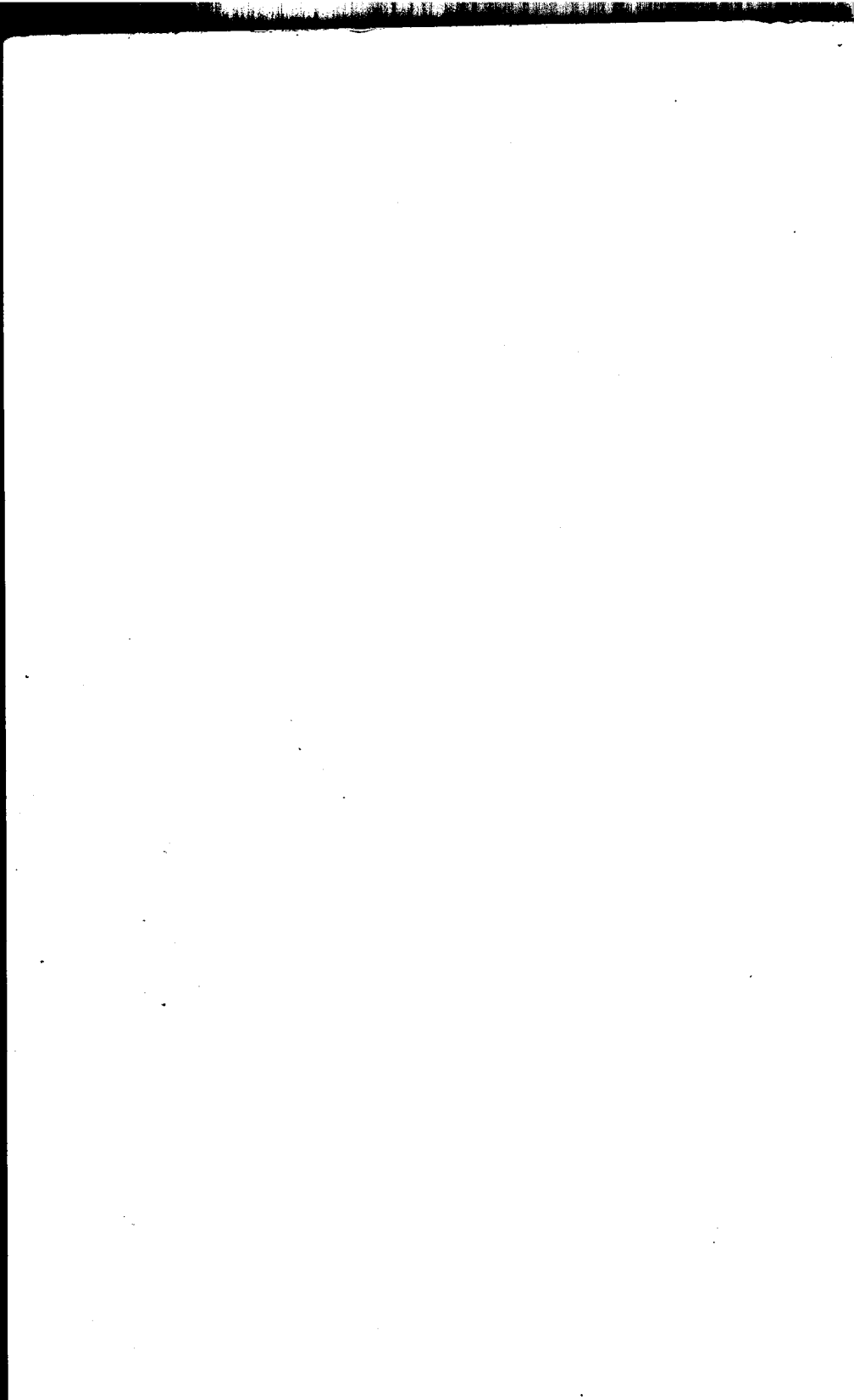


February 1972



ABINGDONIAN



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Editorial

'Education broadens your outlook so you know just what to drop out from.' An interesting if flippant comment on our educational state and not one to be ignored. To be fair it is not quite appropriate, as yet. Current Education is anything but broad. The rigour of exams severely restricts otherwise open subjects. Indeed the whole conception of 'subjects' is imposed upon us from above by the exam-dominated curriculum. Many schools now use the word Humanities to apply collectively to the traditional subjects History, Divinity and English. Nevertheless, at the moment, the General Certificate of Education examinations are necessary. They provide Higher Educational establishments with a convenient yardstick by which to judge their applicants' 'academic' ability. However, Higher Education is also beset by the exam-based curriculum. Formal examinations are not necessarily bad—they play an essential part in any educational process—but when Education becomes examinations and examinations become means of qualifying for another rung on the ladder (leading where, I wonder?) there is something essentially wrong.

Change is necessary and must come soon. It has been predicted that 800000 students will be studying in Higher Education alone by the mid 1980s. That is approximately double the present figure. The recent rise in graduate unemployed highlights the educational questions involved. The ladder would appear to be rotten. Much rethinking has to be done and that not in Higher Education alone. Since Higher Education is inseparably

linked to Secondary Education, Schools have their rethinking to do as well.

Twelve months ago the James Committee started its enquiry into 'the training of teachers in Colleges of Education in relation to the rest of Higher Education'. The report is now due and speculation has been rife over the nature of Lord James' recommendations. Several leaks suggest that one recommendation may be the creation of a two year broad based Diploma of Higher Education to be followed by a two year professional course. The implications of such a move, inherent in the brief, could be widespread. Broad courses may become available throughout Higher Education in addition to the present specialised courses and the two by two course structure could also be adopted. Already Bristol University has developed a two year Science degree and Cambridge University has for a long time employed Parts One and Two of the Tripos for undergraduate courses, offering great flexibility. Students can change their course after Part One if they wish.

Greater flexibility would be of enormous value in Secondary Education. At the moment Schools are very much subservient to Universities and the present examination system, geared as it is to University entrance, prolongs the situation. Secondary Education is not complete in itself. Without the external support of the exam structure it would lack direction. The expansion of its curriculum, to complement the expansion in Higher Education, would give it such direction. Of course the two are inter-dependent, but there is no reason why Secondary Education cannot provide rounded courses in its own right. The raising of the school leaving age to sixteen this year makes this imperative. The sixteen year old leaver is just as important as the eighteen year old leaver; their courses should be just as self-rewarding within their relative standards.

A broader curriculum would also reduce the disparity between Secondary and Higher Education courses. The gap is so great that it presents the prospective Higher Education applicant with a bewildering problem. He might well commit himself to a three year course and then want to leave it before the three year period is completed. Motivation is lacking. 800000 students in Higher Education is no bad thing but one hopes they won't be there just because they're there. Motivation is in a sense acquired through elimination: 'Education broadens your outlook so you know just what to drop out from'. And for those who just don't know, the flexibility may provide it.

ME

James Cobban, CBE, and the James Cobban Scholarship

Great pleasure was given to generations of Old Boys, as well as to all presently connected with the school, by the award of the CBE to Mr Cobban in the Birthday Honours List. It is by no means often that a headmaster—especially a headmaster in the independent sector—achieves such a distinction. There is no need to write at length here on James Cobban's many titles to this honour—his achievements in the school, his chairmanship of the Direct Grant Committee, his tireless work as a JP and in the local life of North Berkshire, his many good works in church and community relations. It is sufficient to say that never was an honour more thoroughly deserved.

By a happy coincidence, the announcement of JMC's CBE came at

almost the same time as a generous gift from an Old Boy of the School, Mr John Beasley. In memory of a great headmastership, he has endowed a James Cobban Scholarship, to be awarded annually to a Sixth Former who has the qualities of character which Mr Cobban particularly valued.

The names of the first James Cobban Scholars were announced recently. It was decided, on this first occasion, to award the Scholarship jointly to John Hills of the Upper Sixth and to Christopher Clayton of the Lower Sixth.

Obituary

We are sorry to have to record the death of Mr Hugh Fowler, on 21 December 1971. A Memorial Service was held in St Helen's Church on Wednesday 12 January, early this term, at which the Chapel Choir and a School Brass Quartet combined to play the only anthem.

We are indebted to Mr EHE Sawbridge, a former Director of Music, for the following appreciation of Mr Fowler:

Hugh Fowler, who died just before Christmas, would have been ninety on 23 May. Believe it or not he retired in July 1960 from full-time teaching at the School at 78 but continued to give private lessons at his home in East Saint Helen's for some years. For over ten years he had given invaluable service to the School as the principal piano master, and literally hundreds of Old Abingdonians have cause to be grateful to him for his painstaking, stimulating and wise teaching.

He was for many years Organist at St Helen's Church, where both he and his dear wife, Win, gave unstinted, loving service. They were both very good friends of the school and took a real interest in its activities. There was always a very warm welcome at 'No 43' and one recalls the warming sherry that was offered whenever one called—day or night! Hugh Fowler was a friend to many and not least to members of the Common Room. He was a real Christian, and many people benefited from knowing him. One rarely heard an unkind word nor any signs of anger unless it was justified or was righteous indignation. He suffered his deafness like a martyr and when afflicted with arthritis never once was late for First Lesson in the morning.

Abingdon—School and Town—will mourn his passing, but will give thanks for his life of service. It would not be out of place to slightly misquote some of the closing lines from Longfellow's 'Hiawatha's Lamentation': 'He is dead, the sweet musician; He has gone from us for ever, He has moved a little nearer To the Master of all music . . .'

JMC writes:

'Others, more competent than I, will write of Hugh Fowler as organist and choirmaster. He loved his work at St Helen's Church, which he continued until he was nearly eighty. For ten years, too, from 1950 to 1960, he helped successive Directors of Music at the School, and it is as a friend and as a colleague that I shall remember him. He had a natural and kindly dignity—irreverently, he reminded me of dear old Mr Badger in the Stratford production of *Toad*. It was difficult to see in that portly figure the dashing young Trooper of the Camel Corps in the First War, the leading actor in so many camp theatricals, whose poses remain frozen in many a faded sepia photograph. Yet there was something youthful about him to the

end. He took an interest in other people—his friends of the Common Room, his old pupils; he looked outwards and did not waste time pitying his own infirmities. As one who had himself known bereavement, his sympathy in time of sorrow was gentle and sensitive.

'Above all, his life was inspired by a deep Christian faith. In extreme old age, when all movement was difficult, he was to be found each Sunday morning sitting quietly in his place at St Helen's Church.

'I am glad I knew Hugh Fowler. Somehow Abingdon will be a duller place without him.'

Michaelmas Diary

Salutations and Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Owen on the birth of a son, Benjamin John, to Mr and Mrs le Fleming on their second child, Edward Benjamin, and to Mr and Mrs Reynolds on their third child and first son, Michael John.

Congratulations to Mr RCB Coleman and Miss Thompson, the Headmaster's secretary, who announced their engagement during the holidays.

We welcome back Mr Owen from his brief expedition into the Comprehensive School jungle at Crown Woods (see 'A Term in a Comprehensive School'), but in the same breath express regret at the departure of Mr Clayton and family to their Antipodean homeland in Australia. The School (and the Sixth Form English periods) will never be the same (see KRC).

On the Athletic and Sporting front we note the achievement of the Abingdon Scout Troop in winning at Reading the Amateur Swimming Association Local Challenge Shield which had previously remained elusively in the hands of Troops the other side of Berkshire.

We also salute the Third Forms who between them spent a full two days of the term raising money for charity in a twenty-four hour Table Tennis match (in the case of 3V) and a twenty-four hour Football match (in the case of 3B and 3D). To quote one of the participants in the latter event: 'Some of us had to get up at 3am to play football for an hour, but we staggered on despite blisters and fatigue for the twenty-four hours raising £76.50 for the mentally handicapped children of Abingdon'. Enough said.

There were also a large number of lower school boys, too numerous to mention, who gained awards in the 'Sunday Times' Gymnastic Advancement Scheme during the term, spurred on to their efforts by Mr (RH) Coleman.

Visitors

The most distinguished visitor of the term was the Moderator-elect of the Church of Scotland, the Reverend Selby Wright, TD, DD, FRSA, FSA, JP, who came to preach to the boarders on 21 October. By accident or design, his visit coincided with the first visit of Mr Cobban to the school after his self-imposed year of exile.

Meanwhile, the most chaotic visit of the term was that paid by the BBC Film Unit filming an introductory piece of film for the 'Young Scientists' programme (see later article). The Boat Club 1st VIII put to water on the Thames especially for them and spent the best part of an hour skimming up and down the river for the cameras, then, having found that the sound recorder had not been switched on, staged a repeat performance. Next,

the crew took in a little of the school's rugby activity and filmed a hard-fought inter-team match arranged for the occasion. Nevertheless the magnetic attraction to appear 'on the Box' made the whole affair a labour of love and there was no lack of volunteers to participate in the film.

The title of most disruptive invasion of the term and indeed the year goes to the two coach loads of students from Hilversum Lyceum, Holland, who alighted on the school-grounds on 15 October, went sight-seeing around the school buildings guided by some of the Lower Sixth Modern Languages sets, and then took to the roads again, in a manner usually characteristic of the American Tourist species, leaving only a book about their home country to the Library as a memento of their visit.

Lecturers during the term were Sir George Pickering, who talked to the Sixth Forms on 'Medicine', Professor Screech of London University, who with his wide knowledge of the University system and all related subjects threw himself open to questions on virtually any subject from members of the Sixth Form, and J Frere OA who, after a short pre-university commission in the Army, came to lecture on that very subject. As part of the Boarders' Saturday Entertainment programme, two lectures were heard: Mr Michael Banks on 'Adventure Galore' and Mr Tony Smythe on 'Descent of the Yukon River'.

From mid-term onwards, the School enjoyed the services of two student masters from Westminster College, Oxford: Mr Hartley, who taught English, and Mr Giles, who helped in the Music Department.

Outside Visits

Visits to the theatre once again formed the large proportion of extra-institutional activities this term: groups from the Sixth Form variously saw performances of 'Othello', 'Tyger' (the National Theatre's production based on the life and works of William Blake), '1789', at the Roundhouse, and 'West of Suez'. Contingents from the Fifth Forms saw 'The Merchant of Venice' at Stratford and 'Julius Caesar' at Oxford.

The majority of the members of the Upper Sixth Biology set went to Oxford for an Ecology Conference and returned somewhat wiser about the works of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, and at the end of the term a coach was dispatched to London containing Sixth Form English scholars intending to peruse the exhibition of William Blake engravings at the Tate Gallery and some junior classicists who wished to survey the British Museum and all its works.

In the hope of being able to further the education of other scholars, Mr McGowan and a highly talented troupe drawn from the cream of the Lower School French Sets performed an entertainment (presumably in or about the French Language) for the pupils in the Dunmore School, whilst another highly talented band, that led by Mr Robbins, played a few gigs at St Nicholas' and Rush Common Schools.

In conclusion, we turn to the achievement of a representative of one of the less documented populations in the School, birds. Our Ornithological Research Unit, alias Mr Reynolds, reports that one of the School's starlings has been sighted in Belgium. However, this is merely one of the many birds from the grounds which are known to regularly defect to Russia.

Miscellany

Amongst the minor changes which are ever occurring around the School, the term saw the arrival of a large clock on the wall of the wing housing the Library and Dining Room. Whether its appearance is a comment on

the punctuality of members of the School under the new timetable, or whether it is to satisfy a plea made in 'Vox' for one clock to be designated as showing 'School Time' is uncertain, but it is certainly not inconspicuous to those traversing the area in front of the School. We also saw the disappearance of the two patches of lawn(?) situated between the Tuck-Shop precinct and the Court Room under gravel in order to make delivery access to the Shop and Lacies Court easier.

Followers of the School's Dramatic Activities will note the lack of a School Play report in this issue. This is due to the fact that the play, 'Royal Hunt of the Sun', had to be postponed for a term as a result of an uncanny coincidence: Culham College, a mere two miles away, had decided to do exactly the same play on the same date, with the same costumes (those used in the original production at Bristol Old Vic) as we had hoped to use, and hence, as their letter of application for the costumes arrived a matter of hours before ours, and because they had less chance of retaining their cast if they delayed their production, we gallantly stepped down. The play will now be performed on 15, 16, and 17 February, the three nights before half-term. Incidentally, at time of writing, it is rumoured that Radley College are thinking of doing the play in the near future!

With reference to our earlier note on the filming of the School's entry for 'Young Scientists', a recent edition of the periodical 'Visual Education' included an article by Messrs Brodie and Woolnough on 'Photography in the Study of Human Movement' which, of course, contained details of the techniques used by the ECG scientists.

Also bursting into print last term were Paul Rutishauser and Paul Thompson, who won prizes for poems they submitted to the National Westminster Bank Literary Competition. The winning entries are included in the Literary Supplement.

The latest School Film (and first in colour) was given its first full public showing at the TASS Initiative Award Evening last term, although those attending the New Boys' Parents' Evening a few days previously had a sneak, if silent, preview of the film, in which C Terry has admirably captured the School and its activities on celluloid. Credit is also due to DP Greenwood and PE Rigby who, armed only with ruler, stopwatch and tape-recorder, between them concocted a commentary sound-track for the film without actually having it to hand.

We are grateful to Marine Submarine Cables Limited and in particular to Peter Lay (OA) for letting us have some surplus electrical equipment and materials. This apparatus, which would have cost several hundred pounds to buy, will be very useful in the School Science teaching and the project work in particular.

A group of Lower Sixth formers recently won second prize in a Schools Project Competition organised by the Esso Research Centre. Their project, which was to improve the Human Performance Laboratory by providing a strength testing unit, was highly commended by the judges.

