

ABINGDONIAN

Volume fourteen, number seven Friday 7 February 1969 Two shillings

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Editorial: Over to you, Mr Short

It appears to be in something of a state of muddle about the organisation of our educational system—if it can be called that. Enough said: the problem of what to do with secondary education is of course complicated, and there seems to be little hope of any neat solution. Which we should be profoundly thankful for. Trying to teach E streams as if they were A level candidates is bad and fruitless enough; in the long run it is far more dangerous to try to bring A streams under the same intellectual regime as those who are merely filling in time before getting a job at sixteen. This is not an attempt to drown a dead cat, because the situation at present is such that the A level syllabuses do in fact aim to do no more than prime the brain with a concentrated but narrow range of facts. Even in a school like Abingdon, which can justifiably claim an outstanding field of extra-curricular activities and advanced teaching methods, the teaching a boy receives is not basically different from that used to train people for the utterly different world of 1869. So what we ought to be worrying about is more that we are taught than how we are administered.

The problem is the more acute in that there are operating in the educational world at the moment forces and feelings, which, however you look about them, you cannot ignore; and they are spreading into the little world of the Sixth Form at a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult for a normally intelligent person to sort out his place in a world in which itself becomes more and more contradictory every day. The feelings behind 'student power' movements are merely symptoms of the general dissatisfaction with technological society. The sort of world we have to live in is the world whose inhabitants can be sent to the moon; but this does in any way meet the primarily emotional needs of the young person who does not even begin to understand the confusion of problems of self, life, of morality. It is precisely these problems that our supposedly excellent education shies away from. Worse, it not only shies away from them, it will not admit their existence. And it is precisely this state of affairs that breeds frustration and anger among students who know that no amount of GCEs and degrees can fit them for anything but the most aimless of existences. As the gulf between the technocratic and the

mystical sides of our nature grows, so will the irrelevance of mod educational ideas. It may, temporarily, pacify the militant groups concede some of the less important tenets of authoritarianism; but eventually things will inevitably come to a head. Beside the walls that go then, the Iron Curtain will be nothing. If there is an answer to the problem—if indeed it is a meaningful idea that I have tentatively proposed—then it will be found in the secondary schools, or nowhere. And the Royal Commission will be any use to anyone if there is no answer.

Michaelmas Diary

This is the third stage in the development of the old School Notes into more informal, possibly more personal, record of each term. If you find that some of the less relevant things that happen every term have been left out, please don't take offence. We like to think we are moving with the times—or should I say *The Times*?

Au Revoir

It really does cost a pang to say goodbye to Sister Margaret Bright, who has done such a wonderful job as Sister in charge at The Lodge for the past eight years. Miss Bright will be remembered for a long time by many for the motherly way in which she nursed her patients back to health, countless injections suffered under her hand, or her kindness before Tuesday CCF parades. Surprisingly, Sister has not found her post demanding enough, but this will doubtless be remedied at her new job at the Rugby Clubs, a very tough one.

Nobody could claim to have got to know the whole of a place like Abingdon in only one term, but Alan Williamson did a very good job. We only hope that the teaching post he took over at such short notice will not affect his participation in extra-tutorial life, and that he was not insulted by his omission from the Staff List in the last issue. Faulty copy you know, faulty copy, so it's no good looking at us like that. All the same we are very sorry. He has now gone to work in Paris, and our best wishes go with him.

Salutations and congratulations

Members of Staff, in the best tradition, go on increasing the population. Heartiest best wishes to Andrew John, first son of Mr and Mrs Vaughan (now where have we seen that name before? The PCR should be honoured) and somewhat belatedly to Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Reynolds (born 22 June).

OAs are always welcome at the School, but especially when they return to ease the staff's teaching burdens. Our thanks go to Roger Limerick for the three weeks' hard work he did in the English department at the end of the last term. This term we greet another, rather more recent OA, Michael Baumann, who has been brushing up his French over Christmas in order to take over Mr Williamson's post for a term. And also we welcome four student masters. From Reading University come Mr BG Grair (chemistry) and Mr KH Matthews (music); and from the Oxford Institute of Education Mr CP Sherwood (economics and geography) and Mr Walsh (history).

Individual successes in literary, academic and sporting worlds call for congratulation. Neil Coulbeck and David Smith walked off with both prizes in the local essay competition on Race Relations, thus winning

unds each and eighty pounds for the School, which has been split so
at twenty pounds go to charity, twenty to John Mason High School (the
iners-up) and forty to the School Minibus Fund.

Robert Weir and Neil Coulbeck were awarded the Bennett and Lady
untage scholarships respectively. And Mark Evans demonstrated the
ool's musical strength (as if we didn't know) by getting a place in the
tional Youth Orchestra at a very young age. Moreover Jeffrey Evans
A) revealed unsuspected talent by winning a choral exhibition in his
t year at Emmanuel College Cambridge.

This is a rare distinction: mention of a sports team in this column is
h praise, but we must congratulate the Badminton Six on their straight
sh of victories last term. By doing so they more than justified the grant
the Badminton Club of the right to award half colours.

Entertainment?

diversity of speakers and subjects endeavoured to keep boarders amused
l enlightened in the Saturday 'Entertainment'. Inevitably the content
l not always live up to the subject, but good, bad or indifferent, the
cs were catholic in topics. Outstanding were Annette Battams and
orge Adie with 'Words, music, sounds and moods' and Cdr BWH
ulton on the Naval Raid on Zeebrugge. We also had Mr Michael
ams on The Arab World Today and Mr Peter Cotes on 'The Director
cs'. The films on the other Saturdays were at last of a high standard.
-one could complain about having The Spy Who Came in from the
ld, or The Sinking of the Bismarck, or even The Wrong Box.

Christmas Festivities

usual the end of term was overloaded with celebration of different
ts, beginning with the Abingdon Schools' Music Association Concert at
ich Nicholas Talbot's quartet won second place in the original carol
npetition. Following was the 'traditional' Christmas Concert in the
urt Room, a very gay occasion which was greatly enhanced by the more
n capacity audience. The Carol Service was better than ever this time,
l the boarders had a relaxing last evening of term with a film, Two
de Together (you'd never think it was a Western, would you?) followed
an excellent supper in the best Sandford style.

Once again, to see out the old term, there was a strong turn out of
ool prefects for the 'traditional' and 'gentlemanly' walk to Sunningwell
h the Headmaster. The distance was covered at a lively pace with
rian Luff forging ahead in the home straight.

Cellany One

ain the weather managed to hold in check the upsurge of soccer
husiasm when the OA match had to be cancelled because of the state
the pitches . . . Mr Eason again gave up several mornings to grill Sixth
mers in interview practices . . . on 13 November the vampires of the
ional transfusion centre again (and again) leeches valuable corpuscles
m twenty hardy sixth formers . . . three anonymous boys showed real
istmas goodwill by entertaining at a Red Cross Society for the dis-
ed . . . and encouragingly large numbers of the CCF braved the elements
true Robin Blackburn style (see p 284, May 1968) on overnight camps.
and what about that other supposed toughener upper? Dolgoed, we are
libly informed, was last term visited by only two parties, under Messrs
ody and Hammond, of whom the latter took another party there after
istmas. Although this is scarcely an impressive number, very valuable

work has been done in decoration and weather-proofing. It does seem however, that unless a party goes up there every weekend the whole point of the place will be lost, and those that do go will have to spend most of their time mending windows and so on. Possibly with the eventual acquisition of a School minibus the situation will improve.

The School has been fortunate enough to receive two rather unusual gifts. We thank Nicholas Brett for a telescope which he has presented to the Naval Section of the CCF, and the family of the late Mr Milligan (Photographer) for a lot of valuable equipment which will greatly improve the Darkroom facilities—including, by the way, the enlarger used for the School's team photographs for the last twenty-five years.

By the time you read this our business game team (how's that for nouns-used-as-adjectives?) ought to be well away making huge profits and collaring the market for the second year . . . not that they did last year, but who knows? It's all a question of luck, the very best of which we wish them.

'Elsewhere in this issue . . .'

We had a complaint that the above words appeared too often in the last issue, so of course the temptation to put them in this (just once, sir, *kind sir* . . .) was overwhelming. Doubtless matters were not helped by the amount of pagination that was wrong. Not our fault, honest. But the point is that the last issue was, so to speak, a bumper number, and it therefore cost rather too much to produce. Considering this, we think it pretty good that we are keeping our price at the level it has been at since 1960, but we've had to scrap the proposed supplement on the Dramatic Society. Apologies to all those disappointed.

Obituary: Alderman Stephen Freeman, OBE

The senior Governor of the School, Alderman Freeman, died in Didcot Hospital on Sunday 29 December at the age of 73. He had been ill for some time, and had recently undergone two serious operations; but he was not deterred from continuing with his many activities in local politics and education, a fact which speaks volumes. He was possibly one of the last of the old breed of staunch Socialists, who combined their beliefs with a fierce patriotism of a type so rarely seen these days. Never can an award of an OBE have been more appreciated. After receiving a minimum of education he started work on the railways, and in a forty-seven year career he worked his way up from cleaner to supervisor. And it was during this time, when he represented his union (ASLEF) on the Didcot and District Trades and Labour Council, that he began his wholehearted work on local government. Throughout his life he championed the cause of the working man, never afraid to state his opinions forcefully, however small the minority he was in, and always interested in the enterprises of local people. The list of his appointments and experience in local government is quite staggering. There was very little in his home area that he was not involved in. But at the same time—how he managed it is a mystery—he maintained an active interest in such things as Didcot Town Football Club.

It says a great deal for Alderman Freeman that although he could have pointed out that he was an entirely self-made and self-educated man and left it at that, he spent a great deal of his life working in education. He was a Governor of five local schools, and had strong connections with all of them. Behind his beliefs—just before his last illness he had put down

on for the Education Committee requiring students to sign an undertaking to obey their college's rules before they got their grants—lay a real claim to give everybody precisely those opportunities he never had, and lack of which he fought so hard to overcome. All of us, in Abingdon, Vallingford or Didcot, are going to miss his sturdy integrity very much; if we grieve for him we are deceiving ourselves. He lived his life to the full, and when he died, widely respected for his wisdom and courage, must have known that he had done all that a man can do in one life. We should be grateful: 'we shall not see his like again'. To his widow and two children we offer our sincere sympathy in their loss. The funeral took place privately, but a Thanksgiving Service for his life was held in Dorchester Abbey on Wednesday 8 January. There, surrounded by representatives of all the bodies he served on and the areas he loved so much, the combined choirs of the five schools of which he was a member sang. The address was given by the Headmaster of Abingdon School.

William Woodall

After the theoretical closure of this issue that we hear, with deep regret, of the death of Mr Woodall, who was one of the representatives of Oxfordshire County Council on the Governing Body. Although at his death on Monday 13 January at the early age of fifty he was chief administrative officer of the Rutherford Laboratory, he found time, in the comparatively spare space of his sojourn in Berkshire, to enter fully into the life of the county. His main interest seems to have been in the field of town and country planning—he was a member of the Oxford and District Planning Committee, and was associated with the Council for the Preservation of Rural Land—but he was also a keen governor of this school, the Oxford Tech, Vallingford GS, as well as maintaining an interest in village cricket through the Conservative Association. To his widow and two children we offer our warmest sympathy.

In the Headmaster's

As with a sense of real personal loss that I heard of the death of a man Freeman. As the senior member of the Governing Body, he had survived of those who appointed me to office in 1946. It gave him pleasure in his last illness to know that he had been elected to the office which was to arrange for the appointment of my successor. In the course of the last twenty-two years my respect—and affection—for him grew steadily. He was a man whose native acumen and devotion to service made up for deficiency of formal education. His integrity and courage were admired by friend and foe alike—and once the battle was over his foes were equally his friends, for he fought hard but fairly as a good loser. Others will commemorate his outstanding service to Oxford County, to the Rural District, and to his beloved Didcot, service which was so rightly honoured by the Queen. I am bound to think more of his devotion to this School, a school which was offering to a younger generation opportunities which he himself had never enjoyed. It is not so long since he stopped cycling from Didcot to those terminal meetings which he so rarely missed. In him we salute a great public servant, and an Englishman too, whose old-fashioned patriotism, the deeper because not worn on his sleeve, is not too common nowadays.

* * * *

I hope it is not too late, too, for me to add my own brief word of tribute to Frances Kitching, whom five very young Directors of Music proud to have as their colleague. Her untimely death removed one whose contribution to the musical life of school and of town were incalculable. Happily her work lives on, and this is the memorial she would have wished. As I write these words the Holiday Orchestra, her own foundation is presenting its 'play-through' in the town. I know it has been a labour of love for Mr le Fleming to do so much to fill the gap, but even labours of love make big demands on virtue and I and many others are grateful to him.

* * * *

It was a busy but uneventful term. My own personal memories of it are a mixed bag—the new boys' service and tea (an innovation this—thank you, ladies of TASS!); the Radley match, where we held our own against a first-class team; and at the other end of the term a well-arranged production to mark the twenty-first birthday of the Dramatic Society by a Carol Service which lifted me for an hour to another plane of existence. But perhaps I treasure most two more trivial incidents. The one was a ten-minute off-the-cuff talk by a member of our Russian party, the other was that moment in the Second Year Sixth Divinity period when a benchman suddenly came out with an unequivocal confession of orthodox Christian faith. I wish he'd bite some of his fellows . . .

* * * *

And of course I have continued to lead my double life, one day in London (where my official vagations took me from the Dorchester to the next back in Abingdon reminding myself that it is this school which really matters. By and large I think our young men are very serious about things. The school cap has disappeared almost without notice and the sixth form has responded well to the challenge of its new freedom of dress. The School is a brighter place and (in spite of what one or two Boys say) I don't think the standard of discipline or manners has come down. We are shortening up a bit on hair this term. But this is not taken as the mark of a new policy of reaction. In fact we spend a lot of time in thinking just how we can make the School a more human and civilised place, how we can give our senior boys the maximum amount of freedom—and responsibility, for the two go together.

* * * *

A drab year has ended not with a bang but with a whimper—the whimper of the QE2 as she limps home from the Canaries. But for us it has been cheered by the sound of the builders behind the Colonnade where the Biology Block is gradually taking shape, and by the continued stream of telephone calls which between them have brought us news of no less than 24 places at Oxbridge, including three awards. This is a very fine result and I feel it is in large measure due to the fact that a number of our boys did a lot of very hard work last term. It may be that the poor 'A' results were a blessing in disguise in that they provided a certain amount of salutary shock treatment.

* * * *

And once again I am deeply grateful to the hundreds of parents, boys and Old Boys who remembered us at Christmas. The cards of the Old Boys especially, brought back so many happy memories—and incidentally provided much news of matches and hatches and the like which will ever find its way into *Abingdonian*.

* * * *

we look forward to a term which starts with incident, for on January we shall welcome to the School Professor Donnison and two of his colleagues of the Public Schools Commission. We hope that in the course of their necessarily short visit they will be able to get some idea what makes the school tick. After nearly twenty-three years I am still trying to find
JMC

* * * *

On this issue goes to press I have heard of the death, at an early age, of one of the County representatives on our Governing Body, Mr WW Woodall. Although he had been a Governor for such a short time he had already begun to make his mark, as witness his recent election to the Building and Finance Committee. It is clear that in the days ahead his special expertise and his wide knowledge of men would have been as valuable to us as it had already shown itself to the County Council. I would like to add my own message of sympathy to Mrs Woodall and the family on their untimely loss.
JMC

Twenty Dramatic Years: ASDS 1948-68

Nicholas Minns

I begin with a paradox. There is no real Dramatic Society; there is no description, no fixed membership (there is no actors' clique in the school anything like that), and it mounts no outings to the theatre. The Dramatic Society is merely a useful collective name to describe boys from the school and girls from St Helen's when they rehearse and perform a play at the end of each year.

Before 1948 there had been a Rag Concert, instigated by Mr Ingham in 1915, and before that sources have indicated plays performed by boys of the school as early as 1760, though what was performed is not recorded. In 1948 Mr Griffin came up the drive in his Morris van and the idea of a school play came with him.

At first there were no auditions at all, picking prospective actors was a matter of realising the symptoms when they were evident, and once decided on the project, boys were extremely willing to make a good job of it. Everybody including members of staff was keen, which is perhaps the most important factor in producing a school play. At first there were only girls, and in true Shakespearian tradition boys would take their parts; however, when it was decided to do Romeo and Juliet it was also obvious that the time had come to introduce some young ladies to the school play, and consequently an invitation was extended to St Helen's School which was accepted. This necessitated the use of auditions and these have since become standard practice for both sexes. The initial reaction to the new play was adverse; no doubt the proud male indignant at these beautiful girls sharing their limelight. This barrier gradually fell and a more relaxed, natural atmosphere has existed in subsequent productions.

The first play of 1948 was Julius Caesar which was put on as part of the Under's Day celebrations and ran for two performances. With all due respect it seems to have been a rather crude affair. There was no scenery, a pair of steps made by Mr Coleman and a table by courtesy of Mr May's of Abingdon. But for all its eccentricities it was very successful and greatly stimulated a great deal of interest. The following year saw two plays; The Critics and Journey's End, the latter of which boasted the first boy by Mr Cooper, who was then a member of staff. It was in this play

that one of the leading characters dislocated his elbow before the performance, but because an arm in a sling was so harmonious with the bellicose nature of the play and Jeremy Cullen's apparent image, the production went off without further mishap and still remains one of the school's favourites.

Two more of Shakespeare's plays and a comedy followed before the Corn Exchange (where the plays used to be put on) received its new lighting system; spotlights were first used in 1952 for *Richard the Second*.

The stage in the Corn Exchange was raked, a difficulty which could not be entirely overcome. Wedges were tried to prop up the sets but they were still susceptible to unnerving movement. Not only was it raked but it was small, so that when *The School for Scandal* was produced in the College Hall in 1965, an all round improvement was evident both from the actors' point of view and that of the stage manager. And, with the move in 1966 to the Abbey Hall for the mighty *The Duchess of Malfi* the improvement went up. To alleviate the cost of earlier productions members of staff (rather than their wives) were kind enough to make a lot of the costumes themselves. Perhaps the most prolific was Mrs Sewry, who made a great contribution to the costumes in *Julius Caesar* and other productions. But the coming of plays such as *Caesar and Cleopatra* and *St Joan*, it became evident that another source had to be found even though there was backing from the Abingdon Drama Club and the Unicorn Theatre. This vacancy came Nathan's costumes and gayer colours. Mr Fairclough, our art master, has designed and executed more beautiful and extravagant sets (with especial reference to this year's) and productions have enjoyed more grandeur, which is a pleasure to see.

Yet even with the most exuberant sets, the most delectable costuming and the most modern equipment, there is no real correlation between the quality and the finesse of the production. That all the twenty-one productions have been of a very high standard (each year the present play is 'the best one yet') is due to the hard work, the prowess and tolerance of Mr Griffin, who this year celebrated his twenty-first birthday in his capacity of producer and director. To quote Mr Griffin in the *Quartercentenary* magazine, 'Almost from the very beginning the Plays have been very much of a team affair'. Yes, but so it is with any repertory company, and it is the producer's name which very deservedly appears in bold letters on the posters and programmes. There is an analogy here.

Le Malade Imaginaire

Charles Ma

I feel profoundly depressed about writing this. It seems to me that often the reason for reviewing a School Play—dreaded name—is to tell those responsible on the back and to inform the world at large that a Thing actually took place. But since, in my considered opinion, the very little value in a 'review' of that sort, don't expect it. Though it may be less palatable, it will do far more good if I suggest how various aspects might improve their presentation; which means that I shan't flinch in saying what I thought was wrong. But as a whole the production was a success, and in general it was funny. At any rate, I laughed more than any time I saw it. Molière is not easy to do at any time; he does not translate well, and the Malleon adaptation in use is quite atrocious, and put the cast and producer at a disadvantage straight away. In any case, this is almost impossible to present in a way that corresponds fully to the author's intentions, because it's a contradiction. It's full of slap

humour, and the characters are exquisite studies; but it isn't at all funny. In fact the picture Molière paints, of really savage hypocrisy and selfishness, is horrifying—and this was not apparent in the School's production. Indeed, the production was clearly not meant to bring out this aspect of the play, which was treated more as a farce than as a mordant piece of social satire.

Douglas Henderson's masterly portrayal of Argan, the ageing and extremely irritable hypochondriac, exactly suited this interpretation. It is very difficult to praise his comic talent enough; all I can say is that by himself he made the production hum. Not a move, a gesture, or an expression did he miss. I wish I had his gift for acting; with that ability ad lib and bring in the comic business that keeps the audience laughing, he should have a considerable future. If he was not quite so convincing in the less straight forward parts—in some of his more sudden rages, for instance, or when Argan discovers his wife's real attitude towards him—is in no way spoilt his performance; these are matters of technique which will come with experience.

The second biggest part in *Le Malade*—though it doesn't nearly reach the name-part's length—is that of Toinette, Argan's abominable maid and nurse. Georgina Howarth gave an immensely assured performance, tackling a singularly awkward part with great gusto and obvious enjoyment. Without doubt a performance like this is very helpful to those in the cast who are less confident, if not less experienced; but her characterisation was unsubtle, and her continual screwing together of her hands, and the monotonous upward lift she gave to the end of each phrase, quickly palled. However her worst fault was that she did not always seem to match her tone of voice and her facial expression to the meaning of the words. She was by no means alone in this: nearly all the others fell into the same trap of throwing lines away through not understanding them, though Cléante (Nicholas Minns) was most obvious in this respect.

In other ways, however, Mr Minns's performance was extremely good: his faintly mannered, light mockery was just in character, and he provided the perfect foil to Clare Richardson's sweetly reticent Angélique.

The other thing over which the cast failed badly was their inability to wait for the laughter to subside after a joke. Many of the follow-ups were lost through this; although on the first night, with an audience for the first time, this can be forgiven, they really shouldn't have been doing it on the Saturday. Strangely, it was most noticeable in the best scene, which was the Diaforus (or is it Diafori?) and music scene. After a slightly heavy-handed start to the direction, everything settled down in this scene, which would be very hard to fault in any major aspect. The Diaforus père and fils (Michael Baker and Andrew Wood) were two beautifully exaggerated studies. If Mr Baker had made slightly less noise and spoken and moved with rather more weight, he would have been perfect; and though Mr Wood's interpretation of young Dr Thomas as a budding pansy could hardly, I felt, be justified by the text, it was exquisitely funny. And their underling exit was in the best slapstick tradition. Mr Minns and Miss Richardson performed the music faultlessly—if I hadn't known they weren't actually playing that ropey-looking instrument, I wouldn't have guessed. Let me here praise Antony le Fleming's excellent Lully music: I don't think it is exaggerating to say that it gave the performance a decided air of distinction.

After this scene it was inevitable that there should be a certain amount of anti-climax towards the end, but even the performances of John

Hounam as the furious Dr Purgon, and Ian Bricknell as his Jew apothecary (a subtle touch, that) could not prevent the production from going badly downhill towards the end. This pair gave two superb performances, and fully deserved their round of applause. In the same scene David Dean, as Argan's brother Beralde, came into his own. He made the basic mistake of moving downstage and presenting his back view to the audience, who doubtless wondered whether it was a piece of avant-garde but it is to his credit that all his lines were clearly audible, which is more than can be said of some of those who followed the textbook and always faced downstage. In contrast to Mr Henderson, he was at his best when angry, losing his stiffness. I much enjoyed his sound performance.

Unless one is going to have a full-scale musical masquerade at the end of a Molière play is almost bound to go out like a deflated bladder, so I will say nothing of the ending. There was nothing that could have been done short of rewriting Malleon's singularly inept scene, to improve it; but it was a pity that the audience didn't know whether it had ended or not. Embarrassing, too. As usual RH Baker's lighting was unobtrusively brilliant; but TKG Fairhead's scenery came slightly unstuck with some unconvincing marble pilasters, though it was otherwise nicely adapted and competently set up. Since that is not a very good note to end on, may I add my own congratulations to Mr and Mrs John Griffin on the twentieth anniversary of the Dramatic Society—perhaps I should say to their Dramatic Society. May all their productions be as enjoyable as *Malade Imaginaire*.

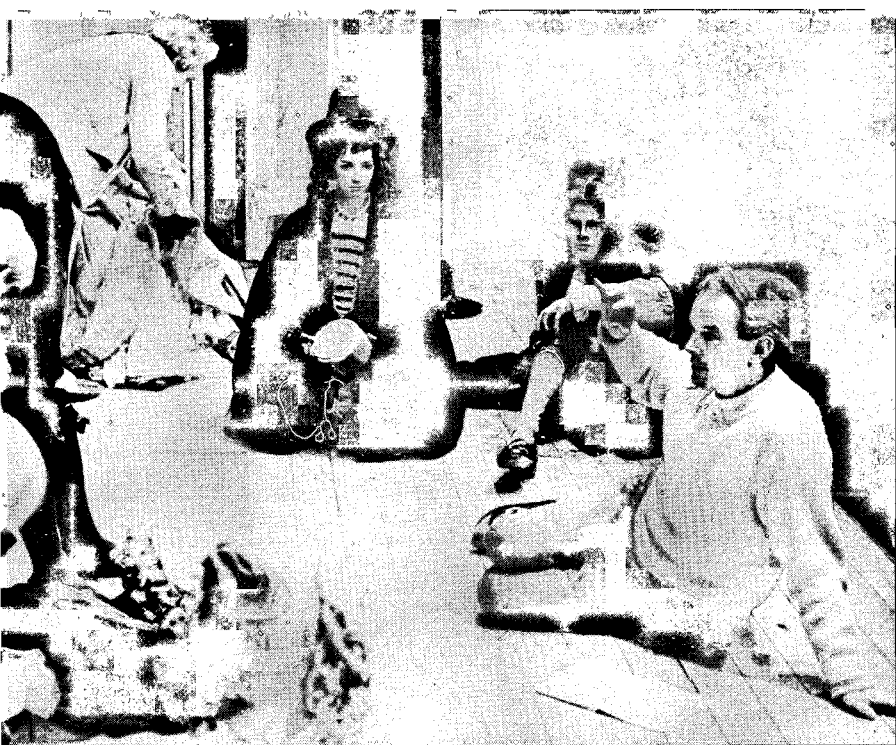
Prizegiving 1968

Robin Blackburn

The Prize Giving on Thursday 10 October in the Abbey Hall was significant in that it kindled a spark of inspiration in a ceremony which in many schools has become moribund by slavishly following a traditional pattern. Contributing to the occasion was Mr WR van Straubenzee, MP, who has sacrificed valuable time from parliamentary duty at Blackpool in order to present the prizes.

Mr. Bredin, the Chairman, opened the proceedings by calling on the Headmaster to make his report, who then summarised the year's events, stressing the continued extension of the School's horizons, and then moving on to the boys. 'There has been a big change in boys' attitudes over the last five years—possibly more than over the whole of the previous fifty years,' he said, 'and we now have a body of boys at the top who have a spirit of questioning and self-questioning, which I think is not at all unhealthy.' When the correspondents of the national press visited the School they were surprised to have a confrontation with the boys, and not boys having been picked to say the right thing—in fact the reverse. I should not like to be headmaster of a school where the boys could not say exactly what they felt.

He then mentioned the sad story of the Newsom Commission's report and welcomed the impending inquiry into the Direct Grant Schools. He concluded by saying, 'We in these schools are going to do our best to find a way to continue to play our part without loss of standards. The independent schools want to open up new doors; and the DG system offers an obvious way of doing this. If we fail—if some are swallowed up by the State system and others are forced to go independent—it will be a very bad thing for the country.'



**Le Malade
Imaginaire**

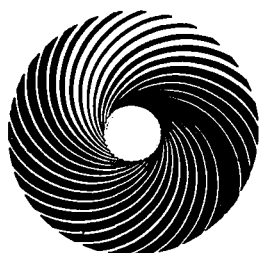




particularly on Nissen huts
(pp 392 and 415)



After the presentation of the prizes the Chairman introduced Mr van Straubenze who said it had been his intention to visit the School with the express purpose of addressing the boys. He went on to define the educated man as someone who, because he appreciates how little he in fact knows, is uncomfortable. In support of this he quoted a Chinese proverb: 'To be certain is to be uncomfortable, but to be certain is to be ridiculous'. Mr van Straubenze hoped that every assertion from officialdom—notably politicians—would be questioned. The ideal is to be a doer, not a viewer; to be an active and personal part in all tasks. Then there will be a prospect of positive achievement and humble satisfaction unequalled by the gratification of a mere spectator. To conclude the proceedings, Dr Henry Booth thanked Mr van Straubenze for his stimulating address and the National Anthem was sung. A list of the prizewinners is at the other end of the magazine.



Music

Christmas Term 1968—and immediately one recalls the dreadful impact of the death of Frances Kitching. Suddenly, everything went quite dark; several days before the fact reached a terminus in consciousness. To you who knew her, there is no need to say that she meant to us much more than even an inspired teacher. To those who were not so fortunate this may suffice—the ultimate effect was not our being crushed with the sense of the unexpected removal of half our sphere of musical guidance and vitality. No, the extraordinary thing is that she left us inspired. John Gardner expressed it so well at the Abingdon Holiday Orchestra when he said that the best tribute to Frances lies in the continued flourishing of her work, and the permanence of all that she founded. Indeed, this year's O—one of her favourite brain-children—was better than ever, and great credit must go to the committee under Stephen Fairlie, who so ably carried on Frances's work. Meanwhile, to form a concrete memorial, a Trust Fund has been set up in order to provide expert tuition and travelling bursaries for young musicians. This is now well on its way towards its total of £100, but more is needed. Donations should be sent to 18 Marcham Road, Abingdon.

Many friends, pupils and colleagues sang and played at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Frances Kitching on 5 October in St Helen's Church. From this came the formation of the Abingdon String Orchestra, which meets regularly on Tuesday evenings, aiming towards two concerts in April.

