

# ABINGDONIAN

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## Editorial

The modern world faces grave ideological challenges and problems. The political idea which has had most impact in this century has been equality. Propagated by Marx and adapted by the Communist countries of the world has challenged the élitism and the existence of privileged minorities in European countries, and the clash between equality and inequality would seem to be a focal point for future political conflict. In this country socialism has introduced the concept of equality of opportunity—as noble a sentiment as the earlier expression of human freedom and rights, 'liberté, égalité, fraternité'. It has eradicated the economic inequalities in a privileged society; unfortunately though, with its emancipation of the 'common man', who now exerts more influence on affairs than he has ever done in history, there has been a tendency to maximise and glorify the average. Popular culture is becoming an industry, with writers (such as Ian Fleming, for example) manipulating or creating popular taste. We have the experience of China where textile workers decide what is artistic as regards designs on the products they sell and 'Civilization of the Masses' seems a sensible outcome of the situation. To submit creative work to any sort of popular arbitration is to limit and blunt the peak of possible human achievement. For the great, the unusual, the lasting in art will always be the product of a creative minority, working independently of popular taste. The school system today faces the same dilemma and challenge as regards conflict of 'equality' and 'inequality' and is in a position to encourage or prevent further human achievement in the arts. Comprehensive schools are a product of socialism and it is an inspiring project in that it seems to give everybody an equality of opportunity in education. Nevertheless its emphasis on the 'all', the average, the rise in 'general academic standards' does little to glorification of the norm. This is something to guard against, for a class society must continue to applaud the exceptional and not to reveal the average. This country has always prided itself on individualism and originality, and this school has as one of its aims the development of personality and the fulfilment of individual needs. This is very important to uphold if we are to preserve the creativity and variety of English life in the future and to promote the wider concept of civilisation.

SL

## **The Past Term**

### **Salutations and Congratulations**

Firstly, our congratulations go to Mr and Mrs Clayton on their new baby daughter.

Following in JMC's footsteps, the Headmaster shows all the signs of becoming as well-known a voice on the radio as did Mr Cobban. Many people listening to Woman's Hour in early March may have heard him talking about Sir Walter Scott in this, the novelist's centenary year, and later in the Summer, around 15th August, a documentary, written by the Headmaster, on Scott will be shown on television. (Viewers may even notice a familiar face in one of the crowd scenes!).

Upon the earlier brief mention of Mr Cobban, it is worth noting that he is becoming something of a second Jack de Manio in his regular contributions in and to Radio Oxford on its early-morning programmes!

Other broadcasters on this local radio station have been Nicholas Tait who sang a song of his own composition on St Valentine's Day, and various contingents of musicians under the organisation of Mr Le Fleming.

Over the holidays, Gareth Pearce accomplished yet another win in Chess, this time to receive the Welsh Under-18 title. Congratulations to him.

It was during the holidays too that Mr Moody received an invitation from the British Council to lecture in India on SMP maths, an engagement which he has accepted and will fulfil in the coming Summer term.

Congratulations on the first winners of the TASS Initiative Awards: C Chafer, Tim Brook and Malcom Taylor. Further information about the awards and the winners' exploits will be published later.

Our final credits go to all those who in any way helped to raise money for the Cheshire Homes, notably the First Forms, who bore the brunt of the fund-raising.

### **Entertainments**

The Boarders were only given one entertainment lecture this term when Mr Lee Kenyon, an ex-professional undersea diver, talked on 'Farm on the Sea Bed' and the 'Red Sea Expedition'. The talk was well attended and its popularity was enhanced by the documentary film which accompanied it, whilst on another weekend, a series of Arts Council documentary films on various subjects proved less popular to those not interested in the pursuit of the Muses.

Films of a less factual nature provided the entertainment on the remaining Saturdays between exams, and the titles of these included 'The Last Day', 'The Caretaker', 'Billy Liar', 'Till Death Do Us Part' and 'Spy in the Green Hat' with 'Carry on Camping' being shown on the night of term.

The School was lucky in getting a copy of the Lawrence Olivier 'Othello' film at the end of term, and this was shown to the Sixth Form English sets, who have the play as an A-level set book. Many found the film useful, if only as a more interesting alternative to normal school work!

### **Outings**

Unable to keep themselves to themselves (and a good thing too!) pairs of school members have diverted themselves to all points of the compass in the interests of Education. The Sixth Forms have been particularly active with a Business Studies set making its regular pilgrimage to Dix

ower Station, a Computer Appreciation Set investigating (and presumably appreciating) Harwell's ATLAS computer, and a Maths set seeing what makes Berkshire tick with a visit to the Berks CC Computer at Reading. For those less technically and more naturally inclined, the Sixth Form Ornithological option arranged a visit to the Slimbridge Bird Sanctuary.

Meanwhile, the Fifth Forms, taking the next best alternative to the actual thing, went up to Oxford to see the film 'Waterloo' in the hope that what they couldn't learn from books, they could get from celluloid and hence pass their O-level.

Just by way of a change (and possibly to try and take advantage of a spell of good weather) the Geography Department decided to let the Fourth Form Geography sets loose on the local countryside for a day. What value was obtained from this venture depended on individual attitude, but suffice it to say that the day chosen was the one day it rained that week!

### Visitors

As usual during the Lent Term, the School received a good number of visitors, albeit in different capacities; Doctor Marshall, Director of AERE, Harwell, came to talk to Sixth Form Science sets on the various aspects of the Establishment's work, whilst Herr Vaane of Euratom paid a quick visit later in the term to look around and select a possible further candidate for Euratom's 'Abingdonian' Scheme (mentioned in the last issue).

The Divinity Department welcomed some new faces during the term in the forms of Messrs Arguile, Lewis, Luckraft and Rees of Ripon Hall, who, although primarily here to teach, each gave an Address on the Wednesdays during Lent, and also gained some teaching experience by taking the Sixth Forms for the majority of their Divinity periods.

On 4th March various parents and friends of the School came to give advice and benefit of experience on their various wide-ranging professions to those interested for the TASS Careers Seminar. This group of visitors is too numerous to mention individually here, but that does not stop us from echoing the thanks given to them for sparing us some of their time.

Earlier in the term, a representative of the Neilsen Marketing Service in Oxford came to give a well-illustrated lecture on Market Research techniques to the Lower Sixth Business Studies set and also answered the questions of those expressing an interest in a career with the firm.

Brief mention should be made of the visit of the husband-and-wife acting team of Sylvia Reid and William Fry who entertained boarders with a Theatre Roundabout production on 14th March.

Finally, on the sporting scene, the Under-14 rugby players benefited from the coaching of Bev Risman, former English fly-half, who made frequent visits to the school during the term for this purpose. Meanwhile the school's Badminton players improved their game under the expert eye of Judy Hashman, English Badminton Champion, who lives locally.

## Chapel Notes

The focus of the term has been the Lenten observance which has provided us with the annual opportunity for self examination and rededication, a also for experiment in our forms of worship. On Ash Wednesday and the following Fridays of Lent, Holy Communion was celebrated at 8.30 p. instead of the usual 7.30 a.m. This seemed to fulfil a need for some people and so, provisionally at least, this pattern of Friday evening celebration will continue into the summer term. On Ash Wednesday the Communion address was given by Mr Roger Arguile as the first of four Lenten addresses given by our visiting students from Ripon Hall. The talks on subsequent Wednesday evenings were given by Messrs Ian Luckcraft, Peter Rees and Roger Lewis, and all who attended very much appreciated the time and effort which had evidently gone into the preparation of the series. On the two Quarter Term weekends the main Sunday service gave way to a voluntary service of Compline in the evening, at which the attendance was disappointing. As a further variation to our Sunday programme, the service on 14th March took the form of a performance by Sylvia Read and William Fry, two very experienced actors belonging to Theatre Round about, called 'Lovely Day for the Race!' (Race? What race? The Human Race! Race?—Colour?—Class?—Good Heavens, we're all human beings aren't we?—aren't we?—aren't we?—Are we?), a comment on prejudice with sketches and recitations from David Frost, TS Eliot, Tom Lehrer and St Paul to mention but a few. One further innovation was the performance of a specially commissioned 'Song for St Valentine's Day', by Nicholas Talbot, accompanying himself on the guitar, as an anthem during Mattins. The song was later broadcast by Radio Oxford, who have also expressed an interest in Mr le Fleming's 'Abingdon School' settings of the Te Deum and the Jubilate.

Meanwhile, on weekdays, the boys themselves have continued to participate fully in our corporate worship by being solely responsible for the services of three separate weeks, and our thanks are due to all, both juniors and seniors, who have had the courage and conviction to serve the Chapel and the School in this way.

Both the Abingdon Rural Deanery Synod and the Abingdon and District Council of Churches met at the School during the term. The meeting of the Deanery Synod, preceded by a short devotional service in the Chapel, included a lively and informed discussion on the recent report on Christian Initiation.

The Mayor, Councillor Joe Paxton, addressed the local Council of Churches and put forward proposals for an 'Abingdon Environmental Council' as an 'extension of the Church in our expanding community'. Another Council of Churches venture was the annual 'Unity Eat-In' at the Abbey Hall during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at which the school helped to the full in the organisation. One positive outcome from the evening was the formation of a unified Christian Youth Fellowship which incorporates the seven Church youth groups of the town. The School is well represented among the membership and we hope that it will fulfil its aims of evangelism and fellowship.

One of the many enterprising attempts to raise money for the local Cheshire Home was a marathon Bible Reading in the Chapel in which a team of boys read the Bible aloud continuously for 30 hours. They reached Psalm 102 and raised over £20.

Four of our Sixth Formers attended the Challenge weekend in London

rganised by the Royal Foundation of St Katherine. A report appears elsewhere in the magazine.

On the final Sunday of term many members of the School took part in performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion directed by Mr le Fleming in conjunction with other local choirs and orchestras. The performance in St Ielen's Church proved to be a fitting part of our Lenten devotion.

We are grateful to the following visiting preachers: Mr Peter Curtis; Reverend John Platt, Chaplain of Pembroke College; Mr H. Eden.

Collections at services have been as follows: Beginning of Term service, £7.96; Chapel Funds, £6.65; SSJE, £6.70; Chapel Funds, £4.49; New Guinea Mission, £10.87; Chapel Funds, £5.58; USPG, £7.02; Oxford Samaritans, £6.65; Chapel Funds, £4.28; Royal School of Church Music, £6.08.

Once again we are indebted to John Rowley, Bryan Clublely and all their helpers for their continuing hard work in the maintenance and preparation of our Chapel throughout the term, and to Mr and Mrs H. Eden for their hospitality and kindness in running the weekly Bible Studies on Wednesday evenings.

Confirmation classes will begin next term and we hope and pray that a number of boys will have the faith and conviction to present themselves before the Bishop in December to be confirmed as adult members of the Church and thereby to grow in favour with God and man.

AMEB

## Challenge Weekend

A School party of 4 members of the Sixth Form attended this conference over the weekend of 12th-14th March at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine at Aldgate. The weekend took the form of a series of lectures on topical and relevant subjects; the more interesting ones being on "Soho and the Drug Scene" by the Reverend Kenneth Leach; "The Cult of Sex" by Hugh and Alwyn Marriage, and "Drop Outs" (including a trip to the East End Mission Centre for Alcoholics) by the Reverend David Moore.

The whole weekend was one of the most interesting and fascinating nature, which was made even more enjoyable by incorporated luxuries not expected of a monastery(?)

As well as the entertaining lectures, good food and comfortable surroundings, the weekend was made near perfect by the unreserved and open social mixing of all concerned.

HT/WP

## The Bloxham Project

"What is this 'Bloxham Project' that we keep on hearing about?" The question crops up from time to time and here is a brief attempt at an answer. The Bloxham Project Research Unit was set up in 1967 as a result of a conference held at Bloxham School in that year. The conference was attended by twenty headmasters and more than eighty chaplains; Mr Cobban was one of the group chairmen. A research unit, consisting of two full-time research workers, Messrs Robin Richardson and John Chapman was appointed to "enquire into the way English boarding schools communicate the Christian ideas and values to which the majority of them are historically committed". The unit is concerned with boarding schools of all kinds: independent and maintained, denominational and undenominational special schools and approved schools. It has the support of the Headmasters' Conference and the Boarding Schools Association and it works in liaison with the Farmington Trust Research Unit and the Schools Council Oxford project.

