

the

Abingdonian 2002





the abingdonian

michaelmas 2002

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editorial



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(Photoshop design)
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momentous changes, and if possible, enables you, the reader, to catch a whiff of the infectious enthusiasm for this School which I have rediscovered while putting it all together.

In this herculean endeavour, my grateful thanks go first to my team of boy Editors, who toiled long and hard to extract a year's worth of content from a cross section of Abingdonians, in one and a half terms! Nor can I forget the advice and help from the experts: JPN's selection of the evocative artworks and the painstaking proofreading undertaken by the very professional team of FAD, PER and AMS. All these colleagues have gone way beyond the call of duty to ensure that from a practical point of view this magazine is the best it can be. But read on and you will see that the inspiration for this new flagship edition, for which I am, of course, immensely grateful, all came from the new Headmaster:

For me, Adrian's painting symbolises many things about the magazine you have in your hands. First, looking back, I have been down this road before - for three fascinating years last century I edited *the Abingdonian*. So you may well ask whether the "new" Editor is really so new. Let me reassure you, far from the jaded cynicism of the "been there, done that" newspaper hack, that fascination with recording, discovering and showcasing all that goes on in our School is still very much with me.

Second, despite all those elderly issues, I feel that this magazine and its Editor have only really reached the *beginning* of this road, and can but look forward to the uncharted territory ahead. Surely this is one of the most exciting times to be an Abingdonian (old, jaded or new)? So many things have changed about our School and our community in the last year; so much is new: where will it all lead? I can see future magazines along the way celebrating wonderful new buildings and fantastic new opportunities for all of us, many of which will trace their origin, I believe, to plans and events that have been put in place this year. I hope this edition of *the Abingdonian*, from the Arts Centre plans on the front cover to the final groundbreaking section about Josca's, at least records these

The

new

Headmaster



from the Headmaster

I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce this new look edition of *the Abingdonian*, and would like to start by congratulating the editor and his team of reporters for gathering so much interesting and relevant information. In producing this edition we have had the chance to ask ourselves the question, what is *the Abingdonian* for? The aims are essentially to provide a chronicle of the events, activities, triumphs and defeats of the previous year, to celebrate boys' work in a wide variety of subjects and to give the opportunity for boys to develop their own journalistic and publishing

'The School must be successful academically, there must be a broad range of "other half" activities and also everyone must feel happy.'

skills and initiate debate in a number of areas. I hope you will agree that this edition has been successful in achieving these aims on all three fronts and that you will all enjoy reading about the achievements of the school during the academic year 2001-2002.

Since my arrival in Abingdon in January I have thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the

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life of this large and complex community. As I have said repeatedly at Parents Evenings and on other occasions as the opportunity has presented itself, I believe that Abingdon has enormous strengths in many areas. It is almost impossible to pluck highlights from the plethora of activities and successes that the school has enjoyed, nevertheless there are several that stick in my mind's eye. The award of twenty-six offers to Oxford and Cambridge Universities in January was something near a school record and I am delighted to report that, despite the fiasco regarding the marking and grading of A2s this year, all our candidates have been able to take up their places. Throughout the Easter and Summer terms the fame of our First VIII spread further and wider. As we now all know our First VIII covered themselves in glory, dominating Schools' competition, by winning every major event, including the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley.

Although it has been marvellous to have such headline-catching stories to talk about, what I have enjoyed most about my first few terms of looking and learning has been the positive attitude and sense of real community that I have found in every corner of the School. I have found both energy and enthusiasm in abundance, not just for the day-to-day routines but for broadening horizons well beyond our immediate boundaries. Over the last twelve months, for instance, we have hosted groups from many different countries and Abingdonians have travelled from the Swedish Arctic circle to

Mount Meru in tropical Tanzania and to many places in between.

Broadening horizons and raising expectations are a large part of what we are all about at Abingdon. Over the next few years we hope to be able to achieve these aims with the help of investment in our facilities and infrastructure. Already work is well underway towards the completion of the new £3 million Arts Centre which will be opened during the autumn of 2003. In addition we have been able to improve considerably the quality of life for our Boarders by refurbishing the dormitories in School House. At Josca's, Abingdon Junior School, the pace of change over the last twelve months has been dramatic, with general refurbishment, a new classroom block and fast-expanding pupil numbers combining to allow an increasingly ambitious view of the future.

Whether you are currently directly connected to the school, have an interest in it for the future or are a member of the Old Abingdonian community, I hope that you will enjoy reading this edition of our magazine and that you will gain from it an impression of the range and quality of what is on offer here. There are certainly many challenges facing independent education at the moment, but I am confident that we have the capacity, and determination, to confront them head on.

Mark Turner
Headmaster

Soon after he arrived, **L. Titley**, **P. Vickers** (Lower School) and **C. Davies** (Middle School) interviewed **Mr Turner** hoping for some answers about the next few years ...

Hello, Headmaster. Could you give us your first impressions of the School over your first two terms?

Having arrived at Abingdon in January, I've very much enjoyed getting to know all members of the community. What I've found so far has been overwhelmingly positive. It seems that the standards

of academic achievement and scholarship are very high, the breadth of activities available in the "Other Half" enormous, and the general commitment and commonsense of most Abingdonians seems to be very commendable indeed. So I will be looking forward to getting to know the School better over the next few years.

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In the Abingdon Herald it says you will be firm but fair. What does this mean?

It means that it is important that the guidelines shall be enforced but fairly and with firm discipline.

Since your arrival at the School there has been a number of expulsions. What is your response to this, and to the opinion that new Headmasters tend to “flush out” their school when they arrive, but once they start to get involved in the social circles of the school, and get to know parents, they become reluctant to enforce their hard line?

I know that as a new Headmaster arriving at Abingdon I have a fresh pair of eyes, and therefore what is particularly good and similarly what is particularly bad strikes one very quickly. You can't be at Abingdon and benefit from the academic standards and all the other activities on offer, and want to be your own person and do your own thing and not want to be a member of the community. Any boys who don't wish to be members of our community can go elsewhere. So yes I do take a hard line, particularly on the areas of drugs and bullying, and if warnings are not heeded I regard expulsion as a satisfactory ultimate way of dealing with the matter. About new Headmasters, only time will tell. I hope that these policies will be maintained, even if it means making difficult decisions in the future.

What is your final decision on Saturday school?

For the Lower School, starting next year, it has gone but for the Middle and Upper School the debate is ongoing.

What are your ambitions for the School?

The School must be successful academically, there must be a broad range of “other half” activities and also everyone must feel happy.

The appeal for funding for the Arts Centre has just been launched. Could you give a brief explanation of the Appeal?

The decision to go ahead with the Arts Centre was taken before I arrived, and I am very much in support of the whole project. It's a £3 million project to improve dramatically the facilities available for

Music, Art and Drama. We've already raised about a million pounds of those 3 million, we've just had confirmation of a donation from the Mercers' Company of £500,000, and we're aiming, through our Appeal, to raise £1 million towards that project. I'm very keen to raise this £1 million as quickly as possible, because as soon as the Arts Centre is built I can start to turn my attention to developing other areas of the school, including new changing rooms, a new swimming pool, astro-turf pitches and a new boathouse.

What are you changing and what are you keeping?

I want to keep the high standards and informal friendly relationship with teachers and boys. I would like to change bullying, litter and scruffiness.

Are you getting more involved with Lower School?

I would like to and next year I shall want to teach Lower School students General Studies.

Following the excitement about the World Cup, the success of the charity football tournament and the number of boys playing football on the fields this summer, how much longer can the School hold out against team football?

My view is that Abingdon has very high standards in the sports it partakes in, and I would not want to detract from the quality we have in Hockey and Rowing for the sake of a new team sport. As long as I believe our standards in the current spring sports cannot be maintained by introducing football, I am not intending to introduce the sport. Also, for the moment I don't think we have sufficient facilities or staff for football to be introduced.

What did you feel when you first saw the School?

I was excited by the potential of the boys and I was intimidated by the size of the School.

Thank you, Headmaster.

March 2001
L. Titley, P. Vickers 2AJM
C. Davies 4PW

Correspondence

The (un)importance of spectator sport

Dear Sir,

At last the fervour of the World Cup is dying down, but from the attention it received, football, it seems, is more of an obsession than ever. From the St. George's Cross in seemingly every other window to the staggering 35% of males who took the day off work to watch a match, it is clear that the country has been gripped by a sporting event once more. The passion does not end with football though: no sooner has the World Cup finished that Wimbledon starts, and 'Henmania' sweeps the country.

This universal fixation with watching sport is an unhealthy trend, both physically and socio-logically. Football is now an activity not for the football field, but one for the pub, where the televisions broadcast matches to crowds of excited, shouting fans in a manner eerily reminiscent of scenes from Orwell's 1984. A lot of the fuss is,

Dear Sir,

How can anyone denounce spectator sports as an 'unhealthy trend'? The World Cup has united divided nations and brought communities together. The patriotic fervour of the Jubilee is followed by the chants of 'Three Lions'. This can only be a sign of a united and healthy society. Football is the new opiate of the masses and should be enjoyed with friends and in the pubs.

Some follow football as a religion or are indeed caught up in the 'outbreaks' of 'Henmania'. These people may go too far in supporting their country, but they do at least join in. In schools such as Abingdon we too are fortunate to have sports to suit every taste. Would that everyone might take part! The teamwork element in sports like rugby, rowing, hockey and cricket is the basis of all great community life. Furthermore, seeing great sporting performances inspires us to go and kick a ball about or to dust off our racquets, and so I cannot maintain that spectator sports are a health hazard.

of course, media hype, but the proliferation of flags is an indicator of just how dependent people are on feeling part of the crowd. £10 buys not just a flag, but guaranteed entry into the club of fanatical football fans.

The World Cup has shown how easily virtually the entire populace can be swept along with an event and follow it blindly. This is a dangerous phenomenon: we cannot allow ourselves to be ruled by mass hysteria. With such crucial issues as a possible further invasion of Iraq and escalating conflict in the Middle East dominating the world politically, surely at this, of all times, we need to cherish independence of thought.

Yours etc.,

Christopher Johnson 6TCG

It is very true that people will follow any cause like sheep - look at the example in Germany in the 1930s - but to follow sport is surely far less dangerous than to follow a crazed radical movement of terrorists. And what price inspiration or ambition? Life is about taking chances. We may only be following a schoolboy fantasy of playing in a World Cup but our innocent ambitions, inspired by the real thing out there on our television screens, should be encouraged not stifled beneath the demands of "rational" thought.

We have a choice in what we follow and how far we follow it, and to deprive us of spectator sports would be to restrict that choice. Then we would live in the benighted world of Orwell's *1984*. Allow us to have our fun and to support Queen or Country and give us back our freedom!

Yours etc.,

Richard Thomas 6DE
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The importance of choice

Dear Sir,

PINK OR CERISE?

Pink or Cerise,
What would you choose?
Different name,
Colour the same.

Cerise is blood and roses,
Pink is nail-varnish and posies.

Candyfloss,
Hearts,
Hair bands and
Ballet dancers in a line.

Poppies for blood,
Victory and
Red wine!

Pink or Cerise,
What would you choose?
Personally I'd have ...

Yours etc.,

an indecisive
Abingdonian

If you can finish this poem, or indeed have views on any of the points raised on these pages, please write to the Editor and we will try to publish your thoughts in the next issue of *the Abingdonian*.

DJP (Editor-in-Chief)
abingdonian@abingdon.org.uk



'Tree'
(Intaglio print)
by Jamie Allan 5VMW

School notes



Common Room

farewells ...

Nigel Brown joined the staff in 1980 from Rugby School, where he had been in charge of drama, to be Administrator of the brand new Amey Hall, Director of Drama and to teach English. Only those able to read his application knew that he had been President of Footlights at Cambridge (followed by that little-known David Frost...), had taught in Africa and had written the odd book. His imagination, wide-ranging abilities and enterprise were rapidly seen in the instant blossoming of the Amey Hall and during the next seven years he produced fourteen major productions himself and encouraged others to do a further fifty.

Amongst many memorable productions were a fascinating *'Merchant of Venice'*, a spectacular *'Julius Caesar'*, a lavish *'Guys and Dolls'* and an intense *'Wild Duck'* (acted behind closed curtains with the audience also on stage). **Toby Jones, Julius Green, Alisdair Simpson, Tom Hollander** and **Nick Rawlinson** were notable products of these years and are still on the English theatre scene. There was also the intriguing production of *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'* with some rather good musicians improvising up on scaffolding who went on to call themselves Radiohead....

In 1987 Nigel assumed a new role as Upper Master in a restructuring of the School's pastoral system. He was in charge of the Sixth Form which had been given the old gym (now the Charles Maude Room) for its common room. In a hectic and cramped four years he managed to impose a new sense of order and cohesiveness on the Sixth Form and its tutors. In 1991 two colleagues took over pastoral responsibility for the Sixth Form and he narrowed his attention to university admissions for the next ten years. With characteristic energy and initiative, Nigel transformed the School's university admissions procedures. His increasingly knowledgeable advice and efficient management of the paperwork underpinned the work of tutors and boys, who also knew that the slightest mistake would be noticed

and tactfully corrected. Impending retirement meant that Nigel withdrew from this job in 2001 and three others took over his duties.

Throughout all these years Nigel has been a mainstay of the English Department. Quite why he taught English when his degree was in history has never been discovered, but his love of literature (especially Irish literature) and enduring interest in drama have been at the centre of his creative, thorough teaching.



He has been a good friend and colleague who has invariably been ready to help, able to give shrewd advice or to offer constructive criticism about some bright idea. He has always given more than meets the eye to everything he has done and has unassumingly developed excellent practice in each of his four major roles - virtues of the traditional, all-round Schoolmaster. He has contributed hugely to the School in his twenty-two years here and when the ancient Raleigh bears him down Roysse's Alley for the last time he should be able to look back on his achievements and enjoy his retirement with quiet satisfaction and, I imagine, considerable relief.

GGB

Steven White applied to Abingdon in 1991 in the hope of enjoying the final decade or so of his career in education as a teacher rather than administrator, working with students both in and out of the laboratory. Such was the quality of the man, however, that no sooner had his application been received than he was prevailed upon to take over the responsibility of running the Chemistry Department - and outstandingly successful he has been in this and in everything he has undertaken at Abingdon.

A Berkshire boy, he went from Reading School to St. John's College, gaining not only an honours degree but also a research degree in physical chemistry in his four years at Oxford. After teaching at King's College School, Wimbledon, he moved via Wiltshire to Dorset where he was progressively promoted to a top job in a large comprehensive, becoming Head of Science, a curriculum coordinator and a member of the senior management team. The wealth of experience he gained there, underpinned by a wise, balanced view of the world, has been hugely to Abingdon's benefit.

The qualities that Steven possesses that have made him so valued as a colleague and so respected by the boys are too

Shaun Hullis joined the School six years ago from Wellingborough. A man of enormous erudition, he nevertheless wore his learning lightly; he had the gift of inspiring pupils and fellow-teachers alike with his genuine love of classics. To experience a Hullis tour around the sites of Greece or Rome was to follow for a while in the footsteps of the ancients; such was his ability to bring to life the old stones and monuments. It is entirely a tribute to him that 84 boys have signed up to visit Rome and Pompeii this October half term - a great disappointment, then, that Winchester's half term dates do not coincide with Abingdon's and that Shaun himself will not be able to lead the tour. The study of ancient history has grown and flourished as an A level subject under Shaun's teaching, and several boys have gone on to read it at university, inspired by his example. Shaun was frighteningly efficient: as Head of Department for the last three years, he organised and led the classicists with his usual tact and diplomacy, and they benefited from



numerous to list in full, but they include his skill as a teacher, his warmth and keen sense of humour, his ability always to consider the broad picture rather than the narrow interest - he grinds no axes and never carps - and his transparent decency, sense of fairness and equable temperament. He sets the highest standards while being tolerant and forgiving of those who, provided they try, fail to attain them. The most helpful of sounding boards, he is shrewdly analytical and always discreet. In all, the true professional.

Steven retires very much at the top of his craft - no waning of interest or lack of enthusiasm

here - to pursue his many and varied interests. An accomplished musician (he plays the piano and bassoon, and sings), he is also keen on sport, an avid reader, a skilled gardener and a patient restorer of old buildings. He has a particular interest in polar explorers, but though eagerly looking forward to foreign travel while the rest of us are at School, he and Sara have no immediate plans for arctic or antarctic adventures. Rather a glass of wine, a good novel, an Italian mediaeval roscape with the Apennines beyond and madrigals gently filling the evening air.....

TRA

belonging to surely the most catalogued and well resourced department in the School, as anyone who has seen Shaun's collection of classical slides, each labelled in his characteristically meticulous handwriting, will understand.

His contribution was not confined to the Classics Department; the CCF will feel his loss keenly, as will the Rifle Club. As editor of "*The Abingdonian*" he produced elegant and wide-ranging editions of the School magazine. He was resident tutor of Waste Court (now Phelps' House) for three years, and visiting tutor for the past three. His colleagues in the Common Room will miss a very good friend, companion, and bon viveur, and we know how much Winchester College will gain from his addition to



their number. His new home has views over the medieval walls and the cathedral at Winchester - Shaun is in his element. We wish him every success and happiness in his new appointment.

JEF

Angelika Jauch

Exchanging the “big city” life in cosmopolitan Berlin for the quieter charms of provincial Abingdon came as a considerable culture shock to Angelika, but she settled down well here and by the end of the year it was clear that she had made an invaluable contribution in the Languages Department, where the rôle of the assistant has rapidly become indispensable. With her knowledgeable, good-humoured and competent approach she soon gained the



respect of the pupils and in particular established a good rapport with those in the Sixth Form; the success of the oral examinations was in no small part due to Angelika’s efforts in providing important information on Modern Germany and to the quality of her work. She leaves Abingdon to continue her studies in Germany and we all wish her well for the future - and hope she will not find the hustle and bustle of Berlin too overwhelming on her return ...

NMR

This year we were fortunate to welcome two French assistantes, who came to us from the university of Caen:

Karine Louis

proved to be a person of many talents, and, in between giving valuable help to boys in the Sixth, Fifth and Second Forms and continuing her studies, managed to develop her skills as a pianist, chess player and tennis player. Her prowess with her motor bike attracted interest and a cer-



tain amount of envy among the boys. We greatly appreciated the time and extra help she gave to boys in the Sixth Form. The demands of the new AS and A2 oral examinations are such that the support and advice that she gave were a vital part of their preparation. We very much hope that her success in the written part of the “agrégation” will be confirmed by a successful performance in the oral, and that she will enjoy her first year of teaching.

Céline Rungette

very quickly established herself as a very capable teacher. She became a familiar figure in the Modern Languages Department, giving invaluable support to boys in the Sixth and Fifth Forms. She gained their trust and respect and was instrumental in



raising the level of their spoken French. Her commitment frequently extended beyond the call of duty and many of the boys had the benefit of her help up to the minute before they went into their oral examination. Her involvement in the Lower Sixth visit to Lille ensured maximum benefit for the boys. She goes back to France to complete her training for primary teaching, a profession for which she is ideally suited. We wish her well.

VMW

Jane Ganly joined the Modern Languages Department in September as a part-time teacher of French. It is very much our loss that for domestic reasons Jane decided to spend only one year with us, and to return to teach at Rye St. Antony School, near her home in Oxford.

Jane taught a Third Year beginners’ set and a Fifth Year set preparing for GCSE. The boys in those groups, as well as anybody else she came into contact with during her brief time at Abingdon, will have enjoyed her calm, yet thoroughly professional approach to School life. Warmth of personality, patience and sense of humour were all



part of her classroom teaching style as well as being welcome qualities in departmental meetings and the Common Room.

Her status as a part-timer as well as family commitments meant that we did not see as much of Jane as we would have liked, but she did everything asked of her with extremely good grace, as well as going over and above the call of duty on many occasions. She expected the highest standards not only of all those she taught, but also of herself.

Rye St Antony is very pleased to be getting Jane back, I am sure, and we wish her all the best for her further career there.

DGA



Simon Davies moved to Abingdon in 1994 from a city job as a financial consultant in derivative products. His academic background was a degree at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, in Experimental Psychology. He did attend Radley as a boy, but didn't seem to mind a move to Abingdon.

Realising he had to learn a new trade, Simon threw himself into teaching wholeheartedly from the first lesson with 4 set 6! He was always well organised, and demanded high standards from both pupils and staff. As a plain-speaking man who would always speak his mind, Simon left boys in no doubt of his expectations.

He coached rowing and the U15 rugby team for several years, and boys received an excellent grounding in both sports from him. He also ran Conservation, and could never understand why more boys did not share his enthusiasm for it on wet Wednesday afternoons!

Two years after joining Abingdon, when **Alun Watkins** moved from Head of Biology to

Upper Master, Simon took over as Head of Department. He thrived in this role, and his efficient enthusiasm broke new ground in the Department. Never one for understatement, his letters to the examination boards have to be seen to be believed!

He had the conscientious, yet no-nonsense approach to teaching, which enabled boys to know that whatever he said, he was always there to give them that extra helping hand to get them their grades. He would give extra lessons at all times of day and night, and, though not obviously, worried greatly over boys he felt were on the edge of underachievement.

During his time as Head of Biology two events of import occurred: Simon was appointed Housemaster of Crescent House to succeed **Nigel Hunter**, and he was diagnosed with kidney failure.

He coped with increasing ill health with frustrated stoicism, until he received a kidney from his mother in one of only four such living transplants a year at the Churchill Hospital. Once back to health and vigour, he took over Crescent House and set out to impose his high standards on the House. As ever he demanded much, and one of his prefects told him "You ask more of me than my parents do!" In Crescent House, as elsewhere, Simon was ably supported by Robin, and their three children, Patrick, Tom, and Celia thrived as young children do in a House environment.

Outside the classroom Simon is a fisherman, and spent much time in Scotland after sea trout and salmon. He got into lake fishing during his time here, and thoroughly enjoyed an evening boat fishing, though he always said Robin didn't really want many trout in the freezer - a poor excuse for blank days!

Simon was appointed Vice Master and Usher of Bedford School (what the Usher does is a mystery), but shortly after this was struck down by a mystery bacterium which put him in the Radcliffe Infirmary for two weeks. A measure of his standing in Abingdon was the large number of enquiries, cards, and flowers that descended on Robin during his illness. Now that he is fully recovered and in harness at Bedford, we wish him, Robin and their family well, and will miss his forthright presence in Common Room.

TCG

Stuart Ocock arrived at Abingdon in September 1997 after four years at Loughborough Grammar School. He has made a significant contribution to Abingdon in the last five years. Apart from his achievements he will long be remembered for his humour, wit and bonhomie in the Common Room, and for his inimitable cross-country notices at Monday Assemblies. Stuart was an officer in the CCF, finally commanding the army section, a visiting tutor in Waste Court, and School timetabler for three years, where his sharp intellect was brought to bear on the intricacies of the Abingdon curriculum.

In the Mathematics Department he invigorated meetings with his perceptive comments and his ability to solve problems from different angles. He frequently prepared the ablest mathematicians for STEP and Advanced Extension papers.

Probably his most notable achievement was his leadership of the Cross Country Club, whose members have achieved great success in recent years. In the words of **Robert Rothkopf** in the 2000 *Abingdonian*: "All these successes were made possible by the commitment and inspiration from our unbeatable trio of staff Mr Ocock, the pioneer of the Club's new-found indomitable enthusiasm, should feel very pleased with his work."



Stuart leaves to be Head of Mathematics at the King's School, Canterbury, to give them the benefit of his enthusiasm, intellect and wit.

DJD

Sylvia Finnimore first came to Abingdon during the 1996/97 academic year to cover the absence, on sabbatical leave, of **Renata Retallack**. She made an immediate impact through her work with GCSE Drama students, culminating in a striking production of devised work on the theme of war. When the chance for a permanent appointment arose the following year, the School recognised the value of Sylvia's enormous experience and skill. She



brought the expertise of a director in professional theatre as well as a former Deputy Headteacher, and boys were quick to appreciate the calm authority of her classroom manner, and to respond to her perceptive promptings in productions. She offered a generation of Abingdon Drama students the wealth of her knowledge of theatre and stagecraft.

Sylvia's major productions included Sheridan's *A School for Scandal*, *The Bacchae* by Euripides, *The Hypochondriac* by Molière and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. She also assisted in the direction of *The Battle of the Sexes*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Henry V*, and *Team Spirit*. Less visible perhaps, but no less important, were the countless scenes from plays, devised projects or monologues and duologues Sylvia shaped for GCSE or A Level examinations which presented pupils at their very best. All featured excellent characterisation, beautifully crafted stage business and an assured visual sense. It was not only the actors who benefited, since Sylvia's gifts were also evident in the organisation of backstage support teams, where opportunities were offered to many more to experience the thrill of close theatrical teamwork.

All this demanded enormous time and energy. Sylvia contributed both in quantities way beyond her contractual obligations. She now leaves us after five packed years to resume her freelance career. All who experienced her creativity and guidance will want to thank Sylvia for the tremendous contribution she made to the development of Drama at Abingdon, and to wish her well in her new role.

JHT



George Duxbury

Every year at Prize-Giving a number of Duxbury ties are awarded to a few boys, or masters, who have served the School in some understated yet significant manner – just as George Duxbury himself did.

The tie was instituted in 1969 by the then Headmaster, **Sir James Cobban**, to mark the thirty-five years, 1931-1966, George Duxbury spent at Abingdon as Classics master, Editor of *The Abingdonian*, Librarian, Archivist, OA Secretary, Secretary of the OA Trust Fund, master in charge of rowing and of the Junior Training Corps.

George Duxbury, GFD, was an intensely private man and little was known of him outside School. He was born in 1903, the second son of the Revd. Anyon Herbert Duxbury and his wife, Frances Eliza. He had an older brother, Herbert Cecil, who was killed in action in 1917, and a younger brother, John Noel, who was awarded a Military Cross in 1945. George served in neither war, being too young for the first - he was fifteen when it ended, and too old for the second - he was thirty-six when it began. He also had a sister, Helen.

The little we do know about his life has been gleaned from his diaries and photograph albums which are in the Abingdon School archives. He attended Merchant Taylors' School, read Classics at St. John's College, Oxford, and, judging by a series of photographs under such headings as, 'Hillbrow, Christmas Term 1926', which show a large country house and lots of small boys playing sports, one can probably assume that he taught at a prep. school before coming to Abingdon.

Relying on photograph albums for information is very unsatisfactory as the labels are always so perfunctory. Is the photograph of a bride George's wife? Does the fact that it appears opposite a photograph of St. Martin's in the Fields, under the date September 1 1927, mean anything? It is obvious that in 1929 George and his wife spent their holiday in Pembrokeshire and that in 1930 they went to Exmoor, with a caravan. In fact all their holidays between 1930 and 1939 are listed in the back of one of the albums.

There was only one other part of their lives that was so carefully documented - their dogs. They had fifteen of them from Fryme, a Highland Terrier who came to them as a puppy in 1918, to Tina, a Golden Labrador, who died in 1986.

They had no children so, on 22 April 1989, it was the Headmaster of Abingdon School, **Michael St. John Parker**, who was informed by a policeman that George and his wife, Margaret, had been found dead, having apparently taken their own lives the night before.

It was because they had no children that the School now holds George's photograph albums and diaries. Their depiction of the English countryside, of vicarage gardens, cricket matches and rowing regattas, epitomises this quiet unassuming gentleman of a by-gone age. As one OA wrote, "For my generation...George was the quintessential 'Mr. Chips'", adding that his own career had only been made possible by George Duxbury, "who had to give me emergency cramming so that I could pass the Sandhurst entry examination. I did so by one mark!" To another OA, GFD had been his "guide, philosopher and friend". Many OAs remembered his motorbike which "was a great source of fun and teasing as it was very unreliable on wartime petrol". He was still riding one when, aged eighty-four, he used it to visit an OA who later wrote that George seemed unchanged, in fact the only thing about him that had changed "was his motorcycle; the old one never recovered from my taking it to bits in the armoury..."

In 1990 a Duxbury Scholarship was established, endowed by a bequest from George himself and by money collected in his memory – a memory of one who exemplified, as Sir James Cobban said, "those humane and liberal values which the Classics are supposed to inculcate...for he, if anyone, 'saw life steadily and saw it whole'".

Crescent House

The end of the Summer Term 2002 marks the end of an era in Crescent House, with **Mr Davies'** four-year reign as Housemaster over. It is perhaps hard for those relatively new to the House fully to appreciate his contribution to Crescent. During these four years we have seen the complete renovation of both Cobban and Glyndwr, as well as the building of the new games room and kitchen, with which we can surely lay a claim to being some of the best accommodated boys in the country. Yet this is not to claim the social side of the House has been neglected: we have had numerous successful Crescent House revues, where he has taken his own impersonation with good grace; musical evenings where he has listened to amongst others a truly memorable rendering of Eagle Eye Cherry's '*Save Tonight*' by **C. Howard**, who with **N. Herbert** and **J. Stubbs** look likely contenders to be the next Radiohead; and a variety of other events. We wish him, Robin and their children all the best as he moves to take up a position at Bedford School. The House looks forward to the arrival of **Mr Garnier** and his family to take over the reins in Crescent.

Time as well for the departing Upper Sixth to move on. After an excellent spell as Head of School, **N. Betteridge** is taking a year out before moving on to study Accountancy. A variety of universities is represented in our final destinations, including Cambridge, LSE, Imperial College and Nottingham. This has been a year group who have truly contributed greatly to both House and School: **C. Manners** as Head of the R.A.F. section of the C.C.F.; **D. Easterbrook** in 1st XV rugby and as a School prefect; **J. Marsh** and his strokes of genius in the Debating Society. This was reflected in Prizegiving with both **T. Gallard** and **N. Betteridge** winning prizes. During my year as Head of House, it has been a privilege to work with them all as House prefects, and to witness the true concern they all have displayed for other members of the House. Taking over the mantle from next year will be **T. Hooper** as Head of House, ably assisted by our fifth consecutive Head of School, **N. Herbert** and School prefect **A. Rowe**.

Achievements on the sports fields have been wide-ranging and admirable. **N. Herbert** is a key oarsman in this year's highly successful 1st VIII. As well as **D. Easterbrook** representing the 1st XV, **P. Peacock** and **C. Howard** have played for the 2nds. It is lower down the ability spectrum that Crescent House shines, however. **T. Gallard** has captained the 3rd XV, and the following have also played: **A. Pang**, **J. Marsh**, **N. Betteridge**, **J. Bosley**, **D. Wong**, **J. Stubbs**, **C. Manners**, **T. Hooper**, **H. Hunter**. It is in our all-round contribution to School sport that Crescent is most impressive. **K. Kim** and **S. Wylie** have also both played for their years' AXVs. Hockey and cricket are equally well represented, **P. Peacock** playing in the 1sts for both of these sports.

As always it is good to see that the new Third Years have been quick to adapt to boarding, and they can now all without doubt describe themselves as a part of the House. A wide range of talents are represented, from the music of **S. Wylie**, our resident Scholar **C. Lillycrop**, the technical wizardry of child prodigy **W. Drazin** in the Amey Hall Tech Crew, to the quick-witted debating double team of

G. Fenton and **T. Rutland**, whose lightning retorts I have often fallen prey to when doing lights-out, and who are surely on the steps to greatness. This is a year group for whom we hold out high hopes, but they still need to make a greater effort to accept each other's foibles, which I'm sure will occur over time.

Many of the Fourth Years seem to be academic high-fliers with many having taken GCSEs early. Special mention must go to **A. Cruickshank**, who has improved extraordinarily during the course of the year, and is making a real effort both in the School and the House. They are also well represented in the other half, **T. Rippon's** canoeing exploits and **H. Taylor's** music being just two examples.

The Fifth Year have, quite rightly, been concentrating on their examinations for most of the year, and we wish them all the best in their results. It is sad to see quite a large proportion leaving, including **G. Norris** and **P. Newnham**, but those remaining are well placed to adapt to the increased responsibility and workload of the Sixth Form.

The breadth of the Lower Sixth is astonishing. There are debaters in **H. Hunter** and **T. Hooper**, actors in **J. Bosley** and **H. Hunter**, a sportsman in **N. Herbert**, and prodigious technicians in **A. Rowe** and **N. Herbert**. They are no doubt ready to face the increased challenges of the Upper Sixth, and will relish the increased authority it entails.

A number of staff are also moving on from the House. **Julie Mills** has been Matron for three years, and during that time she gained the trust and respect of both tutors and boys. She always made people welcome in her flat, which has been an oasis of calm amongst the hive of activity in the House. Thanks also to **Mr Forster** for running the House with commendable efficiency and good humour during **Mr Davies'** absence; and congratulations to **Mr Hele** who has recently married. Sadly, we note the departure of **Jake**, one of the maintenance men; no one seems to be acknowledged less than **Jake**, but it is through his hard work that the House is kept such a pleasant place in which to live.

In conclusion, it has been a highly successful year for Crescent. More than ever, it is a House characterised by a genuine friendliness and tolerance. We have sportsmen, academics and musicians. In this House, though, the academics play sport, the sportsmen play instruments and the musicians work. We have philosophers in the Fourth Form, we have poets in the Third Form. Nowhere is the inclusive ethos that raises Abingdon above rival Schools more obvious than in Crescent House.

T. Gallard VIJFB

School House



'Depesh Desai's

late night disco,

Adam Linder's

covert opera-

tions and Holmes

Wang's Sinatra

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Christmas din-

ner all reminded

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House.'

The year started with a somewhat unreal air: Third Years who worked hard, prefects who were unfailingly reliable and Fifth Years who worked overtime to complete their coursework. This was surely the calm before the storm, an imitation of life in a Boarding House as seen only in the prospectus. Sure enough, reality soon reasserted itself: **Depesh Desai's** late night disco, **Adam Linder's** covert operations and **Holmes Wang's** Sinatra impression at the Christmas dinner all reminded one of what life should really be like in a Boarding House. Overall, though, we enjoyed an atmosphere of friendly purpose, which enabled work to be done and individuals to live their lives as they wished with an appropriate degree of freedom and respect.

Successes were both individual and corporate. As Arturo Ui, **Walter Gervers** delighted the Amey Hall audience with his physical versatility; in his rendition of Mendelssohn's C minor piano concerto **Jonathan Mak** combined technical virtuosity with emotional flair; and on the river **Jack Tarrell** continued his successes with the First VIII and the Great Britain squad. Corporately, the House competed strongly in all competitions, and won the Third Year and Sixth Form public speaking (with main speeches by **Cameron Dwyer** and **Charles Coventry** respectively), the Middle School five-a-side football and the Fourth Year swimming gala (with the help of **Samuel Ng**).

Even more strikingly, our charity effort, based on the number of sponsored press-ups or sit-ups we could each do in one go, raised £851 (£16 per boy) for the Centre for the Rehabilita-

tion of the Paralysed in Bangladesh. Although she eschews such physical exertion herself, **Delphine** was instrumental in organising the event and collected money ruthlessly while limbs still ached.

This year we said goodbye to an Upper Sixth who in their different ways had contributed much to the House and School: **Jonny Stiff** and **Alistair Fairbrother** led the House by the example of their reliability and willingness; **Richard Capper** likewise was thoughtful and also stoical in his academic endeavour; **Sherwin Chan** gave great service to a number of causes, most uniquely as the soloist in the Boarders' Choir; **Walter Gervers** and **Tom Blackshaw** performed in dozens of drama productions; **Lars Laing-Peterson** among other things directed one; **Jonny Mak** and **Sung Park** sparred in the mathematical ring; **Charles Coventry** hounded the opposition over the debating table; **Depesh Desai** topped the cricket averages and managed to carry off subversion with a mischievous charm; and **Holmes Wang**, of course, "did it his way". Together they provided something of an example of the breadth of talent and achievement to which the younger years could aspire.

Finally, we say goodbye to the 'big dorm'. Although it had become an anachronism, it will be missed for the sociability it encouraged, indeed demanded, from boys pitched into the House as strangers in their first term. I hope that the House will be able to maintain the spirit of community which the big dorm helped to engender as well as benefiting from the new rooms which will come in its place.

BAHF

What is a Matron?

Delphine, the Matron of School House, reflects upon her important rôle:

It is a title which I personally do not like. To me it conjures up an image of a bossy, unsympathetic character, a stickler to the rules. I do hope I am not perceived like that? Just as pupils are each different from one another, likewise matrons. And the reasons for doing the job are various.

In my own case I came to do it after my own four children had grown up and my marriage had ended. It was wonderful to feel needed again. The company of teenagers is something I find both rewarding and highly entertaining. Schools where I have worked are in glorious surroundings with lovely campuses. There is no chance to be lonely. Another thing - I actually enjoy School food, believe it or not!