We are most indebted to Mary Butt, who has taken over most of the violin teaching in the School. The extraordinary quickness with which she grasped the point of our complicated system of violin teaching was

admirably revealed at the Parents' Evening in November. This followed the previous year's pattern of showing in detail the work going on in the field. Everyone (including press-ganged parents) began with rounds, a continued via solos and chamber music to conclude with a much improved First Orchestra string body playing the *Serenata Notturna* of Mozart.

In my job, one dips into one's first Christmas carol of the year round about August, and by December, one's very lucky if one's not suffering from carol fatigue. Not so this year, for two main reasons. There was an abundance of much-welcomed original carols. These began as entries for the Christmas Concert at Larkmead School and were performed here during morning chapels and the end of term concert. Secondly, the Chapel Choir timed things admirably to produce their best at the Carol Service in St Helen's. I chose more suitable carols this year, and both this and the accent on instrumental backing made its preparation enjoyable.

The end of term concert took place in the Court Room (heating on the time) on the final Sunday. It was a happy pot-pourri of mainly Christmas music. A special feature—apart from the original carols—was the contribution given by the juniors: a new choral society, started by Mr Ham Mancey, sang two carol suites, one of which was accompanied by the junior orchestra under Stephen Fairlie's admirable direction. The finale, a Carol Fantasia incorporating Chapel Choir, senior orchestra and choral society plus audience—was the same as last year's Christmas Concert finale. Dare I say it? (Yes, undoubtedly—Ed) I reckon this is half way becoming an annual tradition. Orchestra, choir—if you can't bear the idea of it again, apply for its destruction immediately. But don't forget, you have a year ahead in which to forget about it! ARL

The Subscription Concerts Society began what is possibly its best season yet with a concert sponsored by the BBC and broadcast in the Music series of programmes. This was the London Concertante, basically Doug Whittaker (flute), Janet Craxton (oboe), Hugh Maguire (violin), Bruce Schrecker (cello) and Alan Harverson (harpsichord)—a very high-power line-up who gave a most impressive recital of baroque and modern music. In contrast, Charles Gregory's lecture-recital on the guitar was a slight disappointment. What he played was exquisite, but there was so little of it that he left his audience cold. His talk, laced with amusing anecdotes, was somewhat superficial, dealing more with the wood used in construction of his various instruments and their value than with more important matters. But all was redeemed and more than redeemed by Paul Tortelier's concert with the English Chamber Orchestra, at which he was both conductor and soloist. This concert was given under the Eastern Authority Orchestral Association Scheme. It is difficult to express the feelings that the marvellous concert evoked. Tortelier's matchless playing of CPE Bach's A major Cello Concerto, his relaxed and effortless conducting of the EC's faultless ensemble, made this one of the finest concerts to have been heard in Abingdon, certainly since the opening of the dreaded Abbey Hall and probably a lot longer.

This term's two concerts look to be as good. The Amadeus Quartet, paying its second visit to Abingdon on 26 January, thus emphasising that the three finest quartets around—the Smetana and the Hungarian besides the other two—have all played to us in the past three years. The season finishes with a piano recital by Balint Vaszonyi on 9 February.

The Music Society is not having a very good time: it is suffering from lack of co-ordination between societies (and judging by this term's Calendar

are going to get worse) and only managed two concerts last term. The only School society to have its own separate report, and this is for two reasons: first, it is not in the true sense a society, but rather a committee within the Department which organises concerts; and second, it seems it would be illogical to separate the report from the main article. Also, of course, the Secretary's article gives added weight to our campaign for a central societies' body. Stephen Fairlie writes:

The first concert, on 6 October, suffered from a basic lack of programme material, especially from the younger musicians. However, this concert, organised by David Howells, did not fail to provide a delightful evening's entertainment, which will perhaps be remembered primarily for the 'Variations on a well-known French Tune'. This attractive and original concert was arranged and played by Jeremy Pike and Barry Bignold.

Most will have heard of 'Charles's eight celli'—or more properly The Jeanne Fry Cello Consort—which gave a second concert on 10 November in the Court Room. This was possibly the Society's most ambitious effort and it is a tribute to Charles Maude's expertise in advertising that few failed to notice it. The programme was shared by two composers, Villa-Lobos and Antony le Fleming (who also conducted). It is a pity that the term's most flamboyant and musically most satisfying event should be outside the Society's declared scope, but it was undoubtedly worthwhile. Mention must be made here of the enormous amount of extra work that Jeanne Fry so freely gave to get the group off the ground, and the expert manner in which Charles produced the concert. Nothing failed to escape his notice—the press were there, the lighting was original, the heating was on—and, wonder of wonders, by dint of a few large insouciant filches from the Music School, the Court Room looked almost normal (so to speak). The next day Dr Horace Fitzpatrick wrote in the *Mail*:

Last night's concert of music for the rare combination of eight violoncellos at Abingdon School doubly rewarded its clearly imaginative organisers. The occasion not only showed the wealth of colour and texture which the medium is capable of, but also demonstrated the high level of accomplishment some of the young players of the Oxford area have reached on this difficult instrument.

Marked by the firm, singing tone of their teacher, Jeanne Fry, the concert brought off the vigorous Latin rhythms of the Villa-Lobos *Bachianas Brasileiras* Nos 1 and 5 with neatness and style. There was a patch of poor intonation towards the end of the Prelude of No 1, and the Prelude of No 5 had a moment of uncertainty in its complex cross-rhythms; but the beauty and blend of the ensemble sound was in no way marred by these minor blemishes, and one was carried over them by the group's lively spirit. The addition of Christian Hunter's fine soprano in the first work, with her easy and confident reading of the demanding part, made for pleasant listening as always.

The Suite for Eight Celli by the School's Director of Music, Antony le Fleming, is indicative of his skill, these young musicians are fortunate to have a composer of ability working with them. The piece, a satire on musical themes, showed above all a sense of shape and colour. There were striking effects, and the spacing of the voices used the character of various registers without muddiness or monotony.

The concert had a pleasing workshop atmosphere reminiscent of the recording studio, with klieg lights, microphones, and a number of electric wires contrasting with the dinner jackets and long dresses of the

players. Here at least is a firm step towards ending the nationwide shortage of good strings.'

So although the Music Society continues to give a great deal of pleasure to its enthusiastic audiences, I cannot help feeling that it is failing to fulfil the purpose for which it was formed. It still does not provide a platform for performance or the spur to chamber music in the department that it ought to. I hope efforts will be made to amend this.

Our thanks go to the Editor of the Oxford Mail for allowing us to repeat the review above.

Carol Service

For many the Carol Service is the highlight of the school year. What makes it so? For some it is a chance to hear the choir at its best. For others it may be a moving preparation for the Christmas season. No matter what the reason, St Helen's Church was again filled for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

As a prelude to the service, Purcell's string fantasias were played. Surely there can be no music better suited for this purpose.

The service followed the usual pattern with the lessons and carols claiming the story of the Fall and Redemption, of man. All the Lessons were read with clarity and a natural feeling for the words. This year, for the first time, the first lesson was read by five new boys, each reading the part of one character in the story of man's disobedience in the Garden of Eden.

From a musical point of view, there was more variety than usual. The Bach chorale was sung beside a Negro Spiritual—both were original hymns of praise. There were modern carols as well as the more well-known ones. The interesting rhythms of William Mathias' Wassail Carol gave immediate flair and life to the service. The use of strings in Terry's Myn Llydd doubled the soft effect of the carol and were used effectively in Anne Fleming's beautiful arrangement of the Polish Carol In Nightly Stillness.

The climax of the service was reached at the ninth lesson in which the meaning of Christ's coming is told by St John. The moment was given even more poignance with the following carol. The Venezuelan folk-song of Joseph and Maria seemed to catch the whole congregation by surprise and gave the service a completely new dimension.

Congregation participation is a necessary factor in the success of a carol service and prevents it from becoming a recital of words and music. For this reason there are five hymns 'To be sung by all'. Surely 'O Father's love begotten' is one of the finest hymns ever written. It is to find such a perfect balance between words and music. The whole service is dependent on the balance between words and music and this year it was outstandingly achieved.

Chapel Notes

New Chaplain brings a new hand to the Chapel Notes as well as to other aspects of Chapel worship. The first thing that he would wish to do is to pay tribute to David Street for his five years of ministry at Abingdon School and to thank him for leaving things in such good order. To adapt Eliot's Thomas a Becket:

'I will try to leave them in order as I find them.

I am more than grateful for all your kind attentions.

These are small matters. Little rest in Abingdon

With eager enemies restless about us . . . '

We were all delighted to hear that he has been appointed Warden of the Rugby Clubs at Notting Hill Gate and pray that his ministry may be fully fulfilled in this area of real tensions. We are all glad for his sake that Sister Margaret Bright is to join him in this venture, even though it means the loss of one of the Chapel's most loyal supporters. Her help in the Chapel flowers will be greatly missed, as will her unswerving devotion and faithful witness Sunday by Sunday.

Probably 'accidie', negligence or indifference, is the most deadly enemy of our regular worship at school. Without doubt a first priority must be to ensure faithful and regular communions of boys who, only two or three years earlier, made solemn promises to the Bishops of Oxford or Reading. The example of masters in this matter is of great importance. Attendance at Holy Communion is vitally important for the life of the Church. It is the best way in which we can grow in the strength given us by the precious Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We continued to use the Series II Service last term at all celebrations. It has been found possible to move the altar forward so that the celebrant may face westward, in accordance with the most ancient liturgical practice. The server now reads the Epistle or Lesson, and the maximum possible advantage is taken of congregational participation in prayers and collects. We hope that in due course we shall be able to revive the sung Eucharist with full choral involvement throughout the Liturgy, so that it may truly come that which the word means, the work of the laos—the laity, the people.

Early in the term a party of five boys, accompanied by the Chaplain, visited St Anne's, Limehouse, and once again we are most grateful to Fr. Pitts and his parishioners for the warmth of our welcome. It is very much to be hoped that in due course it may be possible for similar visits to be paid to the Rugby Clubs so that we may learn at first hand the important work that David Street is doing there.

Over three separate weeks during the term weekday Chapel services were given by boys. The Third Forms elected Chapel committees of their own and produced a refreshing variety of acts of worship, dramatic and musical. A highlight was Jeremy Pike's original composition of a hymn. We also wish to congratulate Nicholas Talbot on his original composition of the words and setting for a Christmas Carol, which obtained second place in a competition between six Abingdon schools.

An innovation this term has been the introduction of a 'composer for the week' chosen by the Director of Music, and performed by him and other soloists, as well as groups of performers or gramophone recordings. These have taken place before, during and after Senior Chapel. Among the composers who have featured so far have been Haydn, Schumann, Debussy, Cell, Shostakovich and Hindemith. These have proved very popular

and I hope that Mr le Fleming will receive plenty of requests suggestions for further composers.

It was a great pleasure to welcome David Street back in Chapel Sunday 6 October, when he received into the church Giles Will Scarlett Potter (already baptized in hospital), the adopted son of Bill Angela Potter. The two Bible study groups have met on Monday Wednesday evenings at 23 Park Road and we are most grateful to and Mrs Eden for all their kindness and hospitality.

The highlight of the term was the Confirmation on the First Sunday Advent by the Lord Bishop of Oxford of twenty-nine candidates. They were: Stephen Bailey, Richard Barwood, Barry Bignold, Timothy Br Stephen Cantwell, Simon Chislett, Paul Clarke, Bryan Cluble, R Eastgate, Richard Gyselynck, John Jacques, Derwent King, Stephen Lambert, Christopher Leonard, David Longman, Anthony Madin, M Paddison, Richard Potter, John Rawlinson, Peter Rigby, John Row Graham Smith, Nicholas Talbot, Julian Turner, John Walker, Rory W roper, Brian Waters, Thomas Wheeler and Roderick Wood. Once again we are indebted to the Cowley Fathers, and in particular to Brother C SSJE, for organising two very helpful Quiet Afternoons for the candidates immediately prior to their Confirmation.

Without question a further notable event was the Service of Lessons and Carols held in St. Helen's Church on 10 December. The readers of lessons were as follows: CJ Baumann, RS Chapman, AF Jackson, I Mushens, NJ Tresidder (New Boys), AC Clift (Chorister), VA Rann (Head of Boarders), ILM Carr (Head of School), Mr TG Fairclough (Master), the Chaplain, the Vicar of Abingdon, Mr JH Hooke (Governor and the Headmaster. A musical appreciation will be found elsewhere, it is only proper to record our gratitude to Antony le Fleming for unsparing efforts to produce this musical treat, and to say how popular were the two more folk-like carols, De Virgin Mary (arranged by Malcolm Sargent) and Joseph And Maria, a Venezuelan folk carol. It was a great pleasure to have David Murphy O.A. back at the organ.

We are most grateful to those groups of boys and ladies of the school who have provided flowers for the Chapel each week, and particularly Mrs Bedwell for her continuing care of the Chapel and the flower-vases. In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to the Sacristans, Mr Geary, Simon Shield and Alan Brown, for their faithful work, and to those boys who in addition to the Sacristans have served at the altar. A final word of thanks is due to Miss Farr for her care in laundering the fair linen.

The term's visiting preachers were: RA Dahl, HM of Wrekin College; MP Birley, HM of Eastbourne College; and BL Deed, former HM of Stamford School. Those we hope to welcome this term are:

26 Jan: The Rev R Berry (All Saints Church, Abingdon).

2 Feb: RJ Northcote-Green, Esq, HM of Worksop School.

16 Feb: SD Woods, Esq, HM of Barnard Castle School.

9 Mar: The Rev John Coventry, SJ, of Heythrop College.

Also we look forward to welcoming Brother Cyril SSJE who will give the five Lenten Addresses each Thursday from 20 February to 20 March at 1800.

The term's 'outside' collections were:

	£	s.	d.
Iran Disaster Fund	21	2	1
St Anne's Limehouse	8	4	2
N Berks Society for the Mentally Handicapped ...	6	10	9

Hostel of God	...	...	...	6	4	1
New Guinea Mission	...	...	...	7	14	11
Confirmation Service	...	...	...	20	0	0
St Pancras Housing Trust	...	...	...	6	2	3
C of E Children's Society/St Helen's (Carol Service)	...	...	...	26	10	0

In addition four heavy tins were sent to the British Legion after Remembrance Sunday weekend.

SPORTS SECTION

Rugby football

First Fifteen. In these days of specialisation men zeal in physical pursuits seems to be increasingly derided in academic circles while sports themselves are dominated by professionalism, it is very difficult for the athletic schoolboy to maintain a balanced attitude towards his game and still derive the satisfaction of achieving a high standard. It is to the credit of the First XV that they were able to do this. Perhaps the feature of the team was that they were in the truest sense amateurs and therefore what would, through fitness failures and injuries, have been a disappointing season, turned out to be an extremely enjoyable one.

We started with no shortage of talent, for returning from last year's season was the whole of the front row and both wing-forwards while in the backs Booker, Morgan and Akinbiyi had all been successful runners the year before. The shortcomings were soon revealed, for against Radley in the first school match the forwards gave an inept display in the loose and misled the backs, when they did get the ball, to run from impossible positions. The score perhaps belies the run of play but the Fifteen were still beaten. This sort of play continued, in spite of changes, until well on to the second half of the season and the game against Warwick School confirmed this state of affairs. With fifteen minutes to go we were some ten points down and yet only lost 19—20 having completely dominated the first quarter of the game. Perhaps it was as well then that we could fall back on the excuse of injuries. It certainly roused the team from their lethargy and no-one was more startled than Nautical College, Pangbourne when they were convincingly beaten by a side containing four reserves. But whatever the deficiencies there was never any shortage of goodwill, endeavour and hard-work. Blackburn, Semmence and Matthews continued their good work and were a formidable proposition in the set scrums.



It took some time to find a satisfactory second row — it was here perhaps that we missed the determination of people like the Bosley brothers Nicholas Cook — and eventually it was Simon Woods, promoted from Colts, who seemed to solve the problem and incidentally provided catalyst for Godfrey's talents. The back row of Carr, John Cox and R gave little away in defence and was very energetic if a little inflexible attack; to these must be added Harrison who came in very late a injury to provide the most spectacular tackling of the term.

At half-back, Coulbeck, though still rather deliberate, has quickened considerably and has never lacked determination. Lloyd Morgan stands by playing in his usual heart-stopping fashion but gradually settled him to become a very competent stand-off half. At threequarter, Booker not nearly so effective this year until the last few matches but And Varley used his devastating speed off the mark to make up for his shortcomings in defence. On the wings, Akinbiyi was very impressive perhaps the hardest man to pull down but would have done better to more. James Cox would probably have come on better if not so hampered by an injured knee. Once again we were well served at full back. Michael Hill's catching, kicking and tackling were impeccable but his run was a little slow and hesitant.

The team was outstandingly captained by Ivan Carr and his determination and firm control of the side were impressive. His unfortunate concussion in the Old Abingdonian game was a depressing way of ending the season but there is no-one so philosophical as he. It was just as well that he had such an able deputy as the secretary, Robin Blackburn, who would make an extremely good captain in his own right.

Finally, we record our customary but nonetheless sincere thanks to Mrs Sandford and Mrs Macklow for feeding an ever increasing number of boys, to Mr Smithson for dealing with an ever increasing amount of mail and to Mr Willis who somehow manages to cope with an ever decreasing number of Second Fifteen players, expert coaches and rugby balls.

During the season, Full Colours were awarded to AO Akinbiyi, Blackburn, JP Cox, RL Matthews, LI Morgan, A Rose and AJ Varley. Half Colours were awarded to NS Coulbeck, JL Cox, JBA Godfrey, Hill, PB Harrison, JE North and MC Varley.

The arrangement of the team for the last match was: MJ Hill; Akinbiyi, NJ Booker, AJ Varley, JE North; LI Morgan, NS Coulbeck, RL Matthews, AW Semmence, RK Blackburn, JBA Godfrey, SA Wood, PB Harrison, JP Cox, A Rose.

Also played: ILM Carr (Captain) (11 times); MG Baker (10 times); Cox, S Bodimeade (8 times); KP Brown (7 times); MC Varley (6 times); RJ Grant and BK Langmead (twice).

RAF Abingdon	Fri 20 Sept	(h)	Lost	20-2
Radley College	Sat 28 Sept	(a)	Lost	6-1
Oxford School	Sat 5 Oct	(a)	Draw	8-8
Warwick School	Wed 9 Oct	(h)	Lost	19-2
Solihull School	Sat 12 Oct	(a)	Lost	6-2
Magdalen College School	Wed 16 Oct	(a)	Won	29-0
Pembroke College	Sat 19 Oct	(h)	Won	26-0
Leighton Park School	Wed 23 Oct	(a)	Lost	14-1
Newbury Grammar School	Sat 2 Nov	(h)	Won	9-0
Gillingham School (On tour)	Mon 4 Nov	(h)	Lost	3-1
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 9 Nov	(a)	Lost	6-2

Nautical College, Pangbourne	Wed 13 Nov	(h)	Won 12—5
Laboratory School	Wed 20 Nov	(h)	Lost 3—15
St Abingdonians	Sat 23 Nov	(h)	Won 19—11
Boxham School	Wed 27 Nov	(a)	Won 9—0
Countseys School	Sat 30 Nov	(h)	Cancelled
Reading School	Wed 4 Dec	(a)	Won 33—6

FOA Team (23rd Nov): PN Shellard; AE Johnson, REN Bradfield, PB Godfrey, TR Paxton; P Gibbs, RJM Conibear; RW Schnellmann, TJ Wood, H Willis, CWF Cox, RM Limerick, BG Mackay, PH Blackburn, A Lister.

Second Fifteen. This has been a satisfactory season, enjoyable football and good results being marred by only one fairly heavy defeat at the hands of Radley. The team's consistency was the more remarkable because changes in the side due either to injury or to First Fifteen demands were more numerous than usual.

Of last year's players, several—Akinbiyi, Hill, John Cox and Andrew Varley—were soon taken up by the First Fifteen, only Lenny being left to us for the season to prove a most useful full back, safe in defence and lively in attack. The team was well captained for most of the term by Harfield who, playing at stand off, combined effectively with Comerford at scrum half to work a three-quarter line which at times was very oppressive and secured a large number of points. Ward, Michael Varley, North, Smart, Brown, Stafford and Michael Baker all contributed at various times to this success; and of these, North and Varley were promoted to the First Fifteen for which Baker and Brown also played on occasion, the former as a forward. The scrum was based on the front row by Steele, Grant and Searle, the first two being players of considerable promise, ably supported throughout the season by Langmead, Lilley and Wise but the remaining two places oscillated between several players. Some like Lacey-Johnson and Jeremy Ridge were injured early in the term, others—Bodimeade and Harrison—played off and on for the First Fifteen whilst others again came up from the Third Fifteen. Of the latter, Varley and Cowley were the most regular.

The results of matches speak for themselves. Our biggest defeat—by Radley—was no rout but a hard fought game which is more than can be said for our own victory over Leighton Park where the team had a field day. Perhaps the best games were those against RGS High Wycombe and Reading with Wallingford a close second.

DOW

During the season Half Colours were awarded to: MG Baker, MJ Harfield, BK Langmead and P Lenny.

The final arrangement of the team was: P Lenny; NKA Smart, MR Ward, MG Baker, KP Brown; MJ Harfield, JR Comerford; RJ Grant, M Steele, RJ Searle, CEJ Lilley, BK Langmead, S Bodimeade, AJ Cowley, JCV Wise.

Also played: CG Day (8 times), JE North (7 times), JAF Ridge, TJ Stafford (6 times), V Lacey-Johnson, MC Varley (5 times), PB Harrison, J Hill (4 times), JBA Godfrey (twice), NJ Booker, TJG Healy, CJ Nicholl and AJ Varley (once).

Sturford School	Sat 5 Oct	(h)	Won 23—5
Warwick School	Wed 9 Oct	(a)	Lost 3—15
Widihull School	Sat 12 Oct	(a)	Lost 8—16
Wagdalen College School	Wed 16 Oct	(h)	Won 14—11

Radley College	Sat 19 Oct	(h)	Lost 0-27
Leighton Park School	Wed 23 Oct	(a)	Won 47-0
Newbury Grammar School	Sat 2 Nov	(a)	Won 6-3
John Mason School 1st XV	Wed 6 Nov	(h)	Lost 0-8
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 9 Nov	(a)	Won 21-0
Wallingford Grammar School	Wed 13 Nov	(h)	Draw 3-3
Oxford RFC Colts	Sat 16 Nov	(a)	Draw 8-8
Oratory School	Wed 20 Nov	(a)	Cancelled
Bloxham School	Wed 27 Nov	(a)	Won 23-0
Dauntseys School	Sat 30 Nov	(a)	Cancelled
Reading School	Wed 4 Dec	(h)	Won 19-5

Third Fifteen. In terms of team spirit and enjoyment, this season must be accounted a considerable success although the results on paper are not exceptionally good. There was a remarkable improvement in all aspects of play during the term and it was good to finish off with the best win of the season against Reading School.

We started off with a scratch team lacking in confidence and technique and immediately suffered a heavy defeat by Marlborough. Kilgour soon showed himself to be an inspiring captain of unusual energy and determination. It was unfortunate that he was injured in the match against Edward's School and did not play again. Luckily Milton was available to fill his place at scrum-half where he showed promise.

The pack was lively but not well enough co-ordinated to ensure consistent possession. The loose rucking by the more powerful forwards was lacking in drive so that Hounam and Plail had to bear the brunt of the loose play. Tackling generally was our main weakness.

Earlier on, the backs lacked thrust but this was entirely due to poor handling and with improvement in this both Galbraith and Nicholl began to run much more powerfully and effectively. The wings suffered most of all from hesitant passing and seldom had a clear run but Shatford and Bowden showed up well on occasions. Weir proved to be a very promising full-back.

The Third Fifteen has a very tough fixture list and the team must be congratulated on its excellent spirit throughout.

The team was selected from: HI Kilgour (Captain), JR Weir, C Shatford, TJG Healy, CJ Nicholl, S Hubbard, DW Galbraith, GB Milton, PJ Vaughan, NP Heading, PGK Staniland, RO Plail, RJ Cranford, CP Gibaud, NW Herdman, JC Hounam, IS Bowden, PS Edwardson and TR Baker.

Also played: RJ Searle (6 times), AJ Cowley (4 times), CG Day and P Lenny (once).

Marlborough College	Sat 5 Oct	(a)	Lost 0-26
Warwick School	Wed 9 Oct	(h)	Won 17-5
Magdalen College School	Wed 16 Oct	(a)	Won 3-0
Radley College	Sat 19 Oct	(a)	Lost 5-27
John Mason School 2nd XV	Wed 6 Nov	(h)	Won 19-0
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 9 Nov	(a)	Won 12-0
Cokethorpe School 1st XV	Wed 13 Nov	(a)	Lost 0-12
Bearwood College 2nd XV	Sat 16 Nov	(a)	Lost 0-16
Oratory School	Wed 20 Nov	(h)	Draw 0-0
St Edward's School	Tue 26 Nov	(a)	Lost 0-20
Shiplake College 1st XV	Wed 27 Nov	(h)	Lost 3-15
Reading School	Wed 4 Dec	(h)	Won 30-0

Fourth Fifteen. By the end of the season the Fourth Fifteen was playing good rugby although most of its lessons had been learned the hard way, making mistakes and eventually correcting them.

The main features of this improved play were reasonably skilled performances by a number of players, a few memorable spells of intelligent combined play, and some depressing lapses. Best remembered are the vigorous efforts against St Edward's on what was surely the wettest day in Oxford and the improved standard of play achieved in the match against Stowe.

Particularly worthy of mention for consistently wholehearted effort were George, the Captain, Milton, who played superbly at scrum-half, Crane, Leonard, Hubbard, Kirby as kicker and Bricknell the hooker. NKH

The final team was: AJ Wise; S Hubbard, RG Leonard, GM Lyons, MG Rowford; RJ Crane, GBM Milton; RS Kirby, SV Radnor, JC Griffith, J Eagle (Captain), PJ Vaughan, CN Bowker, DA Hacker, CP Gibaud. Also played: NP Heading, IM Bricknell, TJ Allington, IS Bowden, N Tzer, IMF Fifield, DJ Heard, AP Long, DC Henderson, CG Day, AME Brown, AG Muff, JSB Frere, RHC Savory, MI Johnstone and SP Bridge.

Warborough College	Sat 5 Oct	(a)	Lost 3-24
Witley College	Sat 16 Oct	(a)	Lost 3-25
Wotton Park School	Wed 23 Oct	(h)	Cancelled
St Edward's School	Tue 26 Nov	(a)	Lost 5-33
St Antony's School	Sat 30 Nov	(a)	Cancelled
Stowe School	Sat 7 Dec	(a)	Lost 5-9

Fifth Fifteen. This Colts squad will remain in my memory as being remarkably happy, eager and quick to develop. Pike's quiet authority set the tone for a side which was not just determined to win but also to play good rugby. In several games the standard of handling and intelligent use of possession was very high and to lose only one match—to a typically well drilled Radley side—is a record to be proud of.

At fullback, Murphy inspired confidence in defence but though he often came into the line was not fast enough to be really effective in attack. Wallace and Jordan were both powerful runners on the wing although the latter always shone in defence. Snodgrass in the centre developed a nice pace for a break and timed his passes well as did Minns who improved enormously through the season. Pike has much natural balance. He required a good change of pace as he found extra room to move by more than 100 yds off the mark. Todd played very pluckily at scrum-half early in the season but Deane improved rapidly and provided a quicker and more efficient service in the later games.

In the set the pack was sometimes very effective, at other times the essential shove was not forthcoming. Shellard, Rowley and Smith proved an effective hooking unit and all were quick and eager in the loose. Mackenzie developed well, especially in smuggling the ball in the loose. Cuthbert kicked many useful points. The back row of Paddison, Woods and Evans were always foraging and covering and Baker stood in well for the forwards when the latter went up to the First Fifteen. PVM

For most of the season the team was: DGW Murphy; CA Wallace, NJ Minns, AR Snodgrass, CJ Jordan; GF Pike (Captain), RE Deane; JJ Shellard, JQ Rowley, DI Smith, WH Cuthbert, MR Mackenzie, MT Minns, SA Woods, MS Paddison.

Also played: TR Baker (4 times), PJ Todd (4 times), JC Rowden (3 times), CJ Murray and GR Smith (once).

Warwick School	Wed 9 Oct	(a)	Won 24-1
John Mason School	Wed 16 Oct	(h)	Won 22-
Radley College	Sat 19 Oct	(h)	Lost 8-1
Sir William Borlase's School	Wed 23 Oct	(a)	Draw 8-
Nautical College, Pangbourne	Wed 13 Nov	(h)	Won 20-
Bearwood College	Sat 16 Nov	(a)	Won 27-
Oratory School	Wed 20 Nov	(h)	Won 21-
Bloxham School	Wed 27 Nov	(h)	Won 6-
Dauntseys School	Sat 30 Nov	(a)	Cancelled
Reading School	Wed 4 Dec	(a)	Won 6-

Junior Colts Fifteen. The team started the season with a weakness in half-backs but when Ward was brought in as scrum-half he developed a useful partnership with Price at stand-off which made an extremely strong link between scrum and backs. Harden unfortunately dropped out of the scrum leader early in the term through leg injury but Balbernie, Captain, was able to maintain a consistently good team spirit. As a result even under adverse conditions play was kept open whilst covering loose play were always good. Much of the scoring came from Semme and Sykes on the wings but the team suffered from the lack of a kick. All in all a good season.

The following represented the team: AM Balbernie; KGW Sykes, S Parks, NRA Pollard, J Semmence; PD Price, RA Ward; DN Longo, A Clarke, CL Corner, M Lawless, GB Butcher, PJ Harden, MT Evans, CJG Houston, CC Fathers, NJ Luker, W de F Peck, DPC Smith, R Te WE Tayler.