As a result of a very extensive questionnaire to 250 school chaplains reports have now been produced under five main headings: Aspects of worship in boarding schools; some approaches to Christian education; the teacher and Christian doctrine; the school as community; and religious education, some aspects of the curriculum. During the past two years Mr Richardson has visited Abingdon School on a number of occasions and has followed through in detail the processes involved in third form chapels when they are run by the boys themselves. We have also acted as guinea-pigs on a number of occasions for pilot schemes for various forms of questionnaire. The most recent and ambitious of these is "The study of viewpoints and belief". This twelve-page leaflet will be filled in by 2,000 sixth-formers during 1971. It contains a series of factual questions—about age, academic specialisation, position and responsibility at school, activities and interests at home, and so on—and also, more importantly, three sets of questions on viewpoints. These relate to modern society, school life and religious belief. In addition to questions designed to yield precise statistical information there are 'open-ended' questions—opportunities for pupils to write freely in their own words, briefly or at length as they wish.

PGO

## Music Notes

I remember seeing some milk bottles the other day. I am immediately reminded of their built-in musical potential. It was like a 'cinematic' flashback in time; muzzy wave picture receding into a recollection of technicolour intensity. I am back at school again when suddenly the memory holds some kind of meaning. My secondary education, musically, began with listening to the classics and ended by 'John Hounam' experiments with milk bottles, writing concertos for typewriters and so on. (Let no man scoff at the musical potential of the latter.)

Here at Abingdon School the trend is reversed. First and second formers play made-up minuets happily on chime bars and self-made machines, then graduate to Mozart, etc., in the sixth forms. Couldn't we 'split the differ-

ce'? Composition and improvisation are daunting words. Yet any instrumentalist at any age or grade should experiment by making their own tunes and songs. The problem of over-preoccupation with technique for its own ends confronts any musician. But creativity begets technique; not the other way round. The idea that you become a composer only if (a) you are imbued with a special and mysterious muse or (b) you are technically extremely advanced on an instrument, is a fallacy. In this age of increasing academic and scientific specialities, the question WHY must be constantly directed towards one's musical aims.

We have another, very real problem. Many aspects of contemporary music are beyond the technical resources of an excellent but conventionally equipped department such as ours; both from the composing and performing angle. Electronic music causes no surprises these days. Neither are Stockhausen and musical synthesis regarded as particularly avant-garde any more. Should the physics, mathematical and music departments merge to give those who wish to have practical experience of these modern trends?

Such ideas disturb me from time to time. Everyone should be aware of the dichotomy which divorces well-established music (escapist?) from what I can only call reflective music in the contemporarily realistic sense.

Music remains a social art, however, and for the time being, anyway, this is an important priority. Looking through last term's diary with my feet firmly back on the ground, I note that we continued to place as much emphasis as possible on group activities. Devoid of senior 'cellists, we were fortunate in having the services of Alison Ingram as well as Clare Hubbard in the forefront of chamber music coaching. The most ambitious Sunday evening Music Society Concert coincided with our presentation and thanks to Miss Barnwell, who had left the staff at the end of the Michaelmas term. Clare Powell, Miss Barnwell's successor as clarinet teacher, took considerable trouble in helping us to mount a concert in which, appropriately, wood-wind music took priority. Notable were the Mozart performances with Brian Jones (quintet) and Stephen Loosemore (oboe quartet), Jeremy Pike's deft scoring of a well-known Chopin prelude for 17 clarinets was a happy means of ending the concert.

Whilst the preparations for the St Matthew Passion performance took up much of the second half of term, other events that stand out in the mind were the Cullen Society's visit to Bernard Hall-Mancey's recital on the new Sutton Courtenay Church organ, and two Subscription Concerts—the beguiling Antony Hopkins and an excellent string quartet from Hamburg. Once again, there was an orchestral concert sponsored by the EAOA with Abingdon Borough which took place in the Abbey Hall. Virtuoso playing by conductor/soloist Gervaise de Peyer with the London Mozart Players stands out as being particularly memorable.

We acted as hosts to a visit by a German Youth Orchestra, which gave a concert at the College of Further Education. We took part in the North Berks Festival at Wantage. David Robbins' younger brass players contributed as did members of the senior orchestra, who declaimed Beethoven's fifth at a massed-orchestral meeting. Bernard Hall-Mancey's St. Helen's Church choir showed our own chapel choir a thing or two in the process of winning the church choirs' trophy. Meanwhile, the North Berkshire Youth Orchestra, which contains our senior instrumentalists, prepared for an Easter Holiday Course, at the end of which the New World Symphony and Rhapsody in Blue were unleashed to a responsive audience.

ARIEF



On 4th March, TASS organized a Careers Convention. Advisers on the following careers enthusiastically accepted an invitation to talk with and help parents and boys from the Fifth and Sixth Forms:

Accountancy; Advertising; Agriculture; Architecture; Banking; BBC; Building; Catering and Hotel Management; Civil Aviation; Computer Programming; Careers with AERE; Careers for Arts Graduates; Openings in Commerce; Estate Agency; Insurance; Journalism; Leather Technology; Quantity Surveying Teaching for Graduates and non-Graduates.

A large number of boys and parents attended and a busy time was spent in the coffee and biscuits, provided during the evening by the ladies of TASS being much appreciated.

Mrs Deane and her helpers are again providing teas for the cricket teams during the summer.

A 'Monday Club' has started for those ladies who are interested in preparing in advance for the next Christmas bazaar. It meets once a month at Larkhill, Faringdon Road, and enquiries may be made either to Mrs Mortimer (Abingdon 14) or Mrs Tattersfield (Abingdon 1525).

A sherry reception and buffet supper will be held at 7.30pm on Friday, 4th June, 1971, in the Council Chamber and Roysse Room, Abingdon. Applications for tickets—£1.50 each—should be made, accompanied by remittance, to Mr RG Mortimer, Larkhill, Faringdon Road, Abingdon. Tickets will be limited to 250.

New members to the Abingdon School Society are always welcome, and application for membership should be made to Mrs F O'Sullivan, TASS Membership Secretary, Abingdon School. MW

## Italy 1971 Classics Trip

Our party to Italy consisted of 38 boys led by Mr Woodgett, Mr Randolph, Mr Harmsworth and Mr Moody. The main reason for this trip was to visit classical remains. Our route took us through France and the Swiss Alps (unluckily it was dark), to Milan. From there on we had our own coach; we drove down through Italy, staying one night at Bolsera, from where we visited Orvieto. The next day we drove to a delightful little fishing village called Minori, on the Amalfi Peninsula.

We stayed at Minori for four days, and during this time we visited Pompeii, Vesuvius and Paestum.

Rome was our other objective. We stayed there for the remainder of our holiday, in the 'Pensione Acropoli'.

Orvieto looked rather magnificent, breaking the skyline with its cathedral, which we stopped to admire. It has a very beautiful façade superimposed on a typical basilica.

We had already visited Milan Cathedral, where some of the more agile members of the party climbed as high up as the authorities would permit, some 310 feet, and in so doing obtained a first-class view, not only of Milan but of the famous gilded Madonnina 20 feet above their heads.

Our visit to Pompeii was somewhat curtailed because we encountered, for all things, a strike of Guides and Custodians of Museums and Archaeological sites! On the day we had planned to visit Pompeii we had to content ourselves with walking around the old walls, with gazing longingly through the locked gates and finally climbing up Mt Vesuvius, a rewarding experience when the crater was eventually reached (the chairlift was not functioning because it was too windy).

Fortunately, the following day, Paestum, the ancient Greek city, was not locked up and we spent a happy day among the impressive temples, and a maze of foundations and ruins of the old city. We also lingered for a considerable time in the fascinating museum.

Several individuals were brave (or mad) enough to have a swim from the once beautiful sandy beach. The waters of the Mediterranean were very cold.

When asked what they enjoyed most in Italy, the vast majority of boys replied: 'Pompeii'. In view of this it was a pity that we could not have spent more than five hours there. The strike was called off, just in time for us to stop off there on our journey to Rome.

The ancient city lived up to everyone's expectations. It was so much more fun wandering away up the narrow streets and exploring for one's self, than to be led around by a guide. Dotted along the streets were the little tabernae or 'pubs'. When one had absorbed the atmosphere of Pompeii it was easy to imagine the citizens queuing up for their drinks, or strolling up and down the forum exchanging greetings, just as the Italians did in the evenings at Minori.

Rome, by contrast, was a city of noise, cars six abreast, klaxons blaring (to no avail), Italians laughing, gossiping and bargaining; at night, a city of neon lights and nightclubs. Rome nevertheless retained the delightful carefree atmosphere which we had found elsewhere in Italy.

Being limited by time we resolved to visit the Roman Forum and the Colosseum and then split up and follow our own inclination. A good section of the party had a most enjoyable walk to the Pantheon via Nero's Golden Palace, Trajan's Column and Markets. By foot seemed the best way to travel in the centre of Rome, not only because the traffic was stationary most of the time, but because we missed so much if we just drove to the place that we wanted to visit. In the evening when we had to tackle the five flights of stairs to our rooms, some of us wondered why we had not made use of our coach!

We finished our holiday with a visit to St. Peter's, where we saw the Pope being driven up an avenue of assorted tourists and Italians, all clapping enthusiastically. Before us we had the prospect of the couchettes on the train, so aptly described by one member of the party as 'The Catacombs' (which we had visited earlier in Rome)!

CMW

## Beziers — Easter 1971

Although hindered by the postal strike and illness on the other side of the channel, Mr Taylor eventually succeeded in arranging this year's East Exchange with the French town of Béziers. This town is beautifully situated in the Midi (S. of France), 15 kilometres from the Mediterranean. It lies in the middle of an important wine-producing area and modestly calls itself "la capitale du vin".

On Saturday, 3 April, twenty-two boys from this school, one girl from the convent (name supplied) and Mr and Mrs Dunn assembled on the gravel at 6.45am ready for the departure at 7.00 of the coach taking us to Victoria Station. Although not in character with the school, everybody had arrived on time and the coach was able to leave promptly at 7.00. With tears in our eyes we reluctantly said our last farewells to the school and certain members of the staff. We were off; destination Béziers 29 hours later! Apart from the OTS proving to be as efficient as ever in its role as a top rank travel service, the journey went without mishap. We would like to thank the SNCF for retaining the corridor-type carriage, as some of us would have otherwise been without a place to sleep on the 14-hour journey from Paris to Béziers. As it was, we passed a delightfully pleasant first night on French railways.

Having changed trains at Narbonne, we reached Béziers at about 9 o'clock on Sunday morning. I don't know what first impressions the French had of us, but we must have looked quite a sight, being both very tired and dirty. However, no sooner had we left the station than we were paired off with our French counterparts. We were then rushed away in cars and left to struggle with the Gallic tongue.

Most of us found ourselves in very pleasant families and were offered showers and food on our arrival. We were soon to settle down, and apart from minor difficulties with the regional accent were soon able to communicate quite successfully. Far be it from us to assess the French way of life, but I think we all found it somewhat joyful, carefree and generous. We were particularly grateful to Monsieur Danos, former French international scrum-half, who provided many of us with tickets for the Toulon-Béziers match, and who entertained us all to "l'apéritif" in his café one evening. The French also appeared to have a great deal of respect for us English. As well as being received at the town hall by Monsieur Guilhem, the mayor's deputy, who welcomed us very warmly, we were honoured with an article and photograph in the local paper.

The one planned excursion that we all took part in consisted of a day's outing to Nîmes to visit its ancient bull ring (no bulls were seen). We then went on to Le Pont du Gard, that famous Roman aqueduct over the river Gard, and ended the trip with an impromptu stop at Cap d'Agde in order to view the volcanic scenery. This outing was organised by Monsieur Ferrandi, who went to a great deal of trouble to make our whole stay a success.

The remaining days were extremely enjoyable with the French allowing us to make up our own minds what to do each day. Success was only marred by one incident: a narrow defeat by 5 goals to 2 in a football match against the French. Although our actual footballing skill was not up to standard, we kept the flag flying by introducing most of the other characteristics of British football. The referee was French!

