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This is the second **Abingdonian** to be printed in its new format. We thank all those who wrote offering their comments on the change. A good many pointed out that photographs without captions were of not much use to those not in the swim of school life, and this has been rectified.

The Abingdonian is not the only new feature. however. In fact, the timber merchants who, in two weeks of deforestation in the summer vacation, removed our dead or dying elms and changed our treescape so significantly, seem in retrospect to have been the harbingers of the past school year. It has not been simply a year of pulling down: quite the reverse. Our photographs do inadequate justice to the extraordinary amount of constructive change that has gone on in the past year. Many classrooms have been redecorated to a high standard of specification, and the Bursar's myrmidons, wielding paintbrushes rather than spears, have been ubiguitous. There have, moreover, been many room-changes, which have been effected with astonishing smoothness, without undue numbers of boys and staff wandering forlornly around suffering from disorientation. John Varley, who visited the school this term after nearly a year at Cheltenham, was surprised to learn that the Bursar's Office was now the Reeves Room, that the Lodge was now the Bursar's Office, and that Heathcot was now the Lodge. Somewhere someone is sitting at a desk in the middle of a field, but he hasn't appeared yet! Old Boys returning to the school have, however, been able to see the magnificent Jubilee wing, with four classrooms above a new Dayboy House Room, and the extension of the Library downstairs, by means of a spiral staircase, to the John Hooke Library named so appropriately after one of the school's benefactors and friends. Both buildings have a very high standard of finishing, and this attention to appearance has also been the just cause of the small but committed forestry squad, led by Messrs. Talbot and Randolph, who have ensured that future generations will have an everincreasingly attractive landscape to look out upon.

Building of another kind is involved in the promised system of tutor-groups and Dayboy Houses which comes into operation next September: the sort of thing known in educational jargon as a 'pastoral infra-structure'. The first two years have already been regarded as a more independent unit, with their own tutors and Lower Master, their own assembly and class-room block. Boys in the middle three years will be organised in three Dayboy Houses, each with its own House Room, under Messrs. Randolph, Webber, and Coleman, and each House in turn will be staffed with a group of tutors. We hope to give further information in The Abingdonian in the years ahead of this re-shaping of the school's pastoral life, to accommodate the needs of a community of boys and staff that exceeds the 700 mark.

This past year seems to have been a resplendent one in some areas of sport. We describe later on in this issue our most talented individuals, but it is of note that the Rugby XV lost only two of its eleven school fixtures: this prompted more than one O.A. to write to the Captain of the side after the fine victory over Marlborough. Cricket is going very well this term: full details will be given in the next issue, but with some four weeks of term left, the school's sides have conceded only three losses, and John Slingsby has so far scored over 600 runs at an average of 98. The 2nd VIII seems to have stolen the boating glory, with three wins in five outings, and the gymnasts bore off some of the trophies, including best Athlete, in the Public Schools Championships. Lastly, and perhaps astonishingly, the Cross-country runners won every fixture, and Alistair Morfey, their first-string, won every race!

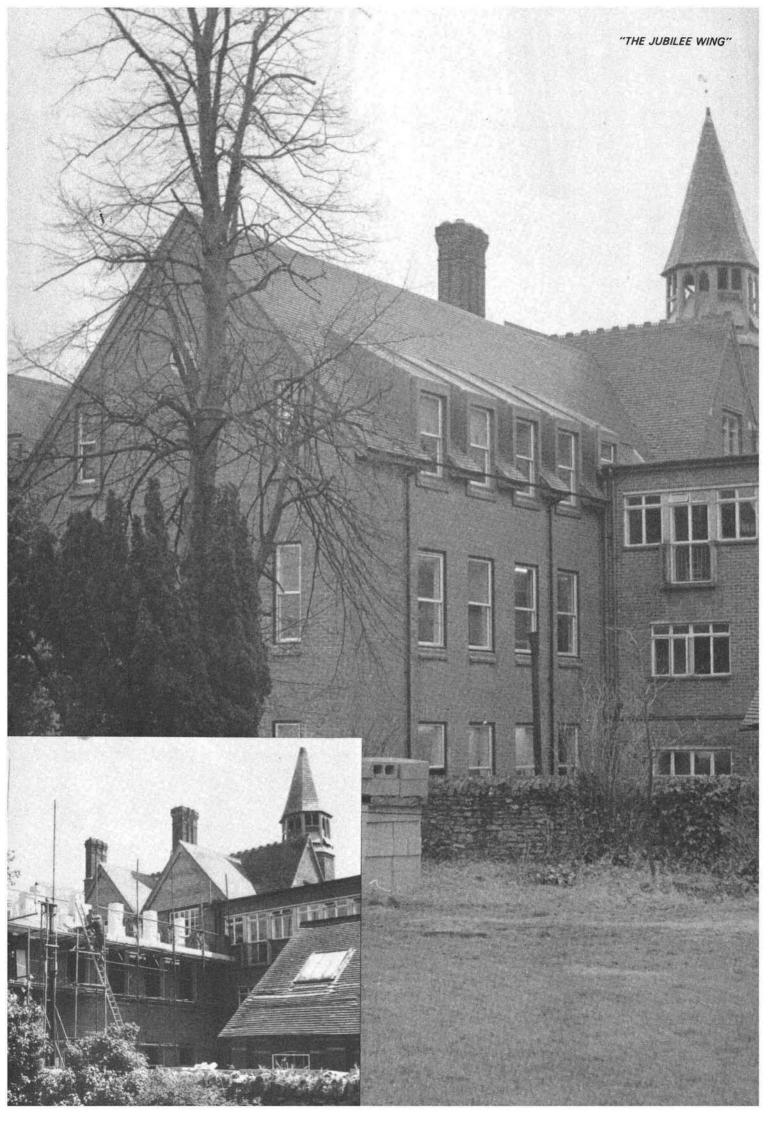
Athleticism and endurance were wedded to the notion of building in the Sponsored Walk. The Walk, which took place on a bitingly cold day in February, was part of the School's effort for the T.A.S.S. Fête. Despite the cold, the Walk was blessed with some brilliant sunshine and spirits were accordingly very high. Photographs of the event appear later in the magazine. The walk raised over £3000, for the T.A.S.S.-sponsored project of restoring the Workshop. This figure was bettered by the Fête which this year rejoiced in some unprecedented sunny weather. The day proved to be the best of the year so far, and was a fitting complement to the enormous effort made by the School and the parental body, once again led without stint of time and effort by Len Robinson. The scope of the Fête exceeded that of previous years, with over fifty stalls and sideshows, and many incidental attractions. Huge sixth formers crouched in the cab of a miniature train to provide Kiddies' rides around the school grounds, a traffic jam in the centre of Abingdon led by a collection of radiators and bedsteads on wheels, and some girlfriends coerced into becoming drowned nymphs were some of the more memorable events. Work on renovating the Workshop has already begun, an Instructor has been appointed, and boys will be able to see an immediate response to all their efforts in the coming school year.

The coming year will see a Common Room somewhat depleted by those going to pastures new, or to retirement, however. In particular, Joe Talbot and Freddie Sewry, after many, many years of service, will be badly missed. A full tribute will appear in the next edition of the magazine. It is fitting that both men should be associated with such a memorable year in the school. Both have seen many boys leave to go on to University, Joe in his capacity as Second Master and curator of University Entrance, and Freddie as Careers Master, and both will be delighted that in this year the school surpassed its own previous achievements when eleven boys won Awards at Oxford and Cambridge.



"Mr. Airey Neave opening the Jubilee Wing"

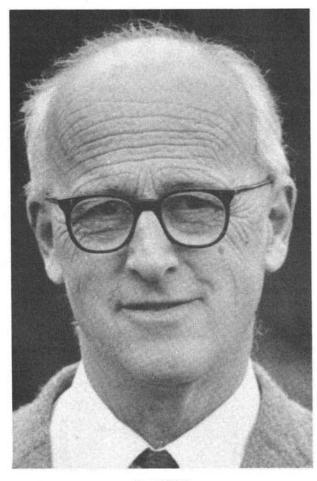




Staff News

During the Summer Term 1977 we were sadly deprived for a while of the services of the Bursar, whose place was temporarily filled by Air Commodore Stockwell, no stranger to the school's fiscal policy. We are happy to report that Danny Head is now healthily back in the saddle.

After 31 years of committed involvement with school life, **Tom Moore** retired at the end of the Summer Term.



Tom Moore

Born in China in a missionary family, Tom spent his early years at a boarding school in York, later reading History at Hertford College, Oxford, then returning to take up his first teaching post in China in 1937. At the outbreak of war in 1939 he immediately came back to England to join the Forces and was duly commissioned in the King's African Rifles. He spent his war in Africa with that regiment, but was seconded to Intelligence for some time, an interlude which provided him with a vast array of anecdotes. He was appointed to the staff here by W. M. Grundy in 1946, teaching both history and geography, and taking charge of the latter subject for the next 30 years. But Tom's interest lay primarily with history, an interest bolstered by years of voracious and catholic reading, a good deal of it while cycling precariously to and from school. In the Common Room Tom will be remembered for his unfailing good nature and generosity, but with a liking for the occasional rousing dialectic with a colleague of less liberal views than his own.

Among the boys he will be remembered for his easy going and courteous manner maintained whatever the provocation, and his interest in games, particularly hockey and tennis. He was an accomplished player of both games himself and supervised tennis as a school activity for many years. Older OAs will remember his long association with the Corps, as second in command to Stuart Parker and adjutant. It was not untypical of Tom's adjutancy that he somehow acquired the 25 pounder field gun for the Corps without apparently the cognizance of the Army, a feat that might have baffled even Jock himself.

After more than thirty years at Abingdon Tom and Jean have retired to be near their family in Scotland, at St. Andrews. Here Tom is happily ensconced, still teaching some history part time, but this time to girls. The Common Room, in gratitude for years of loyal service to the school, extends its best wishes to Tom and Jean, and the hope of a long and busy retirement.

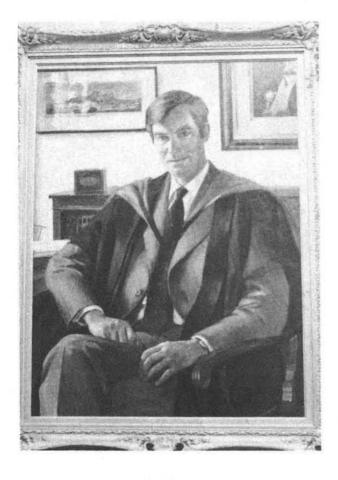
At the end of the Summer Term we also said goodbye to two young men who have recently graced the ranks of the English Department: Angus Alton and Barry Taylor.

Angus and his wife Sandy departed for Hong Kong, where Angus is to teach English at a large School. We will miss the dash of colour he added, be it his white shoes or rufous hair and beard. A canny left-arm bowler and a batsman regarded as the inveterate enemy of any Librarian anxious for his windows, Angus's sensitive and intelligent teaching will be much missed.



Mr. Angus Alton

Barry Taylor also leaves to enter the world of theatrical administration. It is rumoured that he has only been released by the English Department in order to secure regular free seats at the National, but all those who have formed audiences at Barry's plays — so many, in so few years — will realise that what the school will miss is the theatre's gain. Pupils will also regret the departure of a sympathetic, highly intelligent and gifted teacher who, like Angus, and often with Angus, performed a wide variety of valuable activities around the school. We wish them well, together with **Tom Walter**, who so ably deputised for Harry Eden during his sabbatical at Pembroke College, Oxford.



The visit of **Eric Anderson** to the school made for a pleasant and witty occasion for the staff and sixth formers who attended his unveiling of a portrait of himself. The painting, by Carl Cheek, is a shrewd and excellent likeness, as readers may judge from our own photograph, and can be seen hanging in the new Dining Hall. During the Year there have been expeditions galore of varied kinds, and some are reported in these pages. The Choir have sung in Germany, there has been a visit to Russia, exchanges with Grenoble and Bielefeld, writers have written at Heptonstall in Yorkshire, walkers and climbers have walked and climbed in the Lake District and in Scotland, plays have been seen at every theatrecentre within an 80-mile radius of Abingdon, scientists have visited the Rutherford Laboratories, and "artists" have visited exhibitions of Courbet, Blake, Concrete Poetry, and the Dadaists/Surrealists, all at London Galleries.

The school's writers have been even more active than usual. Apart from the customary trimestrial flourishes of **Ark** (this time landing a £50 prize in the W. H. Smith National Competition), there have been magazines containing creative writing in **Spark**, **Countdown**, **Open Deckchair** and **Spectrum**.

New staff this year include three members of an expanding English Department: Paul Cheetham, who joins us from the Ministry of Defence; Ralph Townsend, from Dover College; and Ian Mac-Donald, from Pocklington School. Robert Johnson joins the Chemistry Department, and Andrew Gasson strengthens the Geography Department. We are also delighted to welcome the return of Godfrey McGowan, having spent two years in pastures new at Charterhouse.

Finally, we offer our warmest congratulations to **Gwendoline Lord** on her marriage at Easter 1978 to Brian Slater; To **Stephen** and **Gill Bodey**, on the birth of a daughter Rachel; and to **Chris** and **Bridget Biggs**, on the birth of a daughter, Alison.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Voluntary Service Unit has been very active recently and has introduced a new Club.It is already well known among members of School House, from the amount of noise and energy which is apparent around the gym vicinity on Thursday evenings. The club is for the benefit of deprived children from the South Abingdon area. Activities have included carol singing, a bonfire night and various interesting ball and board games. We hope to introduce cooking in the future.

Other activities include newspaper collections and a school records group — both of which, Mr Willerton tells me, are being run very well!

Peter Littlewood and Hugh Doherty take over the offices of Chairman and Treasurer respectively. Will Hoggarth is now leader of the Children's Club.

Finally, attention must be brought to the many members of staff including house-matrons in the running of the Childrens' Club which has been far from smooth due to financial difficulties. Under Hugh's and Will's influence these problems should however, be rectified!

Phil Reed (VI)



During the year the chaplaincy activities have continued. On Advent Sunday thirty boys were confirmed by the Bishop of Reading at St Helen's Church. The end of the Michaelmas Term produced two Carol services, the first an Advent Carol Service at Merton College and then our Christmas Carol Service in St Helen's Church. The Sunday Services have followed a pattern of Mattins and Holy Communion in Chapel, with two Sundays a term a Sung Eucharist at St Michael's Church, a Sunday when the boys arrange the service and a Sunday when there is an opportunity to join a congregation in Abingdon.

At Founder's Day the preacher was Canon G. R. Sansbury, Chaplain to the Queen. This year the service was on Saturday 20th May and was part of a day of celebrations. On Trinity Sunday, 21st May, there was a Memorial Service in the School Chapel for J. B. E. Alston, the preacher at the service was Mr. J. M. Cobban.

Having looked back over the past year, what about the future? In September the School will welcome a new Chaplain, the Revd. Charles Neill M.A. He studied at Caius College, Cambridge and Cuddesdon College. He is at present Chaplain at Hereford Cathedral School and Vicar Choral of Hereford Cathedral. The Revd. Charles Neill will be assisted by the Revd. Philip Butcher M.A. who will be Head of the Divinity Department. He studied at Trinity College, Cambridge and Cuddesdon College. Before going to Whitgift School, where he teaches Divinity, he was a Curate at St Mary Redcliffe; he is married with two children.

A.H.J.L.

CHAPEL NOTES

It is a difficult task to know where to begin my final report for 'The Abingdonian'. My three and a half years seem to have flown by and I must thank you all for an enjoyable stay at Abingdon School. It is always a problem to pick out particular people to thank, but I must thank the Headmaster for all the help and support he has given to me. My thanks too, to the Music Department, to Michael Johnson and Michael Deacon, to the organists Simon Williams and Godfrey McGowan (welcome back), and to the Choirs. Thank you also to those who tidy the Chapel and arrange the flowers. A special thank you must go to the sacristans who work hard in the background.

Doing two jobs and working for two masters is never easy, particularly when half-time tends to mean full-time. My final thank you must be to my wife. Without her support my work would have been impossible.

THE HISTORIANS

May 1977 — March 1978

On Tuesday May 10th, Field Day, a group of forty Sixth form and potential Sixth Form Historians visited the Army Museum in Chelsea. In addition to time spent looking at the excellently varied and wide-ranging exhibits in the Galleries, the main part of the day was occupied by three very interesting sessions in the Lecture Hall. The first, on Civil War strategy, was especially popular because of the imaginative handling of 17th century material, including sulphurous firings of both matchlock and flintlock muskets. The less academic were somewhat deterred by a detailed survey of the Army Revolt of 1647, but all was restored by a lively presentation of different points of view, followed by discussion, of the qualities and defects of Oliver Cromwell. Generally adjudged a successful and enjoyable day's outing.

The evening of May 16th was made memorable by **Dr A.G. Macintyre**, fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, who, spoke on the subject of Macaulay and de Tocqueville. His mastery of the subject, the force and clarity of his delivery and his evident enjoyment of the questions and discussion which followed provided both entertainment and enlightenment. We came away wondering whether we were foxes or hedgehogs, and therefore in some confusion, but we are most grateful and we hope that he will come again.

About twenty Sixth Formers and Mr. Hillary attended this year's lecture arranged by the Oxford Branch of the Historical Association on October 1st, delivered by **Dr. E.A.O. Whiteman** to a large audience in M.C.S. Hall. Miss Whiteman asked the question "Was the English Civil War a class war?" and gave a well-balanced summary of recent research. She suggested that the Marxist theory, that the war saw a great leap forward on the part of the rising Bourgeoisie, was largely invalidated. After coffee and a lively discussion, the speaker emphasised the point that there is still much to be learned about the causes and nature of the Civil War.

On October 18th **Mr**. **Michael Liversidge**, **O**.**A**., Lecturer in Fine Arts at Bristol University, gave us an evening talk, illustrated with slides, on Charles I's patronage of the Arts and his collection of paintings. He held his audience spellbound for about an hour and we all came away with renewed interest and much better informed, full of admiration for a learned address couched in terms intelligible to the layman.

Dr. Paul Haynes fellow of Keble College, spoke to us next on November 7th, his subject being "Fascism". There was much food for thought in his talk and the discussion provoked was ample evidence both of the interest in his theme and of his provocative style.

On November 9th Dr Zawadski and a small group of Sixth Formers attended a conference entitled "The Global Villager", organised by the Commonwealth Society at Westminster College. It appears to have been an interesting and worthwhile exercise, particularly on account of the thought provoked by some of the speakers from Commonwealth countries and of the heated discussions of world poverty and possible solutions to this great problem. Mr. Hammond and Mr. Hillary took a combined party of Historians and Economists to a day conference in London at the School of Oriental and African Studies. In addition to interesting lectures on several underdeveloped areas of the world, there were talks on what the School has to offer in the way of University Degree courses. A rewarding day's excursion.

1978 has so far seen two extraordinarily good evening meetings. On January 17th we welcomed the return of Dr. David Bebbington, now Lecturer in History at Stirling University, on "What is History?" Full of interesting ideas, his talk laid great emphasis on the importance of bias and on the need for highly critical analysis of evidence. In the controversial discussion which followed, Dr. Bebbington displayed a rare willingness to stick to his guns. His successor on March 16th, Dr. W.C. Beaver, research fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford, spoke to us about the Intelligence Division of the War Office nd its influence in the development of the British Empire between 1854 and 1901. He impressed us all by his enthusiasm, his easy and attractive style of address and by the depth and thoroughness of his research. An intrinsically fascinating subject, with much of the glamour of the Four Feathers and of John Buchan novels translated into reality, his theme was the dedication and selflessness of the "monks" of the late 19th Century I.D. We look forward to forthcoming publications from these speakers and hope that they will come again.

I am particularly grateful to busy University men, who find time to come to talk to the Society, and also to Dr Zawadski, who has done so much this year to provide us with interesting speakers.

A.A.H.

SYMPOSIUM

"Symposium; sim-poz'-ium. n. a drinking together; a banquet with philosophical conversation; an account of such conversation; a selection of essays on a single subject by various writers. (L., -Gr. symposium — syn; together; posis; a drinking; — pisein; to drink)"

Aptly named? Considering the amount of winetasting that is going on down at the Music School on a moonlit night, the 'drinking' part certainly seems authentic. Unfortunately only the favoured few are permitted entrance on these dubious occasions, so that, despite several attempts to smuggle in spies, claims that the event is accompanied by 'philosophical conversation' cannot be verified. As for the third definition, I suppose that is my job. So let us cast aside the darker side of the society and see what it has to offer the '3rd Form and above' as was originally intended.

When Symposium was launched, in the last

term of 1977, it was heralded by such a publicity campaign as had never been seen before in this school, and certainly has not been rivalled since. The posters ranged from the bizarre and macabre to even the mildly funny and certainly brought about the desired effect of keeping everyone on tenter-hooks for a full fortnight. Then it announced itself as a 'cultural society' and lost the majority of its followers. Unless it was advertising itself as a society for 'experimentally grown bacteria' which may well have been the case judging by the appearance of some of its devotees, the advertising department rather let down the society at this stage. If Symposium is a 'cultural' society (and I say this with conviction, having attended both the play-outing to "What the Butler Saw" and the play-reading of "Loot") I am prepared to stand trial for libel: Symposium is simply an attempt to involve and interest as many boys as possible by presenting a varied and comprehensive range of activities. There is no membership fee and no admission charge (except for films, where the prices are so low that they often run at a loss anyway) and the range of activities is so wide that no-one can have an acceptable excuse for not having attended at least one Symposium event in the last two terms. Turn-out is essential for this sort of society to keep on its feet and everyone who makes the effort is rewarded with a very pleasurable evening's entertainment or, if he has his own opinion on the subject, is given a chance to air his own views in front of an audience.

Still not convinced?

Very well, let us take a look at last term's Symposium activities: to kick off there was the trip to Joe Orton's "What the Butler Saw" at the Playhouse. A bawdy piece of slapstick which, as I mentioned earlier, certainly cannot be placed under the sinister heading 'cultural'. On February 9th the film of Thomas Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd" was shown in the Court Room. Although rather more demanding than "What the Butler Saw" (which isn't saying much) it was fastmoving and very entertaining, and with an admission charge of only 25p was certainly excellent value for money. Then, after a winetasting session, Symposium's own play-reading of Loot, also by Joe Orton, was presented: -'Nuff said. On March 3rd Rev. Strange came back by popular demand for a General Questions session, as a sequel to the term before's "Compulsory Religion" debate in which he was the leading speaker. The debate on "The Right to Strike" made a suitable 'Grand Finale' to the term and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The vote went to Capitalism 13-14 and 34 people turned up which, unfortunately, is quite good for Symposium.

My only wish is that more people would attend each meeting, thus ensuring **Symposium's** future and enabling it to maintain its present high standard and range of activities. Meetings are on Fridays in the Music School at the somewhat inconvenient time of 8.00 p.m. (unless otherwise advertised). This term's attractions include an opera trip to "La Boheme", a poetry reading, a wine tasting (just to keep the society on definition) and a debate. Full details can be found in the School Calendar.

SUPERSTARS

In this feature we take a look at some of the School's outstanding individuals:



Cameron — Superstars

Stuart Cameron began high-jumping when he was 7 by leaping fences, made from rubbish bins and bamboo poles, at Fettes College in Edinburgh. His expertise began to develop, however, when he had a go at the Fosbury Flop in the Under 15 match against Eton when at Abingdon. He jumped 4' 7" (1.40m) and has not changed style since. At 14 he cleared 6 feet for the first time, which was a British record. He also cleared 1.80m (5' 11") at the same age to became the Scottish National Under 15 champion.

Last year, however, was Stuart's most impressive. At the British Young Athletes Cup Final he cleared 1.97m (6' 5"). Just imagine having to clear a bar balanced on the Headmaster's head! Stuart aimed at the same meeting for the magic 2 metres barrier (6' 7") and was dreadfully unlucky when, having cleared the height and leaving the landing area, the bar fell. His targets in the future include a jump of 2.05m (6' 9") which will put him in senior British International Class, and a Scottish Senior Cap within the next few years.

Julius Green (3)



Peter Cowlett is a member of the National Youth Orchestra, and wrote this piece for us:

".... an exceptionally musical group of young people who respond to everything I do and say." Pierre Boulez, the world-famous conductor and composer, was talking to us after a rigorous two-hour rehearsal. It was a great honour to be able to play under such an eminent man in the musical world and to perform such

masterpieces as Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring". The general public tends to think of the people in the N.Y.O. as high-class, poshspeaking and proud. This is not true, as the brass section of the orchestra testifies. About half the orchestra comes from comprehensive schools, and you'll find them with the louts at football matches most Saturday afternoons!

The standard is very high, things can be very competitive, and nastiness creeps in. Mistakes are forbidden. It can be very embarrassing if you do make a glaring blunder because it leads to harsh criticism from the musical professors or sodden shaving cream in your bed.

The social side is great, with the opportunity of getting to know people from all parts of Great Britain, from Aberdeen to Belfast, to Bognor. The concerts are the highlights of the ten-day musical course. The adrenalin really flows when television lights and cameras are focussed on you, let alone the actual audiences. "Arena to orchestra", shouted the promenaders as the cameras started rolling, "wave to mummy, ... now!!"



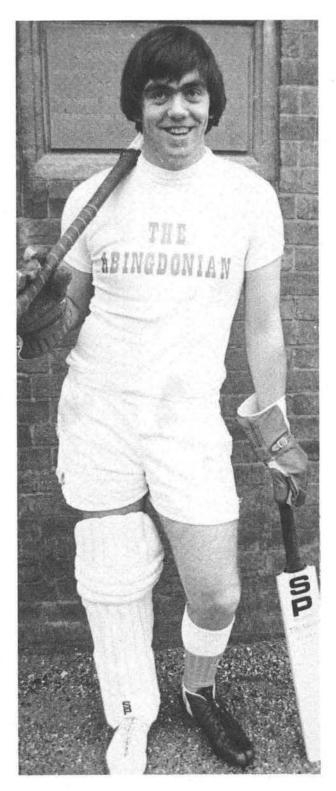
Richard Baker is 3rd string in our Cross-Country Team, which this year won all its Senior Events, and with Alistair Morfey never being bested. It's in Orienteering, elsewhere described as "cunning running", that he excels, and this year he capped his promising development by being selected for England, as one of four in the Junior Home Counties International. The race was run over a 41/2 kilometre course in Epping Forest. Richard was the 3rd English runner home, and was 5th overall in a race which England won. Not content to rest up, he ran the course again in the relay, recording in a more relaxed atmosphere the fastest time of any competitor on the day.



Brian Shelley, one of the best actors the School has seen for many years, flexed his prerogative as Editor of this magazine, and wrote his own eulogy:

"For seven weeks last Summer I was stranded in London as a member of the National Youth Theatre Company. I soon found myself at home, surrounded by plenty of other Sir Toby Belches and Moons. As a 'first-year', I was in a seventy strong crowd, which proved a stirring experience: both in the rock play we did, in which, as one of **The Who's** roadies, I had to stand unmoved in the midst of exploding amplifiers; and also, in a modern dress production of 'Julius Caesar', in which we had to fight against helmeted and truncheonwielding riot police.

