19 boys vs. King Alfred's, Wantage; U-16 boys vs. Fitzharry's. The U-19s started shakily, Cyrus losing his singles 16 - 18, but Malek Said went on to win his game comfortably. The doubles matches proved decisive; Zubir and Wan Razly beat their third pair but lost to their second pair. Yunus and Latif won both of theirs but, unfortunately, we had to relinquish the U-19 boys' shield because Cyrus and Malek Said lost their doubles. The U-16s didn't have much luck either, losing 5 - 2. So, for the first time in ages, we didn't win a shield. However, we had a great season and most of all everyone enjoyed themselves.

We had an excellent outing to see

the finals of the Yonex all England Badminton Open, a thoroughly enjoyable trip which will hopefully be repeated next year. Many thanks to all those who played for the teams and the masters who gave up their time to supervise the matches - especially Mr. Macdonald who was involved with all the away fixtures.

Full colours were awarded to:

Malek Said, Wan Razly and Zubir.

Half colours were awarded to:

Daniel Blake, Russell Bell, Nicholas Myatt and Tom Barton.

Captain 1990 - 91: Malek Said.

Secretary: Tom Barton.

C. Nikkhah VIC

Volleyball

The 1989/90 season was a very successful one for the burgeoning volleyball club. The year saw considerable developments on the foundations laid by Mr. Broughton. In the Michaelmas term a small core of players trained regularly for the National Schools' Championships. After beating Arborfield, North Devon, and most impressively a strong Lycée Français team, we succumbed to the junior sections of the two national league teams - MG1 Wessex, and Star Aguila. In the Lent term we entered an A and B teams in the Oxfordshire Schools' Championships. The A team won the tournament, beating Henley in the final. In the summer term Messrs. Hancox, Stopps, New and Wareham represented the South of England in the English Junior Championships. The A team received full colours for their considerable triumphs over both opponents and ignorance (balls in baskets!). Many thanks must go to Dr. Zawadzki for being an accomplished chauffeur, referee and mentor.

A team: Mark Hancox (captain), James Stopps, Nick New, Andrew Wareham, David Engwell, Iain Williams and James Hall.

B Team: N. Bingham, J. Dennett, A. Pearson, L. Barrett, S. Banks, R. Bailey, J. Whetter and A.R. Nik.

M. Hancox VIZ

Fives

The Fives Club struggles on in the face of perennial difficulties, only two courts, both of inadequate quality and state of repair, only one member of staff to supervise all the sessions and the apparent impossibility for team-rugby players to find time to try out the game and thereby bring higher standards of fitness and athleticism to the Club's standard of play. We were thrashed yet again by Radley (on their vastly superior and much faster courts) in the Lent term, but Fives players never say die, so under a new Captain we shall sally forth again to meet the Radley challenge in January and hopefully contend against Bloxham (whom we once beat, in 1985!) and Marlborough College, where we were once entertained by a demonstration of Eton Fives, pillar, step and all (it looked lethal!). Several promising new players are coming up through the ranks and challenging each other with great enthusiasm (A. Winton, C. Beach, M. Beaumont and R. Samuels among others), so now that we are getting the new shutters to keep out the imminent freezing winter winds, and a replacement batch of balls for the new ones whose covering began to come apart after just one game, we may yet be able to improve our 'street-cred' and shock the world!

PW

Fencing

1989-90 was an extremely successful year for the fencing club and the first team firmly established themselves as the best school team in Oxfordshire.

In the Michaelmas term we had matches against Magdalen and Stowe. Against Magdalen both teams won convincingly, but it was much closer against Stowe. However the first team still managed to come away with the victory.

Later that term were the individual Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire championships. Nicholas Richards, Jonathon Richards, Edward Nolan and Christopher Burchett all did well in the U-18 category, with Jim Matheson competing strongly in the U-16.

Soon afterwards came the South of England U-18 foil championships to which we sent one team of three. They did extremely well, coming 4th. above teams from Eton, Wellington and R.G.S. High Wycombe.

Later during the year we had victories against St. Edward's and Magdalen again, the defeats being suffered at the hands of Abingdon Fencing club and RGS.

With the new equipment and new members constantly coming into the club, 1990/91 promises to be a very successful year.