Before embarking on this occupation I lived in a small town in Scotland where there was only one family with black skin. Since doing this job I have worked with thirty-eight different nationalities in Schools that are Church of England, Roman Catholic and Quaker. Prejudices I did

not realise I had have been confounded and my emotional horizons widened by becoming familiar with the needs of different cultures. It is an eye-opener to see children of races that are traditionally enemies befriending one another.

Of course there are unpleasant or difficult duties sometimes. Someone may have suffered a bereavement, an accident, been involved in a fight or report that something has been stolen. Apart from liaising with staff, organising domestic and practical affairs, escorting pupils to doctors, dentists, casualty, etc., my rôle is that of “mother” to the pupils while separated from their own mothers. In my own case, “grandmother” would be more appropriate! Like everyone else I have my bad-tempered days when faced with horrible messes boys have neglected to tidy. I make mistakes too. However, I like to believe that, over the years I have given support, comfort, love and time to the literally hundreds of teenagers who have been in my care.

Delphine Sym



“Pyramid”

**Mixed Media
montage
by
Dennis Waller
5AMS**

Waste Court

'... we achieved
a rare feat of
making the
staff act like
children...'

A new year, a new House-master. The departure of the Waters family was sad but with the Phelps came great enthusiasm and new ideas.

The Michaelmas Term saw the formation of what was to become a very closely bound House, encapsulated by the "not-so-Halloween Party", where we achieved a rare feat of making the staff act like children.

Adedapo Tejuoso, Gor Mouradian and **Kenny Cruickshank** put in some superb performances on the rugby pitch for which **Kenny** was awarded colours. Christmas saw the departure of **Nathan Versey** who contributed a great deal during his time here. **Patrick Watson** replaced him.

The Lent Term brought good news in the form of university offers and prizes. Our resident scholars **Tristan Worthington** and **Edward Lee** along with **Roland Shaw** all received offers at Oxford or Cambridge, which is a great achievement for the House.

The Lower School has also gained the right to be proud. A combined effort from members of the second form saw them win the 'Fitzharrys Design Competition'. **Ben King** also gained an individual achievement by winning the Oxfordshire Schools badminton doubles tournament and coming second in the singles.

The House music was another great success with performances from **Andrew La Forte, Ben King, Ben Lerch, Maxy Ling** and **Adedapo Tejuoso, Gor Mouradian** and **Vishaal Hindocha**.



Continuing on the music front, the Summer Term gave us the opportunity to witness an outstanding solo performance by **Edward Lee** on the violin with the First Orchestra. **Alex Tang** was also given a chance to show off his technical virtuosity on the piano in the Scholars' concert. They will both play a senior role in this summer's First Orchestra tour and they are wished the best of luck.

A thoroughly successful year has been capped by the awarding of prizes. **Roland Shaw** won the Art prize, **Edward Lee** collected the prize for Mathematics. **Tristan Worthington** won the Drama prize, **Mamu Richards** walked away with the Wheeler Cup for academic effort and **Maxwell Labi** was awarded a Duxbury tie.

These are the closing weeks of my time here at Abingdon, and on the behalf of the Upper Sixth I would like to thank all the members of staff in the House. They are a second family to us and I hope they continue in this manner for many years to come.

M.Labi VIJFB

a new Housemaster



Mr Phelps muses on the developments and changes he has seen in Waste Court as its latest

Housemaster...

Kimberly and I moved into the House in August and since then we have been absorbed by the constant rollercoaster of emotions displayed here.

Tim and **Corinna Waters** spent many hours trying to prepare us, but nothing can prepare you for the reality. The idiosyncrasies of the House combined with the very different demands of the two age-groups mean that all the routines in the House are finely balanced. Anyone who has visited Waste Court in the evening will have noticed that it is not a haven of tranquillity. The energy, enthusiasm and vitality of the Lower School Boarders hang in the air as a heady mixture: exhilarating, infectious, odorous and at times exhausting.

This year the House has gone through some exciting developments - new paths, lights, showers, toilets, carpets, noticeboards and several cans of paint. In the summer we hope to develop the House Office and to put a new kitchen in the Coach House, although I doubt that the School will ever meet the requirements of a sauna and jacuzzi requested by **Dapo Tejuoso**.

On the domestic side the House has changed a great deal. **Dawn Lupton**, the resident matron for twelve years, was offered a new position assisting the Sister in the Health Centre. **Carol Webb** was appointed as Housekeeper at the start of the Summer Term and has already transformed the routines and expectations of the boys. The junior boarders seem to shine and smell in a much more positive way and we all look forward to even more changes in the next year. Obviously,

the House would not function without the help from **Mavis**, **Margory**, **Roy** and **Liz** who have all done wonders to keep us neat and tidy.

Waste Court has also been blessed with an archaeological dig and a royal visit from the Duchess of Gloucester who opened a community flower show depicting fifty years of the Queen's reign. In both cases the lawns have never looked so spectacular.

Of course, the boys have been the most remarkable aspect of the House. The Sixth Form have gone about their business in a determined and respectable manner. **Maxwell Labi** has led the House by example: always willing to listen and advise. He is a credit to this School and thoroughly deserved his Duxbury tie. It is no surprise that the seven Sixth Form leavers are heading for distinguished universities and highly successful careers.

Next year the House will be even bigger with new boarders and the exciting introduction of Upper and Middle School dayboys and I know I will be able to rely on next year's Upper Sixth to welcome everyone into Phelps' House. Finally, a huge thank you to **Mr. Hullis**, **Mrs. Wigmore** and **Mr. Woodrow** who leave us for pastures new. All three have been a constant support and a joy to have in the House and they will be sorely missed. There are many junior boarders who are very lucky to have had such highly professional support and on behalf of everyone in the House I would like to wish them all the best of luck in their various new rôles.

WTP

Drummond-Hay's

'Both ... have showed through-out their School careers that there is a lot more to Drummond-Hay's House than sporting success.'

As an action-packed year draws to a close, Drummond-Hay's House has good reason to look back with satisfaction and pride upon another year of high achievement. The new House Prefects for the year were: **Andrew Maclean** (Head Boy), **Adam Addis** (Head of House), **Edward Keeling**, **Peter Phillips**, **Mark Salmon**, **Greg Stalcup**, **Robert Turnbull**, and Head Gardener **Matthew Blake**. All did a superb job throughout the year, making sure that the House functioned smoothly and effectively.

The first major event in which the House was given an opportunity to shine was the Tag-Rugby Festival in November. The House didn't disappoint, with both the Sixth Form and Fourth Year teams winning their events. Drummond-Hay's continues to set the standards on the rugby pitch, which is good to see! Soon after the rugby came the Public Speaking Competition: a complete contrast, but once again the House excelled, with the Fourth Year team of **James Hopkins**, **Richard Soames** and **Jonathan Garrett** finishing as runners-up.

So on to the Lent Term. The hockey sticks came out for the Inter-House Hockey Competition, and runner-up status was achieved in both the senior and junior events: very impressive despite no victory. Victory was achieved, however, in the road relay, as the Upper Sixth won the race for their age group. The Lower Sixth finished third in their competition, and the Fourth Year finished second in their race. Individually **Matthew Cullen** and **Ivan Collin** finished seventh and ninth respectively.

Over the Easter holidays the Third Year CCF recruits went on Recruit Camp, on which Drummond-Hay's **Oliver Bennett** won "Best Cadet", and **Philip Thomas** was named "Most improved recruit". For the House to have both award winners was a superb achievement!

If any further confirmation were required, the House's sporting prowess was displayed at the Jubilee Sports Day. The Third Year finished as runners-up, with **Francis Gater** winning the Victor Ludorum for the best overall individual performance. The Fourth Year also finished runners up, but the Fifth Year crushed the opposition to win. The Lower Sixth came third, and the Upper Sixth once again came out on top,

with **Greg Stalcup** winning the Victor Ludorum. Overall, Drummond-Hay's won with a grand total of 616 points from all of the year groups put together : 125 points ahead of our closest rivals, the Boarders.

It is customary for academic prizes to be awarded to the Third and Fourth Year boys in the House who perform best in their end of year examinations. This year the Third Year prize was won by **E. Allen** and the Fourth Year prize by **T. Bainbridge**. Many congratulations to them for their excellent performances.

On Prize-Giving Day three of our Upper Sixth leavers were honoured with prizes. The Mayor's Prize for service to the community was awarded to the ever-enthusiastic and caring **Matthew Blake** for his long-term association with community service. **Mark Salmon** won the Hester Tankard for service. Both of these Upper-Sixth Formers have showed throughout their School careers that there is a lot more to Drummond-Hay's House than sporting success. Head Boy **Andrew Maclean** was awarded a Quatercentenary Prize, having spent his year as Head of School acting as a superb ambassador both for his School and his House.

Prefects for next year were also announced. **John Chater**, **Matthew Cullen**, **Darshan Puri** and **Mark Smith** were appointed as full School Prefects, and House Prefects are **Felix Hemsley**, **Jonathon Watkins** and **Robin Wood**.

In summary this has been a hugely successful year for the House. Much of the credit must of course be given to **Mr. Drummond-Hay** himself, whose tireless enthusiasm for the members of the House always motivates them to do their best; and to the tutors, who go largely unnoticed, but put in massive amounts of time and effort on the behalf of their tutees. Particular mention goes to **Mr White**, who is retiring from the teaching staff, and his cheerfulness and care for his Sixth Form tutees will be sorely missed. **Mr Spencer** leaves the House to become a Housemaster himself, and will, as **Mr. Drummond-Hay** so delightfully put it, "probably have the second-best House in the School!" We wish them both all the best for the future.

M.J.Cullen 6TCG

Fishpool's

Another year has passed and once again a report is called for. The year has been busy and the House well represented in many different aspects of School life.

Regular sporting, musical and other cultural ventures saw boys from the House achieving high standards. Newer ventures in the School calendar have attracted a growing following: Inter-House football and the tug of war - both events with their charity tag - met with enthusiasm; many boys have also joined the growing Community Service organisation, which concluded the year with its annual Tea Party for local elderly residents of Abingdon.

It fell upon Fishpool's to raise some money for the School in Moldavia that Abingdon has supported for the past few years. It was perhaps this that gives me a reason to pause for thought. We raised a respectable sum but, as is so often the case, the burden fell onto a minority of boys to raise the money.

I am often asked by new parents what is Fishpool's House like - sporting, academic? Most of the Houses have clear identities or are perceived in certain ways, although with several House Masters changing next year, a shuffle of identity may occur. I would certainly like to think that Fishpool's is a House where 'to have a go' is the main approach and success is greeted with modesty yet delight!

It has been a struggle this year with some of the Middle School members of the House to get people involved and to raise enthusiasm. I hope that this is a temporary phenomenon because many of the members of the House have much to offer. I often have to write on a minority of reports during the year that the other half needs to be more fully explored.

As a national debate rages on the question of identity - what does it mean to be English, Scottish or British? - the microcosm of the School also reflects this dilemma. As Abingdonians, the boys are perceived as bright and resourceful. One only has to consider the growing and impressive array of activities that the band of leavers embark upon when their travel and Gap Year activities are reeled off at Speech Day to see the evidence for this argument.

Within the House, this year's leavers follow this pattern with a variety of planned activities prior to going to university. Lower down in the House, there are boys who are emerging with a clear sense of direction and identity. There are, however, those who have yet to find a niche and that sense of direction which allows the 'spark' to ignite and thus to realise their potential. The House pastoral structure is there to support this difficult transition but I would like to see a more purposeful approach by some. This House is not unique in this respect but if an individual can be swept along by House spirit, the transition can be made that much more easily.

We wish all our leavers from the Upper Sixth and from other years well for the future.

Next year's Head of House will be **Tom Dyson** supported by an able band of House Prefects - the whole of **NMR's** tutor group! I would also like to thank the House tutors for their hard work and support during the course of the year.

ICF



"Magenta Landscape"

(Oil on Board)

**by David Rowley
VIJEF**

'Fishpool's is a House where 'to have a go' is the main approach and success is greeted with modesty yet delight!'

Garnier's

'... nearly everyone in the House has competed in a team of some sort this year...'
[The pantomime] was such a success that there is already talk of another one next year...'

This year has seen Garnier's House teams competing with success in athletics, hockey, the tug-of-war, road-relay, swimming and shooting. There was also much to be pleased about in the Public Speaking Competition. Both the Fourth and Sixth Year teams (**Henry Callaghan**, **Edward Rowett**, **James Dingwall** and **Simon Probert**, **Peter Tubman**, **Joshua Sasanow** respectively) lost out in close contests but the Fifth Year team, (**George Potter**, **Alasdair Macdonald** and **Alex Nash**) saw off all challengers (including the hotly-tipped Scholars along the way) to win the final with considerable style. In the Third Year final against School House, **Tim Dawson**, **Chris Parker** and **Douglas Graham** came an admirable second. A career in politics surely awaits for someone...

On the athletics field we have also enjoyed success, with **Mark Johnson** yet again winning the Victor Ludorum in his year. The Lower Sixth won their age-group with understandable satisfaction at beating Drummond-Hay's. The Third Year also won their competition. In the past we have seen "Garnierians" flying round the road-relay and this year was no different: fine runs from **Andrew Bailey**, **Simon Probert** and **Philip Bickerton** in the Sixth Form were mirrored by **Douglas Graham** who was the fastest in the Third Year. **Simon Probert** was selected to run for the county at cross-country.

In the annual swimming galas, the House fared reasonably well, considering we only go in the pool once a year. The Third Year came fifth, the Fourth Year grabbed fourth place, with a fine performance by **Alex Shaw** to win the two lengths freestyle, and the Lower Sixth was really disappointed to see its event cancelled just as it started to rain! Our performance in the House cricket competition was well below our potential but, happily, the draw allowed a second chance and we progressed to the semi-finals.

It's comforting to see we have a few very skilful snipers in the House; in the Rifle Club Shooting Competition **Nik Rogers** came fourth in the Individual Competition whilst **Adrian Jack** shot his way to second in the Fifth Year age-group.

In addition to those mentioned above, there have been some good individual performances. **Jacob Rowe**, **Alex Eeles** and **Justin Henley** played in matches for the 1st XV, **Jamie Hedges** played hockey for the 1st XI, and **Ben Garner**, **Justin Henley** and **James Mugnaioni** all played for the 1st XI at cricket. **David Rowley** was a regular

member of the 1st VI for tennis, being awarded his half colours, and **Ben Chadwick** won full colours for both tennis and badminton. On the water, **Jonathan Pinner** had great success racing his Laser dinghy, crowning his season with 2nd place at the National Schools' Championship, a tremendous achievement.

In fact, nearly everyone in the House has competed in a team of some sort this year but that certainly hasn't been at the expense of our studies: GCSE's, AS and A-Level exams occupied the thoughts of many in the House. End-of-year House prizes were awarded to **Matthew Smith** (Third year), **Alex Shaw** (Fourth year) and **Alasdair Macdonald** (Fifth Year). **Ben Garner** won the Ancient History prize, and **David Rowley** won the History of Art (Liversedge) prize. **Simon Probert** was awarded the Older Cup and Prize for Initiative and **Stewart Jackson** satisfied stringent criteria to win the Richard Turner Memorial Prize.

Our House has been instrumental in supporting the Voluntary Service programme and, in particular, **Jonathan Fisher** and **James Buchan** have been praised for their flair in organising old people's tea-parties throughout the year.

In what we trust will become part of a tradition for our House, a pantomime was put on in the Lent term for the second year. This year's production was *Arthur and the Three Leprechauns*, a spectacular show soon to open in the West End if there is any justice! **Simon Probert** managed to write the script over a weekend and when he lost his voice before the opening night, **Joshua Sasanow** stepped in to take command. Helped by the producer, **Jonathan Fisher**, and indeed the entire cast, the pantomime went on without a hitch. Budding young actor **Alex Nash** also won a prize at Leavers' Day for his acting skills. It was such a success that there is already talk of another one next year.

Last term **Mr. Garnier** announced that he would be leaving us to take up the much less appealing (but certainly more challenging) job of becoming Crescent House's Housemaster. We hope he has enjoyed his time hidden away in the attic of Mercers' Court but I believe it is this location which has given our House an especially strong sense of community. Change is inevitable, however, and it is with this thought in mind that we welcome **Mr. Spencer** who will be taking over in September. Plans are already being put forward for several whole-House activities such as paintballing days and theatre trips. Next year we can also look forward to continuing success in House competitions, all of which will help to enhance the friendly atmosphere we have built up over the last four years.

Hamilton's

This is the first opportunity in my teaching career to write a report as a Housemaster. On one hand, it seems like a difficult task but on the other, it allows me to recollect many happy memories of successful moments within the House, both from an individual and collective point of view. It will be inevitable that I will have missed something out in this report. I apologise for this in advance and hope it gives you a flavour of the achievements of the House this year.

The Michaelmas Term was packed with academic endeavour. Throughout the term there were some notable report cards and many commendations. As always, some members of the House fared better than others but on the whole most were making progress in the right direction. Outside the classroom, members of the House were involved in a wide variety of activities in the other half programme. The musicians were committed on a daily basis to their lessons and rehearsals in preparation for a number of performances. I commend them highly for their efforts throughout the year. All involved with music should be proud of the large number of excellent concert performances at all levels.

On the Sports front, over half the House were involved in the Rugby Club, representing all teams at all age groups. Highlights included **Bayly Shelton** scoring a brace of tries for the Juniors B XV, **Peter Jones** playing for the Junior Colts A XV and **Andrew Marsh** and **Alex Paxton** representing the 1st XV as Fifth Years. **Matthew Paterson** also had the honour of wearing the cerise and white-hooped jumper.

The House collectively had successes elsewhere. The Public-Speaking Competition is always hard to win as competition is very strong. The Fourth Year team saw off some notable challenges that took them to the final and eventually the crown. The team was made up of **Peter Jones**, **Tim Fox** and **Alasdair Ashby**. **Alasdair's** enthusiastic and well delivered main speech was ably backed up by both the introductory speech and the vote of thanks. This team effort was the secret of their success.

The other success was in the Inter-House Tag-Rugby Festival. All the boys involved thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. One of the best moments for me was watching **James Barton** dodging around 1st XV players in the Sixth Form Competition. The Fifth Form took top spot in their year group with very strong performances throughout the afternoon.

The Lent Term started with mock examinations so the pressure was on for a number of boys in the House. The new year brought a change in sporting activity and a new vigour towards academic work, for the majority of people! The Lent highlight was our collective spirit when representing the House. This was embodied in the Tug of War Competition, in which our Middle School team comprehensively beat the mighty Drummond-Hay's to take

the title. The Upper School team pulled well but were no match (in the weight department) for some of the other House teams.

The annual Road Relay saw a record number of teams entered from the House and all year groups had teams finishing in the top five. A great achievement. The Inter-House Hockey was fiercely fought by our Third and Fourth Year teams who picked up the Bronze medal.

Both Hockey and Rowing involved a great number of boys in teams and crews throughout the School; some directly part of the success of the Boat Club at the Schools' Head.

The Easter break saw the renovation of the pool table in the House. The boys appreciated it and have so far looked after it well. It also brought with it Pool and Table Tennis Competitions, which were pleasant distractions from the main business of the term: the examinations.

Before the Fifth and the Lower Sixth Formers went away on study leave, the Inter-House Athletics gave the House members a last opportunity to represent themselves as a single body. There were some excellent performances. **Andrew Marsh** won the Victor Ludorum for his age group. The Third Year came fourth in their age group. The Fourth Year came first, the Fifth year came third, the Lower Sixth came second and the Upper Sixth came sixth. Overall, the House came third. This was an outstanding achievement which involved nearly all the House.

Next the Third and Fourth Year participated in two swimming galas, which saw the Third Years unfortunately and narrowly beaten by Drummond-Hay's to come second. Mention must be made of **Joe Calnan-Shaw** who was outstanding in the pool. The Fourth Years did their best but only managed fifth place. The final Inter-House Competition was cricket. A really enthusiastic team of Third and Fourth years beat more talented sides to get to the final where they unfortunately lost in a very close match. This final act was pleasing to see as it represented everything about the ethos for which the House strives. If we participate wholeheartedly and collectively in events, anything might happen!

Finally, I would like to say that I have enjoyed the challenges of Housemastership and look forward to the coming years. I thank the boys and especially the tutors for their support throughout the year in the House. I hope next year will be as successful.

RSH

Scholars'



'Self-portrait'

(Oil on Card)

by
Jamie
Anderson
6TCG

It has been another year of busy involvement in School life for the Scholars. The year began, as has now become the custom, with the celebratory Induction Ceremony in which new Scholars were both congratulated and tasked, and the procedures and complexities of the pastoral system were explained.

The new boys quickly

got into their stride and older hands had no difficulty in striking a happy relationship with **Mr. Phelps**, the new Housemaster of Waste Court. Collaboration with this Boarding House proved to be most fruitful once again on a number of fronts during the year, but most notably in a highly successful House Concert in the Lent Term which incorporated a very pleasant social dimension. This element of sociability was also carried through to the two Scholars' Concerts, which were notable not only for the high standards of performance but also for the supportive and affable atmosphere at the receptions beforehand. As one has come to expect, the Scholars as a group have played a significant rôle in the musical life of the School at all levels, and it seems almost invidious to single out individual achievements. However, one should not let the opportunity pass to pay tribute to **Roderick Morris'** interpretation of the Mozart D major Violin Concerto in one of the Summer Orchestral Concerts - surely one of the musical highlights of the year.

Both the Sixth Form tutor groups proved to be leading lights in the intellectual activity of the School, as witnessed by their prominence in the prize lists. Such academic heavyweights as **Thomas Ainsworth**, **Thomas Garton Ash** and **Mark Nowotny** proved to be significant players in Politics, History, Literary and Debating Societies whilst **TCG's** group demonstrated their prowess by trouncing all the opposition in the Lower Sixth Challenge. The Scholars as a whole were very enthusiastically supportive of the highly varied extracurricular events and trips which were organised for them, including a trip to Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, two theatre trips to the Oxford Playhouse, a visit to the BBC Proms, an afternoon at the Tetley Cup Final, and various speakers at the Roysse Society.

Once again the Scholars were involved in many charitable and Community Service activities. In the Michaelmas Term, *Citizen Six*, an all-Scholar band led by **Edmund Finnis**, provided a memorable evening's music under their own organisational management, raising a significant amount of money for Water Aid. **William Horwitz**, **Alec Peychers** et al. were key players in highly successful tea parties for the local elderly and, whilst not exactly victorious(!), the Scholars' tug-of-war teams were enthusiastic participants in this Inter-House charity fund raising.

Contrary perhaps to their image, the Scholars have played important parts in the sporting life of the School. One need only think of our triumphant runners **Matthew Cullen**, **Alec Peychers**, **William Horwitz** and **Ralph Horwitz**, or our highly successful rugby players such as **Anton Lin** and **Nicholas Evans**, or simply the host of committed rowers including **Adam Mould**, **Alex Paxton**, **Edward Given**, **Joshua Fyne** and **Daniel Boardman**. We are particularly proud of **Jamie Anderson**, however, a member of the three-times-champion 1st VIII.

The Scholars are about to undergo administrative reordering back into House tutor groups. I know that our sense of purpose, community and pride will live on and we can look forward to exciting developments and experiences in the next year.

RSE

Townsend's

It has been a good year and Townsend's have had an unusual amount of success on the sports fields. The fortunes of the 1st VIII are documented elsewhere but much of their success is due to the efforts of **T. Kingham**, **T. Guiver** and **J. Calnan**, whilst the crew was skilfully coxed by **N. Brodie** in the Fifth Year. A formidable tug of war team beat the much-fancied Drummond-Hay's in the Inter House Competition: the core of the team consisted of **A. Campbell**, **A. Sergeant**, **A. Livingstone** and **R. Thomas**. In the annual Road Relay Competition, Townsend's was again triumphant, winning both the overall title and also the individual title. The fastest runner was **J. Richards**, who has also represented Oxfordshire at senior level. He was supported by **P. Brazier**, **J. Calnan** and **R. Browne**. The Fifth Year team ran well to come second in their year group. Meanwhile, a valiant effort from the hockey players ensured that we won the Inter House Hockey Plate, after losing to the eventual winners in the first round of the main competition. Our team of marksmen competed in the Inter-House Shooting Competition and won both age-groups comfortably, ably led by **P. Wakefield**, who competes for Oxfordshire and Great Britain. In both the Inter-House athletics and swimming galas we fared less well, but there were some good individual performances and there was lots of team spirit among the competitors.

It was Townsend's turn to support the school charity *Breadline* in the Lent Term: this we did with great enthusiasm, raising over £450 for the Number 4 school, Ialoveni in Moldova. All members of the House contributed with much of the money coming from the sale of doughnuts by the Upper Sixth. Initiative and imagination shown especially by the Middle School helped realise this excellent sum: twice that anticipated. We also contributed strongly to community service and other charities, notably **R. Thomas** collecting Tesco Computer Tokens for Schools, and giving them to the Kingfisher School.

Debating has been popular and in the Senior Public-Speaking Competition **S. Mitchell**, **J. Rose** and **J. Pargeter** were runners-up in a very closely contested debate. **J. Rose** spoke on a wide range of topics including *Dwarf-Tossing*, whilst the Middle School teams, for the first time, reached the semi-finals.

Congratulations go to the Academic and Special prize-winners listed to the right.

JT and James
Pargeter 6DE



'Tomb and Grave'
(Glazed Ceramic)
by William Harrison 5JT

Third year	H. Dawkins
Fourth year	A. McKend
Fifth year	C. Kirkland
Geography Prize	J. Richards
Griiffin Cup for Craftsmanship	W. McGeehin
Dr. James Molloy Prize	T. Guiver
Jubilee Book Review Prize	J. Calnan

Wilmore's

Never has
Wilmore's House
appeared in
better shape
than this year
when Dr.
Wilmore retires
from running it,
as he explains:

Next September **Mr Aitken** takes over. I have been asked if I shall be sad to hand over the House. The answer is no! – I have enjoyed my time in Wilmore's very much, but it was always a job with a fixed term and I have reached the end point. I have been very lucky, both with regard to location and the boys whom I have looked after. I hope that I leave the House in good shape and that it continues to prosper.

As always the House provided its fair share of rugby players and I'm not going to list them all. **Chris Thomson** was unable to play because of a knee injury and captained the 1st XV from the sideline. His presence made a big difference and his coaches were full of praise for his contribution. **Rory Hamilton** fought his way back to fitness following a nasty collar-bone break and proved to be a tower of strength. He was awarded full colours and 'Forward of the Year'. **Sam Higazi** was another to put a nasty injury behind him and gain a place in the 1st XV. **David Procter** made a telling contribution to the club with the 2nd XV and was awarded half-colours in recognition of his efforts.

Lower down the School, **Stephen Hughes**, **Alistair McKenzie** and **Oliver Sanders** played for the Colts A XV, while **Peter Minch** captained the Junior Colts B XV and according to his coaches led by example.

Away from the rugby fields, **Mathew Browne** was making a huge contribution to the Cross-Country Club. He represented Oxfordshire at the National Schools' Championships and was awarded full colours. **William Burdall** gained colours for sailing, a measure of the high regard in which he is held by his coaches. **Nick Pollard** was placed second in the Third Year Interhouse Shooting Competition with a score of $94/100$.

Academic prizes were awarded for Middle School commendations to **Christopher Cowan** (Third Year), **Nathan Hughes** and **George Cowie** (Fourth Year) and **Graeme Innes** (Fifth Year). **Neil Sadler** won the academic prize for the best performance in the Lower Sixth Tests. **Henry Clayton** was awarded the History Prize and **Tom Adams** the Birnberg Prize for German. The prize for Contribution to the Other Half was awarded to **Rory Hamilton**. **Luke Berryman** gave a virtuoso performance of the 2nd and 3rd movements of Grieg's piano concerto at a pretour concert, for this summer's visit to Vienna, Prague and Budapest by the 1st Orchestra. **Joe Dyson** was a yeoman in the production of *Henry V* and also had a part in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*.

Phillip Timberlake was Vice-Captain of the



'Three Heads'
(Oil on Board)
by Neil Sadler 6SAE

1st X1 Hockey team which enjoyed a magnificent season. This included winning the Oxfordshire Schools' Championship. **Phillip** also represented Oxfordshire and was a member of the Divisional squad. **Roy Cox** played in goal for the 1st X1, and was awarded half colours. Lower down the School, **Nathan Hughes** captained the Junior Colts B X1, while **Toby Roche**, in the mid-field of the Juniors A X1, helped that side to enjoy a 100% record.

In the Road Relay Wilmore's Upper Sixth A team achieved third place out of 91 teams participating. This was all the more remarkable because **Mathew Browne** ran both the first and last legs, with **Sam Higazi** and **David Procter** running the middle legs.

In the Inter-House Hockey Tournament both Middle and Upper School teams were victorious. **Christian Davies** captained the Third and Fourth Years team and **Phillip Timberlake** the Sixth Form team.

Nick Patterson produced the best mock Examination performance for the year, with 4A*s, 2As, 4Bs and a C.

As usual, members of the House have represented the School at all the major sports. **Phillip Timberlake** captained the 3rd x1 cricket team for which **Josh Farrant** made a 50 against Stowe. For the 2nd X1 **Alistair McKenzie** followed three wicket hauls against Oratory and Stowe, with a magnificent six wicket haul against St Edward's. **Rob Muirhead** took three wickets for the 2nd X1 in the match against Oratory.

The Third and Fourth Years cricket team began the Inter-House Cricket Tournament with a stunning victory against the mighty Drummond-Hay's. So shell-shocked was their Housemaster that he raised the white flag well before the end of the game. **Sam Florey** won the toss and put them in, then along with **Alex Wimborne** demolished their early batting.

This was followed up with a victory against Fishpool's. In the final we were put into bat by Hamilton's and scored 120 for 6. **Sam Florey** led the way with 35 not out/retired, finishing his innings with a towering six. **Chris Cowan**, **Tom Swarbrick** and **Johnnie Fisher** chipped in with useful scores (16, 19 and 17 respectively).

Sam then bowled a niggardly five overs for 7 runs, helping to put Hamilton's behind the clock. **Tom Swarbrick** and

Toby Roche with 4 and 3 wickets respectively completed an eight run victory.

In the Inter-House Athletics Competitions the Third Year came 7th (last), the Fourth Year 3rd, the Fifth Year 5th, the Lower Sixth 6th and the Upper Sixth 2nd. It was unfortunate that both **Mathew Browne** and **Chris Thomson** were unable to take part as this might well have converted 2nd place into a victory. As it was, our overall position was 4th. In the Fourth Year competition **George Cowie** won two individual races (100m and 200m) and was a member of the winning relay team, so earning the award of Victor Ludorum. Away from School, **Alastair Blackmore** achieved 11th place in the National Schools' Sailing Championship.

In the Swimming Competitions the Fourth Year achieved 2nd place. Individual winners were **Mark Utley** (1 length backstroke B div.), **George Cowie** (1 length breaststroke A div.) and **Nick Turnbull** (2 lengths freestyle B div.). The Third Year came 6th, with the only victory coming in the freestyle relay for the B division.

Tom Swarbrick and **Nick Turnbull** were members of the cast of *Team Spirit*, which was performed at the Tricycle Theatre in London.

There were a number of excellent performances in the summer examinations. **Chris Cowan** won the Third Year prize with a magnificent overall average of 82%! House prizes were awarded to **Chris Edson** (74%), **James Innes** (72%) **Will Peskett** (70%) and **Kang Zang** (70%). **George Cowie** won the Fourth Year prize with an average of 69%.

At Prize-Giving **Luke Berryman** was awarded the Sheldon-Peach Prize for Pianoforte. **Ben Phillips** was awarded the Jubilee Book Review Prize for the Middle School.

As always at this time we bid a fond farewell to the Upper Sixth. Both **Chris Thomson** and **James Brockbank** have been effective in their respective roles as Head and Deputy Head of House. I have been able to call upon them for organisation of the various events that occur throughout the year and rest easy in the knowledge that what needs to be done will be. **James** was awarded a Bulkeley-Evans Scholarship in support of his gap year plans.

At Prize-Giving the following awards were made to Wilmore's boys: PJW

David Taylor Drama Prize
Rugby 1st XV Trophy
Richard Anderson Trophy
Mitchell Seward Cup for Debating
Clifford and Jane Ellis Prize for Character
Freeman Prize for Service
Duxbury Tie
TASS Travel Bursary
Tappins Coaches Travel Award

Tom Adams
Chris Thomson
Sam Higazi
Henry Clayton
Rory Hamilton
William Burdall
David Procter
Jamie Hedges
Henry Clayton and James Brockbank



'Blue Landscape'
(Oil on board)
by
Nicholas Betteridge VIJFB

Showcase



'Starfish and key'
(Colour reduction linoprint)
by Daniel Goodacre 6GCR



'Garden view'
(Oil on Card)
by Anthony Harker VIAPS

Since the late classical period, the development of music has followed a basic trend, that of increasing abstraction of ideas, and of originality of form. But how is the quality or merit of music defined? How have the struggle for originality, and the representation of increasingly abstract extra-musical ideas changed music, and thus its merit?

Romantic and modern music can be split up, in general, into the idea behind the music, and the sounds and structure that form what is heard. These two levels of abstraction need to be considered independently when trying to define the merit of a piece of music. The issue of merit is of course to a large extent subjective, but is based on the profundity of the ideas in the work, and the skill with which they are expressed in the sounds. Wagner clearly recognised the huge importance of the first of these points in his intentionally faint praise of Mendelssohn: 'He is a landscape painter of the first order'. It is worth mentioning that neither original-

However, if the change in form is used to express a new idea, then it can of course be justified. An example of this is in Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, where the use of huge dissonant chords, and dramatic rhythmic figures is fully justified by the brutality of the pagan ritual it describes.

The ambiguity of the ideas suggested by music is also important to its merit. In many pieces of modern music, including Cage's *4'33"* and Jem Finer's *Long Player*, the idea being stated (rarely explored) is a very simple one, and despite often minimalist musical techniques, the idea is stated explicitly with very little room for the listener to interpret otherwise. It is perhaps a lack of musical 'handles' on which the listener may base his analysis that prevents the interpretation from straying from the obvious. The lack of explicit development of ideas in these pieces would indicate to a sceptic that any further analysis and development of ideas by the listener was over-analysis, and that this was not

Modernism in music

ity nor musical style is an important part of this definition. Originality of ideas must surely be commendable, but it is then unclear to what extent the new idea is a new insight, and to what extent it is merely a continuation of the chain of intellectual analysis of one's predecessors. As each generation of modern, then post-modern, artists analyses the generation before them, their perception of holding the intellectual high ground increases. To be truly original, an idea must have to break this chain of analysis and be a new insight.

Originality of musical form isolated can hold less merit than originality of ideas, simply because without an idea which it needs to express, a development in musical form is either arbitrary or is changed simply for the sake of change. However, the existence of an idea behind a new form is at the very least open to discussion. The huge effect of the shocking and extreme techniques used in such pieces as Ligeti's *Poème Symphonique pour 100 Métromomes* and Pierre Henry's *Variations pour une Porte et un Soupir* cannot be ignored, especially when one bears in mind the lack of any obvious meaning behind the pieces, and suspicion as to the motives of the music is fully justified. As Holger Czukay wrote, even one of the greatest of modern composers, Karlheinz Stockhausen, was not able to explain convincingly his musical techniques during a performance of *Gesänge der Juenglinge*:

"Mr. Stockhausen, you are doing this all to shock people and then make a lot of money with it". Stockhausen: "I can assure you that I have done this all out of musical reasons. Where money is concerned I have married a rich wife, so I don't need it."

due to the merit of the music. By using extreme methods of composition and technique, an apparently very profound statement can be made easily, as the writing is so abstract that there are none of the simpler thoughts of sound and basic emotion to hide the statement being made.

The other aspect of musical development in the modern period is that of mixing techniques. Stravinsky and Ravel both turned to Neoclassicism: Stravinsky directly after his *Rite of Spring* almost as a self-conscious apology for the hugely expanded range of techniques used in it. Ravel's sonatas of the 1920s used classical techniques to accentuate and develop the formal structures and well defined ideas used in such pieces as his *Gaspard de la Nuit*. Though perhaps a slightly crude technique, this also demonstrates the admirable use of a new technique for the sole purpose of adding to the idea behind the music.

The development of modern music could be attributed almost entirely to a desire by the composers to be original for the sake of self-popularity alone. It could also be attributed entirely to the necessity for more techniques to express the new ideas of the 20th century. However, my opinion lies midway between these two viewpoints: the new purpose of music as a suggestion, not as a statement, along with the influence of technology, allowed composers to explore ideas within music, and the rapidly changing ideas throughout the last century allowed them to use their new techniques in valuable explorations of the thoughts of the time.