Oxford School	Sat 5 Oct	(a)	Won 8-
John Mason School	Wed 9 Oct	(a)	Won 18-
Solihull School	Sat 12 Oct	(h)	Won 19-1
Magdalen College School	Wed 16 Oct	(h)	Won 11-
Radley College	Sat 19 Oct	(h)	Lost 3-
Leighton Park School	Wed 23 Oct	(h)	Lost 8-1
Newbury Grammar School	Sat 2 Nov	(h)	Won 14-
Gillingham School (on tour)	Mon 9 Nov	(h)	Won 11-
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 13 Nov	(a)	Won 11-
Wallingford Grammar School	Wed 4 Nov	(h)	Won 23-
Oratory School	Wed 20 Nov	(a)	Won 6-
Bloxham School	Wed 27 Nov	(h)	Won 23-
Dauntseys School	Sat 30 Nov	(a)	Cancelled

Junior Fifteen. This has been an enjoyable term and the keenness and level of talent of the entire game, all thirty-two boys, has been high enough for us to produce one of the best junior sides yet and still allow us to give fewer than twenty-two boys games for the side. Thus it would be invalid to name a Junior Fifteen as such. However some names deserve particular mention, especially our half-backs. Without Urban-Smith's efficient service from the base of the scrum and Griffiths's outstanding play, both as half and as captain for the latter half of the season in place of Pier we should not have looked as impressive. Pierson, Jones, Lilley, occasionally Baumann, made our back row very aggressive and Rogers to his surprise one suspects, became an excellent leader and hooker. Harris and Atkinson shared the job of full-back and Gibbs and Macdonald, former in defence and the latter in attack, gave us a splendid pair of wings.

MRM/T

The following appeared in the team: RI Macdonald, CP Hey, AF Gibbs, H Griffiths, JA Urban-Smith, PAW Rogers, DC Hares, AJ Madin, MJ nes (in all games), PM Abraham, JD Halliday, DB Spong, JDC Turner, C Atkinson, DWJ Hannay, ARM Kelley, JD Pierson AW Baumann, CJ Lilley, NP Allington, AN Rayson, MWJ Carr.

ford School	Sat	5 Oct	(h)	Won	14—11
hn Mason School	Wed	9 Oct	(a)	Won	24—5
lihull School	Sat	12 Oct	(h)	Lost	8—9
agdalen College School	Wed	16 Oct	(a)	Won	31—0
udley College	Sat	19 Oct	(h)	Won	11—0
okethorpe School	Wed	30 Oct	(a)	Won	9—6
ewbury Grammar School	Sat	2 Nov	(a)	Draw	3—3
GS, High Wycombe	Sat	9 Nov	(h)	Won	20—0
allingford Grammar School	Wed	13 Nov	(a)	Draw	3—3
atory School	Wed	20 Nov	(a)	Won	29—0
Edward's School	Sat	23 Nov	(h)	Won	9—6
untseys School	Sat	30 Nov	(h)	Cancelled	
owe School	Sat	7 Dec	(a)	Lost	0—6

Minors Fifteen. For the first time this year, there has been an official under Thirteen team known as the Minors. This made an auspicious start being undefeated in its three matches. The two victories were against preparatory Schools. Our advantage in weight ensured plenty of possession and the margins would have been greater but for the brave tackling of our opponents. The drawn game against Thame was certainly the most satisfying. The two teams were well matched and in spite of the difficult conditions there was much open rugby and our threequarters scored two tries. There is plenty of natural talent in this side. MW

The team was chosen from: JP Seaver; AH Courtenay, IL Manning, D Francis, ARP Mushens; KPM Taylor (Captain), AW McPhail; GK Hedham, JMG Taylor, N Jefferson, JD Griffin, PRJ Lilley, SMJ Hobson, J Cook, GF Woods, NP Gale.

ew College School	Wed	6 Nov	(h)	Won	16—3
ragon School 2nd XV	Sat	16 Nov	(h)	Won	13—3
ame Grammar School	Sat	23 Nov	(h)	Draw	8—8
ior Court School	Sat	30 Nov	(a)	Cancelled	

House Matches. Once again Blacknall House proved far too strong and won the Lin Cup without difficulty. In the opening round, played on Thursday 14 November, this strength wore down Tesdale who after a brilliant first half collapsed and lost by one penalty goal to five tries and a goal (3—20). On the same day, Reeves House just managed to beat Bennett by one goal to nil (5—0). The difference in quality between the two games did not hold out much promise of a good final. In the event, however, we were treated to a most thrilling match. Playing on Wednesday December under good conditions, Blacknall had to fight every inch of the way to win the final and although the score (22—5) looks good it does not truly represent the game. Reeves House were most competently captained by Lloyd Morgan and the game was lifted well above the normal level of House Finals. Tries were scored for Blacknall by Baker (2), Ordan (2), Booker and Andrew Varley and two conversions were made by Matthews and Godfrey. Reeves' points came through a try by Paddison converted by Rose.

Interest in the League games was more marked this term in spite of the

difficulty some Houses experienced in raising adequate teams. Bennett House won the Toplis Cup for the senior competition with two good victories over Blacknall (21—3) and Reeves (27—0) and a more narrow one over Tesdale (9—5). The runner-up was Blacknall who beat Tesdale (25—0) and Reeves (14—0). Reeves gained a single victory—over Tesdale (22—14). In the junior section, the Robinson Cup went to Tesdale House victors over Reeves (34—0) and Blacknall (11—6). The game between Tesdale and Bennett was drawn (14—14). Second place went to Blacknall with two wins and third place to Reeves with one.

The Dayboy match against Boarders took place on the last day of term and as was the case last season the Dayboys were superior in strength. Their victory of nine tries and one goal to one try (32—3) is a sufficient indication of the way things went. Features of the match were the strong running of Booker and Andrew Varley for the Dayboys, the superb piece of individual play by Comerford in scoring the Boarders only try, and the woefully poor place-kicking, only one try being converted.

Poor place-kicking may not always be a characteristic of our game, but if the larger than usual entry for the annual Place-kicking Competition is anything to go by. The relatively large entry this year necessitated a preliminary kick-off before the contest could be decided between the two finalists — Michael Baker, Blackburn, Booker, Cuthbert, Kirby, Matthews and Pike. Nigel Booker was the ultimate and worthy winner gaining eight of the possible twelve points. His runner-up was Matthews with seven points.

It is nice to be able to record the continued activity of some ex-members of the Rugby Club in the larger world of rugby outside school. David Ray has been playing for the Saracens and hopes to go on tour with them to USA, Michael Nurton continues as the Bedford full-back and represents Hertfordshire, and Michael Heading plays for Harlequins, while Peter Bosley has been doing battle for his Hospital side. We would welcome any further news of rugby playing OAs. DO

Cross Country

An essentially individualistic sport such as cross country requires a great measure of self-discipline and self-determination than most, and it has been sad that only a few members of the club were sufficiently regular in their training to be at their best for the few matches we had. This term, with a much fuller fixture list, we hope for many new members and return of that collective enthusiasm which has brought us such success in the past.

The most pleasing performance was in the Millfield School 4 x 2 mile Road Relay where our sixth place—only just over a minute behind the winners, Marlborough—put us ahead of many well-known schools. Smith and Crawford had the seventh and eighth fastest laps respectively.

Full colours were awarded to PC McPhail.

The following ran for the team: MG Crawford, PC McPhail (3); CM King, DG Nasmyth, VA Ramsey, NKA Smart, DJ Whipple (2); P Annett, S Fairlie, TW Hewes (1).

Millfield Road Relay—Sat 12 Oct: 6th (22 teams)

Culham College—Wed 13 Nov (h): Lost 42—37

Bradfield/Salisbury—Sat 16 Nov (Bradfield): 3rd 81—35—64

ter House Cross Country

The first form race round Albert Park is always keenly contested and usually attracts a large number of keen spectators. This year was no exception. Though several boys tried hard to keep up with him, Price soon surged ahead and showing good pace judgement he came home a convincing winner, knocking several seconds off the old record.

The other races were held over the Rye Farm Course (by kind permission Peter Wilsden, OA). Conditions turned out to be considerably better than they had been during training. There was little wind and it was not so cold—being 'earlier' because of the extra hour of daylight was certainly an advantage.

In the junior race, Hares narrowly beat Vernon on the final run in after these two had broken away from the rest of the field. A similar situation developed in the Intermediate race, but here Balbernie's final sprint had a far more demoralising effect. Injury and Oxbridge exams prevented a number of notable runners including Cross Country Secretary, Crawford, from competing in the Senior race, but none of them would have been able to stay with Smart who spread-eagled the field as he stormed round to beat BS Avery's 1964 record. King capped a term of much hard training and improvement by following Smart home—the first time he had got the better of McPhail.

Bennett continued their remarkable success in the House Competition by notching up their ninth victory in twelve years (they were runners up the other three). A record 458 boys took part in the races. RHB

Results of the House Competition

	Bennett	Blacknall	Reeves	Tesdale
Senior	1166 (2)	1781 (1)	1156 (3)	993 (4)
Intermediate:	1568 (1)	1157 (3)	1066 (4)	1331 (2)
Junior	1466 (1)	1162 (4)	1333 (2)	1207 (3)
1st Form:	234 (4)	239 (3)	410 (2)	434 (1)
Totals:	4434 (1)	4339 (2)	3965 (=3)	3965 (=3)

The first ten home in each race were:

Senior:	NKA Smart (16:52.5), CMcI King, PC McPhail, TW Hewes, A Rose, DG Nasmyth, S Fairlie, NJ Pilling, JR Weir, PM Annett.
Intermediate:	A Balbernie (19:12), MG Osborn, PD Price, RHL Savory, MS Paddison, CS Crocker, RG Wood, JS Mushens, MR Mackenzie, RE Deane.
Junior:	DC Hares (9:13), CF Vernon, AC Atkinson, CP Hey, ND Francis, PAW Rogers, DMA Binks, KPM Taylor, AJ Madin, JA Urban-Smith.
1st Form:	RJ Price (7:20), JP Gotelee, MG Wartke, NJA Shepherd, NJ Tattersfield, PS Ashby, AN Davies, AN Plant, CM Wait, MW Stimpson.

Badminton

During last term Badminton became a far more popular sport than ever before. Over fifty boys wanted to play full-time but, because of a lack of facilities, the number accepted was limited to thirty.

A Doubles League was started last term, which promoted greater competitive spirit in the weekly games. Four divisions were selected, each consisting of five players. Each player partnered every other player in his division, against all other possible pairs in the division. The winning pair in each game received a point each. Thus the divisions were run more on an individual basis.

The Singles Knockout Tournament was again organized and 43 boys entered. Some very long and hard battles were fought, several lasting over an hour. In the final, Jonathan Rowson beat John Nicholl 5—15, 15—15—9.

The greatest success of the term was the performances of the two teams. The only defeat was that of the Second Six to the Masters Common Room. Victory for the Seconds seemed almost certain, until Mr Payne and Mr Woolnough snatched the match defeating all three of their opposing pairs.

In the First Six, Michael Elliott played with either Martyn Clift or Jonathan Rowson. The final pairing has still not been decided, for the decision has always rested on the performance of each pair before each match. The choice has always been successful, for, as first pair, they have had many victories. Nicholas Beeching and John Nicholl, two newcomers to the team, have provided a very useful second pair. Their improvement since last season has been incredible for they have made up for their lack of height with their basic skills. As third pair, David Baumann and Christopher Spearing have used their understanding of each other's style as an asset to their game. The partnership began last season and has continued to produce useful results this term.

The Second Six has continued to enjoy the success to which they have become accustomed last season. The match against the Masters Common Room was their first ever defeat.

The term's Badminton ended on a good note when the First Six played the Old Abingdonians Second Six. The opponents consisted of many last year's team, and the reunion was a pleasant one. The final score of the match is deceiving, for each game was close and hard-fought.

First VI:

Oxford School	Mon 7 Oct	(a)	Won	5—4
Oratory	Fri 15 Nov	(h)	Won	7—2
Magdalen College School	Fri 22 Nov	(a)	Won	8—1
RGS High Wycombe	Wed 27 Nov	(a)	Won	6—3
AERE Harwell	Fri 29 Nov	(a)	Won	5—4
OA's (2nd VI)	Wed 11 Dec	(h)	Won	8½—

The team was: JM Elliott (capt); MM Clift; J Rowson; N Beechir; JP Nicholl; DN Baumann; CJ Spearing.

Second VI:

The Common Room	Wed 30 Oct	(h)	Lost	4—5
RGS High Wycombe (2nd VI)	Wed 27 Nov	(h)	Won	9—0
Magdalen College Sch (2nd VI)	Mon 9 Dec	(h)	Won	7—2

The team was: CJ Woods (capt); RB Luff; I Garner; H Manning; Ayerst, R Moore; MM Clift (1); D Howes (1).

Chess

On paper we have had the strongest senior team for years, and five successive wins in the Berkshire League, which we entered for the first time this year, make Abingdon strong contenders to win the Western section of the League. Against this must be set our one defeat, against King Alfred's Wantage in the first round of the Sunday Times Tournament. We seem doomed to make no progress in this competition, and this time sheer carelessness gave away victory to a school which had not beaten us for many years. Gareth Pearce, still unbeaten in a school match, and Hugh Parry, who won seven games in succession, have been our most successful players, and it was nice to see Jason King back on top form in his last season. Apart from Pearce, Jonathan Burton and Christopher Marley have played more than once for the County, with moderate success.

There is still a marked gulf between the standards of the First Team and the rest of the Club, one that cannot be ascribed wholly to the fact that boys above the Third Form cannot attend Club meetings. As a result the Under Fifteen team is almost bottom of the League, and future gaps in the senior team are going to be hard to fill. However Philip Evans, a promising junior, has played for the County Under Thirteen team.

Ever since I arrived here two and a half years ago Chess has been under the control of the same Captain and Secretary; now alas, both Jonathan Burton and Jason King are leaving, and their successors will have a very high standard to live up to. I am very grateful to them for all they have done, and I am sure that every member of the Club would join me in wishing them very successful careers.

MW

senior team:	Radley	Won	5—0
	Masters' Common Room	Won	9—1
	Leighton Park	Won	4½—½
	King Alfred's, Wantage	Lost	2½—3½
	Wallingford GS	Won	4—3
	Stoneham School, Reading	Won	4—2
	Carmel College	Won	3—2
	Reading School	Won	3½—1½
junior team:	Ashmead School, Reading	Won	3½—1½
	Leighton Park	Lost	2—3
	Summerfields School	Lost	1—3
	King Alfred's, Wantage	Won	9—3
	Reading School	Lost	2—3
	Park House, Newbury	Draw	2½—2½
	Carmel College	Lost	1—4
seniors:	JR Burton; GD Pearce; JJA King; CJ Marley; DH Parry. HJ Manning, BK Langmead and DK Rice also played.		
juniors:	AC Clift; JA Urban-Smith; WJ Pollard; WdeF Peck; PH Evans. M Ormerod, JSP Mushens and P Marley also played.		

Bridge

Owing to Rugby commitments only one match could be arranged. This match, against St Edward's, was an overwhelming victory to us and a fitting end to the term. Richard Butland and Toby Stafford won a School Tournament in Oxford. The second of our pairs in the tournament, our sixth rated, of Mark Crocker and Malcolm Bricknell, finished sixth. We wonder what would have happened if the complete First Twelve had entered.

Richard and Toby followed this by winning heats against University opposition to come second in the final of the Berks and Bucks Contract Bridge Championship.

We thank Mr ES Stavely, Secretary of the Oxford Bridge Association for an introductory lecture on Bridge. It is through Mr Stavely that the First Four have now joined the English Bridge Union, which enables players to compete at county level. More tournaments have been arranged and matches fixed for next term.

St Edward's School Tues 10 Dec (h) Won 2—0

First Four: RJA Butland (capt), JT Stafford, JA Clargo (sec), JP Cox
Won 73—32 IMP.

Second Four: JL Cox, KP Brown, BK Langmead, AG Maclean.
Won 64—26 IMP.



In the last issue of Abingdonian, the writer of the Societies article ended on a pessimistic note. He mentioned that administrative changes would have no effect unless the hard work of the core of enthusiasts in each society was rewarded by the interest and participation of the ordinary members. The situation, he said, was growing worse. It is a sad pen that has to echo this pessimistic observation, yet the fact holds. The number of genuine enthusiasts, prepared to work to a satisfying end in their societies, has dwindled. Yet at the same time the new influx of Lower Sixth forms into the societies field has been encouraging and it can be hoped that their enthusiasm will infect their seniors and give birth to a genuine sense of social responsibility in the Upper Sixth Form. One example will prove the case. The Onslow reports good attendance at its Lower Sixth historic meetings. Attendance and discussion have both been healthy. Contrasting with this is the report of the secretary of the Historians. 'Attendance at the meetings has been such that only through the enthusiasm of the

lower Sixth has the society managed to surmount second year Sixth pathy.' This sentiment is echoed elsewhere in this article.

The **Royse** enjoyed three meetings, the content of which proved worthy of another twenty-one years at the top of the society scale. Andrewoudon's paper on Evolution provided a fascinating insight into the personalities and motivations of Darwin and his colleagues: those members non-scientifically minded were able to hear Mr Talbot explain why we have thumbs and stereoscopic vision. Bakunin and other prominent anarchists were discussed by Timothy May in his brilliant paper on Anarchists. Russia was also the scene for Vivian Ramsey's guided tour, complete with magic lantern, of Moscow, Leningrad and faraway places behind the Iron Curtain. His impressions of Russia and of the Russians provided colourful arguments. The members of the Society thank the Headmaster and Miss Cobban for their hospitality, especially at the last meeting when the society celebrated its twenty-first anniversary. The **Economists** have also had a successful year; although the sole meeting this term was Mr John Tabbot, President of St John's College, Oxford, speaking on Conflicts of Ideologies. One is forced to agree with the retiring secretary that the novel approach of its officers has made the Economists the school's best specialist society.

The **Literary** has covered wide horizons. Robert Pickavance spoke in fascinating detail on Byron. It was at this first meeting that it was decided to meet outside the Sixth Form Club, thus Mr Clayton kindly acted as host to hear John Davies, Charles Maude, Timothy May and Hugh Parry read papers on favourite poems. Robert Barrett, 'chez Dean', gave his opinions on Tom Stoppard's Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead. At the last meeting William Chislett, Hugh Parry and Peter McPhail read poems written by themselves. It is difficult to resist printing Peter McPhail's mature and powerful poem. The quality of the discussion did justice to the excellent hospitality of Mr Owen and typifies the Society's new lease of life.

One hundred people attended a debate that suffered from misinterpretation; the **St Edmund's** first meeting argued whether or not the Church is still the best instrument for spreading Christianity. At the second meeting, they heard Mr Pandula Gawe speak on *The English Observed*. The quality of the social side balanced any lack of inspiration in the discussion side. Combining both cultural and discursive activities, the **St Edmund** is becoming a very prominent society. The **Symposium** searched for the ultimate truth with William Chislett in his talk on Mysticism. Alan West showed that man's increased exploitation of his environment could lead to a disaster if nations did not agree to a control. It is good to watch this society rising again to its proper status. The **Critics** discussed Marten Tard's paper on the Evolution of the Short Story; a wider scope was decided on by the committee and *A Man for All Seasons* (as a film), *The Government Inspector* (Gogol) and *The Works of Dylan Thomas* were discussed at later meetings. Attendance gradually declined to seven at the last meeting but the discussion was always at an enjoyable standard.

At a brilliant debate at Abingdon, Alan Lewis, proposing that 'violence works', was attacked by Jason King in a manner that showed the historian at his best. The second debate was of poorer quality. Held at St Helen's the motion debated was that equality and privileges should be given to women. Such ambiguity of titling was bound to lead to a confused discussion but the attendance was high. Such a society should not have to go to joint to keep attendance up; one joint debate a term would suffice to

attract general interest. It may well be, however, that the standard of public speaking, at present deplorable, would go up if other schools joined in.

The state of the Historians has already been outlined. Nevertheless the meetings covered wide spheres. Mr DW Tanner OA, on Communism and its impact on the twentieth century, proved very entertaining in its details as did the heated discussion that followed. Robert Lang, a scientist, read about The English Revolution which proved quite a successful experiment. The very small attendance to John Dowling's thorough paper on The Struggle for Irish Independence led to valuable discussion but was nevertheless inexcusable for its low attendance in a senior society. The Onslow contrasting in interest among members, heard Richard Teall on Six Days War, Charles Utley on The Congress System, and Marten Ward on The Holy Inquisition. A film outing is planned for this term.

The **Fifth Form**, fulfilling its usefulness as an introductory course for societies for the fifth former, has had a varied term. A lively debate ended in favour of our not giving relief to underdeveloped countries. Mr J Holberg talked on Richard III, the O-level set book, and provided a valuable meeting. A soundless projector showed Foothold on Antarctica and A Walk in the Forest at the last meeting. This society also hopes for an outing next term to a film studio. The **Middle School Debating Society** started this term as a joint society providing lunchtime debates for Fourth and Fifth formers. The **Modern Languages** heard a talk at St Helen's by M Bédaridon of the Maison Française (Oxford) on Les Evénements de Mai et de Juin. They also saw the production at the North Berks College of The life and times of Molière. Attendance at this small but dedicated society is a steady and healthy dozen. The outing to the Meadow Playhouse is illustrative of the full use that the School makes of the Oxford Playhouse company.

The **Scientific** welcomed Dr RE Franklin of Oxford University department of Engineering to give his talk on current research in engineering. His talk ranged in subject matter and easily overcame the difficult task of striking the right level for the audience and maintaining constant interest. An attendance of well over thirty was encouraging. The retiring secretary Peter McPhail, promised to return in the autumn to talk about the wildlife colony where he is going to spend the next six months.

In the cultural groups of societies the **Rostrum** held two meetings. Professor Allen Flanders spoke on 'What are Trade Unions For?' The talk attracted over a hundred to John Mason. St Helen's was the scene of the second meeting. Mr John Gregg gave an informal but very relevant talk on Apartheid. Unfortunately Enoch Powell is unable to come and talk to the Rostrum because of other commitments. This is another society that has difficulty in deciding which side to emphasise, the domestic or social. The **Athenaeum** had two outings, both to the Oxford Playhouse. This was not as limiting as it seems, as Bernard Shaw's *Arm and The Man* was a great contrast to the operatic productions of *Verdi* and *Adonis* (John Blow) and *Aunt Caroline's Will* (Albert Roussel). The latter was much enjoyed by many who had previously thought that they didn't go much on opera. The dedicated **Cullen** heard Peter Shaw talk on Debussy and Keith Poole on Chamber Music. Peter Shaw made the meeting the more enjoyable by performing himself; Keith Poole gave a brief outline and his recorded music was enjoyed by most of the people present. The **Film** had a mix-up during the term with the week-end entertainments but the members saw privately *Animal Farm*, *Help*, and a private

gramme of shorts. Attendance was less than a quarter of the membership at all three meetings. The **Jazz Club** heard JR Gough on Ornette Colman and held an open meeting which attracted many fifth formers to hear William Chislett open on *The Doors*. The **Jazz** plans a twenty-first anniversary dance for the Lent term. The **Fine Arts** justified its existence by having two meetings; last term's activities were decided on at the first and this term's activities were decided on at the second. The **Play Readers** have had a better term than ever before, partly due to the increase in dramatic interest due to the school play. The plays read were *Becket* (Anouilh), *The Crucible* (Miller), *The Government Inspector* (Gogol) and *Under Milk Wood* (Dylan Thomas). Thirty people went to the last meeting. Credit for the success of this society goes to the dedication and superb art work in the advertising of the secretary, Anthony Ireland. It is worth mentioning here that Mr Owen's **Junior Dramatic Society** will be producing *The Thwarting of Baron Boligrew* in the Lent Term. This last is surely one of the most successful of all our societies.

The **Inter-School Social** had a discotheque dance and a Folk evening. This popular joint society plans for this term a discotheque dance and a Folk evening. The **Folk Music Society** seemed to amalgamate with the Inter-school Social in one of its meetings but nevertheless is serving its purpose of maintaining a wide interest in folk music. Many more people are being encouraged musically by the prospect of being able to perform in front of an interested audience.

The 'doers' in the society field have had a mixed term. The **Builders** have been active in dismantling the Old Tuckshop. As well as this demolition work they have built a wall at Waste Court. The **Philatelic** met regularly and swap-ins (or swaps-in?) were to be found all over the school. Mr AK Bosworth again visited the school to intrigue listeners, this time on the subject of *Lady Philately's Lover*. The **Change-Ringers** rang weekly in St Nicolas's Church and entered a competition event. In this Striking Competition the School band came a close second out of eight bands from North Berkshire. The **Ringers** also had an outing to the wilds of Devonshire where, after an enjoyable afternoon's ringing, the society was entertained by Shebbear College, to whom thanks are due. They hope that in coming terms the Society will attract more people lower down the school. The **Angling** has shown a great increase in size and thus there are now both senior and junior sections. Records are expected to be broken in the Lent term; some still remember a 32lb pike! The **Golf** had meetings regularly and lessons were arranged for a dozen beginners at Frilford Heath Golf Club. Both matches were lost; the first, against St Edward's, by a half-two and a half, and the second, against Radley, by two and a half, and three and a half. This society is expanding to the status of Minor Sport. Rugby has prevented the **Sailing Club** from being very active. The boats have been brought up from the river and repairs have begun. The secretary reports apathy. Unfortunately, it is on this note, that we must report the state of the last two societies. The **Tape Recording** is still awaiting the arrival of new equipment, and seems to find this as an excuse for inactivity, with the exception of the recording of some official functions. Similarly, the **Photographic** held no meetings but the dark room was in fairly regular use. It is sad that these two societies cannot make full use of enviable facilities.

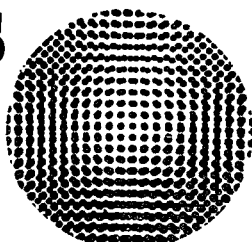
In all too many cases, a sordid vein of apathy can be traced to the Upper Sixth Form. But if the weight of responsibility can fall on to the Lower Sixth to run the societies, perhaps renewed enthusiasm may break

out. The Senior societies to hold their heads high have been of two types the disciplined type, such as the Roysse, Literary, Playreading and Economists, and the dedicated types, with members anxious to keep the society going at all costs. Such are Modern Languages, Cullen and Symposium. It is also apparent that too many societies seem to rely on the joint element for their main attraction; the Debating, Folk, Rostrum and Change-Ringers derive a large proportion of support from this factor.

Many societies have recently clashed both in dates of meetings and in terms of reference, a situation that has been growing worse for the past year or so. It is for this reason that at the time of writing, a draft constitution is being prepared for a Cultural Co-ordinating Committee, which would have a threefold duty. Firstly it would co-ordinate dates and financial arrangements of societies; secondly, it would make societies clear on their terms of reference. This would mean that the Critics, for instance would not trespass on the grounds of the Film or Athenaeum. Thirdly it would see to an increase in cultural activities.

This is just a part of the tightening up of societies that is needed so urgently. Apathy itself can be counteracted by a sharp push in the other direction. This should not be necessarily given by a secretary with a whip but more by the sharp prick of social conscience.

REPORTS



ccf

A successful term in general, with the scope of activities widening considerably. Most pleasing to note was the increased number of weekend camps, which add significantly to the value of training. Turn-out, too, was on the whole good; the standard of drill was, if not excellent, at least acceptable; and the valuable addition of the assault course has improved for all the enjoyment of Tuesday afternoons.

The RN Section was particularly active during the term. Sailing instruction down at the Boat Club was unfortunately impossible due to the severe damage the boat received in the summer holidays, but the sailing party received much useful instruction at the hands of L/S King and L/S Gibaud. Field Day, too, was one of the less successful events, as the weather destroyed all hope of achieving anything of value from the boat work at Ravens Ait. It was pleasing to note, however, that morale and manners did not suffer as a result.

The week-end camp at the beginning of November was, on the other hand, highly successful. Despite a very uncomfortable night the party under L/S Gibaud, was able to undertake several expeditions, and they returned their kit with an efficiency which contrasted favourably with other camps held during the term. The party was very grateful to Sub L. Dean for his visit, and to WO Cadwell for picking them up. Thanks, too

must go to CPO Kettle for all the enthusiasm and important knowledge he has pumped into everybody.

The Army Section also had a very active term, the first part of which was spent in preparation for Remembrance Day. A series of weekend camps was organised as well, and every proficiency candidate has spent at least one night under canvas. Field Day suffered the effects of the appalling weather but here, as in the RN Section, a commendable spirit was shown. This spirit was shown too by Bdrs Lang and Searle, who spent a weekend firing camp with OUOTC in good gunner style, hauling on the drag ropes. They said they enjoyed themselves!

In the RAF Section, a very full term began with the reorganisation of the section into four flights by creating a Senior Edinburgh Flight, thus enabling some post-advanced-proficiency candidates to compete for the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award.

The term's activities included a visit by a dozen cadets to the Farnborough Air Display, while the RAF's must have been the only successful Field Day, as the visits to RAF Brize Norton and RAF Odiham were entirely unaffected by the weather. At the former, the more senior cadets had an interesting guided tour of the station, while at the latter every member of the junior flight had twenty minutes in a Wessex Helicopter.

The Section's flying record last term was impressive: sixty-three cadets airborne of a total strength of seventy-three is the highest for several years. As usual, they flew from White Waltham and Abingdon. And in October, a small party visited the flying display laid on at RAF Abingdon for Air Marshal Nur Said, Chief of Air Staff of Pakistan, while the section itself was unexpectedly visited and inspected by Group Captain R Burne, DSO, AFC, ADC Headquarters Air Cadets.

But the highlight of the term for the contingent as a whole was undoubtedly the Remembrance Day Parade. For this we had the privilege of providing both Guard of Honour and Band. The NCOs who trained the former are to be congratulated, whilst the latter, which had to lead the March Past, rose proudly to the occasion and surprised many by its turn-out and smartness. A particular word of praise must go to the two buglers, Sgt Howells and Cdt Barwood, whose rendering of the last post was quite exceptional. The contingent in general turned out well, although the marching in some cases left much to be desired.

The lesson of the term is, as always, that when people are prepared to put something into the Corps, they invariably get a lot out of it. The opportunities are there. The difficulty lies in persuading people to seize them.