J. Richards VIC

Table Tennis

The Table Tennis club is now able to cope with many more players as a result of the purchase of a new table. The popularity of the Club has meant that only a regular membership of about 20 boys, from all years in the school, can be accommodated. A ladder competition ensured that all players had something to strive for, enabling them to challenge those above them for a place higher up.

Following the success of last year's U-19 team, which reached the last 10 in the country, an U-16 team, consisting of Martin Haycock, Nick Myatt, Alastair Mills and Ronnie Wong, entered the Dunlop Schools Team Championship. Dr. Bingham drove the team to the Warriner School, Bloxham, where they won, to become County champions. The next round was the area finals, held in Newbury, in which they had to play the Champions of Berkshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey. The team came third, with Martin Haycock unbeaten and the other players having gained valuable tournament experience, with Ronnie Wong in particular having taken part in some very tight, nail-biting games. Dr. Bingham as always played a vital role in rallying the team with words of encouragement, just when confidence was flagging.

In February three players from the School attended the County Individual Tournament. Both Nick Myatt and Alastair Mills had tough groups in each of the two events (U-16 and U-19), playing against County players. Martin Haycock played very well to win the U-16 event, beating County Number 1, Gavin Yates, from Lord Williams School, Thame. He then lost to Yates in the final of the Under-19s. Haycock represented Oxfordshire in the Boys U-16 event at the National Schools Championship, but was defeated in the last 16 by an England Schools International.

The Table Tennis Club now has a strong base on which it can build future teams. There is a very competitive atmosphere in which players can improve rapidly. Having been introduced to the sport at school, several players are now playing in the local league, and hopefully will seek coaching to develop their games.

M. Haycock VIM

Chess

This was an encouraging Chess season, by the standards of most schools. It was marked by the emergence of a 'critical mass' of talented first and second form players, whom we hope should form the basis of an excellent first team in four or five years time. There were also some excellent individual performances.

In the "Times" National Tournament

for Schools, we once again reached the last sixteen. We won the local zone after a hair-raising escape against Oxford H.S. for girls in the zone final. Our loss against Haberdashers' was the worst reverse suffered by a school first team for some years. Nevertheless, the 1st VI and U-15 VI were strong enough to win their respective Oxfordshire Schools' leagues, the former team for the fourth year in succession.

Nick Jakubovics, our top board, won the British U-18 squad championship at Uppingham School in March. This followed his sixth place in the British U-18 championship. He was the youngest winner of the Oxford City Championship for thirty years, finished runner-up in the Oxfordshire County Championship and played regularly for Oxfordshire. Philip Saxon won the Oxfordshire U-18 Championship for the third year in succession, and J.R.D. Arthur triumphed in a strong U-13 section at the Bayswater Junior Congress.

Chess Club activity, as usual, has been concentrated on the lower school, and once again I wish to express my gratitude to Mrs. Soper for the dedicated work she puts in with the youngsters. The occasional victory over a star player seems to be sufficient reward!

TJK

RESULTS

1st VI	
Bishop Wordsworth's 'B'	W 4.5-1.5
MCS	W 3.5-2.5
Bishop Wordsworth's 'A'	W 4.5-1.5
Oxford HS	W 4.5-1.5
MCS	D 3-3
Oxford School	W 4-2
St. Edward's	W 5-3
Haberdashers' Aske's	L 1.5-4.5
First Six; N. Jakubovics, P. Saxon, B. Randall, N. Hodgson, R. Walker, J.R.D. Arthur	

U-15 Team	
MCS	L 0-6
Oxford HS	W 3.5-2.5
Oxford School	W 5-1

U-13 Team	
Marston Middle	L 4.5-1.5
Bayswater Middle	W 4-2
St. Birinus, Didcot	W 4-2
Dragon School	W 4.5-1.5
MCS	L 1-5
Oxford HS	D 3-3

Shooting

Two teams entered the British Schools' Small-bore Rifle Association's competition: the senior team beat Malvern, Bryanston, Rugby and King's School Rochester, but lost to Glasgow Academy and the Duke of York's Royal Military School.

The juniors beat Epsom College, The Leys St. Peter's York, Monmouth School and Rugby School.

Teams were:

Senior: M.C. Watts (capt), A. Browne (v.-capt), J. Rayner, S. Kinsella, J. Pipe.

Junior: B. Uttenthal, S.R. Drew, T. Moloney, S. Turner.