However, all good things come to an end and it was not long until we

were bidding farewell to our French friends, somewhat reluctantly. The journey back to England was, not surprisingly, more comfortable than the journey to Béziers. Although "couchettes" had been requested (as on the outward journey) we were all somewhat surprised to actually see them waiting for us. On arrival in Paris, next morning, we, in our usual helpful manner, assisted with the disembarkation of the bedding, for which we were thanked by the French porter . . . at least I assumed we were thanked!

The remainder of the journey could not have been better save the thought of returning to school the next day, which we tried to avoid as much as possible. And so ended one of my (and I'm sure that here I speak for us all) most enjoyable holidays to date. It only remains for me to congratulate Mr and Mrs Dunn on their complete control of the situation at all times.

"Vive la France."

AJB

## **Bielefeld**

For almost a third of the party of 18 this was the second visit to the Ratsgymnasium, and there was a general feeling that we were returning to old friends; this was just as well as a stormy Channel crossing brought both sickness and delay which resulted in a missed connection in Cologne. When we reached Bielefeld at about 1.30am we found that confusion over the timetable meant we were not expected until the following afternoon! However, telephone calls made with the help of our old acquaintances, the railway police, brought a wonderful response from our German hosts—by 2.30 all boys had been distributed to their families or at least found a bed for the night: I can only express my thanks to Herr Schäpersmann and Herr Halle for the cheerful way they tackled this daunting task.

In contrast, the rest of our stay was all that we hoped it might be—we had the opportunity to see the School at work, to play football in that superb gym and to explore Bielefeld and its surroundings—two of us were lucky enough to do this from the air. Herr Kolitzus had arranged some fascinating excursions, where he guided us in his inimitable fashion. We visited the largest publishing house in Germany and saw books and records produced by the million. A drive to Goslar and the frontier with East Germany was in a every sense a chilling confrontation with the difficulties of Herr Brandt's Ostpolitik—balanced by a wonderful tour in the Sunshine and snow of the Harz Mountains.

In Bonn we learnt of the rôle of the Bundesrat in the Federal Constitution, and then saw Cologne Cathedral, now fully restored.

Our thanks to all who made our trip so enjoyable—to Herr Direktor Bromberg and all the staff of the Ratsgymnasium, especially Herr Schäpersmann and Herr Kolitzus—and to the parents of our hosts who worked so hard for us.

KGH

## St Matthew Passion—Sunday, 21st March

Barry Simms

Of course St Helen's is a difficult church in which to stage such a large work as the St Matthew Passion, and Bach's requirement of double chorus and orchestra makes the challenge even greater. Mr le Fleming's solution was a workable one, though some of the congregation had to sit with their backs to the engine, so to speak, or were not able to hear the true balance of the performance. But I, for one, am not particularly interested in whether the soprano's dress (or face!) is puce or vermilion, and often prefer not to see the inane and distracting movements of some performers.

The solution adopted was to have all the performers in the south aisles of the church, with the two choruses and orchestras separated so as to obtain the proper antiphonal effect. The trebles—for the chorale in the first chorus—were placed in the chancel, where a suitably distant sound was achieved. With such an arrangement the organ (an immovable feast!) was close enough for comfort.

To tell the truth, the general effect of the performance was not as serene as it might have been, but I am sure this was not due to any lack of communication or vitality on the part of the conductor, but merely to the impossible task of getting so many performers together for rehearsal as often as one would like, particularly when professionals are involved. But there were some fine performances and some very memorable moments.

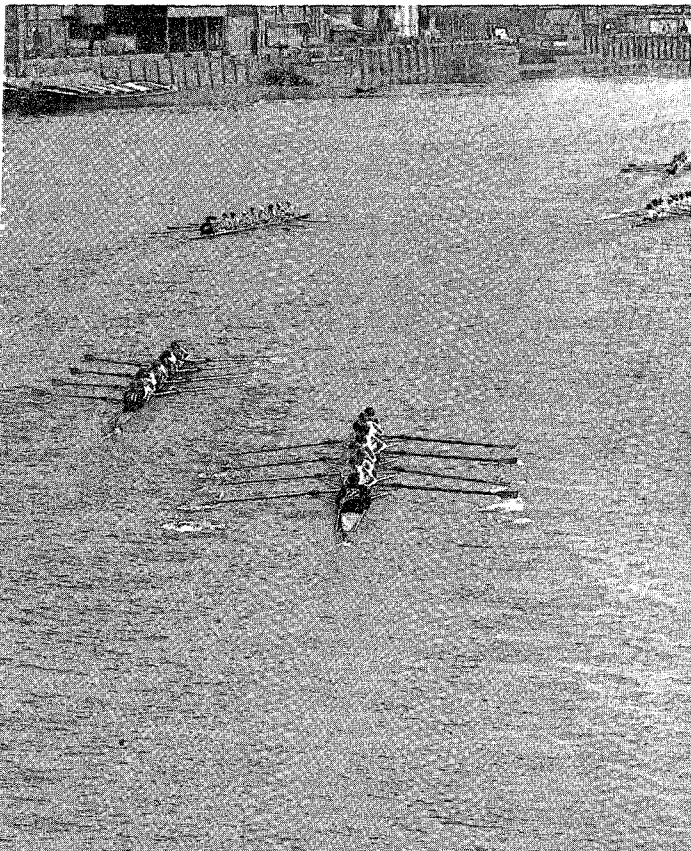
A particularly lovely movement was the alto aria "Have mercy, Lord, on me", in which beautiful singing (Helen Attfield) was added to the exquisite violin solo of Tony Gibbs. The fact that Mr Gibbs made a nonsense of some of the grace notes did not mar the performance at all.

Another memorable number was the tenor's only aria "I would beside my Lord", in which Paul Taylor produced a beautifully shaped movement, and was aided by a very reliable harpsichord continuo (Alan Fen-Taylor), and oboe playing which was a model of delicate phrasing and beauty of tone (Jenny Fisher).

Incidentally, what an unrewarding part the Evangelist has to sing in this Passion! Every tenor must dread being asked to perform it, yet must also find it very difficult to refuse. There are some disgustingly high notes. Paul Taylor merely struggled with these at first, but soon settled in to a performance of very high quality.

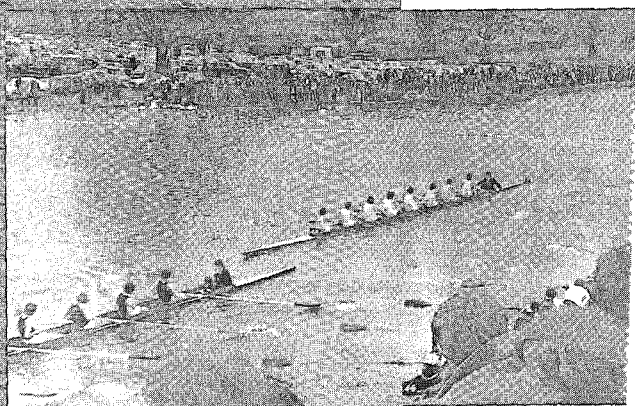
There were, of course, some problems. For instance the very shaky intonation of the 'cello section, as amongst the flutes. I hope it is not too ungracious of me to single out the better youthful players, but I think it was probably unwise to expect them to cope with such dreadfully taxing movements as "My Master and My Lord" and the aria that follows it—"Grief for sin". And why is it that all bass soloists must imbue the part of choristers with their hoariest "fat bulls of Beson" voices, as did Hugh McElrath on this occasion?

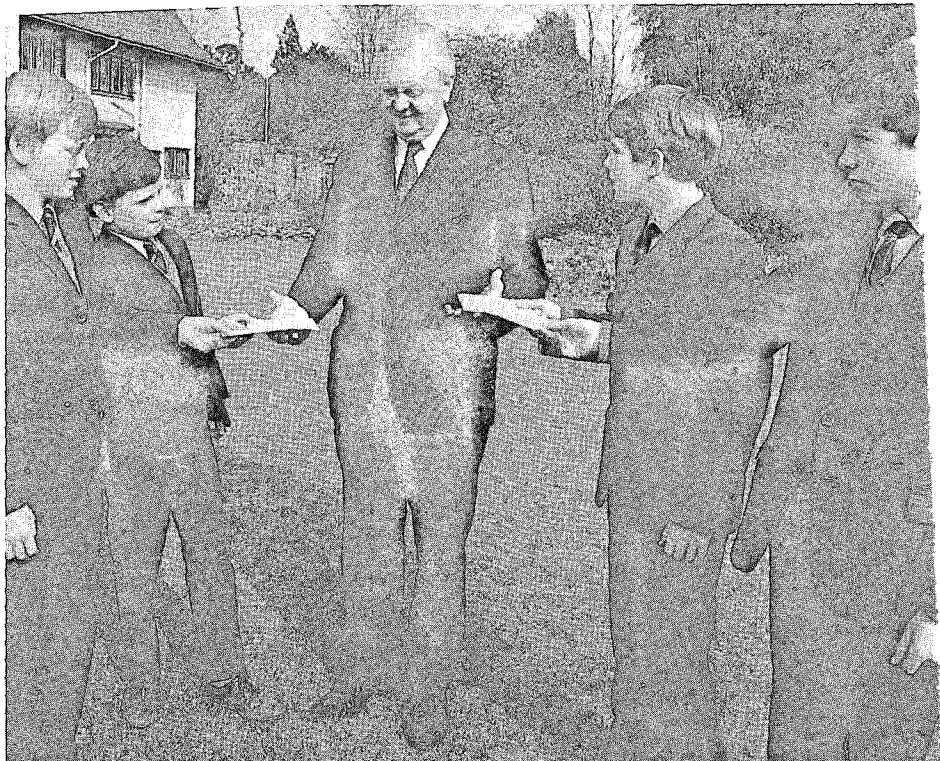
The school choir joined with those of St Helen's and Our Lady's Convent, as well as with the Abingdon and District Musical Society, to produce a choral sound of rich tone and power, even if the ensemble was a trifle erratic at times. (But the shout of Barabbas was particularly splendid.) The orchestras were made up of pupils, ex-pupils and friends, ably led by Clare Hubbard and Tony Gibbs. The performance can be truly said, therefore, to have been a family affair, and as such was an extremely com-



**The Tideway Head:**  
 Abingdon 1st Eight is  
 No.22. The Colts also  
 appear at the top of th  
 picture. (The oar is no  
 one of ours. It belongs  
 to Eton – top left!)  
*Picture by courtesy of  
 The Times.*

**Reading Head: Coming  
 up to the finish.**  
*Picture by David Spon,*





**Mr J B Minshall, treasurer of the local Cheshire Homes Appeal, receives cheques from some of those who helped to raise over £300 last term. (left to right: N P Kay, N J Holder, J Hester, P M Evans)**

*Picture by courtesy of The North Berks Herald*

**Bev Risman, former England fly half, with Mr Eden, R J Price and A J Thresher.**

*Picture by courtesy of The Oxford Mail*



nendable undertaking, deserving the full house and warm applause it received.

May it not be too long before we hear the St Matthew Passion in Abingdon again!

## Drama Competition

Richard Landy

Richard Landy produced the winning production of last year's Drama Competition

... Act one, Scene one, an hour before the festival. Nick Moth is practising tossing pennies so that they land on the stage and not on the audience. Andrew Wood hopefully puts programmes on every seat in the theatre. Peter Price is wandering around in a shawl trying to remember the words, James Dunkerley and the stage hands desperately try to piece together four different sets. John Rowley is indifferent, he walks round in his Rosencrantz costume, giving out his own version of the festival programme. Chaos and confusion . . . no one thinks the festival will start before midnight. . . .

The curtain eventually went up, only ten minutes late, to reveal Kevin Barnard as Richard III in a sequence entitled 'The Death of a Politician', comprising the first and fourth scenes of Shakespeare's 'Richard III'. The emphasis was on words. The piece was badly chosen since the two scenes hardly complemented each other and the inclusion of Hastings was of no benefit. There was hesitancy and a lack of movement and action. Chris Murray's appearance added some vigour, but in general the confidence of the two young murderers and Brakenbury was lacking. However, it was interesting to see how well a Shakespeare excerpt would go down and if the original plan of using Richard's seduction of Anne (with an actress) had been used, the result might have been very profitable. This was followed by a production of 'The Spell' by Mary Kelly. This was a melodrama in the grandest manner. David Harvey's screams were beautifully executed, but the production had one major fault—that nobody knew if it was to be taken seriously. I still don't.