The climax of the season for me, however, came in the last week, when one day I was told by the actor playing Cinna, whom I was understudying, 'You're on tomorrow — I can't make itl' Twenty hours later, just before my first entrance, I was in the wings, desperately trying to remember my lines. When my cue came, as a last resort I simply muttered, 'ingredere ut proficias' and went onstage. It worked wonders — I managed to get through the play, although I did feel a bit like Stoppard's Rosenkrantz (or is it Guildenstern?), having to remember to follow soand-so off in one scene; and in another, only stabbing poor old Julius when all the others started to"



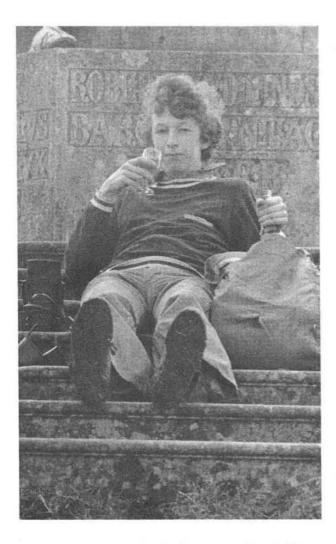
The fact that **John Slingsby** is represented in this article has nothing to do with his position as an Editor of the **Abingdonian**, but more with the fact that he is simply one of the best allround sportsmen the school has seen for years. John's golfing handicap of 5 has gained him representation in the Aer Lingus Golf Championship, and he has graduated from Captain of the School XV to a regular county and Triallist place as prop. Cricket is his main enthusiasm, however, and last year he amassed 550 runs as opening bat (and Captain) of the XI. A large and jovial fellow of potentially intimidating appearance, John last season faced Jeff Thompson (not, fortunately, *the* Jeff Thompson, but an Australian U.19 XI hostile opening bowler, and no relation) and also kept wicket for the English Public Schools XI. His best achievement was possibly his opening 86 for the National Association of Young Cricketers XI. John has also played county senior cricket for no less than the Warwickshire 2nd XI.





Feb. 9th 1978: the School Sponsored Walk.





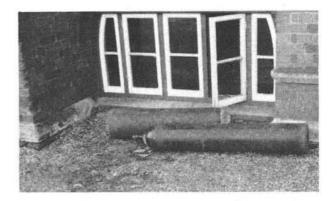
Lunch: "You are advised to bring a warming drink."



This was the first piece of work to be commissioned. It was flown over from Poland where I. Ripuov spent over forty-five minutes creating it during a break from his mammoth task of making a 150 foot tall model of the Polish Premier in crushed pineapple. It is believed to have cost *73,000 including postage and packing.



This is perhaps one of the more accessible pieces by the Brazilian artist Rekcus. Its obelisklike properties immediately conjure up visions of Egyptian splendour and at the same time its simplistic, almost naive, design contrasts with this to produce a dynamic sculpture visibly straining with internal tensions. It cannot fail to increase in value from the five figure sum paid for it.



Contrast is also a feature of this work by the noted Norwegian artist Loof YIIis. The humour of 'Cylinders' is obvious — acetylene cylinders suggesting that demolition work is in progress in front of a building which is sure to stand for many more years. Loof spent six weeks at Abingdon working on the details of this 'poem' and his effort shows in the perfection and inventive brilliance of the piece. The cost has not yet been disclosed.

'ENVIRONMENTAL POETRY'

During the Michaelmas term Mr. R.D. Townsend took a small party of boys to see an exhibition of 'environmental poetry' by the controversial artist lain Hamilton-Finlay. Environmental poetry is related to the collection of bricks in the Tate Gallery but has a much wider and obscurer approach to art as we know it (at this moment in time). The Headmaster also visited the exhibition independently and was so impressed that he has commissioned artists of international repute to endow Abingdon School with fine examples of this 'poetry'. It is also hoped that this admirable collection will attract foreign money which will be used to build a multi-million Rouble extension to the school. Its purpose is as yet undecided.

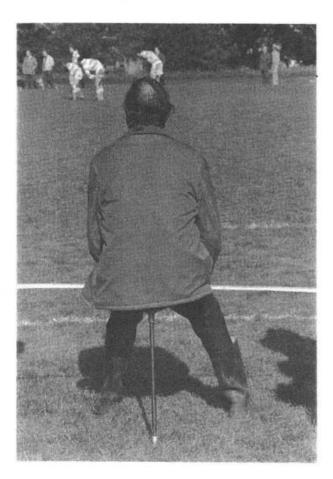
The photographs below unfortunately do not show the 'poems' to their best advantage as the only photographer that we could find is somewhat of a philistine and does not appreciate the rare artistic insight which these 'poems' possess.

RUGBY

With well grassed, soft pitches, the start of this season provided a great contrast to the beginning of last season. We were all able to practise hard from the first day of term and embarked on our first matches well prepared for the rigours of the new season. A measure of the thoroughness of our preparations was the fact that in the first three fixtures against Bloxham, Magdalen and Berkhamsted, we won 14 games and lost only 2. As the season progressed and we met sterner opposition the relative merits of the teams unfolded. The Ist XV, Junior Colts XV and Juniors XV all won over half their games, and although the Colts XV was not very successful they provided a record number of players for the County XV. Paul Burren of the Colts had the added distinction of gaining selection for the final England U/16 squad, and only poor weather robbed him of making a final bid for a Cap.

Overall the Club played 90 games and won 50% of them. Morale is high and the level of skill of all teams is rising thanks to the dedication of the Coaches and the goodwill and hard work of the players.

D.G.C.



With Jon Gabitass adding his considerable expertise at this level, we were able to have three coaches involved with Game One and the benefits were immediately felt by the players. Backs and forwards were given more intensive attention than in previous years and the standards and expectations of play went up as a result.

The record of the XV has been as impressive this year as it was poor last year. We lost only two of our regular fixtures, unfortunately against local opposition (Radley and St. Edwards), drew against Warwick, and won the remainder with Marlborough being perhaps the most notable victory. We also beat a good London Welsh U/19 side, and played well against Bryanston who brought a very strong touring side to visit us.

Up front we had an impressive front five who set the scene for a successful season. These two great concrete mixers, John Slingsby and Philip Spittles, impressed the opposition when they got off the coach first, and always on the field of play. Nick Williams and Philip were two very solid props who provided our fast hooker Alistair Robertson with a sound platform from which to work.

With John Slingsby converting well to lock, the engine room of the scrum, with the aid of Robert Harries, and on occasions Michael Hurry, provided plenty of power, were never beaten in any game, and only equalled on a few occasions. John's leadership and ability to become transformed into a demon sprinter often provided the inspiration the side needed, and caused faint hearts amongst the opposition.

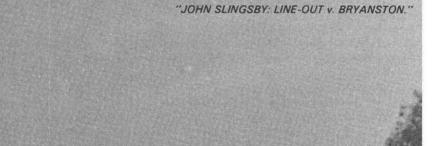
Mark Andrews never realised his full potential as a No. 8 as he lacked speed to the ball at crucial times; however in the Lines-out he was supreme and always provided the side with plenty of ball. Michael Dacre came into the side when Colin Holding was injured and improved steadily throughout the season. When his stamina improves he will become even more effective. Matthew King converted well from fly half to flanker and was the fastest of the back row trio to the breakdown and the tackle.

Gary Mitchell was a good, bustling scrum half who could be devastating on the break; but lack of kicking expertise hampered his attacking potential. Although Bruce Gow lacked real pace at fly half, his handling was very sure, and he linked well with the rest of the threequarters. On occasions he produced sharp breaks near the opposition line, but he too suffered from an inability to kick well.

Barry Burles in the centre always impressed the opposition with his strong running and powerful tackling, and was a good foil to John Madgwick's more elusive and less direct style. Both centres served their wings well, and John in particular created space and presented the ball at the right time to give his wing plenty of chances.

Neil Edwards was most effective early on in the season, particularly against Solihull, and Andrew Carrie who came into the side at half term provided secure tackling and hard running on the other flank.

The outstanding back was Graham Halsey who played at full back. He was our most potent attacking weapon, full of pace and elusiveness. He read the game well and also proved to be a very secure tackler.



Individual stars are all very well, but unless they can be brought together they are nothing, and so John Slingsby's role as Captain was vital. His quiet, effective manner rallied the team around him and made it a homogeneous group. His play was inspirational at times and this became all too clear when he had to miss a few games because of injury.

This season we beat Bloxham, Magdalen, Solihull, Thame, Reading, Newbury, Berkhamsted, Pangbourne and Marlborough and only narrowly lost to Radley and St. Edwards. This is no mean achievement and reflects the degree of effort and commitment of the players who trained and played hard together. Perhaps next year we will beat our local rivals tool

D.G.C.

Those who played: G. Halsey, D. Robinson, A. Carrie, N. Edwards, B. Burles, J. Madgwick, B. Gow, G. Mitchell, J. Slingsby, A. Robertson, N. Williams, P. Spittles, M. Hurry, R. Harries, M. Andrews, M. King, M. Dacre, C. Holding, P. Douglas, D. Merriman.

RESULTS

Abingdon v Bloxham	W 29 - 4
Abingdon v Magdalen College School	W 36 — 6
Abingdon v Berkhamsted	W 29 - 17
Abingdon v Solihull	W 32 - 22
Abingdon v Lord William's Thame	W 27 — 13
Abingdon v Bryanston	L 0 — 26
Abingdon v London Welsh U/19	W 16 - 6
Abingdon v Radley	L 0 — 12
Abingdon v Reading	W 8 - 4
Abingdon v Marlborough	W 25 — 14
Abingdon v St. Edwards	L 0 — 16
Abingdon v Newbury	W 30 - 7
Abingdon v Pangbourne	W 9 — 7
Abingdon v Warwick	D 3 — 3
Abingdon v O.A.s	W 10 - 4

2nd XV

The season in retrospect was one of many contrasts. Those who played will remember both splendid victories and unhappy defeats. Above all one is struck by the appalling bad luck which came at crucial moments.

Perhaps it was wrong to build a 2nd XV around the experience of third year sixth Oxbridge candidates, though one is bound to reflect that we should have been in a sorry state without them. Certainly it was when they were available that the group really played as a team and looked a strong rugby unit. Their physical strength coupled with strong and enthusiastic personalities was invaluable when we faced daunting opposition.

Alas such stalwart characters must attend to academic affairs or fill in for the lst XV, helping them to their well deserved success, and it is clear from the Oxbridge lists that their sporting activities did not hamper their academic progress.

It was unfortunate that key players were missing at crucial moments and that once again we suffered from an extraordinary rash of injuries. Indeed after the early games the same team was never fielded twice. The general picture was one of promised improvement in the 2nd XV performance which seldom seemed to materialise in a sustained way. It is my belief that the answer lies in a numerically stronger Game One group committed to a training programme designed to produce two 1st XVs.

C.J.B.

Played: A. Furley, J. Palmer, D. Merriman, J. Westmore, M. Hurry, R. Drew, A. Douglas, K. Larsen. J. Lintott, P. Younge, D. Lindesay, B. Messer, N. Marsh, A. Johnson, J. Davies, P. Ashby, A. Thomas, D. Robinson, P. O'Driscoll, S. Miller, I. Oakden.

RESULTS

Bloxham	Won 8 - 0
Magdalen College School	Won 19 — 0
Berkhamsted	Won 12 - 4
Solihull	Lost 0-56
Thame	Lost 4 - 16
Radley	Lost 0 - 11
Reading	Won 16 - 14
Marlborough	Lost 0 - 42
St. Edwards	Lost 0 - 29
Newbury	Lost 4-18
Pangbourne	Lost 3 - 31
Warwick	Lost 9 - 20
0.A.'s	Won 20 — 4



'1 st XV v. Radley"

3rd XV

This season thirty seven players have represented the 3rd XV, the reason for this being that about fifteen people at sometime or other have played for the 2nd XV, nearly half of whom found regular places in the team later in the season.

Nevertheless, we enjoyed a good season, winning half of our matches, with good victories over Radley, St. Bart's, Reading and Thame. There was good running in the threequarters by Gorski, Ashby, and Alan Thomas, matched by improving scrum service by Allen, Mills, Wynne Thomas and Dibble. Nigel Marsh kicked well until he was taken by the 2nd XV.

Our thanks to Mr. Bodey and Mr. Hammond for support throughout the season.

Played: S. Miller, P. Ashby, L. Gorski, M. Swan, N. Marsh, A. Thomas, R. Allen, P. Cowlett, I. Oakden, D. Lindesay, R. Scriven, M. Wise, B. Little, K. Stanton-King, W. Thomas, P. Hammond, P. Todd, A. Dibble, I. Bye.

Stephen Miller (6)

RESULTS

v. Bloxham (a)	Won 12 - 0
v. Berkhamsted (h)	Won 9-8
v. Solihull (h)	Lost 0 - 31
v. Cokethorpe 1st XV (a)	Lost 0 - 46
v. Radley (a)	Won 18 — 10
v. Reading (h)	Won 32 — 0
v. Marlborough (a)	Lost 0 - 36
v. St. Edward's (a)	Lost 0 - 26
v. Newbury (h)	Won 44 — 0
v. Pangbourne (h)	Lost 0 - 12
v. Thame (a)	Won 6 - 0
v. Warwick (a)	Lost 0 — 24

4th XV

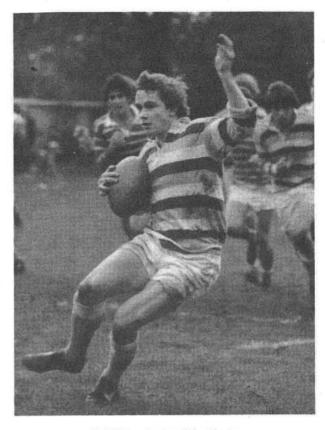
The 4th XV had one of their least successful seasons last term. They maintained a 100% defeat record, but were very unlikely to lose their last match against Pangbourne 0—8. However there is one consolation in that a very successful place kicker was found in David Blanksby, who kicked every conversion scoring 2 out of the 6 points. Kevin Stanton-King scored the try.

J. Marsh (Capt.)

Players:- S. Tanner, C. Hutton, J. Julyan, P. Ireland, J. Cloke, P. Wakefield, N. Adeeb, J. Higgs, J. Marsh, D. Blanksby, S. Fenn, K. Stanton-King, J. Young, T. Cook, S. Marshall, T. Clift, M. Doherty, M. Chapman, M. Howlett.

COLTS

Last season's Colt's XV was the most enjoyable team I have played in. We failed to achieve the results we hoped due to a lack of the basic skills. Many a time Mr. Drummond-Hay would walk fuming furiously down the touchline after three or four missed tackles or dropped passes. Quite simply, no-one tackled consistently. Yet the enjoyable part was the squad's spirit. Thirty players gave everything they had and almost won the last match of the season, having lost the past ten. Everyone in the squad enjoyed their rugby, but



Neil Edwards: 1 st XV v. Radley

this would not have been possible without the seemingly endless efforts put into the teams throughout the season by Mr. Drummond-Hay and Mr. Johnson. These efforts helped build a relaxed and amiable relationship between squad and coaches, and we saw purpose in playing our rugby. The high point of the season for me was the London Welsh match where the whole team was competitive throughout, and finished up with two or three well constructed attacks.

Five players deserve special mention: John Littlewood, Nicholas Yaxley, Giles Wilson and Alan Trigle who represented the Oxon. Colts XV; and Paul Burren who went forward to the England Colts Final Trial.

Finally, congratulations to the B XV who, led by the brute strength and sheer bulk of their Captain, William Rayson, played their matches with as much spirit as the first team.

Rugby should be enjoyed whatever the results, and this season's matches certainly were.

Bryn Rhys (5)

The following played for the team:

J. Littlewood, R. Stanway, N. Yaxley, R. Dibble, O. Bagshaw, G. Lanham, A.Round, G. Wilson, P. Burren, G. Radford-Smith, A. Trigle, I. Simpson, N. Wright, J. Cook, B. Rhys (Captain), M. Fulwell, T. Burles, M. Round, D. Griffith, D. Darnborough, J. Kingston. RESULTS

- v. Bloxham (a) v. Magdalen (h) v. Berkhamsted (a) v. Bryanston (h) v. London Welsh (h) v. Radley (a) v. Reading (h) v. Marlborough (a) v. St. Edward's (a) v. Newbury (h) v. Pangbourne (h)
 - v. Warwick (h)
 - "B" XV
 - v. Radley (a)
 - v. Marlborough (h)
 - v. St. Edward's (a)
 - v. Pangbourne (a)

Lost	0-2	20
Won	18-	3
Lost	9-1	10
Lost	0-2	24
Lost	0-3	37
Lost	0-2	27
Lost	6-1	18
Lost	0-1	15
Lost	9-1	13
Lost	3-1	12
Lost	4-4	48
Lost	0 - 1	12
Lost	0-9	56
	3-2	
	4-1	
	12 - 1	

RESULTS

v. Bloxham (a)	Won 15 — 4
v. Magdalen (h)	Won 44 — 0
v. Berkhamsted (h)	Won 37 — 24
v. Solihull (a)	Lost 6 - 10
v. Radley (a)	Lost 4-14
v. Reading (a)	Won 30 — 0
v. Marlborough (a)	Lost 4 - 11
v. St. Edward's (h)	Won 14 — 3
v. Newbury (h)	Lost 8 - 9
v. Pangbourne (h)	Won 16 — 6
v. Thame (h)	Won 15 — 6
v. Warwick (h)	Won 7- 6
"B" XV	
v. Radley (a)	Lost 9-11
v. Marlborough (a)	Won 24 — 3
v. St. Edward's (h)	Won 13 — 10
v. Pangbourne (h)	Won 44 — 0

JUNIOR COLTS

The normal practice of confining reports such as these to the exploits of the best XV of their year would be quite inadequate as well as being unfair to this year's Fourth form Rugby players. Indeed, there was almost as much heart-searching over the necessary omission of players from Game Four as there was over the selection of the best team. Consequently the overall standard of the Rugby was extremely high and the ordinary School games were often a better spectacle than some of the matches. Not surprisingly, talent was well distributed between backs and forwards and there were no obvious areas of weakness.

Most teams seem to revolve round the halfbacks and the Junior Colts were no exception. Gareth Harper showed a great deal of promise as a scrum-half and will be very good indeed when his passing matches up to his running and kicking. His partners were either lan Graham, who had the surer hands, or Robert Adair, who was the more incisive runner. Outside them Duncan Bell, Torsten Brose, Tim Howarth and Richard Hawes all ran well, but one must single out the last named for the way in which he really worked at his game; he is developing into a very resourceful left-wing.

The pack was a bit of an enigma. They could raise quite a bit of steam when the occasion demanded, but too often allowed themselves to succumb to pressure, especially in the set pieces. Nicholas Ward had an outstanding season and set an example of speed onto the ball which was too infrequently emulated. Roland Hooley propped well and captained the side with mature assurance.

Several people who did not make the final team also caught the eye. Tim Doherty's tackling was a particular feature and was an example to many of the senior side. Ron Regan ran with tremendous verve - often with the ball - and then, very late in the day, started to show distinct talents as a scrum-half. Andrew Newman's enthusiasm, despite the disappointment of being dropped, was rewarded by reinstatement as a wing forward and a first rate performance in the last match. In fact it is rare to have a "B" side with so much enthusiasm and will to win. Perhaps it was they who should have won the team award!



John Madgwick and Barry Burles

This was a fascinating and enjoyable season for all concerned. It began with three reasonably easy matches and the team had scored almost a hundred points when it was stunned and overwhelmed by a quite superb Solihull side. They had scored nearly a hundred points in each of their previous matches! Later in the term, some much closer and more competitive cliff-hangers were played. Pangbourne, London Welsh and Marlborough could easily have gone the other way while the Reading match was pulled back with a late goal. The Warwick fixture was probably the most satisfying of all. The carefully laid tactics to meet the first really wet and muddy conditions of the term led, by excellent kicking both before and after the tries, to our two goals. The forwards, as usual, got very little ball from the rucks and mauls but they covered well and under the circumstances it seemed a positive advantage to allow the opposition three quarters possession: the tackling of our own powerful outsides was so devastating that there were many dropped passes to be booted ahead.

The new boys played a prominent part in the season's success. Cullen no longer had to take on oppositions single-handed and this was particularly true as the tackling improved, inspired no doubt by his first rate technique and also the slow realisation that tackling is what winning is all about. Don't forget it! Prest led the scrum intelligently and Hall was presented with the Bosley place-kicking cup at the club dinner. The Moseley Wedge became the Juniors' Reptile and scored us three hilarious tries. Enormous thanks to HTR for teaching us the rules, refereeing and coaching and also to his vociferous touchjudge assistant, Ian Robertson.

The 'B' XV was enthusiastically mustered by Andrew Mellor. They lost to Solihull, St. Edwards and Marlborough but beat Radley. Talent ran out guickly this year after the top XXX players. A rugby team is as good as the team below it.

Regular 'A' XV players were: A. J. R. Cullen (capt.), K. J. S. Volak, D. H. Phillips, A. N. Hall, J. Warchus, C. C. Newmark, R. I. McCreery, M. D. Lane, J. E. Cox, N. Marsh, J. S. G. Tanner, C. S. Johnson, N. D. Williams, P. D. F. Simpson, W. Khashoggi, J. N. Prest, W. M. North, J. E. Griggs, D. E. Round and P. G. Harries also played.

R.C.B.C.

RESULTS

Bloxham (H) Magdalen (A) Berkhamsted (A) Solihull (H) London Welsh U14 (H) Larkmead (H) Radley (H) Reading (A) Marlborough (A) St. Edwards (H) Newbury (A) Pangbourne (A) Warwick (A)

Won 28 - 12 Won 28 - 4 Won 40 - 0 Lost 0 - 46 Lost 3 - 8 Won 37 - 7 Lost 0-16 Won 18 - 16 Lost 10 - 16 Lost 6-28 Won 28 - 10 Lost 9-17 Lost 12 - 6

MINORS XV

The Autumn Term's results were well-nigh disastrous. The main trouble was that the scrum was unusually small, and was unable to win any worthwhile possession. But it must be said that there was a serious lack of spirit in the team: tackling was pathetic, and there was no determination to win the 50/50 ball; almost everyone seemed to shirk physical contact. Even the Backs, who were expected to form a strong unit, played indecisively, and wasted the little ball that they received. Not even the three victories were impressive.

After a long lay-off until the end of February, there was a marked improvement. Reading and Cheltenham were bigger, and better, teams, but the margin of defeat was respectable in each case, because at last the players showed determination, and our Backs in fact probably had the edge in skill. In the last two matches, they 'clicked' to such an extent that eight tries were scored by the wingers, and their promise for the future was underlined; but the forwards must win more ball.

Of the Backs, the new Colours were awarded to Nicholas Thomas, who was outstanding; Simon Rushton, a dedicated though quiet Captain, and Mark Saunders; Robert Murray and David Head were the most dedicated forwards, and they earned their colours, along with James Kempton and Philip Ladmore, two versatile and talented loose forwards.

The Second XV showed a lack of drive and guts throughout the season, and (it must be admitted) suffered a good deal through illness and injury. Hence a very poor record; however 49 boys represented a School Team at least once during the season, and that is no bad thing!

M.W.

1st XV: (from) N. R. Thomas, J. M. Herd, S. J. Rushton (capt.), M. N. Saunders, D. McK Allen; S. M. Littlewood, M. J. M. Ingram, T. D. H. Bugg, R. C. Murray, P. J. Owen, P. R. Green, D. R. J. Head, M. A. Wiles, F. J. Bailey, P. J. Ladmore, J. S. Kempton. 2nd XV: (from) R. J. M. Flaxman, B. I. Ayliffe, P. G. Moreau, B. E. Woolley, A. W. Jones, D. K. Alford, C. Evans, R. J. Dalton-Morris, B. D. R. Lintott, D. J. Cowell, P. W. May, J. J. Richardson, A. J. McLellan, M. J. E. Hudswell, A. G. K. Edwards, T. K. A. Rogers, K. R. H. Girdwood.

RESULTS

1st XV:	
Oratory School (A)	Lost 4-12
Lord William's, Thame, West (H)	Lost 0 - 36
St. Hugh's, Faringdon (H)	Won 18 — 12
Pinewood School (A)	Lost 0-45
Millbrook House (H)	Lost 4 - 22
Larkmead School (A)	Lost 4-14
Prior's Court (A)	Lost 0-28
Magdalen College School (H)	Won 20 — 10
Audley House School (A)	Won 26 — 0
Oratory School (H)	Lost 4 - 32
Dragon School 2nd. XV (A)	Lost 0 - 24
Reading School (H)	Lost 6 - 20
Cheltenham G. School (H)	Lost 4 - 32
Berkhamsted School (H)	Won 26 — 20
'A' XV:	
Oratory Prep. School 1st, XV (H)	Lost 0 - 4

Bearwood College 1st. XV (A) Won 28 - 0

2nd. XV:	
Lord William's, Thame, West (H)	Lost 0-43
Dragon School 4th. XV (A)	Lost 6-18
Christchurch Cathedral School 1st. XV (A)	Lost 0 - 31
Reading School (H)	Lost 0-10
Cheltenham G.School (H)	Lost 0 - 22
Berkhamsted School (H)	Won 12 - 4

Other Matches: Under 12s XV lost to Prior Park School 'B' XV beat Josca's 1st. XV

Excursions RUSSIA '77

8 - 11

18 - 10

On the 6th August we left Abingdon in a Tappins coach to show the Russians that British tolerance, chivalry and reserve are no longer extant. In this, we were able assisted by Mr. D.C. Taylor, Mr. M. Woodgett and especially Mr. D.A. Dodwell whose consumption of 90 degree proof vodka proved to be

invaluable in furthering our cause. Any tolerance that we might have had evaporated during our 3½-hour standing vigil at Tilbury docks, and we boarded the 'Baltika' at 7.00 p.m. in an evil mood. On reaching our cabins we realised that the cold war was by no means dead: We had been provided with four beds, one wardrobe, one chair and four coathangers in a cabin measuring 12 feet by 4 feet. In the wardrobe were four faulty life jackets; and, as a final show of strength the catering department (inexcusably left out of S.A.L.T. talks) did not serve supper until 10.15 p.m.

The next morning we were out in the North Sea and the weather was terrible, our porthole, normally 10 feet above the water line was below water most of the time and sea-sickness hit almost everyone. 90% of the party spent the day leaning over the side of the ship, and the remaining 10% were in a state of unconsciousness approaching hibernation after accepting one of Mr. Taylor's sea-sickness pills which he handed out — I now realise — with a badly disguised look of glee.

On the 8th of August we reached Copenhagen, remembered mainly for the changing of the Guards at the Royal Palace: The Guards had to walk across a square competing with traffic for right of way, both parties equally determined not to let the other win. This happens every hour and it would need only one drunken driver to wipe out half of the royal guard. It was rumoured that the guards were in fact retired Japanese kamikazi pilots but our guide hastily dismissed the theory.