C. Johnson 6TCG



'Battleship'
(Acrylic on Board)
by
William Bright 5JPN

The Beginning of Time

It is hard to imagine that 300 years ago the vast majority of people in Britain did not know the time. Their days were determined by the position of the sun in the sky, and they had no need to know the correct time to the minute. Their day began when the sun rose in the East, and ended when the sun set in the West. Their midday was determined by when the sun was highest in the sky, and every seventh day was a day of rest. On this day the bell would ring to call them to prayer, and so there was never a time when they needed to know the exact time. Yet nearly 300 years later nearly everyone carries a watch, which can accurately tell the time (to the millisecond) in any part of world, and everyone checks their watches are accurate by the 6 o'clock pips. How did this standardisation of time come about?

The main problem was that 300 years ago, when it was 12 noon in London, it was two minutes past noon in Canterbury but 11.48 west of Cardiff, owing to the movement of the sun from East to West. However, this did not matter as people in different regions had little to do with each other on a minute-to-minute basis. With no TV, internet, telephone or fast travel, it is unlikely that people even realised that there could be a difference in time of up to half an hour from the Eastern to the Western points in Britain. Stagecoaches were the fastest means of travelling long distances and they got round the problem by adjusting

their clocks by 15 minutes for every 24 hours of travel (either putting the clock forward if they travelled West, or putting the clock back if they were travelling East). As stagecoaches carried increasing amounts of passengers and mail then they needed to carry increasingly accurate timepieces to regulate arrival and departure times.

The need for standardised time was further increased with the arrival of the telegraph and telegrams, and the arrival of railways in the early 19th century. Telegraphs could send messages hundreds of miles in seconds. This meant that a message sent from London at 2 in the afternoon (local time), could arrive in Swansea at 1.50 in the afternoon (local time). In effect this means that you have telegrams appearing to arrive before they were sent. This was seen to create many legal problems.

Another important development in the time story is the railway. Passenger trains became more popular and by 1846 there were over 3,500 miles of track open. According to Jeremy Black in his *History of the British Isles*, by 1850 one could get from London to Exeter in less than six hours, whereas by coach it would have taken nearly 24 hours. This reduction in travel times meant that a passenger on a line going East to West or vice versa would have to reset his watch every time he arrived at a town, and also a train driver arriving at, for example, Swansea station would say he'd leave at 11 o'clock London time, but would

leave in fact at 10:50 local time. During the 1840s, railway companies, along with telegraph companies and the Post Office, became increasingly hostile to using local time, and in 1845 the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Company launched a campaign for a uniform time to be established. However, this was unsuccessful. But a year later the North Western Railway decided to use London time in Liverpool and Manchester, and the Great Western Railway started to use London time in all their timetables and stations. Come 1847 the Railways Clearing House strongly recommended that all railway stations and services should run on the standard Greenwich time (London time). By 1880 a Statute law (The Definitions of Time Bill 1880) was passed, bringing a standard time to all of Britain.

This process had started over 40 years earlier in 1836 when John Henry Belville of the Greenwich Observatory in London started recording and informing all the London watch and clock makers weekly of the exact time. His calculations of the time were soon being used to set all the clocks in London and therefore became London time. As more and more of the train companies were adopting London time (Greenwich time), in 1852 the Greenwich Observatory started sending telegraphs to the whole of Britain to aim to standardise time across the country.

1884 saw delegates from 25 nations meeting in Washington DC for the International Meridian Conference with the aim of establishing international time zones. A single worldwide solar day of 24 hours starting at 12 midnight was adopted, and Greenwich was chosen as zero degrees longitude (by a vote of 22-1 with San Domingo against, and France and Brazil abstaining). Finally, the world had a single uniform time ... Greenwich Mean Time had arrived.

Men calculated the years by the seasons, and measured time by how many winters or summers had passed. However, when the Romans came they needed an accurate time measure of a year to help them calculate taxes, etc. The Julian Calendar system was established by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, and in 8 AD the leap years were added to correct the slight annual loss. Unfortunately, the Julian calendar lost 11 minutes every year, and by the 15th century the calendar was 10 days slow of real time. In 1582 it was replaced in many Catholic countries with the Gregorian calendar (which included the extra minutes). But in order to make up the missing 10 days, in 1582 the days jumped straight from the 4th to the 15th of October. This caused an outbreak of riots among the peasants who felt they were being cheated out of time. Britain changed in 1752 along with America and other British Colonies, and it was decided that the new year should now start on the 1st of January rather than the 25th of March. However, some countries like Russia did not change until the 20th century ... at last ending every historian's nightmare of having two different dates for events.

So in 2000 years we have gone from telling the time by sun, seasons and shadows to a time when we would be lost without our clock or calendar to hand.

James Rose 6DE



'Bottles'
(Oil on card)
by
Matthew Derrick 6SAE



'Pestle and mortar'
(Ceramic)
by **Daniel Goodacre 6GCR**

The Expectant Feline

The expectant feline gazes and waits,
Sure in the knowledge that, if she remains long enough,
Victory and the prey will be hers to claim.
Hers to rip apart, search, find and destroy!

Her sensitive ears leisurely picking up the signals of the
Incoming.

Her receptive dainty nose, delicately sensing the wafts of the
Incoming.

Her perceptive glittering glance washing over the
Incoming.

Now for action,
Tensing her rippling muscles,
Legs in an almost impossible position –
POUNCE!!!
The spoils hers to claim,

The adversary taken by surprise,
A fatal, and last, mistake!

The domestic cat reigns victorious,
Over the plastic bag – ripped, spilling and utterly defeated!

Sam Dent 1Z

The Horse

I mount the horse, we are set to go.
We gallop through green fields, smooth and soft.
We stroll through meadows of flowering plants,
We trample them.
We trot through fields of long, tangling grass,
Which hide the strain and tiredness in the horse's legs.
The horse gets tired now,
We slow down and rest.
The sky is a beautiful sunset rainbow,
It is a warm night and the air is dry.
We continue across fields of character and shape,
As we admire the beautiful countryside.
The trees that tip in the wind
Their branches swaying as though they were being attacked.
There are rabbits scurrying across the fields,
Frightened by the wind.

We are getting tired now,
I can hear the horse grunt as it struggles for breath,
It stumbles,
I fall.

James Lloyd 1Z

My Cat

My cat was sweet, he always knew we loved him, but in my childhood I misled him, in the way that I would mishandle him. At my young age I was provoking him and he would fight back and we would carry on fighting. In some ways we were just play fighting, in others it was a match of strength, wisdom and hope.

Every day he would become stronger, he always used to be a bit plump, but nevertheless he was our cat, our special cat. After the loss of the other cat that we had, our hope went. The other cat had reached the grand old age of eighteen when she died quietly and peacefully, and towards the end of her life she did not eat much. After she had died it made all of us realise the loss of our cat and we did not want another loss.

Cally was beautiful, his eyes would glisten so peacefully and calmly. He would purr so sympathetically and softly. I did not treat him badly and kept him going. At the end of his life he had had twenty-one years of experience. We went on holiday for four days and when we got back he was thinner, and he died the next day. It was a peaceful death, as well.

Jamie Soames 1Z



'Landscape'

(Oil on Board)

by Max Reyner



'Self x 9'
(Screen print
and paint on board)
by
Jamie Lewis 6SCW



'Abstract Landscape'
(Oil on card)
by
Matthew Paterson 6GCR



'Head'
(Oil on board)
by
Roland Shaw VIJFB



'Transformations'
(Oil wax and collage on
board)
by
David Morris VIMMH

Community Service

Just over eighty volunteers have given regular service this year in primary schools, at Abingdon hospital, in charity shops, at the old people's day centre, visiting the elderly at home and gardening. Twenty volunteers have worked in classrooms in primary schools, at After School Clubs and on the football field. There has been a strong contribution from the sixth form volunteers, some of whom are now giving their fourth year of service.

a report

on another

effective year

by MMH

The year began at St Helen's Church Christmas tea party where **Matthew Blake**, **Mark Salmon**, **Matthew Burnard**, **Dan Hammersley** and **Michael-Luke Jones** all gave outstanding help.

Next, the School Christmas party for the residents of Nicholson House, Fountain Court and Lady Eleanor Court was a strong team effort from each year in the School. **Jonathan Fisher** from Garnier's organised the entertainment with support from **Mark Salmon** and **Matthew Blake**. The Fifth Years **Michael Chilcott**, **Nick Shaikh** and **George Potter** provided the music. **Sam Hekmat** and **Blake Ivinson** from the Fourth Year wrote the quiz. **Ben Carter-Fraser**, **Cameron Dwyer**, **Nick Robinson** and **Joe Swarbrick** donned Christmas hats and read

'The Night before Christmas.' The star Third Year of the show was **Marc Nurton** on his unicycle: a skilful and amusing performance. A letter of thanks reads, "My mother so enjoyed the Christmas tea and entertainment last week and is looking forward to the next one. Please say a big thank you to the boys who took part, and to the kitchen staff."

For the rest of the year **James Pargeter** coached the Carswell football club. The Manor School football coaches, too, **Andrew James**, **Tom Rendell** and **Thomas Schöler** have given good service. **James Buchan**, **Ben Hayes**, **Herward Holland** and **Simon Holland** have been coaching the Thameside football team who won their first match as a result!

MMH



Simon Probert reports how he

has been helping out at Long

Furlong School this year:

I have done community service for the last two years. Last year I helped to run a game of football every Tuesday lunchtime for a group of boys at The Manor. This was a challenging (I can't even begin to recount the number of times a boy left the pitch in a sulk) as well as a rewarding placement.

This year however, I have been helping in Years 1 and 2 at Long Furlong School. This was a completely different placement to that at The Manor. Each week I spent about an hour helping the children at the School in a range of curricular activities ranging from Maths to reading to IT. Al-



Teaching

though helping the children with basic arithmetic can be very tedious and a lot of patience was required, it was exceptionally rewarding to see the children progress gradually during the year.

During the last year Ben Burnham has been teaching Latin with six other Lower Sixth boys at Dunmore Primary School.

There are those who see Latin as a stimulating academic exercise, beneficial for training the mind and soul; some see Latin as an impressive sounding discipline to potential Universities and employers; and then there is the small section of students who are only in it for the free sweetie at the end.

With this in mind, it was down to Sixth Form Latin students at Abingdon to bring Latin to the children at Dunmore Primary School. With a team of no less than seven teachers, motivational techniques and an intensive teaching style bordering on the aggressive, the scheme looked destined to succeed!

When confronted by the reality of a group of Year 5 pupils, it was initially daunting, and it was then that the teachers fully comprehended the task ahead of them.

The students struggled initially for the first few lessons, but as the pupils and teachers got more involved in the course things really started to pick up. One student in particular was outstanding. The abundance of teachers for only four pupils facilitated one-to-one teaching and everyone could progress at their own level. As a beginner's course it was effective in providing a grounding in basic Latin, and was rewarding for both teachers and pupils alike.

The re-learning of the basics improved the more experienced classicists' linguistic abilities and taught them a great deal about interacting with others on a different level.

One could even go so far as to say that the Abingdon boys discovered a new found empathy and respect for teachers at their School, so it was a very worthwhile experience all-round.

Community Service has continued apace elsewhere in the town this year. Two sixth formers give us their impressions of working with the elderly and infirm.

Working at the Community Hospital provides very many challenging yet satisfying tasks. Our aim is to make the lives of the patients a little less boring, and to give them some company. We play scrabble and draughts or just have a chat.

The staff do a tremendous job. They work very hard and do their best to keep patients happy, but their time is stretched. Our

visits cheer up the patients and take some of the pressure off the nursing staff.

I have found my visits to the hospital hard work, but enormously satisfying. The elderly have a lot more to offer than some people may think. They have interesting stories to tell and we can learn from them.

T. Fiennes 6 RSKM

Hospital Work



At the start of the Lower Sixth I was interested in studying medicine, so I became involved in the School's Community Service programme at Abingdon Hospital. We received some training as to how we should approach our time at the hospital and what our roles were to be.

Then we had weekly visits to the hospital, each week alternating between the two wards. We spent the majority of our time talking to the patients, all of whom have very interesting stories to tell. We also spent a lot of time playing games such as chess or draughts with them.

It was a very rewarding experience, especially when the patients seemed to be looking forward to our next visit, and well worth doing whether you are interested in studying medicine or not.

M. Holman 6 SAE

Only three weeks after the official Jubilee celebrations, Abingdon held its traditional tea party for older members of the community. The **Headmaster**, the Mayor of Abingdon and the Reverend Michael Goode all attended, along with more than one hundred and fifty guests and about thirty boys, although an audacious attempt by the well connected **Jonathan Fisher** to persuade a minor, or even major member of the royal family to come along proved unsuccessful.



This was the biggest ever tea party held at Abingdon School, and the large number of guests was mainly due to the efforts of St Helen's Caring Action Group, whom we would like to thank for joining with the School on this occasion to celebrate the Jubilee, as well as the 25th anniversary of their foundation. The increase in numbers meant that the event had to be even better organised than in previous years, and despite some small mishaps, this was mostly the case, thanks in large part to **Mrs Hankey's** formidable supervision.

The event kicked off with a speech of welcome by the **Headmaster**, before everyone tucked into sandwiches, cake, and tea. Once people had got to know each other and everyone was enjoying the company and the conversation we were treated to a superb singing display by the junior boys in the School. The songs: *Rock around the Clock*, *Love me Tender*, and *Blue Suede Shoes*, were excellently chosen and per-
the **abingdonian** | page 38

formed. Everyone then joined in with *Land of Hope and Glory* and *God Save the Queen*, accompanied by some patriotic napkin waving.

Jonathan Fisher, as master of ceremonies, quizmaster and man in charge of everything, seemed to strike a chord with the guests as he first presented the Jubilee quiz along with **Matthew Blake**, and then announced the raffle prize winners. The Jubilee theme was no more apparent than in the prizes, which varied from the tasteful (flowers and chocolates) to the bizarre (Jubilee clothes pegs). The Mayor presented the winner of the quiz (who managed a very creditable 13 out of 15 from the surprisingly difficult questions set by **Jonathan Fisher**) with a limited edition Jubilee £5 coin to mark the end of the party.

After the raffle had been completed, and the winner of the quiz announced, Reverend Goode made an excellent impromptu speech thanking all those involved for their efforts, and all the guests

for their attendance and valuable years of service to the community. People slowly began to leave, expressing their sincere thanks for a very enjoyable and successful afternoon.

Our thanks must go to **Mrs Hankey**, for her organisational skills, to **Mr Carson** and the Jubilee committee for providing the finance, to St Helen's Caring Action Group for agreeing to join with the School on this occasion, to **Mr Elliott** and the First Year Choir for their keenness, to the kitchen staff for putting a lot of time and effort into the food, to **Mr Webb** and the First Year craftsmen who made the table decorations and to the boys who did everything else. The afternoon was the perfect showcase to illustrate how young and old can mutually benefit from each other's co-operation and how Abingdon boys are taking full advantage of this opportunity.

W. Horwitz, 6TCG
& C Lillycrop 3RSE

A Jubilee tea party was held this year in the dining hall for over 150 people.

Charities

Mr Jenkins
sums up the
year's
unremitting
and highly
successful
charity work

This year's fund raising got off to a rather quiet start until the far from quiet charity concert of 7th November. *Citizen Six* featured the musical talents of **Edmund Finnis, John Herford, Michael Hardy, Michael Chilcott, Matthew Gardner**, and Sarah Hoblyn from St Helen's. Following a preview one lunchtime in the CMR, tickets sold very well and the large audience that attended were treated to a full evening's entertainment featuring a fusion of many different musical styles including rock, jazz and soul composed by the musicians themselves. £400 profit was made and sent to the charity Water Aid which the School has supported several times in the past.

Other events included the first inter-House tag rugby tournament which led to a donation of £120 being sent to Children in Need, and a collection by the Music Department after their Christmas concerts which earned £580 for StreetSmart, a charity working with the homeless. Another collection after the School carol service at St Helen's raised a further £230 for the Oxfam Afghanistan appeal.

At the start of the Lent term the ever popular Tesco jam doughnut was again much in evidence around the School. 250 were sold every day for a week in aid of the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Despite complaints that some doughnuts had plenty of dough but little jam, the sales led to a donation of £125 which was enough to buy five sensory play nests for partially sighted and blind infants.

The annual 5-a-side football tournament for Middle and Upper School took place on Wednesday 6th March. Over forty teams competed with the three winners being Greg's Googles (Sixth Form champions and winners of the Richard Anderson Cup), The Bearded Beauties (Fifth Year champions) and The Raging Power Demons (Third/Fourth Year champions). £630 was raised for Meningitis Research. A week later the Lower School held their own 5-a-side football tournament. This year, for the first time, boys from the top two years of Josca's also took part. The eventual winners were The Five Pixies who went on to draw with the Lower School staff in the now traditional post tournament friendly. £175

was sent to VisionAid, a charity working with the blind and partially sighted in Africa.

A second hand book sale was held in the Library on 14th March to mark World Book Day. This event raised £50 and, with a contribution from a sponsored swim undertaken by **Jasper Cooper**, a total of £110 was sent to the charity BookAid.

Over the Easter holiday two Upper Sixth formers, **Rob Garside** and **Andrew Roberts**, undertook a rigorous training programme in order to attempt the London Marathon. They were successful in their undertaking (**Rob** coming 6,903rd in 3 hours, 40 minutes and 45 seconds and **Andrew** 7,041st in 3 hours, 41 minutes and 24 seconds) and as a result raised over £800 for Meningitis Research.

On Saturday 27th April, five pupils (**Michael Holman, Tom Wilson, Stewart Jackson, Tom Sykes** and **Robert Clegg**) led by **Dr Gunn** canoed to London to raise money for Action Against Breast Cancer, a local charity run by an OA, **Dr Anthony Leatham**. They completed their challenge and between them obtained well over £4000 - a superb achievement.

A mufti day on Monday 13th May was well supported, once again revealing the dubious fashion sense of many of our pupils, and raised over £1,200. This figure was split between SeeSaw, a charity offering grief support for young people, and the Clive Project which works with those suffering dementia.

The last few weeks of the half term saw the three tug-of-war tournaments. In a much more hotly contested competition than last year's (mainly due to other Housemasters catching on to Mr Drummond-Hay's trick of getting all his pullers to wear rugby boots) 2X won the Lower School event, Hamilton's the Middle School, and Townsend's the Upper School. The sum of £320 was raised for the Child Brain Injury Trust at the Radcliffe hospital as a result.

An ongoing charity project is the support that we offer to No. 4 School in Iolaveni, Moldova.

**£12,500 has been raised this academic year,
total for the last three to over £50,000!**

Abingdon is now linked to this School through the charity Breadline. The Lower School organised a sponsored "Odd-jobathon" which raised £700. This allowed No 4 School to completely overhaul its heating system, and buy new musical equipment and teaching resources. In addition, £142 was raised by Fishpool's House and £453 by Townsend's House through a variety of activities including doughnut sales, a beat-the-goalie competition, and a pool tournament. These contributions have meant the No.4 School can refurbish its science lab. It is clear from discussions with Breadline's director, Brian Pile, that the help of Abingdon has transformed the No.4 School and it is hoped that in the near future Abingdon pupils will be able to see this for themselves when we take a group out to Moldova to visit and further our links.

Other Houses have also been busy: School House netted over £850 with a sponsored sit-up to send to CRPB (Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed in Bangladesh); Waste Court raised a further £100 to support a child in Africa by a collection after their House concert and a sponsored fast by one of their members, **Young-Rok Kim**; Wilmore's held a doughnut sale every Wednesday for the whole year leading to a donation of £550 to the NSPCC; and the Lower School (who clearly don't have to pay their own dentists' bills) have munched their way through an obscene amount of sweets from their tuck shop every day to make over £800 profit which will be divided between the Christian Aid famine appeal and Sargent Cancer Care for Children.

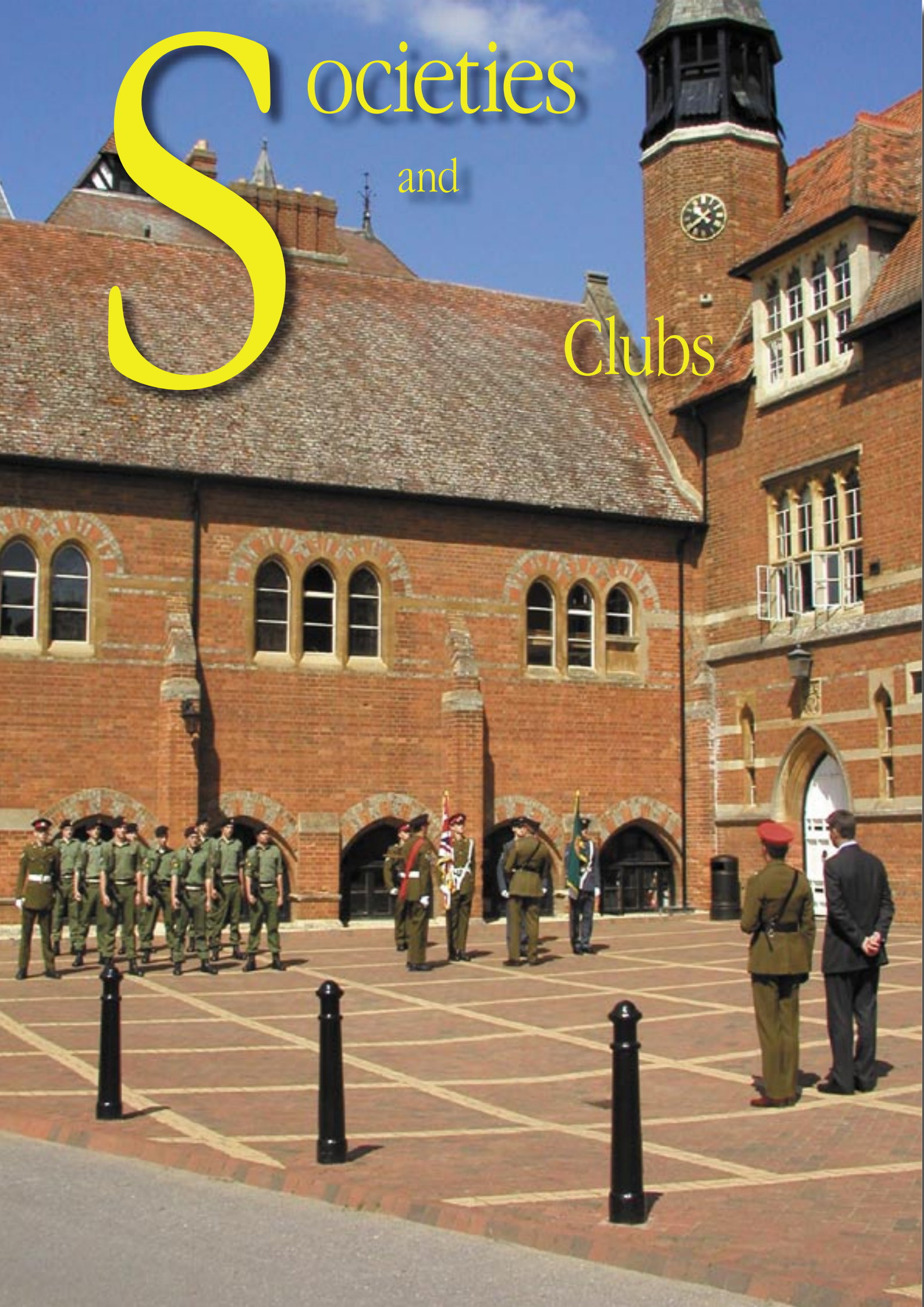
Altogether over £12,500 has been raised this academic

year, bringing the total for the last three to over £50,000. What has been most encouraging over this time has been the personal initiative that individual boys have shown to raise money for a cause that they believe in for whatever reason. I am sure that this is set to continue and that thousands of pounds will continue to be raised (at least for as long as Tesco is selling doughnuts!).

AJJ



Societies and Clubs



The annual Michaelmas half term exercise took place on Bramley training area, and we spent, as usual, another wet weekend with the pheasants. It was apparent that cadets get very rusty on their skills if they don't get the opportunity to go on field training exercises, and the foot and mouth epidemic certainly had its impact on us this year.

The Easter Term is the busiest in the School year, the first event being a recruit training weekend, during the first weekend of half-term, at Westdown Depot Camp on Salisbury Plain. This also allowed us the opportunity to undertake team selection for the Stowe Patrol Competition, which is a highly regarded inter CCF infantry skills competition. The weekend went very well and allowed the recruits to make great strides in their training, and we also selected our team for Stowe.

Only a few weekends later and we headed off to Wiltshire again, this time to my family farm to do

our annual escape and evasion exercise, 18 escapees were hunted by 8 hunter force senior cadet NCO's, and we also had another 6 cadets in the role of friendly partisans. We were given a Gazelle helicopter by the Army Air Corps for a few hours on the Saturday afternoon, which enabled another level of realism to be added to the exercise. The weekend was a great success with a sprained ankle as the only casualty.

Two weeks later the Stowe Patrol Competition took place, with **Captain Schofield** as team officer. As a team we put up a creditable performance and were in second place on the Sunday morning, but our shooting let us down, and as a result we finished down the field. However, the team worked hard and we learnt valuable lessons for next year.

The highlight of our training year took place during the Easter Holidays in April. This is our annual recruit camp, which was held on familiar territory at Westdown Depot Camp on Salisbury Plain. This type of camp is almost unique in the CCF, as we run it ourselves. We combine it with an Advanced Infantry Cadre, for the Fourth Year cadets, which allows them to act as a demonstration section, and as enemy on the exercise phase. We took 25 recruits and 9 advanced infantry for the 8 day camp. We had

a very rewarding week, though our allocated training areas became very busy with Brigade Tesex and the risk became too great for us to remain where we were, so we were relocated for our exercise to a new and quieter area. The final day of the camp is when the passing out parade takes place and when the recruits are presented with either their Army or RAF berets. The Advanced Infantry Section receive their qualification badges, and parents and guests come and join us. This year we were delighted to welcome Lt Col Roddy Winser (C/O RRV) to present the berets and take the salute.

The Summer Term is always difficult in terms of training due to examinations, so our main focus has been on preparing for the Biennial Inspection. However, our Officers have been busy getting qualifications. Both **Capt Schofield** and **Flt Lt Forster** have just obtained their full bore range qualifications, and **Capt Schofield** attended the KGVI/CCF Advanced

Course at Frimley Park, to allow his promotion from Lieutenant to Captain.

We had a number of farewells at the end of this term. **Lt Stuart Ocock** (O/C Army Section) leaves us for King's School Canterbury, **Flt Lt Hullis** (O/C RAF Section) leaves for Winchester, and **Sqd Ldr Chris Biggs** retires after many loyal years of service. We also have to say goodbye and thanks to 6 senior cadet NCO's who have all served for five years, they are:

- C/Sgt Robert Garside** (Army)
- Sgt George Cooke** (Army)
- F/ Sgt Colin Manners** (RAF)
- Sgt Sherwin Chan** (RAF)
- Sgt Charles Coventry** (RAF)
- J/ Cpl Dickon Prior** (RAF)

In summary, although the last year has seen ups and downs, we have achieved a huge amount. We have some excellent newly qualified recruits and a wealth of knowledge and experience amongst the cadet NCOs.

We now run on much more professional lines, thanks to having a full time Adjutant, **Capt Freshwater** to whom much credit must go for her drive and enthusiasm.

a report

by **Major**

D. Carson,

Contingent

Commander

A year in the CCF

Debating Society is the School's oldest non-sporting society. Its activities range from running weekly debates at School to participating in national competitions. This year **Henry Clayton** and **Simon Evans** took up the reins of command, ably assisted by **Charlie Coventry**, **Tom Gallard** and **Dickon Prior**.

a report by
Henry Clayton
and **Simon**
Evans

The task of supplying the intellect of the School with challenging and entertaining motions is no easy task, but the society did not shirk its responsibilities and ideas flowed thick and fast. This year's topics ranged from the obscure to the everyday, and from the serious to the ridiculous. To satisfy the politically-minded members of the School we argued over issues like the euro, the future of the monarchy, the NHS, terrorism, and the troubles in the Middle East.

There were times when we felt like debating topics to which there were no simple answers; inspired by Milton's own muse we questioned whether it was better to reign in Hell or serve in Heaven. We also asked the youth of today whether the Bible was redundant in today's society. The Bible was fiercely supported by **Mr Garnier** and **Simon Evans** and the crowd was turned back towards God; the following week Chapel was fuller than it had been for a long time.

We discussed the value of history, the importance of modern languages, the fear of change,

whether it was better to work for love or money, and whether there was any meaning in life (the latter topic was eagerly debated with the ladies of Wycombe Abbey). In an exciting debate on films, **Henry Clayton** argued powerfully that *Star Wars* was the best film ever; **Simon Evans** responded wittily and sharply that dirty movies were more enjoyable; rather worryingly, perhaps, the latter proposal won.

In addition to our regular debates we organized three balloon debates. The comic characters debate was won convincingly by **Alex Markham** as "Wolverine". The villains debate was won after a bravura performance by **Lars Laing-Peterson** as "George W. Bush". It was a particularly exciting event because our former headmaster, equipped with gown and cane, took part in it as himself. **Ross Mitchell** won the literary character debate as "Thomas the Tank Engine"; although the subtlety of his references to the Fat Controller "stoking his fire" were not picked up by the Lower School members, they were understood enough both to win **Ross** the debate - and some funny looks.



At the dinner table: Gentlemen from the left: **Holmes Wang**, **Henry Clayton**, **Simon Evans**, **Nick Evans**.



Participants in the balloon debate with their partners from St. Helen's. Gentlemen standing from the left: **Dickon Prior** (Prince Philip and the Queen), **Andrew James** (Becks and Posh), **Simon Evans** (Marge and Homer Simpson), **Henry Clayton** (Superman and Lois Lane), **Dr. Zawadzki**. Sitting in front: the chairman **Charlie Coventry**.

Outside School **Henry Clayton** and **Simon Evans** took part in the Oxford Union Debating Competition. They were unlucky not to move onto the final. We were slightly more successful in the Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition in which **Ben Burnham** assisted the two chairmen; we made it to the district final with a speech on "Duvets", but our further advancement was hindered by a Judge with no sense of humour. Our consolation was that we could take part in a second Wycombe Abbey Dinner Debate the following Saturday. Unfortunately they cancelled it ... twice. So instead we debated, ate, and drank with St Helen's in a balloon debate featuring famous couples, and in doing so contributed to what will continue to be a long and successful tradition.

As a final note we would like to say 'thank you' to **Tom Gallard** for making his posters just controversial enough to be noticed, but not too much to get us expelled, and for the excellent organization of the School public speaking competition; and to **Dr. Zawadzki** for his infinite patience and abstinions [in the preliminary votes only, interjects WHZ]. We are also grateful to **Mr Hele** and **Mr Carson** for very kindly driving us, often in difficult weather conditions, to the various national debating and public speaking events. Our best wishes go to our successors: the chairmen **Harry Hunter** and **Ben Burnham**, and the secretaries **Tim Hooper** and **Dan Hammersley**.

Winners of the 2002 Public Speaking Competition

Upper School
Fifth Year
Fourth Year
Third Year
Lower School

School House team
Garnier's House team
Hamilton's House team
School House team
1Z team

Holmes Wang, Charles Coventry, Alastair Fairbrother: *Charities*
George Potter, Alasdair Macdonald, Alex Nash: *Hair*
Peter Jones, Alasdair Ashby, Timothy Fox: *Sloth*
Christopher Doy, Cameron Dwyer, Oliver Waite: *Television*
Thomas Metcalf, Robin Wartke-Dunbar, Stuart White:
Violence in Computer Games

Warmest congratulations to all the winning teams.

WHZ



Ceramics

Ceramics classes are held on Monday after School. **Mr Bainbridge** leads the activity in the Ceramics room. While there you make plates and bowls using the wheel or the ready made moulds. The wheel can be used either to make the bowl from scratch or to smooth out a pre-made bowl. You can do this using a variety of clays depending on what you are planning to make. There is a large supply of clay, so that if you were feeling ambitious you could make a large sculpture. Once you have made your pot you smooth it out and make sure all the air bubbles have gone. Then you fire it in the kiln or glaze it to colour it, if you want. You can paint it using a variety of colours and can sand it to smooth out bumps that you might not have noticed.

Overall if you enjoy art and sculpting then you should find Ceramics a fun after school club.

P. Probert and J. Addis 2GGB

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

In the final, held on July 3rd in the Amey Hall in the presence of the entire Lower Sixth, the 6TCG team consisting of **Ben Crundwell**, **Matt Cullen**, **Edward Heaney**, and **Alex Robinson** beat the 6DE team consisting of **Alex Campbell**, **Robbie McLeod**, **Adam Sergeant** and **Richard Thomas** by

570 points to 270 points. The winning team was in good form and maintained its lead throughout the competition.

That said, 6DE were no easy walkover: again and again they bounced back energetically and contributed well to what was a spirited and well-fought match.

Looking back at the whole competition, it was good to see that all the participants (more than 32 boys, a fifth of the entire year group) were able to contribute to their teams' efforts and to tackle a wide range of questions. Current affairs were well answered, as well as Sport, Science, Classical

Mythology, the Cinema, the Bible, Music, and, reassuringly, questions on First Aid. Some of the contestants were on less sure ground when dealing with the History of Science, Art, and Literary topics. Major gaps in the knowledge of the history of the British Empire and Commonwealth, and ignorance of the length of a nautical league suggests perhaps the decline of the imperial and maritime traditions amongst our middle England landlubbers. The outstanding 'howler' of this year: one participant thought that sugar soap was for drinking!! Warm thanks are due to all Lower Sixth Tutors for selecting and encouraging their teams, and especially to Mr Watkins for help with the organisation of the whole competition and for acting as time-keeper.

The strongest individual performers will be invited in the Michaelmas term, after some very rigorous and demanding tests, to represent the School in the Schools Challenge competition which is played nation-wide. We very much hope that with the talent in our current Lower Sixth we can resume our strong national position in Schools Challenge in 2002-3. Our 2001 team (**Edward Heaney** (6 TCG), **John Szurko** (VI DJTF), **Michael-Luke Jones** and **Dennis Waller** (both 5 AMS)) were only narrowly defeated in the first heat by Radley (650-590).

WHZ

Lower Sixth Challenge

The History Society

The Society is immensely grateful to Professor Paul Langford, one of the most eminent historians of eighteenth century England, and Rector of Lincoln College in Oxford, for coming to speak to our historians for the third time, having done so already in 1995 and 1998 with memorable talks on Continental perceptions of the English and on George III, respectively. This time Professor Langford explored the issue of English identity and demonstrated how ideas of England tended to be selective; indeed, he spoke of the 'plasticity' of these identities over the centuries. Language, ethnicity, duty to the sovereign, imperial expansion, democracy, and even the vision of a rural idyll have all been advanced by various writers in the past as central to English identity. For some commentators "Englishness" was more to do with laws and liberties than race or birth;

others emphasized the openness and tolerance of the English, despite their alleged xenophobia. It was a most stimulating talk and highly relevant to present-day debates on national identity.

Mr. Adrian Bingham's talk, entitled "Multiple Voices: Gender Identities in Popular Culture from Victoria to the Second World War", threw light on the rapid evolution of perceptions and roles over this seminal period. An Old Abingdonian on the verge of obtaining his doctorate, Mr. Bingham (Merton College, Oxford) entertained and informed his old teachers and their present pupils alike, impressing them in particular by his command of the archival evidence. We wish him every success in his promising academic career.

WHZ & RGH

Maths Club

Maths club is an enjoyable Other Half activity and a worthwhile way to spend your time. It helps improve Maths skills by illustrating the concepts studied during Maths lessons. It helped our Maths throughout our First Year and Second Year. When answering questions in class and for prep. we remembered the fun puzzles, problems and games in Maths Club.

Each week we did a range of different puzzles, problems and games. They all expanded our Maths knowledge and gave us enjoyment each week.

Maths Club helped us to understand concepts that otherwise we might not have understood. It helped us to a greater understanding of problems not yet met in lessons.

"It has helped me with Maths and it has got me into the top set" was one comment we heard from O. Margetts in the Second Year. It seems that he enjoyed Maths Club as much as we did. P. Probert, also in the Second Year, agrees. They were both regulars at Maths Club throughout both their first and Second Year.

We conclude that Maths Club is valuable for anybody needing to boost his mathematical skills or just for a bit of fun.

D. Brazel and S. Hosking 2GGB



'Head'
(Oil on Board)
by
Jack Cousin 6NMR

Rifle Club

The Rifle Club has continued to build on the success of recent years. Though not one of the high profile sports there are nevertheless over sixty shooters involved in the practice, regional and national competitions.