Finally, a traveller's tale: the Headmaster, unable to resist the call of the homeland, set out for the North at the beginning of the Christmas holidays and on a brief stay in the wilds of Yorkshire at Burton-in-Lonsdale was amazed to see a sign of civilisation in the form of an OA tie sported by the local vicar, who was leading a highly trained and excellent choir of the natives in their annual carol-singing. Further investigation revealed this latter-day Livingstone to be the Rev CE Trevor, Head of School House in 1945.

The Development Plan

Abingdon School has expanded tremendously in the last quarter-century. There were just over 200 pupils in 1946. Now there are more than 600.

Buildings to accommodate the increase in numbers were vital, and an impressive number were put up. They included the New Teaching Block, the Science Block, the School Shop, the Swimming Pool, the Grundy Library, the Dayboy Changing Rooms, the Music School and the Biology Block. These were financed in part from income but in large measure from the Quatercentenary Appeal to Parents, Old Boys, and friends of the school. It would be fair to say that all present pupils of the school have benefited from the facilities provided through the generosity of previous generations of parents and well-wishers.

The school is still short of a number of vital buildings. The Governors would like to go ahead immediately with two projects costing at most, including all fittings, £120000. These are:

To build a School Hall and more teaching rooms

At present the Court Room in which we hold Parents' Evenings, the TASS Bazaar and the Christmas Concert is the largest room in the school. Originally it was designed as two class-rooms and the partition was removed to make the larger space. It is totally inadequate for a school of 600. We cannot show a film to a large body of people in comfort; we cannot house examinations properly; we have nowhere for large meetings or for large lectures; the Christmas Concert with its audience crammed in tight is cosy but not comfortable; there is nowhere to stage plays; there is no place except out of doors where the whole school can be assembled. In addition we are short of classrooms.

The Governors' proposal is for an all-purpose building to meet these needs. It will be a Teaching Centre rather than a vast Assembly Hall. The central hall area will be supported by additional classrooms which will give additional space on big occasions.

The site will be on the grass between the Music School and the Jekyll Garden. The cost will be approximately £80000.

To renovate and enlarge the School Kitchen and Dining Room

The present kitchen was no doubt ideal for the hundred members of the school in Victorian times. A lot of modern equipment has been installed in recent years, but the kitchen area itself is much as it was a hundred years ago. It now needs to be entirely renovated.

The Dining Room seats only 140 people—less than a quarter of the school. We propose to retain the Dining Room, but to build an additional Dining Room behind the kitchen, seating a similar number and being served directly from the kitchen.

These changes would allow us to feed the entire school (not just boarders) for lunch on a cafeteria system, to give dayboys a lunch cooked in our own kitchens, and to improve the standard of catering for boarders at all meals.

Since the site is adjacent to School House, which is short of single and double studies, the Governors would like to make this a two-storey building and to build additional study accommodation on top of the Dining Room with access from School House.

The total cost, including Studies on the floor above, will be in the region of £40000.

This does not complete the list of buildings which the school needs, but the Governors hope to provide some of these from their own resources in

the next decade. The first of them—an extension to the Biology Block which will provide extra space for Biology and for General Science—begins early in 1972. Future plans include an Arts and Hobbies Centre, the provision of more laboratory space for scientific projects, and improvements to boarding facilities.

In raising more money, the school has no endowments nor any wealthy backer. It has no investments nor any land which can be sold to provide capital. We are given no money for building from the Government or from the Local Authority. Most independent schools can raise capital sums by increasing their fees. By the terms of the Direct Grant Regulations we are not allowed to do so. There is no means, therefore, by which we can finance a major building programme except by an appeal for funds. We believe, however, that we can raise the money we need, if everyone is generous in giving what they can afford, and an appeal to Parents has been launched this term. The Governors and Headmaster thought this should not be done by an outside firm of professionals. They felt that this is our concern and that putting the facts squarely in front of Parents and asking for their help is what they would prefer.

At a later stage a further Appeal will be launched to Old Abingdonians, to local industry and to other well-wishers, linked, we hope, to one of the further projects mentioned above.

Prizegiving

The Prizegiving this year returned to its accustomed place in the Michaelmas Term and was held on Monday 18 October in the Abbey Hall. The guest of honour was Professor ID McFarlane, MBE, DU, MA, who presented the prizes after the Headmaster, at the Chairman's bidding, had completed his report. After his hand had been wrung seventy-six times Professor McFarlane gave a very stimulating speech. An edited version appears below.

Education, no less than the society it reflects, is undergoing, as we all know, a period of reappraisal and heart-searching, and yet certain features of the educational experience, which are in my humble opinion a little undesirable, persist tenaciously. One thing that worries me a great deal is the multiplication of tests and examinations and qualifications and diplomas. Institutions of higher learning are described by the minority as 'degree-giving bodies'. Education seems to be something different. Of course we are told with all this competition as it is that another 'O' level or 'A' level pass will open the door to some higher El Dorado. Yet, I sometimes wonder whether education doesn't receive quite a lot of punishment in the process.

Learning seems to become more and more a series of obstacle races. Our eyes are fixed on the immediate goal to be conquered; we get caught up in a system. We deceive ourselves that we are proving something better to ourselves and to others and in all this we don't perhaps spend enough time on the dispassionate meditation on, as the phrase goes, 'what it is all about'. We hope that something will turn up at the next stage and of course the network of examinations does help us from ever looking at that particular problem. We set the sights of our pupils on shibboleths almost, which in consequence produces an over-great sense of competition. English Education and Society are of course riddled with the complex of

the status symbol and I think this can do a great deal of harm. In the pursuit of one single goal, allegedly on educational grounds, we sometimes introduce elements that are not desirable.

In Scotland I have had to pick up the bits and pieces of students who took years to overcome the sense of failure because they hadn't got into the English University of their first choice. And some never got over it. As a teacher, I noticed that dismal and significant area of failure among people who had three grade As and even SIs. They were still in a sense so unmotivated, so worried about a certain failure in their educational process, that they never managed to get into my honours class. And this it seems to me is really rather shocking.

I think we are encouraging pupils to have less time than they should for thinking. We are making them present themselves not as themselves but as they think other people would like them to be. We are here after all to develop in the pupil his particular talents, actual or potential. Education is never just instruction. Something of the teacher's attitudes is always transmitted consciously or unconsciously. And it is very important that education should be, especially during the secondary stage, such as to put the pupil in a situation where he must come up against himself and need the motivation he needs in life. I don't necessarily mean a narrow professional vocation, although that may be absolutely right for a given taste, but the pupil must be asking questions at this time of his life. School should not only teach but allow boys to learn.

I hope the days are now past when a school teacher could say, as he said to me fifteen years ago, 'Our business is to get the boys up to University and there they can sink or swim'. The responsibility on the teacher is all the heavier in the modern world where so many values are being seriously questioned. Education cannot be separated from values.

Academic qualifications are no doubt useful, but they are relevant to one's own 'condition'. I think the development of the open mind is one of the things that education should be about and when we risk confusing short term means with long term aims something is wrong. What I am pleading for is an easing of certain pressures in the educational system that I think could be eased without any detriment so far as our standards are concerned; a preference for integrity over the seeking of status and an openness of mind combined with common sense and a certain *joie de vivre*; a proper balance between involvement and detachment. This is what I think is very important but very difficult to achieve.

A list of prizewinners is at the other end of the magazine.

KRC

Ask an Abingdonian how he remembers Ross Clayton and few will stop at 'Aw, gee'. LP Hartley remarks in *The Go-Between* that a man can make more of one incident than he can of fifty years of routine, and perhaps a schoolmaster's life, punctuated though it may be by a year as coach to the Tennis Six, a vigorous form-mastership and many a thunderous innings on War Memorial Field, does appear to follow a well-worn pattern. Yet this would never conceal the fire and enthusiasm that led several of the best boys of the last few years into Mr Clayton's English classes, or the warmth of the man who gave his rousing 'blood-on-the-boot' speeches before Reeves Juniors went into battle, packed loads of eager theatre-goers into his Dor-

mobile, and cooked what the Americans would call the meanest risotto in Dolgoed.

We thought that Ross was almost anglicised but now, taking his charming family, he has left us, perhaps fired with youthful ambition to see if the streets of Melbourne are paved with gold but more probably because, like his favourite character in all English literature, Toad, he feels the call of the dusty highway and the open road. Abingdon is much the poorer, and considerably depopulated. He is, however, to rejoin his old school fellow John Truran, so it should be no empty hope that as they sit on the porch in the long Australian evenings their thoughts will turn to Upper Field when the chestnuts are in bloom or the Blacknall Room when the central heating has failed, and together they will plan for the day when they come to see us again. CO

Chapel Notes

It is perhaps right to commence the Chapel notes by placing on record the fact that a number of boys from Abingdon School took part in two celebrations of the Holy Communion in the heart of the Soviet Union during the summer holidays. At the suggestion of the leader of the party the Chaplain was in mufti most of the trip, except for the visit to Zagorsk monastery, seventy five km north of Moscow. There was a moment of alarm at having to declare his travelling Communion set as 'one silver cup and plate' at the border of Brest Litovsk. But twice during our stay a number of us gathered privately in one of the bedrooms at the Hotel Leningradskaya to pray for the unity of all Christian people everywhere, and that the time may come when all may be able to break bread together without fear or suspicion.

Last term we had all our weekday services in the School Chapel. With the introduction of a new timetable it was just not possible to accept the loss of time by middle and senior school on the morning trek down to Trinity Methodist church. We wish to place on record our gratitude to all concerned in enabling us to use Trinity church during the past years. It was an admirable witness to Anglican-Methodist cooperation. The change has meant a reduction in the frequency of services for any one section of the school. First, Second and Third Forms come into Chapel on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays; Fourth and Fifth Forms on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; and Sixth and Upper Sixth on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Boys continue to be responsible for the composition and conduct of services every third or fourth week.

Once again a number of Sixth Formers attended the very popular and stimulating Challenge Weekend at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine, an account of which appears elsewhere (see below). Three students from Ripon Hall, Messrs Richard Buckley, Ian Mounter and Martin Wharton, have added variety to Sixth Form Divinity periods and we are also grateful for their invitation to participate in the Ripon Hall Third World Group. Those who visited were relieved to find that a theological college is a very human place with an excellent bar in the cellar. Among our efforts to help others was the 'Starve-In' held in the grounds of the Abbey Hall early in the term. The School was well represented here, as it is on the committee of Unit 7, an offspring of the Unity 'Eat-In' held in the Lent Term. Two marathon efforts by junior forms at twenty four hours of table tennis and

soccer helped the mentally handicapped and the fund for training guide dogs for the blind.

Chapel collections have been as follows: Service for parents and new boys, £21·70; 'Starve-In' (Oxfam, etc.) £10·20; Chapel Funds, £6·77; Feed the Minds campaign, £6·85; Chapel funds, £5·54; C.U.R.E. (National Addiction Research Institute), £9·69; New Guinea Mission, £9·15; Chapel funds, £5·03; British Legion Poppy Appeal, £5·82; Chapel funds, £6·90; Bishop's List, £29·89; SSJE, £6·96; Shelter, £5·19; and Church of England Children's Society and St Helen's Church, £30·94 each, being the retiring collection at the Carol Service.

During the term it has been our privilege to have the following visiting preachers: The Rev DEH Whitley, MA, Chaplain of Jesus College; PDC Points Esq, MA, Headmaster of Pangbourne College; Mr Marcus Thompson, Youth Organiser for OXFAM; the Rev Ronald Selby Wright, TD, DD, FRSA, JP, Minister of the Canongate Kirk and Moderator Designate of the 1972 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; and the Rev AL Dunstan, MA, Vice-Principal of Ripon Hall. We also had a visit from the Rev Edward Kelly, Organising Secretary of the New Guinea Mission.

Naturally the highlight of the term was the first visit to the Chapel (licensed by his predecessor + Kenneth Oxon) of our new Diocesan Bishop, the Right Rev Kenneth Woolcombe, MA, to confirm twenty-three candidates. These were: Jolyon Barton, Christopher Baumann, Aubrey Capel, Robin Chapman, Andrew Clift, Simon Clift, Stephen Cromie, David Eccles, Andrew Furlley, Michael Hasnip, Richard Hobbs, Nicholas Holder, Nigel Hughes, Andrew Jackson, Guy McCreery, Peter Noble, Mark Phillips, Michael Poole, Joseph Poxon, Peter Stevens, John Tauwhare, Robert Watson, and Mark Whittingham. Once again we are grateful to the Society of St John the Evangelist and particularly to Fr James Naters, SSJE, for conducting the two quiet half-days for the candidates; they were also joined by a number of boys from School who were being presented in the parish church on the same day. The Carol Service followed its traditional pattern and was as stirring and satisfying as always. There was an added brilliance to the musical *feux de joie* provided by the candlelight from the massive candelabra of St Helen's church. Also spotlights illuminated the readers, who included Mark Rivers, Stephen Murphy, Graham Lennox, Adrian Marsh and Philip Spittles, the five new boys who this year read the account of the fall. There were two carols with musical arrangements by our Director of Music, Anthony le Fleming. These were a 'Christmas Lullaby' and 'In Nightly Stillness'.

This term we said goodbye to John Rowley, who was junior sacristan in 1969 and senior sacristan in 1970, and on his last day at School served at the altar for the twentieth time. He has volunteered to help the Church Missionary Society as a teacher for eight months in a secondary school at Katenga in the Kikuyu reserve about fifty miles north of Nairobi. Many will want to support him with their prayers in this practical Christian work until his return in October to take up the place which he has been awarded at Keble. He would be the first to say how much he owes to the fellowship and instruction gained from the weekly Bible study group that meets at twenty-three Park Road under the kind and generous guidance of Mr and Mrs Eden.

We also say farewell to Kevin Barnard and congratulate him on his Open Scholarship at Keble. Kevin has helped as a dayboy server since his confirmation and has also contributed much to the life of the Chapel, not

only in very erudite addresses, but also in producing a memorable choral verse-speaking of 'The Ancient Mariner' in Chapel, and a production of 'Everyman' on the steps of the pavilion. He has acted as the School's lay representative on the Abingdon District Council of Churches and has contributed frequently and valuably to the deliberations.

The Chapel has been embellished by the gift of two copper rose-bowls which stand beneath the two war memorial tablets. These are the gift of Mr and Mrs Spellman Marriott and Mr and Mrs Keith Hasnip to mark the occasion of their sons' confirmation. Flowers during the term have been arranged by Mrs Anderson, Mrs Hillary, Mrs Varley, Mrs Reenan, Miss Farr, Mrs Hasnip, Miss Broad, Mrs Eden, Mrs Mortimer, Mrs Potter, Mrs Woolnough, Mrs Taylor and the Chaplain. And yet once again we are indebted to Miss Farr for her scrupulous care of the fair linen. PGO

Challenge Weekend

The Royal Foundation of St Katharine is situated in the heart of London's East End. It is set in delightful gardens, so different from the shabby, noisy area which surrounds it. It was here that four Lower Sixth Formers, Julian Turner, Robin Wait, John Evans and myself, together with four girls from St Helen's, attended a Challenge Weekend. Despite catching a wrong bus, we arrived just in time for supper. There were, we discovered, twenty-four girls and, due to cancellations, no boys apart from ourselves. The Conference proper began with a talk by Mrs Barbara Hevy, the Director Secretary of a drug rehabilitation centre in Andover. We heard how her Trust, The Coke Hole Trust, grew up from an open church youth group into a demanding full time job for her family and several other workers.

Saturday morning consisted of an internal discussion on the subject 'Is God Alive?'. This proved very lively due to conflicting views and certainly helped, although reaching nothing near a conclusion, to help us to get to know each other and our chairman much better. After a hymn practice and lunch we took to the relatively fresh air and walked about the dock-land area around the Isle of Dogs. It is a pity that our object was to look at the place; it is very easy for us to treat the not so well off areas as peep-shows for our market-town eyes. Nevertheless it was quite rewarding, showing how appallingly small slums had been redeveloped into appallingly monstrous skyscrapers.

We returned to the Foundation for a talk by the Rev Walter Makhulu, a London minister who was the first coloured minister to be appointed in England. He told us how race relations worked in his parish, Battersea, how he had felt race hatred and how it affected others. This was very revealing; he gave some dreadful examples of race hatred.

In the evening another minister, the Rev David Moore, talked about the centre for drop outs and alcoholics which he and a band of voluntary helpers run. Lunches are provided at a very minimal cost for a large number of men, and in the evening soup is provided both in the centre itself and in mobile soup kitchens. We then walked the short distance to his centre—attached to his Church—and saw the kitchen and day rooms. Fortunately all the men had gone by the time we got there, so we were spared the feelings of guilt in treating them and the centre like a museum.

On Sunday morning we took part in a service of Holy Communion in

the pleasant chapel of the Foundation. After that we had a lengthy and very free discussion on 'The Cult of Sex'. This was led by Hugh and Alwyn Marriage and we are grateful for the way in which many new aspects of this over discussed subject were introduced. The final talk of the weekend came after lunch when Michael Butler, the Deputy Director of the Samaritans, gave an illuminating account of the organisation's work among the depressed and those contemplating suicide. He gave us much insight into the origins, workings and customers of his organisation as well as a few distressing suicide figures.

After tea we left for home with a mixture of the depressing things we had learnt and the feelings of enjoyment revolving in our minds. Two days was perhaps a little too short a time for a conference of this kind; the friendly atmosphere and pleasant surroundings and hospitality made it very enjoyable. Yet it made us think that there are many things in our own country which need our prayers and money just as much as the well-known things abroad.