The next day was uneventful except for a rather belated lifeboat drill in which we found out that everyone else had faulty life jackets! The day after that we arrived in Helsinki, a small city which I preferred to Copenhagen.

We arrived at Leningrad on the 11th. The docks were very depressing mainly because of the large number of derelict buildings. A bulldozer abandoned for 2 hours with its engine left running gave us our first insight into communist efficiency.

After checking into our hotel, which was surprisingly good, we visited a Russian church in action. There was a large congregation but Mr. Taylor casually informed us that the K.G.B. agents probably made up half of it, and the priest was probably also from the same organisation.



Gleeful KGB agent about to make "drop".

The next few days we were taken sight seeing. Amongst other things we saw The Peterhof Palace, Pushkin Palace, Peter and Paul Fortress, and the Winter Palace. All of these places were packed with American tourists who were far more offensive and aggravating than any Russian we met but after a while we became quite proficient at surreptitious hand-to-hand combat.

We arrived at Moscow on the 15th after travelling overnight on the prestigious Leningrad-Moscow train. The first thing that struck us was that the food was much more "Russian" (the bread had to be placed very gently on its plate to avoid shattering it). In the afternoon we watched the changing of the guard outside the Lenin Mausoleum - performed with automaton-like efficiency - and the following morning we queued for hours to see the embalmed body of Lenin. Mr. Dodwell was the only member of the party to be searched, possibly because of his dark glasses and the copy of 'Fascist Weekly' under his arm. Inside the Mausoleum was very oppressive, one got the impression that if anyone had sneezed he would have been blasted to a pulp by the numerous guards surrounding the body.

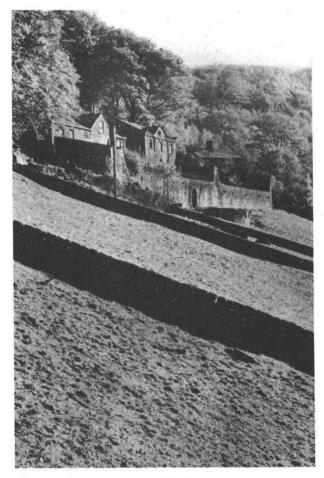
During the rest of our stay in Moscow we saw the Museum of Economic Achievements, many beautiful churches in the Kremlin, and went on a river trip which was especially enjoyable owing to the sight of Mr. Woodgett running 300 yards down the quay to miss the boat by seconds!

Russian strategic planning became evident again at the Polish border. The train stopped for ³/₄ hour during which time we had to change our surplus roubles back to sterling. Unfortunately only 4 or 5 people were 'processed' in the time, and we all had to run back to the train only to be halted at the station by two armed guards who attacked us with a shower of forms to be filled in, but while we were contemplating whether to overpower the guards from the rear or organise a direct frontal assault they had a change of heart and let us back on the train; we were OUT and on our way to Warsaw. In Warsaw it rained ... and rained ... and rained, so we left for Berlin. In Berlin we saw the Wall which was daubed with slogans such as 'The Vibrators', and also the Reichstag.

After a stormy Channel crossing we arrived back in England convinced that if the 3rd World War broke out we could win it easily merely by withholding supplies of embalming fluid and covering the country in indecipherable forms to be filled in only in green ink!

Finally I should point out to any K.G.B. agents reading this that Mr. Taylor who successfully organised the entire sortie can be found at 83, Blagrove Edge, Abingdon counting the proceeds of his illegal jeans sales and disposing of 300 gallons of top quality 'Lenin embalming fluid'.

lan Jones (VI)



Lumb Bank

LUMB BANK

In January, a group of eleven of us, including two girls from St. Helen's, went up to the Arvon Foundation's base in Yorkshire, 'Lumb Bank', for a five day poetry course.

In that short period we tasted both extremes of Yorkshire weather: the first day saw a wild snow storm sweeping down the valley, 'inspiring' many to write a first poem: by the end of the week, the sun revealed the dramatic countryside in a very different mood. Walking in these surroundings provided a great deal of scope for poems, and featured in the collection we printed at the end of the course. But the atmosphere which quickly developed within the group allowed for many poems not directly related with the location.

Two poets, Pete Morgan, and Ken Smith, acted as our tutors but not in the formal sense of the word. They were very different people giving an interesting contrast, both in their poetry readings, and in their criticism of our poems. They would suggest to us methods of writing but never impelling us to do anything.

The course was not five days of continuous writing. Much of the time was spent having discussions or playing games such as "Exquisite Corpses" and consequential haiku writing. Both the poets and our guest reader, Vernon Scannell, were regular pub-goers and so many of the evenings were spent in the local. This helped to create an atmosphere quickly and enabled more relaxed, casual discussions.

To end the course in a suitably poetic vein, we made a pilgrimage to Sylvia Plath's humble grave at Heptonstall Church.

Although this is my own view of the course, I can definitely say that everyone who went enjoyed and got a lot out of it. For many it changed the idea of poetry being a very intellectual pursuit into an appreciation of an exciting art.

Mark Murray (5R)

Two of the poems written at Lumb Bank, by Richard Smith and Mark Murray, appear elsewhere in this magazine.

C. C. F. FIELD DAY 1977 5th Form over night exercise

'For security reasons information on the nature of the mission will be given in strict sequence', read Mr. Webber's notice. Looking back on the exercise it is hardly surprising that this should have been so, because considerably less than twelve 5th formers would have gone, had we known what we would be doing.

We were dropped off in the middle of nowhere in two groups, and were to do as directed by orders in writing or by radio.

Our first walk involved crossing a field of inquisitive young bulls. Luckily they were without horns or they might have made a greater impression upon us!

Our fresh orders involved more walking. Unfortunately while hiding from the 'enemy' (some sixth formers), Clive Bromhall's manpack straps broke — both of them! This was our cue to give in, but Mr. Webber and Mr. Goulding were having none of it. After a little improvisation we carried on.

That evening we camped by the monument on the Ridgeway. The rest of the time was spent in pursuing our favourite hobbies, which had better remain anonymous.

At 1 o'clock in the morning we received orders to break camp!! This was done under a hail of insults directed by all at Mr. Webber, who, unknown to us, was watching from nearby. He later commented, 'never has my parentage been doubted so much.'

For 2.30 in the morning, our next orders were not warmly received. We had to walk to White Horse Hill (only 10 miles away) and attack the Hill fort, shortly after group 2.

Had there been a real enemy there, we would all have been shot on the spot, which to most of us would have been a blessing anyway. The attack itself never materialized, we were too tired.



Unfortunately Mr. Webber was not very sympathetic about the matter. But all that mattered to us was that the exercise was completed.

Oliver Bagshaw (6)

BIELEFELD EXCHANGE

Sunday 5th February saw the departure of a coachload of twenty-five keen German students of Abingdon School and Saint Helen's under the efficient supervision of Mr McGowan and Mr Willerton, leaving behind a group of waving relatives and the forlorn face of Mr. Hasnip, who had to step out at the last minute.

At Hannover airport we were given a warm welcome by Herr Schapersmann the organizer from the German school, then a tense and embarrassed silence ensued as he read out the names of our partners, most of whom were there to greet us. I was very relieved to find that Rudiger, the boy I stayed with, spoke excellent English and previous worries over the initial conversation proved uncalled for as the two hour coach journey to Bielefeld quickly went by.

Our ten days were filled with several varied activities, partly with "our" families, partly on group excursions and also in the school. The most popular excursion seemed to be the trip to Sauerland, a region marked by its snow-covered hills which lend themselves to the excitement of a popular side of German life, the winter sport. Toboganning, snowball hurling and the slightly dubious completion of the twelve mile sponsored walk were the highlights of this memorable day which gave us the rare experience of having a German cold. A guided tour round the old church in Bielefeld and a demonstration specially for us on its organ, along with a day excursion to the town of Paderborn provided a good balance between the cultural and recreational, as well as an opportunity for Mr. Willerton to expose his exceptional talent of translation. All those whose colds were not too bad competed in games of football in the newly-built school gym together with an introduction to the hitherto unknown technicalities of handball. The effect of getting up at an unthinkably early hour of the morning for school was definitely a disadvantage for our team and this was indicated by the final scores!

I was very fortunate to be staying with someone whose interests were very similar to my own and, together with a few others from the party, we enjoyed a very full social life. The day after our arrival was "Rosenmontag", a carnival in which everyone fools around under various disguises and in the Rhine region the major towns have huge street processions. In Bielefeld this was celebrated by a day off school, lots of beer and several parties in the evening. On the following days we got to know the night life of this modern friendly town with 300,000 inhabitants and I can boast of having seen the film "Kriegder Sterne", whose English title will not be unfamiliar.

We returned laden with presents from our host families; with a far better ability in spoken German; in one or two cases with the harshness of an ending romance; and with a deep gratitude for the extremely warm German hospitality. H.M.S. SUPERB

Chances of going to sea in the Royal Navy Section are pretty infrequent, so you can imagine how delighted Michael Green and I were when we found out that we were going to sea in Britain's newest nuclear submarine. We were to join **H.M.S. Superb** the day after the Review of the Fleet, June 29th, at Spithead; from there we were to travel to Devonport.

From the outside **Superb** does not look very big, but the hull 'bulges' out below the waterline. This makes it very spacious, compared with older submarines; when inside we were surprised to find there were three decks, which again allows for greater comfort in the living quarters. In the submarine we met two other cadets, from Solihull School. We were then shown where our bunks were, in the T.S.C. (Torpedo Stowage Compartment). This was where I had to be when we were at 'diving stations'.

Superb weighed anchor at 11.00 and set off for Plymouth, at the head of the fleet of submarines. This I was able to see through the periscope.

When we had got under way, we were shown around the submarine; we went aft and saw all the machinery that produces oxygen, and re-cycles the water, for long dives. We were shown where the nuclear reactor was, that generates steam to drive geared turbines. Then I went back to the T.S.C. and I was shown how the torpedoes are fired. We tested the torpedo tubes using a simulator, which can be set at a certain range, depth, and angle like a torpedo is. The simulated torpedo is then 'fired' to check that the tube is working.

Later on we were told to go to diving-stations to prepare to dive. We then checked all the valves and shutters in the T.S.C. to see that they were all in the correct positions. We also saw that there was no water in the five torpedo tubes. We dived for about ten minutes, so that the B.B.C. could take some film of **Superb** for Panorama.

At 23.30 I went up onto the bridge to look around. From up there you could appreciate how big the submarine was.

After about two hours I went below into the control-room, where I saw all the switches and dials that monitor all that is happening to the engines and other important equipment in the submarine. Then at 03.15 I was allowed to take over at the helm; the submarine is controlled by a joystick, operating the hydroplanes and the rudder. I steered, on a compass course, for about half an hour. After that I was pretty tired, so I went down to the T.S.C. and got some sleep in.

We arrived at Devonport at 07.00, but did not leave the submarine until 11.30, to catch the train back to Oxford, after a very tiring, but enjoyable stay in **H.M.S. Superb**. Throughout our visit we found the quality and the choice of the food was very good.

Julian Prentis (5)

Gideon Franklin (6)

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Yet again the Barry-Krysia team presented a production which was beyond what one normally expects for a cast and budget of even semi-school level. Everyone seemed to have put thought into their performances, indicating that in addition to being freed from the handicap of not knowing lines well enough, they had done much careful rehearsing.

Janet Hamburger put on a suitably shrill voice for mothering old Meg; and her cosy smiles were equally apt. Further pleasing touches included the unconscious trimming of her brooch, and her contented nodding whenever reaffirming the fact that her boarding house was 'on the list'. Jim Palmer as low-key Petey presented an acceptable foil for his wife without needing to be extrovert in his acting; but more liveliness would have been welcome, in order to have done complete justice even to this down-to-earth character.

Mark Chapman, with plenty of energy in his voice, successfully conveyed Stanley's resentment and dejection; and his acting was effective during the man's state of inarticulacy. I can youch that, in real life, Alison Frere is not the same type of girl-next-door that Lulu is here, because she lives next-door to me; but she was nevertheless convincing in her easy and relaxed portrayal! Jonathon Hamburger's suave, lank appearance, and business-man's laugh, smile 'n talk, were equalled by the more obviously sinister side to Goldberg's character, which he brought out well. Guy McCreery admirably kept up an Irish accent without its ever becoming obtrusive; and his open, extrovert way of acting clearly showed McCann's different moods.

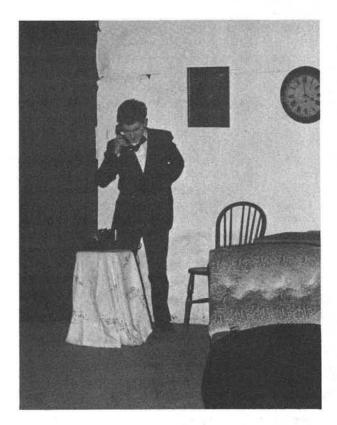
In general, everyone inter-reacted well with each other, notably so in the blind-man's-buff scene, and the inquisition scene, where good 'attack' was enhanced by Mike Hyman's lighting. The set was also effective; particularly the large, luridly red flowers on the wallpaper, and the window which framed the kitchen sink in the inner stage.

Brian Shelley (VI)

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

The idea of performing "The Real Inspector Hound" was one which seems to have arisen in the mists of antiquity. From there also, came Mr A. Alton who decided to produce and direct this epic. The play was actually cast two hours after the end of the Lent Term, there being great contention for various parts — especially that of Birdboot, which I got seemingly because Mr Alton was bored of auditioning and re-auditioning Dud Phillips and myself.

The next term, despite various problems including the inevitable difficulties in arranging rehearsal times to suit both us and St. Helens, plus the fact that I didn't know my lines, the play got off the ground so to speak. The production limped along at a cracking pace, under the eagle eye of Angus who laughed most of the time and grunted the rest. Towards the end of the term however, we realized with about one week to go that we simply would never make it. Production dates were shuffled around, but sadly nothing could be fixed, since the added complication of St. Helen's examinations became apparent. It became obviously impossible to stage the production that term as planned, so we decided to leave it till next term. At this point Angus left, though we were assured that this was no comment on our acting ability, or lack of it, and so we were forced to find a new sponsor, who appeared in the shape of Mr Swan.



For the first two weeks of the Christmas Term Brian Shelley was away, aspiring to much greater heights at the N.Y.T., and so although rehearsals continued the play lacked a certain *je ne sais quoi* — namely, acting ability.

Mr Swan, who wailed miserably most of the time and grunted the rest seemed to have serious doubts as to the play ever being performed at one stage, but we doggedly continued to forget our lines.

Dress rehearsals proved hysterical, making 'The art of coarse acting' look like Olivier on stage, with the scenery collapsing dramatically around Magnus's wheel chair while I managed to fall over the telephone table. The set was built on the afternoon before the first performance — a factor that made the first night a rather delicate affair with people creeping about the stage endeavouring not to bump into the still tacky walls.

The second night began on about page 20, then went backwards, then forwards — but was rescued by Brian who invented a few suitably Stoppardian lines to fill the pregnant pauses — but the audience seemed not to notice. The end of the second night's performance was fun too: when Dud at the 'startling denouement' drew his gun on Brian it clicked pathetically. Desperately he clicked it again, while we various 'dead' bodies on the floor began to sweat. In desperation Dud shouted 'Bang!', Brian accordingly writhed to the floor, and we laughed more than the audience.

On the third night we played to a packed Court Room, and this time all seemed to go to plan, although Mr Swan tells me about 60% of my lines bore not the slightest resemblance to Stoppard's original.

Quite apart from the fact that the play itself is tremendously funny, it was great fun to perform. I might add that I was asked to write this article because no self-respecting critic seemed to dare put pen to paper after the play's brilliant attack on critical cliche - it seems fitting therefore to sum the play up in the words of the play itself: 'There are times, and I would not begrudge it this, when the play, if we can call it that, and I think on balance we can, aligns itself uncompromisingly on the side of life. 'Je suis' it seems to be saying, 'ergo sum'. But is that enough? I think we are entitled to ask. For what in fact is this play concerned with? It is my belief that here we are concerned with what I have referred to elsewhere as the nature of identity'. Gus Colquhoun (possibly) (VI)



ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

It has been remarked that Stoppard's play is like a pocket pulled inside out to show the seams. Its principal reference is, of course, to Shakespeare, and at its simplest it is a beautifully engineered device for propelling two attendant lords into the foreground, while Hamlet becomes a minor character. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are a couple of bewildered innocents: Stoppard sympathizes with the difficulties they must have had in **Hamlet** in sitting around with so little to do.

The opening gambling sequence, which introduces the recurrent themes of chance, time and divine intervention, establishes clearly and immediately just what is demanded of the actors. The keys to the dialogue are the syllogism and the joke, and the rapport between David Game and Peter Ireland as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern respectively ensured the success of both mechanisms. Deprived of strong motivation and momentum (for the play is effectively about nothing), the actors have to reveal much of their own personalities, and they have considerable freedom to play directly to the audience as comedians: Ireland showed that he understood this rather special requirement, though his words were at times too fast and staccato for the audience to relax completely in this relationship. David Game's virtues were his excellent voice and movement, and his clever "involved detachment" which emphasized that in their Shakespearean original the attendant lords exist at the edge of great events they cannot control. Stoppard claims to construct plays out of people deflating each other: the conceit about the actor's lack of freedom within the deterministic script is the one still point within the shifting perspectives of the play.

The tragedians play an important part in the rearrangement of normal perspectives: they are a means of connecting the Shakespearean tragedy with the new comedy that occurs in the margin. They do not belong to any recognizable time or place, although there is a reference to the companies of boy actors that were providing vulgar competition to their seniors in Elizabethan London. Stoppard uses the ancient joke not so ancient as to be anachronistic: "Don't clap too loudly - it's a very old world". Tony Polack was irresistibly cheeky and witty in his role, and the display of bloomers by the company was one of the effective emblems of the play. The tragedians are in constant danger of losing their identity, and they have to live through the actor's nightmare of losing the whole audience in mid-performance.

The movement between Shakespeare and Stoppard not only raises questions of time and space, it also effectively creates a confrontation between Elizabethan English and the English of today. The transition into the modern vernacular makes the Twentieth Century look lame, inarticulate and rather stupid in comparison with the Renaissance. But it is all part of the joke, and was supported well in this production by the meaningless gestures of Claudius, the plain and rather dull Gertrude, and the appropriately boring Hamlet. The scene of King Hamlet's death was particularly effective. Before the end of the play Rosencrantz and Guildenstern discover Hamlet's plot against them, but Stoppard is careful to be ambiguous about whether they do anything so definite as taking a decision not to go on living. The device of the Renaissance-Modern cross-reference is maintained to the end: they disappear into the upstage darkness just before the dialogue switches back to the sequence from **Hamlet** which contains the announcement "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead".

Congratulations to Peter Wakefield on a very successful production.

Ralph Townsend

'BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES'

I went to this play without any idea of what to expect. The advertising was extraordinary, so were odd glimpses of strange scenery. Procuring a programme ended the process! I couldn't believe that it combined all the ingredients mentioned, and was surprised to find that it did. The scalpings, spies and railways were all there as promised. To attempt to describe the plot would be absurd, however it is at root loosely based on that old favourite, melodrama, with villains, and heroines in peril. There are differences though; the excellently diabolical villain played by Julius Green never stood a chance. Andrew Storrar's Mildred, a nauseating schoolgirl with full St Trinian's gear, was more than a match for him, verbally beating him into repentance from his evil ways.

One function of a Lower School Play is to give anyone a chance at acting. To this end the play was ideally suited, having a huge cast with enough parts for several each. The inexperience of the cast showed in the amount of uncertainty, but this was more than covered by the enormous enthusiasm evident, and the relish wich which people got stuck into their parts. The cast was too large to mention everyone individually, though many had their moments. 'Mr. Rawlinson' as the Chairman has evidently studied "The Good Old Days" specially, and Nicholas Quail deserves recognition for having all the best lines. Otherwise there were notable moments with various ends of the horse and the women of the knitting circle. Credit must also be given to the people backstage. 'Simon Woodhall and his merry men' (that phrase was coined by the 'Harassed director, Mr. Macdonald) created an evocative set transporting us from the centre of Abingdon to a den of vice, and the Make Up assistants had a truly massive task turning Chinamen into Indians and back again at a moment's notice. Definitely a cornerstone in Junior Drama!

Peter Ireland (6)

KEAN

The most difficult task that any young actor has is to make his character believable and realistic. But Jean-Paul Sartre's play "Kean" asks far more of the actor than that, for it demands that he portray not merely a real person, but a real person who is acting in an unreal way. For at the centre of "Kean" is Sartre's observation that most people find themselves playing at life, acting out fixed roles in order to impress the people around them.

Thus "Kean" was a highly ambitious choice on the part of producer David Taylor, but a choice that I think was justified by the results. Indeed, not only did he decide to undertake a very difficult play, but he chose to do it in the original French. From all this I get the impression that the decision to do only one act from the play was out of consideration for the linguistic ability of the audience rather than out of any limit in the producer's ambition.

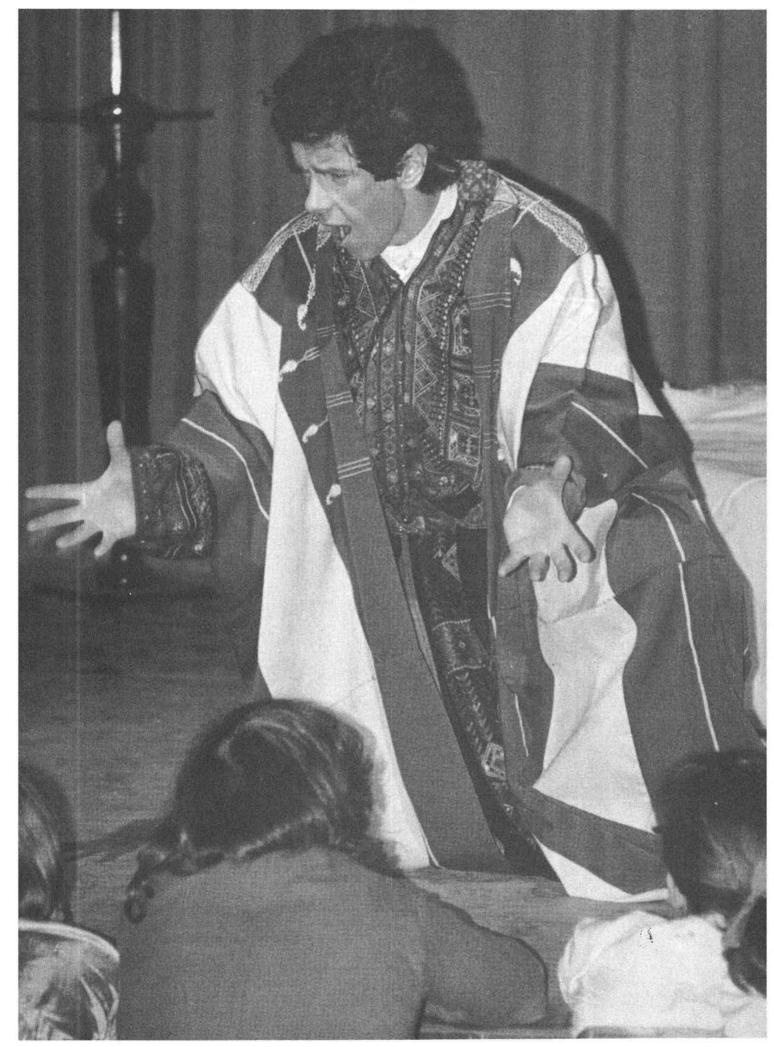
The decision to perform the play in French made the visual impact of the production that much more important. To this end the costumes made a considerable contribution, and their excellence must have helped to keep the attention of some of the younger members of the audience.

Roger Hodkinson in the title role brilliantly exploited the visual aspect of the play. His was an excellent portrayal of the larger-than-life actor, accustomed to making plenty of sweeping gestures and vivid facial expressions. Unfortunately his French tended to suffer a bit, but I found this almost completely excusable. He made much of the wit and confidence of Kean, and perhaps was a little slow in revealing to the audience Kean's underlying weakness, for although Kean revels in his audience's admiration he also desperately needs it. This tragic aspect did come over most effectively towards the end of the performance, and there was one moment that was particularly memorable when Keen dramatically declares to the audience that they have destroyed him, and he is met with howls of laughter.

Roger Hodkinson's superb performance did tend to overshadow the rest of the cast, but in fact the general standard of acting was very good. Judy Tavanyer was very effective as the contemptuous and superficial Comtesse de Koefeld, though her characterization was a trifle static - an understandable fault that she shared with several of the other actors. Tracey Franklin's ingenuous Anna Damby was a good contrast with the calculated role-playing of the other characters. Andrew Shirlaw as Kean's valet Salomon conveyed the right sense of reliability though his French was a bit heavy at times. Amongst the other parts Alex Stott deserves a mention as the 'camp' hairdresser Darius, who was predictably one of the most popular actors with the audience.

Overall it was an excellent production, that with the help of an outstanding leading actor, elegantly transcended the problem of presenting a play in a foreign language to an English audience.

Jon Hamberger





Martin Dennis and Tracy Holder in "Volpone".

The John Roysse Players' Production of VOLPONE

Jonson is our one great writer of stage comedy in the classic European tradition. His Bartholomew Fair anatomises London, and also grittily evokes it, in crowd-scenes that might well have had to wait until the novel was invented. The Alchemist, another up-to-the-minute view of the Cockney underworld is disciplined by verse and by a clever, intricate plot. Yet, paradoxically, Volpone is Jonson's masterpiece. Great naturalist though he is, and great Londoner - the Dickens among playwrights - his guintessential view of modern city living is his play about Venice.

Unlike the others, **Volpone** is essentially poetic, an elegant fugue on the theme of greed and mutual exploitation. Jon Gabitass's tough, fast production splendidly brought out its stylishness and power. The music was excellent, the entrances and scene-changing faultlessly professional. Sombre staging conveyed Jonson's message to the eye. The play's few innocents were costumed in anaemic pastels, but the obsessed principals wore black, gold and red.

Jonson sees his characters in groups, according to their function in the plot — Volpone and Mosca; the legacy-hunters; the English travellers. Compared with Shakespeare's characters, they appear at first sight to have little range or depth. In fact, Jonson's characters rarely act in the same way in successive scenes. Circumstances change, and the characters change with them, comically or horribly. Jonson's skill lies in his sly crossreferences, to the same character at another moment, or to a different character with a similar role. Volpone and Mosca function alike as partners in crime, but their imaginations begin to diverge. Elderly Corbaccio tries to disown his son and Corvino to prostitute his wife. To act Jonson well does not require subtlety in interpreting a psyche, but timing, teamwork, and a strong grasp of a part's relation to the whole. As Volpone, Martin Dennis rightly avoided a full-scale comic impersonation of foxiness. Possessed by possessions, aristocratic even in disguise, he dominated the stage through his diction and stagepresence, and left the plot to speak for itself. Guy Colquhoun's Mosca grew in authority brilliantly, as the part requires him to: he was the most varied of all the actors, sly, humorous, thinking on the stage. Dudley Phillips, a hilariously decrepit Corbaccio, and Tracy Holder, the sophisticated Lady Would-be, were accomplished dupes.

