



The Abingdonian

June 1977

volume seventeen, number one

June 1977

*The Apology of the Editors
to the Reader*

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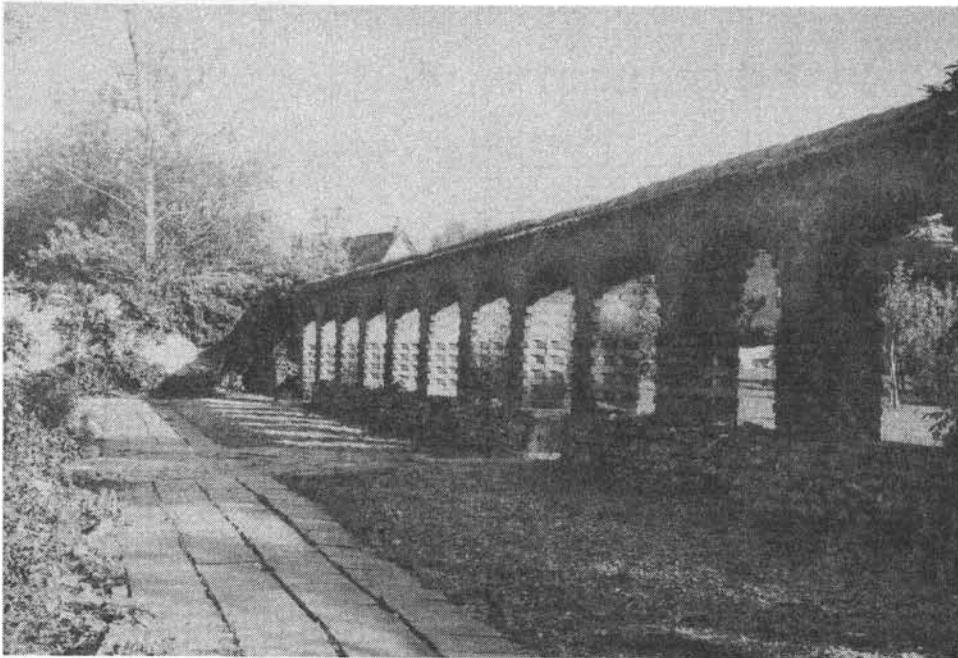
Despite the rising costs of Printers' ink,
You'll find this text is *justified*, we think.
To cover one school year we've tried our best,
And nurse the tender hope you'll be *impressed*.
These *columns* all uphold the life of school,
The sportsman's *record*, and the scholar's *rule*.
No dull *reports* are heard, no wadding seen,
Although 'tis an explosive *magazine*.
Complaints are welcome: some fierce hound is sure to
Argue for *Baskerville* on demi-quarto.
All that's unjustified we hope you'll shun,
Forgive the *pointless* — and forget the pun.

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Mr. J. R. Gabitass



HEADMASTER'S LETTER

Everybody had known for a long time that, when full independence was restored to Abingdon School, we should have to make extra efforts to keep up the pace of our progress without benefit of State aid. Because we had seen it coming for so long, the period of change-over began last September with little to mark it as different from an ordinary year; equally important, the solidarity and unanimity of the School community has made it possible for us to embark on a programme of developments and adaptations, designed to fit us to do the specialised job which is required of us in our fully independent role.

The School has, I believe, never been exactly renowned for its indolence or its apathy; but now that survival itself depends on the vigour of our efforts, there is a determination to work at full stretch which is exciting to watch, still more exciting to be involved in.

The most important aspects of this work are, of course, to be found in intellectual, musical and sporting activities — but these are hard to summarise briefly, and should perhaps be left to show themselves in the reports that follow. Easier both to comprehend and to write about, and sufficiently significant in their implications, are certain developments that are taking place in our practical arrangements.

Looking to the future, perhaps the most important of these is the Joint Sixth-Form arrangement with St. Helen's School, which has been in operation since September 1976. So far, joint teaching is taking place in Modern Languages and Classics only, but now that essential adjustments have been made, it will be possible to expand the collaboration, if desired, into other areas as well — although the two institutions will, of course, retain their individuality and autonomy. The advantages of both schools are manifold, and

cover both practical aspects (economies in staffing and use of facilities) and theoretical aspects (virtues of co-educational teaching, and social contacts). We are growing accustomed to seeing St. Helen's girls rather more officially around the School than was the case in the past, and to greeting their teachers at our Parents' Evenings. The enthusiasm with which the girls' school has tackled the project is most heart-warming; we hope that we respond in kind.

Among other things that have happened since the last number of the **Abingdonian** appeared, the magazine itself has changed its style. The Editor writes elsewhere on this topic. We hope that the new format will commend itself to our readers; using modern technology to achieve traditional aims, it is in some ways a symbol of the School's style at this present time.

On the larger scale, plans are in hand to provide the dayboys with Common Rooms; to re-house our hard-pressed administrative staff, in quarters more convenient both to them and to the rest of the school; to create a Lower Library in the Old Dining Hall; and to upgrade the accommodation in the Boarding Houses. Meanwhile, work goes ahead on the new block which is being built on the back of the Main School, and which is to be known in commemoration of this year as the Jubilee Wing. The undertaking of this project has necessarily entailed postponement of the re-opening of the neighbouring craft workshop; but we hope to see this most important facility brought back into use at about the time the Jubilee Wing is opened — that is to say, by January 1978.

Running all through these developments is one constant theme — a determination always to be improving ourselves. The worst enemy that a successful institution has to fear is complacency. There are others, of course — such as self-doubt, for example — but surely the worst thing that could happen to Abingdon School at the moment would be for us to lose our capacity of self-criticism.

To say this is in no way to advocate change for its own sake: on the contrary, neophilia is to be avoided as a particularly nasty sort of disease. But if we are to preserve the things we value, we must consider how best to safeguard them — and on those grounds, we must be willing to adapt and develop.

There is no room for hesitations on this issue: if we do not take the necessary action to keep ourselves fit and strong, the years ahead will be difficult, and we will be liable to suffer changes forced on us from the outside. The biggest efforts are yet to come.

As a new chapter opens in the history of the school, another closes, and it would be wrong to omit mention of the fact that Donald Willis retires formally from the staff at the end of this term, following his serious and prolonged illness. Full tribute is paid to him elsewhere in the **Abingdonian**, and there are many people much better qualified to write on Donald's services than a headmaster who had the privilege of serving with him for, in effect, only some two terms. However, even in a short acquaintance, Donald's transcendent qualities shine out clearly and unmistakably — his energy, his versatility, his unfailing kindness and good-humour, his care for others and for the School as a whole, and above all, his simple goodness. His talents have been so many and so variously employed, that a casual observer might run the risk of being impressed by the quantity alone of the work that he has done; but closer knowledge makes one aware of the sheer quality as well. Abingdon can rarely have had an abler or a more faithful servant.

M. St. J. P.

The Abingdonian

The soaring costs of printing have unfortunately meant that, at least for a while, *The Abingdonian* must make only an annual appearance. We are, of course, sorry that this must be, but trust that readers will not feel too detached from events that took place nearly a year ago.

Meanwhile the format of the magazine has been altered considerably, and the number of articles has been swelled by the need to cover an entire year. We hope naturally that readers like the change, and will appreciate the attempt to combine the traditional range of topics with a more modern design.

The Editors



DONALD WILLIS

No one has served this School with more consistent and painstaking devotion than Donald Willis, no one could have been more deserving of a long and happy retirement, yet, as many OAs will now know, Donald's teaching career has ended prematurely as a result of a series of strokes which he has suffered during the past year. Fortunately the severity of his illness is slowly abating and he and Muriel are now quietly settled in their Cumnor Home.

His teaching began and ended at Abingdon. He joined the staff under the headmastership of William Grundy in 1939 but within a few weeks he was directly commissioned into the Royal Artillery, in which regiment he served throughout the war, returning as Major Willis, with a 'mention in despatches' behind him, in 1945. He was engaged as Head of History and English but with the added responsibility also of taking overall charge of games. Most OAs will remember with affection his long association with rugby and athletics, in the case of rugby an activity which he maintained until the end of his time here, mostly in charge of the 1st XV. As a younger man he played for the Oxford Nomads and much later never failed to turn out for the Abingdon Harlequins in their annual match against the 3rd XV. The Corps too claimed a good deal of his enthusiasm, joining in 1952 when the RA section was first formed and attending virtually every annual camp afterwards. More recently he had taken to helping out with the Arduous training expedition at Easter, another activity that he kept up until 1975.

Donald took on his biggest responsibility in 1954 when James Cobban appointed him to be second master, a post which he held under three successive headmasters, any one of whom would admit that he could not have run the school so smoothly if he had not been able to rely implicitly, not only on Donald's administrative skill, but also on his unquestioned integrity. A second master

has a dual obligation, to Headmaster and to Common Room. It says much for Donald that he earned, and kept, the confidence of both sides. His wholehearted devotion to the greater interest of the school resolved any possible conflict of loyalties. Twice during his tenure he was acting headmaster for appreciable periods, a role which he assumed easily yet modestly, with quiet confidence and competence.

Looking back one wonders how he continued to carry such a multiplicity of burdens with such remarkable equanimity; he devoted so much time, energy and love to this school, that only those who have known him over the years can appreciate the magnitude of his efforts. He worked away quietly on many fronts always seeming to be within reach, always responsive, always responsible and apparently indefatigable. Housemastering at Larkhill was yet another responsibility that he seemed to assume with ease and which he undoubtedly enjoyed, and through it all he was organizing and supervising both the magazine and the calendar.

While it is a cliché that 'no one is indispensable' this can hardly be true of Donald in the sense that no one person is able to take on more than a tithe of the responsibility that he carried so manfully for so many years. He is truly indispensable. We would wish that his leaving had been under happier circumstances but he can rest assured of the very real affection in which he will always be held at Abingdon School and that he will be remembered for his great loyalty, modesty and kindness by a host of boys and staff. We extend to him our hopes for a long and happy retirement, not forgetting Muriel who has herself contributed so much to the welfare of the School, particularly of course to TASS. Good luck to them both.

In the summer of 1976 we also said goodbye to John Varley, who left to take up an appointment as Head of Physics at Cheltenham. John's Northern level-headedness and tenacity will be much missed, not simply in the classroom but by all school tennis players, whose spirit of gritty competitiveness and determination was stimulated by their practice matches with him on the grass courts. John made his mark here by his soundness of principle and thorough following-through of all he did. We wish John, Jennie, and their children Andrew and Elizabeth good fortune in their new surroundings.

The September term saw the arrival of Gwendolyn Lord to join the Physics Department, and to confer upon young cricketers and hockey players the benefit of her illustrious experience; and two History teachers, Hubert Zawadski and Robert Swan, who have quickly settled into the life of the school.

CHAPEL NOTES

The main focus for the work of the Chaplaincy has been the Sunday Service with the Headmaster taking the greater part of the load as I normally have commitments at St. Michael's Church. On Friday evenings there is a Communion Service in the Chapel and this continues to provide for boarders who wish for a time of quiet as they worship.

Harry Eden has continued with his Bible Study Groups meeting at his home on Wednesday evenings. My thanks to him for the valuable work he is doing. I have had a feeling that there is little that the chaplaincy does for day boys. This feeling was echoed by other members of staff. At the beginning of the Michaelmas Term I was faced with a deputation from the upper sixth who expressed the same concern. From this meeting more stemmed and then in that term a lunch time meeting was introduced on Fridays. The meetings were in the Vestry and it was immediately obvious that there were two major problems — first, the vestry was too small and second, the time was too short, assuming we didn't want to starve by going without our lunch. During the Lent Term the group has met at 6 Park Road with a bread and cheese lunch to stave off the hunger pangs. Our problem is still one of space — 20 people meeting in the front room of No. 6 does mean you have to get to know one another better. It is a time of growth and searching for the group, my thanks to the boys who have done so much of the work.

The most important side of the work of the Chaplaincy is the hardest to describe, that is the pastoral work. Although a chaplain has a great interest in pastoral work, I think it is important to point out that it is by no means a task restricted to the Chaplain. This work goes on constantly with many people taking part. As one who is professionally involved may I thank all who take part in this important work.

AHJL

THE LINDENS GROUP

The academic year now in progress has seen the beginning of a new discussion group generally meeting on Thursday evenings, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Goulding. Its birth has come about through the combined efforts of Paul Gregg, Mr. Swan and the Gouldings, all of whom felt the instigation of an informal discussion group would be both appealing and profitable. The range of topics discussed has not only been intellectually stimulating but also remarkably fresh and sincere, since each meeting is led by a different person. Discussions on 'The Breakdown of Morality', 'Patriotism', 'Religious Education', 'Marxism' and 'Romanticism' have all been singularly enjoyable occasions, each instilling the germ of an idea, or number of ideas, to be pondered on later.

SPEAKERS' CORNER

During the past term I was asked to lead a discussion on 'The Breakdown of the Family'. I chose as my text a provocative book by Dr. David Cooper, a leading existentialist psychologist, entitled 'The Death of the Family'. I put forward the idea that 'The Family' as an institutionalised unit was detrimental to the development of the individual. Our families were nothing more than conditioning machines, and we were but lifeless products of such a conditioning process. I suggested, and defended, the notion that 'the family' should be abolished. Only then could the underlying self, which dwells deep within us all, be permitted expression, free from the suppressing motives of family life. Naturally an intense and lively discussion followed.

The healthy enthusiasm displayed by all heralds the establishment of these informal meetings as an integral part of school life.

Kirt Peterson (VI)

In the Lent Term a party of sixth-formers went to the Faraday Lecture at the new Wembley Conference Centre. Provided this year by the Navy and entitled "The Electron rules the Waves", it was an interesting, well-presented lecture that used the wide range of technical facilities available at the Centre.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

An increase in the size of the V.S. group over the last year has allowed us to widen the field of our activities. About 25 boys continue to visit regularly old people in the town and surrounding villages, providing company and labour for them. A smaller group visits Teasdale House School for the physically and mentally handicapped, helping with such activities as swimming and games. Another small group visits the Geriatric Ward at Marcham Road hospital: this is particularly difficult as often we are not remembered from one week to the next.

Plans are being laid to send a few boys, once a week, to Stowford House School in the Faringdon Road, where help is badly needed in one-to-one supervision. V.S. also plans to support a young boy in Tibet: about £30 a year is needed, which we hope to raise by collecting old newspaper and taking it to a local pulp merchant.

A great deal has been done this year to strengthen our links with the town, and maintain our responsibility to the locality.

Simon Williams (VI)

The Summer Term saw the continuation of the series of 6th Form Lectures. **Mr. Ivan Scott** set the ball rolling with an exhibition of guitar playing. His expertise and knowledge made a very interesting afternoon. The next visitor was **Mr. T. E. Uttley**, a leader writer of the Daily Telegraph, who gave us a talk on the Irish problem. His clear and informative talk provoked a lively and interesting discussion. **Mr. Crispin Gill**, editor of the 'Countryman' magazine, gave us a lecture on conservation. **Mr. Nigel Blackwell** spoke about publishing and the book trade, a subject little known to most of us. It certainly proved an interesting and worthwhile topic. **Mr. Peter Oppenheimer**, well-known through his television appearances, flew over from the United States to talk to us. This was certainly one of the most exciting and stimulating of the whole series, illustrated by the discussion afterwards. Our final visitor of the term was **Mr. N. B. Challenor**, a solicitor and coroner in Abingdon. He combined his personal experience — including having a body washed up in his garden — with a lucid account of the mechanics of the law. The three remaining Tuesday afternoons of the term were ably filled by **Mr. Biggs**, who gave an interesting illustrated lecture on modern art, and the Headmaster, who spoke on Marx and Engels.

Lectures given for the Sixth Form in the Michaelmas Term ranged from China to deep-sea diving. Economy, however, was the theme of the first lectures: **Professor H. M. Sinclair**, Director of the International Institute of Human Nutrition, spoke on the diet, and **Sir Alec Cairncross** spoke on political economy. There then followed a succession of very interesting and thought-provoking lectures and discussions, initiated by **Mr. R. C. Hunt**, who talked about China; **Mr. Trevor Rowley**, who spoke on archaeology, having conducted many 'digs'; **Mr. David Butler**, no stranger to the school, who introduced the subject of Elections; and **Sir Patrick Reilly**, formerly British Ambassador to France, who spoke about the diplomatic scene and his reminiscences of General de Gaulle and other figures. Finally, **Dr. E. B. Smith** spoke about deep-sea diving and **Dr. B. A. J. Lister** the hazards of nuclear power, both of which talks enlightened the Sixth Form to the importance of the current debate about energy resources.

The school's writers have again been prolific. Both Philip Paddon and Andrew Wilmore have had their poems published in books, and the school won a special money prize for the unusually high standard of its entry in the Daily Mirror Competition.



Three 'Mufti' days have been held this year, with proceeds at 15p per sartorial extravagance donated to charity. The first of these events produced overpowering argument for school uniform. One boy, apparently unable to find alternative clothing and hoping to save face, was driven to wear his sister's John Mason School uniform instead, while another had to resurrect his father's military clothing and parade as a Royal Flying Corps pilot. But who would have thought that the son of an astronaut would appear in his father's space-suit?

An illuminating insight into public-spiritedness: during the past year Simon Haynes and Charles Spence have hung 45 fluorescent strip-lights throughout the science blocks.

THE HISTORIANS

Miss Agatha Ramm, Fellow of Somerville College, gave a talk entitled "War and Peace" in which she analysed some of the causes of war since the 16th century, the changing nature of warfare, and examined various proposals for preserving international peace, especially that of Immanuel Kant. **Peter Mathias**, Chichele Professor of Economic History and fellow of All Souls, spoke on tokens in the Industrial Revolution, and illustrated the talk with some fascinating slides. Both talks were followed by lively and valuable discussions.

In the Lent term, **Mr. Angus Walker** from London University spoke wittily about Russian Populism and Marxism, and **Mr. Michael Novak** from Harvard talked about 17th century Puritanism. Both speakers broke new ground for their audience, but lively discussions were provoked.



ENTENTE CORDIALE

Whilst it might be unfair to ascribe any but the most altruistic motives to the decision of the language departments of Abingdon School and St. Helen's to share sixth-form teaching (and pupils), the extraordinarily high demand for options such as 'O' level Italian suggests that the same cannot be said for the boys!

This new system has not been greeted with complete enthusiasm, however. There have been drawbacks:

'It's nice to have a change of scenery' commented one boy rather sarcastically 'even if you have to walk half a mile to find it — You usually end up missing half an English period as well as break!'

Opinions about the new teachers vary as well. One girl observed:

'We have had to share teachers, and this has introduced us to a different style of teaching — male and female teachers having different methods and outlooks on the subject.'

Another complained:

'There still seem to be a few hitches over what has been taught, and who is to dole out the prep — at present, all teachers think that they are the only teacher.'

What about the actual lessons? Whilst the teachers were content to abolish the old dictum of 'vive la difference', were the pupils making new progress with 'entente cordiale'?

'The lessons have become more interesting' admitted one girl.

'A definite improvement' agreed another.

'The lessons have an uncommon air' commented one boy, intriguingly, but went on to attribute this to 'the fact that neither male nor female counterparts wish to make an exhibition of themselves!'

'There were no problems' claimed one girl 'once the girls had established their naturally superior mastery of the language!'

Another was not so sure, however. 'We are lacking not only in numbers, but also in ability,' she claimed.

Presumably a case of everyone speaking for themselves!

'There are always two points of view' explained one girl.

'More ideas are exchanged and discussed than previously' added another.

Everyone, however, is agreed that the 'experiment' is a great success.

BRILLIANT SCHOLAR BRAIN

A new venture for the school in 1977 was to take part in "Schools Challenge", played by various Independent schools around England. One of the team, Robert Saunders, recalls his experiences:

"Four of us found ourselves, by a process of careful testing, play-offs and luck, trembling on the big stage in the theatre at Bradfield College, under spotlights and fixed by the eyes of 200 hostile boys. We knew we had two supporters there, but their cheers just weren't drowning the hisses.

After fifteen minutes, Bradfield were 100 points up. Then they got overconfident. We suddenly shot ahead, and Bradfield went to pieces as we shot back every answer, doubling their score to sporadic applause and more hissing. The other team was disappointed but sporting.

Two weeks later St. Edward's played host to us in Oxford. They showed us the electrics, which made silly noises, the little lights and the slide projector, and then we went and hid behind the stage and talked nervously until it was time to come on. We were about to go up on stage when David Game said: "Before we start let's all offer up a prayer to our own special god . . . (pause) . . . money, money, money . . ." and we all laughed. Then we all went onstage and, my Money, there were three hundred of them there, but quieter than the last lot. "In Greek mythology —" (Jonathan Stapleton nudged me because this was my subject) "— what was the crime of Oedipus?" I pushed my button but the opposition was there

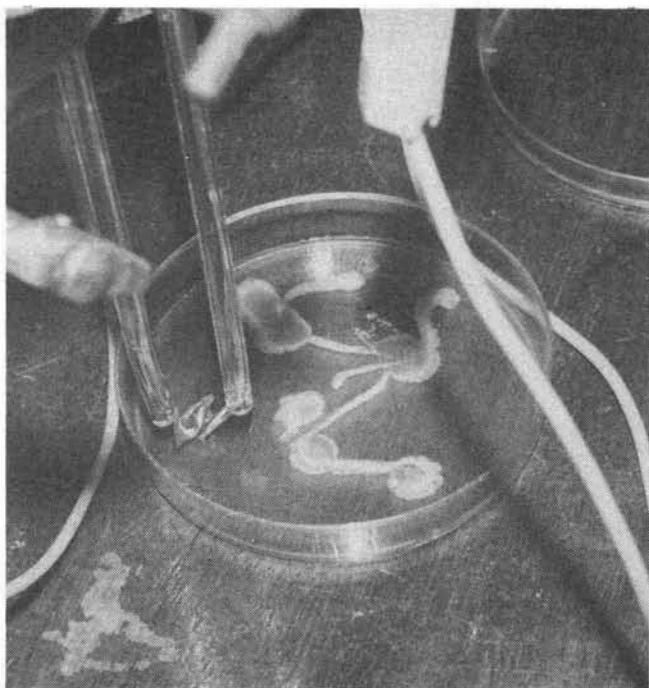
already. They were very quick, getting all the questions. With five minutes to go we were still 40 points behind, but then suddenly everyone hit form and we just scraped through, with Martin Spoor doing particularly well. Afterwards we shook hands with another sporting team, and then I felt the delayed reaction of sickness. The victory put us into the London/Oxford area final, where we came up against Eton and defeat.

Robert Saunders (VI)

SCIENCE PROJECTS

These are largely carried out by members of the science sixth and there is a fair sprinkling of projects around each year. Their value lies in the opportunity of actually doing science — behaving like a scientist, rather than just learning about science.

Projects often break down the artificial divide between chemistry, physics and biology. The two photographs show some unfortunate life forms being subjected to the indignities of the physicist's probes and the chemist's materials. In one, the absorption of radioactive sulphur by a young bean plant is being monitored by a Geiger-Muller tube. In the other, the weirdly shaped bacteria colony has been treated with a possible herbicide which has been prepared in the laboratory. The death of the bacteria is then observed by the change in electrical resistance.



Insecticides and herbicides were in fashion this year and the familiar odour of gamma-BHC still hangs in the lab. (It was perfumes one year and the artificial musk was particularly persistent — nauseatingly so.) Drugs caught the fancy of one experimenter, who established that his sublimed and glistening caffeine crystals were present in Brand X coffee bags in at least the medicinally prescribed milligram quantities. Then, eschewing modern techniques, he put back the clock some fifty years to the misty world of test-tubes, careful observation, inference and speculation in an attempt to establish whether caffeine actually had any chemistry. (*Is helium a chemical?*)

Meantime physics projects were underway *in the same laboratory*. An ideal state of affairs? Well the caffeine expert almost used the ultra-violet spectrometer which was being painstakingly developed on the bench alongside him. Down the bench, and on the other side of the visible, the near infra-red was being analysed with one of those minute, ultra-modern, semiconductor devices.

The enormous diversity of modern science and technology becomes more apparent when a wide range of projects are undertaken. Others included the use of the Instron machine to examine the behaviour of plastics under stress between polaroid. Water analogues of electrical circuits were ingeniously devised, the most complex of which was an astable flip-flop. Various steels were subjected to the testing, tampering and tempering which only 'strong' metals can put up with. Behind the lab, between a Victorian wall of considerable length and a suitably tough wall of engineering brick the motion of Scientific American inspired rockets was investigated under the highest security.

One cannot help but wonder what attitudes towards careers in science and technology these activities might be creating.

RCBC



CCF NOTES 1976

As usual, much was routine, but there were welcome additions to the routine in the summer term. The O.U.O.T.C. invited some cadets to join them for weekend training, and two cadets did so. A bus load of cadets from all sections visited Haileybury for an Army Day at which varied static displays were augmented by some very professional events in the ring, including some spectacular motorcycle riding, and several cadets had a ride in a helicopter as well. Later in the term, another bus-load, mainly from the seventy or so recruits who had joined earlier in the term, visited Larkhill for an impressive demonstration of tanks and artillery. We also had a very interesting talk on the work of the Royal Observer Corps, by Mr. J. C. Hopley.

The Annual Inspection was carried out by Brigadier Roycroft, and he seemed to enjoy his visit.

At the end of term holiday activities began with the Annual Camp this time at Leek in Staffordshire — which was generally agreed to have been one of the best in recent years. A lot of this success was due to the enthusiasm and willingness of the Training Team and Army youth Teams who provided the support for the camp — and we are most grateful to them; much was also due to Capt. Fox, and to the enthusiasm shown by both cadets and officers. Activities included Canoeing and sailing, rock-climbing and abseiling, Assault boats, shooting and patrolling, including a very successful night patrol, and an overnight map-reading exercise in very beautiful country in the Peak district.

There were plenty of other holiday activities. The RAF too had a camp — and a well-organised one — at West Raynham, where, as well as some flying, we were shown a guided missile base. Ten cadets went to the R.N. Camp at Loch Ewe, and four others spent a few days in **Shah**, an ocean-going yacht run by **H.M.S. Sultan**. Several others went on courses of various kinds. Four RAF cadets completed a gliding course successfully, and all four Flying Scholars completed their training. Finally three cadets joined Radley for a rock-climbing course in Glencoe. An account of this appears separately.

Three things remain to be said — first how sorry we all are that Mr. Willis has not been able to be with us, and how glad that Mr. Webber has applied for a Commission in the CCF. Secondly to record our gratitude for much help received, from Mr. Wiltshire, B.S.M. Emmanuel, C. P. O. Kettle, and Fl/Sgt. Bamber to all of whom we are extremely grateful, particularly as all of them have to travel some distance to reach us. Our thanks also to all those members of staff who have helped us in several different ways.

L.C.J.G.

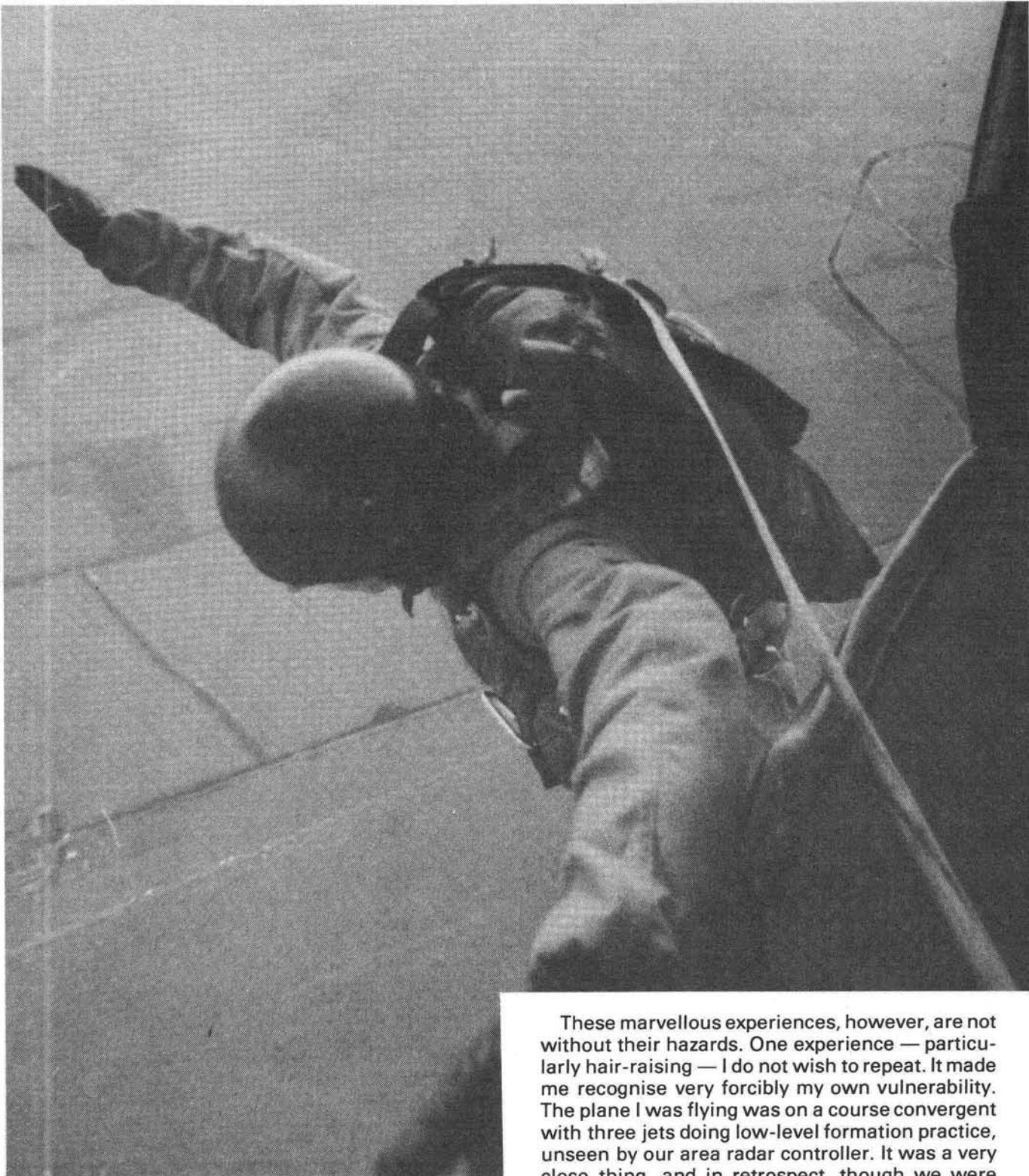
ROCK-CLIMBING COURSE IN GLENCOE

In September, three cadets from Abingdon School and five from Radley College with their Head of Corps, Major Treglown, arrived at Bridge of Orchy station, after a ten hour train journey, for five days of rock climbing in Glencoe. We stayed in the Parachute Regiment's climbing hut. The first day was spent learning the basics of climbing and safety, and two groups of four were selected, each with one Parachute Regiment instructor. During the next two days progress was impeded by the intermittent rain showers which left the rock too slippery to climb on. On Wednesday, we had planned to climb Ben Nevis. The weather was particularly bad, and our cagoules were put to the test, as well as our mountain safety, as one member of our team suffered from exposure. He was escorted, with two of the other party, by Major Treglown to the bottom while we continued to the cloud-covered summit. Thursday's weather was atrocious, and we did no climbing that day, but our last day (the last on which we could climb) was superb, and the rocks dried off, allowing the four more experienced climbers (three from Radley and one from Abingdon) to climb Anoch Dubh, a climb of over three hundred feet. The week was extremely enjoyable but marred by the wet weather.