AEL

Police Cadets

The success of last year continued during the term, and the section has benefited from its predecessors' criticisms, which have proved of great value in enabling it to take a more constructive approach.

I would like to thank Sergeant B Long for the tremendous amount of time he has devoted to the section, and for the stimulating lead which he is so often taken in discussions. The speakers, too, have proved to be extremely interesting on a wide range of subjects. Of these, I think that the police dogs aroused the most excitement, while the slide-illustrated lecture on police photography came a close second, shocking, as it did, any of us into a realisation of what this aspect of police work entails.

We spent Field Day at London Airport. There, led by Sergeant Long,

we were taken on an unusually good conducted tour, and despite the incessant rain it was generally agreed to have been a big success.

Night excursions to the police station are under way, and it is hoped that from these we shall learn at first hand what in fact the police force is doing.

RGI

Scouts (34th North Berks)

Venture Unit. The term was a mixed one with attendance varying greatly. Enthusiasm for the Unit has been at its lowest, partly due to the usual bev of unimaginative meetings which surrounded us. As a result our number have been cut to produce a smaller, more active, group, which may have to be cut down further still. The most worthwhile of the activities was the weekly Voluntary Service, at Bennett House School for the mentally handicapped, which will be continued.

During the holidays the hut was given a much needed face lift—prelude to the complete reorganisation of the troop this term. This reorganisation (initiated by the Ventures) will result in their taking a much more active part in the running of the junior troop, circumstances permitting. This is a role which, for some reason, was curtailed during the term. We hope to hold more successful meetings with the Unit in the future, with talks and films (including badgework), culminating in the Easter Expedition to the Lake District.

It is with regret that we say farewell to Vivian Ramsey, who has served the troop so efficiently in the past years. We wish him success at Oxford.

Junior Troop. A large influx of first-formers at the beginning of term meant that over fifty people got washed out on Field Day, which had been planned as a similar expedition to last year's in the Frilford area. The weather was kinder for a Troop weekend camp just before half-term and seven patrols camped together at Peach Croft Farm.

The Patrol Leaders attended a District PLs' Forum, and the Troop supplied a representative contingent for the Armistice Day Parade and Service. Routine Troop meetings were not well attended, and activities were largely discontinued towards the end of term. However, with a bit of a shake-up, and smaller numbers, this term should see more progress made on the technical side. The Patrol Leaders last term were Bert Burton, Fathers, Hingley, Homewood and Matterson.

DR

Grundy Library

We received more presentations last term than at any time in the past. Our thanks for their generosity go to Mrs Seaver, DB King, I Attree OA, PD Holmes OA, MJH Liversidge OA, RH Roper OA, JJA King OA, C Woodley OA, for a copy of his own book, and also to Mr Kenneth Howard for a subscription to Heritage Publications USA to mark his 10th year at the school. A number of non-fiction paperbacks have been bought this term, and these are proving a very popular addition to the library.

We are sorry to lose from the Library staff Eric Hadley and John Beynon, and I should like to thank them for all their hard work.

We are still trying to persuade users of the Library to keep the Library tidy, and I hope that a continuing improvement will be seen this term.

KG

I should like to add my personal thanks to Eric and John for all their hard labours, and wish them well. They have carried out many duties that otherwise I would have had to do, and this has left me free to act more as a Librarian than as an administrator. The Librarians' office will indeed seem a lonely place without them. NGH-C

Another Term

We continue to be genuinely grateful to those of our contemporaries who give us such fascinating glimpses of their schools by sending us their magazine. And let us at this stage welcome Ivor Fields as the new School Photographer. We feel sure he will maintain the admirable standards set by Mr Milligan.

Expeditions

As always there were far too many for each to be recorded. But it should be noted that the impetus behind this particular sort of activity must come from the staff, because unless they give their enthusiastic support to extra-curricular studies, such things can be of no use; it is possible to add a whole new dimension to academic pursuits by very simple 'excursions'.

The Farnborough air display was the object of one eager party; lower sixth geologists under Mr Eden went to Lulworth Cove; Morlands kindly—and with their usual hospitality—displayed their brewery to some chemists headed by Mr Gray; Mr Harcourt took another party round the Oxford University Computer Laboratory; and Mr Griffin kept a fatherly eye on two theatre visits.

Outstanding among holiday activities was the boldness of a party of kiers under Mr Moody who had an enjoyable holiday at Aviemore, although a certain lack of snow in the latter stages proved to be something of a handicap.

Visitors

Enlightening visitors to the School included Mrs Burns on the work of the St Pancras Housing Trust, David Ventham (OA) who showed slides of the Government Secondary Modern School in Abuja where he taught for nine months, Colonel AM Field who spoke on the production of Christian literature for use overseas, and Squadron Leader Munford, our RAF Liaison Officer.

Miscellany Two

On 15 October traditional School ritual asserted itself in a simple Communion Service to commemorate the birthday of John Blacknall.

The School Roll last term totalled 628 of whom 195 were boarders and 433 in the Sixth Forms. With characteristic efficiency, Sister Bright gave them all flu inoculations over only two days. It probably doesn't work against Mao's variety, but it may be worthwhile to record that our freedom from epidemics is largely due to this precaution, which was begun, with typical 'progressiveness', as long as seven years ago. Hooray.

Hooray too for Miss Hayward, Headmistress of St Helen's, who so kindly allowed some of the more callow of our sixth formers to invade her young ladies' dancing classes. They were thus lighter of foot when practising the social graces with the girls of Faringdon Grammar School, Midcot Grammar School, and St Helen's itself at their various formal dances.

Errata

Again we have to concede that several howlers slipped through the net of pre-printing checks and scrutiny. Apologies go to the victims, correction go here. Many of these are in fact mentioned elsewhere, but it helps to have the record straight.

Page: 323 et al; Our maths (or someone's) is terrible, SMP or not. The pagination in the Contents list should read as follows: 'The memory b green', 325; From the Headmaster, 328; Ringing the changes, 330; Founder's Day, 331; and Cricket, 342.

We renamed several people:

356, Bronze Medallion list, right-hand column: for J Neville read M Neville.

357, Open Breaststroke 100 yds: for Tressider read Tresidder.

368, paragraph three: for Andrew Cuninghame read Alastair of that ilk.

372, insert after JC Harcourt: AD Williamson, BA, Churchill College Cambridge (Modern Languages).

376, Marriages list: for Bisby-Boulton read Bisby-Poulton. And also some societies claim to have been grossly maligned by the Societies article which said they had no meetings—notably the Critics. More inefficiency methinks: see Michael Baker's efforts in this field for this term's libel. And see this page for editorial anonymity going by the board.

366, paragraph four: for exclude read excuse (the only misprint?).

367, paragraph two: for La Malade Imaginaire read Le Malade, et al. (This mistake was to my certain knowledge made in at least five separate places in print last term).

375, several bad mistakes in 'Hello Goodbye': Insert after RJ Searle 60 IG Routledge. And after JR Hills (4P), WE Tayler. Mis-spellings: read GR Steamer, not GA (4P); CDN Morris, not ID (2F); AC King, not A Kurz, and JE Mason-Crhak, not JE Mason-Clark (1E); SJ Lawson, not WJ, and PC Moore, not DC Moore; TW Hallum, not Hallam (1M).

Abingdonian

Editor: Charles Maude

Assistant Editors: Michael Baker, Robin Blackburn, Alan Lewis, Nicholas Minns, Anthony Cowlin (photography)

OA Editor: AA Hillary

Treasurer: DO Willis

Old Boys and others can purchase the magazine in three ways:

1: By Banker's Order (minimum 7/6 pa) payable to the OA Trust Funds of Covenant, which will add over 60% to the value of all subscriptions of ten shillings and over, will be most welcome.

2: By Life Subscription: two to five guineas, according to age.

3: By subscription to the magazine at current price, at present 7/6 pa.

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NJ Booker (Head of Dayboys)

AG Baker

NJ Varley

I Morgan

AF Martin

OW Galbraith

OLR Howells

CK Blackburn

OG Nasmyth

MC Geary

RL Matthews

GR Evans

AO Akinbiyi

A Rose

GR Shatford

CJ Nicholl

AW Semmence

RW Hamilton

House Prefects

Drescent House: CG Day, CEJ Lilley, MC Eagle, NG Hands-Clarke

Acies Court: AT Cowlin, SR Shield, AJ Ireland

arkhill: MG Crawford, JH Jones

chool House: CM King, HI Kilgour, P Lenny, I Blair, NJ Pilling, CJ

Bovey, MC Varley, JG Dowling, PM Annett

Vaste Court: RDA Lang, MR Ward

ayboys: MA Fletcher, TW Hewes, RAC Turner, WD Chislett, S Fairlie,

JM Elliott, JE North, JT Stafford, DH Parry, AKP Poole, ARN West,

NS Coulbeck, DJ Whipple, AE Lewis, RA Potter, AJ Cowley, JE

Hesketh, RO Plail, BK Langmead, AG Maclean, CF Rock.

Games Officers

Hockey: A Rose (Captain), MJ Harfield (Secretary).
Boats: CEJ Lilley (Captain), JE North (Secretary).
Athletics: MG Crawford (Captain), AO Akinbiyi (Secretary).
Tennis: CG Day (Captain), NS Coulbeck (Secretary).
Badminton: JM Elliott (Captain), JR Rowson (Secretary).
Rugger: RK Blackburn (Secretary).
Secretary of GGC: AJ Varley.

Prizes 1968

The Endowed Prizes

The Morland Prize (presented by Messrs Morland): PK Ablewhite
The Thomas Layng Reading Prize: DH Parry
The Smith Chemistry Prizes: LP Halling, HJ Flint, JE Hesketh, JR We
The Ball Science Prize: JF Goldsworthy, I Blair
The Biology Prize (presented by Dr and Mrs Charles Ford): HJ Flint
The Bevan Scripture Prizes: KJ Barnard, ME Thompson, PJ Thompson
The Ellis Prize for Character: PM Osborne
The Ingham Physics Prize: ILM Carr, PJ Munnoch, JT Stafford
The Ingham Music Prize: DCL Murphy, S Fairlie
The Henderson Cricket Prizes: AJ Varley, JP Cox
The Initiative Cup and Prize: CJA Maude
The Quatercentenary Prize: AW Hills
The St Catherine's Prize for Intellectual Initiative: DCL Murphy
The Fourth Science Times Cup: NGW Seaver
The Larkhill Trophy: KJ Barnard

The School Prizes

The Mayor's Prize for Service to the School (presented by Councillor L Steggles, JP): PJ, MS, CC and BH Ford
The Headmaster's Prizes: REN Bradfield, DN Hunt, ND Keen

The Old Boys' Prizes

English Verse: RG Pickavance
English Essay: TCC May
History Essay: JHT Davies
Geography Essay: TA Parfitt
Divinity Essay: JC Bourlet
Modern Languages Essay: EJ Hadley
Mathematics Essay: JH Batey

The Van Wagenen Essay Prize (presented by Colonel RW Van Wagenen MFK Baumann)

CCF Prize: TR Paxton

The Junior Reading Prize (presented by CC Woodley Esq OA): KJ Barnard

The Music Prizes

Choral (presented by EHF Sawbridge Esq): CJA Maude
Pianoforte (presented by Miss I Sheldon-Peach): PJ Shaw
Organ: JB Lister
Woodwind: PC McPhail
Brass: JP Tromans
Strings: R Samsworth

The Art Prizes: FJ Dobbs, LD Bradshaw

he Form Prizes

sixth Form Upper

Ancient History: JJA King

English: TCC May

History: JJA King

Mathematics: VA Ramsey

Modern Languages: EJ Hadley

sixth Form Lower

Classics: DH Parry

English: JG Dowling

History: CG Day

Mathematics: CJ Nicholl

Modern Languages: DLR Howells

General Studies: JR Gough

fifth Forms

English: DC Henderson

History: IC Browne

Mathematics: RB Luff

Physics: JPD Mitchell

Modern Languages: NS Coulbeck

fourth Forms

General Achievement: HJ Manning

Mathematics: AJM Crocker

Form 4Y: TR Baker

Form 4Z: DM Howes

Form 3X: BE Jones

Form 3Y: JR Rawlinson

Form 3Z: GW Hamlin

Form 2X: GB Butcher

Form 2Y: JD Peirson

Form 2Z: TC Parker

Form 1X: P de Lusignan

Form 1Y: M Ormerod

Form 1Z: KPM Taylor

Fello Goodbye

Left 5 October: PJ Munnoch (VI S)

Left 30 November: JC Beyer (VI R), RG Pickavance (VI H)

Left 2 December: JHT Davies, TCC May (VI H)

Left 13 December:

I R: EJ Hadley

I H: MFK Baumann, AD Chafer, JHT Davies, AW Luff, JR Burton,

JJA King

I T: JB Tromans, ASI Loudon, PC McPhail

I S: PJA Hopkins, JR Gough, ILM Carr, VA Ramsey

P: JCL Barnard

C: CM Gordon

ame 4 November: PG Littler (3T)

ame 7 January: J North (4P), P Williamson (4P), PA Barton (3V),

B Kochan (1M)

ame 22 January: SA Mackley (4M)

OA not s

Births

Bampton: on 4 October 1968 to Angela (née Worth) wife of Richard W Bampton (1961) a son James Francis Roger, brother to Sarah and nephew to Roger J Bampton.

Le Voi: on 2 December 1968 to Gwen wife of Dr Richard Le Voi (1958) a son Nicholas, brother to Andrew and Paul.

Paxman: on 10 June 1968 to Barbara wife of Anthony P Paxman (1957) a daughter Caroline Mary.

Winfield: 'recently' to the wife of Christopher Winfield (1963) a daughter

Marriages

Burn-Thalmessinger: on 14 December 1968, at Gray's Inn Chapel, Adrian Burn (1963) to Jeanette Thalmessinger.

Davis-Spence: on 14 September 1968, at All Saints' Church, Didcot, Philip R Davis (1959) to Gretta Spence.

Harrison-St John-Pike: on 7 September 1968, at the Church of St Gregor the Great, Northampton, Alan Stuart Harrison (1964) to Veronica Mar St John-Pike.

Watts-Dillon: on 2 November 1968, at St Stephen's Church, Welling, Ken Richard C Watts (1960) to Eileen Theresa Dillon.

Woodley-Lawrence: on 21 December 1968, at St Mary's, Merton, Stephen C Woodley (1957) to Judy Lawrence.

Congratulations to Tom Gardiner (1926) on his election as President of the Oxford Rotary Club and to Durnford Newman (1935) on achieving the position of Deputy Chief Engineer to the new Authority which controls all London's airports.

MD Howes (1952) has decided to enter the teaching profession and has accepted a place at Culham College for next September. Starting also will be Tim Wood (1967).

Richard Paxman (1954) has left Shell Oil (NZ) and has a new job as Agricultural Chemicals Manager for New Zealand with Rohm and Haas Co Ltd. He also sent welcome news of his brother Anthony's family.

Pleasant to hear fresh news of Michael Grigsby (1955), now off to India for three months to make some more films. His latest is due to appear on television on 21 January.

From the other side of the world comes news that Peter Pemberton (1957) had left the bank in Montreal for whom he had worked for the past two years and was now expecting to spend the next two years in Freeport Bahamas, working for the Royal Bank of Canada.

MD Shaw (1958) writes to say that he is now working in the architecture department of Ind Coope (Oxford and West) Ltd, at Oxford, together with NDO Hall (1958) and preparing for RCIS exams.

Stephen Turner (1958) after two years at University College London is now a Civil Servant in the Government Social Survey Department.

It was very good to hear from Philip Davis (1959) that he has spent

arm at Leeds University starting a three year degree course in English, History and Fine Art. As he studied Maths and Physics in the Sixth Form, this is indeed a change for him and we wish him every success in his new venture — his second in 1968 as the marriage announcements show. Trevor Henson (1960) is still with CA Parsons and Co Ltd as a systems analyst and computer programmer. His brother Malcolm is working in Coloborn, London, and has two children aged three years and eighteen months.

Richard Watts (1960) has just completed four years on site contract work as a resident engineer, working for the chief civil engineer of British Rail (Western Region). He has been to Acton, Reading, Exeter, Cardiff and finally for the last year to Milford Haven, where (believe it or not) he has been constructing a new two and a half mile stretch of branch line. He is now back at Chief Office, Paddington, for a spell of design work.

It is a long time since we last saw George Ganf (1961) but he blew in his School last term, quite unchanged, fresh from Uganda where he has been researching in Algal Physiology as part of the Royal Society's International Biological programme. He enjoyed Africa immensely and plans to return there.

Terence Libby (1961) is spending a valuable year at Belize in British Honduras with the Overseas Development Corporation.

Laurence Llewellyn (1961) has a degree in Management from Manchester University. He finds his work for Ford of Europe Inc as a financial analyst interesting but very demanding.

Congratulations to Michael Nurton (1961), who was heartily commended by the press for his tackling in the match between his county, Hertfordshire, and Cornwall in the County Championship.

Geoffrey Oxley (1961) has been Archivist to the Corporation of Kingston upon Hull since last August, a post to which, remembering his energy, industry and meticulous attention to detail, we feel that he should be ideally suited.

Writing from HMS Hecla Simon Richardson (1961) produced an interesting travel saga. Over the last couple of years he has tackled survey work in Killarney Bay, Co Mayo; the Isle of Skye; Stavanger; the North Atlantic; and now he is off on leave skiing in Austria before taking up a new posting to the Ministry of Defence (Navy) at Taunton.

Anthony Leatham (1962) has qualified as a Doctor and is now working in a Coventry hospital. Congratulations on both this and his recent marriage.

Those who remember Roland Crothers (1963), who left us in the Third Form when his father moved to Reading, and who knew of his desperate illness, will be pleased to hear that his recovery has been almost complete. He has started back at his job at the BBC and in February he is going up to London University to study Electronics. All will join in particularly warm wishes for a happy 1969.

Keith Dixon (1963) has finished the novel which has recently filled his time and is applying for a job in the executive class of the Civil Service. Congratulations to Dr Roger Parks (1963) and Dr John Spencer (1963) who qualified last summer. Roger Parks is working in Bristol.

Edward Broadway (1964) has a new job, still in engineering but with a more practical slant and considerable prospects, as Assistant Production Controller at a small precision measurements firm at St Albans.

Ian Lamberton (1964), our most faithful correspondent, is back in Scotland—at The Duke's Head, King's Lynn. He has already seen Gerald

Phizackerley, sometime Chaplain at the School, and records that both he and Tony Medland were ushers at the recent wedding of John King (1965).

Another engineer, this time in Africa, is Peter Liversidge (1964), now working for the International Orange River Consultants Corporation at Oranjebrag. His job is to help with the building of the great new Hendri Verwoerd Dam.

Christopher Day (1965) wrote from Downing College, Cambridge, to say that both he and his fiancée hope to achieve degrees before being married some time next summer. He also commented favourably upon the new form of *Abingdonian*.

Roger Limerick (1965) who has made himself so useful helping out with the teaching last term—and incidentally fitted very happily into all aspects of school life—has got himself a job in January at Corby Grammar School, Northamptonshire. We wish him every success and having seen him in action have no doubts that he will enjoy his career in teaching.

Congratulations to Tim Moore (1965) who has graduated and is working in an architect's office and is engaged to be married.

Paul Snowley (1965) spent last term on detachment from Sheffield doing his term's teaching practice at Doncaster Grammar School. He found it interesting, hard work and something of an eye-opener.

Charles Cook (1966) is working for the Cambridge News Group (Cambridge papers), training for a career in journalism or radio/TV work, and is based on Saffron Walden. He appears to be enjoying life, particularly his excursions into Cambridge, though he finds reporting on football matches a bind. One of those with whom he is sharing a house is Malcolm Hedge (1962) who is working for CIBA-ARL at Duxford.

This year we have two new policemen to record: it is pleasant to find *Abingdonians* on the right side of the law! Maurice King (1966) has joined the Hampshire Police, having left Shrivenham, and Christopher Allen (1967) has joined the Metropolitan Police Force after a year at Dover Grammar School. We wish them all the best as they undertake this difficult and vital work.

Nicholas Martin (1966) writes from Australia, where he has just completed the first year of a Science degree at Adelaide University. He has been spending his vacation working on an aboriginal settlement 160 miles North West of Alice Springs, where the government is trying to persuade aboriginals to change their nomadic existence to a more settled way of life.

There was news of David Ray (1966) who is at the Polytechnic in London and enjoying his combined Geography, Archaeology, History and Political Thought course. Oddly enough he will emerge at the end of the year with a BSc (Econ). It is good to hear that he has been playing rugger for the Saracens.

Those who know Jeffrey Evans (1967) will not be surprised to learn that he was the spokesman to the national press for a group of discontented Cambridge undergraduates of the English faculty. The thirteen Emmanuel freshmen have decided to organise seminars on a College rather than a University basis. Jeffrey is quoted as saying 'The seminar is the most effective way of learning a subject. Its main purpose is the cross-fertilisation of ideas, and our English supervisors, who have been invited to take part in the discussions, seem very enthusiastic. Topics will be mainly outside the present syllabus and are designed to supplement it.'

Graham Macdonald (1967) is reading for a Higher National Diploma in computing and mathematics at the RCET at Rugby and is enjoying the course immensely.





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Richard Roper (1967) is full of his experience during the last long vacation working for the Swindon Parks Department. He found it useful mainly because it confirmed his view that this branch of horticulture is not for him. His 'holiday' took the form of a nine day dash with Peter Halling (1968) around Scotland by train. They claim to have covered 54 miles in seven consecutive days of train travel!

Jeremy Theophilus (1967), having completed a year's foundation course at the Berkshire College of Art, Maidenhead, has now embarked upon a three year Diploma in Art and Design course at Portsmouth College of Art, where he is very happy. His main subjects are Sculpture and Ceramics and Prehistoric Art and French as his additional subjects.

The following went up to Universities and Hospitals in October 1968:

Cambridge:	PK Ablewhite (Peterhouse: Engineering), EAC Crouch (Churchill: Physics), JD Evans (Emmanuel: English: Choral Exhibition), LP Halling (Fitzwilliam: Chemistry), AW Hills (Exhibitioner at Corpus: History).
Exeter:	CJ Allen (Balliol: Zoology), DA Baker (Worcester: Biology), JH Batey (Queens: Physics), REN Bradfield (Pembroke: Biochemistry), PC Cooper (Balliol: Biochemistry), JB Lister (Balliol: Physics), DCL Murphy (Organ Scholar at Keble: Music), AC Putman (Brasenose: Physics), MJ Stilwell (Pembroke: Engineering), MJ Tajfel (Scholar at Balliol: Maths).
Exeter:	MJH Cook (Biology).
Exeter:	BS Wallan (Social Studies).
Exeter:	NJ Attwood (Economics).
Exeter:	James Y McLaughlan (Engineering).
Exeter:	PAC Minns (English and American Literature).
Exeter:	HJ Flint (Ecology).
Exeter:	DJ Ventham (History).
Exeter:	Y Doganoglu (Chemistry).
Exeter:	PJ Munnoch (Physics).
Exeter:	MG Lewis (Law), PR Davis (English: History and Fine Art), WK Minter (Textile Design).
Exeter:	R Janz (Queen Mary: Food Science), RC Stevens (Imperial: Electrical Engineering).
Exeter:	AE Banes (American Studies), CM Howlett (Mechanical Engineering).
Exeter:	PA Foulkes (History), DR Sayce (Estate Management).
Exeter:	PM Kerry (Physics).
Exeter:	GA Holloway (Chemistry), WN McGowan-Docherty (Law).
Exeter:	CB Grierson (Chemistry).
Exeter:	JL Sayce (Social Studies).
Exeter:	MCG Stevens.
Exeter:	DR Langmead.

The news of others who left last year is as follows:

Allen, as recorded elsewhere, has joined the Metropolitan Police Force. Balbernie is a Voluntary Service Work organiser in a mining community near Edinburgh.

LJ Berry has joined the staff of Blackwells in the sales department.

KL Blair has returned to Australia whence we hear cheerful news of progress.

JC Bourlet is retaking his Advanced Level in English and then hopes to go to a College of Education with a view ultimately to teaching deaf severely handicapped children.

NRJ Brett is also retaking some Advanced Levels, and then hopes to go to University next October.

RN Burbidge is attending full time at the Oxford College of Further Education with a view to retaking his Advanced Levels.

PL Butcher is at Slough Technical College Working full time for a H qualification in Business Studies.

D Button is articled to Thornton, Baker and Co, Accountants.

AR Cantwell has taken up a British Railway Studentship.

PR Carmichael writes very happily from St Paul's College of Education, Cheltenham, where he is enjoying the course to the full.

PB Clubley still hopes to get a University place next October and is filled in time with various odd jobs at the moment.

BV Cox has gone to work for Stephenson's, the Builders Merchants, Oxford.

DE Cox is working for Pergamon Press.

MH Cullen, who appeared in Abingdon at the end of last term, has spent his time in doing a labouring job and also in swatting for his M Ordinary Level. He is not too keen on life in Germany but will be back in this country shortly when his parents return at the end of their tour abroad.

RL Deuchar is at the Aylesbury College of Further Education and hopes to go to University in 1969 to read Physics when he has passed Maths Advanced Level.

FJ Dobbs is in a similar position but is tackling the problem through a school while doing a job by day.

SP Dorman is teaching in a prep school.

The brothers Dukler are safely back in America, MA at College, M School.

JH Earl is studying for a General BA degree at Bournemouth College of Arts and Technology.

RD Egelstaff is working for Oxfam while attending part time at a Technical College.

AC Ellis is working for a firm of landscape gardeners while also attending part time at a Technical College.

BH Ford is very happily ensconced at Canterbury at the School of Architecture.

JF Goldsworthy and AR Hall are both at the Oxford Technical College, the one studying for his A levels, the other catering and general management.

PJ Hill has gone to work for the Hydraulics Research Organisation at Wallingford.

DN Hunt is up in Edinburgh as a trainee manager with Rank, Hovis & McDougall. He manages to get home, by air, once a month for a longish weekend.

AS Jackson is at Barking Regional College of Technology studying for a general Arts Degree in Psychology, Ethics and English.

ND Keen is working at Birmingham in Cadbury's export department as a trainee manager.

John Y McLaughlan is an apprentice with Elliston and Cavell Ltd.
 C Medley still hopes, quite justifiably, to get a University place and is meanwhile attending a Technical College while turning an honest penny in any way possible.
 MF Merritt is working for Pressed Steel.
 PW Mosdell appears to be having an extended holiday before setting out for Africa this Spring. His elegant moustache has excited some comment and a fair bit of envy in certain quarters.
 M Osborne is at the Oxford Technical College doing a foundation course in Art and Design.
 C Paddison is articled to a Chartered Accountant and finding it hard but interesting work.
 A Parfitt is getting experience of Insurance work with a well-known company before joining his father's firm of brokers.
 IW Parry is attending Reading Technical College where he is hoping to improve on his A levels with a view to getting into a University this October.
 R Paxton has taken a direct commission in the RAF.
 C Pollock has been working for Advanced Levels at home with a view to going up to Cape Town University in October.
 LA Pressland is studying at Oxford Technical College for a HND Qualification in Business Studies.
 F Rothwell is working at AERE Harwell as a Scientific Assistant.
 C Ruck was last heard of considering various possibilities from emigration to Canada to working with Esso or the OUP.
 N Sandall hopes to get to a College of Education in October this year.
 RM Sherwood has resat his Advanced Levels at the Oxford Technical College and is awaiting the results.
 S Skelly is attending full time at a College of Further Education.
 R Snodgrass is a management trainee with Hunt and Broadhurst in Oxford.
 W Speight has joined the Merchant Navy.
 G Spencer and HA Sutton, in search of further Advanced Level passes, are both at the Abingdon College of Further Education.
 P Taylor is in London, learning the Hotel and Catering business.
 J Tyrholm has gone back to Norway.
 P Webb has written to say how much he is enjoying Bournemouth and Poole College of Art, where he is studying Architecture.
 G Whittington is at a Tutorial College and resitting A level English in January. He hopes to become a chartered accountant.
 I Wilson is taking a course in Business Studies at Slough Technical College.
 AR Wood is at Watford with McMillan Bloedal Containers Ltd.
 R Woodward is a Laboratory Technician at the Churchill Bone Research Laboratory in Oxford.

OA Club Notes

Last term's rugger match was played on Saturday 23 November, and good crowd on the touchline saw a strong OA XV defeated in an exciting game, which finished with the School leading 19—11.

The Annual Dance which followed, was held in the Abbey Hall, and some 150 Old Boys and their ladies were present. Special thanks are due to Mrs Bevir for her flower arrangements.

We are most grateful to George Duxbury for compiling the duplicate address list which accompanies this edition of the magazine. It is hoped to produce a similar list of new members, and changes of address each year.

At a recent committee meeting of the Club, 74 new members were elected, and DW Farmer was elected to the Committee. The meeting also received the resignation of Norman Holmes, as the Club's representative on TASS. He wished to stand down in favour of an OA with a son at the school. We thank Norman Holmes for his efforts on TASS, and good wishes to his successor, Duncan West.

The London Dinner will be held on Friday 7 March, and attention drawn to the notice, and application form, which is enclosed with this magazine.

Secretaries Addresses

Club Secretary: RR Bailey, 10 Whites Lane, Radley, Abingdon (Abingdon 1097); or 12 Bath Street, Abingdon (Abingdon 266).

Sports Secretary (Rugger, Tennis), JT Cullen, Frilford End, Frilford, Abingdon (Frilford Heath 205).

Sports Secretary (Cricket, Hockey): JW Dickinson, The Lodge, Sunningwell, Abingdon (Oxford 35501).

Masonic Lodge Secretary: DO Willis, Larkhill, Faringdon Road, Abingdon (Abingdon 14).

Forthcoming events 1969

Hockey Match: Saturday 1 March.

London Dinner at the Public Schools' Club: Friday 7 March.

Old Boys' Day, Cricket matches, AGM and Annual Dinner: Friday 11 July.