The next item on the programme was Arthur Kopit's 'The Ascent of Everest'. This started well with a tumultuous round of applause for the set before a word had been spoken. The ingenious opening was a great success and drew many laughs. However, the comedy tailed off towards the end and the play could have done with shortening. The acting of Clive Chafer, Simon Whipple and Julian Spooner was excellent. It seemed set to win until the appearance of the 'Hamlet' trilogy with odd snatches of Mankowitz, Stoppard and even Shakespeare. The acting and production were technically superb. Nick Moth played himself very well and established an excellent partnership with John Rowley, whose portrayal of the first grave-digger was very funny and accomplished. Tim Baker gave Hamlet the right amount of absurdity and was aided and abetted by Mark Crocker. It won because of the strength of theatrical technique. I felt the piece was lacking in theme, and surely it would have been unintelligible to anyone who didn't know the play. It lacked vitality and gave an impression of being little more than an intellectual exercise. Still, the flair was

obvious and the end result was quite an achievement considering the little time available for preparation.

The adjudication was left in the able hands of Mrs Griffin, whose comments were shrewd and helpful. She must surely have been correct in her judgement and awarded the prize to what was, at least, the best technical performance. What was generally lacking from the festival, with the exception of 'The Ascent of Everest', was imagination. Time was again a limiting factor, but surely the enthusiasm of those without exam commitments should have been greater. However, this detracts from an enjoyable evening, which it was, as the reaction of the nearly-full theatre showed. The organisers, whoever they are, deserve congratulation for all the hard work that must have been put in.

## Sixth Form Lectures

The lower sixth this term were again entertained by visiting lecturers who provided interesting alternatives to the Headmaster's periods. Sir Knox Cunningham gave his own account of Ulster, which was felt by more than a few to be a rather biased view which, however, led to some lively discussion. Dr Betz, a touring American lecturer, delivered two entertaining lectures on American religious sects and on Ecology to the upper sixth. He also attended a Roysse society meeting and afterwards commented that the discussion which had ensued was equivalent to that of American second-year college students!

Finally a talk on chartered accountancy did little to dispel its 'boring' reputation but gave some good hints on the importance of reading quickly.

## Cheshire Home Appeal

In May 1969 a 'steering' committee was formed to find a property and the necessary funds to open a Cheshire Home in North Berkshire. Brook House in Burcot was selected, home of the late poet laureate John Masefield.

A number of alterations were needed to convert the poet's rather remote house into a habitable place for disabled people, among them the installation of a lift. The School was approached by the committee in the Michaelmas Term about the possibilities of raising the necessary sum for the installation. The School accepted the task; the required amount was £250.

Mr KB Minshall, parent of a fifth-former and treasurer of the committee, spoke to the first and second forms on Field Day about the project and the Cheshire Homes generally. The lower school reflected his enthusiasm; they produced over two-thirds of the sum themselves.

£125.74 were raised by boys at the beginning of term, from miscellaneous activities during the holiday. But this unobtrusive effort (helping to reduce Abingdon's litter over the dustmen's strike) was surpassed by thirty-four first-formers who took part in a relay run around the Wall. The combined teams clocked up a mileage of one hundred and seventy over the two hours and won £142.24 from their sponsors. Another spectacular was a thirty-hour table-tennis tournament run by the twelve-year-

olds from Waste Court. They netted £30·30. The Chapel was also turned over to a thirty-hour working weekend when five boys from the middle school organized a sponsored Bible reading. Starting at Genesis they reached Psalm 102 for a total of £21·20. Three lower sixth-formers held a charity dance in the Court Room which provided £13·45 and Mr Skinner produced two concerts, with form IM and the scouts. The first was an evening of drama and music, in the Music School; the second an Abingdon School Gang Show. Together they raised £15·70.

The grand total of these magnificent achievements was £348·64. The extra money will help the funds started for the other installations: main drainage, central heating and a water supply.

So far nearly two-thirds of the £35,000 estimate for the alterations has been collected, but the more that is raised the harder it is to find the remainder. A Garden Fête will take place on Saturday, 12th June, in the grounds of Brook House. If you are free I am sure the Cheshire Homes would be glad of your support.

ME



Firstly may I make the perennial complaint that societies fail to prepare reports for this article? That is not only due to the apathy of society secretaries; it is due to the apathy of all those who consider themselves members of a society. There is something fundamentally wrong with the organisation of school societies. Far too much depends for their success on the keenness and hard work of secretary and sponsors. This is the main reason for their 'cyclical' nature. But there are other faults. There are too many cultural societies with overlapping functions (the six inter-school societies together had five meetings last term) but there are too few practical societies, as the good attendance and regular meetings of the few that do exist shows. The generally mediocre attendance at society meetings is due partially to indifferent advertising, partially that in practice many of them are closed shops.

There have been at least the glimmerings of reform. The *Historians* have combined with the *Onslow*, who together held one meeting last term, when Professor Shenk of Oxford University informed us about 'The Eclipse of Religion'.

Drama has had a poor term society-wise, with the *Junior Dramatic Society* and *Drama Club* apparently dead and the *Play Reading Society* on its last legs, holding one meeting to read Robert Bolt's 'A Man For All Seasons', which all present found most enjoyable; all six of them. But theatre-going has been most popular, and in particular the *Athenaeum*

held two outings to the Oxford Playhouse to see Shakespeare's 'Merry Wives of Windsor' and Joe Orton's 'Entertaining Mr Sloane'. The postal strike prevented the arrangement of an outing to London.

The **Critics** just failed to belittle themselves, but the **Literary Society** held two meetings with outside speakers. Mr Dennis Burden spoke on Jane Austen and Mr Bruce Mitchell on 'Beowulf'. Both scholars showed great enthusiasm for their subjects.

Four societies provided facilities for discussion. The exclusive **Royse Society** held three meetings. Kevin Barnard read a paper on human freedom, Alan Brown spoke on Ecology and man's future, and David Howat expounded his theory of competition in the human species. Each paper was followed by lively discussion. The **Scientific Society** had plenty of scope for discussion of the human predicament in the face of technology. At its first meeting the Ball Science Essays, on the topic of the drift away from the sciences in education, were read, and PJ Hingley's essay was chosen as the best. The other meeting approached this problem from a difficult angle with a film called 'The River Must Live', followed by a talk by Mr Hugh Coakes on pollution and food supply. The **Economists** had a better term than last, with two outside speakers, Professor Rennie of Manitoba University on sociology and Mr Jack Dunman on his practical experience of socialist agriculture. The third meeting was split between AC Atkinson talking on 'The Origins of Bolshevism' and Mr Milton talking on the economics of Education. Facilities for more formal discussion were provided by the **Debating Society**. It held a debate jointly with St. Helen's on the motion that 'This House believes that we should sell arms to South Africa' which was convincingly defeated by a brilliant speech from the floor by Mr Fairhead. A poorly-attended internal debate narrowly agreed that decimalisation is unnecessary.

Although there are four societies concerned with music, it is largely provided for outside the society system, and meetings were scanty. The **Music Society** provided a farewell concert for Miss Barnwell, who has served the school for so long as a clarinet teacher. Clarinets naturally predominated in Mozart's clarinet quintet and in an arrangement for seventeen clarinets composed and conducted by RJ Pike. Brian Jones organised the concert which was unusually well attended. The **Folk Club**, previously one of the most successful of societies, had considerable difficulties in finding a hospitable meeting place and in consequence held only one of its usual meetings at John Mason's. An attempted trip to see Elton John in London failed because of the postal strike, and a party organised by Kelvin Sykes to the ill-fated Frank Zappa spectacular at the Albert Hall had to be cancelled at short notice.

Of the Inter School Societies, we know nothing of the **Joint Club**, **Rostrum**, and **Social Society**, and the **Folk Club** and **Debating Society** have already been dealt with. The **Inter Schools Arts Society**, now renamed **The Gallery**, had a poor term with very bad attendance at its two meetings, a piano recital and a talk by Michael Tucker on 'A Special Collection in the Bodleian'. The **St Edmund Society**, after a term's dormancy, was re-born ironically in the showing of the film version of '1984', which was very well attended. Later a talk by Michael Buckley entitled 'Down with Skool' was followed by a lively discussion on education techniques.

The practical societies have tended to hold more regular meetings than the cultural societies. The **Angling Club** and **Sailing Club** are in seasonal obedience, but the **Building Club** have continued to brave the elements. They

have now finished their work at Mr Eden's and are engaged in general works throughout the school grounds, in particular clearing the site of the old fives courts, though in preparation for what no one is quite sure. The Photographic Society has been regularly using the darkroom. The Tape and Electrical Society have lost their first flush of enthusiasm and hope to have a room provided for their activities when more building is carried out. They did, however, arrange a successful trip to see around Radio Oxford. Finally the Philatelic Society continues to flourish, with regular activities in wopping and selling of stamps, the arrangement of first day covers, and even trading agreements with the stamp stall in Abingdon Market. The major event of the term was an all-day trip to London to see over the stamp collection in the British Museum and later to window-gaze at the stamp shops in the Strand.

In conclusion it would seem that the Cultural Co-ordinating Committee after two years of existence has not achieved very much. It has indeed generally eliminated clashes between meetings (although even here there have been booboos, notably that of the simultaneous occurrence of a popular scientific society meeting and the drama festival), but there are too many societies with similar functions. And they are still too much geared towards boarders and sixth formers. One-third of the population of the school are boarders with no chance of much external entertainment, but the position of dayboys is barely better. A large proportion of dayboys live outside Abingdon: it is not surprising that few of them attend society meetings starting at 7.30 or 8.00. There are few functioning societies for the lower school. Should not sixth form societies change their constitutions or their 'cliqueiness' to encourage fifth and fourth formers to take part? The question here in both cases is not whether the nature of societies would be damaged by widening their membership but whether they can function with any efficiency at all while they have so restricted a membership.

# SPORTS SECTION



## Hockey

This was a season in which the weather played a less significant part than usual, and consequently more hockey was played. The breakdown of the heavy roller rather early in the term meant that the pitches were bumpy than usual, and when the tractor also broke down and the light roller also went out of action, the surface for the last two matches can only be described as adventurous.

It was also the first season of the new hard surface area in lower field and this was a tremendous asset when the weather did put the pitches out of action.

The house match final was won by Reeves, while a staff eleven took the field three times to play the second XI, the Colts and the Junior Colts.

Finally I should like to record my own thanks to all those who spent so much time on the hockey this year. LCJC

First. A modest record did not reflect the promise and ability of the First Eleven, who reached the last week of term having been defeated only once by St Edwards, but then lost their last two school matches in a rather disappointing fashion. Indeed, remembering goalless draws earlier in the term the XI tended to reserve their least effective performance for the weaker opposition; they have, of course, only themselves to blame. But the defeats of a strong and successful High Wycombe side, and of the Old Boys (for the first time for a number of years) showed what they were capable of. To be fair to a side whose stickwork was of a higher overall standard than of recent years they often had to play on difficult surfaces—it was unfortunate that the heavy roller was out of action—and this was one reason why they did not fulfil their potential.

Graham Pike was the only full colour left from last year and was a tower of strength at centre-half. The half-back line, completed by John Rowley, a much improved player, and Russell Ward or Stephen Loosemore, was always sound defensively and linked increasingly well with their forwards. The relatively inexperienced David Rice and William Peck filled the vacant back positions competently and we were fortunate to have Philip Staniland and, on the occasions when he was absent, Timothy Brook to maintain a growing tradition of outstanding goalkeepers. Raymond Deane led a mobile and constructive forward line with aggression, David Mayall and Richard Savory were lively wingers, and Peter Price and James Cox or Stephen Loosemore were thoughtful and hard-working inside forwards. It was not through want of trying that they did not score more goals; the fact remains, however, that they should have done. One wonders, in passing, whether the legislators might not make life a little easier for forwards who, in all grades of hockey (with the exception, it

would appear, of the 2nd XI!), are too easily thwarted by defenders. Changes relating to the off-side law, the goalmouth circle and perhaps the size of the goal itself could lead to more goals and more excitement—and more spectators, too? If the defence were to be criticised it would be for an occasional slowness to clear the ball decisively and a tendency to fumble too much.