The highlight of the year was the tour to Stade, near Hamburg, and Lille during the Easter holidays. We took a team of six from the School and two guests (P. Wakefield (capt), T. Bennellick (v capt), A. Campbell, N. Rogers, S. Vaughan, I. Rabolovenko, C. Smith, A. Asbury). In Stade we shot a competition with various disciplines. The result was not as close as we would have liked as we were shooting against their regional team but there were a couple of successes with P. Wakefield winning the silver in the prone competition and C. Smith the bronze in the 3P. We also had the opportunity to shoot pistol. This was a rare experience, as we are not allowed to do this in the UK and it was great fun for all of us.

The Interhouse Shooting Competition occurred in the Lent term and for this year was open to everyone, not just Rifle Club members. The competition was tight with just 0.1 separating each of the top five shooters. Townsend's yet again

was the top House with a perfect score of 300 and remains the only House to have its name on the cup. Second came Hamilton's, scoring 294; this was closely followed by a score of 291 from the Scholars. There was also a year group competition, won by A. Morrison (2IAM, 98), J. Millar (3MS, 98), D. Waite (4PGA, 100.1), T. Bennellick (5RSH, 100), P. Wakefield (6DE, 100.5), S. Vaughan (VI MMH, 100.4). P. Wakefield was the overall winner of the competition.

Five members of the club were selected for the two Oxfordshire Junior teams of four entered into the Inter-County Smallbore League. P. Wakefield, as Oxfordshire Junior captain, shot in the main team, whilst the reserve team consisted of A. Campbell, S. Vaughan, T. Bennellick and N. Rogers.

This year we lost Mr Hullis who has supported the Rifle Club as master in charge for many years. Much of the success the club has experienced is due to his hard work behind the scenes. We wish him good luck at Winchester and in the future. The Rifle Club looks forward to Mr Forster taking over and continuing the successful rebirth of our Club under Mr Hullis.

Chess Club

RESULTS

1st VI

MCS 'B': Won 6-0
Ridgeway: Won 6-0
MCS: Won 3-3
Dr. Challenor's: Lost 1-5
Commonweal: Lost 3-3
Radley: Won 4-2

U/15 VI

MCS 'B': Drew 3-3
MCS 'A': Lost 2-4

U/13 VI

MCS: Lost 1-5
MCS 'B': Won 6-0
Frideswide: Lost 0-6
Dragon: Won 6-0
Oxford High: Drew 3-3
New College: Won 4-2

Chess: the king of games, the game of Kings! Or perhaps it should be known as a sport? A small but devoted band develops those chess skills, three days a week until Easter, and play fifteen to twenty matches a year against other Schools.

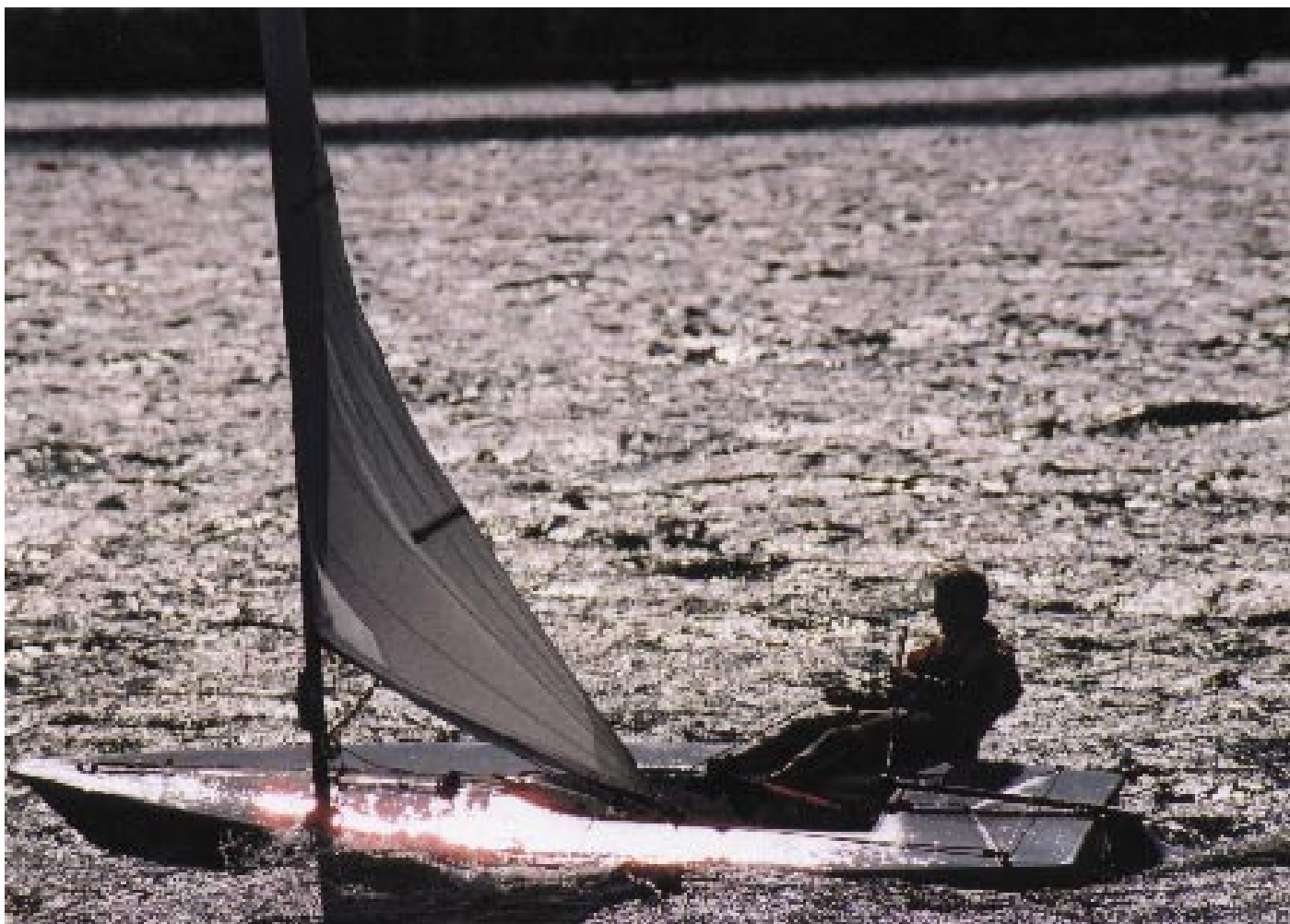
Five of our players now play in the adult leagues and two of them are distinguished. Graham Morris has achieved a national grading of 151. A former British Junior International, he now plays for the Oxfordshire Senior team. He came second in the U-145 section in the Guernsey Open and performed very well (graded 180) in the British Open at Torquay. Stuart Robertson is still a member of the England squad for his age group, and scored a memorable attacking win over Laurence Hunt on Board 2 for Magdalen College

School. Max Kibble and Laurie Neatherway play for the Berkshire and Oxfordshire Junior teams respectively.

The highlight of this academic year was the first team's victory over Magdalen College School, where Chess has been organised on a semi-professional basis for seven years. I say "victory" - it was really a draw, although we won on board count.

The lightning tournament was won by Patrick Lee and the First Year championship by 1J. We are sorry to lose Robin Neatherway and Julian Tolan, who have been mainstays of the team for many years now.

TJK



Sailing Success!

Youth RIB Championship 2002

Alex Wilson, in the Fourth Year, representing Abingdon School and Oxford Sailing Club, sped to victory in the RYA Youth RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) Championship on Saturday 18th May 2002.

In the powerboat handling course (reversing around one buoy, picking up a man overboard life ring, and a speedy slalom), Alex finished at least a minute ahead of his nearest competitor. He will now face the TV cameras at the final at the Southampton International Boat Show 2002.

NSSA Championships

Competitors and spectators gathered at Farmoor Reservoir from all over the country to take part in the NSSA championships (National School Sailing Association). Most visitors were impressed with the classic Oxford weather: warm, the [abingdonian](#) | page 48

sunny and windy. The first race started on time (despite a few late arrivals). After the first day's races, Jonathan Pinner, Lower Sixth, had established himself as one of the favourites.

Sunday dawned hot and sunny but with less wind. Again the prompt start caught out the less experienced and those simply trying to watch the England-Sweden match. After three more close races Jonathan had made sure of a second place overall and had established himself as a national standard sailor.

Everyone who took part came off the water feeling that they had done themselves justice.

Mark Powell, World Youth Champion, who was very impressed with the standard of racing, presented the prizes.

A. Blackmore 4PW

A report by

W.

Burdall

It was Wednesday 10th April that five boys and three girls descended on Abingdon School to depart for the *Jolie Brise*. If we had known what was coming we would have packed our common sense as well. So the party departed for the Hamble and the 1913 Le Havre cutter which would be our home for the next week.

We headed for Yarmouth at the western end of the Isle of Wight. It was a gentle and slow sail across, and it was only now that we all realised what an effort it takes to sail such a boat. Hoisting the mainsail alone is a ten minute affair. Arrival at Yarmouth was a great relief, as was the delightful supper of sausage roll and pasty that was prepared for us by the first mate. We got to eat at about midnight.

The next morning brought the prospect of a cross channel sail. Little did we know what the next 30 hours would involve. After a quite relaxed morning we set off at about 10:00 am and headed west out of the Solent; at the Needles we turned south to head for the busy shipping lanes and Honfleur.

'That

first night

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longest

of my

life...'

After the first few hours which got us out into the channel the watch system started. *Atomic Kitten*, *S Club* and *Hear'say* were the three watch names and each watch sailed the boat for three hours. Each day there was a mother watch that was responsible for all cooking and tea making. *Hear'say* were up first and sailed until about 4pm. The first night sail began with repainting the boat.

That first night was the longest night of my life. I eventually got to bed at 4am and life became much more comfortable. It was at about this time that we reached the French coast and started to follow it south towards Honfleur. On waking up the next morning we sat down to breakfast to make up for the lost day. The embarrassments of the previous night were lost and accounts were retold. The general consensus was that we were glad we had done the crossing but that we wouldn't like to do it like that on the way back.

Honfleur is a most beautiful little harbour that is totally enclosed, thanks to a lifting bridge. We had anchored next to another boat, similar to the *Jolie Brise*, and later found out that it was owned by a friend who invited us for drinks on board at 7pm, although we would have to speak French. The lazy day spent sightseeing and talking flowed well

into the evening engagement; the threat of French for a couple of hours didn't come true. There was no cooking and the crew was given the option of eating some French cuisine. Half found the most French of meals, pizza and pasta, the other far more adventurous half went to an excellent local restaurant suggested by our French friends.

The next morning needed an early start as the boat had to leave the harbour when the bridge opened at 8am. We managed to avoid everything in the harbour, JUST! The day's sail was to Cherbourg - an all day sail; it was far more comfortable than the previous trip. The daylight helped as we were able to see the horizon. The wind direction made for a pleasant sail, and the leg was completed at quite a rate. On arrival in Cherbourg the excitement mounted as the prospect of a shower loomed. Hopes were dashed by finding them closed. Furthermore, a couple of hours in Honfleur had been devoted to cleaning all the brass work and now it was covered in salt and looked terrible.

The next day included a large lunch followed by a channel crossing back to Poole. This time the

A sail on the *Jolie Brise*

crossing was much more stable and pleasant. The busy shipping channels of the English Channel kept watches busy as the huge ships had to be avoided. We arrived just after 01:00 am in Poole. Early that same morning Toby left us to go to a meeting in London, so while we sat having breakfast we were introduced to Steve, our new skipper. There was little wind but it was a beautiful day so we set off to get to either Cowes or Portsmouth, depending on how well we managed to cope with the strong tide. Cowes was our overnight stop. The day was quite relaxed and allowed us to climb the rig and much footage was taken by our avid film makers.

The final day of the trip dawned with a few hours to have a look around one of the most important sailing centres in the UK. The shopping was very good if a little expensive for the student purse. As there was not far to go to get to Hamble, the day was a pleasure sail with a practice of 'man overboard' drill. The day drew to a close and we headed back to the berth in the Hamble. A week's worth of living was cleared up, sails were folded and for the last time the brass was polished. Once complete, a round of photos were taken and thanks were given to the crew who had given us a great week.



a report by

PW &

C. Dwyer

Wargaming Society

This year we have had the usual large crowds of boys attending on Wednesday afternoons in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms - when most of the numbers are made up by Lower School, painting figures as well as playing *Warhammer* or 'D & D'. In the Summer Term things are (thankfully for the master-in-charge!) much quieter as the 1st and 2nd years do not play then and the Vith and 5th year contingents 'disappear' at half-term (to take public examinations, not because they have been eradicated by the *Bugblatter Beast of Krab!*).

The Society has been able to purchase a few new games this year thanks to the subscriptions paid by members (who are thus allowed to borrow a game to take home and play for a week), and the *Lord Of The Rings* strategy game and added characters have been particularly popular with members. Certain older games are still popular, such as *Axis And Allies*, but it is often difficult or impossible to re-purchase them when the number of missing bits reaches critical negative mass, or the boxes fall to bits. School Clubs need a deluxe super-strong edition in a long life plastic container!

Here are some thoughts from one of our new 3rd Year members about the joys of Wargaming.

(a.k.a. 'Role Playing Games Society' but only for those of a nervous or politically-correct viewpoint)

I visit war gaming every Wednesday, and have a group that I join up with regularly. My favourite game is *Axis and Allies*, a game similar to *Risk*. It is a long game and takes a while to set up, but once the game has begun it is very challenging and tactical.

Another game that I play with other 3rd Years is *Heroquest*, a game not too dissimilar from *Dungeons and Dragons* but with fewer complex rules to learn. When there are complex rules I prefer to learn them myself rather than let someone else do it, for this speeds up the games and

helps me understand what is going on.

Since all the games are for two or more players, they provide a great opportunity to socialise with people that I would not normally meet, in a relaxed and friendly environment. I find that it is sometimes a good idea to bring friends, for this means that you can carry out a campaign, or large battle, over a couple of weeks or more. It does not really matter whether you do war gaming outside School or not, for provided you have a genuine interest in it then you will enjoy this activity.

Cameron Dwyer 3BF

Beyond Abingdon

Andrew Bitmead

(OA)

recounts some

of his Gap Year

activities and

travels in

New Zealand

Trying to fit a suitably sized report for *the Abingdonian* of my eight-month trip in New Zealand is nigh on impossible without removing so much of it that it becomes almost unrecognisable. I have next to no chance of portraying quite how awesome the country is, and how incredibly amazing the trip was. However, I shall endeavour to recreate something of the journey, and hopefully give at least a glimpse of New Zealand.

On 5th September I arrived in Christchurch, and within two hours I was at work on the first of two lambing jobs. I spent a total of three months working on sheep farms, helping with lambing, docking, drenching, crutching, shearing, and various farm maintenance projects. The second farm in particular was very remote, and during the five weeks I spent there, the only people I had any real direct contact with were weathered farmers and hard-case shearers. The contrast in

lifestyle and work ethic from that of Abingdon School was quite a shock, but hugely rewarding. The pace the shearers work at and the effort they put in has been calculated to be equivalent to running a marathon, everyday. As the token pommie student, I was of course expected to put in every ounce of effort I could muster so as not to slow them all down, too much! Hopefully, I gained some valuable and relevant experience for my veterinary course, and I definitely gained some valuable life experience, being made to wise up and shape up very quickly!

The next stage of the trip was a month spent deep in native bush with the Department of Conservation (DOC). The Boundary Stream Mainland Island Project was aimed at re-establishing native bird populations, such as the North Island Robin, Kokako, and Kiwi. (There are no ground dwelling mammals native to New Zealand.) For this to be done, introduced predators such as feral cats, stoats, weasels and ferrets had to be controlled continually. As a volunteer on the project, I spent much of my time hiking through awesome, but rarely visited areas of bush, refilling bait stations and resetting traps. However, the most exciting details of my



work involved the tracking, tagging, monitoring and relocating of birds in the reserve and in the neighbouring Kawaka forest. DOC had two radio tagged kiwi in the reserve, and a further eight in the Kawakas.

A kiwi egg has only a 5% chance of developing into an adult in the wild, so the main emphasis of the DOC kiwi work is to monitor each of the tagged birds nests in the Kawakas, then to remove the eggs at an appropriate stage. They incubate, hatch and rear the young birds to 1000g. whereupon they are released into the relatively safe environment of the Boundary Stream Reserve. Once mature, the birds are fairly resistant to predators, but having invested so much in each bird, DOC constantly monitors each released bird, and makes regular checks on them to learn more about their behavioural patterns. To these ends I spent many hours checking the whereabouts of the birds in the reserve, and the odd weekend hunting for nesting birds in the deep bush of the Kawakas. It was such an incredible opportunity, and allowed me to get closer to real kiwi in their natural habitat than most New Zealanders would have the chance to in their entire lives.

Having completed the working portion in late December, I had four months to travel and explore the country. During this time I bought a car and enjoyed the most fantastic summer. I spent as little as possible on living, sleeping in the car, and eating only the cheapest of pasta and rice meals from my camping stove. I spent as much time and money as I had available on enjoying the huge variety of outdoor activities NZ has to offer. These included: sand-boarding, surfing, sky-diving, glacier walking, sea and river kayaking, ice-climbing, swimming with dolphins, whale-watching, white-water rafting, mountain biking, jet-boating, and heaps of hiking and rock-climbing.

Suffice to say that with every passing day it became harder and harder to accept I would have to get on the plane which would take me away from the places and particularly the friends I had grown very close to. I have no doubt that I will return to NZ someday to live and work.

I would like to thank TASS and Tappins Coaches for providing the initial incentive for organising the trip, and for their generous monetary award.

'A kiwi egg has only a 5% chance of developing into an adult in the wild...'

Filming in the Amazon

'By far the most

invigorating

activity we en-

gaged in was

hunting Caiman

(Alligators) at

night ...'

On the 18th September we, **Stewart McMahon** and **Edward Mitchard** along with three girls and a boy from Malvern School (Olivia, Georgina, Lara and Henry), arrived in Sao Paulo Airport, Brazil. We were there at the expense of NHK (the Japanese version of the BBC) to be filmed for eight days for a documentary. This program was the eleventh in a series called 'Superteachers', and was centred around Sir Ghilleen Prance, ex-director of Kew Gardens, scientific director of the Eden Project and world expert on Amazonian botany.

We had spent three days of the previous week filming in Malvern School (Sir Ghilleen's old school) and at Kew Gardens. It rained almost the whole time but most of the filming was done inside greenHouses and laboratories at Kew, many not accessible by the public.

Once in the heart of the Amazon (after a three hour internal flight from Sao Paulo to Manaus) most of the filming was outside, but since it was the dry season the rainforest did not live up to its name. Being three degrees South of the equator shade temperatures reached 45 degrees centigrade in the early afternoon, so most of the filming had to be done in the early morning and at dusk.

For the first two nights we stayed in a five-star hotel (taking full advantage of the complimentary room service). The first whole day was the tougher of the two, with our first excursion into the rainforest, driven in alcohol powered jeeps along the Amazonian 'tracks' - a learning experience in how to act as a human shock absorber. Throughout the day we were exposed to temperatures in excess of 40 degrees centigrade. It was a most pleasant climate to which we soon grew accustomed. The true beauty of the situation was that if you fell into one of the drinkable streams (which we were assured had been filtered by the plants' extensive root systems, and could only be harmful if contaminated by illegal miners' chemicals), within minutes you would dry out, until sweating restarted the cycle. The highlight of the first day and in our opinion the most powerful moment of the whole trip was when we climbed a research tower, swaying gently in the breeze to 50 metres above ground level, which took us 20 metres above canopy level. It was a most beautiful sight. That afternoon we went to a deforestation site, though the jeep with **Edward** was driven astray and got lost so he missed the filming!

We spent the next five days on a twelve-

cabin riverboat called Victoria Amazonica. This enabled us to travel a long way down both the Amazon River and the Rio

Negro, in great comfort. We travelled at night and in the middle of the day, leaving the boat at 6.00 am in the morning (if we were lucky) and in the early evening for filming. We were filmed doing numerous things including climbing trees, visiting Manaus market, learning about the plant pollinators of the Amazon from the world experts, eating Brazil nuts, falling off trees...

By far the most invigorating activity we engaged in was hunting Caiman (Alligators) at night on 12-seater motorised canoes. This involved scanning the water's edge with a powerful spotlight for shining red eyes, and then charging towards them at full speed, and hoping that they would freeze long enough for us to see them, or for one of the Brazilian boatmen to grab them if they were small enough! The largest we saw was approximately seven foot long, and allowed us to get within four metres of it before fleeing under our boat, almost capsizing it in the process.

This, combined with piranha fishing (we had too much luck for our liking...) earlier in the day, meant that we were all extremely enthusiastic about going swimming in the river the following day. However, we were assured that the Rio Negro was too acidic for these dangerous creatures (by the native crew who, rather suspiciously, stayed on the boat).

Far too much occurred to give a blow by blow account, we would not dream of attempting to compress the entire trip into one article. However, we do not shy away from giving the highlights. Personally the most gruelling part of the trip was the three deck luxury wooden boat that we were forced to live in for 5 days. The hardship was unimaginable: free drinks, free food, free sunbathing, an eccentric captain, his chess-playing son, and banana throwing competitions off the top of the boat. How we suffered.

By far the most unenjoyable aspect of the trip in our opinion was the sheer variety of biting insects. It turned out that one of the girls had an allergic reaction to mosquitoes, so it was a pleasure traipsing through the jungle in full-length clothing to avoid bites.

The film came out in Japan a few months ago, and we received videos (with ourselves dubbed into Japanese. Extremely entertaining.) They say that a version for the BBC might come out in the autumn, in which case you will be able to see about 3% of the fifty hours of filming that we did!

S. McMahon & E. Mitchard 5AMS

First World War Battlefields

The British
front line on
the Somme
July 1916

A report on the
History Department's tour of
First world war
battlefields in
France by

Tristram

Bainbridge 4SRW



On the 23rd March 2002 a 20 strong group embarked on a 'crash course' visit to the Western Front. By 11.00 hours we were taking in the first sights at Poperinghe in the Ypres salient. Here we experienced the stark contrasts of the war: the firing post where British soldiers were shot, and Talbot House, a rest centre for men of all ranks. Our expert tour guide, Lt. Col. Will Townsend, presented us with the arguments that executions were necessary and were neither arbitrary, nor for trivial offences. Talbot House, founded by a regimental chaplain, Tubby Clayton, was a piece of living history untouched since the end of hostilities. The tiny chapel at the top of 'White House' received more than 20,000 men for holy communion. Later that day we visited several battlefields in the Ypres salient, notably the area around the village of Passchendaele and the huge Tyne Cot cemetery. In the evening representatives of our party laid a wreath during the impressive daily service of remembrance at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The following day we visited the battlefields of the Somme. Here we were guided around the notorious sites of Haig's four month campaign. This resulted in the destruction of much of the German Imperial Field Army but at an horrific price. For Britain in particular, the Somme was the end of an age of innocence in modern warfare.

Even those who had seen the Commonwealth War Cemeteries before could not fail to be shaken by the number of lives lost for so little gain. It is hard for our minds to take in these colossal numbers on paper, but seeing the thousands of

names and graves, brings home the impact of the war. This was particularly the case when we found the grave of Mr Carson's great uncle who died in one of the Somme battles. One could not help thinking about the Old Abingdonians whose names were either here in the sea of headstones or at the Thiepval memorial where we had recited the words of Sassoon and Owen.

As an interesting contrast we visited a German war cemetery at Langemarck. The British ideal for a cemetery is a traditional country garden, with white marble, Portland stone and an English rose planted to cast a shadow over each man's grave at some time during the day. For the Germans, it is a forest. In an eerie modern, gothic style, Langemarck brings to mind German fairytales and Teutonic Knights, all buried together in brotherhood.

Spirits were lifted when Mr Carson with schoolboy enthusiasm collected tortured metal lumps which he said emphatically were barbed wire, rifle bullets or shells. We all owe a debt of thanks to the staff who organised this brief but highly rewarding excursion – Mr Bromley, Mr Carson, Mr Hofton, Mr Taylor and Dr. Zawadzki – and to our guide Lt Col Will Townsend.

The grave of Mr

Carson's great-uncle



A Technology Field Day



Mr Webb and Mrs Bowden took a group of boys on the Lower School field day to Duxford. We just got there in time to start the first of the design technology related tasks. We were split into three groups to perform three distinct tasks.

An aerodynamic car

The objective of this task was to build an aerodynamic car on top of a chassis. The equipment which we had used included a foam block to carve which to form our aerodynamic shape, a knife/saw for cutting our foam; a plane for smoothing out the surface and some sandpaper.

First we made a design for testing in the wind tunnel. Our design looked like a fish and we thought this would be good because fish have to be aerodynamic to cut through the water.

We cut downwards first to force air around the foam and when we tested this in the wind tunnel it carried 16.6 N. We finally cut across to force air over and under the chassis and shaved it off. Our final measurement was 8.7 N but the winner of this session held only 5.8 N.

Robot football

The aim of the game was to get as many ping-pong balls into the goal with the robot in a minute. You had to use a scoop to push the balls. We had a pair of scissors, clear tape, hot glue gun, card, paper, pencil, string and a ruler.

We came in a bit late but **Maxi Ling** came

up with a very successful idea, and **Ken Akito Cruickshank** built it very well. We then had our first match without a test, so we had no idea of what was going to happen. The "referee" released 30 balls into the pitch and **Maxi** drove the car. He performed excellently, only letting in 1 goal but scoring 5. After the game we were really pleased but we added extra side boards and a little flap for picking and flipping the balls.

We played our second match and **Maxi** let 3 in but scored 9, so we went away victorious. The team members were **Ben King, Ken Akito Cruickshank** and **Maxi Ling**.

A sky hook

For this task the competitors were **Dapsy Tejuoso, Ben King, Maxi Ling, and Ken Cruickshank**. A sky hook is used to carry a heavy load. We had to use our brains to make a very strong structure. We got a lot of help but soon completed our goal. We then put it to the final challenge seeing how much it could hold. It held 40 kilograms easily but sadly died at 50 Kg. After all this we finally had time to go around the air base to see all the aeroplanes.

K. Woodley, A. Beaumont,
B. King, J. Hawks, D. Tejuoso



Rydal Hall

The trip to Rydal Hall took place in the third week of the Easter holidays. After a long drive, we split up into two groups and walked up either the Old Man of Coniston or the Gables. Later we arrived at the very luxurious hall and found out which room we were sleeping in, and had our evening meal which was very pleasant.

During the stay at Rydal the groups climbed a variety of mountains ranging from the easy Silver Howe to the very difficult Scafell and Scafell Pike. Other mountains that were climbed were Helvellyn (and Striding Edge), Catseye Cam and Green and Great Gable.

All the groups visited Grizedale Forest. Here we went orienteering and mountain biking. The mountain biking was hard work but was worth it when you went downhill and the orienteering was easy and fun.

The thirty or so boys who went on the trip all had a great time and were catered for very kindly by the volunteers who ran Rydal Hall. The meals were very impressive for the amount of people staying there. Overall I think we can safely say that everyone had a wonderful time.

S. Robertson and M. Marshall 2GGB



'Through the Trees'
(Hand coloured drypoint)
by Anthony Harker VIAPS

Lower School Field Day

Every year the Lower School goes on a number of trips in the summer term to celebrate the end of our exams. This year we had several different trips: to Cadbury World, canoeing down the River Wye, a visit to Bewdley safari park and a trip to the R.A.F.

Cadbury World was great fun but I ate too much chocolate! We arrived in Birmingham and could either go round a small museum or visit the Cadbury show. After that we were allowed into the factory where we saw a number of presentations about chocolate and how it is made. There was also a show telling us how Cadburys had evolved from a small coffee shop to what it is today. We could then visit the shop to buy yet more chocolate! We returned home having enjoyed the day.

Canoeing was a more adventurous trip. We made our way down the River Wye in an assortment of kayaks and canoes. We had a smooth journey for a few hours before contending with the rapids - a small stretch of water only about 200 metres. Then we stopped to have lunch and watched **Mr. Hamilton** capsize! Next we paddled the rest of the river down to Monmouth and arrived at our final destination wet and exhausted, but it had been a great day.

At the R.A.F base, pupils were involved in problem-solving exercises related to structure and design. One group had to design a boat which would carry a heavy load. A further day was spent resolving structural questions, but it was still great fun.

Finally came the trip to the wildlife park. In the morning the group visited an old steam train and enjoyed a ride on it. Then they went to the safari park where a giraffe hit their bus! In the afternoon they visited a theme park and many became sick or dizzy.

We would like to thank all those who helped organise the trips as we all enjoyed ourselves greatly.

W. Stockdale, T. Keogh & D. Fry 2GGB

World Challenge Tanzania



elephants, cape buffalo and giraffe at close quarters and, from a more sensible distance, crocodiles and hippos in the Great Ruaha River.

The next four days were spent on our acclimatisation trek in the stunningly beautiful tropical rain forest and mountains of the Udzungwa National Park: the three day trek to the summit of Mwanihana Peak (2099 metres) and a visit to the impressive 200 metre Sanje Falls was excellent preparation for our forthcoming climb.

The main challenge was to climb Mount Meru at 4566 metres, Tanzania's second highest mountain, and two days' journey north via Dar es Salaam and Moshi, in the Arusha National Park. The ascent of three thousand vertical metres had to be made in two and a half days, which left us one and a half to descend. Accommodation was in huts and local porters provided us with nourishing food each day. On the trail we crossed the grassy base of the mountain while giraffe, cape buffalo and monkeys watched our progress, then we climbed through the tropical rain forest and up to Little Meru, finally returning down to the Saddle Hut at 3550 metres to sleep. After an early night we awoke at 2am to scale the rocky outcrops, so as to reach the peak by sunrise and see the majestic dawn peeking over the top of Mount Kilimanjaro - so went the theory anyway, but in practice the sense of achievement overcame the disappointingly low cloud and no view of Kilimanjaro from the summit. Every one of the team made it to the top, braving freezing temperatures, icy winds, altitude sickness and hazardous paths to stand triumphant at 15,000 feet.

A year of preparations drew to a close for 19 Sixth-Formers, as they embarked on a four and a half week expedition to Tanzania, led by **Mr Townsend** and **Mr Schofield**. Preparations supervised by World Challenge had included a weekend braving the elements in Derbyshire and raising the money necessary. Several parents had helped considerably by organising very enjoyable entertainment evenings, the most ambitious of which was a Race Night in April.

The programme was designed to combine teamwork and leadership skills with physical challenges in a remote, beautiful and culturally diverse country. We travelled on every conceivable form of transport including dalla dallas (worn out minibuses) and light aircraft through the lush green rain forests, bustling commercial cities, rolling Tanzanian grassland and picturesque sandy beaches. Each day one of us took it in turns to lead the group, organising food, transport and accommodation, enabling us to exist sometimes on under £1 each per day: we practised our ingenuity when learning to bargain in the colourful local markets, to prepare all our meals from goat and the ubiquitous bananas, for the shopping often tested our limited Swahili.

After a 13 hour flight passing over the peak of Kilimanjaro, a nine hour bus ride and a final 90 km along a dirt road from Iringa that seemed like driving lengthways along a dry stone wall we arrived at the remote village of Tungamalenga in the Southern Highlands. Our week long project here was to look at ways to increase the income of the village by promoting tourism. We made many friends and learnt much about the Wa He He and Maasai tribes and their culture in this predominantly Muslim village. We were escorted by enthusiastic local villagers and an armed game scout as we mapped local waterfalls and the Idermule mountain which towered over the Rift Valley. We believed that we were possibly the first Europeans to stand on its summit. On safari later in the nearby Ruaha National Park we had wonderful views of the rich wildlife, including lions,



After Meru we travelled south to the tropical island of Zanzibar where we had time to rest and relax. After a night in Stone Town, we drove, and when the road finally disintegrated completely, walked, to Kendwa on the north coast. In this idyllic setting we spent three days scuba diving, deep sea fishing, snorkelling and playing volleyball or merely lying in hammocks watching the sun set over the Indian ocean. Unfortunately time travelled by too quickly

and soon we were back in the dalla dalla on the bumpy road to Stone Town for a day of souvenir shopping and sight seeing, culminating in a meal at Blues, the luxurious restaurant perched on stilts over the harbour: this was a reward for succeeding both in what we had attempted and balancing the budget well enough to be able to afford it.

The expedition was truly enriching for all who participated. Our thanks go to the two World Challenge Leaders and to the two School staff who made it all happen. Everyone returned to Abingdon with new skills, targets and perspectives on life. So many different experiences undoubtedly made this expedition into one of the most productive, enjoyable and enriching moments of our lives.

After Namibia in 2000 and Tanzania in 2002 plans are underway for the next World Challenge expedition to Mongolia in 2004.

Team members:

Team One : **Tom Bandy, Alex Dalziel, Stuart Haste, Graeme Innes, Nick Kennedy, James Pallett, Jonathon**



Pinner, Ian Sanderson, Dan Stalker, Ben Townsend with **Jim Sheldrake** (World Challenge), **Jonathan Townsend** (School Leader)

Team Two: **Howard Abrahall, Dirk Atkinson, James Florey, Stuart Gordon, Tim Hooper, Will McGeehin, Neil Sadler, James Stanier, Jeffrey Wei** with **Lucy Bound** (World Challenge), **Mark Schofield** (School Leader)

Ian Sanderson 6NAFP & JT

Paddling against Breast Cancer

A 104 mile kayak journey from Abingdon to Westminster Bridge

As you might imagine the weather in the autumn was unhelpful with strong winds which grab the upper paddle and threaten to capsize you. Three times a week the crews of **T. Sykes** and **S. Jackson, T. Wilson** and **M. Holman, R. Clegg** and **T. Gunn** went out from Abingdon's boathouse up to Radley, down to North Stoke 14 miles away and began to feel they were progressing in technique and stamina. We persevered and rapidly got much fitter, and soon a 14 mile paddle was almost a warm up, and we got to recognise landmarks on most of the river - only three miles to a cup of tea!

By the end of the Lent term capsizes were almost a joy of the past, and longer training paddles could be undertaken. The idea was to get to know the entire 104 miles from Abingdon to Teddington lock in preparation for the real thing. During all these paddles we were lucky to have the support of the parents whose sons were paddling. This meant we could undertake one way paddles and be collected at the end with the kayaks on the roof of the vehicle. This made the whole operation much easier and enabled us to cover much more of the river. The boys were out raising money with staggering success, and the feeling of a team exercise began to emerge.

So the great weekend arrived, and **T. Sykes** and **M. Holman** set off on the Friday lunchtime as they were still gaining speed. They reached Caversham Bridge in the

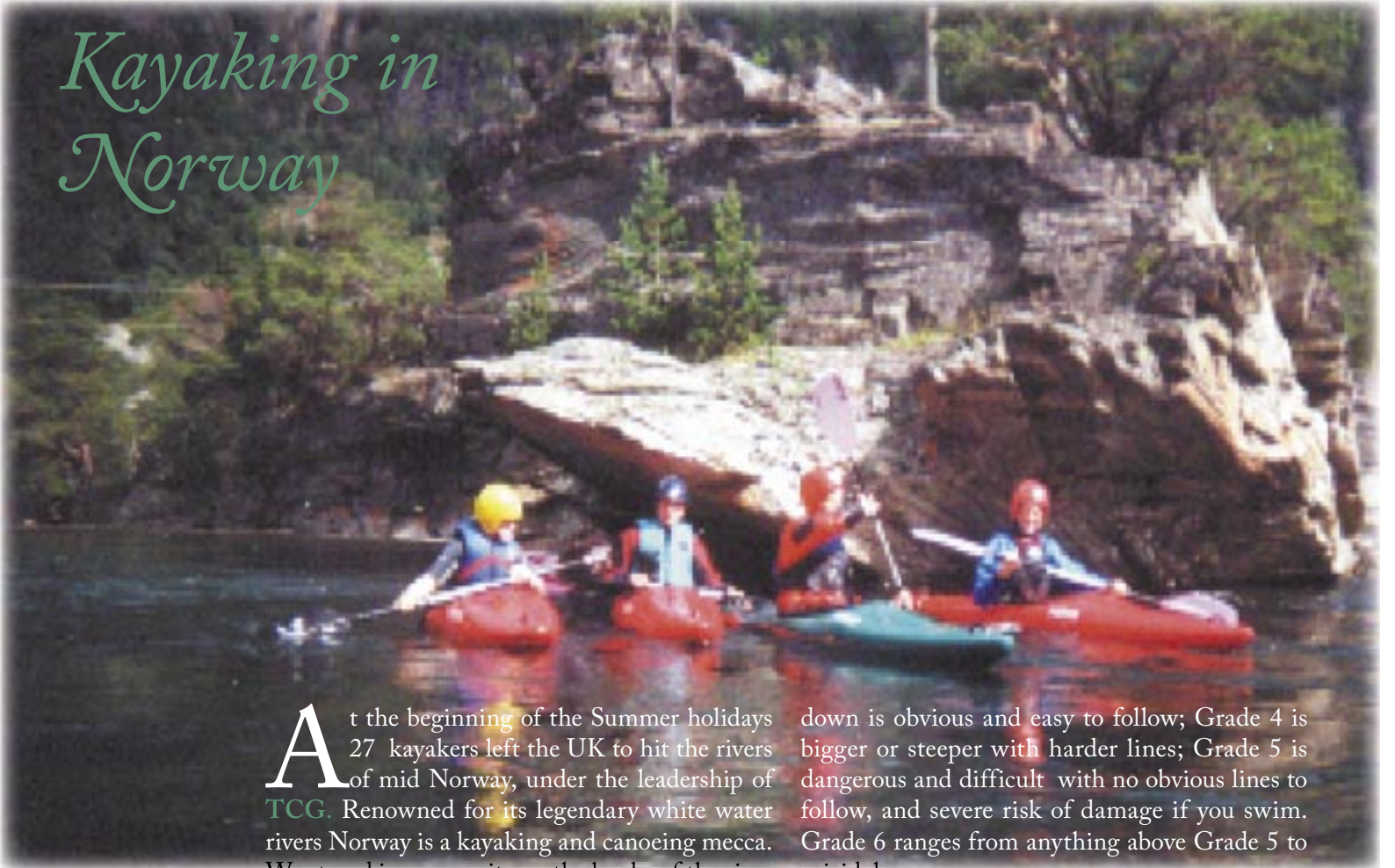
centre of Reading and felt pleased with their journey. The other two crews met at the boathouse early on the Saturday morning: as **T. Sykes** was recovering from an illness from the previous week, he paddled with **T. Gunn**, and that left **S. Jackson** and **R. Clegg** to form the other crew. We set off at 07.15 and paddled steadily all day to reach Bray Lock at 18.45 having covered 57 miles. The support crews fed and watered us well, and apart from sore backs, and a few blisters everyone was fine.