Vicky Allison and Mark Chapman had more difficulty as Celia and her husband Corvino. Jonson constructs the play so that Corvino is the most complex of the legacy-hunters. The man who has been pathologically jealous of his wife ends by forcing her on Volpone. 'Honour? ... there's no such thing in nature.' But Corvino's two key scenes are with Celia, and in conceiving her part Jonson's sardonic ingenuity has for once deserted him. The actors were consistent, but insufficiently controlled or varied to divert attention from the one major flaw in the writing.

Only the sub-plot gives an individual actor licence for rip-roaring, scene-stealing creativity. As Sir Politick Would-be, Brian Shelley took his chance, and achieved a detailed portrait that was in a comic class by itself. Experienced, solemn, utterly lacking in judgement, he was perfect as the timeless inside-dopester who thinks that, if a whale becomes a hazard to shipping, it has been planted by the C.I.A.

Marilyn Butler



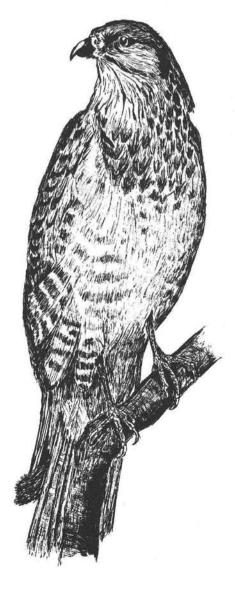
Guy Colquhoun and Dudley Phillips in "Volpone".

THE DUKE IN DARKNESS

Patrick Hamilton's 'The Duke in Darkness' was presented at the Unicorn by third and fourth year boys in June. The producers, Richard Webber and Jeff Aspinall, faced formidable difficulties in staging a serious and at times tragic drama with younger actors and highly sophisticated dialogue. The cast grappled gamely, although at times with evident uncertainty, with a sequence of obscure references to the political situation which might perhaps have been elucidated by a more comprehensive programme note.

The key role, that of the imprisoned Duke, was played with presence and poise by Simon Foster. With increasing confidence at each performance, his resigned composure of the first Act gave way to barely-suppressed venom of his confrontation with his imprisoner, Lamorre, played with power and the appropriate lack of subtlety by Tim Screech. The hinge of the play, though, comes in the third Act, when the loyal but ruthless Voulain, ably played by Peter Lovering, persuades the Duke of the necessity of disposing of Gribaud, once the Duke's loyal companion but now hovering ominously on the brink of insanity. This is a hideously difficult part, not least because it has to be played ambiguously enough to place the Duke in a real dilemma, and Tony Polack's insight and natural talent enabled him to carry it with total conviction. Whether the Duke's vacillation was always so convincing is perhaps open to question, but he rallied decisively enough once the crisis was over. Among the supporting actors, Patrick Tidmarsh belied his carefully created preciousness of appearance and gesture by a display of very persuasive malice as d'Aublaye, while Jamie Saunders was an appropriately laconic and enigmatic Marteau.

Full credit to the producers for having moulded their relatively inexperienced team into a production which at times had real tension and, particularly in the second Act, compelled attention despite staging problems which occasionally led to relief rather lighter than the producers had intended.



Robert Swan

HOCKEY

1st XI

Fifteen matches with only four wins would not appear to be a very good record. However, what the team lacked in goals it made up for in enthusiasm. On paper this year's team looked impressive with six of last year's eleven, plus some promising Colts. Unfortunately their captain Colin Holding (last year's leading goal scorer) was unavailable, through a leg injury after only one game.



The first six matches outlined the team's inability to turn chances into goals. After early defeats against St. Edward's and Radley, the team's spirit and determination was put to the test against King Alfred's. Having dominated the match, we found ourselves 1-0 down, but fought back admirably with well-taken goals by Dibble and Johnson. Three defeats followed this match, the one against Bradfield being lost mainly owing to the fact that no one seemed capable of putting the ball in the net. This was also true of the Magdalen game. The next four matches passed without defeat but again the side did not do itself justice, drawing two matches that it could have won. The O.A.'s game proved to be one of the best for many years.

Duncan Robinson once again kept up Abingdon's tradition of producing fine goalkeepers, making some good saves and proving a major link in the success of the defence. John Slingsby's hard hitting and Bill Hoggarth's sound tackling provided us with solid and reliable defenders. Andy Game is becoming a very competent wing-half as too is Adrian Johnson who was not afraid to come forward and look for goals. The two wingers, Anthony Dibble and Mark Sackett, provided the width to our attack, both showed good skill but were seldom able to produce a hard-hit cross.

Alan Thomas at inside forward was one of the most improved players during the season. He and Bruce Gow showed that they had the capability to take on and beat defences. Barry Burles was an enthusiastic and solid centre forward. Holding's return, scoring four goals in the last five matches, proved his earlier absence to be the missing link to a useful side which failed to do itself justice in terms of results. **RESULTS**

Oxford School (a)	Draw 2 - 2
St. Edward's (a)	Lost 1 - 3
Radley College (a)	Lost 0 — 3
King Alfred's (a)	Won 2 - 1
Pangbourne (a)	Lost 2 - 5
Bradfield	Lost 1 — 3
Magdalen (h)	Lost 0 - 2
Solihull (h)	Won 2 — 1
High Wycombe (h)	Draw 1 — 1
O.A.s (h)	Draw 1 - 1
Bloxham (h)	Won 2 — 1
Hockey Festival:	
Queen Elizabeth — Guernsey (h)	Lost 0 - 2
St. Edmunds - Canterbury (h)	Draw 3 — 3
Victoria — Jersey (a)	Won 1 — 0
Perse School (h)	Lost 0 - 2
"A" v XI Shiplake (a)	Lost 0 - 2

Full-colours: S. J. Hobbs, W. A. Hoggarth, C. Holding, A. R. A. Johnson, J. D. Robinson, S. M. Sackett, J. W. Slingsby. Half-colours: B. W. Burles, A. Carrie, A. R. Dibble, W. B. C. Gow, A. T. Thomas.

Also played: G. C. M. Black, I. M. Bye, A. H. Linley, A. C. Prest.

2nd XI

It was very much to the 2nd XI's credit that, in spite of the fact that the season was disrupted to an almost ludicrous degree by the weather and injuries, such matches as they managed to play were for the most part enjoyable and keenly contested. All the games, with the possible exception of the first, against Pangbourne, were close, and practically all of them could have gone either way.

The strength of the side undoubtedly lay in defence. Ted Coates proved a fearless goalkeeper, producing a particularly memorable save, which effectively won the match for us, at Solihull, while in front of him Steve Miller and Tim Clift formed an impressively calm and solid barrier. Although Phil Spittles' enforced and untimely departure after the Pangbourne match broke up a promising half-back trio, both Nigel Marsh and Kevin Stanton-King showed considerable skill and determination in midfield, while lan Oakden's irrepressible cheeriness went a long way towards compensating for his occasional lack of finesse.

The main weakness forward was an inability to score goals which at times bordered on the comic. Bobby Little scuttled busily up and down the left wing, without ever quite achieving what he was always on the verge of promising. Gareth Hoskin's long-legged forays down the right-wing all too frequently ended with his over-running the ball, a fault which I am inclined to attribute to his insistence — for reasons which remained obscure but were presumably sartorial — on wearing what looked suspiciously like brown suede shoes. The Ziyaeen cousins occupied the inside-forward positions with a wily Oriental inscrutability which defeated themselves and their colleagues at least as often as it confounded the opposition, while the erstwhile cross-country king, Mark Chapman, buccaneered away at cente-forward, striking terror into the hearts of opposing centre-halves with his cutaway shorts and scything hockey-stick, but only rarely threatening to put the ball into the net.

Simon Hobbs (VI)

In Search of a Poem

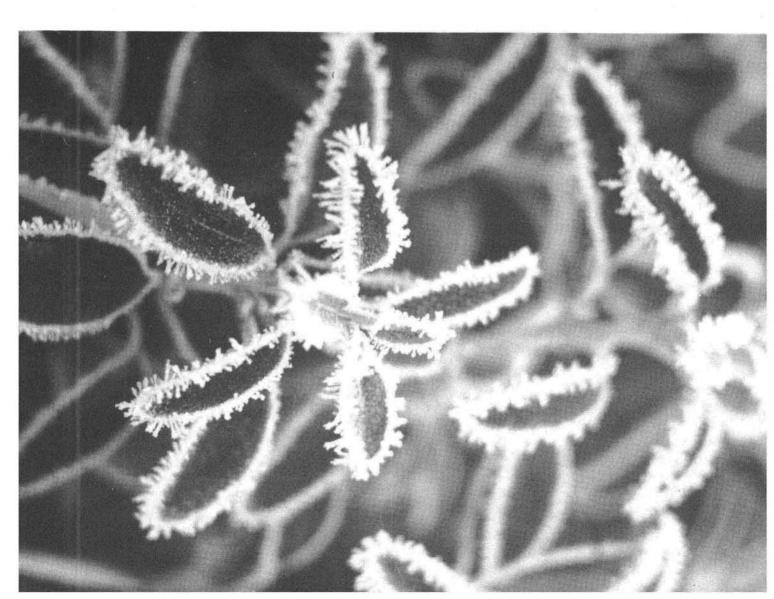
Tired from my walk, Relaxing on the heather, I look out over hills And see the world: The exquisite sunset, The church tower, The huge hills, And the town - that Black hole in the ground. How painful it is. Black soot stuffs my head With angry, aggressive thoughts That kill my sunset. The church survives. Just that and God Closed to the world, Upheld in the sky. And what is left? A train, some cars, Lights — crudely chastising That forgotten sun. Peace Torn from my head -Where is the poem?

Mark Murray (5)

Photograph

He stood there, immortalized, Caught in motion, hinting at a pained smile. His stringy hair, light and shiny, His battered shoes, a lace trailing, Stirring tiny dust-storms, and flicking pebbles. Remains of chocolate smeared on his chin, Contrasting with the new, cream-coloured jersey. 'What a child!' I thought, now sure in my mind. 'I am older now, and wiser, no doubt.' But I turned to the mirror And saw the mark of ages.

Edwin Datschefski (2)





"SNOW STUDIES: Andrew Cross"

Croesco in Cymru

At the bar the locals stare over beery rims at the strangers in the dock. They sip nervously, daring no words. The conversation exists only in their heads. A bell sounds time and they rise retreating from no farewells from confrontation and half-drunk pints. Outside, wrapped in college scarves, they walk in silence down the lane. The chill air cools their cheeks and soon they risk a nervous laugh, Congratulating themselves on their discovery of unspoilt Wales.

Simon West (6)

Pennine Valley

Men netted the hills with slabs of stone, Framed them with local granite, Si Formed squares of seasons, Lines from circles, leading to a warriors' altar.

The mesh spread down the valley To mills of iron that daggered its floor, Machine-cycles mutated nature-rhythms; Displaced, men worshipped chimney-totems;

Millwaste flowed down and dispersed; High in the hills the stream eddies flawlessly, Rushes past rough walls crumbling, Through enduring relics over-run with rooting, living.

Richard Smith (VI)



"1 st XI v. Bradfield"

Overall, however, the side's achievements were distinctly praiseworthy, and the whole team, but particularly Phil Spittles and Nigel Marsh, his replacement as captain, deserve considerable praise for the excellent team-spirit which they developed and fostered, in spite of the wretched conditions which are the almost inevitable lot of those who insist on trying to play hockey in the Easter term.

C.P.C.

RESULTS

v Pangbourne (a)	Lost 0 — 2
v Solihull (a)	Won 2 — 1
v High Wycombe (h)	Won 1 — 0
v Shiplake (a)	Lost 0 — 1
v Bloxham (a)	Lost 0 - 2

COLTS' XI

In a season the first half of which was very badly affected by bad weather, the team did not get the practice it needed to develop the teamwork which might have won them more matches. Rarely have we had a more individually talented group of players but their results did not do them justice. The Reading match was lost in the last few minutes, when one of those final lapses of concentration allowed our opponents to score twice and snatch victory from defeat; St. Edwards was an evenly-fought game of which they just had the better; only at Radley were we really outplayed.

Adams kept goal well, sometimes very well, and always courageously. The backs — Rayson a dashing player, sometimes a little erratic, but often producing an effective long pass — Black very solid and dependable, a much faster player at the end of the season — were a good foundation to the defence. The half-back line too was effective — Berry and Linley, the wing-halves, both very good indeed at intercepting and tackling, both occasionally a bit slow at getting the ball away — Kingston, Captain and centre-half, completely imperturbable, a very difficult player to get past, (many centre-forwards thought they had, and found they hadn't), but not always consistent in distributing the ball to a telling position. The forwards needed to vary their attacks more - both the wings, Littlewood and Dibble, were speedy and collected passes well, but both tended to come in too far and too often. Stanway the inside left was a strong player, and scored two good goals from first time shots, but has yet to develop the scheming necessary for his difficult position. Prest at centreforward had much neat stickwork and scored some good individual goals with great calmness, but the slippery conditions did not suit him, and reduced his speed. Darnborough, at inside right, was more of a schemer, and combined well with both wing and centre-forward - and one remembers two beautifully hit cannon-balls from short corners before Solihull realised that they had been taken.

There is much talent here, and one hopes for great things from these players in the future.

The team, which played unchanged, was: Adams, Black, Rayson, Linley, Kingston (Capt.), Berry, Littlewood J, Stanway, Prest C, Darnborough, Dibble J.

L.C.J.G.

RESULTS

Wed. 18 Jan. v Reading (h)	Lost 2 - 3
Thur. 2 Feb. v St. Edwards (a)	Lost 0 - 1
Sat. 4 Feb. v Radley (a)	Lost 0 - 3
Sat. 4 March v Solihull (h)	won 6 — 1
Sat 18 March v Bloxham (h)	won 3 — 2

JUNIOR COLTS

We were looking forward to an entertaining season. Many of the ingredients were at hand and there was an important bonus as compared with previous years: most of the players had match experience last year. Then the rains came.

Most of the matches were played in the last three weeks of term and it was only in those few days that the excitements which hockey can bring were recalled. There had been six easy goals against King Alfred's earlier on but we had to wait till the Radley match before anything like a spate of



"Barry Burles attacks."

well-taken goals from both sides occurred. The Bloxham game too is always well contested. They were again unbeaten and it was again both teams' last match of the season. The regular 'keeper had slipped away and the last minute replacement had not set kicker on a hockey pitch the entire season. Recipe for disaster? A tense and energetically contested draw was the outcome with one of the best Abingdon saves of the season.

There was much talent and enthusiasm but too little good weather to work at positional play and the team game. That must be the number one priority for these players next season.

Regular members of the team were: P. Capelin, J. Burley, S. Minter, P. Dubenski, G. Harper (c), J. Haworth, J. Driver, A. Newman, T. Brose, N. Ward, B MacIntyre, J. Scott. Also played: J. Persson, J. Walker, A. Cooper, R. Regan.

RCBC.

RESULTS

Lost 1 - 3
Won 6 — 0
Won 3 — 1
Drew 3 - 3
Lost 2 - 0
Drew 0 — 0

Five matches were cancelled.

JUNIORS

Hopes were high at first for a full hockey season, but the weather, once again, kept the teams off the fields for most of January and February. The basic skills, so important at this level, had to give way to team skills which resulted in our three defeats at the beginning of the season.

Once the team and weather settled, we were able to spend more time on individual skills, so that by the end of the season a high standard was reached. The team did very well to win its last three matches.

It is not possible in this report to single out any individual players because everyone made a most important contribution. The level of skill improved as the season progressed, and spirit was always high. There was also very keen competition to play in the XI. Special thanks to Gwendoline Slater, who played such a vital part in coaching the teams; and to Robert McCreery for his good captaincy on and off the field.

J.D.E.D-H.

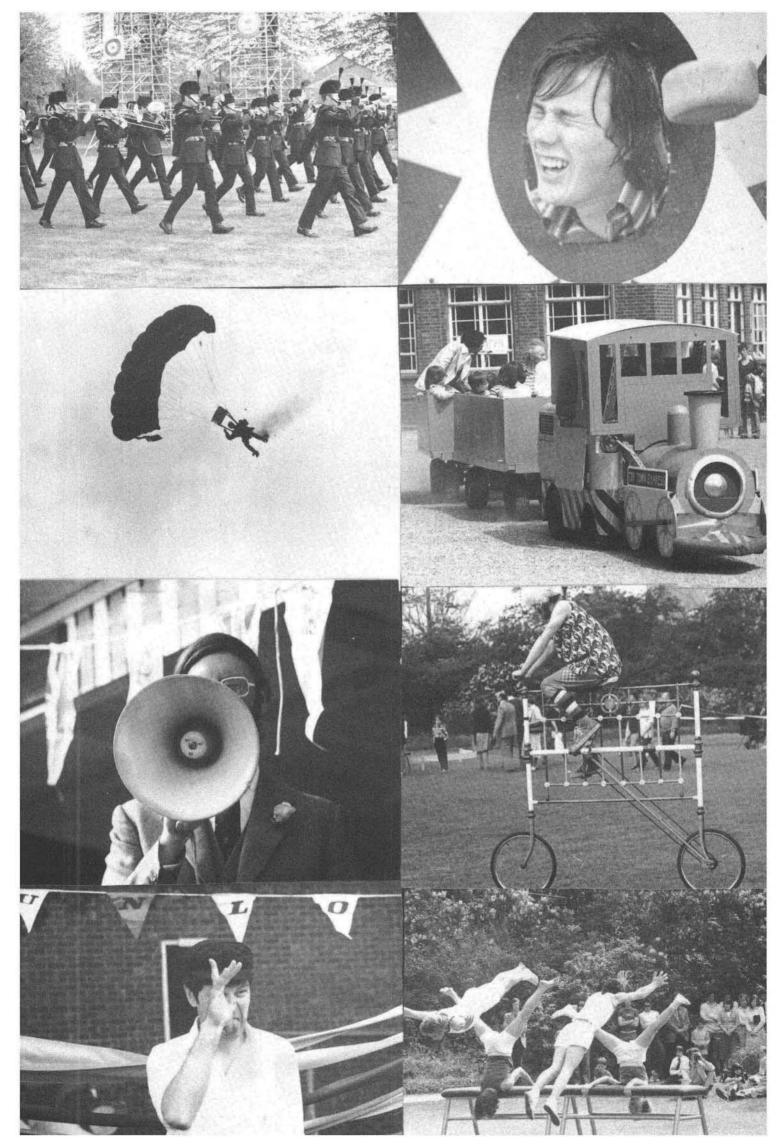
The following played for the team: R. McCreery, D. Phillips, N. Rice, N. Marsh, N. Williams, A. Hall, W. Passmore, C. Newmark, P. Tauwhare, N. North, J. Prest, R. Ripley, B. Rodgers, C. Coe.

RESULTS

Played 6 Won 3 Lost 3 Goals for 14 Goals against 9

Radley College(A)	Lost 0 - 3
King Alfreds School (A)	Lost 1 — 2
Magdalen College School (A)	Lost 1 - 2
Oxford School (A)	Won 5 — 1
Shiplake School (H)	Won 3 — 1
Larkmead School (A)	Won 4 - 0

"Overleaf: T.A.S.S. Fete, May 20th, 1978"



Music

JAZZ CLUB

This year the Jazz Club has again received support from the school and currently has the largest-ever total of 132 members. This is fortunate in view of the fact that the cost of maintaining the club is ever increasing. It is difficult to assess the year's achievements since several events have yet to take place during the Summer Term, but three concerts have so far been held at the school. Two local bands 'Rusty Nut' and 'Flash Harry', were generally enjoyed, and a massive audience turned out to see a highly acclaimed 'Sunfly', who played largely their own material. Another event had unfortunately to be cancelled when one of the players achieved the dubious privilege of having a speaker cabinet dropped on his hand. In the Michaelmas term, an outing to see Dr. Feelgood playing in Oxford was enjoyed by those who went, although the St. Helen's contingent was forced to drop out at the last minute. I hope that this term goes successfully, as plans include a concert by 'Brains Trust', a jazz-rock band fresh from Ronnie Scott's in London. I had hoped to vary the format of meetings somewhat but most members seem to prefer the current method of procedure, and the Jazz Club relies heavily on a large turn-out for all events. My thanks to our sponsors Mr. Gasson and Miss Sobierajska, and to everyone else who has helped including my assistant Gus Colquhoun.

Dudley Phillips (VI)

ST. JOHN PASSION

After their highly successful visit to Bonn earlier in March, the Chamber Choir brought the term's musical events to a climax with an extremely polished and enjoyable rendering of Bach's "St. John Passion" in St. Michael's Church, Abingdon. Although the acoustics of the building are none too kind for a work such as this, Michael Johnson rehearsed the choir to the point where words and notes could be heard quite clearly, in spite of the positioning of the orchestra in front of the choir. The musicians were probably the best which have been assembled for such a concert, and their accompaniment was enjoyably and sensitively played.

The choral singing, well-balanced and rich in tone throughout the work, was enhanced by five soloists of great competence. The Evangelist, Philip Cave, gave a performance of great feeling with admirably clear diction, and the roles of Jesus (William Collins) and Pilate (James McClue) were also well sung. The Soprano and Tenor arias were performed by Judity Sawyer and Antony Selby, the latter a little uncertain on his top notes. A very musical and sensitive rendering of the Bass arias "Come ponder O my soul" and "My Lord and Saviour" was given by Peter Johnson and Brian Shelley, members of the choir.

John J. Rolley (VI)



The Queen's Free Chapel of St. George, Windsor

The heavy bold type on the list of services for the Free Chapel of St. George at Windsor Castle for Wed. July 6, announced that "Evensong will be sung by the Choir of Abingdon School". Accordingly at 1.30 p.m. thirty choristers, somewhat weary (after a late night out performing at the end of term School concert) climbed aboard their coach on easily the hottest day of the Summer Term, together with members of their 'Supporters Club'; only to be immediately informed that they must not eat or drink on the journey and that the roof ventilators and windows on the so-called 'luxury' coach were not operating properly. Consequently we arrived in Windsor somewhat faint, half-starved, hot and dripping, and from the coach park made our way up to the Castle. We were given about an hour to explore the locality and eat a rather belated lunch.

At 4 p.m. the Chapel was closed to visitors to enable the Choir to have a final rehearsal and Simon to explore his way round the organ, which seemed to be well tuned to cause bits of the woodwork of the Chapel to oscillate in sympathy. The 'Supporters Club' managed with some difficulty to gain an entrance, after being separated from some American visitors who suddenly seemed to have acquired sons in the Choir!

The Choir, although small in number, sang very effectively. Their variation in volume during the singing of the Magnificat filled the Chapel with a well balanced sound in the louder passages and produced an ethereal quality in the quieter parts. As one used to worshipping in a Church without a robed choir, I enjoyed the extra dimension of well sung anthem, canticles and psalms and very carefully and meaningfully read lessons, in a beautiful and interesting building, and for me this enhanced the sense of praise and worship of our Lord and Saviour. Well done and thank-you, choir!

On the return journey there was some consternation when the driver suddenly stopped and came half-way down the coach and lifted up a floor-panel. Rumour spread rapidly that the smallest member must have fallen through a hole in the floor! After reassuring an anxious Mum that he was still safely on board the journey was resumed and in no time at all, it seemed, we were back on 'the gravel'.

Keith Bromley

CONCERT

in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford given by the Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra and Brass Ensemble.

This church is certainly a rewarding place in which to give a concert. It is one of the few local buildings whose acoustics produce clarity in instrumental music and at the same time resonance for choral music.

The opening piece, Palestrina's "Stabat Mater", with its rich contrasting textures was well suited to the acoustics. It is a difficult piece, and the number of ragged entries of voices at first showed the choir to be lacking in confidence. However, the final overpowering homophonic section was well sustained and sung with a mature tone.

By contrast, the **Concerto in C Major** for trumpet and orchestra by Albinoni was a distinct contrast: not a great work, it made quite pleasant listening. The soloist, Ben Messer, after a cold and rather nervous start, soon gained confidence, producing a powerful and rounded tone. The Chamber Orchestra accompanied competently.

In the "Alto Rhapsody" Judith Sawyer was an excellent soloist, whose voice proved to be flexible even in its lowest register. Michael Deacon on the piano made the accompaniment sound as orchestral as possible and the male voice choir produced a virile yet controlled sound. These three elements were well balanced by the conductor, Michael Johnson.

In the concerto for two flutes and orchestra which followed, the soloists Peter Wakefield and Philip Todd demonstrated secure techniques and the ability to blend one with the other. Under the direction of Mr. Robinson, the Chamber Orchestra produced a rich tone and phrased very neatly.

The next piece comprised two Easter Motets by Poulenc — "Vinea Mea Electa Est" and "Tristis est Anima". These are real test pieces for any choir, and the Chamber Choir did not always cope successfully with the difficulties of pitching entries in the second motet. However, the singing captured well the generally rather austere yet sometimes light-hearted mood of the piece.

The work which followed is so extraordinary that one can say little about it. Gordon Birkerd, the composer, has taken a Baroque harpsichord piece by Frescobaldi — "Capriccio sopra la Battaglia" — and has transformed it into a full-blooded military march for Brass Band, cymbals and drums. The Brass Ensemble, conducted by Derek Jones, played confidently and even over-enthusiastically in the percussion section, leaving the audience bewildered by the end.

The highlight of the evening was Benjamim Britten's "Hymn to Saint Cecilia" for unaccompanied five-part choir. It is almost Mozartian in its wealth of glorious melodies, and Britten's setting of Auden's sensuous text is outstanding. If one had one criticism of the performance, it would be that the choir failed to produce a true pianissimo sound.

Simon F. Williams (O.A.)

MISSA SOLEMNIS

This piece is renowned as one of the most difficult works to perform, especially with only a limited practice period, but the Abingdon School Choral Society attempted heartily to achieve a high standard of the performance. Although tiring for both choir and orchestra, Michael Johnson again did admirable battle with the available time, acoustics and the prospect of hard work associated with this Mass to produce a cleanly executed evening of playing and singing.

I am sure that the rest of the audience would join me in saying how nice it would be, however, to be able to welcome the orchestra at the beginning and enjoy their entrance to their places through the centre aisle rather than filing up the side, especially that of the leader of the orchestra. On the whole the orchestra played well, rising to the strenuous demands of this piece with some sensitive passages from the strings and welcome noises from the percussion — in particular the kettle drums.

The performers looked extremely colourful although perhaps rather tired after the exacting opening of this great piece. But they battled on magnificently. It was generally hard work but some charming harmonies were achieved even with such a thin number of tenors and soft altos compared to the sopranos and basses.