The best performance of the season was probably the defeat of High Wycombe. The H.A. XI saved themselves from defeat with an equalising goal in the last minute in an exciting game in which both sides hit a goal-post on three occasions. Graham Pike was an excellent captain on and off the field, and John Rowley a helpful Secretary. Their enthusiastic and wholehearted approach to the game was reflected by the 100 per cent endeavour of a team who refused to be discouraged by their disappointments.

Congratulations to Philip Staniland, John Rowley, Raymond Deane and David Mayall on the award of their full colours. Half colours were won by Peter Price, Richard Savory, David Rice, William Peck, Stephen Loosemore, Russell Ward and Timothy Brook.

NHP

#### Results

|                    |             |     |          |
|--------------------|-------------|-----|----------|
| Pangbourne College | Wed 27 Jan  | (h) | Draw 0—0 |
| St Edwards         | Wed 3 Feb   | (a) | Lost 2—4 |
| Hockey Association | Wed 10 Feb  | (h) | Draw 2—2 |
| Oxford School      | Sat 20 Feb  | (a) | Draw 0—0 |
| Old Abingdonians   | Sat 6 Mar   | (h) | Won 2—1  |
| RGS, High Wycombe  | Wed. 10 Mar | (a) | Won 2—1  |
| Wallingford GS     | Sat 13 Mar  | (h) | Draw 1—1 |
| Bloxham            | Wed 17 Mar  | (h) | Lost 1—3 |
| KAS, Wantage       | Sat 20 Mar  | (h) | Lost 1—3 |

Matches against Solihull, Newbury, Pembroke College, OU Occasionals, and RMA Sandhurst were cancelled.

The team was: PGK Staniland, DK Rice, WDeF Peck, RA Ward, GF Pike (captain), JQ Rowley (secretary), SP Loosemore, RE Deane, PD Price, D Mayall, RHL Savors. Also played: TJ Brook (once), JL Cox, JRE Smith (once).

second eleven. When the first three matches were cancelled it looked as if it was going to be “another one of those seasons”. But later the weather, if not the heavy roller, smiled more favourably on us and we enjoyed some very lively and successful games.

In our first match, against a strong St Edwards side, neither side scored, and indeed the forward line looked as if they would not score a goal all season. But these premonitions proved only too wrong and a reorganised forward line went on to score 24 goals in the next six games. Many of these games followed a similar pattern: an initial period of even play when the opposition looked good but were contained by a sound defence. Then the School would score a goal, and gradually get more and more on top. By determined chasing and tackling, by hard cross-field passes and by hooting on sight, goals came at regular intervals and the opposition became demoralised.

The confidence of the team sprang from an unusually reliable back trio, Brook—who well deserved his games for the 1st XI—and the two Smiths. Brook was always sound and at times brilliant, and the defence stopped, cleared and covered each other with success. So much so that these three playing together conceded not a single goal all season, with the exception of two by the staff. Ward played with so much flair and enthusiasm in the

first two matches that he was promoted to the 1st XI. Thereafter Terry Wood and Bosworth were the normal line-up at half-back. Terry made much more impression as a half than a forward and improved considerably during the season. Wood, though happiest as a wing-half, made a very effective centre-half in some matches. And Bosworth, though not particularly elegant, was always sound and got through a considerable amount of work. The main striking power was supplied by Lawless, Bennett, Sykes and, when he could play for us, Cox. They all showed a considerable amount of dash and not a little skill. What they lacked in stick work they made good by speed and the tactical through-ball. They were prepared to help back in midfield, as well as attack, and this gave a line and a dominance in the centre of the field. Sykes especially covered back with commendable determination and frequently relieved pressure in defence. Both wingers, Harding and Harris, had speed and good ball control, though both tended to run out of steam after a "brilliant" run down the wing.

It was a pity that an unbeaten record had to be lost in the last match of the season, due as much to a crippling rugby practice two days earlier as to good opposition. But perhaps this result helped to keep the season in perspective.

We were fortunate in having a well-balanced side, with not a weak link. There was no one outstanding individual, but eleven competent players who were prepared to work hard and unselfishly, to play simple, direct hockey, and to enjoy themselves. Both individually and as a team, the standard of hockey improved steadily throughout the season and it was always played in a keen but very sporting spirit. Altogether, a very happy and successful term's hockey.

The following played: TJ Brook, DPC Smith, GR Smith, CB Terry, AW Wood, RA Ward, PA Bosworth, PJS Harris, M Lawless, MT Bennett (capt), JL Cox, KG Sykes, MC Harding, AC Atkinson, PM Abraham, DC Hares.

## Results

|                            |             |     |      |    |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----|------|----|
| St Edward's School         | Wed 3 Feb   | (a) | Drew | 0— |
| Staff                      | Thur 11 Feb | (h) | Won  | 4— |
| Oxford School              | Sat 20 Feb  | (h) | Won  | 4— |
| Bearwood College 1st XI    | Wed 3 Mar   | (h) | Won  | 6— |
| RGS, High Wycombe          | Wed 10 Mar  | (a) | Won  | 2— |
| Wallingford Grammar School | Sat 13 Mar  | (a) | Won  | 5— |
| Bloxham School             | Wed 17 Mar  | (h) | Won  | 3— |
| KAS, Wantage               | Sat 20 Mar  | (h) | Lost | 0— |

**Colts.** The team was unlucky in that many matches arranged at the beginning of the season, in the only period of the term when the weather was bad, had to be cancelled.

It was a team which included several extremely promising players, but which never really got together to form an effective unit. There was too little controlled passing, too much random hitting, too little effective combination among the forwards.

A Baumann was an enthusiastic and energetic captain who played well in the somewhat unfamiliar position of inside forward. He has the ability to keep his head in the circle and scored some good goals. He was very unlucky to miss playing for the County Under 15 eleven through illness. The other forwards all had effective movements and improved as the season progressed.

In the defence the outstanding player was P Abraham at centre-half, a very promising pivot who has a natural gift of seeing where the ball ought to go, and the ability to put it there. Gresswell played well at centre-half—coming to the position from left-wing. Butcher at left-back also had a good season and Bainton, moving to right-back from left-half when Carington had to drop out through injury, soon adapted to the new position. On the whole the defence was more effective than the forward line. Atkinson came into the side in the latter half of the season to give Rayson a chance to inject a little more verve into the forward line—a ploy which was not entirely successful. Both goalkeepers, however, played well, and there was little to choose between them.

My own thanks are due to Mr Lewis and Mr Hillary who have done a great deal to improve the team's play.

Team: Goal: AN Rayson, AC Atkinson; backs: GB Butcher, JE Carington, AM Bainton; halves: TJ Gresswell, PM Abraham, DC Gourlay, AS Clift; forwards: CP Hey, RD Griffiths, DC Haver, AW Baumann, JH Bosworth.

#### Results:

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| v. Pangbourne (h).              | Drawn 1—1 |
| v. Bearwood College 2nd XI (h). | Won 5—0   |
| v. Masters Common Room (h).     | Lost 2—3  |
| v. M.C.S. (a).                  | Lost 0—3  |
|                                 | SW        |

**Junior Colts.** Although the weather took its usual toll of matches, much good hockey has been played this term. The voluntary third-form games played last year meant that we were not starting from scratch, as usual, and the nucleus of the team soon sorted itself out. The stick-work and positional play have been well above average, and the hockey has been good to watch—unfortunately, though, the forwards have not been able to score goals! Some strengthening of the attack will be necessary for next year. At goal, Jefferson came in as a substitute just before the first match, but thereafter quickly established himself as an aggressive and confident 'keeper. The two Taylors soon established an understanding at full-back, and generally the defence played very well together. Of the forwards, Seaver, Francis and McPhail (and Baumann of the Colts) were selected for the final trial game of the Berkshire Under-15 against Pangbourne Colts; and Seaver, Francis, and Jefferson were in the Berkshire team that played in the southern counties tournament at Southampton on the 14th March. Robin Woods has been a quiet but efficient captain, and has controlled the game well from centre-half.

The team was: N Jefferson; JMG Taylor, KPM Taylor; NP Gale, RA Woods, TG Roberts; IL Manning, PH Evans, AW McPhail, JP Seaver, ND Francis.

AM Carlisle and GF Woods also played once.

DRS

#### Results

|              |                                       |          |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Wed 3rd Feb  | v St Edward's School (h)              | Lost 0—4 |
| Sat 20th Feb | v Oxford School (h)                   | Won 1—0  |
| Wed 3rd Mar  | v Bearwood College (a)                | Won 3—0  |
| Sat 6th Mar  | v Shiplake College (a)                | Drew 2—2 |
| Sat 13th Mar | v Wallingford GS (h)                  | Won 1—0  |
| Wed 17th Mar | v Bloxham School (colts "A" team) (a) | Lost 1—3 |

The matches against Solihull School, Magdalen College School, St. Bartholomew's, Newbury and the RGS, High Wycombe were cancelled.

# Rowing

Apart from ten days when flooding prevented us from rowing, the Lent Term has been kind to the Boat Club. Three eights have been in training, and represented the School at various Head of the River races. The First Eight set themselves a high standard by entering as two fours for the Henley Head of the River Race for Fours. Our heavyweight crew won the overall Headship, and the lightweight four the Schools' Pennant. In the Reading Head the Eight went up three places, despite twice being baulked by crews in front, which undoubtedly ruined the day for them. In the Tideway Head they advanced by 57 places to 89th, a very good achievement, and in the Schools' Head went from 22nd to 13th overall, a position which could have been higher had it not been for a clash of oars with our Colts Eight! These things will happen!

The Colts Eight have shown promise this term, but in the event went down a considerable number of places both at Reading and in the Schools Head. They have much to learn, but are willing and determined. The Junior Colts achieved the distinction of being last in the Reading Head, but defeated ten crews in the Schools' Head. Rowing in the old 'Pembroke' is hard work!

Members of the 1958 First Eight will be sorry, if not surprised, to hear that the 'Gryphon', our first shell eight, has been given an honourable discharge. It was discovered that the woodworm was at work. Her name will, however, be transferred to a new, short, modern ship which is at present on order. Since both University crews used boats from the same stable this year, we hope that the new 'Gryphon' will help our present Eight to be on equal terms at least with our various rivals.

Another addition to our fleet this term has been a new boat-trailer. This magnificent beast will save the School quite a lot of money in the future, when all the boats have been sectionalised.

Finally, a word about recruitment. Much money has been spent recently on equipment, so that the Boat Club may continue to 'show the flag' for the School on the best possible terms with other and larger schools. This cannot continue unless we have the support of the whole School, and thus an adequate supply of beginners each year. We are very fortunate in our geographical position—we have the equipment—we have the 'know-how'. My most fervent hope is that members of our School will not through laziness or neglect fail to provide the manpower we need, and merely follow the deplorable modern tendency to leave the hard work to others and participate only as spectators. The School has never yet let the side down, and it is to be hoped that it never will. RGM

## Results

Henley Head (Fours)—Saturday, 20th February

1st IV: Bow, AM Higgs; 2 DB King; 3 NRH Pollard; Str PE Scott; cox JRA Spooner. Won Head overall. Time 15m 11s.

2nd IV: Bow M Milanovich; 2 CM Clayton; 3 MS Paddison; Str ECJ Lilley; cox CA Nasmyth. 8th overall—won Schools Pennant. Time 16m 24s.

## Eights

1st VIII: Bow M Milanovich; 2 CM Clayton; 3 MS Paddison; 4 ECJ Lilley; 5 NRH Pollard; 6 DB King; 7 AM Higgs; Str PE Scott; cox JRA Spooner.

Colts VIII: Bow RE Bowkett; 2 PAW Rogers; 3 TC Parker; 4 J Griffin; 5 PJ Lilley; 6 AM Jones; 7 DMA Binks; Str CF Vernon; cox TW Hallum.

Juniors Colts VIII: Bow SG Boatright; 2 JP Jordan; 3 SK Fabes; 4 CJ Murison; 5 SA Marsden; 6 S Walker; 7 M Ormerod; Str PR Forsythe; cox JF Hamlin.