P. M. Johnston (6)

GOING UP

I started my Flying Scholarship training in August '76 at Thruxton. It was three weeks packed with a considerable amount of human as well as technical experience. The course was scheduled to take four weeks but because of the weather (remember the drought?) took only three.



Flying is a great passion in my life and I was at last able to satisfy it. There were frustrations: the occasional bad weather; three days of no flying whilst waiting to qualify on a cross-country solo flight; and one aircraft being put out of action (surprise surprise *not* by me!)

Sitting in a little two seater aeroplane I am always awed by the multitude of sensations of beauty around me. The patchwork of fields and villages, ribboning rivers and railways, even concrete motorways and smoky towns, looks peaceful and remote. Space gives depth even to mundane office blocks. Wings give a vision and sensation never experienced with your feet planted firmly on the ground.

These marvellous experiences, however, are not without their hazards. One experience — particularly hair-raising — I do not wish to repeat. It made me recognise very forcibly my own vulnerability. The plane I was flying was on a course convergent with three jets doing low-level formation practice, unseen by our area radar controller. It was a very close thing, and in retrospect, though we were innocent, the circumstance would have made it appear that we were the wrong party. When we had stopped our knees knocking and teeth chattering my Instructor's comment was:

"Now you know exactly what to do in an emergency!"

"What's that?"

"You panic!"

I look back on that August as the month in which I fulfilled a burning ambition, and a time when I also had a lot of edges knocked off. I realised then that nothing is ever as perfect as we hope for; and yet strangely enough it can often be better in reality than we wildly imagine.

Richard Hobbs (VI)

. AND COMING DOWN

On Saturday 11th December we arrived at Weston-on-the-Green to start our Parachute Training. By the end of the day we had all decided at least once that we were mad. That night we all prepared for the jump in various ways.

On the following morning everybody arrived on time, in varying conditions and states of apprehension. After a couple of hours' final preparation, dealing with the aircraft crashing emergencies of the 'chute not opening, landing in trees and water, and landing on high-power electric cables, we tried to swallow our lunch and prepare to go.

We were to jump in alphabetical order (not a prospect I personally relished) and at 12.25 I went up on the first drop with a reporter and photographer from the local press.

The reporter went first and I followed him on the next run. After a moment of sheer terror on leaving the aircraft the 'chute opened and I had the exhilarating experience of floating down to earth. The ground came up quickly and then we were down!

All of us from Abingdon jumped successfully, but sadly, seven Radley boys who had trained with us were unable to jump due to bad weather. Our weather was superbly arranged as was everything else by Mr. Fox and the other instructors, and the whole thing was an experience never to be forgotten, and, hopefully, to be repeated in the better weather of Spring.

Richard Allen (6)

HAMMARBANK 1977

53 boys and 9 masters made the annual visit to the Lake District this Easter, for a week of fell-walking. We print below two accounts of walks in the Langdale and Helvellyn areas.

Crinkle Crag: Sunday

"The minibus wound its way up the Langdale valley to a parking space by the side of the road. This was the end of a none-too-comfortable journey from the Hostel, and the beginning of a perhaps much more uncomfortable journey: our second day's walk over Pike o'Blisco and Crinkle Crag. As we got out of the van the temperature must have been at about freezing point, only a few hundred feet from the valley bottom, and we were to climb to near three thousand feet, surrounded, the weather forecast assured us, by a temperature of minus seven.

We passed the snow-line at about two thousand feet and stopped for a breather, just below the craggy summit of Pike o'Blisco. Superb views began to emerge on all sides, especially of the snow-covered Helvellyn range swelling ominously behind. After a short, steep and rocky descent to Red Tarn, we began the long and gradual haul up to the start of the Crinkles. These crags, as the name suggests, rise and fall at high altitude like the jags on a dinosaur's back — five in all, and each one different, and very tricky in bad weather. Before beginning, we stopped for a hot drink and chocolate nibble to warm ourselves in the cold winds, and put on extra clothing. Soon after, we came to a rock gully blocked by large chunks of stone. The handgrips were iced, so we went round by the lee of the crag, and had shelter for lunch.

Here we were passed by Mr. Crawford's group, travelling in the opposite direction, who paused briefly to watch one of our plastic survival bags rise like a balloon over the crest, spiral up about fifty feet, and land invitingly on a dangerous slope.

The walk along the top was fairly narrow and very windy, with ice blowing hard in everyone's face. After a while we just wanted to get to the end as quickly as possible. At Three Tarns, the end of the knife-edged walk, we experienced the ultimate discomfort: Mr. Gabitass coolly saying, "Now, since you've done that so quickly, shall we go on and do Bow Fell?"

As soon as we dropped altitude we began to warm up. The way back was enlivened by a steep descent of Hell Gill, a stupendous fissure in the rock, and the spectacle of Mr. Taylor leaping like a mountain-goat over rock walls in his efforts to get back to the minibus so as to be first back and first choice of baths."

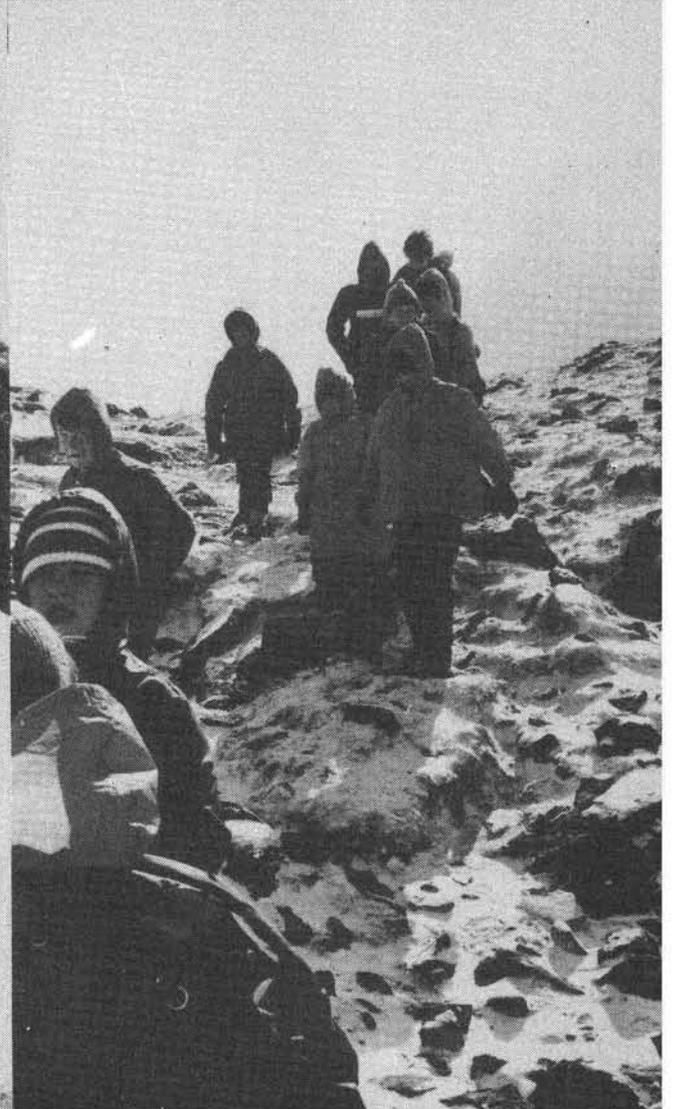
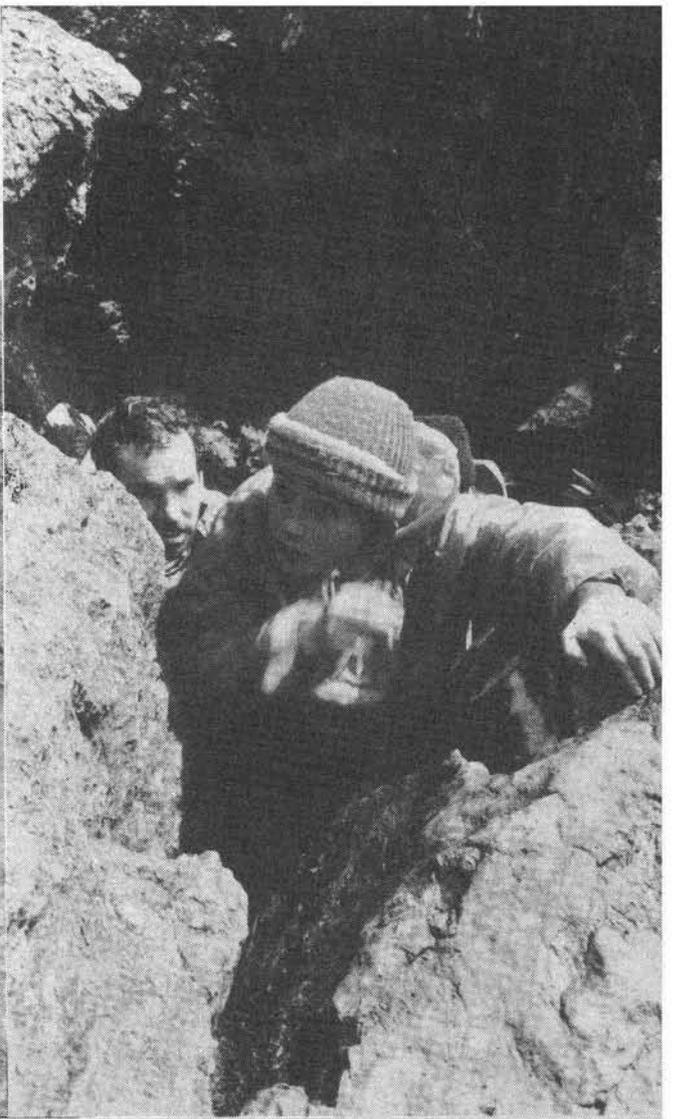
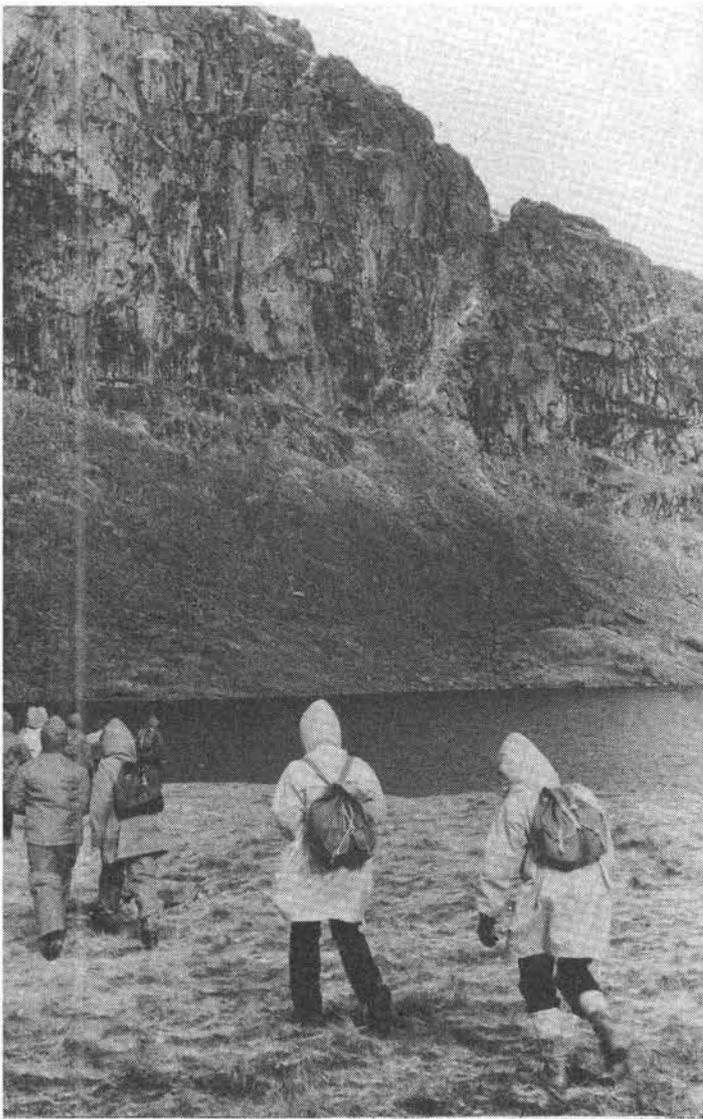
Jonathan Holt (2B)

Helvellyn: Wednesday

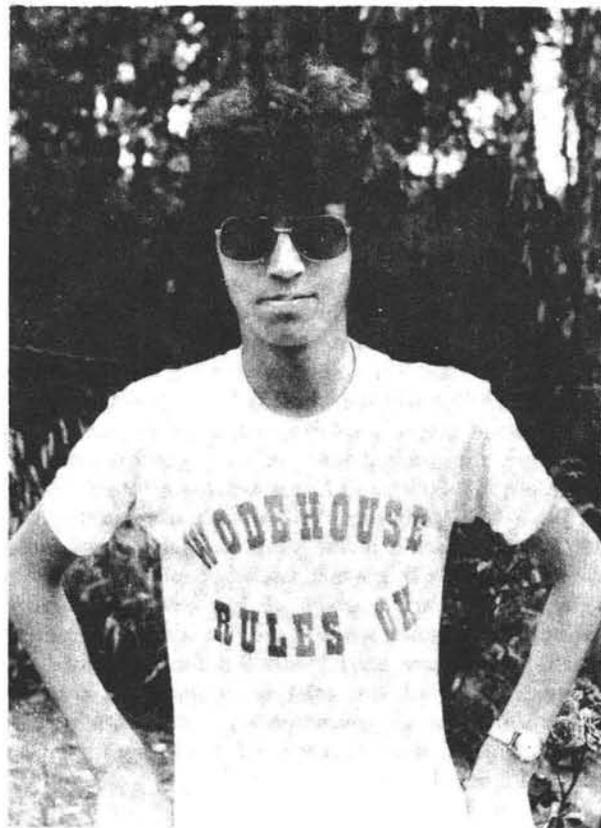
"The sun burst through the window, illuminating my face, as the coach drew up. It had been a short but uncomfortable journey, and I felt a bit queazy. Getting out, I looked from the placid blue waters of Thirlmere just below, to the lofty summit of Browncove Crag above where we were headed. This first part of the walk was a rather monotonous slog up a steep grassy slope. Things got better, though, as we reached the snow; and so far the weather was magnificent, with scarcely a breath of the cold wind we had endured on other walks. Already that clean mountain air was working, and I no longer felt ill. Even when I sank into a bog I wasn't bothered, for this walk, compared to that murderous day on the Crinkles, was just a simple stroll.

As we passed the towering Browncove Crag, we had some spectacular views of snow cornices, as we did later on when we climbed up into the saddle between Whiteside and Lower Man. The views from Lower Man were unbeatable, as we could see all the mountains which we had already climbed. Just below us was the razor sharp and deadly Striding Edge, and the only slightly less intimidating Swirral Edge. We had a pleasant long walk along the top of the whole snow-strewn Helvellyn range before us, and in these conditions it looked not unlike a Martian landscape. Somehow you were walking along the top of the world, detached from it all, where time didn't matter so much. But then rumbling stomachs reminded us that time *did* matter, and after an uncomfortable descent, (yes, going down *can* be as hard as going up), we gobbled sandwiches and hot Blackcurrant (yes, *anything* tastes good after three hours up and down three thousand feet) at the beautiful Grisedale Tarn, which was partly frozen over. Opposite us was the unfriendly icy hump of Fairfield, and to the right the gentle snowy swell of Seat Sandal. In front of us, you might say, was a delightful four-and-a-half mile descent through rocky paths and gills, then farms and fertile valleys, to Patterdale. We reached Ullswater tired but rewarded, and slumped down on the lake shore to be soothed by the tranquillity of the water and the solitude. A very enjoyable day's walk, and how varied is the Lake District!"

Ian Haley (2B)



In March 60 Fifth and Sixth Formers entered the National Mathematics Contest. The entrants, on average, reached a higher standard than usual; some very good scores were perhaps eclipsed by the excellent performances of Graham Naylor and Martin Spoor as a result of which they were put forward for the British Mathematical Olympiad. Of the Fifth Formers, Peter Wakefield deserves special mention.



WODEHOUSE RULES — OK?

*In September Gideon Franklin (5B) distinguished himself by having an article published in **Antiquarian**, a monthly review for bibliophiles. We print a small extract from his account of the way in which he built up his collection of Wodehouse volumes:*

I write this in the 'Wodehouse Room', my small study so named on account of the Wodehouse first editions and related publications which have accumulated on its shelves over the past two years. My interest in his life and works began when I was given **'The World of Psmith'** (the P is mute) on my twelfth birthday, a heavy hardback volume published by Barrie & Jenkins. I read its five hundred and ninety-seven pages in a matter of three weeks, by which time my previous assumption that thick books were things to steer clear of as one avoids a book of Latin grammar had been transformed into a desire to seek out further such Wodehouse works.

This desire was shortly afterwards fulfilled when I was browsing in one of London's second-hand bookshops. The proprietor, detecting by my attitude that the last thing I wanted to do was to buy one of his books, asked what my interests were and, suddenly feeling in the position of a

classical scholar seeking thick philological reference books, I told him my interest lay in books by P. G. Wodehouse. He then asked me if I had any particular volumes in mind and not knowing of any titles other than Psmith, I told him I hadn't. Acting on this information he led me to his entire stock of P.G.W.'s which consisted of two volumes of **'Performing Flea'**, subtitled **'A Self Portrait in Letters by P. G. Wodehouse, With an Introduction and Additional Notes by W. Townend'**, one being a very tatty copy with pages loose, while the other was a first edition in mint condition. After much weighing of pros and cons, I bought the latter for £3, influenced by his continual assurance that it was a "collector's item".

This book gave me a good insight into the greater part of Wodehouse's life, while at the same time confirming my already steadfast opinion of his wit.

One of the essential ingredients for satisfaction in collecting lies not only in the occurrence of something totally unexpected being found, but also — and to a far greater degree — in the fact that the probability of finding that something is slim. In the case of **The Swoop** this ingredient was very definitely present and it adds great flavour to my possession of it, the source of this being none other than the 'Performing Flea' bookseller himself.

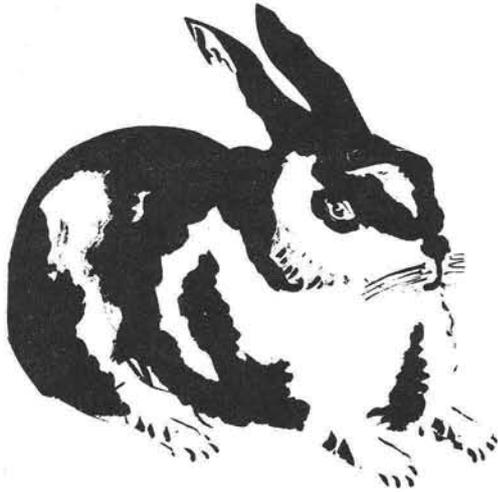
'The Swoop' Or, How Clarence Saved England, a small paperback published in 1909 by Alston Rivers, was written in a matter of five days primarily for financial gain and was sold through the railway bookstall trade. It describes an invasion of England by nine different nations simultaneously, satirizing the reaction of the English to their arrival at tea-time and to it distracting the current cricket match at the Oval which, nevertheless, takes the newspaper headlines. Clarence Chugwater along with his band of boy scouts, however, wards off the two outstanding forces: those of the Germans under Prince Otto of Saxe-Pfenning and of the Russians under Grand Duke Vodkakoff, who both wish to conquer England. The series of events which finally prove decisive are, in fact, also very much associated with the music hall scene.

On my second visit to his shop I found that he now regarded our relationship as being one of intimacy. He was accordingly prepared to discuss at greater length his Wodehouse knowledge, the main feature of this being that he had once been in possession of **The Swoop**. Since Wodehouse was at the time still alive, he told me, the public demand for this specific volume was not particularly great, hence it was sold at a low price. In the narrative that followed I was told of its relative value now and how all Wodehouse collectors are in search of it — if only (one infers) he'd known at the time!

His high opinion of the book's rarity was verified several times by many collectors whom I know, upon whose 'wants' lists it invariably stands. About three weeks after I was first told of it, however, it was crossed off my own list and recorded in my price records at a very low sum. I purchased it from a small Cotswolds dealer whom I had stumbled across by chance. Moreover, in

addition to actually having it in my collection, I also have it in almost mint condition, due to the foresight of a previous owner in having it bound (with original wrappers). Perhaps the dealer who sold it to me will in future be telling Wodehouse customers a similar 'Swoop' tale.

All rumours that R. C. B. Coleman, a mighty atomic scientist now employed as a Chemistry teacher, has built a space rocket which required the swift evacuation of Roysse's Alley for its maiden flight at a trajectory of 17°, and has invented a dangerous rocket fuel which threatens life and limb in Abingdon, are strenuously denied.



Reports of some bunny fusiness going on in school have led us to the Abingdon School Small Stock Club (Limited), which continues to function after three years, though always on the verge of bankruptcy. There are just two rabbits, a white buck called Anaxandridas (or 'Das'), who bites, and a black Dutch doe called Twinkle, who scratches; they live in hutches in the headmagisterial garden, and are fed by first-formers. Meanwhile signatures continue to roll in for the 'Canonisation of Rabbits' Petition, to be presented to the Curia in 1978.

CRICKET

FIRST ELEVEN

The only certainty about the game of cricket is its utter unpredictability. No two matches are alike and part of the game's charm are the strange changes of fortune which constantly occur. Compare the ease of run-making between the first victory of the season at Brentwood and the last over the Old Boys. At Brentwood, with a morning start, 227 runs were struggled for on a good batting wicket at the slow rate of 2 runs an over, each run begrudged by bowler and painstakingly achieved by batsman. On Founders Day, with an afternoon start, twice that number of runs were scored at over 5½ runs an over, this time an overwhelmingly clear victory of bat over ball. Neither, in quite different circumstances, will probably linger in one's memory, however, as the long-awaited victory over Radley for its nail-biting conclusion. What a finish that was! Abingdon's score of 147 for 3 with Charles Lowe in full flight, Simon Johnson secure and a large score apparently to declare at, succumbed to 167 for 9 and to a total of 178. Radley, batting second in this fixture for a welcome change, recovered from 31 for 4, with Hurry in full cry, to 101 for 4, and Ladbroke's odds, had they been there, must have been anything but stable. 138 for 6; eight overs remaining; all results possible. 141 for 9, all of a sudden. 4 overs, less one ball, left to take the last wicket. Odds on? What, then, were they with one over only remaining, with 5 balls left, then 4? The scorebook states bluntly that No 11 was bowled Lanham O. Somehow, the tension is missing from that page! But those playing on the Abingdon side, at least, will not need to turn up the scorecard to remind themselves of most of the details.

Brentwood and Radley, both away from home, then, were defeated and 1976 has to be a memorable season, not only for its superb weather. Congratulations to Charles Hobson and his team, a side of character who were not afraid of winning. The 'Cricket-week' produced 3 consecutive and overwhelming victories against Bloxham, U.C.S. and Oxford by 8, 9 and 8 wkts respectively. These were some of the highspots. With 20 fixtures, however, there were likely to be failures too, and the defeats by Oratory (the boggy continues), High Wycombe and Magdalen, although disappointing, do put the strength of the XI into perspective. Not for the first time we seemed to raise our game against the strongest opposition but allowed one or two more moderate sides to get the better of us. In retrospect the secret of the XI's overall success was its teamwork. Everybody contributed significantly. 5 batsmen scored over 355 runs — a record, this, I suspect. The majority of the wickets taken were shared primarily by 3 bowlers, none of whom were the major run scorers as has sometimes been the case. And the fielding was usually good, too, although there were more lapses than last year's exceptionally fine side in this department. Again, Hobson must take credit for this; I don't recall any past captain, with the exception of Paul Abraham, who chased

so hard from mid-off. Johnson, Lowe, Lowes, Lanham and Harmer fielded exceptionally well, too, while John Slingsby's wicket-keeping was very sound and belied his lack of experience.

Space forbids comment on individuals at length but, briefly, John Slingsby's emergence as an opening batsman of potential class was both pleasing and exciting to watch, and he fully deserved to be the first holder of the Smithson Memorial Cup. Hobson started with 61 and 74 but would be the first to admit that his inability to score a further half-century in the rest of the season was a failure for him. Despite that he made 446 good runs. Simon Johnson's 63 and 95 took his total to 496 and put him marginally ahead of Slingsby in the final batting averages at the last gasp, thus winning him the Fletcher Cup. Johnson's contribution as a team member this year was considerable, not least in the number of excellent catches he took. Gerald Lowes made a great 84 not out against the S.O.A.s and scored 155 runs for twice out in his last 4 innings; a reliable No. 3 bat who will be missed next year. Lowe's blistering 70 at Radley was his only big score but a memorable one; his free striking was a joy to watch. Lanham, along with Slingsby, was the most improved all-round cricketer in the side and made some useful scores. Neither Miles Hitchcock or Adrian Johnson made convincing claim to the last batting place but both have an opportunity again next year.

Marcus Hurry and Dennis Lanham were a competent pair of opening bowlers. It is interesting that Hurry's best figures were against Brentwood and Radley, just when his strength and accuracy were most needed, while Lanham had far more control and variety than before and showed the merit of keeping the ball up to the bat. Martin Dennis's figures do not reflect his importance to the side. Again we find his value in the Brentwood and Radley fixtures; 15 overs for 23 runs tells its own story. He may not have taken many wickets, but the experience he has gained will bring its reward next year. Andrew Evans took 15 wickets in the four 'cricket-week' games and he ended up with the most, 35; he, too, improved his art as a bowler tremendously during the season and can now 'put an over together' with confidence against the good batsman. Rex Harmer's bowling was, frankly, disappointing, but his place in the XI was valuable nonetheless, first as a specialist cover-point, and, secondly, as a useful bat as his crucial 28 (top score) at Brentwood and match-winning 28 not out at the end of the Old Boys match showed. All the bowlers were very well handled by Hobson, a good tactician.

Success at cricket, like at golf, granted a measure of technical ability, is very much a question of sound temperament and good thinking allied to a wholehearted approach and effort. It is rewarding to see an XI develop as a thoughtful cricketing side, maturing both individually and as a team as well as plainly enjoying themselves. This year's XI produced such rewards, and were an extraordinarily pleasant and sportsmanlike side to be associated with. Well played!

The final XI was: C. W. P. Hobson (capt.), S. P. Johnson, M. J. Hurry, R. G. Lowes, J. Slingsby, C. R. Lowe, P. A. Evans, D. J. Lanham (full colours), R. Harmer, M. J. Dennis and A. Johnson. M.

Hitchcock and S. J. Hobbs also played. Hurry and Slingsby were awarded the Henderson cricket prizes.

N.H.P.