The Sunday saw us leaving Bray lock at 11.15 am and reaching Teddington Lock dead on high water at 5.30pm. Here we caught up with **T. Sykes** and **M. Holman**, and we all set off down the tideway together, and paddled in convoy. After a food stop at Hammersmith bridge we covered the last 7 miles in 40 minutes. The tide of 8 knots behind us felt wonderful indeed, and so we landed at Westminster Bridge in very high spirits, despite a capsize and lost paddle.

The total raised for "*Against Breast Cancer*" was £6370: a fantastic achievement. Our thanks go to all our sponsors and to the stalwart support crews, who gave up their time to ensure our success. Particular congratulations must go to **M. Holman** and **T. Sykes** who had really done no kayaking at all before they began to train for this marathon event, but all the paddlers deserve praise. The only trouble is they want to do it again next spring. Insane? Yes!

TCG and T. Wilson 6SCW

Kayaking in Norway



At the beginning of the Summer holidays 27 kayakers left the UK to hit the rivers of mid Norway, under the leadership of TCG. Renowned for its legendary white water rivers Norway is a kayaking and canoeing mecca. We stayed in a campsite on the banks of the river Lagen near the town of Otta for two weeks, in an area famous for the River Sjoa and its white water festival.

We spent the first few days paddling on the Lagen. Groups were formed, and while those with no experience of kayaking went into one group, those with a little experience were placed in another. Those who had paddled white water and other good paddlers formed a third group. On the water each group had two coaches and one other experienced paddler. We were very lucky on this trip to have two of the best coaches in the UK instructing us, Mike Devlin (Director of Coaching of the British Canoe Union) and Robert Cunningham, a coach level five, and everyone quickly got to grips with the basics.

In between trips to Lillehammer to see the Winter Olympics ski jump (we knew there wouldn't be any snow!) and trips to the shops (no, we had no idea it could be so expensive) we managed to get to a reasonable level of kayaking within the first few days. This meant moving from the Grade 2 Lagen to the Grade 2+ Otta, which is a huge high volume river.

The grading system follows a large degree of generalisations and personal interpretation, however, in general terms, Grades 1 and 2 are rapids with easy lines and nothing dangerous; Grade 3 contains some stoppers, and drops, but the route

down is obvious and easy to follow; Grade 4 is bigger or steeper with harder lines; Grade 5 is dangerous and difficult with no obvious lines to follow, and severe risk of damage if you swim. Grade 6 ranges from anything above Grade 5 to suicidal.

The Otta was fast and fun, with few places to avoid, and because it was glacial melt water it was freezing cold as well. The high volume got the group used to faster water and making decisions more quickly, whilst the more advanced groups tested the patience of the instructors by trying hard to get stuck in every big stopper (broken wave) and surf wave on the river!

The next river to be tackled was the Sjoa. The recent Sjoa festival had left the remnants of groups of kayakers littered all over the various sections of the river, and so we bumped into a few other groups on Norway's most famous river. By the end of the week virtually everyone had mastered the run above the play section. This part sported some big waves and exhilarating fast sections. However the highlight of this river was the play section, an 8km stretch of almost continuous Grade 3. Only the advanced group ran this in kayaks, whilst everyone else did it in a raft on the last day. The white water running down this gorge was fantastic; huge waves, great rapids, and some stunning scenery, including a sighting of one of the world's best freestyle kayakers, Deb Pinniger.

The scenery at the River Driva was even more spectacular. In the second week we took the long drive to the river and split into our established groups. The beginners group did a Grade 2 section, the intermediate followed a Grade 2/3 section and

the advanced a Grade 3/4 section. Relaxed paddles through beautiful gorges followed by steep, fast and often intense rapids of glorious white water made up the scenery. These stretches were broken by the occasional waterfall and sightings of instructors “back looping” by mistake (This means that the back of the boat goes under water so the front goes over your head and you end up upside down!). All of the groups agreed that it had been the best river, and was the high spot of the week, when everyone’s paddling was at its best, except for **Dr. Gunn**, who swam here!

The trip wasn’t just about kayaking though, getting back to camp at about 5:00 in the afternoon we would tuck into snacks whilst having a shower and changing. Preparing supper came next, amazing combinations of tins and noodles created gourmet chefs out of everyone. The evenings were spent sitting around chatting about the ever-growing wave that we surfed earlier, or move that we would have done, had we been bothered, as well as christening the waves with

suitably terrifying names. These evenings went on until about 11:00 before we passed out from exhaustion. Luckily we had late mornings as well, getting up at about 9:30 and so a relaxed mood was established for the entire holiday.

The whole experience was fantastic, from building shelters and fires every night upon which to cook marshmallows and noodles under a sky that never really got dark, to the final day in Oslo looking at the Fram, the Kon Tiki and Viking Ships exhibitions. Everything slotted into place beautifully. Two important tips were not to drink the water that came out below the septic tank farm, and always to wash your hands!

A great vote of thanks to Dr. Gunn for organising such a memorable trip and enlisting the help of such experienced and brilliant instructors – it is a must do trip for anyone with any interest in kayaking, whatever their level.

Tom Sykes VI WHZ

Arctic Sweden Biology Field Course

Twenty-one boys together with PRW, TJK, SB, and TG travelled to Evenes. After an hour and a half bus ride through unappreciated beautiful scenery, they all enjoyed a very late dinner at Camp Åbisko before retiring in bright sunshine at 3.00am.

The next three days saw two A2 coursework practicals carried out. One was in a mosquito ridden bog, and the other from the top of Mt Slatterjaffa, descending from 1197m down to 350m. The boys worked hard, (even those who hated walking uphill) and enjoyed the mountainous scenery with its views over Tornetrask, a lake some 55 miles long and 10 wide. Everyone, including the old hands who have been north before, was amazed by the midnight sun and constant daylight. At 250 km above the Arctic Circle, Åbisko experiences no darkness for five months of the year, so some people have problems sleeping in sunlight at 11.30pm!

On day four the group went down the iron ore mine at Kiruna. Kiruna is a frontier town and is built on an iron ore body. One boards a bus at the tourist centre in Kiruna, and drives to the mine area. The bus descends underground, and one disembarks at a mere 550 m below the surface. There is a 500 seat lecture theatre and visitors’ centre underground, where all the mining operations are explained.

The last three working days were spent on individual projects, which ranged from investigating tree rings and altitude to anthills in bogs. This may be the only time some boys spend entirely on a biological experiment, and it was heartening to see the general enthusiasm for carrying them out.

A free day at the end allowed the fit explorers to climb some of the local peaks and explore the area around Åbisko. Once you leave the road you are in a wilderness with a few difficult footpaths, including the 700 mile “Kings Way” which runs down most of Sweden’s mountainous spine. What an area for a D of E walking expedition! SB took a group up to the Lapp’s’ Gate, a spectacular landmark through which the Lapps herd reindeer in spring and autumn. PRW climbed a 1700m peak up the Åbiskojokka. Both groups thoroughly enjoyed the views, and the sense of empty unpopulated countryside - so difficult to find in Oxfordshire!

The final day saw the group take the train from Åbisko down the fjord to Narvik, one of Europe’s finest train rides, and then look round the war museum in Narvik, before boarding the bus to Evenes and their flights home.

PRW



Drama

'it appears that the Drama Department is unstoppable ...'

Drama this year has been as fast and furious as ever. Starting in the Michaelmas term with a 'Murder Mystery' evening followed by an exhilarating double bill featuring Shakespeare's *Henry V* and Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, there were approximately eight productions and enough GCSE projects to suggest that, rather like madness, the Drama Department is now unstoppable.

The Lent term saw performances of several pieces: *The Bacchae* by Euripides, *Can't Pay, Won't Pay* by Dario Fo and the anonymous *Everyman*, all in pared down versions to meet the requirements of A2 examinations. Of these, the chamber version of *The Bacchae*, based on DJTF's edition and featuring **Simon Evans**, **Nicholas Dalglish**, **Conrad Mason** and **Tom Adams**, was particularly noteworthy. At the same time, rehearsals were taking place for *Team Spirit* by Judy Upton, *Season's Greetings* by Alan Ayckbourn and the aforementioned GCSE performances.

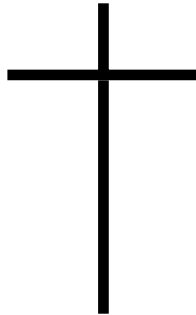
After a hectic Easter break filled with line learning, Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings* was performed by AS Theatre Studies students. A comedy about a disastrous family gathering at Christmas seemed a strange choice as the sounds of early summer crept in at the windows of the Amey Hall, but they were soon drowned out by the strains

of Slade's Christmas anthem which began the show, and ushered in seasonal warmth of an altogether different kind. Highlights included **Ian Sanderson's** tragically awful turn as a children's entertainer (with splendid puppets made by Alan Bainbridge), the sight of **James Buchan** as Santa Claus being shot, and **Harry Hunter** finding an unusual present underneath the Christmas tree.

Season's Greetings was followed a week later in the Amey Hall by performances of *Team Spirit*, a piece based on the exploits of solo yachtswoman Ellen Macarthur. The play was written as part of the International Connections festival, an event for youth theatre groups organised and run by the Royal National Theatre. After the run of *Team Spirit* at Abingdon in April, we took the piece to Kilburn's Tricycle Theatre in June. The timing of this performance, which coincided with the last day of A Level examinations, and required at least one of the principals to rush from the Sports Hall to catch a train to London, seemed on the face of it to be yet further evidence of the Drama Department's descent into insanity, until we realised that all the dates had been set by the theatres participating in the festival, and our only choice had been whether to take part or not. In the end, most of us agreed that the chance to perform in London was worth a little temporary madness.

L. Fowler 6DE

Liz Boon (1929 - 2002)



An Appreciation

I first met **Liz** in 1987, when I was nervously contemplating doing a musical, *The Boy Friend*, as my first “official” dramatic offering in the Amey Hall. Liz had been working on several shows with **Nigel Brown**, my predecessor as Administrator of the Hall, and he had recommended her warmly as a choreographer.

I was lost in admiration from the very beginning by the imagination, energy and enthusiasm that she brought to her work with the cast. She quickly persuaded the boys that dancing on stage is actually a pleasurable activity, and her infectious enthusiasm caught them up, and carried them through to success. It was only later that I learned that she had suffered for some time from rheumatoid arthritis. Every step she took must have been painful, but she never showed it and her patient good humour never wavered all the time that I knew her and worked with her. Apart from *The Boy Friend* we worked together on *Captain Stirrick*, *Calamity Jane* and *Oliver*, and the dancing and movement was always hugely appreciated by cast and audiences alike.

Nigel Brown, who worked with her in the early days of the Amey Hall, adds:

“**Liz** initially confronted a lineup of leaden-footed, sceptical Abingdonians in rehearsals for *Guys and Dolls*, but the speed with which she converted them into swaggering, stylish and nimble New Yorkers set the pattern for a series of shows, (among them *The Pyjama Game*, and a musical version of *Comedy of Errors*), in which her adroit choreography was a key element.”

Liz always worked with us for love of the Dance. She refused all payment, and was absurdly grateful for any small gift that she received at the end of the Show. My abiding memory of her is of her modesty and her unselfishness. She never really understood that it was we who were entirely in her debt, or that her spirit was an essential ingredient in the success of the shows with which she was involved.

Typically, **Liz** reacted to the news that she had terminal cancer with great courage and quiet determination. When she died, many people felt that they had lost both a friend and an inspiration.

Our deepest sympathies go out to her husband John, and to her family.

David Taylor

The choice of Shakespeare's Henry V as one of two major productions marking the final term of **Michael St. John Parker's** long and distinguished leadership of the school was perhaps appropriate, since the play represents for many an ideal of kingship and daring. Yet the decision to pair it with Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, an allegory about the rise of Hitler, and to perform both plays with the same cast on alternate nights in the Amey Hall, must have seemed at least perverse, if not slightly mad.

Mad it certainly was, although not without the dash of the "method in't" that Polonius ascribes to Hamlet. This was a senior year group with some excellent Shakespeareans. **Simon Evans**, **Conrad Mason** and **Tristan Worthington** had all cut their theatrical teeth at Abingdon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1998. Now in their final year, they seemed entirely suited to the triumvirate of aristocratic characters at the heart of the story. Then there was the debt Brecht owed (and for once acknowledged) to Shakespeare and the Elizabethan theatre. Pragmatically, too, *Ui* was a set text for many of the cast who were reading Theatre Studies A Level. Finally there was the irresistible challenge for the directors in trying to make both plays work on the same stage, and, for the actors, in trying to conquer two mountain peaks in one expedition.

Henry V

All expeditions require good team players, and in *Henry V* we were fortunate to have them in large numbers. Led by **Harry Hunter** (Exeter), **Will Allan** (Clarence), **Tom Blackshaw** (Gloucester), **Jonathan Bosley** (Salisbury), **Hugh Taylor** (Warwick / Westmoreland) and **Dominic Roche** (York), the English court cut a dash from the outset in their black and red cavalry uniforms. Not to be outdone, their French counterparts, played by **Alex Nash** (Orleans), **Harry Green** (Constable), **Roland Shaw** (Rambures), **Alasdair Macdonald** (Montjoy) and **George Cowie** (Burgundy) sneered and swaggered delightfully in their buttoned-up blue tunics or billowing greatcoats whilst pouring scorn on the idea that a nation of warm beer drinkers could outwit the wine-loving French.

If beer was to be drunk, then one could not imagine a thirstier or more convincing set of lager louts than **Tom Dyson** (Nim), **Patrick Garrick** (Bardolph), **Walter Gervers** (Pistol), **Tom Gatten** (Boy) and Frances Flannery Gamlin (Mistress Quickly), the denizens of the Boar's Head Tavern in Eastcheap, who depart for France in reluctant service of their king. Their scenes were a particular delight, with moments of excellent comic buffoonery balanced by the sober and genuinely affecting response to Falstaff's death.

Not surprisingly, Shakespeare shows more of the English army than the French, and there are many scenes demand-

ing a body of troops for Henry to address. If the theatrical footsoldier's lot is not a glamorous one, we never knew it from the committed and focused performances of Henry's men. As they stared out into the auditorium, scanning the horizon for the enemy we imagined lurking behind our seats, there was an intensity about the faces and stillness of the army that was one of the most effective parts of the production. The charge through the audience that followed Henry's "Once more unto the breach" was a memorable moment, accompanied by an exploding cannon. The siege of Harfleur was another, distinguished by **Edward Rowett's** plaintive surrender from the balcony as the Governor of Harfleur. Other highlights included the night scene on the eve of the battle of Agincourt, when Henry, in disguise, is reminded of the king's heavy burden of responsibility by a trio of combative Englishmen led by **Richard Webber** as Michael Williams.

In a play with such masculine themes, there are regrettably few opportunities for women. Yet those there are demand skilful treatment, and in Ros Gater (Catherine), Agata Belcen (Alice) and Sophie Burns (Queen Isabel), we were fortunate to have three immensely graceful and stylish performers from St Helen's. Yet the abiding memory of this production had to be the outstanding performances of the leading male actors. **Conrad Mason** and **Tristan Worthington** established the tone and style of the performance in their shared roles as the Chorus, Archbishop of Canterbury/Bishop of Ely and Charles VI/Louis the Dauphin. Assuming and changing each role in turn before our eyes, they revelled in the deliberate theatricality of the text, and in the power of the actor to transport us at will from one place to another. As Henry V, **Simon Evans** was simply excellent. His movement and delivery were every inch those of a king, as he took us on a journey through each facet of the monarch's role as inspirational leader, soldier, politician and lover.

Staging a play such as this requires more than one type of army, and in this double bill, the demands on the technical and creative teams were even heavier than usual. Yet again, all rose to the challenge magnificently. **Simon Whalley** and **Patrick Garrick** composed hauntingly memorable music, recorded by a dozen or so of Abingdon's finest musicians, whilst **Chris Biggs's** set achieved the apparently impossible by forming an appropriate backdrop to two entirely different plays. **Sue Wigmore's** exhaustive search of the RSC costume store in Stratford, carried out during the School's only Exeat of the year, was augmented by her own expert creations and alterations to ensure that every one of the 40 or so actors was perfectly arrayed for each scene of both plays. The lighting and sound were highly effective, too, thanks to **Nick Herbert**, **Andrew Rowe**, **Alex Campbell**, **Tom Bennelick** and **Will McGeehin** amongst many others. Finally, the two contrasting and striking posters were designed by **James Nairne** (*Ui*) and Gunilla Treen (*Henry V*).

Only very rarely does a play thrill so much in its opening scene as did Cutting Edge's production of Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. From the moment the Announcer (**Tristan Worthington**) appeared on stage, full of the 'air of bustling self-importance' demanded in the directions, we knew we were in for an evening of which Brecht himself would most certainly have approved. Tristan's wonderfully witty interpretation of this character matched the original and highly effective introduction of the leading gangsters. It was clear that each of the four actors here - **Walter Gervers** as Ui, **Dan Easterbrook** as Roma, **Josh Sasanow** as Giri and **Philip Peacock** as Givola - was fully aware of the need for equal measures of humour and menace as they pulled their historical counterparts across the stage. This was inspired casting but was matched by the choice of music which completed this prologue - the promises of "trouble ahead" were all too credible, and the scene was very much set.

That the difficult scenes following should be successful says much for the insight of the directors and for the skill of the members of the cast. The businesswomen of Chicago were played with class, decisiveness and pace by Ros Gater, Agata Belcen, Frances Flannery-Gamlin and Jeanie Lloyd. Dogsborough's growing bemusement was ably portrayed by **Nicholas Dalgleish**, and the defiance and despair of Sheet were made abundantly clear by **Conrad Mason**. Throughout these early scenes the growing threat of Ui's gang is evident, and once again the excellent use of music played a vital role. It is only a shame that the subtitles, making the links with the historical events of the '30s were not immediately clear to all members of the audience.

Perhaps the best-written scene in the play is when Ui hires a professional actor to help him develop his skills as an orator. In this scene **Tristan Worthington** set the tone, this time as the Actor, in appropriately outrageous manner; once again **Walter Gervers** responded marvellously - we saw the creation of a demagogue before our very eyes, a fitting climax to the first half of the play. Particularly effective, with *Ui* being staged on alternative nights to *Henry V*, were the Shakespearean references.

Of the three major historical events inspiring the second half of the play, the trial scene of the mentally deficient Dutch communist was a particular highlight with wonderfully imaginative directions, lighting and sound, the helplessness of defendant Fish being evoked all too clearly by **Hugh Taylor**, as was the terrible cynicism of the Judge and the Prosecutor, played by **Simon Evans** and **James Buchan** respectively. **Lewis Fowler** completed the picture with a convincingly heroic, eventually suicidal Defence counsel. Despite the growing tension between Giri and Roma (Göring and Röhm) being very effectively evoked by **Josh Sasanow** and **Dan**

Easterbrook, and **Philip Peacock** making a very believable, if slightly too dashing Givola (Goebbels), the massacre of Roma and his men had less dramatic impact than other scenes in the play - unless Brecht wanted to suggest that the whole thing had a degree of macabre comedy about it.

Ui's political courting of Ignatius Dullfeet, accompanied by his sexual courting of Betty Dullfeet had an air of terrible inevitability. **Tom Blackshaw** and Sophie Burns respectively drew very skilfully a picture of a couple trying to combine respectability with political shrewdness. **Walter Gervers'** portrayal of the enormously predatory and entirely ruthless Ui was now at its strongest - and excellent it was.

The epilogue was skilfully handled and was theatre at its most Brechtian: the spell of the plot was deliberately broken, and the audience brought back to political reality with a bump by **Tristan Worthington's** particularly successful mix of sinister sneering and high camp.

That such a difficult play should have been produced so successfully is down firstly to the strengths of the whole cast - there was not a weak link to be seen. In addition to the powerful acting already mentioned, Puffin O'Hanlon's portrayal of Dockdaisy and **Tom Dyson's** Hook "the wholesale vegetable dealer" deserve great praise in their contribution

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui

to the atmosphere of evil prospering. Congratulations to every one of the actors. The excellent technical support offered was essential for the play's success, with the sound and lighting crew certainly doing their bit, and the set and costumes being entirely relevant to the action.

We are indebted to the directors, **Sylvia Finnimore** and **Jeremy Taylor**, for an evening of such high drama - this was another triumph for them, and for Cutting Edge.

DGA



'a good opportunity for everyone to indulge in accomplished Irish accents ...'

In the Michaelmas term, a group of pupils from Abingdon and St Helen's gathered together for the audition to choose the players who would feature in the forthcoming production of *Dubliners Revisited* - a play adapted by KD (Mr. K Durham - St Helen's) from a series of short stories by James Joyce. The cast would feature, in total, about 53 actors - and only 13 of these would be from Abingdon: **G. Dalziel, R. Whitworth, T. Dawson, S. Johnson, M. Stagg, A. Grant, M. Jarvis, T. Swarbrick, R. Butler, B. Harris, E. Wilson, B. Phillips and P. Stern.**

As with most School productions, time was short and so the rehearsals began immediately and took place over a period of four weeks. All rehearsals took place at St Helen's and everyone learned his lines efficiently

Dubliners Revisited

and was sufficiently prepared for the performances which, quoting one rather cynical member of the audience: "were better than was to be expected" and, according to one rather more optimistic on-looker, "were a credit to all those involved".

The play consisted of three vignettes, each staged in different areas around St Helen's; some innovative direction from KD. The

first was *Araby*, in which a young boy falls in love with a much older girl and strives to win her favour by getting her a present from the fair only to discover that it is shut.

In *Painful Case*, the second of the three adaptations, a bank manager realises how pointless and repetitious his life is and how far he is trapped by responsibility. He thinks there is no way to escape - until he meets Mrs. Sinico...

In the third vignette, *The Dead*, a family spends a jovial evening at a party, until one member begins to recount a sinister story, and their hearts miss a beat when they hear the sound of animated cadavers....

During the interval, which took place between the second and third parts, the audience was treated to mulled wine and mince pies and tepid orange squash for those not yet allowed to consume alcohol!

Overall, however, the play was a resounding success - performed to a full house - and was a good opportunity for everyone to indulge in accomplished Irish accents! After the last performance, KD said that it would be nice to resurrect *Dubliners Revisited* and perform it in the Amey Hall.

T. Dawson 3AJPE



Early rehearsals and directorial débuts



The particularly tricky scenes were the ones involving the chorus members which Mr Taylor choreographed skilfully and subtly. The pace of the play was aided by the chorus and their barrage of prompts. The characterisation was hard to master for the leading players, but notable plaudits should go to Simon Evans and Ros Gater, who mastered the atmosphere and tone of their characters while Agata Belcen performed

remarkably well in the unusual leading lady rôle, using the script to its full potential.

Team Spirit was a production that came about more by circumstance than by design, and as such was a terrific achievement in the face of some trying ‘circumstances’.

Team Spirit is a play written by Judy Upton charting the attempts of Tania Travers to win the Pelican Alliance Plymouth to Halifax Yacht Race. The play focuses mainly on the ongoing machinations of the media circus surrounding the race. We performed it twice in the Amey Hall and once in The Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn. The idea of doing this particular play originated from the National Theatre’s International Connections competition (featuring work by young writers) in which we were competing. Sadly, our production was not performed in time to be considered for the trip to the National. Despite this, I felt the cast and crew raised their game for the London performance and entertained a very appreciative crowd in the intimate Tricycle Theatre.

In preparation for the first two performances in the Amey Hall, the cast learnt their lines and began to focus on the acting at a commendably early stage in proceedings. Most importantly, the cast had an excellent mix of ages and characters that gelled to make rehearsals extremely enjoyable and usually productive. The set inevitably stole the show, both in London and the Amey Hall, but the cast used it effectively to tell the story based on Ellen McArthur. I think it was Simon Evans who summed up the cast’s feelings at the end of our affair with Judy’s play, when he said ‘Where can I go from here?’ It was a tumultuous ride from the initial rehearsals to the triumphant finish and the ubiquitous Mr Taylor steered the ship with a calm head in the face of a difficult play and an ever-changing cast.

Mrs Finnimore, Mr Taylor and Mr Biggs should

take much credit for the production and the tech. crew were as well prepared as ever. I felt that being a part of this cast was enjoyable and productive throughout and has furthered not only my own but others’ sense of drama. It was a fitting end to Mrs Finnimore’s stay at Abingdon School and the cast would like to thank her for all her efforts over the years.

Team Spirit

A. Nash 5RGH



‘The particularly tricky scenes were the ones involving the chorus members ...’



Music

The Bands & Orchestras

There are lots of bands and orchestras at Abingdon School that get together every week to practise for concerts throughout the year. To get into one of these bands or orchestras one could either get called up within two months of starting an instrument and join the relevant band or orchestra, or simply ask to join one. If your music teacher is a conductor of a band or orchestra and if he or she thinks you are good enough he or she might personally invite you to join.

I was invited to join the 2nd Wind Band quite soon after I started at Abingdon. Then my saxophone teacher **Simon Currie** invited me to join the Sax Group. Last summer we went to a studio and recorded some tracks for a CD called *Blue Streak*. This year I was invited to join the 2nd Orchestra. Throughout the year I performed in three concerts, playing pieces such as *The Pink Panther*, *The Adams Family*, *The Great Gate of Kiev*, *Rock Around the Clock*, *If I Were A Rich Man* and many others. On the nights of the concerts I was nervous after practising for so long but they all went well and I realised that it was all worth while.

At the end of the year I realised a long-held ambition when my saxophone teacher asked me to join the Big Band, which I have wanted to be in since I first heard them play.

Edmund Perou 2GGB

As it would be **Mr M. St. John Parker's** last ever Christmas concert, he and **Mr Stinton** set out to make it one of the more memorable. And memorable it was: the concert began with Second Orchestra, conducted by **Mr Elliot**, undertaking pieces by Bizet and Dvorak. First Wind Band quickly followed, showing the wide range of styles that wind instruments should be able to play, as both Bach and Lloyd Webber were performed with equal enthusiasm. Enthusiasm can also be used to describe Big Band, who were as ebullient as usual.

After the interval First Orchestra emerged to play a tribute to New York, *Salute to the Big Apple*, unfortunately timed, as fears over security meant that the tour to America had to be postponed in favour of one to Vienna, Prague and Budapest. The second and third movements of Grieg's Piano concerto were brilliantly performed by **Luke Berryman**, who not only demonstrated a formidable piano technique and an accomplished musical interpretation, but also seemed to be enjoying himself.

From then on Christmas spirit settled on the Amey Hall, as the First Year choir, followed by Chapel Choir each sang a carol. Chamber Orchestra, conducted by a beaming **Mr Stinton**, played *Jingle Bells for Duelling Strings* as their contribution to lightening the mood, before the star of the evening made his last ever appearance at a Christmas concert. The **Headmaster** (perhaps in fulfilment of his destiny), emerged onto the stage as King, bravely followed by **Philip Birkett** as page. His stirring rendition of *Good King Wenceslas*, supported by First Year Choir, Chamber Orchestra and Chapel Choir, was nothing less than impressive. Musically, the **Headmaster**, as with so much else at the School, had certainly left his mark.

William Horwitz 6TCG

Christmas Concert 2001

'conducted by

a beaming **Mr**

Stinton ...'



**'Ed Finnis acted
as the gushing
creative fountain ...'**

The phenomenon of Citizen Six originally rose from the ashes of the Abingdon School Beats Confederate that had taken place two years before. The concept was similar: to put on a concert, for one night only, independently organised, produced and performed by boys of the School that would bring the sounds of alternative music to an unusual setting. Also in keeping with the ASBC precedent, all the proceeds of the concert were to go to charity – this time Water Aid, which works to improve facilities for clean water in Africa.

Musically however, Citizen Six was a departure from previous performances. The ASBC had focused on trip-hop and jazz-fusion, mixing covers and original material through a variety of performers. Citizen Six operated much more as a

Citizen Six

set band, with a close knit nucleus pedalling exclusively their own special brand of sound, mixing jazz, funk, rock, fusion, techno, breakbeats, emo, hardcore, ambient spuzz, juff and munt. **Ed Finnis** acted as the gushing creative fountain at the centre of The Six, single-handedly penning most of the music, singing on most tracks, and playing keyboards and guitars. **Johnny Herford** added his own extra dimension, darting uncontrollably between ideas and instruments like an

anxious stoat. **Mike Hardy** sat steady as a rock at his trusty drum kit. **Mike Chilcott** played bass for the band.

Though the cult status built up around the ASBC proved elusive for Citizen Six, the concert was nevertheless a huge success. Thanks are due to the Amey Hall technical crew for the excellent set and sound they provided, of which the band took full advantage. After weeks locked up in a small and rodent-infested studio on the Cowley Road, Citizen Six finally emerged blinking onto a stage strewn knee deep with wires, instruments and carpets. Once the drummer had scaled the mountainous piece of stage upon which his drums perched, things got underway, and a unique atmosphere was soon flourishing with music, comedy and wrestling being welded seamlessly into one show stopping performance. One of the highlights of the evening was provided by Sarah Hoblin, who added her beautiful voice to the sublime grooves of *Candlewax*, but throughout, an exciting performance gave the crowd their money's worth.

On the back of such initial success and enjoyment, the band has decided to continue the project long term. Even now, with a new line-up, Citizen Six is working on its demo tape, 'Jazz Odyssey 2002' before hopefully moving on to greater things.

Mike Hardy 6TCG



**'Thanks are due
to the Amey Hall
technical crew
for the excellent
set and sound
they provided'**

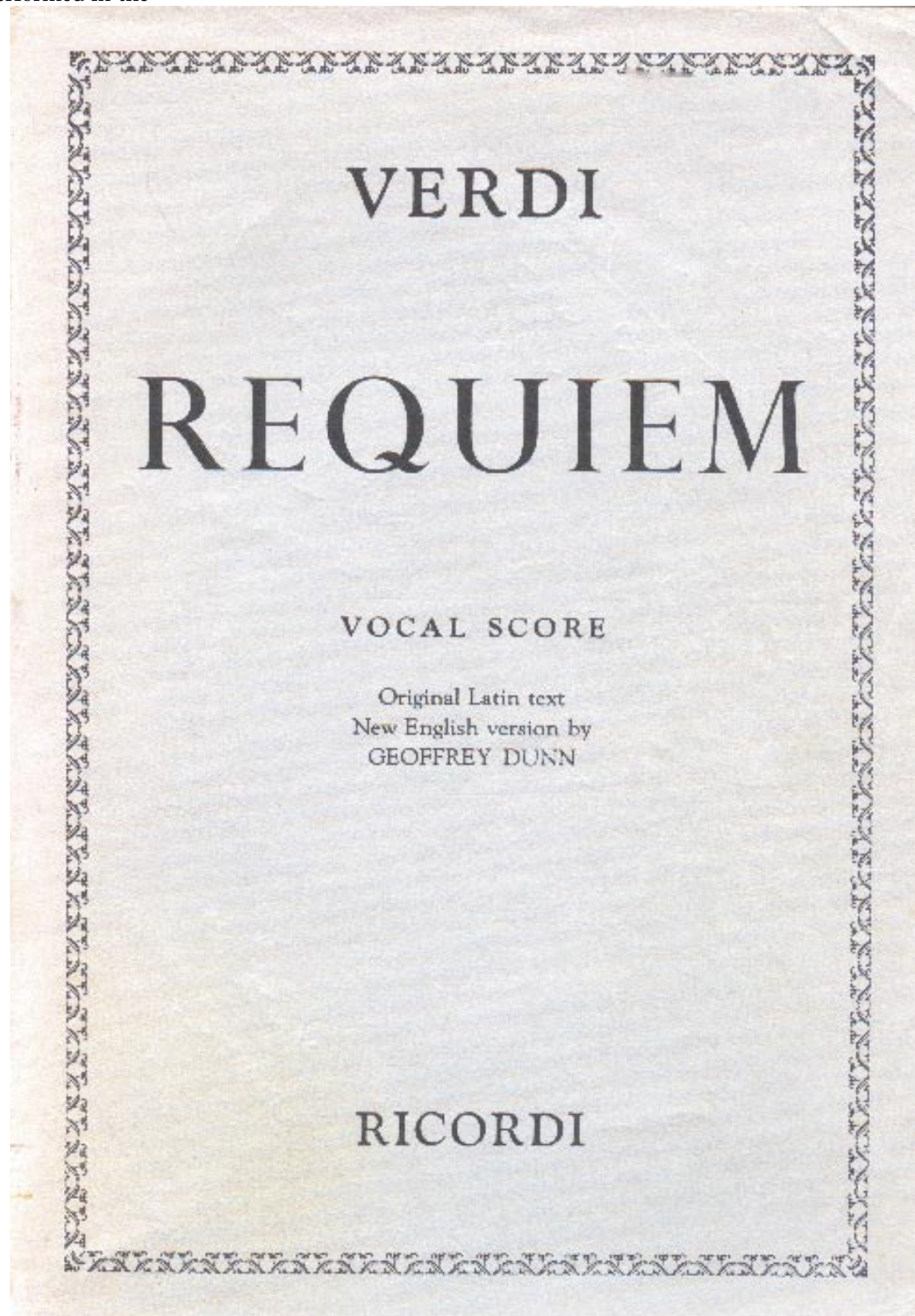
A Choral Concert

This year's performance of Verdi's *Requiem* by the Joint Choral Society and Orchestra of Abingdon School and the School of St Helen and St Katharine was one of the high spots of the musical calendar. Performed in the Yolande Patterson Hall, under the direction of Andrew Tillett, Director of Music at St Helen's, the event can only be described as a triumph for all involved.

Verdi's *Requiem* is a massive work, and it is very much to the credit of both Schools that they were able to muster the necessary forces with hardly any adult stiffening in the orchestra. The work is difficult, demanding considerable technical skill and stamina, and requiring solo performances from many individual players or sections of the orchestra. There are innumerable exposed passages for the choir as well as the orchestra where any weaknesses in intonation or rhythm or any lapses in concentration are all too apparent.

There was no need to fear any such embarrassments in this performance. The choir was well disciplined and sang with verve and precision, and the orchestra tackled the work with a professionalism and confidence that was most impressive. Many of the most beautiful sections in the work are written for the soloists, and Claire Weston, Anne Lewis, **Andrew Yeats** and Henry Herford did outstanding justice to the music. The accompaniment of the vocal soloists by soloists from the orchestra was effected with maturity and a high degree of musicianship.

This was altogether an excellent and inspiring performance. Performers and audience alike left the hall elated not only by the musical experience but also by the sense of having participated in something special.



Caroline Johnson, parent member
of the Joint Choral Society

The annual School bands concert took place in May and featured the usual wide range of genres. The Brass Band, led by **Fiona Parker**, provided one of the highlights of the evening with Rodrigo's *Concierto De Aranjuez* arranged for trumpet and brass band with **Matthew Gardner** as trumpet soloist. Matthew again showed that he is a soloist of some calibre and was well supported by the band.

band members have been unavailable during the busiest examination term of the year.