## Reading Head—Saturday, 13th March

1st VIII: started 48, finished 45—time 15.22.

Colts VIII: started 53, finished 86—time 16.06.

Junior Colts: started 85, finished 121—time 18.24.

## Tideway Head: Saturday, 20th March

1st VIII: started 146, finished 89—time 19.15.

Stroke—Lilley; 4 Scott.

## Schools' Head—Tuesday, 23rd March

1st VIII: started 22, finished 13—time 8.13.

Colts VIII: started 19, finished 51—time 8.47.

5 Parker; 3 IR Greaves.

Junior Colts: started 91, finished 97—time 9.45.

# Rugby

All Junior Rugger was organised on a House basis again this year, each House fielding two Heavy and two Light teams for a league competition. The standard of play among the Heavy teams was raised significantly by the weekly visit of Bev Risman, a former England and British Lions player, who instilled a tremendous dash and flair into the play of the First Teams, as well as improving their skills. Unfortunately, perhaps, one House, Reeves, dominated at this level, having more than their fair share of School players; hence they won the House Knockout, ousting a depleted Bennett team 65—0 (or was it 68?), and winning an excellent final 14—5 against Tesdale, who had previously scraped home 9—5 against Blacknall.

The league proved most exciting, and the result hinged on the final matches between Reeves and Blacknall. Blacknall took the Candy Cup by a two-point margin, thanks largely to their lights teams, winning 32 points to Reeves' 30; Tesdale scored 24 and Bennett 10. The enthusiasm engendered by these House leagues is playing a significant part in the gradual but marked improvement in playing standards throughout the Lower School.

\* \* \*

The Minors failed to record a victory this term, but they deserve sympathy as they were always playing at a disadvantage. Newbury Grammar School brought an enormous team (our largest forward just about matched their smallest), and the Minors very nearly pulled off what would have been an astonishing win with a really determined and skilful performance. Against John Mason, apart from the usual weight discrepancy, they lacked Robin Scibilia's experience at scrum-half, and rather went to pieces after a good first-half.

The other two defeats were of course incurred by playing much weakened teams, but it must be admitted that in many years we would expect to win both these fixtures with such teams. This year there has been a lack of natural forwards and (of course) of weight, and as a result the undoubted talent of the threequarters has not been utilised sufficiently, because of lack of good possession.

### Results

|                       |       |        |     |      |      |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-----|------|------|
| v. Summerfield School | Sat   | 6 Feb  | (h) | Lost | 3—8  |
| v. Newbury G.S.       | Sat   | 6 Feb  | (h) | Lost | 3—6  |
| v. John Mason H.S.    | Thurs | 25 Feb | (a) | Lost | 3—14 |
| v. Cothill School     | Wed   | 3 Mar  | (a) | Lost | 0—14 |

### Final Teams:

1st XV: WJ Homewood; CWP Hobson, DJ Lanham, CJ Madin, CS Orchard; PD Hallum (capt), R Scibilia; AJE Allen, NJ Hazledine, LGP Déspres; SW Marden, CJ Bartlett; DC Eccles, CJ Scott, RW Taylor.

2nd XV: IR Lucas; AL Knibbs, SPG Hammond, RS Gibbons, JC Johnston; NP Kay, NJ Tattersfield; DP Parry, JC Barnes, SP Thompson; IS Thackwray, SG Rowley; DA Thomas (capt.), MG Howat, S de Lusignan.

Also played: PJ Alder, R Brown.

\* \* \*

The Junior XV played one match against Newbury G.S. and in spite of being without several of last term's side, mainly forwards, they were able to win enough of the ball in the loose to give their vastly superior backs the opportunity to run through the opposition. The final score was 29—5.

\* \* \*

Although two senior teams and one junior team were entered for the annual Oxford Schools Sevens competition on Saturday, March 27th, in the event only the junior side competed and not very successfully as they were defeated in their first match by Eltham School 5—13. The extension of the hockey season and the early termination of Lent term are only two of many reasons for our unfortunate withdrawal from this traditional competition and it may well be that next year we shall not be able to enter at all.

MW/HE

## Golf

The only significant event of the term was the match against the Masters, played at Frilford Heath Golf Club on 3rd March.

The Masters were represented by the Headmaster, Mr Payne, Mr Coleman, Mr Pritchard, Mr Dunn, and the Bursar, Captain Mason. The boys' team was Nigel Seaver, Howard Manning, Terry Wright, Simon Chislett, Graham Smith and David Rice.

The first pair, Nigel Seaver and Howard Manning, challenged the Headmaster and Mr Dunn, who showed better form than their last match by winning easily by 5 holes. The second pair, Terry Wright and Simon Chislett, fared no better, losing by the same margin to Mr Payne and Mr Pritchard. The third pair put up a better challenge, being only one down after the 17th, but thanks to a magnificent chip by the Bursar on the 18th green the Masters halved the last and won by one hole. The total score was 11—0 to the masters, an embarrassing defeat!

Next term we hope to have return matches against the OAs and the Masters, and also the Department of Physical Welfare has arranged sponsored lessons which I hope will have many applicants.

NGWS

## Cross Country

With only a handful of regulars JSP Mushens had perhaps been over-optimistic in arranging so many fixtures. However, friendly relations with the Boat Club enabled Rogers and Vernon to be released when we had most need of them, and with other part-timers stepping into the breach we have had a good season.

One of the highlights was the match at Radley. At one time we had a lead of some twenty points, but the longer the race went on the more the home team improved their position, and over the last mile the only certain thing was that JSP Mushens would take the individual honours. However, several good finishes—particularly by PAW Rogers who outsprinted two opponents to hold third place by the odd foot—gave us victory by the slenderest of margins.

Unfortunately we couldn't field full teams for the North Berks Championships but seven boys later represented the area in the County Championships. Of these, JSP Mushens and CF Vernon were selected for the County Teams at All England, while CP Taylor and G Woolley were nominated as reserves.

Of those not already mentioned, AME Brown stands out as one who has been a most loyal member of the club for several years. But full colours are not awarded for loyalty alone and Brown earned his by some excellent running at the end of the Michaelmas Term. This term he has not done quite so well, but his performances have been very valuable nevertheless. JM Evans and JDC Turner are both heavily built but should continue to improve as their power/weight ratio increases. RG Wood took time off from hockey to turn in some useful times. BC Waters and 4th formers JP Jordan and GW Woolley all show considerable promise—Woolley's fifth place at Culham being particularly noteworthy.

Half Colours were awarded to PAW Rogers and CP Taylor.

Finally a big thank you to Mr. Pritchard for organising training this term during my reluctant idleness. RHB

The following ran for the team on more than one occasion: JSP Mushens, PAW Rogers, CP Taylor (8); AME Brown, CF Vernon (7); JP Jordan, RG Wood, GW Woolley (4); JM Evans, JDC Turner, BC Waters (3).

### Results

|        |                                                                   |            |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 23 Jan | v St Edward's (a)                                                 | Lost 44—35 |
| 3 Feb  | v Oxford School (h)                                               | Won 30—48  |
| 6 Feb  | Berks Schools Champs.: U/17 3rd (12 teams);<br>U/20 2nd (5 teams) |            |
| 11 Feb | v Radley (a)                                                      | Won 38—40  |
| 13 Feb | v OAs                                                             | Won 33—45  |
| 17 Feb | v Magdalen (h)                                                    | Won 27—55  |
| 20 Feb | v Marlborough (h)                                                 | Lost 47—31 |
| 23 Feb | OU Tortoises Relay 12th (19 teams)                                |            |
| 24 Feb | v Culham (a)                                                      | Won 37—43  |

### Inter-House Road Relay: 18 Jan 71

|                     |                   |                    |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1—Blacknall I 38.15 | 2—Tesdale I 39.07 | 3—Bennett II 39.35 |
| 4—Reeves I 40.16    | 5—Reeves II 40.52 | 6—Tesdale II 41.03 |

Fastest Legs: Senior: JSP Mushens 8.56; Intermediate: PAW Rogers 9.10; Juniors: G Green 9.47.

Mr Pritchard romped home ahead of the field, having run all four legs himself—bringing back memories of Fergus Murray who lapped all but one team in 1967.

|                   | <i>Bennett</i> | <i>Blacknall</i> | <i>Reeves</i> | <i>Tesdale</i> |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1st Form          | 16 (4)         | 22 (1)           | 19 (3)        | 21 (2)         |
| 2nd and 3rd Forms | 15 (4)         | 18 (3)           | 22 (2)        | 23 (1)         |
| 4th and 5th Forms | 31 (1)         | 16 (3)           | 11 (4)        | 17 (2)         |
| Sixth Form        | 13 (3)         | 19 (2)           | 0 (4)         | 31 (1)         |
| Totals            | 75 (=2)        | 75 (=2)          | 52 (4)        | 92 (1)         |

## Orienteering

However keen one gets on a sport one's participation is necessarily limited by considerations of time and cost. Orienteering is no exception, so although we receive generous financial assistance from various school funds, the advent of "O" and "A" levels have made us curtail our activities to three local events.

Some valuable lessons were learnt in the Bladebone Night Event, not least of which were the importance of using new batteries and having the compass firmly attached to one's person all the time! Many of us helped in the organisation of a very successful map-memory event at Shotover, while others competed and found out just how much of a route they could remember without time-wasting repeated looks at a map. A splendid run by Simon Whipple gave him second place on the Junior Men's course at the Hermitage Badge Event, and with David Howat (16) and Christopher Vernon (20) also having good times we were runners-up to Eggers Grammar School. A number of Ten Tors aspirants used the short course as part of their map and compass training—Godfrey and Darroch doing particularly well in finishing second.

Congratulations to David Howat on his election to the committee of the Oxon Orienteering Association.

RHB

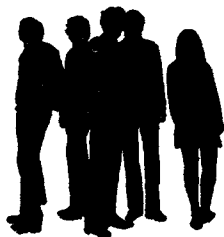
## Venture Unit

This term has been an unexciting one. Many meetings were devoted to hut maintenance work and canoe-building. There was also a gym-activity and a wide-game at which the Abingdon Ranger Guides were entertained. On Field Day one party went on a hike while the rest of the unit helped Mr Baker re-map Bagley Wood in preparation for an orienteering event later in the year.

The Easter Expedition was based once again at Grange-in-Borrowdale in the Lake District. As insufficient Venturers were able to come, numbers were made up by three sixth form mountain enthusiasts and we were also joined by two OAs, Vivian Ramsey and David Loach. The clouds were often down but we only got drenched once and that's good for the Lake District considering we were out practically all day every day for nine days. Various things stand out in the memory—the gale-force winds which buffeted us on Great Gable, navigating by compass in the cloud on the pathless top of Bencathra; climbing the stream up Dungeon Ghyll; roping down the snow in Lords Rake; exploring the caves in Dovenest Crag. For some the highlights will undoubtedly include some rock-climbing and we are indebted to David Loach for leading up such climbs as Brown Slabs arete, Bowder Stone Pinnacle and Middlefell Buttress.

DBH/RHB

# REPORTS



## CCF

Nothing of very great moment occurred during the Easter term. Field Day was restricted to a single day to allow for the weather, but turned out to be a fairly mild and sunny day.

We were very pleased to welcome Group Capt. Green, Officer Commanding RAF Abingdon, who inspected the contingent on one of our uniform parade days, and we are very grateful to him for arranging a visit from the Falcons in May.

Congratulations to the RA Section on the excellent results of their Proficiency Examination.

And many thanks to all those from outside the School who have once more given us their help both on weekly parades and during the holidays.

LCJG

## Arduous Training

Arduous Training was again held near the village of Carsphairn in Kirkcudbrightshire. The party left Abingdon fairly early on the Thursday morning in two land-rovers and a three-ton lorry, and we spent the first night at the TAVR centre at Carlisle Castle. The following day we reached the site at noon, but were delayed in setting up camp—which included our newly acquired marquee—for some hours while we got the three-tonner out of the glutinous mud in which it had stuck. But we still had time to perform the traditional first day's ascent of nearby Willienna.