Rugger Match and Annual Dance: Saturday 22 November.

Changes of Address — January 1969

Adam MJ: 11 Grange Close, Havant, Hants.

Andrew JR: 9 Townswell Close, Trematon, Saltash, Cornwall.

Ashworth WH: 73 Woodstock Road, Witney, Oxon, OX8 6ED.

Austin W/Cdr SP, RAF (Retd): Springhill Court, Nailsworth, Glos.

Barnes K: Bonair, Lansdown Road, Bath, Somerset.

Barnett J: 39 Hugon Road, London, SW6.

Bartlett HS: Rock Cottage, Lower Heyford, Oxon.

Bateman M: 18 Luttrell Avenue, SW15.

Burborough CR: 180 London Road, Biggleswade, Beds.

Cain RG: 7 Winsmore Lane, Abingdon.

Capstick RS — address lost.

Clark JD: 79 Fitzjohn Avenue, Hampstead, NW3.

Clarke JN: 1279 Lampman Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario 5, Canada.

ox JAD: School of Architecture, Fayerweather Hall, University of
 Virginia, Charlottesville, Va 22903, USA.
 unningham IM: 21 Ellesmere, Siblands Thornbury, Bristol. BS12 2ER.
 ay ERL: 53 Bridge Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk.
 urneaux T: Wardroom, HMS Fulmer, RNAS Lossiemouth, Moray, Scot-
 land.
 anf GG: 3 Sylvester Close, Speen, Newbury, Berks.
 oodwin DM is how Goodman DM should read.
 alling LP: 81 Broughton Road, Croft, Leicester, LE9 6AB.
 amer Maj RF: c/o Lloyds Bank, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall,
 London, SW1.
 arrison AS: 14 Marlborough Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle on Tyne 3.
 eard DA: 74 Swinburne Road, Abingdon.
 eavens MAC: 37 Hainault Road, Chigwell, Essex.
 enderson ERN: 31 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Reading, RG10 8AR.
 odge MC: c/o Brayside, Meadow Way, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead.
 odgson RM: 18 Weatherby Gardens, London SW5.
 odgson TH: 5 Burritt Road, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.
 ook RT: Holtwood House, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks.
 earsey NR: 75 Seaford Gardens, Woodley, Reading, RG5 3LN.
 itto HR: 4 Puck Lane, Witney, Oxon, OX8 5LD.
 une GMB: Abury House, Church Hill, Ewshott, Farnham, Surrey.
 andson AJC: 5 Dorset Road, Lewes, Sussex.
 ayng TPR: 39 Gogmagog Way, Stapleford, Cambridge, CB2 5BQ.
 er EF: Kortriykse Skeenweg 126, St Deniys Westreun, Nr Ghent, Belgium.
 ight PB: 13 Foley Road East, Streetley, Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks.
 eakins RH: Dept of Zoology, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, E1.
 gle FI/Lt JRN: RAF Chilmark, Salisbury, Wilts.
 pie SJ: 9 Greenfield Link, Coulsdon Woods, Surrey CR3 2SW.
 ttiker JB: Arias Araguez 512, San Antonio, Miraflores, Lima, Peru.
 xley GW: Record Section, Town Clerk's Dept, Guildhall, Kingston on
 Hull.
 axman R: 2 Bacot Place, Howick, Auckland, NZ.
 emberton PN: PO Box 61, Freeport, Bahamas.
 andle AC: Charnwood, Cedar Grove, Weybridge, Surrey.
 eynolds PM: 53 Rose Bank, Lymm, Cheshire.
 ddick Lt DWG: 1st Bn Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, Kirton-in-
 Lindsay, Lincs.
 nith RB: 24 Blackbush Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex.
 ephenson J: 187 St Andrew's Road, Epsom, Auckland, NZ.
 evens Maj HB: 35 Strensedale Park, Strensall Camp, York, YO3 8SG.
 ewart RA: 31 Harvard Road, Cranford, NJ, USA.
 ockwell MAC: 25 Loyd Road, Didcot, Berks.
 istlewood Dr JM: Apt 1031, 11 Ruddington Drive, Willowdale, Ontario,
 Canada.
 lby TJ: 16 Falkland Garth, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks.
 iggins BG: 180 Oxford Road, Abingdon.

Old Abingdonian Trust Fund

It is almost exactly 30 years since the OATF was established by Mr Grundy and the OA Club as a fund-raising and holding organisation for the benefit of the School. Thanks to the very generous support of Old Boys and friends the Trustees have been able over the years to contribute in outstanding measure to the amenities and expansion of the School, and the following record shows:

1950: £850 towards the purchase of Lacies Court.

1956: £280 (including legacy of £200 from Mr Ross Barker) for the R Pavilion.

1956/59: £1,670 towards War Memorial Pavilion.

1960: £150 towards new Fives Court.

1962/64: £3,315 (including legacy of £2,365 from Mr Ingham) in contributions to Appeal Fund.

1966/67: £700 for second new Fives Court.

1967: £200 contribution to new Hard Courts—making a total of just over £7,000.

The Abingdon School Society is now firmly established, and although fund-raising is not its primary object the Trustees of the OATF have agreed that to avoid confusion and duplication of effort it is advisable that the OA Trust Fund should merge with the new Society in the same way as the Appeal Fund is doing. In other words, as Covenants to the OATF expire subscribers will be asked to take out new subscriptions to Covenants with the Society with the result that by 1974 the OA Trust Fund will cease to exist. However the Trustees will continue to fulfil the undertaking to supply magazines to existing subscribers by some form of composition.

Abridged Accounts for the financial year 1967/68 are appended, and once again we thank RW Snell for arranging the audit.

CASH ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1968

Receipts			£	s	d
Balances in hand 1 April 1967	...	...	311	19	10
Donations and Subscriptions	...	...	257	18	5
Trustee Savings Bank Interest	...	...	7	14	4
Income Tax recovered on Covenants	...	...	250	6	4
			<hr/>		
			£827 18 11		

Payments			£	s	d
School Magazine Expenses	...	...	77	10	0
Expenditure on Fives Court	...	...	493	3	4
Stamps, Postages and Stationery	...	...	3	3	9
Balances in hand 31 March 1968	...	...	254	1	10
			<hr/>		
			£827 18 11		

GF Duxbury

ABINGDONIAN

Volume fourteen, number eight

Wednesday 14 May 1969

Two shillings

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Editorial

we discount the professional revolutionaries with their Rent-a-crowd mentality, the underlying factor in the recent student unrest is this question of representation. Students want more say in how their University is run; merely it is not unreasonable to seek to influence the rules by which one is governed. But if students cannot be trusted with this kind of responsibility, then there must be some kind of barrier between the two sides.

The student of today is basically very much the same as his counterpart twenty years ago. Doubtless our fathers reacted against the Victorian as on which they were nurtured. Similarly, we react against their as, but we go one step further. Instead of being merely more permissive, the new generation has concocted a new code of behaviour, a destructive reality which breaks with traditional virtues and ridicules them (sin is), but so far has found no stable alternative. So the rules are made up you go along, which is all very fine until you come off second best. Isn't this more of a healthy sign than a depravity? Furthermore, if this is an excuse for withdrawing confidence in today's students, it can only widen the gap between the generations.

Although a public school is not a University, in that the old tag of 'in loco parentis' still has considerable force and justification, the principles in question are very much the same. In this school student representation is being more and more accepted: the Dolgoed committee and the committee of TASS, for example, both draw some members from the school, and this policy can only be welcomed. Instead of creating a Berlin wall in education, with teachers on one side and the taught on the other, it is only far better to take the chance and let students have more say in how they live and work. This does not necessarily open the door to militancy: it might even have the opposite effect. If carefully planned, this kind of development could lead to better communications and more understanding between the two factions, which is vital if the present situation is to be eased.

Paques age

In Duty Bound

In our last issue we announced with deep regret the death of Mr Will Woodall, a member of the Governing Body. A service in his memory held at North Moreton on Saturday 1 February, at which the School well represented.

For many years Mr John Hooke, the Vice-Chairman of the Govern has been in charge of the Abbey Press. However, at his annual staff p on Monday 24 March, he announced that he was giving up this control interest but would remain as President of the Company and as a consul adviser. The *Abingdonian* would like to take this opportunity of thank Mr Hooke for the personal attention he has given us over the years we sincerely hope he will continue to give some of his wisdom experience to the magazine in the future.

Here, also, we should like to thank Councillor Steggles for all he done for town and School during his mayoralty and we welcome successor, Alderman Samuel Jones, whom we are tempted to describe a man of Mastervision!

Au Revoir

It is unfortunate that we must say goodbye to Mrs Sandford, housekee of School House, who for so long has fed the hungry mouths of four the five boarding houses. She will always be remembered for her eaness to help and for many a maternal chat at the end of tea! In her p we welcome Miss Bellamy-Law, who, we feel sure, will maintain the l standard set by her predecessor.

The departure of the Vicar of Abingdon, the Rev JHS Dixon, to take an important post as Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese, has left a l gap to fill. Amongst other things he will be remembered for his g work in uniting both the Church and the School, and the diffe churches of Abingdon. The School Chapel Committee gratefully prese him with a cheque, which he spent on a copy of the large Rev Standard Version of the Bible. A farewell service, attended by member the four Anglican churches and of All Saints' Methodist Church, was l in St Helen's Church on Sunday 16 March. It is fitting that a united ser such as this should close Mr Dixon's ministry. His successor is Venerable WEG Payton, CB, MA, who has been Chaplain in Chief the Royal Air Force since 1965. Archdeacon Payton, who also hold prebendal canonry of Lincoln College, was educated at Nottingham I School, Emmanuel College (Cambridge), and Ridley Hall. He pla cricket for Cambridge University and hockey for Nottinghamshire.

Salutations and Congratulations

We welcome to the School this term one student master, Mr Irvin mathematician from Culham College. He will be with us for only weeks in June, but this is as a preparatory attachment prior to spending the Lent Term of 1970 at Abingdon.

The Oxford and Cambridge results were the best ever this year. Two four places were eventually secured, and our particular congratulat go to:

JW Hesketh, who gained the Abingdon Scholarship (in Biology) at Pembroke College, Oxford.

AW Luff, who gained an Exhibition in History at Keble Coll Oxford, and

TCC May, who gained an Exhibition in History at Magdalen College, Oxford.

A School Foundation Scholarship of £60 a year has been awarded to J. McGreevy, formerly of Staddles School, Andover.

Congratulations to Mr Woolnough, who has been elected to Associate membership of the Institute of Physics and so becomes a Fellow of the Physical Society.

The Headmaster has been bursting into print recently in publications ranging from the 'Birmingham Post' to the notorious 'Black Paper' of the Political Quarterly Review. His writings have been mainly concerned with the Direct Grant System, but have included a series of four more general articles on education (with especial reference to this School) in the Times Educational Supplement. Congratulations, also, to Rhys Hamilton and an Cowley for getting their views and sentiments about the Kurzschnle Berchtesgarden in Germany printed in the Outward Bound Magazine 'river'.

But we did not expect to find not only the Headmaster but also his eldest daughter and the late Head of the School appearing in 'Private Eye' as members of the so-called 'Maude Squad' (April 25).

Entertainment

On most Saturday evenings of term the boarders were entertained either by an outside speaker or by a film. The lecturers varied widely but were of consistently high standard. Mr Godfrey Kneller, who had visited the School previously, amused and surprised his audience with all kinds of strange instruments and unusual noises when talking on 'Brass Instruments in the Orchestra', whilst Capt Blashford-Snell and Mr Tom Barnes took more serious notes when talking about 'The Abbai Expedition' and 'The Odyssey in the Orient' respectively. The films on the other weekdays also stimulated interest, although perhaps the highlight of the boarders' film-going was 'Dr No', shown at the end of term.

Cellany One

After two postponements, the OA soccer match was finally played on Friday 9 March. A steadily dwindling number of spectators saw the School win 5—3. Our thanks go to the Headmaster for a good tea in the canteen afterwards . . . two parents' evenings, for the 3rd and 5th terms, were held on Thursday 6 and Thursday 27 February respectively . . . On Tuesday 18 February, a party was given by the OA's at Oxford University . . . whilst plans were going ahead for parties from John Mason School to use our swimming pool in its idle hours. It is good to see that two schools can cooperate in such a way.

Thoughts of high summer are conjured up when we realise that arrangements for Founder's Day Celebrations are well under way. These celebrations will be roughly the same as last year, with the State Service in St John's Church conducted by the Bishop of Buckingham. Parents and Old boys wishing to reserve seats for luncheon in the Marquee are asked to contact the Headmaster as soon as possible.

Prize-giving this year will be on the afternoon of Tuesday 30 September when prizes will be distributed by the Hon Frank Fisher, MC, MA, Master of Wellington College and formerly Warden of St Edward's School, Oxford.

We are indebted to two of our parents for unusually generous gifts. Richard West has very kindly endowed a Biology Prize to the School, and Mr Aubrey Smart has given a small Morris van which, when re-

furbished, will provide a very useful supplement to the new Dolg mini-bus.

The Headmaster's second daughter Diana was married to Mr Andr Sheriden May in the School Chapel on Saturday 12 March. The service was conducted by the Rev Leslie Smith, Hon Chaplain of St Nicol Church, Abingdon, with a small mixed choir under the direction of Mr Fleming. Stephen Fairlie was the soloist, and David Howells' trumpet resounded in Clarke's 'Trumpet Voluntary' as the bride and groom left the Chapel. Christopher Wharton (OA) was the best man, with twin-brother Roger (now Officer-Cadet at Cranwell) as MC. The formal reception was in the School Library. Tea, speeches and concomitants followed in the Court Room.

Our team of financial experts, the Business Game Board, overcame first round opposition in their multi-million pound dealings with 'Brand' but succumbed to Brockenhurst Grammar School and Eton College in the second round. Brockenhurst made a profit of £635,000, Abingdon a loss of £1,500,000. Fortunately it is largely a matter of luck!

To conclude, thirteen Upper Sixth Formers spent four days of the Easter holidays redecorating the Sixth Form Club. The final result was colourful and very professional. Meanwhile members of Sixth Form House had been repainting their quarters upstairs. And at the other end of the holidays members of 3T came back early to decorate their own form room. How's that for initiative?

From the Headmaster

As I write these words, my thoughts inevitably turn to that wonderful service in the Chapel yesterday (April 12) when my second daughter was married. One of the compensations of a schoolmaster's lot (does it have any compensations?) is that in a very real sense you have such a large family to share your joys — and your sorrows. I know that it is not only the two hundred who crammed the Chapel who were thinking of us on Saturday afternoon. For all your good wishes, I am most grateful. And Diana has asked me to use this medium to thank the members of the school for the lovely cut-glass which was presented to her in their name.

Three days before the wedding I spent a night in Diana's old college (Eliot) at Canterbury, where the Headmasters' Association was meeting. It was only on my return that I discovered that I had been sleeping — and this was pure though trivial coincidence—in her own room. A good one for those who look for such things.

* * * *

The welcome spell of radiantly sunny weather over Easter (would that it had held out a little longer) did something to make up for what the retrospect had been a tiresome succession of gloom and snow and rain. But the health of the School was very good and our epidemic influenza was so mild as to disgrace its name. The term had its moments too, though in general it was uneventful. I remember with especial pleasure the production early in February by the combined choral societies of the two schools of Bach's Cantata 140 and Bryan Kelly's 'Herod your worst'. Then at the other end of the term came the TASS Festival which was more successful than we could have dared to hope. The total amount available to be put towards the cost of the minibus for Dolg (which in the event may well be a long-based landrover) will be something more than £335. Our warm thanks to all who worked so hard to ensure

success. The boys have been asked to do their part by earning a pound each during the Easter holidays. If this ploy succeeds, then we shall be home and dry.

* * * *

On the home front, the new Biology Block makes encouraging progress. And during the Easter holidays a considerable amount of new equipment has been installed in the kitchen of School House which will do much to ease the burden for our new house-keeper, Miss Bellamy-Law. Furthermore, I have continued to be much immersed in Direct Grant policy at national level. Apart from endless meetings in London, this has involved a substantial amount of writing. It was a relief recently when the famous Ed Sup invited me to write four articles on anything but DG. I have always regarded myself as a bit of a dove in the educational aviary. I smiled all the more wryly this last week to find myself collectively branded, with my co-authors of the notorious 'Black Paper', as a menace to English education . . . I doubt if we shall hear much more about how things are going until the Commission has reported in the Autumn. Meanwhile our aim is clear—to make this school as good as it can possibly be so that it may be least vulnerable to unsympathetic or ill-informed criticism.

* * * *

I am glad that Mr John Hooke is not entirely severing his connection with the Abbey Press. Apart from his personal links with the School as a Boy and as Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body, his services to the *Abingdonian* have gone far beyond what one has any right to expect from a printer and publisher. If the *Abingdonian* has a more than local reputation (and I know that it has) this is due not only to a succession of good editors but also to the loving care which has been devoted to its production every stage. Thank you indeed, Mr Hooke. If we say that we hope our relations with Mr Benford, who now takes over the controlling interest in the firm, will be equally happy, we can offer him no warmer welcome. Of course Jeremy Cullen, OA—one of my first Heads of School—will still be there to hold his hand in the early stages; but we should like to think that we remain one of the pies into which Mr Hooke will still poke an occasional finger.

JMC

Up, up and away . . .

A large number of holiday activities, most of them non-leisure, took place in the Easter Holidays. Those who were not too exam-conscious could choose from an expedition to the Lake District, Arduous Training, ties to Bielefeld and Dolgoed, careers courses, holiday music, gliding courses or a redecoration of the Sixth Form Club. The major ones of these are covered elsewhere in this issue.

The Easter Expedition to the Lake District, under the leadership of Mr Per and Mr Varley, spent ten very enjoyable days in the Lake District, with their base at the Old School at Grange-in-Borrowdale. They managed to climb most of the peaks within reach and various groups were able to do overnight hikes. More leisurely days were spent visiting Watendlath, the Merigg stone circle and the Newlands valley. For most of the party it was their first visit to the Lake District, and they would all like to return there in the near future.

The CCF activities varied a great deal. Arduous Training was again a great success, as was the Gliding Course which Cadet Andrew Snodgrass

attended at Swanton Moreley, in Norfolk. Flight-Sergeant Roger Pl successfully completed his RAF Flying Scholarship, as well as achieving local fame in the North Berks Herald. After finishing preliminary tests Biggin Hill, he went to the Oxford Flying Club, at Kidlington, to complete his 30 hours flying. Our congratulations go to him.

Three teams entered the Oxford Sevens' Tournament this year. The first team was knocked out in the first round, but the second seven comfortably overcame their first opponents, only to lose in the second round. The Junior seven were also beaten in the second round.

Many senior boys went on careers courses during the Easter holidays. These courses, which usually provide a good insight into a major industry or profession, ranged from four days with British Railways to two days spent learning the industrial techniques of Marks and Spencer Limited. The boys who went were:

Baumann DN	Marks and Spencer Limited
Braunton AT	UKAEA
Harfield MJ	Ashbridge (PSAB Course)
Kirby RS	LF Dove Limited
Martin DR	AA Jones and Shipman Limited
Maunder GH	George Wimpey and Company Limited
Mitchell JPD	Manchester (PSAB Course)
Ward MR	BOAC (Organisation and Administration)
Ridge JAF	British Railways (Southern Region)

A full and profitable holiday, then, with the two highlights being visits to Bielefeld and Dolgoed.

Dolgoed

It is almost exactly a year since the first party went up to Dolgoed to inaugurate the School's activities there and start on some of the work necessary to enable other groups to use it. It was appropriate therefore that at this stage the committee should be reconstituted to be more widely representative, reflecting the growing interest for Dolgoed within the School. As a result, Mr Talbot, Mr Moody, Mrs Marsh, Mrs Willis, JM Ellis and J Wheatcroft have swelled the original committee of four, representing respectively the staff, TASS and the boys.

On the practical side this Easter holiday has seen the year's preparatory work put to good use when two parties went up to do various types of geographical and biological field work.

The first party consisted of the whole of the Lower Sixth Geography set led by Mr Eden who went up to do an exploratory week of field work mainly in geomorphology. This expedition was blessed with very little though cold weather and the planned itinerary was almost completely completed. Highlights of this trip were a climb of Cader Idris and a fascinating conducted tour round part of the Dorey Forestry Commission. For this last we are indebted to Mr Waters, the District Officer and father of one of our third formers and to Mr Denis Goodbody, the Forest Warden, who was of considerable trouble on our behalf. Perhaps the most successful part of field work was the measuring of valley profiles down the length of Nant Ceiswyn and Cwm Ratgoed.

The party is indebted to Mr Harcourt and to D Hacker and P Todd for catering so competently and ambitiously that they denied themselves any deserved leisure time.

The second party led by Mr Moody and Mr Taylor consisted of a

Idle school boys who went up to study birds and small mammals. They were also accompanied by a third member of 'distaff', Miss S Macindoe, who bravely pioneered the ladies' activities at Dolgoed to do the cooking. One thing that both parties acquired was a healthy disrespect for hired minibuses. Neither of the vehicles used was really adequate for the purpose so we look forward to acquiring a vehicle of our own more suited to the needs of rural Wales.

At this stage therefore, we must record our gratitude to the ladies of the SS for raising the magnificent total of £340 towards a minibus at their half term Fair. If we can be as optimistic about the School's holiday 'd-a-job' scheme our transport problems will be solved far quicker than we dared to hope.

Plans for future visits are not finalised but we are hoping to have our 'intra-curricular' visits by third forms next term. Nobody pretends this will be easy from an administrative point of view but the advantages are readily apparent to those who know Dolgoed.

Apart from this, Dolgoed is available at half term and throughout the summer holidays. Don't wait to be invited by a member of staff. Collect a party of like-minded enthusiasts and then using typical Abingdonian charm and flattery trap an unsuspecting master into leading the party. HE

More nights to remember

John Chalker

Despite having read Robin Blackburn's account of his Outward Bound course in the May 1968 issue of the *Abingdonian*, I rather apprehensively decided to take the same Course at Eskdale in Cumberland this year.

One of the toughest parts of the Course was fell walking and climbing steep, and sometimes treacherous 3000 feet slopes of the Cumbrians during the first expedition. On this particular expedition we camped at night in deep snow and were awakened by our Instructor knocking on an ice-covered tent. After cooking our dehydrated food for breakfast continued on the journey with a cheerfulness that only comradeship endures. We had to brave gale-force winds armed with hailstones which pelted us mercilessly, making us cold and miserable, but we all came over our difficulties and the annoying thing now is that, looking back on it all, one can never remember how trying and difficult it all was.

Nothing else, one thing that this Course did for us all was to give us confidence in ourselves to surmount difficulties, which before we would have probably thought impossible, and also to help other members of the community, in this case our eleven man patrol, over their hardships. The tribulations of the individuals in the patrol were overcome by the whole as a whole: everything we did was as a team. If one of us felt shaken or lacked confidence when climbing, it was the job of the whole to give him confidence. This team-work is exemplified in fell walking where the pace of the patrol is always the pace of the slowest —sometimes me.

Fell walking was a new experience for me, as were nearly all the other activities that the Course compelled us to indulge in. While fell walking on the first expedition with the whole patrol and two instructors, I felt as though I had come as near to death as I have ever been. After having a rough and perishingly cold night between the summits of Kirk Fell I set off planning the route to cross Windy Gap because the path round the Gable was too treacherous. When we planned the route across this it looked perfectly harmless on the map, with a black dotted line

indicating that there was a path, even if it was covered with snow, but we were later to find out why it was named Windy Gap. When we were approaching the Gap, the wind, which must have been nearing 40 mph, gusted harder and harder, and with heavy packs on our backs, walking across snow slopes with the prospect of sliding on to scree at the bottom was no mean task. When we eventually reached the Gap we were literally blown backwards and it was possible to lean at 45° into the wind and not fall flat on one's face. It took us a good thirty-five minutes, crawling across the 100 yards of the Gap, digging our ice-axes in and pulling ourselves along on our bellies, then digging in further and again pulling.

If anyone is thinking of going on any of these Courses I would suggest they go with an open mind, not thinking that it is going to be sheer hell and that they are not going to enjoy it. One comes across some severe difficulties which have to be overcome, but when one has achieved one's aim then is the time to judge the Course, and I am sure that it will be considered well worth while. It is a challenge, and I shall always remember with pride and pleasure when I was given the badge and certificate for competing the Course.

Bielefeld Exchange, March 1969

Neil Coulbe

Monday 17 March was a sixteen-hour journey across Europe. Next morning our group of seventeen boys (ages from thirteen to seventeen) supervised by Mr Hasnip and Mr Mortimer rested in our homes dispersed throughout Bielefeld. We reassembled in the evening at the Ratsgymnasium school equivalent in size and form to a large grammar school, and a big building conspicuous near the town centre. From then on our official programme was extensive.

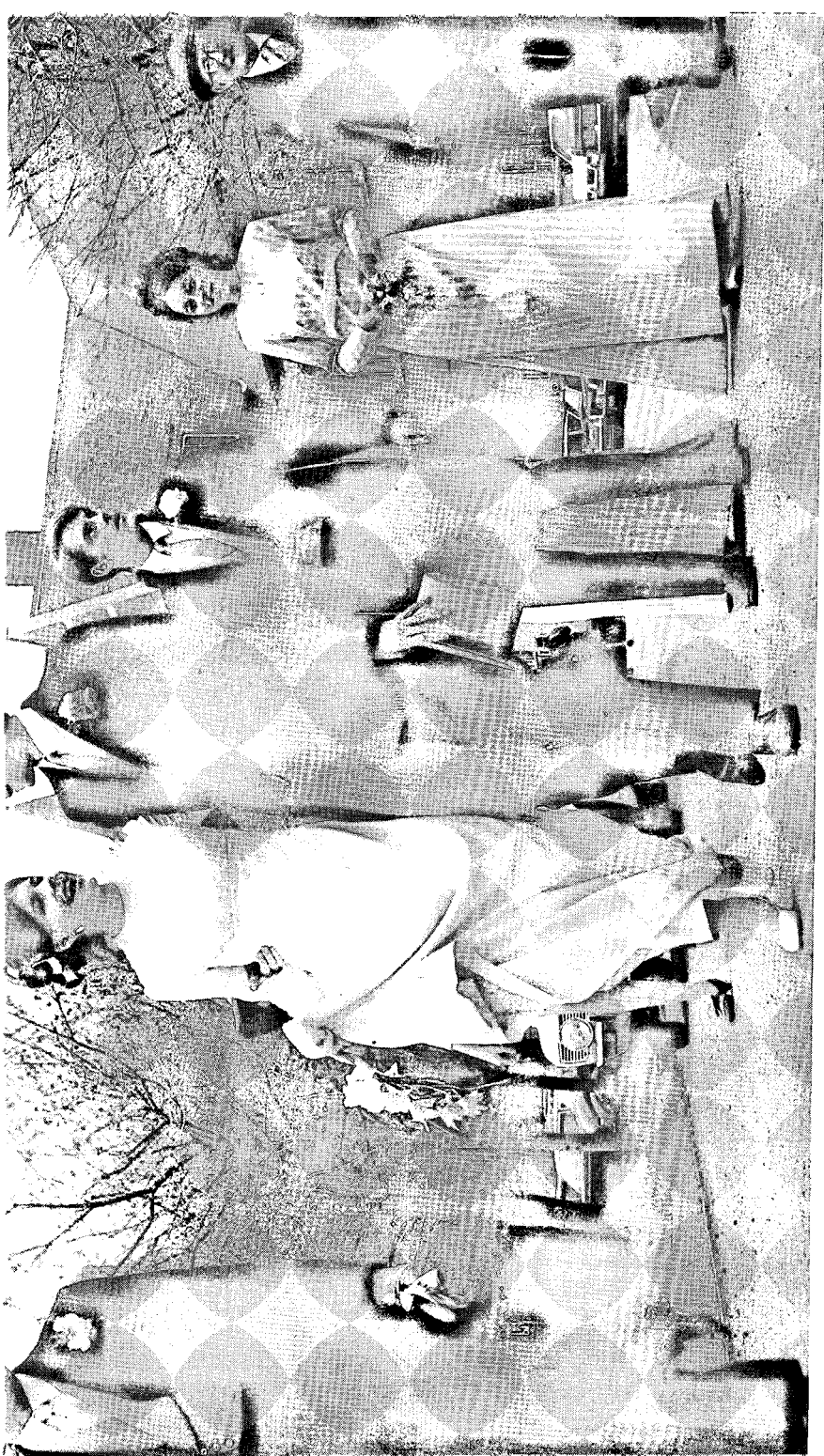
Our exchange town of Bielefeld is large (about 180,000 inhabitants), modern, and thriving with light industry. It lies about seventy miles north-east of the massive industrial complex of the Ruhr, at an important transport centre. The huge Teutoburger Wald runs to the south of the town and thins out until only the hillocks and rolling dips hold sparse crops. The patches of snow (we had three light falls in our twelve days stay) the hard brown fields and trees, the new tarmac swathes, the stunted new houses and rushing cars glistened in cold spring sunlight.

In Bielefeld the roads were clean and well planned. The town centre had no old frontage. Everywhere was busy with bustling shops, banks, cafés and seven discotheques. The people looked prosperous, confident and well groomed. Rockers have a hard time in Germany.

Our Anglo-German group made two daytrips into the surrounding district which is dotted with old water forts, and also visited three factories. Here we found superb hospitality and public relations, the newest machinery and a pride among the workers. Strikes are not frequent in Germany. Our German masters, Herrn Halle and Schäpersmann, also organised a football match, skittling, a beer evening, a dance and a visit to the theatre to see 'Der Preis' (Arthur Miller's 'The Price').

During our free time our hosts rapidly became our friends. Their ages ranged from seventeen to twenty but this proved little problem. Our interests and views took the same direction whether it was a question of pop music, the Common Market, student representation (of great concern to them), war, or what to do in the evenings.