FIRST XI RESULTS

Pangbourne 1 May (A) drawn.
Abingdon 137 (Hobson 61, Lowe 34); Pangbourne 101 for 7 (Hurry 3 for 23).
Newbury 5 May (A) drawn.
Abingdon 158 for 8 (Hobson 74); Newbury 103 for 4.
Brentwood 8 May (A) won by 27 runs.
Abingdon 127; Brentwood 100 (Hurry 4 for 33).
Berkshire Gentlemen 12 May (H) lost by 100 runs.
B.G.s 190 for 8; Abingdon 90 (Lanham 31).
Douai 19 May (A) drawn.
Abingdon 140 for 3 declared (S. Johnson 43, Slingsby 36); Douai 62 for 1.
Berkhamsted 22 May (H) drawn.
Berkhamsted 158 for 8 declared; Abingdon 130 for 8 (Slingsby 39, Hobson 37).
Oratory 26 May (H) lost by 4 wkts.
Abingdon 174 (Lowes 42); Oratory 175 for 6.
South Oxfordshire Amateurs 2 June (H) won by 8 wkts.
S.O.A.s 200 for 7 declared (Dennis 4 for 37); Abingdon 201 for 2 (Lowes 84*, S. Johnson 65*).
Abingdon C.C. 5 June (A) lost by 6 wkts.
Abingdon 87; Abingdon C.C. 88 for 4.
N. H. Payne's XI 9 June (H) drawn.
N.H.P.'s XI 176 for 8 declared (N. H. Payne 63, A. A. Hillary 62); Abingdon 141 for 7 (Slingsby 37).
Radley College 12 June (A) won by 30 runs.
Abingdon 178 (Lowe 70, Slingsby 38); Radley 148 (Hurry 5 for 42).
M.C.C. 16 June (H) abandoned (rain).
M.C.C. 148 for 3.
Reading 19 June (H) abandoned (rain).
Abingdon 55 for 1.
St. Edward's 26 June (H) drawn.
Abingdon 206 for 8 declared (Slingsby 44, Lowe 36); St. Edward's 142 for 4.
High Wycombe 3 July (A) lost by 8 wkts.
Abingdon 149 for 9 declared (Lowes 34); Wycombe 151 for 2.
Magdalen College School 5 July (A) lost by 2 wkts.
Abingdon 109; M.C.S. 113 for 8 (Evans 5 for 18).
Bloxham 7 July (A) won by 8 wkts.
Bloxham 146 for 8 declared (Evans 5 for 38); Abingdon 147 for 2 (Slingsby 83*).
University College School 8 July (H) won by 9 wkts.
U.C.S. 126 (Evans 4 for 38); Abingdon 129 for 1 (Slingsby 60*, Lowes 52*).
Oxford School 10 July (H) won by 8 wkts.
Oxford 123 for 4 declared; Abingdon 126 for 2 (Johnson 38*, Lowes 35*).
Old Abingdonians 16 and 17 July (H) won by 4 wkts.
O.A.s 258 for 5 declared (Seaver 107*) and 203 for 5 declared (Abraham 75, Stimpson 44); Abingdon 202 (S. Johnson 63) and 260 for 6 (S. Johnson 95, Slingsby 52, Lowes 47).

SECOND ELEVEN

New fixtures with Pangbourne and Berkhamsted replaced that with Douai, giving us a list of fifteen. (However, Magdalen cancelled their match, rain the one with Reading). That we did not win a game after 12th May was disappointing but did not prevent a great deal of enjoyment, for Gunaratnam led well a delightfully cheerful and resilient side, nine of whom will be back next year.

We had the better of the Pangbourne match. That with Newbury was full of surprises: we lost four wickets in an over; Newbury's last wicket put on 51; 85 of their runs came from one who had not played for the School before. The journey to Brentwood was appalling, and, after we had fielded in great heat, it was not altogether surprising that our batting failed (nine wickets falling to a single bowler and eight men bowled). Oratory was overwhelmed, but stiffer opposition at Berkhamsted and Leighton Park led to batting that was understandably tentative after the Brentwood disaster and so to bravely correct declarations. Abingdon Cricket Club shewed too little enterprise with their bowling to get us out, we scored tantalizingly few runs against a Radley side that proved vulnerable, and we failed dismally and inexplicably at Letcombe Regis in a match against Wantage that was played almost wholly in drizzle. In tremendous heat, we did well to avoid defeat by a strong Shiplake team. The High Wycombe match was last year's in reverse: lack of enterprise to support Gunaratnam in the last hour cost us victory. The Bloxham game was the best of the term, for Bloxham responded admirably to the challenge set by Sheldon and Taylor (47) and the game swung in our favour only in the last few overs. The O.A. match was remarkable for Sheldon's century (completed with his fifth six, after eighteen consecutive singles) and Morden's hit through the Library window. The O.A.'s failed to put away some wild opening bowling and so were never up with the clock, despite James Cox's second big score in successive years.

The fielding was quite good and did not go to pieces in the excessive heat in which we toiled on several occasions. Taylor and Young would look good in any company and held some splendid catches. Morden had an excellent season behind the stumps.

The bowling was much better than last year's. Young, bowling a rather fuller length than a year ago, and Hobbs, who shewed great promise on his better days, tried very hard, with moderate success. Taylor has a pleasant action and looked a good prospect, at medium pace. Gunaratnam, Driver and Regan all picked up a fair number of wickets, without ever dominating the batsmen.

The batting ranged from very impressive to strangely fragile. Although only 61 of his 364 runs came from the middle eight matches, Sheldon's manner of starting and finishing the season won him high praise. His was a refreshingly uninhibited approach to opening the innings. Driver, happily fit again, played some lovely strokes, but without a big score. Gunaratnam had two big innings and, with his extra-cover drives, played some of the best shots seen all season. Burles, Franklin and Taylor all had some good days. Taylor will be good when he learns how to play slow bowling.

Finally, a word of thanks to J. B. F. Jones and his deputies for scoring.

The team was: R. Gunaratnam (Captain), B. W., Burles, D. J. G. Driver, N. F. K. Franklin, M. Hitchcock, S. J. Hobbs, S. W. Morden, R. J. Regan, C. R. Sheldon, M. R. P. Taylor and A. M. J. Young. A. R. A. Johnson played six times, before his promotion to the 1st XI. H.T.R.

RESULTS

Pangbourne College. 1st May (H). Drawn.
 Abingdon 152 for 4 dec.; Pangbourne 90 for 7.
 St. Bartholomew's, Newbury 5th May (H). Won by 22 runs.
 Abingdon 160 for 9 dec.; Newbury 138.
 Brentwood School. 8th May (A). Lost by 157 runs.
 Brentwood 200 for 8 dec.; Abingdon 43.
 Oratory School. 12th May (A). Won by 66 runs.
 Abingdon 140 for 5 dec. (Gunaratnam 75 not out); Oratory 74 (Gunaratnam 5 for 19).
 Berkhamsted School 22nd May (A). Lost by four wickets.
 Abingdon 119 for 6 dec.; Berkhamsted 120 for 6.
 Leighton Park School 1st XI. 26th May (A). Lost by seven wickets.
 Abingdon 142 for 9 dec. (Johnson 58); Leighton Park 143 for 3.
 Abingdon Cricket Club. 5th June (H). Drawn.
 Abingdon C.C. 158 for 8 dec.; Abingdon 91 for 6.
 Radley College. 12th June (H). Lost by four wickets.
 Abingdon 93; Radley 95 for 6.
 King Alfred's School, Wantage, 1st XI. 16th June (A). Lost by 89 runs.
 Wantage 134 for 4 dec.; Abingdon 45.
 Shiplake College 1st XI. 26th June (A). Drawn.
 Shiplake 184 for 8 dec.; Abingdon 76 for 8.
 Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. 3rd July (H). Drawn.
 High Wycombe 144 for 8 dec.; Abingdon 123 for 5 (Gunaratnam 60).
 Bloxham School. 7th July (H). Drawn.
 Abingdon 192 for 6 dec. (Sheldon 88 not out); Bloxham 166 for 8.
 Old Abingdonians 17th July (H). Drawn.
 Abingdon 222 for 7 dec. (Sheldon 112); O.A.s 159 for 7 (J. L. Cox 60).

THIRD ELEVEN

The third eleven, despite playing all its matches away (the only home match, against Pangbourne was, incredibly, rained off!), had a very good season's cricket. The fact that the team had so many regular players undoubtedly contributed to this, and there was much more of esprit than last year.

Holder was an enthusiastic (and wily) captain, and batted well on occasions. The most successful batsman, however, was Rimmer, with an average of 41 in six innings (once not out) — a good result by any standards — and there were also good innings from Holder (34 not out), Jones-Walters (27, 23 & 33) and Baker (30 & 29) while several others made useful contributions. Of the bowlers, Allen and Henshaw both bowled well, the latter without the success he deserved, Oakden and Crooks both took some useful wickets, and Rimmer on his day could be devastating (4 for 20 v. Carmel, 3 for 8 v Oratory) but it was Phillips who really did the damage with a total of 22 wickets at a cost of 5.7 runs each. The fielding was keen, though there were lapses, and the wicket was kept with considerable aplomb by Jones-Walters (& occasionally his deputy Robinson).

Of several good matches, the two drawn games were perhaps the most exciting. Radley finished a race against the clock only five runs short, while at Douai, after being 4 wickets down for only 18 runs, we got within ten runs of their total.



The team was usually selected from: Holder (Capt.) Allen R, Baker, Benjamin, Crooks, Eccles, Henshaw, Jones-Walters, Oakden, Rimmer, Robinson D. & Phillips D.

Also played — McCreery (twice) Cowlett, Hillary, Payling and Simpson.

The scorer was usually Neville, to whom we are most grateful.

L.C.J.G.

RESULTS

- v Carmel College (A). Won by four wickets
Carmel 86 Abingdon 89 for 6.
- v St. Edwards (A). Lost by 4 wickets.
Abingdon 114 for 9 dec.
St. Edwards 117 for 6
- v Brentwood (A). Won by 2 wickets
Brentwood 111 Abingdon 115 for 8
- v Oratory (A). Won by 8 wickets
Oratory 73 Abingdon 74 for 2
- v Douai (A). Drawn
Douai 155 for 8 dec.
Abingdon 145 for 7 (Rimmer 73)
- v Cokethorpe 1st XI Lost.
Cokethorpe 157 for 5 dec.
Abingdon 77.
- v Radley (A). Drawn.
Abingdon 151 for 8 dec.
Radley 146 for 7

JUNIOR COLTS XI

On the early results of this side, I felt that we had the makings of a very strong XI. While results were good, however, they were not as convincing as I had hoped. The reason for this was the injuries

which prevented both opening bowlers, Mike Hurry and Graham Halsey, from bowling during the second half of the season. This left a large gap, which was partly filled by Martin Clarke, bowling his new style of seamers off a longer run-up. Martyn was very dependable, but, on his own, lacked penetration. Much as we searched for a new Jeff Thompson he was nowhere to be found, although Gareth Hoskin might claim otherwise! The majority of the bowling was done by Bruce Gow, and, reluctantly for both player and captain, Tim Clift. Both bowled extremely well on occasions. The rest of the bowling was done by occasional bowlers who would, with the exception of Ian Sargeant, I am sure prefer to remain nameless.

While bowling sides out was a great problem, scoring runs was not. Graham Halsey, averaging 39.3 for the season, and Tim Clift, were our most consistent batsmen, and were well supported by Alan Thomas, Mike Hurry, Nigel Marsh and Alastair Robertson. The other players, without exception, each made at least one very useful contribution.

The fielding was of varying standards; on its day it could be very good, yet many catches were dropped particularly off the spinners. Alan Thomas was a very competent wicket-keeper, making some fine stumpings.

My thanks go to Mr. Drummond-Hay and Mr. Alton for improving all aspects of our cricket: to all players, and scorers, and also to Tim Clift, who was a helpful Vice-Captain.

Nigel Marsh (4)

The following played for the XI:

N. Marsh (Capt.), T. Clift (Vice-Capt.), A. Thomas, G. Halsey, P. Littlewood, M. Nelson, M. Hurry, A. Robertson, M. Clarke, B. Gow, I. Sergeant, J. Westmore, S. Napier-Munn, G. Hoskin, A. Dibble, M. Dacre, C. Hennah, S. Farrant.

RESULTS

Pangbourne College	Abingdon 166-5 dec. (Thomas 72) Pangbourne 94 (Hurry 5-13) Won by 72 runs.
St. Edward's School	St. Edward's 144 (Hurry 4-26) Abingdon 70-7 Drawn
Douai School	Abingdon 151-3 dec. (Clift 57 not. Marsh 40) Douai 103-4 Drawn
Oratory School	Oratory 68 (Clift 5-44, Hurry 3-14) Abingdon 71-3 Won by 7 wickets
Berkhampstead School	Abingdon 203-3 dec. (Thomas 47, Clift 47) Berkhampstead 132-9 Drawn
Bearwood	Abingdon 146-7 dec. (Marsh 45) Bearwood 121 (Gow 3-23, Halsey 3-29) Won by 25 runs.
Magdalen College School	Abingdon 158-3 dec. (Clift 58 not. Halsey 46) Magdalen College School 126-5 Drawn
Radley College	Abingdon 152-8 (Clift 62) Radley 112-4 Drawn
R. G. S. High Wycombe	R. G. S. 145 (Clarke 5-51, Gow 4-52) Abingdon 88-8 Drawn
Bloxham School	Bloxham 121 (Gow 8-64) Abingdon 54 Lost by 67 runs.

JUNIORS 1976

A summer of glorious weather, an unbeaten record, a place in the Final of the Esso Cup. It all adds up to a very successful and happy season, and one of high promise for the future. The team was much more successful than I had expected at the beginning of the season — there were no obvious match-winners, and the batting in particular looked very fragile, but they succeeded largely due to good teamwork and a refusal to give up even in the most unpromising circumstances. To come back from a nearly disastrous 59 all out to beat Bloxham by 26 runs was a very worthy feat indeed. In this match Paterson took 8 wickets for 23, backed up by some admirable fielding. Similar recoveries were staged against Oxford School, High Wycombe and even Banbury, (which on paper looks so one-sided). In this last match, an Esso overs match, we were behind the clock at 59 for 4 when Kingston joined Lanham. These two then put on 141 in a record unbroken stand, at more than 6 runs an over. The innings closed at 200 for 4, which as far as anyone can tell is a record for this level. (These were the highlights of the season, but there were plenty of very enjoyable individual performances which had less dramatic results.)

Among the batsmen, Patchett was by far the most consistent, scoring 330 runs in the season. He has an excellent eye and temperament, but gets into trouble against slow bowlers because he won't move his feet. Willett, Lanham, Tidmarsh and Kingston all looked promising, and had moments of success, but none was consistent enough to give the side a feeling of real solidity in the batting. The bowling was another story. For the first time for several years we had no bowler of real pace who could terrify some of our opponents out, but on the other hand we could call on a very well-balanced and varied attack, adaptable to almost any conditions. By the end of the season we had found three good medium-paced bowlers in Black, Mellor and Radford-Smith, three spinners in Kingston (orthodox off-spin), Lanham (leg-break) and Game (left-arm off-break). We also had Paterson, who was capable of bowling left-arm pace or spin with equal effectiveness. Towards the end of the season, when our batsmen were perhaps getting a little stale, we demonstrated several times over that a good bowling side will win matches, even when the batting has failed.

Our fielding, on the other hand, was very patchy, sometimes awful. We paid the penalty of some very sloppy fielding against Magdalen and Radley, when dropped catches allowed our opponents to build up far higher scores than they should. We finished the season with much greater confidence, and with a better balanced attack than we had when we first played Radley.

My thanks to Roderick Benjamin for his captaincy, which was thoughtful and intelligent. He handled his bowlers exceptionally well, and set an excellent example in the field. One catch in particular his solar plexus and I will remember for a long time — as will anyone else who saw it. I should also like to thank Jon Gabitass, who was of inestimable help, and brought a good deal of sound knowledge and enthusiasm to bear on the boys he coached, and finally, as always, and with as much sincerity as ever, the Rev. Hugh Pickles, who has been of such help to us over the years, and will, I hope continue to be for as many more as he wishes.

D.C.T.

RESULTS

- v Pangbourne *Won* by 62 runs
Ab. 149-5 dec. (Patchett 79 not) Pangbourne 87 (Black 4-42)
- v St. Edwards *Drawn*
Ab 127-9 dec (Mellor 26 not) St. E. 68-7 (Game 4-21)
- v Douai *Won* by 93 runs
Ab 167-5 dec (Willett 39, Patchett 44)
Douai 74 (Game 4-11)
- v Oratory *Won* by 7 wkts
Or. 65 (Black 5-5, Paterson 4-28) Ab 69-3
- v Gillott's *Won* by 8 wkts
Gill. 74-5 Ab. 76-2 (Tidmarsh 34 not)
- v Bearwood *Won* by 7 wkts
Brwd. 31. Ab. 34-3
- v Magdalen CS *Drawn*
Ab 127-7 dec. (Patchett 31) MCS 101-5
- v Radley *Drawn*
Radley 160-9 dec (Black 4-56) Ab. 96-8
- v Oxford Schl. *Won* by 72 runs
Ab. 115 (Patchett 33) Oxfd 43 (Paterson 4-8)
- v RGS High Wycombe *Won* by 4 runs
Ab 81. RGS 77 (Mellor 4-8)

- v Bloxham Won by 26 runs
Ab 59. Bloxham 33 (Paterson 8-23)
- v Banbury Won by 112 runs
Ab 200-4 (Kingston 70 not, Lanham 63 not)
Banbury 88 (Black 3-13, Game 3-3)

MINORS

This proved a fairly successful season, in which the two defeats were in matches in which we deliberately took on opposition that was fairly certain to be too strong for us: under-14s from Radley, and a team drawn from all the Middle Schools of Oxford. We also deserved to lose against Cothill, when we collapsed after a heavy shower and were lucky to hang on for a rather shameful draw. The best match was probably that against High Wycombe RGS: this was an excitingly close win against a rather good team. Against the weaker teams, our batting could be spectacular, but too many players tried to treat good bowling in the same way as bad, and as a result good starts were unnecessarily wasted by careless middle-order batting.

Tim Haworth made a good Captain, thoughtful and decisive, and set the tone for an efficient fielding side by some remarkable close catches; his adviser, Andrew Newman, was an outstanding wicket-keeper and very promising opener although he never managed to build a big innings this year. Probably the best all-round 'class' cricketer was Simon Minter who worked hard to improve his game; a very correct batsman, he was also a distinctly fast and accurate bowler, in spite of his comparatively small build. The only other bowler of quality and penetration was Gareth Harper, and he must learn to pitch the ball up more consistently. Caps were awarded to these four, and also to Ian Graham, who developed into a cool and fast-scoring opener, and Jonathan Driver, who rarely failed with the bat but found run-scoring a slow and difficult business.

The remainder played their part on occasion, notably Paul Capelin in an uncharacteristic innings at Cothill, and Christopher Newmark, who should score plenty of runs next year after such a sound start. Otherwise this was rather a lean year; a few players in the Second Team showed touches of promise, but never 'came off' in matches.

1st XI: T. J. C. Haworth (Capt.), A. C. Newman, S. J. Minter, I. C. Graham, G. D. Harper, J. H. G. Driver, C. C. Newmark, P. A. Capelin, R. J. Adair, D. K. Robinson, A. C. Mellor.

2nd XI: A. T. Black, P. C. Boobbyer, N. A. L. Ward, R. D. Greenhalgh, M. J. Derry, R. M. Hawes, R. James, N. Roberts, J. J. Austin, J. H. Mercer, T. M. Spittles.

M.W.

RESULTS

1st Team Matches:

- Radley Yearlings 3rd. XI (A). Won by 48 runs.
Abingdon 125 for 7 dec. (Haworth 52+, Minter 32); Radley 77 (Harper 3-11)
- Cothill House School (A). Drawn
Cothill 124 (Harper 4-12, Minter 3-12); Abingdon 52 for 9 (Capelin 23)
- Radley Yearlings 2nd XI. (A) Lost by 83 runs.
Radley 134 for 7 dec. (Minter 4-22); Abingdon 51.

- New College School (H). Drawn.
Abingdon 114 (Graham 25, Minter 25, Adair 23); New College 79 for 7 (Harper 3-16)
- Magdalen College School (H). Won by 120 runs.
Abingdon 156 for 6 dec. (Graham 50+, Haworth 50+); Magdalen 36 (Harper 4-10)
- Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (H). Won by 7 runs.
Abingdon 77. High Wycombe 70 (Harper 4-24)
- Bearwood College (A). Won by 111 runs.
Abingdon 141 for 5 dec. (Driver 52+); Bearwood 30 (Minter 4-8, Driver 4-14)
- Combined Oxford Schools XI (H). Lost by 5 wickets.
Abingdon 87 (Graham 38, Driver 26); Oxford Schools 88 for 5.

Other Matches

- Oratory School (H). Won by 6 runs
Abingdon 'A' XI 60; Oratory 1st XI 54 (Robinson 3-9)
- Millbrook House School (H). Lost by 25 runs.
Millbrook House 124 (Minter 4-33, Mellor 3-13); Abingdon 'A' XI 99 (Minter 30)
- Josca's School (H). Lost by 8 wickets.
Abingdon 2nd XI 68; Josca's 1st XI 70 for 2.
- Oratory School (A). Lost by 7 wickets (20-over match)
Abingdon 2nd XI 66 for 4 (Robinson 26+); Oratory 1st XI 67 for 3.
- Bearwood College (A). Drawn.
Bearwood 2nd XI 105 (MacIntyre 3-13); Abingdon 3rd XI 71 for 6.
- John Mason School (H). Lost by 15 runs (20-over match)
John Mason 1st XI 85 for 9 (Ward 3-4); Abingdon 2nd XI 70 for 9 (Derry 21)
- Three first-form teams were selected to play against John Mason School (tying one and losing the other) and Dunmore P. S. (abandoned because of rain).

EXCURSIONS

POMPEII 77

Buried amongst the high class shops and airline offices of Piccadilly is the Royal Academy of Art, where a group of 50 boys and 4 masters from the second and third forms waited to view the Pompeii A.D. 79 Exhibition . . .

"We were so eager to depart from Abingdon that we found ourselves on a coach destined for Greenwich. Disaster was averted, however, and the rest of the trip proved uneventful. The coach was eventually parked in New Bond St., where a number of us appeared to be more interested in the many fast and luxurious cars parked there than in reaching the Royal Academy.

"After a twenty-minute queue, we hurried into the exhibition, looking longingly at the splendid guides for sale at £2. The Exhibition was excellent, with many statues, vases, friezes and models. The different rooms covered many aspects, including the eruption, the gardens, homes and religion. The actual models drew large crowds, for they were very accurate, and those of the town and of typical villas gave us an insight into everyday life in Pompeii.

"Reluctantly we trudged back to the coach, and after a quick cold lunch in Regent's Park (well, Regent's Car Park) we visited the British Museum. This was packed with interesting sights, but some



of us found it all a little tedious and drifted across to the neighbouring Joke Shop. We had a rainy return journey, but found plenty of time to discuss a worthwhile and very interesting trip."

Paul Meadows (2B)

RAILWAY SOCIETY MAKES TRACKS

At some unearthly hour in the morning, the members of the Society, including Mr. Parker, met outside Didcot main-line station, for today was the day, after weeks of planning, that the Abingdon School Railway Society made steam for London.

The journey to the Capital was reasonably uneventful and slow, but at last we arrived at Paddington Station, and then by Underground to the first of the two Eastern Region's depots to be visited, Finsbury Park. Finsbury Park is where most of the main line locomotives from King's Cross Station are stabled, before their next duty. It took about half an hour to look around the depot.

The Foreman very kindly let us into the cab of the Deltic, which most of us found very interesting because the Deltics are the mainstay of the Eastern Region's passenger services.

After leaving Finsbury Park we made our way across London by underground and arrived at the next depot on the itinerary — Stratford. Stratford

depot is the biggest in London. It took one and a half hours to go through all the various lifting shops and engine sheds but it was the highlight of the day; in fact we saw almost one-hundred locomotives and about the same number of Diesel-units, for local travel. The afternoon was spent at King's Cross Station and a short time at St. Pancras — across the road from King's Cross. St. Pancras Station has to be seen to be believed. It is not like a normal station, more like a castle or elaborate manor house, with towers and great arches all around the main buildings.

We all returned to Paddington by underground again and boarded a High Speed Train for our return journey. These trains, as the name implies, are very fast, holding the record for the fastest diesel train. The fleet of HSTs is now running between London and Swansea, but by the turn of the century HSTs will probably be a very common sight all over Britain.

The HST train itself is very smooth and very comfortable. One feature, unique to this train, is automatic internal doors which are a very good idea but how long the doors will last, I am a little sceptical about, especially if members of railway societies keep testing them!

With a proposed trip to Liverpool or Crewe, 1977 promises to be a very exciting year.

Jonathan Marshall (3T)

FOURTH FORM TRIP TO THE '1776' EXHIBITION

at Greenwich, London — Monday, 12th July, 1976

"Are you going to the Boston Tea Party" are the immortal words of The Alex Harvey Band's famous single, which was riding high in the charts, when we (the whole of the fourth form and some sixth formers, accompanied by the Headmaster, Mr. and Mrs. Hillary, Mr. Payne and Mr. Hammond) went on the trip — and we all could have answered, "No, we're going to the '1776' Exhibition to find out about the Boston Tea Party", and we did find out a great deal. In 1776, tea cost a fantastic price; 12/6d a pound, which was quite a surprise to many boys. We arrived at Greenwich at 1.15 p.m. in three coaches after a very tiring journey because of the London traffic. It was a very hot and beautiful day. An indication of how hot it was: the Headmaster actually took his jacket off. We all wondered what Mr. Hammond had in his briefcase, and we were informed that it contained a bottle of Rose's Lime Juice Cordial.

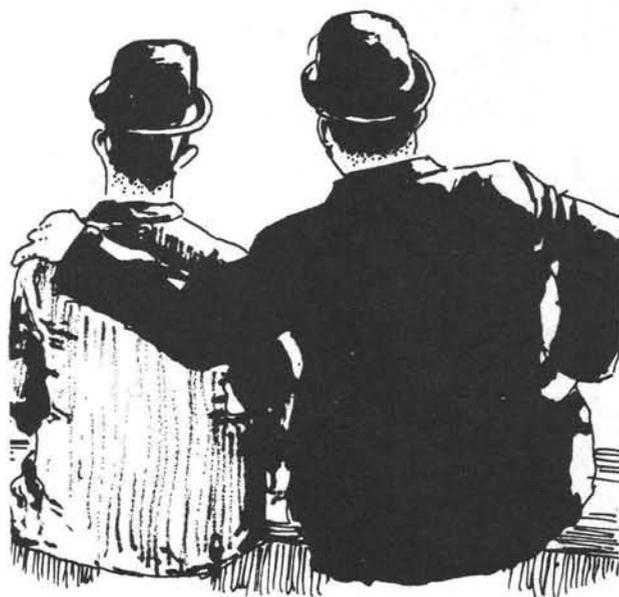
The coaches dropped us off just outside the Exhibition, but before entering there were picnics to be eaten and we were all very hungry. Greenwich Park with its dominating observatory was an ideal site, and we all dispersed throughout the park. When it was 2.00 p.m. it was time to gather together and to make our way to the exhibition building, (the very fine Greenwich Palace built by Christopher Wren at the command of James II) which we duly did. Entering the exhibition was quite an event, but after depositing our bags at the entrance, we were soon all herded together into what looked like cattle pens.

Fortunately, we were not all sold, but eventually let out in single file to trapse round the exhibition at what ever pace the individual fancied. We were not the only people around, for the place was packed, so that if one became bored with the exhibits there were plenty of people to look at. But the exhibition could not be boring for anyone, because there was so much, and it was all so well arranged and planned. There were pictures, weapons, clothes, maps and a thousand and one other things to scrutinize so that one could not hope to see everything but pick and choose. The portraits were magnificent as if they had been painted yesterday, and they could have warranted an exhibition on their own. About one and a half hours was the time we had to explore the exhibition, and though it was not enough time to see half properly, we were tired after that and glad to be in the fresh air, which was really no less hot.

By 4.00 p.m. we were off heading back to Abingdon. Fortunately the weather was cooling down and so the trip back was much more enjoyable. Back by 6.15 p.m., tired but fulfilled, having had a very hot but enjoyable day.

David Stephenson (VI)

DRAMA



"WAITING FOR GODOT"

in the Unicorn

A cynic would have said that Godot needed no acting; for the play was so brilliantly cast that especially Jonathan Hamberger and Jim Palmer slipped very easily from their everyday clothes into battered bowler hats as Vladimir and Estragon. Nevertheless, the fluency of the production represented a lot of effort and no small amount of talent for by Act II a play which easily becomes either a philosophical treatise or a meaningless

collection of words, had really come alive. Perhaps we cried more than we laughed — but never mind since even eminent literary critics are undecided as to which we should do.

Onto the stage on which Jonathan was delivering his philosophical ramblings challenged by Jim Palmer with a characteristic inability to understand the incomprehensible burst Pozzo and Lucky — perhaps a little more dramatically than Beckett had intended but nevertheless to good effect. Noah Franklin played the servile Lucky well and controlled his three pages of burred 'thinking' admirably in the face of audience laughter. Pozzo played by Guy McCreery displayed perhaps the best acting in the play. He was a superbly convincing tyrant, sometimes cruel and sometimes lovable, and later, in difficult contrasts, a very pathetic blind beggar. The Boy, Dan Butler, was played very well indeed. He gave his few lines meaning and real emphasis without that ghastly "this-is-it-I've-got-to-make-something-of-it" feeling with which small part actors sometimes try to make an impression.