The Big Band, again led by **Fiona Parker**, concluded the evening with 3 pieces from their predominantly jazzy repertoire *Sunflower - a rock ballad*, an old favourite in *Rock around the Clock*, and *Peter Gunn* - blues rock. The end of *Rock around the Clock*, the closing of the concert, was repeated to include a totally outrageous and unplanned, though certainly memorable, rhythm section solo that was controversially omitted the first time through.

The Bands' Concert

The 1st Wind Band, also led by **Fiona Parker**, as has become expected of them, produced some of the finest moments of the concert performing a medley of works by John Williams including famous themes from films such as *Star Wars* and *Jaws* and also two movements of a *March* by Gustav Holst.

Special mention should be made of the younger members of the band who have been the linchpin of the band particularly during the weekly rehearsals as many of the Upper School

I'm sure all the performers would wish to thank **Miss Parker**, both for her conducting on the evening of the concert and for making this concert possible through many a lunchtime rehearsal.

Blair Winton 6SCW

**'Miss Parker [at work in one of] many
a lunchtime rehearsal'**



In the run-up to the examination season, the School orchestras might be forgiven for taking a back burner position among the numerous academic and other School activities. However, as the Summer Orchestral Concert showed, this was obviously not the case: if anything, the opposite was true. The First, Second and Chamber Orchestras all performed with great conviction and panache, and with commendable commitment from all the players.

The stars of the show, however, were not the orchestras as a whole, but the soloists, for this was a concert that featured no less than two complete concertos and a concerto movement, alongside the old favourites of Rossini's *William Tell Overture* and Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4*. The concert started with the second orchestra, skilfully led by **M. Futagami**, playing arrangements of the *Finale* from Beethoven's 5th, *Bourrée* from Handel's *Water Music* and *The Great Gate of Kiev* by Mussorgsky. The orchestra, composed of the School's more junior musicians, performed admirably and with great enthusiasm for the music.

Jonathan Mak was the first of the soloists, playing Mendelssohn's *Piano Concerto No. 1*. Jonathan captured perfectly the brilliance and sparkle of the work with his outstanding virtuosity of technique and spirited performance. Despite a fiendishly difficult solo part, the performance from Jonathan was superb, and the First Orchestra accompanied him with proficiency and style.

The second half started with the Chamber Orchestra accompanying **Roderick Morris** in

Mozart's *Violin Concerto in D*. His performance was stunning in every way, from the immense technical skill during the extended solo passages and cadenzas to the depth of interpretation clearly exhibited by his playing. The small orchestra of strings and woodwind accompanied sensitively and was clearly alert to musical directions taken by the soloist, though was let down by some poor intonation at times. Such blemishes were quickly

A Summer Concert

forgotten, though, in the impressive confidence and musicality of the performance.

The final soloist was **Edward Lee**, playing the first movement of Saint-Saëns' *Violin Concerto No. 3*. From its dramatic and powerful solo opening, it was clear that his performance was to be an exceptional one. With a full orchestral accompaniment, merely sustaining the solo part places great demands of stamina on the soloist, but Edward effortlessly strung the virtuosic solo line with great technical skill above the music of the accompanying First Orchestra.

As with all School concerts, one cannot forget the huge contribution made by members of the music staff. Many thanks are due to **Mr Stinton** and **Mr Elliot**, conductors of the first and second orchestras respectively, and to the Head of Strings at Abingdon, **Mariette Richter**, as director of the Chamber Orchestra, for their invaluable work in making the concert such a success.

Chris Johnson 6TCG



'(Roderick Morris')
performance was
stunning in every
way ...'

First Orchestra Tour



Over the 2002 summer holiday the Music Department arranged to take the School's First Orchestra on a 9 night tour of central Europe. 74 pupils from all year groups and 9 members of staff visited Vienna, Prague and Budapest in July.

The tour comprised 3 concerts (one per city) each giving the Orchestra the chance to demonstrate some of its strongest pieces and players. The Chamber Orchestra and the 1st Wind band (conducted by **Miss Parker**) also performed, highlighting the breadth of the School musical ability. The Orchestra played a variety of pieces that will be familiar to anyone who attends their regular concerts: Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance*, *The Dam Buster's March* and *A Salute to the Big Apple* were among the orchestra's works. The Chamber Orchestra also played the *Jig* from Holst's *St Paul's Suite*, while the 1st Wind Band played a medley of John Williams' film scores (*Star Wars*, *E.T.*, *Jaws*, and the like) as well as Holst's *Suite for Military Band in Eb*.

All three concerts featured outstanding solos from several musicians. **Roderick Morris** (in his last performances with the orchestra) led the orchestra and even overcame a bout of illness to play in the last concert. His solo with the chamber Orchestra in Mozart's *D major violin concerto* was a breathtakingly virtuosic display of his ability on the Violin. He has now left the

School to study music at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

Jonathan Mak played the solo piano in Mendelssohn's *Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor*, a work requiring "virtuosity and stamina", attributes which **Jonathan** clearly possesses in abundance. **Jonathan** has now left the School to study Mathematics at Cambridge.

Luke Berryman also played two movements of Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A minor*. As all will agree, this piece requires outstanding mastery of the piano, and **Luke** embraced the challenge, clearly demonstrating both his impressive technique and understanding of the music. **Luke** hopes to continue his study of the Piano at a Music Conservatoire.

Even with the three concerts, rehearsals and two days' worth of coach travelling, the group still had plenty of time to see the sights and to relax. The first night offered a trip to Vienna's Prater Park, famous for its Giant Ferris wheel. The boys also visited the State Opera House and Hofburg Palace. There was an opportunity to visit Vienna's Art Museums, as well as to attend the open-air Film Festival where the group saw historic films of Karajan conducting the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras.

Prague also featured sightseeing, including the Charles Bridge, the Houses of Parliament

Mr Stinton

takes a

bow ...



and the Church of St Nicholas. The hotel in Prague also contained two bowling alleys. A tournament was quickly arranged and a Lower Sixth group (“Brommer’s Bombers”) just managed to scrape victory away from the teachers. While staying at this hotel the group were also treated to a brief talk from **Dr Zawadzki** and **Mr Bromley** about the history of the region.

In Budapest rain limited sightseeing although the group did visit the Szechenyi Baths, the hottest and deepest

mineral spring baths in the area. The last night also saw a boat trip, enjoying the illuminated sights of Budapest.

Overall the tour was a resounding success, a success which surely will be repeated in future Music tours. Our thanks must go to all the members of staff and volunteer parents involved, and especially to **Mr Stinton** for his excellent organisation of the trip.

Ben Street 6NMR



... as does

Roderick

Morris



1st VIII Rowing

Eighty hours in the gym, two hundred and seventy hours on the water and about a hundred minutes worth of racing made up our most successful season ever since the boat club was founded a hundred and fifty years ago.

It all began in October 2001, with many hours spent in the gym and on the water in single sculls and pairs. Eight members of the crew, plus **Nick Brodie** our cox, were involved in Great Britain trials in the winter term, with notable performances from **Jack Tarrell**, **Nick Hopkins** and **Tom Kingham** who were invited to a special Great Britain training camp in Switzerland.

The first major competition of the 2002 'head' season was The Schools' Head of the River Race. We started sixth, behind Hampton, St Paul's and our local rivals St Edward's. The race went very smoothly, rating quite low (32 strokes per minute). We came off the water, pleased with our result, and after several hours of waiting the result was unveiled. "The winner of The Schools' Head

of the River Race 2002 is... Abingdon School". We won the event for the first time in the School's history – beating second place St Paul's by six seconds in a time of 17:20. This success was repeated at the Head of the River Race, when we overtook 7 crews and finished in 46th place overall – the first School home (the next School being Radley in 112th place!). This was Abingdon's best ever result in a race consisting of University, Club, School and International crews.

We began the 'regatta' season in high spirits, reinforced by the results at Nottingham City. After losing our stroke **Jack Tarrell** to a self-inflicted eye injury the night before the regatta, the scratch crew raced against Oxford Brookes, Nottingham City, and close rivals Hampton and St Paul's. Everything came together in our final, and we sailed ahead of the competition. By the half way mark we had a comfortable lead, and lengthened it until the end. Winning this event was a big confidence boost, and spurred us on for the National Schools' Regatta in June.

In the meantime, five members of the crew performed incredibly well at the Great Britain trial held at Dorney Lake, Eton. **Jack Tarrell** and his partner from King's Chester, **Nick Hopkins** and **Tom Kingham**, **Nick Herbert** and **Jamie Anderson** finished first, third and fourth overall in the country. Combined with earlier performances meant that each man and **Nick Brodie** were selected for the Great Britain team for the Munich Juniors Regatta. While competing **Tom Kingham** suffered a nasty injury leaving him out of action for at least four weeks. At this point the National Schools' Regatta was three weeks away.

Joined by our super sub, **Felix Hemsley**, we trained in the 'new' VIII, and it looked promising. But we knew how determined St Paul's and Radley would be, and how close to us they were in terms of speed. It was going to be a good race. The heat ended up as a race for the first 300m or so and a paddle home, as all the other crews dropped back and decided to try their chances in the repêchage later on.

The final was the last race of the day, and a huge crowd gathered in the last 250m before the finish line. The plan was to get off the start, get out ahead, and stay out ahead until the finish line. That is exactly what we did. The race was comfortable, if a little scrappy, and once again, for the first time in Abingdon School Boat Club's history, we had won a national race: the National Schools' Regatta. Our medals were presented by **Mr St John Parker** to a massive round of applause by all our supporters.

A sharp reminder that we were not indestructible at Reading Town regatta got us back into the right frame of mind for Henley Royal Regatta. This and the welcome return of **Tom Kingham** meant we were at full strength once more.

For the two weeks before Henley we trained twice a day. Every morning at 6.40 and every afternoon at 3.40. This had a very positive impact on our technique and unity, and put us in good stead for the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley.

We saw off the challenges of Manhattan School from Kansas, USA, Hampton School (races which we won 'easily' - that is, by more than 25 seconds), St Andrew's School, also from the USA and, in a fiercely-fought semi-final on Saturday, Groton School, USA, to meet St Paul's in the final. This was the first all British final for some time and Abingdon is the first home-grown

winner of the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup for three years. Hundreds of Abingdon supporters (old boys, parents, staff, friends and members of defeated crews) lined the banks to cheer for us on Sunday and to applaud the sportsmanship of the whole event as well as Abingdon School's own success. We won the final comfortably in a time of seven minutes precisely. The rare Triple, consisting of winning Schools' Head of the River, National Schools' Regatta and Princess Elizabeth Challenge at Henley Royal Regatta has only been achieved once in recent history: by Eton in 1995. So Abingdon's winning all three events, for the first time, in the same year, is an astounding achievement.

Further recognition for more individual achievements came at Great Britain final trials, where **Jack Tarrell** and **Nick Hopkins** were selected to go to the World Junior Championships in Lithuania, and several members of the crew were also selected for the Great Britain team in the European Junior Championships or 'Coupe de la Jeunesse'. **Jamie Anderson** and **Nick Herbert** were selected as the top pair, **Nick Brodie** coxed the four, and **Tim Guiver** and **Felix Hemsley** were selected for the eight.

Jack Tarrell's coxless four won Great Britain's only medal at Worlds: a silver, in a very close fought race. **Jamie Anderson** and **Nick Herbert** achieved two bronze medals in "a world class event", **Nick Brodie's** four won gold and silver and **Tim Guiver** and **Felix Hemsley** won silver on the second day of the two day international. There have been highly successful Abingdon crews in previous years but the dream of all three titles has eluded us until now. It is a testament to the skills and tenacity of our coach, **MDM**, that we have made it at last.

The Henley Royal Regatta crew:

Bow: **J. Calnan**
2: **N. Herbert**
3: **J. Anderson**
4: **T. Guiver**
5: **T. Stockford**
6: **N. Hopkins**
7: **Tom Kingham**
Stroke: **Jack Tarrell**
Cox: **Nick Brodie**
'9th man': **Felix Hemsley**

J. Anderson & N. Brodie

a report by

J. Anderson

and **N. Brodie**

J15 Rowing

Thirty contenders appeared for the first afternoon of training on 9 January and completed their first airfield run. The next afternoon everyone rowed a 2 km ergo test, and the weight-adjusted times helped decide a provisional ranking from which the initial crew selections were made. Subsequently, most Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoon sessions were spent on the water, and, until the days had lengthened sufficiently, most Monday afternoon sessions were spent either on the ergometers or circuit training in the Sports Hall.

Last year, flooding disrupted the first part of Abingdon's season, so when Reading Regatta was cancelled this year due to fast water conditions there was an unpleasant feeling of déjà vu. Fortunately Bedford School offered us an alternative head race on their stretch of river. We were unable to match our senior crew's success but did record some creditable times in all three rounds of the competition.

Our results in the Schools' Head of the River Race in London - the first major event of the year - were disappointing. The 1st VIII, rowing the long course from Mortlake to Putney, dropped from 6th to 15th place, finishing one second behind Eton. The adjacent boats behind and ahead were very fast, eventually coming first and second, leaving our crew rowing in a competitive vacuum. The 2nd VIII, rowing the short course starting near Hammersmith Bridge, dropped from 2nd to 8th place, finishing one second behind St Edward's. Our spirits were buoyed up, however, by the brilliant success of Abingdon's senior oarsmen.

Another highlight of Lent Term was the excellent FASBC dinner at which Luka Grubor spoke very amusingly about his introduction to rowing in Britain and his victory in the British VIII at the Sydney Olympics.

Having endured all kinds of foul weather during the winter months, the J15 squad very much looked forward to the combined ASBC trip to Agde on the French Mediterranean coast at Easter. The rowing centre was well organised and the 8 kilometre reach of easy flowing river was ideal for training. After two or three outings a day over four days, fuelled by plenty of good French food, considerable progress was made by all involved. For many it was their first chance to row in fours and pairs, and the results of a day's seat racing in fours helped decide new squad rankings.

The first event of the summer season was Wallingford Regatta, held again this year at Eton's Dorney Lake. This



was our first chance to try out the revised 1st VIII crew. The stern four performed well in the competition, coming second in their heat and fourth in the final, where they beat Emanuel and Oratory School A. In the straight final of the VIIIs competition, the 1st VIII rowed an exceptionally mature race to come through the field from behind, securing second place by half a canvas from Hampton, beating Eton, Radley, Bedford and St Edward's. In the B VIIIs competition the 2nd VIII, having led encouragingly at 1000m, eventually came fourth in their heat, and so failed to make the final.

At Bedford Amateur Regatta the 1st VIII beat King's School, Canterbury easily but then lost in the next round to the eventual winners, Radley, by half a length. The 2nd VIII was beaten in competition with Bedford School A. In the IVs event, the bow four of the 1st VIII, with the addition of **G. Clarkson** on bow side, beat Shrewsbury D easily and then Eton A by half a length, before finally losing to Shrewsbury B in the final.

At Thames Ditton Regatta, which is rowed within sight of Hampton Court, it was the turn of the 2nd VIII oarsmen to double up. They won their first round against Eton B in the 2nd VIII event but then lost to Radley in the final. In the final of the IVs competition the stern four of the 2nd VIII was beaten by St George's School. The 1st VIII was beaten in their event by Radley, again

by half a length.

As a result of their good performances at Wallingford and their competitiveness against Radley, who are usually a good yardstick, the 1st VIII was given the opportunity to row in the National Schools' Championships in Nottingham - the second major event of the year. This we hoped would give us that extra half a length we needed. Having failed to qualify for the final in recent years, the crew was determined to succeed on this occasion. But the umpire started the race before the crew was straight and they had already lost a quarter of a length before hitting their stride. It was clear from the bank that rowing into the wind down Lane 5 the boat was too heavily geared and the crew would continue to trail the field. It is some consolation that they finished behind the three eventual medallists and Shrewsbury, who earlier in the year had won the Schools Head. The 2nd VIII had a dramatic race. During the start one oarsman caught a massive crab and the boat veered sideways across the course. An heroic row then got them back on terms, making up six seconds against St Paul's over the second 500 metres, but ultimately they failed to qualify. Again spirits were lifted by watching our seniors win the main prize - Championship VIIIs.

Unfortunately on the weekend of Marlow and Thames Valley Park Regattas seven of our best oarsmen were absent, and as a consequence Marlow had to be abandoned and events which we might easily have won at Thames Valley Park were lost. At the latter regatta, a newly constituted VIII entered the B VIIIs competition, beating Hampton and St Paul's in their heat before losing to Eton in the final.

The A and B IVs both lost in their heats. On a brighter note, **Daniel Boardman** competed over the same weekend at Henley Women's Regatta, in which he coxed a City of Oxford IV to victory in the Club Fours event, eventually receiving his medal from thrice Olympic champion Matthew Pinsent.

Reading Town Regatta was our last chance of securing a victory. The squad was not quite at full strength but did retain hopes of doing well. In each event lurked Canford, the bronze medallists at Nottingham. A four drawn from 2nd VIII oarsmen got through a round against Shiplake in the B IVs competition but was then defeated in the final by Pangbourne. It was in the A IVs competition that we finally notched up our first victory. **D. Given** coxed the stern four of the 1st VIII to a comfortable win against St George's and Canford. The season then ended in dramatic style when the 1st VIII raced in the final against Canford and Reading Blue Coat School. Trying to get back on terms with Canford after a slow start they found themselves clashing blades with the Reading crew down the narrow course. Eventually **H. Callaghan's** oar snapped off at the handle but the crew still managed to cross the line in second place.

The 2002 J15 squad won less pewter than last year but is rightly proud of second place at Wallingford against top opposition was a considerable success. Thanks go to **ALB**, who assisted until the beginning of the Summer Term and to **Patrick Watson**, who took charge of the 2nd VIII for the remainder of the season.

AJPE

J14 Rowing

Five events, two fins and numerous combinations of crews later and finally we are at the end of the season. We have had mixed fortunes in the large J14 squad. We only won one event, although we have reached several finals and beaten some good crews.

The Lent term was dominated by poor weather, land training and a focus on technique on the water. Towards the end we raced for experience at Bedford and our top quad finished in the top ten, which was encouraging.

In the Summer term, there was Wallingford Regatta, our first, at Dorney Lake, a very impressive purpose built lake near Windsor. The A octo finished 6th in the heat, last place. We may have done better if the fin had not come off on the way to the start. The Bs, coached by **Mrs Bowden**, almost qualified for the final, finishing 4th in their heat. In the quad we did

slightly better but unfortunately not qualifying for the final.

For the next regatta it was a trip back to Bedford for a first round race against Radley A's. This was a tough race round a slight bend. We came away from them and although there were a couple of crabs at the end we pulled it back to win by a canvas. We qualified for the semi-final for an even tougher tie versus Bedford Modern. We lost this race by two lengths but proved to be the second fastest crew in the event. The Bs entered two quads but only one qualified for the semi. Unfortunately they lost that race.

After half term, the C crew raced Radley C's and Pangbourne in a "friendly" regatta. There were lots of races, some won, some not, but the highlight was defeating Radley comprehensively twice in the octo! Finally, we took part in two regattas at Thames Valley Park. At the first of

these the A quad forgot one of the “golden rules” – do your gate up – and lost a blade on the first stroke of the race. The octo did a lot better beating Pangbourne and Reading Blue Coats in the first round. This was a good result and we were very pleased with ourselves. Both A and B octos did very well to reach their finals, and both crews caught crabs to avoid winning them.

We returned to the same place for Reading Town Regatta, rowed over a longer course. This

time it was a straight final. The As, Bs and Pangbourne raced in the octo. The B's rowed with great determination and pushed the A's right to the line; both crews left Pangbourne trailing a long way behind. At least some of us won something!

This has been a fun season for all concerned and I hope we continue to improve, impress and enjoy our next season of rowing.

Christopher Halls 3SPO

1st XV Rugby

RESULTS - 1st XV

Oratory LOST 3-18
 Shiplake WON 55-7
 MCS WON 20-6
 Radley LOST 9-31
 Stowe LOST 6-24
 High Wycombe LOST 5-57
 St Edward's LOST 10-34
 Pangbourne WON 18-15

With eight players returning from the highly successful 1st XV of 2000, the 2001 season brought with it much experience and high expectations. Pre-season training confirmed that we had an excellent squad and that there would be stiff competition for places. Everything was to course...until an innocuous training ground tackle sidelined club captain and one of the finest number 7's on the circuit, **C. Thomson**, for the rest of the season. On top of this, **M. Browne** was forced to miss the whole season following a broken hand. His supreme scrumming skills would be sorely missed.

Undeterred however, we entered the Douai rugby festival. As defending champions we had an air of confidence about us despite our depleted squad, which now included the dynamo scrum

half **P. Garrick**. We started the tournament well, winning our first two matches and drawing the third, progressing to the final to play St Edward's. The final was closely fought and the scoreline was 0-0 at half time. Again we were hit by injury with **G. Stalcup** unable to finish the game. It was finally lost but great credit should go to everyone, and valuable experience was gained by all those getting their first taste of 1st XV rugby.

With the season proper just around the corner that excellent squad now looked quite thin and the starting XV against Oratory featured no less than 11 débutants. Confidence was high for the match played at Oratory. Mistakes which can only be put down to inexperience nevertheless cost us the match. The positive features of the match were the gritty determination of **J.**



'Water Bowl'
 (Glazed ceramic)
 by Jack Hu 5NJH

Henley, the powerful crash balls of **L. McTier** and the undeniable pace and skill of **H. Monsell**.

The next game on the calendar was against MCS who traditionally field a very strong 1st XV. The game was very close throughout but with the return of the formidable **J. Rowe** to second row and **G. Stalcup** to captain the side there appeared a 'never say die' attitude. The defence of Abingdon on its own line was truly admirable, and when **R. Balch** spotted a hole down the blind side and touched down for an excellent try the game's result was sealed at 20-6 to Abingdon.

The next game was the big one. Against Radley we had a team inspired by great support from the home crowd. We had good possession but often chose to use it wrongly and were losing our grip on the game after a couple of breakaway tries. The final score of 27-10 does not do the team justice, particularly as far as the forwards were concerned, who had an excellent game against a larger Radley pack. Special mention should be made of **R. Hamilton** who really did lead from the front.

The match against Stowe was one which just slipped out of our grasp. Prolonged pressure did not result in points and we were again exposed on the break by some well-rehearsed moves by an impressive Stowe back line.

The last game before half term against RGS High Wycombe was perhaps the most formidable opposition. The loss of **R. Hamilton** early on in the game was therefore definitely not what we needed. But teams often bond under these circumstances and there were some awesome displays of defence, typified by **D. Puri** and **R. Balch**: thus the first half ended with the score at 0-0. RGS scored the first points of the game but excellent thinking by **P. Garrick** from a quick penalty allowed him to scythe through the RGS side, supported by **R. Kershaw** who scored the try. Unfortunately the game was lost, but the spectators were treated to top quality rugby.

During the half term break a 23-man squad went to Ipswich for the St Joseph's rugby festival. We watched and played some excellent, free-flowing, fifteen-man rugby in torrential downpours and were defeated narrowly against high-calibre opposition. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to see premier School rugby. There were many super performances over the weekend during which five games were played. **A. Marsh** was in tremendous kicking mood and **A. Paxton** proved to be a dynamic no. 8.

After our 'break' there was some reorganisation throughout the team and the starting XV against St Edward's was very different from the one that started against the Oratory, our first game. **M. Patterson** played excellently in a new position and the new front row of **A. Eeles**, **T. Dyson** and **D. Easterbrook** was in terrific scrummaging form. The new-look team performed very well but clearly needed more time to adjust for the final score was 26-10 to St. Edward's.

Soon, however, our winning ways returned. Against Pangbourne we were dedicated and dynamic. Two superb tries by **A. Marsh** set us on our way to victory but a late try by Pangbourne and an injury to their fly half which forced a change made for a tricky final few minutes. But we held out nerve and the final score was 18-15.

With the wind in our sails we faced Shiplake college at home and apart from an early try by the visitors we were firmly in control. The lineout was a well-oiled machine thanks to **J. Rowe**. The following game against Marlborough College, however, was probably the most disappointing game of the season. We had our chances but simply didn't take advantage by missing key kicks. There were very few mistakes but our pressure refused to lead to points.

In the last game of the fifteen-a-side season we faced Bloxham. For many players it was to be the final outing for the 1st XV so the team morale was excellent. The team however went from sorely disappointed against Marlborough to extremely frustrated against Bloxham. Although it seemed no decision would go our way, nevertheless we held our nerve, mostly thanks to **R. Balch**'s calming influence which prevailed. Thankfully the season finished with a victory.

Despite our difficulties at the beginning of the season where key players were ruled out, the team came together superbly and it says a lot that we were disappointed not to have an undefeated second half of term. Full colours were awarded to **R. Balch**, **P. Garrick**, **D. Easterbrook**, **R. Hamilton**, **G. Stalcup** and **C. Thomson**.

On behalf of everyone I would like to thank our coaches **R.S. Hamilton**, **A.D. Watkins** and **C. Thomson** who was the model captain. He supported the team and helped the players develop throughout the season despite his injury.

G. Stalcup VICMM

2nd XV Rugby

RESULTS - 2nd XV

Oratory	WON	10-7
Shiplake	WON	62-0
MCS	WON	27-5
Radley	LOST	0-65
Stowe	WON	8-0
High Wycombe	LOST	0-43
St Edward's	LOST	3-26
Pangbourne	WON	34-15

The 2nd XV had a successful season with convincing wins over Bloxham, Shiplake, Magdalen and Pangbourne. During the season, due to injuries in the 1st's and 2nd's the team continually changed from one game to the next, making it difficult to blend as a team especially in the forward and back units.

some heavy defeats at the hands of an extremely strong Radley side and the physical force of RGS High Wycombe. Against the latter we fought to the bitter end: we were a team not to be treated lightly.

The 2nd's true determination was seen against Marlborough. They pressed us and only through supreme defensive work in the last 20 minutes did we come out with a great victory. The team was led by **Mark Salmon** with utter commitment and energy.

William Allan 6NMR

The back-line, spearheaded by **David Procter** (an inspirational fly half), produced many a try with slick handling and incredible speed. The lack of continuity in the team led to

RESULTS - 3rd XV

Oratory	WON	12-0
Shiplake	WON	46-5
Rendcomb	LOST	0-36
Radley	LOST	5-39
Stowe	WON	43-0
High Wycombe	LOST	7-29
St Edward's	WON	12-10
Pangbourne	WON	18-13

RESULTS - 4th XV

Radley	LOST	0-52
St Edward's	LOST	0-56

Senior Colts Rugby

RESULTS - Senior Colts A

Oratory	LOST	10-36
MCS	WON	31-5
Radley	LOST	8-15
Stowe	WON	26-12
High Wycombe	WON	15-28
St Edward's	LOST	17-31

RESULTS - Senior Colts B

Oratory	WON	17-0
Radley	LOST	0-46
Stowe	WON	21-12
St Edward's	LOST	0-40
Pangbourne	WON	20-12
Shiplake	LOST	7-25
Marlborough	LOST	0-8

RESULTS - Senior Colts C

Radley	LOST	0-46
St Edward's	LOST	7-55

The season started well with a solid victory in the sun over Oratory. Being the first game this fixture is one that we should, but do not always, win. The real problem, which was a sign of things to come, was that our superiority was not turned into a larger win as we did not convert territorial pressure into points. A series of missed opportunities and resolute Oratory defence kept the score down.

The second game against Radley, always a difficult game that comes too early in the season for us to have a fighting chance, was a mismatch as Radley dominated in all aspects of the match. There was no question as to whether Radley could turn pressure into points as we struggled to keep the score below fifty.

The Stowe match was probably the best of the season as an excellent team performance, matched by two opportunist tries by **O.Haenlein**, sealed victory.

With two victories and a defeat behind us we headed with high hopes up the A34 to St Edward's. Three tries conceded in the first seven minutes told us what we already knew, that we were not good travellers.

Next came Pangbourne, always a tough, physical encounter that this time yielded a narrow victory. As with the Oratory game the margin of victory would have been greater if there had been less over elaboration and more direct action.

At this stage of the season confidence had been restored and the Shiplake slaughter was eagerly anticipated. Not to be. Facing their "A" team a series of early defensive lapses quickly whittled away the confidence of the previous weeks. Opportunities to win the game were present, and yet not taken, and a late Shiplake try sealed the result.

Nevertheless going into our final match against the last of the big three, Marlborough, we still had our 100% home record to defend. A close game ended in a late penalty confirming a defeat.

The season was very much a case of what might have been, if the sun had come out more, if there had been more home games, if Radley and St Edward's had not been so good. Many seconds were spend agonising, and yet on reflection a good time was had by all, practices were well attended and constructive, behaviour was

excellent, both coach and players, whilst commitment to School and team outstanding. All was not lost, for despite the end of the rugby season we still had our GCSE exams to look forward to! Players that stand out in the forwards were:

Ben Bowie for his strength, determination and effort, whilst in the backs **Josh Hoyle** for his defence, and **James Mugnaoni** as the new player of the year.

DE

Junior Colts A Rugby

The most obvious features of this team were an energetic enthusiasm for the game and an adventurous spirit to play openly and with élan. When they put their game together, most notably against Marlborough in a stirring second half comeback, they could stretch most defences.

The pack particularly contains several powerful runners: **Vasca Raine** is quick and aggressive, **Ralph Heath** equally so, and **Alex Shaw** an excellent breaker of tackles - his departure from the School will be a blow to this team. In link up play **Andrew Green** and **Charles Moger** showed particular awareness; **Brian Cullen** offered himself tirelessly as a base from which to launch attacks, while **James Dingwall**, **Nick Turnbull** and **Ben Harris** excelled in the tackle.

Out in the rarefied atmosphere of the backs there was plenty of speed, skill and elusive running, particularly from **Peter Jones** and **Kevin Kim**; **James Hopkins**, **Charles Watson** and **George Cowie** provided the direct running, and **Robert Coster** and **Lewis Simpson** developed as link up players in midfield.

The problem for the backs remains one of

control, for which a settled half-back pairing will be needed. Injuries and the search for the right combination militated against this last season, as **Hilton Poultny** and **Matthew Duhan** vied at scrum half, and **Christian Davies** moved from full back to stand off after half term.

Against St Edward's particularly our naïvety in the backs was exploited by their very assured fly half; **Christian** is a talented footballer who could do likewise if he learns to read and dictate a game of rugby.

Overall a successful and enjoyable season for a team with much promise. It is a shame that as individuals they did not all get on with each other as best they could; some teamwork was learned but if they are to thrive they all need to learn to subsume their individual interests to those of the team.

The player of the season award went to **Ben Harris** for his graft, strength and technical correctness; the most improved player was **Andrew Green**, who got the bit between his teeth as the season progressed and shows real promise.

SPGS

RESULTS - Junior Colts A

Oratory	WON	50-3
Shiplake	WON	5-0
MCS	WON	27-5
Radley	LOST	3-45
Stowe	LOST	5-15
High Wycombe	DREW	0-0
St Edward's	LOST	0-41
Pangbourne	WON	31-0

Junior Colts B Rugby

This talented and hard-working group of players enjoyed an excellent season, recording notable successes against a number of strong rugby schools. The highlight was undoubtedly the demolition of RGS High Wycombe, usually one of the toughest schools on the circuit. The low points were the respect we gave to an undeserving, ordinary Radley side and the damp squib of a performance against Marlborough.

Our forwards played aggressive (but clean) rugby in every match, really taking the game to the opposition. The front row players (**Paddy Stern**, **Henry Callaghan**, **Chris Dixon**, **James**

Dingwall) held their own at the set pieces and contributed well all round the pitch in attack and defence. We benefited enormously from the athleticism and excellent rugby brains of **Chris Kennedy** and **Michael White** who were each able to play in the second row or in the back row as needed. **Michael Scopes** and **Andy Green** made the hard yards as ball carriers in several games and both of these players improved their running angles and continuity skills as the season progressed. **George Clarkson**, **Charles Moger**, **Hugh Taylor** and **Peter Rowe** showed real class at times as the terriers on the flanks, winning possession for the team at the breakdown and causing havoc in the loose.

RESULTS - Junior Colts B

Oratory	WON	27-0
Shiplake	WON	70-0
Rendcomb	WON	48-7
Radley	LOST	5-22
Stowe	WON	40-7
High Wycombe	WON	64-7
St Edward's	WON	19-10
Pangbourne	WON	55-6

RESULTS - Junior Colts C

Oratory	WON	77-15
Shiplake	WON	57-0
MCS	LOST	
Radley	LOST	12-17
St Edward's	WON	21-20
Pangbourne	WON	55-6

The number of points scored during the season is in some ways a reflection of the talent in our backline. **Peter Minch** and **Matthew Duhan** played the scrum-half role with very different styles. Peter acted as an extra back row player, never taking a backward step and giving his opposite man a tough time in every game. Matthew provided snappier service for the backs and really worked hard at the pass off his left hand; by the end of the season he was looking like a class act. **Nathan Hughes** and, on occasions, **Sam Florey** led the line well at fly-half, choosing sensible options. In the centre, **Rob Coster**'s direct approach and awesome hits in defence combined well with the elusive running and excellent handling skills of **Richard Mallett** and, towards the end of the season, **Peter Minch** outside him. Richard also played on the wing, scoring several important tries, while **Sam Florey** had an excellent season at full back and looked dangerous every time he came into the

line. **Jonathan Garrett** emerged as a winger of real quality - he has always been quick but this season his finishing, handling and defence improved immeasurably. Mention should also be made of **Anthony Mak** and **Samuel Ng** who look like excellent prospects for next year.

I was absolutely delighted with the way the players pulled together during the season. The team spirit was phenomenal and the results were earned with exciting, flowing rugby that proved excellent to watch for our loyal supporters. I feel proud and privileged to have been involved in the success of such an outstanding squad of players. I wish them all the best for the future and I hope to see some of them representing the 1st XV in a few years' time. I have no doubt that some of the players mentioned above can make the grade.

SPGS

Juniors A Rugby

The Juniors A XV have had a very successful season, and the term ends with a belief that this squad could go on to become a powerful team higher up the School. They have a great deal of talent in key areas and there is strength in depth in the other teams.

The season began very brightly in the sunshine that shone for much of the first half of term. We played Oratory away, and won easily; already the handling and driving support that characterised the best play was evident. It was a good start. The same was true against MCS; plenty of possession, generally turned into points - and a great solo try from **Sam Wylie**.

Then Radley; a cracking game. On the wide steppe of Cox's Field Pitch 1 we held them at 0-0 until well into the second half - and were inches from the first score that surely would have sealed victory. But they held us out, lifted the siege and suddenly we were conceding a try the other end. Then our defensive wheels fell off and we went down 0-19. A shame, but part of the learning curve.

Then came RGS, after a long wait while everyone else played Stowe. RGS on Open Day, and October temperatures into the 80's. What followed turned out to be one of the great Juniors matches of recent years: it finished 0-0 - and although we missed a kickable penalty in the dying seconds a draw seemed a fair result.

Two strong attacks were nullified by two gutsy and unbreakable defences. It was a privilege to watch (although rather stressful to referee!), and more points on the learning curve.

The St Edward's match, midway through the season, represented something of a crunch game, in more ways than one. It was a hard, bruising, physical affair; we came out winners by keeping our discipline (which they didn't) and taking our chances. The win gave added confidence which we took into the Pangbourne match; a comfortable win resulted, with some very attractive rugby played; the highlight being **Matthew Coffey**'s brace of tries, slicing through the defence with a characteristic swerve and change of pace. The lowpoint of the season came in the next match against Shiplake; it was an underpowered performance on slow, sticky ground on away turf. Our handling and running were poor. Still, we forged a win out of the mud, but at a price: **Tom Raftery**'s collar bone. Marlborough presented the biggest challenge of the latter part of the season. Again, it was a very good, even match: we were forced to defend for much of the first half and gradually got on top in the second. Like Radley, we came within inches of scoring, then suddenly found we had given away a soft try the other end. Game over - and a sense of disappointment which could only be lessened out by a great finale against Bloxham, where we matched the half century of points scored in the opening match.

Sam Wylie was both dependable in defence and an effective counter-attacking full back. Paul Roberts and Tom Davie offered incredible pace on the wings. In the centre Oliver Waite (popular players' choice as 'Player of the season') and Oliver Burnham proved a very effective pair, both in attack but especially in defence. Matthew Coffey was a mercurial fly-half, at his fleet-footed best capable of unlocking any defence. Toby Roche proved a reliable link; he was always courageous and competitive. The pack was the heart and soul of this team. Tom Raftery was a mobile, adventurous No 8 who suffered an unfortunate injury at Shiplake. As captain Scott Henley always led by example, always at the heart of the action; both strong and skilful. Matt Halford excelled at open-side; quick, brave and technically sound. Francis Gater and Craig Fraser rampaged from the base of the second row and secured lots of lineout ball. Charles Gill and Angus Muir were a solid front row pair; Douglas Graham hooked with great

determination and power. Rowan Wheeler forced himself into the team, on the wing, on the flank - and finally and most effectively at prop. Like others, he worked hard at his game through the term and improved greatly.