Apart from a variety of additional oaths, did we learn much? In two days one cannot make great strides, but experiencing a language al

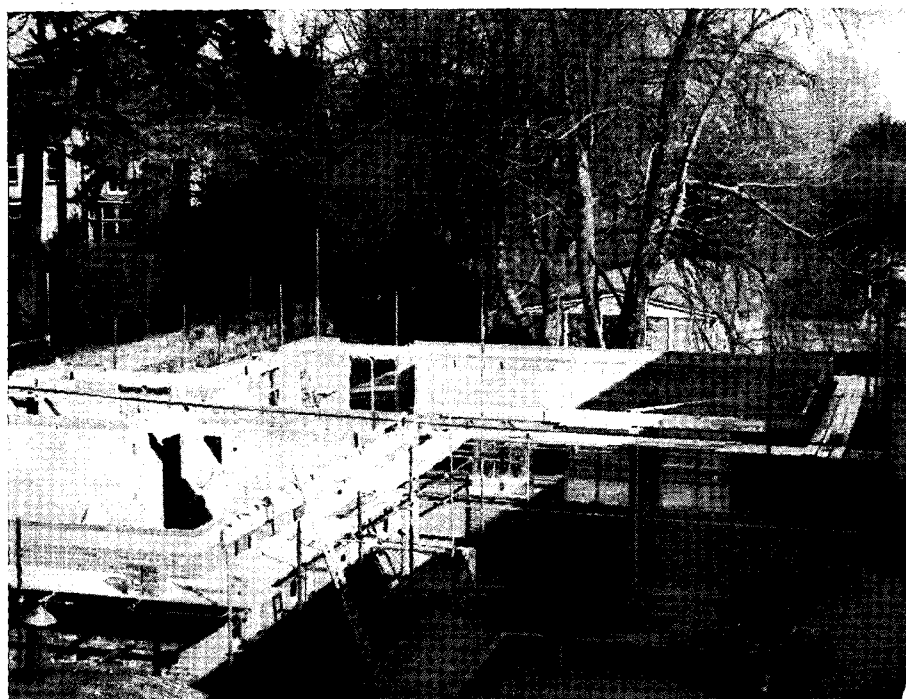


Mr. Ridd goes to a wedding



Familiar faces at the Reception

Meanwhile . . . The New Biology Block under construction



es some point to what may seem restrictive classroom drudgery. Our
y has given us new stimulation and interest in German and Germany:
! that was effected by the Germans.

TASS Report

the first year of the society's existence we have probably accomplished
much as even the most optimistic of us expected. The original Steering
Committee gave way to elected committees at the Inaugural meeting and
the first Annual General meeting; gradually the Society became more
representative of all interests connected with the School, as the present
Committee list (which is printed with other lists on later pages) now
indicates.

A full programme of activities has taken place. A wine and cheese
party was supported by upward of a hundred members and a splendid
open-air summer evening concert, organised jointly by the Director of
Music and the late Mrs F Kitching, took place in Lacies Court Garden,
producing some string music which will long be remembered for its quality
and range.

More recently we held a reception for the parents of new boys at the
close of the traditional new boys' service. How better could we introduce
new parents to the school and the Society than to entertain them in this
way?

Two highlights of the year were most certainly the President's
reception at the House of Lords, when the Bishop of Durham and Mrs
Masey entertained a hundred members to a very enjoyable sherry evening,
and the Easter Fayre, which was intended to raise funds towards pur-
chasing a mini-bus for the Dolgoed project. An enormous amount of hard
work was put in by the Ladies of TASS, for which we are most grateful,
their efforts raised £340. The boys matched this effort during the
summer holidays, and to mark the extended participation of the School in
the Society, two boys have been elected to the committee.

At the part from the Annual General meeting, at which elections were made
and a full report of the previous year's work was presented, we held one
formal, internal meeting, a seminar on Modern Teaching Methods.
The internally marked English examination, Drama, Modern Mathematics,
Modern Languages, the Cambridge Classics Project and Business Studies
were all covered by members of the Common Room.

We held one sporting contest—a tennis match, which was unfortunately
cancelled, but we look forward to another one—and a croquet match—
next term.

Meetings during the Summer term will be:

Friday 9 May: a cheese and wine party in the Music School, at 1930
hrs.

Sunday 11 May: tennis v School.

Saturday 14 June: a Concert in Lacies Court Garden, at 1930 hrs.

Sunday 29 June: croquet v School.

NKH

The School Concert, 1 February by Robin Nels

The cantata 140, 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme', concerns the parable of the ten virgins—the gospel for the 27th Sunday after Trinity. This Sunday only occurs when Easter falls unusually early, as in 1731 when Bach wrote the work in Leipzig.

The concert in the Abbey Hall opened with this sturdy piece. Anthony le Fleming directed some polished playing from the Abingdon Chamber Orchestra. The beautiful recitative 'Come enter in with me' engendered some finely balanced chording and there was some fluid oboe playing 'My friend is thine', despite an unhappy miscast.

Christian Hunter was in full rich voice, but Gregory Rose's bass-baritone voice carried little weight by comparison, as the duets show. Bach's tenor parts are wide ranging and taxing; 'He comes, the bridegroom comes' is a typical example of the spiky recitative that requires a very steady vocal line. Harry Eden was unable to provide this and produced some falsetto top notes which contrasted comically with the natural timbre of his voice, which was a pity, for the voice has much to recommend it. The Chorus was earnest and strong, but lacked the broad, relaxed sound necessary in that first glorious chorus. The second half was taken up with an ambitious and on the whole highly commendable effort. One might well predict from the title 'Herod do your Worst' a rather impatient set of words to Bryan Kelly's new dramatic work. This turns out to be true in this pepped-up version of the Nativity. The narrative is studded with wishy-washy prose-poetry. Bryan Kelly's clever music can do little to help out moments like 'Why? Who knows? Who cares?' and some of the banal and repetitious exchanges between Joseph and Mary. Now and again there are ingenious touches. The shepherds' scene is a delight, well played and sung by Mary Allen, Elizabeth Short and Janet Scrimgeour; the introduction of the stable animals was intelligently done, but apart from the first formers' contribution, the play was, visually, amazingly poor. The production on the whole was wooden and the costumes rather weak. Simplification and starkness in preparation were of course deliberate, but the drab and jaded end product was surely a mistake.

Bryan Kelly's score is typical of the current school musical plot—straightforward, descriptive, full of ostinato, peppered with sonorous percussion and rather anonymous as a result of its mixture of styles.

There are some delicate note-clusters for the pianists in an effective scene of description and an interesting improvised section for the percussion. Plenty of witty moments too, notably the hotel receptionist, who spoils the timing towards the end, but otherwise earned some hearty laughs. Above all there are plenty of attractive and immediately appealing songs. Anthony le Fleming conducted the work with expertise and showed great sensitivity to the rise and fall of the music. The orchestra captured the changing moods well and played homogeneously, no mean feat in a play of this sort, although the chorus writing and performing seemed stilted and uninspired.

Concerts like this are an integral part of school life, and when Abingdon is lucky enough to have such a skilful conductor, it is a pity that many boys and especially members of staff do not attend.



Music

We are, of course, very fortunate in having a well-known composer on the music staff. One of the advantages is knowing what new pieces of music are in the creative melting pot, as well as keeping up with those which are out from the press. I remember hearing the striking first chords of 'Herod do your Worst' before they were written down on paper. Bryan Kelly, who must be one of the quickest writing of contemporary composers, took no longer than four weeks to complete the opera. (We took three times as long to prepare it for performance.)

Since Herod was published last September, Mr Kelly has lectured in America (where he wrote a March called 'Washington DC') and adjudicated for the Associated Board. Even if, in terms of time, Herod do your Worst is hidden behind a full scale Stabat Mater, an overture and Sinfonietta for orchestra, music for brass band, an anthem and numerous other works, we remain extremely grateful for having had the opportunity of giving one of the first performances of it.

Last term saw the establishing of the North Berks Youth Orchestra which now meets weekly during term time at Larkmead School. This was made possible because of the encouragement and financial support of both the County Youth Service and the Education Committee. It has meant the organization of orchestral work within the school, and has solved the problem of giving the best instrumentalists in the area the opportunity of playing together regularly, and getting an inside view of the major orchestral repertoire. The standard required is Grade V and above. We now have an Intermediate and a Junior orchestra in the school.

Michael Tillet adjudicated the individual strings music competition on the last Sunday of term. It proved to be a memorable day in many ways. It was 'the last time' for several of the best players, and the seniors achieved a real sense of performance. For how many years has Robert Samsworth been in this class? Well, his Elgar cello Concerto (1st mov) would have taken me beating by any standards. Stephen Fairlie and Christopher Rock will sorely missed next year. Perhaps I may be forgiven for singling out Peter Shaw's unaccompanied Bach (Sarabande) — but this, in my opinion, is one of the most beautifully projected and carefully prepared performances I have ever heard at school.

It might have been an over-nostalgic event had the juniors not returned the promise of things to come from last year earlier during the year. There were fifteen (mostly violinists) in the class which was eventually won by Howard Russell, who has been learning for less than a year. A remarkable achievement. S Martin came out top of the Beginners class and Richard Pike gave a good account of a viola sonata by Flackton to the Intermediate. (Real prizes this time, mind you: lots of lovely gramophone records!)

As last year, the day finished with chamber music—ensembles of three or more—only this year it was non-competitive.

ARLEF

Chapel Notes

The Lenten season is traditionally a time for self-examination and taking stock. The following statistical material deserves careful consideration, particularly by those boarders who have been confirmed in recent years. 1 denotes the number of boys (day and boarders) confirmed; 2 is the number of communicants on Ash Wednesday; 3 is the average number of communicants each Sunday in Lent term.

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1.	44	31	44	36	43	31	27	23	29	NK
2.	103	70	59	64	85	68	50	39	26	17
3.	50	57	52	51	56	33	34	36	35	14

We have continued to use the Series II form of Holy Communion throughout the term. A still greater degree of lay participation has been achieved by having the Old Testament lection read by the junior server. The senior server not only reads the Epistle but also conducts the Intercession. The last-named innovation has led to a welcome variety and breadth of intention and prayer at the Eucharist.

We are greatly indebted to Brother Cyril SSJE for a stimulating and practical series of four Lent addresses. It was good of him to come all the way from London for this course and sad that a number of boys left till the last talk to find out how much they had been missing. We are all grateful to the following visiting preachers: the Rev Ronald Berry, Minister of All Saints' Church, Northcourt; Mr R Northcote Green, MC, TD, MLC JP, Headmaster of Worksop College; Mr SD Woods, MA, FRIC, Headmaster of Barnard Castle School; the Rev John Coventry, SJ, of Heythrop College. The last-named preachment represents a real milestone of ecclesiastical advance, for this is the first occasion on which a Roman Catholic priest has preached in the Chapel.

The choir under Mr le Fleming's expert direction has continued to enrich our worship and during Lent they have performed various parts in turn of Bairstow's setting of the Lamentations. The 'composer of the week' is still a popular feature of Senior Chapel each morning, particularly when they are live performers.

Collections at services have been as follows: Opening of term service at St Helen's (for St Helen's), £6-7-7; Chapel Funds, £6-7-7; Royal School of Church Music, £4-4-4; Chapel Funds, £4-12-4; Oxford Samaritan £5-11-7; Chapel Funds, £3-2-4; New Guinea Mission, £6-2-3; Chapel Funds £4-7-6; Society of St John the Evangelist, £5-7-10. The following have helped to beautify our worship by providing and arranging Chapel flowers: Miss Farr, the Prefects' Common Room, Mrs Eden, the Tape Recording Society, Mrs Hasnip and the RAF Section.

A number of boys undertook a practical form of self-denial by keeping Lent boxes in aid of the Feed the Minds Campaign, a joint effort to provide Christian literature for those who have little or nothing to read. Details of the total collected will be published next issue. During Lent the Litany was said in addition to Compline as a preparation for Holy Communion on Saturday evenings.

A very ambitious project was undertaken in Chapel on the last Monday evening of term in aid of the 'Shelter' campaign. This was the most commendable initiative and effort of the Fifth forms in presenting Coleridge's 'Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. It was most beautifully spoken by mass choirs of voices, while a company of mimers enacted the narrative—the dignity, concentration, composure and fine grouping were all admirable.

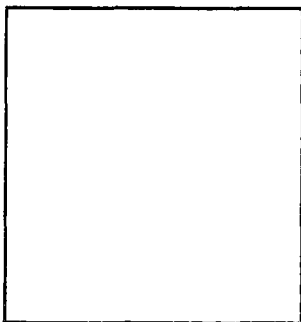
original music and a striking use of polarised lighting added to the total effect and the whole production reflected great credit on the organiser, Kevin Barnard. A total of £40-0 has been sent to Shelter.

Confirmation classes will start again next term. We pray that those who decide to come forward may be strengthened in their resolve to witness Christ in these difficult times.

PGO

SPORTS SECTION

Hockey



There was plenty of promise in the Hockey club when we began the season—young players from the Colts would fill the gaps in both the First and Second Elevens. Several old retainers were still on hand, and the first news at the new Colts and Junior Colts suggested no lack of talent. And so it might have been a very good season, given average weather; but not since 1963 have we had more games cancelled, so many frustrated fans' round the Stone Wall, or more gloomy shakes of the head from Mr Withson. However, some useful games and exciting matches were played, and such is human optimism that we look forward to next year, consoling ourselves with the thought that the weather could hardly be (much) worse.

LCJG

At XI: Because of the bad weather, three of the earlier matches had to be cancelled, but in spite of this, the young and comparatively inexperienced side soon settled down to play some very enjoyable hockey.

Peter Harrison in goal had a sound season, although he must learn to keep his eye on the ball at all times. Iain Bowden and David Smith, the two full backs, had an uncertain start but soon gained confidence in their ability to stop and clear the ball and settled into reliable, hard working players.

At left half we were lucky to have Simon Woods who, although only a year last year, showed himself to be a very experienced and intelligent player. Michael Harfield had a very good season at right half, backing up the forwards well. With Rose as a dominating centre, this half back line was definitely one of the strengths of the side.

The forward line, although lacking the necessary experience at first, soon began to show plenty of good, attacking hockey, but their main fault was poor finishing in the opposition's circle. Some fine moves were made by the inside forwards, Andrew and Michael Varley; the former's tackling was an example to all.

James Cox on the right wing developed into a fast, efficient player well linked with his inside forwards. Some very useful goals were scored by the centre forward, David Marshall, playing some nice, if at times rather unorthodox hockey. But by far the greatest problem was who should play on the left wing. It was Jeremy Comerford who eventually took the position, even though he had not played much hockey previously and he showed towards the end of the season an extremely good ball sense.

Finally our thanks go to Mr Smithson for battling with the elements, preparing our pitches, in what must have been one of the wettest seasons for many years.

Congratulations to AJ Varley, MJ Harfield, SA Woods and PB Harrison on their award of full colours, and to DI Smith, IS Bowden, MC Varley, JL Cox, DM Marshall and J Comerford who received their half colours.

The team was: PB Harrison, DI Smith, IS Bowden, SA Woods, R Roberts (capt), MJ Harfield, JR Comerford, AJ Varley, DM Marshall, MC Varley and JL Cox; also played NW Herdman, DN Baumann (4), CJ Nicholl and DW Galbraith (2). The OA team is printed in the OA Notes.

Wallingford GS	Wed 22 Jan	(h)	Draw 0-0
Solihull	Sat 25 Jan	(h)	Lost 1-2
St Edwards	Sat 1 Feb	(a)	Lost 1-2
Newbury GS	Wed 5 Feb	(h)	Won 1-0
Pembroke Coll	Sat 15 Feb	(h)	Won 2-0
Oxford Sch for Girls	Wed 19 Feb	(a)	Won 7-0
Hockey Association	Wed 26 Feb	(h)	Lost 0-1
OAs	Sat 1 Mar	(h)	Draw 2-2
Bloxham	Sat 8 Mar	(a)	Won 4-0

The matches against RGS High Wycombe, KAS Wantage, Pangbourne Nautical Coll, Westminster Coll and RMA Sandhurst were all cancelled.

Second XI: Bad weather and flu: the same old story. The team's standard of play inevitably suffered in both collective team work and individual play. The 4-0 defeat by Solihull in the first match of the season clearly indicated this—a baptism by fire. The second fixture lacked much constructive hockey, and we conceded defeat to a marginally better organised team, despite some inspiring right wing play by Ian Kilgour. Flu took a heavy toll in the Newbury match and much credit is due to the Colts who joined us for this remarkable victory.

On a frozen pitch, off which the ball bounced to any height, the Radcliffe College team had the edge in what was otherwise a fairly close game. The last two matches were the only ones when no one was absent with flu. The Masters' XI provided some of the most enjoyable hockey and so superb goals were scored on the drying pitch. Quite a contrast to the 1st fixture, where a very damp pitch made constructive hockey almost impossible. Our high score was due in particular to Stephen Kirby's hitting.

As for the team itself, Stephen Bodimeade, eventually finding his position at centre forward, was always a menace to the opposing goal; Ian Kilgour, Christopher Nicholl and Michael Elliott showed what could be done with competent linking and firm passing along the right. Colin Day was a tower of strength, both in goal and finally as full back. We are grateful to Phillip Staniland for replacing him in goal at such short notice.

DV

This report would not be complete without reference to the play of an example of the captain, David Galbraith. In other years he would probably have gained a place in the First XI. As the outstanding player in the side

much appreciated his strength and captaincy and congratulate him on well deserved half colours. BEW

The team was: DW Galbraith (capt), SA Bodimeade, CG Day, JM Iot, NW Herdman, HI Kilgour, RS Kirby, CJ Nicholl, RO Plail and iK Staniland; also played: JR Comerford, JE Hesketh, CE Utley, JP choll, DK Rice, GF Pike, JQ Rowley, SP Loosemore, PR Clarke, TJ ook and D Mayall.

ihull	Sat 25 Jan	(a)	Lost	0—4
Edwards	Sat 1 Feb	(a)	Lost	0—1
wbury GS	Wed 5 Feb	(h)	Won	4—0
dley Coll Third XI	Sat 15 Feb	(a)	Lost	0—4
sters' XI	Mon 3 Mar	(h)	Lost	2—4
xham	Sat 8 Mar	(a)	Won	6—1

The matches against RGS High Wycombe, Wallingford GS, King red's, Oxford Sch, Westminster Coll and RMA Sandhurst were all cancelled.

rd XI: Chopped and changed, the team lost rhythm, but found new mations and always played enterprisingly.

Largo captained quietly and well, distributing the ball unselfishly and aginatively. Boyers played with spirit and dash, Milton with tricky husiasm. There was also considerable promise in the stick and style of dfrey. Staniland quickly anticipated events as goalkeeper and Spearing s sound as full back. But in spite of individual merits, the team fell vn because of slowness in defence and a lack of thrust and final striking ver up front.

Perhaps the most important thing of all is that these players enjoyed ir hockey in both match and practice. NKH/JCH

The team was: P Staniland, CJ Spearing, JA Largo (capt), PJ Todd, G Healy, AW Wood, I Blair, S Boyers, GB Milton, DC Henderson and Morris; also played: JBA Godfrey and JE Hesketh.

gdalen Coll	Wed 19 Feb	(h)	Lost	1—4
wbury GS	Wed 26 Feb	(a)	Lost	1—2

ts XI: Through all difficulties this team showed great spirit, especially inst St Edward's when it pulled back two goals after being four down. he defence played well but sometimes made some awful mistakes. wley, at centre half, commanded the midfield effectively, distributing passes well to the forwards, who were eager and pressed hard, but led to let themselves down in the circle. Mayall, on the right wing, and holl at left inner, were the most dangerous forwards, scoring over half team's goals between them.

On the whole, this season was successful, perhaps more so at the end of when the team achieved their two victories. GFF

he team was: TJ Brook, GF Pike (capt), DGW Murphy, GR Smith, Rowley, DK Rice, DW Mayall, NJ Beeching, MT Bennett, JP Nicholl RHL Savoury; also played: AW Wood, SP Loosemore, PR Clarke and S Bradley.

hull	Sat 25 Jan	(h)	Draw	2—2
Edwards	Sat 1 Feb	(h)	Lost	2—4
gdalen Coll	Wed 19 Feb	(h)	Won	1—0
wbury GS	Wed 26 Feb	(a)	Won	3—2

he matches against Wallingford GS, Pangbourne Nautical Coll, Blox- and RGS High Wycombe were all cancelled.

Junior Colts: Because of the weather, there were no practices before first match and so the team and positions were chosen from the list those who had signed up for a voluntary game the week before!

For many this was their first organised game of hockey, but enthusiasm and determination overcame inexperience and made for a worthwhile game in sticky conditions. Few changes were, in fact, necessary for the outcome of the match, in which signs of teamwork began to appear.

The sense of positioning in all members of the set was very encouraging and consequently most players enjoyed the practices. Hard hitting cross-passing are skills to be developed on kinder pitches.

Enthusiasm was very high and more people deserved a place in the team than could be accommodated. Peck was a patient and hard working captain, and I am sorry that he did not have more opportunity to develop a match-winning team.

The team was: AN Rayson, CJG Houston, WdeF Peck (capt), RG Wood, DPC Smith, M Lawless, PD Price and PJS Harris; also played: A Chalker, CN Leonard, SCM Parks, JR Rawlinson, KGW Sykes, and Jollyman.

Solihull	Sat 25 Jan	(a)	Lost 0
St Edwards	Sat 1 Feb	(h)	Draw 1

The matches against Wallingford GS, Bloxham, RGS High Wycombe and Oxford Sch were all cancelled.

House Knockout Competition: In between the rain and snow, this was eventually played.

In the first round, Tesdale defeated Reeves by three goals to two. It was a spirited game, with Tesdale controlling it most of the time, but Reeves pressed hard in the last five minutes. Too late.

Blacknall, who had the First XI forward line, never really played a full team, but still managed to defeat Bennett by four goals to nil.

On paper, then, the final promised to be very interesting: Blacknall v Reeves. Its tremendous attack against a side which, if not so strong, played more as a corporate body. The score at the end was misleading (Blacknall won 4-0), because unfortunate Tesdale's goalkeeper was playing in his second game, but it was an enjoyable contest and Blacknall deserved the win.

MJH/

Athletics

Once again our very short season was further curtailed by inclement weather. The Berkhamstead fixture was held before we had been able to have the use of our track and the matches against Bloxham and Leighton with Leighton Park and Reading both had to be cancelled.

Berkhamstead—Saturday 1 March (a)

Seniors: Lost 53-68

The following won their events: Smart (Mile 5:4.1, and 880 yds with Crawford 2:16.6); Akinbiyi (Long Jump 19:11½); Langman (Javeline 132:3).

Juniors: Won 65½-53½

The following won their events: Jordan (100 yds 11.4, High Jump 4' 10", Triple Jump 34:8, and Long Jump tied with Macdonald 15.3); Macdonald (440 yds 64.5).

The start of the Standards Competition had to be delayed and even the notice "No Standards today. All fields out of bounds", became almost

ermanent feature in the Entrance Lobby. Hardly surprising, then, that
rest in the competition tended to wane. However in such circumstances
s essential that those responsible for organising the competition should
tinue to foster enthusiasm and should be prepared to show their own
rest by holding events at every available opportunity. Unfortunately
Hands-Clarke did not have such support, and senior School in general
med to be disinterested—less than 30% of the points came from events
boys over 15. The final result was: 1: Tesdale 347, 2: Blacknall 322,
Reeves 320, 4: Bennett 316. RHB

ool Sports: It was a near thing but eventually we managed to complete
heats by ignoring rain on one day and by holding 220s along Park
ad on the next. This gave us just one clear day to prepare and duplicate
programme—getting it printed as in the past was clearly out of the
stion.

n the last ten days of term there were only two on which War Mem-
l Field was dry enough for use and as luck would have it these
pened to be the two days scheduled for the Sports Days. Though the
ck was still soft it was not sticky and both days were comparatively
d. The standard in some field events was very low, reflecting the enforced
k of training in events where technique is everything, but the Open
ng Jump—in which the first three were all over nineteen feet—was
arly an exception. The most memorable performance was by AO
nbiyi who was all power and grace as he bettered the Open Triple
p record by over three feet.

he keenly awaited duel between Crawford and Smart in the Open 880
ney both beat the record last year—was fully living up to expectations
n Crawford tripped and fell heavily. With the spur of competition
e, Smart was unable to maintain the record-breaking pace over the
300 yards. The 8 x 220 yards relays were even more exciting than
al with the order changing many times. In the Junior Race, Madin ran
uperb anchor leg for Reeves making up about 20 yards before breasting
tape inches in front of his rival who was certainly no slow-coach
self.

at the conclusion of the Sports the Challenge Cups were presented
n the pavilion by Mrs Sandford. RHB

yards:				
2	1: P Ashby	13.5	2: R Price	3: M Howat
3	1: S Hobson	12.8	2: A Courtenay	3: I Manning
4	1: C Hey	12.4	2: RI Macdonald	3: D Hanney
5	1: A Madin	12.0	2: K Sykes	3: C Clayton
6	1: A Barrett	11.7	2: RN Macdonald	3: M Osborn
n	1: A Akinbiyi	11.2	2: A Rose	3: D Whipple

yards:				
2	1: R Price	30.4†	2: P Ashby†	3: M Wartke
3	1: S Hobson	29.3	2: A Courtenay	3: P Lilley
4	1: C Hey	28.4	2: RI Macdonald	3: T Gresswell
5	1: A Madin	27.0	2: K Sykes	3: D Hares
6	1: A Barrett	26.3	2: M Osborn	3: RN Macdonald
n	1: D Whipple	25.2	2: M Crawford	3: M Baker

yards:				
3	1: S Hobson	65.9	2: A Courtenay	3: P Lilley
4	1: RI Macdonald	66.0	2: N Francis	3: K Taylor
5	1: A Madin	58.9	2: C Clayton	3: R Griffiths
6	1: M Osborn	58.5	2: A Barrett	3: J Rawlinson
n	1: M Crawford	55.4	2: W Whipple	3: R Blackburn

880 yards:

U/14	1: P Lilley	2:38.0	2: N Francis	3: A Mushens
U/15	1: R Griffiths	2:23.4	2: C. Clayton	3: K Sykes
U/16	1: M Osborn	2:21.6	2: R Griffiths	3: A Barrett
Open	1: N Smart	2:5.0	2: M Crawford	3: JP Cox

Mile:

U/15	1: M Barrett	5:35.4	2: R Wood	3: N Allington
U/16	1: M Osborn	5:41.9	2: D Smith	3: J Mushens
Open	1: M Crawford	5:5.5	2: S Fairlie	3: C King

High Jump:

U/15	1: P Lilley	4:2	2: R Price	3: S Hobson
U/14	1: P Lilley	4:5	2: T Gresswell	3: P Reimer
U/15	1: C Atkinson	4:9	2: R Griffiths	3: M Jones
U/16	1: C Atkinson	4:8	2: R Griffiths	3: A Balbernie
Open	1: D Whipple	5:4	2: C Day	3: G Shatford

Long Jump:

U/15	1: A Courtenay	13:6	2: P Lilley	3: R Price
U/14	1: A Glass	14:9	2: RI Macdonald	3: T Parker
U/15	1: K Sykes	16:7	2: D Hares	3: M Jones
U/16	1: A Barrett	17:3	2: J Rawlinson	3: RN Macdonald
Open	1: A Akinbiyi	20:3	2: P Harrison	3: D Whipple

Triple Jump:

U/16	1: RN Macdonald	34:1½	2: J Rawlinson	3: P Harris
Open	1: A Akinbiyi	44:2½†	2: D Whipple	3: P Harrison

Shot:

U/14	1: RI Macdonald	28:2*	2: R Collins	3: P Rogers
U/15	1: C Atkinson	29:8	2: M Lawless	3: D Hares
U/16	1: D Vennor-Morris	30:5½	2: M Osborn	
Open	1: R Blackburn	38:0	2: R Matthews	3: C Day

Discus:

U/14	1: T Parker	72:2	2: RI Macdonald	3: G Woods
U/15	1: M Lawless	78:1	2: C Atkinson	3: K Sykes
U/16	1: J Rawlinson	81:0	2: M Osborn	3: P Price
Open	1: R Blackburn	101:9	2: B Langmead	3: A Akinbiyi

Javelin:

U/14	1: P Rogers	76:0	2: A Glass	3: R Collins
U/15	1: M Lawless	104:0	2: W Matthews	3: K Sykes
U/16	1: D Vennor-Morris	96:0	2: M Osborn	3: P Price
Open	1: A Rose	147:0	2: B Langmead	3: R Matthews

8 x 220 yards:

Junior	1: Reeves	4:04.3	2: Tesdale	3: Bennett
Senior	1: Bennett	3:31.0	2: Blacknall	3: Reeves

Senior Medley (880, 440, 220, 220):

1: Bennett	3:56.0	2: Blacknall	3: Reeves
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Inter-House Cup:

1: Bennett 211	2: Tesdale 154	3: Reeves 111	4: Blacknall 109
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Victor Ludorum:

U/16	1: K Sykes 17	2: A Madin 15	3: M Lawless 14
Senior	1: D Whipple 20	2: A Akinbiyi 17	3: M Crawford 16

† beats previous record

* equals previous record

Cross Country

Of the fifteen fixtures arranged last term, we only managed to run seven. The season was a fairly satisfactory one, with the annual 'Derby' against St Edward's School and Radley College standing out as the most significant event.

In the Road Relay on Saturday 25 January, Bennett trounced the opposition to win in a record time of 34 mins 59 secs, the team consisting of Crawford, Vernon, Balbernie and Smart.

The standard of running throughout the term was good, with NKA Smart running magnificently, and winning all but one of his races. MG Crawford as a successful number two runner, and the other two members of the team, RK Blackburn and PM Annett, steadily improved throughout the term.

Many others aided and abetted the team on occasions, among whom Charles King was outstanding. Using his great Boat Club fitness, he could plough his way round a course, and it is to his credit that he managed to finish 5th at Radley and St Edward's. Timothy Hewes, on the occasions when he ran, used his great natural talent very much to the team's advantage, and Stephen Fairlie and John Dowling proved themselves useful and plucky runners. Thanks are also due to the others who ran.