Our thanks are due to Father Bernard Chamberlain, CR, for chairing the conference, and to Sister Joan Irene, Deaconess CSA, and the other members of the Foundation for so very kindly extending their hospitality to us.

CPH

The Subscription Concert Society

The Subscription Concert Society was formed originally for the benefit of the School. However, in recent years interest has waned considerably, but for the minority it provides a great opportunity for hearing world class musicians live and capturing those moments of insight unique to music as Bryson Gerrard, himself a widely travelled critic, elucidates.

The concert in the Abbey Hall on Sunday 31 October made a triumphant start to this season with a recital by the Ceylonese cellist Rohan de Saram and his brother, Druvi, at the piano. With such famous names as Tortellier and Rostropovich fully in mind one can assert without hesitation that Rohan is one of the world's present outstanding cellists; he conjures notes and an immense variety of tone out of the instrument with a wizardry that makes one feel that Beethoven, for example, whose A major Sonata they played, was an even better composer than one imagined and he does it with consummate ease and a complete absence of ostentation. He sits like some Indian guru communing with the heart of the music and one feels privileged to overhear it—frequently excited too; there was no lack of dazzling virtuosity from both the brothers, especially in the Debussy Sonata and (from the solo cello) in the Kodaly finale. The Schumann Phantasiestücke, which completed the programme, displayed musical meditation at its sweetest and most sumptuous. It seemed all the more impressive that such deep musical understanding should come from Asiatics; their playing did honour to both Europe and Asia.

The London Concertante, who gave the second of these concerts on Sunday 21 November, also in the Abbey Hall, is perhaps less famous as a group than the individual soloists who form it: Douglas Whittaker (flute), Janet Craxton (oboe) and Alan Harverson (harpsichord) are well-known performers in their own right while Bruno Schrecker is cellist in the Allegri String Quartet. As might be expected, their playing had the effortless ease that only comes to those who know their *métier* inside-out.

The programme, again as might be expected from the instruments involved, was largely the green and pleasant land of the eighteenth century: Telemann, Vivaldi, CPE Bach, Loeillet and (rather more mountainous but exceptionally pleasant in his G major Sonata) JS Bach. The only other composers represented were twentieth century: Alan Richardson (Janet Craxton's husband), Thea Musgrave (who was inspired by one of the Concertante's performances) and Hugo Distler (a little known but clearly very sensitive German who committed suicide in the 1940s). Their works, though the reverse of 'green', since they were very sophisticated, were more than pleasant; they had unusual charm.

One cannot but be struck by the singular absence of nineteenth century composers from programmes of this sort. How came it that such figures as Schubert, Brahms, Wagner, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Mahler . . . (one might continue the list), who knew to perfection how to score for these wind instruments in the orchestra, wrote virtually nothing which would warrant performance at such a concert, so little 'Household Music'? It might be a good subject for an essay.

The next concert, on Thursday 3 February, will be given by the Christchurch Choir.

Christmas Carol Concert

Stephen Loosemore, an Old Abingdonian of five months standing, came to the Christmas Carol Concert on the last Sunday of term. For several years he and his oboe played a prominent role in such concerts, but he soon found that listening was almost as much fun as participating.

With Christmas raising its traditional head once more, boys, parents, friends and staff—including one brave Australian—assembled in the Court Room to hear the best of Abingdon School's musical informality. The evening began with a man to man quarrel, the leading protagonist being Mr le Fleming—not yet of show-biz fame. This ran into the slickest performance I have yet heard from the School band in 'Who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler?'. The applause should be for David Robbins who has conducted the band through a revolutionary period in School history; we can now indulge in greater appreciation of brass playing which a few years ago only managed polite applause.

It is always good to see musical apprentices learning their trade in public and the courage and enthusiasm of the Junior Strings bodes well for the future. Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo witnessed another of the Junior Choral Society's adventurous 'leaps in the dark' which met with well deserved success.

If the Carol Concert sometimes gives the onlookers an impression of mere frippery and merriment it does have its more serious and positively creative sounds. The performance of original carols always makes a welcome change from the rather overworked traditional ones. Barrie Bignold impressed upon us that we really were in the 1970s, for with lights flaming, guitars 'weeping' and hair creeping imperceptibly down below collars, romantic thoughts about Christmas were soon dispelled. But if the mirror of Christmas was different from that immortalised by King's College Choir it was clearer, and slightly nearer reality. Nick Talbot's reputation was already firmly established before he sang his carol. Afterwards he can only say he enhanced it. His voice is interesting, he has stage presence and his

lyrics are good; in fact the nearest Abingdon School has come to producing a Leonard Cohen. Chris Hey too created a very moving impression with his carol strongly reminiscent in mood of the theme to 'Love Story'. Jeremy Pike's contribution, 'St Peter of Scotland', though not a carol, was characteristically interesting and stimulating. Another creative piece appeared in the form of a group, the Abingdon School Jazz Band. It is marvellous to see Jazz reappear in the School. If nothing else it will show us what a good jazz pianist we have in our Director of Music.

Carols were sung (shouted?) throughout by an enthusiastic audience and the evening came to an end with the reappearance of that old-time favourite, the Carol Suite.

So ended a very successful concert, but to slip into my really critical persona I must point the admonishing finger at stage management. Inconspicuous when present but very obstructing when absent, it is something very often neglected.

Musical Opinion

'Nucleus' is a contemporary jazz group with 'Rock' tendencies. Its appearance, in concert, at the North Berks College of Further Education on 14 January was significant. A full house, including upwards of 200 members of the School, paid fifty pence for a seat, waited patiently for a delayed start of forty minutes and left after cheering vociferously, two hours later. It was one of the major musical events in Abingdon covering twelve months or more.

It was the 'coming out' party of the School Jazz Club. Thunderous proof of a minor revolution in current musical trends precipitated by the resurrection of the Club last September: an idea initiated, principally, by two boys, out of nothing except good-will and the discovery of a handful of tired LPs—relics of a bygone age. Subsequently, a membership of 150 was achieved. A practical, working band began meeting at five o'clock on Mondays. A group called 'Ben', with avante-garde overtones, raised the music-school's temperature during a visit later in the term. And as if in sympathetic vibration, the end of term Court Room Concert presented a swinging band, lilting strings, a Rocking 'Good King Wenceslas' plus the jazz group's first public performance. Everyone was rejuvenated, and in the wake, Papa Haydn, for a moment, seemed very old and very far away. RleF

A Term in a Comprehensive School

A convenient surplus of masters in the English Department last term, due to Mr Clayton and the peculiarities of the Australian academic year, gave Mr Owen the opportunity of spending a term in a Comprehensive School in South East London. The experience, if not refreshing, was certainly a change from the confines of a Direct Grant School.

The comprehensives have been big news again over Christmas. All the national dailies and even 'Nationwide' have run their stories on violence in the classrooms of big city schools, on mass truancy, our nation of bad spellers, the ever-accelerating decline in our educational standards. The direct effect of this on me is that the journalists, headmasters, teachers' union leaders, parents and all the rest have snapped up the generalisations

Sixth Form, giving a total school roll of 2000; there are few larger schools anywhere in the country. The staff numbers 150, an apparently favourable ratio being explained by the large number of part-timers; there are twenty-one teachers in the English Department alone. Eltham, the centre of the catchment area, is a generally prosperous suburb and the school's intake tends to be academically and socially 'top-heavy' by London standards. There are few immigrant children compared with the numbers at nearby schools. But there are many children from broken homes, several of them living 'in care' in local hostels.

The English Department believes in mixed ability, non-streamed teaching in the first three years. This meant that in my Third Year Class (average age thirteen years five months) I had pupils whose reading ages ranged from seven years ten months to a point beyond the maximum on the scale. Here are two pieces of writing from them. First, a boy explaining what he wants to do in English lessons:

'I wold lick to her a story but not sions ficshon the a wold like to right enething of my thoss. I think we should have some dramer lessons or go up to the liabrey to read or lock for bokes.' This tough character has provided a useful introductory paragraph for any English syllabus. In terms of control and skill he is well ahead of many of his contemporaries, some of whose writing is almost totally unintelligible to a new teacher. One or two, or course, have dropped out altogether by this stage but are somewhat I was cherishing for my own article. Try, 'Nationally we have produced Sir Winston Churchill, Ernest Bevin and Lord Nuffield. If they had all been coralled [my emphasis] through large comprehensives into the local polytechnic we would now be an insignificant part of the Thousand Year Reich.' [Ex-Chairman of Headmasters' Conference, as quoted in 'Daily Mail', 3.1.72.] Thwarted, then, I must content myself with saying a few things about what actually happened to me.

Facts first. Crown Woods is a very large comprehensive school in South East London. 400 children, divided into fourteen groups, enter the school each year. Under the present optional system sixty per cent of these stay until they are sixteen to take GCE or CSE. 200 pupils stay on for the times led back via the copying of comic strips. My proudest moment was when a very difficult boy, who had resented my arrival for weeks (I followed a superb mixed-ability teacher) was prompted by a work poem I read to write a limerick about his Dad, the Dumper Driver, and then spent the whole of a Sunday writing two and a half pencilled sides about the Mrs Mackay murder. From the same class, however, comes the second piece, the end of a girl's long poem 'from a prison cell'.

'People had lived here,
Died here,
Been condemned here,
Sunk into nothingness just here
Where I was standing.
It was sad to think of people
Becoming pale shadows,
Sinking from hope to despair
Between these unfeeling,
Uncomforting walls.'

That gives a hint of the pleasures in this work. Now for something of the pains, and my chance to match the sensationalism of the dailies. Any-one could be a little apprehensive about a school where the pupils had twice

set fire to their hall, the second time during rehearsals for the school play — 'The Fire Raisers'. The English Department, and their policy of advocating total involvement and participation in creative drama, got much of the blame. We are rather less committed here; that's why we could cast Alan Arm in a play about the destruction of boundaries and fences. London Transport drivers, so I read in my local paper, would have driven six times round the South Circular rather than face the school bus stop at four o'clock. My House Head could not suspend a Fourth Year boy who was being a menace in every class because she knew that he would be picked up by the police within hours if he was free to roam the streets. One of my own classes, Fourth Year and streamed fifteenth out of sixteen, grew (very rightly) tired of the Humanities Curriculum Project, hurled their books and paper to the floor or out of the window and howled 'We Want a Riot' to the tune lovingly practised at the Millwall Football Ground.

There was the horrible ordeal of teaching double periods at the end of afternoon school, which ran from twenty past one until four; the impossibility of trying to do anything the morning after *Mon'y Pyfun's* or a day either side of a Millwall or Charlton match, with 'aggro' to be planned, rehearsed and later recounted. But, of course, the pains have a habit of giving way to pleasures and it is these which stay in the heart when the temptation to spin a racy tale has gone. Often, too, there is a very sobering explanation for what at first seems deplorable behaviour. Being a teacher in a comprehensive school can mean eating in four months more charred and broken biscuits, the debris of domestic science practicals, than the average man would expect to consume in a lifetime. It can mean the offer of countless sips from break-time drinks, for when a child knows perhaps twenty teachers in 150 he feels the need to relate with gestures like this. However disturbing, even unnerving, the children can be in groups, they are nearly always charming and friendly as individuals and my abiding memory of the school will be of its warmth, whether expressed through the superb staff who tolerated my mistakes and invariably sent me back encouraged to my classroom, or the First Year girl who promised for four weeks that at Christmas she planned to give me 'something that all men really like'.

Winter Sports '71 to '72

During the Michaelmas holiday two School parties visited the Alpine snows. Skiing was their objective but, as both Kim Darroch and Mr Brodie explain, there were several other temptations.

Despite his illness, Mr Hammond succeeded in arranging a skiing trip to Durchohzen, a small village about fifteen miles from Kufstein near the German Austrian border. Mr McKinnon agreed to come in his place and at five o'clock in the morning, four days after Christmas, the party of nineteen Fifth and Sixth Formers set off for Luton airport.

The flight to Munich was uneventful and a pleasant coach journey along the autobahn brought us to the Gasthof Blattlwirt. After a meal, skis and boots were collected from a nearby shop and the day was concluded with a 'Tyrolean evening' entertainment at the hotel.

Next day skiing began in earnest with two-hour lessons in the morning and afternoon. Steady, if somewhat painful progress was made over the subsequent days by most of us, and by the end of the week all had progressed from the nursery slopes to the larger, adjoining main slopes.

The hotel was shared with a larger mixed party from Langtree School and a friendly relationship was established with them. The hotel rooms were comfortable and well appointed, and although the meals were only moderate this was compensated for by the evening entertainment which took the form of a discotheque every night. New Year's Eve celebrations lasted till five in the morning and there was an understandably small turnout for skiing later on New Year's Day. One afternoon there was an excursion to Kufstein, but this was rather disappointing as the town had little to offer apart from a castle.

On the final afternoon a slalom competition was arranged by the instructors. After two runs, Nick Malein recorded the fastest combined time of the novices, with Gordon Woods and Paul Taylor not far behind. With the benefit of previous skiing experience and advanced instruction, Geoff Homewood recorded a very fast time to win overall. However, as a tribute to his commendable perseverance, the Novices Prize was awarded to Barry Ashcroft-Jones. Although he was not the best skier, he was certainly the most entertaining.

On the final evening, proficiency certificates were presented to all the competitors. The evening was enlivened by an outbreak of mass hysteria among members of the other party, and later by the arrival of the Austrian police. They arrested a party of drunken butchers who had amused themselves breaking glasses.

The return journey was as uneventful as the outward, and many of us took advantage of the lower prices at the duty free shop at Munich. It only remains for me, on behalf of the whole party, to thank Mr Hammond for organising the trip, and Mr McKinnon for the leniency and understanding which he showed throughout. NKD

The deposits had been paid, the Brize Norton dry-ski slope conquered, the flight tickets had arrived and a gloomy Boxing Day saw the start of a trip to the Alpine snow. With the eventual arrival of 'Bunny' Hares, who had been delayed by the Aylesbury Hunt, the party negotiated the first stage of the trip by minibus and caravette to Gatwick Airport.

After a flight delay of forty-five minutes, we settled down to smoked salmon and prawns as our BAC 1-11 cruised over Brussels. Tim Parker made the numbers up to twenty-four at Munich Airport and we were soon crossing the German-Austrian border to climb up out of Worgl, through Niederau and to our destination of Oberau in the Wildschonau valley of the Tirol.

Boots and skis were fitted, rooms were allocated, and we settled down to experience continental duvets for the first time.

Ski school was from 10.00 to 12.00 and 2.00 to 4.00 each day, and with the pension in which we were staying only two minutes from the slopes we had a great deal of free time to practise skiing, to toboggan, to ice skate, to ten-pin bowl or just to take light refreshment in the many local hostels.

The snow was compressed and icy, but did not daunt the beginners, although the repeated climbing up the slope eventually took its toll. Having progressed to the 'T' bar lift however, and getting the first taste of parallel turns etcetera, those who stuck at it appeared to enjoy the experience and made good progress.

New Year came with a bang, fireworks being about the only items cheaper in Austria than at home, but for many it was all too soon before the skis were returned and the trip back to Abingdon began.

The mountain road did not appear quite as precipitous as it had by night on the outward journey, and after a touch of VC-10derness, many of the party agreed that although the holiday was short, they had been well and truly bitten by the ski-bug.

DAB

Electrocardiograph Project—Young Scientists of the Year

When Michael Jones and I were asked to build an amplifier for Mr Brodie, as an end of term Physics project in the Summer Term, little did we know where it would lead.

When it was built, we were still a little dubious as to what it was for. We were first asked to experiment with it using electrodes, and tried, unsuccessfully to obtain a heart trace on a cathode ray oscilloscope, until Michael touched a loose wire and hey presto! it worked.

From that point, the project went from strength to strength. It was chosen, with two others, at the Oxford Science Fair to be shown on the BBCs programme, 'Young Scientists of the Year'. Now we had to start consolidating and planning the project—which was basically to build a cheap electrocardiograph for use in School human performance project work, and to discover useful applications. We had to find out how the heart worked. We even saw a heart specialist in London about our project, who told us he thought we were on to something good, which was encouraging. Also, there had to be a good story line from the programme's point of view.

At the beginning of the Michaelmas Term we carried out a series of tests on the First Fifteen, who, at the beginning of term, do a lot of intensive fitness training. We wanted to find out if the training was in fact making them fitter. Well, we thought it did, both from our results, and the personal angle, as we both did the tests ourselves. We were also carrying out a series of tests on oarsmen in a four, having slightly adapted our equipment.

Then came the filming. Firstly we had to film a rowing sequence which provided a few laughs, especially when the Producer's Secretary fell into the river up to her knees! This took up a whole morning. In the afternoon, some rugby was filmed, and the lighting was set up in the 'A' level Physics Lab for the next day, when indoor demonstrations of the equipment and interviews were filmed.

For the last part of the term we have been studying T-wave forms in five of the First and Second Fifteens.

Now most of the hard work has been done, we are writing up project notes for the judges and developing a new set of electrodes.

The filming in the studio will have been done when you read this, and the programme will be shown some time in the Easter Holidays.

I think the best way of finishing is to endorse that well-known text book title, Physics is Fun.

DBS

The Business Game '71

This year we have so far been successful in the Business Game run by a well known computer firm. Basically, there are three schools in each game who compete as companies marketing a certain product. Decisions

are made for each 'period' concerning the prices to be charged, the allocation of money to production and advertising and other yields in expenditure; 243 schools participate on a knockout basis and each game lasts from four to seven periods.