In the internal competition the senior cup was awarded to John Rayner, and the junior cup (Ford Cup) to S.R. Drew.

Half colours were awarded to Andrew Browne, John Rayner, Matthew Watts and Justin Pipe, and re-awarded to Simon Kinsella. Jon Rayner was appointed captain for 1990-91.

A team fired against Oxford University at the Iffley Road Rifle Range and lost by a respectable margin: the match was a rewarding and useful experience organized by Michael Lay (O.A.) secretary of O.U.R.C.

NKH

Golf

The stroke of the year at Frilford Heath in 1990 was Edward Tilley's hole-in-one at the 298 yard 18th. on the 'Green' course. A three-under-par 'albatross' is a very rare occurrence; Ed achieved his in a friendly match v. St. Edward's and with a borrowed driver! Other fixtures have been against the Oratory, Bristol Grammar School, Bristol University and the Masters' Common Room, and we await the winners of St. Edward's and the Oratory in this year's Hill-Samuel Foursomes.

Bill Hutchings (capt.), James Tilley and Lee Stopps represented the school in the Golf Foundation annual event. The regional round was played at Beaconsfield Golf Club; Lee's gross 80 was a commendable effort, but our combined total was well above Charters School, Sunningdale, winners with a remarkably low combined score of 229.

Golf continues to widen its appeal to all age groups, but more courses are needed! To my knowledge there are three O.A.'s who are currently club professionals or assistants, Geoffrey Legoux, Simon Tonks and David Holder. They, of course, expect pars. We amateurs achieve them less often, but modestly dream of birdies or even the occasional eagle. Even the professionals will rarely, if ever, achieve an albatross! Perhaps Ed should have retired from the game on the 18th.; it can only get worse!

NHP

Sailing

The larger pattern of the school sporting year is essentially dictated by the major activities, rugby, rowing, hockey and cricket. This does not prevent people from taking part in less high profile activities and getting immense satisfaction from them, as with Fives, and indeed often achieving considerable distinction too, as in Badminton.

One such area where there is regular activity on the part of a relatively small number of enthusiasts, perhaps 20 in all, is in the Sailing Club who in the summer term make their way on Wednesdays to Farmoor Reservoir under the guidance of Mr. Strawson. The leading light in the Sailing Club is David Johnson, now in the VI Form and he has contributed the following report::

This is the first term that a sailing report has appeared for as long as I can remember. However, the school SC has been running for the seven years I have been here with varying support and attendance.

This year has been an average one for attendance, but more of a spirit of commitment and interest in racing has been evident. Competitive sailing in the school tends to be overshadowed by the main sports, but Ben Clothier, Neil McClellan and myself have been sailing for a few years as part of the Oxford and District Schools Sailing Association (ODSSA) team in school regattas with considerable success. The individual effort is really the only way into high level racing because of the time required to learn and practise. The couple of hours available on Wednesdays can only serve for training people and introducing them to the sport generally. Some individuals are more skilled and sail on this basis with the school, but also in their own right. Facilities for further training and racing are available through ODSSA and can extend to representation even at the highest level. Mr. Strawson has run the club for the past two years, providing transport and liaising with ODSSA.

If you have not tried it yet, come and have a go this summer. You may not like it, but if you do, you can then carry on and break into the real sailing scene. Competitive sailing is one of the most challenging, satisfying and social of any sports. You may not be surrounded by spectators, but as anyone who has raced with 250 other boats on the sea in waves higher than the boat you are in can tell you, you don't need them!

David Johnson VIP

In his discussion David is very self-deprecatory about his own achievements, but they must not be allowed to pass without a mention. He was introduced to sailing when he was 10. His first boat, a Topper, he bought when he was 14 and started racing in it when in the Third Form, graduating to a Laser. He now owns his own Laser and has raced in such events as the Laser Nationals and the European and World Qualifiers. The latter entails a series of races organised on a regional basis. Last season he was ranked 30th. in the country as a result, finally, of his performance at Tynemouth. He has taken

part in the National Schools' Regatta at Rutland, and again at Bassenthwaite in the Lake District. When the National Championships were held at Oxford last year he won outright in Toppers and was selected to sail for England in the schools division of the Nations Cup in Toppers and 420's when he won. He repeated the performance this year, this time at Largs in a Laser. David is very appreciative of the time given to him by the school on Saturdays and is very pleased to have secured the Nations Cup trophy on behalf of the school for a number of months.