During the term, Cross Country was at last given the well-deserved right to award its own colours. The office of captain was also created, while that of secretary was abolished, a simple procedure giving MG Crawford promotion.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank Mr Baker for the magnificent job he has done. His unbelievable enthusiasm and spirit has kept the club alive, and has made Cross Country one of the most successful school sports in terms of match results.

During the term, full colours were awarded to: CMcI King. Half colours were awarded to S Fairlie, PM Annett and RK Blackburn.

The following ran for the School last term: MG Crawford, NKA Smart, RK Blackburn, PM Annett (6), TW Hewes, CMcI King, S Fairlie, JG Dowling (4), A Balbernie, MG Osborn, DJ Whipple (2), DG Nasmyth, I Baker, CF Vernon and DK Rice (1).

Reading	Wed 29 Jan	(h)	Lost 54—59
Thames/Oxford City	Sat 1 Feb	(a)	3rd: 58—40—29
Weymouth Road Relay	Tues 4 Feb	(a)	Juniors: 3rd (5 teams)
			Seniors A: 1st "
			Seniors B: 2nd "
North Berks Champs	Wed 5 Feb (Icknield)		U/13: 4th (9 teams)
			U/15: 5th (10 teams)
St Edward's School	Wed 5 Feb	(a)	Won 36—44
St Edward's/Radley	Thurs 13 Feb	(a)	Won 51—51—49
St Abingdonians	Sat 15 Feb	(h)	Won 33—45
Weymouth Road Relay	Sat 8 Mar	(a)	15th (49 teams)

Rowing

A satisfactory start to the season's rowing has been made in spite of the pleasant weather and the occasional casualty. A senior squad of some twenty boys has been in training, and for most of the term we were able to boat two roughly equal trial eights and to give everyone a chance to be in a place in the First or Second Eight. This has indeed been markedly successful, and it is hoped that the composition of the crews for the

remainder of the year will not suffer from the rigidity we have sometimes imposed upon ourselves in the past. A Colts Eight has also emerged and a Junior Colts crew should exist this term.

The first fixture of the Lent term was the Schools' Head at Putney. The First Eight retained their position at 15th, and the Second Eight—not its strongest—dropped ten places to 37th overall. This performance was encouraging.

On Saturday 15 March three crews were entered for the Reading University Head of the River Race. The First Eight started 35th, the Second Eight 51st, and the Colts Eight 98th. The race was rowed over a shortened course, owing to flood conditions. The First Eight finished 42nd overall, the Second Eight 63rd, and the Colts eight finished rather low in the order but had a promising first appearance.

On Saturday 22 March the first two Eights entered the Kingston Head of the River, our first appearance there. Starting 73rd, the First Eight finished 19th, missing the Schools' Pennant by one second. The Second Eight started 77th and finished 35th.

Our thanks are due to Mr JH Essex for all his hard work in keeping our boats in good order, and also to Mr. Grainger who has been doing his teaching practice with us this term from Reading University. He inspired us with his new ideas and rendered quite invaluable help in all we did throughout the term. RG

Crews:

	First Eight	Second Eight	Colts Eight
bow	DG Nasmyth	NP Winton	AME Browne
2	JAF Ridge	MI Johnstone	DB King
3	MM Clift	JPD Mitchell	AM Higgs
4	RJ Grant	V Lacey-Johnson	TJ Hughes
5	CEJ Lilley	CJ Bovey	NRH Pollard
6	AE Lewis	JCV Wise	TR Baker
7	JE North	NJ Minns	MS Paddison
stroke	NJ Pilling	CMcI King	CR Gibaud
cox	JL Hounam	GW Hamlin	PE Scott
	AJ Iddles coxed the First Eight at Kingston.		

Badminton

The support for badminton last term was, as expected, less than that of the Michaelmas term. It was the subsequent lack of practice by the members of the two teams, combined with the bout of illness at the beginning of the term, that led to the less successful performances in the matches. The result of the first match against High Wycombe was a reversal of the previous one, but only three regular members of the First Six were fit to play. The same applied to the Second Six fixture against this school. The only other match the First Six was able to play was against Oxford School, this being a close, hard fought match, in which several games were halved. Although the team was nearly at full strength, it was mainly lack of practice that caused our defeat. The Second Six did little better but their matches were also close affairs.

Within the club, a doubles league was once again held. Last term, however, instead of being based on an individual system, the four pairs in each division remained consistent throughout.

The now customary Inter-House Knock Out was held again last term. All of the three matches played were very close, two of them requiring

nghes play-off after a tie. In the final, Blacknall beat Tesdale after a nghes game between Jonathan Rowson and Christopher Spearing.

On Saturday 22 February, seven members of the club took part in the Berkshire Junior Badminton Championships at Bracknell. The performances put up were much better than expected. In the singles only Jonathan Rowson reached the quarter-finals, but in the doubles tournament our match practice from last term obviously helped our performance. Two pairs, Jonathan Rowson playing with Michael Elliott, and Christopher Spearing with David Baumann, reached the quarter-finals, but unfortunately both failed to get through this round.

During the term, half-colours were awarded to Michael Elliott, Jonathan Rowson and Christopher Spearing, and it is hoped that these awards, the first ever made for Badminton at the School, will improve the high standard at already exists within the club. JRR

The first team was: JR Rowson (capt), JM Elliott, CJ Spearing, CJ Woods, NJ Beeching, JP Nicholl, RL Matthews and I Gardner.

The second team was: R Moore (capt), H Manning, D Howes, Macmillan, Bricknell, Harding, RB Luff, DK Rice and JM Dyke.

First VI:

GS High Wycombe	Wed 12 Feb	(h)	Lost 3—5
Sandford School	Mon 10 Mar	(h)	Lost 4—5

Second VI:

GS High Wycombe	Wed 12 Feb	(a)	Lost 4—5
St Mary Sandford BC	Fri 7 Mar	(h)	Lost 4—5
Windsor College School (U/16)	Mon 17 Mar	(h)	Lost 2—7

Rugby Football

Weather conditions were against us this Lent Term and there were far too many cancellations of games because of wet pitches. As a result, senior rugby was a long time getting under-way and, in the event, only one 'A' match was played—against Abingdon RFC at home on Saturday 25 January—and only one Sevens Competition, the Oxford Schools Sevens on Thursday 22 March, was entered. Nonetheless, fairly creditable performances were achieved especially on so little training. We lost to a strong Abingdon RFC side, 5—18, in a good game, the team being selected from Lenny, CJ Jordan, NJ Booker, MG Baker, KP Brown, LI Morgan, NS Bulbeck, MT Evans, DM Steele, AJ Cowley, JBA Godfrey, JP Cox, O Akinbiyi, B Langmead and A Rose.

In the Sevens, we entered three teams. The First VII (MJ Hill, A Rose, J Varley, LI Morgan, JP Cox, AW Semmence, RK Blackburn) lost to Helen's School, Cowley, 6—11, in the first round of their section; the Second VII (KP Brown, JT Stafford, MG Baker, PJ Lenny, GR Shatford, J Clargo, BK Langmead) were more fortunate, defeating St Albans, 8—6, in the first round but losing to St Thomas Aquinas School, 0—9, in the second; and the Colts VII (GR Smith, CJ Jordan, AR Snodgrass, GF Pike, MT Evans, JJ Shellard, MS Paddison) after easily defeating Solihull, 23—2, in the first, went down, 5—16, to Wandsworth in the second round.

Junior rugby this term was concentrated on the Minors (U/13) team and on House matches, although two matches were played at Junior Colts level, one against St Birinus' School, Didcot, and the other against Newbury School. The composition of the team was different for the two games and this was reflected in the results, the Didcot game being won 15—3 and the Newbury game lost heavily. At under thirteen level, two matches were also played and both proved very close. We lost to Newbury, 3—5, largely

because their try was by the posts and ours by the blindside corner-flare it was a game which we looked like winning except that selfishness cost us two or three tries. The match against John Mason High School was won 3—0, and was played on one of the few good days of the term. There was much open rugby but surprisingly the only score came from a text-book push-over try from our reinforced scrum. This Minors XV has few weak links and was well captained by Ken Taylor. The team was selected from AP Reimer, JP Seaver, AH Courtenay, ND Francis, IL Manning, J Oakley, KPM Taylor, AW McPhail, GK Leedham, JMG Taylor, N Jefferson, PRJ Lilley, JD Griffin, SM Hobson, PD Cook and APP Mushens.

House matches were successfully played off in spite of frequent postponements. In the League contest, the Candy Cup was won by Blacknall House with victories over Tesdale (12—8), Bennett (17—5) and Reeve (23—0). Tesdale House secured two wins, over Bennett (11—0) and Reeve (18—3) and Bennett House a single victory over the unfortunate Reeve (11—0), who thus gained the wooden spoon. In the Knock-out, the Bayliff Cup went to Tesdale House who defeated Bennett in the final overwhelmingly by 43 points to 6. Despite this score, the game was a good one particularly in the first half when Tesdale were only three points up (9—6). But second half pressure from Tesdale's large forwards saw the score mount rapidly with Butcher, the biggest forward on the field, scoring seven tries.

DO

Orienteering

This is a sport which has been receiving a great amount of publicity recently, and has slowly caught on in this School. It has been described as something like motor rallying without a car. At the start you are given a photostat map, a sheet of checkpoint descriptions, like 'under the oak', and a check card.

When your turn comes to start, you are directed to a master map from which you copy the control positions on to your own map. Then you set your compass to the correct bearing for the first control and off you go making the most of your map and compass.

When a control is reached, you stamp the check card, set off for the next control and so on, until you reach the finish. The winner is the person who visits all the controls in the correct order in the shortest possible time.

The advantage of orienteering is that anyone can do it. Courses can be as difficult as you want to make them, having from five to thirty checkpoints and anything up to ten miles long. But because the same course cannot be used twice, or the same area of land more than a few times, orienteering is almost impossible as an organised school sport. Consequently, teams have been supporting outside events, organised by town or county clubs, which are usually held on Sunday mornings and can be quite a long way away.

Trying to muster enthusiasm for any new sport is difficult enough, but when it involves getting up early on a Sunday morning to travel some distance to a pedestrian point-to-point in unknown territory, the situation is only made worse. Support, however, is growing and the three events last term were manned mainly by fifth and lower sixth formers with the help of members of staff.

In spite of the problems involved, I can highly recommend this very interesting and challenging sport to anyone who is looking for enjoyable outdoor adventure.

DJ

Chess

The major single achievement of the season was the winning of the Berkshire League by the First Five in the first year in which we have entered for the competition, but over the term it was the Junior sides which gave most grounds for satisfaction. Not one match at any level was lost and some of the younger players showed considerable promise; Philip Evans, Timothy Niblett, Philip Marley and Robert McGreevy were outstanding amongst these.

For the Seniors, Gareth Pearce is one of the best players in the area, while Christopher Marley and Howard Manning both showed a dedication and skill which will make the top three boards exceptionally strong for the next two years. Hugh Parry and Bernard Langmead had moderate seasons, but sincere thanks must go to Langmead, who has served the school chess teams for five years and who took on the captaincy in the Lent term. A total of nine players represented the County—Pearce (on board two), Marley and Manning at Under 18, Evans, P Marley and Mark Ormerod Under 13 and Robin Chapman, Scott Wilson and McGreevy at Under 11. Pearce also played for the Berkshire Senior team. In the Berkshire Congress he finished fourth in the Under 18 section; Chris Marley came first equal in the Under 15 section, and in the Under 13s Evans was fifth and Philip Marley eighth out of 41.

The Junior House Tournament was shared by Blacknall and Tesdale and is, together with the Hoyle Cup (won by Niblett) and most of the arranging of fixtures and providing of transport, was managed by Mr Goodgett, to whom we are all very grateful indeed.

DHP

Seniors: GD Pearce, CJ Marley, HJ Manning, DH Parry, BK Langmead. C Clift also played.

Juniors: PH Evans (7), RL McGreevy (5), PD Marley (5), M Ormerod (4), TB Niblett (4), AR Mushens (3), JSP Mushens (3), M Pearce (3), WACKUP (3), R Chapman (2), CJ Marley (2), W Pollard (2), CJ Baumann (1), C Clift (1), TC Parker (1), WdeF Peck (1), T Roberts (1), NJ Tresidder (1), S Wilson (1).

Senior Team:

Reading Grammar School	Fri	24 Jan	(h)	Draw	2½—2½
Eton College	Sat	8 Feb	(h)	Won	3—1
St John Mason School	Fri	21 Feb	(h)	Won	4—1
Reading Cathedral School	Wed	26 Feb	(a)	Won	3½—1½
Reading Grammar School (Berkshire League final)	Wed	12 Mar	(a)	Won	3—2

Junior Teams:

Reading Edge School	Fri	17 Jan	(h)	Won	4½—½
St John Mason School	Mon	20 Jan	(a)	Won	9—1
Bartholomew's, Newbury	Mon	3 Feb	(a)	Won	3½—1½
St John's First X	Thurs	20 Feb	(a)	Won	10—0
St John Close, Cheltenham	Wed	26 Feb	(a)	Won	4—1
Reading Grammar Sch First X	Thurs	6 Mar	(a)	Won	9—1
St John Alfred's, Wantage	Tues	11 Mar	(h)	Won	7—3

Ridge

A successful season marred only by the First IV failing to reach the All England Schools' Final and its first ever defeat at the hands of Harwell Ridge Club. Last year we finished second to Harrow in the All England Schools' heat at Eton and just missed the final. With the same team this year we were hoping to go one better. However, Eton themselves saw to it

that we didn't, though we felt ourselves somewhat unlucky not to do so even more so when we found there was a vacancy which St Edward's, who we have beaten each of the five times we have played, were asked to fill.

The Lent term began with the entry of the First IV in the Oxfordshire heat of the Committee Cup. After a close fought contest which they should have won, they came second, only two points behind the winners.

The following week saw the Berks and Bucks Junior Pairs Championship at Slough. Owing to mock A Levels the next day, only four of the nine possible pairs could enter. Thirty-six pairs in all entered, divided into four sections of nine. RJA Butland and JT Stafford won their section while JA Clargo and JP Cox won theirs. After match points had been counted up, a coincidence put both pairs joint runners up of Berks and Bucks with 396 IMPs each. A pair from Slough were the winners while from a report in the 'Daily Telegraph' we found that the best two Eton pairs came fourth and sixteenth! As prizes, we received sixty-three local points and boot on bridge.

Near the end of the term St Edward's and ourselves held a joint heat for the World Charity Cup. Ten pairs in all entered and played hands set the same all over the world. RJA Butland and JT Stafford ran out comfortable winners while JL Cox and KP Brown played well to finish third. Both pairs will probably receive some local points as prizes. In another heat Harwell NJ Booker played with his father and finished second. The most enjoyable match of the term was the one at St Helen's where we were run enough to win 132-0. We would, however, like to thank Karen Geary and her team. We also recorded our first ever defeat in twenty months against Harwell Bridge Club. Through this match we were offered a special invitation to a tournament on Sunday 1 June at Harwell.

During the holidays Butland and Stafford went to a congress at Torquay where over four hundred people were playing, including eight internationals. They won their heat and did extremely well to finish twenty-first out of twenty-eight in the final. We will certainly miss them when they leave this year.

Finally we thank AP Long who twice appeared for teams at a minute's notice and mention that we hope to have a Bridge tie by the end of the year.

The First Team was: RJA Butland (capt), JT Stafford, JA Clargo and JP Cox; also played: NJ Booker and BK Langmead (once).

The Second Team was: NJ Booker, BK Langmead, JL Cox and KP Brown; AP Long also played once.

The Third Team was: KP Brown, AP Long, M Crocker and M Bricknell

First Four

St Helen's	Fri 7 Feb	(h)	Won	70-29	IMPs, 12 Boards played
St Edward's	Wed 19 Feb	(a)	Won	49-24	" , 16 " "
Stowe	Sat 1 Mar	(a)	Won	118-42	" , 22 " "
Magdalen CS	Mon 3 Mar	(h)	Won	114-44	" , 24 " "
RAF Abingdon	Tues 4 Mar	(h)	Won	108-35	" , 28 " "
St Helen's	Fri 14 Mar	(a)	Won	132-0	" , 12 " "
Harwell Bridge C	Mon 17 Mar	(h)	Lost	31-60	" , 24 " "

Second Four

RAF Abingdon	Tues 4 Mar	(h)	Won	53-40	IMPs, 16 Boards played
St Helen's	Fri 14 Mar	(a)	Won	51-49	" , 12 " "
Harwell	Mon 17 Mar	(h)	Lost	26-57	" , 25 " "

Third Four

St Edward's 2nd	Wed 19 Feb	(a)	Lost	31-60	IMPs, 16 Boards played
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The great achievement of the term as far as the societies were concerned was the inauguration of the much needed and long awaited Cultural Coordinating Committee, consisting of two members of staff, five boys who are elected each term by a vote of all society secretaries, and two members ex officio: the Head of School and the secretary of the General Games Committee. The aim of the CCC is to act as a check on, and a stimulus to, the existence and function of school societies in any way possible, as well as to manage the finances.

Now that there is some kind of general management at the head of the societies, a higher standard of efficiency and fewer clashes can be expected this term.

The Lent term is only ten weeks long, and some find this a good excuse to slacken off society activities. A lot of time is spent on arranging the next term's meetings, and when next term comes the cry of 'exams' tags on with it. In spite of this, and the toll of flu victims, the Economists managed two meetings and two outings, while for most of the time their secretary was in the Lodge. And all credit to them. At the first meeting Mr MR forelle spoke on contemporary America, and later in the term Marten Ward explained trade union reform. Outings were to Didcot Power Station and Neilson's Marketing Research Centre in Oxford. Visits to the House of Commons and the Stock Exchange are planned for this term.

It is a sign of the times that the **Royse** should hear talks on drug dependence (Martin Geary), and the Beatles as a social phenomenon (David Galbraith), as well as Primary Education (Michael Baker). The standard was high, although discussion tended to ramble, with the exception of the last talk which was saved by lengthy contributions from the audience rather than any weighty pearls of wisdom from the reader. Sign of the times, too, that the **St Edmund** should be showing the film 'L-shaped room', which must have disappointed those who were expecting a blue film. The other meeting was an insight into a comparatively unknown, but very worthwhile institution, the Samaritans, given by the founder of the Oxford branch.

More exploitation within its wide margins came from the **Literary**, who organised weekly poetry readings during the lunch hour; these were given by a member to an open audience. Although well advertised and of a high standard, not many people took the advantage of hearing poetry well read. Besides this innovation, two meetings were held. William Chislett on James Joyce and a symposium of short papers: David Galbraith on *Cry the Beloved Country*; John Dowling on Lawrence's essay, *The Crucifix across the Mountain*; Robert Turner on WR Clarke, a science fiction author; and Gordon Maclean on one of James Baldwin's short stories. Effective non-

use of the sixth-form club and the kind hospitality of Mr and Mrs Chislett and Dr and Mrs Maclean made these meetings far more relaxed and productive. The Critics, too, thought that the confines of school tended to hinder discussion, and subsequently enjoyed the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Dean. The Critics are often accused of feet-treading, but as far as I can see they flourish, quite unpretentiously, more than their rivals. Besides, what is better than a good bit of healthy competition? Four meetings were held: Nick Smart on George Orwell; Martin Andrews on Paul Gauguin; a symposium of short papers covering art, literature and music, and finally AG Muff on Machiavelli. The response to meetings and the energy of its secretary, Robert Cash, must surely guarantee the survival of this society as a separate entity: an average attendance of 15 out of 1 speaks for itself.

Of its so-called rivals, the Athenaeum managed one outing to see *Forty Years On*, starring Sir John Gielgud. Unfortunately, the seats in the balcony of the Apollo theatre hindered satisfactory viewing and reduced the chances of catching the jokes; consequently the performance was rather an anticlimax after the critique. The Film showed only three films last term; *Frenzy*, a powerful Swedish film, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, a deep south drama starring Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman, and a modern US art film which is not yet on the circuits called *Dutchman*. It is encouraging to hear that finances are now straight.

The only possible contender with the Critics is the Symposium which because of the illness of members, was only able to hold one meeting, at which Nicholas Minns read a paper on pop as art, which suffered from a lack of relevant discussion. The same went for the Onslow, who had the privilege of hearing Michael Varley talking on the personal life of George II and George III. Their second venue was the cinema to see the award winning film, *A Man for all Seasons*, which, if nothing else, was a first class evening's entertainment. Six meetings have been arranged for this term. Their big brother, *Historians*, is stubbornly holding on to its independence and keeping rigidly to the A-level syllabus, which is surely not the point of a society; an amalgamation with Onslow would create a worthwhile society for those interested in history generally, not just in the A-level syllabus. They did hold one meeting when Alan West talked of the Duke of Marlborough.

The Scientific, after their traditional readings of entries for the BAA Science prize, heard Mr G Clarke, senior technician at the Population Genetics Research Unit in Oxford, talking about aspects of his work: chromosomal analysis and interesting genetic defects. But what has happened to the worthy Mathematics? Dead, dormant or bone-idle?

The Modern Linguists had yet another successful term, catering for French and Russian tastes at their two outings. The first was to see two plays by the contemporary playwright, Fernando Arrabal, called *Guernic* and *Pique en Compagne*; the stark, harsh quality of these two plays left the audience quite stunned. Later, Mr Taylor took twenty to see the Russian play, *The Naked King*, by Eugen Swartz. Unfortunately, a German poetry evening had to be postponed because of a clash—the last time Well, a day by day chart has been put up in the main hall by the CCC of which secretaries may chalk up as many planned meetings, within reason as they want; first come, first served.

The Debating had just one meeting which (would you believe?) suffered from misinterpretation. If this malaise cannot be cured, why not have that debate? The motion was This house believes that the twentieth

century holds no future for man, which was, thankfully, defeated by a very large majority. Proposing the motion were Vivian Lacey-Johnson and Caroline Halliday; Ian Bricknell and Karen Geary opposed it with two very good speeches. A cry from the secretary: it is a pity that this society, which is open, does not attract more members of the lower school. I think that more attractive motions would help; gone are the days of believing that the Scots are a barbarous nation or that fashion is merely a means of extorting money from the public or even that honesty is not the best policy. Perhaps a, not so much frivolous, but light debate would bring a few prospective debaters out of their shells.

The Fifth Form had another fruitful season with a talk from Mr Edward Joseph, a film producer, on trials and tribulations of filming which proved to be very amusing, well put over and informative. The second meeting was an informal and well attended Blues recital by the school group.

On the cultural side the emphasis seems to be on music. William Chislett addressed the Cullen on Gustav Mahler, illustrating the massiveness of his works with carefully chosen extracts. At the second venue Charles Maude gave an excellent talk on the Masses of Haydn, followed later in the term by a brief but interesting talk by Michael Baker on the history of Jazz. The Jazz itself had one talk from RA Joseph on Blues singers and their styles. Some members were lucky enough to see Roland Kirk in Oxford about which they were wildly enthusiastic. The Folk, suffering from a lack of new performers, nevertheless arranged four concerts. Always well attended, meetings take on the form of inter-school socials with original and often excellent background music. The Inter-School Social itself carries on with bruised feet; last term it held a Valentine's Day dance originally arranged for January 18) in the Court Room.

Another society where the joint element is prominent is the Rostrum, who again chose two outside speakers for their meetings: a talk on the American political system and one describing the inside story of elections by Mr. Leslie Brown, party agent for Airey Neave, MP.

The Play Readers read three plays last term: After the Rain (Bowen), The Cherry Orchard (Tchekov) and The Birthday Party (Pinter). This society continues from strength to strength.

Well there's the culture, if anybody wants to take it seriously. The good thing about it is that like a sugar cube impregnated with vaccine it is pleasant to eat and digest. In this very palatable form culture works best, so I think that more tangible contact should be made in the form of outings to art galleries and concerts—the impact and memory are more lasting. This is not to say that there are not any now: there are, but not enough in the right places. The Fine Arts, for instance, could mount an outing to the Victoria and Albert museum. Last term they held only one meeting where a film of English furniture with a record commentary was shown. Under the new sponsorship of the Chaplain, this society has a chance of improving itself. There is a brilliant exhibition of Henri Cartier-Bresson's photographs at the V & A also, which might be a venue for the photographic. And so the list continues; societies should be able to take advantage of these exhibitions when they come round.

Ironically, the one society which professes openly to administer culture, the Joint, provided none at all, but fulfilled its social claim by holding a Fancy Dress dance. But culture isn't everything and last term saw the continuing good, hard work of the Building. Beneficial deeds for the term included the building of new cycle sheds in the School House garden, the

completion of the rock walls at Waste Court and the building of a new soak-away under the path from Royse's Alley to the Dayboy changing rooms.

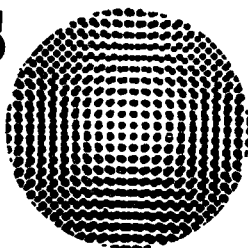
There were no reports from the Aeronautical, the Sailing, the Angling, the Change Ringers or the Tape Recording (what a waste of a marvellous Studio). The Golf submitted a report of non-activity due to weather conditions, which cannot really be taken seriously. The Photographic club look back on a term of no meetings and continued misuse of the darkroom; even the popular Philatelic is suffering from the disease of attendance. Approval and first day cover services are, however, continuing.

All that paints a very disheartening picture of the so-called do societies, but continued pessimism will do more harm than good, so a happy note to be finishing on; the Music, a model society, mounted two concerts last term, the first of which, organised by Christopher Rock, laid a slight emphasis on light music. In contrast to this, Jeanne Fry on 'cello and Antony le Fleming on piano played the two Brahms 'cello sonatas, which were very much appreciated by all who attended. Another function of this society was to provide live music in chapel during the latter half of the term, an innovation warmly welcomed.

The Brass Rubbers have now materialised, under David Hacker and the sponsorship of the Chaplain. They had a successful beginning with a visit to Ewelme church.

There it is. A lot is encouraging, but there is still more room for improvement. Too many secretaries are not caring about their obligations and this reflects on the members. As far as members themselves are concerned, since appeals to social conscience don't seem to have made much impression, it might be beneficial if boys were limited in the number of societies they could join; this would entail more thought on behalf of the prospective member and would lead, hopefully, to greater dedication with each society. In this context, if people will not do things by themselves they will have to be made to, not by someone with demoniac tendencies but by someone who is willing to put a lot of hard work into his own society.

REPORTS



ccf

The wind of change has not missed the CCF, and this term they are welcoming some sixty recruits, keen young men whose training will give something more to occupy the NCOs during the term. They are also tightening up on Corps discipline, and habitual absentees will find things much more difficult than in the past. The other desirable change, but one which has unfortunately not yet come about, is in support for Course and Summer Camps. The RAF record in this is good, but there are so many interesting and exciting opportunities which are simply not being taken at present.

Nevertheless, last term was an active one. In the Royal Naval Section, the Boat Party's work on the dinghy progressed apace, and they expect to have it afloat this term. And on Field Day the section divided into two parties, the one joining the Army at Churn Range, whilst the other journeyed to RNAS Daedalus—a rather disappointing excursion as, contrary to expectations, there was no chance to fly.

The results of the AB and Proficiency exams were excellent, but those of the Advanced Proficiency distressing. Congratulations to the Drill Squad for the narrowness of the margins by which they missed winning the Drill Competition—better luck next time! And many thanks to Sub Lt Stan for all his good work in the section. We wish him all the best when he takes to the water with the Royal Navy.

The Army, too, had an active term which stretched well into the holidays, starting with Arduous Training, and the Leadership Courses attended by Cpls Anderson and Steele. Field Day saw members of the section going to Boxhill, where they were able to see some very recent, highly sophisticated equipment. Unfortunately, poor visibility prevented them from firing. This time the mist hung low over Churn Range and marksmen peered from a hundred yards at targets which came and went in the eddies. A good day's shooting was, however, had and the section is grateful to RSM Woods for his help then, and at parades throughout the term. The Recruitment section was in the hands of the Abingdon Parachute School, and were introduced to the training given there.

At weekends during the term, Bdrs Lang and Searle went out with JOTC on exercises. The section is now preparing for the Annual Inspection, and looking forward to Annual Camp, which will be held in Northshire—let's hope that there is a large turn-out!

In the RAF Section, there was a considerable amount of flying during the term, mostly in Chipmunks at RAF White Waltham and RAF Stawgan, while towards the end of term the section Drill Squad won the contingent Drill Competition. Field Day activities were divided between RAF Benson and London Airport, where the Junior Flight visited the DAC hangar and later the Imperial War Museum.

The section's Annual Camp took place during the Easter Holiday, at

RAF St Mawgan, the Western headquarters of Coastal Command. Here they visited the Naval Dockyard at Devonport, and were shown round HMS Llandaff, an aircraft detection frigate. This was probably the most enjoyable camp for years, and the section is now looking forward to Germany next April.

The camp and course record of the RAF has been good—twenty-seven cadets attended the Annual Camp, and since January forty cadets have been away on external activities. Flt Sgt RO Plail completed his Flying Scholarship at the Oxford Flying Club (Kidlington), Cdt Snodgrass completed a gliding proficiency course at RAF Swanton Morely, and many senior cadets attended Arduous Training.

The section is deeply grateful to a parent, Mr RCH Clarke, for the donation of his RAF sword to be used as a trophy. It will be awarded annually to an RAF Section cadet, and presented by Group Captain Reece on Inspection Day.

Last term was, then, on the whole a successful one in the Corps. The changes in organisation will, it is hoped, make it more efficient and worthwhile. But still, as always, the complaint is against those who are present with any number of wonderful opportunities, but who simply do not make use of them!

Arduous Training 1969

Arduous Training, which was again held at Carsphairn in Kirkcudbrightshire in the Southern Highlands of Scotland, provided sharp contrasts between walking and bivouacking under the most varied weather conditions we have had for some years. Although the routes were easier to negotiate this year, the necessity of remaining as comfortable as possible during the severe weather extremes was made clear to all—especially when some cadets had to struggle through the walks with blisters contracted during the first day or after an uncomfortable and wet night out.