Naturally the winning company is the most profitable and so we raised prices at the start. Unfortunately we did not spend enough on transports, and so found ourselves in third position. However, by expanding our production and marketing soundly, we doubled our profits in the next period. Throughout the game we gradually raised our prices and our profits increased while other companies couldn't fulfil their orders.

Towards the end we were a trifle erratic, but the lead we had built up was so considerable that the other companies could not catch up. We now move on to the next round.

TCP

TASS Report

The highlights during the Michaelmas Term were the TASS Initiative Awards Social Evening and the Christmas Bazaar.

On 18 November a sherry reception was held for members of the Society who had been invited to come along to hear talks given by the award-winners about their projects and adventures. The film of the School was excellent, and the provision of refreshments and coffee by the ladies of TASS rounded off a most enjoyable evening which was extremely well attended.

The Christmas Bazaar once again was a great success and £340 were raised which will be divided between a fund to build a squash court for use by the school (estimated cost £4500 please note!) and 1972 Initiative Awards. Boys are encouraged to make application to the Headmaster before half term.

The boys themselves are actively engaged in the affairs of TASS as you will see, and they have their own two representatives on the committee.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Music School at 7.30pm on 27 January when officers for 1972 will be elected.

The programme so far planned for 1972 includes a Brains Trust which will be held in the Court Room at 8.00pm on 8 March, chaired by Professor WD Allen. We hope this will be well supported, so do join us.

A ball will be held in the Abbey Hall, Abingdon, on 13 October for members of TASS and members of the Old Abingdonian Club will be invited to join us. Invitations will be sent out in August but do book the date now. The last ball was held in 1970 and was a great success.

The Society has made a grant to buy a portable radio for use by sick boys at the Lodge.

At the beginning of term new boarders were entertained to tea by their housemasters, and the ladies of TASS provided tea for all new dayboys in the Court Room.

Anyone wishing to join the Society—old boys, parents and any friends of the School are invited—may apply to the Membership Secretary, Miss Ruth Broad, The Lodge, Abingdon School. One pound will cover husband and wife for one year, although cheques may be sent for larger amounts if desired! Covenant and Banker's Order forms will be sent upon request. Join the society and enjoy the social and educational benefits of the School.

MW

Grundy Library

When the Library was built and opened in 1963 it was proudly boasted that it had a capacity of ten thousand books. Theoretically, it received the nine thousandth last term, but due to a depletion of contents resultant from loss, theft (from which we suffer far less than other libraries of our calibre) and disintegration of badly bound and over-popular books, the Library is about three to four hundred books below that figure, and even given a sudden miraculous surge of generosity in donations, it will still be some time before the estimated capacity figure is reached. When it is, there will still be a certain amount of leeway presented in the number of books that are, at any one time, in the limbo of being borrowed. Nevertheless, unless one wants to present future librarians with a mammoth juggling act, now is the time to start thinking about a plan of action for when saturation point is reached.

On more immediate matters, the highlight of the term was an exhibition staged in the Library illustrating the life and times of Samuel Pepys with books, maps and a taperecording of a programme about Pepys. The exhibition was prompted by the donation by Stephen Loosemore of the first three volumes of the new edition of Pepys' diaries to the Library, and as a direct result of the display, a further two volumes of the diaries were donated by a parent.

At the beginning of the term, in order to cater for the needs of a new Comparative Literature option in the Sixth Form, just over a hundred of the Penguin translations of various works of European literature were purchased and put into the Library with a speed which caused some of the librarians to reach hitherto unknown rates of productivity.

The Grundy Library gratefully acknowledges the donation of books to the Library by the following: Hilversum Lyceum, the Philatelic Society, PE Rigby and DB Howat. PER

Societies



Over the past few years the difficulties of coordinating the running of a large number of Sixth Form Societies, some joint, some limited to Abingdon School, have increased. The Cultural Coordinating Committee solved a proportion of these difficulties but the problem of coordination still faced some Societies. It was decided to form a large Inter Sixth Form Society to bring together many of the joint Societies. With the cooperation of the headmasters, headmistresses and other members of staff, the **Abingdon Sixth Form Society** was established.

The Society is run by two committees, cultural and social, each consisting of two elected members of the Sixth Form of each participating school

(that is, Abingdon School, Saint Helen's, John Mason High School and Our Lady's Convent), giving a total committee strength of sixteen. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are selected from one school for one year (this year from Abingdon School). An annual subscription of twenty-five pence enables the society to run functions at substantially reduced rates for its members.

After the first two administrative meetings two social meetings and one cultural meeting have been held. The first social meeting was a successful discotheque held in the Court Room with the 'Goblin Mobile Discotheque and Lightshow' and the second was a dance held at John Mason's with an excellent London band called 'CMU'. Unfortunately, although their music was very good, it was not quite what we had required for a dance. The cultural meeting was held near the end of term with the showing of the film '3 into 2 won't go'; although there were some doubts about the validity of showing this film it certainly provoked several interesting courses of discussion afterwards.

Now that the Society has found its feet, with a membership of over two hundred and a bank balance of sixty pounds, we can look forward to bigger and better functions, with more eminent speakers and better known dance bands than were possible with the individual societies in the past.

Besides the contributions of the Inter Schools Society this term's music scene has been enlivened by the resurrection of the **Jazz Club**, which, besides starting to develop a record library, held one concert in the Music School by 'Ben' and already has a firm booking for 'Nucleus' for early this term. With uncanny administrative brilliance a musical choice was presented on the evening of the Jazz Club concert, for it was held at the same time as one of the **Folk Club's** three informal concerts, all held last term at the John Mason. More classical, if not necessarily more formal music, was provided by the **Music Society**, which had a good term, arranging two concerts, by Jeremy Pike and Mark Evans. The first was not well attended, but, due to good publicity, the second had an audience of nearly eighty; and they were not disappointed. A wide variety of pieces were collected together under the title 'A Miscellany of Music and its Prose', with some exceptionally funny examples of the latter.

Besides presenting '3 into 2 won't go' in collaboration with the Inter Schools Societies, the **Film Society** had an active and successful term, showing 'Oedipus Rex', 'The Magician', 'Privilege', 'Harlem Wednesday' and 'Mamma doesn't allow', all of these films being much appreciated. Similarly playgoing is as popular as ever. As well as the usual outings organised by the English Department, at least three Societies have taken themselves to the theatre.

The **Athenaeum** suffered from that perennial complaint Apathy, and this, combined with disputes over its range of membership, resulted in only one meeting last term, a great pity as a few people, as always, are very keen. Nevertheless the National Theatre's production of George Büchner's play 'Danton's Death' was generally well received. Büchner, a twenty one year old medical student when he wrote the play, wrote this not so much as a play but as a statement on the French Revolution. The set was quite superb and for most who went it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The **Joint Club** too held only one meeting when it sent a mixed party to see 'Abelard and Heloise' by Ronald Millar at Wyndham's Theatre. This play, set in fourteenth century Paris, is the story of a revolt on a minor scale against the authority of the Church. The **Modern Languages**

Society visited the Oxford Playhouse to see Chekhov's 'Cherry Orchard' and later in the term saw '1789' at the Roundhouse. The latter play, performed in French by le Theatre de Soleil, has become famous because the traditional barriers between cast and audience are removed, with actors changing their costume on stage and the audience having no fixed seating. The Society's other meeting was a slide lecture by Peter Cowley on the German Democratic Republic.

The **Economists** revived themselves after their summer dormancy and held one meeting where Mr W Pollard, Principal of the Berkshire Agricultural College, gave a most interesting talk, especially to those doing 'A' level Economics, on 'British Agriculture with reference to the EEC'. The **Scientists** suffered somewhat from administrative problems, but still managed to hold one meeting when Dr Coe of Oxford University talked about 'the general Ecology of East Africa'.

The **Historians** held two meetings last term. At the first Miss B Kerr spoke about 'The Importance of Local History' and illustrated her talk with some amusing anecdotes of Dorset life before the First World War that she had collected in conversation with elderly people. At the second, better attended, meeting Jeffrey Mushens spoke on Thomas Cromwell and Francis Maude on Disraeli. Both papers were followed by prolonged discussion.

The **Literary Society** held two successful meetings. Mark Crocker read a paper on TS Eliot's 'Wasteland', supported by Richard Landy's paper on some other aspects of Eliot's poetry, and at the second meeting we listened to and discussed members' favourite poems, the concluding one being one of Richard Landy's own compositions (see ETC supplement). Meanwhile the less exclusive **Critics** once more reconstituted itself under the sponsorship of Mr Clayton. The society has undergone a metamorphosis with the new school year and has extended its franchise to include all Fifth formers in addition to the Lower Sixth. Meetings last term were most promising, promoting wide and lively discussions from all present. There were three meetings in the Sixth Form Common Room, and it is hoped to hold several more in the more personal atmosphere of a member's house. The first meeting took the form of an informal reading of members' favourite poems. Later in the term Andrew Clift presented an interesting paper on the life works of Siegfried Sassoon and finally Richard Griffiths introduced the poetry of Sassoon's contemporary war poet, Wilfred Owen. Despite Mr Clayton's leaving, the future looks bright for the Critics this year.

Facilities for formal discussion have been provided by the **Debating Society**, which held only one meeting, but this was surprisingly well attended. The motion, debated jointly with St Helen's, that 'This House believes in Jam Today', was passed by a small majority. But despite good speakers and efficient chairing the floor was unable to overcome its disagreement over the definition of jam.

The **Royse Society** held three meetings during the term. The first took place in the Unicorn Theatre when the play 'Twelfth Night' was read by members of the society, augmented by some of the prefects and the younger members of staff. At the second meeting Gareth Pearce read a

paper on 'Mass Civilisation and Minority Culture', which stimulated an interesting discussion. The final meeting, on Wednesday 8 December, took the form of a symposium on 'Education?' at which members read various contributions (relevant or otherwise) of a generally humorous nature. The last meeting was unfortunately poorly attended due to the proximity of the end of term and the departure of many members after the Oxbridge examinations.

We shall lose many members this term as they move on to Oxford and Cambridge, including the secretary, Kevin Barnard, whose services to the society were greatly appreciated. The society is again grateful to the Headmaster and Mrs Anderson for their hospitality.

Finally, among the cultural societies we would like to record the foundation of a new society, the **Portfolio**. Originally to have been called the 'Pseudo', it has now somewhat changed its aims but is remaining a social society with a cultural bias—perhaps something of a mimic of the Roysse Society, but with a wider range of membership.

Of the practical societies, the **Model Railway Society** has undoubtedly been the most active. It held two well attended meetings every week and its members indulged in activities as diverse as second hand train dealing, running steam locomotives and photographic expeditions to, amongst other things, the Abingdon Branch and the railtour of King George V. The end of term saw the last spike ceremony which completed the 'O' gauge loop, and the running of a commemorative first train complete with miniature headboard, a fitting sendoff for the retiring committee.

Meanwhile the **Photographic Society** have continued to make full use of the darkroom, while the **Tape and Electrical Society** arranged a visit to the Oxford Playhouse to gain some ideas about lighting techniques, ideas which they feel will be reflected in future School plays. Finally the **Philatelic Society** had a fairly quiet term. Two booklet exchanges took place with Eton and Malvern Philatelic Societies respectively, and one first day cover service was provided for the Christmas stamps, but a showing of films produced by the Post Office had to be postponed due to a fault in the projector.

If Lower Sixth and Fifth formers can be drawn even more into Societies to play a full part in their running, the hopes for the future should be good.

Sports Section

Rugby Football

First Fifteen: What has been very noticeable this season has been the very much higher scoring in almost all games. There are probably a number of factors which contributed to this, not least of which must be the exceptionally mild and dry autumn. But the change in the value of the try and the kicking restrictions outside the defending 'twenty-five' have probably had more to do with it. Another recent trend has been the increasing reliance on tactical rather than on individual skills to make the break, and the increasing reluctance of players to commit themselves physically to the

tackle. Certainly it makes for a very much more fluid game but one which will be all the poorer if individual skills are discouraged in the interests of team work.

Nevertheless, most of the pleasure derived from this season's games has been as a result of achieving a well-balanced fifteen with scoring power distributed pretty evenly from full-back to hooker. Chief honours must go to the pack, although they could be said to have had an unfair advantage in the stimulus and expertise provided by a number of coaching sessions from Mr Peter Dixon, fresh from the triumphant British Lions' tour of New Zealand and also one of those rare players whose British Isles cap has come before he has played in the International Championships. It is always a shot in the arm to have an active player with experience at the highest level to help the side, although at one point the pack's line-out tactics proved a somewhat embarrassing reminder of where their mentor had last played the game.

In the tight, we had trouble with any scrum which had a solid and experienced front row and Hares' quickness in the loose was paid for in full, particularly in the Radley match. King's strength was perhaps not used to its full advantage at loose head and Rowley, though quite outstandingly quick and skilful in the loose and indispensable as a pack leader, is not quite fast enough as a striker to be able always to hold his own. In the line-outs, too, we had the edge over most of the packs we came across through the skill of Butcher and Lilley, to whom Peter Rogers proved a more than adequate reserve. Lawless, Carr and Evans made a very competent and hardworking back row, and the last named goes on record as one of the first Colours awardees of the season chiefly by virtue of his tremendous determination and fearless tackling.

We were fortunate this year to have one of the best half-back combinations of recent years. Russell Ward had the priceless ability to set his partner on the move from the most unpromising positions and also developed as a very dangerous runner in his own right. How gratifying to see such an ebullient personality come through last season's very nasty eye injury so safely and successfully. Peter Price needs more confidence to develop as a captain and tactician than he yet possesses and his ability as a runner only really came to light in later games, but he has great ability and he easily exceeded Graham Pike's points tally of last year and scored not much short of 120 points.

In the back line, things did not go quite so well. The chief problem was at centre where Abraham was too lacking in confidence to commit himself to the tackle or to trust in his own not inconsiderable abilities as a runner. I am sure he will do better next season. Francis, still a Colt in age, showed promise and the sort of determination all too often missing in this position, but he tended to run into trouble. He learnt a lot, however, and could be very good. On the wings, Kelvin Sykes tackled consistently well and showed himself a dangerously quick runner, though he needs the initial break made for him to be at his best, whilst Nigel Pollard has all the potential of a first class wing. He is big, strong, fast and aggressive, and when these talents are all used properly he is outstanding. Suffice it to say that he made some remarkable contributions to the game.

Atkinson at full-back provided what used to be called the last line of defence but is increasingly the first line of attack. On his day, he can also be very good, but his temperament is perhaps more of a liability than he himself realises and one can't help wondering whether Douglas Smith's less spectacular but far more dependable qualities might have been a better investment; he has certainly proved his worth as an efficient secretary.

All in all, this was a happy side with plenty of humour and one which improved steadily and enjoyed its rugby.

Finally, our thanks to Mr Bagshaw whose maintenance and preparation of the pitches was so immaculate that it would not surprise me if he had arranged the weather as well.

During the season Full Colours were awarded to PD Price, M Evans, RA Ward, GB Butcher, NRH Pollard and ECJ Lilley. Half Colours were awarded to AC Atkinson, ND Francis, PM Abraham, KGW Sykes, DC Hares, DB King, M Lawless and MWJ Carr.

The team was: AC Atkinson; NRH Pollard, ND Francis, PM Abraham, KGW Sykes; PD Price, RA Ward; DB King, JQ Rowley, DC Hares, GB Butcher, ECJ Lilley, M Lawless, MWJ Carr, M Evans.

Also played: MS Broughton (5 times); DPC Smith (4 times); JD Peirson (3 times); PAW Rogers, MJ Jones (twice); CP Hey (once).

Results:

Newbury Grammar School	Sat 18 Sept	(a)	Lost 15—28
Radley College	Sat 25 Sept	(h)	Lost 6—21
Oxford School	Sat 2 Oct	(h)	Won 40—3
Warwick School	Wed 6 Oct	(a)	Lost 18—36
Solihull School	Sat 9 Oct	(h)	Lost 10—20
Pembroke College	Sat 16 Oct	(a)	Won 15—0
Magdalen College School	Sat 23 Oct	(h)	Won 48—3
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 6 Nov	(h)	Lost 3—27
Pangbourne College	Wed 10 Oct	(a)	Won 38—3
Reading School	Wed 17 Nov	(h)	Won 24—7
Old Abingdonians	Sat 20 Nov	(h)	Won 42—10
Bloxham School	Wed 24 Nov	(h)	Won 25—9

Second Fifteen: This year, we more or less broke even, winning seven and losing six of our matches. Only on one occasion was the team defeated heavily—and we did indeed have a bad game against Warwick—and the general impression at the end of the season was of a reasonably well-balanced side which had learnt to play good, competent rugby. The initial defeats had tempered the team and at the end, in a winning mood, we could have wished for a longer season.

Throughout, the pack was sound—only worsted by the stronger and at the time better disciplined scrums of Warwick, Solihull and Radley—and the good supply of ball enabled the backs to look at times quite brilliant. Macdonald, on the wing, was most prolific scorer but all played well. Hey and Broughton added punch to the attack even though they were not always as effective in defence. Kelly was perhaps the best tackler in the side, while Johnson and Urban-Smith both had their moments, especially in attack. The half-back combination of Smith and Luther improved greatly as the season advanced and the team undoubtedly benefited from the fact that Smith and Broughton played several games for the First Fifteen. In the scrum, Clarke hooked very well and was supported by Gould and Spong, the captain, at prop in what came to be a most efficient front row. Parker and especially Rogers provided a useful powerhouse in the second row, and the normal back row of MG Smith, Jones and Peirson got through a great deal of very good work. Halliday was a fairly regular and always dependable reserve, usually in the second row. It was perhaps fitting that Rogers, Peirson and Jones were chosen to help out the senior side on occasion.