There is so much to say in favour of the evening's soloists but I shall have to be content with only a fraction of that which I would like to say to do them justice. It was extremely pleasing to welcome back Ann-Marie Connors after her magnificent performance in Verdi's Requiem, and her singing in this work easily equalled her previous performance. Rosemary Greenhalgh and Peter Hall were also strong, clear and professional performances and I can only hope that we see more of them in the future. William Collins gave a resounding sound only to be swallowed up by the heads of the audience so that from where I was sitting unfortunately only a fraction of his tuned voice could be heard; certainly not doing him justice. This prompts me to say that it must be pointed out that in such a confined area it would benefit all concerned if the soloists could be raised on some form of platform so that they could be seen and heard to the full. Only in this way would all of the audience be able to appreciate the singing.

Michael Johnson has striven well to achieve great heights unaided by his surroundings and the **Missa Solemnis** would without doubt have gone down so much better with a proper concert hall rather than a mere sports hall. They all tried hard but something was noticeably lacking, and I shall look forward to the next work in the hopes that better facilities will be available.

Ken Hakin.



AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS.

The music department's ambitious project to perform Gian-Carlo Menotti's one-act opera 'Amahl and the Night Visitors" on November 25 and 26 proved an undoubted success. Although the plot, which tells of a young crippled boy and his widowed mother, and the visit to their house of the Three Kings on their way to Bethlehem, is kept very simple, there are nevertheless moments of considerable drama where the music stands or fails according to the guality of the production. To the five principal soloists I can offer nothing but praise. If Andrew Fisher, as Amahl, was at first a little nervous, over-acting and with some muffled words, he very soon improved and is to be congratulated for his handling of the comic episodes and for his dramatic timing - a notable performance. The equally demanding role of Amahl's mother was convincingly sung by Judith Sawyer, whose long "soliloguy" was particularly affecting; it was a pity that I could not quite catch every word. As the Three Kings Donald Greig, Brian Shelley and Peter Johnson made an excellent team with clear words and fine acting; as the rather deaf Kaspar Donald Greig made an especially favourable impression. The vitality of the chorus (shepherds and shepherdesses), which more than made up for the several moments of suspect intonation, greatly enhanced the enjoyment of the evening too; and I felt rather sorry for Patrick Tidmarsh, the Kings' page, who is on stage for much of the time, but is hardly required to sing anything at all. All the more pity then that the hard work done by Messrs. Johnson and Swan in preparing the performance should have been marred by an orchestra which was less than adequate. Mis-timed entries and poor intonation were the worst of many faults that could have been corrected with sufficient rehearsal time. It is certainly indicative of the high quality of the soloists that, in spite of all this, the overall impression was still one of an excellent operatic production.

Jonathan Julyan (VI)

CHAMBER CHOIR TRIP TO GERMANY

8.00 a.m. on Wednesday 1st March saw the beginning of a very successful trip to Germany by the Chamber Choir. The long, laborious journey to Bonn took 15 hours, arriving at the Bonn youth hostel at midnight (German time). We stayed at the youth hostel for two nights only, after which we went our separate ways and stayed with the families of our hosts for the trip — the South Rheinland Youth Orchestra, with whom we gave two concerts.

Trips during the week included a tour of the city of Trier followed by wine-tasting, a trip to the famous Klais organ works, and a short tour of the German Parliament. Entertainments were laid on, including a football match against the orchestra (2-2!) and a party given by our hosts — the orchestra.

I have not, as yet, mentioned anything about what we really went over to do - which was to sing. Our first concert, on Sunday, was at the Romanesque Cathedral of Limburg. Both the orchestra and the choir performed solo pieces, and the concert ended with Schubert's Mass in G major for both choir and orchestra. The soloists were Andrew Fisher, Neil Swan, and Peter Johnson. The result was average, but enjoyable. The following day saw a recital by the choir alone at the Benedictine monastery of Maria Laach. The sound was absolutely superb and is by far the best performance by the choir yet - if only we had a monastery like it near Abingdon! The final concert, on Tuesday, was given in a church in the centre of Bonn. The programme was the same as that in Limburg, but the overall performance was much better. This concert was given to our largest audience of 500.

The return journey to Abingdon again took 15 hours, leaving Bonn at 6.30 a.m. It was very difficult for many of us to come down to earth on Thursday morning after such a successful and enjoyable trip — this was especially so of our conductor! I would like to thank, on behalf of all those on the trip, Mrs. M. Willett and Mrs. U. Johnson, who cooked our meals with such efficiency and enthusiasm — one time cooking on a camp stove for 100 people. Now we all look forward to the next trip — to Amsterdam perhaps? Timothy Kermode (6)

in

St. John's, Smith Square

On 31 May, two years of planning and preparation culminated in perhaps the most ambitious musical project yet undertaken by the school - a public concert at St. John's, Smith Square, including the first performance of a work commissioned by the school from Bryan Kelly. The audience was gratifyingly large, despite the unfortunate (and unpredictable) clash with school examinations which prevented many boys from attending, and included many regular London concertgoers as well as friends of the school. St. John's provided a splendid setting, against which the Chamber Choir looked impressive as well as sounding highly polished. The acoustic was excellent, achieving equal clarity in the Brass Ensemble's Susato as in the unaccompanied Bruckner motets.

Derek Jones' Brass Ensemble were as bright and confident as ever in the **Susato**, producing a sound as "pleasing and appropriate" as the composer had wished, and, augmented by woodwind, accompanied the Chamber Choir in Bryan Kelly's specially-commissioned Latin **Magnificat**, receiving its first performance. This is a work of strong contrasts, and many of the more exuberant passages, although glorious, seemed perhaps a little out of balance. By contrast, the more lyrical passages achieved a high beauty, particularly the penultimate section for soloists and solo woodwind, and the **Gloria** brought the work to a close with power and imagination.

The remainder of the programme was dedicated to the Chamber Choir, and they fully merited this prominence. Perhaps their greatest achievement this year has been the creation of a full, attacking treble tone, crisp and vigorous, and yet equally controlled and precise in the pianissimo passages of the Bruckner **motets**. These three pieces are particularly difficult, cruelly exposing each section of the choir in turn, and the Chamber Choir's performance was accomplished and moving.

The high point of the evening was arguably the performance of Vaughan Williams' **Five Mystical Songs**, perhaps a curious item with which to close a programme, but performed with haunting beauty. Andrew Golder, the baritone soloist, produced a rich and emotional interpretation, and the Chamber Choir, employed sparingly, sounded almost professional in its control and lyricism: a fitting end to a memorable evening, for which full credit to Michael Johnson for both the courageous conception and the commendable execution. It was, most importantly, an experience which none of those privileged to participate will forget.

Robert Swan

CARMINA BURANA

Carmina Burana is stirring stuff. Through Carl Orff's rhythmic music, all of us who sang in the performance on May 22nd, experienced something of the exuberance of the youthful songs of rebellion from the Middle Ages. The energy of Carl Orff's music and of Michael Johnson's training and conducting were fitting partners and the result was, at least for those who sang, an inspiring performance. The semi-chorus, and particularly the soloists John Barrow, Gerald Place, and Suzanne Green and orchestra added skill and sensitivity in what is a most varied and demanding work.

Parry's 'I was glad' was similarly stirring and, written as it was for the coronation of King Edward VII, was fittingly sung as a mark of the Queen's Jubilee. It was grand, majestic and moved the patriotic spirit.

Between these two pieces, the chamber choir sung Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs' a delightful interlude for us in the main choir. John Barrow, the baritone soloist, was excellent and supported well by the Chamber Choir's controlled and serene singing. In the last song, the Chamber Choir let fly on its own in a most exciting rendering of 'Let all the world in every corner sing'.

We all thank Michael Deacon for his excellent accompaniment in both rehearsal and performance, and particularly we thank Michael Johnson for his continual energy, encouragement, and inspiration.

Isobel Goulding

WEST SIDE STORY

The seventh week of the Lent Term saw the school production, together with John Mason School, of **West Side Story**, which by any standards must be rated a considerable success. Although this musical makes very exacting demands on the technique of actor and singer alike (there were, almost inevitably, moments of weakness) there is no doubt that an exciting atmosphere of the fifties and sixties with its conflict between street violence and love was created by a clearly enthusiastic and largely talented cast.

Since so much previously hidden talent emerged, in a musical which includes so many individual acting parts, it would be invidious to single out certain performances for especial praise, except perhaps Anita and Doc. Anita was dynamic, vivacious and totally convincing; Stephen Marshall, who stepped in at the eleventh hour on Thursday to replace an injured Philip Spittles, gave an impressive performance of Doc.

Bernstein's music, which is of considerable difficulty for all instrumentalist, was handled effectively even if one felt at times that the most taxing orchestration could have benefited from more careful rehearsal.

It was obvious, however, that all who took part enjoyed themselves and injected an energy and enthusiasm into every performance which could not fail to communicate itself to the audience.

Isobel Goulding



CRICKET

Apart from the outstandingly successful season enjoyed by the 2nd XI, 3rd XI, Junior Colts and Juniors in particular, 1977 was a notable year for individual achievements of past and present Abingdonians.

Congratulations to Michael Howat who opened the bowling as a freshman for Cambridge University and won his blue by playing against Oxford at Lord's and later for Gloucestershire U-25s; Angus McPhail also made his debut in first class cricket, keeping wicket for Oxford University in a few games. Mike Nurton opened the batting for the Minor Counties against the Australians and again scored a lot of runs, including at least one century, for Oxfordshire. Mike Hill continued to play for Hampshire 2nds and also scored a hundred. Bob Evans is currently captain of Finchhampstead C.C.

Meanwhile, the local Abingdon Club is almost an Old Boys' side at times; an average weekend XI includes 7 or 8 O.A.s, and is captained by Peter Shellard who scores consistently heavily. The link between school and club has never been closer, not least due to the Glyn Evans and Dave Bagshaw (still taking a large number of wickets) connections.

Andrew Evans, John Slingsby and Gerald Lowes (who has written the 1st XI report) played for the Berkshire Bantams and Slingsby is to be congratulated on making his debut for Warwickshire 2nds. We were well represented, too, in the Junior Oxfordshire sides. Kingston and Patchett played for the Under 16s, and Newmark, Rice, Cox and Thomas for the Under 13s. Well played, all!

N.H.P.

At the outset everyone knew that this would be a tough season; six players had been lost from last year's successful side, including all the middle order batting and both opening bowlers, and so great pressure was exerted on a young and inexperienced eleven. It was not surprising, then, that while the young members tried to establish themselves some of the early cricket became rather unattractive to watch. This situation was not helped by poor weather which made attacking batting hazardous and bowling difficult.

In the event, however, Andrew Evans's side showed great determination, typified by the unbroken last wicket stand of an hour by Dennis and Hobbs to save the day against the B.G.s, and in the bowling and fielding which earned the victory over Abingdon. Yet there were several disappointments as well, such as the usual batting shambles at the Oratory, the careless performances against the S.O.A.s and Reading, and the defeat by the Old Boys which spoilt an otherwise enjoyable and productive 'cricketweek'. This latter produced moral victories against Magdalen, Bloxham and U.C.S. which augurs well for next year.

The batting depended on John Slingsby and Gerald Lowes and lacked the depth of recent years, but Slingsby again made over 500 runs, scored a glorious maiden century at Berkhamsted, and proved himself a cricketer of considerable talent and maturity for one so young. We were all delighted, but not surprised, that Warwickshire C.C.C. were impressed with him. Nigel Marsh began and ended the season well but had a lean spell in between, though his sound technique is most promising. Graham Halsey and Tim Clift made some useful contributions and when they learn to punish the bad ball will score plenty of runs. Adrian Johnson was sadly out of form this year but David Driver more than once eased the side out of trouble with sensible batting.

The bowling was opened by Simon Hobbs and Martin Dennis. Unfortunately both tended to lose their accuracy by trying to bowl too quickly at times, but were more effective when they reduced their pace. Both will return next year as wiser, better bowlers. Consequently, most of the bowling and wicket taking was done by Andrew Evans and young Bruce Gow. Evans again took the most wickets and fully deserved the Henderson cricket prize. Gow's off-spin was most impressive and his good line, length and variety of delivery gave the impression of a seasoned campaigner at work. He was the most improved player of the side and so was awarded the Smithson Memorial Cup as well as his full colours. Halsey and Driver gave additional support with their seamers and Clift's slow bowling gave width to the attack.

This year's standard of fielding did not match the efficiency of last year's XI, but was excellent at times. However, in spite of the efforts of Slingsby and Evans, too many catches were dropped, all too often robbing the side of victory. Next year, though, eight of the side will return and the results should improve as players will be more experienced and confident. Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Slingsby, Mrs Dennis and their TASS helpers for providing such excellent teas and to David Bagshaw and his staff for keeping War Mem. in peak condition. Grateful thanks are also due to Nigel Payne and Hugh Randolph for their many hours involved in umpiring, coaching and managing Game 1, not forgetting Messrs. Hoggarth and Edington for their sterling work in the scorebox.

The final team was P. A. Evans (capt.), R. G. Lowes, J. W. Slingsby, W. B. C. Gow (full colours), N. A. Marsh, T. P. C. Clift, G. R. Halsey, D. J. G. Driver, M. J. S. Dennis, S. J. Hobbs, A. R. A. Johnson and A. R. Thomas. C. R. Sheldon, M. R. P. Taylor and M. R. Nelson also played.

R. G. Lowes

FIRST ELEVEN AVERAGES

Batting (Qual. 100 runs)

	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Av.
J. W. Slingsby	17	1	547	108*	34.2
R. G. Lowes	13	0	360	59	27.7
N. A. Marsh	16	0	292	63	18.3
G. R. Halsey	17	4	233	41*	17.9
D. J. Driver	15	3	180	31	15.0
T. P. C. Clift	14	1	164	43	12.6

Bowling (Qual. 8 wkts)

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Av.
P. A. Evans	212	56	510	42	12.1
W.B.C. Gow	216	57	593	46	16.5
M. J. S. Dennis	125	32	348	13	26.8
S. J. Hobbs	130	27	371	12	30.9
D. J. Driver	87	15	272	8	34.0

FIRST ELEVEN RESULTS

Pangbourne College (h) Drawn.

Abingdon 129 for 4 dec. (Lowes 58); Pangbourne 88 for 3. Newbury (h) Drawn.

Abingdon 166 for 5 dec. (Slingsby 69, Marsh 59); Newbury 108 for 7.

Brentwood (h) Drawn.

Abingdon 131 for 9 dec.; Brentwood 78 for 5.

Berkshire Gentlemen (h) Drawn.

B.G.s. 197 for 7 dec.; Abingdon C.C. 92.

Abingdon C.C. (h) Won by 14 runs. Abingdon 106 for 9 dec.; Abingdon C.C. 92.

Douai (h) Drawn.

Abingdon 107 (Marsh 47); Douai 70 for 9 (Evans 6 for 36). Berkhamsted (A) Drawn.

Berkhamsted 199 for 4 dec.; Abingdon 151 for 5 (Slingsby 108*)

Oratory (A) Lost by 4 wkts.

Abingdon 99; Oratory 101 for 6.

South Oxfordshire Amateurs (h) Lost by 25 runs.

S.O.A.s. 137; Abingdon 112 (Clift 43)

N. H. Payne's XI (h) Abandoned (rain).

N.H.P's XI 105 for 3 (T. G. Evans 62*) Radley College (h) Lost by 7 wkts.

Abingdon 172 (Lowes 55); Radley 173 for 3.

Reading (h) Lost by 101 runs.

Reading 208 for 8 dec.; Abingdon 107 (Slingsby 50). St. Edward's (A) Drawn.

St. Edward's 195 for 8 dec; Abingdon 83 for 4.

R.G.S. Wycombe (h) Drawn.

Wycombe 133 for 5 dec.; Abingdon 97 for 7.

Magdalen College School (h) Drawn.

M.C.S. 173 for 9 dec. (Gow 6 for 51); Abingdon 157 for 5 (Slingsby 92).

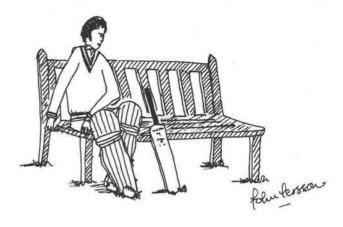
Bloxham (h) Drawn. Abingdon 157 for 8 dec. (Lowes 47, Halsey 41*); Bloxham 124 for 8 (Gow 4 for 38).

University College School (A) Drawn.

Abingdon 229 for 9 dec. (Lowes 59, Slingsby 50); U.C.S. 160 for 9 (Dennis 4 for 67).

Old Abingdonians (h) Lost by 13 runs.

O.A.s. 177 (Evans 4 for 18); Abingdon 164 (Marsh 63, C. Hobson 4 for 9).



2nd XI

Recent years have seen the side playing with great enjoyment, often making a lot of runs in highly entertaining fashion, but failing to win many matches. This year came triumph: seven victories in ten games — a result that is unlikely to be bettered. For this success one reason was Young's good-natured and infectious enthusiasm, which filled the side with confidence. His often putting the other side in, knowing that he had a team quick to respond to a challenge and unlikely to panic when batting second, was responsible for several victories.

On a ground so wet that only three boundaries were struck, Sheldon and Hitchcock batted well and good fielding helped to bring victory over Pangbourne. Newbury too were a poor batting side, but bowled well. We took our chances and so gained a surprising victory over Brentwood (who had bowled impressively and were 43 for 0 at tea), to put us 4-3 up in the series. We bowled too short to beat Oratory (64 of whose runs came from one batsman), but, after a rest when Magdalen's pitch was unfit, bowled well in an excellent, even game at Leighton Park. Then came an interval of several weeks, during which the Radley and Wantage matches were rained off. Triumph in a low-scoring match at Reading was followed by the splendid last-over defeat of Shiplake, whose bowling was by a long way the fastest we encountered. At High Wycombe, Thomas and Franklin saved us after a nearly disastrous start (21 for 5), but were understandably cautious and a result was never likely. The manner of our winning the Bloxham match will stay long in the memories of those who saw it. Hitchcock and Sheldon surpassed their achievement against Shiplake: needing 104 at the start of the final hour, they knocked them off (against respectable bowling) in only fourteen overs.

The fielding was good and, except when hands were cold at Reading, a satisfactory proportion of catches stuck, Young and Taylor again showing the way. Thomas, with Sheldon an able understudy, kept wicket well.

A major factor in the team's success was a further improvement in the bowling, which, despite the absence of an off-spinner, was the best for many years. Young, himself the most successful (with 26 wickets), was outstandingly good at encouraging his colleagues, and one and all tried their hardest. Hurry has the makings of a good opener, Littlewood, the team's only slow bowler, seldom failed to induce suicide, and Henshaw usually picked up a wicket or two. Hitchcock (with 297 runs) and Sheldon (with 186 in six innings) were the most successful batsmen and played a major part in the team's success, not only by scoring so many runs but also by giving encouragement and confidence to others. Their outstanding contribution to secondeleven cricket was rewarded by their joining Young in receiving half colours. Thomas (who, like Sheldon, sometimes played for the 1st XI) had two big scores, Nelson was full of promise, and Burles (the side's principal comedian) and Hurry struck some ferocious blows. Franklin and Taylor had the misfortune often to come in at awkward moments, and the bowlers hardly batted at all.

S. J. Scott was a first rate scorer, whose keeping of the book won him high praise.

The team was: A. M. J. Young (Captain), B. W. Burles, N. F. K. Franklin, J. W. Henshaw, M. Hitchcock, M. A. Hurry, P. H. Littlewood, M. R. Nelson, C. R. Sheldon, M. R. P. Taylor and A. R. Thomas. I. C. Oakden played six times, A. R. A. Johnson and R. J. Little twice, and R. J. Allen, M. J. S. Dennis and L. M. Jones-Walters once.

H.T.R.

RESULTS

Pangbourne College (a). Won by 113 runs.

Abingdon 150 for 2 dec. (Sheldon 84 not out); Pangbourne 37

St. Bartholomew's, Newbury (a). Won by six wickets. Newbury 60 (Littlewood 5 for 14); Abingdon 64 for 4.

Brentwood School (h). Won by 59 runs.

Abingdon 146; Brentwood 87 (Young 5 for 24). Oratory School (h). Drawn.

Abingdon 131 for 7 dec.; Oratory 99 for 9.

Leighton Park School 1st XI (a). Drawn.

Leighton Park 127 for 6 dec.; Abingdon 120 for 8. Berkhamsted School (h). Won by 5 wickets.

Berkhamsted 125; Abingdon 129 for 5 (Thomas 61 not out). Reading School (a). Won by five wickets.

Reading 68; Abingdon 70 for 5.

Shiplake College 1st XI (h). Won by five wickets.

- Shiplake 144 for 6 dec.; Abingdon 148 for 5 (Hitchcock 82 not out).
- Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (a). Drawn.
- Abingdon 116 for 8 dec. (Thomas 50); High Wycombe 70 for 5.

Bloxham School (a). Won by 10 wickets.

Bloxham 148 for 5 dec.; Abingdon 149 for 0 (Hitchcock 80 not out; Sheldon 53 not out).

3rd XI

This was probably the most successful season that the 3rd XI has ever had. We lost only one match, managed to force a draw against Shiplake, and won all our other five matches. However in my opinion, there is some doubt as to whether this gives a fair representation of the harder fixtures. Cokethorpe and St. Edwards were rained off.

Despite this nothing can be taken away from the opening attack which provided the side with the springboard necessary for victory. Chris Wyatt was the most successful taking 25 wickets, a good model of consistency, whereas Louis Allen took 17 wickets, 8 of which came against Brentwood. As a result there were few wickets left for the other bowlers to take and what few were left were shared between Greig, Oakden, Holder and Phillips. As the side never really had to score many runs to win, any doubts about its batting ability were never really uncovered. However on the one occasion necessary it scored runs with gay abandon, with 165 being scored in the 85 minutes. The responsibility for the runs fell heavily on Rimmer and Robinson who scored 280 runs between them.

The fielding was at times very good and at others only mediocre, however two fielders stood out. The first Mike Swan, saved many runs in the gulley position and Tim Baker's deep fielding was a joy to watch, his throwing always being perfect.

I would like to offer my thanks to Messrs. Griffin and Parker for their hard work and their patience which we all tried at times. Finally I thank Clive Neville for scoring and doing so most readily.

The team was selected from the following fifteen: Holder (Capt.), Robinson (Vice Capt.), Allen, Baker, Dibble, Eccles, Greig, Merriman, Miller, Oakden, Phillips, Rimmer, Sargeant, Swan and Wyatt.

Nick Holder (VI)

RESULTS

Carmel (a). Won by 5 wickets. Carmel 87

Abingdon 92-5 (Rimmer 58).

Brentwood (h). Won by 8 wickets.

Brentwood 51 (Allen 8-31, including hat trick) Abingdon 54-2

Oratory (h). Won by 10 runs.

Abingdon 165-1 (Rimmer 51* Robinson 78*) Oratory 155

Reading (h). Won by 6 wickets.

Reading 62 (Wyatt 4-12, Allen 4-17) Abingdon 66-3.

Shiplake 2nd XI (a) Drawn.

- Shiplake 147 (Wyatt 6-55) Abingdon 1086 (Holder 29* Sargeant 24)
- Radley (a). Lost by 35 runs. Radley 78 (Wyatt 4-42)

Abingdon 43

Bearwood (a). Won by 4 wickets. Bearwood 101 (Wyatt 4-26) Abingdon 103-6 (Robinson 33).

COLTS CRICKET

The season proved a great success, the only loss being against Radley in the Esso Cup competition, folowing an unlucky tie.

The bowling was the foundation of the team's success. William Mellor bowling outswing and Graham Black inswing. Both took quick wickets with the new ball. Nick Patterson and Jeremy Kingston both bowled with various swing and pace, often breaking partnerships, as the second change. David Game, a very effective spin bowler, took many good wickets for surprisingly few runs. As nearly everyone in the team was able to bowl, we were never at a loose end for bowlers; John Littlewood had his moments against Radley, and David Darnborough was not unsuccessful.

The batting, although it improved towards the end of the season, let us down with some last minute ties early in the season. The opening pair Marcus Willett and Geoffrey Lanham were very consistent, but often scored slowly leaving the middle order batsmen the task of taking unnecessary risks. Frequently Charles Prest and Andrew Patchett pulled us out of trouble, and Jeremy Kingston and David Darnborough left the position comfortable at tea. The fielding improved greatly as the season went on, and although some important catches were dropped, we seemed to catch them the next time round. David Darnborough in the slips, Andrew Mellor in the outfield, and Jeremy Kingston at silly mid-on topped the catches. Our wicket keeper, Andrew Patchett, took many good catches and stumpings, but often proved to be too quick, and whipped the bails off before he had the ball. The team is generally indebted to Mr. Drummond-Hay and Mr. Swan for their valuable coaching, and also to Grant Carey for his neat and accurate scoring.

Jeremy Kingston (Captain)

My congratulations to the team on such a fine record, and especially to Jeremy Kingston and Andrew Patchett on their selection for the Oxon. U15 XI, and to David Game, who was selected for the squad, but unfortunately never played in the XI. To them, and all other members of the Junior Colts XI, I wish every success in the future.

J. D. E. D-H.

The following played for the XI. J. Kingston (Capt.), C. Prest (V. Capt.), A. Patchett, M. Willett, D. Darnborough, D. Game, G. Lanham, W. Mellor, N. Paterson, G. Black, J. Littlewood, G. Radford-Smith, R. Benjamin, P. Tidmarsh.

RESULTS

Played 12	Won 6	Tied 2	Drawn 3	Lost 1
Radley College. Radley 87-9 (Abingdon 87-	Kingston 3	-17)		
St. Edward's So Abingdon 89	hool. Draw		4.461	
St. Edwards 6 Radley College. Radley 169-9	Lost.	or 4-20, Kii	ngston 4-10)	
Abingdon 119	Э			
Magdalen Colle Abingdon 130	3-9 (Prest 3			
Magdalen 89 Douai School. V		runs		
Abingdon 10	Company and the second second	runs.		
Douai 45 (Ga		ack 3-19.	Mellor 2-7)	
Berkhamsted S				
Berkhamsted	89 (Mellor	6-33)		
Abingdon 89	(Prest 38)			
Bearwood Colle	ge. Won b	y 9 wickets	5	
Bearwood 55	(Game 4-1	12)		
Abingdon 59	-1			
Reading School	. Drawn			
Abingdon 12	2-8 (Willett	: 46)		
Reading 55-6				
J. Drummond-H	lay's XI. W	on by 4 w	ckets.	
J. Drummond	I-Hay's XI.	114 (A. Al	ton 37 n.o.)	
Abingdon 11			ay 2-4)	
Shiplake Colleg			Barran courses	
Shiplake 58 (Abingdon 61		4, Patterso	n 3-21)	
R.G.S. High Wy		on by 6 wi	kets	
High Wycoml				
Abingdon 87			(ingston o 2)	
Bloxham Schoo				
Abingdon 10	그는 지금 집을 다 안 없는 것을 하는 것			
Bloxham 85 (-22, Kingstor	า 2-13)

JUNIORS' XI

This was an unusually promising side; this much became clear very early in the season, and as the side established itself, our batting in particular looked extremely strong. There was an extraordinary resilience about it, that meant that even when the earlier batsmen were out cheaply (a rare event), there was still enough talent to ensure a score that was at least respectable. Only once, in the first match of the season, and in appalling conditions, did we fail to reach 100, and by the end of the season a score of below 140 was a failure. It is a pity our bowling achievements did not match the batting. We had a very aggressive opening attack in Simon Minter and William Stock, but not enough back-up talent, though Ron Regan and Gareth Harper both made valuable contributions at times. Minter was by far the most successful bowler, taking 38 wickets, and Stock on occasions looked very penetrating, but he lost some of his rhythm and fire towards the end of the term, and the attack suffered in consequence.