Editor

David Johnson (left) and Ben Clothier (right) with another member of ODSSA preparing for the finals of the National Laser Championships



Film Society

Once again the Film Society has thrived this year attracting a wide audience from Abingdon and St. Helens. Popular films included *Three Men and a Baby* - a modern yuppie comedy, and *Good Morning Vietnam*, starring Robin Williams as a zany disc-jockey in war-torn Vietnam, combining his own ridiculous humour with a philosophical anti-war conclusion. However, it was films such as *Cocktail*, *Jumping Jack Flash* and *The Untouchables* which inspired the largest audiences.

During the Lent term we showed a mixture of comedies, suspense and horror movies, such as *The Lost Boys* and *Angel Heart*. A memorable film that term was the black and white classic, *The Return of the Living Dead*, for the showing of which the boarders' bar was opened! The society's membership continues to flourish. Thanks are due to Mr. Donald for his ever present support during the year and a welcome to Mr. Martin as the new master in charge. Thanks are also due to Justin, my inspired technical assistant, and the committee for some inspired posters. Who can ever forget our own inspired version of *The Living Dead*, for which, thank you St. Helens!

S. Snipp VIE

Mod. Lang

Though the Modern Languages Society was somewhat thin on members this year, it proved itself popular with those who attended. It started off at the beginning of term with a hugely successful boules evening in which girls and boys alike got to know each other over a slice of French bread and improved their boules skills no end.

Now that the society was running smoothly we thrust a talk on Berlin on our eager members to prepare them for the forthcoming Bielefeld exchange. Several impressive French films were also shown, though not always the right ones! After the exchange we all got together for a Bielefeld evening in which photos were laughed over while sausages were being munched.

The highlight of the whole year, however, was most certainly the 'Three-legged Football and Barbecue Evening'. Mr. Johnny Ball, our special guest, did not turn up in the end, but the shadow cast by his absence did not dampen the jovial atmosphere.

The Society now looks forward to a fun-packed year featuring the typical combination of talks, films and social events.

J. Twinn/J. Lock

SCHOOL

ABINGDON

RAILWAY SOCIETY

The Railway Society met on most Mondays during the first two terms of the year. We discussed future plans and occasionally watched railway videos. We have been on at least one trip each term. During the year we went to Cambridge to collect loco numbers, Swindon to see the National Railway Museum on tour and visited the Mid-Hants. "Watercress Line" near Winchester. The favourite trip of the year was to Minehead on the West Somerset Railway. We travelled to Taunton station and joined the steam train in full GWR livery to Minehead where we had two hours to spare by the sea. The journey back was not quite as grand because we were on a 1960s DMU, but we had a good 'driver's eye view' of the beautiful scenery.



The 2J Railway Spotters



A regular feature of Lower School Field Days for many years has been an outing with an element of railway interest. Field Day 1990 involved a rail trip to York where visits were made to Clifford's Tower, the Minster, the Jorvik exhibition and the National Railway Museum. (The writer would prefer to forget the York Dungeon!) The photo shows part of the group, three railway fanatics to the fore, at the top of the 13th century Clifford's Tower with York Minster in the far background.

CP

COMMON ROOM

Headmaster: M. St John Parker, M.A., King's College, Cambridge.

Second Master: J.R. Gabitass, M.A., St John's College, Oxford (English).

Director of Studies: T.J. King, M.A., D.Phil., F.L.S., Pembroke College, Oxford (Biology).