On the Sunday we started on our first overnight hike. Despite all expectations the first day's walk to the remote 'Lorg' was generally enjoyed barring the odd blister, but a cold bivouac and a wet morning's walk through a genuine 'Scotch mist' made us all glad to be bailed out on the Monday lunchtime.

Tuesday was largely spent in rebuilding the track to the camp site under the direction of Captain Willis so that we might get the three-tonner out. The site has certain disadvantages, and for this reason and others we shall probably not use it for next year's training, although we shall remain in the same area.

The final two days of the camp were an overnight hike to Glen Afton. The conditions were the very reverse of those encountered on the same walk last year, when it snowed. Although the going was tough, over young forestry or through bogs, the weather was sunny and at times uncomfort-

ably hot. Such conditions make hill walking most worthwhile, even if not very arduous. There does seem to be some argument as to how arduous Arduous Training should be. Some people found this year's training very easy while some found it quite tough enough, as it was (depending on who scived games last term!) and we must not forget that this was an exceptionally mild year, but even so perhaps there is some call for a separate ultra-arduous training for the masochists among us.

But certainly everyone on this year's 'semi-Arduous' Training seemed to enjoy himself. Thanks are due to the officers, Messrs Griffin, Willis, Fairhead and Hammond, and especially to Mr Cadwell for his hard work before and after the courses. And we must not forget Mr Campbell, our landowner, without whose co-operation we would have no site for a camp.

## RN Section



As is usual in the winter term, activities tend to take place indoors. Several more cadets passed the proficiency exam and most of the new entrants received their AB rating.

For Field Day, the section was split into two parties: the senior half went down to Portsmouth, and after staying overnight, spent the day training on a fleet tender.

The remainder took their empire test and were introduced to the sport of Orienteering at Shotover.

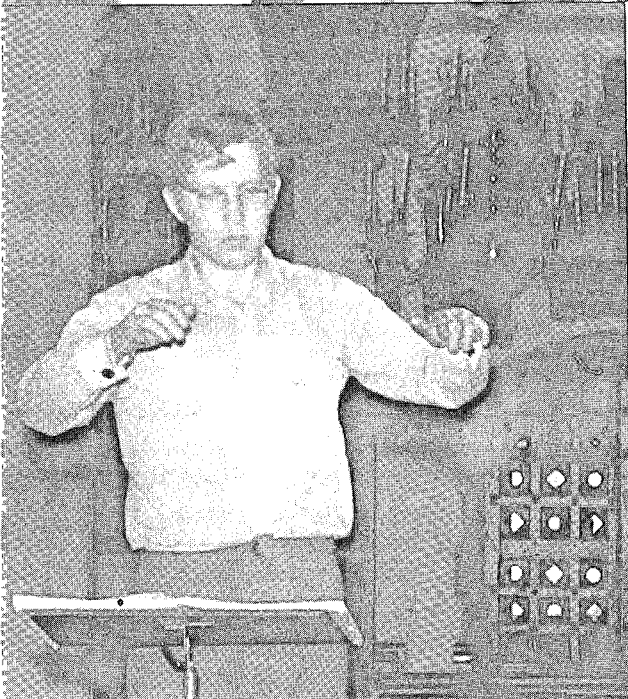
During the Easter holidays, a considerable number of cadets went on some form of training: Clyde MFV (seven and S/Lt Bell); Naval Aviation (two), Diving (one) courses. In addition, others went on Arduous training and the RAF Camp. All appeared to enjoy these courses and found them well worth while.

CMR

## Army Section



The term was comparatively uneventful. Field day was spent on Shotover Hill with an introduction to orienteering, and at the Slade TA Depot, where we used the 2.2 range and visited the Regimental Museum. Our thanks to the Regiment for this opportunity.



**Rehearsing the St Matthew  
Passion in St Helen's**  
*Pictures by Tim Baker*



#### **'NEW STYLE' COMMISSION FOR ABINGDON BOY**

Jonathan Frere (19), son of Mr K H B Frere of Brig House, 65 Northcourt Road, ABINGDON, Berks, pictured on exercise with Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot, Hants, during the Army's new 'pre-university officer' scheme.

Recently, the Army announced, as a pilot scheme, a short service limited commission to enable young men waiting to go to university to spend a short time as officers. Jonathan was one of the first 24 candidates to spend a three-week introductory course at Mons.

A former prefect of Abingdon School, Jonathan is now joining the Royal Artillery in Hong Kong as a second-lieutenant for several months before going to Bristol University.

*—Ministry of Defence News Release.*

*Picture by courtesy of The Army Public Relations*

The RA Section proficiency results were excellent. All candidates passed, four with credit, and Bdrs Corner and Lilley are to be congratulated on obtaining maximum marks in OP Procedure. Bdr Corner and Gnr Kendall have subsequently done a Practice Camp weekend with Oxford University OTC, being made temporary, honorary members of the OTC mess.

An increasing number of cadets have been taking part in Orienteering competitions during the term and we hope that we shall be able to enter for the Southern Command Championships.

Our thanks to Mr Harmsworth for his help with shooting, and to Sgt Gibson of the Training Team for his help and advice on our training.

TGKF

## RAF Section



It is sometimes embarrassing to continue to record a succession of successful terms, but yet again, the Lent term, normally somewhat dull, has produced excellent results and a high level of achievement all round.

We have maintained our examination record at proficiency and advanced proficiency, and in both papers our results remain well above the national average in quantity and quality.

During the term some forty cadets flew in RAF White Waltham's Chipmunks, while during the holiday Sgt Spong, Cpl Sykes and J/Cpl Smart successfully completed proficiency gliding courses at RAF West Mallory and RAF Halton; five cadets attended arduous training, and J/Cpl Rawlinson completed his Flying Scholarship at Wolverhampton, and Cpl Webb obtained a similar award for the summer. J/Cpl Hamlin attended a Leadership Course near Thetford.

Field Day was possibly the most worthwhile and successful for many years. A small party visited and were extremely well entertained at the Martin Baker Ejection Seat Co, while larger parties visited USAF Alconbury and the Oxford City Outdoor Pursuits Centre at Glasbury-on-Wye, where they camped overnight in order to take maximum advantage of the following day's canoe instruction. In addition there have been regular canoeing parties to the Thames on parade afternoons.

Two officers and 28 cadets attended Easter Camp at RAF Wyton—and this again was probably one of the best UK camps in recent years. Apart from seeing much of what this very interesting and active Station does, cadets had first-rate rifle instruction, many classified, and some fired the self-loading rifle. Most cadets flew in Chipmunks, some half-a-dozen took an afternoon Comet flight to Aldergrove in Northern Ireland, while two others enjoyed a long training flight in a Bassett. The section, once again, acquitted itself outstandingly well during the camp. This is one occasion in the year when we can measure our own standards against other contingents, and it is pleasant to record how well we show up.

Finally, a word of congratulation to our former senior NCO, WO Jono than Frere, who as Second Lieutenant Frere is now in Hong Kong with the Royal Artillery, having obtained one of the first short-term Army Commissions for the nine-month period prior to University entry.

NKF

## The Grundy Library



All the former lower school Libraries have now been brought into the new junior section of the Library; this required a considerable amount of work on the part of the librarian, but I am sure it has been worth it and that this will develop into one of the most important sections—and one of the most interesting.

A noticeable tendency this term was for the Library to become over-full at break and lunchtime; there is no easy solution to this problem but common-sense behaviour by all those using the Library can help.

Our thanks to I Attree (OA), who as Secretary of the Monarchist League has sent us a most handsome book on orders and decorations.

KGH

## Chess Club



This is certainly proving an *annus mirabilis* for the First Team, now realizing fully the potential that has been clear for so long. For the first time ever we have won the local zone of the Sunday Times Tournament; the Final against Reading School, who have had a lucky draw, proved our easiest hurdle to date. In the National Finals we have won through to the final sixteen after a surprisingly easy victory over Bedford Modern, who had won a Zone much stronger than ours.

In the Berkshire League we have won the Western Section again without losing a match, thanks to a fairly conclusive win over our closest rivals, St Bartholomew's, Newbury. The Junior First Team has done very well too, coming second in the League and in the County Jamboree; they have also played soundly when called on by the Senior team or the County, and there should be very healthy competition for the lower boards in next year's Senior Team.

So many individuals have outstanding records this season that they cannot all be named here; all those named in the teams have achieved a high degree of success. But one must mention that Gareth Pearce has just

become Welsh Junior Champion. In the Berkshire Schools Congress, however, he had to be satisfied with sharing first place in the open event with Christopher Marley, who also won the 'Best Game' prize. Timothy Niblett, our fifth Board, came fifth in this event, a remarkable performance which won him a place in the Berkshire Schools Team; he has since been awarded his Chess Tie.

There has been plenty of Chess going on among the Juniors. Two teams have played in a local League, and the older team was looking very promising by the end of the season, although they failed to defeat a strong King Alfred's team in the deciding match. The Under-thirteens have performed creditably, usually against rather older opponents, and held their own at the Berkshire Jamboree. The House Jamboree underlined their promise; the standard of play was certainly higher than usual. This resulted in a triple tie between Bennett, the favourites, Blacknall and Tesdale.

The imminent departure of the top three boards is bound to weaken the Senior Team a lot, but their high standards have helped to raise those of the rest, and I am confident that we will be able to give a good account of ourselves in the future. The success of the first team is very gratifying, but so too is the enthusiasm and interest of the other forty-odd members of the Club.

MW

First Team: GD Pearce, CJ Marley, HJ Manning, JSP Mushens, TB Niblett; M Ormerod or PH Evans played Board Six in the Sunday Times matches.

Under Fifteen First Team: M Ormerod, PH Evans, ARP Mushens, RS Chapman, DJG Mushens.

Under Fifteen Second Team: JS Valentine, PD Marley, MP Pearce, VT Pugh, RW Kenyon.

Under Thirteen Team: ME Spoor, IS Thackwray, S de Lusignan, CWP Hobson, IR Holding.

#### First Team

|                                                |      |
|------------------------------------------------|------|
| beat Oxford School (Sunday Times)              | 5½—½ |
| beat St. Bartholomew's, Newbury (Berks League) | 4—1  |
| beat Wallingford G.S. (Berks League)           | 4½—½ |
| beat Reading School (Sunday Times)             | 6—0  |
| beat Bedford Modern School (Sunday Times)      | 5—1  |

#### Under Fifteen First Team

|                                                 |      |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|
| beat John Rankin School, Newbury (Berks League) | 4—1  |
| beat Wallingford G.S. (Berks League)            | 4½—½ |

#### Under Fifteen Second Team

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| beat Abingdon Under Thirteens  | 4—1   |
| beat Segsbury School           | 5—0   |
| lost to King Alfred's, Wantage | 1½—3½ |

#### Various Under Thirteen Teams

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| lost to Abingdon Under Fifteens | 1—4   |
| lost to Summer Fields           | 1—3   |
| lost to John Mason              | 1—4   |
| beat Cothill School             | 3—1   |
| beat Larkmead School            | 5½—4½ |

# Lists

## Officers of the School

### School Prefects

J Shellard (Head of School (LC)

JL Cox (Head of Dayboys) (D)

DM Steele (D)

AME Brown (LC)

RJ Searle (D)

AR Snodgrass (C)

RNL Savory (D)

SP Loosemore (D)

CJ Jordan (D)

JQ Rowley (S)

JC Griffith (D)

MS Paddison (S)

CJ Murray (Head of Boarders) (S)

TR Baker (W)

KJ Barnard (D)

AR Cunninghame (D)

RK Gyselynck (L)

GF Pike (C)

PJ Todd (W)

AT Winnington (D)

JC Dunkerley (S)

MT Bennett (S)

AW Wood (S)

### House Prefects

Crescent House: AJM Crocker, AM Higgs, MD Bricknell, DK Rice, HT Tresidder.

Larkhill: PJ Harden, CM Stake.

School House: JRD Oswald, TJ Hughes, RS Conibear, DGW Murphy, MA Neville, P Bobin, PR Clarke, NJ Moth, FAA Maude.

Waste Court: JSP Mushens, JR Cowlin.

Lacies Court: TJ Brook.