The party reached Carsphairn at midday on Thursday 27 March, after an overnight stop in Carlisle. As the three-ton lorry and two landrovers bumped down the track into the camp site, the surrounding hills were bathed in warm sunshine, the ground dry and quite firm. An auspicious beginning.

The camp was quickly set up, kit was issued and with a marked eagerness the various groups had soon set off on the first exercise which took the form of a roundabout ascent of Willienna—one of the hills overlooking Carsphairn. This gave an idea of the sort of walking that the cadets would be undertaking and in beautiful weather the groups returned in high spirits.

However it was with a certain apprehension that the groups faced the long march the next day with dark clouds already moving in from the west. The march took the groups on the Rhinns of Kell and around Loch Doon—a route which had never been tried before—and many blisters appeared after the long road section round the Loch in the chilly rain.

The next exercise which took the form of an overnight bivouac was approached more seriously and entailed carrying all one's kit in poor weather conditions to a campsite near the frozen Afton Reservoir. The non-stop rain at the campsite definitely taught some cadets that there is a technique to keeping warm and dry and eating well in tough conditions. Early the next day, the sky brightened and cleared so that the return

arch was most enjoyable—some groups taking the more interesting route
to snow slopes on to a ridge.

Before the last exercise, a welcome break was taken in Ayr during
which a certain amount of snow settled on the hills so that Cairnsmore
was in beautiful condition for the next day's ascent. The morning started
off without a cloud in the sky, and before it darkened one group and the
officers had reached the top (2614ft) and agreed that the superb view
provided a striking conclusion to Arduous Training.

Thanks must be given first to the Officers and DH Willis for arranging
and cooking for the course, and secondly to WO CR Cadwell, whose hard
work and preparations before, during and after the course can pass too
easily unnoticed. JME

The party consisted of: JM Elliott, MM Clift, MA Fletcher, RJ Grant,
P Winton, JC Griffith, MI Johnstone, JP Cox, GBM Milton, JSB Frere,
IG Healy, JA Clargo, MT Bennett, AW Wood, SJ Wood, CR Gibaud,
GK Staniland, JR Comerford, S Radnor, RG Leonard, RG Willis, and
is accompanied by Cmdr LGC Griffin, Capt TGK Fairhead, Capt DO
Willis, Sub Lt A Dean, WO CR Cadwell and DH Willis (OA).

Police Cadets

concludes the second year of the Police Cadets. It was generally thought
all to be a most worthwhile and profitable year. These experimental
courses have surely created a sound basis for the future. The success of
the Police Cadets must be attributed to the enormous amount of work put
in by Sergeant B Long, whom I, and the whole section cannot thank
enough. The driving force of Sergeant Long, the helpfulness of Mr
Undolph and the eager cooperation of the section, have all helped to
make this interesting part of the CCF run smoothly. So, too, have the
speakers, who managed to interest everyone with their wide range of
topics, illustrated by practical demonstrations and films. These topics
familiarised us with all aspects of police work.

Field Day was spent at London Airport, where we had an unusually
good conducted tour, and at the Metropolitan Police Driving School,
London, where the main attraction was the skid pan.

I wish that in future years more use will be made of the night excursions
to the Police Station in Abingdon. These showed some of us more
immediately the work of the Police Force in practice, a most interesting, if
not always exciting experience. RGL

Routes (34th Abingdon)

Nature Unit

The introduction of many evening meetings has proved relatively successful,
and the emphasis has been on mountaineering in preparation for the Easter
expedition to the Lake District. With this in view we have practised our
rock climbing and compass work. An illustrated lecture by a member of
the Oxford Mountaineering Club on mountaineering proved interesting, as
did a meeting devoted entirely to showing ciné films on the same subject, if
not for the same reasons.

Having arranged for a first-aid course to be laid on during the first half
term it was disappointing to see so few actually taking part. This lack
of enthusiasm also manifested itself in the unwillingness of many to help

in repairing the Hut, which resulted in this activity being curtailed before half-term through lack of support.

Next term we are venturing into new country by entering two teams for the Ten Tors Expedition and some of the term's activities were geared towards training for this, viz orienteering (Oxford & Reading events) and two hikes. Meanwhile, Voluntary Service at Bennett House is still taking place and will continue.

Hutwork will be number one priority in the summer and one hopes that members will give it more support than in the past. DE

Junior Troop. A full programme of Monday evening meetings was followed through until the last week of term, ranging from badge work and games evenings, through cooking evenings and a summer camp slide and film show, to a treasure hunt and wide game in Albert Park. On Field Day the Ten Tors aspirants joined the Venture Unit in hiking along the Ridge way and they should now be experienced in 'hill mist' conditions! The remainder of the upper half of the troop kept to low ground and cycled in pairs to 'collect' church names and pub signs—a 'Saints and Sinners' variation of the orienteering theme. Three patrols camped at Youlbury over the penultimate weekend of term and erected a monkey bridge in fine spring weather—although the Saturday night was reputed to be the coldest for eight years. At the end of term the PLs attended the annual District PLs' Dinner. DI

Grundy Library

We were sorry to lose Nicholas Beeching from the library staff last term and I should like to thank him for all his hard work, and also Griffiths for taking his place so ably.

During this term, it is hoped to effect the long-awaited reclassification of the English section. When completed, all books about or by a particular author will be together. At the same time, some of the old books in the and the Ancient History section will be replaced by new ones.

Finally, after the recent example of one OA, an appeal to all others to search their shelves and return any library books they may still have. This would be very much appreciated by the present users. NGH

Library Donations

Last term we received a selection of German and Russian books from Eric Hadley (OA) and, once again, the Singapore Annual from Bryn Perry (OA). Mr Smart, continuing his encouragement, donated 'Successful Rugger', and Mr Cadwell kindly gave us a large number of 'Amateur Photographer' magazines. Dr Owen continued to send us copies of 'Progress'.

This term the Bishop of Durham has very kindly donated five of his own books on Christianity, a rare gift for which we are most grateful, indeed, we are for all the other books we received. KC

Another Term

Here we list a number of outside events which members of the School attended.

Mr Owen took three middle-school boys to Culham College to see an exhibition of work for Theatre '68, the Oxford Playhouse project for schools. Some Fifth and Lower Sixth Formers went to see 'Romeo and Juliet' at the Oxford Playhouse and Charles Pfeil, Ian Routledge and Andrew Wood went to see 'Luther'.

A Sixth-Form seminar at Radley College was attended by Charles Laude, Alan Lewis and Robert Barrett. The subject under discussion was 'Towards Quality of Living'. A party of Sixth Form Economists walked a short distance to the North Berkshire College of Further Education to hear Mr Airey Neave, MP, talk on 'Aspects of the Work of Parliament', and a small party spent Monday 17 March brass rubbing at Ewelme. Twenty-two boys, members of staff and their families were more adventurous and competed in an orienteering event at Bladon, near Woodstock.

Visitors

On Thursday 9 January three members of the Public Schools' Commission—Professor Donnison, the Dean of Windsor and the Headmaster Solihull School—came to look round the School. Gideons International came on Monday 20 January to make presentations of their Youth Testaments to all new boys and, the next day, Geoffrey Boycott, the Berkshire and England cricketer, showed two films — one geographical, the other cricketing—on South Africa. Afterwards he answered questions on all aspects of cricket.

Mr William Steele, a representative of the Oxford Branch of Alcoholics Anonymous, gave a talk to Lower Sixth Forms, as did the Director of the Public Schools' Appointments Bureau, who spoke on careers. Other visitors included Miss Gilbert, the HMI, who attended various classes in Classics, and eight sixteen year old girls, studying the history of Abingdon, who were enquiring into the origin and development of the School.

Miscellany Two

The School Roll at the beginning of the Lent term totalled 615, of whom 14 were Boarders and 185 in the Sixth Forms. Some of the boys gave Foster her first taste of school inoculations, when they were immunised against BCG.

The Inter-School Social, joint with St Helen's School and John Mason High School, was held in the Court Room on Friday 14 February. The South Side Blues Band provided the music. More sophisticated in their dancing were the boys who went to the Oakdene School Dance on Friday 7 March. This, too, was a great success.

The Subscription Concert seasons ended with two brilliant performances at the Abbey Hall. On Sunday 26 January, the Amadeus String Quartet, one of the finest in the world, played to a packed and highly delighted audience. Two weeks later Balint Vafsonyi gave a piano recital. With Paul Martelier last Michaelmas term, this season must have been one of the best ever.

Officers of the School

SUMMER 1969

School Prefects

NJ Booker (Head of School)
MG Baker (Head of Boarders)

AJ Varley

L Morgan

AF Martin

DW Galbraith

DLR Howells

RK Blackburn

DG Nasmyth

MC Geary

RI Matthews

GR Evans

AO Akinbiyi

A Rose

GR Shatford

CJ Nicholl

AW Semmence

RW Hamilton

JM Elliott

House Prefects

Crescent House: CG Day, CEJ Lilley, MC Eagle, MJ Harfield, DA Hack
Lacies Court: AT Cowlin, SR Shield, NG Hands-Clarke, AJ Ireland, I
Minns.

Larkhill: MG Crawford, JH Jones.

School House: CMcI King, HI Kilgour, P Lenny, I Blair, NJ Pilling,
Bovey, MC Varley, JG Dowling, PM Annett.

Waste Court: RDA Lang, MR Ward.

Dayboys: MA Fletcher, TW Hewes, RAC Turner, WD Chislett, S. Fairl
JE North, JT Stafford, DH Parry, AKP Poole, ARN West, NS Coulbe
AE Lewis, RA Potter, AJ Cowley, JE Hesketh, RO Plail, B Langme
AG Maclean, CF Rock, DJ Whipple, RR Chaundy, JA Clargo, JP Co
JL Cox.

Abingdonian Staff, May 1969

Editor: Nicholas Minns.

Sub-editors: Alan Lewis, Michael Varley, Nigel Seaver, Neil Coulbeck a
Anthony Cowlin, who did the photographs.

OA Editor: AA Hillary.

Treasurer: DO Willis.

TASS Committee

The following officers were elected at the Annual General Meeting:

President: Sir George Sinclair CMG, OBE, MP (OA).

Vice President: The Headmaster.

Chairman: Mr RE Eason MA (OA).

Vice Chairman: Dr CE Ford FRS.

Secretary: Mr. NK Hammond BSc (OA).

Treasurer: Mr AA Hillary MA.

Committee: Mr GRF Bredin CBE, MA; Mr GF Duxbury MA; C
D West (OA); Mr RG Mortimer MA; Mrs JM Marsh; Mr
Pegram; Prof WD Allen DPhil; RA Potter (representing the Sib
Form); RW Hamilton (representing PCR); Mr JH Hooke (O/
Mr GMD Howat MA; Mrs M Willis.

olgoed Committee

Chairman: Mr Eden.

Committee: Mr. Baker, Mr Fairhead, Mr Potter, Mr Talbot, Mr Moody, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs Willis, JM Elliot, J Wheatcroft.

ello Goodbye

t October: WW Howell (4P).

t January: JCM Visser (6W).

t March: RD Tammadge (VIH), MR Parsons (4P), CJA Maude (VIH), E Utley (Shell).

ne: A Murdock (1M).

A notes

ths

able: on 9 October 1968 to Judy (née Gresswell) wife of John Brimble (59) a son, David Drury.

maraens: on 29 January 1969 to Magdalena, wife of Bruce Guimaraens (53) a daughter, Deborah Madalena Kathleen.

gton: on 8 March 1969 to Lesley, wife of David Langton (1956), a son, hard Jonathan.

irriages

es-Owen: on 14 April 1969, E Geoffrey Jones (1962) to Sandra Owen.

g-Kerby: on 19 April 1969, at St Andrew's, Aycliffe, Co Durham, the erend Martin King (1958) to Alison Kerby.

lis-Wilson: on 20 April 1969, in the Abingdon School Chapel, Andrew lis (1965) to Eunice Wilson.

aths

land: Thomas Francis Thornhill Morland (1915-1920), Captain Royal adian Navy (Retd), died in Florida USA on 25 March 1969 and was ed at his home, Indian Point, Nova Scotia, Canada. Tom Morland had 1 a sailor all his life, having trained at HMS Worcester and serving in Merchant Navy until 1939, when he joined the RCN. Two of his elder hers wrote to report his death, one from Cornwall the other from th Africa. Like all sailors he seemed to have been free of many ties for of his brothers had not seen him for nearly fifty years.

ls: in 1960, as a result of war injuries, Maurice David Wells (1936-37). urice Wells never really recovered from his war-time injuries, incurred le serving with the Gurkhas, but he settled in Kenya and brought up a

family. He left a widow and four children, one of whom has just entered, hoping to come here in 1972.

George Duxbury has had an interesting letter from MG Brinsford (1906). A rubber planter in Sumatra and Malaya from 1920-41, he joined the Volunteers when the Japanese invaded, was wounded by a bomb and was one of the last to escape to Australia. After convalescence he joined the Australian forces and was engaged in special intelligence work until the end of the war. He stayed in Australia until his wife died five or six years ago when he returned to England. His address at Wembley is recorded later.

George Sturrock (1925) has retired from his post with Smiths Electric and is now farming near Dorchester in Dorset.

Joseph Lay (1933) has spent the last two and a half years in Bedfordshire where he is now settled happily. He has been appointed Bedfordshire Manager of the National Westminster Bank and is likely to be involved during the next few months in merger details.

Congratulations to Gordon Bailey (1938), who has recently taken on as Chairman of the Life Offices Association and in whose honour a dinner was given. The very day of his election found him confronting Richard Crossman on BBC Television on the subject of the Government White Paper produced that day. A formidable assignment but we are sure that he acquitted himself nobly.

Bertie Lunghi (1939) has been having an interesting time in recent months. He spent a month or so last October in covering the general debate of the General Assembly of the UN in New York, which apparently involved a sixteen hour working day! More recently he has produced several television pieces on the events in Czechoslovakia, whither he hopes to go very soon in search of further information. Our best wishes go with him and we hope to see and hear him in Abingdon this summer some time.

News came from an OA with whom we had lost touch when John Stephenson (1939) wrote to say that since 1962 he has been Senior Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Auckland University. Having served in the Fleet Air Arm until 1944 he became a Scientific Officer in the New Zealand Defence Science Corps where he did research work on aircraft. From 1956-61 he was Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He is at present on sabbatical leave and studying Agricultural Aviation in the USA and Britain.

Those who remember Colin Milne, whose untimely death was recorded in last October's issue, will be pleased to hear that his eldest daughter Georgina, aged eleven, has gained admission to the Royal School for Art Officers' Daughters at Bath.

Congratulations to Tony Randel (1941) who has now been made Borough Engineer and Surveyor of the London Borough of Hounslow. We hope to see him in Abingdon, too, on Founder's Day.

Ken Sims (1943) has been involved in many a take-over recently in the Electrical Industry but now maintains that he works for the General Electric and English Electric Company. He is living in his caravan in a Leicestershire village, returning home to Cheshire at weekends, but intending to move his family down at the end of the school year. Most of us realise what an effect our children's examination commitments have on our working life!

Barry Williams (1943) broke twenty-five years of silence to say that he had now settled in Canada.

Oliver Burborough (1944) has recently been transferred to the Hitchin branch of the Westminster Bank but is lucky enough to be still within travelling distance of his home in Biggleswade.

Another who is living in several places at once is Lionel Lacey Johnson (1944) whose family and belongings are widely scattered prior to going off to Washington in June.

Anyone who saw the FA Amateur Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday 12 April might have recognised one of the linesmen as Brian Jakeman (1945).

Roger Hamer (1950) has left the Army with the rank of Major RA and is off to South Africa this month to prospect for a new job.

We congratulate AD Burton (1952) on his appointment as Deputy Head of Lowdham Church of England School near Northampton. He is near enough to avoid the upheaval of moving house.

Peter Exon (1957) has just passed his MRCP examination and is beginning a two-year research programme in diabetes at Birmingham General Hospital in August. He qualified in medicine at Birmingham about seven years ago.

An odd but very gratifying coincidence is that Stephen Woodley (1957) and Peter Henderson (1965) have both, within a week of each other, accepted teaching jobs at Kings School, Canterbury, for September 1969. It was very pleasant to discover that Mark Bretscher PhD (1958) is now a Fellow in Molecular Biology at Caius College, Cambridge: yet another member in the cap of this brilliant family of scientists.

John Brimble (1959) has been living in Birmingham for the last four years and has been working as the Midlands Sales Manager of a leading aluminium, stainless steel and brass firm. His department has expanded and prospects for 1969 are good. He gave the news that Keith Duly (1959) and his wife Mary are living in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Keith works for General Electric and has also started a three year degree course on Business Administration at Ohio University.

Revor Davies (1959) writes to say that, after two years as Registrar of North Berks College of Further Education in Abingdon, he has been appointed Deputy Registrar of the Waltham Forest Technical College, a constituent college of the proposed North East London Polytechnic. The college is one of the largest in the country and, although thoroughly enjoying the change, he finds it almost overwhelming.

Edward Lier (1959) is working for an American chemical firm near Kent.

The last couple of years have been eventful ones for Paul Briten (1961). He was married eighteen months ago and is now teaching in Shepperton, Middlesex. His book entitled 'Dial for Discovery', on modern maths, is being published in May. He has been playing hockey for Middlesex this season; a great achievement, this.

George Hall (1962) has got himself a job in the Diplomatic Service and goes to be working in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office within the next two or three months. In the meantime he has a temporary job with the Ministry of Social Security at Wandsworth.

Michael Mole (1962) has been working with a firm of surgeons whose speciality is arterial surgery. He has now qualified as MB, BCh.

Malcolm Venn (1962), married eighteen months ago, completed his course at the Oxford School of Architecture last summer and has now only to complete his practical training period to be considered for an associate membership of the RIBA. He has been working for the Oxford Regional Hospital but was hoping to spread his wings to somewhere like Bermuda or

the USA when he received the offer of an attractive job in London which he has accepted.

It was a great pleasure to hear from John Veysey (1962) from New Zealand. After spending some time in Germany and then farming Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire he got his National Diploma in Agriculture at the Lancashire Agricultural College. He married in August 1967 and emigrated shortly afterwards. His wife Pat has been working as a physiotherapist at Rotorua Hospital while he himself has been searching for the right job. He seems to have found it, for after a successful nine week training course he is becoming the Director and co-producer for a national farming programme in Wellington. He is playing tennis, squash and golf; likes New Zealand very much, and he and his wife are expecting 'a Kiwi of their own' to arrive in August.

Congratulations to Michael Faires (1963) who is getting married August 1, and congratulations also to Michael Hodge (1964) on engagement and upon his good sense in choosing Elizabeth, the sister of Iain Kilgour, who is at present in his last year at School.

Nick Coe (1964) is now qualified to practise medicine, and Michael Giddings (1964) has just finished his teaching practice at Denstone College.

Donald Hunter (1964), from his vantage point in London, seems to me a great many OAs. One item of news from his letter was that John Jennings (1965) has graduated in Law from Nottingham University and has done his statutory six months at Guildford Law College.

Now a graduate from the College of Estate Management, Christopher Wood (1964) is working in the planning department of the Berkshire County Council and is also studying part time for a post graduate diploma in Town Planning. In his spare time he is Diving Officer to the London University Sub Aqua Club and is responsible for organising the training of new members and the general diving activities of the Club.

John Davis (1965) is now a qualified Civil Engineer, having got his degree at Churchill College, Cambridge, and is working on a new hospital site at Hampstead.

Entertainment in the shape of reading the letters in The Times was rewarded by finding a spirited defence of the noble art of fisticuffs by Sir Marsh (1965) on 21 April. His letter included a shrewd dig at fist-swinging Rugby players.

Richard Owen (1965) is in charge of costing at Harris Plating, Great Missenden.

Paul Snowley (1965) has accepted a job at Darwen Grammar School, Lancashire, to teach Biology under the leadership of 'a young dynamic female head of department'. His fiancée hopes to secure a suitable teaching post in nearby Bolton, Blackburn or Accrington.

A good deal of publicity has come the way of Alan Williams (1965), President of the Bradford University Union. Possibly the high point of his career was to achieve the dominant position in a press photograph of his conversation with the Prime Minister. Various other people including an eminent MP have commented most favourably on the enthusiasm and ability which he has shown in this office.

Peter Bosley (1966) hopes to go to Nigeria early in May but the political situation makes his arrangements somewhat uncertain.

Provided that David Brown (1966) can get a degree from his University at Warwick, he is fixed up with a job next autumn.

From a most exotic address in Verona came news of Stephen Derwent (1966) who is spending this academic year teaching in a State Technical

d Commercial High School before returning to Cambridge for his third year. He finds his Italian pupils very enthusiastic and is most happy in his interesting experiment. Verona is a splendid centre from which to visit the towns of Northern Italy, but to judge from some of his comments it is not well with the Italian educational system.

Congratulations to Andrew Leaver (1966) on winning a Shakespeare Prize at Oxford.

David Ray (1966) is looking forward to an exciting eight match rugby tour of the Eastern Seaboard of the USA which will give him seventeen days over there. Their fixtures include West Point, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. He is also managing to fit in some geographical field work in connection with his course.

As one would expect, David Tanner (1966) is busy with his work at Bristol University and with his rowing. He is coaching the Clifton College Boat Club and hopes to arrange a fixture with the School.

It is a pity that Peter Blackburn (1967) will have to miss both the Old Boys' Match and the Alligators week but since he is spending three months in the USA, one cannot help feeling that he had good reason for these usual lapses. He is to be congratulated on his election as Captain of the Boat Club at University College, Cardiff, a position which he is clearly filling with energy and determination. We hope to see something of him on tour towards the end of June in this area.

Strangely enough, Richard Coulbeck (1967) is also visiting the USA this summer where he hopes to work his way around. He had some interesting comments to make on social and religious aspects of life in the USA and he considers that the Queen's University is fairly free of the problems which have troubled some English universities.

Apologies to AC Putman (1967) who was recorded in our last issue as being studying Physics at BNC Oxford. He is of course reading Mathematics.

Congratulations to Terry Rawlins (1967) on graduating from Hamble and starting his career with BOAC. He is starting training as a navigator but hopes to convert to pilot of a VC10.

Graham Walkinshaw (1967) is thoroughly enjoying working for Robert Mondson, the soap and cosmetic manufacturers at Nottingham. He has realized however that in this field he has no paper qualifications and is applying for admission to Colleges of Further Education to remedy this. It was good to hear from Nick Brett (1968) that he had accepted a place at Bedford College, London, and also from Paul Medley (1968) that he would be going up to Birmingham University to read English and Philosophy this October.

The Old Boys' Hockey Team who acquitted themselves most creditably in an exciting and fast game on Saturday 1 March was as follows: PJ Mans (1965), PAC Roblin (1966), D Weir (1962), RA Forsythe (1966), J Allen (1967), APH Wood (1961), PJ Walker (1957), AG Rowson (1965), J Caton (1967), RB Davis (1966), PJ Millard (1953).

A Changes of Address

Wickley MJ: 4 Zetland Square, Cottesmore, Oakham, Rutland.

Wansmead MC: 28 Norton Road, Wembley, Middx.

Winton PI: 4 Winchstone Close, Shepperton, Middx.

Winton AD: 8 Whitescroft, Main Street, Woodborough, Nottingham. NG14 5DZ.

Winton RA: 18 Cornwall Road, Bedford.

Furneaux Sub/Lt T, RN: Wardroom, HMS Eagle, BFPO Ships.
 Hall JD: 132 bis Rue Tahere, 92 St Cloud (Hauts de Seine), France.
 Hamer RF: c/o Lloyds Bank, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, London SW1.
 Henson TP: 6 Fern Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2QT
 Hossett PD: 105 Highburn, Cramlington, New Town, Northumberland
 Jones D: 10 Pons Hill Road, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, Kent.
 King AMcI: 64 Strathearn Road, Edingburgh 9.
 Langton DJ: 100 High Street, Blanham, Beds.
 Lay Joseph: 79 Grange Lane, Bromham, Bedford.
 Matthews PGD: 7 Heather Close, Shortheath Crest, Farnham, Surrey.
 Mole Dr MR: Merrimoles, Springwood, Burghfield Common, Reading.
 Parsons RJ: 118 Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, Surrey. CR3 6HH
 Pollock AC: c/o Mrs RH Birt, 4 Glebe Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town, SA.
 Powell R: 18 Fitzgerald Road, London SW14.
 Robey RA: 14 Grantham Road, Reading. RG3 3NJ.
 Rozier JG: 28 Pemberley Avenue, Bedford.
 Sturrock GS: Loscombe Down, Landlord's Knap, Winterbourne Steepleton, Dorchester, Dorset.
 Thomas TD: Highfield, Great Milton, Oxford. OX9 7NJ.
 Venn DCS: 7 Cholmeley Close, 215 Archway Road, Highgate, N6.
 Warburton WC: Arrundale, Lime Road, North Hinksey, Oxford. OX2 9E
 Williams JRB: RR #1, Norval, Ontario, Canada.
 Winkett BD: Yattendon, Rickmansworth Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks.



The First XI — David Marshall was absent





Base Camp at Carsphairn



Briefing



Arduous training

A Club Notes

The twenty-fifth London Dinner was held on Friday 7 March at the Public Schools' Club, Piccadilly. It was the Club's first visit to the Public Schools' Club, and those OA's present enjoyed an excellent dinner, and the PSC benefited by several membership applications. Thanks are due once again to Stanley Paige for organising this most successful dinner.

The President, George Duxbury, was in the Chair at dinner, supported by Mr RE Eason and the Headmaster. The President, in proposing the 50th of the School, announced the dissolution of the Old Abingdonian Trust Fund after 30 years. He thanked those OAs who had contributed to £7,000 which had been raised during this time, and expressed his hope that they would continue to support the School through the newly formed SS with which association the OATF had been merged. On the future of the Direct Grant Schools, the President expressed his confidence that the counter attack by the Headmaster would be successful. In his reply, the Headmaster thanked the President for his remarks, and gave a heartening picture of the School. He stressed the importance of finding a way in which Direct Grant Schools could co-operate with the comprehensive system. A dialogue was going on in which Abingdon was prominent. OAs could help by taking an interest in the School, and building up a favourable climate of opinion. The Headmaster was confident of the future of the School and the Club. The formal part of the evening was finished by Mr M Baumann, a temporary master at the School, who proposed the 50th of the Club.

We give advance notice that Old Boys' Day, the AGM and the Annual Dinner will take place on Friday 11 July at the School. The Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hrs immediately before the Dinner, and it is hoped that as many OA's as possible will attend.

Secretaries' Addresses

Club Secretary: RR Bailey, 10 Whites Lane, Radley, Abingdon (Abingdon 097); or 12 Bath Street, Abingdon (Abingdon 266).

Sports Secretary (Rugger, Tennis), JT Cullen, Frilford End, Frilford, Abingdon (Frilford Heath 205).

Sports Secretary (Cricket, Hockey): JW Dickinson, The Lodge, Sunningwell, Abingdon (Oxford 35501).

Sonic Lodge Secretary: DO Willis, Larkhill, Faringdon Road, Abingdon (Abingdon 14).

Summary of Games Fixtures

CRICKET—FIRST XI

April

Wed 30	Pembroke College	(h)	
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May

Sat 3	Newbury GS	(h)	
Sat 10	Radley College	(h)	11.30
Wed 14	Oratory	(a)	
Sat 17	Brentwood	(a)	11.30
Wed 21	Berkshire Gentlemen	(h)	11.30
Sat 24	Abingdon CC	(h)	
Wed 28	Magdalen College School	(h)	11.30

June

Wed 4	Common Room	(h)	
Sat 7	Pangbourne Nautical College	(h)	
Sat 14	Incogniti CC	(h)	11.30
Sat 21	MCC	(h)	11.30
Sat 28	Reading School	(a)	

July

Sat 5	RGS High Wycombe	(h)	
Wed 9	Bloxham	(h)	
Fri 11	Old Abingdonians	(h)	11.30
Sat 12	Old Abingdonians	(h)	2.00

ROWING

April

Sat 19	Abingdon Head of the River
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May

Sat 17	Thames Ditton Regatta
Sat 24	Wallingford Regatta
Mon 26	Windsor and Eton Regatta
Wed 28	Hereford Schools' Regatta
Sat 31	Reading Regatta

June

Sat 7	Oxford City and Walton Regattas
Sat 14	National Schools' Regatta
Sat 21	Marlow Regatta/Pangbourne and Whitchurch Regatta

July

Wed 2	Henley Royal Regatta (First day)
Sat 5	Henley Royal Regatta (Finals)
Sat 12	Bedford and Reading Town Regattas

ATHLETICS

il

ri 18	LAC Schools Challenge Meeting (Heats)	
at 19	LAC Schools Challenge Meeting (Finals)	
y		
ri 2	Meeting v Wallingford GS (a)	
at 10	Meeting v Old Abingdonians (h)	
at 17	North Berks Schools Athletic Championships (Wallingford)	
ed 21	Meeting v John Mason High School (h)	
a		
at 7	AAA Meeting at Palmer Park (Reading)	
ed 11	Stamford Paarlauf	
at 14	Berks Schools Championships (at Bracknell)	
ri 11	All England Schools Athletic Championships (Surrey)	
at 12	All England Schools Athletic Championships (Surrey)	

TENNIS

il

ed 23	Masters' Common Room	(h)	
at 26	Berkhamstead School	(a)	
ed 30	Culham College	(a)	
r			
at 3	Radley College	(h)	
at 10	Oratory School	(a)	
in 11	TASS	(h)	
ed 14	Magdalen College School	(h)	
at 17	Pembroke College	(h)	
at 31	Inter-Schools Knock-out	(a)	
s			
ed 4	Bloxham School	(h)	
at 7	Oxford School	(a)	
at 14	RGS High Wycombe	(h)	
ed 18	Leighton Park	(a)	
ed 2	Reading School	(h)	
on 7	Abingdon LTC	(a)	6.30
at 12	Old Abingdonians	(h)	

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