- L.C.J. Griffin, M.A., Jesus College, Oxford (Classics).
- * K.G. Hasnip, M.A., Caius College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).
- * W.G. Potter, M.A., Pembroke College, Oxford (Biology).
- R.H. Baker, M.A., Queen's College, Oxford (Physics).
- + H.T. Randolph, M.A., Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge (Classics).
- N.H. Payne, M.A., Jesus College, Cambridge (History).
- D.C. Taylor, M.A., Clare College, Cambridge (Modern Languages). Director of Drama.
- * N.K. Hammond, B.Sc., London School of Economics (Politics).
- N.A.F. Pritchard, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford (Mathematics).
- + R.C.B. Coleman, M.A., Keble College, Oxford (Chemistry).
- * T.R. Ayling, M.A., Christ Church, Oxford (Chemistry). Senior Science Master. Senior Tutor.
- * J.D.E. Drummond-Hay, B.Ed., Sussex (Physical Education).
- * D.J. Haynes, M.A., Oriel College, Oxford (Information Technology and Physics).
- C. Parker, B.Sc., Nottingham (Mathematics).
- * G.G. Barrett, M.A., Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (English).
- C.J. Biggs, Cert.Ed., Bede College, Durham (Design).
- D. Jones, A.Mus., L.C.M., Cert.Ed., Royal Military School of Music (Music).
- P. Willerton, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).
- W.H. Zawadzki, M.A., D.Phil., Keble and Wolfson Colleges, Oxford (History).
- + I.A. Macdonald, B.A., Leeds (English).
- P.J. Wilmore, B.Sc., Ph.D., East Anglia (Biology).
- * M.G.H. Dillon, M.A., Edinburgh (Design). Lower Master.
- G.C. Rolfe, B.A., D.Phil., Exeter and Ulster (Modern Languages).
- N.J. Brown, M.A., St John's College, Cambridge (English). Upper Master.
- + N.W. Hunter, B.A., Bristol Polytechnic (Design).
- + R.S. Page, M.A., Emmanuel College, Cambridge (Chemistry).
- K.D. Bingham, B.A., D.Phil., St Peter's College, Oxford (Chemistry).
- R.S.K. Mearns, M.A., M.Litt., Dublin and Jesus College, Oxford (English).
- * R.P. Finch, B.A., Reading (Mathematics).
- + I. Smith, B.Sc., Sheffield (Physics).
- + A.F. Trotman, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford (English).
- Mrs. C.M. Manship, B.Mus., F.R.C.O., London (Divinity).
- N.M. Revill, B.A., Sussex (Modern Languages).
- + A. Mitra, M.A., Keble College, Oxford (Classics).
- A.J. Mansfield, B.Sc., Wales (Design).
- * J. Townsend, B.A., Keele (Economics and Business Studies).
- I.C. Fishpool, B.Sc., Birmingham (Geography).
- * The Rev. T.P. Lewis, M.A., Selwyn College, Cambridge (Divinity). Chaplain.
- Mrs. A.M. Soper, M.A., Exeter and Keele (English).
- D.M. Henderson, B.A., Reading (Modern Languages).
- T.J. Simons, B.Soc.Sci., Birmingham (Mathematics).
- I.C. Donald, B.A., Huddersfield Polytechnic (Music).
- R.G. Hofton, M.A., Merton College, Oxford (History).
- * M.A. Stinton, M.A., Worcester College, Oxford (Music).
- R.C.R. Milner, M.A., Merton College, Oxford (Modern Languages). Director of General Studies.
- * J.A.N. Ellis, M.A., Selwyn College, Cambridge (Geography).
- J.F. Henderson, B.A., Cambridge College of Arts and Technology (Geography and Economics).
- J.S. Oxlade, M.A., F.R.C.O., Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (Geography and Music). School Organist.
- * Mrs. J.E. Chapman, M.A., Brasenose College, Oxford (Classics).
- A.M. Broadbent, B.Ed., College of St Paul and St Mary, Cheltenham (Physical Education and Mathematics).
- M.C. Stevenson, B.A., King's College, London (Mathematics).
- R.J. Strawson, M.A., Trinity College, Oxford (Physics).
- * J. Clare, M.A., Clare College, Cambridge (History).
- A.D. Watkins, B.Ed., M.Phil., Exeter (Biology).
- M.D. Martin, B.A., Herriot-Watt (Mathematics).
- D.J. Pope, B.A., New College, Cambridge (History).
- Miss L.A. Milligan, B.Sc., Salford (Economics and Business Studies).
- Mlle C. Hivet, (Modern Languages)
- S. Hofmann, (Modern Language Assistant)
- Mrs. J. Boulton, N.D.D. (Design).

Mrs. S. Page, M.A., St. Andrew's (Modern Languages).
M.F. Robins, M.A., F.I.M.A., King's College, Cambridge (Mathematics).
R.J. Taylor.

* = Senior Subject Master
+ = Housemaster

Medical Officer: Dr. D.R. May, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.
Bursar: A.G. Daley, B.A.
Assistant Bursar: Major D. Egerton-King



SCHOOL OFFICERS

Heads of School
B.R. Marnane
S.J. Morgan

School Prefects

J.W.E. Bichard; I.C. Dalley; R.G. Godfrey; R.D. Greasby; J.C. Hewes; S.D. Newton; D.A. Sparkes; D.E. Stanley.