As far as the batting is concerned, pride of place must go to Ron Regan. He scored 400 runs in the season (more than anyone else at this level that I can remember), including 3 50's, and in the last match of the season, a commanding century scored in less than two hours. He is a very powerful batsman with an excellent eye and sense of timing — not, perhaps, the most elegant of batsmen, and he has certain technical weaknesses which need to be put right if he is to reach the top flight, but he is a batsman of great promise.

In their different ways there was a good handful of almost equally worthy players — Jonathon Driver, very correct, and as his confidence grew, a most consistent opening bat; Gareth Harper, who often looked the most complete batsman of the lot, but was let down by lack of concentration; Andy Newman, pugnacious, athletic, very quick on his feet, who developed admirably as his confidence grew; and lan Graham, who overcame the handicap of a barely mended broken leg, and began striking the ball very hard and sweetly by the end of the season.

The fielding was good without being outstanding, and Andy Newman made a first-class wicket-keeper — something no side, if it is to be successful, can do without.

All in all, a fascinating and very successful season, and yet I'm left with a sense of disappointment. Partly this is because we did *not* beat Radley in the Lords Taverners' competition, but that result was only symptomatic. The fact is that we had the talent to scale the heights, but too often we were satisfied with a second-best performance. We were very good, but not perfect; perfection requires dedication of a high degree, and hard work. We did not always show these qualities. In the matches themselves we gave of our best, and then more, but the preparation for matches was often inadequate.

Never mind, criticism may well sound carping in the face of the results achieved, and the last thing I want to do is to detract from them — simply to warn that in future years the going may not be so smooth as this year, and I hope the team is prepared for that.

My thanks to Angus Alton for all the help he gave during the season. His enthusiasm and very practical advice will be very much missed next season. Also to Tim Haworth for captaining the side very capably, and to Nigel Roberts for his efficient scoring.

The team included: T. Haworth, R. Regan, J. Driver, A. Newman, G. Harper, S. Minter, I. Graham, W. Stock, P. Boobbyer, R. Adair, P. Capelin. Also played: G. Black, G. Burley, N. Roberts, S. Pearce, N. Ward, D. Robinson, J. Hennah.

D.C.T.

RESULTS

Pangbourne (h). Won 18 runs Abingdon 62 Pangbourne 44 (Minter 5-10) St. Edwards (h). Won 44 runs

Abingdon 122-7 dec.; (Howarth 47)

St. Edwards 78 (Minter 3-14)

Oratory (h). Won 89 runs

Abingdon 129-3 dec.; (Regan 61) Oratory 40 (Minter 4-7, Regan 3-2)

Berkhamsted (h). Won 6 wickets. Berkhamsted 57 (Stock 4-19)

Abingdon 59-4

- Cokethorpe (a) Won 84 runs Abingdon 128-4 dec.; (Regan 52) Cokethorpe 44 (Stock 6-15, Minter 3-17)
- Burford (h) Won 82 runs.
- Abingdon 166-6 dec.; (Driver 43, Harper 43) Burford 84 (Stock 4-22, Minter 3-14)
- Bearwood (a) Won 69 runs.
- Abingdon 138-3 dec.; (Regan 62, Harper 30) Bearwood 69 (Regan 4-22, Stock 3-17, Minter 3-20)
- Reading (h) Drawn.
- Abingdon 127-7 dec.; (Newman 35) Reading 75-6 (Minter 4-24)
- Cheney (h). Won 134 runs. Abingdon 166 (Newman 75, Driver 42)
- Cheney 32 (Regan 5-16, Stock 3-11) Oxford School (h) Drawn.
- Abingdon 178-7 dec.; (Minter 36, Newman 35) Oxford 64-7
- Radley College (h) Lost by 7 wickets Abingdon 124

Radley 127-3

RGS High Wycombe (a) Drawn. Abingdon 143-9 dec.; (Regan 34, Harper 32) RGSHW 110-8 (Minter 4-16, Regan 3-20)

Rev. Hugh Pickles XI (h) Lost 6 wickets.

Abingdon 149-5 dec.; (Driver 50, Regan 35, Minter 30) RHP XI 150-4

Bloxham (h) Drawn. Abingdon 186-6 dec.; (Regan 101) Bloxham 90-9 (Minter 4-18, Regan 3-25)

Summary: Played 14, Won 8, Drawn 4, Lost 2

MINORS XI

The team made good progress during May, and we were hoping for a successful season, but as the weather turned drab in June so did our cricket, and the overall record proved mediocre. Admittedly only one match was lost, when we had to face a very good High Wycombe XI in the absence of our two outstanding batsmen, who were in a County match, but we were morally 'thrashed' also by Reading, and played very poorly against Magdalen College School. The batting depended too much on Christopher Newmark and Nicholas Rice, and even these two tended to get themselves out before the foundation was really laid. Support came occasionally from James Cox and John Warchus, the only other players to win their 'caps'; James is a solid all-rounder who played with more success for the County, John is developing into a

stylish batsman and an outstanding fielder. William Passmore found run-scoring difficult, but being an extremely difficult player to dismiss (thanks to his technical correctness) made a most useful opener.

The bowling lacked penetration, and as the season progressed the most promising of the bowlers lost line and length. It was rather remarkable, therefore, that they bowled out the County side for 120 on a good wicket; this was certainly the best all-round performance that the XI achieved, and underlines that the team has promise. As a result of this match, Nicholas Thomas was invited to keep wicket for the County, just ten days after trying the position in an internal game — a remarkable promotion for a first-former! Nicholas Rice captained the County side, which is to the credit of him and the school; even more creditable, perhaps, was the selection of Christopher Newmark to captain the County in Nicholas's absence.

There has been a lack of 2nd XI matches this year, and so it was especially fortunate that we decided to experiment with an entry for the Oxfordshire Schools 20-over Competitions, although we do not really regard them as real Cricket! We played in all eight matches, and used a total of 29 players, the idea being to give lots of boys competitive Cricket, with the emphasis on enjoyment and close finishes. This succeeded beyond our hopes, and one team somehow won through to the League Final, which made a superb finish to the season, depending as it did on the last ball; although we in fact lost, an 'A' XI that included only four 1st XI players fielded magnificently and proved in every aspect of the game a worthy match for Lord William's, Thame, a strong cricketing school. The depth of ability that this match showed is very encouraging; even a mediocre season has high points.

M.W.

1st XI: N. G. Rice (Capt.), C. C. Newmark, J. E. Cox, J. Warchus, A. C. Mellor, N. R. Thomas, A. J. R. Cullen, W. J. Passmore, T. D. Winter, J. N. Prest, I. A. Sadler or P. F. Batchelor.

RESULTS

1st XI matches:

- Cothill House School (a). Won by 11 runs. Abingdon 83 for 4 dec. (Passmore 34 n.o.)
- Cothill 72 (Sadler 4-9, Mellor 3-16)
- Radley Yearlings 3rd. XI (h) Won by 5 runs
- Abingdon 93 (Newmark 20)
- Radley 88 (Batchelor 5-11, Cox 4-23)
- Millbrook House School (h). Drawn Abingdon 137 for 5 dec. (Newmark 42 n.o., Rice 24)
- Millbrook House 77 for 7 (Mellor 4-32, Batchelor 3-17) Reading School (a). Drawn
- Abingdon 83 for 9 dec. (Cox 30)
- Reading 80 for 3 (Mellor 3-20)
- New College School (a). Drawn
- New College School 107 for 6 dec. Abingdon 51 for 3 (Newmark 23)
- Oxfordshire Schools XI (h). Drawn
- Oxfordshire 120 (Cullen 3-16, Mellor 3-30) Abingdon 72 for 4
- Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (h). Lost by 8 wickets. Abingdon 57
 - High Wycombe 60 for 2
- Bearwood College (a). Won by 8 wickets. Bearwood 33 (Mellor 4-14)

Abingdon 34 for 2

MINOR SPORTS

Josca's School (h). Won by 28 runs. Abingdon 2nd. XI 65.

Josca's 1st XI 37 (Willett 4-3, Sadler 3-1)

Magdalen College School, Oxford (a). Drawn.

MCS 77 for 8 dec. Abingdon 'A' XI 31 for 6

Other matches:

Carmel College (h). Won by 91 runs. Abingdon 'A' XI 128 for 5 dec. (Johnson 44, Thomas 21) Carmel 37 (Batchelor 5-15, Cox 3-9).

Bearwood College (a). Won by 78 runs.

Abingdon 3rd XI. 108 for 5 dec. (Higgs 30, Francksen 27) Bearwood 2nd, XI, 30 (Watson 4-3, Rogers 3-5)

John Mason School (a). Lost by 21 runs (25-over match) John Mason 122 for 8 (Sadler 3-17)

Abingdon 2nd. XI 101 for 8 (Robson 23, Thomas 21).

'A' XI (v. Lord William's Thame; Oxfordshire Schools League Final). Tied (lost on wickets).

Lord William's 71 for 8

Abingdon 71 for 9 (Warchus 20).

Team: C. C. Newmark (Capt.), J. Warchus, A. J. R. Cullen, T. D. Winter, J. R. Parker, C. R. Wimblett, N. M. North, C. S. Johnson, M. A. Wiles, S. J. Rushton, A. M. Robson.



"Mike Howat at Lord's."

Michael Howat, who had broken the school 1st XI bowling record with his 62 wickets in 1976, became the first Abingdon School cricket 'blue' when he played, as a freshman, against Oxford this summer. He did little in the match itself owing to a back injury in the opening overs but earlier in the term had taken three for 39 against Essex, and dismissed three of the four openers in Middlesex's two innings.

After term ended he played at Lord's for the National Association of Young Cricketers and for England Young Cricketers besides being registered by Gloucestershire for whose Under 25 side he appeared late in the season.

'Back home at the ranch', he found time to score over 500 runs and take 40 wickets for his home club of Moreton, and to win the award as the best batsman in the village cricket competition organised by Abingdon C.C.

BADMINTON

Hockey and other outdoor sports are subject to vagaries of Mother Nature, but badminton, it seems, bows only to the bodies which provide the sports halls. We are very grateful to St. Helen's and John Mason Schools for the use of their halls, and wish the Old Gaol would get it right!

With the same hammerhead as last year to forge the way, the Under 19 team had an outstanding success in retaining the OSBA shield for the third year running, with an almost perfect string of results. The match against King James's College was won by only four team members. Peers School were so overwhelmed by the strength of our side that they conceded the match before a meeting had taken place! A substitute six was sent along and won 5-2. Well done!

The Under 16 team met with less success in their OSBA matches - the local schools seem quite strong at this level. They nonetheless enjoyed the exhilaration of playing for the School and deserve full credit for the time and energy spent.

Napier-Munn and Sargeant were the eventual winners of an internal handicap doubles tournament beating Stevens and Halsey in the final.

External tournaments allowed three of the Club's members to show their ability. Nigel Talboys was winner of the Berkshire singles and men's doubles, winner of the Oxfordshire men's and mixed doubles, runner-up in the singles, and winner of the Oxfordshire School boys' doubles, runner-up in the mixed. He has been awarded Berkshire senior county colours. Patrick Gale was winner of the Oxfordshire Schools singles, and, with Mark Taylor, was runner-up in the boy's doubles. The club will certainly miss these three outstanding players when they leave in July. I should like to thank them for all they have done for the club and wish them well.

Likewise I thank all members of the Club for putting up with a year of turmoil after the many years of smooth running under the hammer and sickle of David Taylor. Thanks, too, to the several members of staff (Messrs. T. R. Ayling, I. A. Macdonald, D. C. Taylor and Miss Lord, now Mrs. Slater) who have helped me in organising things for the thirty odd enthusiasts.

Full colours have been awarded to Ken Forsyth and Simon Napier-Munn, half colours to lan Sargeant and Mark Rivers.

J.A.

Lost 1-6

RESULTS: Oxfordshire Schools Badminton Association

Under 19 VI	
Gosford Hill	Won 7-0
John Mason	Won 7-0
Peers	Won 7-0
Oxford School	Won 7-0
King James's College, Henley	Won 5-2
Under 16 VI	
Fitzharry's	Lost 3-4
Larkmead	Lost 1-6
Langtree	Lost 3-4
Peers	Won 7-0
King Alfred's 'A'	Lost 2-5
King Alfred's 'B'	Won 5-2

St. Birinus

CROSSCOUNTRY Michaelmas Term 1977

This was another busy term with 86 boys opting for crosscountry from the third form upwards. There were the Monday time trials, now organised on a 3-run cycle, and non-team-members derived much satisfaction from systematically improving their personal bests. Mark Owen, the secretary, arranged matches mainly for the seniors, including a new fixture against King Henry VIII, Coventry, and we made first-time visits to two more relays on the circuit. Owen and Alistair Morfey, the captain, instigated a new-style running vest: black as before, but with the school emblem, a griffin, printed in white on the front.

We are still trying for that elusive first place at a relay, though I really did think that at last we had the strength in depth to achieve it. Our squad was headed by Morfey, Richard Baker and Clive Bromhall, supported by Owen, William Hoggarth, Andrew Hillary, Andrew Garrett, Paul Edington and Chris Allen, but we sorely missed a fit Mark Chapman, recovering slowly from his glandular fever. It really is frustrating to be so close so often, but equally it is fascinating to see how the fortunes fluctuate between the top dozen schools who regularly contest the three medal positions. I feel that we are now established in this top-flight league, whereas geographically we are situated on the north-west fringe. If we maintain our youth policy then surely one day we shall have a team of six with no weak links who all hit a peak at the right time.

The inter-school matches provided four wins against St. Edward's, Winchester, Westminster and RGS High Wycombe and two defeats by King Henry VIII and Marlborough. Highlights included the day when the Colts team had the first six to finish against St. Edward's, and when at the Orange Hill relay Alistair Morfey won the silver individual medal, out of 150 runners, with a time two seconds faster than his coach, who was representing a masters' team! However, when we tried to take seven teams to the Leighton Park relay, we were let down by the coach company and managed to transport three of the teams only due to the initiatives of Mark Owen and Patrick Gale, who appropriately each won second team certificates along with Morfey and Garrett.

Half-colours were awarded to Richard Baker, who is the first fourth-former to beat 20 minutes on the Sunningwell course (just think what that means!), and to Clive Bromhall, who bravely turned out and did well in the last three matches despite a painful hip injury. 32 boys represented the school, the most regular being: Baker (10 times), Edington, Morfey, Buckley, Geere (9), Owen, Hoggarth (8), Bromhall, Allen, Wijetunge (7), Hillary, Garrett, Wilson (6), R. Thompson (5), Steed, Shirlaw, Reynolds, D. Thompson (3), Chapman, West, Fellows, Moore and Woodhall (2).



"Mark Owen"

RESULTS

Millfield Road Relay (at Street)	A team 6th;
	B team 15th
	(26 teams)
Inter-club (Cutteslowe Park, Oxford)	U/18 team 5th:
	U/16 team 5th
	(6 teams)
v St. Edward's (home)	Seniors won 25 - 32;
v St. Edward S (nome)	Colts won $10 - 39$
Leighton Park Relays (Reading)	Seniors: A team 2nd;
Leighton Park helays (heading)	B team 7th
	(9 teams)
	Colts: 6th
	(15 teams)
v Winchester, Westminster (at Winch	
v winchester, westimister (at winch	1 Ab 37,
	2 Wi 41,
	3 We 101.
	Colts:
	1 Wi 46:
	2 We 50.
	3 Ab 76.
v RGS High Wycombe (home)	Seniors
v RGS High wycombe (nome)	won 25 - 53
v King Henry VIII, Coventry (home)	Seniors
V King Henry VIII, Coventry (nome)	lost 32 - 47
v Marlborough (home)	Seniors
v wanborough (nome)	lost 30 - 50;
	Colts
	won 38 - 42
St. Nicholas Relay (Haydon School)	A team 8th:
St. Menolas Heldy (Haydon Concor)	B team 26th
	(29 teams)
Dr Challoner's Relay (Amersham)	A team 8th;
bi chanoner e heidy () merending	B team 20th
	(23 teams)
Orange Hill Relay (London)	A team 5th:
orange rim noiel (condoir)	B team 21st
	(25 teams)

Inter-Form Crosscountry

Having seen some very good runners try but fail to break these records in the past, I was staggered that two of the four records fell this year. Martin Day sped round the first form course, equalling Mark Andrews' time set in 1971. Richard Baker chopped 15 seconds off Mark Chapman's 1976 time, and Richard has a chance to improve it further next year as he is still a fourth-former. Alistair Morfey and David Thompson also won their races.

First form 1 M. C. Day (7:18, equalling record), 2 B. E. Woolley, 3 J. Duquenay, 4 C. G. Walker, 5 S. Littlewood, 6 J. A. Cowan, 7 J. Phillips, 8 J. H. Gayton, 9 J. M. Thompson, 10 P. J. Stephens (60 ran)

Teams: I A (707 points), I W (594), I S (529)

Junior Race 1 D. A. Thompson (9:33), 2 A. N. Hall, 3 J. Warchus, 4 C. Coe, 5 A. J. L. Harrison, 6 R. M. R. Suggate, 7 D. R. J. Head, 8 G. J. Francksen, 9 N. Quail, 10 T. D. H. Bugg (153 ran).

Teams: 3 G (2192 points), 3 Z (1816), 3 T (1741), 3 D (1614), 2 G (1516), 2 B (1455), 2 H (1447).

Intermediate/Senior race 1 A. Morfey (16:22), 2 R. Baker (16:40, intermediate record), 3 M. Andrews, 4 A. Hillary, 5 J. Geere, 6 P. Wilson, 7 A. Robertson, 8 J. Buckley, 9 J. Littlewood, 10 R. Thompson (157 ran).

Teams: 5 C (1903 points), 5 R (1886), 6/VI (1445), 4 P (1276), 4 R (1192), 4 E (1148), 5 P (976), 4 B (913), 5 S (894), 4 J (770).

Lent Term 1978

This was a very strange term with many frustrating features and yet the seniors achieved something for the first time: a 100% record against ten opponents. Among the curiosities were: the first three matches were all at King Alfred's; team selection before half-term was ruined by play rehearsals; a regular member of the 2nd VIII, Bromhall, became our second-best scorer; an orienteer, Moore, went off course in the Alleyne's relay; our toughest match (on paper) against Wellington was decided by who had not then succumbed to the "Red Flu'; but it was just like old times to welcome back Nick Smart and Mark Crocker to Sunningwell for the OA's match.

What did impress me was the dramatic increase in keenness as the winning sequence gained momentum. Instead of rushing around on a match morning trying to replace a late withdrawal, I found myself with an excess of runners so I rewarded their loyalty by taking them along as 'guests'. The real reasons for the unbeaten record were that Alistair Morfey, the captain, won every race (and his success was probably due to his training including more long steady runs), and that Clive Bromhall or Richard Baker was usually second. In the later matches there was substantial middle-order packing with contributions from Andrew Garrett, Paul Edington, Mark Owen, Simon Moore, Simon West, James Buckley, Peter Wilson, Jeremy Geere and Richard Steed. This made the crucial difference in particular at Magdalen and Cheltenham.

Throughout the term I had stressed the importance of building up to the All-England Championships as a climax so that Oxfordshire could win the Minor Counties trophy, and whereas I was let down by some of my Oxford City clubmates, I was very proud that Morfey (50th) and Bromhall (66th) were each first home for Oxon in their respective teams. With 44 counties using up to 8 runners there were over 330 boys in each race.

Full colours were awarded to Clive Bromhall, and half colours to Andrew Garrett, Paul Edington and Simon Moore. This term 35 boys represented the school with the most regular being: Morfey (11 times), Baker R, Buckley (10), Bromhall, Garrett, Wilson (9), Owen (8), West, Geere (7), Moore, Thompson D (6).

RESULTS

Vale of White Horse Champs (Wantage) U/13 team 8th; U/15 team 6th; U/17 team 1st, Bromhall (1st), Baker (2nd); U/20 team (2nd).

Oxon Inter-Area (Wantage) U/17 Bromhall (2nd), Baker (3rd); U/20 Morfey (2nd).

v King Alfred's (away) Seniors won 37-45; Junior Colts lost 32-46.

v Leighton Park, Wellington, Desborough (at Reading): Seniors 1 Ab 11, 2 Des 20, 3 LP 22, 4 Well 25: Colts 1 Des 11, 2 Well 22, 3 Ab 31, 3 LP 37.

Tortoises Relay (Oxford University) Team 20th (32 teams). v Winchester (home) Seniors won 22-62; Junior Colts lost 22-33.

v Magdalen College School (away) Seniors won 37-41.

v Cheltenham & Dean Close (away): Seniors 1 Ab 31, 2 Ch 66, 3 DC 79: Colts 1 Ch 31, 2 Ab 48.

Alleyne's Relay (Stevenage) A team 13th, B team 15th (18 teams).

v Old Abingdonians (home) Seniors won 35-44.

v RGS High Wycombe (away) Seniors won 49-95 (Colts lost 14-22).

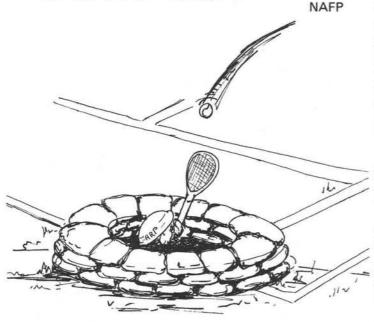
All-England Champs (Maidstone): U/17 Bromhall 66th, Baker 38th; U/20 Morfey 50th.



Inter-Form Relay (Monday, 13th March)

For the third year running there was a record entry with this year 28 teams partaking. It was interesting to see that the younger boys were not put off by being overlapped as they were primarily concerned with beating the other forms in their year-group. The winning team VI C (Andrews, Emerton, Harries, Steed) included 3 oarsmen from the 1st VIII. Fastest was Morfey (8:16) and third equal with Andrews (8:44) was Chapman making a comeback; Richard Baker (8:24) was only 3 seconds outside the 4th/5th form record.

Order of teams: VI C, 6 L, 6 C (= Bromhall!), 6 B, 6 H, VI H, 6 M, 5 R, 4 P, VI W (a), 4 R, 5 C, 3 Z, Staff (= RHB), 4 B, 3 G, 4 J, 5 P (a), 3 D, 5 P (b), VI W (b), 3 T, 2 H, 2 B, 5 S, 2 G, 1 W (disq), 1 S.



TENNIS

Last summer's extended drought followed by the cold of this spring annihilated the groundsmen's efforts to produce playable grass courts till well into the term. Grass died, and seed not unreasonably refused to germinate. As a result the Tennis Club was firing on too few cylinders to make much progress early on; half-term was on us in no time; and then when we had our full complement of courts, examinations and frantic revision schedules loomed large for so many in the club that courts remained unused when at last conditions were perfect for tennis: a frustrating season it must have seemed for many players.

Those in teams got a better deal, and surprisingly only one match (against Radley) could not eventually be accommodated. As usual fixture lists of any length could only be arranged for the 1st VI and the Colts', the former having a good season losing only three matches, the latter managing to win only three.

Tim Robson and Nick Williams were the outstanding pair in the 1st VI. Their coaching had continued throughout the winter and after playing successfully in a couple of tournaments over Easter their reflexes were sharp for the beginning of the school's season. Magdalen College School were the first opponents and, after beating the third pair, they managed to halve against both the second and first pairs. It seemed then as if they might emerge with an unbeaten record, but a single defeat by Reading School's leading pair robbed them of that rare honour. Paul Aston and Colin Holding were our most regular second pair, Aston making more effective use of his height than he did last year, occasionally cracking down some devastating services, while Holding, if not always producing the appropriate shot at the appropriate moment, certainly played with panache. As third pair Matthew Howes and Simon Brouard had some excellent results and were never dull to watch: some extraordinary top-spun forehand drives caught many an opponent unawares.

There have been no outstanding pairs in the Colts but quite a lot of talent exists which may blossom in a year or two. And certainly there is no shortage of players capable of holding their own in a team: selecting the best three pairs out of the eleven individuals who have played has always been difficult since no thoroughly reliable pairs have emeged; one promising match was succeeded too often by a disappointing one; a wellprepared short spoiled by a careless one, often as not caused by lack of mobility and generally bad footwork. But of course many enjoyable matches have been played.

The teams were selected from:

1st VI: P. M. Aston (Captain), P. V. Thomas (Secretary), T. D. Robson, N. G. Williams, C. Holding, M. J. Howes, S. J. Brouard, M. S. King, G. Mitchell.

2nd VI: P. V. Thomas, G. Mitchell, M. S. King, S. J. Brouard, A. G. Morfey, K. M. R. Forsyth, J. M. Murray, R. G. Feltham, C. T. Reid, J. E. Palmer.

Colts: D. A. Betterton, P. J. Davidson, A. H. Stevens, S. D. Napier-Munn, J. M. N. Young, I. M. Bye, A. T. Kermode, M. J. Howlett, P. R. Todd, R. T. Schofield, P. K. Druett.

Junior VI: G. A. Ripley, A. H. Linley, G. A. Khakoo, P. Lovering, R. Stanway, J. R. P. Berry, R. T. Schofield. P. K. Druett, P. W. R. Blackburn, P. J. Dubenski, G. J. Francksen, J. M. Steeds.

Full colours were awarded to P. M. Aston, N. G. Williams and T. D. Robson; half colours to C. Holding, S. J. Brouard and M. J. Howes.

In the two knock-out events, unlike last year it was the junior competition that was completed by the end of term, Richard Schofield defeating Nicholas Paterson — a cricketer! — in the final. The senior competition has yet to be completed, so there remain a few still hopeful of wresting the Buckley Cup from Tim Robson's grasp. He leaves this year to concentrate on tennis full time, and we wish him well in this most competitive of fields.

Last year's report was written by John Varley to whom the Tennis Club owes a great debt; we hope that swerving service is now foxing the youth of Cheltenham. Tom Moore leaves us this summer after years of helping with the Club and countless hours spent with tennis at home and away matches. We hope that in his retirement he will have the opportunity to *play* more and also to spread the gospel of tennis to the home of golf. The Club must also thank Geoffrey Graham and Gwendoline Slater for the valuable assistance they have given this term.