Once again, this was a team which enjoyed its rugby and showed a commendable spirit on and off the field.

DOW

The team towards the end of the season was: G Habgood; RI Macdonald, CP Hey, MS Broughton, TD Johnson; DPC Smith, DJ Luther; DB Spong (captain), A. Clarke, DA Gould, PAW Rogers, TC Parker, JD Peirson, MJ Jones, MGE Smith.

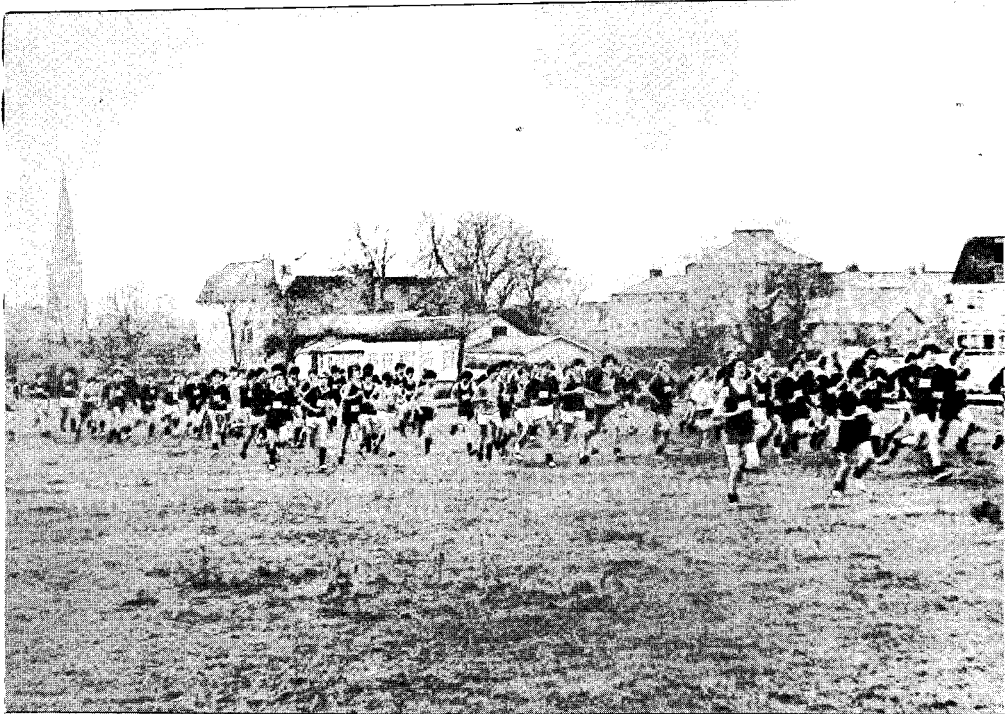
Also played: ARM Kelly, JA Urban-Smith (5 times); JD Halliday (4 times); PAG Davies (3 times); MWJ Carr (twice); RGA Godfrey, PJS Harris, BE Jones, RP Klepzig, AJ Madin, NRH Pollard, AN Rayson, PD Cook and ARP Mushens (once).



Prize Giving, Monday 18 October 1971

An Informal Music Society Concert





The Intermediate Cross Country Race

The BBC 'Young Scientists' Film Unit: Take 1 – Stamina



ETC

A LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

THE LAND GRAB

Stark yellow monster, bold against the sky
Hovering, cruel cold and steel jaws poisoning
They drop and grab.
Teeth close tight:
Moving, manoeuvring,
Skilled hands steering,
Gears engaging,
Remotely controlling.
Slowly responding,
Steel jaws rise.

Swinging, swaying, gyrating,
Rotating, reaches the top.
The monster turns, lowers the load
Steadily, slowly, precisely
Into the truck.

Peter Brodie, fourth year

THE CRASH

When

they balloon down silently from the sky
they pause, pause on a point, pointing, pause
they pivot, pilot a pocket of air, drop, pause
they point, giggle, give way, go down, down
they drop down, sky shine,

Touch

engine turf
touch, stiff, stop, still, stock still
prop still, stopped, shot sharp fast flaming fire
free, feeling fuel pump, pump
plane into earth, plough field, fold fusilage
tinfoil wing catch field fling fire high
farm flings

Back

its head and bursts
out laughing
bomb peace, blown over yards, blown over air, blown
fin over fin
hand over hand
head over heels
blown bits through bodies
hung up blown bits burning slung up in trees,
break silence, booms, bangs, thunder
bolts, beats back to back
back and forth, fist, air raid, rages
air, tears world apart,

Awaits

end of anarchy, end of last second screaming
seeming, seeming to sound so long awaited
long awaited end of chaos, coming
quiet
sensing silence, seeing fires burn brightly,
motion, movement, stops, remaining flame
burn softly, silence, fires
burn warm.

Julian Turner, sixth form

THE CANDLE

The pale flame shone in the gloom,
A speck of light in the church,
An arrowhead of flame piercing the darkness.
Old banners reflected its light,
Brasses shimmered,
The processional cross was enthroned in splendour,
Shadows danced around the huge wet stone pillars,
Like weird spirits.
A pale halo of light shone round the flame,
It flickered,
As if an unknown breath had touched it,
The people's faces were cast with shadows.
A stream of wax slid slowly down the candle side,
Black smoke spiralled upwards,
The flame slowly stretched,
The service ended.

Mark Saunders, third year

THE DEAD FATHERS

On the pit head the wheels
Are iron skeletons in the rain
Which drains the mud and runs
With black dust down the windows.
Wheels and junk are littered
Like dead men on the ground,
The sky is grey with despair.
In an impotence of dying,
Desolate in a sterile blanket,
The town died with the pit men
Who sit in airless circles.
'Yes, I have seen my inheritance,
The wreck of the pit head
And the metal scarecrows,
The sandwich boxes and shovels,
The wire cage and the lift,
The whores and their children,
The dead and the starving,
The priests and ministers of God
Who condemn my wild adultery.'

slowly, softly,
hands in pockets,
shoulders rubbing the wall,
leaning, observing, waiting.

The car and the coal dust
Spread and the town sleeps;
They hear the sounds
Grinding of a lift cable,
Shrieking of a furnace,
The crash of a splintered cry,
The blinding sounds.

They are only sounds,
They are only exaggerations,
Angry reminders,
They are medals for the past.

'Retired or redundant—what is the meaning
Or the difference? Plain, dusty, unwanted,
I sit at my table
Staring into its depth,
Living and breathing
In an agony of slow death.'

They close a door on the past,
Their past—the past of a generation.
There is nothing left
But scars etched with bitterness.

Out from the streetlit town
And up to the black hillside
To the quarries and pits
And the path of the night shift.
Sound is only a memory,
Though the rain falls harshly
On the deep blue puddles.

Richard Landy, sixth form

THE HIDDEN LIGHT

The hidden light shone out briefly as the sun caught the blade as it was drawn from its scabbard. At the pommel was a large amber globe. The hilts were richly decorated with writhing dragons and snakes. Below, the blade was grey-silver in the gloomy light under the cloud-covered sky. The blade swept through the air with a vicious whistle. A strong hand held it and it became only an extension of the muscular arm that wielded it.

It led the charge. Shoulder to shoulder we followed in the wake of the Destroyer. Blows fell on shields, men died, spears fell to the ground. The sword led, flashing in the ecstasy of blood. It was red to the hilt with the warm, red tide of life. It sang hard and bitter over the noise of battle, the cries and screams of men were drowned by its wild song of death.

Even as they turned and fled before the destruction of the sword, it stopped singing as its master fell. To avenge him we fought long and hard with white rage in our hearts. Our shield wall swept forward to death and destruction.

The sword stood alone, stuck in the ground by the dead man. The sun again caught the blade. The hidden light shone out briefly and was gone.

A man came and took the Destroyer and laid it beside its owner on his bier. During the night we kept watch by the light of guttering torches in the great, empty hall. The next afternoon we laid our leader in his barrow.

I carried in the bier to the gloomy chamber beneath the green turf. As we passed the door the last rays of sunset caught the sword as it lay by

its master's side. There was no response. It lay cold and grey. We came out and rolled a large stone over the door to the sound of the harp. It rolled to with a grating noise and the sword and dead man were closed in.

Paul Thompson, fifth year

THE FUR SEAL

Massive, proud, dominant,
He surveys the beach,
His beach.
All spring he fought for it.
Twenty times his razor teeth
Slashed an enemy's neck,
Twenty times the sombre rocks
ran with crimson blood.
Yet twenty times his rivals fled.
It is his beach now.
But he is tired,
So tired of fighting,
Tired of salt-sand in deep gashes,
Tired of bellowing, snorting, sweating.
For he knows that some day another rival
will rise from the seething salt sea foam.
Then his reign will end.
Until then
the tyrant waits.

Paul Rutishauser, sixth form

PETITION

We, the undersigned, the majority, 'though silent we be,
Give thanks for our forefather's vision and fortitude and
We hereby pledge ourselves fully in support of
And what is more,
Maybe
In seeking neither our own nor our neighbours'
We most humbly place our hopes within
And take the side of all that is, or is not, but will be, nearly
If you see what we mean
Wherewith
While we would agree
We hold out not much
But in any event we must declare ourselves at any time
One hundred per cent.

Julian Turner, sixth form

HATE

Hate is a vicious circle,
Shooting out sparks like a catherine wheel.
It spits and burns with hissing spite
From minds too obsessed to know
Compassion and tolerance for the other man.
Hate is a deadly sin, cutting
Like knives into the human head,
Severing bonds and shattering
The harmony of brotherhood's face
Understanding remains for the enlightened few.

Patrick Alder, third year

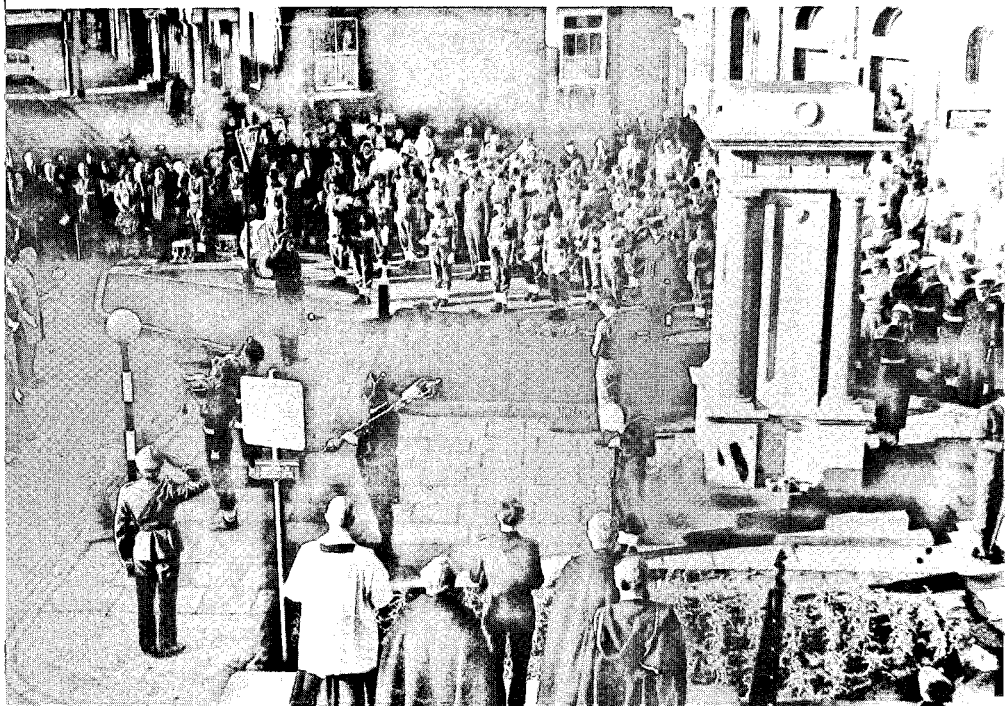


Al Madani



The 1st XV at play

The Last Post



Results

Newbury Grammar School	Sat 18 Sept	(h)	Lost	0—29
Oxford School	Sat 2 Oct	(a)	Won	16—12
Warwick School	Wed 6 Oct	(h)	Lost	0—88
Solihull School	Sat 9 Oct	(h)	Lost	3—30
Radley College	Sat 16 Oct	(a)	Lost	0—20
John Mason School 1st XV	Wed 20 Oct	(a)	Lost	30—40
Magdalen College School	Sat 23 Oct	(a)	Won	32—6
Wallingford Grammar School	Wed 3 Nov	(a)	Won	8—0
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 6 Nov	(h)	Lost	4—36
Pangbourne College	Wed 10 Nov	(h)	Won	48—3
Shiplake Court 1st XV	Sat 13 Nov	(h)	Won	16—0
Reading School	Wed 17 Nov	(a)	Won	42—14
Bloxham School	Wed 24 Nov	(h)	Won	40—0

Third/Fourth Fifteen: It is sad, but probably unavoidable, that many who enjoy rugby seldom, if ever, play for the Juniors, Junior Colts or Colts. Small wonder, then, that by the time they reach the Sixth Form many have abandoned all thought of playing for a School team. If any boys in this category read these words, we hope that they will bear in mind that it is in the Sixth Form that they will have their greatest chance of achieving this ambition. For instead of almost a hundred boys in each middle-school year competing for one team, in the Sixth Form less than twice that number have four teams to try for.

This year, once the news got round that enjoyable games were to be had in Game Two, the number attending practices, sometimes on awkward days and in horrid weather, was most satisfactory. Only for the matches with St Edward's, when the Oxford and Cambridge exams had withdrawn seven people from the game and, sadly, a few people's enthusiasm had waned, was it impossible to field two teams without calling on the Colts' reserves.

The **Third Fifteen** had every right to be pleased with the season. Although seven of the ten matches were lost, five were against sides that were probably unbeatable, however well we had played. That the team's morale remained so high throughout the term, despite five consecutive defeats to start with and unavoidable difficulties over practices, says much for everyone, not least some of the seniors (notably Tresidder, the captain, and Godfrey), who set an excellent example of courage and determination.

Once they were fully fit, the forwards played with great gusto. Jones hooked admirably, Godfrey and Webb were a useful second row, Bosworth and Tresidder harried the opposing halves vigorously, and Corner, Halliday and Rogers completed a pack that impressed many people by its determination not to give up.

Outside, Davies was a reliable tackler at full-back, as well as a deceptive runner. Harris, Klepzig (who scored half the side's points), Pearce and Taylor played well in a variety of positions, but the team lacked a second good centre (except when Johnson was available). The most serious weakness was the absence of a regular scrum half of adequate speed.

It must be said quite frankly that hitherto, despite great efforts to provide fixtures likely to produce even games, the **Fourth Fifteen's** fixture list has been too formidable. We hope very much that next year's list will contain more matches that the team may reasonably hope to win! Even so, had there been some strong personalities, willing to imitate the **Third Fifteen's** courage in facing uphill tasks, three of the games would have been much better. All the same, those who played seemed to enjoy themselves, and that is the important thing.

All in all, then, this was a much better season than the results alone

suggest. If the members of Game Two derived as much pleasure from their activities as we did, something worth while was achieved.

NKH/HTR

Those who played regularly for the Third Fifteen were: PA Bosworth; CL Corner, PAG Davies, RGA Godfrey, JD Halliday, PJS Harris, BE Jones, RP Klepzig, GD Pearce, RC Rogers, JH Taylor, HT Tresidder (captain), P Webb.

In addition: AJ Madin (6 times); CJ Williams (5 times); AW Smart, MC Weeding (4 times); TD Johnson, NQ Searle (3 times); NP Allington, A Clarke, N Rutishauser (twice); DL Adams, DMA Binks, AW Davies, G Habgood, AG Johnstone, ARM Kelly, MI Kendall, WD Peck (once).

The following played three or more times for the Fourth Fifteen: DL Adams, NP Allington (captain), AW Davies, TJ Gresswell, D Hurley, AG Johnstone, SJ Maunder, P Rutishauser, ME Thompson, MS Webster, MC Weeding.

Also played: PA Barton, PJ Berry, RM Bowkett, PH Evans, MR Freeman, RGA Godfrey, PJS Harris, DW Hazeldine, PJE Kafka, MI Kendall, AW McPhail, AJ Madin, N Rutishauser, AW Smart, JH Taylor, CJ Williams and ABJ Wise.

Results

The Third Fifteen's results were:

Marlborough College 4th XV	Sat 2 Oct	(a)	Lost	0—44
Warwick School	Wed 6 Oct	(a)	Lost	6—27
Solihull School	Sat 9 Oct	(a)	Lost	0—36
Radley College	Sat 16 Oct	(h)	Lost	0—24
Cokethorpe School 1st XV	Wed 20 Oct	(h)	Lost	3—31
Bearwood College 2nd XV	Wed 27 Oct	(h)	Won	23—0
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 6 Nov	(h)	Lost	9—12
Pangbourne College	Wed 10 Nov	(a)	Won	28—0
Reading School	Wed 17 Nov	(h)	Won	30—4
St. Edward's School	Tues 23 Nov	(h)	Lost	15—42

The Fourth Fifteen results were:

Radley College	Sat 16 Oct	(h)	Lost	4—39
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 6 Nov	(h)	Lost	3—26
Shiplake College 2nd XV	Sat 13 Nov	(h)	Lost	0—8
St Edward's School	Tues 23 Nov	(h)	Lost	0—100

Colts Fifteen: This has been an enjoyable season though disappointing as far as results are concerned—the side scored almost three times as many points as were scored against them, yet only won half their matches. The concentration of strong fixtures at the very beginning of term had a lot to do with this; it took a couple of games to weld the considerable individual talent into an efficient team unit, and there were several positional weaknesses which took time to remedy. After a narrow loss to Warwick and a really stirring game against Solihull, cohesion developed smoothly, and a runaway win against Magdalen restored confidence almost too well. There was some very attractive rugby played in the second half of the season and even more important, the enthusiasm and skills of those members of the game who were not regular members of the team continued to develop throughout the season and we were all very disappointed when a Second Fifteen fixture against Radley was called off.