The actors and the great labours of the directors — Barry Taylor and Krysia Sobierajska — made this performance a very good attempt at a tricky play in a theatre which gave them no help. The Unicorn, whose intimacy is often a blessing, was not really suited to a rather bleak play which is almost nihilistic in parts. Nevertheless, it helped to emphasise the play's humanity and provided, in the long barn, opportunity for more imaginative refreshments than usual. Effective lighting helped too, even though the moon rose at a rate of which astronomical purists would not approve.

Martin Spoor (VIH)

Waiting for

WAITING FOR GODOT

Monday

Dress Rehearsal. Only one day to go. Existence seems poignantly anguished, not so much because of vast indifference of the universe, but because we do not seem to be able to remember our lines

Tortured actor contorts face, desperately trying to recall elusive line. Two producers sit in front row, amid clouds of fury. As smoke around them clears, actor grows conscious of hard glare; thus inspired, temporarily forgotten line springs to lips:

'You see, my memory, it's defective!'

Stony faces of producers crack up in face of such bitter irony.

Tuesday

First performance got through in one piece, even if cues not too good. Things go almost faultlessly until Pozzo and Lucky come on — or, rather, don't! Estragon gives

cue for their entrance, and nothing happens. Long pause. We are left on stage, lingering "alone, once more, in the midst of nothingness" with nothing to say, nothing to do and nowhere to go

Wednesday

Slink into school, hoping yesterday's make-up will prove today's disguise. Suffer ordeal valiantly defending Beckett in front of bewildered Fourth-form. Isn't it all about the impossibility of human understanding?

Performance tonight better, but play unnaturally prolonged for several minutes after Estragon fumbles with belt that won't unknot practise ad libbing.

Thursday

Experience new levels of exhaustion **Godot** is harrowing and while it's in your mind it doesn't allow for trivial things like sleep. Tonight, I begin to drop off . . . well, never liked first act anyway. Have huge cup of coffee in interval poured down my throat. Have large jug of water poured down my back. Play at least finished with a bit more gusto!

Jon Hamberger (Vladimir) (VI)

THE LITTLE PRINCE

in the Court Room, Michaelmas Term

Early in December, the Second Form gave two unforgettable performances of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's 'The Little Prince', dramatised specially for them by Graham Barrett. In many reviews of Second Form's plays, 'unforgettable' might well be taken as an indication that whilst both cast and audience enjoyed themselves greatly, what was performed on stage bore very little relationship to what was printed in the script! This was certainly not the case here, however. I found the play most convincingly acted and produced, conveying both the humour and the eventual tragedy of the piece admirably.

The plot is very simple yet nevertheless effective. A Little Prince (Stephen Russell) from another planet visits Earth, and its inhabitants. It is this wide variation in characters that presents both the performers and the producer with the greatest problem. For Second Formers are required to portray both the innocence of the Prince and some of his friends, and the worldliness of the adults upon Earth. However, I felt this was done very successfully. The many adults that the Prince visited, from the arrogant 'King' (Nicholas Rawlinson), who was prepared to demonstrate his absolute power by ordering a sunset at twenty to eight that evening, to the 'Business Man' (Hugh Jones) obsessed with the calculation of his wealth, were portrayed very convincingly. One remembers vividly Jonathan Prest's 'Conceited Man', bowing

continually to a recording of applause, and the alarmingly realistic 'Tippler' of James Cox! But the tears shed by the audience at the death of The Little Prince provided Stephen Russell with his greatest tribute; his acting was so convincing and endearing that it came as no surprise to hear the sound of crying from some of the younger members of the audience.

The many scene changes necessitated by a play which is essentially episodic in nature were managed admirably by an extremely efficient set of stage hands, to the accompaniment of drum solos by David Blackburn. I felt, however, that it would have been better to make these scene changes in silence, for several reasons. I would have liked to have used the time to reflect on the scene that had just finished, and the silence would have provided a welcome contrast. I felt too, that in a play which used simple but excellent scenery very effectively, the drum was an intrusion. It introduced a degree of sophistication in a play and a setting which were essentially and beautifully unsophisticated. The solos were very well executed however, and this can be no more than a quibble.

A great deal of the credit for these two very enjoyable performances must go to the producer, Graham Barrett. It can be no easy task to mould a group of Second Formers with very little dramatic experience into the effective instrument that we witnessed during these performances. Yet Graham Barrett had not only done this, but had obviously conveyed the spirit of the play so well to the cast, that they had no difficulty in communicating it to the audience. The obvious enthusiasm of everyone who took part was gratifying to see, and all are to be congratulated on a memorable production!

Jeremy Breckon (VI)

"Colonel Massey (Jonathan Holt) with his firm voice and demeanour . . . provided a marked contrast with King Charles, whose chin remained superbly raised throughout, and the amusing lack of decision and silliness (of his generals)"

Everyone "sang with gusto . . . but the clarity of words and precision of pitch were not always as they should have been, particularly in the choral sections, and, whereas jubilation and confidence were always finely expressed, there were hardly any sense of the disappointment and shattered hope that the Royalists must have felt on their defeat"

"Paul Willett was a perfect drummer boy, with a particularly fine singing voice"

"Full credit to the Orchestra, hidden discreetly throughout the performance and revealed only at the end"



ALL THE KING'S MEN

in the Court room, Lent Term

In early February the Headmaster and Mr. Swan produced **All The King's Men** in the Court Room. The comments that follow were given on-the-spot by members of the audience leaving after the show:

"Most enjoyable . . . the enthusiasm and confidence of all gave it a wonderful flavour"

"The use made of the Court Room was most original. Instead of confining the action to the pokey stage, the confrontation was highlighted by allowing the Parliamentarians and Royalists to glower at one another through the audience"

"Toby Screech had great presence . . . he coped well with the tricky intonation in the songs of the ambitious scholar, Dr. Chillingworth . . . although he had some difficulty reaching the higher notes"

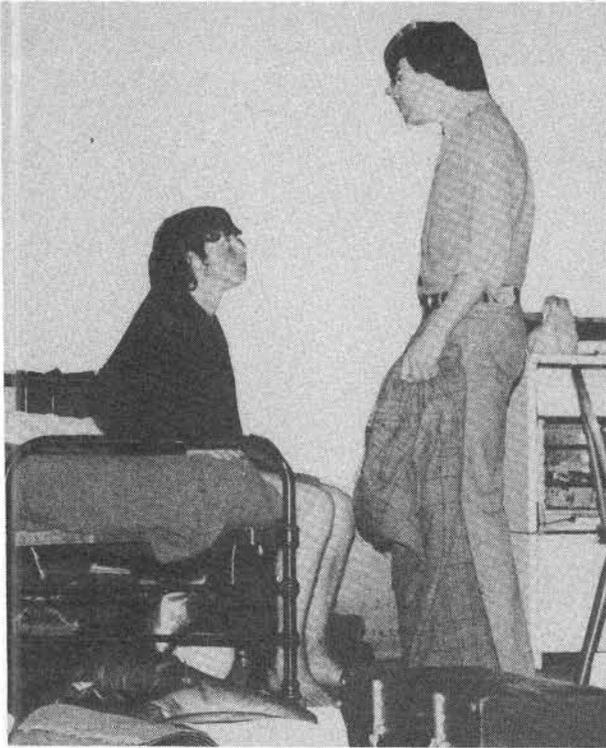
"Paul Meadows was extremely funny as Henrietta Maria, lording it over both husband and court, and never losing his (her) stage presence for a minute"

THE CARETAKER

(in the Unicorn)

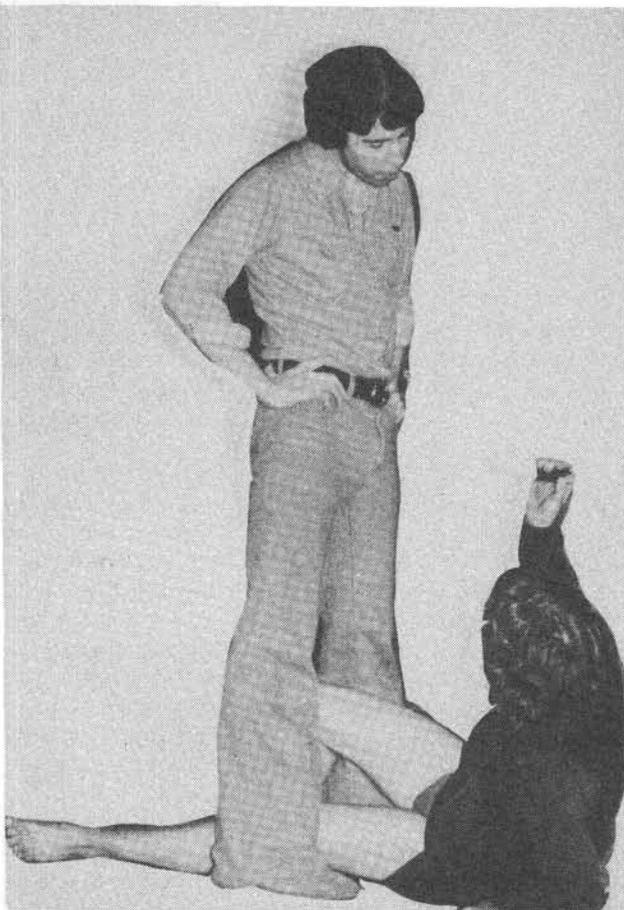
This was perhaps the most professional school production I have ever known, with every move well rehearsed and not a trace of the uncertainty over lines that so often mars otherwise admirable school performances.

Krysia Sobierajska and Barry Taylor, the producers, evidently have a talent for spotting and developing untried actors of quality, and 'The Caretaker' saw the remarkable stage performance of Mark Chapman in the difficult lead role of Davies, the tramp. The success of the play hangs largely on the portrayal of this character, and Mark Chapman demonstrated his acting ability, immersing himself in the part, acting with every limb down to his tongue, and maintaining his accent throughout. He began to seem almost typecast, an achievement that anyone who knows the play will appreciate. I criticise him only for not taking on the mannerisms of an old man, as he should: a near-impossible task for a fifteen-year-old actor, but one to which he might have attended more closely.



The part of Mick was perfectly realized by Guy McCreery, who slipped into character with impressive ease, quite naturally, and, as a result, was totally convincing.

Jonathan Hamberger was more obviously thinking about his acting, but managed very well as the uncertain, unstable and unproductive Aston (characteristics which are quite foreign to him),



and was deservedly much praised for his performance. His monologue at the end of Act Two held everybody's attention and closed the Act most effectively, although I feel that more pathos might have been drawn from it.

The back-stage crew performed admirably, providing all of Pinter's awkward props as well as a few additions of their, or the producers', own invention, and Mike Hyman and John Cooper managed the lighting with customary expertise, the inconspicuous fade-out during Aston's monologue being particularly noteworthy.

I have heard nothing but praise for this production from all who have spoken to me about it, and one can only look forward to any future production by the same team.

Noah Franklin (VI)



ADMIRABLE FOOLING

Twelfth Night in the Unicorn

*In March the John Roysse Players staged a joint production with St. Helen's of **Twelfth Night in the Unicorn**. The play is being studied by the fourth form presently for 'O' level, and in the following review two boys in the fourth comment on the production:*

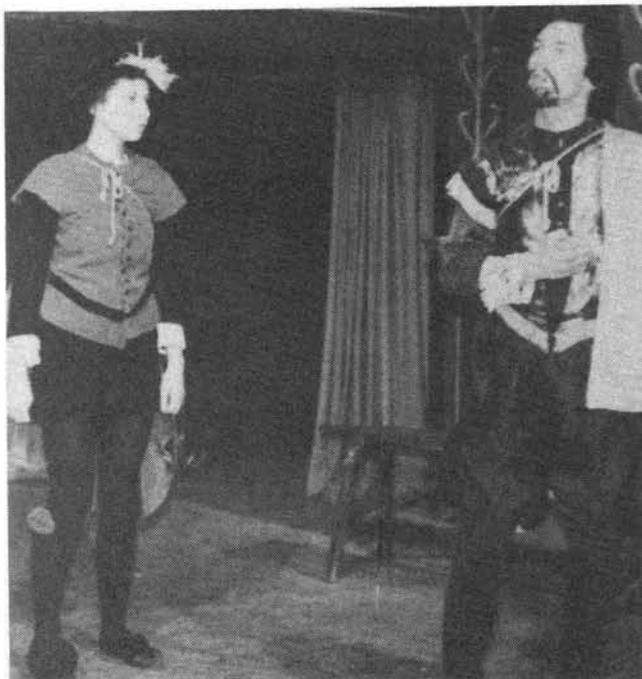
One of the most demanding parts is undoubtedly Viola's. Caroline Shuttleworth developed the puzzled states of feeling that exist in her awkward relationships with Orsino and Olivia very subtly. She gave a convincing idea of being caught in a 'prison' of disguise. Olivia's very rapid attraction to Viola's youth, meanwhile, led us to see how shallow was the regime of mourning self-imposed earlier, and suggested in her humourless first dismissal of Feste. Tracy Holder's finely played

capriciousness was reflected in the general changing of moods in Olivia's court. This was really due to the Toby-Andrew-Maria-Fabian group who were absolutely superb. Brian Shelley as Sir Toby used the whole stage to project the pathetic, drunken English knight, both in voice and movement. Leaping from post to post in the box-tree scene, including perfectly believable expressions of fury at Malvolio, or singing so memorably in the catches (II. iii) or relishing his scheme to frighten both Andrew and Viola in the swordfight, he gave a perfectly accomplished performance. Vicky Allison was so natural in her speech as Maria, and powerfully suggested the mischievous character that erupted when her mistress was offstage. Paul Younge as Sir Andrew Aguecheek was again excellent. Everything he said and did was in the manner of a pathetic fool, and after all his witless dependence on Sir Toby, his bewildered crawling after him in Act V was genuinely moving. As the unfortunate Malvolio, Noah Franklin gave a really superb portrait of a most interesting character. His deep, monotone voice blended excellently with his severe, rich black-velvet costume, but was subtly altered for the scene where he found the letter, revealing in its excitedness his extreme conceit. The prison scene was moving, conveying Malvolio's injured dignity well, and with a harsh atmosphere being suggested by the dim passage of barred light thrown across stage, as from a high window.

While on the subject of lighting, I must say how good the green, tree-like effect was in the box-tree scene, and how clever was the use of the balcony. On the whole, the lighting was suitably unobtrusive and used for the correct purpose — conveying the general mood and meaning of the play. Costume similarly helped with the creating of atmospheres. The reds of Orsino's court turned out very well, looking richly decorative, but the lavish purples of Olivia's court were perhaps a shade too bright and flattering.

Alistair Halliday's elegantly bearded Orsino was impressive, especially in the way he carried his head — suggesting his nobility and aloofness. His extravagant love-poetry was well spoken (although in I.i. the music slightly drowned the opening lines) and he always used movement well. And Donald Greig's skilful interpretation of Feste, a most complex character, was very interesting — cleverly linking the various scenes of the play. His hatred of Malvolio was convincing, and contrasted his witty arguing with Olivia, and of course his private depression, revealed dramatically in his final song. Donald's mellow voice, with Peter Wakefield's flute in the background, created a spell-binding ending to the production. I enjoyed this performance more than the one in Oxford last year (put on by OUDS) because the interpretation was more balanced, and all in all the hard work that went into it, and the excellent direction of Mrs. Mullard and Mr. Gabitass, resulted in a superb production.

Mark Murray (4R)



This joint production expressed the feeling of the play with great imagination. The setting of the scenes (especially the two courts) used the facilities of the Unicorn Theatre to their maximum effect. The use of the balcony for Orsino showed his aloofness from his servants, even if one or two words were lost, and the use of the recess for Olivia's court suggested her self-imposed separation from the outside world. We also got a good idea of their characters: Orsino could have been a little more passionate but his aristocratic appearance over an abandoned court (with Curio sulking) gave the audience immediate suggestion of his negligence of all but love.

The relationship between Malvolio and Feste is an important but difficult one to perform. However, Malvolio's puritanical image seemed to dominate the court as well as giving Feste cause to conspire against him. Feste admirably fitted the part of the moral, sympathetic and shrewd fool, as well as being able to sing his songs with great feeling.

One part of the play easily taken for granted was the musical side, provided by a trio of violin, cello and flute, with music written in contemporary style by Sarah Burwood-Smith. The music beautifully conveyed the varying moods of the play, and the fact that the consort was in view, clad in costume and actually part of the cast was highly effective.

Sir Toby seemed to draw laughter from the audience whenever he appeared, Andrew also rose to the occasion. The relationship between the two was summed up in the way Sir Andrew chauffeured Toby around in a wheelbarrow. Sometimes, however, some of the many puns and jokes were lost amid the laughter. The balcony, ladder, tree and green lighting depicted a box-tree with great success, and contributed enormously to the pleasure that these scenes gave.

Marcus Willett (4R)

INTERVIEW WITH DAVID CRAWFORD

Martin Spoor interviewed Mr. Crawford to discover his sense of the importance of sport in life:

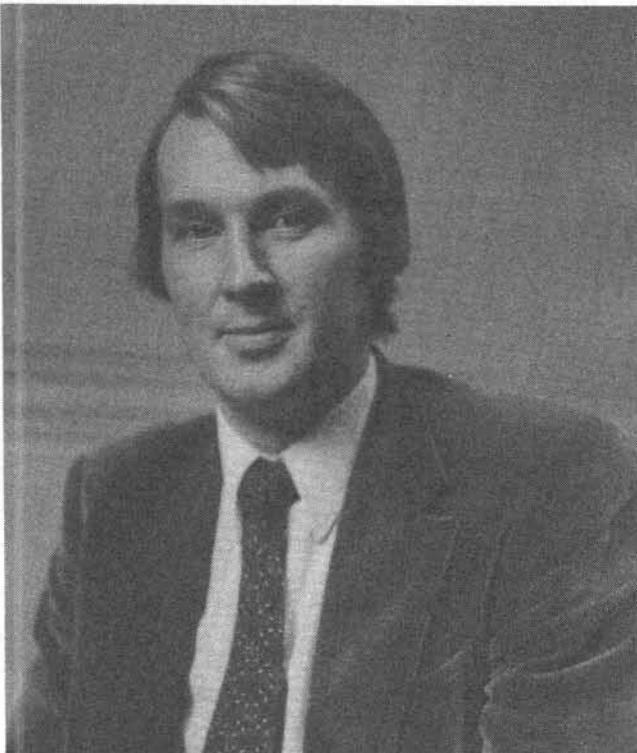
Spoor: *Do you think that sport plays a large enough role in the life of the School?*

DGC: *Well, it's quite a difficult question to answer, but as far as the role of sports in any school is concerned, I think a balanced curriculum is necessary, and sport can have a very direct bearing on the morale and the tone of the school and in that sense it is important. In most schools one finds that the stronger the sport the happier the school is; in this school, I think probably the emphasis is just about right but we could do with more masters who are directly concerned with coaching of sports, because the balance is a little bit lacking at the moment.*

Spoor: *What is your attitude towards boys who find it rather difficult to enjoy games?*

DGC: *Sympathetic. I know that some people don't like games, or physical exercise of any sort, but my job is really to make sure that everybody, certainly during their formative years, undergoes some sort of physical stress, because we are all animals, and a certain degree of exercise is necessary to help to keep the body in trim. If boys aren't encouraged to take some exercise during their formative years then it is unlikely that they would take exercise later on in life.*

Spoor: *Do you think that in general a school should place its emphasis on excellence, or on giving efficient and enjoyable games teaching to everyone?*



DGC: *I think if excellence is pursued, then the less skilful people are keener, and work harder and enjoy their games more. If you just rely on what is called 'enjoyment', and forget about excellence, the enjoyment factor goes down.*

Spoor: *What in your opinion makes a good team?*

DGC: *That is a very pertinent question with the state of the First XV at the moment! The main pre-requisite is the skill level of the boys themselves. A good coach can have a very positive effect upon a team, as can a bad one, but at the end of the day it's the people who are playing in the team that are on the field, and they are the people who are responsible for their actions and their skills are the most important ones.*

Spoor: *Are the games facilities at the School adequate? — I mean allowing for money and what have you, what else would you like to see primarily?*

DGC: *Well, I think the sports facilities are quite good compared with many schools, and they are also quite bad compared with a lot of other schools. The major building that I would like to see, and I know that Mr. Drummond-Hay agrees with this, is a sports hall. That would be a great asset to the P.E. Department and also to the major games. Perhaps particularly to hockey, you can obviously have useful practices in-doors when the fields are unfit. Volleyball, badminton, basketball could be played properly as they can't be played properly at the moment. Boarders would benefit at week-ends; that is the major building I would like to see built. Of course, it would be useful to have Squash Courts.*

Spoor: *Why doesn't the School play soccer?*

DGC: *As far as football versus rugby is concerned, it is a fallacy to believe that soccer would be much more popular than rugby football is at present.*

James the Lions' coach points out, I think very wisely, that to be a good soccer player you have got to have people of about the same height, between say, senior level 5ft. 6in. and roughly 6ft. It doesn't cater for the people who have got two left feet, or rather odd proportions to their bodies, and are perhaps a little uncoordinated. As far as taking part in a game is concerned, I think rugby football is much better from that point of view. More people can be involved, all different body types, and it is interesting that Wheatley School near us is switching at the moment from soccer to rugby, and I think that this is a trend in quite a lot of schools in the country.

Spoor: *Why do we do sports at all?*

DGC: *I think one can look at this in two ways. On a physiological level, young people have bodies which are undergoing rapid change. Games do help, they help*

muscles to develop and to cope with the increase in long bone growth which occurs during adolescence. Exercise patterns do have a very definite effect upon heart development. What type of exercise you take during adolescence will determine whether your heart has a very thick muscular wall or is a relatively large cavity with rather thin muscle around the outside.

The second reason for playing games is that they have a very great therapeutic value. I think you just have to look at the number of people who, say, support soccer on a Saturday afternoon, or take some interest in sport; it clearly does play a large part in the lives of a very great majority of the population, and in schools I think what we probably should be trying to do is to set patterns for later life so that people can carry on taking exercise, enjoying it, and making themselves fitter and better able to fit into community life.

Spoor: *How much do you see your job as like that of an academic teacher?*

DGC: *I think that all teachers have something in common, they are all trying to improve the skills of their pupils, whether it be academic skills or whether it be physical skills, and in that way P.E. is the same, games teaching is the same as an academic subject. But the environment in the physical sense changes far more than for the academic teacher: people are running around, they don't stay still in desks, and I think one needs greater powers of control and perhaps persuasion than one might need in the classroom. You have to try and make things interesting and encourage people to take part rather than just being able to say 'well you've got an exam on this at the end of the year, and your career is going to be affected', so I think in some ways it's more difficult.*

Spoor: *Sociologists like to use the phrase 'Job satisfaction'. What does that mean to you?*

DGC: *Well, I think the job gives one the feeling that you have tried your best to do your job properly to professional standards, and have enjoyed a good relationship with the people you have taught, and I think if that's the case at the end of the day then you certainly do have a lot of satisfaction.*

RUGBY

This has been an extraordinary season. The drought left the grounds rock hard and bare of grass, so much so on War Memorial field, that neither pitch could be played on this term. After the drought came the rains, turning the pitches into a groundsman's nightmare.

Despite having to cancel our fixtures with Berkhamsted, the season soon got into full swing, and only one other junior fixture was lost.

The overall results this year have been poor. None of the senior sides has managed to achieve a 50-50 record, but despite this, a great deal of purposeful and enjoyable rugby has been played.

The Colts were the most successful team, winning all but two of their games, playing bright, attractive rugby. John Madgwick had the rare distinction of playing for the 1st XV on three occasions, adding speed and deception to the threequarter line.

The Minors and Juniors both won rather more than they lost, so the picture at the lower end looks quite promising for the future.

Thanks to the generosity of T.A.S.S. the first game were able to go on tour to Cambridge at half term. Once again this proved to be a first class way of cementing friendships and creating new ones.

Thanks are due to all those who give so freely of their time, but particularly to H.T.R. who has run all the non-team rugby single handed this year. I know that the boys are particularly appreciative of his efforts.

The overall Club record is:

P: 75, W: 27, D: 4, L: 44, P. F. 933, P.A. 1103, % won 36. If we are to improve on this next year, every individual must spend more time practising the basic skills, and trying to improve his tactical understanding of the game.

1st XV

'The primary objective of the game is to WIN, by scoring the greatest number of points that the prevailing conditions will allow.' — E.R.F.U.

Readers of The Daily Telegraph will have noticed that the 1st XV record of:

P. 11, W: 1, D: 0, L: 10, P. F.: 133, P. A.: 245, % won 9, shows that they failed to achieve the primary objective of the game.

Despite these poor results, the side has worked harder than many recent ones, and has ended the season in good spirits, determined to do better next year.

This has been a young side with up to eleven lower sixth formers playing at one time, and so has been short on strength and experience.

Early injuries meant that it was not until after half term that we played the same combination twice running, and so we had little opportunity to settle down into a tactical routine.

None of the key positions were filled by outstanding players who could dominate a game and stamp their authority on it, and we were generally lacking in strength and mobility.

Changing School

Many times
A new boy is shown round the School.
I pass by him looking sideways at him
As he tries to look interested in the Gym.
His suit and uniform strange,
I wonder if he'll be in my form,
What he's like.

But now
I'm shown around.
I try to look interested in the Gym
As boys walk past, looking sideways.
My suit and uniform are strange
And suddenly uncomfortable.
Unfriendly faces stare at me
Wondering what I'm like,
If I'll be in their form.

The new boy —
That's me.

David Anderson (3a)

Forbidden

Rules, I suppose, we have to have.

Don't take car lifts from strangers.
Don't stay up late for TV films.
Don't play cricket near the kitchen windows.
Don't hit your sister or fight indoors.
Don't forget to clean your shoes and teeth.
Don't leave your bedroom in a mess.
Don't change electric plugs.
Don't cross the road to Geoff's.

What is there left to do?

Ben Dennis (1W)

My Resolutions

My resolutions are made
When I do not realise my own weaknesses,
When I gladly accept the challenge of an inspiration
But cannot take the bluntness of reality.
Resolutions
Are my fallible attempts to be perfect,
A pledge of faith to my conscience.

Resolutions never fail me:
It is I who fail the resolutions.

Richard Hawes (3a)

Mirror Mirror on the Wall

As I walk into the Hall of Mirrors
I stop,
And stare.
A long
Droopy face
Gawps back at me.

I move on.
I stop,
And stare.
I laugh
At my chubby image.

The next mirror
Gives me an eerie feeling,
As a thin boy
Stands in front of me,
Gaunt and gangling.
I begin to wonder who I am,
How do I appear to others?
Who am I?

John Persson (3a)

How to be Individual . . .

Commencez votre poème en français,
Dann schreiben Sie etwas auf Deutsch,
Providing your teacher —
For it's his eyes that see you —
Will understand.

You may add some Latin:
Caesar duas legiones ibi reliquit;
Make a reference to 1066,
Or square pi,
Providing your teacher —
For it's his ego
That conflicts with your id —
Will understand.

On mufti day come disguised as
A Frenchman,
A German,
A Classical Scholar,
A Historian,
A Mathematician,
A Psychiatrist . . .
A Poet.
Simpler, direct, and much more neat
Is to be yourself.
Then your teacher —
For it's his eyes that see you —
Will understand.

Gideon Franklin (5B)

A Unique Boarder

I am unique. You can tell as soon as you
Look at me. When I am in the fifth form study

I am the only one out of fourteen with a light
Brown tuck-box, (the second on the left
As you enter) and I am the shortest by two
Whole inches.

I am unique. You can easily spot me. In
The dormitory, mine is the only bed in the
Uniform row of twenty-five with a Clan Cameron
Tartan rug. And when we are all woken up
Simultaneously by the bell at spot on seven
Forty-five, I am the one who lies in bed
A little longer than the rest.

I am unique. I am the only one in the
Fifth form study who cannot stand
Black Sabbath. I am alone in supporting
Southampton Football Club. I do not conform
Completely in a society of conformists.
I am unique.

Simon Scott (5E)

Pleasure

Why
do
Puddles and wet, muddy fields
and
Rain and sloshy slushy snow
and
Bicycle chains and grimy old tyres
Excite, amuse, and entrance
A child, or a group of children
Into pleasurable fantasy,
When an adult would think of the
Stupid, juvenile behaviour of children,
Who do not know any better.
Adults only think about
The consequences of
Wet dirty trousers, shoes,
And hands and faces,
But
Not of
Good, dirty, wet pleasure . . .

Anthony Enevoldsen (3a)

Pleasures of my Life

Early in my life,
Soft food, warm milk
And loving burblings by grown-ups
Gave me pleasure:
The quiet, untroubled time of sleep.

Later, as a toddler,
My father's large, warm hand,
Bouncings on his knee and early evening cuddles.
Still the serene cocoon of sleep.

Reaching eight,
Balloons, squashy cakes and party games,
Discovery at school.
Dreams scared by dark visitations.

Up to thirteen,
Long bike rides, swimming in summer's pools,
Lazing with nothing to do.
Nights dogged by black hauntings.