T.R.A.

RESULTS

1st VI		
v M.C.S. (h)		lost 2 - 7
v Leighton Park (h)		drew 41/2 - 41/2
v Douai (h)		Won 7 — 2
v Reading (a)		drew 41/2 - 41/2
v Berkhamsted (a)		lost 1 — 8
v R.G.S. High Wycombe (h)		won 7 – 2
v Pangbourne (h)		won 51/2 - 31/2
v Bloxham (h)		won 61/2 - 21/2
v O.A.s (h)	2	lost 21/2 - 61/2
2nd VI		
v Leighton Park (a)		lost 1 - 8
v Shiplake (a)		won 6 – 3
v Reading (h)		won 51/2 - 31/2
Colts' VI		
v M.C.S. (a)		lost 1 - 8
v Leighton Park (a)		lost 2 - 7
v Shiplake (h)		lost 1/2 - 81/2
v Douai (h)		won 61/2 - 1/2
v Berkhamsted (h)		lost 31/2 - 51/2
v R.G.S. High Wycombe (h)		lost 4 - 5
v Pangbourne (a)		won 5 — 4
v Bloxham (h)		won 7 — 2
Junior VI		
v Reading (h)		lost 11/2 - 71/2
v Dragon School (a)		lost 4 — 5

ATHLETICS 1977

Let me pick out the highlights from another fascinating term of athletics, rich in incident and memories. In the Oxford City AC medley relays, the under-15 team of Laurence Casey, Duncan Bell, Richard Hawes and Richard Baker won their race with a new record time; the first and second formers lost their matches against the girls of Our Lady's Convent, most embarrassing; there were trips to Iffley Road on 4th May to see Roger Bannister and hear Norris McWhirter introducing the Chevron Mile at the new track and also to Crystal Palace to see Alberto Juantorena and others in the Debenham's Jubilee Games; Stuart Cameron, assisted by roving photographer Andrew Cross, virtually took over the athletics noticeboard with results, comments and information; the superb new high jump landing area encouraged Fosbury flopping and several boys made significant progress; the all-day trip to Shrewsbury where we met Mr Anderson was a great success, attracting five parents as spectators, with the long return coach journey brightened by the radio commentary on Liverpool's European Cup success; one boy was hit in the leg by a javelin, which reminded us never to relax our standard safety precautions; more have joined Oxford City AC and helped the club reach the Young Athletes League final at Crystal Palace for the third year running; in the King Alfred's match one of their sprinters slipped at the start and then withdrew disconsolately, but if he had jogged to the finish to gain one point we would have lost the match instead of tying it; in the Bloxham match we dutifully handed over the trophy after, we thought, losing a very close contest, but subsequent checking of the results indicated that we had retained it after all; and so many of our boys gualified for the Vale of the White Horse team that we contributed 109 of the 225 points that earned the trophy at the Oxon Inter-Area meeting.



John Madgwick wins the 200 m.



Strangely in terms of team results this has been a moderate season with under half the matches won. In many events there was a wide gap between our first and second athletes, possibly due to Mr Crawford and myself being unable to give individual coaching to all the 90 boys who opted for athletics. Also our strong age-groups were in the third and fifth forms, and the senior team thus contained very few sixth-formers. School records were set by David Byfield (400 metres: 50.9 secs), Stuart Cameron (high jump: 1,90m/6' 23/4", but 1.97m in holidays), Gary Rogers (shot put: 12.50m with 6.25 kg, 14.19m with 5 kg), Mark Chapman (1500m steeplechase: 4:44.2) and Alistair Morfey (5000m: 16:03.6), whereas John Madgwick (200m: 23.2 secs) was close. These and Halliday, Owen, Marshall, Davies and Ashby formed the basis of the senior team. There were several promising youngsters, including Jefferson, Fulwell (4th form), Bell, Hawes, Wijetunge, Baker, Casey, Ferguson (3rd form), Pinches and Khashoggi (2nd form).

In many ways Byfield made the most impact with his grace and power being a great morale-booster to his team-mates, and he was a worthy winner of the club championships at the end. Cameron had many outstanding achievements, but I must mention that he won the best performance trophy in the field events at the VWH Championships not just again, but for the fourth year running. Alas he came only tenth this year at the All England Championships, but the Oxfordshire team, presented by Mrs Thatcher, on an unforgettable afternoon at Hendon. One further individual deserving mention must be Baker who was the Schools under-15 Oxon champion at Orienteering, Chess and Crosscountry as well as 800 metres and 1500 metres.

In all 76 boys represented the school in the 11 matches, the most regular being Madgwick, Hawes, Baker, Casey (9 times), Owen, Chapman, Cameron, Rogers, Jefferson (8), Byfield, Marshall, Davies, Ashby, Bell, Cockram (7), Halliday, Morfey, Ferguson, Johnson (6), Fulwell, Wijetunge, Enevoldsen, R. Simpson, Pinches (5).

The captain was Alistair Halliday, and the secretary with unflagging initiative and enthusiasm was Stuart Cameron. Full colours were awarded to Byfield, Cameron, Madgwick, Rogers and half-colours to Halliday, Davies, Owen, Chapman, Morfey and Marshall.

RESULTS

U/16: won 71-61; v Wallingford (h) U/14: lost 48-82 Oxford City AC Schools Medley Relays (Radley) U/20: 4th 3:57.0: U/17: 5th 4:03.8; U/15: 1st 4:08.7 (record) U/20: won 76-57; v Newbury (h) U/15: lost 62-70 v Bloxham & St. Edward's (h) U/20: lost 65-67; (v Bloxham) U/17: won 69-61 (v St. Edward's) U/20: won 68-61; U/17: lost 64-68 v Shrewsbury (a) U/20: lost 621/2-851/2; U/15: won 82-55 U/14: lost 31-34; v Our Lady's Convent (h) U/13: lost 21-45 Vale of White Horse Champs (Radley) winners: U/20 Byfield (100m, 400m), 11 U/17 Madgwick (100m, 200m), Davies (400m, TJ), U/17 Madgwick (100m, 200m), Davies (400m, TJ), U/20 Byfield (100m, 400m), Marshall (HJ) Jefferson (Hurd), Cameron (HJ, LJ), Rogers (shot), Ashby (iav). U/15 Hawes (400m, hurd, disc), Baker (800m), Casev (shot) v King Alfred's (h) U/20: tied 60-60; U/15: won 731/2-471/2 v Bryanston, Canford, Kingswood (at Blandford)

U/20: 1 Can 150, 2 Bry 129½, 3 Kin 93½, 4 Ab 86 U/15: 1 Bry 106, 2 Ab 101, 3 Kin 49

Oxon Schools Inter-Area Champs (Iffley Road) winners: Cameron (U/17 HJ), Rogers U/17 shot), Baker (U/15 800m, 1500m) Casey (U/15 shot). seconds: Byfield (U/20 100m), Morfey (U/20 5000m), Madgwick (U/17 200m), Chapman (U/17 LJ),

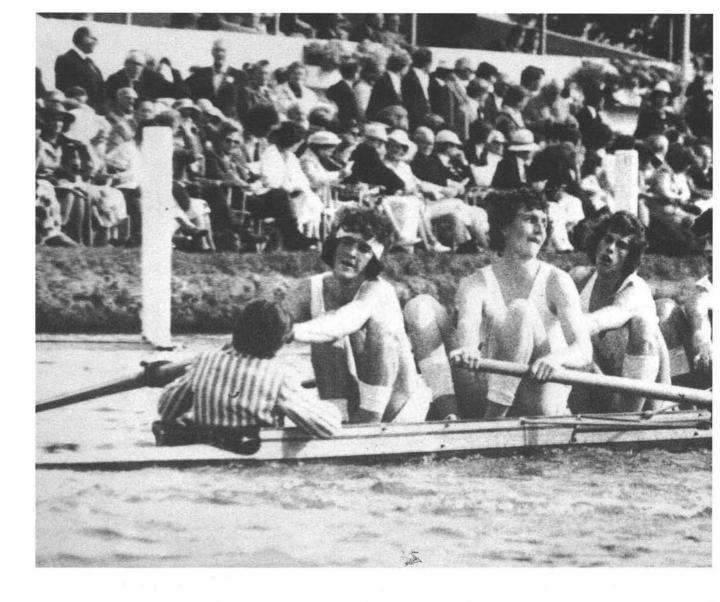
Davies (U/17 TJ), Hawes (U/15 disc). All-England Champs (Hendon)

Cameron (HJ 10th), Madgwick (200m 4th in heat), Rogers (shot 7th).

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Twelve events were contested in the final three weeks when examinations made inter-school matches unfeasible. It soon became clear who was going to win, so prizes were offered to the runnersup to maintain interest.

1st Byfield 891 points; 2nd Chapman 807; 3rd Davies 794; 4th Morfey 719; 5th Hawes 711; 6th Marshall 681; 7th Wijetunge 656; 8th Stanton-King 650; 9th Ferguson 649; 10th Casey 640; 11th Owen 609.



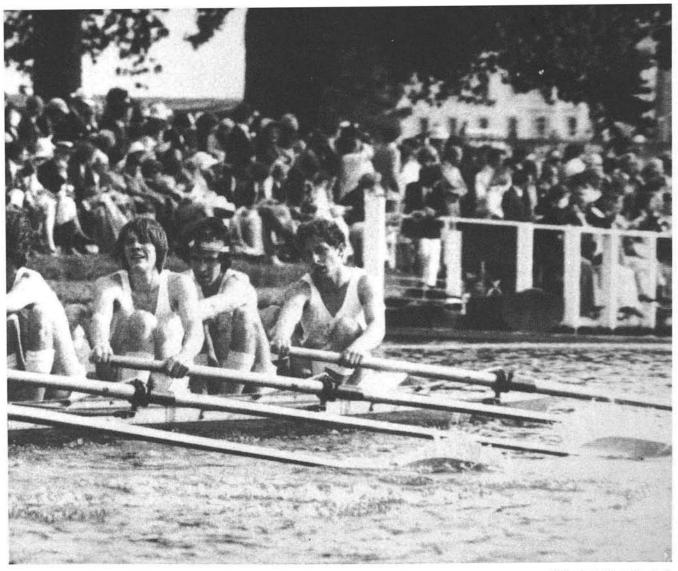
BOAT CLUB SUMMER TERM 1977

This summer's regatta season proved to be the best for some years, with its seven wins and with bronze medals from the National Championships. We were not without our share of misadventures and disappointments, but the Boat Club's morale has been high as its standards have steadily improved.

The 1st VIII's first racing was in Junior Eights at Wallingford Regatta, where we beat a St Paul's crew easily before being beaten by the Henleywinning St Edward's School 1st VIII. Some consolation on that day was that a four from the 2nd VIII won Novice Fours and the VIII's stern four just lost the final of Senior C Fours. The following week was Thames Ditton Regatta — traditionally unlucky, for some unknown reason - where a likely win in the Senior C Eights was thwarted by delayed races, confusions, and finally by a collision with a cruiser when racing Eton II, in which all we proved was the unbreakability of our aluminium blades. The crew's third entry was in Senior C Eights at Twickenham Regatta, where a reshuffled crew rowing with wooden blades again had four most exciting and intelligent races to win in fine style in the final against Radley. With spirits high and with a succession of exciting times in training, it was no surprise to win Junior Eights at Reading Amateur Regatta, even though the event's status

had to be changed when it was discovered that three of the entrants were ineligible for it! We hoped that a third week of success would be ours at the National Schools' Regatta, but half term and the coach's succumbing to mumps allowed the crew to lose its edge, so that we only came third in the final of the Child Beale Cup behind Latymer Upper and Radley, whom we had beaten at Twickenham. Disappointment was the main response to this result, and it wasn't alleviated by the appalling hail and sleet showers in which the race was rowed.

'A' levels then began to complicate the crew's training for Henley, but the stern four went to Marlow Regatta in the Schools Fours. We struggled through the first round against strong winds and dreadful wash from passing launches and were winning the final easily when one of the slides broke 150 metres away from the finish. Strode's School scurried past our desperate threeoared paddling to win by a length, and for the second year running we left Marlow in gloom and despondency. After this it seemed inevitable that we should draw one of the finalists of the Princess Elizabeth Cup in the first round at Henley — and we did: we met Hampton Grammar School, who were the season's most successful school crew. Despite their large winning margin, our times over the course were good and our performance wasn't too disappointing, so Henley was enjoyable.



"The 1st VIII at Henley"

Whilst at Henley we took delivery of a new (bright green!) Donoratico Coxed Four, bought out of the money raised in the Sponsored Row and with the very generous and much appreciated help of TASS. Mrs Willis very kindly named the boat 'Don Willis' at a small ceremony on the 7th of July, and so effectively did she do it that the boat, powered by the 1st VIII's stern four, won Senior C and Senior B Fours at Bedford the following weekend, and just lost the final of Senior A Fours at Bedford Sprint Regatta. The real aim of this crew's training, though, was the Junior Coxed Fours event at the National Championships. We won the first round splendidly, breaking all the course records, although the selected GB youth crew from St Edward's broke the total distance record in the next heat by a further two seconds. The final promised to be close, but typically awful Holme Pierrepont weather created huge waves down the course just in time for the start. Our lack of experience in rough water in the new boat and the consequent panic resulted in a scrappy row, so although we were pleased to win the bronze medals we were disappointed not to have won the silvers and not to have been closer to the St Edward's crew.

The Colts' VIII also had a good season. They won Novice Eights at Thames Ditton on their first regatta appearance, surprising nobody but themselves. They were not too upset at being beaten by the very good Eton Colts' crew at Twickenham and continued to go faster and faster in training. They

won Colts' Eights at Reading Amateur Regatta the following weekend in a superb (and much delayed) final with Radley's Colts, thus proving that they were one of the fastest Colts' crews in the country as they proved further at the National Schools Regatta. Here, they came fourth in the final to Eton, Emanuel and Shrewsbury, beating Radley and St Edwards. After this 'O' levels destroyed any chance of their continuing as an eight, so a dayboy four trained when it could for the National Championships. In the Colts' Fours they came fourth in their first round and fifth in their repechage, but they rowed with increasing understanding of what is involved at the top level of rowing and the experience should be useful to them in the next couple of years.

The Junior Colts' VIII rowed hard and made enormous strides in their skill and boat control. They rowed some good races at Reading and the National Schools' Regatta, where they came fourth in the Junior Colts' Cup, for both of which they were decently boated in the ex-2nd VIII's boat. Hopefully, we'll see their potential being realised in the coming season and beyond, and the same is true of the Junior Colts' VIII, which trained enthusiastically but only with a limited regatta programme. At the Under Fourteen level we were indebted to the excellent coaching and organisation of Mark Rivers and David Lindesay, the two previous 1st VIII coxes. They produced a very well drilled crew which, although small and light, did well in its races and looks promising for the future.

There is not room to mention the other crews in any detail, but a record number of boys did a lot of enjoyable rowing so that we had the largest ever Boat Club afloat most afternoons in the term. The constant problem is that we lack sufficient coaches to give everybody the attention they need if they are to succeed, and we need to increase our stock of good boats further. In an increasingly technical and sophisticated sport, equipment is of ever-growing importance. The next few years of the Boat Club are going to need all of the enthusiasm and high morale which are so evident at the moment.

CREWS FOR THE SUMMER TERM 1977 WERE:

1st VIII: Bow, A. H. Cook*: 2, R. S. Harries*: 3, P. A. Younge*: 4, R. P. Emerton*: 5, M. D. Andrews*: 6, M. E. Lintott*: 7, J. M. Sowden*: Stroke, R. A. Joy*: 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. Crooks: 6, R. V. Scriven: 7 C. P. Sowden +: Stroke, P. M. Johnston: Cox, P. J. Cheek.

Colts' VIII: Bow, C. P. Bromhall: 2, M. W. Hills: 3, R. P. Hamblin: 4, S. R. N. 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.

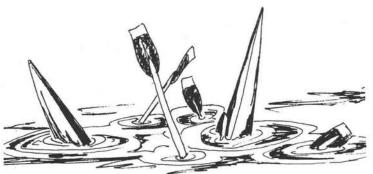
Colts IV: Bow, J. A. Higgs: 2, D. A. M. Scott: 3, S. W. N. Rogers: Stroke, S. M. Woodhall: Cox, M. F. Hunt.

Junior Colts' 'A' VIII: Bow, T. R. Burles: 2, P. H. Bowker: 3, M. J. Round: 4, D. C. P. Griffith: 5, B. J. Ferguson: 6, A. N. Trigle: 7, J. Cook: Stroke, N. T. Wright: Cox, W. J. Rayson.

Junior Colts' 'B' VIII: Bow, M. A. S. Richardson: 2, J. P. Phizackerley: 3, M. J. Green: 4, P. J. Paddon: 5, P. J. Reynolds: 6, J. R. Dibble: 7, M. R. J. Taylor: Stroke, T. J. Reenan: Cox, R. J. E. Taylor.

Junior 14 VIII: Bow, T. P. Doherty: 2, R. D. Hignett: 3, T. G. Fellows: 4, C. B. Gibbins: 5, R. G. Hooley: 6, M. E. Emerton: 7, R. K. Thomas: Stroke, A. T. Rowe: Cox, H. D. Mulvey.

* denotes Full Colours + denotes Half Colours



LENT TERM 1978

There is quite remarkably little to report on this Lent Term's rowing. The appalling weather and the sustained effects of flu reduced our competitive rowing to a minimum and more often than not made a nonsense of training. Hampton Head was the first event intended for the 1st, 2nd and Colts' VIIIs, but illness eliminated all but the 1st VIII, who were not entirely fit either, and they rowed reasonably to come 5th= overall.

Illness and bad weather continued, so that two weeks later only two boats out of eight entries had their proper crew for the Abingdon Head. The 1st IV (the stern four from the 1st VIII) did very well to come second overall, winning the Senior A pennant against some strong opposition. Adrian Bryant also had a successful row to win the Junior Sculls. The other crews did as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

Continued illness and a whole succession of university interviews for members of the 1st VIII meant that we had to abandon going to the Reading Head, and the Schools' Head at Putney only three days later found us very unprepared. We were tempted not to go at all, but eventually decided to go just to hold our places for next year. A certain amount of mystery surrounds the 1st VIII's finishing position of 24th, just one place ahead of the 2nd VIII, who rowed well. The Colts were unable to go and the Junior 15 and Junior 14 VIIIs were both respectably placed in their classes, at 91st and 106th respectively. The brightest spot of the day was the performance of the 1st IV: they rowed in the VIII, turned straight round and rowed back to the start, hastily swapped boats and were just in time for the start of the Fours race. They came 3rd, six seconds behind the leader, which was a crew they had beaten soundly at the Abingdon Head. If the IV hadn't just rowed eight miles they would have won, presumably.

The remainder of the term was spent trying to catch up with some of the skills of fitness training which had been missed during the course of the term. Better weather and health cheered everybody up and hopes are slowly rising for the regatta season. Both the 1st and 2nd VIIIs are aiming at Henley and we should have some good crews for the National Championships. The junior crews ought to meet with some success too, so this term ought to be no more than a bad memory before long!

G. G. Barrett

CREWS FOR THE LENT TERM 1978 WERE:

1st VIII: Bow, P. M. Johnston: 2, A. H. Cook*: 3, R. S. Harries*: 4, R. P. Emerton*: 5, J. M. Sowden*: 6, P. A. Younge*: 7, M. D. Andrews*: Stroke, R. A. Joy*: Cox, S. M. Russell.

Ist IV: Bow, P. A. Younge*: 2, J. M. Sowden*: 3, M. D. Andrews*: Stroke, R. A. Joy*: Cox, S. M. Russell.

2nd VIII: Bow, C. P. S. Bromhall: 2, M. W. Hills: 3, R. P. Hamblin: 4, S. R. N. Tanner: 5, J. M. P. Cloke: 6, H. M. L. Doherty: 7, J. N. S. Lintott: Stroke, S. J. Mulvey: Cox, M. F. Hunt.

JUNIOR 15 VIII: Bow, N. L. Allanson: 2, J. M. Hennah: 3, D. D. L. Cockram: 4, C. B. Gibbins: 5, R. G. Hooley: 6, A. J. Rowe: 7, R. K. Thomas: Stroke, M. E. H. Emerton: Cox, H. D. Mulvey.

JUNIOR 14 VIII: Bow, M. D. Lane: 2, K. J. N. Hare: 3, P. G. Harries: 4, J. S. G. Tanner: 5, H. C. M. Jones: 6, S. C. Jozwiak: 7, S. R. Vaslet: Stroke, I. M. Burnett: Cox, P. D. Fulford.

* denotes full colours.



"Gary Mitchell"

GYMNASTICS Lent Term 1978

The one sport that really benefited from the poor weather this term has been gymnastics. The continuous cold and rain enabled the gymnasts to practise far more due to the cancellation of their outdoor activities, and their incentive to be in the warmest building of the school.

Hours of practice and a really dedicated approach to gymnastics were finally rewarded in an outstanding achievement in the Public School's Gymnastic Championships held at Wellington College on Sunday, March 19th. Our Junior Team of Timothy Skinner, Alan Cooper, Nicholas Murphy, Christopher Coe and Anthony Lowe were runners up to Newcastle Grammar School in the Floor Sequence, and Timothy was runner up in the Individual Event. Gary Mitchell won the Senior Floor Exercise, and his score of 8.2 was the highest mark awarded in the Championship. On watching our gymnasts during practice commencing their run from half way up the steps outside the gym, and bearing in mind the only opportunity they had to practise their full floor sequence was during the Championships, the results obtained were quite remarkable.

To Gary and the Senior and Junior Teams my congratulations on such a good result. My thanks also for all the help given by both teams, especially the Captain; to all our most promising junior gymnasts. Mention has already been given to our Junior Team. Our Senior Team, up against some very strong opposition at Wellington must also be congratulated for their very good results.

The Team consisted of Gary Mitchell (Captain), Stephen Murphy, Andrew Carmichael and Alexander Cullen.

Half-Colours for Gymnastics have been awarded to Timothy Skinner.

J. D. Drummond-Hay

This has been an exciting and surprisingly successful season, although the Senior Team's record is unimpressive. This was only to be expected, as four long-serving players have recently left: John Stephen and Martin Spoor, after playing regularly for seven years, had shared the Captaincy, and lain Holding and Kevin Fenelon too had had considerable success. These were bound to be missed, and the new generation has been too involved in 'more important' activities, so that we have rarely fielded a full complement of Seniors, and have been forced to default or borrow from the younger teams. Only Graham Alcock has played with regularity, and has had a good final season.

The real strength of the Club lies in the Middle School. Richard Baker, the Oxford Under-15 Champion, and William Passmore, who plays regularly for Berkshire Seniors, have won many difficult matches, and John Perry is far too sound to be beaten in a mere 2½ hours! With good support from a number of other players, the Under-15s won the Berkshire and the Oxfordshire Schools Leagues without much difficulty, laying 'that bogey' of Magdalen College School on the way!

So, much more surprisingly, did the Under-13s. These had been expected to have a mediocre season, and lost one match early on, but Craig Shuttleworth, Peter May and Philip Ladmore (who won their colours) practised very keenly, and were rewarded by a most impressive run of success. The lower boards again played an important role in the winning of the Oxfordshire League by four clear points, not least the promising first-formers. In the Berkshire League they were as unlucky to 'lose' to Forest School in the semi-final, as they had been to beat them, by 'board-count', last season.

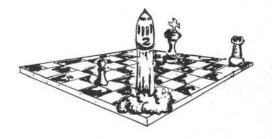
The internal competitions again went well, and were all finished. The major trophies were won by Richard Baker (Under-15), Craig Shuttleworth (Under-13) and David Plumptre (Under-12). Craig was runner-up in his section of the Berkshire Congress, and consolation prizes at the same vent were won by Andrew Smith and Philip Rodgers. M.W.

Teams:

1st V: (from) R. S. Harries, G. P. Alcock, J. P. Davies, M. D. E. Andrews, T. C. N. Hunt, S. J. Moore, H. de Lusignan.

Under 15 1st V: (from) R. W. Baker, A. J. Perry, W. J. Passmore, G. D. Brown, A. H. Smith, A. A. Thomson, I. A. Sadler, or C. C. Shuttleworth. Under 13 1st V: (from) C. C. Shuttleworth, P. G. Harries P. W. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Bogers, S. M. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. M. May, P. J. J. M. May, P. J. M. May, P. J. J. M. May, P. J. J. M. May, P. J.

Harries, P. W. May, P. J. Ladmore, T. K. A. Rogers, A. G. K. Edwards.



RESULTS

Berkshire League (Western Section)	
First V beat Carmel College	$3\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$
beat John Mason School	5 — 0
lost to St. Bartholomew's, Newbury beat St. Birinus	$\frac{11}{2} - \frac{31}{2}$ 3 - 2
Under 15 'A'	3-2
beat Carmel College	4 — 1
drew with John Mason School beat St. Birinus, Didcot	$2\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$ 4 - 1
beat Larkmead School	4 - 1
beat Abingdon 'B'	41/2 - 1/2
Under-15 'B' beat Larkmead School	3-2
lost to John Mason School	3 - 2 1 - 4
lost to St. Birinus, Didcot	1 — 4
lost to Abingdon 'A'	1/2 - 41/2
Semi-finals:	
The Under-15s beat Forest School	31/2 - 11/2
The Under-13s drew with Forest School	21/2 - 21/2
but lost on board-count.	
Finals:	
The Under-15s beat Reading School	41/2 - 1/2
Oxford Schools League	
Under-18 teams	
drew with Stowe School	3 - 3
beat Edmund Campion School beat Henry Box School	$3\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$ 4 - 2
lost to Magdalen College School	$1\frac{1}{2} - 4\frac{1}{2}$
lost to Oxford School	2 - 4
Under-15 teams beat Edmund Campion School	4 — 2
beat Larkmeat School	4 - 2 5 - 1
beat Magdalen College School	4 — 2
beat Stowe School	5 — 1 5 — 1
beat Carterton School beat Lord William's, Thame	5 - 1 $4\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$
beat Cowley St. John School	5 — 1
Under-13 teams	
beat Bayswater School beat Dragon School 'A'	6 — 0 4 — 2
beat Dragon School 'B'	51/2 - 1/2
beat Donnington Middle School	5 — 1
beat Harlow School	41/2 - 11/2
beat St. Gregory's School beat Temple Cowley School	4-2 $3\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$
beat Marlborough School, Woodstock	5-1
beat Larkmead School	4 - 2
beat Magdalen College School	31/2 - 21/2
Sunday Times Tournament	
'A' VI	
beat St. Bartholomew's, Newbury lost to Magdalen College School	5-1 $1\frac{1}{2}-4\frac{1}{2}$
'B' VI	1/2 4/2
beat Commonweal School, Swindon	5 — 1
beat John Mason School 'A' lost to St. Joseph's, Swindon	$3\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$ 2 - 4
lost to St. Joseph's, Swindon	2-4
Friendly Match	
An all-age team lost to High Wycombe RGS	4 — 9
Under-13s	
beat John Mason School	5 — 0
lost to St. Birinus, Didcot	2 - 3
beat John Rankin, Newbury beat St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	4 - 1 $3\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$
beat Carmel College	5 — 0
beat St. Bartholomew's, Newbury (in play-off)	31/2 - 11/2

ORIENTEERING

The devotees of "The Thought Sport" or "Cunning Running" have continued to make Abingdon well known amongst the orienteering fraternity up and down the country.