Sub-Prefects

J.S. Boorman; D.R. Chadwick; L.A.H. Charlton; B.R. Clothier; E.J. Creasey; J.M. Denée; J.J. Dennett; J.W. Dorkings;
D.J. Engwell; R.G. Gerdes; L.M. Golding; M.D. Gordon; M.L. Hancox; S. Hickson; D.M.L. Johnson; J.O. Johnstone;
P.A.B. Page; B. Pilling; M.J. Reed; N.B. Richards; M.W.G. Scott-Brown; E.J. Tilley; M.M. Webster; B.C. Williams;
H.E. Wilkinson; Y. Yusof.

ENTRANTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

ABERYSTWYTH

A. Boyes Politics

BATH

J.A. Stopps Business & Management Studies
J.I. Williams Architecture

BIRMINGHAM

M.T. Gelder Mechanical Engineering
J.S. Taylor Geography
M.C. Watts Latin & Archaeology

BIRMINGHAM POLYTECHNIC

R.G. Godfrey Land/Property Management

BRIGHTON POLYTECHNIC

S. Banks Institutional Management

BRISTOL

N.D. Bingham Geography
J.A. Bryden Mathematics & Philosophy
M.J. Carter Mechanical Engineering
A.D. Dent Economics & Politics
J.M. Frost Geography
M.A. Gillan Mechanical Engineering
F.M.B. Othman Mathematics & Economics
N. Silver Chemistry
E.J. Tilley Mathematics & Economics

CAMBRIDGE

Gonville & Caius

D.E. Stanley Natural Science
D.C. Strawson Computer Studies

Peterhouse

A.M. Edwards History

Queens'

M.L. Hancox Geography

CHELTENHAM

St. Paul & St. Mary

P.A. Goldsworthy Recreation Studies with
Sports' Science

DUNDEE

A.J. Newton Town & Country Planning

DURHAM

P.K.N. Bowman Computer Studies &
Electronic Engineering
Engineering

EDINBURGH

N.C.P. Hill Architecture

GLASGOW

C.J.M. Fulton Genetics

KENT

D.A. Ratcliff Drama & Cinematics

KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC

P.S. Johnson Architecture

LANCASHIRE POLYTECHNIC

A.J. Newton Psychology

LANCASTER

M.A. Rogers Politics

LEEDS

E.J. Creasey Classics

J.M. Hardie A.B. Wareham D.J. Wilcox	Economics & Philosophy Statistics & Economics French & Russian	OXFORD Balliol J.L.T. Frishberg	PPE
LEICESTER POLYTECHNIC D.R. King	Combined Arts	Brasenose P.J. Pound	Classics
LIVERPOOL K. Hyder T.G.S. Perkins	Biology Anatomy/Physiology & Physical Education	Christ Church J.O. Johnstone	Classics/Modern Languages
LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE OF H.E. N.B. Powell A.J. Thomson	Mathematics & Music Teacher Training	Corpus Christi J.Z.E. Mandel	English & Classics
LONDON Goldsmiths' B. Kendrick B.R. Mamane	Music Social Policy/Administration	Lincoln E.J. Newey	Modern Languages
Imperial M.N. Abdul Rahman I.C. Dalley P.J.W. Eland T.W. Goh H.M.Y. Mohamed Yusof P.J. Purdie	Aeronautical Engineering Electrical & Electronic Engineering Mechanical Engineering Mechanical Engineering Civil Engineering Aeronautical Engineering	Magdalen P.J. Saxon	Classics
King's R.P. Clayden C.T. Coker J.M. Wallace M.G.S. Williams	Geography Physics with Philosophy Computer Studies with Business/Management Studies French	Pembroke A.B. Themen	Zoology
QMW J.G. Britton	Biology	Queen's M.P. Owen	Mathematics
RHBNC J.R. Edwards J.P. Hahn	Geography History	St. Anne's A.D.L. Browne	Geography
UMDS C. Nikkhah	Dentistry	University N.B. Richards	Modern Languages
LONDON, SOUTH BANK POLYTECHNIC M.J. Reed	Consumer Product Management	Worcester H.E. Wilkinson	Theology/Religious Studies
MANCHESTER T. Molloy J.E. Owen	Combined/General Social Science Geography	OXFORD POLYTECHNIC A. Brown D.A. Shotton	Civil Engineering Institutional Management
NEWCASTLE M.N. Seager P.M. Winterbottom	Maritime Technology Medicine	READING R.A. Brown R.D. Greasby	Chemistry Land/Property Management
NEWCASTLE POLYTECHNIC A.P. Hetherington	English & History	SALFORD R.E. Clarkson Webb	Electrical & Electronic Engineering
NORTHAMPTON Nene A.R. Macklow	Combined Studies	SHEFFIELD J.S. Booman J.C. Hewes	Law Medicine
NOTTINGHAM L.D. Barrett L.A.H. Charlton R.J.S. Damerell R.A. Davison S.D. Newton J.R.S. Scroggs	Psychology & Philosophy Architecture Linguistics & Russian French Philosophy English & Philosophy	SHEFFIELD POLYTECHNIC D.A. Sparkes	Recreation Management
		SOUTHAMPTON J.R.E. Campbell J.G. Seager I.R. Turner	History Business/Management Studies & Accountancy Mechanical Engineering
		SURREY N.J.G. New	French & European Languages
		SUSSEX R.M. Henderson	Genetics with Biotechnology
		WALES POLYTECHNIC G.B. Harding	Land/Property Management
		WARWICK J.W.T. North	Drama
		WEST SUSSEX INSTITUTE OF H.E. M.M.S. Francis	Physical Education
		YORK P. Huggill	History with Philosophy