The pack never performed consistently well in the tight, despite Mushens' skilful hooking, but in the loose they were outstanding and the consistent control of the rucks, providing quick and clean service from almost every breakdown, was the key to the side's success. The lineout play took longer

to develop, but by the end of the season this was under efficient control as well.

Neither Frost nor Hobson was as consistent as one would have liked at scrum-half. Frost had some very good games but sometimes lacked courage and was made to look slow; Hobson had a longer pass but was very erratic. Driver provided an efficient link, though he tended to over-use and mistime his inside break, and his handling improved with every game. The handling in general was very good and all the threequarters could be dangerous in attack, with Manning in particular showing promise in the centre and Mohtadi quick to learn and naturally elusive on the wing. Tackling and cover in general were not nearly as reliable or tough as many of the opposition sides, though some individuals tackled consistently well.

The team was very well led by Cook, whose authority and skill in the loose set the tone for the side.

The team was: HC Gibaud; S Walker, IL Manning, PR Forsythe, PAH Mohtadi; CDB Driver, RJ Frost; AM Jones, ARP Mushens, N Jefferson; PRJ Lilley, JD Griffin; KP Taylor, JN Oakley, PD Cook (Captain).

Also played: AH Courtenay (4 times), SMJ Hobson (4 times), RA Woods (4), SK Fabes (3), ND Francis (3), PAW Rogers (once), GW Woolley (once). PVM

Results

Newbury Grammar School	Sat 18 Sept	(a)	Lost	4—14
Radley College	Sat 25 Sept	(h)	Lost	0—28
Warwick School	Wed 6 Oct	(h)	Lost	4—10
Solihull School	Sat 9 Oct	(a)	Lost	16—30
Magdalen College School	Sat 23 Oct	(a)	Won	82—0
Bearwood College	Wed 27 Oct	(h)	Won	48—0
John Mason School	Wed 3 Nov	(h)	Won	40—4
Pangbourne College	Wed 10 Nov	(a)	Won	12—0
Reading School	Wed 17 Nov	(a)	Lost	13—17
Bloxham School	Wed 24 Nov	(a)	Won	52—0

Junior Colts Fifteen: The policy for the team this year was to give as many players as possible from the squad an opportunity to play for the side. This undoubtedly was the reason for the scrappy teamwork so often displayed, but it gave a much larger number of boys the experience of competitive rugby, and in fact the results as a whole were very pleasing. The team, however, contained a strong nucleus of players who represented the side throughout the term and their individual play was often most encouraging.

In particular, Murdoch, captain of the team, always played vigorously. His powerful running and determined tackling were conspicuously effective. Warkte and Price as scrum-half and fly-half respectively gradually worked out an effective combination as the season developed, and Price, a player of marked versatility and tactical skill, used his possession to considerable advantage.

The weak point of the scrum lay in the front row, who never quite managed tight and effective coordination, with the unfortunate result that little possession was obtained by the backs from set scrums, except against the weaker sides. Furthermore, a certain diffidence seemed to characterise a great deal of the forwards' play which was mercilessly exposed at Solihull and Thame. Thresher at No. 8 displayed through the season the kind of thrusting determination that should have been the norm.

A final word of congratulation to Price and Murdoch, both of whom were selected to play for the Berkshire Under-15 team. SCB/RMcK

The team was selected from: AGP Cairns; GW Woolley, PS Ashby, A Murdoch, GN Green; RJ Price, MG Warkte; NJ Tresidder, RA Balkwill, AM Carlisle, IB Cowan, JGH Peck, JRA Allen, AJ Thresher, SJH Cromie, CM Jones, DP Lynn, PJ Malein and PJG Stevens.

The following played on the odd occasion: JP Barton, PA Betts, PD Boon, AP Arm, CJ Baumann, SC Comerford, PA Noble, TJ Savastano and MRD Waterfall.

Results

Newbury Grammar School	Sat 18 Sept	(a)	Lost 16—24
Oxford School	Sat 2 Oct	(h)	Won 36—0
Solihull School	Sat 9 Oct	(a)	Lost 0—44
Radley College	Sat 16 Oct	(a)	Lost 7—16
John Mason School	Wed 20 Oct	(a)	Won 42—4
Magdalen College School	Sat 23 Oct	(a)	Won 24—4
Bearwood College	Wed 27 Oct	(a)	Won 48—16
Wallingford Grammar School	Wed 3 Nov	(h)	Won 18—12
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 6 Nov	(a)	Won 42—8
Pangbourne College	Wed 10 Nov	(h)	Won 30—4
Bloxham School	Wed 24 Nov	(a)	Lost 4—7
Thame School	Sat 13 Nov	(a)	Lost 3—53

Junior Fifteen: The first and last scores of the season give some indication, if an exaggerated one, of the team's improvement throughout the term: the Newbury game came as a surprise as it was on the first Saturday of term. The team has enjoyed, and has been congratulated on more than one occasion, especially towards the end of the season, for playing an attractive team game. This type of play has been essential as they were always the smaller side, and it is much to the scrum's credit that they had more than their share of the tight ball.

Hallum organised the three-quarters well, mainly from the fly-half position, and his excellent covering, tackling and kicking often stabilised the situation. Most of the tries were touched down by Mohtadi, who is regrettably but a one-year Canadian visitor, and his tackling, which had an approach similar to that of a miniature buffalo, was also invaluable. With Homewood at full-back it was often a question of a small 'un felling a big 'un.

The scrum began to master the difficulties of loose play and to move themselves about the field with increasing momentum. They were enthusiastically led by Allen, whose well practised drop-kicking caused considerable amusement, particularly in practice games, as well as valuable points in the matches.

RCBC

Regular members of the team were: WJ Homewood, CWP Hobson, DJ Lanham, CJ Madin, NGH Mohtadi, PD Hallum, R Scibilia, LGP Despres, NJ Hazeldine, AJE Allen, CS Orchard, MJ Hurry, RW Taylor, CJ Scott, CJ Bartlett and BAL Peck. Also played: SW Morden, DA Thomas, CR Lowe, KR Reid and AL Knibbs.

Results

Newbury Grammar School	Sat 18 Sept	(h)	Lost 3—62
Oxford School	Sat 2 Oct	(a)	Lost 0—28
John Mason School	Wed 6 Oct	(h)	Drawn 4—4
Radley College	Sat 16 Oct	(h)	Lost 0—28
Cokethorpe School U/15 XV	Wed 20 Oct	(h)	Won 17—10
Magdalen College School	Sat 23 Oct	(h)	Lost 9—26
Bearwood College	Wed 27 Oct	(h)	Lost 0—26
Wallingford Grammar School	Wed 3 Nov	(a)	Lost 8—28
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 6 Nov	(a)	Lost 8—28
Bloxham School	Wed 24 Nov	(h)	Won 14—6

Minors (Fifteen): In spite of the term's abysmal record there is the making of a promising team this year. The main factor explaining this paradox has undoubtedly been the introduction of form-games. Over half of the Second Year have played in the voluntary Minors game after school, and we have concentrated on involving all of them in an enjoyable game, rather than training a smaller squad for school matches. This is why twenty-nine players have already represented the 'first team'.

In some years the policy might have succeeded, but in almost every match this year the opposition has produced one or two outstanding players who in scoring most of their side's points exposed the weakness of our tackling. The exception to this was the last match; then our imposing scrum was completely outplayed by the fine Dragon forwards, and the covering and tackling was much better or the score would have been astronomical!

There are two particular weaknesses which must be eradicated if the promise is to be realised: first, a lack of determination and 100 per cent effort—this explains the poor tackling and running, and the team's tendency to collapse in the last few minutes of a match; second, an inability to do the right thing instinctively and quickly in a particular situation, which should right itself through the experience of match-play. MW

The following emerged as the first team: RJ Perkins; MA Kelly, TC Semmence (Captain), DM Byfield, GM Uttley; RJ Harmer, DC Rimmer; SF Williams, MS Brown or GA McCreery, J Hester, CP Sowden, AH Cook, PV Thomas, DG Light, AP Crookes or AJW Furlley.

Results

St Hugh's School, Faringdon	Sat 9 Oct	(a)	Lost	4—38
Prior's Court School	Sat 16 Oct	(a)	Lost	0—32
New College School	Sat 6 Nov	(a)	Lost	0—22
Lord William's School, Thame	Sat 13 Nov	(a)	Lost	6—36
Dragon School 2nd XV	Sat 4 Dec	(h)	Lost	0—26

Minors 2nd XV lost to Dragon School 4th XV (h) 6—18.

House Matches: The old order continues to change and this season has seen yet further amendments to the League competitions. The organisation last Michaelmas Term into 'heavy' and 'light' leagues was discontinued last term, mainly as a result of lack of enthusiasm in the Athletic Houses. Instead we were content with one senior League. The standard of play was not of the highest but some quite good contests occurred. The Toplis Cup was won by Bennett House, who gained victories over Reeves and Tesdale but failed to beat Blacknall, who nonetheless ended up at the bottom of the competition, second place going to Reeves and Tesdale jointly. It is very much hoped to see new life in these League games next year—a lot depends upon the interest and drive of House captains.

Junior rugby too has changed. The First and Second Forms now enjoy their rugby in School time, two games periods having been integrated into the teaching timetable. This new policy will, it is hoped, bring relief to the hard-worked grounds, enable more rugby to be played at different age levels after School and allow for more individual coaching of beginners. We are grateful to Messrs Brodie, Skinner and Woodgett in particular for help in this new scheme; and thanks also to Mr Skinner for organising Third Form rugby—a somewhat truncated leftover of the old junior games after School. In the event, a minor league was played between the three Third Forms.

In contrast to the changing pattern of the League matches, the Senior Knock-out Competition was a great success and some extremely good rugby was seen. Tesdale House were winners of the Lin Cup for the second year running but they had to fight hard to get it. In the opening round, Bennett House went down to Tesdale (0—32) but the match between

Reeves House and Blacknall was a draw (0—0) and a replay was necessary: this resulted in a win for Blacknall (7—0). The final was a grand game. The betting was perhaps on Tesdale, but really tremendous efforts on the part of Blacknall, especially by Peter Price, nearly upset the prophets. A truly ding-dong battle ended with Tesdale victors by 17 points to 12.

The traditional Dayboy v. Boarder match also proved both exciting and of high quality. This game indeed has progressively improved over the years and from the spectator point of view is as good to watch as most School matches. The game was played on a sunny afternoon in December, a fitting climax to the season. The two sides were fairly evenly matched, the Boarder forwards being perhaps slightly stronger. The Boarders scored first, five minutes after the start, with a penalty from Atkinson. Just before half-time, pressure from the Dayboys was rewarded by a try scored by Ward. For the remainder of the first half, the Dayboys continued to exert great forward pressure and in an exciting bit of play a penalty try was given against the Boarders. Rogers converted, and this put the Dayboys still further ahead by 10 points to 3. Then came a fine Boarder rally and Atkinson got a good try. Back came the Dayboys, however, and Pollard put the Dayboys apparently comfortably in the lead at half-time with another try which Rogers again converted (16—7). In the second half, it proved a somewhat different tale. The Boarders were all out to win. A penalty from Atkinson's boot began an attack which was sustained against a fast wearying Dayboy pack. The result near the end of the game was a try from Driver, converted by Hares, which brought the two sides level (16—16). This was the just result when the whistle went: an excellent match.

This year's Place Kicking Competition was won by PAW Rogers, who proved a worthy kicker, taking the Bosley Cup from last year's holder, PD Price.

In the Christmas holidays, a number of players had County Trials. For Berkshire, Peter Price, Nigel Pollard, Russell Ward and John Rowley played in the '19 Group' Trial while RJ Price and A Murdoch received Colts Trials. On the other side of the Thames, Peter Rogers played in the senior Oxfordshire Trial, no mean achievement for someone still a Colt in age. Later, RJ Price and Murdoch were picked to play for Berkshire Colts against Hampshire and subsequently against Oxfordshire. At senior level, Peter Price and Nigel Pollard played in the four Berkshire matches, in the first of which Rowley was reserve. Price was the County captain for all four games and both he and Pollard had good games, helping Berkshire to defeat Hertfordshire (23—12), Oxfordshire (20—0) and Buckinghamshire (8—4). The fourth game against Dorset and Wilts. was lost 3—13. Later both players played in an Area match—Berks., Bucks., Oxon. and Herts. versus Dorset, Wilts., Hants., Sussex—which again, under Price's captaincy, was won very handsomely, 35—0. Later still in the holiday, Pollard was selected for the South West Counties against London Counties, a game which ended in a 10-point draw. Our congratulations to all of these players and best wishes to Nigel Pollard who is still under consideration for further honours—we hope he makes it.

DOW

Cross Country

Improvement in most things is dependent on the amount of time and effort that is put into them. This is certainly true of cross country, and it has been good to see the progress, and consequent real satisfaction, of the small band of regulars who have had the benefit of training with the Oxon Senior Cross Country Champion—our own Mr Pritchard.

As Oxbridge exams loomed ahead, JSP Mushens managed fewer training sessions and CF Vernon, though still a dangerously slow starter, usually had his measure by the end of a race. Behind them, JDC Turner ran increasingly powerfully and CP Taylor was also a force to be reckoned with when untroubled by injury. RG Wood's interest seemed to wane somewhat after the award of his half-colours, but CM Clayton, JM Evans and BC Waters all trained hard throughout the term and improved greatly.

Full colours were awarded to CF Vernon; half colours to JDC Turner and RG Wood. RHB

Results

Culham College	Wed 29 Sept	Won 33—52
Marlborough/St Brendan's	Sat 2 Oct	3rd 74—59—39
Millfield Road Relay	Sat 16 Oct	6th & 13th (22 teams)
Bradfield/Stowe	Sat 13 Nov (h)	2nd 55—67—53

The following ran for the School: JSP Mushens, CP Taylor, CF Vernon, BC Waters, RG Wood (4 times); CM Clayton (3 times); JM Evans, JDC Turner, Wise (twice); DC Hares, RG Woolley (once).

Inter House Cross Country

Conditions were excellent for all the races and there was a good turnout except for the Senior Race, where only about half the usual number competed. Still, competition remained keen and CF Vernon had to fight hard to rid himself of the attention of the rugger club's PAW Rogers. Only NKA Smart and BS Avery have run the course faster than these two.

GN Green, JP Jordan and SK Fabes led the field for most of the Intermediate Race. On the second lap GM Horwood moved through the field with surprising ease, but once Jordan started his sustained finishing burst it was obvious that the race was his. RC Hingley's early pressure in the Junior Race took him well clear and he was never seriously challenged. The First Form race was won in record time by MD Andrews—clearly a runner of great potential.

It is interesting to note that each race was won by a different House.

Details of the House Competition

RHB

	Bennett	Blackman	Reeves	Tesdale
Senior	359 (2)	358 (3)	167 (4)	381 (1)
Intermediate	1472 (1)	1291 (2)	1197 (3)	1087 (4)
Junior	1378 (2)	1009 (4)	1501 (1)	1324 (3)
First Form	541 (2)	557 (1)	307 (4)	478 (3)
Totals	3750 (1)	3215 (3)	3172 (4)	3270 (2)

The first ten home in each race were:

Senior: CF Vernon (16:55), PAW Rogers, CP Taylor, CM Clayton, GW Woolley, JD Halliday, BC Waters, JQ Rowley, DPC Smith, JA Urban-Smith.

Intermediate: JP Jordan (18:04), GN Green, GM Horwood, SK Fabes, JP Gotelee, RJ Price, MW Stimpson, JD Griffin, AH Courtenay, RG Geere.

Junior: RC Hingley (9:17), RW Taylor, AP Marsden, GA Light, CJ Madin, JC Johnston, CWP Hobson, DA Thomas, RC Rimmer, MR Peny.

First Form: MD Andrews (7:18*), GH Gnapp, M Owen, RG Feltham, G Mitchell, RP Martin, PNC Gale, PA Reed, PJ Newby, AJ Philipson.

* Record.

Orienteering

There has been a great surge of interest this term—partly due to the sport now being one of the options in the CCF proficiency exam and partly due to talks and training sessions arranged for the lower school. Altogether about fifty boys orienteered, though few managed to compete in more than half of the ten events at which we were represented.

Many competed in three local events, at Woodcote, Marlow, and in our own event in Bagley Wood which attracted over 200 orienteers including several internationals. Other events were rather far off—but what is sixty miles when you are really bitten by the sport? Simon Whipple even travelled up to Scotland for the British Junior Championships, where he finished a very creditable eighteenth out of the 120 allowed on the toughest course. A number of other enthusiasts, including Mr Pritchard, are now well on the way to their Silver Badges. We look forward to many a good event in the New Year.

RHB

Badminton

This term has marked the beginning of a new inter-schools tournament—the Berkshire Schools League—and we entered a team in the Under-18 Section. The league has got off to a good and exciting start, with several schools fighting it out for first place. The issue was not decided until the last couple of days of term, but in the end, our group was won by Reading School. The finals take place next term.

Generally, the First VI has not been as successful as in previous years; four matches were won, and four lost. Partly, this reflects a general rise in the standard and competitiveness of Badminton in Berkshire, because I do not think that the present team is appreciably below the standard of previous years; however, we did seem to lack the ability to raise our game when things were going wrong, and I think that this accounted for several of our defeats.