Now at sixteen,
Motorbikes, Status Quo and Saturday nights,
A beautiful girl,
Give me pleasure,
And now my nights are restless,
No longer quiet, untroubled and serene.
My pleasures mark my spiritual drowning.

Simon Fenn (5b)

From "Poetry of Departures"

Books; china; a life
Reprehensibly perfect.
Neat; precise; organised;
With manufactured complications
And imitations of reality
A distance away from life,
Divided from it by high walls
Of living-room furniture.
Reprehensibly perfect, —
Or just safe?

Jamie Rance (5e)

Kite

The kite soaring, bird-like pleasure,
Purified by the stiff breeze.
But only the young hand
Controls those dancing strings,
Leaving me a solitary figure,
Watching, remembering, regretting.
Sophistication has blunted fantasy,
But still longing for simplicity
Grips my eyes, turning them skyward.

Simon West (5e)



Above all however nobody could kick accurately under pressure, pass accurately under pressure or use the tackle as an offensive weapon.

John Slingsby and Phillip Spittles formed a fairly solid front row with either Guy McCreery or Nick Hazledine. However we never seemed to dominate in this department, better technique and more strength will be needed for next year.

Neither Charles Lowe nor Chris Sowden had the physique to be a real driving force in the tight, but both stuck to their task and Charles in particular jumped forcefully in the lines out and produced a reasonable supply of ball.

As a number 8, Simon Williams was not really fast enough, but he pulled off a number of telling tackles and held things together when they could have disintegrated. Both Colin Holding and Gary Mitchell at flanker found it difficult to be as physically competitive as in previous years and so did not win as much loose ball as we would have liked. However both are fast around the field and should be a much more effective force next year.

The half back combination was never convincing. Too often Dave Rimmer and Matthew King failed to give the ball to the rest of the threequarters on the move, and neither could pin back defences with accurate kicks. However both tackled well, and always gave of their best.

Andrew Young played centre, full back and fly half and was never able to settle down and make the most of his strength and speed. Tim Semmence was also a utility player, and settled in the centre when Barry Burles was injured. We missed Barry's size and power in the centre, and also his optimism.

On the left wing Neil Edwards was fast and deceptive, scoring a memorable try against Radley from within his own half. Duncan Robinson on the right wing could be effective, but he needed to convince himself of this rather too often.

Lawrence Jones-Walters came into the line well from full back, and handled efficiently, but perhaps his positional play was suspect.

John Slingsby was our main place kicker and Charles Lowe tried his best to inspire the side and bring out the best in them.

If the above scenario seems a trifle depressing, it is because it does not reflect the good humour, and willingness of all in the side to improve. It is easy to keep together when you are winning, but it is twice as hard when you are losing. It is always difficult for a losing side to break through and win, and had we been more successful earlier and had a trifle more luck, I am sure that the close games against Solihull, Pangbourne, Warwick, Reading and the Perse would have been won.

Before next season starts we must get fit and strong, and practise the basic skills that are so essential to the success of the game.

Those played:

L. Jones-Walters, N. Edwards, D. Robinson, T. Semmence, P. Eccles, B. Burles, A. Young, M. King, D. Rimmer, J. Slingsby, G. McCreery, N. Hazledine, C. Lowe, C. Sowden, R. Harries, S. Williams, G. Mitchell, C. Holding, M. Andrews.

RESULTS

v Berkhamsted	cancelled
v Bloxham	L 7-27
v St. Edwards	L 3-31
V Magdalen	W 15-6
v Thame	L 10-21
v Radley	L 10-29
V Reading	L 10-16
v Solihull	L 3-12
v Marlborough	L 0-31
v Newbury	L 10-24
v Pangbourne	L 6-13
v Warwick	L 14-25
v O.A.'s	L 0-30
Tour	
v The Perse	L 10-16
v O. Perseans	W 24-10
	D.G.C.

2nd XV

The record for the 2nd XV this season is not impressive by any standards, but says little of the play itself or of the players. It is certainly true that the team has had its share of problems — injuries, inexperience, strong opposition, and a lack of stature on our side — all of which combined to overwhelm us on many occasions. However, other schools have similar trials, and there can be no excuses to explain how games which we looked able to win were in fact lost.

The dominating will to win was frequently missing, especially when our opposition played poorly. A touch of the "killer instinct" in such situations would have ensured some convincing victories. Our most inspired play was against the strongest opposition, and in this respect one remembers particularly the Marlborough match.

The team was one of potential, and it will always be a source of regret to those who played in it that the statistics do not adequately reflect the



enormous effort shown throughout. The camaraderie never faltered, however, and was still in evidence even in the last game.

Played: P. Eccles, D. Lewis, P. Boon, M. Booth, D. Driver, P. Bezant, A. Johnson, R. Regan, T. Cook, A. Furley, A. Halliday, R. Joy, R. Harries, P. Freeman, M. Andrews, R. Tourret, K. Larsen, R. Humm and R. Hodkinson.

RESULTS

v Bloxham	won 15-4
v Shiplake 1st XV	lost 3-20
v St. Edward's	lost 14-25
v Magdalen College School	won 31-4
v Thame	lost 3-25
v Radley	lost 3-36
v John Mason	won 21-7
v Reading	lost 9-20
v Solihull	lost 8-17
v Marlborough	lost 6-16
v Newbury	lost 7-8
v Pangbourne	lost 0-22
v Warwick	lost 4-20

C.J.B.

THE 3rd XV

The 3rd XV played this term with great enthusiasm and spirit. The threequarter line was soon established, with captain Paul Thomas setting a good example as a hard running centre. The half-backs took longer to sort out, but together with the backs they became most effective both in attack and defence, where the tackling by Peter Evans was particularly commendable.

For various reasons the pack membership was variable, but under the leadership of Nick Holder it played with great determination and learnt to tidy play before passing the ball out to the backs. With some coaching Steve Simpson proved to be an effective jumper in the lineout and was consistently one of the second row players, although it took some time to find him a compatible partner.

Some of the best rugby was played against the strongest opposition, the Solihull and Radley

matches were only narrowly lost, but the team played badly against Reading. After this, training concentrated on fitness with remarkable success and the term ended with three exciting wins which included a spectacular drop goal by the captain.

SCB

The following played for the team:

P. V. Thomas, N. J. holder, K. D. Stanton King, P. A. Evans, R. D. Watson, R. P. O'Driscoll, P. M. Aston, C. R. Sheldon, D. A. White, N. J. Mitchell, J. E. Palmer, S. M. Simpson, M. R. Wise, K. W. Larsen, J. M. Sowden, C. T. Reid, J. E. Wood, N. A. Marsh, A. P. Crooks, J. Hester, B. R. Hodkinson.

RESULTS

Bloxham	won 14-7
Shiplake 4th XV	lost 7-14
St. Edwards	lost 3-34
Radley	lost 4-9
Cokethorpe 1st XV	lost 10-34
Reading	lost 4-10
Solihull	lost 14-23
Thame	won 20-3
Newbury	won 4-3
Warwick	won 23-16

FOURTH XV

The team had a wide membership, and played rugby with much enthusiasm and in increasing grasp of the finer points of the game. Under the sound captaincy of Paul Crooks, the team showed growing competence and an ability to capitalise on opponents' mistakes. Without exception, the players enjoyed their rugby, spirits were high, and this was a successful season.

The following played: A. P. Crooks, J. Julyan, C. C. Barnham, P. A. Cowlett, T. J. Cowlett, T. J. Baker, A. M. Robinson, R. Steed, M. Green, S. Miller, R. Little, C. M. Sackett, E. Parker-Jervis, T. Cook, D. Lindsay, J. Murray, K. Stanton-King, R. L. Allen, I. C. Oakden, N. Marsh, J. Lintott, T. J. Crome, S. R. N. Tanner.

N.K.H.

RESULTS

v St. Edwards (A)	Lost 6-28
v Reading (A)	Drew 4-4
v Solihull (A)	Won 0-27

The matches against Marlborough and Cokethorpe were cancelled.

COLTS

This Colts' side showed a wide range of moods, ranging from the truly inspired to the genially charitable. At mid-term, with a string of victories under the belt, the team looked set for a memorable season. Against Radley the support play and mauling that had been vital helped us to come back to win 13-9; a powerful St. Edwards side was beaten 16-10 in a close game; and against Reading's large pack, versatility, speed all



round and originality produced an emphatic 28-0 win. The side ran out of steam, however, and sluggish, inept first-half displays lost us two games against sides that perhaps we should have beaten. Against Newbury an exhilarating second-half, when we toyed with the thrills of suspense, never quite reclaimed a first half which almost reduced the coach to apoplexy and early retirement.

Williams kicked a dry ball with deadly accuracy, and the front row rarely faltered. Robertson, if not a hooker, is a centre with his wriggly elusiveness and surprising speed. In the back row we lacked a bang-'em-down rampaging lunatic, although Dacre and Douglas had good moments later in the season. Depletion from last year's side and the nagging injuries to Ashby weakened the backs, and the halves generally lacked the willingness or speed to penetrate, although they always showed steady competence. Carrie ran pluckily and straight, while the other wing Davies showed promise after being 'discovered'. Robson looks an exciting prospect at centre or full-back, and Madgwick the captain, despite some 'off' moments, is a first-class player who could go all the way. This was an intelligent side, and they will do well in the next two years on Waste Court, but must avoid finding themselves in a position similar to a well-known procrastinator as they suck their oranges: "I do not know Why yet I live to say, 'This thing's to do'."

Played: J. Madgwick, N. Williams, A. Robertson, D. Merriman, J. Westmore, M. Hurry, G. Rogers, P. James, P. Douglas, M. Dacre, B. Messer, B. Gow, A. Carrie, P. Ashby, J. Davies, T. Robson.

J.R.G.

RESULTS

COLTS' RESULTS

v Bloxham	w 26-10
v St. Edward's	w 16-10
v Magdalen College S.	w 48-4
v Radley	w 13-9
v Reading	w 28-0
v St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	L 8-12
v Pangbourne	w 11-16
v Warwick	L 0-15

COLTS' B RESULTS

v Radley	L 0-68
v Pangbourne	w 6-3

JUNIOR COLTS XV

The Junior Colts' season on paper has been a poor one, but games which seemed to be onesided in scores, have on several occasions been very keenly fought contests. This was largely because the pack, by good hooking and efficient rucking, managed to secure at worst a half share of possession, and on some occasions a near monopoly in the loose. It was a pity that the backs were unable to capitalise on this, for although they often managed the initial break, they too often lacked the speed and determination to turn it into a score. With the confidence that success brings, they might also have become better tacklers, for this was one of the overall weaknesses in the team. However, if enjoyment and improvement are the main criteria for success, then the outlook for next season is not quite so gloomy as the results suggest.

H.E.

RESULTS

v Berkhamsted	Cancelled
v Bloxham	L 7-14
v Solihull	L 6-18
v St. Edwards	L 17-23
v Marlborough	L 10-24
v Radley	L 6-18
v Magdalen	W 42-0
v Reading	D 12-12
v Thame	L 7-26
v Newbury	D 0-0
v Pangbourne	L 4-12
v Warwick	L 0-18

JUNIOR XV

An unbeaten record at any level of Rugby has its drawbacks. This year's Junior XV started the season without really knowing what it is like to be put under sustained pressure while competing for every point.

After having been narrowly beaten by St. Edwards and Radley, it soon became apparent that no match would be easy; and the score margin of each fixture certainly proved this point. The most encouraging thought for the season must be that the team had to play well to win any of its matches. Whether they won or lost, the feeling from the touch-line was that both teams played good, hard Rugby, and that the victory was an added bonus. To win 7 of the 13 matches played, to many would seem an average record, to me it was a very commendable record, because of the high standard of U.14 Rugby on the circuit this season.

It is not possible in this report to give mention to every individual in the team, however I do feel the following deserve special recognition for all their efforts. Ian Graham captaining the side from fly-half was the spearhead of many an attack, and his defensive kicking was an inspiration to his forwards. Gareth Harper soon established himself at scrum-half, and is a very good prospect for the future. Both centres were always a menacing pair for the opposition, and Robert Adair's fearless tackling saved the day on many occasions. The forwards led by Paul Capelin, worked well as a unit, and reached their aim in providing their scrum-half with quality possession. It would be unfair to single out any individual as they all made such a useful contribution.

All in all, a most enjoyable season, during which competition for places was keenly contested, and all matches played in the highest spirit. The strength of any A XV is dependent on a good B XV. This season's B XV was very well organised. Mr. Coleman must obviously take full credit for coaching them to this high standard, and I am sure the boys are as grateful as I am for all the help he has given both teams.

The following played for the A XV: I. Graham (Capt.); P. Capelin; R. Adair; D. Bell; A. Tomlinson; T. Haworth; R. Hawes; R. Regan; G. Harper; P. Boobyer; N. Ward; N. Chisnall; N. Wormell; R. Simpson; G. Brown; L. Casey; M. Emerton; R. Thomas; D. Ferguson.

J.D. D-H

RESULTS

Bloxham School (A)	Won 16-6
Solihull School (A)	Won 15-8
St. Edward's School (A)	Lost 12-17
Marlborough College (A)	Won 14-4
Magdalen College School (H)	Won 24-0
Radley College (A)	Lost 0-8
Oratory School (A)	Won 42-0
Reading School (H)	Won 11-10
Thame School (A)	Drew 4-4
Newbury School (H)	Lost 4-20
Pangbourne College (H)	Won 16-4
Warwick School (H)	Lost 10-18

MINORS RUGBY

This has proved a very difficult season. There was little depth of talent in the second year, and a few of the best players were unable to play, for a variety of reasons, so that in March half of the places in the first team were filled by second team players — to the detriment of the second team as well. Both teams, to their credit, went on trying to

play open, 15-man, Rugby, and we were never outclassed, but the execution was just not good enough; the tackling was feeble, support slow, and handling unsure. With such a team, practice is essential, and it was particularly unfortunate that the weather was so bad: we had virtually no practices for three months, from the end of November to the end of February, and the promising team that beat Thame was only to win one more match. It is fair to add that the record suffers from the success of recent teams: six first team fixtures have now become 'A' team matches, a trend that means that in a mediocre year there are hardly any easy matches.

There were few outstanding players. Alexander Cullen has immense potential, but found difficulty in reconciling the defensive and attacking roles he was forced to combine to hold the side together: Tim Skinner and Jonathan Prest provided the dynamism, and James Griggs always gave more than his best. Simon Rushton was the best of a very promising set of first-year Backs; next year should be better!

Final Teams: 1st XV: A. J. R. Cullen; A. C. Mellor, S. J. Rushton, J. E. Griggs, I. C. D. Robertson; T. M. Spittles (capt.), T. A. J. Skinner; J. E. Cox, D. E. Round, J. Warchus; S. C. Jozwiak, C. S. Johnson; N. M. North, J. N. Prest, G. J. Francken, T. P. C. Wilson.

2nd XV.: M. J. M. Ingram; A. S. H. Lowe, M. Hunt, A. Greenall, N. R. Thomas; M. N. Sanders, P. G. Harries (capt.); C. Evans, W. J. Passmore, P. R. Green; N. J. Quail, S. R. Vaslet, J. S. G. Tanner; W. Khashoggi, C. R. W. Wimblett, J. R. Parker.

M.W.

RESULTS

1st XV:	
Oratory School (H)	Won 36-0
Lord William's, Thame, West (A)	Lost 6-20
Millbrook House School (H)	Lost 0-30
Magdalen College School (A)	Won 20-0
Audley House School (H)	Won 15-0
Lord William's, Thame, East (H)	Won 14-0
Dragon School 2nd XV (H)	Lost 6-16
Reading School (H)	Lost 10-18
Berkhamsted School (A)	Won 7-0
John Mason School (H)	Lost 11-12
Matthew Arnold School (A)	Lost 14-18
William Borlase School (H)	Lost 0-14
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury (A)	Lost 0-30

'A' XV:	
St. Hugh's, Faringdon (A)	Lost 4-8
Larkmead School (H)	Won 11-4
Prior's Court School (H)	Lost 6-12
Oratory Preparatory School (A)	Won 18-12
Summer Fields School (A)	Lost 0-12
Bearwood College (H)	Lost 12-18

2nd XV:	
Lord William's, Thame, West (A)	Lost 4-28
Magdalen College School (A)	Won 12-4
Oratory School 1st XV (A)	Lost 6-34
Lord William's, Thame, East (H)	Lost 8-10
Dragon School 4th XV	Lost 0-24
Reading School (H)	Lost 4-8
Berkhamsted School (A)	Lost 4-14
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury (A)	Won 21-8

Other matches:	
3rd XV v. Summer Fields 2nd XV (A)	Lost 8-14
'B' XV v. Josca's 1st. XV (H)	Won 12-4

MUSIC



VERDI'S 'REQUIEM'

On December 5, The Choral Society performed Verdi's **'Requiem'**. Before commencing, a short period of silence was kept in remembrance of that great composer and musician Benjamin Britten, who died sadly the previous day. The choir and orchestra, assembled from local musical dignitaries, conducted by Michael Johnson, were impeccably turned out and rehearsed, and the four soloists Bill Collins, Anne-Marie Connors, Jane Wynn Owen and Michael Goldthorpe, sang superbly. A splendid effect involving four fanfare trumpets situated on the balcony at the back of the hall was carried off with panache. The chosen venue, St. Helen's School Sports Hall, behaved admirably towards the music which was, at times, quite fearsome. None of the effects of this great music was lost in the hall, in which the acoustics, unless muffled by well-dressed bodies, are really very daunting.

Alan Clarke (VI)

THE FAURE REQUIEM

in Trinity Methodist Church

I approached this concert with mixed feelings. Being a recent convert to the delights of choral music, I was apprehensive lest a bad performance should renew my former hostility. These fears were totally needless.

The concert began with the **'Sonata Pian'e Forte'** by Gabrieli (yet again), played by the Brass Ensemble, and a slow anthem by Battishill, sung by the Chapel Choir. This coupling of two slow pieces to begin the evening seemed a mistake and the low temperature inside the church caused the **'Johnson polish'** to crack in places. The Chapel Choir then filed off in their well-organised way to be replaced by the Brass Ensemble for Scheidt's **'Battle Suite'**. This was very well performed — we even heard a **'piano'** section played softly (a detail lacking in the Gabrieli). Stanford's anthem **'For Lo, I raise Up'** was given a beautifully well balanced performance, with David Lewis singing a pleasing, although nervous, solo.

The standard of performance was rising as time progressed, so it was no surprise that the Requiem by Faure was given a superb reading. This work is an intensely personal office for the dead, written in memory of Faure's father. It is rare among the great requiems as being able to be used in an actual service. The initial emotions expressed are subdued and sombre, the violins not entering until the **'Agnus Dei'**. The violas, led by David Robinson, took to their unaccustomed prominence with great aplomb. Bill Collins sang the baritone solo in the **'Offertorium'** with the mastery now expected of him. The **'Pie Jesu'** was the high-point of the whole concert. Paul Willett although suffering from sinusitis, sang the treble solo to perfection, as the after-concert comments confirmed. The final movement, **'In Paradisum'**, was given the ethereal quality that made a fitting end to this work and concert.

The main feature of the evening was the sense of balance maintained in all the works performed; within the choir itself and between choir, organ and orchestra (in the Faure). All in all, this was a very enjoyable concert.

Graham Nayler (VI)

A REVIVAL OF MANNERS?

'Salad Days' in the Abbey Hall

Polished elegance and inconsequential charm are not all that commonly found in school drama productions, perhaps because it is often easier to be earnest. In fact it takes a combination of gifted acting and deft direction to sustain the flimsily evanescent style of Dorothy Reynolds and Julian Slade over an entire evening without letting it sag or pall. Last summer Sandy Wilson's **'Boy Friend'** achieved the feat with extraordinary success; **'Salad Days'** very nearly brought it off again.

The production by Pam Matfield was full of good things: there was almost always life, movement and visual interest; the principal characters used the stage well, and showed animation in action even if sometimes they were a little wooden in repose; the dances were delightful, if occasionally somewhat staid. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that the Abbey Hall is not a kind place in which to attempt this sort of enterprise, and,



surely be to their credit that they were just a trifle lacking in the necessary hardness. Lysette Robson caught the calculating silliness of Heloise with, perhaps, slightly more success; her partner as Nigel, Hugh Doherty, suggested the possibility of formidable playboy qualities in a few years' time. Less prominent, but notably successful, were Lucinda Walters as Timothy's Mother and Karen Wilding as Lady Raeburn — both very plausibly soignee and distraught by turns.

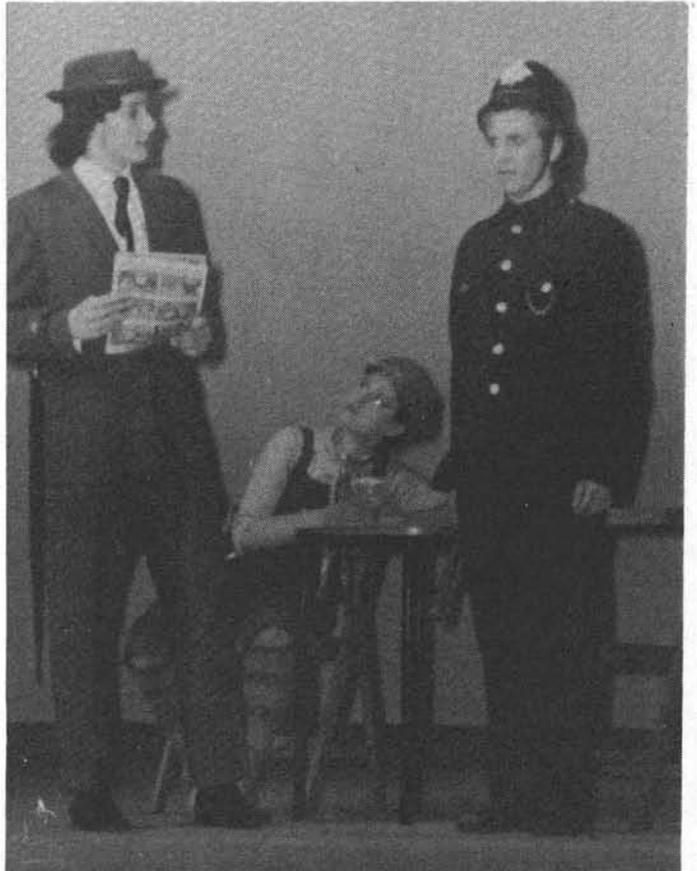
However, the star of the show, needless to say, was Minnie the piano — attended by the appealingly mute Troppo (Hilary Carter). Trundling to and fro with improbable rapidity, the piano and its players set the feet of the audience tapping to an extent that made it easy to suspend disbelief in its magical properties as they were supposed to affect the passers-by in the Park. This is, after all, a musical! Michael Johnson's direction was characterised by all its customary zest and unobtrusive flair, and the singing of a cast not necessarily chosen for its musical ability was always attractive and occasionally delectable.

Taking it all together, *'Salad Days'* was a good advertisement for the collaboration with St. Helen's — there was no sense of strain, just a lot of enjoyment of the sort that comes from working imaginatively together. And if a product of the collaboration is to be a re-valuation of that almost vanished currency, a sense of style, then this reviewer for one will not complain!

inevitably, the set-designers and builders, despite gallant efforts, were not able, at least on the scale required, to achieve the summer sumptuousness of Michael Arlen's *Mayfair*.

The shortcomings, in fact, were very largely those of the Abbey Hall as against the Unicorn — but there were compensating advantages. A cast of thousands enabled all sorts of people to do their respective things, and some of the things were particularly well worth watching, even when they operated at the expense of dramatic flow and unity. Roger Hodkinson's P.C. Boot, in particular, was a comic creation of the first order; by turns apparently boneless and preternaturally rigid, his magnificently lugubrious performance achieved the clown's ultimate ambition, of arousing the audience to paroxysms of expectant hilarity even before the action began. More briefly, a night-club of quite appalling meretriciousness and a fashion-house of stupendous vapidty provided settings for memorable displays by Jenny Wheatcroft as Asphynxia and Richard Hobbs as Ambrose — not to mention a very striking if rather fleeting appearance by Fiona McCarthy.

The principal characters, on the other hand, had the harder task of illuminating a story of gossamer, spider's-web delicacy; too strong a light and it would shrivel, too dim, and it would be merely trite. The ideal was a dew-spangled shimmer of glamour, artlessly accomplished, brilliantly natural. Kirt Peterson, as Timothy, and Dinah Halford, as Jane, were both immediately and immensely likeable, full of ingenuous, eager charm; it must



JAZZ CLUB

Jazz Club has always been a peculiar entity: it has seldom been 'organized' as a society ought; more often, it has just 'happened' in a rather impromptu fashion, like the best parties. What's more, it has always possessed the flavour of something slightly decadent, even rebellious (in the nicest possible way of course!) since its existence has not infrequently been rather frowned upon and even opposed from some quarters (in the nicest possible way of course!). So, from time to time, a successful Jazz Club function has been more of a victory against strict classicism (or should I say 'overwhelming odds') than an encouraged school activity. So be it — the course of true entertainment never did run smooth.

Back in September, the rigmarole of collecting names for membership began and, to my surprise, there were many more than ever. Thus, a firm financial base was immediately established allowing a fairly wide scope for future ventures. For example, this means it is quite viable to engage some 'minority-appeal' events 'for the discerning listener' without having to keep everything to a shoestring budget. Further encouragement came from our sponsors, Mr. Angus Alton and Mr. Barry Taylor. There must be something about 'English' that makes people grow beards and be willing to mill around amongst swarms of sweaty dancers, but I leave the question to the sociologists.

The Michaelmas Term's music got under way with a band called **Steamroller**. I will always remember the transition that took place before the concert from 'boarders' tea' to 'dance hall' — 1st formers munched noisily oblivious to the mountains of speaker cabinets and lights being erected all around them, and later the bass-player slipping on a stray blob of butter on the floor. People just kept on arriving, and in fact we made Jazz Club history by registering a slight profit. The band played most of its favourite numbers like 'Hey Joel' and 'Purple Haze', and Zeppelin's 'Trampled under foot': afterwards they praised the inspiring audience. Now, between me and you plural that is what every band has said that has played at our school, and it is well known in local music circles that Abingdon School is the place to play if you want to boost your confidence . . .

Then we arranged a coach-trip to the Oxford New Theatre to see **Van der Graaf Generator**, a much under-rated and until recently obscure group. Of course the problem with these cult bands (the kind you either love or hate) is the sharp division between those who are bored stiff and those who are in raptures. Que faire? when one person has the time of his life and another virtually asks for his money back?

In December the band due to play at our next School concert decided three days before their booking that they would not be ready for another six months! A quick think, a frantic phone call, and an impromptu concert was hastily arranged that proved to be a huge success for all but the most entrenched Rock'n Roll fans. Frank Roberts, a fine jazz-pianist from London, Nigel Morris (drums) and Tony Moore (double-bass) got together especially for the occasion. No noise problems, no dancing, just people sitting listening intently to some of the

best musicians of their type playing, improvising, exploring and creating within the category loosely known as Modern Jazz.

At the present moment the status of the Jazz Club is, sadly, in question. Until a licence is granted, membership must be confined to the school and St. Helen's, as it was at the last concert given by the **Twin Llama Band**. Modesty forbids that I comment on the performance of a band in which I myself play, but I gather that people enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to all patrons who this year have given us their loyal support.

David Blackburn (VI)

CHAMBER CHOIR:

Choral Evensong at Winchester Cathedral

Heavily laden with choristers and supporters ranging from members of the third form to assorted parents and grandparents, the coach came to rest outside the Town Hall of Winchester. After a brisk walk we found ourselves outside the College, where our guide for the day, the headmaster, stood patiently awaiting our arrival (which was, as usual, late).

After a mad dash to the Cathedral we met a formidably well-endowed elderly lady verger, and the precenter, both of whom were to play a large part in our lives for the next few hours. In the precenter's greeting it transpired that he had once been precenter at Radley College. Whether this connection with our great rivals was to make any difference to our singing remained to be seen. The rehearsal was, as usual, disheartening: problems arose from nowhere, and those present before intensified. Anxiety could be seen on many faces.

The ambitious music for the service began well with '**Oculi Omnium**', a piece by Wood, as introit. After the procession in, the first batch of responses was sung. These had to be especially good as their composer, John Reading, was organist at Winchester at one time, and the Cathedral Choir often sings his works. From these on to the psalm, our favourite weakspot, which was quite reasonable this time. Bryan Kelly's '**Abingdon Service**' — Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis —, recently composed specially for the Chamber Choir, provided a few anxious moments, but was carried through successfully. The second lesson brought mirth for members of the choir and embarrassment for a member of staff present with its abundant reference to the many good qualities required to be a Deacon. The service ended with one of our better performances of '**Vox Dicentis: Clama**', a masterpiece of romantic choral writing by E. W. Naylor.

Then came what we had all been waiting for: a meal at one of the College boarding houses. Many of our boarders took the opportunity to gorge themselves with the abundant food on offer, which was, typically, sausages, chips, and beans followed by cakes and delicacies unknown here in Abingdon. An uneventful coach journey rounded off a very successful and enjoyable outing.