Valete

MRS. DAPHNE BIGMORE

DAB joined us from the tutorial college, Brown and Brown, to stay for four terms and then returned to the college as Principal. She made a lively and colourful contribution to many aspects of school life, not only as an industrious teacher of economics and business studies, but also on the games field (where she played hockey and cricket for the MCR). She served on the TASS executive and also organised an Open Day.

CHRISTINE HIVET

Christine joined the Modern Languages Department in 1989 after studying in Paris and teaching in Cambridge and Oxford. She brought a welcome authenticity to the teaching of French at Abingdon, and we were disappointed when she decided to leave to carry on research for her doctorate. However, as much of her work is in Oxford, she is still in close touch with the school and the Department. We wish her well.

Salvete

New members of Common Room who joined Abingdon during the year:

Miss Lynda Milligan who replaced Daphne Bigmore, at Christmas, in the Economics and Business Studies Department, comes to us from City of London School. Her interests include aerobics, cycling and badminton.

Sir Digby Cayley replaces Mr. Hugh Randolph, who is away on a year's sabbatical, in the Classics Department. He comes to us from Marlborough College and is resident tutor in Waste Court. His interests include shooting and antiques.

Miss Victoria Webber joins the Modern Languages Department from the Frederick Gough School, Scunthorpe. Her interests include outdoor pursuits, badminton, theatre and music.

Mr. Roger Medill, formerly Headmaster of Rendcomb College has been appointed part-time Registrar.

We are also very happy to welcome for the year Antje Buchheister from Göttingen University as informant in German, and M. Guillaume Tanguy, currently taking a year off from his studies in Rennes University as informant in French.

In addition, it has been very pleasant having Dorothea Schäpersmann join us from Bielefeld. She has been with us for the greater part of the Michaelmas term before she takes up her teacher-training in her home town. Cornelia Bitter, also from Bielefeld, has been with us for the same length of time, as has Anke Wertemeyer.

OBITUARY

William Money-Kyrle, O.A. (1979-86), was killed in a climbing accident in Kenya on 31 July. He was buried at his family's home church of Heddington, near Calne, in the presence of a great crowd of mourners, who included many of his contemporaries, together with the Headmaster and several members of staff. William was a young man of quite exceptional charm and quality, as well as outstanding ability, and his untimely death seemed to all who knew him to be a most bitter blow; but though there was much justified grief at his funeral, there was still more serenity and hope, reflecting his own happy spirit, and the strength of his remarkable family.

Prompted by some of William's many friends, plans are being made for the creation of a memorial garden at the School. Details of this proposal will be circulated to all those who are interested, through the Old Abingdonian Club, or by direct contact with Tim Gentles, O.A., whose address is: 37 Queens Court, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1ND.