Once more, Mrs Judy Hashman has generously given her time to coach our players, both First VI material and not. The effect of her coaching has been a marked general improvement in the standard of badminton in the School. We are all most grateful to her for the time she has given to us.

Congratulations to Adrian Luto for being selected to play (in the Singles and Doubles) for the Berkshire Schools League, also for being selected as Reserve for the Berkshire under-18 team.

My personal thanks to Brian Clublely and Jan Wojciechowski for their work as Captain and Secretary respectively; also to Mr Harcourt for his invaluable help in running the Badminton Club.

DCT

Half Colours have been awarded to: B Clublely, A Luto, J Wojciechowski.

Results:

13 Oct	v. Reading School	(h)	Won	5—2
14 Oct	v. Brackenhale School	(a)	Won	6½—½
18 Oct	v. Newbury G.S.	(h)	Lost	2½—4½
3 Nov	v. High Wycombe	(h)	Lost	0—9
23 Nov	v. Brackenhale School	(h)	Won	7—0
24 Nov	v. Reading School	(a)	Lost	3—4
1 Dec	v. Henley School	(a)	Won	7—2
16 Dec	v. Newbury G.S.	(a)	Lost	2½—4½

Chess

This has been a very busy term, with seven separate teams playing serious Chess for the School. As we have often handicapped ourselves on age or even on ability, the overall record, with only six defeats in thirty-one matches, is most satisfactory.

The strong First Team has been unfortunate in the 'Sunday Times' Tournament in drawing weak opponents so far; with the loss of Gareth Pearce and Chris Marley at Christmas, further progress is going to prove difficult, as the other semi-Finalists in our zone are very strong this year.

We have entered two senior teams in the Berkshire League, the 'A' side captained by Marley, the 'B' (or second) by Pearce. The 'A' team leads the Western Table—a considerable achievement after the break-up of last year's team—but must play the other unbeaten side, St Bartholomew's, next term. The 'B' team has been a revelation; encouraged by Pearce, they have given the best schools' First Teams a close game, and their two wins were in fact recorded without Pearce's help. This is most encouraging for the future. The Junior team should be leading their League, but (as happened also two years ago) they collapsed badly to Reading School, when every player was off form at the same time; ten players are good enough for the Junior team, another good sign for the future.

Seven matches have been played in the 'Abingdon League' by our less exalted players, with fair success; the experience of playing more seriously than usual has proved valuable for these potential 'stars', who have all played keenly in our internal League competitions. These were won by Jeffrey Mushens, John Stephen, Paul Thomas (just two of a very promising Second Year indeed) and Paul Corina.

So many have played well, so many have improved their play markedly, that they cannot all be mentioned individually. But Gareth Pearce and Chris Marley have been outstanding for years, and will be sorely missed; they have played in the First Team for most of their time at the School, and by the end were among the best players of their age in the country. They have been, too, loyal and conscientious officials, who have helped others to raise their standards. Their service has been much appreciated, and we are confident that they will make their names soon in Senior Chess.

During the Christmas holidays nine boys played in the Fourth Berkshire Chess Congress in Reading. Fears that for the first time no Abingdon player would win his section proved groundless, as Martin Spoor won the Under-13 title conclusively; his fine temperament and sound technique brought him an unusually clear lead of one point among the forty entrants.

It is better to draw a veil over some of the other performances, but Phillip Marley did very well to share fourth place in a strong Under-15 Section, and three others (Mark Ormerod, Simon de Lusignan and Robert Harries) finished in respectable positions considering that they were usually playing against opponents a year or more older. MW

'A' Berkshire League Team from: CJ Marley, JSP Mushens, TB Niblett, PH Evans, M Ormerod, ARP Mushens (plus GD Pearce for 'Sunday Times' fixtures).

'B' Berkshire League Team from: GD Pearce, JR Hills, J Valentine, PD Marley, DJG Mushens, R Kenyon, J Black.

Junior Berkshire League Team from: PD Marley, R Chapman, DJG Mushens, I Thackwray, S Wilson, S de Lusignan, M Spoor, PV Thomas, J Stephen.

Results: Berkshire League

Senior 'A' Team	beat Reading School	4—1
	drew with Carmel College	2½—2½
	beat Stoneham School	5—0
	beat King Alfred's, Wantage	3½—1½
	beat Abingdon 'B'	3—2
Senior 'B' Team	lost to St Bartholomew's, Newbury	1½—3½
	beat Reading School	3—2
	lost to Carmel College	2—3
	beat King Alfred's, Wantage	5—0
	lost to Abingdon 'A'	2—3
Junior Team	beat Wallingford Grammar School	3—2
	lost to Reading School	0—5
	beat Carmel College Prep School	5—0
	drew with Carmel College	2½—2½
	beat King Alfred's, Wantage	4—1
'Sunday Times'	Walked over Edmund Campion, Oxford.	
	beat Cheney School, Oxford	4½—1½
	beat Eton College	5—1
'Abingdon League'		
Under-16s	beat Larkmead Under-16s	4—1
	beat Abingdon Under-15s	4—1
Under-15s	lost to John Mason Under-16s	1½—3½
Under-14s	beat Segsbury Under-14s	3—2
	beat Larkmead Under-14s	5—0
	beat Abingdon Under-13s	3—2
Under-13s	drew with John Mason Under-14s	2½—2½
Various Friendlies		
	an all-age team beat High Wycombe R.G.S.	10—8
	a senior 'A' team beat the Masters' Common Room	7½—½
	the Senior Team beat Eton College	4—1
	an all-age team beat Bearwood College	5½—2½
	the Senior Team beat Radley College	6—0
	a Waste Court team lost to John Rankin School	2—3
	a junior team beat King Alfred's, Wantage	4—0

Reports



CCF

We welcome the formation of the Commando Section, particularly as the initiative came from the senior N.C.O.s, and we will do all we can to help it succeed.

The New Armoury is nearing completion and we hope to be in occupation before this term has ended. One of the bicycle sheds opposite the corps stores has, through the hard work of Mr Cadwell, with the able assistance of Mr Cowley, been converted into an additional store, and this, together with the space we shall have gained from the building of the New Armoury, should enable the RAF to have their lecture room returned to them, and to make the old clothing store into an Information Room.

Arrangements are going ahead for Arduous Training—still in Scotland, still within walking distance of Carspharn (just) but with a new site for the base camp which should be more easily accessible, but just as convenient in other ways, and perhaps even more beautiful.

Finally it is most encouraging to be able to record that support for courses and camps seems still to be increasing. This can only mean that those who have been on such courses on previous occasions have felt them to be worthwhile, and I hope we shall soon reach the stage when no cadet will feel he wants to miss the opportunity.

LCJG

Commando Section

It has been felt for some time that a new section was required to cater for the excess enthusiasm of some of the keener members of the CCF. The Commando Section was formed for this purpose at the end of last term.

The Section is still very much in the experimental stages and is therefore limited to four cadets from each of the three Sections. Training does not interfere with normal CCF activities, and is carried out during lunchtimes, after School and at weekends. Last term, the majority of the Section took part in judo and unarmed combat training (under Sgt Searle); rock climbing with Mr Baker, Simon Whipple and Chris Leonard, at the John Mason artificial rock face; a weekend trek of about twenty miles in early December—sleeping in sleeping bags and polythene bags only; and have helped to knock down a wall in the corps stores. Further training activities will be arranged for this term.

The future of this Section lies solely with its members, in their enthusiasm, energy and time. I hope it will succeed in its aims.

GRF

RN Section

The Michaelmas Term always produces a damp patch on the Section. The new recruits are eager to get down to the more practical side, as we all are, but it is no fun boating in cold weather.

We did, however, spend a most enjoyable long weekend at Crowborough, spending two nights under canvas and the days orienteering and 'performing' initiative tests.

On the parade ground and on Remembrance Sunday the turnout was very creditable. Fifty cadets have obtained seventy places on twenty-five different camps and courses for this year. With growing apathy in the School to authority, sport and the corps, it is very encouraging to find boys in the Section who are not frightened of appearing to be keen and realise that one gets out of the Section exactly what one puts into it.

CMC

Army Section

The whole Section spent the Field Day weekend trying to complete the walk to Stonehenge but once again, due to sheer exhaustion, we were unable to cover as many miles as we had hoped on the Monday.

Two nights, one on the Ridgeway and one in Collingbourne Kingston, were spent in polythene bags, a new experience for some. Although the distance did not seem so great to the older cadets, many of the younger ones had not walked so far before and in a lot of cases mind definitely ruled matter. Well done all!

Congratulations also to all cadets who passed various parts of their Proficiency Exam last term.

RCR

RAF Section

Unfortunately, due to Flt Lt Hammond's illness and convalescence, the RAF Section has not had one of its outstanding terms; but nevertheless, all the normal activities have gone on unaffected, due, in the main part, to the Section's own impetus.

Field Day had to be arranged at short notice, but it was nonetheless successful. The recruits spent the day at RAF Abingdon, acquainting themselves with the working of an RAF Station, and also looked in on Number One Parachute Training School. About twenty volunteers spent a day on the Downs, walking from dropping points, via check points, to the pick up zone, Uffington Castle. The remainder of the Section spent the day at RAF Benson, which included an hour and a half trip in an Argosy.

Due to a mild winter, only one of three visits to RAF White Waltham was called off, and so more cadets have experienced the pleasures of light flying in Chipmunks.

Two more NCOs have completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards except for their expeditions, which are to be made this term.

This was the last term in which the Advanced Proficiency exam was taken on the old syllabus, and the recruits have already begun training for the new Ordinary Proficiency exams. The training is harder, but is on a much broader basis. It includes new disciplines such as map-reading, drill and shooting as well as the purely RAF subjects. I am sure it will help to equate the CCF's training as a whole and generally improve the standard of the Section.

DBS

Police Cadets

Over the years, the Police Cadets have obtained a reputation for being an outlet for those who feel disinclined to join the CCF, and this year was certainly no exception. Nonetheless, last term's course proved thoroughly enjoyable to all concerned, as the good attendance showed. The course consisted of a series of weekly lectures, sometimes with slides or a film, on many aspects of police work. Some of the topics covered were scenes of crime, fraud, CID, misuse of drugs and prison care. On Field Day we visited Abingdon Magistrates Court and saw it in progress, and later on in the term we had a practical demonstration of police dogs and their work. In addition to this, every cadet had the opportunity to go out with a policeman in a panda car at night. Although I don't think we have any prospective policemen in our midst, most people considered the course very worthwhile, and on behalf of everyone concerned we would like to thank Sergeant Brown for organising the course. ACC/AWB

Scouts

Junior Scouts: With only two transfers to other Sections, the Troop remained substantially the same as last term, and the entry of new boys has been delayed until January. My diary records twenty-five separate Troop activities, spread over thirty-two days (and nights), in addition to patrol meetings and committee meetings. Small things: delivering leaflets, tree felling at Lacies Court, clearing out a house in Bostock Road, patrol leaders' councils and dinners. Large things: the whole Troop in camp for Field Day and the preceding weekend, two patrol leaders' training camps, two hut weekends for pioneering and estate work—all at Youlbury; and a jumble sale which raised well over sixty pounds. At our own 'Parents' Evening' near the beginning of term we had about 120 people present; and at the District 'At Home' at the end of term we mounted various displays, including one at which we attempted to poison unsuspecting visitors. A visit to the London 'Gang Show' was nearly sabotaged by a misunderstanding with a local coach company; and there was a good (but not excellent) turnout for the Remembrance Day parade and service. In October, Peter Rogers, David Clayton and Nicholas Tresidder travelled to Reading to win the County Team Championship Race (swimming) and thus took the shield out of Reading for the first time in over seventeen years. And of course the fortnightly Troop meetings, which have included an inspection by the Headmaster, talks by Inspector Jackson of the Thames Valley Constabulary and Miss Sylvia Bussell, a visiting Cub Scout Leader from Australia (both these talks provoked many interesting and thoughtful questions) and which finished with a Christmas Party in the Music School.

Mr Kieth le Page has joined Mr Geoffrey Maunder in helping to run the Troop; and at the beginning of term Nigel Tattersfield (Stags) and David Eccles (Hawks) joined the existing patrol leaders Michael Poole (Pumas), Christopher Wait (Otters), Martin Doble (Owls) and David Clayton (Badgers). Together, their efforts and enthusiasm have resulted in another very successful term's Scouting. DRS

Venture Unit

Unfortunately, this term the membership of the Venture Unit was very low and so hampered us. Over the Field Day weekend there was a Junior Troop Camp at Youlbury, which Lawson and Wait helped to organise. A

party went caving in the Mendips with Mr Baker, while the remainder did some work in the hut. Towards the end of term Rowley and Homewood helped teach the art of pioneering at another camp at Youlbury for some of the Junior Troop. There was also some participation at Junior Troop meetings, and the Scout Parents' Evening. ADR

Lists

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M Evans (Head of Dayboys)

SJ Cantwell

CM Clayton

CL Corner

NMR Crosse

JR Hills

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Larkhill: MJ Jones, PE Rigby

School House: AA Tammadge, SG Bailey, JRA Spooner, DP Greenwood,
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Waste Court: BA Clubley, CN Leonard, DC Hares

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Julian Turner, Paul Rutishauser.

Photographic Editor: Christopher Stockwell

Cover Design: Jonathan Cowlin

OA Editor: AA Hillary

Treasurer: DO Willis

Prizes 1971

The Endowed Prizes

The Morland Prize (presented by Messrs Morland in memory of WT Morland, OA, and awarded for all round merit): CJ Murray

The Thomas Layng Reading Prize: AW Wood

The Smith Chemistry Prizes: MA Neville, BE Jones, JR Hills

The Ball Science Prize: PJ Hingley, MA Neville

The Biology Prize (presented by Dr and Mrs Charles Ford): CJ Marley

The West Biology Prize: DB Howat

The Bevan Essay Prize: KJ Barnard, RJ Collins

The Bevan Scripture Prizes: PJ Brodie, SP Thompson, ME Spoor

The Ellis Prize for Character: CM Clayton

The Van Wagenen Prize (presented by the family of Richard Day Van Wagenen, OA, of Washington, DC): JR Rawlinson

The Ingham Physics Prize: HJ Manning, JR Hills

The Ingham Music Prize: RJ Pike

The Henderson Cricket Prizes: DJ Longman, J Seaver

The Initiative Cup and Prize: DJ Longman.

The Quatercentenary Prize: GF Pike

The St Catherine's Prize for Intellectual Initiative: GD Pearce
The Stephen Freeman Memorial Prize for example and service: AME Brown
The Abingdon School Society's Prize: SB Gray
The Fourth 'Science Times' Cup: PF Thompson
The Larkhill Trophy: PE Rigby

The School Prizes

The Mayor's Prize for Service to the School (presented by Councillor Dr Joan GH Norris): DC Henderson

The Headmaster's Prize: JJ Shellard

The Old Boys' Prizes

Classics Essay: MC Harding

English Essay: NJ Moth

Modern Languages Essay: RJ Polley

History Essay: RA Ward

Mathematics Essay: AD Rowley

Divinity Essay: KJ Barnard

Economics Essay: WDdeF Peck

Art Essay: SJ Woods

CCF Prize: AC McMillan

The Junior Reading Prize (presented by CC Woodley, Esq, MA, OA): S Wilson

The Local History Prize (presented by Mrs JE Duffield): JF Hamlin

The Music Prizes

Choral (presented by EHF Sawbridge, Esq)

Senior: AN Rayson

Junior: RW Holder

Pianoforte

Senior (presented by Miss Sheldon Peach): RJ Pike

Junior: TS Hemmings

Composition: NJA Talbot

Brass: AN Rayson

Woodwind: SP Loosemore

Strings: FJ Pike

The Art Prize: CA Nasmyth

The Handicraft Prize: IM Sealy

Classical Reading Prize: KJ Barnard

The Form Prizes

Sixth Form Upper

Classics: KJ Barnard

History: SP Loosemore

English: FAA Maude

Modern Languages: CD Chafer

Mathematics: HJ Manning

Sixth Form Lower

Latin: NMR Crosse

History: JSP Mushens

English: M Evans

Modern Languages: PJ Berry

Mathematics: JR Hills

Fifth Forms: 5M, TB Niblett, JD Peirson, PR Wait; 5R, ARM Kelly.

Fourth Forms: 4P, PL Dell; 4M, Pde Lusignan; 4L, BJ Polley

Third Forms: 3D, APS Luto; 3B, JN Sackett; 3V, GN Green
Second Forms: 2F, CJ Skinner; 2C, SJ Clift; 2B, PA Fenton.
First Forms: 1Q, ME Spoor; 1M, TR Holding; 1H, DA Blackburn

Oxford and Cambridge Scholarships and Entries December 1972

Congratulations to:

KJ BARNARD, Open Scholarship in Classics, Keble College, Oxford;
GD PEARCE, Exhibition in English, Balliol College, Oxford;
MA NEVILLE, Exhibition in Medicine, Keble College, Oxford;
GP RADLEY, Abingdon Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Pembroke
College, Oxford.
PA BOSWORTH, place to read Veterinary Science, Downing College,
Cambridge;
RGD CHRISTMAS, place to read Classics, Brasenose College, Oxford;
RS CONIBEAR, place to read Land Economy, St John's College,
Cambridge;
AJM CROCKER, place to read Zoology, Exeter College, Oxford;
PAG DAVIES, place to read Natural Sciences, Trinity College, Cambridge;
RK GYSELYNCK, place to read Geography, Downing College, Cambridge;
PJ HINGLEY, place to read Biochemistry, Christ Church, Oxford;
RA LANDY, place to read English, Emmanuel College, Cambridge;
CJ MARLEY, place to read Natural Sciences, Gonville and Caius,
Cambridge;
FAA MAUDE, place to read History, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge;
JSP MUSHENS, place to read History, Jesus College, Cambridge;
WDdeF PECK, place to read History, Jesus College, Cambridge;
RJ POLLEY, place to read Russian, Keble College, Oxford;
JQ ROWLEY, place to read Biology, Keble College, Oxford;
N RUTISHAUSER, place to read Engineering, Jesus College, Cambridge;
BA SHARPE, place to read Human Sciences, New College, Oxford;
AW WOOD, place to read Natural Sciences, Corpus Christi College,
Cambridge.