Peter Wakefield (5)

HOCKEY

What a season! The drought of the summer meant that we were denied the use of War Memorial Field altogether, which left us a total of three pitches, two of them too small to be of much use for matches — then came the rains, with the result that we could hardly use the pitches we had. The effect of all this was a lack of practice, and consequent lowering of standards of play, and the results generally were poorer than we had hoped.

Nevertheless, there were good things about the season — for the first time ever an under-fourteen team was raised, and owes its unbeaten record to the enthusiasm and expertise of Miss Lord and Mr. Drummond-Hay. Mr. Bagshaw produced on Waste Court Field a pitch of far higher quality than most of us believed possible, and our thanks are due to him for his efforts. To eke out the pitch shortage, we made use of the playing area in the Old Gaol, and this proved in value in keeping fit and practising skills.

Even so, this was a season of frustration, and one must apologise to those in the non-team games who hardly touched their sticks all season.

I should like to thank most warmly all those who helped so enthusiastically in umpiring and providing pitches for the games that were played.

L.C.J.G.

1st XI HOCKEY

It is easy to make excuses for the 1st XI's unimpressive record this season, but of nine games eventually played only one was at home, and that, the O.A.'s match, by necessity. Despite the almost complete absence of practice games on grass, the team never failed to put together impressive moves, but were always thwarted at the last gasp, often because we did not know what to do. The first game on grass was against Reading. We might have got a draw here had we been match fit and avoided the consequent defensive lapses. Abingdon teams seem to be at their best only against the best opposition, and the St. Edward's game was no exception. Having survived constant pressure, we found ourselves one up at halftime following a short corner from one of our few attacks. The equaliser was inevitable, but it was agony to see a poor shot trickle over the line for the winner in the last minute of time.

Throughout the season we squandered too many chances in attack, and never seemed to be able to sustain pressure once we were in the opposing circle. Too often we were caught by a quick break-out from defence, and the whole team was prone to sudden lapses in concentration. We were also unlucky in that games we might have won were postponed.

Craig Reid and Duncan Robinson shared the goalkeeper position. Each played well enough to earn half-colours. Miles Hitchcock was a consis-

tent full-back, and was partnered by Andrew W Evans. At centre-half Lawrence Jones-Walters never really settled down but was ably assisted by Guy McCreery and Simon Hobbs who showed great promise. The forwards often put some flowing scores together, but only Colin Holding seemed able to find the net, and his score of seven was the top (and only) score of the season. Paul Thomas and John Slingsby worked hard but never found the goal-scoring touch. David Rimmer and Mark Sackett showed good skill on the wings and David fully deserved his full colours. Toward the end of the season Patrick Gale and Adrian Johnson played in the half-back line and David Driver at centre-forward.

Despite poor results, everybody enjoyed their sport, and there is considerable promise for next season.

The following played: L. Jones-Walters, C. Reid, D. Robinson, M. Hitchcock, A. Evans, G. McCreery, S. Hobbs, P. Gale, A. Johnson, M. Sackett, C. Holding, J. Slingsby, D. Driver, P. Thomas, and D. Rimmer.

Lawrence Jones-Walters (VI)

RESULTS

v Reading	lost 0-2
v Radley (A)	lost 0-5
v Pangbourne (A)	lost 1-6
v St. Edward's (A)	lost 1-2
v Bradfield (A)	lost 1-4
v Solihull (A)	lost 1-4
v High Wycombe (A)	lost 1-2
v O.A.'s (H)	lost 2-3
v Bloxham (A)	lost 0-2

2nd XI

Persistent rain throughout the early part of the season meant that the fortunes of the 2nd XI suffered accordingly. Indeed, threequarters of the way through the term, the team had not won a match or even scored a goal. Things changed drastically in the Solihull match, however, when Dave Driver, who previously had succeeded only in getting himself in the net with the ball some twenty yards behind him, found his goal-scoring touch and scored a hat-trick within the first twenty minutes. This boosted everyone's confidence, and Solihull and High Wycombe were both beaten easily. Barry Burles also managed to score a couple of goals: he often made the impossible look easy . . . and, occasionally, made the easy look impossible. John Stephen made some penetrating runs when he managed to stop the ball, and Adrian Johnson created some fine openings. The half-backs also improved steadily. Despite the damp weather and periods of inactivity, this was an enjoyable season.

Martin Herring (VI)

RESULTS

v Reading (H)	lost 0-1
v Radley (A)	lost 0-2
v Leighton Park 1st XI (A)	lost 0-8
v Pangbourne (A)	lost 0-5
v Warwick (H)	draw 0-0
v Solihull (H)	won 6-0
v RGS High Wycombe (A)	won 4-0
v Shiplake College 1st XI (H)	lost 0-3

COLTS

The hopeful thing about the Colts was that they improved as the season progressed. The side contained some very competent players, and did not lack spirit and energy — its chief faults were a lack of speed at full-back, a half-back line, which, though extremely competent individual players, tended to wander too much, and mark too loosely, and forwards who, though fast and resourceful in approach work, too frequently failed to make use of scoring chances in the circle. Coates played very well in goal, even better perhaps after his injury (which prevented him from playing for a week or two) than before, and Robson was an energetic and inspiring Captain.

The season began disastrously, with heavy defeats by Reading and Pangbourne, but for the remainder of the term the team played very much better, winning convincingly against Solihull, only losing in the last few minutes to Radley, and beating Bloxham by adapting to really appalling conditions much better than they did.

Team: Coates: Miller (or Merriman), Clift: Hoggarth, Robson (Capt.), Carrie: Dibble, Gow: Bye: Thomas A., Marsh.

L.C.J.G.

RESULTS

v Reading (A)	Lost 1-8
v Pangbourne (H)	Lost 1-5
v Solihull (A)	Won 2-1
v Radley (A)	Lost 1-2
v Bloxham (A)	Won 3-2

A Colts 'B' side played Radley on Sat 5 Feb. at home and lost 1-3.

JUNIOR COLTS

The first half of term was almost rained off which was less than lucky particularly as this group was, for the first time at the school, by no means new to the game. The lack of practice in the early weeks was apparent against the good sides but positional play was improving by the last week and some confidence emerged.

The stickwork was the best we have seen at Abingdon at this age and, in general, individual skills promised much for future years. They must be much fitter and willing to cover more ground next year.

Regular member of the team were: A. Adams; G. Black; N. Wright; J. Berry; J. Kingston (Capt.); A. Linley; J. Dibble; D. Darnborough; A. Prest; R. Stanway; G. Ripley; Also played: J. Dubenski, J. Littlewood; G. Lanham; J. Phizackerly.

R.C.B.C.

RESULTS

Reading School (H)	Won 3-2
Pangbourne College (H)	Lost 1-9
Bloxham School (H)	Lost 0-1
Solihull School (H)	Won 4-1
Radley College (A)	Lost 1-4
Shiplake College (A)	Drew 1-1
Oxford School (A)	Drew 1-1

The matches against St. Edward's School, Magdalen College School, Warwick School and KAS Wantage were cancelled.

JUNIOR HOCKEY

With the Memorial Field still suffering from last year's drought, and the customary local weather to dampen spirits, the thought of introducing Hockey to 3rd. formers was rather depressing. Practices grew less and less frequent and circuits in the gym less and less enjoyable. After half-term, however, the basic skills were put into practice and the Junior XI began to play skilful hockey. Unfortunately only three matches were played: two were drawn, and the win against Radley was most encouraging. In this match we took full advantage of a large pitch to use our wingers, while in midfield we took control.

Mention of individuals would not be fair in a report of an essentially team effort. My thanks to Gwen Lord, whose great experience and knowledge of the game was invaluable, and to Stephen Bodey for the hard work put in with the 2nd. game.

The following played: R. Simpson, J. Burley, S. Minter, P. Dubenski, G. Harper, P. Capelin, R. Hawes (Capt.), A. Newman, N. Ward, J. Haworth, J. Driver, R. Adair.

J.D.E. D-H

RESULTS

v New College School	drew 1-1
v Radley College	won 2-1
v Shiplake College	drew 3-3

CHESS

Chess Club has been particularly well-supported this year, at all levels, and the enthusiasm of so many players is reflected in the good results, culminating in the winning of four trophies, surely a record.

We decided to concentrate on the Berkshire League, and our three teams were unbeaten in winning through to the County Finals. These have been very close affairs indeed, and we were perhaps lucky that the rules happened to give us the trophy at Under-13 level. The Seniors surpassed themselves in their surprise defeat of the strong Desborough team; the Under-15s victory was even more remarkable.

Our strength in depth enabled us to enter a Second team in the Berkshire 'open' League again, which (as usual!) came second to the first team, and also to enter 'open' and Under-13 teams for the Oxford Schools League. In this case match-experience was given to practically every playing member of the Club, with winning being regarded as secondary; even so the seniors were respectably placed, and the youngsters topped the League without losing a match.

To celebrate all this success, Chess Ties were awarded to the remaining members of the 1st V and to Graham Alcock whose enthusiasm and loyalty typify the spirit that has made such success possible.

The Venning Cup was won by Craig Shuttleworth, who developed into the best player of a rather undistinguished intake. Richard Baker won a new Under-15 trophy; he and John Perry have made tremendous progress, but are only two of a very promising group of Under-14s, four of whom represented the County in one top-class ten-a-side event; we look to these to 'lay our present bogey', Magdalen College School!

M.W.

RESULTS

Berkshire League (Western Section)

First V

beat Abingdon 2nd V	4-1
beat Carmel College	3½-1½
beat Larkmead	4½-½
drew with John Mason	2½-2½
beat St. Bartholomew's 2nd V	4-1
beat King Alfred's	3-2
beat St. Bartholomew's 1st V	5-0

Second V

beat John Mason	3½-1½
beat Carmel College	3½-1½
lost to Abingdon 1st V	1-4
beat St. Bartholomew's 2nd V	3½-1½
beat King Alfred's	4-1
beat Larkmead	4-1
beat St. Bartholomew's 1st V	4-1

Under 15s

beat John Mason	4½-½
beat St. Birinus	4-1
beat King Alfred's	5-0
drew with Carmel College	2½-2½

Under 13s

beat St. Birinus	5-0
beat Carmel College	4½-½
beat King Alfred's	5-0
beat John Rankin	5-0
drew with St. Bartholomew's	2½-2½

Semi-finals:

The First V beat Leighton Park School	4-1
The Under 15s beat Presentation College	4-1
The Under 13s beat Presentation College	3-2

Finals:

The First V beat Desborough School	3-2
The Under 13s drew with Forest School 2½-2½ but won on Board-count.	
The Under-15s beat Windsor G.S.	4-1



Oxford Schools League

Under-18 teams

beat St. John Cowley 6-0 and 5½-½	
beat Peers Littlemore 4-2 and 3½-2½	
beat Edmund Campion 4½-1½, and lost 1½-4½	
lost to Magdalen College School 2½-3½	
drew with Henry Box School 3-3 and 3-3.	

Under 13 teams

beat Dragon School 'A'	6-0
beat Dragon School 'B'	5½-½
beat Donnington M.S.	6-0
beat Bayswater S	4½-1½
beat Marlborough s	4-2
beat St. Gregory's	5-1
beat Temple Cowley	4½-1½
drew with Harlow S	3-3

Sunday Times Tournament

First VI

beat St. Edmund Campion	4½-1½
lost to Magdalen College S	2½-3½

Under 14 VI

beat Lord William's, Thame	5-1
lost to Magdalen College S	1½-4½

Friendly Matches

An all-age team lost to High Wycombe R.G.S.	5½-8½
An Under 18 team beat Stowe School	6-0
An Under 15 team beat Stowe School	4½-½
An Under 13 team beat Larkmead School	5-0
An Under 12 team beat Larkmead School	5-0

1st V:

J. J. Stephen, M. E. Spoor, R. S. Harries, I. R. Holding, K. M. Fenelon.

Under 15 V:

G. D. Brown, R. W. Baker, A. J. Perry, A. H. Smith, W. J. Passmore, G. M. V. P. Carey.

Under 13 V:

A. J. Perry, W. J. Passmore, P. G. Harries, J. R. Parker, J. Warchus or A. A. Thomson or I. A. Sadler

THE ART OF CHESSMANSHIP

Superficially — and only superficially — chess lacks some of the glamour of boxing, but chess matches, in common with pugilistic encounters, can be won and lost before the first punch is thrown.

The experienced Chessman will of course make use of every aspect of chess to obtain a vital edge against his opponent, so that a battle of logic is quickly transformed into a psychological war. The board should first be moved towards the opponent, cramping his style and making a comfortable position untenable. The clock should be to the Chessman's right — assuming he is right-handed — and must be started with a confident bravado slightly before the opponent is ready to play, thus making him hurried and nervous. By far the greatest opportunity, however, lies in the use of the score-sheet. Notation here should be bold, unhesitating, and after about ten moves the Chessman must scrawl absent-mindedly the full title of the opening complete with reference across the sheet. The Chessman will then carefully add a few nerve-inducing ?s to his opponent's moves, to persuade him that his position is frail and possibly already beyond redemption. If his opponent is resilient, then he will try one or two derisory !s.

General appearance and style are, however, of greater importance. A capture made with deft elegance will so often get a weak prod in return. The Chessman will adopt a serious and knowing pose, perhaps with the occasional stroke of the chin. Nothing is more devastating, moreover, than a condescendingly sympathetic smile or a blowing out of the cheeks. Should the match go to adjudication — unlikely event! — a few sighs and winces over the opponent's disarray should influence matters decisively.

Team effort is important. The opposition fears what it cannot understand, and the Chessman will be as off-putting as possible. He may rest his score-sheet on a copy of Dante (in medieval Italian) while casually proving the theory of Relativity on the back, or assume an air of sophisticated indifference to deter the precocious star of the opposite camp. Above all he will give the lie to the widespread error that chess is a game of logic, and will enjoy the prospect of reducing his opponent to cerebral jelly.

Martin Spoor and Ian Holding (VI)

Once again the school's large theatre-going fraternity has been far and wide in search of plays: Macbeth, The Birthday Party and The Tempest have been seen in Oxford, Romeo and Juliet at the Shaw, King Lear at Stratford, Antony and Cleopatra at the Young Vic and an unforgettable Jumpers at the unbookable new National. Future trips planned include Volpone, The Merchant of Venice and Measure for Measure, all in London.

ROWING

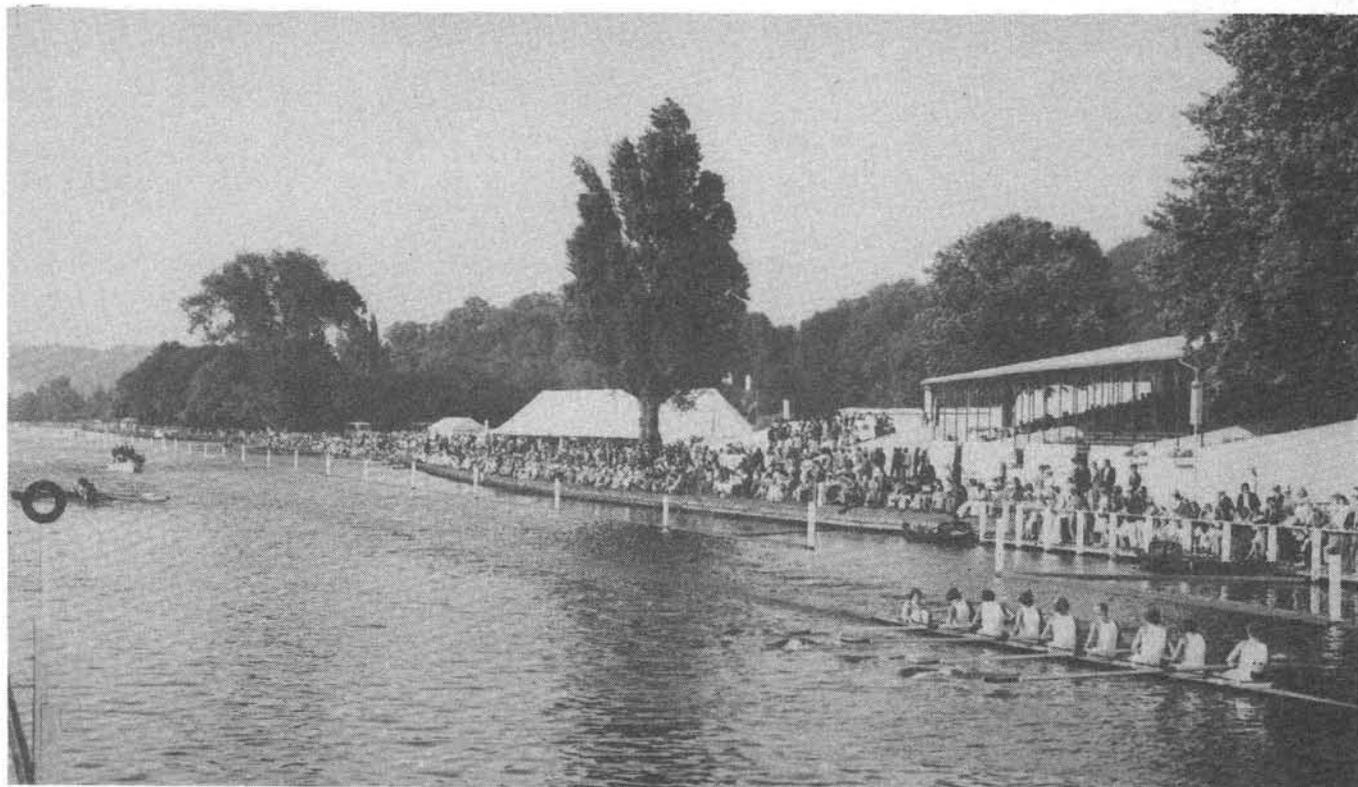
The successes and promise of the Lent Term 1976 continued into the regatta season, and the Boat Club enjoyed its most successful season for some years. Waiting for prizegivings and returning late from regattas with a trophy became almost normal, and the Club developed a strong sense of cohesion and unity.

The 1st VIII assembled a week before term to train and went to Wallingford Regatta with high hopes of winning the Junior Eights event. They won the first round easily but suffered through over-confidence in the second round and lost to a strong Tiffin School crew. Recompense was made a fortnight later at Twickenham Regatta when they rowed powerfully through four rounds to win Novice Eights. Worcester Regatta was less fortunate, as they just lost the final of Junior Eights to Monkton Combe. Reading Amateur Regatta was the following week, however, and they won the Junior 'B' Eights event handsomely. One of the best sights of the season was watching Pangbourne and Winchester fighting hard down the enclosures for second and third places with Abingdon miles ahead and paddling light. After this the National Schools' Regatta was a disappointment. The VIII won its heat in a relaxed and powerful way, but came fifth in the final of the Child Beale Cup after the most unbelievable series of false starts. This was particularly galling, as the first start had them well up and going very fast.

'A' levels then descended unsettingly on the VIII and training became more intermittent up to Henley — Henley, and the Princess Elizabeth Cup after a break of five years. The second good sight of the season was Abingdon too far ahead of University College School in the first round to make photos worthwhile, followed by champagne in the Stewards' Enclosure with the pink and white blazers looking eye-shatteringly and splendidly obvious. The second round was an inevitable defeat by Emanuel School, England's international youth eight in 1975 and finalists of the event. The winning margin of 2¾ lengths was respectable, though, and Abingdon did lead for the first minute. A retrospect on the VIII would not find it enormously skilful, but they were extremely determined and fit and their times in training will set a new high standard for future 1st Vllls.

The other members of the senior squad, rowing as the 1st IV also had a good season. They won Novice Fours at Twickenham (making the Club's second win on that day) after four heart-stopping rounds, and they also won Junior Fours at Reading Town Regatta, pleasing everybody except their cox, who only won a half pint tankard.

The Colts' 'A' VIII had the most frustrating term of all the crews, as the late delivery of the new 1st VIII boat kept them out of the 'Gryphon' until after Henley. They had proved themselves to be one of the best Colts' crews the Club has ever had at an early stage, but the boat they rowed in held them back in their regattas. When they finally got into the 'Gryphon' their performance improved considerably, as they showed at the National Championships. They came third in the final of the Colts' VIII event to Latymer and Radley by less than 1½ seconds in what 'Rowing Magazine' described



as one of the best races of the day. Their only other win was in the Novice Fours at Wallingford, but hopefully they will be able to do themselves more justice in the coming two years.

The Colts' 'B' VIII rowed keenly with increasing skill and speed, though they did not actually win any event. The Junior Colts' VIII also improved considerably during the year and did particularly well at the National Schools' Regatta, where they came third in the final of their event. Below them a Junior Colts' IV and the School's first Under Fourteen VIII boated regularly and raced creditably at Nottingham.

It is not only fortunes which have improved, though: so has the equipment. Salters delivered the first new boat, the "John Roysse", in the last week of the term, which has all the necessary adjustability and fittings that should boat the 1st VIII better than before. In the same week we bought a second hand eight from St. Edward's School which directly matches our old first boat, which we christened the 'Eric Anderson', and we also christened a new fibre-glass sculling boat. All these last additions have been made possible by the kindness and generosity of parents and of the sponsors to the Sponsored Row, so we are extremely grateful for their help and support.

CREWS FOR THE SUMMER TERM WERE:

1st VIII: *T. Walker, *R. J. Perkins, *J. J. W. Breckon, *S. F. Williams, *B. A. L. Peck, *M. E. Lintott, *D. M. Byfield, *M. Holding, cox *D. F. Lindesay.

1st IV: *J. A. Heard, +A. H. Cook, + C. P. Sowden, + R. D. Tauwhare, cox +M. A. Forsyth.

Colts' 'A' VIII: M. D. Andrews, P. M. Johnston, P. G. Spittles, R. S. Harries, J. P. Sowden, R. A. Joy, P. A. Younge, R. P. Emerton, cox *M. T. L. Rivers.

Colts' 'B' VIII: D. J. Crook, R. J. Steed, M. V. Bell, E. Parker-Jervis, S. D. Holdoway, R. V. Scriven, D. W. Stewart, K. C. Peterson, cox S. M. Russell.

Juniors Colts' VIII: J. A. Higgs, N. T. Wright, R. P. Hamlin, H. M. L. Doherty, J. N. S. Lintott, S. J. Mulvey, C. P. S. Bromhall, S. M. Hills, cox: S. W. N. Rogers

Junior Colts' IV: D. A. M. Scott, J. M. Mackay, D. W. B. Thomas, S. M. Woodhall, cox: P. D. Meadows.

Under 14 VIII: J. Cook, P. H. Bowker, B. J. Rhys, A. N. Trigle, N. S. Hall, D. C. P. Griffith, A. G. Baird, J. Aguilar, cox: I. A. Haley.

* denotes full rowing colours

+ denotes half rowing colours

The Boat Club was miraculously free from illness in the 1977 Lent term, so perhaps flooding, fast stream and strong winds were inevitable. The Lent term always does its best to present a new form of frustration.

The 1st and 2nd Vllls were rapidly selected and got down to training straight away. Their first event was Hampton Head, where they came 20 and 27 respectively, though the 1st VIII's time was more than a little suspect. The 1st VIII split into fours for the Henley Fours Head, where the stern four came 12th out of 78 coxless and coxed crews and should have won the Junior pennant except for a six second penalty imposed improbably for encouragement from the bank. The same four should also have won the Junior pennant at the

Abingdon Head, but they holed their boat before the start and rowed with a stern full of water, coming second to Wallingford by only one second nevertheless: a respectable but annoying result under the circumstances. As an eight, however, the 1st VIII rowed well to come 26th at the Reading Head and 14th at the Schools' Head: both good positions and better than the school has done before. In the same events the 2nd VIII came 45th and 32nd, and, hopefully, the regatta season will be freer of incident and less interrupted by weather so that both crews can live more fully up to their promise.

The Colts' VIII has been developing fast. They came 31st at Hampton and rowed well to come 42nd at Putney and 6th in their class. The stern four won the Colts' pennant at the Abingdon Head very convincingly, and the VIII looks as if it will go fast at its regattas. The same is true of the Colts' IV who rowed very successfully at the Schools' Head and at the Abingdon Head.

The Junior Colts' Vllls contain a number of last year's Under Fourteens and their skills are developing satisfactorily. Preliminary skirmishes at Putney and Radley were modest and a Junior Colts' IV came a narrow second in the Abingdon Head. Below them two Under Fourteen eights have been boating under the enthusiastic and efficient guidance of last year's senior three coxes. The A VIII came 2nd at the Radley Head and a very respectable 6th in their class at the Schools' Head, so it will be interesting to watch their progress during the summer months.

The most ambitious rowing of the year so far has been done by Jonathan Sowden and Robin Joy, who have been rowing in a four with Tom Cadoux-Hudson from Radley and with Robert Harte from Abingdon Rowing Club. They have been coached by Arthur Truswell from Abingdon Rowing Club, one of England's three youth selectors, and have proved themselves to be the fastest Junior (under 18) four in the country. They have been selected to represent the region in the Regional Championships in May and hope to gain selection for the English youth team which will be going to the International Youth Championships in Finland during August. We are indebted to Shrewsbury School for the loan of a coxed pair to help them in the next stage of their training and selection, and to Radley College for the use of their Stampfli four.

The term finished with a sponsored row which raised about £500 to buy new equipment, though more would have been raised if dangerous wind and river conditions hadn't forced the cancellation of the junior crews' row until a later day. It was still a good effort, though, and is indicative of the present high morale of the Boat Club.

GGB

THE CREWS FOR 1977 LENT TERM WERE:

1st VIII: Bow: J. J. W. Breckon*; 2: R. J. Perkins*; 3: A. H. Cook+; 4: R. S. Harries; 5: P. A. Younge; 6: M. E. Lintott*; 7: M. D. Andrews; stroke: R. P. Emerton; cox: S. M. Russell.

2nd VIII: Bow: D. W. Stewart; 2: E. Parker-Jervis; 3: P. G. Spittles; 4: S. D. Holdoway; 5: D. J. Crook; 6: R. V. Scriven; 7: C. P. Sowden+; stroke: P. M. Johnston; cox: P. J. Cheek.

Colts' VIII: Bow: C. P. S. Bromhall; 2: M. W. Hills; 3: R. P. Hamlin; 4: S. W. Tanner; 5: J. M. P. Cloke; 6: H. M. L. Doherty; 7: J. N. S. Lintott; stroke: S. J. Mulvey; Cox: P. C. R. Morris.

Colts' IV: Bow: J. A. Higgs; 2: S. W. Rogers; 3: D. A. M. Scott; Stroke: S. M. Woodhall; Cox: S. D. Harrison.

Junior Colts' VIII: Bow: T. R. Burles; 2: B. R. J. Rhys; 3: J. Cook; 4: N. T. Wright; 5: N. S. Hall; 6: A. N. Trigle; 7: M. J. Round; stroke: P. Bowker; cox: W. J. Rayson.

Under 14 VIII: Bow: T. P. Doherty; 2: T. G. Fellows; 3: R. J. Dykes; 4: R. D. Hignett; 5: R. G. Hooley; 6: M. E. Emerton; 7: R. K. Thomas; stroke: A. T. Rowe; cox: D. Lindesay*.

* denotes Full Rowing Colours

+ denotes Half Rowing Colours

NOVICE

The first time I went down to the boathouse I was dumped in a scull, given two blades, told to hang on, and was pushed out from the raft. I was then told, from the bank, that by moving the blades up and down I could alter the balance of the boat. I tried, timidly, moving the handles that I was clenching so hard up and down. It took me by surprise when the boat leant over and I was ready to jump. I jolted the handles back into position and past one another and found myself leaning the other way. After a lot of leaning and panicking I at last got straight again.

When I looked up I found myself in the middle of the river facing the bank. Someone shouted 'Launch coming'. I looked to my side and saw a massive blue launch coming straight towards me. I tried to row a stroke with one hand but nearly ended up in the water. I tried again and this time started to move round. I took two more frantic strokes and was relieved to find myself out of the way of the launch and still in the scull. The launch went past and I sat there panting, still holding tightly on to the oars with aching hands. I was woken up again though when the launch's wash caught me broadside and I jerked around even worse than before.

After trying a few more times to row a stroke without falling in I made my way to the raft and climbed out of the boat, feeling exhausted. I sagged down on to the grass and two kind people put my boat away. After a long rest I made my slow way back to school for tea.

Julian Cook (Under 14 VIII)



HENLEY

There is something strangely civilized about the start at Henley Royal Regatta. The crews are fairly close together, and there are few spectators. The finish is far away. No commands are shouted: a man in a tent talks softly into a microphone to the boys on the starting rafts. The spectators in the launch sit mute and impersonal. Far from easing any tension and nervousness, it magnifies it. Time agonisingly slows down, almost to a standstill. The silence is broken only by a refined, 'I'll ask you once. Are you ready? Go!' And we are away, pounding off towards the distant finish. There is no feeling that quite compares with the moment the starter says 'Go!' It is the release of a great store of nervous tension suddenly replaced by intense mental and physical concentration.