Dayboys: PGK Staniland, CA Wallace, GD Pearce, DB Howat, MT Evans, PA Bosworth, DN Longdon, AC McMillan, NG Seaver, RG Willis, PM Cowley, RJ Polley, PT Alder, SJ Cantwell, DM Howes, HT Manning, RJ Pike, AJ Barrett, RA Landy, CJ Marley, WJ Pollard, S Chislett, R Deane, GR Smith.

## Games Officers

Cricket: JJ Shellard (Captain), AR Snodgrass (Secretary)

Rowing: MS Paddison (Captain), P Scott (Secretary)

Athletics: CJ Jordan (Captain), AJ Barrett (Secretary)

Tennis: IF Gardiner (Captain), JRD Oswald (Secretary)

Secretary of GGC: JJ Shellard.

## Abingdonian Staff, May 1971

Editor: Tim Baker.

Sub-Editors: Steven Loosemore, Tony Winnington, Frank Maude, Peter Rigby, Mark Evans and Simon Whipple.

Photographic Editor: David Spong.

OA Editor: AA Hillary.

Treasurer: DO Willis.

## **Hello Goodbye**

**Left Lent 1971**

**VIH:** MR Mackenzie.

**VIR:** NKB Robertson (left Thursday, 18th February)

**6O:** CC Fathers.

**IH:** CM Hardy (left Saturday, 20th February).

**Came 16th April, 1971**

**6M:** PAS Davies.

**5H:** AW Darkins.

**3V:** RWT Stockwell.

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# **ABINGDON SCHOOL**

## **1870 - 1970**

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**A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE SCHOOL  
PUBLISHED TO COMMEMORATE THE  
CENTENARY OF THE MOVE FROM THE ROYSSE ROOM**

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**Available from  
Mr NK Hammond, Abingdon School, Berkshire  
Price 40p (by post 43p)**

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**All profits from the sale of this publication will be added to  
the Swimming Pool Heating Fund.**

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# OA Notes

## Births

**Bosley:** On 7 March 1971, to Anne, wife of Ronald Bosley (1933), a son, Mark David.

**Fry:** On 1 February 1971, to Glenda (née Long), wife of John Fry (1959), a son, Anthony John.

**Howlett:** On 8 March 1971, to Ann, wife of Graham Howlett (1960), a daughter, a sister for Adrian.

**Pickup:** On 13 April 1971, to Elisabeth, wife of Christopher Pickup (1960), a daughter, Sarah Lucy.

## Marriages

**Burns—Trow-Poole:** On 14 November 1970, Ian Burns (1963) to Linda Trow-Poole.

**Cross—Van de Linde:** On 24 April 1971 at St Ann's, Portsmouth, Lt. Paul Cross, RN (1960), to Margaret Van de Linde.

**Fairlie—Anyan:** On 13 April 1971, at Charlton Horethorn, Somerset, Aidan Fairlie (1965) to Jane Elisabeth Anyan.

**Gilbert—Jabaudon:** On 10 April 1971, at Saint-Palas, Philip Gilbert (1966) to Anne-Marie Jabaudon.

**Lewis—Hyde:** On 10 April 1971, at St. Helen's, Abingdon, Michael G Lewis (1968) to Yvonne Hyde.

**Ramsey—Scoffin:** On 17 April 1971, at St Chad's, Far Headingley, Yorks, Paul SM Ramsey (1963) to Gail Christine Scoffin.

**Walton—Macmillan:** On 3 April 1971, at St Nicolas, Abingdon, John L Walton (1964) to Jean Catherine Macmillan.

**Wyatt—Hale:** On 2 August 1969, at Christ Church, Clifton, Patrick Wyatt (1959) to Mary Joyce Hale.

## Deaths

**Rice:** Edgar Rice (1923–1928) died recently after a long illness and after having been in hospital for about three years. He had never really recovered from the effects of being attacked and severely injured just before returning from his post as a veterinary officer in Kenya.

We also have to record with regret the deaths of **AC Smith** (1924–1931) and of **RF Brown** (1927–1931).

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Congratulations to the President's elder brother, **Michael Cullen** (1945) who has moved from Malaya to Pakistan as head of Lever Bros (Pakistan). This must be an exciting and responsible job and one which calls for all the diplomacy and charm for which he is renowned. A contemporary of his, **Peter King** (1945), has come back to England from his educational broadcasting job in Kenya to take on the post of Head of Educational Broadcasting (Radio) with the Centre for Educational Development Overseas in Tavistock Square.

**Peter Anderson** (1958), who has been in the hotel trade for the past six years, wrote from Oban in Scotland to say that he has been married for two years now and has a son of nearly twelve months. He is missing his cricket but turning to golf and curling. One wonders whether he is thinking of entering his son for Abingdon!

**Martin Chambers** (1958) has left the sea, having obtained his Master's certificate, and now works for a firm of Admiralty solicitors in the City. He has become articled and is off to Law School for a year next March. He hopes to put in an appearance again this year at the July O.A. Dinner.

It was nice to hear from **Patrick Wyatt** (1959), who is working as a Contracts Officer on the Skylark Sounding Rocket Programme with the guided weapons division of the British Aircraft Corporation. We congratulate him on his marriage of nearly two years ago, which is recorded elsewhere in greater detail.

From Mr Harold Loukes, preaching at the School on Sunday, 2nd May, came news of **Chris Loukes** (1959), who is starting to teach Art in September and is already displaying some creative talent as a sculptor, and also of **Nick Loukes** (1963), currently performing at the Pitlochry Festival.

**Rodney Moore** (1961) brought us up to date on his progress. He took a BA in jurisprudence at Oxford (Keble) in 1964 and, having become a member of the Inner Temple, took an MA in Political Science (International Affairs) at Carleton University, Ottawa, in 1968. He joined the Canadian Diplomatic Service in 1967 and is now the Second Secretary with the Canadian Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Congratulations to **Michael Nurton** (1961) on his engagement. He intends to marry early next year and is meanwhile contemplating a change of job. Congratulations also to **Robin Ogg** (1962) on his recent engagement.

**Richard Welch** (1962) is also engaged and has fixed the date of his wedding for 5th August this year. He has now been Headmaster of Hornead School, Buntingford, Herts, for over a year.

**Ian Burns** (1963), whose marriage is recorded elsewhere, got his PhD at Birmingham University in June 1970 and we congratulate him warmly on both achievements. He is now working for the Agricultural Research Council at Wellesbourne.

Someone we shall miss during his absence is **Tom Barrett** (1964), who has gone off to Botswana, where he will spend the next two years on desert reclamation work. He will be returning to Reading University afterwards to complete his degree course and we hope that he will once again become a familiar figure on our games fields.

**Michael Hodge** (1964) has had to change his plans and he and his wife will not after all be doing VSO.

Congratulations to **Lt. David Jessett**, Royal Signals, (1964) on his engagement recently announced.

To continue our annual commentary on the private affairs of **Tony Medland** (1965) in his own words: "Rumours of my engagement were grossly exaggerated but it seemed a good idea at the time". He is not engaged, therefore, but he is a chartered accountant, working in Paris.

Congratulations to **Charles Noble Jamieson** (1965) on achieving a second at Oxford. He is now at University College Hospital, doing a clinical course, with only another two and a half years to go before he qualifies.

**Richard Jackson** (1966) is being married this Summer and moving on to Watford Grammar School. He is busy this term putting back some of his own enthusiasm into the Colts XI at Gravesend Grammar School. We shall miss him from Alligators' Week and look forward to his return to the fold next year.

**Nick Brett** (1968) has just been elected President of the Union at Bedford College, which means a year off academic work and postponing his degree exams until July 1973. He had news of **John Mosdell** (1968) who is now settling down to a job in insurance.

**Paul Holmes** (1968) has done well in his exams and was awarded a prize for the best project: he seems to get around the world still in his tankers and to enjoy life at sea tremendously,

**Andrew Iddles** (1969) has done well, too, to pass his Second MB at the first attempt and is now expecting to be let loose on some real live patients. He rattled off a list of OAs at St Mary's—eight of them now—including **Paul Dixon** (1963), President of the Students' Union.

Additional news of 1970 leavers is that **Peter Henry** is working with Magnesium Electrics Ltd and is now doing a three-month engineering course at Birmingham.

**Stephen Kirby** has been offered a University Cadetship by the RAF and hopes to take it up at the North-East London Polytechnic.

**John Nicholl**, thoroughly enjoying his teaching at Wanganui in New Zealand, is now settled on going up to Bristol in October to read Economics and Accountancy. At the moment he is teaching Maths and Science and is very impressed with the standard of games, particularly cricket.

**Michael Varley** has won himself a place at the Portsmouth Polytechnic to study for a diploma in General Surveying: well done!

A list of omissions from the catalogue of those who went up to Universities last October, for which I apologise, follows:

Birmingham: DA Hacker (Electrical Engineering).

Bristol: AP Long (Economics).

East Anglia: R Samsworth (Music).

Exeter: AT Braunton (Physics).

Liverpool: ATB Herbert (Chemistry).

London—Imperial College: IM Bricknell (Engineering).

Sheffield: DJ Heard (Bio-Chemistry).

Southampton: NP Winton (Physics).

Next October **Anthony Muff** goes up to Exeter to read Law, **Martin Andrews** to Reading to read Fine Arts, and **JPD Mitchell** to Bristol to read Civil Engineering.

AAH

## Addresses

Burns IG: 2 Carson Close, Stretton-on-Fosse, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, Glos.  
Chambers MG: 3 Croft Road, West Oakley, Basingstoke, Hants.

Cleave K: 4 Golden Gates, Sandbanks, Dorset BH13 7QN.

Cowling J: 19 Highfield Road, Bournemouth, Hants.

Dickinson JW: 27 Blenheim Drive, Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

Exon DJ: c/o BAT Uganda Ltd, PO Box 1100, Jinja, Uganda.

Harvey MR: 65 Headley Way, Headington, Oxford.

Greenwood HM: 42 Burges Road, Thorpe Bay, Southend, Essex SS1 3AX.

King PM: c/o Tulloch's House, Minster Lovell, Oxon.

Kandiah P: c/o Messrs Wilkinson and Grist, Jardine House, 12th Floor  
Pedder St, Hong Kong.

Livingston Lt MS: HMS Diomedé, BFPO Ships, London.  
Mein KA: 6 Abingdon Road, Rowstock, Didcot, Berks.  
Nelson MJ: Clarence House, Winchester Hill, Romsey, Hants.  
Nicholls NG: Kapelweg 6, Scheveningen, Den Haag, Holland.  
Parsons IJ: 36 Winterbourne Rd, Abingdon.  
Pickford IM: Cala Bassa, Ferry Lane, South Stoke, nr Reading, Berks.  
Slack GRH: 52 Crowther Avenue, Calverley, Pudsey, Yorks.  
Walker PHG: 79 Berkindale Drive, Willowsdale, Ontario, Canada.  
Williams J: 63 Portland Road, London, W11.  
Wyatt CP: 10 Shamrock Road, Eastville, Bristol BS5 6RL.

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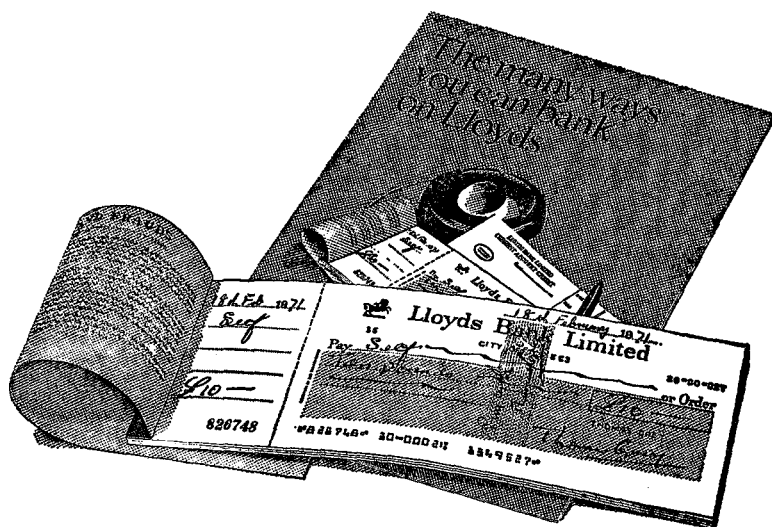
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