Hello Goodbye

Left Michaelmas Term 1971

VIH: SR Conibear, RA Landy
VI0: KJ Barnard, RGD Christmas, RK Gyselynck, FAA Maude, NJ
Moth, RJ Polley
VIM: GD Pearce, AW Wood
VIT: PA Bosworth, LD Bradshaw, AJM Crocker, DM Howes, CJ Marley,
MA Neville, GP Radley, JQ Rowley, BA Sharpe
6G: RJ Collins
Shell: AW Darkins, JR Gowing
4M: AC King
4P: SG Fortune, TW Hallum

3D: MA Barlow, JJ Matthews, EJ Wood
2B: JR Lang
2G: MC Bezan
IS: JD Killeen
IW: JP Dowling

Came Lett Term 1972

6W: SEG Young
4P: ST Appleby, SA Briggs, JWL Duff
3D: JA Brett, IR Burles, RH Clarke, CD Robinson
2B: MLD Bevan
2F: NGC Harverson
IS: KW Larsen, AJL Bevan
IW: TJ Appleby

Miscellany Two

The Editor has kindly allowed me to use this space to thank all those boys, Old Boys, and parents who kindly sent Christmas cards to my wife and myself. They were much appreciated. WEKA

Prints of the photographs published in the *Abingdonian* may usually be obtained on application to the Photographic Editor (Christopher Stockwell) for thirty pence (a whole plate enlargement—6½ inches by 8½ inches). An additional charge of ten pence is payable if the photograph is ordered by post.

OA Notes

We are always delighted to see OAs at the School and to hear their news. They are even more welcome if they come at a time when they do not distract masters and boys from the work in hand. Could we ask anyone who does call on the School to come first to the Masters' Common Room to make his number with the staff and not to go into any of the Boarding Houses without first calling on the Housemaster, to make sure that a visit will not be inconvenient? Please do come; but we should much appreciate observance of these basic rules.

Births

Blagden: Adopted by Shirley and John Blagden (Staff 1956-66) a five month old daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, sister for Edward.

Goldsworthy: on 22 June 1971 to Marie (née Belcher), wife of John Goldsworthy (1968), a daughter, Tessa Jane, sister for Simon John.

Havelock: on 1 November 1971 to Jean, wife of Roger Havelock (1961), a son, James Roger.

Partridge: on 24 December 1971 to Carol, wife of David Partridge, a son, Darye James.

Scott: in September 1970 to Jean, wife of Christopher Scott (1962), a son, Robert.

Scott: in November 1971 to Patricia, wife of David Scott (1964), a daughter, Penelope.

Marriages

Beyer-Minns: on 2 October 1971, at Grantchester, John Charles Beyer (1968) to Letty Pauline Minns.

Hunt-Blaik: on 18 December 1971, in Leith, David Hunt (1968) to Dorothy Blaik.

Jessett-Spon-Smith: on 18 December 1971, at Chislehurst, Kent, Lt David John Jessett (1964) to Jill Margaret Spon-Smith.

Shellard-Stevens: on 2 October 1971, at Westcliff-on-Sea, Peter Shellard (1964) to Margaret Ann Stevens.

Wharton-Cobban: On 24 July 1971, at Steventon, Christopher Wharton (1967) to Hilary Lorna, daughter of James and the late Lorna Cobban.

Deaths

Fathers: We much regret to announce the death, at the early age of 38, of Kenneth Arthur Fathers (1943-1949) on 24 November 1971. At school Kenneth Fathers was a House Prefect and a member of the 1st XV, who played for the Berkshire Public Schools Fifteen. He also won his half-colours for Athletics.

Mathews: another sad loss is that of GW Mathews (1916-1919), who died rather suddenly in hospital on 15 January 1972. He had been ill for some time but we had hoped for his recovery. Gerald Mathews was the son of the founder of Harris & Mathews and a director of that firm. Our sincere condolences to his widow and his son Michael Mathews, also an OA.

The deaths of **RLC Footit** (1917-1923) and of **WHC Mayhead** (1924-1928) have also recently come to our notice.

In case anybody is still harbouring the illusion that James Cobban has retired for a well-earned rest to the fastnesses of his quiet village, I print below the latest travelogue from Steventon. He writes:

'During my nineteen days in America I stayed with the families of Richard Van Wagenen (1963) and Peter Mann (1963) in Washington and Trafford Taylor (1959) in London, Ontario. Richard is working in New York as one of Mayor Lindsay's aides. I spent a few days with him and he took me up into New England to see Yale. Peter flew down from Montreal to see me. Trafford is a flourishing business man in London, living near his parents: I was glad to have the opportunity of meeting his charming wife. I had news of Robert Johns (1960) from his mother, whom I telephoned at Hamilton. I tried in vain to contact Ted and Geoff Hodgetts (1963). Jim Cox (1941) drove up from Virginia to spend an afternoon with me in Washington. Terry Rawlins (1967), not entirely fortuitously, was my co-pilot on the homeward flight from Washington to Heathrow.' He is also engaged in innumerable activities—I need hardly say—which take him away from home for a great deal of the time. He continues, however, to entertain and welcome the many OAs who call upon him. This Christmas the whole family—four daughters and three sons in law—were together for a time and Sister Katie looked after them right royally.

George Austin (1928), now retired from ICI, is Master of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers for the current year. He is also on the Council of Aston University in Birmingham and Chairman of their Development Committee.

Robyn Grant (1950), having been in typewriters, cement, paint and PVC

floor covering, is now Managing Director of a major new company selling carpet tiles. He regards this as the most exciting and challenging job of his career so far and has very big ambitions for his product.

Tony Marshall (1954) writes to say that he has been married for twelve years and has two sons. He hopes to visit the School soon.

John Hall (1955) is now a partner in Coopers & Lybrand, Chartered Accountants, Paris, where he has been living for the past seven years.

Martin King (1958) has moved to a new parish, this time in a mining community. He has a nice new house, a friendly congregation and an excellent choir. What is more he now has a seven month old son, Richard.

It was a surprise to hear from Tony Thistlewood (1958) that he is now working in Sydney for an international firm of Chartered Accountants. His initial contract is for two years, but he may well stay longer, and he would very much like to contact any OAs in his vicinity. He and his wife are thoroughly enjoying Australia.

Lt James Milne, RN (1960) is an Operations Officer in HMS Bulwark, just back from three months in the Mediterranean. He hopes this year to return to flying and to shore bases—and perhaps we shall see this long promised visit to Abingdon. He says that any OA who can catch Bulwark in port is welcome to step aboard for 'a grog or two'.

Randell Moll (1960) has surprised himself by moving again, though this time only a few miles, to take up the New Netherton Industrial Chaplaincy in a full time capacity. He now has two children, Duncan and Sandy.

We wish good fortune to Dr John Kelly (1961), of the University of Kent at Canterbury, who is collecting the letters of WB Yeats with a view to co-editing them for Oxford University Press. Since the last major collection ran to over 900 pages and since more than 1000 fresh items have already come to light this would appear to have been justifiably described as a gargantuan task.

From George Hall (1962) came news that he has recently been posted to the British Consulate-General in Lubumbash as Administrative Officer and Vice-Consul in this city, originally, and perhaps more recognisably, Elisabethville. He was enjoying, in October, magnificent sunny weather, but by now will be well into the rainy season, which lasts until April in Katanga. He was making good use of his French, which along with Swahili is one of the official languages.

Christopher Scott (1962) is now at Stockport, working for Ferrantis as senior design application engineer, having spent some five or six years with Honeywells.

Geoff and Ted Hodgetts (1963) are both graduates now, Geoff a Doctor of Medicine and Ted in English.

Stephen Wilson (1963) is married and now (for the last eighteen months) working in Maidenhead for Roger Platt (1959-62), who recently started his own firm of estate agents and surveyors. Both are doing well.

Ian Newbold (1964), who is working for a firm of solicitors, is now married and living in the west country and enjoying country life after the bustle of London.

Alan Williams (1965) is teaching History and British Constitution at Abbs Cross Technical High School at Hornchurch in Essex.

Congratulations to Nigel Brice (1966), who has joined Guest Keen and Nettlefold's Graduate training division after obtaining a degree in Civil Engineering and MSc in Operational Research and Management Studies at Imperial College of Science and Technology, London.

From Charles Cook (1966) came the startling news, published in the newspaper for which he works, the 'Cambridge Evening News', that he had spent a night on Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. He was apparently none the worse for his experience, apart from a pair of singed shoes, and his paper had given a whole page to his article, which I found fascinating.

Peter Dowling (1966) should finish his articles in February and be enrolled as a solicitor shortly thereafter. He has been commissioned for the last year or so in the Territorial Army Voluntary Reserve and is attached to the Royal Artillery.

Michael Marshall (1966) is now working in Teheran, Iran, although we do not know exactly what kind of work he is doing.

Congratulations to Neil Burns (1967), who got his degree from the University of Aston in Birmingham in Chemical Engineering last July and is now working for Courtaulds in Coventry. Also to Brian Goldsworthy (1967), who has graduated in Business Studies and is continuing to work for Heinz Brothers.

Congratulations to Richard Roper (1967), who has now got his BSc at Bath. After graduating, he spent ten weeks in USA, working part of the time for a fruit farmer in Vermont but also travelling widely, visiting among other places—Washington, the West Coast and San Francisco, Seattle, the Grand Canyon, the Great Lakes and Southern Canada with one day in New York before coming home. He found New York 'quite enjoyable, although the city is disgusting in many respects'. Now that he is back home, he plans to start a Garden Centre type of business.

Michael Baumann (1968) so much enjoyed his three months' experience in America last summer that he is hoping to go back, this time to Pennsylvania University for a year. But much depends on his getting a scholarship for which he has applied. He wants to see more of a country which he finds alternately horrifying and exciting and particularly to visit the deep South.

Congratulations to Yani Doganoglu (1968) on his degree in Chemical Engineering at Heriot-Watt University.

Michael Stevens (1968) has been elected secretary of the Students' Union at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. It is good to know that so many OAs are fulfilling their promise in accepting this kind of responsibility early on in life.

Those who remember David Vennor-Morris (1968), who left us in the Fourth Form to go to King's, Taunton, will be interested to know that he has got a place at Christ's, Cambridge, to read Natural Sciences. Among other things he hopes to do before going up in October this year are a language course at Royan in France and a sailing course. He will be meeting a good many of his Abingdon contemporaries when he gets up to Cambridge.

It is good, too, to hear of OAs doing voluntary service overseas and who more suitable than Robin Blackburn (1969). He has just been accepted to go, when he has graduated, in September this year. He does not as yet know where he will be sent, but apparently the most likely places are Kenya or the Caribbean.

Michael Crawford (1969) writes to say that, after spending some time moving around the country doing a variety of jobs—selling encyclopaedias, working in restaurants, etc.—he has now settled down as a trainee manager with Littlewoods in Northumberland.

Another of that vintage who hopes to spend three months in Africa is Andrew Iddles (1969), at present doing a course in obstetrics at Reading as part of his course in clinical medicine at St Mary's.

Chris Houston (1970) wrote to say that he was at the moment doing first year sciences at Vancouver City College with a view to spending the next three years in studying marine biology at the University of British Columbia. He much admires the beauty of Canada, but still hopes to return to Abingdon one day. Having sampled the Canadian system of education, he expressed himself a firm believer in the English manner, as represented by Abingdon School.

Richard Leary (1970) is still enjoying working for the London Indemnity and General Insurance Company in their Bristol office and is dealing with new business, specialising in the legal side. In his spare time he is working hard for his Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute exams. He seemed very well and cheerful when he called a few weeks ago.

Richard Moore (1970) wrote to say that he was now at Brighton College of Education, training to be a mathematics teacher with English as his second subject. He is enjoying the social life of the college, which is situated across the valley from the University of Sussex.

I much regret that information about those who left in the previous July, usually published in this issue, is not at the moment available, but it will appear in the Summer Term number. AAH

Addresses

- Blackmore JC: West End, Ash Mill, South Molton, North Devon.
Blagden J (Staff): 27 Carrwood Road, Bramhall, Cheshire.
Bosley GAH: Icknield, 16 King Alfred Drive, Didcot.
Bosley JPH: Icknield, 16 King Alfred Drive, Didcot.
Bowen, HC: 18 Springbourne, Frodsham, Warrington, Lancs WA6 69D.
Clay Maj RA: 3 Hunters Close, Bovingdon, Herts.
Conibear RJM: 66 Redcliffe Gardens, London, SW10.
Conybear P: 7 Spring Road, Abingdon.
Cork BPA: Gwynlor, Grove Road, Bladon, Oxon.
Cowling J: 19 Highfield Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, Hants.
Crane R: 11 Wilton Road, Edinburgh EH16 5NX.
Foster H: 17 Tower Close, Marcham, nr Abingdon.
Gerring Dr DR: PO Box 75, Sechart, BC, Canada.
Grant RDM: Dragon Cottage, Dragon Tail, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Bucks.
Green RS: 46 Millway Close, Upper Wolvercote, Oxford.
Hamilton WC: 81 Benmead Road, Kidlington, Oxford.
Harfield MJ: 23 Upper Addison Gardens, London W14.
Harrison PB: 1 Harris Drive, RAF Catterick, Richmond, Yorks.
Henson TP: 59 Hollywood Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 5BR.
Houston CJG: 4950 Marguerite Street, Vancouver 13, BC, Canada.
Howell AM: 9 Balcombe Street, London NW1.
Howes MD: Petersleigh, North Moreton, Berks.
Humfrey CM: Manor Farm, Brixton Deverill, Warminster, Wilts.
Hunt D: 36 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh 9.
Kemp PW: 6 Fairfax Drive, Wilmslow, Cheshire.
King Rev MQ: Chilton Moor Vicarage, Houghton-le-Spring, Co Durham.
Lightfoot DE: Moles Green, Tubney, Berks.

Lodge BJ: 28 Pomeroy Crescent, North Watford, Herts.
Milne Lt JM: 1 Boscawen Road, Helston, Cornwall.
Newbold II: 12 Scaffell Close, Galmington, Taunton, Somerset.
North PN: BEA, 510 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, California, 90014,
USA.
Palmer NA: 42 Nant Bychan, Moelfre, Anglesey, N Wales.
Ogg RS: The Cottage, Dog Lane, Fenney Compton, nr Banbury.
Pollard EH: Longwall, Brightwell cum Sotwell, Wallingford.
Portman CH: 181 Bedford Road, Marston, Beds.
Sagar JWW: 1090 Nagle Street, Duncan, BC, Canada.
Sayce DR: 13 Haywards Close, Wantage.
Sayce JL: 13 Haywards Close, Wantage.
Scott CR: 7 Shepley Close, Hazel Grove, Stockport.
Scott DJ: Nova Scotia, 2 The Row, Hinton Waldrist, Berks.
Sheather MC: 6 Austin Place, Abingdon.
Shellard PN: 8 Agamemnon Road, London NW6 1DY.
Simmonds Lt Cdr P: Knap Hammer, Knapps Hard, West Meon, Hants.
Stevens W: Weaverswood, Ragged Dog Lane, Waldron, E Sussex.
Thistlewood AW: 13 Karmigal, Cox's Lane, Lane Cove, Sydney, NSW
2066.
Utley CJ: 60 St Mary's Mansions, St Mary's Terrace, London W2.
Walton JL: 54 Abingdon Road, Oxford.
Watts PG: c/o Hanbury Williams, 147 King Street, Great Yarmouth,
Norfolk.
Wheaton Rev DH: Oak Hill College, Southgate, London N14 4PS.
Williams HG: Tre'moor, 23 Higher Dunscar, Egerton, Bromley Cross,
Bolton, Lancs.
Worth RA: 9 Desborough Close, Hertford.

Old Abingdonian Trust Fund

Many more loyal old Subscribers have taken out Covenants with TASS as their OATF ones have expired. The School is extremely grateful for their continuing support, and it is to be hoped that the younger generations will follow their good example. Not only will such help become increasingly valuable but there is no better way of keeping in touch.

Abbreviated Accounts for the last financial year are appended, and as always we thank Rowland Snell for his kindness in seeing to the Audit.

Cash Account for year ended 31 March 1971 :

Receipts							£	s.	d.
Balances in Hand 1.4.70	...	...	...	...	...	529	13	5	
Subscriptions	...	...	...	...	...	190	18	6	
Income Tax recovered on Covenants	...	...	...	...	...	105	19	11	
Trustee Savings Bank Interest	...	...	...	...	...	5	14	11	
							<hr/>		
							£832	6	9
							(£832.34)		

Payments							£	s.	d.
School Magazine Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	34	17	8	
Contribution to Swimming Bath Heating Plant	500	0	0	
Postages and Stationery	3	0	5	
Balances in Hand 31.3.71	294	8	8	
							<hr/>		
							£832	6	9
							(£832.34)		

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