My final impressions of the team? A very lively bunch containing some strong characters; if they decide to channel their energies positively they could go on to develop into an even more successful side than they have already been. I very much enjoyed coaching them - and wish them all the very best for the future.

Finally, thanks to Mr Davies, and Matthew Browne and Sam Higazi for their excellent "specialist" coaching of the forwards. The team was loyally supported through the term: many thanks to all the parents and friends who appeared so regularly and eagerly on the touchline.

SAE

RESULTS A XV

Oratory	WON 50-3
MCS	WON 41-0
Radley	LOST 0-19
High Wycombe	DREW 0-0
St Edward's	WON 17-10
Pangbourne	WON 31-0
Shiplake	WON 5-1
Marlborough	LOST 0-7
Bloxham	WON 55-0

Juniors B Rugby

This B XV side has considerable potential but, in its first season together, did not quite match the impressive playing record of recent Junior B XV's; This side did, though, attract a similarly loyal support as its predecessors, and a particularly fine crowd witnessed the hard-fought win which rounded off a tough season.

Abingdon won the traditional season opener against Oratory, in spite of turning around a try down. The boys made far greater use of the slope in the second half and eventually put forty points on their hosts. St Edward's and Radley were strong, well-drilled sides who beautifully exploited our defensive flaws; most notably ineffective tackling in the backs. RGS found us to be tougher opponents than they had expected and were a score behind at half time. Physical stamina proved to be the deciding factor, however, and their relentless pressure eventually ground us down and left them worthy victors.

The defeat by Rendcomb's 'A' XV was harder to accept. This side was controlled to such an extent by an enormous No. 8, picking up from the majority of its scrums and kicking all goals, that one could not imagine numbers 9-15 deriving pleasure from their rugby in the long-term. Rendcomb won 48-15 and their star amassed 33 points: a simple sum leads one to reflect that this match could have been memorable for all the right reasons.

After these losses the side demonstrated a harder mental approach and tackled more tidily. Pangbourne was overcome on Lower Field in a surprisingly physical encounter which may add bite to future clashes between these players. At Shiplake, with dominance in the centres established, Abingdon disposed of the home side by a healthy margin: an unbeaten away record resulted and hopes of a winning season resurfaced.

It was not to be. The physical superiority of A XV opposition from Park House soon put the penultimate game out of reach. Fortunately, the squad's response was rather more immediate than it had been to the Rendcomb defeat. C. Halls' converted try gave Abingdon a lead over Marlborough which tireless tackling, on a large pitch, somehow preserved.

A clean sheet in this first win against Marlborough for some time was, like many successful moments, a team effort. In future seasons, this squad will doubtless enjoy imaginative distribution from A. Cole and E. Jones, follow C. Halls and S. Thakore over the gain line and take its lead in training from the likes of A. Locatelli-Malacrida, J. Innes and C. Cowan, but their greatest triumphs will, one suspects, always be born of team spirit.

NJH

Juniors B XV RESULTS

Oratory	WON 45-5
Shiplake	WON 26-0
Rendcomb	LOST 15-48
Radley	LOST 0-45
High Wycombe	LOST 5-29
St Edward's	LOST 7-49
Pangbourne	WON 27-10
Park House	LOST
Marlborough	WON

Juniors C XV RESULTS

Oratory	LOST 5-34
Shiplake	WON 58-0
MCS	LOST
Radley	LOST 7-44
High Wycombe	LOST 20-22
St Edward's	LOST 0-25
Pangbourne	WON 36-10

Minors Rugby - 2nd yr

RESULTS - Second Year:

Radley	WON 28-0
Ch.Church	WON 29-0
H.Wycombe	LOST 0-53
Park House	LOST 5-18
Josca's	WON 51-0
Magdalen	WON 7-0
Moulsford	LOST 0-42
Cothill	LOST 7-35
Summerfields	LOST 5-10
St Andrews	LOST 5-0
Reading	LOST 0-36

Our season started with a match against Radley. Although it was their 'F' team and we were missing our big no.8 and fly half, we managed to win 29-0, with quick tries from **K. Cruickshank**, **N. Li** (the two props), **L. Knight** and **A. Paxton** (the two wingers). That match gave our team a boost, as the Minors was the only team in the School to win against Radley.

Our next match was against Christ Church. We played a scrappy game but still won 29-5. With another adjusted team, we then faced a big side from High Wycombe. They had better communication than us. They beat us in the rucks and scrummages. We did not give up and kept trying to score but never did! A lesson learnt, losing 52-0, but this score could be respectable as last years Minors lost 86-0! After the heavy defeat, we played Park House. They had a big side, which we failed to tackle. We dominated the first half with a try by **K.Woodley**. A Park House pupil had come back from his detention and played, putting us behind because of his good running skills, leaving the final score at 5-19.

We travelled to Cox's field to play a small side from Joscas. We experimented with a First Year, **D. Clive**, who is a very talented player for the future. We kept scoring until the final whistle, with a hat-trick from **N. Li**, a good try from **K. Woodley**, **T. Meadows**, **M. Hutchinson**, and a few more, ending in a 51-0 victory. A spectacular win gave us confidence to play Magdalen. In a tight game a quick run on the wing by **Nick** gave Abingdon the winning try. We never stopped attacking the opposition until the end. Our last match of the term was against Moulsford. They had a big side and beat us in pace and strength.

We refreshed our minds after the Christmas holidays, and played our last few matches. We faced Cothill, played well in the first half, but then lost concentration, which cost us the game. The team regrouped, and played Summerfields. **T. Meadows** put us ahead. **D. Clive** was very good at full back, tackling well. A few minutes before the final whistle, Summerfields scored. An unlucky loss 5-10. Playing away again. This made us think that we were the Barbarians! St. Andrews too had an even team and we managed to win with a try from **K. Woodley**. Our penultimate match was against a big Reading side. Like last year, we lost, even though we were trying to score. The last match was a 7s tournament involving Joscas, Cokethorpe, and the hosts Millbrook House. We beat them all, with convincing wins, and not conceding any tries. The final ended up with the two favourites, making Abingdon the winners.

The 7's squad consisted of **N. Li** (capt.), **M. Hutchinson**, **A. Hamilton**, **T. Dean** and **T. Meadows**, **E. Hallet**, **A. Paxton**, **M. Watkins**, **D. Clive** and **K. Woodley**. **N. Li** was 'Man of the Tournament', as well as top scorer.

Everybody enjoyed the season, learning and improving, so thanks are due to our coaches **Mr Drummond-Hay**, **Mr Hamilton**, **Mr Broadbent**, and the Australian masters. Colours went to: **N. Li**, **K. Cruickshank**, **R. Haley**, **M. Hutchinson**, **T. Meadows**, **K. Woodley**, **R. Worth**, **T. Dean**, **M. Watkins**, **M. Watts**, **S. Roberts**, **A. Paxton**, **L. Knight**, **A. Hamilton**. Good work was done by **W. Clegg**, **D. Clive**, and **E. Hallet**.

N. Li 2IAM

'Landscape'
(Oil on Board)
by
Walters Gervers VIPRW





Minors Rugby - 1st yr

At the beginning of the season not many First Years had played rugby before so rugby was a new experience for most players, including myself. Since hardly any of us had previously played rugby it took some hard work, training and time, before our two rugby teachers, **Mr Hamilton** and **Mr Broadbent** let us play serious, competitive rugby.

The A team usually consisted of **J. Soames, O. Raban, S. Dent, E. Hallett, P. Appleton, D. Tejuoso, B. Jackson, J. Buckley, J. Warlow, J. Howell, W. Stockwell, T. Cleo, J. Moulds, H. Graham** and **D. Clive**.

Everyone played superb rugby on his day, so the men of the season were the whole A and B squad in the First Year.

D. Clive 1PGO'B

RESULTS: First Year:

MCS	WON 12-10
Josca's	WON 29-0
Cokethorpe	WON 35-5
Reading	WON 12-0
Berkhamsted	WON 20-15

1st XI Hockey

RESULTS - 1st XI

Southampton WON 1-0
St Edward's DREW 1-1
Pangbourne WON 4-0
Shiplake WON 7-1
Reading WON 4-3
Stowe WON 4-0
Bloxham WON 3-2
Leighton Park WON 4-0
MCS LOST 1-2
Eton WON 3-0

Oxon U18 Cup:

Rover Oxford HC DREW 2-2
(won on penalties)
MCS WON 1-0

The 1st XI this year consisted predominantly of Upper Sixth formers with much previous experience of playing together as a year group. This strong core of the squad encouraged the few Juniors privileged to play at this high level to make key contributions in what can be considered the premier side's most successful season ever.

The team might have felt more confident going into the opening game at King Edward's, Southampton, had a frozen pitch not forced the cancellation of the pre-season festival at Stowe, where we had hoped to hone our skills against Schools not previously encountered. In fact, KES are not the irresistible force they were five years ago and, despite our defence looking increasingly vulnerable at set pieces, **R. Kershaw** gave us a satisfying victory.

We again seemed not entirely comfortable against a strong St Edward's side. The visitors took the lead from a short corner and it was only in the final minute that **P. Peacock** tucked away a ball that the opposing defence had failed to clear under pressure. Having bettered last year's result against the most organised team on the circuit, the squad believed with more fervour that an unbeaten season might be within its grasp.

This notion was anything but dispelled when, on Pangbourne's new artificial surface,

following a barren first half, we for the first time showed ourselves capable of putting the necessary cushion of goals between ourselves and the opposition. Against Shiplake we also started slowly, but this time the end of the goal drought was accompanied by a literal downpour and worsening light which, by the time the score had reached 7-1, almost forced the abandonment of a match nearing completion. The Shiplake captain's sensible and sporting appeal to the umpires to let play continue was appreciated by all concerned.

Few could have predicted the similar number of goals and far greater drama produced on the same pitch just three days later. A Reading side with outstanding individuals up front struck thrice before the interval (the most memorable being a tame effort which **R. Cox** completely misread). Never before had the players seated on the backboard so passionately declared themselves capable of winning a game if they could just 'want it more' than the opposition. The comeback was remarkable. Reading lost shape and composure as our side stretched their tiring defensive unit. **M. Armitage** took advantage of the ensuing set pieces to record a hat trick and bring about a memorable late victory.

It is a tribute to the boys that within twenty-four hours of this success they were representing the School in the Oxfordshire Under-18 section



of the RAF Careers Youth Hockey Cup. The draw required Abingdon to face a physical club side from Rover Oxford which, two goals ahead at half time, clearly reckoned on progressing to the final. Complacency, however, costs dear and **S. Holland's** late equaliser took the tie to a penalty shoot out in which **R. Cox** atoned for the previous day's rare bloomer with a matchwinning save.

The final against M.C.S. ran a similar course to the term's first fixture; Abingdon, never fully in control, survived a few near misses and a (this time sublime) **R. Kershaw** effort proved the difference between the two teams. A comfortable home win against former coach **Mr Sandow's** Stowe side brought the first half term to a close with the side well through its playing programme and still unbeaten.

If the cup final adhered to the KES plot and clips of our games against Stowe and Pangbourne were distinguishable almost solely by the colour of the opposition's shirts, Bloxham was a more than passable reenactment of the Reading game. We commenced shabbily, turned around in deficit, hassled the opposition throughout the second half and watched them implode. **M. Armitage** sweetly hit short corner (the last touch of the game) to earn us a thrilling victory.

The following Sunday's involvement in a Southern Area competition at Southampton should, perhaps even more than the County Cup, be viewed outside the context of the season. Abingdon had qualified before, but never participated. That the team was prepared to sacrifice a Sunday to test its mettle against top drawer opposition was in itself impressive. The only genuine disappointment of a physically demanding day was our inability to rein in an improved Reading side desperately seeking revenge for February's loss. We outplayed KES, unsettled the national champions Havant with an assured first half performance and were finally blown away by a display of skill from St. George's Weybridge, the previous holders of the title, who found our net on more occasions in one game than scheduled opponents managed in the whole season. **H. Cole** scored one of the best goals of a worthwhile day much enjoyed by the squad.

Three fixtures in six days now stood between the team and the close of season. Leighton Park on Monday offered little resistance, but two days later a talented MCS XI, accustomed to the lively Iffley Road astroturf, inflicted the only defeat of

the term upon the Abingdon 1st XI. The victory over Eton was a reward for the team's loyal and supportive parents, but a sad farewell to School hockey for a number of committed and talented players. The following leavers will be hard to replace: **P. Timberlake** and **R. Balch** (player of the year), who kept the centre of our defence solid; **N. Fuggle**, the versatile **P. Peacock** and **E. Dingwall** (a fine tackler on all fours) on the flanks; the central pairing of captain **M. Armitage** and **G. Stalcup**, a superb interceptor rarely convinced of the need to hold the stick with both hands; **J. Hedges**, **J. Farrant** and **A. White**, who all provided attacking options on the wing or in striking partnership with the irrepressible **R. Kershaw**.

This squad trained well, but conserved its energies for matchdays. Next year's players may not retain the County title but will, hopefully, develop a similar spirit and determination not to lose. They would also do well to emulate this cohort's enthusiasm for the game's social, best shown in the enjoyment of an end of term mixed game at Headington and hopefully to find expression again in next year's revival of the OA fixture.

NJH



'Bunker 2'
(Oil on Board)
by
James Smith
VIJEF



Colts Hockey

The Colts hockey season got off to an exciting start. Having won their opening game 5-0 the team raced into a deserved 3 goal lead within 15 minutes at St Edward's, playing fast, open hockey almost completely free of unforced errors; we did well to enjoy the moment - there were other high points to come, certainly, but this was without doubt as good as it got! The match ended in a 5-3 victory. It was clear from the off that whatever else happened this team would score goals. **Alastair McKenzie** and **Greg Stern** played as dual target men, and both did so extremely effectively; they were fast, aggressive and also shared an excellent eye for the ball - and both had breathtakingly good goals to their credit, often thanks to quick breaks and clean first time shots.

George Potter, a selfless captain, **Henry Cole** and **James Kelly** formed a midfield of considerable quality, and as well as looking dangerous in front of goal the team's approach work was stylish yet very quickly threatening. **Henry's** call-up to the 1st XI would come sooner rather than later, we all knew, but very much to the team's and the captain's credit, the gap was quickly plugged and the overall standard of play suffered little.

There were further convincing displays, with goals in abundance, against Shiplake (5-1), MCS (4-0) and Bloxham (2-1). The defence also played their part, despite the need for constant changing of position. **Marcus Woodward** is an excellent goalkeeper, as is **Edward Antsyz**, who stepped in on several occasions and certainly did not let the side down. **Dominic Roche** and **Will Poole** were sound in the centre, with the former providing the guile, the latter the pace; **Rob Muirhead** and **Stuart McMahon** deputised very ably, although occasional brilliance was often accompanied by

something less than that. **Dominic Sullivan** was the most improved player of the year, becoming very reliable in the tackle and ever more astute positionally.

The draw against Pangbourne brought us down to earth after the early triumphs, and the county championship matches were a disappointment, certainly as far as results were concerned. The match against a very different St Edward's team produced a very different result to earlier in the term. The most high-scoring game of the season was at Stowe, where the team lost 5-3; the teams were evenly matched for flair and fight, but the opposition had the edge in terms of organisation and discipline. It was also a shame that a season which in many ways had justified early optimism should end with a whimper rather than a bang with a 3-1 defeat at Eton.

The players mentioned above were cheerfully supported by **Rory Powis**, **John Stockings** and **Alex Nash** who were hardly ever allowed to play in the same position twice, or if they were, were asked to follow some strange new whim of the coach... Other members of the squad contributed energetically in training sessions, but were unlucky not to get any wins in their matches. If they too enjoyed their hockey then it was all the more worthwhile.

Thanks are due to **KJS** for his hard work and usual inimitable contribution as the Mr Nasty of this particular coaching team, to **George Potter** for making such a reliable captain and for always looking for the team to play stylish hockey, to the rest of the squad, and to the gallant band of supporting parents for their loyalty, sense of humour and diplomacy in not pointing out the occasional (I hope) umpiring blunder.

DGA

Juniors Hockey

It was a good season for the U14B XI, which scored in every game, recording two wins, a draw and two defeats. The first match against St Edward's, a renowned sporting school, promised to be one of our toughest. Pleasingly though, a somewhat experimental line-up secured a 1-1 draw, having dominated the second half. At Pangbourne we triumphed by an embarrassing 12 goal margin. The team's confidence was now high and the switch from astroturf to grass could not stop us sweeping Shiplake aside 3-0.

Our fourth match was against one of the strongest sporting preparatory schools, The Dragon. The opposition played some good hockey but our equaliser with five minutes remaining gave us hope of a victory. Unfortunately, the home side's clinical finishing punished our earlier hesitation in front of goal. Finally we

travelled, without a few key players, to Eton. Although the scoreline was disappointing, it was no disgrace to lose to a school with 250 boys in each year group. One advantage of playing such large schools is the possibility of playing more fixtures. The C team had played some hockey in games sessions thanks to **Mr White** and did well to restrict a more experienced Eton side to just two goals in a game described as 'entertaining' by **Mr S Evans**, umpiring.

The B team squad consisted of **P. Birkett, O. Burnham, G. Cadman, M. Coffey, P. Cope, C. Evans, S. Henley, J. Innes, I. Marsh, T. Scrase, B. Shelton** and **C. Thomas**, with **S. Wylie** and **E. Brooke** involved when not on A team duty. We were well coached and would like to thank **Mr Spratling** and **Mr Revill** for a successful and thoroughly enjoyable term.

M. Coffey 3JHT

RESULTS - Juniors

St Edward's	DREW 1-1
Pangbourne	WON 12-0
Shiplake	WON 3-0
Dragon	LOST 2-3
Eton	LOST 2-7

Minors Hockey

The A team had a good season, winning 3 of the 5 games we played. The two that we lost were close games and we were probably unlucky to lose.

Our first match was a warm up game against the Abingdon under 14 B team. We played well, keeping the game close and in the second half we scored. The match ended 1-0. It was a good start.

Our first match against another school was against a Radley under 14 team. Another tight game. **H. Wimborne** was the first to score. Radley equalised shortly afterwards and with a minute to go in the second half we gave them a free hit which we did not defend confidently and they scored making it 2-1.

We then went to The Dragon. **M. Watkins** put us in the lead with a strong shot, just inside the 'D'. We held on and scored again. It finished 2-0, with good performances from everyone. A good win against a strong hockey playing school.

Our fourth match was a rematch against the same Radley under 14 team. This time we played excellently, we defended well, keeping them out of the 'D' and attacked well, winning 4-1.

Our last game was against New College, another strong hockey playing school. **N. Li** scored two good goals but they managed to score three goals, the third a scrambled affair in the closing minutes.

The 'B' team won 1 of the 4 games they played. Their first match was against Radley which they lost 4-0. They then played Radley a second time which was closer, this time only losing 2-1. Their third game was against New College where they lost 3-1, **J. Needham** scoring their goal. Their last games was against Christ Church Cathedral School where **J. Needham** scored the only goal in the match for a 1-0 victory. A good finish.

M. Hutchinson and
A. Hamilton 2GGB

1st XI Cricket

RESULTS - 1st XI

Eton: Lost by 104
(Desai 3-66),
Abingdon 149
(Shackleton 41)

Oratory: won by 13
Abingdon 167
(Balch 43, Stern 35),

Oratory 154
(Desai 5-22,
Garner 3-32)

Stowe: lost by 7 wkts
Abingdon 201-8
(Watkins 65, McTier 45)
Stowe 203-3

Berks Gents: drew
Berks Gents 162-6,
Abingdon 123-9
(Desai 51*, Armitage 39)

St Edward's: abandoned

Pangbourne: drew
Abingdon 159-5
(Desai 42*)
Pangbourne 111-4

High Wy-
combe: drew
Abingdon
206
(Balch 67,
Stern 46,
Mugnaioni 35),
RGS 182-7 (Desai 4-48)

S. Oxon Amateurs: drew
S. Oxon Amateurs 201-8,
Abingdon 113-6
(Watkins 55)

MCS: lost by 5 wickets
Abingdon 190
Balch 52, Watkins 44), MCS
192-5

MCC: lost by 106 runs
MCC 194-9
(Garner 3-41),
Abingdon 88

KEQMS Lytham: won by 4
Abingdon 126-9,
KEQMS 122
(Desai 4-23)

University Coll. School: lost
by 13
UCS 170
(Stern 3-31, Florey 3-37)
(Abingdon 157)

Played 12
Won 2

In terms of results, this season must be viewed as a disappointing one. There was a large number of very talented players in the Game I squad this year and the team should certainly have been able to win more than two matches. Our batting line-up looked very strong on paper and although there were slight concerns about the depth and variety in our bowling attack we began the season with plenty of confidence.

The depth in our batting line-up is demonstrated by the fact that eight different players made scores of 35 or more during the season. With this much ability at our disposal, we really should have been capable of setting big totals for the opposition to chase as well as chasing targets more successfully ourselves. There were, however, a number of reasons why our batting rarely frightened the opposition.

Firstly, we scored our runs painfully slowly at times, with far too many pleasant and technically correct shots for no reward and a lack of urgency in some of our running. A good example would be our innings against Stowe. We scored an impressive total of 201 for 8 but this took 71 overs! Secondly, our batsmen were unable to make high scores from week to week on a consistent basis. Thirdly, we rarely had more than one or two batsmen make a big score in the same innings. As a result there were only eight partnerships of fifty or more during the entire season and only one century partnership (G. Stern and R. Balch v. RGS High Wycombe). Finally, despite twenty individual innings of thirty or more by Abingdon batsmen, only five half centuries were recorded in the twelve matches. There were no centuries; the highest individual scores were by R. Balch (67) and J. Watkins (65). By contrast, only sixteen scores of thirty or more were recorded against us but eight of these were converted into half centuries, including scores of 94*, 88, 73, 68*, 66, 64*, and 63. In other words, when players from the opposition got themselves in and were seeing the ball well they really made it count, while we threw away our wickets time and time again in the 30s and 40s rather than going on to make big scores. The leading batsmen will have to address this problem next year if we are to put more pressure on opposing teams.

We will, unfortunately, have to work hard to replace a number of important batsmen who left in July. Not only have the Upper Sixth con-

tingent of M. Armitage, D. Desai, L. McTier and R. Balch moved on but we have also lost our talented opening batsmen from the Fifth Year, D. Shackleton. David has moved schools for the Sixth Form and our loss is definitely Winchester's gain. Despite these departures we will still be blessed with plenty of batting talent. J. Watkins, who was our leading batsman this season with an average of 33.25, will be hungry for runs in his final year and G. Stern will be looking for a more consistent level of performance to add to his undoubted ability to make big scores. J. Mugnaioni can expect to move up the order and has the potential to become a quality all-round cricketer. Other players who may have important roles to play as batsmen next year are J. Florey, P. Stern, S. Holland and A. Nash.

Our bowling was not thought to be our strong point before the season began, especially as P. Peacock struggled with a shoulder injury at the start of the season and was never really back to his best, but our attack was strengthened considerably by the emergence of D. Desai as a strike bowler of considerable talent. His fast and accurate seam bowling earned him 22 wickets at an average of 17.14 apiece. B. Garner, in his fourth year in the team, provided excellent support with 10 wickets at 26.2 and was desperately unlucky not to take more as he beat the outside edge and went past and over the stumps on countless occasions. Although we relied on these two for the majority of our wickets, the rest of our young bowling attack performed with credit throughout the season with J. Mugnaioni, J. Henley and H. Cole probably the pick of our back-up seamers. Thirteen of the fifteen different bowlers who represented the 1st XI during the season took wickets but some proved rather expensive. Too many rank bad balls were delivered this season and not only does this gift run to the opposition but it also takes the pressure off nervous new batsmen and allows them to gain confidence. We will be looking for tighter bowling from every member of the attack next year.

It was encouraging to see the emergence of two very different but equally exciting bowling prospects towards the end of the season in J. Watkins and G. Stern. Jonathon worried teams with his pace after sorting out his line and length which had gone awry earlier in the year and continuing improvements in accuracy may help him to fill the void left by Depesh and

Ben's departures. **Greg** moved out from behind the stumps about halfway through the season to bowl left arm spin with great success, a move that was only made possible because we were lucky enough to have an excellent wicketkeeping replacement, and an outstanding team player, in **R. Balch**. **Greg's** eleven wickets earned him a place in Wisden to make up for the disappointment of falling four runs short of the batting requirements. He will be a key member of the bowling attack next year, especially with the variety that he offers, but will have to eradicate the one bad ball that he tends to bowl every over to make the most of his natural drift, turn and bounce. **S. Florey** also showed with 3 for 37 on his debut that he is a great prospect and **A. Rehman**, **S. Kapoor**, **A. McKenzie** and **S. Cataldo-Francis** have also enjoyed 1st XI opportunities this season and will challenge with some others for places in the bowling attack next year.

The quality of the fielding during the season was generally good although our standards did slip at times. Ground fielding was fairly safe but a few too many sharp chances were spilled at crucial moments and it is catches like these that can often make the difference between victory and defeat. Thanks to the attacking mentality of our captain, field placings were always attacking, perhaps too attacking at times, but every fielder was made to feel fully involved in the action. The spirit in the field was always excellent and the team really got behind the bowlers throughout the season without ever resorting to the unpleasant sledging which now appears to be rife in Schools' cricket.

Overall, this was a summer of disappointing results but we played some excellent cricket at times. The highlight was the first hour of our time in the field against The Oratory, when everything seemed to go right for us and we reduced the opposition to 26 for 5 with outstanding bowling and fielding to set up our first win. Despite the lack of victories, I will take many happy memories from this season. I was delighted with the spirit we showed throughout, especially the way in which boys from three (and sometimes four) different year groups were able to pull together as a team. I was very pleased to see the hard work and commitment of **D. Desai** and **J. Watkins**, who between them hardly missed a session during the winter nets and throughout the summer term, rewarded with outstanding individual performances and the bowler and batsman of the season awards respectively. I enjoyed the company of all the players who represented the School during the term and on tour in London, where they conducted themselves in exemplary fashion and earned their second victory in a tense finish. Finally, special mention should be given to **M. Armitage**, who may not have earned the results he was hoping for as captain but who can take great credit from the fact that many of the positive aspects of this season, in particular the way in which the team bonded together, came about as a result of his excellent leadership on and off the cricket field.

SPGS



'... the emergence of **D Desai** as a strike bowler of considerable talent.'

2nd XI Cricket

RESULTS - 2nd XI

Eton (a) Lost
Eton 196-4
Abingdon 57

Oratory (a) Won
Abingdon 117-7
Oratory 90

MCS (a) Lost
Abingdon 114-9
MCS 115-7

Stowe (h) Lost
Abingdon 106-8
Stowe 107-7

Bloxham (h) Won
Bloxham 68
Abingdon 70-2

St Edward's (a) Drew
St Edward's 150-6
Abingdon 63-4

RGS High Wycombe(h) Won
Abingdon 180-4
RGS 136

The Second XI enjoyed a successful season, recording some impressive victories and playing the game in a superb spirit.

Away at Eton, however, the season began disappointingly. We allowed two competent batsmen to turn 16 for 1 into 160 for 2 and in reply, only **J. Florey** looked like making any impression with the bat. Miserly opposition bowling never gave us a sniff of victory.

At the Oratory, **W. Poole** (41 n.o.) helped the side post a similar total to last year's. This year's cohort, though, knew how to finish off the opposition: **J. Henley**, **A. McKenzie** and **R. Muirhead** each claimed 3 wickets for fewer than 20 runs.

Unfortunately, this form deserted the side against MCS. Our batsmen failed to deliver and a well-tended outfield made our total look meagre. In fact, the opposition was in trouble at 18-2 but **J. Henley** might have bowled through rather than being reintroduced too late. Against Stowe on War Mem. the pick of our slow scorers was **R. Muirhead**: just 1 run from 27 deliveries batting at No. 6 in a limited overs game. **A. Rehman's** bowling (3-15) posed the opposition some questions but Stowe recovered from 53-5 to win with overs remaining.

Pleasingly, the team was not to taste defeat again. A far more charming Bloxham side than its 2001 equivalent was crushed on War Mem.

H. Cole (4-13) and **A. McKenzie** (3-7) shone, each suffering just three scoring shots, as extras accounted for a third of the visitors' total. Opener **J. Brockbank** (28 n.o) coordinated our successful reply.

We were then fortunate, given localised downpours, to enjoy a worthwhile, if slightly anti-climactic, match at St Edward's. **A. McKenzie** (6-28), or rather his slower ball (6-0!) which perplexed top order batsmen of quality, delayed our hosts' progress. Faced with a required run rate of nine an over, captain **A. Nash**, joining **S. Holland** at the crease at 17-3, sensibly decided to stonewall and teach St Edward's the danger of a late declaration.

Finally came a promising victory over RGS High Wycombe. **D. Sullivan**, providing the first half century of the season (53), and **A. Nash**, the victim of a post-drinks blip, put on 82 for the first wicket. **S. Holland** contributed sensibly and **H. Holland** scored rapidly: we looked capable of racking up well over 200 runs. **H. Holland** also bowled a good length (4-24) and **I. McKenzie** surprised even himself with a devastating spell of off spin (3-34).

All of these players will be available again next season when, if we can test the quality of our opposition by using our spinners more liberally, developing promising left arm bowlers and batting more aggressively, we may better these achievements.

Junior Colts Cricket

Of the seven games played this season the Junior Colts A team won three, lost two, drew one and tied one. These figures are perhaps disappointing for a team that initially promised so much but on occasion failed to deliver. Four players in the team represented the county, three of whom were used as all-rounders. The team looked like a solid batting outfit, but it was our batting that let us down the most. **P. Stern**, though, excelled in this department. He scored two half centuries against The Oratory and RGS High Wycombe, averaged 31.00 and scored 186 runs this season.

We were a decent fielding team, with 20 wickets due to catches or run-outs. **M. Duhan** was magnificent and his efforts in the covers were outstanding. The fielders were always behind their bowlers and the team was a very lively unit. The positive attitude of the team helped weaker players

gain in confidence and play to the best of their ability.

A. Wimborne and **S. Florey** were our two outstanding fast bowlers. **Alex's** best figures were 5-16, he averaged 8.60 and took 15 wickets. **Sam** ensured that despite the additional responsibility of the captaincy, his bowling did not suffer. His best figures were 5-20, and he averaged 10.50 with 13 wickets taken. Late in the season **C. Dixon** joined the squad. Although he played only four matches he averaged 13.71, with season's best figures of 4-40. He bowled wicket to wicket and his ability to "flight" the ball was a real asset to the team.

On behalf of the entire team, I would like to thank **Mr Broadbent** for all his help, support and commitment to the team during the season. We would also like to thank all the parents for their support at the matches.

S. Kapoor 4NEAW

Juniors Cricket

Not one of our vintage seasons, it has to be said. As our record suggests, we did have some success but against the stronger opposition our weaknesses were exposed. Whilst the batting was generally solid and reliable, the bowling left much to be desired. Too often the direction and length of the latter were horribly wayward with wides and high no balls being an all too familiar feature.

Our innings were usually given a sound start by **A. Cole** and **T. Roche** who compiled three partnerships of over fifty. At least one of the other batsmen could be relied upon to make a telling contribution with even ten and eleven able to 'keep an end up' when required. **A. Cole** and **J. Canlan-Shaw** each made fifties and **T. Roche**, **S. Henley**, **A. Verdin** and **M. Halford** passed twenty on several occasions.

M. Coffey was our most successful bowler with 17 wickets, purveying some 'great' deliveries interspersed with wides and no balls. **Scott** was probably the most accurate in picking up

13 wickets while **M. Halford's** return of just 9 wickets was a little disappointing for our main strike bowler.

The ground fielding and catching, on the whole, were good with **A. Cole** keeping tidily despite the erratic bowling. **J. Canlan-Shaw** handled the temperamental attack extremely well although the field placing could have been better at times - the bowler's responsibility as well as the captain's!

Overall then there is a lot of ability and good technique in the batting to build on and no lack of effort amongst the bowlers to correct their problems. Given the spirit and determination of the team, I am sure that significant improvements can be made in the future.

My thanks to **PJW** for his good humoured help with the coaching and **C. Lillycrop** for his accurate scoring in the last two matches.

RPF

PLAYED 9
WON 4
DREW 1
LOST 4

Team from:

J Canlan-Shaw (capt.),
A Cole (wkt.),
T Roche,
A Verdin,
S Henley,
F Gater,
M Halford,
S Thakore,
P Thomas,
J Swarbrick,
M Coffey,
A Francis,
T Scrase,
P Roberts.

Minors Cricket

Second year cricket has been very enjoyable. We have had good success in our matches. We beat Eton by 2 runs in a thrilling encounter. **M. Hutchinson** was top scorer with 25. **G. Salmon** took 5 wickets for 17 runs. There was a good run out by **P. Vickers** and the last wicket was taken by **H. Wimborne**.

We lost to the Oratory largely due to the fact they had an England under 13 batsman.

We beat Stowe quite easily thanks to very good batting from **H. Wimborne** and **M. Hutchinson**. The bowling was led by **L. Titley** who took 5 wickets.

We beat St Edwards with an innings from **G. Salmon** with 26 runs. The bowling was a very good all round performance.

We played New College School and drew as it was a declaration match. **H. Wimborne** got 12 and the bowling was good.

We beat Josca's thanks to an outstanding innings from **M. Watkins** with 91 not out in his first match of the season.

The final game was against Magdalen who beat us by 165 runs.

Thanks to our coaches **Mr Buchanan** and **Mr Phelps**.

The first game of the Under 12s team was against the Oratory but the pitch was flooded, and we just played a ten over game. **H. Locatelli** got 19 not out and **J. Soames** 18 not out. And then we drew.

When we played Millbrook House **H. Locatelli** got 17, **J. Soames** 41 not out and **D. Clive** 35 not out. **D. Clive** took 5 wickets, **O. Raban** and **T. Clew** got 2 each, so we won.

In the match against St. Bartholomew's we bowled first and got them all out for 52 with **J. Moulds** getting 3 wickets, **D. Clive** 3 wickets and **O. Raban** 2. When **P. Appleton** got 18 and **M. Neil** got 14, we won.

Then we played Christ Church Cathedral School and batted first getting 103 for 6, **O. Raban** got 31 and **D. Clive** 21. Although **E. Hallett** bowled 2 people out, we lost.

In the M.C.S. game **J. Moulds**, **E. Hallett** and **W. Stockwell** got 3 wickets each, and 81 all out. **M. Neil** got 27, **J. Soames** 12. We ended up 72 all out, and lost.

The Cothill game produced a loss and a grand score of 23 all out.

In the final MCS game **D. Clive** took 2 wickets.

J. Soames 1ALB

Tennis

RESULTS:

1st VI

Stowe: Won 6 - 3
Bloxham: Drew 4.5-4.5
MCS: Won 6.5-2.5
Shiplake: Won 9-0
Oratory: Won 9-0
Pangbourne: Won 9-0
St Edward's: Won 6.5-2.5
Radley: Lost 3-6

Glanvill Cup:

1st round: (Henley) Bye
2nd round: (Radley) Won 4/2
3rd round: (Wallingford) Bye

Regional Final:

Lost to Bradfield 2/4

OXIST:

Overall Runners up to Radley

Youll Cup:

1st round:

beat Haberdashers Askes 2-0

2nd round: beat Eton 2-1

3rd round:

beat Bradford Grammar 2-1

Quarter-Finals:

lost to Bristol Grammar 1-2

2nd VI

Stowe: Lost .5 - 8.5

Bloxham: Won 6.5 - 2.5

MCS: Won 7-2

Shiplake: Won 6-3

Pangbourne: cancelled

Radley: Lost 3-6

3rd VI

Radley: Lost 0-9

Junior Colts A VI:

Shiplake: Won 5-4

Oratory: Won 5-4

Stowe: Won 5-4

MCS: Won 6.5-2.5

St Edward's: Lost 5-4

Radley: Lost 9-0

Junior Colts B VI:

Shiplake: no match

Oratory: no match

Stowe: Lost 5-4

MCS: Won 6-3

St Edward's: no match

Radley: Lost 7.5-1.5

U16 A:

Stowe: Lost 0-9

Bloxham: Won 7-2

MCS: Drew 4.5 - 4.5

Oratory: Won 9-0

St Edward's: Lost 1-8

Radley: Lost 0-9

U16 B:

MCS: Won 6.5-2.5

OXIST: Winners!