Richard Perkins (1st VIII)

ATHLETICS

The Summer term of 1976 will be remembered for the glorious sunshine (over 100° F during Wimbledon fortnight), though the grass soon turned brown and the track became bone-hard. The home matches were all well organised with the results and progressive scores announced by Mr. Crawford on the public address system, with up to eight members of staff helping officiating and spectators being attracted in comparable numbers to those who watch cricket on Upper Field. The spirit was marvellous throughout whether boys were shouting on their team-mates in the close finishes or helping with the little jobs like marking where the discs landed or carrying result-sheets over to the announcer. The one black spot was the absence of the high jump because our landing area was burnt by some mindless vandals one Saturday evening. The main sufferer was Stuart Cameron (with the 'bionic' legs) who despite lack of practice still managed 1.81 m (or 5'11¼") to win the Vale of the White Horse Championship. John Madgwick (200m in 23.8) and Cameron shared trophies for the best individual performances.

Inter-school matches were arranged for all age-groups and the overall record was 14 wins in 20 contests; indeed, up to the last match when we ambitiously took on Bryanston and Millfield there were 13 wins in 14 contests. The strongest teams came from the 4th year and the 2nd year. The seniors relied heavily on six all-rounders from the Upper Sixth: namely, Colan Robinson (javelin, discus, 100m), Robert Price (400m, 800m), Laurence Despres (shot, 100m, high jump, discus), David Thomas (long jump, triple jump), Stephen Lawson (shot, 800m), and James Parsons (400m, 100m). These will be difficult to replace, yet we seem to say this each year, and, indeed, new talents did emerge this term. Promising youngsters include Tim Jefferson (triple jump, sprints), Mark Smith (1500m), Richard Hawes (400m, triple jump) and Duncan Bell (sprints). But we look forward with relish to when the top athletes in the fourth form become stars of the senior team, with the most outstanding being John Madgwick, Richard Drew, Peter James, Mark Chapman, Andrew Carrie, Stuart Cameron, Gary Rogers, Phillip Ashby and Jonathan Davies. In particular next year they will be in the upper half of their age-group and have a good chance of making the team



of 30 that Oxfordshire takes to the All-England Championships.

Non-playing captain was Richard Hingley, not recovered from his viral pneumonia. Secretary, Colan Robinson took over his role and inspired the team with moments like when his mammoth javelin throw against St. Edward's evoked spontaneous applause from the spectators. Full colours were awarded to Robinson, Thomas, Price and Despres, and half colours to Madgwick, Rogers and Lawson.

Most regular were: Madgwick, Rogers, Davies, Hawes (8 times), Robinson, Price, Thomas, Lawson, Owen, Edwards, Chapman, Ashby (7), Despres, Parsons, Cameron, Bell, Jefferson, Fulwell (6), Cullen, Drew, M. Smith, R. Baker (5), Halliday, O'Driscoll, Yaxley, P. Wilson, I. Simpson, Tomlinson, Wijetunge (4), Boon, C. Allen, Martin, James, Carrie, Fenton, Robertson (3), Watson, Hillary, Wood, Green, Gnapp, Hiles, M. Round, G. Wilson, Enevoldsen, R. Thomas, R. Simpson, Casey, Meadows, Newmark, Willett, T. Wilson, Pinches (2).

RESULTS

Oxford City AC Schools Medley Relays (at Radley)
U/15 team 4th 4:30.2; U/17 team 5th 4:01.7; U/20 team 7th 4:07.6

v Our Lady's Convent (home)
U/13: won 44-22; U/14: won 47-19

v Radley & Cheltenham (at Radley)
U/17 : 1 Ab 114, 2 Ch 105, 3 Rad 33
U/20 : 1 Ch 127, 2 Ab 100, 3 Rad 17

Vale of White Horse Schools Championships (at Radley)
winners: U/15 Hawes (400m), Smith (1500m), Jefferson (triple jump)
U/17 Edwards (100m), Madgwick (200m & long jump), Rogers (shot & discus), Cameron (high jump), Davies (triple) Edwards, O'Driscoll, Carrie, Madgwick (4 x 100m relay)
U/20 Lawson (shot put), Robinson (discus), Thomas (triple)
teams: 1. King Alfred's 47, 2. Abingdon 42, 3. St. Birinus 37.

v St. Edward's (home)
U/15 : 1 Ab 61, 2 St. E 60
U/20 : 1 Ab 69, 2 St. E 52

v King Alfred's (home)
U/17 : 1 Ab 55, 2 KA 48
U/20 : 1 Ab 60, 2 KA 47

Oxon Inter-Area Champs (at Horspath Road, Oxford)
winners: none
seconds: Jefferson (U/15 triple jump), Cameron (U/17 high jump), Rogers (U/17 shot put), Robinson (U/20 discus)

v Bloxham (away)
U/17 : 1 Ab 77, 2 BI 56
U/20 : 1 Ab 68½, 2 BI 65½

v Wallingford (home)
U/14 : 1 Ab 61, 2 Wa 60
U/16 : 1 Ab 77½, 2 Wa 43½

v Bryanston, Millfield, King's Taunton (at Bryanston)
U/15 : 1 Br 145, 2 Mi 141, 3 Ab 83, 4 KT 78
U/20 : 1 Br 125, 2 Mi 116½, 2 KT 116½, 4 Ab 91

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

These took the form of a decathlon spread over the last three weeks with five runs, three throws and two jumps. Whereas this was not so competitive as last year, possibly due to the rival attraction of the swimming pool on the really hot days, a worthy winner emerged in Alistair Halliday, whose brother John won in 1972.

1st Halliday 642 points; 2nd Chapman 612; 3rd Owen 611; 4th Hawes 409; 5th Rogers 362; 6th Parsons 275; 7th Lawson 262; 8th Boon 255.

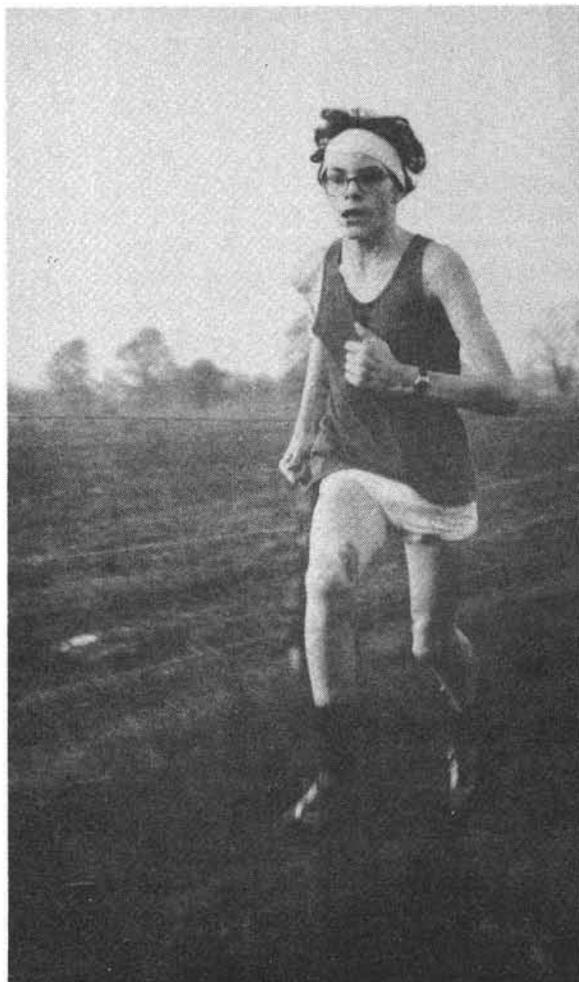
SPORTS DAYS

By common consensus these were the best for a decade due to exciting inter-form competition, several records, press coverage, and trophies presented by the headmaster. The victores ludorum were:

1st Form: A Cullen (1W)
2nd Form: D. Bell (2V) & R. Hawes (2V)
3rd Form: T. Jefferson (3T)
4th Form: J. Madgwick (4B)

N.A.F.P.

After winning the Midland and Scottish "veteran" titles, Mr Baker was selected for the British Orienteering Federation team which competed in the Swedish O-Ringen — a five day competition which attracted over fifteen thousand competitors!



CROSSCOUNTRY CLUB

The Michaelmas term was an enjoyable term with many good results and a tremendous spirit throughout the club. There was strength in depth with many youngsters making exciting progress due to group training sessions and competitive time trials. The senior team was built round Morfey, Owen, Cullen (captain), Hillary (secretary), Byfield and Allen, whilst Chapman, Bromhall (until his Achilles tendon injury) and Baker took it in turns to step down and lead home the colts team. There were 6 wins over Winchester, Bradfield, Stowe, RGS High Wycombe, Magdalen College School and Oxford and 2 defeats to St. Edward's and Marlborough. In the relays we again missed out on the medals, though we were third at halfway at Dr. Challoner's. On 1st December we organised a sponsored run to raise money for a new high jump landing area. 54 boys turned out on a wet afternoon in 9 teams of six runners and raised £117.26.

In all 33 boys represented the school including Cullen, Hillary, Morfey, Chapman, Byfield, Allen, Garrett (8 times), R. W. Baker, Edington, Wilson, Buckley, Geere (7), Owen, Shirlaw (5), Woodhall (4), Short, Peterson, Bromhall (3), Stephenson, Moore, Thompson, Enevoldsen, Black, Dubenski, Hughes, Pearson (2).

Full colours were awarded to Andrew Hillary, an incredibly efficient secretary, and David Byfield.

RESULTS

- v Winchester & Montgomery of Alamein (away)
Seniors: Won 33-45 (Win) Colts: Won 40-54 (MofA)-79 (Win)
- v St. Edward's (away) Seniors Lost 38-42 Colts Lost 28-50
- v Bradfield & Stowe (home)
Seniors Won 37-61 (Br)-74 (St) Colts Won 33-48 (Br)
- v RGS High Wycombe & Magdalen College School (home)
Seniors Won 38-71 (Mag)-77 (Wyc) Colts Won 131-177 (Mag)
- v Oxford School (home)
Seniors Won 29-49 Colts Won 21-63 Juniors Lost 29-51
- v Marlborough & Beachen Cliff & Harden Huish (away)
Seniors Lost 25-57 (Mar) Colts 1 BC (54), 2 Ab (60), 3 Mar (68) Juniors 1 BC (36), 2 Mar (57), 3 Ab (81), 4 HH (143)
- St. Nicholas GS Relay (Nortwood) A team 8th B team 23rd
- Dr. Challoner's Relay (Amersham) A team 7th B team 18th

INTER-FORM CROSSCOUNTRY

Two very good records fell this year. Richard Baker clipped 9 seconds off Nick Smart's 1965 Third Form record, and Mark Chapman took 8 seconds from Richard Hingley's 1973 Fifth Form record. Both were outstanding achievements.

Sixth Form: 1 A. G. Morfey (16:44), 2 A. G. Hillary, 3 P. Eccles.

Fourth/Fifth Form: 1 M. I. Chapman (16:55), 2 P. Edington, 3 A. M. Garrett.

Second/Third Form: 1 R. W. Baker (8:44), 2 D. G. Bell, 3 A. J. R. Cullen.

First Form: 1 R. M. R. Suggate (8:04), 2 A. M. Ashford, 3 T. D. H. Bugg.

The Lent term following was a busy term with matches for all age-groups, and many boys put in a lot of hard work earning some good results. In the Vale of the White Horse Championships at Wantage we were fourth suggesting an unexpected lack of depth. However, four boys did well here and went through to the Oxon Inter-Area in Oxford and there gained selection for Oxfordshire in the All-England Championships at Redditch. They were Alistair Morfey, Mark Owen, Mark Chapman and Richard Baker. In the first team matches we had six wins, against Winchester, Leighton Park, Oxford, Cheltenham, RGS High Wycombe and Old Abingdonians, and lost to King Alfred's, Magdalen College School (both when we had two top runners missing) and Wellington. The highlight of the term was the third place at the Alleyn's School Relay in Stevenage. The medal-winning team was Baker, Morfey, Cullen, Owen, Eccles and Chapman. In an exciting race when we were fourth or fifth early on Mark Owen took us up to third and on the last lap Mark Chapman regained this. All the team ran their hearts out and at the end we were overwhelmingly delighted, particularly those who had been with me to the other top-class relays on the circuit over the past four years and tried and tried but without success. Individually two boys stood out this term. Alistair Morfey was first in six of his nine races, while he gained the youths gold medal in the Chiltern League, an unprecedented achievement for an Oxford City AC runner, and in the National Championships in London he was 66th out of 599. Richard Baker, a third-former, made such a gigantic improvement that he was a regular scorer in the first team, and indeed at Wycombe he did something that I have never seen before: 15 minutes after finishing fourth in the senior race, which we won narrowly, he ran in the colts race, and, after a steady start, turned on the power up the big hill and won this race by a minute. Also it is good to see the younger runners making progress, and among the keen ones who have improved are Andrew Garrett, Paul Edington, Simon Moore, Jeremy Geere, James Buckley and Peter Wilson. The Inter-Form Relay involved more teams than ever before: 24 forms plus 3 guest teams. There were five 'photo-finishes' at the end with the 2nd VIII guest team sharing the same time (37:03) as the winners, who were Byfield, Young, McCreery, and Hillary from VI A. Richard Baker knocked an incredible 41 seconds off the third form record with a time of 8:40. The captain was Iain Cullen, and the secretary Chris Allen. Full colours were awarded to Mark Chapman, and half-colours to Peter Eccles and John Wood.

N.A.F.P.

RESULTS: LENT TERM 1977

VWH Champs (Wantage): Team 4th overall
Individuals: Morfey (1st: U/20), Owen (4th:U/20), Chapman (2nd:U/17), Baker (2nd: U/15)
Oxford Inter-area (Cutteslowe): Morfey (2), Owen (8), Chapman (6), Baker (1)
v King Alfred's (home): Seniors lost 34-47; Junior colts won 33-47
Oxford Univ. Tortoises Relay: A team 16th, B team 48th (57 teams)
v Winchester (home): Seniors won 17-44; Colts won 17-39
v Wellington & Leighton Park (away): Sen 2nd (W 40, Ab 53, LP 96) Colts lost 24-63

v Oxford Sch & Magdalen Coll. Sch. (away): Seniors 2nd (MCS 42, Ab 52, Ox 99)
 Alleyne's Relay (Stevenage): A team 3rd, B team 18th (21 teams)
 v Cheltenham (home): Seniors won 22-59; Colts lost 31-47
 v RGS High Wycombe (away): Seniors won 37-41; Juniors colts won 33-47
 v Old Abingdonians (home): A team 37, OAs 54, B team 91
 All-England Schools Crosscountry Championships (Redditch): Morfev (100), Owen (253), Chapman (303), Baker (333).

N.A.F.P.

ORIENTEERING

Over the years past and present members of the school (and their families) have played prominent parts in making the Thames Valley Orienteering Club one of the largest and most active clubs in the country. This year we have also helped the club to their most successful competitive season.

Our team of Richard Baker, Richard and David Thompson was 2nd in the Junior Relay at the JK International, and the two Richards were members of the winning M13 team at the British Championships. William Baker, competing as a guest, beat all-comers on the medium course of the army championships, and was a member of the winning under 19 team at the Scottish Championships. Simon Moore (M15) was 2nd in two Badge Events. The Baker family were third in the handicap class in the British Relays. However, the most notable achievement was that of David Thompson who won the M12 title at Cropton Forest, Yorkshire, to become the school's (and club's) first British Champion.

The consistently good results of three of our number in the major championships have resulted in their names appearing in the current British Ranking Lists: David Thompson is ranked 4th in M12; Richard Baker 6th in M13; while Roger Baker heads the M43 list.

Other members of the school orienteer in a less competitive manner, but one of the attractions of orienteering is that it is a sport which can give pleasure and satisfaction to all ages and conditions.

R.H.B.

GYMNASTIC CLUB

The Gymnastic Club had a most successful second season, including two displays which ran smoothly despite bad weather conditions. There was personal improvement in all members, some of whom attained a high standard in the Lent and Summer Terms without previous experience. Injury was a problem, for none more than Gary Mitchell, who had to miss the first display. However, the new equipment gave both practical help and encouragement. We were also very fortunate to be able to use St. Helen's Sports Hall during the winter months which gave an added incentive.

In the Lent Term we entered a team for the first time in the Public Schools Championships at Radley, and were grateful for the kind loan of their facilities for practice. After hours and hours of practice, then, we were pleased to get outstanding results. In the Seniors Mark Green, Gary Mitchell, Stephen Murphy, Nigel Freeman and Alistair Robertson were placed 2nd in the vault and 3rd in the floor sequence. In the Individual Green came 3rd in both the floor sequence and vault, and Mitchell 2nd in the vault. The Junior Team of Timothy Skinner, Alan Cooper, Gareth Harper, Nicholas Murphy and Claus Eckhart did very well to come 3rd in the vault — excellent results all round considering the lack of practice area at school. Full colours for Gymnastics have been awarded to Nigel Freeman.

Thanks must go to Mr. Drummond-Hay whose enthusiasm and leadership were invaluable. Full colours were awarded to M. Green, and G. Mitchell, and half colours to N. F. Freeman, S. J. Murphy, G. Gnapp, and N. Edwards.

The team was: M. Green, K. Peterson, N. Freeman, G. Mitchell, G. Gnapp, S. Murphy, N. Edwards, P. O'Driscoll, P. Gale, P. Jones, A. Round, M. Round, A Cooper, T. Skinner, G. Harper, A. Mellor, N. Murphy, A. Lowe.

Mark Green (VI)



TENNIS

This 1976 season was almost the reverse of the 1975 season in terms of the performance of the various teams.

The 1st VI had a very successful term, playing with spirit, determination and enjoyment. We were fortunate in having the services (unintentional pun!) of our Swedish 'import' for the term, and he slotted in well with the established members to provide some extra power and skill, so vital to a team which finds itself in the occasional difficult situation.

As the term progressed, confidence grew and we reached half-term with all matches won. Our old rivals M.C.S. were the first to inflict a defeat immediately after the half-term break, and the only other loss was against the O.A.s on Founder's Day. The O.A. team contained three recent and very useful captains of the School Club: Ian Gardner (1971), Jeremy Taylor (1974) and Greg Walters (1975). The other three members of the O.A.'s team were Nigel Tattersfield and two more Gardners, Paul and Anthony. The School put up a good fight, but weakened by the absence of M. J. Abrines and N. Nasiell were beaten convincingly by a squad of accomplished players.

The 2nd VI suffered, yet again, from the lack of matches. The three that were eventually played were lost, and a fourth rained off. Despite the lack of practice, all who played did their best and managed to get a good deal of enjoyment out of the games at the same time. Two of the matches might well have been wins, so evenly were the teams matched, but points were lost at critical stages in various games, tipping the balance in our opponents' favour.

The Colts had another successful season losing one of their seven matches. Their only drawn game should have been a win, but we made things difficult for ourselves by poor positioning and bad backing-up. However, lessons were learned and we have a group of useful supporting players for next year.

The U15's had only one match against a side which claimed to be weak. In response to a request to field a weak team, half were inexperienced in school matches and we lost 5-4. Nevertheless, the team played as well as could have been expected under the circumstances and they stuck to the task up to the last point.

The U14's had two matches, one of which they lost, not surprisingly, to the Dragons, and the other they 'won'. The latter was more of a social occasion when we entertained a team from the Convent. Needless to say, we had our largest crowd of supporters that I can remember!

The overall situation at the end of the season was:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	
1st VI	11	9	0	2	(with 2 cancelled)
2nd VI	3	0	0	3	(with 1 cancelled)
Colts	7	5	1	1	(with 2 cancelled)
U15	1	0	0	1	
U14	2	1	0	1	
	24	15	1	8	

The various teams were selected from:—

1st VI: M. J. Abrines, A. L. Knibbs, M. M. Smith, P. M. Aston, P. V. Thomas, N. Nasiell, T. D. Robson, N. G. Williams.

2nd VI: M. M. Smith, N. P. Kay, R. W. Kermode, S. P. Thompson, P. V. Thomas, C. T. Reid, L. M. Jones-Walters, J. E. Palmer.

Colts: M. S. King, S. J. Brouard, C. Holding, M. J. Howes, P. J. Davidson, P. K. Druett.

Juniors VIs: (U15 & U14): P. J. Davidson, P. K. Druett, D. A. Betterton, A. T. Kermode, P. W. R. Blackburn, R. I. Stanway, T. M. Spittles, G. D. Brown, P. J. Dubenski, G. Khakoo, P. Lovering, R. T. Schofield.

Full colours were awarded to M. J. Abrines, A. L. Knibbs and N. Nasiell, and half colours to P. M. Aston, M. M. Smith, P. V. Thomas, T. D. Robson and N. G. Williams.

The two open knock-out events, the Buckley Cup (Senior) and the Junior Competition were again well supported.

T. D. Robson beat P. V. Thomas in the final to win the Buckley Cup, but despite an early start, the Junior Competition was unfinished, due mainly I suspect to the tiring effect of weeks of very warm weather.



For the second year running, we were unable to put a team into the Youll Cup at Wimbledon, but Tim Robson and Nicholas Williams entered again for the Thomas Bowl Competition (Under 16's). After beating a pair from Rugby, they lost in a flourish of uncontrolled power to Wellington's consistent first pair, whom they had defeated in last year's competition.

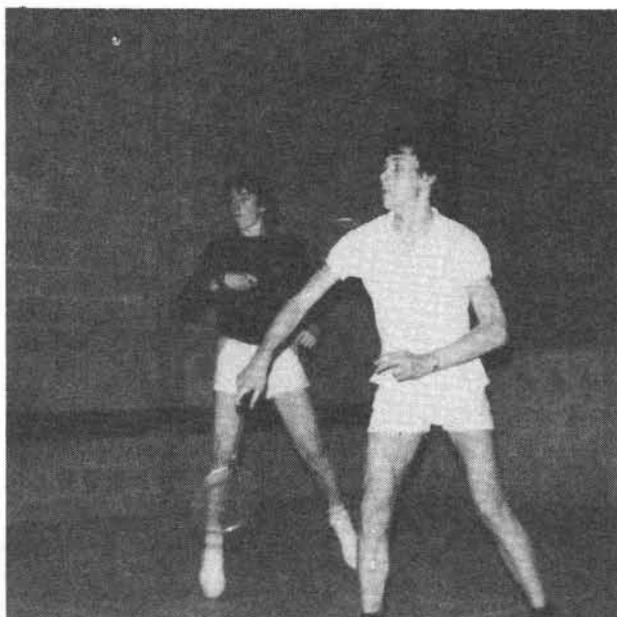
The duties of Captain and Secretary were performed quietly but efficiently by M. J. Abrines and P. M. Aston respectively. To them both we express our thanks.

On behalf of all Club Members, I thank Messrs. T. R. Ayling, and C. E. T. Moore for their help throughout the term, supervising, playing against and looking after those who played, and in particular for many hours of their own time spent accompanying teams at home and away.

We were again well supported by refreshments and gallons of squash and we thank Mr. Wilkinson and his catering staff for their efforts. Although the weather made the grounds difficult to keep in good order, Mr. Bagshaw and his staff spent a good deal of time keeping the courts playable and to them we offer our thanks.

We said goodbye this term to A. L. Knibbs, S. P. Thompson, N. P. Kay, R. W. Kermode, J. T. K. Whittington and N. Nasiell, and at the end of the Michaelmas Term M. J. Abrines, and M. M. Smith will also leave. To them all we wish every success for the future.

J.E.V.



BADMINTON

This has been a very enjoyable season, with a lot of good badminton played, and in spite of a greater proportion of losses than usual, the general standard of the sport shows no signs of declining.

Congratulations to the 1st VI on winning the Oxfordshire Schools League for the second year running, by beating Banbury School. If we add the three successive Berkshire League wins that we achieved before being politely asked to leave, that makes 5 championships in a row. Congratulations, too, to the under 16 VI, on showing a marked improvement over the year, so that after losing so disappointingly to Matthew Arnold in November, they came very close to beating a strong St. Birinus side in the Top Schools tournament in March. Congratulations to Nigel Talboys on being invited to play for the Berkshire 3rd team (seniors) on several occasions, and to Simon Napier-Munn for

winning the internal School League. Badminton at the top end of the school is in a very healthy state, with plenty of talent to call upon, and the prospect of an almost unchanged 1st VI next year. If the talent further down looks rather thinner, this may be an illusion, since players have a habit of improving unexpectedly under the stimulus of competition with other schools. But the fact remains that in future years we may not have things quite so much our own way locally. There are distinct signs that badminton in local schools is developing very fast. This is heartily to be welcomed, and a very healthy augury for local sport, but if only we had our own sports hall, and could meet other teams on something approaching level terms!

I would like to thank Nigel Talboys and Patrick Gale for all they have done as Captain and Secretary respectively, and also Messrs Ayling, Webber, Aspinall, and Miss Lord for the very valuable, and much appreciated, help they have given over the year. I hope they enjoyed it as much as I did.

Full Colours are held by Nigel Talboys, Patrick Gale and Mark Taylor.

Half Colours are held by John Hester, Simon Napier-Munn, Ken Forsyth and Philip Davidson.

DCT

RESULTS

1st VI		
Desborough	Lost	2-5
Henley GS	Won	7-0
King Alfred's Wantage	Won	6-1
Henry Box, Witney	Won	7-0
Burford	Won	6-1
Wallingford Upper	Won	5-2
Banbury (Oxon Schools Final)	Won	5-2
'A' VI		
Desborough	Lost	1-6
Sir William Borlase	Lost	2-5
2nd VI		
RGS High Wycombe	Lost	3-4
Under 16 VI		
John Mason	Won	6-1
Matthew Arnold	Lost	3-4
Larkmead	Won	6-1
Fitzharrys	Won	5-2
St. Birinus	Lost	2-5
King Alfred's Wantage	Won	6-1
St. Birinus (Top Schools Tournament)	Lost	3-4
Under 16 'A' VI		
Sir William Borlase	Won	5-2



In September last year Peter Brodie went up to St. John's College, Oxford as a scholar. We asked him to write a brief account of his first impressions of University life. The most rewarding part, he says, is the people you meet and the books you read. But also . . .

"Tickell must rule — the People demand it!" says the Junior Common Room suggestions book. Memories come flooding back of Tickell enrobed in gown, mortar-board, dickey-bow and best suit perched on a bollard in North Quad while posing for photographs by American and Japanese tourists.

"Gee, Martha, isn't that sweet!"

"Ah so! Velly Pretty!"

The celebrations on the completion of the new Quad actually cost more than the building itself — no wonder Good King Charles went bankrupt! But things have changed since then . . . an Italian student stood for J.C.R. Domestic Secretary on a platform of 'Free Spaghetti for All (plus Exchange Visits to Rome)'. Pity he didn't make it. Still, free Peter Sellers films shown in hall are almost as good, though I wonder what the College's Founder thinks about it all, looking down from his portrait on the wall. Rumour has it that he died without ever having his picture done, so they painted his sister instead and stuck false whiskers on her — looks like it too.

Funny how no-one goes to lectures after 4th week: "I like Conrad so much I don't mind talking to myself about him," said the lecturer — and just as well too. The only person listening is that girl in the back row — and she's doing her knitting. She always wears that orange crash helmet and leaves five minutes early; rustle rustle rustle go the plaky waterproofs. Some lectures are worth listening to, though: Milton's *Lycidas* begins with a man talking to a plant. Then he contemplates cutting off parts of it. Is this a half-witted vandal, we ask ourselves? Does he make a habit of assaulting shrubbery? "Fame is no plant that grows on mortal soil." Well, if you're talking to plants you use plant talk, don't you? How else could you expect to communicate with an oak tree?

Scouts are a dying breed; probably dying of Vim poisoning judging by the trail left all the way up the stairs. Small scout strikes again! "Ooh look!" (switching on my light). "He's still in bed!" (Bang, Bang!) "Is he staying in bed?" (Pulling curtains back). Nobody suspects the scout's Hoover . . .

"I have measured out my life with coffee spoons" wrote T. S. Eliot, but today's undergraduates seem to measure out their lives in essay crises, and who can afford coffee nowadays anyway? Not everyone works hard, though — otherwise how did that real live duck which should have been peacefully sunning itself on a certain college's lake come to be swimming in that chap's bath? They say he bribed it with bread and smuggled it past the porter in his briefcase. Phantom duck-jacker hits Oxford!

Robin Kermode also left in 1976 after winning a place amid fierce competition at The Central School of Speech and Drama, where we gather he is now doing extremely well . . .

During the first few weeks of the course, I began to feel uneasy. Later I realised that this feeling was shared by many of my contemporaries, and, even

for those ten years older than I — who naturally had a wider experience of life — the prospect was daunting to say the least. Those uncertain days seem far away now. Life, largely due to the wide variety offered by this course, is intensely interesting. In the desire to create the "all round actor" (should such a being exist!), the training is fully comprehensive, hence the inclusion of song and dance.

In this, our second term, a bare rehearsal studio is the setting for Chekhov's "Seagull". It is not until our second year that we use either stage or costume, and not until our third that we face a public audience. This term is characterised by our weekly visits to Regent's Park Zoo. Here we study and later 'act' members of the animal kingdom. The reason for this study is to define an essential part of acting technique. The physical differences between man and beast are so great that in order to portray an animal, an actor must begin with a mental and emotional picture of his 'subject', and then let his body develop from this.

Despite the frustrations caused by my deep desire to become a penguin (!), I am finding life tremendous fun. The course is always provoking, often amusing, and despite emotional and physical stress, is ultimately intensely rewarding.