Richard Thompson won the M15 trophy at the November Classic in the New Forest, and younger brother David took the M13 Midlands Championship at Sherwood Forest. William Baker, M17, was runner up in the South Central Closed Championships; Richard Baker was a member of the victorious England team in the Home International in Epping Forest (and has since been selected to tour Belgium and Sweden this summer); and Mr Baker came third in the veteran class in the British Championships. At Easter the Bakers formed the family relay team which won their class at the JK International in Yorkshire.

Others who have figured prominently in the results in the last year include Simon Moore, Simon West, Jeremy Geere and Neil Smith.

R.H.B.

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Suddenly we have doubled in size - or perhaps capacity is the correct word, because now that the Grundy has been joined by the John Hooke Library I am conscious above all of empty shelves. In 1963 the Grundy Library was built to house 10,000 books, and it took us some years to fill the shelves adequately. Now we need as many more - but whereas in 1963 an average hardback was thirty shillings now we must pay £6, and prices are rising. We have increased the proportion of paperbacks, joined book clubs and we search second hand lists, but help is needed. Already many parents, boys, old Abingdonians and staff have made donations of books, magazines and money, large and small. I cannot list them all here, but we are very grateful. I hope parents and old boys will visit us and admire the two contrasting rooms - upper and lower, but closely linked which will play a more and more important role in the life of the School.

O.A. 1977 News

BIRTHS

BARNETT: on 18th January 1967 to Gisela (nee Weigant) wife of John Barnett (1957), a son, David, and on 1st January 1970 twin sons, Michael and Stephen.

BEYER: on 8th June 1977 to Letty (nee Minns), wife of John Beyer (1968), a daughter, Eleanor.

BRADFIELD: on 10th January to Hilary, wife of Richard Bradfield (1968) a daughter, Joanne Clare.

CASWELL: on 6th February 1972 to Susan (nee Legh), wife of Alan Caswell (1956), a son, David Jonathan; and on 26th July 1973 a daughter, Anne Christina.

EXON: on 26th August 1972 to Annie, wife of David Exon (1958), a daughter, Michel.

HUNTER: on 30th August 1975 to Susan, wife of Donald Hunter (1969), a son, Oliver Charles Cassels.

JACKSON: on 3rd November 1977 to the wife of Richard Jackson (1966), a second son, Simon Alasdair.

KANDIAH: on 29th October 1976 to Julia (nee Morse), wife of Peter Kandiah (1959), a son, Jeremy Julian.

LOCKTON: on 1st October 1976 to Brenda (nee Fegan) wife of R.G. Lockton (1962) a daughter, Niamh, sister for Gary (1970) and Ciara (1971).

MARSH: on 4th July 1977 to Marion (nee Apthorp) wife of Stephen Marsh (1965) a second daughter, Laura Jane.

MORGAN: on 13th February 1978 to Helen (nee Cornelius) wife of Roger Morgan a daughter, Ruth Elizabeth.

OSWALD: on 20th February 1978 to Margot, wife of Robin Oswald (1971) a daughter.

PARFITT: on 23rd October 1977 to Anne, wife of Terry Parfitt (1968) a daughter Nicola Sara.

SALE: in 1976 to Elizabeth, wife of Pat Sale, a fourth child. THORPE: on 26th March 1976 to Elizabeth (nee Watson), wife of Mark Thorpe (1965) a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth.

MARRIAGES

BEASLEY — CASSIDY: on 16th September 1977 John Beasley (1949) to Christina Cassidy.

BURTON — HOMEWOOD: on 26th November 1977 Martin Burton (1972) to Jo Homewood.

COWLIN — DANIEL: on December 1976 Anthony Cowlin (1969) to Anne Daniel.

HARDEN — SMITH: on 2nd August 1975 Philip Harden (1971) to Stephanie Smith.

 $\mathsf{JANZ} - \mathsf{KERR}$: on 12 July 1975 Raimond Janz (1968) to Elizabeth Kerr.

JACKSON: on 17th September 1977 Ian Jackson (1971).

KILLEEN — WATSON: on 21st May 1977 Michael Killeen (1963) to Jessie Margaret Watson.

LUFF — OWEN: on 10th April 1976 Roger Luff (1970) to Carys Ann Owen.

MORGAN — CORNELIUS: in March 1977 Roger Morgan (1967) to Helen Cornelius.

RADNOR — EGGLETON: on 16th October 1976 Steven Radnor (1971) to Linda Eggleton.

DEATHS

We record with regret the deaths of the following OA's:-J.B.E. ALSTON who came to the school to teach classics in 1921 and who retired in 1963, died peacefully in hospital on Friday April 14th, 1978. He had been very well until just before Christmas, but since then his health had deteriorated rapidly. Most generations of OAs will remember "J.B." as a fine games player, a most conscientious schoolmaster and a dedicated housemaster of Waste Court. His essential kindliness and good manners never deserted him and he was regarded with universal affection. A Memorial Service was held in the School Chapel at 3p.m. on Sunday, May 21st.

P.P. HUTCHINSON (1954—1962) A memorial service, was held in St. Mary's Church, Oxford, on September 24th 1977 for Peter Hutchinson, who died of cancer at the age of 34. Peter was emerging as a leading figure in his field and had been offered a chair in Palaeontology at Zurich University. Those who knew him will remember gratefully his cheerful enthusiasm and his pleasant, friendly personality. He will be greatly missed.

H.A.N. MEDD (1906—1910) Henry Medd died at the end of October 1977, aged 85. He spent most of his professional life in India and was the architect of two cathedrals in New Delhi, also working on the buildings of the Imperial capital there. As consulting architect to the government of the Central Provinces he built the High Court in Nagpur and in 1939 he was appointed Chief Architect to the Government of India. He designed a new mint in Calcutta but the outbreak of war and the approach of independence curtailed his opportunities. Returning to England he was made OBE in 1946 and became secretary of the Art Workers' Guild and Master in 1959.

C.S. MORLAND (1915—1921) Charles Morland died on March 14th 1977 in South Africa from a heart attack. Hale and hearty to the last, enjoying his golf and fishing and always interested in the doings of his old school, he wrote regularly cheerful and friendly letters. His brother John, the last of the many Morland brothers wrote from Australia with the sad news.

C.A. PALAIRET (1974—1976) Perhaps the saddest entry is this, for Christopher Palairet was barely nineteen when he died suddenly and tragically in early October 1977. Many of us remember him as an intelligent, if somewhat shy, young man of great charm and much potential and we mourn very sincerely his early death.

S.D. PLUMMER 1928-1931 Seymour Plummer died on 19th January 1978 at the age of 64. On leaving school, 'Sophie' entered the legal profession and became a partner in the London firm of Bell, Broderick and Gray. In the latter part of his life he was legal adviser to the Castrol Oil Company. He had a distinguished war record in the R.A.F., flying Sunderlands and Dakotas. He was awarded his DFC for bravery in ferrying troops in and out of Arnhem time and time again. Subsequently he made a notable contribution as a magistrate and was chairman of his bench in Surrey. The most charming of men, he was noted for his sincerity and kindness. A lifelong cricket enthusiast, he was a stylish batsman and played regularly in the O.A. match into the 1950s. Since leaving school he unfailingly responded with generosity to the various appeals made to the Old Boys. He will be most sadly missed at all our gatherings, at which he was a regular and prominent figure. J.M. Cobban, N.J. Holmes and J.H. Hooke represented the school, the O.A.s and the John Roysse Lodge at his Cremation Service at Yeovil.

(We are indebted for the above obituary to J.H. Hooke.)

S.W.D. SHALLARD 1919—1924 died on 25th September 1977 at his home in New Zealand.

R.D. TAYLOR 1949—1955 died in April 1978 after a major operation. David was a very popular local accountant and a large congregation attended his funeral in Abingdon.

H. J. CLARKE 1936—1941. Since going to press the sad news of John Clarke's death has been received. He bore his final illness with understanding and great personal courage.

NEWS

Kenneth Howes (1922) is to be congratulated, somewhat belatedly I fear, on his OBE awarded in 1971. He apparently sat on the same committee in Kenya as Colin Leigh for nine years and has only just realised that he is a fellow O.A.

John Hooke (1924) does so much for the School but his name has rarely appeared in the OA Section. As Master of our ancient local charity Christ's Hospital, he received the Freedom of the town of Abingdon in March 1977. More recently on February 24th, 1978 he made an impressive speech at the opening ceremony of the new lower library, which is to bear his name. John Clarke (1941) has worked in oil for nearly 30 years, moving from the Middle East, through Africa and the U.S.A., to London and Scotland, and he is now Operations Manager for BP Petroleum Development of Norway, based at Stavanger. During the war he landed in Normandy as a Captain with the REs and was twice wounded. A keen golfer he takes advantage of his spells at his permanent Glasgow address to make the most of Scottish courses.

The reverend **David Wheaton** (1948) is to be congratulated on his installation as Hon. Canon of the Abbey and Cathedral Church of St. Albans in October 1976.

Robyn Grant (1950) has been made Vice President of his firm of Industrial Carpet Manufacturers and Chairman of 13 subsidiary companies, whose spread is world wide. He and his family have moved to Holland but have acquired a U.K. base in Guildford.

Robert Acklam (1951) broke a long silence to say how much the School — and Abingdon! — had changed since he was last here. He spent 8 years in the Fleet Air Arm, two years each with Ferranti and a rubber mill, and ten years with the Post Office Telephones. In the last three years he has been running his own Taxi Business.

Tom Bloor (1951) and his brother are running the family business — food processors in the manufacture of hams and many other pork products — distributing over a radius of some hundred and fifty miles around Leicester. He has also been a director of Leicester City F.C. since 1974.

Harold Williams (1954) married in 1959 and now has a son and two daughters. He is a director of three Poster companies and keeps up his school friendship with Peter Light.

Alan Caswell (1956) is a Flt. Lt. in the RAF Regiment, now at Lossiemouth, where he met Michael Brackley (1954), who has recently moved to Benson.

Tony Gardner (1956) has been appearing on television in several productions from 'Warship' to L.P. Hartley's 'The Sixth Heaven'.

John Barnett (1957) has been working for the past 13 years with the London City Mission, and is now attached to Christ Church, Hackney. He makes regular visits to Abingdon and can be heard speaking in local churches, notably Christ Church and the Baptist Church at the bottom of lower field.

John Spinks (1957) is personnel Executive for Woolworths, South Africa, a firm which is apparently quite different from the English firm of that name and more akin to Marks and Spencer. Alan Aitchison (1958) served as a Customs Surveyor at Dover for 2½ years but has now, on promotion to Principal, transferred to Customs and Excise in London for work in connection with the EEC Common Agricultural Policy.

Mark Bretscher (1958) and brother Anthony (1966) are both doing research now in the field of cell biology, Peter (1961) is happily installed in the department of Immunology in Edmonton, Alberta.

Derek Cook (1959) has been with Gillettes for the past ten years and four years ago he went out to Teheran as Production Manager at their factory there. He has very recently moved to Casa Blanca in Morocco, as factory manager, with his wife and two sons.

Peter Kandiah (1959) is now a partner in a firm of lawyers in the Cayman Islands, where he has been since December 1973, having gained experience previously in such varied parts of the globe as Hong Kong, Abingdon and Didcot.

David Nurton (1959) was due to have married in April 1978, but we still await confirmation that he finally reached the altar steps. No doubt he did and we wish him every happiness.

Michael Neilan (1960) qualified in 1976 as a Quantity Surveyor and is still keen and active as ever on the cricket field. He raised an impressive sounding side of OAs to play against MG last summer and hopes to do something similar this year. John Cook (1961) joined the army when he left school and stayed in until October 1974, when he became Health Education Officer for the Department of Environmental Health in the City of Newcastle on Tyne.

Richard Hook (1961) is running an expanding newsagent's retail business, maintains his interest in rugger, travelling often to Internationals, is a member of the Lancashire County Council, and a very active member of the Round Table Movement. He enjoys it all immensely, is happily married, and loves living in the North of England.

Dr. Michael Mole (1961) is now a G.P. in Devon, married to a Psychiatric Registrar, with one son, born in 1972.

Michael Nurton (1961) was not surprisingly selected to tour Kenya with the Minor Counties Cricket Side in January this year.

John Bunce (1962) has done well in the world of computers and is now regional manager for ICM in the Midlands and West Country.

Thomas Day (1962) is now working as a lecturer in the Genetics Department of Nottingham University and with him, in a similar capacity, is Harry Flint (1968)

Tony Edwards (1962) got himself an MBA at Harvard Business School, with distinction, and is now working with an aircraft engine group in Massachusetts as manager, responsible for programme management, logistics support and service engineering of more than 8,000 jet engines in twenty eight countries. He says he much enjoys the opportunities and the rewards in America but that his regular annual visits to England are equally enjoyable. Jeremy Hurd (1962) is still with BUPA but he has transferred from Exeter to Chingford. He is likely to face problems over housing, so for the moment his family — a son and daughter will stay in Devon.

Rem Lockton (1962) is a lecturer in small animal medicine and surgery in the Vet. College of Ireland, University College, Dublin. He meets **Frank Jeal** (1956) who works in the Zoology Department of Trinity College, Dublin.

Michael Killeen (1963) has an A.B. Degree in Environmental Studies since 1972 from the University of California and is working as a resource recovery specialist for the U.S. Government.

Major Tym Marsh (1963) expects to stay at the M.O.D. until January 1979, when he will go back to Regimental duty, either in Germany or Ulster. He sees a lot of Major Chris Winfield, RAMC (1963) a near neighbour of his in Fleet, and Captain David Jessett, Royal Signals (1964), who works in the same directorate at the M.O.D.

Simon Opie (1963) is now a resident partner in Belgium of Josolyne Layton — Bennett & Co., Chartered Accountants and would welcome contacts with any OAs in France, Benelux or Germany.

Paul Ramsey (1963) has been promoted to Area Maintenance Engineer, Motherwell, managing two depots and the engineereering aspects of the west coast main line from Motherwell to the Scottish border.

Donald Hunter (1964) has joined a firm of solicitors in Learnington Spa and is thoroughly enjoying the work. Also a solicitor in the town is **Robin Ogg** (1962), whom we see regularly at the OA cricket week in July.

Gerald Phizackerley (1964) well remembered as Chaplain for seven years, and his wife, Annette, one of James Cobban's many eligible P.A.s, have been at Kings Lynn since leaving Abingdon. They are now off to Derbyshire where Gerald is to take on a new role as Archdeacon of Chesterfield, coupled with being Priest-in-charge of Ashford-in-the-Water and Sheldon. Chris Wood (1964) is married to a marine biologist and has been on several research trips with her to the Azores. In his own right he is, at the moment town planning officer with the government of Sabah in Malaysia.

David Clubley (1965) has spent a busy year in Germany as Adjutant of his Regiment, but he was posted in January to another job in Germany. When he wrote his wife was expecting their second child on Boxing Day 1977. David has met recently Paul Hopkins (1968) flying Jaguars, and David Riddick (1961) also a Captain in the R.A. only three miles from his original posting.

Richard Thornton (1965) is at present Senior Registrar in the Department of Anaesthetics at University College Hospital, London.

Mark Thorpe (1965) is working in Venezuela for his firm of Consulting Engineers, based in Epsom, and he is living in Puerto Ordaz.

David Brown (1966) has just moved down from Bromsgrove to High Wycombe with his wife and two young children and he is working as Financial Controller for a Manufacturing Company based in Slough. They would be happy to meet up with any OAs of David's generation who may happen to be in the area.

Charles Cook (1966) now married, is still working for the Guardian — or was when he wrote, — but was planning to move. He was also half way through a book.

Peter Dowling (1966) is now a partner in his firm of Solicitors, working in Reading, where he meets up with other Solicitors Richard Parkes (1967) and Richard Leathem (1964) and he sees lan Campbell (1967) from time to time on visits from his job as lecturer at the University of Rijadh in Saudi Arabia. Peter is a Captain in the T.A.V.R. and Ground Liaison Officer with an RAF Fighter Squadron, as well as being an avid free fall parachutist often floating about over Weston on the Green.

Richard Hall (1966) is now married and is at present employed as Chief Chemist by the Amey Roadstone Construction Company.

Tim Harding (1966) having achieved a B.A. and a B.Phil. at Oxford, was working, when he wrote, as a free lance journalist and writer in Dublin. Not surprisingly he is Chess Correspondent for a Dublin paper and he also warned that his address in Dublin might change at short notice!

Richard Jackson (1966) is still teaching at a prep School in Nairobi but has declared his intention of bringing his family back to England in July 1979. Perhaps we shall get some OA cricket out of him again before he is too old!

Roger Morgan (1967), now married with a baby daughter, is head of research for Kent Social Services Department, and also an honorary research fellow of Kent University. He has one book on juvenile enuresis about to be published and another on the psychological treatment of children in preparation. Roger Wharton (1967) was very busy during the firemen's strike running a fire station in West Ham but he has now returned to more normal RAF occupations at Chilmark, near Salisbury.

Paul Homes (1968) left the Merchant Navy in 1977, after four years of travelling round the world, married in January 1973 and now works in the family firm in Abingdon, much to the relief of his father, Norman Holmes (1938). Paul recently met Chris Alford (1969) who is a Clinical Psychologist in Birmingham, C.J. Wilkinson (1969) who works in London for J. Lyons & Co. and J.W.Jefferson-Loveday (1969), who is a doctor at Chertsey Hospital.

Rai Janz (1968) spent 18 months in small animal practice in London after qualifying at the Royal Veterinary College in 1975, and now works in a mixed practice in Haywards Heath. His wife is the Dietitian for the hospials in the Worthing District.

Brian Johnston (1968) is now living in London and working as a Registrar in Histopathology at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead.

Charles Uttley (1968) has made tremendous strides since giving up his political organisation work in 1976. He then became research assistant at the House of Commons for a Conservative M.P. and has been reading at the Bar in his spare time, coming seventh overall out of five hundred candidates in Part 1A last September. We wish him every success in his Part 1B, which comes this May, and after that six months at Law School, before being called to the Bar.

Andrew Berlyn (1969), with an Aberdeen University B.Sc., has recently changed jobs. Until October 1977 he was a research assistant at the West of Scotland Agriculture College, but he is now Leicestershire Rural Community Council's Rural Officer, concerned primarily with conservation, amenity matters and public participation in planning.

Anthony Cowlin (1969) is working for a large American instrument manufacturing firm in Scotland, having obtained an electrical engineering diploma and an M.A.'s degree in industrial design. He lives in the New Town area of Edinburgh, in part of a Georgian House, and his wife teaches languages at Bo'ness on the Forth. He has spent three months in America and Canada and, as a keen camper, has taken his tent as far afield as Yugoslavia.

David Whipple (1969) has recently achieved his M.I.C.E. along with Vivian Ramsey (1968).

Jonathan Frere (1970) is a Captain in the Royal Artillery - 5 (Gibraltar) Field Battery - and is now in Germany as Troop Commander and Forward Observation Officer.

Michael Bennet (1971) is now working for a firm of Chartered Surveyors and Auctioneers in Hertfordshire, having completed his Rural Estate Management Diploma at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

Andrew Cunninghame (1971) has been teaching Science since September in a Norfolk LEA School.

Philip Harden (1971) graduated from Manchester in 1974 with a second in Chemical Engineering and is now working for a chemical contracting firm at Wilmslow as a project engineer. Robin Oswald (1971) is living in Dusseldorf, working hard, doing well and much enjoying the life in Germany. His marriage and the birth of a daughter are recorded elsewhere.

Andrew Wood (1971) having spent six months on an African jaunt between Cape Town and Nairobi with Simon Conibear and Tim Hughes between school and university, and having got a Cambridge Geology degree, is now working for his Ph.D. at Durham, sponsored by Shell.

Jonathon Cowlin (1972) left St. Davids, Lampeter, where he much enjoyed himself, with a degree in Ancient History and Philosophy and has since been successful in those parts of the Law Society Exams which he has taken. He is working as a Solicitor's articled clerk in Manchester and hopes, by early next year, to have completed his qualifications as a Solicitor. He reports meeting Andrew Higgs (1971) who had spent a year in America after graduating at Durham, and who is now working to qualify as a Solicitor, and also Clive Chafer (1971), who lives in Stockport and is working in the Training Services Division of C.W.S.

Roland Klepzig (1972) is at the moment commuting between Oxford and Cambridge. Having got his first in Social Services at Cambridge, he is doing a Ph.D. at the same university, though he had hoped to start training for the teaching profession, and he earns a living at weekends by tutoring in Oxford.

Andrew Rowley (1972) got his Law and Accountancy degree at Cardiff in 1975 and is now working for a firm of Chartered Accountants in London.

David Spong (1972) is a Flight Lieutenant in the R.A.F., training to be a pilot. He got a B.Sc. at Southampton and then went to Cranwell. His most important news was that he was due to be married in April, 1978.

Paul Abraham (1973) has graduated at Liverpool University in Engineering Science and Industrial Management.

Chris Hey (1973), having come down from Cambridge with a Languages degree, is training to be a notary public.

Stephen Maunder (1973), with a psychology degree from Dundee University, is now at Westminster College, completing his Certificate in Education Course, preparatory to teaching for two years. This is a necessary preliminary to taking a further degree in Educational Psychology, the field in which he hopes ultimately to work. He is due to marry, in July, Angela Hill, whom he met at Dundee.

Anthony Walters (1973) is now assistant manager of Wantage Recreation Centre, having graduated at York University.

Nick Francis (1974) is in his fourth year at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School.

Simon Pallett (1974) has started working with a firm of Chartered Surveyors and Land Agents at Evesham and includes among his duties the selling of livestock in Kidderminster market. Congratulations on his first in Estate Management at Reading last June.

Peter Watson (1974) has enjoyed immensely his last year at Oxford and was already in August 1977 having to think of applying for law jobs for February 1979 when he will be qualified. He has kept in touch with the many OAs at Oxford, and also reported that Tony Mushens (1974) was enjoying Sussex University very much.

George Gilbert (1975), who left in the Fifth form to go to King Edward VI School, Southampton, is to be congratulated on his place to read History at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Tim Olliffe (1976), now in the Metropolitan Police, has been having a high old time we gather, notably with the Grunwick nicket lines.

Benjamin Peck (1976) qualified from Sandhurst for a short service commission and has joined the Kings Own Scottish Borderers.

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ACADEMIC NEWS

The Magazine has not kept up with Oxbridge Awards over the last 3 years: we now rectify the omission.

1975: Abingdon School Scholarship in Robert Stockwell: Mathematics to Pembroke College, Oxford Peter Brodie: Scholarship in English to St. John's College, Oxford. Paul Evans: Exhibition in English to St. Peter's College, Oxford. Exhibition in English to Downing Adrian Luto: College, Cambridge. Robin Chapman: Exhibition in English to Fitzwilliam, Cambridge.

1976: Malcolm Abrines: Scholarship in Medicine to Pembroke College, Oxford. Scholarship in Chemistry to Lincoln Adrian Capel: College, Oxford. Simon Crouch: Exhibition in Maths and Physics to Churchill College, Cambridge. Simon Clift: Choral Exhibition to Caius College, College, Cambridge. Christopher Skinner: Demyship in Chemistry to Magdalen College, Oxford.

1977: Martin Spoor: Scholarship in English to St. John's College, Oxford. Graham Lennox: Abingdon Scholarship in Medicine to Pembroke College, Oxford. Graham Nayler: Demyship in Chemistry to Magdalen College, Oxford. John Stephen: Demyship in Zoology to Magdalen College, Oxford. Scholarship in Medicine to Jesus Andrew Hillary: College, Cambridge. Exhibition in Modern Studies to Noah Franklin: Worcester College, Oxford. Exhibition in History to Keble lain Holding: College, Oxford. William Baker: Exhibition in Physics to Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Exhibition in Zoology to Queen's Gavin Lewis: College, Oxford. Exhibition in Natural Science to Neil Boyce: Trinity College, Cambridge. Paul Gibbons: Exhibition in Engineering to Jesus College, Cambridge.

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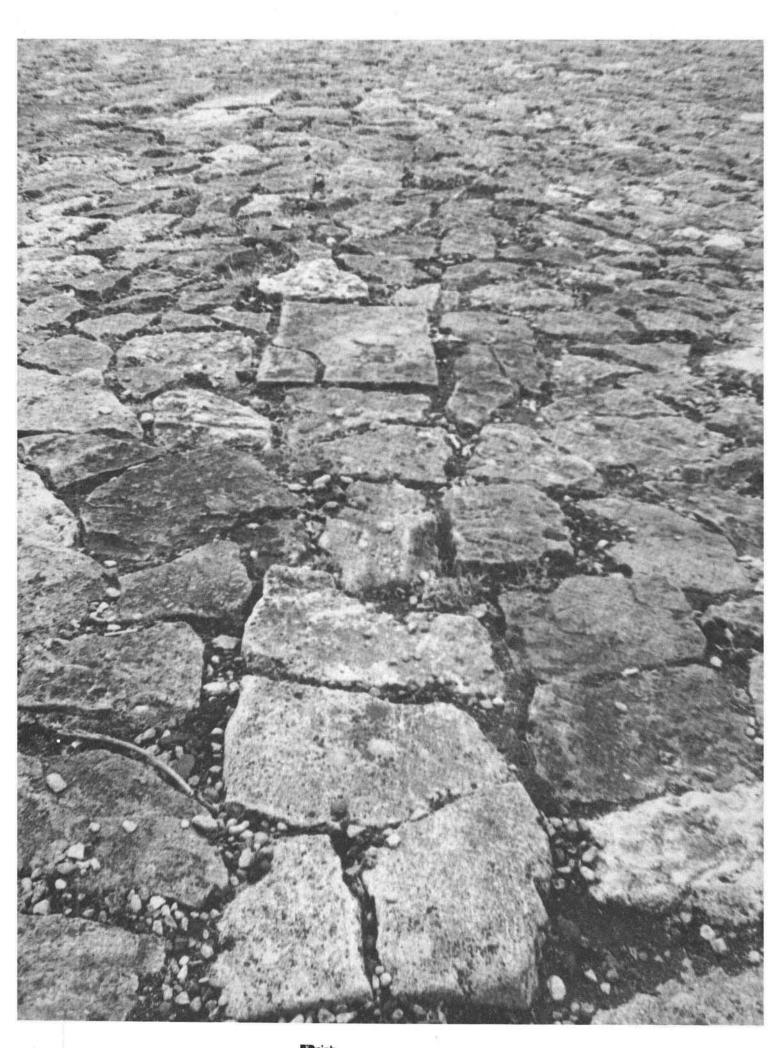
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