The senior team at Eton won through to the Quarter Finals of the ISTA championships (the Youll Cup). This excellent achievement rounded off a very successful season. But it all began during the Easter holidays at the Windmill Hill Tennis Academy in Sussex. For the first time the senior squad took part in a pre-season training week, and the benefits were in evidence for the rest of the term.

As the results indicate, they were unbeaten in all 1st VI matches apart from the final one against Radley (whom we had already beaten in the first round of the OXIST league as well as the HSBC tournament (Glanvill Cup) in which they reached the Regional Finals.

B. Chadwick (Capt.) and R. Turnbull (second pair) were the heart of this team; consistent and experienced on court and thoroughly dependable off it. J. Franklin provided the cutting edge, playing 1st pair with D. Procter he shouldered a lot of responsibility especially as the No 1 singles player. His outstanding play was a vital part of the team's success. We tried various pairings at 3rd pair, all of whom did well; some younger players gained useful experience for next year: D. Rowley, W. Allan, D. Madden, M. Cullen, J. Moffatt, J. Kelly and M. Watkins.

The 2nd vi squad were also very committed and successful - and would have liked to have had more matches. The following were regular members of the team: C. Brookes, N. Dalgleish, M. Stalker, C. Wright, M. Partridge, M. Burnard, T. Scholer.

I should like to thank all the parents for their tremendously loyal support throughout the term and on match days. We had the largest group of supporters at Eton and the quality of the support was duly noted by the tournament officials: we contributed greatly to the atmosphere, they said! During the course of the year half-colours and colours were awarded as follows: Half colours: D. Rowley, W. Allan, D. Madden, M. Cullen, J. Moffatt. Full colours: Re-awarded to B. Chadwick (Capt.), R. Turnbull, awarded to D. Procter and J. Franklin.

Finally, many thanks to the members of staff who have helped with the Tennis Club this season: TRA, NMR, BAHF and NDE.

The Junior Colts received a more hard-nosed, serious, and even dare one say it, professional, approach to tennis this year, through the coaching at the new White Horse Tennis Centre. At times this clashed with the boys' more laid-back approach to tennis as a sociable game: the same boys who are fiercely competitive on a rugby field shrug their shoulders casually at defeat on a tennis court. The coaching certainly paid dividends technically, particularly at the net, and strategically, in terms of moving opponents around the court. How long it will take for the competitive culture of the senior boys and coaches to percolate down to the younger years remains to be seen.

In terms of personnel there is much native tennis talent evident in this year. T. Reid, H. Poultney and C. More have the shots on both sides to stretch opponents; P. Jones and M. O'Byrne earn their points by cutting out their own errors; S. Hekmat and N. Hughes could be serious players if they worked harder at their games. Among the Bs the most consistent combination was that of J. Garrett and S. Haste. Both have the intelligence to work out the opposition's weak areas and prey on them. With J. Hopkins, M. Rothkopf, M. Coleman and R. Gray they worked hard to improve their games, and ended the season much more difficult opponents (as the Radley result amply demonstrates!) The most improved player was M. O'Byrne, who showed a competitive streak behind the pixie cheek, and enjoyed his tennis all the more for it.

BAHF

The Under 16 squad played in an enthusiastic, sporting and positive manner, and this was a most enjoyable season. The boys were always cooperative and dependable, particularly during the examination period, and their pleasant manner and good humour were greatly appreciated. Results were mixed and there were some heavy defeats, but there is potential, and with greater consistency and attention to serving technique they should make a valuable contribution in the Sixth Form. J. Kelly and J. Nicholls in particular showed considerable promise (indeed J. Kelly was 'poached' by the 1st VI on a number of occasions) and at times produced high quality tennis. W. Teddy has again been plagued with a back problem but he too showed that he can play a leading role when fully fit. The B VI had fewer matches but must be congratulated on their winning the OXIST B team trophy.

NMR

SAE

Under 14 Tennis

The summer term was one of mixed fortunes for the under-14s tennis teams. The regular members of the A group (**S. Crowther**, **S. Maclaughan**, **D. Graham** and **J. Innes**, with occasional support from **B. Shelton** and **R. Thompson**) played with vigour in every match but did not manage to bring any overall success back to Abingdon, although the final scores never represented just how close many of the games were.

However, each successive competition was valuable experience and the latter part of the term saw a higher level

of play and greater team spirit, and many of our opponents were greatly impressed by the manner in which all the under 14s conducted themselves.

The B group was slow to take off and, at times, struggled for numbers but it was well represented by **N. Robinson**, **S. Taft**, **P. Dearlove**, and **Z. Kang**. Both groups repeatedly displayed the level of sportsmanship and character that one expects from Abingdon pupils and the future looks bright for the under 15s this year!

NDE

Badminton

This season promised much: the Oxford Schools Badminton League is gently getting back into some sort of stride, there were a couple of local and regional competitions on the cards and we had our usual run of fixtures against schools to look forward to. Although some of last year's stars had moved on we still had plenty of developing talent.

In the Oxfordshire restricted competition finals we were in the entertaining position of being most unlikely to lose anything since practically all the participants in the boys' events were from Abingdon! **B. King** lost to **Y. Gao** in the U14 singles, and they combined to cream a pair from Witney in the final of the doubles. In the U16 singles **S. McMahon** beat **N. Gardner**, and they beat **G. Wong** and **I. Cheng** in the doubles.

Shrewsbury and Bromsgrove are new names on our fixture list; and our match against Malvern College was 'away' for the first time. We have been largely able to continue last year's run of successes, change of administration, notwithstanding!

For the first time in a while we were able to get to the All England competition in Birmingham. Through the good offices of Julie Bradbury we had access to tickets for the second day and returned home duly humbled and inspired.

One of the penalties of hosting a high proportion of 'home' fixtures in the Michaelmas term is that the balancing matches in the Spring tend to be 'away'. The teams have stood the travelling with equanimity, and proved adaptable enough to adapt their game to unfamiliar shuttles, inferior floors or strange sightlines and lighting, that said unfortunately **S. McMahon** became a victim to the slippery footing at Wantage, fell early in his U16 OSBA league final and took no further part in the proceedings.

Our travelling would have been very much more laborious if I had not discovered what an excellent navigator **M. Gee** is; this in addition to all the 'devilling' that a secretary must do. I am very grateful for all the help that he has given.

We continue to have strength in depth at most levels: encouraging evidence of this was the way in which teams including several substitutions could still defeat sound opposition!

Probably the only time that we fielded all our front line players in the same fixture was against Millfield, and the result speaks for itself. The score line may be slightly flattering here, but however you read the result it still shows Abingdon in a favourable light.

This year we will say goodbye to **A. Aggarwal**, **B. Chadwick** and **S. Mitchell**. When we have really wanted to send in the 'heavy mob' these have been the names that sprang first to mind. **M. Gee**, **M. Rowland**, **R. Morris** and **A. Heavens** have also been the backbone of many wins, and have remained blessedly untemperamental when teams have been chopped and changed at short notice. We have been very fortunate to be able to call on so many good players, and hope that they will continue to play Badminton at - and even for - their universities. (In this connection it is pleasant to record that **A. Lui** not only plays at Oxford, but often turns up on Monday evenings at Abingdon.)

Colours were awarded to **M. Gee**, **C. North** and **M. Rowland**. Half Colours were awarded to **H. Chi**, **N. Gardner**, **P. Lau**, **D. Madden**, **S. McMahon**, **J. Moffatt**, **R. Morris**, **P. Tubman**, **J. Wei**, and **D. Wong**.

Captain for the season 2002/2003 is **P. Craig**, and Secretary will be **S. McMahon**.

I.A.McD.

RESULTS:

Michaelmas 2001

v. Bloxham [cancelled]
v. Oratory [16 - 0]
v. Cheltenham [8 - 1, 9 - 0]
v. Radley [4 - 5, 9 - 0]
v. Stowe [9 - 0, 9 - 0]
v. Bromsgrove [8 - 0]
v. Millfield [7-2, 9-0, 8-4]
v. Wheatley [OSBA] [4 - 3]
v. Radley [OSBA] [5-2], [9-0]
v. Bloxham [not played]
v. Rugby [71/2 - 31/2]
v. Wellington [7-2, 5-1]
v. Marlbg. [OSBA] [7 - 0]
v. Wantage [OSBA] [4-3][7-0]

Lent 2002

v. Rugby Sch. (8 - 1, 9 - 0)
v. Bicester [OSBA] (6 - 1)
v. Cheltenham (9 - 0, 9 - 0)
v. Oratory (13.5 - 2.5)
v. Radley (6 - 3)
v. Millfield ('A' 7 - 2, 5 - 1;
'B' 8.5 - 0.5, 4 - 2)
v. Malvern (7 - 2)
v. Cheltenham (8 - 1)
v. Faringdon C. Col. (7 - 0)
v. Eton, Oratory &
Wellington (4 - 0, 4 - 0, 4 - 0)

OSBA Finals

U19s won 5-2 v. Wheatley Pk.
U16s runners up v Henry Box
U14s won 7-0 v. King Alfred's
v. Bromsgrove (9 - 0)
& Shrewsbury (6 - 3)

Cross-Country

Dr Challoners: 3rd
Knole Run: 5th
Radley (Vale): 3rd
(County): 5th
Oxford: 2nd
Haberdasher's: 4th
St Alban's: 3rd
Verulam Park: 7th
Harrow: Unclassified
Worcester: 2nd
Road Relay:
6 Townsends Won
6 Scholars 2nd

Full Colours to:
John Richards
Matthew Cullen
Rob Garside
Simon Probert
Mathew Browne
Andrew Maclean

Half Colours to:
William Horwitz
Alec Peychers
Philip Brazier
Ivan Collin

The Cross-Country Club has this year enjoyed one of its most successful seasons ever. Led by **Mr Ocock**, and enthusiastically backed up by **Dr O'Brien** (with us from Australia for just this year), we came away from many races with medals and trophies. The Senior team was extremely strong, with captains **J. Richards** and **M. Cullen** leading from the front. Upper 6th formers **R. Garside**, **M. Browne**, **S. Probert** and **A. Maclean** also made huge contributions to our success, while the depth of quality in the Lower 6th is superb. Along with the two captains, **W. Horwitz**, **I. Collin**, **A. Peychers**, **P. Brazier** and **J. Moffatt**, are all maturing into very strong competitors.

The first race of the season; the only one before Christmas, took place at Dr Challoners in November. Here we first realised just how good this season could become, as we finished 3rd behind the sensational St Albans and The Judd, Tonbridge, in a very strong field.

Buoyed by this performance the 1st team squad spent 4 strenuous days in January in Wales on a fantastic camp. The whole team knew that some serious work was needed to get over the effects of too many mince pies, and trained very hard. The legendary Knole run was only a week away!

And then it was upon us. The most illustrious race in Independent Schools Cross-Country took place in Knole Park, Kent. In difficult conditions **S. Probert** shone through to record a superb 32nd place finish just seconds ahead of **J. Richards**. This was the first time anyone from our School had beaten **John** in a competitive race for over a year! The A Team finished a superb 5th – a mere 9 points adrift of Winchester B in 4th. So despite coming away trophyless we were filled with great pride at our performance.

The next races were the Vale and County Championships at Radley, where younger members of the club were given the opportunity to race. In the Vale Championships **J. Richards** was back at his best, finishing 3rd, and **S. Probert** and **M. Cullen** also caught the eye. In the County championship 5 days later, John went one better, overhauling a rival from Radley to finish 2nd. **M. Browne** gained automatic county selection by finishing 5th. The tortoise relays in Oxford provided a chance to win a race close to home, or so we thought! St Albans turned up to spoil the party and we had to be content with second place.

By now the team was in top gear, and the next race seemed likely to produce more medals. However illness struck! We were only able to field 7 runners at Haberdashers Aske's, in a 6 man relay. Spare man **A. Peychers** did run however – for The Judd's B team. **J. Richards** was beaten for the second and last time this season, **M. Cullen** Abingdon's fastest runner. The team finished 4th overall – a satisfactory performance, as we were missing a few 1st six runners.

Half term arrived and most of the squad boarded the coach to represent Oxfordshire in the South East Intercounties event. At this level of competition you have to run very well not to be at the back of the field, and we did ourselves proud, **R. Garside** the top Abingdon runner in the absence of **J. Richards**.

Two races in the city of St. Albans followed. First the St. Albans relays. The A team finished 3rd and the B team also ran very well. A week later Verulam Park played host to a very demanding race, where once again St Albans was the only team to beat us. **J. Richards** produced a sensational run to finish 7th, and **P. Brazier** and **I. Collin** pushed each other all the way to top 30 positions.

So with a fist full of medals we headed off to the SE Schools Championships in Harrow brimming with confidence. However disaster struck, as two members of the team pulled out and we finished unclassified. **J. Richards**, **M. Browne** and **I. Collin** did produce fine runs in absolutely awful conditions.

The final race of the season was at Worcester, where we have a history of being disqualified. No such problems this time though, as the team of 6 finished 2nd to Shrewsbury, another great effort.

The Road Relay was all that remained, and it went according to the script, with the lower 6th Townsend's team led by **J. Richards** winning, beating the lower 6th scholars into 2nd place. Club runners who ran under 9 minutes were **J. Richards**, **R. Garside**, **M. Browne** and **A. Peychers**.

Many thanks must be given to **Mr Ocock** and to **Dr O'Brien**. They have both worked so hard to enable us to have the success we have had. None of what we have achieved would have been possible without them. Let's hope that next year we can win some more medals!

Matthew Cullen 6TCG

It has been over a year since I have been able to give my last full report to *the Abingdonian* and such has been the pace of life at the School that I am struggling here to find the correct headline for our achievements. Building projects along with memorable events and trips immediately come to mind but it is the people in a school that really make it what it is and it is thus only right that they gain pride of place in a retrospective of the year.

Josca's enjoyed a remarkable senior year group in the academic year of 2001-2. From bare statistics, it is easy to see that they certainly left with a series of worthy achievements. **Andrew Jordan** was awarded the prestigious Douglas Bader Scholarship at St Edward's School. **David Mills** and **Sam Barton** both gained academic scholarships to Abingdon and two further Music awards from Abingdon were gained by **Tim Fegan** and **Alex Mugnaioni** who also joined the full Abingdon Orchestra on their trip to Vienna, Prague and Budapest. Overall, the seventeen pupils gained places at Abingdon (eleven), St Edward's (three), St Birinus, and Cokethorpe (two) Schools. It was not just their achievements, however, both in the classroom and out, but their qualities of warmth and friendship towards each other that made them into such a rewarding year group to have in the School. We wish them all every success and happiness as they move on to their Senior Schools.

The staff are another significant element of the personnel who make up the school. In the Easter Term we welcomed **Julie Mitchell** replacing **Lucy Powell** as the form teacher of Year Three, and her knowledge and expertise have already made a significant impact on those under her care. A new addition to the staff for the 2002-3 year is **Mike Rees** as an additional Deputy Head to stand by **John Baker** in his final year of office. **Mike**, who was Deputy Head at Western Province Preparatory School in Cape Town, brings with him considerable experience as a teacher and as a coach of music, drama and of high quality sports teams.

Since my last report, Josca's has admitted additional pupils in Year Seven, which, amongst other things, has seen the School's numbers rise from about 170 to 200. Additionally, this increase has clearly had a positive effect on our ability to

take part in the concert hall and on the stage, and to challenge on the sports field. Just as significantly, however, it has given the Foundation the ability to offer all those who wish to enter at age eleven the choice of whether they should come into a Senior or Junior School environment. This choice is proving very beneficial for a good number of our pupils.

In order to cope with these numbers we have seen further development on the Josca's site this year. A new building, due to be opened in November 2002, will house the two additional form rooms required as well as a new music wing which will give us additional dedicated music practice rooms. Given that a major refurbishment programme of all the main senior classrooms was completed in August 2001 and that a similar programme is planned for Pre-Prep in the near future, the overall picture of our teaching facilities is now very handsome.

The building of additional music facilities is particularly relevant and helpful to the musical revolution that has occurred at the school in recent years under the direction of **Sue Glaiser**. This year we have seen a range of productions at the School, including a Christmas Concert, two Pre-Prep nativity plays, a concert of music from our instrumentalists, the Gala Concert with Abingdon School, poetry reading competitions, the Middle School's production of '*Ocean Commotion*', Pre-Prep's performance of '*Dumble the Dinosaur*' and the Senior boys' production of '*Oliver!*'

Classroom developments have been further enhanced by extending the network from our main computer room so that nearly all teaching rooms now have direct access to both the network and, by definition, the internet. The benefits of our new technology can be seen in the ICT examination results listed below.

Whilst there has thus been much activity behind the scenes to secure these developments, the pace at which these activities have been accomplished has been just as great. You will be able to read about many of them in the rest of the journal but there is an equally impressive list of those which cannot claim their own space.

These include: Charity Days, [we have again supported Help a Christmas Child and raised £40 on poppy day, £175 for Vision Aid and £900 for the World Wild Life Fund,] Open Days, Field Days, Greek and Roman Days, Grandparent Day, Pirate Day, Day trips, World Cup Breakfasts, Pre-Prep's Jubilee Street Party, a James Bond Ball, an Old Boys' Dinner and the School bazaar.

An increased number of cricket, football and rugby matches, along with tournaments in these sports and in swimming, tennis and athletics, has meant that a greater number of boys than ever before have had the opportunity to represent the School, and to wear the colours. **Stephen Hibberd**, in his first year here, has been the driving force behind much of this activity, and we all have much to thank him for.

I hope that these few lines give a flavour of what has been going on here at Josca's over the last year and that you enjoy reading about some of these activities and many other events in the pages to follow.

C. Davies

Reflections on nine years at Josca's

When I started at School my class had only eight pupils. Since then, the classes have grown in size every year and we now have 17 pupils in year 8. Many of the classes have 20. Nine years ago, there were only 120 children in the School. Now it has grown to nearly 200 pupils and the School is still growing.

In every year, new teachers have come in and old teachers have left. Three years ago, our former Head Master, **Tony Savin**, left the school and others such as **Jean Hazard** and **Pat** and **Paul Dewhurst** retired then, or soon after. To cope with the growing size of the School, many new buildings and classrooms have had to be built. There has been a new science block and an ICT centre. These have helped the School no end and I have really enjoyed using them. Additionally, a new music block and two classrooms have just begun to be built, which, unfortunately, I won't be able to use. The music in particular has improved greatly. Three years ago, there were only a handful of pupils who played instruments in the School. Now there are around 75 or so. Before, there was only one small band with four players in it. Now, there are three bands and an orchestra. Each group has around fifteen players in it.

Now that we have joined with Abingdon School, we have access to more instruments and to more teachers. We have a concert with

Abingdon every year. The Junior Gala Concert has both instrumental and vocal pieces in it. This year, not only the older pupils but the younger boys took part in this concert. A number of pupils were lucky enough to be asked to play solos: for example, **Robert Morris** on the clarinet, **William Holland** on the cornet and **Alexander Mugnaioni** on the euphonium.

Good as the music is, it is still not perhaps one of Josca's strongest points. It has improved enormously and it is likely that the building up of a new music block will help it to carry on improving in the near future. The sport at Josca's has also improved as the years have gone by and as I have got older. The sports lessons are excellent and I have really enjoyed playing in the School teams.

A pavilion, which we share with Abingdon School, and new changing rooms in the main school are further much-needed improvements which have come in recent years.

Over the years, I have made many good friends at Josca's and have had great fun. The School has changed as I have moved up and will no doubt carry on changing and improving as time goes by.

Sam Barton, Tim Fegan and Alexander Mugnaioni (All of whom went to Abingdon School in September 2002)

Oliver!

When Sue Glaisher first mentioned the idea of performing *Oliver!*, a wave of excitement radiated through the class. After Christmas, auditions began. Everyone had an attempt at one of the main parts.

Before the Common Entrance examinations, it was very difficult to find revision time and so after the examinations the rehearsal schedule was very heavy. All the principal actors had to rehearse every day. We used our time in the Isle of Wight, when we were on an adventure holiday, to learn our lines and everyone (nearly) came back from this trip word-perfect. We had our first performance on Wednesday of the last week of term. This dress rehearsal contained a number of mistakes and the cast was somewhat downhearted.

The evening performance, however, was very different. Our prayers had been answered. Despite customary first-night nerves, the performance

was fantastic. Jess Glaisher as Nancy and Ben Cooke as Fagin seemed to be in particularly brilliant form and were very well supported by all the other cast members as well. This gave us huge confidence for the following night and final performance when the whole cast put on a magnificent performance.

It was a memorable way to finish our careers in our Prep. School and everyone was in very good spirits at the leavers' party which followed. Our thanks go to all those who helped us put on this performance – there were huge contributions from other pupils backstage and from many other teachers and parents. Most credit, however, must go to Susan Glaisher for her direction and organisation. We are all hugely appreciative of her tremendous hard work and I am looking forward to coming back in the near future to see the younger members of the cast in her next sell-out success!

Andrew Jordan, Year 8

Year 3 visits the Barn Owl Centre

Having read Jill Tomlinson's novel, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*, in the Spring Term, it seemed a great idea to go along to visit the Barn Owl Centre in Brockworth to find out more about owls.

The journey in one of the School minibuses took about an hour. The centre is in a beautiful setting, in the middle of fields and next to a restored tithe barn. The birds are very well looked after and it is one of the few times I have visited captive animals and not felt it was cruel.

The birds are flown daily and we were all able to put on a leather gauntlet to enjoy the sensation

of a bird of prey alighting on our arms! Grown-ups were considered strong enough to support an eagle owl, but the boys flew either Luna or Gizmo, the resident barn owls. These birds flew back and forth, delighting us all!

We learnt about the struggle barn owls face to stay alive in these modern times and how important it is that they find food regularly. You too can find out more by looking at the Centre's brilliant website (www.barnowl.co.uk) or, even better, by visiting them. There are many different birds of prey. Year 3 can guarantee that you will have a hoot!

Written by various members of Year 3

Sports Awards

Foil – One Star Awards	James Hutchings, Richard Moore
Most Improved Fencer Trophy	Jasper Done
Best Fencer Award	John Pullen
Barbara Arkell Swimming Trophy	Tim Gower
Tennis Doubles Winners	Eddie Tolson & Mark Jordan
Tennis Doubles Runners-up	James Barratt & Will Holland
Tennis Singles Winner	Eddie Tolson
Tennis Singles Runner-up	Will Holland
Athletics Colours	David Mills, James Wilson
Cricket Colours	Andrew Jordan, Sam Barton, David Mills
The Belvedere Shield, <i>(1st XV Rugby Player of the Year Award)</i>	Philip Hatzis
Josca's Football Award	Charlie Couper
Anderson Cup <i>(Best All Round cricketer)</i>	Sam Barton
Prior Cup <i>(Sportsman of the Year)</i>	David Mills

Special Awards

The Josca's Award for Contribution to Music	Tim Fegan
The Abingdon Award <i>(for academic success)</i>	David Mills
Governors' Prize	Andrew Jordan
ICT Distinction at Standard Level	Ben Fitzharris, Jacob Greaves
ICT Merit at Higher Level	Robert Anderson, Ben Cooke, Tim Fegan Thomas Howard, Harry Moore, Robert Neil
ICT Distinction at Higher Level	Sam Barton, Charlie Couper, Philip Hatzis Andrew Jordan, Ryan Liu, David Mills, Alex Mugnaioni, James White, James Wilson

Merit Awards

Bronze

PP3	B. Chalk, H. Sensecall, S. Crickmore
Year 3	H. Van Dorssen, T. Siman, A. Hatzis
Year 4	O. Stanier, S. Horlock, J. Bull
Year 5	A. Nicholl, H. Gray, L. Parker
Year 6	R. Gordon Jones, O. Clarke, J. Davies
Year 7S	J. O'Kelly, P. Scopes, M. Gander
Year 7L	O. Aiken, N. Yassine, R. Rahman
Year 8	A. Wilson, A. Mugnaioni, J. White

Silver

PP3	P. Moore, W. Horlock
Year 3	N. Patel, G. Rothwell
Year 4	J. Grabham, A. Widger-Woodhouse
Year 5	M. Hinkins, J. Talbot
Year 6	J. Hunter, E. Tolson
Year 7S	R. Morris, M. Coldwell
Year 7L	A. Fisher, J. Thomasson
Year 8	S. Barton, A. Jordan & T. Fegan

Gold

PP3	A. Carmichael
Year 3	G. Bull
Year 4	J. Barratt
Year 5	R. Henley

Year 6	W. Wynell-Mayow
Year 7S	J. Delo
Year 7L	T. Gower
Year 8	P. Hatzis

Form Prizes - for the pupil who has put in the greatest effort to improve his work.

Academic Prizes - awarded to the pupil with the best examination results.

PP2	Form	A. Burford
	Academic	T. Widger-Woodhouse
PP3	Form	O. Yeatman
	Academic	A. Carmichael
Year 3	Form	L. Terry
	Academic	A. Hatzis
Year 4	Form	J. Boreham
	Academic	J. Rayner
Year 5	Form	J. Done
	Academic	R. Henley
Year 6	Form	J. Burford
	Academic	J. Hunter
Year 7L	Form	J. Thomasson
	Academic	S. Jeffreys
Year 7S	Form	T. Simpson
	Academic	M. Coldwell
Year 8	Form	R. Neil & H. Moore
	Academic	D. Mills

One Little Pig and a Big Bad Wolf

Having made my way to the crossroads, there I spied a perfect porker purchasing sticks from a travelling merchant. Having surreptitiously followed him, I secreted myself in some suitably situated shrubs. Having waited in watch for over ten minutes, I carefully clambered towards the pastel-pink porker. Having asked to help haul the heavy sticks on to the sturdy summit of the stick shack, I got a reply from the porky pig. "I'm not putting them up now."

"I say, I am dreadfully dehydrated! Can I come in and have a drink?"

Having casually canted my head in a different direction, I heard the door lock drop.

"Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll bl-l-ow your house down!" I shouted.

Having burnt bucket-loads of energy, I raced round the wreckage, following my prey's prints until my fantastic feet tripped the pathetic porker up. Having literally lost all my energy, I lodged the poor pig down my tough throat. Having achieved my regular routine, I walked back home, feeling fantastically proud.

by Eddie Tolson Year 6

How to take a Hamam in Istanbul

For those of you who do not know what a Hamam is I will try to explain:

A Hamam can be found in the most unlikely places. You might be walking along a market street when you stumble across an old man sitting on a chair by an old door, above him might be a sign gently swinging in the breeze, with the words “Hamam erkek 2,500,000TL” written crudely with chalk. If you want to find out more, hand over your cash (if you can count all the noughts), otherwise trust the doorman to count them over for you and enter the building.

You will be led to a chilled marble changing room where you will have to strip to your birthday suit. But don't be shy, they will give you a hard, scratchy towel to cover yourself up (if you're lucky)! Someone dressed like Ali Baba, wearing a limp-looking loincloth will then greet you. He will escort you

to a tiny marble arch sealed with an even smaller door.

As you walk in, the heat will stifle and smother you and for the first minute or so you will have trouble catching your breath. But don't worry, you will get used to it.

The room might be square and the walls covered in marble. You will see a raised, clammy, marble platform. Step up onto it, lie down and let your body sweat! You will have to stay there for about half an hour to thoroughly clean your pores.

If you are one of the unlucky ones (like me), you may be joined by a Turkish chain-smoker! This makes breathing almost impossible. Just when you get used to the stifling steam, you may be greeted by a sweet waft of tobacco mixed with soap. For those of you who can't imagine it, it smells like incense.

If, like me, you have paid two million extra lira (£1.00), you will get a massage including toe-clicking, soap suds in a scabby-looking pillowcase, and a hair scrub. The pillowcase is filled with bars of soap; it is wrung out and twisted then rubbed across your whole body. Believe it or not it is rather relaxing, apart from the fact that you do get soap in your eyes.

When you feel squeaky clean you can pour a bowl of freezing cold water over you and for the first time in your life you will appreciate being cold for the short couple of seconds it lasts. But you won't get goose-pimples.

Finally, when you've had enough you can step out and you'll be given lemon and lime cologne to splash over you and another scratchy towel to dry yourself off.

Get dressed and leave by the same door!

William Wynnel-Mayow, Year 6

Kensuke's View

As I gaze over the lonely yet unforgiving sea, I think of Micasan. That bright boy, always having fun, always feeling free. I chuckle now, when I remember how he became more mature. He was always a furious little boy when he first arrived, thrashing around in water making more noise than two angry seals fighting. When he started painting he learned fast, how his brush strokes were weaving and winding, twisting and turning, producing near-perfect pictures for his age and how the sun twinkled off his brush made from the orang-utan's hair. And then in the evening we would play “football” (it was a new word for me at the time) and how his legs powerfully hit the ball, often powering it past me. We would play until the sun went down and the stars and moon appeared, casting a shadow of light across the beach where we played.

Then there is before Micasan, when my life was happy

and bright, just like Micasan's. But then an age of planes. An age of terror. That was only a small part of my life which I remember. Then I was foolish and when we surrendered I was even angry.

I remember my parents – just. They were kind and loving, just how the perfect world should be. When they passed away I was angry, making me ferocious (at the time it was halfway through World War II). Three years later and I was starting to live a new life on an island, away from the dark age. A life with the orang-utans and then Micasan. A happy life.

But now Micasan is gone, all is lost. There is just darkness. Just black. Perhaps, if there had been no dark age, no atom bomb or dead families, there might have been happiness or hope.

Paul Scopes, Year 7S

Murder on Ice

Toni Jordan was murdered with her own skates by a tall man in a long black coat. Natalie thought about this as she looked at the plaque dedicated to the memory of Toni. "Poor girl," she thought. "Only nineteen and destined for Gold." She finished tying up her long laces. As she stepped onto the ice she felt the natural grace come over her. Swishing and flying, jumping and twisting.

As she skated, a tall black man came into the ice-rink. She skated over to the entrance. The man took out some bright yellow skates from under his jacket.

"Dad, you found my favourite skates!" But then she saw something horribly wrong. "Is-is that b-b-blood?" she asked in a barely audible voice.

"Don't be silly! It's just a bit of paint."

Natalie put on the skates. She soared off, overwhelming her father with pride. Natalie did not feel Toni Jordan's spirit gently intertwine with her own and they were now forever linked.

Natalie was eighteen. Training for the Olympic winter sports just as Toni Jordan had before her. She was brilliant. There was no doubt about that. The triple jumps were easy, the graceful dancing was natural. She was Britain's best hope. Everyone was expecting at least one Gold Medal from her. Nobody would have, could have, expected anything would stop her. But that was what happened.

* * *

Natalie had just passed her nineteenth birthday. Her name was in the Olympic lists now and she was training even harder. In one of her late night sessions as she was practising one of the more skilful jumps, a tall man wearing a long black coat silently entered the ice-rink. Natalie, mistaking him for her father, skated over to him, swishing past the mysterious words, 'We are one'. That was the last mistake she ever made.

With the mocking sound of his voice in her ears, "Your father killed my daughter to clear the way for you. See how I return the favour." The light slowly faded from her eyes.

by Michael Coldwell Year 7S

Football Club Tour to Barcelona



In the Easter holidays, 35 pupils and 28 parents arrived at school at 4 a.m. for the trip of a lifetime. The mothers all asked the staff to ensure that they looked after "their little boy". No one, of course, was sure if they meant the dads or the sons.

We found an excellent hotel with its own pool, close to the beach, and the balcony rooms impressed all the boys. There was little storage space in the rooms but, boys being boys, everyone proceeded on the "Why have a floor if you don't intend to use it?" basis.

The first day it was spent at Sitges. The cultural possibilities in this beautiful town were endless but it was the beach and football that won the day. The highlight of the tour was the long anticipated trip to the Nou Camp - Barcelona's 100,000 seater stadium. That evening Barcelona

were to be the hosts in a Champions' League match against the Greek side, Panathinakos, and the Josca's boys were there to put the ground through its paces. Many of the pupils were keen for the parents' association to raise funds to give the school a similar stadium in which to play all our home games in the future. In the stadium shop, the boys all bought Barcelona replica shirts - the dads all bought tickets for the game.

Further cultural activities arranged on the tour included a trip around Barcelona and a visit to the famous cathedral, *La Sagrada Familia*. Great memories of the trip include 'Señor Grumpy,' more commonly known as the coach driver, **Charlie Couper's** courageous conversations with the locals in a language that neither party could understand and **Philip Hatzis**, who warmed up the crowd in one of the football matches by playing "Scotland the Brave" on his bagpipes. The Spanish faces were a picture...

Tour Party: Chris Skeen, George Talbot, Jonathan Vincent, David Mills, Philip Hatzis, Jordan Tabor, Patrick Collins, James Burford, Andrew Jordan, Oliver Holland, James O'Kelly, Charlie Couper, Alex Fisher, Mallam Grant, Sam Barton, James Wilson, Steven Mills, Jacob Greaves, Jack Thomasson, Edward Tolson, Stephen Horlock, James Barratt, Oliver Read, Ben Read, Andrew Hatzis, Richard Parkin-Mason, Robbie Henley, Robbie Winearls, Luke Parker, Mark Jordan, John Davies, Harry Gray, Jeremy Talbot, Eddie Yeatman.

Josca's Sport

With our numbers ever increasing, a large percentage of boys represented the school in my first year at Josca's. More sport has been covered than at any time, giving boys more opportunity to show their skills.

Rugby

At 1st XV level the boys had a mixed season, winning six matches and losing five. Our strength was obviously going to lie in our speed and not our size, and as term went on this definitely proved invaluable in taking on teams far bigger than ourselves.

The first game against Magdalen College School was disappointing as we were out-rucked and -mauled all over the pitch. This was followed by impressive wins against Ashfold, Hatherop Castle and Oratory School. Tough, uncompromising forward work from **James White** and **Harry Moore** amongst others led to a series of tries, some scored from **Philip Hatzis** and **James Wilson**. Our three hardest games of the season proved to be against St. Hugh's, Abingdon and Prior Park, who gave us some rugby lessons. The boys were determined to prove their critics wrong and did so in a very close encounter against Christ Church Cathedral School. The pattern of our play was beginning to emerge – a very fast rucking game to utilise our quick backs. We then travelled to Pinewood School, as always a tricky fixture in the calendar. It was a tale of two halves. We lost the first one and trailed by thirty-seven points but came back strongly to score nineteen points in the second half – **Philip Hatzis** and **Tim Fegan** amongst the scorers. Our final game was against St. Andrew's, who, owing to injuries, fielded a weaker side. Our margin of victory was 34-15 and rounded off an enjoyable and successful season.

Football

The 1st XI football side was fairly successful, losing only two games, both to the Oratory Schools. It was a well organised side with a lot of flair and invention when going forward. Notable performances came from **Alex Fisher**, **Jordan Tabor**, **Jack Thomasson** and **Charlie Couper** in midfield with **James Wilson** and **Mallam Grant** operating effectively in attack. Strong defensive duties were carried out by **Philip Hatzis**, **Tim Gower**, **James O'Kelly** and goalkeeper **David Mills**. **David** was player of the season and a huge inspiration to all.

The 2nd XI had a disappointing season despite a promising start at Pinewood, winning 4-2 with goals from **Simon Jeffreys**, **Andrew Jordan**, **Ben Cooke** and **Richard Lai** in dreadful conditions. **Ben Neal** had an outstanding season in goal and was ably supported by defenders **Harry Moore**, **Nabil Yassine** and **Michael Coldwell**. A special mention must also go to all the boys who took part in the tour to Barcelona in April. With **Simon Weights'** superb organisation and the support of a dozen parents the entire trip was a resounding success.

Cricket

The 1st XI cricket side was hugely successful, losing only two matches, one of those against a team for whom one player won them the game

The weather was very kind to us and all our matches were played. Our losses were both away, one at Abingdon and the other to Magdalen, where our batting let us down on the run chase. Top of the batting averages, by a considerable margin, was our only left-hander, **Alex Fisher**, who showed considerable skill in making his runs. The bowlers were very consistent: **Sam Barton**, the captain being the leading wicket taker with his away-swing seam. He was ably supported by **Jack Thomasson**, **Tim Gower** and brothers **David** and **Steven Mills**. Our spin attack was led by **Jordan Tabor**, who got better and picked up more wickets as the season progressed. The most pleasing aspect of the entire season was the teamwork, whether it was batting, bowling or fielding, and the boys must be given great credit for this.

Tennis

Unfortunately, a lot of the tennis was cancelled owing to the weather and therefore the squad were short of match practice. **Philip Hatzis**, **Patrick Collins**, **Andrew Jordan**, **Mallam Grant** and **Charles Couper** formed the 1st VI and were supported by **Alex Fisher** and **James O'Kelly**.

The Colts were also well represented with a squad which included **Andrew Hatzis**, **James Hunter** and **James Hicklin**. A great season was had by all.

Many thanks to all the games staff at Josca's who made the various sporting seasons so enjoyable and successful.

Stephen Hibberd
Head of Games - Josca's