SCHOOL PREFECTS 1976-7

Heads of School: R. J. Perkins and K. C. Peterson	
Head of School House: M. E. Lintott	
Head of Crescent House: P. M. Aston	
Head of Larkhill House: K. M. Forsyth	
Head of Waste Court: A. J. Furley	
J. J. W. Breckon	D. M. Lewis
D. M. Byfield	G. B. Lewis
T. J. Crome	J. M. Murray
N. F. K. Franklin	G. L. Nayler
M. R. Green	D. C. Poole
A. G. Hillary	M. N. K. Saunders
R. A. Hobbs	S. F. Williams
R. J. Humm	E. J. Wood
A. M. J. Young	

GAMES OFFICERS 1976-7

Captain of Cricket 1976: C. W. P. Hobson
Secretary of Cricket: D. J. Driver
Captain of Rugby: C. M. Lowe
Secretary of Rugby: J. Slingsby
Captain of Boats: M. E. Lintott
Secretary of Boats: R. Emerton
Captain of Hockey: L. M. Jones-Walters
Secretary of Hockey: J. Slingsby
Captain of Cross-country: I. S. Cullen
Secretary of Cross-country: C. H. Allen
Captain of Badminton: N. J. Talboys
Secretary of Badminton: P. N. C. Gale
Captain of Chess: J. J. Stephen
Secretary of Chess: M. E. Spoor
Secretary of G.G.C.: J. Slingsby
Captain of Athletics: R. Hingley
Secretary of Athletics: C. Robinson
Captain of Tennis: M. J. Abrines
Secretary of Tennis: P. M. Aston

O.A. 1976 News

We have been asked to draw to the attention of O.A.'s living in or visiting Western Australia the British Public Schools Association, which functions in that area, P.O. Box 178, Hamilton Hill 6163. This association holds various social functions in the course of the year.

BIRTHS

BISBY: in April 1973, to Isobel, wife of Mark A. Bisby (1967), a son Adam Paul, and in November 1974 a second son, Luke Alexander.
BRITEN: on 1 April 1974 to Susan, wife of Paul Briten (1961), a daughter, Sarah Louise.
BURNS: on 23 September 1976 to Linda, wife of Ian Burns (1963) a son, Nicholas Andrew.
CARTER: on 8 April 1975 to Sally, wife of Richard Carter (1963) a son, Mathew Neale.
DAY: on 5 April 1968 to Judith, wife of Michael Day (1962) a daughter, Helena.
EDELSTEN: on 29th October 1975 to Elizabeth, wife of David Edelsten (1963) a daughter, Samantha Clare.
HALL: on 23 April 1971 to Jane, wife of George Hall (1962) a son, Gordon Lees, and on 11 November 1973 a daughter, Sharon Claire.
JACKSON: in March 1976 to the wife of Richard Jackson (1966) a son, Andrew Richard.
LIBBY: on 23 May 1976 to Carolyn, wife of Terence Libby (1961) a daughter, Helen Elizabeth.
MACKAY: on 16 April 1971 to Beverley, wife of Bruce Mackay (1963), a son Stuart Bruce Rory and on 1 May 1973 a second son, Douglas Bruce Leander.
PENNEY: on 3 March 1976 to Jill, wife of David Penney (1966) a daughter, Joanne Clare Louise.
STEWART: on 12 May 1970 to Hilary, wife of Andrew Stewart (1963) a son, Jonathan, and on 25 July 1973 a daughter, Camilla.
TURNER: on 14 March to Elizabeth, wife of Robert Turner (1969) a daughter, Rhiannon Rosalind.
WALLACE: on 22 January 1974 to Katharine, wife of Christopher Wallace (1971) a son, Alistair Luke.

MARRIAGES

BOVEY — TURNER: on 14 August 1976 Christopher J. Bovey (1971) to Michelle Patricia Turner.
CANTWELL — WHITTINGTON: on 3 August 1974 Stephen J. Cantwell (1972) to Susan Whittington.
COCKERILL — DWYER: on 28 August 1976 Michael A. Cockerill (1967) to Jacqueline Dwyer.
COE — KENSLER: in April 1977 Nicholas P. Coe (1964) to Pamela Kensler.
DEAN — ZUPPINGER: on 28 March 1975 David P. Dean (1970) to Sylvia Zuppingier.
FAIRLIE — OJASTE: on 21 August 1976 Stephen Fairlie (1969) to Piret Ojaste.
HEARD — CARPENTER: on 8 April 1972 David J. Heard (1970) to Christine Angela Carpenter.
HUTCHINS — CLARGO: on 20 July 1974 John S. Hutchins (1966) to Nina Mary Clargo.
MADIN — TAM: on 9 March 1976 Anthony J. Madin (1973) to Tam Yuen Ling.
MEIN — HARDY: in October 1975 Kenneth Mein (1966) to Stephanie Hardy.
MUSHENS — GALLOWAY: on 27 August 1976 David J. Mushens (1975) to Anne Katharin Galloway.
SMITH — WHITE: on 24 August 1976 David F. K. Smith (1964) to Bridget White.
SNODGRASS — MURRAY: on 30 October 1976 Andrew Snodgrass (1968) to Gillian Mary Murray.

DEATHS

It is with much regret that we record the deaths of the following O.A.'s:—

A. W. R. FOXWELL (1921-26). Roland Foxwell died on 22nd August 1976 as the result of a riding accident. Our condolences to his widow and sons and to his surviving brother BYRNE FOXWELL (1931).
J. KNOWLES (1910-1916). James Knowles was senior prefect in 1916, in which year he won a Pembroke Scholarship at Oxford. An excellent cricketer, he made his name in the legal profession and had a distinguished career in the Chancery division. He was always a loyal and generous supporter of School and O.A. activities. Recently moved to a nursing home in Hastings, he died on March 10th 1977.
J. T. D. MAY (1918-20) died in July 1974.
A. W. SMART (1966-73). Ashley William Smart was killed at a tragically early age in October 1976 in a flying accident.
J. G. SHEPHERD (1904-09). John Shepherd, late of Glyndwr in Park Crescent, died on 6th June 1976.

NEWS

GEOFFREY BOSLEY (1932), now sadly a widower, wrote to say that he hoped once again to join in O.A. activities, and we can assure him of a warm welcome at any time.
PETER WOOD (1935) retired in 1975 from the wine trade, having been Chairman of the London Wine Shipping Companies. After much searching he has found a house, with just over an acre of ground, in which to settle in Somerset. Congratulations to GORDON BAYLEY (1938) on the award of his C.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday List 1976, and on his appointment to the Wilson Committee on the City's financial institutions. The Economist mentions him as the sole representative thereon of Insurance Companies and Pension Funds.
JACK PETTY (1941) has broken silence to explain that he settled in Jersey in 1955, following 4½ years in the RNVR and qualifying as a dental surgeon at Guy's Hospital, after which he practised at Sevenoaks and Worthing.
IAN CRUDGINGTON (1942) was Master of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers in 1974/5 and records meeting T. G. AUSTIN (1928), Master of this Company in 1970/71, and Dr. D. E. P. JONES (1944) regularly.
COLIN LEIGH (1942), who has a son at Bloxham and a daughter at St. Helen's, went out to Kenya in 1952 as an accountant and has been a partner in Price Waterhouse — Africa Firm — since June 1975. He still enjoys his squash and cricket, having played as a wicket keeper in some very good company and being at the moment Secretary and Treasurer of the East Africa Cricket Conference. He loves Africa and particularly its game parks but sadly says that his children will never be able to live or work there and expects, one day, to retire to England. We look forward to seeing him then.
COL. TONY CLAY (1948) has left Rome, where he was temporarily based, and is now settled in Belgium for the next 2½ years.
DAVID LEACH (1948), after being a research chemist and chief chemist with a firm in Mitcham, is now operations director in charge of production and distribution for Bestobell Paints Ltd., as well as being a Director of two companies.
Congratulations to NEIL DARROCK (1952) on his appointment last September to a post in the Diplomatic Service.
HUGH LEACH (1952) has left Cairo and is now First Secretary (Political) in the British Embassy at Sana'a, the last truly mediaeval capital city in the world, he says.
DAVID LANGTON (1956) continues to be Headmaster of Holme Grange School, Wokingham, a coeducational day prep school, and is a member of the IAPS. To judge from the prospectus this is a very flourishing concern.
PAUL OLDER (1956) has given up his medical work as Consultant Anaesthetist in Sydney and is now running his own garage, specialising in BMW tuning and racing.
MARTIN SCOTT-TAGGART (1956) is currently Reader in Philosophy at the University of East Anglia but is tempted by the offer of a permanent Professorial Chair at an American university, having been visiting professor at some half a dozen universities.



IAN STUART-LYON (1956) is a Wantage based specialist in water garden design, whose expertise has been sought by three clients in Copenhagen. He hopes that these will lead to more export jobs.

BARRY CORK (1957) has come ashore after fourteen years at sea in the Merchant Navy, the last four in command, and is now working for a British shipping company as Executive Director. DAVID GERRARD (1957) is a TV producer in Canada, married with a family and enjoying life across the Atlantic. His latest product on English television proved to be somewhat controversial.

IAN GLENNY (1957) has a daughter and a son, aged six and three respectively, and is now an Associate with Smith-Woolley, Chartered Surveyors and Land Agents at Collingham, Notts.

NEVILLE GRANT (1957) is living in Essex, working as a freelance writer with a contract from Longmans, the publishers.

RICHARD MORSE (1957) is running a small group of companies in the film world and working as editor and producer, with the bulk of his work overseas with non-British concerns. He is gradually moving over to electronic recording and editing.

BRIAN SMITH (1957) is now a Consultant Anaesthetist in the Windsor Group, involved in an intensive care unit at Wexham Park.

BRYAN WINKETT (1957) is becoming something of a Common Market specialist, dealing with the European Social Fund and labour aspects of migration.

KEN PULLEY (1958), with a New South Wales University Ph.D. in Zoology, which involved sailing round the Great Barrier Reef and studies of jelly fish in various estuaries, is now doing post Doctoral work in environmental research at Macquarie University. The only OA with whom he is in regular contact is his brother-in-law COLIN WIGGINS (1953), who is still in Port Washington, U.S.A.

Congratulations to GRAHAM CROW (1959), who was last August appointed Senior Personnel Executive of Rolls-Royce Motors International, having worked for the parent company in England since 1965.

KEITH HAARHOFF (1960) is kept pretty busy and is often abroad. He now has two young children.

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON (1960), is on his second tour of duty with the Rhodesian Police, having in between whiles joined and left the RAF and worked with a firm of Rhodesian timber merchants. He is stationed in the Victoria province of Rhodesia and would welcome visits from OA's passing through Fort Victoria.

RANDALL MOLL (1960) has been team leader of the Black Country Industrial Mission and Priest in Charge of Brockmoor, to the west of Birmingham in heavy industrial country, for a year now. He was enthusiastic about the project but we have not heard how things are working out nor have we an address for him.

CHRIS PICKUP (1960) took up command of 66A Squadron, Army Air Corps at Farnborough in April, having been at M.O.D. for the last couple of years.

PAUL BRITEN (1961) is now Headmaster of St. Stephen's Junior School, Twickenham, and has also published several books and a game on mathematical themes.

ROGER HAVELOCK (1961), with two boys of five and three, is still living at Cheadle Hulme but has moved jobs to ICI's Pharmaceuticals Division at Alderly Park.

JERRY HURD (1961) is still with BUPA, now Assistant Manager of their Exeter branch. He has two children and keeps in touch with Rupert Allison, Tony Lawson, Michael Neilan, and David Robey — all flourishing and with families of their own.

Once again MIKE NURTON (1961) had a marvellous season with Oxfordshire, failing by one hundredth of a run to top the Minor County averages. He scored 976 runs with a season's average of 57.41, with only the Indian Test Cricketer Amarnath above him with 57.42 from a much smaller total.

DAVID PERKINS (1961) is the General Manager of Andrews' new homes service having been with this company of Estate Agents since 1965. He has two sons and twin daughters, all four under seven.

Major DAVID RIDDICK (1961) has now completed one year of his two year posting as Training Major of the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, RAF, at Alnwick. He looks back with satisfaction and pride on his spell in command of a Company of Fusiliers in Belfast.

GEORGE HALL (1962) returned from his diplomatic post in Zaire in 1972 and trained as a teacher. He is now teaching French and German at Stockwood High School, a comprehensive in Luton.

RICHARD WELCH (1962) is still Headmaster of Hornmead Primary School in Hertfordshire and is also Managing Director of a small building company specialising in first homes.

DAVID EDELSTEN (1963) is now a Public Relations Executive with Burmah Castrol Co., Swindon, whose specialised responsibilities include Castrol's motor sport publicity and the making of motor sport films.

JAMES FAIRLIE (1963) is to be congratulated on his first managerial post at Lloyds Bank, Watford Branch.

ANGUS FRASER (1963) has two young sons and is to be congratulated on his newly gained honour — a Fellowship of the Faculty of Anaesthetists.

Major BRUCE MACKAY (1963), back from Singapore and still a keen rugger player and golfer, is now R.M.O. with the 3rd Bn. Light Infantry.

Major TYM MARSH (1963) has left Sandhurst and after a spell at the Army Staff College, Camberley, is working at the Ministry of Defence. He has two young daughters.

IAN MATSON (1963) has settled with his wife and two young daughters in Australia and is living in Victoria.

ANDREW STEWART (1963) is a qualified accountant now and is currently European Controller for Marsteller Inc., an American Advertising Agency.

TOM BARRETT (1964) is back from an interesting two and a half years in the Yemen, with two young children, but he has ambitions to go abroad again somewhere — possibly the Himalayas — when he has finished writing up the results of his most recent work.

NICHOLAS COE (1964) has left his job as a Senior Surgical Registrar at Guy's and, after a year at the Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, Mass., has settled at a hospital in Springfield, Mass. DAVID SMITH (1964) has just returned from five years of touring in South America, Japan and the Middle East "to settle locally for a while".

STEPHEN THORNTON (1964) has recently been promoted to the post of Managing Editor of the Life Science Department at Pergamon Press, Headington, with considerable editorial and marketing responsibility. He has been to conferences in the last year at Helsinki and Hamburg.

MICHAEL WOOD (1964), ARIBA some five years ago, is married with a daughter aged one, and works in the Architects' Department of Bucks. C.C. at Aylesbury. One of his recent responsibilities was the new Leisure Centre at Milton Keynes.

DAVID CLUBLEY (1965) is back from his service spell in Northern Ireland and posted to Germany again, where he has taken over as Adjutant of his regiment. He recently met PAUL HOPKINS (1968) who is flying Jaguars for the RAF in Germany. ERIC CROUCH (1965) is a Psychiatric Registrar at Littlemore Hospital. His brother EDMUND (1967) is still in Cambridge, working at the Cavendish Laboratory with Dr. Eden's energy research group. Youngest brother SIMON (1976) has just won an award at Churchill College, Cambridge, to read Maths with Physics.

ALAN HODGSON (1965), with a B.Sc. Hons. in Civil Engineering and married in 1970, is at the moment helping to build a new harbour at Yanliu, two hundred miles north of Jeddah.

SAM MARSH (1965) wrote last August from Hong Kong, where he was poised on his way back from Australia with his wife and baby daughter. He met STEVE BAKER (1965) there and recorded a mixture of celebration and athletic activity in the shape of training runs.

BOB RISHER 3rd (1965), having worked for some years as a Commercial Insurance Underwriter in Cincinnati, has now taken a Master's degree in Public Administration at the University of North Carolina.

TIM ADDISON (1966) has left British Leyland to work with the Government's Industries Board.

NICK BELL (1966) after ten years in Lancashire is looking forward to a new challenge as Priest in charge of St. Luke's, Bricket Wood, St. Albans. We wish him luck.

JOHN HUTCHINS (1966), having graduated from the City University, spent four years at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Crowthorne, and is currently on a Fellowship in the commercial office at Harwell.

SIMON KING (1966) is now Assistant Librarian at the R.N. Engineering College, Plymouth. His brother TIM KING (1964) has left Westminster and now teaches at M.C.S., Oxford.

DAVID TANNER (1966) has been made one of three Youth Rowing Selectors for the British team — on which many congratulations. After the success of his London Rowing Club crew at Henley last year in winning the Wyfold Cup, he is keeping them together into men's rowing.

NICK WARE (1966), with a Law degree and his articles served in Gray's Inn, was preparing for his Law Society finals last August.

MARK BISBY (1967), with a D.Phil. Oxon. to his name, is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Neuro-Medicine at the University of Calgary.

MIKE COCKERILL (1967) is now Company Quality Auditor with Birds Eye Foods, based at their head office at Walton-on-Thames. His job involves quite a lot of travelling both at home and abroad.

IAN LAMBERTON (1967) is a Sales Consultant with Gardner Merchant, a subsidiary company of Trust Houses Forte.

RICHARD ROPER (1967) is beginning to see daylight at the end of the tunnel as he battles to build up a horticultural business at Ashbury, near Swindon, specialising in bedding plants for the retail trade.

MICHAEL BAUMANN (1968) is now back in England after some years in India and is teaching English to immigrants in Manchester. He will be moving, in September, to a newly converted Comprehensive School in Chiswick to teach History and is much looking forward to the change.

ADRIAN CANTWELL (1968) has recently bought a house in Reading and is getting married in June. He works for British Rail and has qualified as a Member of the Institute of Transport.

TONY CHAFER (1968), with degrees from Nottingham, Reading and Nantes Universities, is now in his first year as Lecturer in European Thought and Literature at Cambridgeshire College of Art and Technology. He is aiming at a Ph.D. eventually and meanwhile teaches Drama on the C.N.A.A. Joint Honours Degree course while continuing his research in modern French drama.

JASON KING (1968), has left the National Westminster Bank, taking a postgraduate Certificate in Education course at Nottingham University, which he is enjoying, and has no regrets.

ANDREW SNODGRASS (1968) spent eighteen months in Australia after graduating from Reading and a further five months on the return overland journey across Asia. He met his wife in Australia and they are now farming near Enstone in Oxfordshire.

VIVIAN RAMSEY (1968) took two months over his journey home from Libya and he and his wife Barbara are settling back into an English way of life.



NICHOLAS WOOD (1968) was married in January 1976 and is a sales representative for Macmillan Bloedel, who make fibreboard containers. He likes the job and is doing well.

It was a pleasure to welcome KUNMI AKINBIYI (1969) on a visit to the school from his home at Vomperberg in Austria, where he is breeding horses and running a riding school and dressage centre. He brought news of brother BODI AKINBIYI (1965), who was about to take his doctorate in German Literature at the University of Heidelberg.

PETER BENNETT (1969) is living in Oslo, doing social work, but expects to return to England later this year. He sent news of brother MICHAEL (1961), working for Shell Agricultural Division in Reading but hoping to move to Dorset.

ROBIN BLACKBURN (1969) is well into his second year of accountancy with Peat Marwick and is determined to see his three year training period through before finally deciding on a career. He has recently spent an excursion-packed three weeks in Egypt, taking in Cairo, Luxor, Abu Simbel and Alamein.

STEPHEN FAIRLIE (1969) is now teaching at Nottingham High School.

CHARLES MAUDE (1969) has come down from Cambridge and has got a job at the Coliseum, which will lead him on to a career in stage design, which is what he wants to do.

ROBERT TURNER (1969) is Assistant Principal Science Teacher at Tyneside High School in Edinburgh and also a part time bus driver with the Scottish Bus Group.

NICHOLAS BEECHING (1970) went on from Balliol in 1974 to the Oxford Clinical School, won a prize in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and edited the Oxford Medical School Gazette for a year. He spent ten weeks in India and is now working as a House Surgeon at Nottingham General Hospital.

IAN BROWNE (1970) went on from Fitzwilliam College to Ridley Hall, with a degree in Theology on top of his Oxford Geography degree, and is due to finish there in June and to be ordained at Gloucester on July 3rd. He will then go as Assistant Curate to Christchurch, Cheltenham, which includes within its parish the Ladies' College.

SIMON COE (1970), A.R.I.C.S., is married, lives at Putney, and works for Bissoe Brothers at Staple Inn at Holborn.

DAVID DEAN (1970) is teaching English and History at the Institut le Rosey in Geneva during the spring and summer terms, moving with the school to Gstaad for the winter term, which gives him the chance to learn to ski.

DAVID HEARD (1970) should by now have qualified as a Chartered Accountant in Sheffield, having taken the final part of his professional exam in December.

GRAHAM MILTON (1970) transferred last year from RAF to Fleet Air Arm and expects to finish his helicopter pilot's training at Culdrose in Cornwall by the end of this year.

GEORGE NASMYTH (1970) qualified as a doctor in October and will be at the Middlesex Hospital until August this year.

CHRIS BOVEY (1971) gained an LL.B. degree at Leeds and is serving his articles as a solicitor in Birmingham. When he is finally qualified he will be joining another firm in Kidderminster.

FRANCIS MAUDE (1971) did very well to get a first in his Bar Part 1 exams last June and is now on an Inner Temple Scholarship, with chambers all fixed up and already appearing at tribunals.

GRAHAM SMITH (1971), with a degree in Architecture completed in 1974, has returned from two years V.S.O. work in Nigeria and is now completing an architecture course at Oxford Polytechnic.

CHRIS WALLACE (1971), having achieved a degree in Physics at Exeter University, is now working for British Drug Houses in Poole.

STEPHEN CANTWELL (1972) took an upper second class Honours Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the City University in February of this year and is working for the London Electricity Board. He will finish his training in September.

It was a relief to hear that BRYAN CLUBLEY (1972) is making a good recovery from a serious car accident in which he was involved some while ago. He was very badly injured and has had a most unhappy time, but the latest news was that he is well on the road to health again.

PETER COWLEY (1972) graduated from Leeds in German and Russian last year and is now teaching English with V.S.O. at Solag in Egypt.

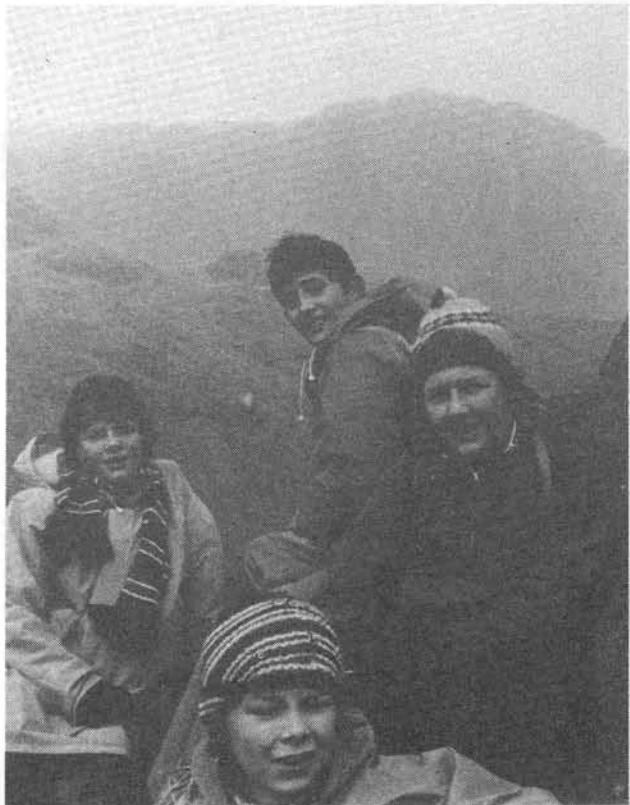
CHARLES NASMYTH (1972) is training in Birmingham to teach Art, having achieved an upper second at Gloucester College of Art and Design at Cheltenham.

News from PETER BARTON (1973) is that his degree in Estate Management — an Upper Second at Reading University — is

being put to good use in Marlow, where he is a trainee Building Surveyor. He finds his Church a great help and comfort and is due to marry in August a girl from Bristol whom he met there. TONY MADIN (1973) passed out from the Royal Hong Kong Police Training School as a Probationary Inspector in May 1975 and is at the moment on a language course learning Cantonese, enjoying his job very much.

PETER HALLUM (1974), having passed A level in English Literature, is now a trainee manager with British Home Stores. Congratulations to ROBERT MCGREEVEY (1974) on the award of a Scholarship at Lincoln College, Oxford, on the strength of his achievements there to date, and also to JOHN DEWAR (1975) and DAVID LIGHT (1975) on the award of places respectively at Hertford and St. John's Colleges, Oxford, to read Law and P.P.E.

NICK SHEPHARD (1975) is recovering from an unexpected and nasty operation in January which fortunately was not as serious as had been feared. He should already be back at York University and we wish him better fortune from now on.



On the Sunday of the Lent half-term a new avenue of young trees (variety Whitebeam Mitchellii) was planted along the main drive. Not only did the Homewood family — Geoffrey, William, David and parents John and Nancy Homewood — make a gift of the trees, but also provided the labour for planting and staking them, while later on Charles and Grace Taylor came along to see that their grandsons had done a good job. The gift will not only add beauty for generations to come, but will embody the long association of the family with the school. The existing row of pink horsechestnuts has served its turn, and some of the trees have become brittle and diseased, but they will not be replaced until the whitebeams have become more established.

ADDRESSES

BATEMAN M.: 53, Bassett Road, London W10.
BELL M. P. J.: 20 West Riding, Bricket Wood, St. Albans, Herts. AL2 3QP.
BRADLEY B. J. W.: Flat 6, Avebury Court, Cyprus Road, Exmouth, Devon.
BRIMBLE J.: 9 Elmbank Road, Kennilworth, Warwicks.
BEERE J. M.: Whiteacre, Abbey Lane, Aslockton, Nottingham.
BISBY M. A.: 1731 Bowness Road, N.W. Calgary; Alta., Canada T2N 3K3.
BOSLEY G. A. H.: Janus Gate, 16 Reading Close, Torquay, Devon.
CANTWELL S. J.: 16 South Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HY.
COCKERILL M. A.: Arnis Avenue, Woodham, Surrey.
CUNNINGHAM I. M.: 12 Parkmore Terrace, Brighton BN1 6AL.
DAY M. J. I.: Dovercourt, Tilsworth Road, Storbridge, Beds.
EDELSTEN J.: 61 River Park, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
FAIRLIE J.: 25 Woodwaye, Oxhey, Watford, Herts, WD1 4MM.
FIRTH P. H.: 30 Burroughes Avenue, Yeovil, Somerset.
FOSTER A. W.: 29 The Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10
FRASER A. C. L.: 10 Cornwallis Avenue, Clifton, Bristol.
GOFF H.: 51 Earls Avenue, Folkstone, Kent.
GOOD G. J.: 18 Sevenoaks Crescent, Bramcot, Notts.
HALE W. S. T.: 4 Orchard Avenue, Sonning Common, Reading, Berks. RG4 9LT.
HALL G. A.: 10 Leon Avenue, Bletchley, Bucks.
HARVEY M. R.: 19 Champion Road, Barton Court Farm, Abingdon.
HOWAT D. B.: 47 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6JP.
HURD J. R.: 178 Pennsylvania Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 6D2.
KING D. B.: 28 Valiant House, Vicarage Crescent, London SW11.
LEACH H. R.: British Embassy Sana'a, c/o F.C.O., King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.
LEIGH A. L.: P.O. Box 41968, Nairobi, Kenya, E. Africa.
LIBBY T. A.: The Old Courtyard, Lower Cookham Road, Maidenhead, Berks.
LOCKTON R. G.: Dept. of Vet. Medicine, University College, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
McLOUGHLIN I. L.: 43 Longlands Road, Carlisle CA3 9AE.
MARSH Maj. T.: 9 The Mount, Fleet, Hants. GU13 8PX.
MARTIN D. B. C.: 2 Burstow Road, London, SW20 8SX.
MATSON I. W. D.: 22 The Brentwoods, Chirside, Park Lily Dale, Victoria, 3140, Australia.
NICHOLLS N. G.: Peat Marwick and Co., Princes Building, GPO Box 50, Hong Kong.
OSWALD J. R. D.: 88 Hereford Road, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 3HH.
PERKINS D. F.: Panthers Hill, Church End, Bletchington, Oxon.
PICKUP Maj. C. J.: 21 St. Michael's Road, Farnborough, Hants.
PRIDHAM J. F.: Laburnam Cottage, Kewstoke, Weston s. Mare, Avon.
PULLEY Dr. K. J.: c/o 9/91 Ewos Parade, Cronulla, N.S.W., Australia 2230.
SIMMS J. A.: 2 St. Andrew's Rd., Old Headington, Oxford.
SMITH Dr. B. L.: 11 Bartlemead Close, Maidenhead, Berks.
SMITH D. F. K.: Myrtle Cottage, 10 The Forty, Cholsey, Oxon.
SNODGRASS A. R.: Litchfield Farm, Enstone, Oxon.
TAUWHARE J. M.: 7A Oxford Road, Wokingham, Berks.
WARE N. C.: 1 Grove Place, Lymington, Hants, SO4 9SS.
WESTBROOK E.: 6 Rue Lavoisier, 75008, Paris.
WOOD, J. D.: Watlands Lodge, Udimore Road, Rye, Sussex TN31 6AB.
WOOD J. M.: Crab Cottage, Ridley Hill, Kingswear, S. Devon TQ6 0BY.
WOOD M. P. S.: 19 Baker Street, Waddesdon, Bucks.
WOOD N. A. R.: 24 Upper Fant Road, Maidstone, Kent.
WOOD P. R.: Ashill House, Ilminster, Somerset.

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James Wise
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